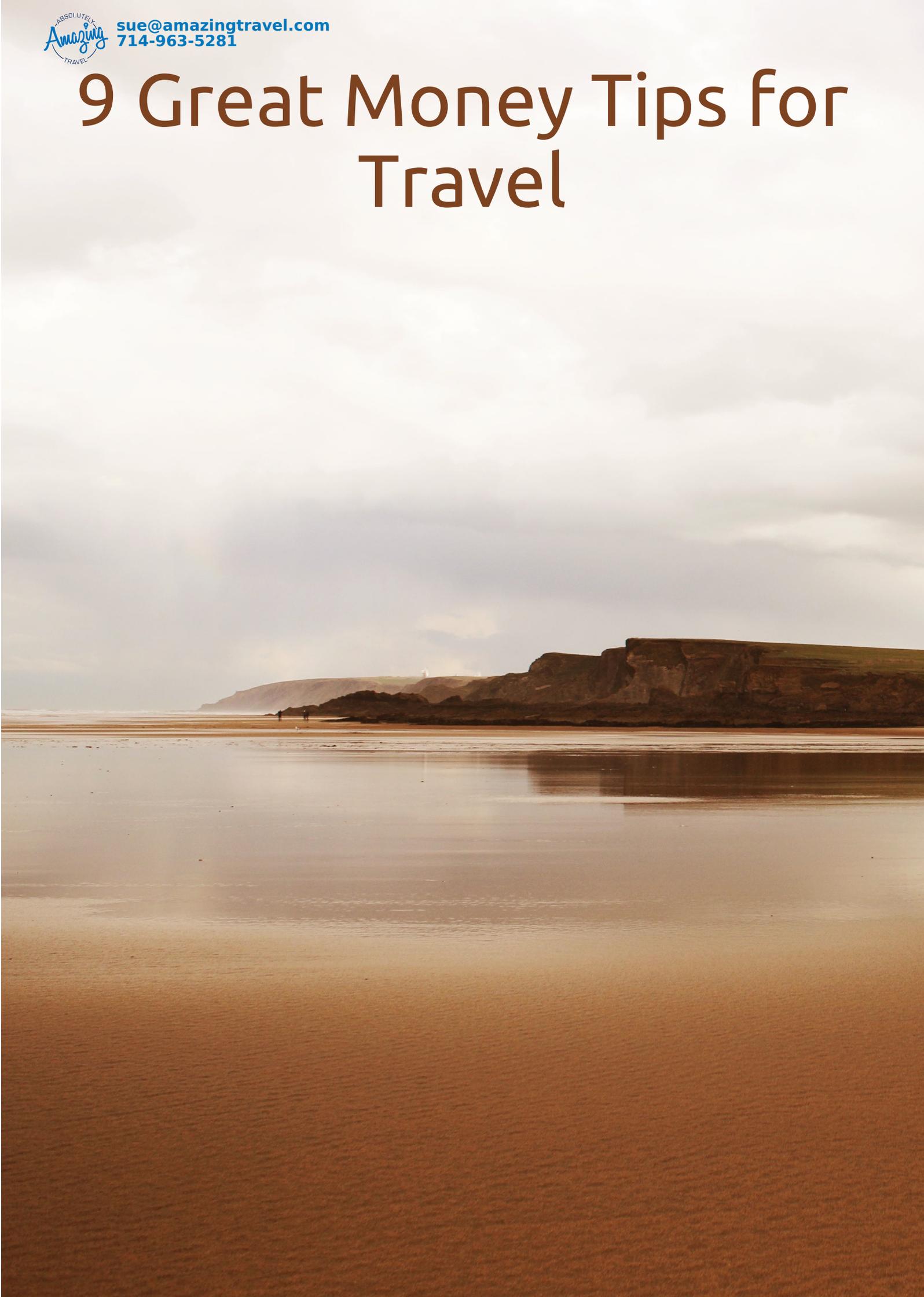




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9 Great Money Tips for Travel



Unless you are fortunate enough not to have to worry about details like budgeting for your trips, there are a few things you can do to ensure you save money on your travel. From planning for the trip to purchases on the trip and even once your travel is over, here are a few tips to ensure you are getting the most bang for your buck. Some of the topics below apply to both domestic and international travel while others apply only to one or the other but plan ahead and save!



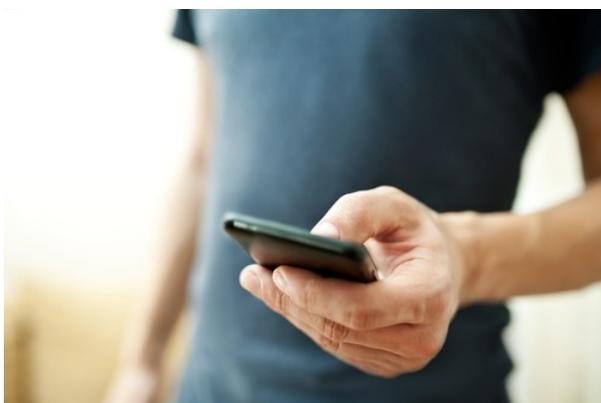
1 .**Think Value, not Cost** - (Domestic/International) It is so easy to confuse cost and value. One of the problems with the entire shopping experience is the tendency to focus on cost rather than value. A \$79 dollar hotel 20 miles from town is certainly going to be cheaper than the hotels in the center of the city, but cost only tells a small part of the story. Convenience, transportation costs into the city, the quality of the hotel properties and amenities are all important components of value. Remember it is not so much what you PAY as it is what you GET for your money.

2. Get the Right Credit Card - (Domestic/International) Many credit cards will cost you extra to use when making foreign purchases, and even when shopping domestically. Other cards have no foreign transaction fees while other cards have great dining options. Foreign currency transaction charges are more common than not. However, there are many popular American Express, Visa and MasterCard options with no foreign currency transaction fees and international dining options. Check before you go and switch cards if you need to. Many of your purchases will be with your credit card. Also if you have not upgraded to a credit card with a chip, do so. Cards without chips may not work abroad.



3. Let your bank know - (Domestic/International) If you use your credit card abroad without notifying your bank you may be in for a bad surprise. Credit card companies will sometime act immediately to freeze a card being used abroad unless you notify them in advance. Same cautions go for your debit card as well!

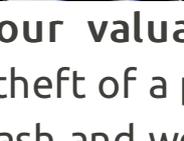
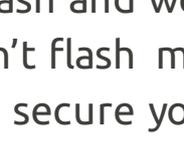
4. **Transfers from the airport - (Domestic/International)** Taxi cabs from the airport, almost the world over, are convenient, but expensive. However, good alternatives are almost always available. Trains, light rail, buses, shuttles and even ride sharing services like Uber are options. Plan in advance and choose the transport working most closely with your sense of value. Also, in many countries you need to clearly establish the cost of the taxi ride before you head out and you can often do so at information booths in the airport.



5. **Cell phone use - (International)** You definitely want to stay in touch, but at what cost? There are good options. Your carrier may have good international plans, you can use an unlocked phone with a SIM card. Finally, good alternative is Skype where a telephone call can be received or made as long as you have access to WiFi.

6. **Exchange Rates** - (International) Know your exchange rate and think it through. Bookmark the currency converter here on our site and use it often to familiarize yourself with exchange rates. You typically do best using no-transaction free credit card than converting dollars to a foreign currency. Also, traveler's checks are little used these days, so that is one solution you don't need to consider.



	Malaysian Ringgit		4.66
	EUR	Euro	8.24
	Australian Dollar	Australia	36.88
	Pound sterling	England	39.05
	대한민국 원 (: 1000)	Korea	24.34
		New Zealand	26.55
			52.21
			55.10
			23.60
			36.50
			22.37
			24.02
			37.21

7. **Protect your valuables** - (Domestic/International) Nothing spoils a vacation like theft of a passport, cameras, jewelry or cash. Don't carry large amounts of cash and wear pick-pocket proof clothing. Use a room or hotel safe and don't flash money and jewelry in public. Watch your purse or backpack and secure your wallet. Also, don't use public WiFi for financial transactions as they can be a ruse to hack your data and passwords.



8. Reclaim your VAT Taxes - (International) Many of your purchases will have a Value Added Tax (VAT) added to the price you pay for goods. You can often have the VAT tax returned to you either at the airport on departure or even once you return home if you have the proper receipts. The procedure varies from country to country, so ask us or your hotel concierge prior to departing for home! The UK and Mexico are two areas where a little bit of research into VAT reclamation can pay off big.



9. Use a travel consultant! - (Domestic/International) OK, I know what you are thinking! But let me tell you why a travel consultant is a good idea. Many people think travel agents sell travel, but that isn't accurate. Today's travel agents don't sell travel, they help you research and buy wisely. Our team spends all day, every day, connected to literally hundreds of suppliers, planning and booking travel. We know how to avoid problem suppliers, where the real values are hidden and often can get you VIP treatment you could not achieve on your own. We can assist you with avoiding problems along the way and we are your advocate when you do encounter issues on your travels. We are one more research tool in your travel kit, except we are totally focused on you and your needs!

Give us a call!

Book a Complimentary Exotic Travel Planning Session held over the phone.

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