



IndieTravelPodcast.com
Sweet travel advice for independent travellers

The day-trip dilemma

Transcript 025

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Craig: Kia ora, I'm Craig

Linda: And I'm Linda

Craig: And this is the Indie Travel Podcast, episode 25: the day-trip dilemma.

Linda: This show was recorded in Bursa, in Turkey -- it's our first time in Turkey and we're having a really good time here.

Craig: Yeah, we haven't been conned into any silk carpets yet though.

Linda: Ah, it was close.

Craig: Today we're going to talk a bit about organised day-trips, drawing on some stories from our time in the Baltics and in Poland last month.

Linda: Which was great, but quite rainy actually!

Craig: Yeah our summer holiday consisted of four days of sun.

Linda: Yeah.

Craig: So, although we normally shun pre-planned tours, there are times when circumstances, money and time make them the most viable option to get the most out of your travel.

Linda: Day trips can be really convenient, but you're always stuck doing what other people want you to do. Going by yourself gets you away from the crowds, and gets you off the beaten tourist-track.

Craig: But when public transport's slow, irregular and doesn't go where you want a day trip is best. And I think that describes most of Eastern Europe, eh?

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Linda: Yeah, and probably most of Asia as well.

Craig: When we were in Tallinn, Estonia we wanted to get out of the city and into the national park. It looked really cool, but we couldn't find any accessible transport out there.

Linda: Yeah, we almost flagged the idea, but luckily our hostel had a day-trip advertised - they'd organised to take a mini-bus full of hostellers around some outlying areas of the park and also do a couple of short walks through it. It sounded perfect.

Craig: Yeah, apart from price, what are we looking for in a day trip? One, it's somewhere we wanted to go and isn't somewhere we can get by ourselves. Two, it covers a lot of ground as well as giving us time at each place of interest. Three, it's organised by and for people in our demographic, so it'll probably focus on things that we're interested in.

Linda: I really think that's the main reason you might choose to do a day trip: it's a place you want to go but it's hard to get to. So first, check out if you can get there by yourself. We were in Krakow in Poland a couple of weeks ago - which is a large city with a really cool town square - it's really big. It's also very close to one of the world's most infamous sites: the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Craig: We felt a bit conflicted about going there: on one hand, it seemed really cynical to visit such a place as a tourist but, on the other hand it seemed wrong not to go at all - not to allow us to face up to and be challenged by the place.

Linda: Day trips were advertised everywhere; sometimes it seemed like everyone in Krakow wanted to take us to Auschwitz, and the average price was 100zł per person. However, these tours failed our test. Firstly, it was only one location we wanted to visit - we simply had to get there and back again.

Craig: When we looked into it, we found buses and mini-buses going out there for only 7zł each way, and there were several every hour, so apart from hotel pickup, there was no real advantage to a tour bus.

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Linda: We also found that there was a tour on site for 26zl per person, which was important because we would be useless at trying to understand Auschwitz without one. We could have got in for free without the guide, but we really thought it would be a good idea to do the tour.

Craig: And if you're not there at the right time for the English group tour, there's individual guides you can hire instead. And, to be honest, the guide that we had was one of the best I've ever experienced.

Linda: Yeah, she was really great. So that's our take on the day-trip dilemma. To avoid the crowds first consider if you can get there on your own. Secondly, think about how well you can interpret what you see or what you want out of your time there, and how much a guide will cost you if you choose to hire one.

Craig: If you're looking for more information about an independent day-trip from Krakow to Auschwitz, I wrote an article on [Amateur Traveler](#) detailing prices and information. The [Amateur Traveler](#) is also an excellent travel podcast, he's part of the travel podcast network. There'll be a link in the show notes at www.indietravelpodcast.com to that article and to our itunes page - so just check the first page or search the archives for the day-trip dilemma.

Linda: And, until next week, travel well.

<http://www.tallinnbackpackers.com/daytrips/>

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