



# Planning a round-the-world itinerary: our technique

By Matthieu

We love to travel, and whenever we can, we go on vacation or on weekends, extended thanks to the many French public holidays.

J'ai (Floriane) vécu un an au pays bas, à côté d'[Amsterdam](#), grâce au projet **Eramus**. Avec Matthieu, nous parlions depuis longtemps de partir travailler à l'étranger.

One day, a **colleague quit his job** to go on a **round-the-world trip**. At first, I thought this project was completely crazy. How is it possible to leave for a year without working?

Then, after several exchanges with Matthieu and research on the Internet, reading numerous blogs and travel reports, we said to ourselves "**why not us?**" A year and a half after our first discussions on the subject, we took off, tears in our eyes of happiness, for **the São Paulo Carnival**.

To date, it's the project we're most proud of. We got to know each other better and

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never regretted our choice.

Through this blog, we hope to **inspire other travelers in need of adventure!** In this article, we explain in detail our **year of preparation**, we answer all the questions we asked ourselves, when to **leave**, what **insurance** to take... we detail our **budget** and our **itinerary**.

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## When to go and for how long?

### When should you leave?

It's obviously a **very personal decision**. Matthieu, 28, was a **contractor** before we left. He was therefore able to close his business before leaving.

For my part, after 27 years as an employee, I decided to **resign** so that I could leave at a time that suited us. I even turned down a long-awaited promotion for this project. Today, I have absolutely no regrets about that choice.

Généralement, les **voyageurs au long cours** que nous avons rencontrés avaient entre **25 et 30 ans** et une expérience professionnelle derrière eux qui leur a permis de réaliser quelques économies.

## **What is the average length of a round-the-world trip?**

D'après l'enquête du site tourdumondiste, les **trois quarts des tours du monde durent entre 5 et 13 mois**. Pour notre part, nous sommes partis **12 mois**, car nous avons acheté notre billet d'avion par une agence, nous devons rentrer au maximum un an après notre départ.

Nous avons évidemment choisi **la durée maximum autorisée** !

## What's the budget?

### The average budget for a one-year round-the-world trip

The average budget for a one-year round-the-world trip is **€15,000**. This is what we've found from talking to other travelers we've met along the way, and from browsing numerous blogs.

Obviously, this budget can vary enormously from one project to another. For example, if you don't want to fly, you' **ll save between €3,000 and €4,000** on your overall budget. If you're traveling for **a year in Asia**, your budget will also be considerably lower.

Conversely, if you want to visit **every continent**, this will increase your air travel budget. If you stay in the most expensive countries, such as the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada or the islands, your budget will increase considerably.

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We explain below how to obtain the average budget by country.

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## How to save money (without depriving yourself)?

This is **the question** on everyone's mind: without a minimum amount of money set aside, this project becomes more complicated to carry out. Don't panic, as explained below, we've met travelers on tight budgets, so we'll also explain where to go depending on your budget.

Here are our tips for putting **money** aside **quickly** and, above all, without **depriving yourself**.

1. **Take stock of your expenses:** we manually listed all **our expenses** for the **last 3 months** on Excel and then categorized them: rent, taxes, subscriptions (internet, telephone, Netflix...), supermarket food, clothing, leisure food (restaurants/bars), and travel/weekends.

I quickly realized that I was spending almost **15% of my budget on clothing**. I had only been working for a few years, and had become **a real shopping addict...** I never thought I'd spend that kind of money on a few shopping sprees.

About a year and a half before our departure, I completely changed my habits to save this amount for our trip.

If you don't want the hassle of processing your banking data by hand (on Excel), you can download a budget management application such as **Nestor, Linxo...**

**2. Reduce leisure expenses:** we went away for **a long weekend in France or abroad** about **once a month**, then we also spent **3 weeks abroad** a year. Knowing that we had a year-long trip ahead of us, we naturally decided to reduce our pace.

For example, we spent time with **our families**, during our vacations, the year before we left. We have also given priority to more economical carpooling.

We **saved the money** for a trip and several weekends!

**3. Sell your stuff:** we lived in a 40 m<sup>2</sup> Parisian apartment full of stuff we didn't use (electronics, clothes, books...).

As you might guess, **the bon coin** has become our best friend! About 6 months before our departure, we sorted our belongings and placed our ads on the site. As the trip approached, we had at least 1 appointment a day to sell something!

**4. Focus on purchases for the trip:** don **'t renew your wardrobe** before you leave. If you want a new pair of shoes some time before your planned departure date, try to reason with yourself! You're leaving in a few months, so if you're not planning to take it with you, wait until you get back to change it.

Your belongings will be stored during your trip, so they may deteriorate. We found some clothes with moth holes, even though we had taken great care to store them in a dry, healthy place.

**5. Rent out your apartment on a platform like Airbnb:** for this, of course, you need to be a homeowner. Unfortunately, we were unable to do so. We've met travelers who were able to earn a few hundred euros for their trip.

Your best friends: where to sell your stuff?

**Le bon coin** , which we don't even introduce anymore, is ideal. We sold many goods (clothes, electronics, books...)

[Momox](#) for books: by scanning the barcode on your books, the site will tell you their redemption price. You can drop off your parcel at a relay point. The site bears the shipping costs. The advantage is that you can sell several books at the same time.

[Vinted](#) , which specializes in clothing, didn't exist at the time. Today, I use it to sell business. If you'd like to take a look, my username is morissetfloriane.

### - **Use a cashback site:**

Igraal: we love this site, which lets you earn money from the purchases you make. As soon as you make a purchase from one of our partner sites (around 1,400 sites), you earn a commission (money). For example, we used it to buy our washing machine from Darty. By following [this link, you'll earn a €3 welcome bonus and we'll earn €3 too!](#)

### - **Accommodation :**

**Airbnb:** If you are an owner, you can offer your accommodation on [Airbnb the site will tell you how much you can earn!](#)

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## Main expense items

For our part, we spent **€15,000 per person**. You'll find our main expenses below.

We don't have a **vaccine** budget, **as** our mutual insurance company covers them. We were delighted to discover this pleasant surprise, as the bill came to **€500/person**.

Nor do we have an equipment **equipment nts**, **as** we managed to get almost all our equipment for our birthday and Christmas before the trip. We also had a good portion already in our possession since we had invested on previous trips. You can easily count on around **€1,000** per person.

### Our detailed budget for our one-year round-the-world trip

Local expenses (accommodation, transport, food...)	10 571 €
Visas	194 €
<b>LOCAL BUDGET</b>	<b>10 765 €</b>
Airline tickets	3 702 €
<a href="#">Cap Aventure Health Insurance</a>	516 €
<b>OVERALL BUDGET</b>	<b>14 983 €</b>

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## **Our method for planning an itinerary**

Building a travel itinerary is no easy task. In any case, you won't be able to do or see everything. And do you know what? Well, it doesn't matter, you're going to see a lot during your trip, whether you visit 1 or 15 countries.

## How to create your itinerary

**1/** You need to decide on a **list of countries** or places you'd like to visit. We made **a list** on our own, drawing inspiration from the internet and travel books such as ["Terre secrète - Merveilles insolites de la planète"](#) and ["1000 idées de voyages du Lonely Planet"](#).

It's important to respect each person's **wishes** and **desires**, so that the two of you can build this trip together from the outset. This is our **favorite** part of the planning process. You can let your imagination run free for the time being without constraint.

Then we printed out a world map and colored in all the countries we'd noted, in green for Matthieu and pink for Floriane. We couldn't wait to see the results and each other's choices - phew, we had **countries in common!**

**2/** You have to limit yourself...! This really isn't the easiest part. We've chosen to travel to **1 country per month**. We followed the advice given on the travel blogs.

That's good, but often too little. For example, Argentina is almost the size of Europe, so imagine going around Europe in 1 month...

It's **a very personal choice**. Don't panic, you can also adapt your itinerary to suit your local needs. During our trip to Asia, we **withdrew from** Vietnam to spend more time in Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

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## Where can I find information on the different countries?

This is where the long and interesting part comes in... reading the **thousands of travel blogs!** It's a gold mine for planning and imagining what you can do in the country, and how much time you can spend there.

Try to choose between **2 and 3** to avoid spreading yourself too thin. You'll also get a lot of local information from your **hosts** and other **travelers**.

Our favorite blogs

- [A2pasdumonde](#) from Anais and Julien, our friends we met on **Easter** Island (classy)! They came from Asia, we came from South America. We were inspired by their experiences during our 7 months in Asia! You'll find useful, detailed information on the different countries they've visited.

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- [Novo-monde](#) is a reference in the world of round-the-world blogs and backpacking. Fabienne and Benoit offer very comprehensive articles.
- We also consulted the blog of [Marion and Renaud](#), who left on their round-the-world trip a year before us, and the information they provided was recent and reliable!

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## **Plan your route**

Now you have to adapt your wishes to the weather and your budget and budget. For this part, the travel planner on the “À contre-sens ” blog helped us enormously. This is not the most pleasant part of planning. We regretfully had to pull out of New Zealand as it was the middle of winter.

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Planner of the a-contresens blog

This is an **important** step that will help you avoid **climate** and **budget** setbacks. By taking a month off in New Zealand, we could live another month in Asia.

We entered our draft itinerary, then the software showed us the **estimated budget** and the **most favorable climate by country/region**.

Now you've got your list of countries and the order in which it's best to do them. Now all you have to do is buy your **plane tickets!**

A word of advice: in the beginning, you'll have plenty of energy and drive, so 1 country a month is fine. Beyond 6 months, however, you'll probably start to get tired, and it's better to plan fewer countries and choose to stay longer in each selected country.

## Choosing your plane tickets

- **Going through a specialized agency:** that's the option we took. This solution allows you to keep some **flexibility** in your itinerary. Ticket dates **can** generally **be changed free of charge** (this is indicated on your flight plan), but destinations cannot.

For example, we had no difficulty in rescheduling our arrival date in Sri Lanka. We recommend that you contact several agencies. For our part, we asked **Travel Nation** and **Zip World**, and got a better feeling with the former for a similar price.

Going through an agency will also enable you to exchange ideas and optimize your itinerary with the help of a specialized advisor. For example, our contact at **Travel Nation** recommended that we spend a few days in **Tahiti** for the modest sum of €200. We wouldn't have thought of it at all on our own.

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- **Buy your plane tickets yourself:** this method gives you great flexibility, since you can buy your plane tickets as you go along. On the other hand, buying tickets at the last minute can be expensive.
- Join **an alliance:** there are three: **Oneworld, Star Alliance** and **SkyTeam**. We had compared the prices of the various alliances with our itinerary, and the price was higher than if we had used a specialist agency.

## Choosing your travel health insurance

### Am I covered with my credit card?

The question we couldn't find the answer to. The easiest thing for us to do was to ask our bank directly. With our **VISA** and **MASTER CARD** bank cards, we were covered for 90 days if and only if we had a return ticket (with a date no more than 3 months after your departure date) in our possession. This was clearly not the case for us.

Our research also revealed that **traditional bank cards** offer very low levels of cover, with lower ceilings than traditional travel health insurance.

### How to choose your insurance ?

For us, having the **right insurance** for our round-the-world trip was an obvious

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choice. We wanted to be covered in the event of a problem or the slightest doubt, and to be able to go to the doctor without hesitation (which is exactly what we did).

We compared different **insurance offers** and found useful information on many blogs. Generally speaking, all the insurances you will find on the market offer the same kind of formula. Rates vary according to several criteria:

- Amount of coverage provided
- Your age and the number of people covered
- The destination (Or zone: Europe / USA - Canada / Rest of the world)

We decided to choose the [Cap Aventure](#) formula from **Chapka Assurance**. In our opinion, this is the most interesting offer on the market. It offers a good ratio/guarantees/price.

**MAJ**- Avant nos longs voyages en famille (en camping-car cette fois), [10 mois en Europe du Sud](#) et [5 mois en Scandinavie](#), nous avons de nouveau comparé les différentes assurances voyages.

Chapka always offered the best value for money. And now the **teleconsultation** service is included in the **Cap Aventure** package, so when we travel with children, it's a luxury to be able to call at the slightest doubt.

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## Travel insurance: our feedback

Before our departure, we had come across many articles comparing travel insurance, but few **feedbacks**.

Nous avons rédigé un article sur [notre avis et notre retour d'expérience avec Chapka](#), en détaillant à quel moment nous avons du faire appel à notre assurance et si nous avons été couverts ou non. Nous avons été pleinement satisfaits du service offert par **Chapka**, nous avons d'ailleurs repris cette assurance lors de nos autres longs voyages.

[Find out more about the Cap Assurance contract](#)

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## **Our one-year itinerary**

After several months of reflection and many exchanges with our agency, we **finally validated our final itinerary**.

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Map of the a-contresens blog

We started with South America (**Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia**), with a stopover in **São Paulo** for Carnival.

Then we flew to **Australia** via Easter Island and Tahiti.

We then spent 7 months traveling around Asia, passing through **Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar (Burma), Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam**. Finally, before heading home, we made one last stop in **Sri Lanka**.

In the end, we planned to spend around a month in each country, with a small bonus for Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Compared with our dream itinerary, we had to withdraw a few countries for a number of reasons.

- To limit **our travels** and therefore the cost of **our plane ticket**, we had to concentrate on **Southeast Asia**, whereas we had dreamed of going to India, China and the Philippines.
- To keep up with the seasons, we didn't stop in New Zealand, as we were there in July, in the middle of winter. This is an expensive country, so we preferred to come back later when the weather was milder.

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We also adapted our itinerary to suit the visits of our friends and family. The aim was also to share this unforgettable journey with them!

### **The itinerary in detail**

- February (5 days): Sao Paulo (Brazil)
- February (1 month): Argentina
- March (1 month): Chile
- April (1 month): Peru
- May (1 month): Bolivia
- June (5 days): Easter Island
- June (10 days): Moorea (Tahiti)
- June – July (3 weeks): Australia
- July (3 weeks) : Malaysia
- August – September (1? months): Indonesia
- September – October (1 month) : Myanmar
- November (1month) : Laos
- December (1month) : Cambodia
- January (3 days) : Vietnam
- February / March (1? months) : Sri Lanka

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As you can see from our blog, we didn't take the time to write here during our world tour. Instead, we loved putting together a few videos, which you can view [here](#). We loved filming and editing our adventures, and we're really looking forward to seeing these great moments again. We didn't continue, as it takes even longer than writing articles...

Matthieu was also very present on Instagram, and had succeeded in federating a real community. It's also something we didn't develop due to lack of time, and yes, that's always the worry! You can still see all our photos [here](#).

## Inspiring travel books and guides

In addition to the many **blogs** that we read regularly and the **You Tube** channels that we follow, we regularly read many travel **reports**.

Inspiring travel books and guides

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- We leafed through numerous guidebooks to plan our itinerary, and we love the Lonely Planet and Routard guides. We like to bring them with us on every trip.

- We also consulted several travel books, 1000 travel ideas from Lonely Planet, [Destination Petaouchnok](#)... These books are inspiring and have given us lots of ideas. The images of the various sites are magnificent. We had written down so many ideas that we would have had enough for a 3-year round-the-world trip.

Update **2023**- We're off on another long-haul trip, [touring Europe in a motorhome](#), with our daughter, who was 1 1/2 years old at the time of departure.

**We still read a lot of travel books and stories**, we buy a lot of them and of course our friends and family **give** them to us at every birthday or Christmas. If you have any travelling friends, it's really the **best gift** to give:

→ " [Americana](#) ", Luke Healy, a cross-country trek across America, we devoured this comic book, Luke Healy's account of five months' wilderness trekking on the Pacific Crest Trail. We loved it, because he left without being really prepared and without knowing what to expect, it was a great adventure - we love this philosophy of life!

→ [Et si on plaquait tout?](#): le pari fou d'une famille sur les routes du monde, Audrey de la Family Coste recounts their crazy adventure in an American caravan from Canada to Mexico. A reading that strongly inspired our year of travel in motorhome.

→ "[Chroniques birmanes](#)" by Guy Delisle followed his partner for several months in Burma while she was working there with Médecins sans Frontières. He recounts his daily life through humorous anecdotes. An instructive and funny comic we've devoured yet again.

→ "[Africa trek - tome 1 From Cape Town to Kilimanjaro](#) " is the story of Sonia and Alexandre Poussin's travels on foot, and now that they're still travelling with their family, we've read almost all their stories - they're real fans!

→ "L'odyssée électrique : 20.000 KM, 120 jours, un Tuktuk électrique" (Electric odyssey: 20,000 km, 120 days, an electric tuk tuk) is an account of a trip by electric tuk tuk, a highly original form of travel. A refreshing and once again inspiring story!

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[If you don't want to miss any of our crazy adventures, sign up for our newsletter!](#)

## **Ce que cette expérience a changé dans notre vie**

Partir pour un **tour du monde**, c'est bien plus qu'un simple voyage, c'est une expérience qui a bouleversé profondément notre manière de voir la vie.

POURQUOI PAS NOUS - FLORIANE ET MATTHIEU

En **quittant notre quotidien, nos repères et nos petites habitudes**, nous avons découvert une **liberté insoupçonnée**, celle de **vivre au rythme de nos envies et de nos rencontres**.

Ce périple nous a appris à **savourer l'instant présent**, à ralentir dans un monde qui semble toujours courir. Plus encore, il nous a ouvert les yeux sur la diversité et la richesse du monde. Des **sourires échangés avec des inconnus aux récits passionnants de voyageurs croisés en chemin**, nous avons appris que la bienveillance et l'humanité transcendent les frontières.

Mais ce qui a sans doute le plus changé, c'est notre regard sur **nous-mêmes**. Ce tour du monde a été une véritable école de vie, nous poussant à sortir de notre **zone de confort**, à **affronter des défis imprévus** et à **trouver des solutions** avec les moyens du bord.

Aujourd'hui, nous nous sentons **plus confiants, plus adaptables et surtout plus reconnaissants** pour les choses simples que l'on oublie parfois d'apprécier. Aujourd'hui, les voyages rythment en famille rythme toujours notre vie pour notre plus grand plaisir à tous.

Now you **know everything**, or almost, we wish you an excellent preparation, put you as soon as you can!

Don't hesitate to drop us a line below or on [Instagram](#) to let us know your departure date, share our article or ask any questions you may have - they're usually our favorite questions, as they help us get back into this incredible adventure!

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0 avis (0/5)

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