

Hustle: Art and Travel

Suggested Resources from **Elizabeth Alley**:

Urban Sketchers

<http://www.urbansketchers.org/>

Memphis Urban Sketchers

<http://urbansketchers-memphis.blogspot.com/>

jetpens.com - great pen selection!

<http://www.jetpens.com/>

my favorite sketchbooks

<http://laloranstore.bigcartel.com/>

The Art Center, Memphis

<http://www.artcentermemphis.com/>

Great stuff from **Eric Clausen**:

Resources:

couchsurfing.org

warmshowers.org

hospitalityclub.org

gofundme.com

indiegogo.com

kickstarter.com

Pro-tips:

If you need to charge your phone, vending/ice machines have an outlet behind them. It also keeps your phone out of sight if you want to leave it there.

Grocery stores throw out lots of unexpired food. Food out of their dumpsters can be very safe + fresh! Most pizza places mess up/have extra pizzas at the end of the day and throw them out too.

Always have a back-up plan. And a back-up back-up plan.

You can always do things cheaper than you/others have done before.

Fear on a micro level when traveling is healthy. Fear on a macro level can be stifling.

Tips from **Martha Kelly**:

My packing list for journal sketching:

- *day pack or comfortable purse
- *binder clip for windy days
- *inflatable Thermarest cushion to sit on (rolls small, blocks cold and damp as well as providing cush)
- *small handbook journal (5.5" square --- not officially for w/c but takes wet well with only slight buckling)
- *small watercolor mint tin kit (homemade and tiny, fits in my pencil case)
- *pencil case with: pentel water brush, pencils, pentel brush pen (warm black ink), disposable fountain pen (small nib and water soluble), my own fountain pen with waterproof ink, Stabilo fine liners in brown and gray and navy blue to use with watercolor or marker, smallish scrap of matt board for w/c blotting, white pearl eraser
- *second pencil case: Faber-Castell markers -- the landscape set (6 muted tones), the shades of gray set (6), plus one fire engine thicker Stabilo red and one more F-C sky blue in a different shade

If I want to do more finished watercolors for exhibition, I add the Strathmore field w/c journal (7x10" with slip pages between, spiral bound, that I can cut pages out of once I return home), a larger Cottman watercolor field kit with more mixing space, a couple of angled Cottman flat w/c brushes, two metal double palette cups, and a water bottle. I also pack (but don't carry daily) a few extra tubes of the w/c colors I use most to top off my kit as needed. (For me, that's sap green, ultramarine, and burnt umber.) I also sometimes add a Fluid 6x12" watercolor block to give me a second shape to work on.

Tips:

I like to sketch in museums and at meals as well as the landscapes I see to keep a fuller travel journal. Drawing will help you both notice in the moment and remember more vividly later.

Look for shade when possible and pack a hat for when it isn't so you can make

your own shade. Bonus points if you score a cafe table and pot of tea or glass of wine while sketching.

People will want to see what you're doing. This is a lovely way to have conversations with locals that wouldn't happen otherwise. Enjoy these opportunities.

I like to settle in one place and really get to know it, wander around, and see what I want to paint. Moving from place to place eats up a lot of time in your trip you could be sketching.

I really like pet or house sitting, when I can make a connection with someone in a paintable place. That way I can settle in, have a kitchen to eat cheaply, and really spend a lot of time painting. Use your networks.

I work small enough on trips to carry on all my paintings on the way home if I'm flying instead of putting them in checked luggage.

Making prints or paintings at home from your travel sketches mentally extends your trip in a beautiful way.

Martha Kelly
www.marthakellyart.com

Wisdom from **Eileen Townsend**:

I think it is important to follow your intuition when you travel. Trust strangers, within reason (and quote 30 Rock: "Never follow a hippie to a second location.") Pretend you are an investigative reporter whose main focus is swimming holes. Making a binder with maps and places to go and phone numbers is nerdy but very useful, plus it frees you from being a slave to good cell service. You'll get out of your trip what you put into it, and good planning goes a long way. I once went on a trip to LA that we organized around locations in the Francesca Lia Block teen novels, "Weetzie Bat" and outsider art sites. It was one of the best trips I've ever taken.

I like hitchhiking and maintain that there are safe ways to do it. Other axioms... hmm. You can probably carry everything you need in a small backpack. If you are in a place with a 24/7 Korean Spa (LA, New York, Korea) and you are tired, this is the cheapest way to relax/sleep/bathe. For flying long distances: Everyone says you can avoid jet lag by eating light and drinking lots of water, but I think a whiskey coke and an ambien work just as well. People who write the captions for calendars and coffee mugs always say stuff like "art is a journey" and "travel is an art" and they are right.

