

# CERTIFIED BACKPACKERS

The Ultimate Guide to Travel India

BY SOMRAJ EXPRESS



# **THE INDO-RUSSIAN MAN THAT MADE ME**

## **WRITE THIS BOOK**

I was in Russia when I met an Indian man who changed how I looked at my travel dreams.

He said to me:

**“Bhai mera bhi sapna hai tumhare jaise ghoomna, mujhe bhi poori duniya ghoomni hai. I have big plans. Abhi mai Russia mein job karke monthly 1 Lakh kama raha hoon. Ab agle 3 saal aur job karke + overtime karke 1-2 crore rupay bacha lunga.**

**Fir woh paise ko stock market, real estate, gold mein invest karunga. Jab har mahine mujhe 1-2 lakh rupay ki passive income aane lagegi, tab mai bhi tumhare jaise poori duniya ghoomunga.”**

He was excited. He had it all planned out.

But in my heart, I know:

**“Yeh banda kabhi travel nahi karega.”**

Muh pe nahi bola maine unhe.

But let's be honest - he's stuck in a dream that may never happen. **Why?**

Because **we don't know what's going to happen in three years.**

Soch ke dekho .... **Life ka kuch bharosa hai?**

- Kya tum jaante ho agle 3 saal mein kya hoga?
- kya tum healthy aur fit rahoge?
- kya tumhe pata hai ki market upar jayegi ya neeche?
- kya jo job kar rahe ho, wo hamesha chalegi?

### **YOU NEVER KNOW ... WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT**

**We don't know if we'll even be alive tomorrow - yeah, it's the harsh reality.**

But we keep pushing our dreams far away—waiting for a perfect day.

And that day never comes.

Wo banda bhi sirf planning kar raha tha, par kabhi travel shuru karega ya nahi - who knows?

**Meanwhile, I'm currently here in Russia — writing this book.**

**I've been traveling continuously from last 4 months, i.e., 120 days, across multiple countries and across different borders.**

**I've spent ₹1 lakh till now, including all.**

Yes, just 1 lakh rupees in 120 days for traveling 8 countries. (most people don't believe me when i tell them)

Back when I was in India, I also thought:

**“Pehle 5 lakh jama karta hoon, fir travel karna shuru karunga.”**

But I realized — **if I had waited, I would have never started.**

On the way while traveling, I got to know how to get travel sponsorships. I learned multiple ways on how to earn money while traveling. I met amazing people who inspired me a lot.

**And now, I'm sharing all of that with you.**

**Because you don't need to be rich to travel. You just need courage to begin, and this Book will help you in -**

**“How to Begin Your Travel Journey”**

**"How to Get Courage to Start Travelling."**

**What if I say this 50-page book can change your whole life.**

What took me 1 year of solo India travel, 100+ mistakes and endless Google searches, I've compressed all that into this one powerful book, so that you can travel smarter, faster, cheaper and feel alive.

ABCT i.e. Anybody can travel but sometimes we all just need some courage, some push, information, and bravery mixed with someone's inspirational travel stories, so that's why I am writing this book for you.

**FOR THE NEXT BIG TRAVELLERS FROM INDIA WHO WILL REPRESENT INDIA IN DIFFERENT NATIONS ACROSS DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.**

**This book is the *first step* for you. This book will give you the exact hacks, tips, guides, tools, mindset, and secrets to start your travel journey across India (and one day, the world).**

Because I believe in something deeply:

Indian youth deserves freedom.

Freedom to explore.

Freedom to live.

Freedom to create stories, not just savings.

**Let's start building that life now.**

**Welcome to the Ultimate Travel Guide for Smart Indian travelers.**

**Your travel journey starts here. It's time to become a Certified Backpacker.**

Certified  
Backpackers.

This book is especially for First-time male & female travelers, young solo travelers, college students, content creators, middle-class dreamers, 9-5 Job doers, and budget explorers.

*PS* - This book is solely focused on TRAVELING in INDIA. All tricks and secrets that I will tell you in this book are for India, and not International. Although I have taken some examples from my International trip for you to understand better.

Let's Start..

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### **What's Next ?**

The logo for 'Certified Backpackers' features the word 'Certified' in a bold, sans-serif font with a horizontal line underneath it. Below this, the word 'Backpackers.' is written in a larger, bold, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a circular icon containing a stylized backpack.

# The Real Truth About Travelling

## So, you want to travel?

But there's just *one* problem.

Maybe it's MONEY (Paisa). Maybe it's fear.

Maybe your parents said "*yeh sab time waste hai*".

Or maybe, you just don't know **how to even start travelling**.

If that's you — **this guide will be your new best friend**.

## Why do most people never travel?

Because they think:

- "I need 1 lakh OR 5 lakh rupees to start."
- "I'll do it *someday*, when I earn more."
- "I'm scared to go alone."
- "Traveling is only for rich people."

## Wrong.

This book will **break all those myths that keeps coming in your mind** because your mindset matters more than your money.

ATTENTION ⚠—This guide is not just for reading.

It's for **doing**.

**Do take screenshots. Save it.**

Because jab yeh book padhna khatam karoge, mai nahi chahta ki tum bas inspired ho —

I want you to be **ready for travelling**.

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## We've Been Lied Always...

Since childhood, we've been told:

"Ghoomna mehange shaunk hai." (Travel is a Luxury)

"Pehle paise kama kar settle ho jao, fir duniya dekhna." (You need to be rich to see the world)

"Bahaar kharaab log hai, loot lenge tumhe, yeh sab tumhare liye nahi hai." (It's unsafe, it's risky outside, it's not for you)

"Ghoomna sirf kaamyab logon ki kismat mein hai" (Only successful people get to travel.)

Let's be honest...

**All that is a lie. (SAB JHOOT HAI)**

A lie told by people who were **too afraid** to try it themselves.

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### **TRUTH #1: You Don't Need ₹1 Lakh to Travel**

I've met people in India who traveled to 30 cities in 3 months —  
Spending **less than ₹15,000**.

I personally traveled to 8 countries in 120 days with around ₹1 Lakh.  
And most of the hacks you'll read in this book were **never taught in school**.

**You don't need big money. You need better strategies.**

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### **TRUTH #2: "Later" is the Most Dangerous Word**

"I'll travel after I earn 10 Lakh."

"Let me settle first."

"Next year for sure."

### **Next year never comes.**

You'll be stuck in the 9-to-5 race.

Trapped in EMI, bills, and fake promotions.

**If you don't start now — when will you?**

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### **TRUTH #3: Travel is Not a Waste of Time**

They say:

“Travel won't give you anything in life.”

But actually:

- It teaches you **confidence**
  - You learn **problem-solving**
  - You discover **yourself**
  - You make friends, grow emotionally, think clearly
  - Some even find their **life purpose** on the road (Example - me)
- Watermark: Certified Backpackers.*

**Travel is education. Real education.**

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### **TRUTH #4: Safety is a Skill, Not a Luck Factor**

India has solo female travelers exploring **Himachal, Ladakh, Meghalaya, Kerala** without fear.

They aren't “lucky.” They are **smart**.

With the right **apps, awareness, planning** — anyone can travel solo.

You'll learn how in the coming chapters.

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### **TRUTH #5: You Don't Need a Group**

Waiting for friends is the biggest reason most dreams die.

You don't need 5 people to go.

You need just **one decision** —"mujhe nikalna hai", (*"I am going"*)

Once you begin, you'll meet better people on the journey than you ever had in your contact list.

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## **TRUTH #6: You Can Earn While Traveling**

There are Indians right now:

- Editing videos from the Himalayas
- Teaching English online from a hostel in Manali
- Leading group trips & making ₹40,000/month
- Creating reels & earning more than a full-time job

This book will tell you how. Step by step.

 Certified Backpackers.

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Now that your mind is open, it's time to learn **how to go on your first trip.**

Where to go. How to go.

With or without friends.



**Next Chapter: Solo vs Group Travel: What's Right for You?**

# **Solo vs Group Travel: What's Right for You?**

## **There's No One Right Way to Travel**

Some love to explore alone.

Some love to vibe with a community.

Both are powerful. I like to do both. But the real question you need to ask from yourself:

**What kind of experiences do I want to live?**

## **SOLO TRAVEL — “Mera Safar, Meri Marzi”**

**Why you should consider it:**

- You discover yourself. (THE BIGGEST REASON)
- You build confidence fast — every decision is yours.
- No compromise. You eat where you want, go where you feel.
- You become independent — no one to save you, no one to stop you. (Boon/Bane)

**Challenges:**

- Lonely sometimes (especially in new cities)
- Need to plan, think, act — no one will do it for you
- Safety is your responsibility (especially for female travelers)

**Real Talk:**



"Solo travel is not about being alone.

It's about being *full of yourself* — and finally learning how to enjoy that."

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## GROUP TRAVEL / — “Naye log, Nayi kahaani”

### Why it's beautiful:

- It's fun. High energy. Laughter on the road.
- You meet strangers who feel like soulmates
- Less stress: someone else handles planning
- Shared memories, photos, inside jokes  

### Challenges:

- Less freedom, because you move as a group
- Sometimes mismatched vibes
- Need patience and flexibility

### Real Talk:

"In group travel, you don't just explore a place.  
You explore *people*. And that's an important journey too."

Tumhe MANZOOR ho ya na ho, par at the end tumhe LOGON (people) se deal karna hi padega, apne life ke har hisse mei. So learn that as soon as possible.

### So...What's Right for You?

**PS** - Try both. Start with a group travel if you're scared.  
Level up to solo when you're ready.

NOTE - The Best choice is go solo on Strangers trips. It will be beneficial (I will tell you more about this in the coming chapter)

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# **The Certified Backpacker Mindset**

Now here's something deeper.  
Being a Certified Backpacker isn't about bags or brands.

It's a **lifestyle**. It's an **attitude**.

The mindset is:

- 🧠 *"I can start from zero and still go everywhere."*
- 💡 *"I use my mind, not just my money."*
- 🗺️ *"I travel to learn, not just to impress others."*
- 🤝 *"I help others on the way — that's my community."*
- 🎯 *"I don't just travel. I transform."*

**Certified  
Backpackers.**

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## **The Big Realisation**

Whether you go solo or in a group,  
Travel will **change you** — if you're open to it.

But when you carry the mindset of a Certified Backpacker,  
**You don't just take trips. You take charge of your life.**

Now that you've chosen how you're gonna travel, it's time to learn **how to actually plan your first trip**.  
Where to go. When to go. How to go.



**Next Chapter: Planning Your First Trip Like a Pro**



# HOW TO PLAN YOUR FIRST TRIP

This is your first step from Overthinking to Overlanding (Don't IGNORE this chapter)

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💬 “How to start?” is the most searched question on Google for first-time travelers.

Let's kill that confusion right now for you.

You don't need ₹1,00,000 to start.

You don't need 10 friends to say yes.

You don't need a month-long leave.

You just need a decision:

**“Mujhe nikalna hai.”**

This chapter will help you choose the right destination at the right time, based on weather, mood, festivals, and your budget.



## PLAN LIKE A PRO – TIMELINE

### ✅ 4 Weeks Before:

- Decide your travel destination (Next chapter)
- Set your budget (You'll get a travel calculator in this book)
- Watch YouTube & reels for idea/inspiration
- DM travelers who've been there (maybe message me too [@somraajexpress](#) 😊)

### ✅ 2 Weeks Before:

- Book your transport (Train, Bus, Flight)
- Finalize your stays
- Arrange/Buy missing items from backpacking checklist

## ✓ 2 Days Before:

- Download offline maps, music playlists
- Keep document photocopies
- Relax. Get excited. Sleep well.

## 💡 Pro Tip:

- 👉 Check weather, festivals, and political conditions before final booking.
- 👉 Use IRCTC & Cleartrip for smarter train booking (More hacks in next chapter!)
- 👉 If confused — start with **Rishikesh, Varanasi or Manali**. Perfect for the first trip.

*"Don't wait for the perfect moment.*

*Pick a date, pick a place... and GO.*

*Because for me Travel isn't about seeing new places. It's about becoming someone brave enough to reach them."*

Backpackers.

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# Where to Travel in India Month by Month (with reason)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Top Places to Travel</u>	<u>Why to Go (Season + Vibe)</u>
<b>January</b>	Manali, Auli, Rishikesh, Varanasi, Tawang	Snowfall, New Year vibe, spiritual & peaceful start
<b>February</b>	Jaisalmer, Hampi, Rann of Kutch, Khajuraho	Desert festival, romantic vibes, cultural explorations
<b>March</b>	Varanasi, Mathura, Jaipur, Shillong	Holi celebrations, spring weather, colorful India
<b>April</b>	Dharamshala, McLeodganj, Sikkim, Coorg	Pleasant hill weather, clear skies, less crowd
<b>May</b>	Spiti Valley, Ladakh (opens late May), Mussoorie, Tirthan Valley	Escape heat, road trips, backpacker season begins
<b>June</b>	Kashmir, Manali, Valley of Flowers, Gangotri	Summer holidays, snow melts, flowers bloom
<b>July</b>	Munnar, Goa (monsoon special), Chikmagalur, Mahabaleshwar	Lush green monsoon, peaceful off-season vibes
<b>August</b>	Udaipur, Wayanad, Meghalaya, Ziro Valley	Misty views, local festivals, Northeast becomes magical
<b>September</b>	Valley of Flowers (last), Rajasthan, Himachal treks (Tosh, Kheerganga), Orchha	Monsoon ends, greenery at peak, budget travel ideal
<b>October</b>	Andaman, Hampi, Rishikesh, Varanasi	Clean post-monsoon weather, perfect time to begin exploring again
<b>November</b>	Pushkar (Camel Fair), Jodhpur, Sundarbans, Rann of Kutch	Festivals, desert weather, start of winter season
<b>December</b>	Goa, Kasol, Kerala Backwaters, Udaipur	Christmas & NY vibe, beaches, cool weather, parties + peace together

## **BUDGET BREAKDOWN (Solo / Friend / Couples)**

I will explain about the budget breakdown by providing 3 categories, which are solo travel, two friends travel, and Couple travel.

Rest, you can calculate the budget according to your number of people.

Category	Solo Traveler	Two Friends (per person)	Couple (shared cost)
Stay (Hostel/Hotel/Homestay)	₹200 - ₹700	₹200 - ₹600	₹800 - ₹2000
Food (Local + 1 café meal)	₹100 - ₹400	₹200 - ₹500	₹200 - ₹800
Transport (Local + Intercity)	₹50 - ₹300	₹100 - ₹400	₹200 - ₹700
Sightseeing/Activities	₹100 - ₹300	₹100 - ₹400	₹300 - ₹600
Miscellaneous (Snacks, SIM, Wi-Fi, Tips, Water)	₹50 - ₹200	₹100 - ₹300	₹200 - ₹500
<b>Total / Day</b>	<b>₹500 - ₹1900</b>	<b>₹700 - ₹2200</b>	<b>₹1700 - ₹4600</b>

### **Pro Tips for Budgeting:**

- Travel during **shoulder/off seasons** (March–April, September–October) to get cheaper rates.
- Share rooms with fellow travelers from hostels or local people.
- Book overnight buses/trains to **save one night stay cost.**(I do this often)
- Always keep an **emergency Fund** of ₹2000–₹5000.

## **Ultimate Backpacking Checklist (India Edition)**

Screenshot this or print it (your choice). Also, You will get the laminated print at Certified Backpackers Community trip (will tell you later).

# ULTIMATE BACKPACKING CHECKLIST

## INDIA EDITION



### Essentials:

- Backpack (40-60L, lightweight)
- Daypack (for short hikes/walks)
- Identity proof (Aadhar, Passport copy)
- Travel Wallet / Money Pouch
- Powerbank (10,000 mA or more)
- Water bottle (Reusable)

### Footwear:

- Trekking Shoes / Sneakers
- Flip flops / Slippers

### Clothes (for 7-10 day trip)


- 3-4 T-Shirts / Tops
- 1 Pair jeans / 2 shorts / trek pants
- 1 Warm hoodie / Jacket
- Undergarments (quic dry)
- Sleepwear
- Cap / Sunglasses / Bandana


### First Aid:

- Basic medicines (fever, cold, stomach)
- Band-aids
- Pain relief spray / balm
- ORS packets

### Tech:

- Phone + Charger
- Earphones / Headphones
- Extra SIM or International SIM
- Offline maps downloaded (Google Maps)

**Created by Somraaj Express  
For the Certified Backpackers  
of India** 

 @certifiedbackpackers



My personal Recommended products link:

- Backpack - <https://amzn.to/3TWP7QN>  
My Action Camera - <https://amzn.to/448bjxw>  
Mobile Tripod stand - <https://amzn.to/4kdrNsR>  
Wired Mic - <https://amzn.to/3l9poSL>  
Mic (Wireless) - <https://amzn.to/3Gouwlm>
- Daypack - <https://amzn.to/44weBcN>
- Travel Wallet / Money Pouch - <https://amzn.to/4etYlh9>
- Powerbank (10,000 mAh or more) - <https://amzn.to/44yhKsH>
- Trekking Shoes / Sneakers - <https://amzn.to/45R74Yw>
- Camping Tent - <https://amzn.to/4exWka3>
- Sleeping Bag - <https://amzn.to/4lrb9ai>
- Multi Purpose gear - <https://amzn.to/44tbgv5>

**FOR MEN**



**FOR WOMEN**



Just kidding ,buy a good reusable bottle - <https://amzn.to/4eEFbFh>

# TRAVEL SMART HACKS - BOOKING LIKE A PRO

## 1. Transport Hacks for Bus, Train, Flight & Ferry (I have used all)

### BUSES

- Use apps like **RedBus**, **AbhiBus**, and **ZingBus** for early bird discounts. (Mostly i use zing bus, but its depends on price & service)
- Book from official state transport websites (like UPSRTC, HRTC) – sometimes cheaper than private platforms.
- **Night buses = Save on hotel stays** + full day to explore. (Best hack)
- Use **new user offers** from multiple email IDs (₹100–₹300 off per booking).

### TRAINS

- Book **60 days in advance** via IRCTC. (still not guaranteed 😞)
- Use **IRCTC app** or **ConfirmTkt** for seat prediction and best timing. (Try using private companies app for choosing guaranteed ticket or get refund more than your ticket price)
- **For last-minute travel: Tatkal booking at 10 AM (AC) or 11 AM (Sleeper) one day before.**
- Prefer **2S** or **Sleeper class** for budget journeys.
- Check “**Where is my Train**” app for live train updates.
- Use **IRCTC wallet** or **UPI** to reduce payment failure chances.

### FLIGHTS

- Use **Google Flights** for best comparison, but book on airline website.
- Turn on **incognito mode** while searching – avoids price rises.
- Cheapest days: **Tuesday** or **Wednesday**, early morning or late night flights.

- Use **SkyScanner's calendar view** to book cheapest dates in the month. (I used this for Malaysia Flight - my first International flight)
- Signup for **airline newsletters** – they often offer exclusive codes.

### ✓ **FERRIES (Like Goa, Andaman, Lakshadweep)**

- Book well in advance via **government sites** (like DSS for Andaman).
  - Ask locals if there's **offline booking counter** – usually cheaper.
- 

### **2. IRCTC Pro Tips**

- **Register on IRCTC before your first booking** – verify your account with PAN/Aadhaar.
  - Save your **traveller profiles** for quick booking.
  - Avoid rush hours: book **either before 9 AM or after 10 PM**.
  - Always **check seat availability** using ConfirmTkt.
- 

### ✓ **UPI (PhonePe, GPay, Paytm)**

- Use UPI for 99% payments in India – works everywhere from chai stall to resorts.
- **Scan & pay = track expenses easily.**
- Avoid keeping large cash; just ₹500–₹1000 for local travel or offline spots.

### ✓ **Cards**

- Carry a **RuPay debit card** – works with UPI as backup (for India.)
- Use **credit cards with travel rewards**.
- Enable **international payments** on card before using abroad (More in next book).

## ✓ ATM & Cash Tips

- **Don't Withdraw in bulk** to avoid any loss of cash or theft.
- Use **PSU banks** or Post Office ATMs – less chances of cash issues in small towns.
- If international travel: Use **Niyo or Wise card** for zero forex markup.

Link -

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## ✨ Bonus: Booking Hacks That Most People Don't Know

- Use **Split journey trick** in trains: book from A → C via B for better availability.  
Delhi - Guwahati (No, if full booked)  
Delhi - Varanasi - Guwahati (Yes, If available)
- Book **return trip** on the spot for discounts (buses/flights).
- Use **Student ID / Youth Pass** if you're under 25 – special fares on some routes.
- Always compare **hostel + travel combos** on aggregator apps like Goibibo or Agoda.

**PS-** These are very tiny things while you travelling, don't think too much. Just pre-plan your travel by reading this chapter and go out.

**NEXT CHAPTER IS THE REAL GOLDMINE**


# Stay on Budget – The Real Hacks

Know how to plan a trip according to our budget, and still enjoy everything.

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## 1. Budget Travel Calculator

### Your Expenses = Your Trip Style

 Most people think travel is expensive, but it depends on *how* you travel. This chapter helps to *calculate your expenses per day* and plan accordingly.

I am taking example of solo traveller to calculate your budget cost.

If you are:

Travelling India in low Budget - 400 rs./day

Travelling India in Mid Budget - 1000 rs./day

Travelling India in High Budget - 2500 rs./day

#### **BONUS (Including Visa fees)**

Travelling International in low Budget - 1000 rs./day

Travelling International in Mid Budget - 1500 rs./day

Travelling International in High Budget - 3000 rs./day

#### **Formula:**

$\text{No. of Days} \times \text{Daily Budget} = \text{Total Trip Cost}$

If you are travelling India for 8 days in low budget

Your trip cost = 400 multiplied by 10 = 3200 rs.

I hope you understood this formula.

Usually when I used to travel in India, I would travel for 30 days continuously and my expenses would come across 10,400 rs. If you go by this formula, my per day expense comes out to be 346.66 rs.something.

## 2. Must-Have Travel Apps (🚀 For Every Kind of Traveler)

Category	Best Apps (Free)	Use
<b>Train Booking</b>	IRCTC, ConfirmTkt, Where is My Train	Real-time booking, prediction, tracking
<b>Bus Booking</b>	RedBus, AbhiBus, ZingBus	Offers, seat selection, ratings
<b>Flight Search</b>	Skyscanner, Google Flights, Goibibo	Cheapest dates, alerts
<b>Stay/Accommodation</b>	<a href="https://www.booking.com">Booking.com</a> , Agoda, Hostelworld, couchsurfing	Compare prices, find hostels, free stays
<b>Offline Maps</b>	Google maps, Organic Maps	Navigate without data or sim
<b>Translator</b>	Google Translate	Translate signs or speak with locals
<b>Local Transport</b>	Uber/Ola, Rapido	Buses, metros, auto rides in new cities
<b>Group Chat &amp; Planning</b>	Telegram, WhatsApp, Splitwise	Group planning, splitting bills
<b>Experience Booking</b>	Headout, GetYourGuide,	Book guided tours, treks
<b>Safety</b>	Aarogya Setu, ICE App, Truecaller	Health safety, emergency contact

✅ **PS-** Download all these apps in one folder: **"My Travel Tools"**

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### 3. Hotel vs Hostel vs Homestay – What’s Right For You?

There are 3 ways to stay. I used all 3 but it purely depends on my situation and how I am travelling.

Understand this easily using this Table,

Stay Type	Best For	Pros	Cons
Hotel	Couples, families, privacy lovers	Privacy, room service, luxury amenities	Expensive, not social
Hostel	Solo travelers, budget backpackers	Budget friendly, social environment, community vibes	Shared rooms, less privacy
Homestay	Cultural explorers, slow travelers	Local experience, homemade food, quiet surroundings	May lack amenities, not suitable for parties
Couchsurfing	Hardcore travelers, extroverts	Free, make local friends	Trust required, not always available

#### MY Advice as Somraaj Express:

“If you’re just starting, try staying in a *hostel dorm for 1–2 nights* and see how it feels. You may find your tribe. If traveling with your partner, check out boutique homestays – affordable yet romantic.”

PS - I want to congratulate you that you are reading this book with so much curiosity, Answers Earning and crazy travel tips will come in next chapters....**Be ready, YOU ARE TRANSFORMING.**


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## Let’s Understand Couchsurfing

### What is Couchsurfing?

Couchsurfing is a **global community of travelers** who open their homes and hearts to fellow explorers. It allows you to **stay with locals for free**, experience their way of life, and create real human connections.

But most importantly, remember this...

 It's not a free hotel.

 It's a trust-based traveler exchange.

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## How Does Couchsurfing Work?

1. **Create an account** at <https://couchsurfing.page.link/bZS4KmWkKEZPFVet5>
2. **Make your profile strong** - You can add your real photos, describe who you are, don't forget to mention your travel goals and lastly what kind of traveler you are. This will help you in making your couchsurfing profile strong & appealing.
3. **(Optional but useful)** You can verify via ID or pay for verification
4. **Search for hosts in your destination**
  - Read their profile, reviews, and preferences
5. **Send a polite and customized message**
  - Don't copy-paste! Be genuine.



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## Free vs. Paid Couchsurfing Plan

Feature	Free Plan 	Paid Plan  (\$60/lifetime approx.)
Search & Request Hosts	 Yes	 Yes
Read Host Reviews	 Yes	 Yes
Message Without Limitations	 Limited per week	 Unlimited
Verification Badge	 No	 Yes

 **Tip:** If you're serious about long-term travel, this fee is *worth it*.

## A Polite Message Template for Requesting Stay

Here's a **template** that i use to send my couchsurfing request:

Hello [Host's Name],

I hope you are having a great day. My name is [Your Name], I'm a traveler from (Your city name) and currently exploring [Your Destination]. I found your profile very interesting and warm. I make travel videos & I love meeting new people and learning from different cultures.


I'll be in [City Name] from [Date] to [Date], and I was wondering if you'd be open to host me during that time. I'd love to share stories, help in household chores, and cook you my (city) dish if you're open to it.


Looking forward to hearing from you. Even if hosting isn't possible, I'd love to meet for a coffee or walk. 😊

With respect and gratitude,  
[Your Name]

---

### Couchsurfing is Give & Take

 **As a guest** — Be clean, helpful, respectful.

 **As a future host** — Once you've experienced Couchsurfing, consider hosting others and passing on the kindness.

**This is how we grow the global tribe of travelers.**

*You don't need to be rich to travel the world. You just need to be kind, smart, and respectful.*

#### Key Rule

It's NOT a free hotel

Message with heart

Be helpful, not demanding

Pay it forward


#### What to Remember

Respect your host, don't expect food or luxury

Never copy-paste. Read profiles, personalize message

Offer stories, help, and cultural exchange

Host others when you're capable

 **Simple Question** - Would you help someone you've never met and if it didn't cost you any money ?

If yes, I ask you for a Review. It would mean a lot to me if you can share this book review and feedback on your Instagram / whatsapp / facebook / LinkedIn / X (whatever you use) by making some video or putting a story. This would give me confidence to give more value to you. Also don't forget to tag or mention my ID [@somraajexpress](#) .

PS - Okay now let's continue forward for Important and Hard travel advice (I have saved these for the people who are reading till now.)

## **TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS FOR FEMALE TRAVELERS** **(AND SOLO TRAVELERS)**

### **A Personal Note to Every Female Traveler:**

“You have every right to see the world. To explore, to grow, to be free. But you also have every right to **feel safe** while doing so. This chapter is not to scare you. It's to **empower you**. Read it. Remember it. And then — go rule the road.”

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## **SAFETY DOESN'T MEAN FEAR. SAFETY MEANS POWER.**

Most people will tell you — “Don't go here, don't travel alone, it's risky.”

I won't say that.

I'll say — **go**, but go prepared. Go smart. Go strong.

Because the world needs to see **more women on the road**.

### **MINDSET FIRST: YOU ARE THE BOSS**

When I met with Girls Who Travel, I observed some qualities and I would like to inform you of this. While travelling, you should walk with confidence, not fear. Speak directly - even if it's a lie for safety.

The sixth sense of women is on a supreme level, so trust your gut. Your intuition is your best guide. SAY NO when needed. Don't try to be polite if you feel unsafe.

Now you have killer mindset, let's focus on your trip preparation.

## BEFORE THE TRIP – PREPARE LIKE A QUEEN 👑

1. **Research the place** – safety rating, local scams, cultural rules
2. **Book first night stay in advance**
3. **Keep documents backed up online (Google Drive)**
4. **Tell one trusted friend/family member your plan**
5. **Install important apps** (shared below)

## 👛 WHAT TO CARRY FOR SAFETY

- ✓ Pepper spray or safety whistle
- ✓ Personal GPS tracker app (like bSafe, Life360)
- ✓ Power bank (charge is your lifeline)
- ✓ Padlock for hostel lockers
- ✓ Scarf/sarong (multi-use: cover, blanket, curtain)
- ✓ Offline maps & translator

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## 🚶 ON THE ROAD — BE STREET SMART

- 📱 **Keep your phone charged** – always
- 🚗 **Use verified transport** (Uber/Ola or pre-booked)
- 👁️ **Avoid showing expensive items** (jewelry, camera)
- 🍹 **Don't accept drinks from strangers**
- 🛏️ **Stay in hostels with female-only dorms** if you're not comfortable in mixed
- 🧑 **Don't tell strangers you're traveling alone** – say “my friend is nearby”

- 👥 **Try group trips or meetups** (check website like certifiedbackpackers.com, Couchsurfing, etc.)

## 🧑‍🌾 CULTURAL AWARENESS FOR INDIAN TRAVEL

If you're traveling within India or to conservative regions:

- Dress modestly — not to restrict yourself, but to blend in
- Avoid late night arrival in unknown towns
- Learn a few local words — builds respect and trust
- Respect local customs — and expect the same in return

## 💬 MESSAGE FROM SOME REAL FEMALE TRAVELERS I MET

“I’ve hitchhiked across India. Slept in dhabas, stayed in homes, and walked alone. I’ve felt unsafe at times. But I’ve also felt **more powerful than ever**. Learn the road. Then trust it.”

— Muskan, 24, Solo Hitchhiker

“Safety is about **smart boundaries**. Be strong, not scared. Learn to say No, and smile only when it’s real.”

— Riya, Backpacker & Yoga Instructor

## 🧑‍🌾 SOLO VS GROUP TRAVEL — WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU?

🧐 Criteria	🧑‍🌾 Solo Travel	👥 Group Travel
Freedom	Total control on your time	Shared experience, fixed plan
Cost	Can be higher, but flexible	Budget-friendly (split expenses)
Safety	Needs alertness, street-smart attitude	Safer, especially for first-timers
Experience	Deep personal growth	Fun, friendship, shared joy

Right For      Confident, adventurous travelers      First-timers, those seeking community

💡 **Certified Backpackers** offers both — **solo freedom + group family**. You choose.

## ❤️ YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

This book, this community, **Certified Backpackers**, and thousands of other solo travelers are with you.

You are **not just a female traveler**.

You are a **brave explorer**, a **fearless soul**, a **path-breaker**. You are an inspiration for many other girls.

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⚠️⚠️ **ONLY FOR GIRLS / WOMAN**

**[JOIN THIS WHATSAPP GROUP](#) TO MEET OTHER FEMALE TRAVELERS**

👉 [https://chat.whatsapp.com/KkMs1a9RwPICR8KoZkuM6J?mode=ac\\_c](https://chat.whatsapp.com/KkMs1a9RwPICR8KoZkuM6J?mode=ac_c)

PS - Don't join this whatsapp group if you are a boy/man. Only for female travellers.

**Now we are going at the climax of this travel book and real gold nuggets you are going to read. **Lets start with volunteering and camping.****

## Save Money On Your Stays – Volunteering + Camping






### Couchsurfing vs Volunteering — What's the Difference?

Most Indian travelers only think of **Couchsurfing** as the *free stay option*. But let's go one step deeper— to **Volunteering**.

I have done both in India as well as International. Understand both by this table,

 Feature	 Couchsurfing	 Volunteering (Worldpackers etc.)
Type of Stay	Stay with locals (usually for free)	Work in exchange for free stay & meals
Duration	1-4 days average	1 week to 1 month
Work Required	 No (You're a guest)	 Yes (You help them)
Good For	Short stays, meeting locals, cultural exchange	Long travel, deep immersion, saving more
Platforms	Couchsurfing.com	<b>Worldpackers.com</b> , Workaway, HelpX

Volunteering means offering your **time and skills** (teaching, cleaning, social media, reception, farming, etc.) in exchange for:

-  **Free Stay**
-  **Free Food (in most cases)**
-  **Cultural Exchange**
-  **Learning Life Skills**
-  **Making Global Friends**

You'll be staying at **hostels, farms, schools, homestays, animal shelters**, and helping them while experiencing local life like no tourist ever can.


## **Worldpackers – The Best Platform for Volunteering**

**Worldpackers** is a trusted platform where you can find safe, verified volunteering opportunities across **India and 140+ countries**.

Apply now -

[https://www.worldpackers.com/promo/SOMRAAJ?utm\\_campaign=SOMRAAJ&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=affiliate](https://www.worldpackers.com/promo/SOMRAAJ?utm_campaign=SOMRAAJ&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=affiliate)

✔ **How to Use Worldpackers** - Create an account with the [given link](#). Then complete your profile about your interests, skill, and travel plans. Then Choose your host by searching city, type of work and duration. Send a short message explaining why you'd like to volunteer.

 *Worldpackers has a small yearly fee (~₹4,000–₹5,000) but gives you unlimited access to volunteering hosts + support.*

🔥 **Bonus Tip:** Use the link given and discount coupon code “SOMRAAJ” and you may get some discount + I'll guide you personally on your first volunteering trip!

## **Why Volunteering is PERFECT for First-Time Travelers?**

- You travel slow, not rushed
- **You save 70–90% of money on stays**
- You connect with real people, not just tourists
- You learn to survive, hustle, grow
- You get amazing content for your Instagram/YouTube (Personal Experience)
- You build confidence to travel more

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## **Tent Camping Hacks (For the Brave Indian Backpacker 🏋️)**

I did a lot of camping. Already i provided you with the link to buy the camp. And if you already have a camp, then lets understand how to camp for better experiences.

Sometimes all you need is a tent and an open heart.

## Where to Camp in India?


**Note:** Always ask locals or camp in permitted zones!

### Location Type

### Example Places

Beaches	Gokarna, Rameshwaram, Andaman
Forest edges	Himachal (Jibhi, Tirthan), Uttarakhand
Mountains	Spiti, Parvati Valley, Chopta
Lakesides	Pangong, Tso Moriri, Tehri
Offbeat villages	Meghalaya, Nagaland, Coorg, Ziro

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 **Camping Safety Tips** - While camping, try to put your camp near locals, not totally alone. Carry dome spray mosquito repellent cream if you don't want love bites 😊. Inform someone of your Location and carry a small self- defense item (I used to carry nunchaku with me, but now it is with the Azerbaijan immigration team - Long story). Moving forward I would suggest you find some dhaba or petrol pumps nearby to use public toilets.

*"1 Month ago, I asked to put my tent in a small village in Kazakhstan. A local aunty came, smiled and asked, "Siz balam jediniz be".....i know samajh nahi aaya hoga....but in hindi it means 'Khana khaya beta?' She invited me for dinner and gave me a warm place near her home to camp. That night, I slept under the stars and felt more alive than ever."*

That's the power of slow, soulful travel.

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## SO now understand this

- ✓ Use **Couchsurfing** for short free cultural stays
- ✓ Use **Worldpackers** to stay free + gain experience
- ✓ Use **Camping** to connect with nature & self
- ✓ Travel light, smart, and respectful

# EXPERIENCE MORE & SPEND LESS (FOR FOREIGNERS)

Meet Locals • Learn Culture • Eat Everything • Hack the City

---

## Why This Chapter Exists:

You don't just want to **see places**, you want to **feel them**. You want to eat what locals eat, hear their stories, laugh with them, feel *part of it*. That's the soul of backpacking — *not ticking off tourist sites but living like a local*.

This chapter is about how to **immerse yourself**, spend less, and **make your travels 10x more meaningful**. **I designed this chapter especially for foreigners who are visiting India for first time.**

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## How to Meet Locals (Even If You're Introvert)

Meeting locals in India is easy — we're known for hospitality (Mehmaan nawaazi).

Here's **how to do it smartly** (Read this table):

### Hack

### How To Do It

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Ask for Local Tips    | Ask chaiwalas, auto drivers, cafe owners — they know best                                      |
|  Stay with Locals      | Use Couchsurfing, Airbnb with “host interaction” filter  |
|  Join Local Events     | Check <b>Meetup app, Couchsurfing Hangouts, Facebook Events or Certified backpackers group</b> |
|  Visit Temples/Markets | Locals are more open to conversations in non-tourist places                                    |
|  Be Curious            | Ask about festivals, food, language — show real interest                                       |

 **Pro Tip:** Don't treat locals like guides. Treat them like friends.

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## Culture Hacks & Language Tips

India is a land of **multiple cultures**. Even we Indians feel “new” in a different state(for real).

Here are **simple tricks to connect**:

- 🙌 Learn 2-3 basic words in local language:
  - **Namaste / Namaskar** – Hello
  - **Dhanyawaad / Nandri / Shukriya** – Thank you
  - **Aap kaise ho? / Kem chho? / Kasa Kai?** – How are you?
- 🙏 *Respect food and rituals* — Don't point feet at temples, always remove shoes
- 🍽️ *Accept food if offered* — It's a cultural gesture of love
- 📷 *Ask before taking photos of people or homes*
- 🤝 **Don't talk politics or religion unless invited — stay neutral**

🔥 *Biggest Hack*: Wear one element of the local outfit (shawl, kurta) — you'll instantly feel more welcomed.



## Free Things to Try in Indian Cities

Certified  
Backpackers.

Believe it or not — you can experience A LOT without spending a rupee.

### 📍 City

### 🎁 Free Experiences



Varanasi	Watch sunrise Ganga Aarti, walk ghats
Rishikesh	Join free yoga session at riverbank or Parmarth Niketan
Jaipur	Explore bazaars, attend cultural evenings at local hostels
Delhi	Walk Lodhi Art District, India Gate, Bangla Sahib langar
Mumbai	Sunset at Marine Drive, Gateway of India, Chowpatty Beach
Hampi	Climb boulders, visit temples, attend drum circles
Pondicherry	Visit Auroville, explore French colony
Kolkata	Attend cultural events at Rabindra Sadan, free walking tours




**Ask hostels for “What’s Free Today?”** — they often know the secrets.

## Street Food Guide: What to Eat & Where

Street food is not just food — it's an experience. Safe, tasty, and super cheap.

 City	 Must-Try Street Foods
Delhi	Chole Bhature (Karol Bagh), Ram Ladoo, Paranthe Wali Gali
Mumbai	Vada Pav, Pav Bhaji, Bhel Puri at Juhu or Chowpatty
Kolkata	Kathi Rolls, Puchka (pani puri), Mishti Doi
Amritsar	Kulcha, Lassi, Langar at Golden Temple
Varanasi	Kachori Sabzi, Tamatar Chaat, Rabri
Hyderabad	Irani Chai, Osmania Biscuit, Biryani
Lucknow	Tunday Kababi, Galawati Kebab, Sheermal
Chennai	Idli-Vada, Filter Coffee, Sundal at Marina Beach
Indore	Poha Jalebi, Bhutte ka Kees, Sarafa Night Market

 *Prefer crowded stalls = higher food turnover = safer.*

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### SIM Card (For Foreigners or non Indians):

- Buy at airport or authorized store — take **Airtel or Jio** (best coverage)
- Minimum ₹300–₹500/month plan with 1.5GB per day
- Need Aadhar (for Indians), Passport + Visa (for foreigners)

**Wi-Fi Tips:** Use **hostel/cafe Wi-Fi** smartly. Use **VPN** if accessing foreign banking apps  
Carry **public Wi-Fi password cracker apps** like Instabridge for emergencies

### Make Travel About Stories, Not Just Photos

One day, it won't be the Taj Mahal that stays in your heart.

It'll be the chai you had with a stranger who told you, "Beta, khush raho."  

PS - Aao paise kamaane ki baat karte hai ab ( Come, lets earn money while travelling)

# Get Paid to Travel - THE REAL WAYS

## First, Let me Clear One Thing...

If you're someone who just wants to *travel for peace, fun, and freedom* — and has *no interest in earning money while on the road* — that's 100% perfect.

**You don't need to turn travel into a business.**

You deserve to enjoy every single moment.

But...

If you're someone who wants to travel *longer, sustain* your journey, or just *explore* how to earn a little extra while traveling, this chapter is **just for you**.

Let's explore the **real, practical ways** to get paid while you backpack through India and beyond.

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## 1. Freelancing on the Road

Work from laptop. Anywhere. This is the most useful thing you can do. I have given you skills to master and also how to start them.

There are **hundreds of skills** you can use to earn online while traveling:

Skill Area	Platform to Start
Writing / Blogging	Fiverr, Upwork, Medium, Internshala
Graphic Design	Canva + Fiverr / Behance
Social Media	Manage Instagram pages for others
Video Editing	Offer Reels editing to brands or YouTubers
Virtual Assistant	Help startups remotely
Translation	TranslatorsCafe, ProZ

✨ *Start with just ONE small service. Get your first review. Momentum will follow.*

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## 2. Teach Your Skills (Even English)

Don't underestimate how much your skills matter.

- You can **teach Indian languages** to foreigners (Hindi/Tamil/Bengali)
- 📖 Teach **spoken English or conversation** to beginners (use Cambly, Preply, Italki)
- 🎸 Teach hobbies like dancing, yoga, or music — on Zoom or in person
- 📁 Offer **Resume building, Interview training**, or college prep tips

*You don't need a degree. You need empathy and clarity. That's what sells for real.*

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### 3. 📱 **Become a Content Creator**

**(Not Just Influencer – Be a Storyteller)**

If you're already clicking photos, taking videos, or writing your thoughts in a diary — you're already a creator.

Here's how to turn it into *something valuable*:

💡 <b>Type of Content</b>	🌐 <b>Platform</b>	💰 <b>Monetization Ideas</b>
Reels / Shorts	Instagram, YouTube Shorts	Brand collabs, affiliate links
Travel Vlogs	YouTube	Ad revenue, course / trip promotion
Blogs	Medium, Substack	Email list, eBooks
Photo Dumps	Instagram / Pinterest	Print sales, collabs with tourism brands

I like to say that *Be honest, be consistent, be YOU — people follow authenticity. You will learn more about content creation in the BONUS SECTION of this book.*

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### 4. 🎁 **Get Sponsorships for Activities**

### (Did You Know You Can Do That?)

There are companies that **sponsor your activities and adventures** just to get more visibility. If you're creating content (even with small audience like 3k+ followers), you can try this:

#### [GetYourGuide.com](https://www.getyourguide.com)

- Huge platform for local tours, activities, and city passes
- Join as a **GetYourGuide Affiliate**.

Link –


[https://partner.getyourguide.com/en-us/signup?partner\\_id=VEFYCVB&cmp=communityreferral](https://partner.getyourguide.com/en-us/signup?partner_id=VEFYCVB&cmp=communityreferral)

- Earn commission if people book through your link
- Also, **you get coupon codes to enjoy activities without paying any money.**

#### [Headout.com](https://www.headout.com)

- Same model: tours, shows, attractions
- Contact support to join **Headout Influencer / Creator Program**

Link - <https://creators.headout.com/r/AS0079W>

 [Influish app](#) - This app provides some low budget promotions to small creators. You can check it by yourself by downloading the Influish app. You can use this code “AYU301” to sign up. They will ask for code on sign-up page

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## 5. Join “Certified Backpackers Ambassador Program”

(Your Chance to Travel More, Earn More, Impact More)

I am building **INDIA'S LARGEST AND MOST RELATABLE TRAVEL COMMUNITY** which have dreamers who want to travel the world, who have wild hearts, who desire more from this life, who want to grow and who want to become their best version.

If you believe in this book, if you've learned something new here, and you love what **Somraaj Express** is doing...

Then you can join the **Certified Backpackers Community**.

*Your vibe will attract your tribe. Help people start their travel, and earn as a reward.*

 Want to join? Just message [@somraajexpress](#) or [@certifiedbackpackers](#) on Instagram. We'll give you everything you need.

You will know more about this at the end of this book.

PS - As an Indian, we love **bonus aka free ka maal**. So here I am giving you my Instagram secrets in the next chapter.

The logo for 'Certified Backpackers' features the word 'Certified' in a bold, sans-serif font with a circular icon containing a backpack silhouette to its left. Below 'Certified' is a horizontal line, and the word 'Backpackers.' is written in a larger, bold, sans-serif font underneath.

# **BONUS CHAPTER: BECOME A CONTENT CREATOR**

(The Smartest Way to Travel More, Be Seen, and Get Paid)

You don't need a fancy camera. You don't need 100k followers. What you need is **clarity, consistency, and connection**.




You're already creating — you're clicking pictures, sharing stories, posting Reels. This chapter will help you **do it with purpose**, *without pressure*. Your travel journey become someone's *starting point*.

## **WHY Content Creation is the Ultimate Skill for Travellers?**

- You **document once**, and that becomes a **memory and a portfolio**.
- **People start trusting you → They follow you → They ask you questions → You recommend trips or services → You earn + influence.**
- It becomes your **proof of work**. You don't need to say "I'm a traveler" — your feed shows it.

---

## **What Kind of Content You Can Create While Travelling?**

 <b>Type of Content</b>	 <b>Purpose</b>	 <b>Monetization Idea</b>
<b>Reels / Shorts</b>	Go viral, share energy	Brand collabs, trip promos
<b>Mini Vlogs (1-3 min)</b>	Show storytelling	Build followers, YouTube monetization
<b>Funny / Relatable Skits</b>	Hook entertainment crowd	Build a loyal audience
<b>Photo Dumps / Inspo Posts</b>	Build an aesthetic personal brand	Sell prints / Get sponsored

## LET'S BEGIN WITH SOME TRUTH BOMBS

- People don't go viral because they have good cameras — they go viral because they have good **stories**.
- The only reason you're not a content creator yet is because you think **you're not good enough**.
- You don't need 10k followers to get free trips, build income, or inspire thousands.
- If you don't tell your story, someone else with **less experience but more courage** will.

So here's my challenge to you:

- **Stop consuming.**
- **Start creating.**
- **Speak your truth.**
- **Share your journey.**

 Certified Backpackers.

### TOOLS TO START (All Free or Low Cost)

#### For Filming:

- Phone camera (any decent 1080p phone)
- Clip mic (₹300 on Amazon) or use voiceover

#### For Editing:

- **CapCut** (Best all-in-one app for Reels)
- **VN Editor** (For longer YouTube edits)

- **Snapseed or Lightroom Mobile** (For photo editing)
- **Pixellab / Canva** (For thumbnails & quotes)

Personally, I use the INSHOT APP for video editing because I have been using it for the last 4 years. I have a premium version of Inshot (1100 rs/year for iPhone / IOS and 700 rs/month for Android), but you can use the latest apps for video editing with more features.

### **For Captions & Hooks:**

- Use this format:  
**HOOK → STORY → LESSON → CTA**

**Do you remember how this book got started ??**

*"I met a man in Russia who is saving ₹1 Cr to travel. I think he'll never go. Here's why you shouldn't wait either..."*

*This was my real experience & story but it was also a hook....and i know this was a good one to start my book.*

***You would probably think how would I know that it was a good hook ??***

***because you are reading this book till now (simple).***

## **VIRAL HOOKS YOU CAN USE (SAVE THIS LIST!)**

Hooks are the most powerful sentences you say in the first 3 seconds. Without a hook, nobody watches your video.

1. "This man in Himachal changed my whole life."
2. "Why most Indians never travel — and why I left."
3. "I spent ₹150/day for 30 days. Here's how."
4. "They laughed when I said I'll become a traveler. They don't know."
5. "This hostel made me rethink everything."

6. "Don't make these mistakes while travelling in India..."
7. "This place changed me forever..."
8. "My parents were scared when I said I'll travel solo. But look where I am today."
9. "How I travelled for ₹80/day in India (no joke)"

## HOW TO TALK ON CAMERA (IF YOU'RE SHY)

- Talk like you're explaining to your *best friend in a chai shop*.
- Don't be formal. Don't try to be an English vlogger. Be real.
- Example:  
"Bhai log, agar ₹10,000 se trip karna hai na, yeh suniye..."
- Show your face. Even if you're scared. Because **authenticity wins**.
- Speak with **feeling**. Say what you believe.

Remember: **Clarity > Confidence > Camera**

Confidence comes after you post that fu\*king video — not before.

## HOW TO MONETIZE YOUR CONTENT

Method	How to Start	Earn
Affiliate Marketing	Promote your fav gear, stays, or trips	Earn % per sale
Trip Referral	Share <a href="http://www.certifiedbackpackers.com">www.certifiedbackpackers.com</a>	Free trip or ₹ per sale
Sponsored Posts	Reach out to travel brands	₹1000 to ₹25,000/post
YouTube/Instagram Monetization	Long-term content creation	Monthly income

## 📱 MAKE YOUR FIRST 5 VIDEOS:

Start with this template:

1. “**Why I started travelling**” → build trust
2. “**This one city surprised me the most**” → curiosity
3. “**Travel hacks nobody told you**” → value
4. “**What I Packed vs. What I Actually Used**” → authenticity
5. “**My first solo trip mistake**” → relatability

## 🔑 SECRET SAUCE: CONTENT + COMMUNITY = EMPIRE

Imagine this:

You start creating today.

In 3 months, people message you — “Bhai, kaise karte ho yeh sab?”

In 6 months, you start getting free stays or discounts.

In 12 months, you don't travel *for content* — you get content because *you're travelling anyway*.

That's what happened with me. It can happen with you too.

But only if you **start messy**.

- 
- **Build consistency, not perfection.**  
One imperfect Reel every day > one perfect vlog in 30 days.

## 👑 JOIN CERTIFIED BACKPACKERS CREATOR CIRCLE

You don't need followers. You need **intent**.

This is more than a travel community. You are helping us build India's Strongest youth travel tribe. And I want you to grow with us. If you're ready to grow with us, here's what we offer:

- ✓ A chance to travel with us & earn money as Creator
- ✓ Free idea bank, templates, editing tips
- ✓ Exposure through our pages
- ✓ Early trip invites, income opportunities

[Fill this Google form](#) if you are a Travel Creator with more than 1 thousand followers.

Link - <https://forms.gle/SbzpD4tE4Nepx78z8>

**“You already have everything it takes. You just need to press record.”**

Start with what you have.

Say what you believe.

Create what you wish someone told you.

This is how legends are built — **not by perfect reels, but by imperfect starts.**

**Certified**  
**Backpackers.**

## **FINAL CHAPTER — MY JOURNEY, MY MISTAKES & THE VISION OF CERTIFIED BACKPACKERS**



## I Didn't Start This To Impress Anyone...

I started this because I was **tired**.

Tired of the routine. Tired of doing what everyone else was doing. Tired of waiting for “the right time.”

I didn't have rich parents.  
I didn't have a perfect body.  
I didn't have any roadmap.

But I had something:  
A fire inside me that refused to die, refused to give up.

A dream to travel.  
A hunger to live freely.  
A desire to create a **different life** — one that didn't feel like a trap.

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## “Tune kya ukhaad liya?” – They Asked.

I still remember some comments under my posts.

"Tu ne kya kiya desh ke liye?"  
"Apna huliya theek kar le."  
"Yeh sab chal nahi paayega."

I laughed, sometimes I was sad, but most importantly — **I kept going**.

I knew I wasn't doing this just for making content.  
I was doing this for **people like you** — the middle-class dreamers, the confused youth, the overthinkers, the rebels who don't fit in.

I was doing this for my **Parents**, my **Sister**, my **brothers**, my **friends**, and yes — for that version of me who was once afraid to start.

## THE BEGINNING OF SOMRAAJ EXPRESS

I was just a guy with a bag, a dream, and a broken idea of what life should be.

I started traveling.  
Hitchhiked borders. Slept in tents.

Used Couchsurfing.  
Ate local thalis.  
Talked to strangers in broken languages.  
And most importantly — **I felt alive.**

I know this wasn't a vacation.  
This was my education.

As I documented my journey, something started to happen...  
People started watching.  
People started asking.  
And eventually, people started **joining me.**

That's when **Somraaj Express** was born — not as a brand, but as a *movement*.

## **I'M STILL FLAWED. I'M STILL LEARNING.**

I am not perfect.  
Sometimes I get lazy. Sometimes I lose hope.

But I remind myself every day:  
I was not born to be **normal**.  
I was born to **build something timeless.**

So if you've ever felt broken, lost, confused... know that **you are not alone.**

If I — a small-town guy with no connections, no blueprint, and no money — can start this...

**You can too.**

## **THE VISION OF CERTIFIED BACKPACKERS**

Certified Backpackers is not just any trip company. I am building a Young Travellers community that desires more from this life. I am building this because your soul deserves more than just scrolling. It deserves a reset, a break, a story, a community, and a wild adventure you'll remember forever. This is not just about Travel, it is about belonging, confidence, transformation and joy.

It is a **movement** for young India to:

- Experience freedom through travel

- Build financial independence
- Create stories that make them proud
- Join a community of rebels and dreamers
- Travel with purpose, not just pictures

This is not a luxury company.

This is not a tourist agency.

This is a **revolution** for real travelers. For the **rebels**. The ones who want more from life.

Instant community - No more loneliness, or boring routine

Mental detox - Peace from stress, anxiety, screens & deadlines.

Memorable stories - Instagram moments that mean something.

Confidence - By stepping outside your comfort zone.

New Identity - You go back not as a tourist or traveler, but as a better person, who is fearless and certified explorer.

The logo for 'Certified Backpackers' features the word 'Certified' in a smaller font above 'Backpackers.' in a larger, bold font. A circular icon with a checkmark is positioned to the left of the text.

Most people go on trips and come back the same. But my community trips changes lives. You'll come back with a tribe, with clarity, with courage, with stories - and a badge that says

I am a Certified Backpacker

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## 5 BIGGEST MISTAKES I MADE AS BEGINNER

If you're just starting, *please read these twice*:

### 1. **Waiting for "enough" money to travel**

You never need lakhs to start. Start small. Start smart.

### 2. **Thinking solo travel is unsafe**

With the right mindset & hacks, solo travel can become your best life teacher.

### 3. ! Packing like you're going to Mars

Keep it light. Travel isn't about carrying your life — it's about *living it*.

### 4. ! Planning everything to perfection

You don't need a perfect plan. You need the courage to take the first step.

### 5. ! Consuming too much, creating nothing

Everyone is watching Reels. Few are documenting their life. Start now.

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## WHAT'S NEXT? FINAL STEP

Congratulations, you've read this book.

You've felt something.

You've seen what's possible.

Now the question is:


**Will you just close this book... or will you start your journey?**

Let's go beyond reading. Let's take **action**.

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### 1. Join The Backpackers Lounge WhatsApp Group

Get Future trip updates, connect with real travelers, and stay in touch with me and the Certified Backpackers team. I hope you have already joined this group. But if still didn't then,

 [Join the Main Certified Backpackers Group](https://chat.whatsapp.com/KVJUvigZQdzLuzMzjpgFTj?mode=ac_c) -  
[https://chat.whatsapp.com/KVJUvigZQdzLuzMzjpgFTj?mode=ac\\_c](https://chat.whatsapp.com/KVJUvigZQdzLuzMzjpgFTj?mode=ac_c)

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### 2. Get On The Trip Waitlist

Want to travel with Somraaj Express in the Certified Backpackers community?  
Be a part of India's most transformative travel experience.

👜 Solo? With friends? A couple? We got you.

👜 Certified Backpackers trips are more than just trips. They're stories you'll tell for life.

👉 [Join the Trip Waitlist Now](https://www.certifiedbackpackers.com/) - <https://www.certifiedbackpackers.com/> 📌

Spots fill up fast. Be the first to know when we launch new trips.

### 👩 3. Female-Only Safe Space Travel Circle

If you're a female traveler looking for safety, community, tips, and other like-minded women to connect with...

We have a **special group just for you** ❤️

Because safety, stories, and strength — all matter.

👉 [Join the Female Travelers Circle](#) -

[https://chat.whatsapp.com/KkMs1a9RwPICR8KoZkuM6J?mode=ac\\_c](https://chat.whatsapp.com/KkMs1a9RwPICR8KoZkuM6J?mode=ac_c)

Certified  
Backpackers.

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### 👩 4. Become A Certified Backpackers Ambassador

Are you a **content creator, video editor, travel vlogger, cafe owner or just someone hungry to build something big?**

You can now be a part of our **Certified Backpackers Team**.

👉 Refer trips, Earn money, win free trips, build your personal brand with us.

💰 Make money while promoting freedom and travel in India.

🎯 [Apply Here](#) for Ambassador Program - <https://forms.gle/SbzpD4tE4Nepx78z8>

👥 Limited Seats | Only for action takers

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### 🌍 5. Get Ready for the Next BIG BOOK

## ***Are you Ready to Travel the World? – Travel International as a Beginner***

So far, you've learned how to travel all across India like a pro.

But what about the **borders beyond?**

What about **crossing countries, visas, registrations, land routes, cheap flights, safety, and earning money while traveling the world?**

I've traveled from **India to Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia** — all on a budget!

I am now writing **my next book** which will help you become a **true world traveler**.

This book was all about **India**. (Part 1)

The **next one** will be about exploring the **world**. (Part 2)

If you are confused about:

-  Visa and border crossing tricks
-  Currency exchange hacks
-  Cheap international flights
-  Registration rules in countries
-  Overland route maps, packing for multiple countries
-  Budget stays and Couchsurfing globally
-  How to work while traveling (Online/Offline)
-  Country-wise internet and SIM hacks
-  Emergency laws and safety tips

 **Everything for First-Time International Travellers from India**

 **PRE BOOK NOW FOR JUST ₹499 (Limited Time Offer)**

 **Book Release Date: 15th August, 2025**

 **Original Price of book: ₹999**

***But only for you it is 50% off***

**You Pay only: ₹499 Today**

📱 Pay via UPI at: <https://rzp.io/rzp/pre-sale-offer>

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## 🎉 Bonus for Pre-Bookers Only

- ✅ Get exclusive instant access to the book at launch
- ✅ Get a free invite to my International Travel Workshop
- ✅ Join a secret 24/7 open WhatsApp group for future international group trips (Only for First 100 people)

DM me "PREBOOK DONE" on [@somraajexpress](#)

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## ❤️ Final Note from Ayush Somraaj

I wrote this book not to impress you —  
But to remind you that **you are already powerful.**

You were just *one decision away* from becoming your best version.

Now, the decision is yours.

Do you:

- Wait?  
Overthink?  
Or start today?

The road is open.

The bag is ready.

Your story is about to begin.



**Welcome to the tribe. Welcome to Certified Backpackers.** Let's change the way India travels together.

— Ayush Somraaj, aka Somraaj Express

