

Tech and Travel: Navigating Tomorrow



Travel Series | Episode 10

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.

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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.

In the latest travel episode, Colin and Su discuss the impact of technology on travel. They highlight the shift from traditional travel agencies to digital bookings, emphasizing the convenience and cost-effectiveness of online platforms like Booking.com and Expedia. The conversation explores how technology, such as navigation apps and translation tools, has transformed the way people plan and experience travel. Colin mentions the rise of digital nomads, individuals working remotely while exploring different destinations. Overall, technology has not only simplified travel logistics but also broadened the possibilities for immersive and extended travel experiences.

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 topic of today's travel series episode?
 - a. Food and Travel
 - b. Tech and Travel
 - c. Traditional Travel Agencies
 - d. Traveling with Pets

2. According to Su, why do some people still prefer travel agents over online bookings?
- a. They enjoy talking to people.
 - b. They like using maps
 - c. They find it more challenging.
 - d. They lack confidence online.
3. Which website is mentioned as being dominant in the area of travel bookings?
- a. Google Maps
 - b. Expedia
 - c. TripAdvisor
 - d. Airbnb
4. How has research about travel changed according to Colin?
- a. People rely on local guides.
 - b. Tourist information offices are more popular.
 - c.) People do a lot of online research.
 - d. D) People avoid knowing about the destination beforehand.
5. What has become essential for navigation in vacation destinations according to Colin?
- a. Traditional maps
 - b. Local guides
 - c. Google Maps on smartphones
 - d. Travel agents' recommendations
6. What does Su say about translation apps with cameras?
- a. They are discouraged by English teachers.
 - b. They provide access to information.
 - c. They always give accurate translations.
 - d. They are not useful for menus.
7. What does Colin joke about translation apps and language learning?
- a. He encourages using them.
 - b. He discourages using them.
 - c. He thinks they are unnecessary.
 - d. He believes they hinder communication.
8. What is mentioned as a new way of living related to travel?
- a. Short weekend getaways
 - b. Digital nomad lifestyle
 - c. Tourist visa restrictions
 - d. Traditional office work

POST-LISTENING | Resources

Review the language used in the podcast

Word/Phrase	Class	Example Sentence
navigate	<i>verb</i>	I navigate through the city using Google Maps.
Finding one's way; directing a course		
dominant	<i>adjective</i>	Booking.com is one of the dominant travel websites.
Having a commanding influence or control		
crowd sourcing	<i>noun</i>	They relied on crowd-sourcing for travel recommendations.
Obtaining information from a large group of people		
eSIM	<i>noun</i>	With an eSIM, you can easily switch carriers on your phone.
A digital SIM that you can use when travelling		
literal	<i>adjective</i>	The translation was literal, so I had to interpret its meaning.
Exactly true without exaggeration or metaphor		
digital nomad	<i>noun</i>	She embraced the digital nomad lifestyle, working from various countries.
A person who works remotely while traveling		
navigation	<i>noun</i>	The navigation system guided us to the destination.
The process of accurately determining one's position and planning a route		
remote work	<i>noun</i>	Remote work allows flexibility in choosing your workplace.
Work that is done outside of a traditional office setting		

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.*

Booking Travel: Discuss your personal experiences with booking travel online. Share any memorable or challenging moments you've encountered while using online platforms to plan and book your trips.

Q: How did you handle the situation, and what impact did it have on your overall travel experience?

Navigating Cities: Share your experiences using navigation apps in unfamiliar cities. Reflect on how navigation apps have influenced your overall travel experience in unfamiliar places.

Q: Can you share a specific situation in which a navigation app played a crucial role in helping you navigate an unfamiliar city? How did the app contribute to your sense of direction and exploration?

Transcript

Colin: This is episode 10 of our travel series. And today's topic is tech and travel: navigating tomorrow. Hello, Su.

Su: Hey.

Colin: How are you?

Su: Good. How are you?

Colin: I'm very well. This is our last episode and tech and travel is an interesting combination. Things have changed a lot. In the last 10 or 15 years. Maybe we can start with just booking your travel. That's all become very digital.

Su: It has. In the past, I mean, there's still some, um, businesses, a travel agency, they would communicate with the airlines, get your tickets. Get you a package, let's say. And today you do all of this online.

Colin: And you book a lot of it yourself. So the travel agent doesn't really have a job anymore. Maybe older people still prefer to use a travel agent rather than booking themselves because it's sometimes you're talking about a lot of money, flights, hotels, it's a lot of money. And if you're not confident online, um, doing this by yourself, it can be challenging. So yeah, a lot of the bookings have become digital. And if you want the best deals, you're going to find them online. If you go to a travel agent, you're probably going to be paying a little bit more because they have to take a fee to make it worth their while. So there are some websites that are very dominant in this area.

Booking.com is one that we use a lot, Expedia et cetera. So that's kind of the booking side of it. Research, people do a lot of research online about where to stay, what to do. In the past, you might arrive in a location and then you would talk to people locally. You would go to the tourist information office and ask them, Okay, what can I do? What is available to do nearby? But people often arrive and they already know what they want to do, where they want to go.

Su: Yeah, absolutely. Because there's so much online, there's also crowd sourcing of information. This is good because of that, this is not that good. So, you can get a very good idea of what's the place like, right? If you read these reviews, so yes, you said before you, well, you would go to the tourist information office, usually in the center, very city center or very close by a big station, and then you would get a map and they will let you know, like, what would the route be and just help you out with that. Today, you do it yourself. You do it with the technology you have.

Colin: Well, if you think about that, the technology these days, when you arrive in your vacation destination, your navigation is through your smartphone. People are not really using maps to, to travel around. It's become easier to get data for your smartphone when you travel. Again just a few years ago, you might have to get a remote wifi device that you carried around with you. Now there are eSIMs, which allow you just to temporarily have another SIM on your smartphone and you can get very cheap access to data. So people are using things like Google Maps to navigate cities, which for me now is essential.

Su: Yeah, because it's not only the map, like the street map, it's also the public transport. These apps can tell you the fare, how much is it going to cost? How many stations? What's the name of the station?

Colin: Which direction. Which direction do you need to go? So if you're using a subway in a city that you're not familiar with, you don't know which direction should I go up the line, should I go down the line? But the maps, Google Maps, is gonna tell you everything you need to know and in your language. So maybe a few years ago you could get a local version, but that would probably not be in your language. So these are major changes, but have made traveling so much easier.

Another thing we can think about is translation apps. Now, as an English teacher, I don't encourage the use of translation apps. I think people should learn to use the language of the place they're visiting, but there's no doubt that translation apps give you access to information that you wouldn't normally have access to. Um, you can avoid misunderstandings. You can save yourself time. Even using the camera through the translation app. You can understand what a sign says, and you can even have a simple conversation with people. Just have something like Google translate open. I can speak in my language, the other person can speak in their language and we can have a little conversation together. So that's really opened travel to everyone.

Su: One of my favorite apps is that the translation app, but the camera, because you can just point it at a menu or a sign and it will translate it. Usually it's very literal, so you need to figure out, uh, what it really means.

Colin: Yeah, I think the point there is that translation apps work very well with sentences and if you're translating a sign, it won't be written in a standard sentence. It might just be a couple of words. So there's no context for the translation. So yeah, as you said, they, they could be a little bit strange but they're getting better. They really are getting a lot better.

Su: But it gives you, at least it gives you a little bit of control, a little bit of an idea of what's happening. Um, so yeah, it's an incredible tool to have and just being able to do things better.

Colin: And being able to talk to people that you wouldn't normally be able to talk to. Like to have a little conversation with somebody who speaks a completely different language to you is just incredible.

Su: It is. I, I think that's, that's what traveling is about is communicating with others. And today, this communication through devices and technology is much, much easier. And yeah. Why wouldn't you?

Colin: Why wouldn't you use it indeed? The last thing we can talk about here is remote work and being a digital nomad. So travel used to be something that people did for a very short period of time, maybe a weekend, a week, 10 days, that kind of thing. But now people are traveling for longer, and they're able to do this because they can live and work in that place. So people could go, for example, to Portugal for three months or six months, and they can rent a place, maybe through Airbnb or something like that, and they can live locally, but they're able

to work because their work is online. So this is a new way of living that people have found. They're not tied down to their home country anymore and you can get a six month tourist visa in some places or maybe a three month tourist visa and then when your time comes you're able to move on to somewhere else.

Su: Today you can even get one year visa if you're a digital nomad. If you can prove that you have a job, that you can do it online, they will give you up to a year.

Colin: It depends on the country.

Su: It depends on the country, but thinking that this is really happening. There's a lot of people that can travel and they can keep working. And that really changes, uh, what we think about vacations. It also changes what a vacation is because it's really being part of the place and the culture and yes, you have your job, but you can go out and explore Have your favorite coffee shop, things like this.

Colin: Yeah, to really get to understand the place that you're in, so not just the tourist sites but actually what day to day living is like. Maybe even make some friends and truly experience a place before you move on to the next location.

ANSWERS – Multiple-Choice Questions

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