

Shared Journeys: The Benefits of Travelling with Friends



Travel Series | Episode 2

PRE-LISTENING | Warm-up

Prepare before you listen to the conversation.

Brainstorm

1. Look at the topic of this episode. Do you have any personal experiences related to this topic? If not, do you have any thoughts or opinions about it?
2. Below, write notes about what comes to your mind.

Vocabulary

1. What vocabulary do you think will come up in this conversation? If you can't think of the English word, check it in a dictionary.
2. Write the vocabulary that you came up with in the table below.

LISTENING | Exercise

Listen to the conversation – feel free to pause any time or go back if you miss something.

The conversation discusses the advantages of traveling with friends. Su and Colin highlight several benefits, including the creation of unique shared experiences that form lasting bonds. They mention how friends can help each other navigate challenging situations, laugh about mistakes, and explore different interests. Financial benefits, such as sharing accommodation and cooking costs, are also emphasized. However, the conversation acknowledges that traveling with friends can be emotionally draining and suggests the importance of taking some time apart to maintain a healthy friendship during the journey. Overall, traveling with friends offers both memorable experiences and practical advantages, making it a valuable choice for many travelers.

Note-taking

Identify the key points of the conversation and add notes on some details. Try to keep it short.

Key Points	Details

Quiz

Choose the correct answer – you can check your answers at the end of this PDF.

1. What is the main benefit of traveling with friends, according to Su?
 - a. Saving money
 - b. Having unique shared experiences
 - c. Avoiding difficult situations
 - d. Eating out at restaurants

2. According to Colin, what helps create a strong bond when traveling with others?
- a. Experiencing unique memories together
 - b. Visiting famous landmarks
 - c. Staying in luxurious hotels
 - d. Trying exotic foods
3. What does Su suggest can happen when you make mistakes while traveling with friends?
- a. You get frustrated with each other
 - b. You stop talking to each other
 - c. You laugh about it later
 - d. You argue and blame each other
4. What does Colin mention as a potential drawback of traveling with a friend?
- a. The cost of accommodation
 - b. Not having anyone to talk to
 - c. Missing out on unique experiences
 - d. Having to eat out every night
5. What does Su say about traveling with someone who has different interests?
- a. It's not a good idea because it leads to arguments.
 - b. It can broaden your horizons and encourage new experiences.
 - c. It's impossible to agree on activities.
 - d. It's a waste of time and money.
6. What aspect of accommodation does Colin mention as a significant expense when traveling?
- a. Room service
 - b. Tourist attractions
 - c. Cleaning fees
 - d. Single occupancy charges
7. According to Su, why is it beneficial to share the cost of cooking at a hostel?
- a. It allows you to show off your cooking skills.
 - b. You can impress other travelers with your meals.
 - c. It saves money compared to eating out.
 - d. Hostels provide free meals to guests.
8. How does traveling with friends affect one's budget, according to Su and Colin?
- a. It encourages overspending.
 - b. It makes people more budget-conscious.
 - c. It leads to financial arguments.
 - d. It has no impact on spending habits.

POST-LISTENING | Resources

Review the language used in the podcast

Word/Phrase	Class	Example Sentence
bond with	<i>verb</i>	"I bond with my coworkers during team-building events."
To form a close connection or relationship		
navigate	<i>verb</i>	"She can navigate through the city without a map."
To find one's way or manage something		
single occupancy	<i>noun phrase</i>	"The hotel charges extra for single occupancy."
The occupancy of a room by one person only		
tight budget	<i>noun phrase</i>	"We traveled on a tight budget and stayed in hostels."
Having limited financial resources		
mindful	<i>adjective</i>	"She is mindful of her spending to save money."
Being conscious or aware of something		
blow someone's mind	<i>idiom</i>	"The stunning view from the mountain peak blew my mind."
To astonish or impress someone greatly		
get through	<i>phrasal verb</i>	"We helped each other get through the tough times."
To successfully endure or overcome something		
split the cost	<i>noun phrase</i>	"We decided to split the cost of the meal."
To divide expenses among multiple people		
shared decision	<i>noun phrase</i>	"It was a shared decision to visit the museum."
A decision made collectively by a group		
financial benefits	<i>noun phrase</i>	"Traveling with friends offers financial benefits."
Advantages related to money or savings		

POST-LISTENING | Activities

Shadowing

Choose one part of the conversation and listen to it again. Try to repeat what you hear out loud. Make sure you copy pronunciation, pauses*, and stress*.

*Use the transcript to mark the **pauses** with a slash / and the **stress** with an underline .

Speaking Practice

Below are two questions you can use for speaking practice.

1. Read each question and write some notes. Keep them short and only use bullet points or a mind map – these notes are just to help you organize your ideas.
2. Record yourself answering the questions. Try to speak for at least 2 minutes for each question.

Q: What are the advantages of traveling with friends as compared to traveling alone. Mention at least three benefits.

Q: Describe a memorable travel experience you shared with a friend. Discuss the destination, the activities you did together, and how it affected your relationship.

Transcript

Colin: This is episode two of our travel series and today's topic is shared journeys: the benefits of travelling with friends. Hello Su.

Su: Hey.

Colin: How are you?

Su: Good, how are you?

Colin: I'm very well. Um, so travelling with friends. In the last episode we talked about solo travel. Um, what do you think are the benefits of travelling with other people?

Su: When you travel with other people, you have these shared experiences, uh, and that makes you bond with them for life. You, you experience the same things, you have stories that are the same, and these stories you always remember.

Colin: Yeah, I think the key is the stories are unique to you and your friend or, or the people you're traveling with. Um, you two were in that place when that thing happened. Um, you have that unique memory that nobody else has. Um, so yeah, this kind of connection that you can get with somebody by going to this new place. And having this kind of unique experience, um, does kind of create a very strong bond.

Um, I think it also helps you get through maybe difficult situations. Um, in the last episode, we talked about developing the confidence to kind of get through difficult situations, but sometimes it's nice to have a friend, a travel buddy with you, uh, to kind of help make a difficult decision, solve some kind of, uh, problem.

Su: Or even just make mistakes together and then laugh about it, right? So it's not always about doing the right thing. These experiences are also doing the wrong thing and then trying to get out of difficult situations and just remembering that, that's a good laugh later on.

Colin: Yeah. Yeah. Remember the time when we missed the bus and the next bus wasn't for eight hours and you know, we went to this place and did, you know, there's so many kind of mistakes that you make when you travel and if you've got somebody to kind of have a laugh about it, um, I think it can be very helpful.

Su: It is also good that, you know, um, when you travel with somebody, they might have different interests to you. So, they might kind of push you to go along and do other things. You know, you, it's, it's always 50 50, right?

You, you have to, to, to go to things that your friend wants to go to, and your friend will go to things you want to go to. Yeah.

Colin: You, you have to kind of negotiate. This is a shared experience, a shared, um, trip. And you can't always just do what you want to do. Uh, your friend wants to see this. Saying they want to go off to a temple or a, I don't know, a museum.

And you're not really that interested, but maybe when you're there, uh, it's actually better than you thought, or maybe it's completely, it completely blows your mind like, wow, I would never

have come here if you hadn't suggested. Um, so yeah, it can help, you know, with your sort of personal development. Um, to see these new things, experience these new things.

Um, and there's just the, the emotional support as well. You know, um, when you're tired, um, and you've been on the road for several weeks. Um, yeah, just, just being there for each other. I think a long trip by yourself, um, can be tough for some people. Um, But if you're with a friend, um, it can really help you to kind of get through those, those difficult times.

Um, I think another aspect of traveling with other people, um, is the financial, the financial aspect. Um, this is a more practical reason for traveling with other people. Um, what do I mean by that? What, what do you think, you know, the financial benefits of traveling with somebody else.

Su: Well, traveling is expensive.

Even if you're trying to save money and doing it on a budget. There's many things you want to do, uh, and do, and go out and, and, and, yeah, explore. And that can get expensive. But sometimes, maybe you can share the costs of, well, maybe a, uh, a taxi or, uh, hotel, um, or certain experiences that, you know, can be a group experience.

Su: And then maybe it's a little bit less money. Um, if you rent a car, you can share those costs.

Colin: Yeah. I think, I think accommodation is a good example to, to look at. Um, if you travel by yourself, um, some hotels will. charge a premium, uh, for single, what they call single occupancy. So one person in a room, they might charge extra.

Whereas if you're sharing a room with somebody else, then you're, you're splitting the cost, um, and it will be cheaper per person. Um, and you have to remember that accommodation is one of the biggest expenses when you're traveling. You know, you need to pay for somewhere to sleep every night. And again, if you're traveling for weeks, um, that can really build up, that expense can really be, uh, quite large.

So if you're able to split the cost of accommodation with somebody else, it can really help. Um, and. Yeah, I think taxis is a good example.

Su: Yeah, um, taxis, sometimes, um, maybe where you're traveling, the public transport is not that easy to navigate, uh, and, but taking a taxi would be expensive on your own.

But if you can share that cost, uh, and make your day a little bit easier, that really changes everything.

Colin: Yeah, I think also, This is more focused on, on young travellers or perhaps, um, people who are travelling on a, a tight budget. Um, very often if you're staying in a hostel, you have the ability to cook.

Many hostels will have a small kitchen where you can cook at home. You don't need to eat out every night. You can actually go to a little supermarket or shop, buy some basic ingredients and cook. Cook for yourself at your hostel. And again, being able to split the cost of that with your travel buddy can be, um, can really help you out.

Um, so for example, you buy a bag of pasta and that's usually not for one person. That's usually maybe for four people or maybe at least for two people. Um, so if you can get. Uh, a couple of people to, to share that with, um, then you can actually save a lot of money on going out to eat, which is usually a more expensive option.

Su: Sharing the cost also allows you to kind of not overspend because you have to be aware of other people's budget. Um, so sometimes I think when you're on your own, you think, OK, I could spend more here, it doesn't matter. I'll deal with that later. But when you're traveling with friends and you're sharing the cost, you are a little bit more mindful. Not just about, uh, your friend's budget, but also yours. You cannot make, uh, these quick, uh, bad decisions because they are shared decisions. So maybe it also helps you to keep your budget a little bit more healthy and not kind of think like, well, this is amazing. I'm just going to spend all my money.

Colin: Yeah, yeah. I think it's very easy to just say, let's just do it, you know, we'll worry about it later. Um, and yeah, that can cause you problems down the line.

Um, it's not always easy. traveling with other people. Um, emotionally, it can get tough. Um, being together all the time can be quite draining. Um, so that's an important thing to, to remember. Maybe sometimes, you know, every few days or whatever, you say to each other, OK, I'm going to go to this place and do this thing and you can go and do whatever you want to do and you have a bit of time away from each other. And then you come back and you can share your experiences. I think that's an important, um, thing to remember. Try to find time separate from each other. Um, so that you can actually come back and remember why you decided to travel together. Because if you decided to travel together you must be good friends. You must like each other. So, don't let a long journey, uh, spoil your friendship.

ANSWERS – Multiple-Choice Questions

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. c
5. b 6. d 7. c 8. b