

# Tutorial: How to create and manage a budget

The main question that worries many travelers is this:

***“How much money do I need for Asia?”***

Probably the biggest mistakes people do when calculating their budget is *over-planning* their budget. Chill. Your goal is to figure out an **estimate**.

Whether you like to hear it or not, you're not going to be able to execute your predestined budget. It requires a very large amount of discipline to execute a predestined budget. You're either going to spend more money than you've planned, or in few cases spend less money than what you've planned.

I seriously don't know one backpacker who has spent the budget they planned from the beginning. Know this: *Everything can happen*.

**Example:** You can get seriously ill and may have to pay for medical costs, or maybe even get hospitalized. Yes, you can probably get that money back from the insurance company...*later*. But the hospital doesn't think that way: they want their money right there and right now.

**Another example:** More and more travelers are renting mopeds as means of transportation within a city. And according to statistics, accidents have also risen. A good example is Thailand.

Like, I didn't plan a moped accident into my budget (happened to me in Pai, Thailand in 2007), but was glad that I had the extra cash for all the times they checked my wound, the medicines and accommodation (I had to stay for another week and a half in Pai and I couldn't exactly search for a cheaper guesthouse with a limp).

How much money you need depends on how long you're going to stay and what kind of standard you want to travel in. **Be honest with yourself** because shortening your trip and leaving Asia is not a dream scenario considering you've spent several hundreds of dollars to get there in the first place.

## To determine your budget, ask yourself these questions:

### **“What personality do I have?”**

This might seem like an awkward question, but it's essential. People are different, even on the road.

*Can you honestly handle low-standard hostels or dorms where you share bathroom with tens of people? When it comes to food stalls, can you handle the fact that the food is cooked on the streets and not in a restaurant kitchen? Are you a lazy person? (Taking a Tuk-Tuk or taxi often will cost you more money) Do you prefer luxury?*

Your budget should be adjusted to **your personality and your comfort level**. If you skip this, you might risk thinking about how lousy your room is instead of focusing on traveling. Or you might risk irritating about why you spent so much money on a room, when you've could have settled for a low-standard room.

Yes, backpacking is associated with cheap traveling; meaning staying at cheap hostels and dorms. ***But who are we trying to fool?*** Not all of us can handle the standard in Asia. So again – be honest with yourself.

If you're traveling with friends or your loved one who are the opposite of you, you need to compromise.

**Example:** I'm comfortable in hostel rooms, but my boyfriend enjoys more luxury. In cases like this, you can spend a couple of nights at hostels, and a couple of nights at a guesthouse – this is a good way to balance it.

When it comes to comfort, the need for **better comfort** usually rises with age. Like, I have to admit that my need for comfort is a lot more different now (at an age of 29) than the comfort level I had when I was 23. When I say better comfort it can be anything from clean rooms to sharing a room with only yourself.

**When you've found out what kind of standard level you can travel in** (rock-bottom, mid-range, luxury or a little of everything) you can calculate the budget according to types of accommodation, food, transport and activities.

### **“What are your habits?”**

Do you smoke? At least, cigarettes are cheap in Asia but they're still an additional cost in your budget. Do you like to party? How's your party factor? Are you one of those who drink a lot at parties? Are you a beer person or a cocktail person?

If you enjoy a lot of alcohol and enjoy partying much now, I'm guessing that the intake

is not going to be less in Asia. So adjust your budget accordingly. And cocktails usually cost more than beers.

Remember that when it comes to alcohol intake, it's gender-related. Most men drink more alcohol than most women.

### **What activities and attractions do you want to experience while traveling?**

Calculating accommodation, food, drinks is one thing. But when it comes to activities and attractions, you have to do some soul searching.

**You have to think about the purpose of your trip.** Do you want to take an open-water diving course? Maybe you want to trek to the Himalayas? See the Angkor temples? Spend a week in a home-stay? Add those costs to your budget.

### **For how long are you going to travel?**

Duration usually affects your travel budget. The longer you travel, usually the more money you spend. The costs are also greater for speed-travelers. Do you have plans on visiting as much as possible?

If you're only backpacking for a month and want to see a lot of places and even a couple of countries (which I don't recommend), you might want to save time by skipping long distances. You can save time by taking a couple of flights, an express bus or train. Flying normally cost more money than border crossing.

### **How is your itinerary laid out?**

Are you going to India from Thailand? You're going to need the extra cash for a flight ticket from Bangkok to India, unless you're planning on crossing Laos and China by foot (you could have traveled through Burma to make it a lot easier, but it's not recommended as of today due to the political and security situation in the country).

Are you going to visit *several* countries within the same region by foot? Then you will need extra money for visas.

## **Guidelines to calculating your travel budget**

- There are strong variations in costs in Asia, between countries and regionally within a country.

Prices vary from place to place, even in the same country. The prices tend to rise dramatically on the islands compared to mainland. Even some islands are more expensive than other islands, depending on popularity and location.

**Examples:** Perhentians in Malaysia is more expensive than Kuala Lumpur. Siem Reap in Cambodia is more expensive than Phnom Penh and Battambang, the islands of Koh Phi Phi in Thailand are more expensive than Koh Tao and Koh Phangan, Delhi and Mumbai in India are more expensive than Pondicherry and Kerala. Hong Kong is in general a lot more expensive country to travel in than say, Laos and India.

- Save up more than enough with money, you're going to need it.

There are always going to be unexpected events and hence, expenses. You have to be able to handle it. My favorite rule is to save an amount of money that equals 1/3 of your travel budget, and put this in a separate account. ***The one thing you want to avoid while you're traveling is getting broke.***

#### **A real-life example:**

The last time I visited Siem Reap, Cambodia in April 2010, I witnessed something disturbing. On our way home from the night market we saw two foreign backpackers (one male and female) playing their guitar and begging for money right next to Blue Pumpkin. People were just staring at them, even the locals – no wonder!

It was weird and unnatural to see two 'white' people asking for money in Siem Reap – a Cambodian town. It must have been humiliating for them but I guess they had a good reason for "earning" money this way. If you ask me, this type of 'commitment' is beyond low. You're traveling in Asia to have great experiences and to inject money into the local economy, **not** to take away or beg money from local people.

- If you're going to travel for a long time, the chances of getting tired of hostels and food stalls are high.

It's OK to get tired of low-cost accommodation, food and transportation. When your body is screaming for a hot shower or a good bed, you should allow yourself the luxury. Taking a break from cheap backpacking is just healthy. But splurging at hotels does cost more money.

- Even though you've planned from the beginning that you will stay on low-cost accommodations and book fan rooms, you might change your mind during your travels. What season will you be traveling in?

**Example:** Before departure, you've planned your budget around booking cheap rooms with fan, and not air-conditioner. But when you've been hit by the hot and humid weather in Cambodia, you're probably going to beg for a room with air-conditioner. A room with air-con cost more than a room with fan.

We experienced this in Cambodia in April 2010. It was so damn hot in Siem Reap (not exactly a surprise, it was the hot season in the region). So we ended up sleeping at guesthouses with air-conditioner. We couldn't bare the thought of sleeping with just a fan even though that was our plan to begin with.

- It's better to have more than enough with cash on a shorter trip, than being on a survival level on a long trip.

If you're comfortable traveling on a survival level, that's alright. But if not, are you going to be comfortable eating the same cheap food every day, staying at rock-bottom accommodations every day, and taking the public bus with no air-con for maybe several months? **Be realistic.**

- You should have money left when you return home.

After been traveling for months or even years in Asia, there are going to be a lot of things to digest when you get home. You should take the time to relax and decompress, instead of looking for a job/returning to your job right away.

### **How to manage your budget while traveling**

- Take notes of each item you purchase or save the receipts. This way, you know how much you've used in a week. If you've exceeded the limit you can adjust the budget for the upcoming week by spending less (or more).
- If you're traveling in pairs or groups, a brilliant idea is to make a '**cash pot**'.

**Example:** If you're four people traveling together, each of you should add 1000 baht or 1000 Indian rupees (or whatever local currency) to the pot.

All in all, that makes 4000 baht or rupees.

Decide who's going to be in charge of the pot. Every time you eat together at a food stall or a restaurant you pay from the cash pot. The same when you're taking a tuk-tuk or a rickshaw together. It's much easier to do this than separating the bill - not everyone will have (enough) small cash. This is also a good way to control that everyone in the group is contributing, and to avoid that one or two members of the group is 'always' paying for the tuk-tuk ride (since they happen to have small cash).

***Only take out money from the cash pot when all of you are doing things together.*** It's not fair to use it for personal orders, like two in the group wants to have a massage.

## Basic costs

In this section I've focused on basic costs, that means costs that **EVERY** backpacker use money on while backpacking in Asia. In the next chapter I will move on to additional costs; costs ***which are typical but not necessary to every backpacker.***

### How did I calculate the costs?

The price level in Southeast Asia and India is somewhat equal, but there are of course minor differences.

**Calculation example:** If a dorm normally cost \$ 2 in Cambodia, \$ 2 in Malaysia and \$ 4 in the Philippines, I've calculated the average price of these three.

***In this example***, that would be:  $\$ 2 + \$ 2 + \$ 4 = \$ 8$

$\$ 8 / 3 = \$ 2,67$  in average.

This is why I have gathered Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia in **one class**. They are very similar in prices. It is said that Malaysia is **a bit** expensive than say Thailand, especially accommodations on the islands and alcohol. I disagree. If you look close enough, there are lots of budget options in Malaysia. The differences are minimal.

For Laos and India, I've created a separate budget. Laos is cheaper than its fellow countries in Southeast Asia (with exception of transportation). For budget travelers, India is a very cheap country despite a rising price level.

***All budget example show average prices.*** You might spend less for food at a destination, but more at another. You might spend a dollar less on accommodation at a destination, and an extra dollar at another. ***To get the cheapest bus, train or ferry tickets, buy tickets in advance.***

The budget examples **allow unexpected expenses**. Every budget should allow unexpected expenses like medical costs, extra night at a guesthouse if you get sick, small shopping expenses and etc. P.P means = per person.

**Here's a budget example for Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia - for **budget** backpackers:**

<b>Ordinary costs:</b>	<b>Cost per day:</b>	<b>Cost per month (29 days):</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Dorm bed p.p /double room	\$ 5 p.p / \$ 10	\$ 145 / \$ 290	\$ 5 p.p for double rooms
Three meals at food stalls p.p	\$ 4,5	\$ 130,5	
Bottled water large p.p	\$ 3	\$ 87	\$1 for one bottle
Local transport within city/town p.p (local bus, songthaew, jeepney, metro)	\$ 2	\$ 58	\$0,5 for one trip 4 trips a day
Government bus ticket p.p (long-distance)		\$ 65	4 trips a month Standard class
Laundry p.p		\$ 8	4 times a month
Internet p.p		\$ 24	\$1,5 per hour 4 hours a week
<b>Other costs:</b>	<b>Cost per day:</b>	<b>Cost per month:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Transport between <i>neighboring</i> islands p.p		\$ 30	6 trips a month
Splurge one night at a nice hotel/resort		\$ 65 / \$ 32.5 p.p	Double room
Shampoo large bottle p.p		\$ 2	1 bottle a month
Hand soap p.p		\$ 1	Once a month
Tooth paste		\$ 1	Once a month
Mosquito spray p.p		\$ 5	2 bottles a month
Sun cream p.p		\$ 60	1 bottle a week
Anti-bacterial liquid for hands p.p		\$ 4	Two per month
Cleaning tissues p.p		\$ 4,5	Three per month
Toilet paper p.p		\$ 1	Two per month
Hair cut/barber shop p.p		\$ 2,5	Once a month
Massage p.p		\$ 6,5	Once a month
Unexpected expenses p.p		\$ 50	

<b>Total costs per month: (ordinary + other costs)</b>	
Per person	\$ 717,5

**Budget example for Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia - for *luxury* packers:**

Ordinary costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month (29 days):	Comments:
Guesthouse double room	\$ 30 / \$15 p.p	\$ 870 / \$ 435 p.p	
Three meals at restaurants p.p	\$ 20	\$ 580	
Snacks p.p	\$ 3	\$ 87	
Bottled water large p.p	\$ 3	\$ 87	\$1 for one bottle
Tuk-Tuk/taxi within city/town	\$ 6	\$ 174 / \$ 87 p.p	\$1,5 for one trip
Government bus ticket p.p (long-distance)		\$ 90	4 trips a month Combination of standard class and VIP Deluxe
Laundry p.p		\$ 8	4 times a month
Internet p.p		\$ 24	\$1,5 per hour 4 hours a week
Other costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month:	Comments:
Transport between <i>neighboring</i> islands p.p		\$ 40	6 trips a month
Shampoo p.p		\$ 5	1 bottle per month, nicer brand
Hand soap p.p		\$ 1	Once a month
Tooth paste p.p		\$ 2	Once a month, nicer brand
Mosquito spray p.p		\$ 5	2 bottles a month
Sun cream p.p		\$ 60	One bottle a week
Anti-bacterial liquid for hands p.p		\$ 4	Two per month
Cleaning tissues p.p		\$ 4,5	Three per month
Toilet paper p.p		\$ 1	Two per month
Hair cut/barber shop p.p		\$ 5	Once a month at a nicer salon
Massage p.p		\$ 16	Twice a month
Unexpected expenses:		\$ 70	

Total costs per month: (ordinary + other costs)	
Per person	\$ 1611,5



## Budget example for Laos - for **budget** backpackers:

Ordinary costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month (29 days):	Comments:
Dorm bed or cheap room	\$ 2 p.p / \$ 4	\$ 58 p.p / \$ 116	\$ 58 p.p double room
Three meals at food stalls p.p	\$ 1,9	\$ 55,1	
Bottled water large p.p	\$ 1,5	\$ 43,5	3 bottles a day
Local bus within a city p.p	\$ 2,8	\$ 81,2	4 trips a day
Local bus ticket p.p (long-distance)		\$ 56	4 trips a month. Average trip: 110,000 kip. Ticket bought at bus station, it's more expensive at tour agencies
Laundry p.p		\$ 8	4 times a month
Internet p.p		\$ 24	\$1,5 per hour (200 kip per minute) 4 hours a week
Other costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month:	Comments:
Shampoo p.p		\$ 1	1 bottle per month
Hand soap p.p		\$ 0,5	Once a month
Tooth paste p.p		\$ 1	Once a month
Mosquito repellent p.p		\$ 5	2 bottles per month
Sun cream p.p		\$ 60	One bottle per week
Anti-bacterial liquid for hands p.p		\$ 4	Two per month
Cleaning tissues p.p		\$ 3	Three per month
Toilet paper		\$ 1	Two per month
Hair cut/barber shop p.p		\$ 2	Once a month
Massage p.p		\$ 4	Once a month
Unexpected expenses		\$ 50	

Total costs per month: (ordinary + other costs)	
Per person	\$ 457,3

# Budget example for Laos - for luxury packers:

Ordinary costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month (29 days):	Comments:
Guesthouse double room	\$ 25	\$725/ \$362,5 p.p	
Three meals at restaurants p.p	\$ 15	\$ 435	
Snacks	\$ 2	\$ 58	
Bottled water large p.p	\$ 1,5	\$ 43,5	3 bottles a day
Tuk-Tuk within a city/town	\$ 5	\$ 145 / \$ 73 p.p	4 trips a day
Air-con VIP/Express bus ticket p.p (long-distance)		\$ 64	- 4 trips a month - Average cost per trip: 130,000 kip. - Ticket bought at bus station, it's more expensive at tour agencies
Laundry p.p		\$ 8	4 times a month
Internet p.p		\$ 24	\$1,5 per hour (200 kip per minute) 4 hours a week
Other costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month:	Comments:
Shampoo p.p		\$ 1	1 bottle per month
Hand soap p.p		\$ 0,5	Once a month
Tooth paste p.p		\$ 1	Once a month
Mosquito repellent p.p		\$ 5	2 bottles per month
Sun cream p.p		\$ 60	One bottle per week
Anti-bacterial liquid for hands p.p		\$ 4	Two per month
Cleaning tissues p.p		\$ 1,8	Three per month
Toilet paper		\$ 1	Two per month
Hair cut/barber shop p.p		\$ 4	Once a month at a nicer salon
Massage p.p		\$ 8	Twice a month
Unexpected expenses		\$ 70	

Total costs per month: (ordinary + other costs)	
Per person	\$ 1224,3

## Budget example for India - for **budget** backpackers:

Ordinary costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month (29 days):	Comments:
Dorm bed or cheap room	\$ 3/ \$ 6	\$ 87 / \$ 174	\$87 p.p double room
Three meals at food stalls p.p	\$ 3	\$ 87	
Bottled water large p.p	\$ 0,9	\$ 26,1	3 bottles a day
Local bus within a city	\$ 0,4	\$ 11,6	4 trips a day
Train ticket p.p (long-distance)		\$ 24	- 4 trips a month - Rs 300 per trip - Sleeper class
Internet p.p		\$ 12.8	\$ 0.80 per hour 4 hours a week
Other costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month:	Comments:
Shampoo p.p		\$ 1	1 bottle per month
Hand soap p.p		\$ 0,4	Once a month
Tooth paste p.p		\$ 0,5	Once a month
Mosquito repellent p.p		\$ 2,20	2 bottles per month, Odomos brand
Sun cream p.p		\$ 40	One bottle per week
Anti-bacterial liquid for hands p.p		\$ 2	Two per month
Cleaning tissues p.p		\$ 0,9	Three per month
Toilet paper		\$ 1,2	Two a month
Hair cut/barber shop p.p		\$ 1 / \$ 0,5	Once a month
Massage p.p		\$ 10	Once a month
Unexpected expenses		\$ 50	

Total costs per month: (ordinary + other costs)	
Per person	\$ 358,2

\* Save costs on laundry. Wash your own clothes.

## Budget example for India - for **luxury** packers:

Ordinary costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month (29 days):	Comments:
Guesthouse double room	\$ 30	\$ 870/ \$ 435 p.p	
Three meals at restaurants p.p	\$ 12	\$ 348	
Bottled water large p.p	\$ 0,9	\$ 26,1	3 bottles a day
Rickshaw within a city	\$ 2	\$ 58/ \$ 29 p.p	4 trips a day
Train ticket p.p (long-distance)		\$ 94	- 4 trips a month - Rs 1200 per trip - AC 2 Class
Laundry p.p		\$ 17,5	- 4 times a month - Rs 15 per piece x 15 = Rs 900
Internet p.p		\$ 12,8	\$ 0,80 per hour 4 hours a week
Other costs:	Cost per day:	Cost per month:	Comments:
Shampoo p.p		\$ 2	1 bottle per month, nicer brand
Hand soap p.p		\$ 0,4	Once a month
Tooth paste p.p		\$ 1	Once a month, better brand
Mosquito repellent p.p		\$ 2,20	2 bottles per month, Odomos brand
Sun cream p.p		\$ 40	One bottle per week
Anti-bacterial liquid for hands p.p		\$ 2	Two per month
Cleaning tissues p.p		\$ 0,9	Three per month
Toilet paper		\$ 1,2	Two a month
Hair cut/barber shop p.p		\$ 20	Once a month at a nicer salon
Massage p.p		\$ 40	Twice a month
Unexpected expenses		\$ 70	

Total costs per month: (ordinary + other costs)	
Per person	\$ 1142,1

## Additional costs

The tables below show **additional costs**. Choose the activities, trips and other costs you're planning on taking during the trip, and add those costs to the basic costs. Prices for flights ***don't*** necessarily represent the cheapest flights available. All diving and tour prices are average price estimates.

**Tick off the box in the far left column.**

	<b>Alcohol (Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines)</b>	<b>Cost per month:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	Beer at food stalls/minimarts p.p	\$ 40	\$2,5 per bottle 4 bottles a week
	Beer at restaurants p.p	\$ 56	\$3,5 per bottle 4 bottles per week

	<b>Alcohol Laos:</b>	<b>Cost per month:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	Beer at food stalls/minimarts p.p	\$ 16	\$ 1 per bottle (cheapest beer) 4 bottles per week
	Beer at restaurants p.p	\$ 32	\$ 2 per bottle 4 bottles per week

	<b>Alcohol India:</b>	<b>Cost per month:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	Beer at food stalls/minimarts p.p	\$ 22,4	\$ 1,4 per bottle (cheapest beer) 4 bottles per week
	Beer at restaurants p.p	\$ 32	\$ 2 per bottle 4 bottles per week

	<b>Thailand activity costs:</b>	<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	PADI open-water diving course Koh Phi Phi p.p	\$ 455 (14,000 THB)	
	PADI open-water diving course Koh Tao/Koh Phangan/Koh Samui p.p	\$ 325 (10,000 THB)	
	Fun Dive Koh Phi Phi p.p	\$ 22-32 per dive (700-1000 THB)	Price depends on how many dives you want to take in one trip. The more dives - the cheaper per dive.

	Fun Dive Koh Tao/Koh Phangan/Koh Samui p.p	\$ 22-29 per dive (700-900 THB)	
	Nangyuan island entrance fee p.p	\$3,5 (100THB)	
	1-day snorkeling trip with boat rental and guide	\$ 32-64 (1000-2000THB)	Price is for per trip, not p.p. Price depends on number of people.
	Arranged snorkeling trip p.p	\$ 16 500 THB	
	Rental snorkeling mask p.p	\$ 1,5 (50 THB)	
	Rental fins p.p	\$ 1,5 (50 THB)	
	Purchase mask and snorkel p.p	\$ 8 (250 THB)	
	1-night Maya Bay camping (Phi Phi) through mayabaycamping.com p.p	\$ 80 (2500 THB)	
	Maya Bay entrance fee p.p	\$ 6,5 (200 THB)	
	Elephant ride on islands 1 hour p.p	\$25 (800 THB)	
	Tip to mahout	\$ 1	Not p.p
	Trekking from Chiang Mai 1-day p.p	\$ 32 (1000 THB)	
	Thai boxing <b>ringside</b> ticket (islands) p.p	\$ 25 (800THB)	
	Thai boxing ordinary ticket in Bangkok p.p	\$ 6,5-7 (200-220 B)	Usually half price for women
	Thai boxing <b>ringside</b> ticket in Bangkok p.p	\$ 32-65 (1000-2000B)	
	Transfer from Chiang Mai/Pai to Luang Prabang w/ minibus and slow boat p.p	\$ 55-65 (1700-2000 THB)	
	Cinema ticket p.p	\$ 2,5-5 (70-160 THB)	Price depends on time of day, day of the week and movie.
	Shopping in Bangkok	\$ 325 (10,000 THB)	
<b>Other costs in Thailand:</b>		<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	Moped rental mainland	\$ 2,5 (80B per day)	
	Moped rental islands	\$ 5-6 per day (150-200 B)	
	Petrol per liter	\$0,25 (8 THB)	
	Transport on islands (songthaew) p.p	\$3,5 (100THB)	<b>Cost per week:</b> \$ 135 (4200 B) - 6 trips a day over 7 days
	20-pack cigarettes (Marlboro)	\$ 2,5 80 B	<b>Cost per month:</b> \$ 30 (three a week)
	Lighter	\$0,3 (10 THB)	

	Thai buckets	\$6,5-15 (200-450 B)	Price depends on the drink
	Dentist clean teeth	\$25 (800 THB)	
	Thai SIM-card	\$3,5 (100THB)	
	Refill SIM-card	\$ 16 (500 THB)	Refill once a month
	Postal package by ferry (cheapest)	\$ 8 (250B) per kilo	To Europe. Final price depends on destination
	Postal package by air	\$ 16 (500THB) per kilo	To Europe. Final price depends on destination
	Used books	\$ 2,5 (70 THB)	
	New books	\$ 5 (150THB)	
	Tattoo	\$ 65 per hour 2000B	

Cambodia activity costs:		Cost:	Comments:
	One-day pass to Angkor p.p	\$ 20	
	Three-day pass to Angkor p.p	\$ 40	
	Seven-day pass to Angkor p.p	\$ 70	
	One day tuk-tuk for Angkor	\$ 15	Per trip
	Bicycle rental for Angkor p.p	\$ 2	Per day
	Genocide Museum admission p.p	\$ 3	
	Killing Fields admission p.p	\$ 3	
	Donation to Landmine Museum	\$ 1	
	Wat Banan in Battambang + Killing Caves admission p.p	\$ 2	
Other costs in Cambodia:		Cost:	Comments:
	Bicycle rental	\$ 1-3 per day	
	20-pack cigarettes (Marlboro)	\$ 1.5	<b>Cost per month:</b> \$ 18 (three a week)
	Cambodia tourist visa 30 days	\$ 20	
	Visa fee	\$ 1	

Malaysia activity costs:		Cost:	Comments:
	PADI open-water diving course Perhentians p.p	\$ 285 (RM 900)	
	PADI open-water diving course Sipadan island p.p	\$ 270 (RM 850)	
	Fun Dives 3-4 Sipadan p.p	\$ 142-158 (RM 450-500)	

	Sipadan island permit p.p	\$ 12 (RM 40)	
	Fun Dives Perhentian p.p	\$ 19-25 per dive (RM 60-80)	
	1-day snorkeling trip with boat rental and guide p.p	\$ 12 (RM 40)	
	Mt. Kota Kinabalu admission p.p	\$ 5 (RM 15)	
	Mt. Kinabalu climbing permit p.p	\$ 32 (RM 100)	*Not included mountain guide fee
	Niah National Park admission p.p	\$ 3 (RM 10)	
	Shopping in Kuala Lumpur	\$ 325 (RM 1000)	
	Cinema ticket	\$ 1-14 (RM 4-45)	Price depends on seats, time of day, day of the week and movie.
<b>Other costs in Malaysia:</b>		<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	Flight from KL to Kuching (Sarawak) Air Asia - high season, mid-February	\$ 44 (RM 139)	One-way
	Flight from KL to Kota Kinabalu (Sabah) Air Asia - high season, mid-February	\$ 56 (RM 178)	One-way
	Bicycle rental	\$ 2-3 per day RM 8	
	Petrol per liter	\$0,5 (RM 2)	
	Bike rental	\$ 8-14 RM 25-45	
	20-pack cigarettes (Marlboro, Camel)	\$ 2,5-3,5 RM 9-11	<b>Cost per month:</b> \$ 42 (three a week)
	Marlboro carton	\$ 15 RM 50	

<b>Indonesia activity costs:</b>		<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	Bali open-water diving course p.p	\$ 355-422 (IDR 3,200,000-3,800,00)	
	Bali Fun Dives p.p	\$ 28-40 per dive (IDR 250,000-360,000)	
	Lombok open-water diving course p.p	\$ 378 (IDR 3,400,000)	
	Lombok Fun Dives p.p	\$ 42 per dive (IDR 370,000)	



	1-day arranged snorkeling trip Lombok p.p	\$ 25 (IDR 225,000)	
	Flores Komodo-Rinca tour 2-days	\$ 380-450	Price depends on class and season
	Borabudur admission p.p	\$ 15	
<b>Other costs in Indonesia:</b>		<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	Flight from Kuala Lumpur to Jakarta Air Asia (high season - mid June)	\$ 42 (RM 135)	One-way
	Flight from Singapore to Jakarta Lion Air (high season - mid June)	\$ 64 (IDR 564,000)	One-way
	Flight from Bali to Labuan Bajo Lion Air (high season - mid June)	\$ 65 (IDR 565,000)	One-way
	<b>International</b> airport departure tax from Denpasar (Bali)	\$ 18 (IDR 158,000)	
	<b>International</b> airport departure tax from Jakarta	\$ 16,5 (IDR 150,000)	
	<b>Domestic</b> airport departure tax from Denpasar (Bali)	\$ 5 (IDR 40,000)	
	<b>Domestic</b> airport departure tax from Jakarta	\$ 5 (IDR 40,000)	
	<b>Domestic</b> airport departure tax from Labuanbajo (Flores)	\$ 1 (IDR 10,000)	
	Indonesia tourist visa 30 days	\$ 25	Visa on arrival
	Bicycle rental	\$ 4,5 per day (IDR 40,000)	
	20-pack cigarettes (Marlboro)	\$ 1,5 (IDR 12,000)	<b>Cost per month:</b> \$ 18 (three a week)

<b>Philippines activity costs:</b>		<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	PADI open-water diving course p.p El Nido, Palawan	\$ 400	
	PADI open-water diving course p.p Boracay island	\$ 485 (PHP 21,000)	
	3 Fun Dives El Nido p.p	\$ 90 (PHP 3800)	Includes three dives
	Fun Dives Boracay island p.p with equipment rental	\$ 40 per dive (PHP 1700)	
	Bohol: Chocolate Hills admission p.p	\$ 0,3 / \$ 1,2 (PHP 10/50)	Sagbayan entrance/Carmen entrance
	For Mt. Pinatubo: bus from Manila to Capas p.p	\$ 7-8 (PHP 300-340)	
	Mt. Pinatubo: Jeepney from Capas to Sta. Juliana	\$ 9 (PHP 400)	

	Mt. Pinatubo Conservation fee p.p	\$ 1,2 (PHP 50)	*An additional foreigner fee is <b>not</b> included (price depends on their mood)
	Mt. Pinatubo: Hire jeep in Sta. Juliana	\$ 58 (PHP 2500)	Max 5 people Price per 4*4 drive
	Mt. Pinatubo: hire a guide for the day	\$ 12 (PHP 500)	Price per 4*4 drive
	Skyway toll fee	\$ 12 (PHP 500)	Price per 4*4 drive
<b>Other costs in the Philippines:</b>		<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	Flight from Bangkok to Manila Philippine Airlines (high season, mid-February, 'fiesta plus')	\$ 285 (PHP 13,400)	One-way
	Flight from KL to (Clark) Manila Air Asia (high season - mid-February)	\$ 68	One-way
	Flight from Manila to Puerto Princesa Philippine Airlines (high season - mid-February, 'fiesta deal')	\$ 35 (PHP 1600)	One-way
	Flight from Manila to Cebu City Philippine Airlines (high season - mid-February, 'fiesta deal')	\$ 32 (PHP 1400)	One-way
	Flight from Manila to Tagbilaran Philippine Airlines (high season - mid-February, 'fiesta deal')	\$ 32 (PHP 1400)	One-way
	<b>International</b> departure tax from Manila	\$ 17 (PHP 750)	
	<b>Domestic</b> departure tax (Manila, Cebu and Davao)	\$ 4,5 (PHP 200)	
	Bicycle rental on islands per hour	\$ 1 (PHP 50)	
	Bike rental on islands - half day	\$ 7-10 (PHP 300-500)	
	Petrol per liter	\$ 1	
	20-pack cigarettes	\$ 0,7	<b>Cost per month:</b> \$ 8,5 (three a week)

<b>Vietnam activity costs:</b>		<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
	Halong Bay tour 1-day p.p	From \$ 30	Price depends on duration, amenities, company and type of boat
	Mekong Delta tour p.p	From \$ 20	Price depends on duration and company
	Cu Chi tunnel admission p.p	\$ 5	
	Water puppet theater p.p	\$ 3 (V 60,000)	

Other costs in Vietnam:		Cost:	Comments:
	Bicycle rental	\$ 2 per day	
	Bike rental	\$ 7 per day	
	Vietnamese tourist visa 30 days	\$ 30-80	Price depends on nationality, type of visa and place of purchase
	20-pack cigarettes (cheapest brand)	\$ 0,5	<b>Cost per month:</b> \$ 6 (three a week)

Laos Activity costs:		Cost:	Comments:
	Kuang Si waterfalls admission Luang Prabang	\$ 2,5 (20,000 kip)	
	Tubing in Vang Vieng	\$ 5-7 (40,000- 55,000 kip)	*Deposit not included
	Rental dry bag (tubing)	\$ 2,5 (20,000 kip)	
	Royal Palace in Luang Prabang admission fee	\$ 1	
	Phousi mountain Luang Prabang admission fee	\$ 2,5 (20,000 kip)	
	Bridge crossing from Don Det to Don Khong island p.p	\$ 2,5 (20,000 kip)	
	Plain of Jairs admission p.p	\$ 1,25 (10,000 kip)	10,000 kip for each site
Other costs in Laos:		Cost:	Comments:
	Bicycle rental	\$ 1,25-4 (10,000- 30,000 kip)	Depends on model
	Bike rental	\$ 7-10 per day	
	Petrol 1 liter	\$ 0,9-1,25 (7000-10,000 kip)	
	Lao tourist visa 30 days	\$ 20-42	Depends on nationality
	20-pack cigarettes	\$ 0,6-1,5 5000-12,000 kip	<b>Cost per month:</b> \$ 18 (three a week)

India activity costs:		Cost:	Comments:
	Jaipur: Amber Fort p.p f.f*	Rs 200	
	Jaipur: City Palace p.p f.f*	Rs 300	
	Jaipur: Hawa Mahal p.p f.f*	Rs 50	
	Delhi: National Museum f.f*	Rs 300	
	Delhi: National Museum camera fee	Rs 300	p.p
	Delhi: Jama Masjid camera fee	Rs 200	Free entrance
	Delhi: Qutub Minar admission f.f*	Rs 250	
	Delhi: Dilli Haat Market p.p	Rs 15	
	Taj Mahal admission p.p f.f*	Rs 750	
	Varanasi boat trip	Rs 200	Per boat
	Floating candle Ganga river Varanasi	Rs 10	
	Sarnath entrance fee p.p	Rs 100	
	Alleppey ordinary houseboat	Rs 6500-15,000	Per boat
	Kochi Paradesi Synagogue entrance fee p.p	Rs 5	
	Kathakali show in Kerala	Rs 150-250	
	Camel safari in Jaisalmer 1-day p.p	From Rs 500	
	Camel safari 2 days in Jaisalmer through Ganesh Travel p.p	Rs 850	
	Camel safari 2 days in Jaisalmer Deluxe package p.p	From Rs 1500	
	Camel Safari in Bikaner 1-day p.p through 'Camel Man'	Rs 1000	
	Camel safari in Pushkar half day p.p	Rs 450	
	Tip to camel guide	Rs 50-100	
	Mahabodhi temple in Bodhgaya camera/video fee p.p	Rs 25/300	Entrance is free
	Rat Temple at Deshnok camera/video fee	Rs 20/50	Entrance is free
	Shopping in India	\$ 300 (Rs 15,000)	
	Yoga class in beach towns	Rs 250 per day	
	Umbrella and sunbed rental in touristy beach towns	Rs 225 per day	
Other costs in India:		Cost:	Comments:
	Flight from Bangkok to Delhi Air Asia (high season, mid-February)	\$ 110 (3400 THB)	One-way
	Flight from Bangkok to Mumbai Air Asia (high season, mid-February)	\$ 340 (10500 THB)	One-way

	Indian tourist visa for VoA countries (Visa on arrival) - 30 days	\$ 60	<b>VoA countries:</b> Indonesia, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan, Singapore, Finland, Luxembourg & NZ
	Indian tourist visa for non-VoA countries 6-months	\$ 70	Average price. Final price depends on nationality.
	Bicycle rental	Rs 30-60 per day	
	Bike rental	Rs 80-400 per day	Depends on model and destination
	Petrol per liter	Rs 2	
	Indian SIM-card	Rs 10-100	Depends on brand and destination
	Refill SIM-card	Rs 700	Once a month
	International phone call	Rs 15 per minute	
	Postcard	Rs 5-10	
	Churidar for women	Rs 1000 (two pieces)	<b>Average price:</b> Rs 500
	Postal package by ferry (cheapest)	Rs 150-160 per kg	To Europe Final price depends on destination and where you post it
	Postal package by air	Rs 280-300 per kg	To Europe. Final price depends on destination and where you post it
	Parcel stitcher at post office	Rs 110	Per package
	20-pack cigarettes (Marlboro)	Rs 90-120	<b>Cost per month:</b> Rs 1440 (\$ 28) (three a week)

\* F.F stands for foreigner fee.

**The End:** If you have any questions, [contact me here](#). This tutorial is only meant as a guide. Don't kick me if they turn out to be wrong. Prices change all the time. This tutorial is updated each year. **Last updated on Nov 20, 2011.**

If you need help with your itinerary, [check out one of my ebooks: Map Your Adventure](#). Or if you need safety tips and advice on how to avoid scams from one who has been there and done that, [visit this page about my first ebook: Ticket to safe backpacking](#).

**Amanda :-)**