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Ten Ways To Tell You're Traveling With The Right Person

by TFB EDITORS on JULY 31, 2012

By Jan Ross

I am very, very fortunate because there are several people with whom I enjoy traveling. Fortunate also because I'm not much of a solo traveler. I have traveled by myself. One of the first trips I made by myself was to Mexico and I was pretty nervous about the fact that (1) I was by myself and (2) I was by myself in a foreign country.

That trip ended up being a blast and I learned how indescribably gorgeous the beaches are in Riviera Maya, but I wasn't technically alone since I met up with the rest of the press people when I arrived. Not only that, the Cancun airport is so fancy and downright spiffy that you might as well be in New York as in Mexico.

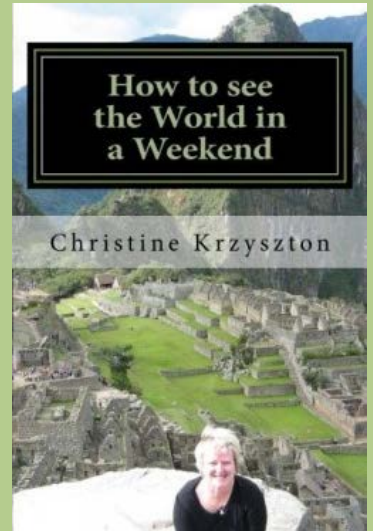
But still. I prefer to travel with someone. That could be my husband, my sister and sister-in-law, who have accompanied me on many a girlfriends' getaway, other girlfriends, or other family members. I especially love traveling with my six-year-old grandson since he and I both have a serious love for the beach and for fresh seafood. What else do you need on a trip really?

My husband was making me laugh hysterically about something the other day and I was thinking how much I appreciate his sense of humor. It especially comes in handy when we're traveling. So then I started thinking about the qualities that make for a great traveling companion. Here's what I came up with.

1. **They make you laugh.** Most of the members of my family have the amusing and unfortunate tendency to tear up when we laugh very hard, so if I look like I'm crying as I laugh hysterically, you can be sure I'm having a good time. My husband is great at making me attain this state and so are my sister and sister-in-law.
2. **You seriously miss them if they're not there.** I just spent a week at the beach on Tybee Island, Georgia, with my grown kids and my grandson. My husband is not much of a beach lover, so he decided not to come. It was a good choice since he wouldn't have enjoyed the trip, but I missed him very much. If you would actually wish them there, like the nose-twitching witch on "Bewitched," then they are a good traveling companion.
3. **You like the same things.** You don't have to spend every single minute together and, of course, there may be times when one of you wants to read a book and the other wants to spend an absurd amount of time playing a video game. But it's nice if you're on the same wavelength most of the time. Napping? Shopping? Eating out? Spa visit? Check, check, check and double check.
4. **They can adapt to change without a fuss.** Sometimes things just don't work out when you travel. Reservations might be lost, the museum you wanted to visit is closed, your flight is cancelled – you just can't expect things to run smoothly every single minute. If your travel companion can handle these situations with grace, you're lucky.
5. **They let you be in charge.** I have a type-A personality. I freely admit it. If my husband ever had to take a trip on his own, he would probably just wander around our home airport like a lost puppy. More likely still is that he would never travel. A little problem might occur when you have two Type-A personalities traveling together, but the times that's happened to me, the other person was gracious enough to remember #4 and let me be in charge.
6. **They take charge.** On the very few occasions in which I have not wanted to be in charge – and believe me, they are rare – my traveling companions were happy to do so. I'm having difficulty thinking of a time when someone else was in charge, but there must have been one. Surely.
7. **They really, really like you.** I am extremely fortunate that I



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have a loving family and wonderful friends who really care about me. My friend Vicki and I went on a cruise together last year (a true test of friendship if ever there was one) then she went on another trip without me recently. She had several complaints when she was sharing the story of her excursion but one that really made my heart swell up was when she said she wished I had been there, that the trip would have been better if I have been there. Oh, yes, a true friend.



8. **They respect you.** In my case, this means they respect the fact that I am a travel writer and make sure I know that they think I am a good writer. They read my stuff, they laugh in the right places, they thank me for the trips I arrange, and they tell me I am a good writer. Every writer in the world needs to be told they're a good writer. Preferably, very often.
9. **They deal.** Every place we go may not be perfect in every way, but there's always something great about it and they find that thing. The beach may not be wonderful but the resort has a great spa. The hotel room is kind of small but they have great room service. The tour was kind of long but now we get to take a nap.
10. **They like the places we go.** Every single place where I've traveled has not been perfect in every way but I have been to some pretty great locations. Unfailingly, my travel companions think every place is fantastic, gorgeous, and wonderful. Except when it's not. Then refer to #4.

I have definitely been traveling with the right people all this time.

What about you? Who is your favorite traveling companion and why? Let us know in the Comments section!

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Miles July 31, 2012 at 9:00 am



11. They don't snore, and their natural bedtime is about the same as yours.
12. They are comfortable in the same price range accommodations as you are.

REPLY

TFB Editors July 31, 2012 at 9:50 am

Excellent additions, Miles!



REPLY

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