



IndieTravelPodcast.com
Sweet travel advice for independent travellers

Budget travel in Britain redux

Transcript 036

November 2007

Craig: Hi, there.

Linda: I'm Linda.

Craig: And I'm Craig.

Linda: And this is the Indie Travel Podcast episode 36 at www.indietravelpodcast.com. This week we're following up last month's post on budget travel in Britain.

Craig: This week we're bringing you the budget travel in Britain redux from the unlikely location of Zagreb, Croatia. Kate, whom we spoke to last week, suggested spending a few seconds at the start of the show talking about what we've been up to; so we're going to give it a go. Let us know what you think.

Linda: Unfortunately you're going to be a bit jealous because we have had an amazing week: we've been in Romania, Serbia and - since yesterday - Croatia. When we were in Transylvania we went to a film festival.

Craig: Our favourite film had to be "Die Mittel", or "the Centre" in English. It was a humorous look at a dozen or so places that call themselves the centre of Europe. It had some really nice slice-of-life documentary work.

Linda: Yeah, it was so great. Then we went to Timisoara where we took in a night-time wine festival and then a long train ride to Belgrade, where our hostel got raided by the immigration police. We didn't have any troubles though, it was just a bit inconvenient.

Craig: And now we're relaxing in Zagreb. Yesterday was All Saints Day and the cemeteries were filled with flowers and candles. It was amazing.

Linda: Right, so, on with the show! If you can remember, episode 33 at the start of last month Craig talked about budget travel in Britain and advised, no matter what

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you're doing, book in advance.

Craig: We looked at flights, trains and coaches from London to Glasgow for the 31st of October ... which has now just passed. So, what were the options?

Linda: Well, booking one month in advance, on the first of October, the cheapest flight from London to Glasgow was with [Easyjet](#) at £16.99. The cheapest train would cost £17.50 and the best, which is the cheapest, option was the coach - booking with [Megabus](#) on the first of October would cost just £3.50.

Craig: Is that £3.50?

Linda: £3.50.

Craig: It changed my life. But really ... can you find me any budget traveller that knows what he or she's doing a whole month in advance?

Linda: Not really. Certainly not us.

Craig: Right. So let's look at something more realistic in terms of timing. Booking the day before. On Tuesday the 30th, for a flight, a train or a coach journey from London to Glasgow.

Linda: Right, let's look at the flight first. The [Easyjet](#) flight had changed to £66.99, a big step up from £17! However, [Ryanair](#) was offering the cheapest next-day flights at £52.47.

Craig: We also had a change of carrier for trains. GNER and First Scotrail had the cheapest rail journey at a massive £97.90 -- that's a hundred quid to go from London to Glasgow!

Linda: Ouch. And last, our two coach companies: [Megabus](#) and [National Express](#). Megabus kept their champion title, but with a five-fold increase to £14.50, with National Express still okay at £19 pounds.

Craig: So it leaves it in no doubt! As we said, book early! Book as early as you can,

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because these prices are madness. If you book a month in advance, you can fly for the price of a 10-hour coach trip, booking the next day.

Linda: And coach is really the only cheap option the day before.

Craig: So, with that in mind, what are our top three tips for coach travel?

Linda: Well, first, book in advance and get a funfare - you can't change date or time, so don't miss it.

Craig: Bring food and drink with you. Do stay sober.

Linda: And listen to our earlier show: episode four, sleeping in vehicles.

Craig: That about wraps it up. One of our fellow travel podcasters has just started his second season. Daniel Perez's Gamer Traveller podcast looks at gaming through a travel lens. So, if that flicks your bic, check it out; we'll have links to his site and the Travel Podcast Network's iTunes page at www.indietravelpodcast.com. You can also download transcripts, join the Facebook or Flickr groups and generally have a good time.

Linda: Sweet as. And until next week, travel well.

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