





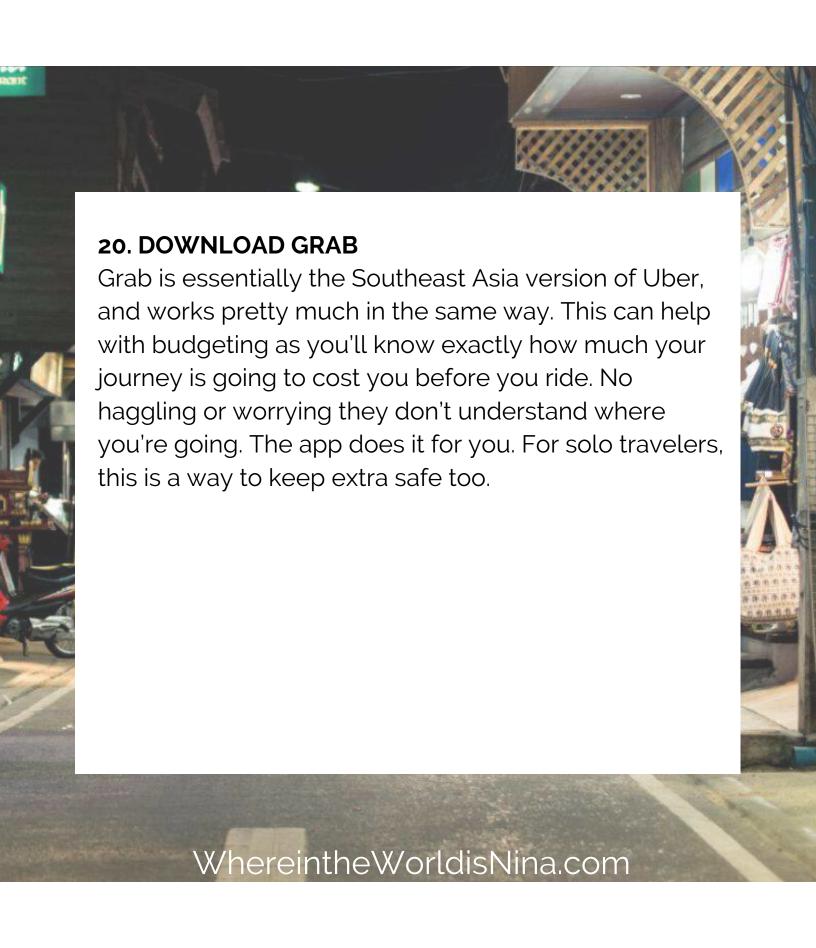
18. BUT GUESTHOUSES AND HOTELS ARE SOMETIMES BETTER I will admit, I'm not a hostel person, I love my

I will admit, I'm not a hostel person, I love my privacy (and my sleep). Guesthouses and some hotels will give you a private room with a shared bathroom or your own for around the same price as some hostels. I'd rather have my own room—personally. So if you're like me, don't think you'll need to sell your left arm to afford a place to yourself.

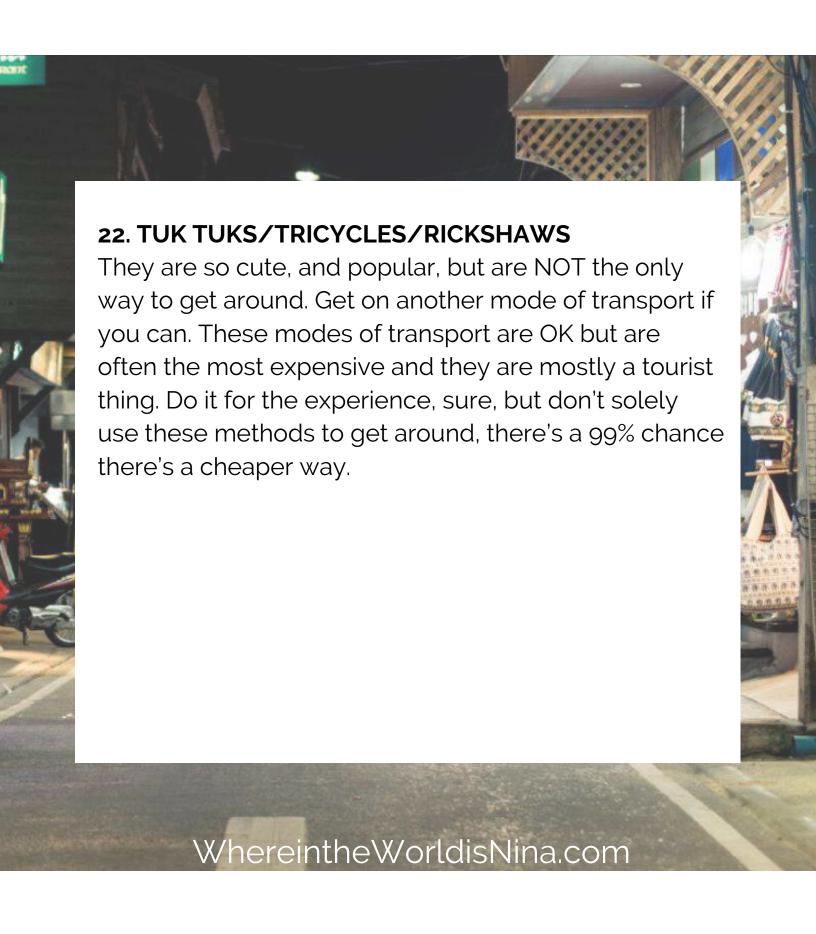
19. BE PREPARED TO HAGGLE

If you want a bargain, you can't be shy. If you are in the markets, then stall holders expect to be haggled with, so they may set their prices a little higher than what they intend to sell their goods for. Plus, as they are expecting you to ask for a discount, there is no need to feel embarrassed.

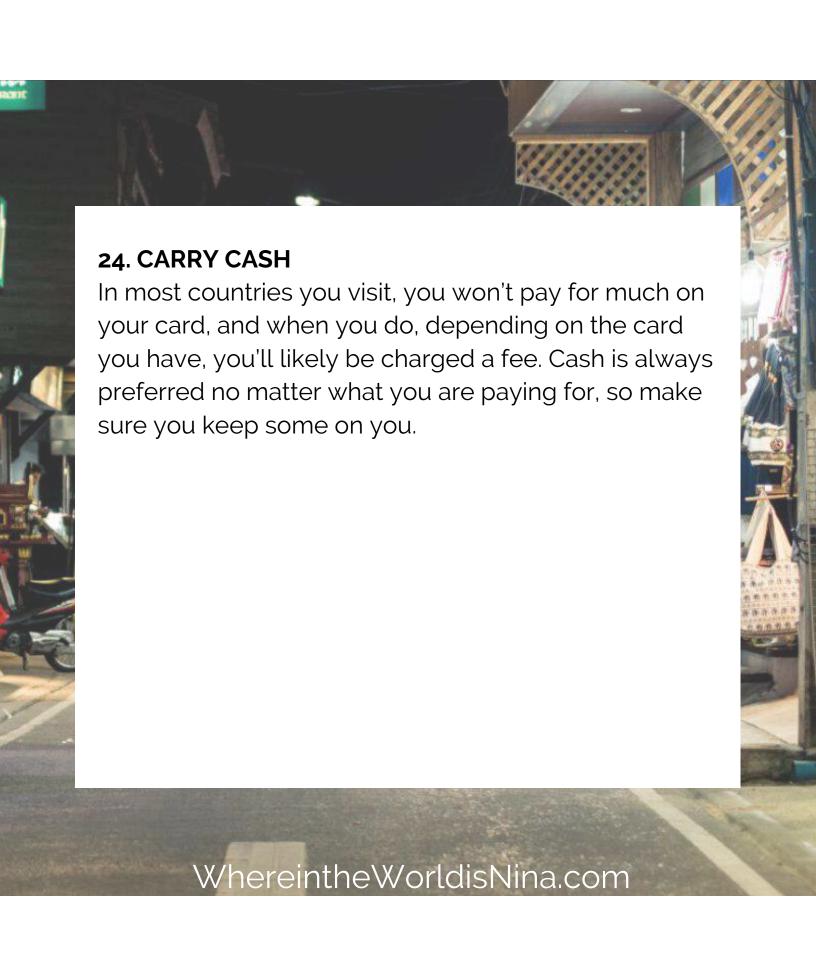
- *Extra Tips:
- Don't aim too low and insult them.
- Generally speaking. when the prices are displayed, that's the price. Only when you buy numerous things would it be appropriate to ask for discounts.
- Never get heated when haggling, you'll never get your way that way.



21. AGREE TO A TAXI PRICE BEFORE YOU RIDE If Grab isn't available, you won't be short of ways to get around in Southeast Asia, with tuk tuks and taxis around every corner in most major towns and cities. However before setting off, make sure you have agreed on a set price for your journey, this will prevent you being over-charged when you reach your destination. It also helps if you have a rough idea of where you should be heading, as it has been known for drivers to take a detour in order to charge you more. Follow along on your offline map. WhereintheWorldisNina.com



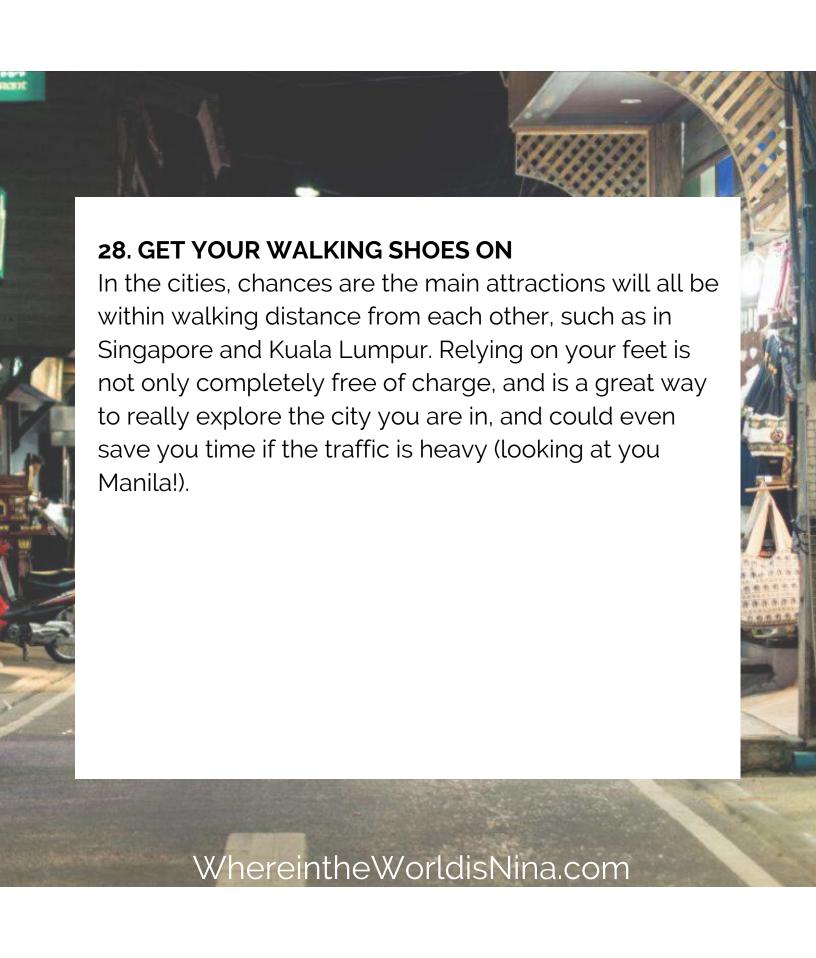


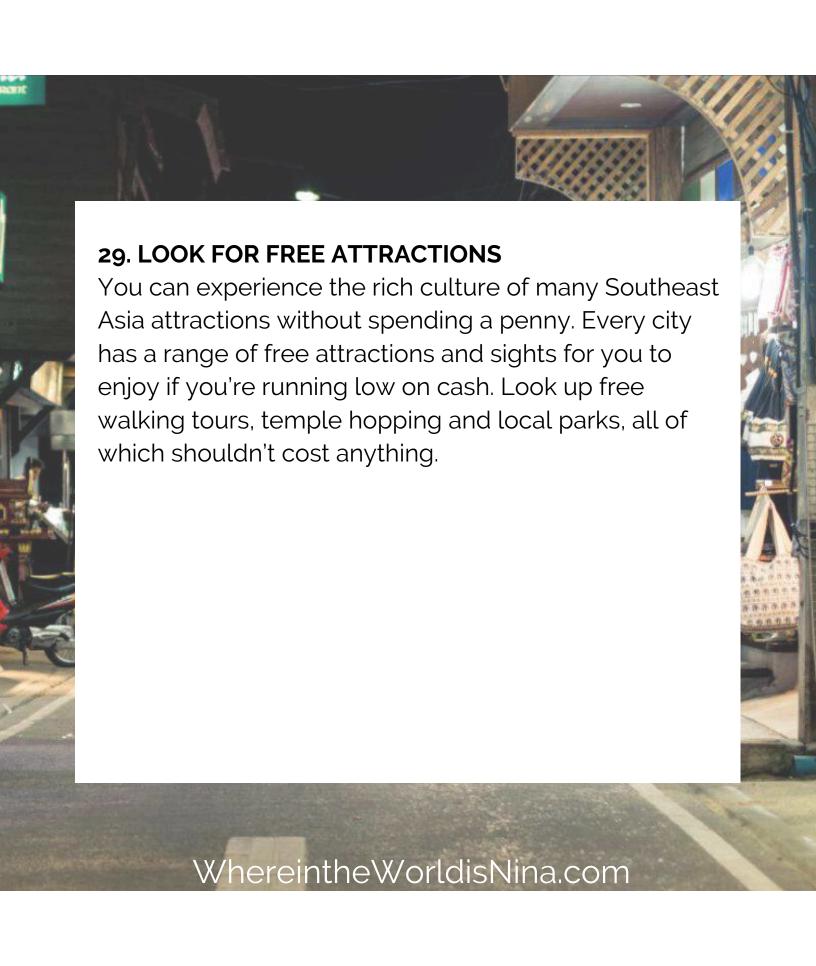


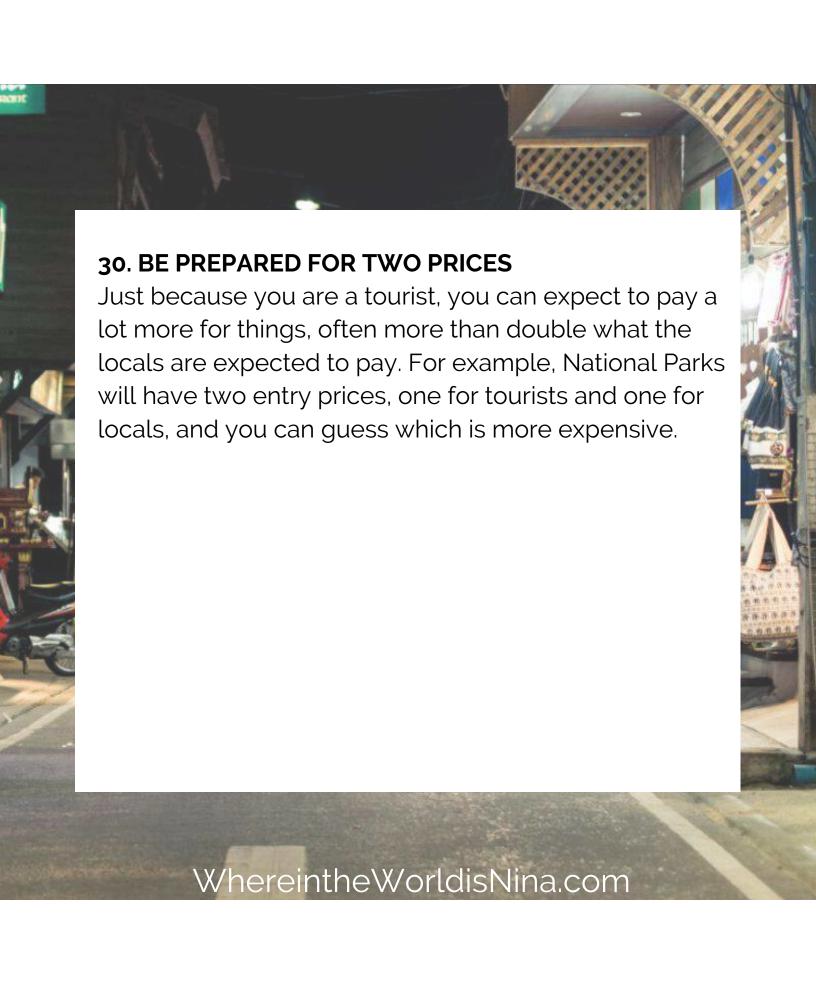


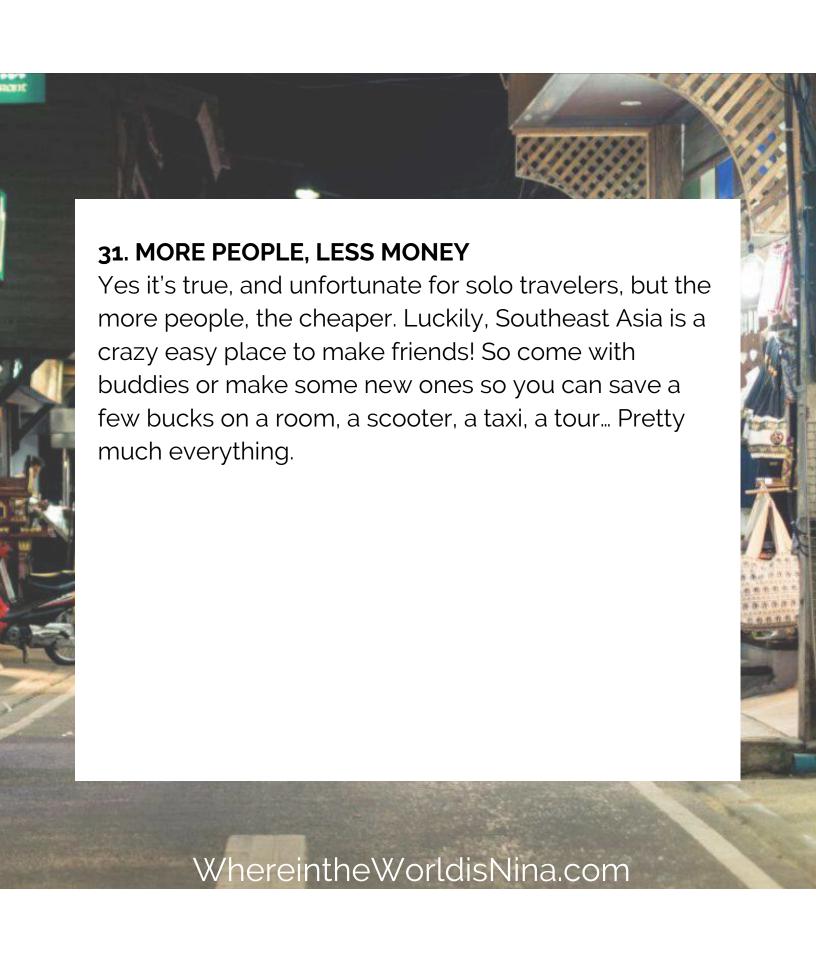


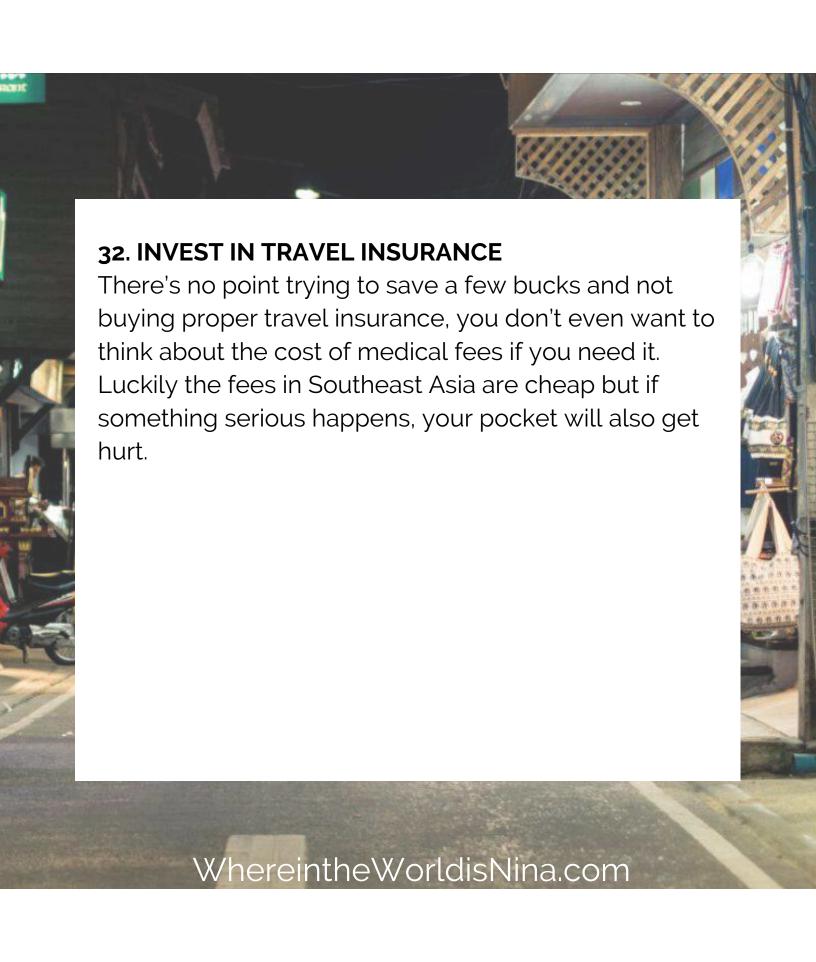
27. EXPLORE THE OPTIONS There are going to be tons of tour companies all offering the exact same tour, so there is no harm in shopping around to see where you can get the best deal. Don't just accept the first offer you come across. And never accept offers that are offered to you randomly in the streets. For some of the most trusted tours around, try searching on Klook first. They are popular for tours around Asia and you can browse the reviews before purchasing. WhereintheWorldisNina.com

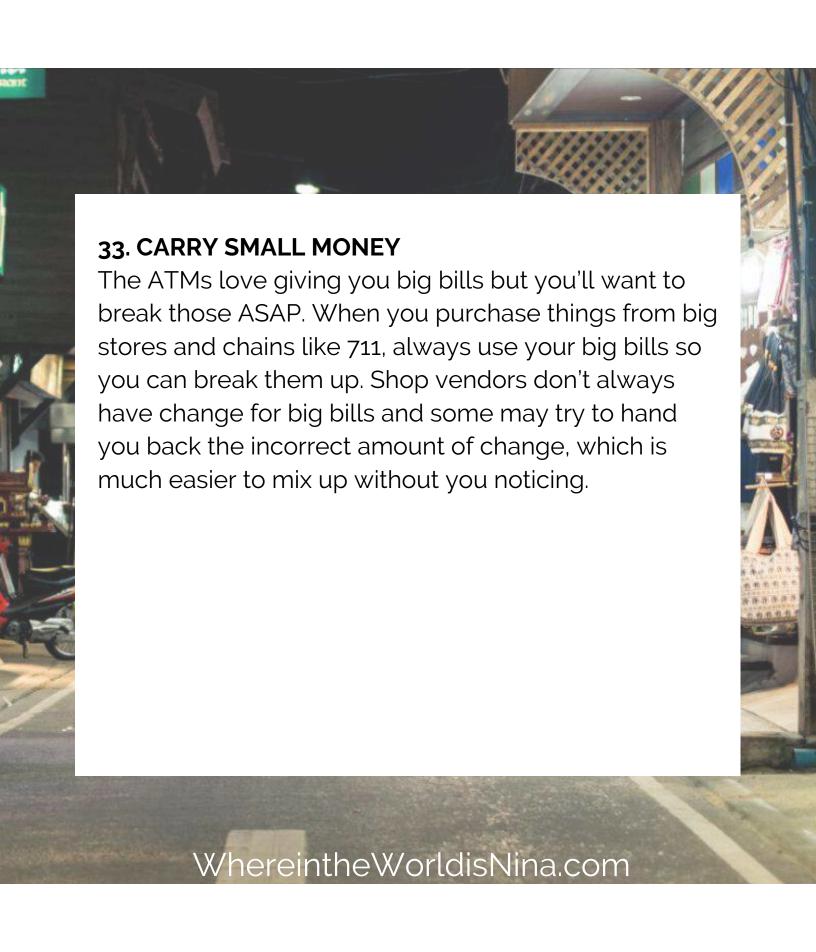








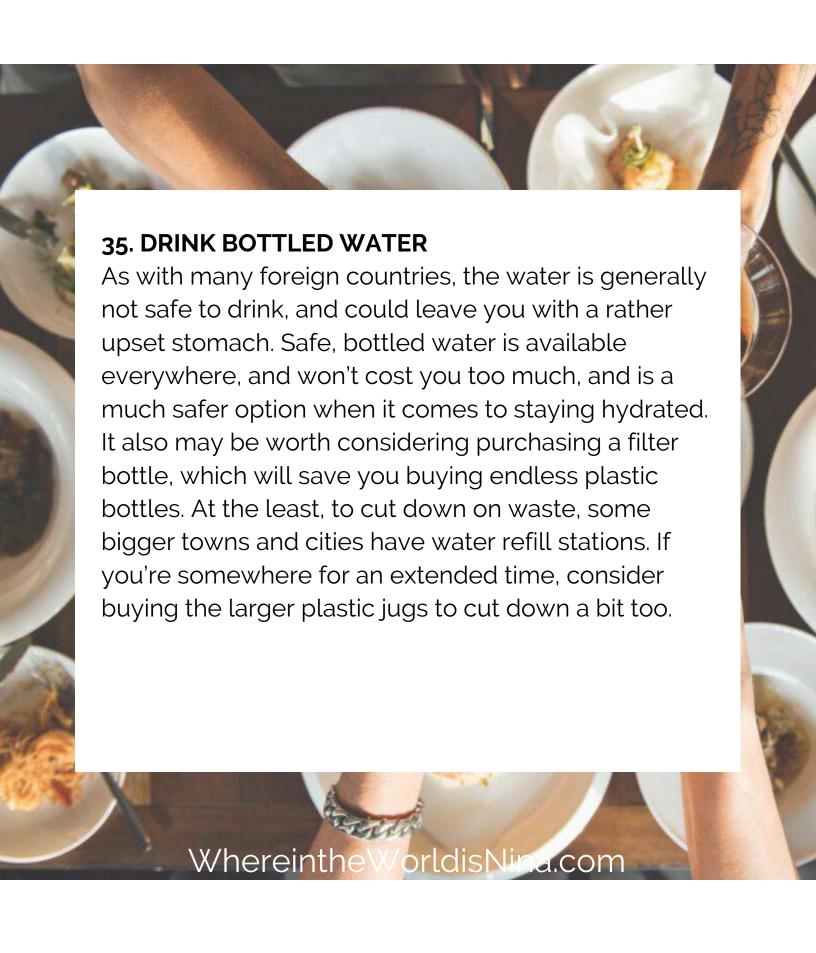




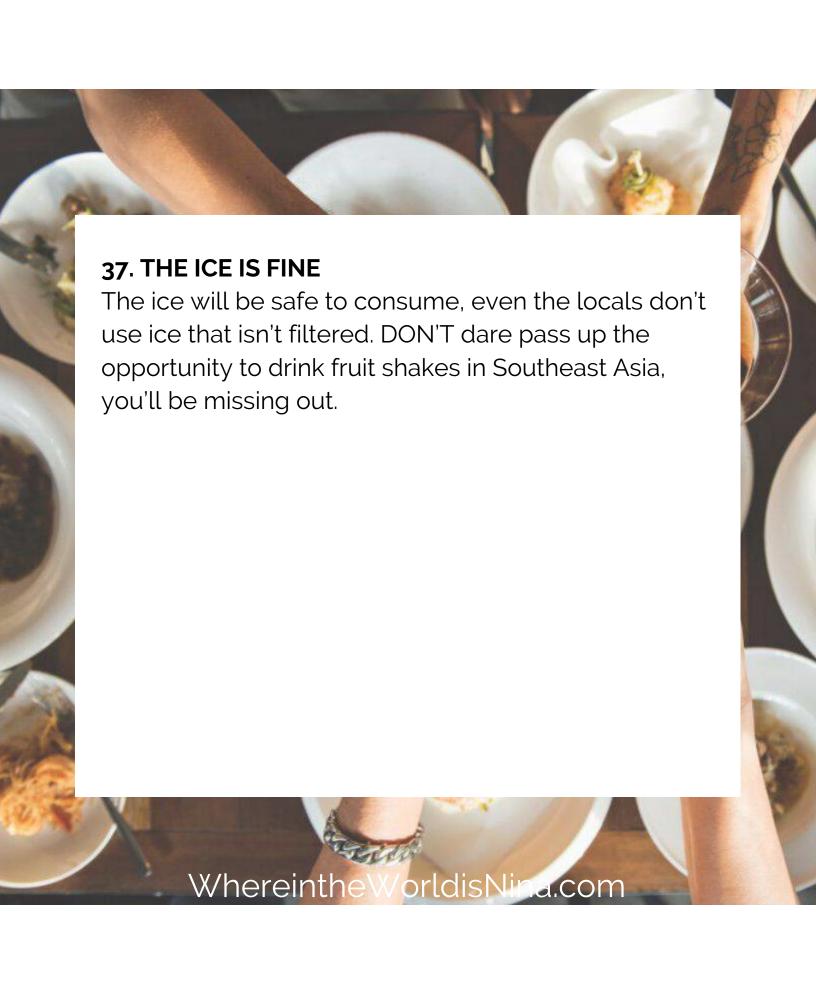
34. GO SLOWER 98% of the people reading this tip will ignore it. I get it, you're excited, you want to see ALL the things, and you'll sleep when your dead. But I can't stress enough how much more rewarding it is to get to know "pockets" of places than it is to rush through everything. Rushing also means you're spending A LOT more cash. Hotels will often give you weekly discounts, and not getting on a bus every other two days and instead just doing it every other 7-10 days will save you so much money. But most only learn this after a few months, when they are burnt out and broke from going too fast!

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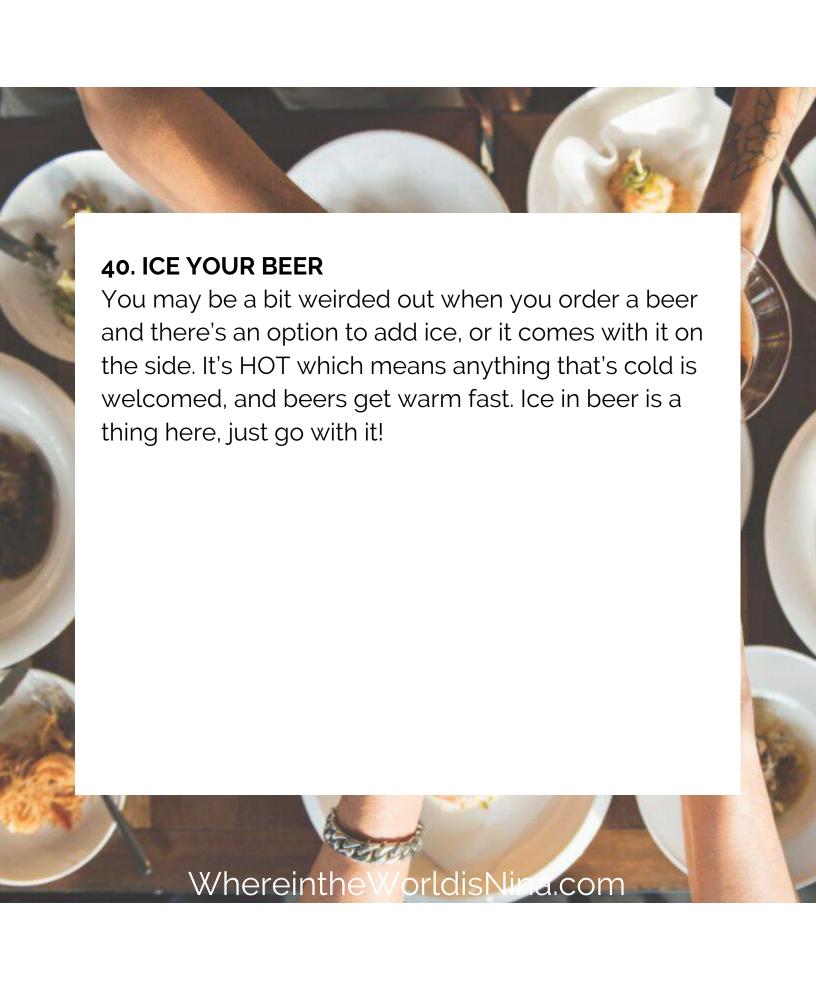






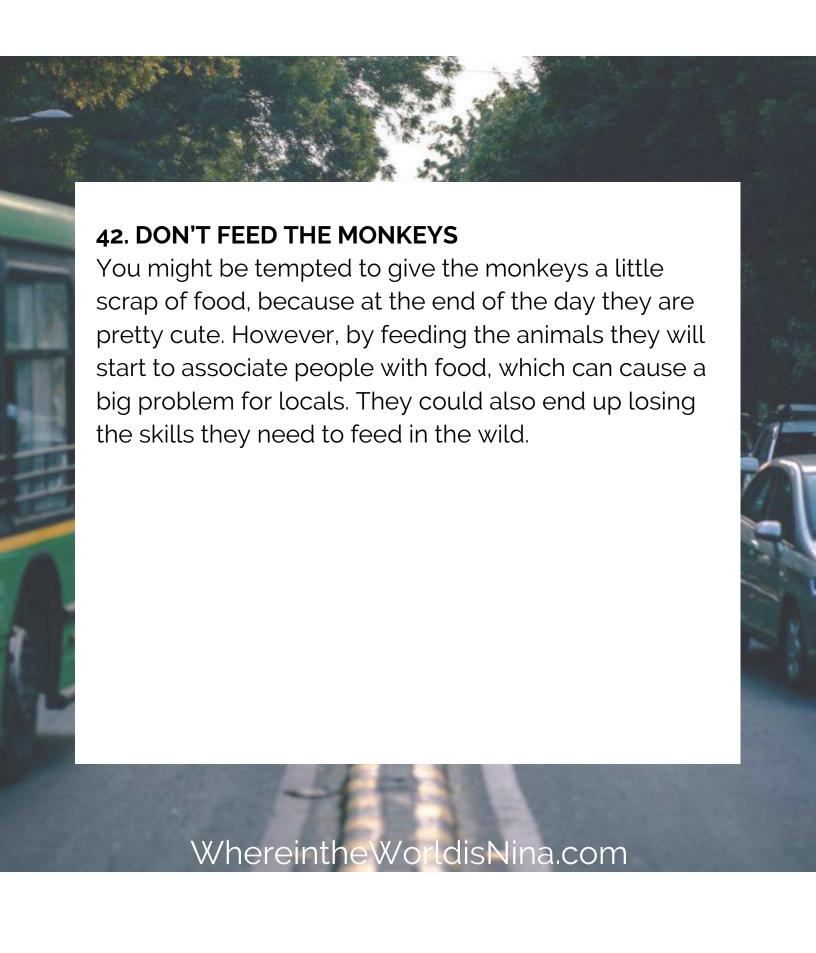








41. MONKEYS ARE CHEEKY Monkeys are everywhere in Southeast Asia, from on the beach, to in towns or in the rainforest. Although they may look sweet, it is advisable that you keep your distance, as some can have sharp little teeth. If they do get up close and personal, then make sure you have a tight hold of ALL your belongings, as they have a tendency to simply take what they want, and then good luck getting it back! WhereintheWorldisNina.com

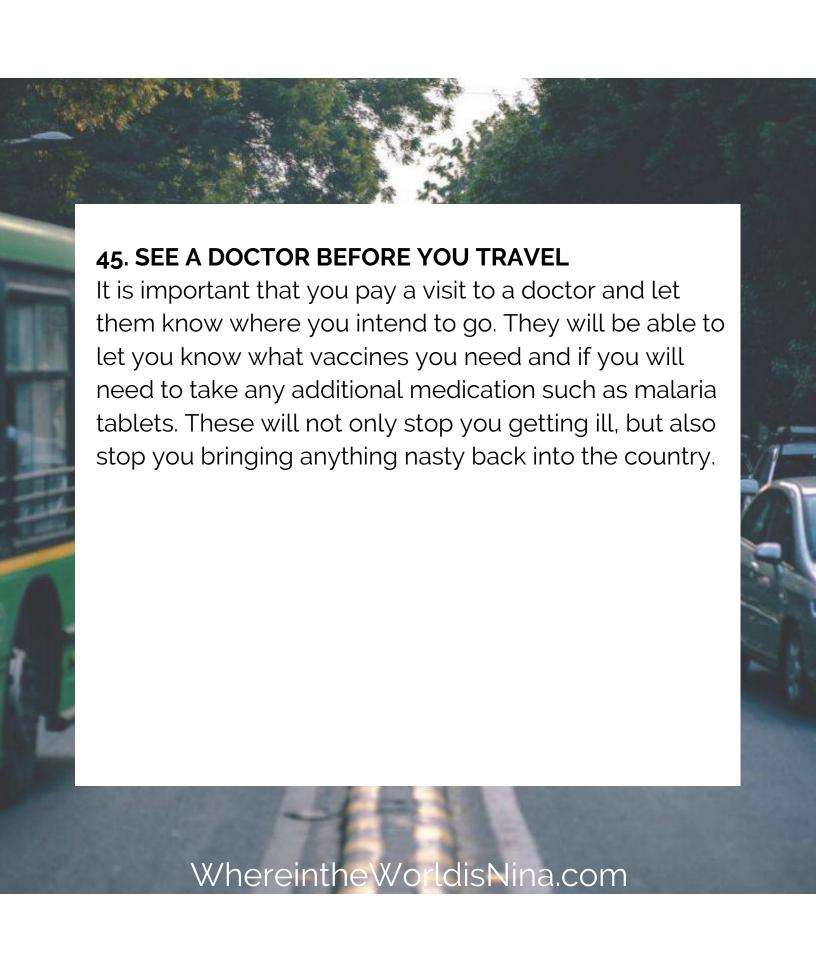


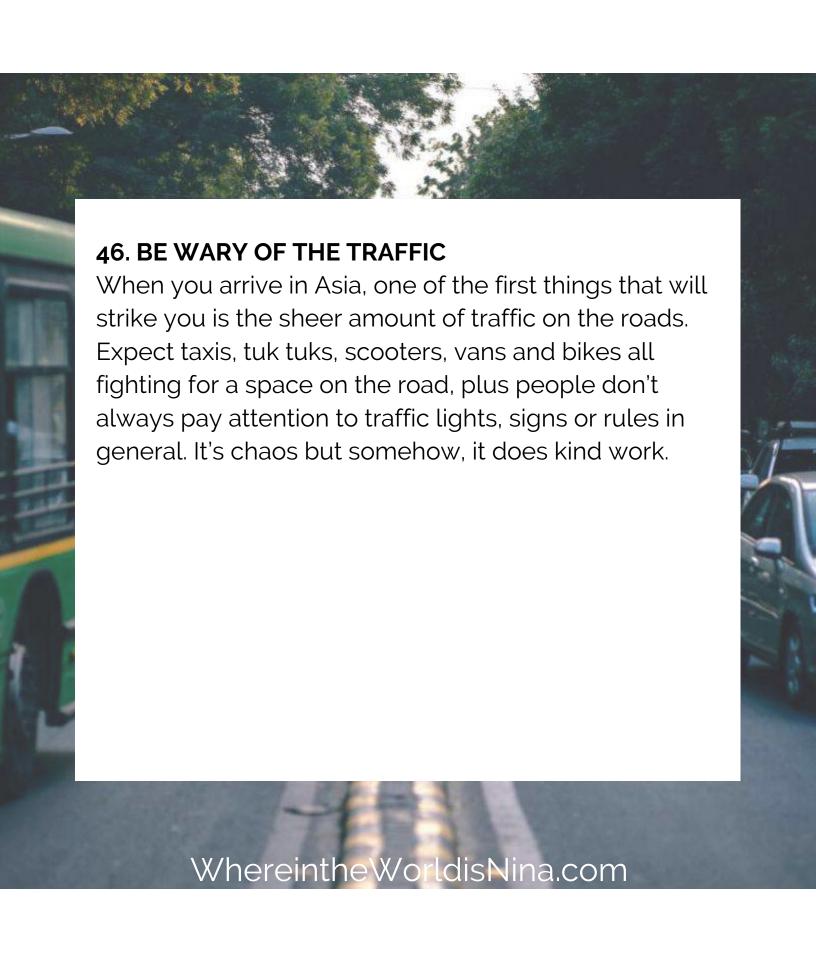


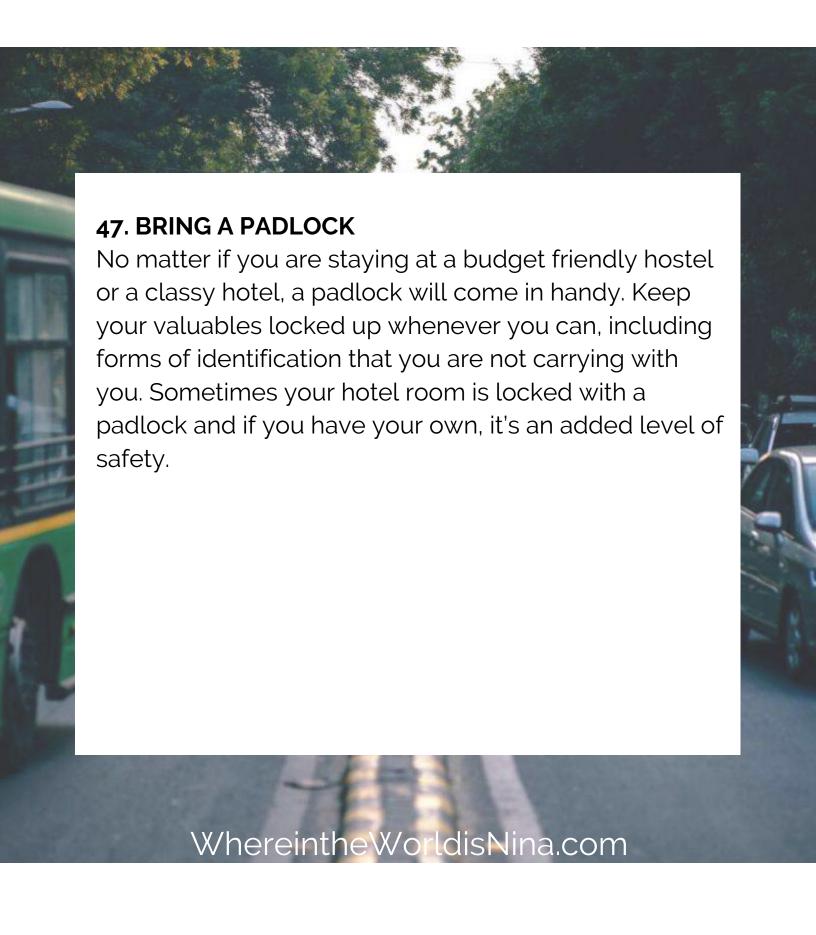
44. DON'T EXPECT COMPLETE SAFETY

The safety standards in Southeast Asia are simply not the same in other parts of the world, so whereas in many countries a boat will have at least one life jacket for every passenger, in Southeast Asia, this may not be the case. The driving may also be a little precarious, especially round twisting mountain roads. Longtail boats are always leaky, a seatbelt on the bus may or may not be present, and your driver may be on his third energy drink. This is just something to be prepared for, you should be fine...

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48. DRINK RESPONSIBLY Sure, you are on vacay, so you are going to want to enjoy a drink or two. Especially at the legendary parties. Just be aware how much you are drinking, and what it is you are drinking! Don't do anything stupid that you wouldn't do back home. Use your common sense and make sure you have friends to go out with, drink close to your hotel, and know how to get home if you're getting more than buzzed. WhereintheWorldisNina.com

49. USE CROSS-BODY BAGS To carry valuables such as identification, money and your electronics, you should use a bag that goes across your body. This should be enough to prevent potential thieves from simply snatching your bag in the street. A popular way to steal purses are people on motorbikes snatching them off shoulders. It's less likely they will choose you if yours is crossbody. WhereintheWorldisNina.com

50. WATCH YOUR DRINK This applies to all countries, but especially where drinking in excess is taking place, such as beach parties. It is not uncommon for drinks to be spiked if they are left unattended, and you definitely shouldn't accept drinks from strangers. Always keep an eye on your drink, watch people pour them or open the bottle. Just like you would at home. WhereintheWorldisNina.com

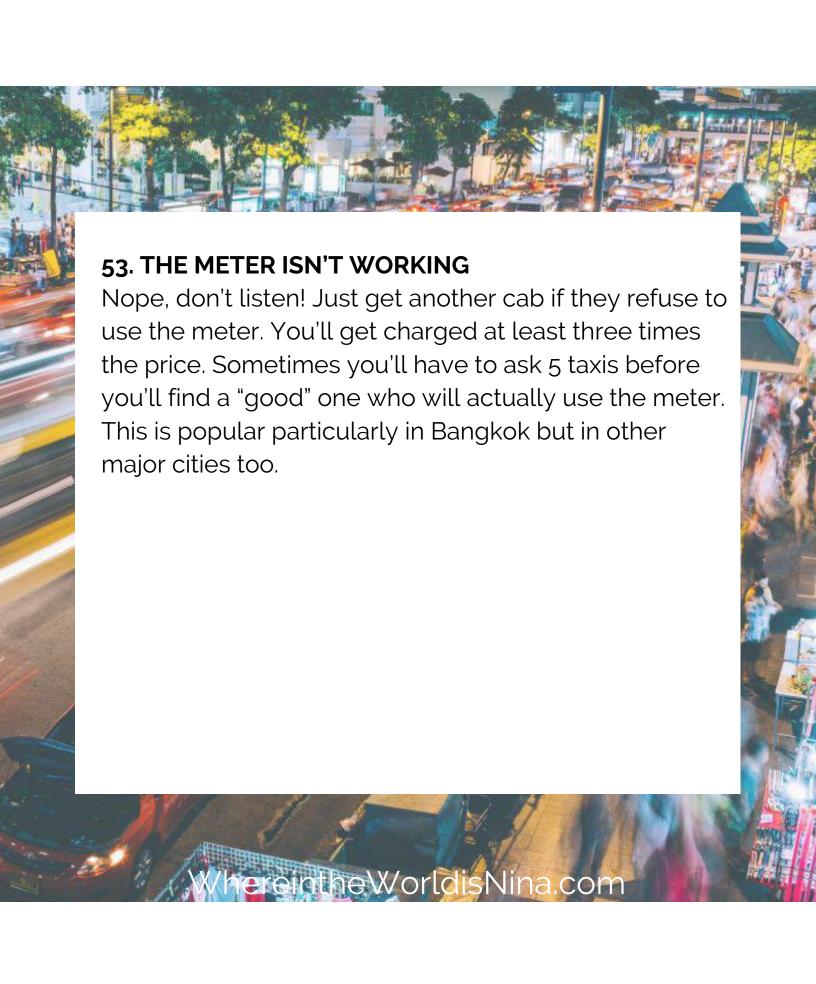


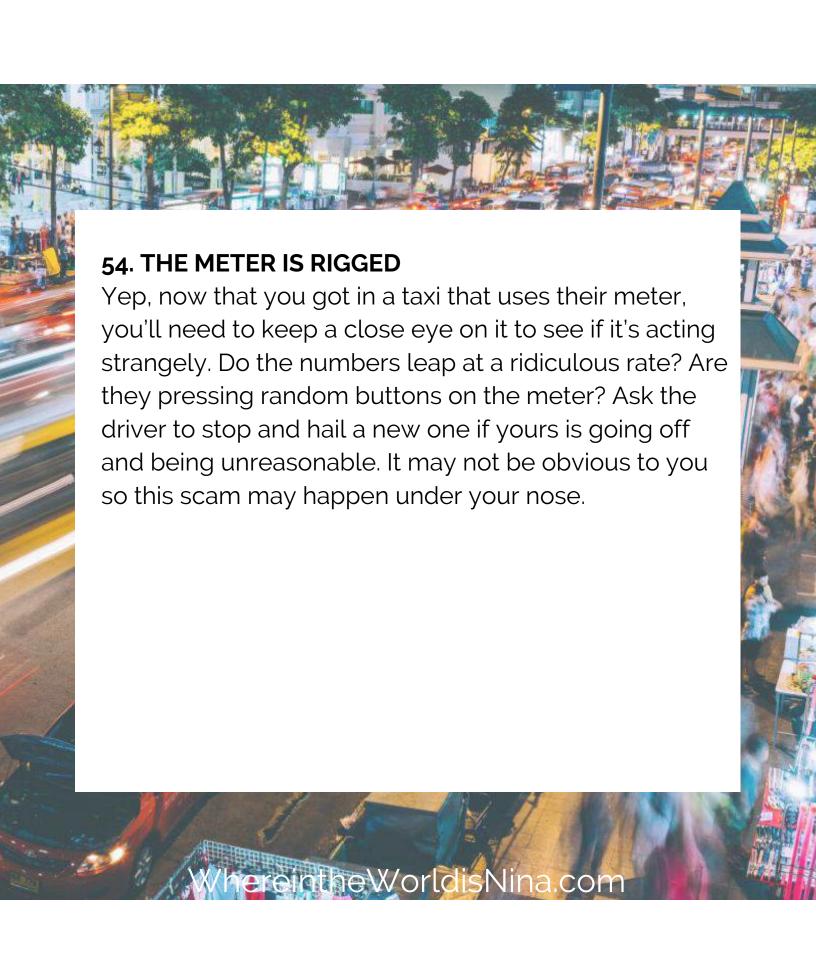
52. TAKE CARE GOING OUT ALONE

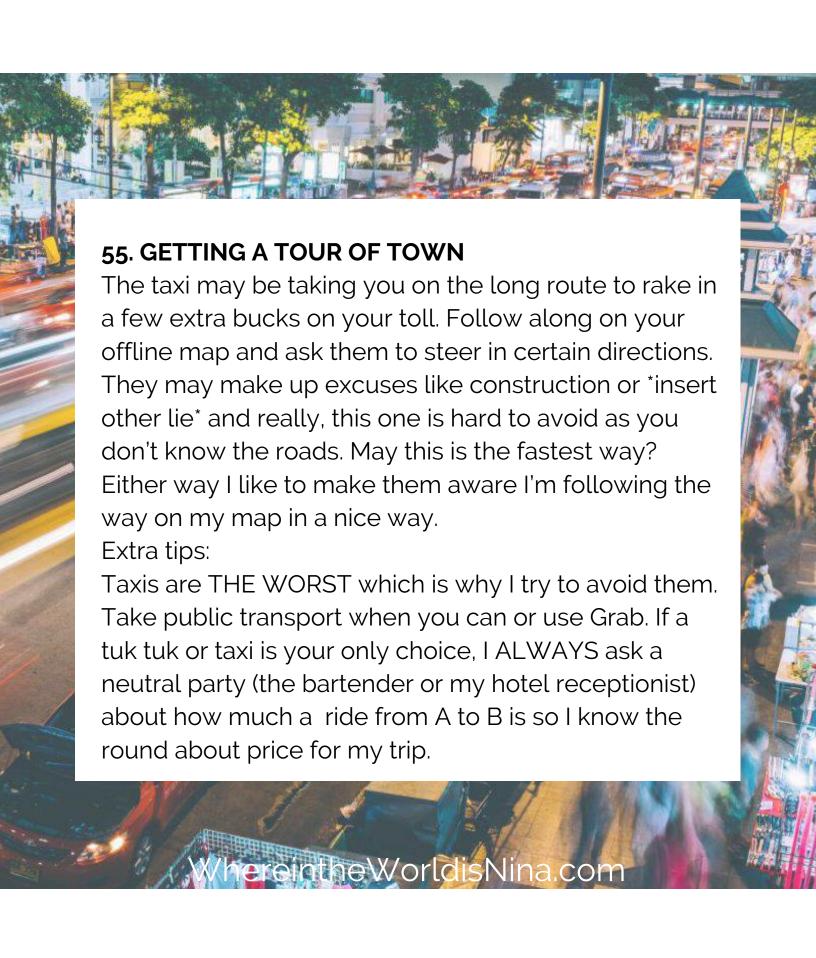
This applies to all places in the world, especially at night. If possible, try not to go out alone. Even if you are a solo backpacker, chances are you are going to have made friends along the way, so try to always walk around new places with someone, it is a lot safer. If you do go out alone, male or female, make sure your hotel is close by, you grabbed a business card/pinned the address, you texted someone back home letting them know, and make sure you understand what the transportation system is like before you have a drink. Don't get anything more than tipsy, you can get a bit more than that if you are with trusted people or down the way from your hotel—maybe. Just be extra safe.

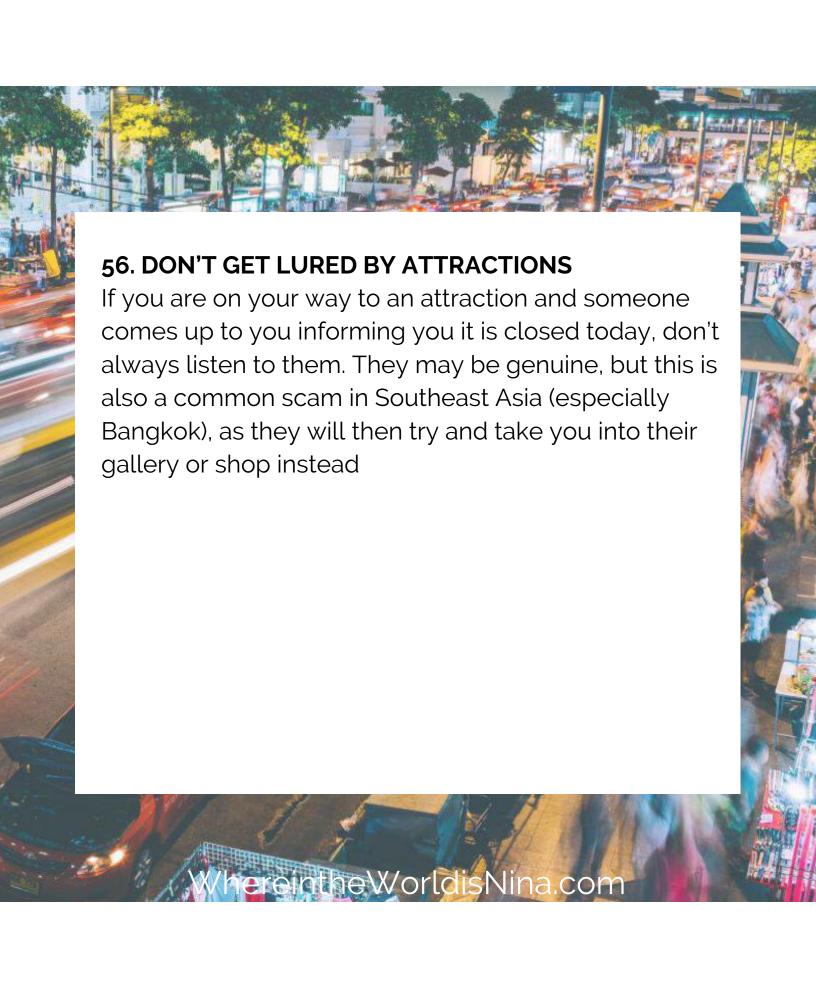
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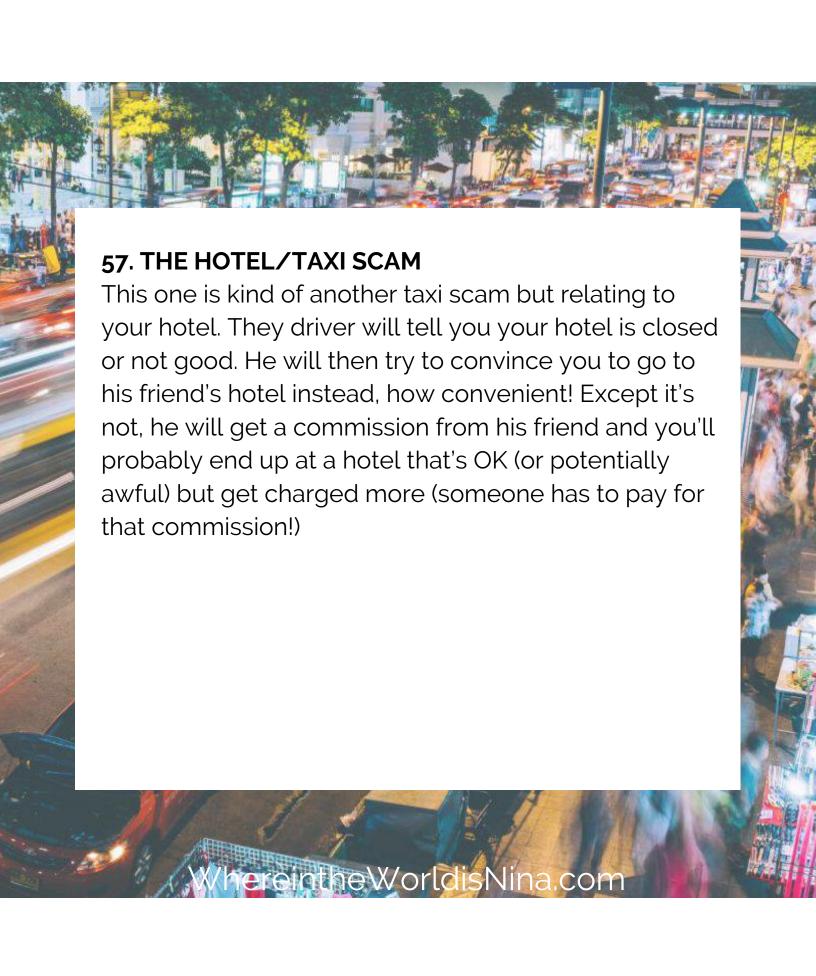


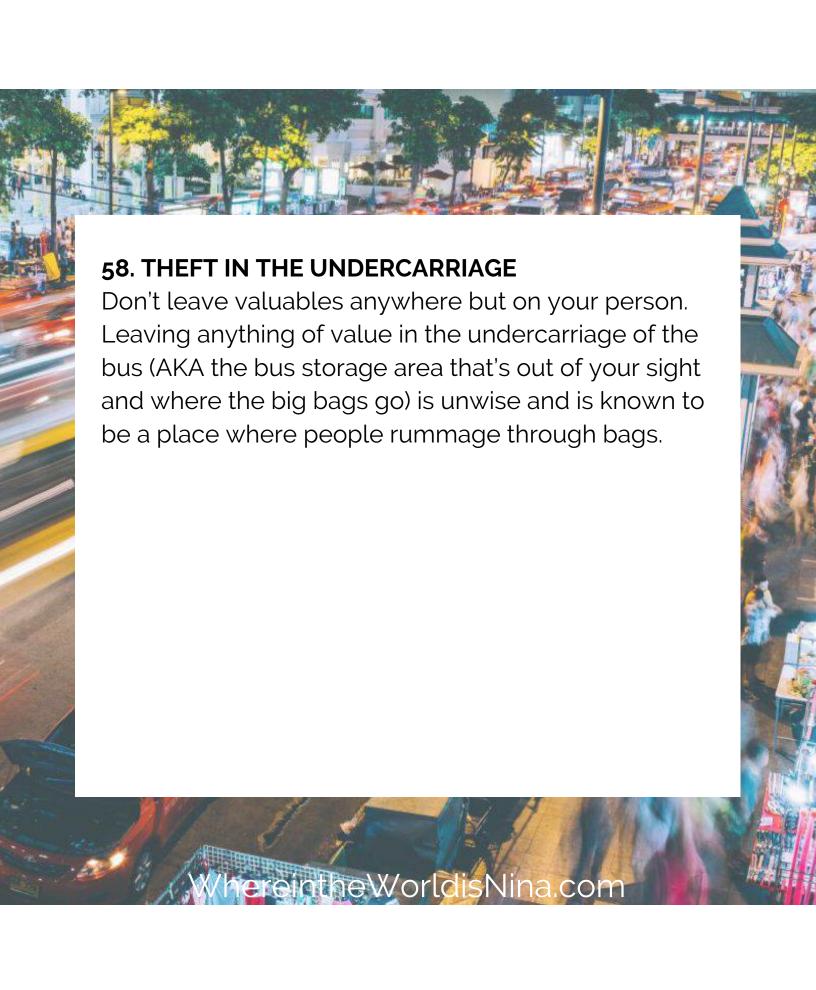


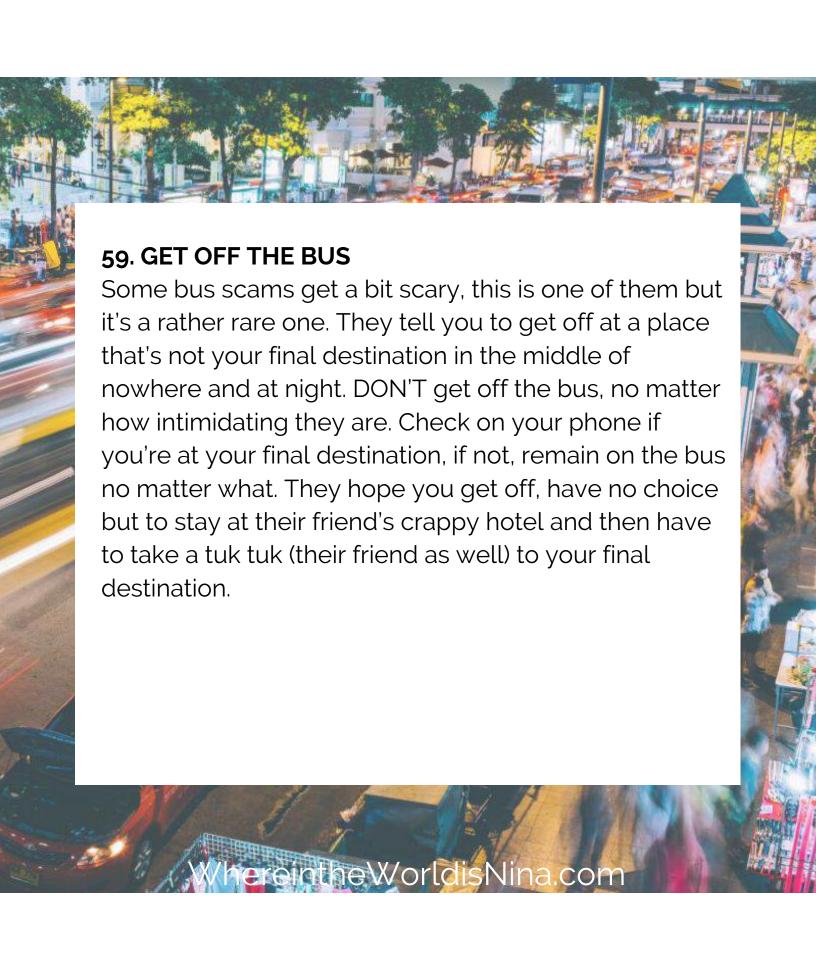


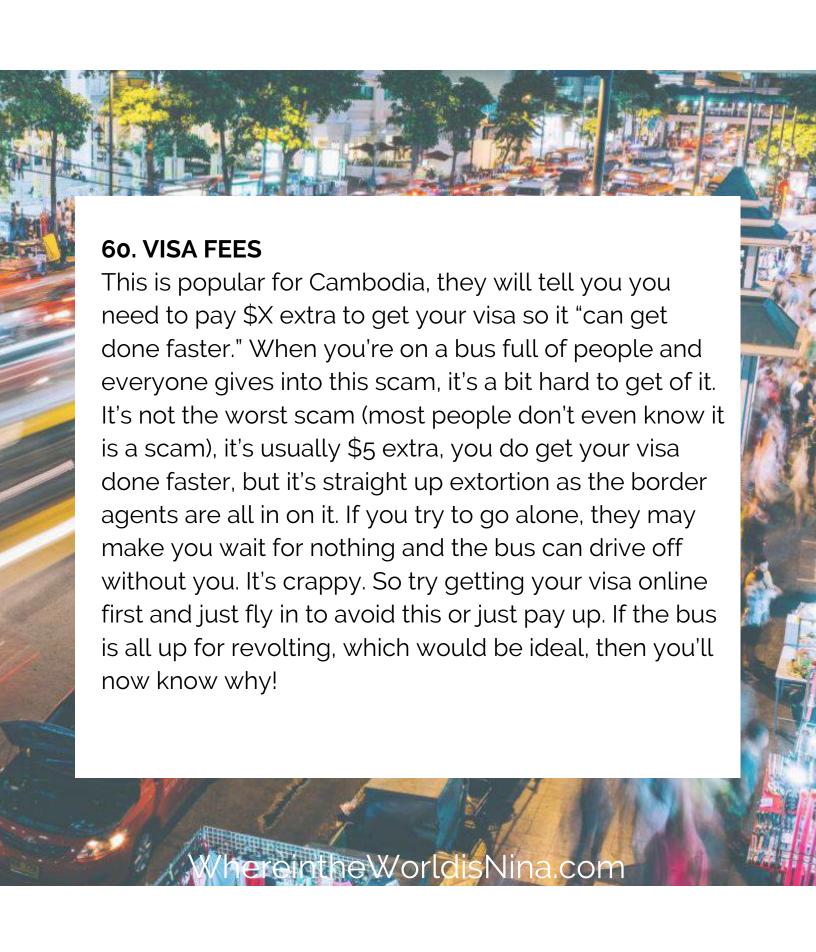


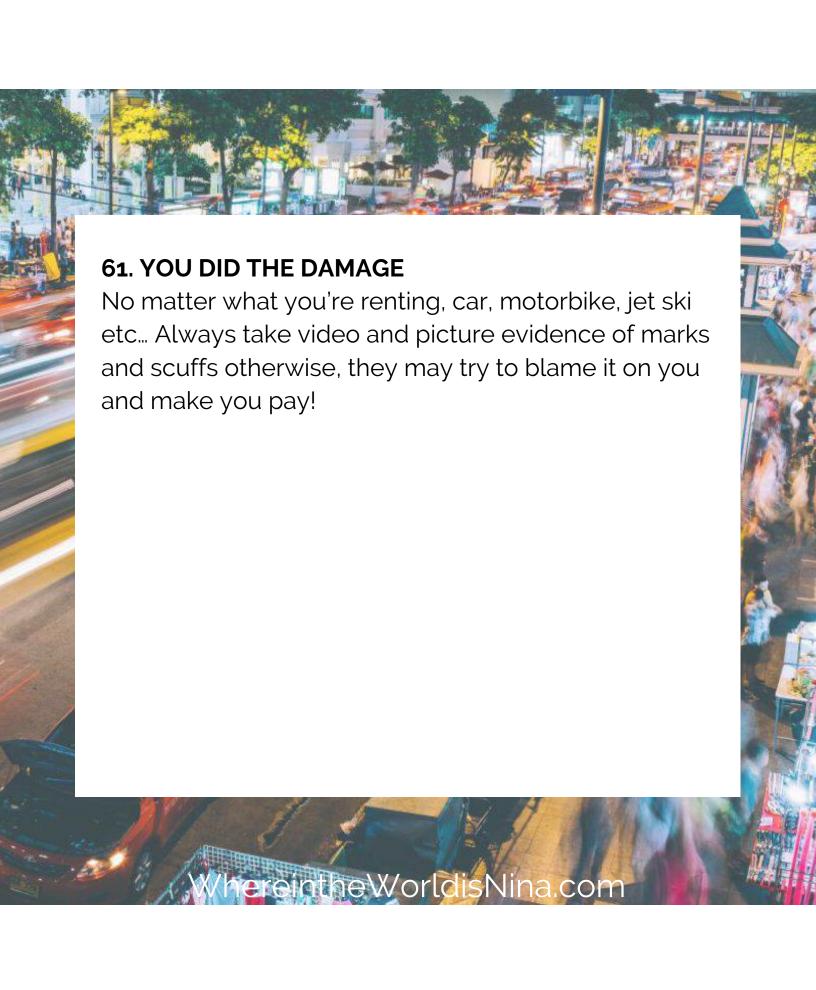


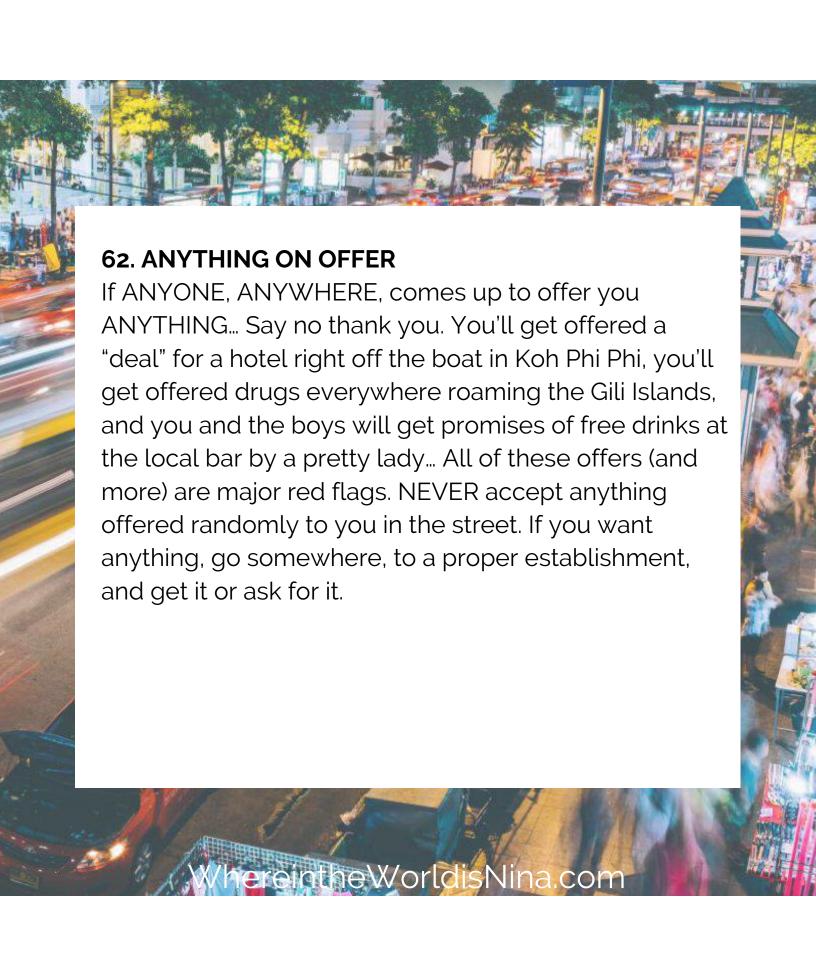


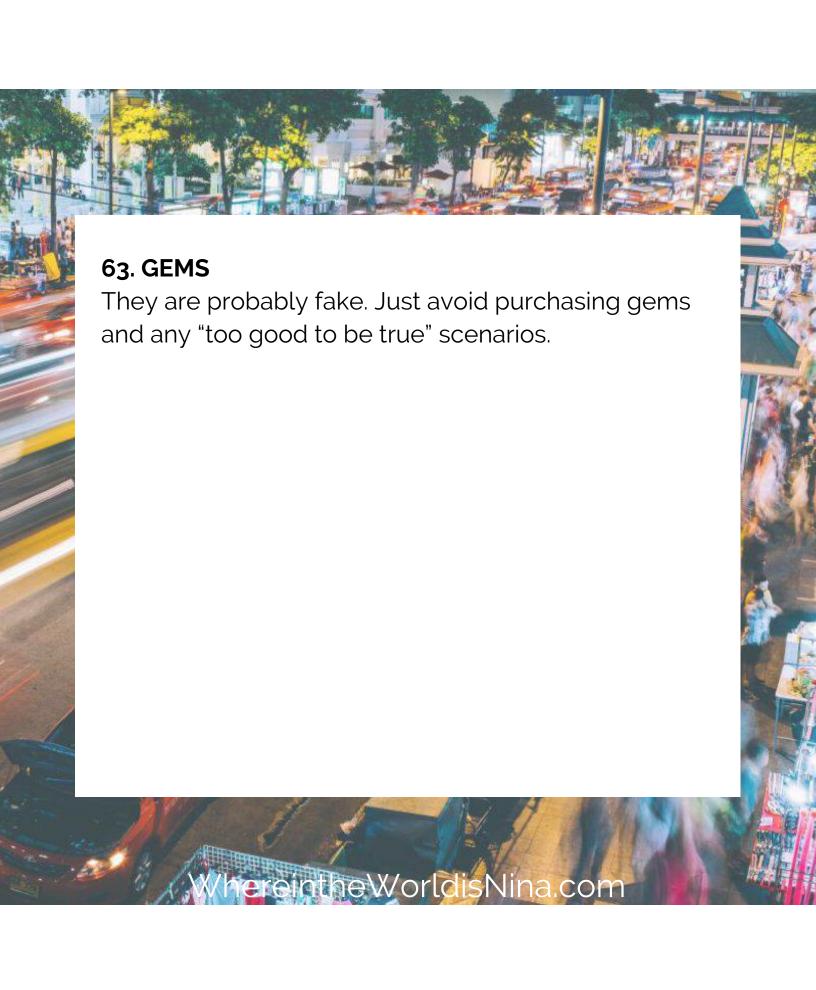




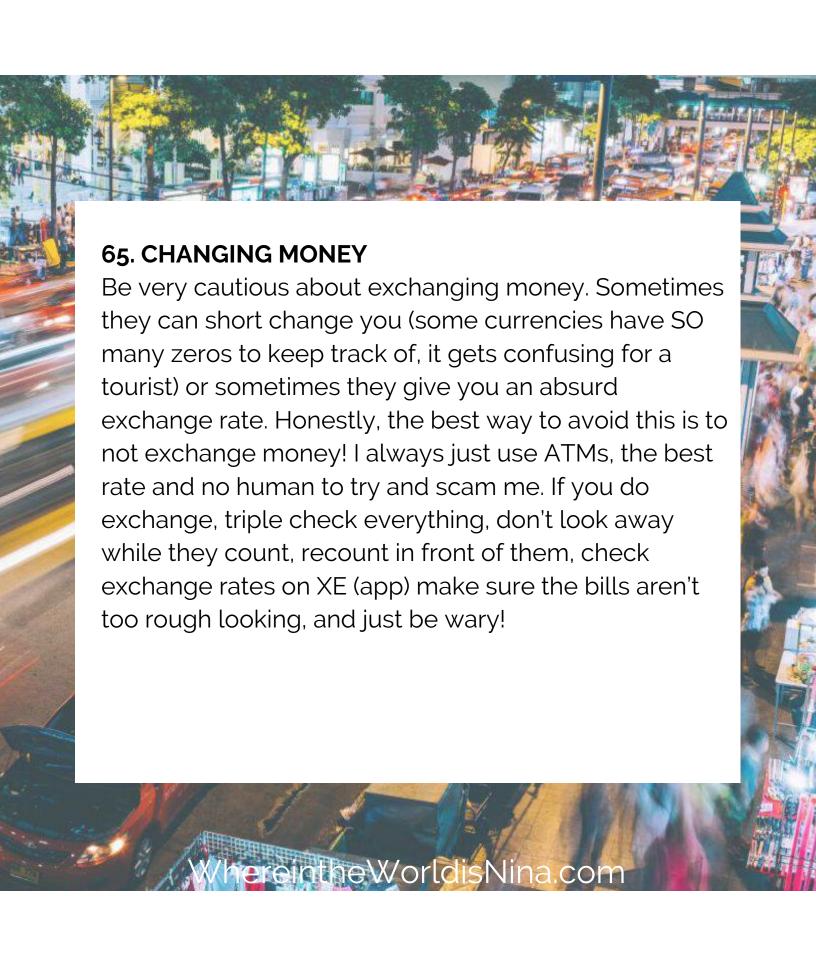


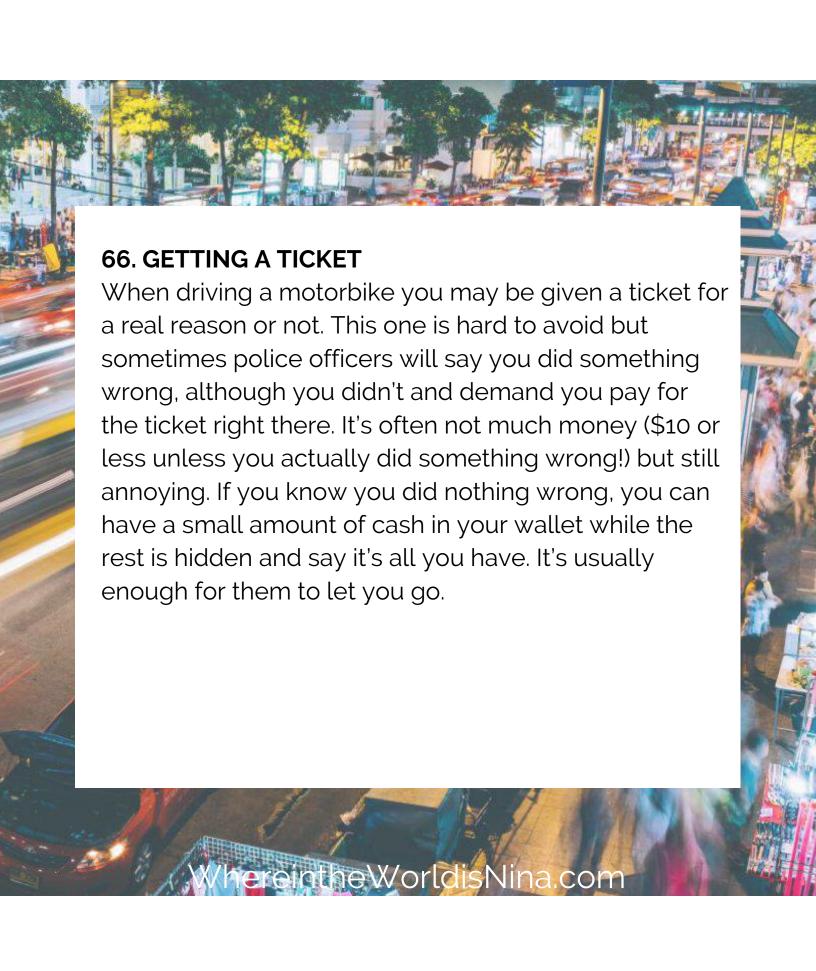


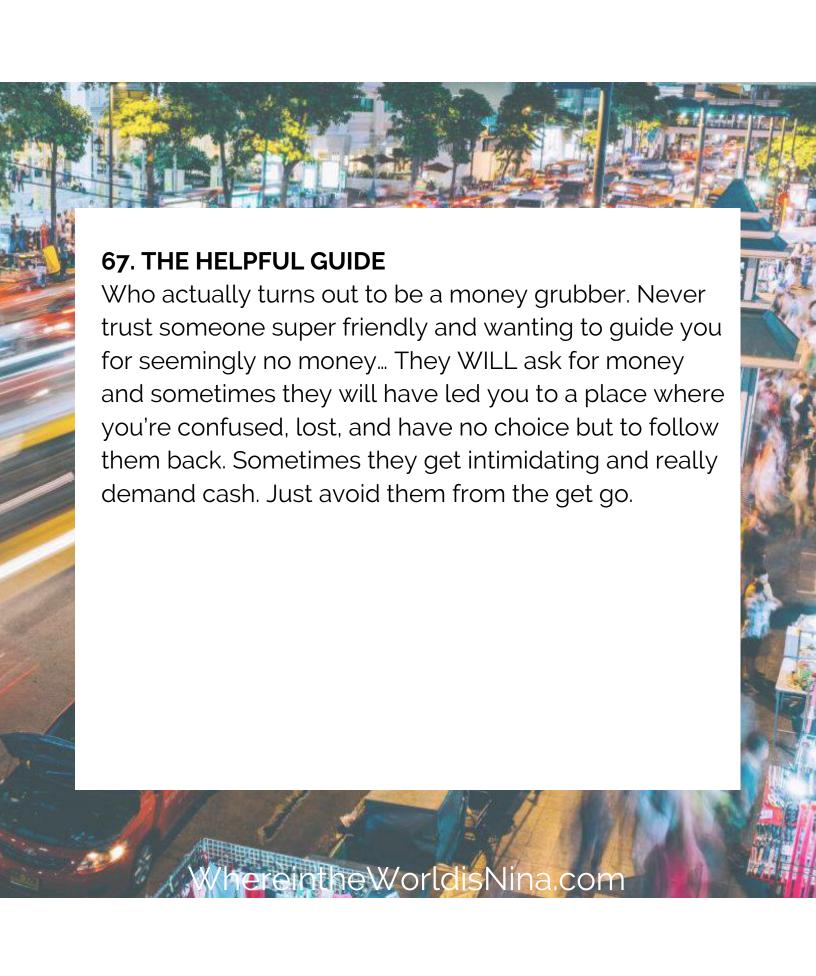


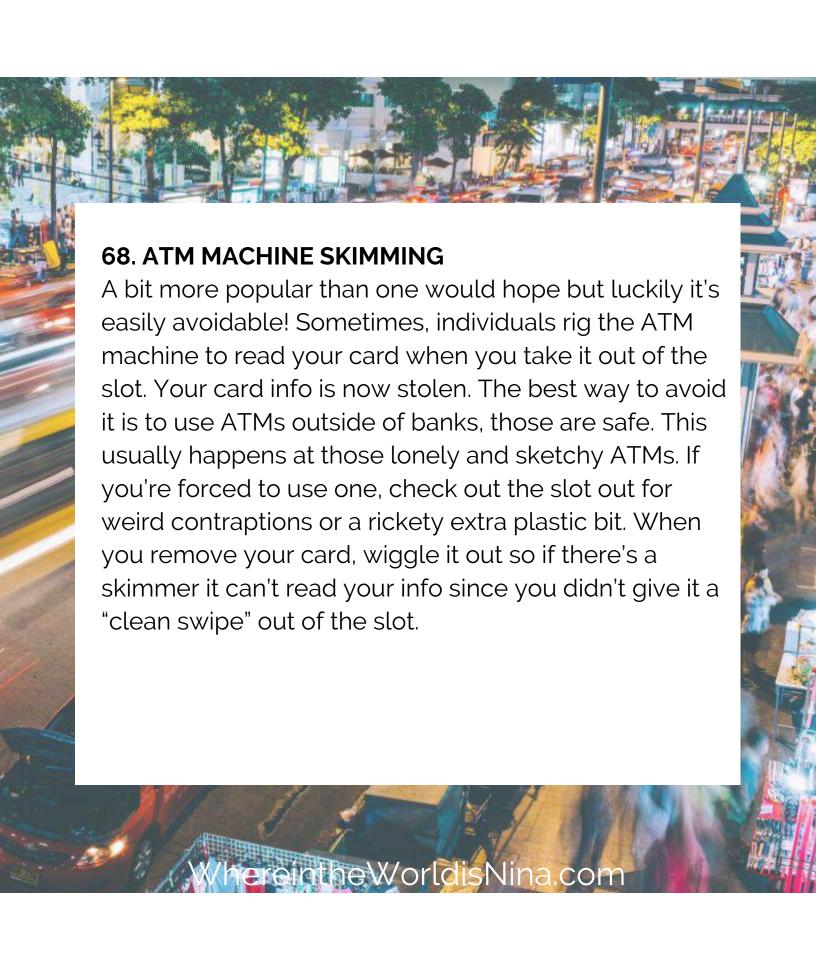


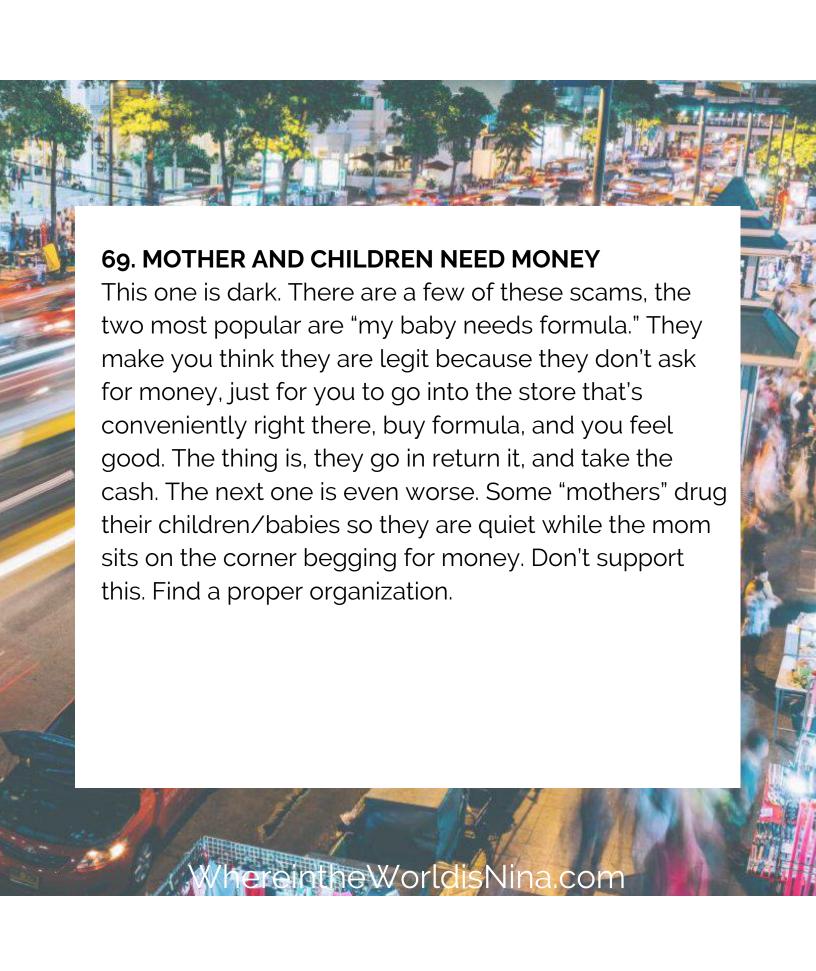


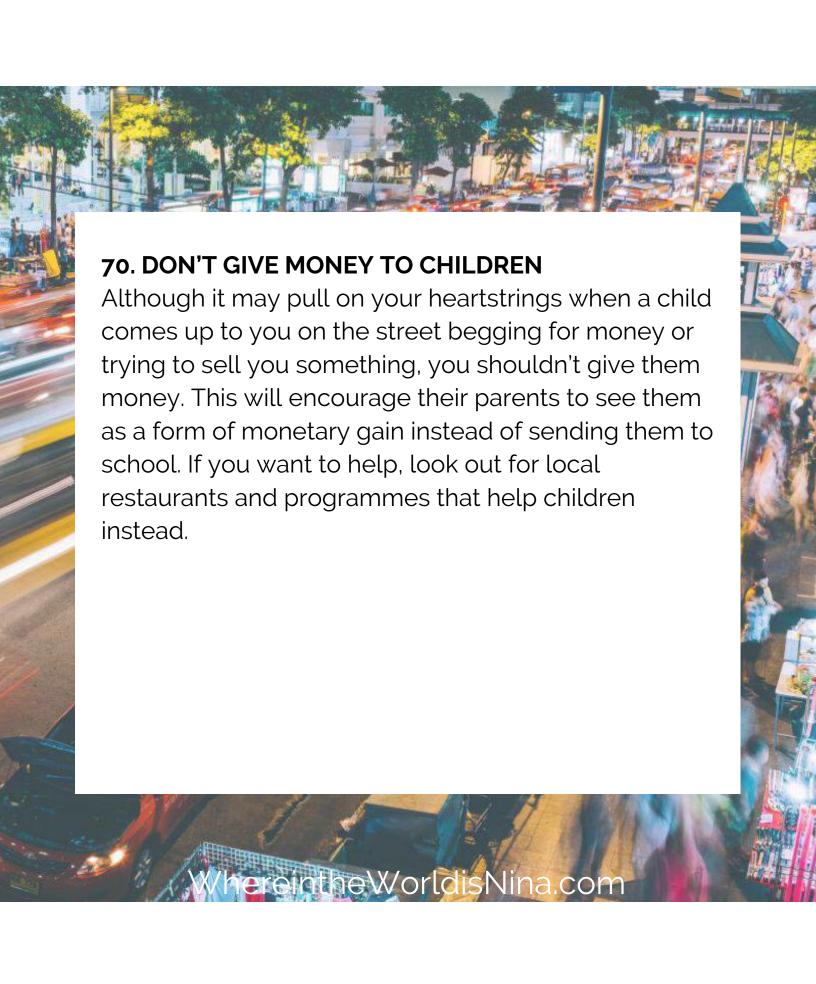


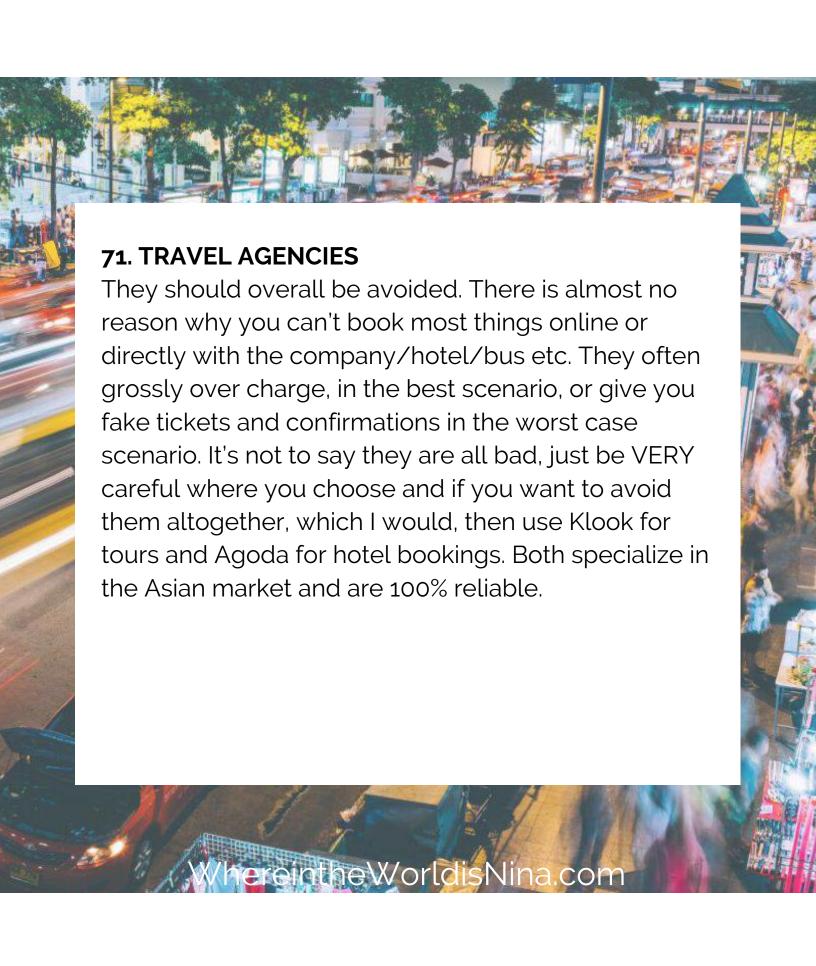


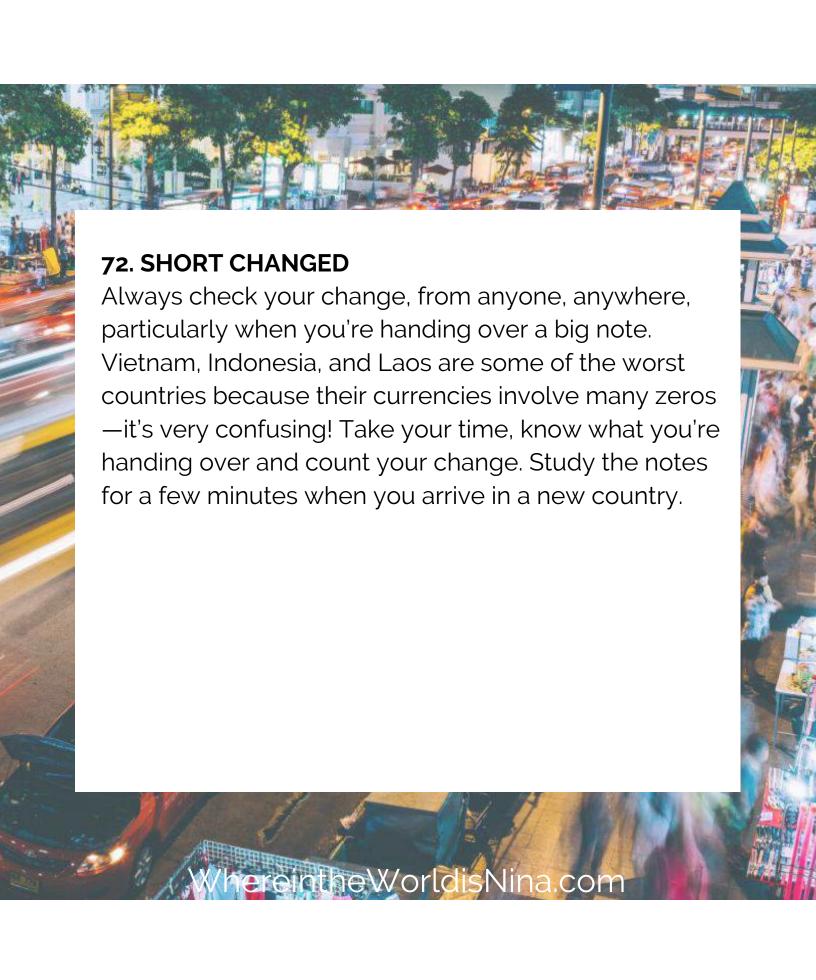


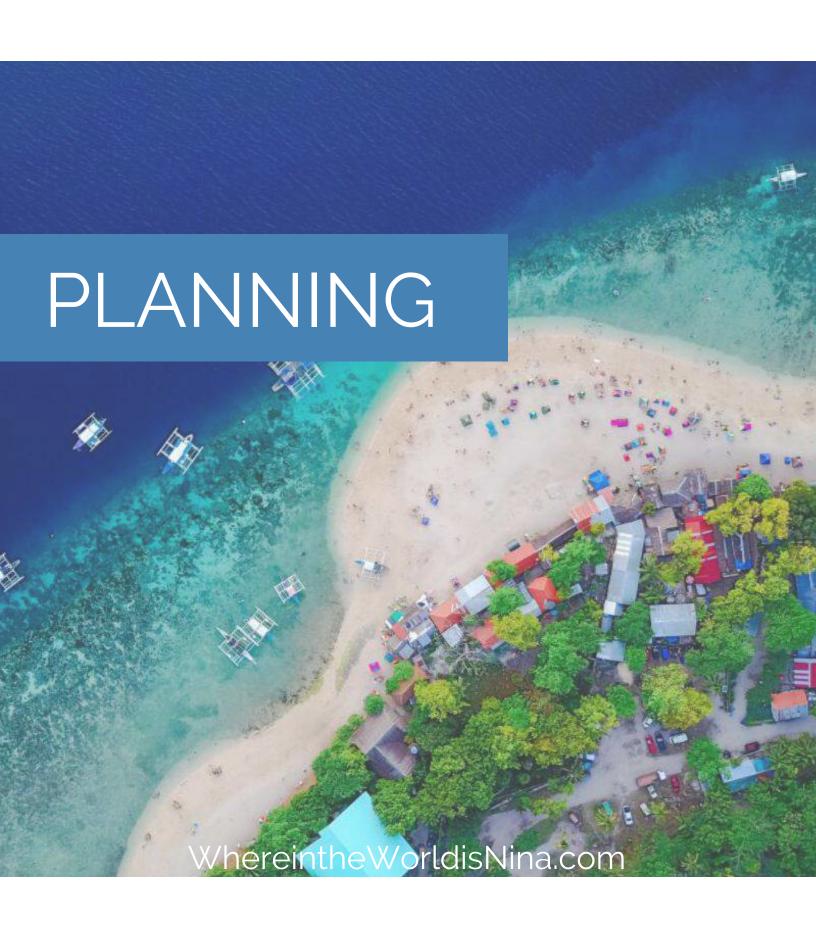












73. PLAN AROUND THE WEATHER

Although it may be monsoon season on one side of the country, it doesn't mean that it is on the other as well. When deciding where you are going to travel and when, it is worth doing some research into when you can expect the best weather. You may end up missing the bad weather entirely.

74. NOT ALL SEASONS ARE CREATED EQUAL

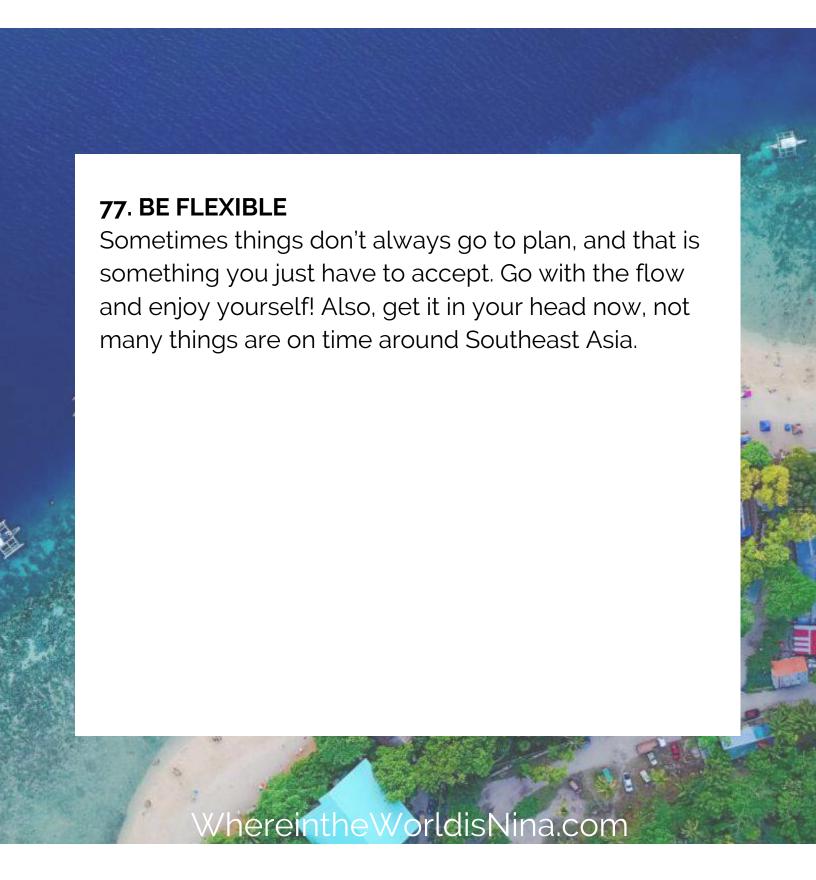
Seasons are different out here and just because it's about to be rainy season, doesn't mean anything bad. Sometimes, it's good! Things cool down a bit, less tourists, cheaper prices... Don't be afraid to dabble in shoulder season, it can be the best time to visit Southeast Asia.

75. LAYERS IS KEY

Sometimes it can be hot, and sometimes it can be cold, yeah weird, right? The best way to work around this weather is to wear and pack layers. You won't need anything crazy thick but you could need a light but warm jacket. If you're chilling in the mountains of Banaue or Pai, on an overnight bus that practically has icicles dangling above you, or you attempted to do a sunrise hike at Mount Ijen, you'll need a jacket.

76. DON'T OVER PLAN

It's definitely good to plan a bit and have a solid idea of where you want to go, but the joy of traveling is seeing where your journey takes you. You never know who you are going to meet and what experiences you will be offered, but if you have already booked all your flights and accommodation, you might miss out on some of what could be the best and most spontaneous parts of your trip.



78. KNOW WHAT VISAS ARE REQUIRED

Each country will have its own set of requirements when it comes to visas, such as if you need a photo, what currency you need to pay in and how much it will cost. Staying a while? You may want to get a visa OUTSIDE of the country first as sometimes it's required to do so to get the maximum amount of days without having to leave. Check the requirements for your country of residence and the desired country you want to visit.

79. TRAVEL BY NIGHT

Traveling at night has many benefits. Not only is it likely to be cheaper and quieter, but you'll also save money by not having to pay for an extra night's accommodation somewhere. Some countries have comfortable sleeping trains or busses, so you can get some shut eye on your journey, and save your days for sightseeing.

80. RENT A SCOOTER

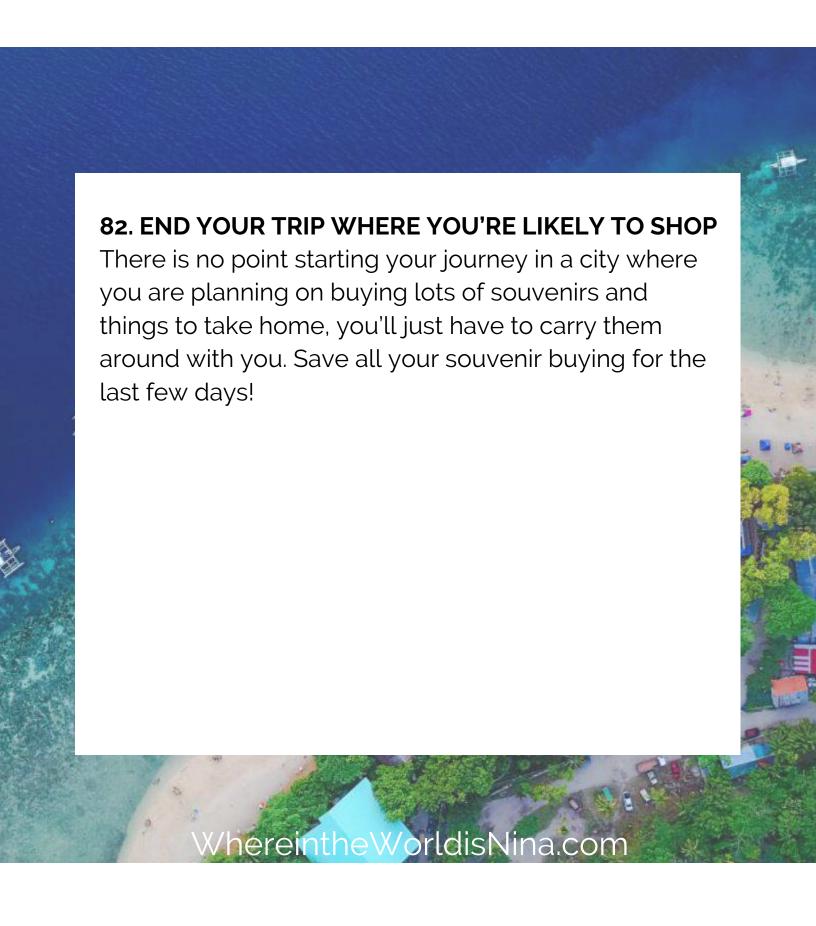
Renting a scooter is one of the best ways to see all the sights that this beautiful part of the world has to offer, and allows you to get off the beaten track a little. Just make sure you have your license/International driver license, wear a helmet and feel confident enough to drive it. (Americans can get an international drivers license for only \$20 at AAA, just walk in).

Notes:

- Driving will not be like home it's hectic, and truly, not the safest. Be VERY careful riding around Southeast Asia.
- Don't forget to take pictures and video of your scooter!

81. TALK TO PEOPLE

One of the best ways to make friends and find out about cool new spots is to simply talk to people! Chatting to your roommates in your hostel is one of the best places to start, but other options are on organised day tours, in local bars or even on the bus. Even if you're not alone, branch out from your clique, get advice from others, you could find something really cool!



83. TALK TO LOCALS

There is no better way to delve into a new culture than to talk to the people that are living it. Most people will be really friendly, and will gladly have a chat with you and give you tips on the best places to eat and visit. The best and least awkward way to do this is to talk to your bartender, the person at the hotel front desk, your waitress (if they are not too busy), and at the bar. Just like home, I guess.

84. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE JET LAG

You may think as soon as you touch down you'll be ready to explore, but remember, you would have flipped about 180 degrees on time, and it could take you 1-5 days to recover from this shift. In fact, expect to feel a little foggy and strange for a good few days after you land, so don't book anything too strenuous in the beginning. If it's any consolation, I always feel worse going from Southeast Asia to the USA, so hopefully your worse jet lag will be after you visit!

85. TRY NEW THINGS

Traveling is the time in your life where you are almost expected to try new things and step out of your comfort zone. Sure, some things will make you a little nervous, but looking back you will be so thankful you did so many amazing things.

86. JUST DON'T BE AN *SS OR RECKLESS

I like to call this my "travel bubble theory." People go on vacation, they think they're invincible, get hurt or worse. They don't think they can get hurt on vacation but hey, you can! So have fun but don't be disrespectful or irresponsible.

87. AVOID TEMPLE BURNOUT

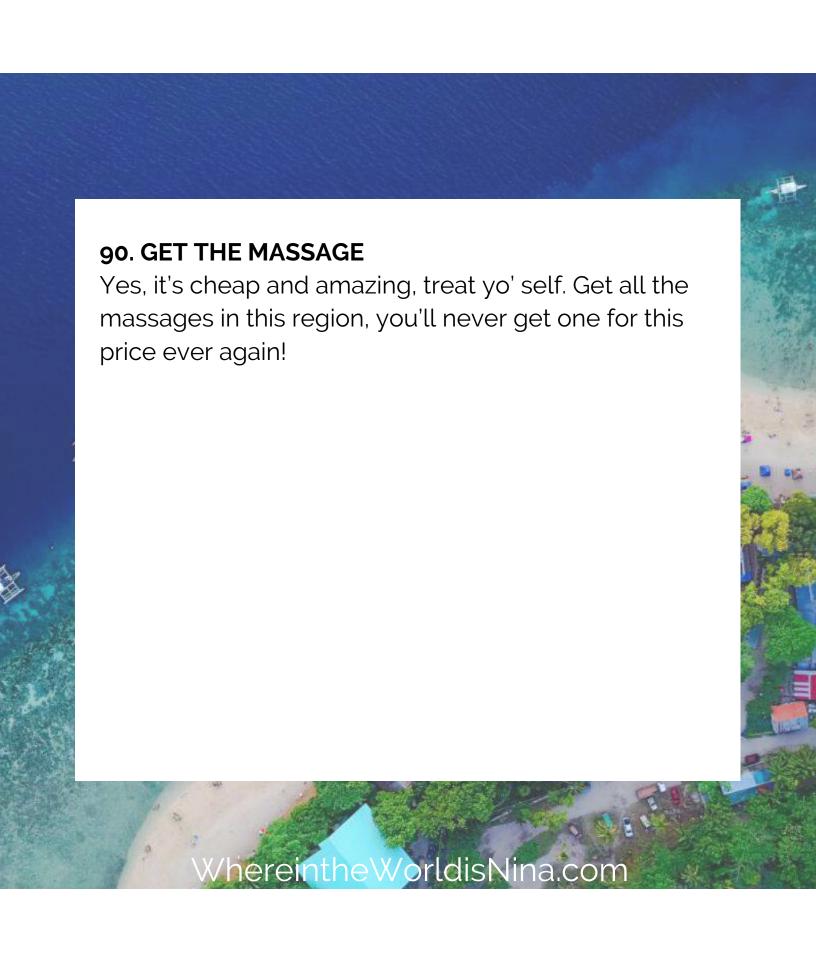
There are so many stunning temples across the whole of Southeast Asia, there is no way you are going to be able to see them all. Temple burnout happens when you see so many that they all start to seem the same, and you don't want to see anymore. This is such a shame, especially as they are SO many good ones. Try picking out a few in each destination that you really want to see, and plan other activities around them.

88. HIT THE BEACH

With so much to see and do, taking some time to relax on the beach may end up taking a bit of a backseat. The beaches in this part of earth are some of the finest in the world, with the clear and warm tropical waters and vibrant marine life. Make sure you spare a few days to simply kick back and enjoy them.

89. SPLASH OUT ON VIP BUSES

Unless you are on a strict budget, it is sometimes worth splashing out on a VIP bus as they not only include air conditioning (oh, fancy!), but also on-board toilets, sometimes a snack, and maybe even fancy lights and plush seats.



91. BOOK YOUR FIRST NIGHT

Many backpackers prefer the 'winging it' approach and simply book their accommodation as they go along. That is completely fine to do, but just at least make sure you have your first night booked, there is nothing worse than turning up in a new country, not having anywhere to stay, and lugging your stuff even more all around town trying to find a spot. It will get old very quickly.

92. HOW TO BOOK TOURS

Klook is well known in Asia for being a reliable tour operator. They specificalize in Asia, so search here for any specific tours you may want. Like mentioned, be aware if you sign up with on the ground tours, do some research. Or just book online with Klook and check out reviews there and get your tour sorted so you can enjoy being in the moment.

93. GET PASSPORT PHOTOS

You'll need them crossing borders and applying for visa extensions. Get them before you come and you won't need to worry about it while on the ground. Although it is decently easy in the bigger cities to find a place to get them too if you forget.

94. JOIN FACEBOOK GROUPS

Facebook has everything nowadays and if you're looking for a travel partner, advice on something you can't find the answer to, or whether or not the tour you're looking at is worth it not... Facebook groups are gold. There are TONS of Southeast Asia specific groups, just do a quick search for the specific country or the region as a whole and start joining them. Just be sure to not be "that person" who doesn't search the group for the answer first or the person who obviously didn't Google a damn thing before asking the question. People will roast you for it.

95. ONWARD TRAVEL

Be aware of the requirements for entering a country, as some will require you to have an outward flight already booked. In other words, they want to see your flight out of their country as "proof" you don't intend to stay.

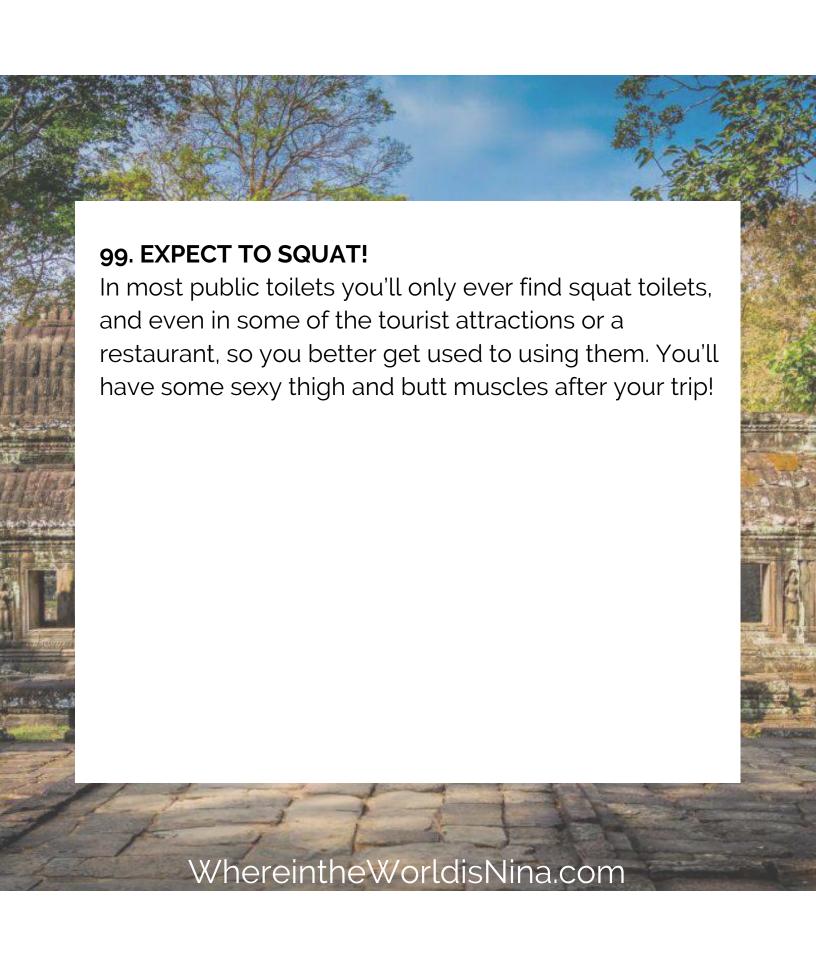
96. BOOKING TRANSPORT

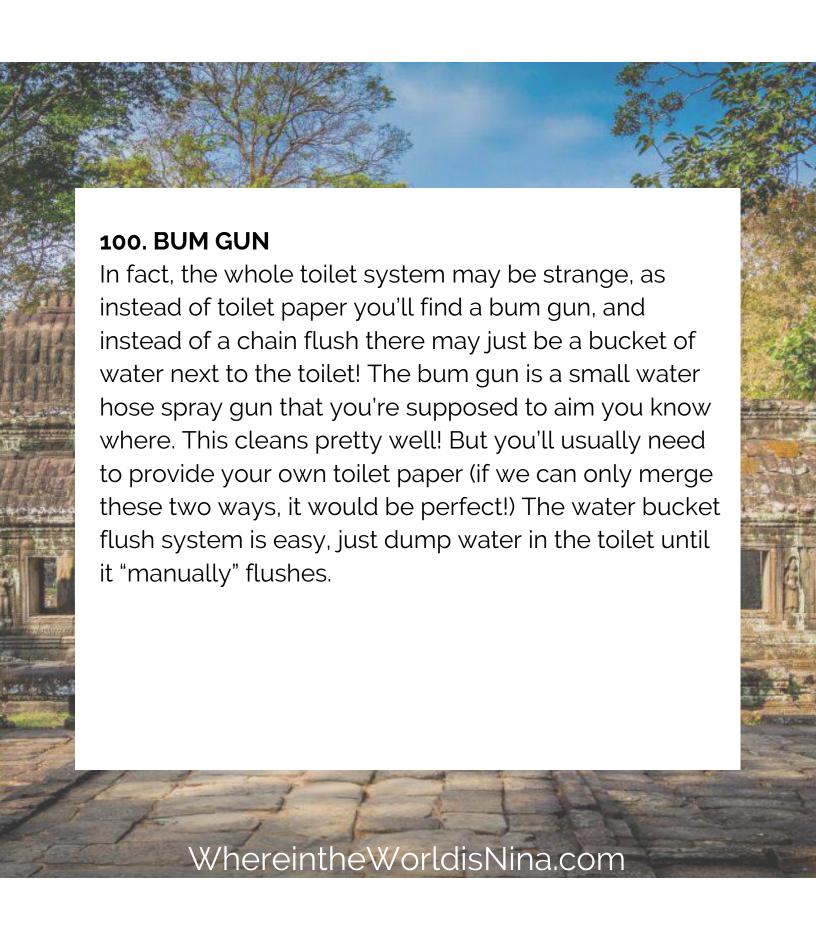
It's actually really easy to book transport in most countries in Southeast Asia. However, there are some things to be aware of. DON'T buy bus tickets and such from random tour companies and in heavily tourist area, at worst, it could be fake, at best, you paid more for a crappier ride. Sometimes the best thing to do is to go to the bus station yourself and just buy it there. You're guaranteed to get the best price and a real ticket. If you don't want to waste time doing this though, using 12go.asia is best way to get real tickets! Purchase it online and forget about it until it's time to go.



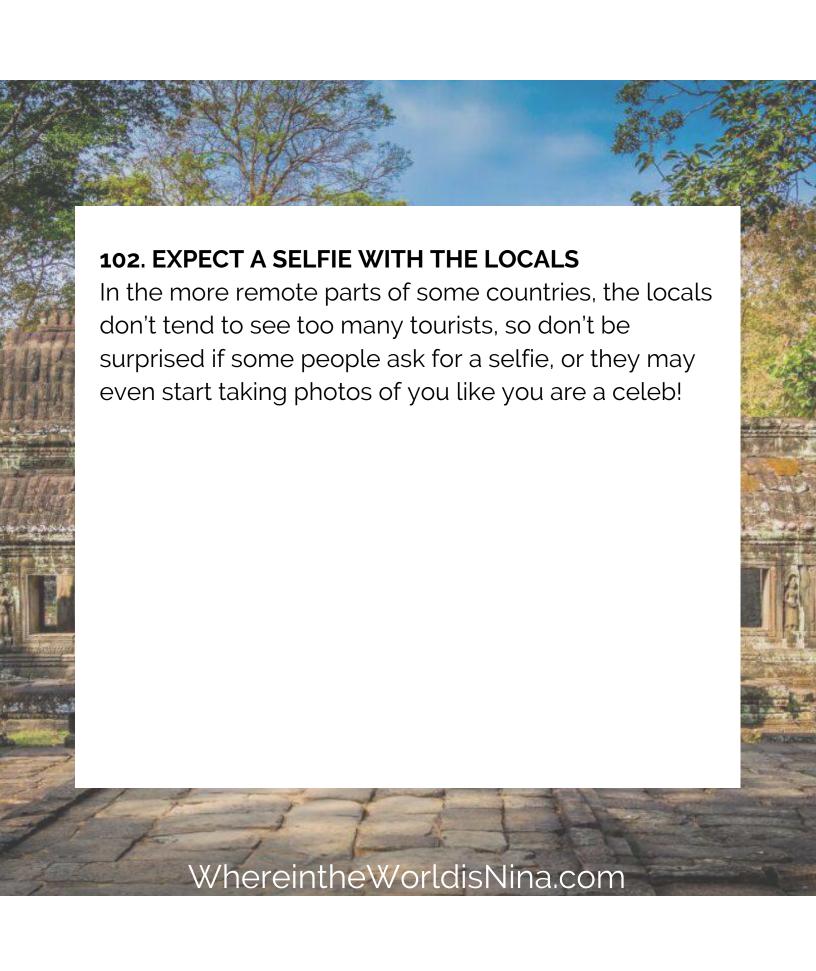


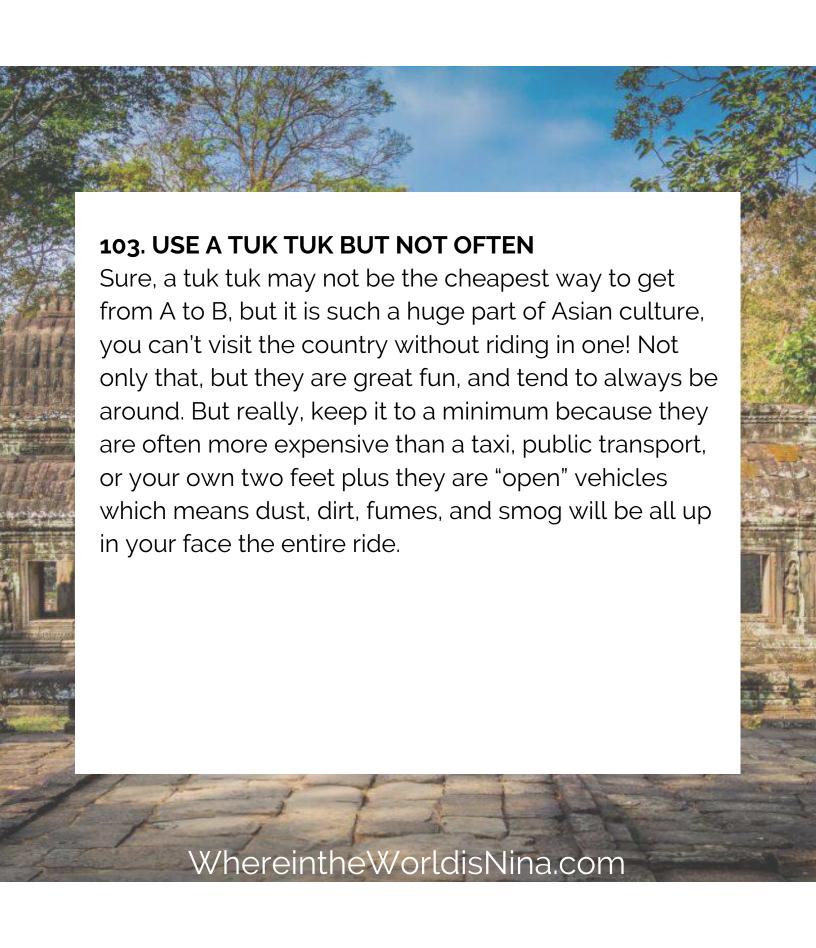






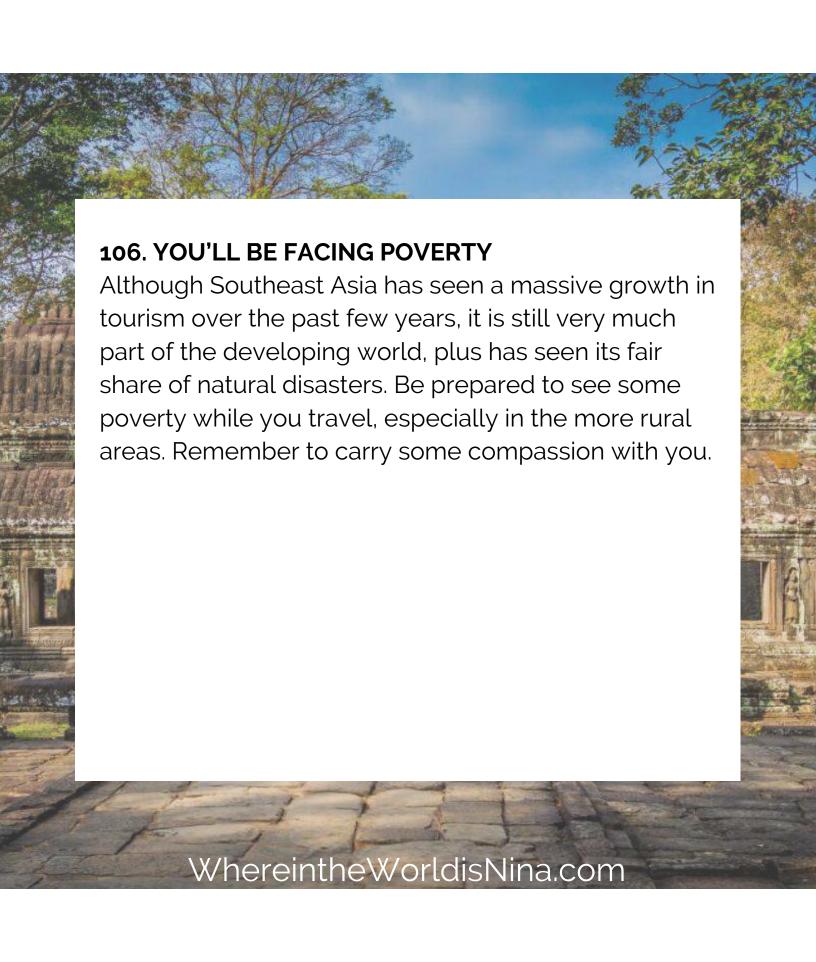




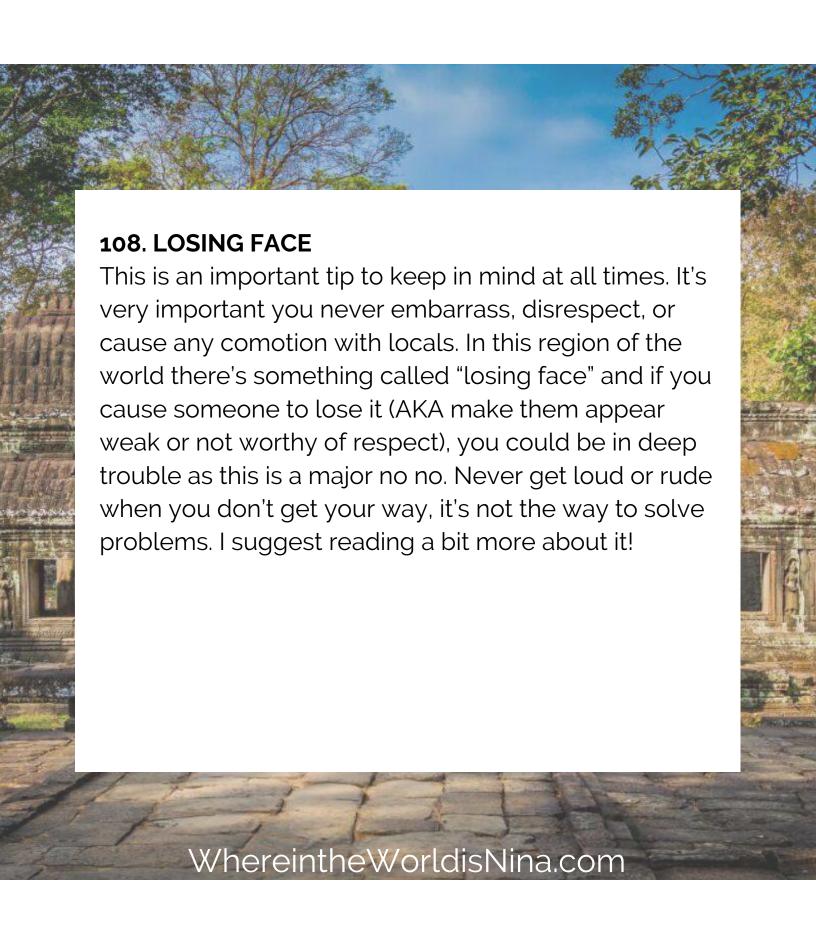






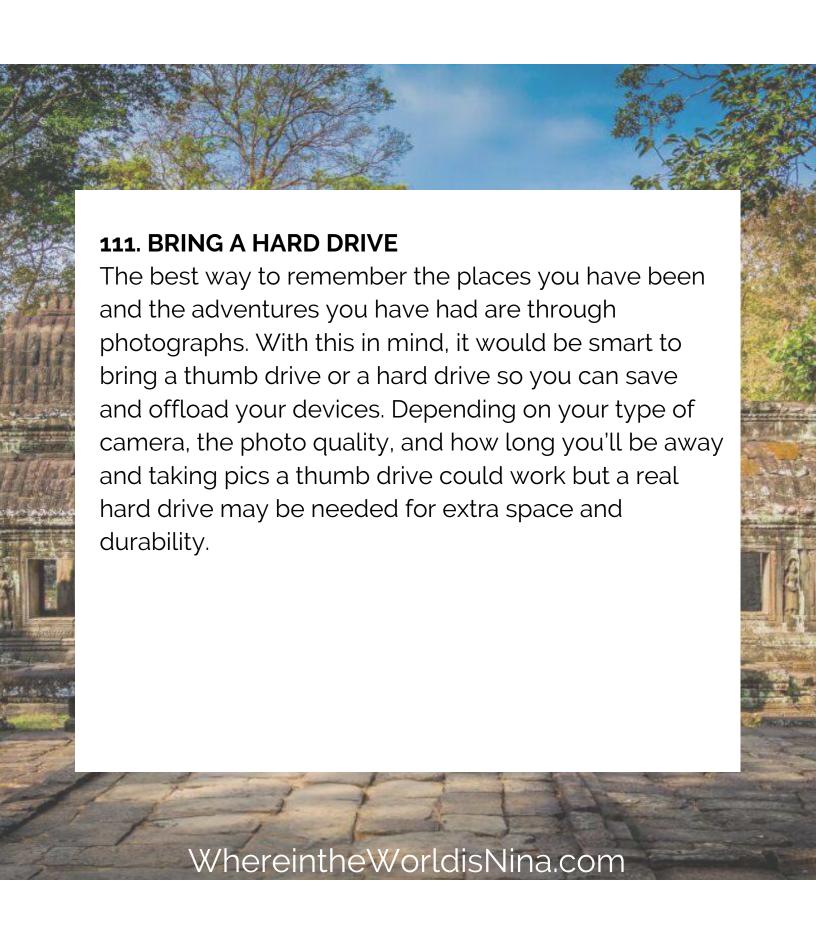
















YOUR SOUTHEAST ASIA RESOURCES:

Southeast Asia Packing List
Itinerary & Guide to Thailand
Itinerary & Guide to Laos
Itinerary & Guide to Indonesia
Itinerary & Guide to Cambodia
Itinerary & Guide to the Philippines
Itinerary & Guide to Malaysia

Itineraries: Vietnam | Singapore

Everything Else Southeast Asia

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OTHER HELPFUL LINKS

- Most trusted tours: Klook
- Most popular hotel booking sites:

Hostel World | Agoda | Booking

Or HotelsCombined to compare them all

- How much does each country cost to travel? Southeast
 Asia Budget Breakdown
- Can I book transportation online? Yes 12go.asia
- Do you have an Airbnb discount code? Yes! For new users, get a discount here.
- Can I work/work in exchange in Southeast Asia?
 Depends. Read more here:

6 Ways to Travel for Free
Teaching English in Thailand
The Best Countries To Teach English In
How to Teach Online and Travel Anywhere
Start Freelancing, Work Online, and Travel

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