

Off The Beaten Path.

When I travel to a foreign country, I **make it a point** to avoid all the tourist areas. I like to visit places that are **off the beaten path**. You may be wondering how I find these places in this **day and age**. Since most of us have access to the Internet, you would think that nothing would still be **kept under wraps**. For starters, I never have an **itinerary** when I travel. When I arrive in a new town, I head for the local **watering hole** and talk to the **locals** and **ex-pats**. They are more than willing to **point you in the right direction**, if you buy them a pint or four. Traveling this way gives me the liberty to make plans **on the fly**. For this reason, I travel solo. I never travel with anyone ever. The way I **look at it** is since it is my vacation; I should have the **final say** on how I spend it. I have tried traveling with friends and it has always left a **sour taste** in my mouth. For example, I went to Bali with one friend and all he could talk about was how much he missed his wife. So, what **ended up** happening was, he decided to **cut short** his vacation and **head back** to the ball and chain. I sometimes wonder what **runs through someone's head** when they make these **rash decisions** to end a well-deserved vacation.

Anyway, I need to go plan my next solo adventure. If you travel to places that are off the beaten path, we may **bump into** each other someday.