



CHAPTER

8

**EXPLOITING
GLOBALIZATION
LOOPHOLES**

SPEND LESS MONEY AND PARTY LONGER

Let's face it, yes, we are ultimately talking about collapse, but life can't be all about preparation, doom and gloom. There is got to be some fun, or what's the point? The good news is that if you've followed our advice to this point, you will now be a citizen of the world.

Well-traveled and wise to what's coming. In the process of traveling the world, you will no doubt stumble across a number of great, shockingly inexpensive vacation destinations, and you should avail yourself of them every chance you get.

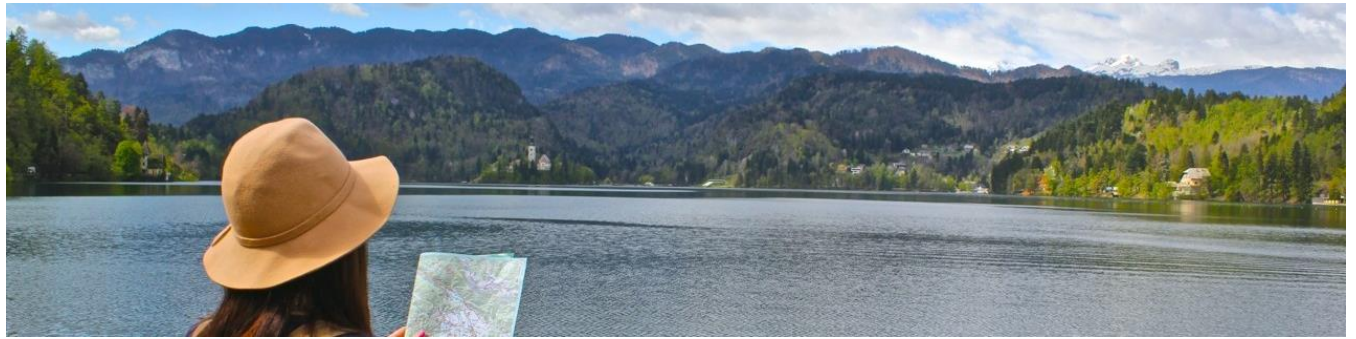
The first time you do, you will feel your "old life" falling away. Your life will be divided into two distinct phases. The life you had before you began adopting these ideas and putting them into practice for you and your family, and the time after.

In your life "before," which would be the life you have right now, IF you got to take a vacation at all, you probably traveled somewhere fairly close by, and managed to scrimp and save enough pennies to take a week off in some low-budget hotel or third rate resort.

In your life after, once you begin adopting these strategies, you will be vacationing at five-star resorts, staying at some of the most stunningly beautiful locations on the planet, and partying like a rock star. The best part? You will be doing all that for pennies on the dollar.

Why it matters is this: Until the collapse happens, you **DESERVE** every ounce of pleasure you can squeeze out of the world. Not to mention, these trips will give you opportunities to make contacts and connections all over the globe that will serve you well, post-collapse.

The world will be a place forever changed by the collapse, and friends in the right places will be more valuable than all the precious metals you've managed to stockpile, so yes – by all means, vacation. Take advantage of the secrets of the 1% and enjoy the hell out of it. While you are doing that, make valuable connections that will serve you well for years to come.



BEST PLACES TO VACATION (NO VAT!)

One of the drawbacks to vacationing in many parts of the world is the fact that many countries have a VAT (Value Added Tax) which can be as high as 25%. This VAT can make vacations HUGELY more expensive. There are, however, a number of places you can vacation that have no VAT. Among these are:

- Japan
- Hong Kong
- The UAE (United Arab Emirates)
- Greenland
- Turks and Caicos (in the Caribbean)

These vacation destinations might not have even been on your vacation RADAR before now, but they're well worth considering. Some of them can be expensive, but of course, you make up for much of that by virtue of paying no VAT. You also need to put on your "Smart Shopper" hat and look for all-inclusively package deals.

These will save you a bundle, and when you combine smart shopping with the absence of a VAT (and the "sky miles" trick we will outline at the end of this chapter), you can net yourself a hugely inexpensive vacation.

Note that while most of the countries in Europe have a fairly high VAT, there are some selected territories held by European nations that have an exemption from VAT. Places like Jersey (UK) and Ceuta (Spain), in North Africa.

WORST PLACES TO VACATION

Unless you just like spending money, do not bother with most of the countries in Western Europe. The currency exchange rate between the US Dollar and the Euro works against you, and that's BEFORE you consider the VAT, which can be as high as 20-25%. No matter how you slice it, that spells a hugely expensive vacation.



HIDDEN GEMS, OFF THE BEATEN PATH

If you like less extravagance and more genuine adventure, here are some “backpacker” prices for vacations in out of the way places. Note that the average price per day is per person, and hotels on the cheap. You can absolutely spend more and stay in the nicer resorts, or, you can stick with the cheap plan and stay for LONGER. Totally up to you.

In any case, here are some destinations you may not have considered. Note that all of these cities can cost you less than twenty five bucks a day, if you go on the cheap. Again, you can find five-star hotels in all of these places, and staying in those will raise your average daily vacation price, but as you will see below, these cities represent a TREMENDOUS travel value.

- **Pokhara, Nepal**

You can't get more off the beaten path than Nepal. The whole country is filled with picturesque beauty and adventure. Pokhara isn't as well-known as Kathmandu (which is also on the list, but a bit more expensive), but it is a stunning vacation destination and well worth considering, especially if you enjoy mountain climbing or other outdoor adventures.

The average price per day if you do it on the cheap? Just \$16.56 per person, per day, making it the best vacation destination on the planet in terms of value for the money.

- **Hanoi, Viet Nam**

Steeped in history and home to an ancient culture, there is a lot to love about Hanoi. If you want night life, spend more and go to Saigon, but if you want to really get a feel for the country and see all the natural beauty the place has to offer, Hanoi is your choice, and it'll only cost you an average of \$17.04 per person, per night. Where you really save here, by the way, is food. You can get a three or four course meal for two or three bucks, and local beers will run you about a dollar each. An absolutely magnificent deal!

- **Saigon, Viet Nam**

A lot like Hanoi, but more modernized and with a significantly better night life. If that's what you want from your vacations, then Saigon is a much better choice than Hanoi, which is more traditional, but every bit as chaotic in its city center. It won't cost you much more either, averaging just \$17.36 per person, per night.

- **Goa, India**

Goa is a province in India that contains a number of towns ranging from small burgs to medium sized cities, many of them coastal. All of them are fantastic vacation spots, and all of them are fantastically priced. If done on the cheap, your vacation could cost you as little as \$17.66 per person, per day. It is hard to beat value like that.

- **Kiev, Ukraine**

Kiev is decidedly off the beaten path in Europe, and is hands-down the most inexpensive tourist destination in Europe. There is plenty to see here – lots of culture and history, great food, and a good mix of scenic vistas and night life. You can vacation here for as little as \$18.25 a night. Again – that's far and away the best deal in Europe.

- **Kathmandu, Nepal**

The premier tourist destination in Nepal. There is a lot to see and do, but as with Pokhara, this destination is more geared to those who are looking for a wilderness adventure rather than a thumping, pulsing night life. If you watch your pennies, you can get away with an average of \$18.79 per person, per night here.

- **Chiang Mai, Thailand**

While Bangkok (also on our list), is Thailand's most popular city, Chiang Mai is a reasonably close second. It is more secluded and atmospheric than the former city, with a lush and beautiful mountain setting. With an average vacation price of just \$19.26 per person, per day, it represents an enormous value for the money. If you are looking to upgrade, you can get very good, 3-star hotels for the price of a humble hostel in Europe. A stellar deal, no matter how you slice it.



- **Vientiane, Laos PDR**

Vientiane is the capital of Lao, but it is decidedly unlike other national capitals. I am sure you have noticed that a number of the cities on this list are located in Asia, and that's not a coincidence. Asia is one of the cheapest global destinations on the planet, and among the most beautiful and exciting vacation destinations.

Vientiane is an extraordinary location with so much to see that you will want to keep coming back year after year. A fabulous vacation there can be yours for as little as \$20.18 per person, per day, and do not worry if you are not a fan of Asian cuisine. You will find a huge number of restaurants that feature Western foods. The local cuisine is cheaper, of course, but no matter what your taste buds prefer, this city is garden of delights.

- **Delhi, India**

All of India is relatively inexpensive, Delhi is actually slightly MORE expensive than the rest of the country, but it made the rest because it has such a rich history that it is well worth a visit. Probably, after one visit, you will want to stay in other parts of the country, but do not let that dissuade you from a visit here.

If you eat the local cuisine, you will save quite a lot of money, because restaurants offering regional or global fare are significantly more expensive. The good news is that there are a number of attractions in the city (and in surrounding New Delhi), and these are all free or ridiculously cheap. On the whole, you can get by in Delhi for an average of \$22.49 per person, per day. A solid value, and well worth looking into.

- **La Paz, Bolivia**

A totally unique place to stay and explore, the climate of La Paz is all but unchanging. No matter what time of the year you visit, you will find consistent weather, and it is mild and warm. It is also fairly inaccessible and truly off the beaten path, having among the highest elevations of any major city in the world. Plenty to see here, and plenty to do, all for an average of \$22.87 per person, per day. There is also a wide variety of food and drink on offer, to suit any budget.



- **Quito, Ecuador**

Another high altitude city with perpetual spring-like weather. If you are planning to visit the Galapagos Islands (and you should), then this is a logical stopping point, both here, and if you are making a tour of the continent or the world. The average price per person, per day, if you are doing it on the cheap, works out to \$23.15. As with other places, you will want to stick with local cuisine in order to keep prices low, or splurge a bit if your budget will allow it. Either way, it is a fantastic place to visit, with plenty to see, and plenty to do.

- **Hoi An, Viet Nam**

A simply delightful city in Viet Nam, this one should immediately be placed on your bucket list. Even the 1-star hotels have AC and Wi-Fi, and you can frequently score a room at a 5-star hotel for a song. On the cheap, you will find an average visit to the city costing you about \$23.31 per person, per day, and there is plenty here to keep you coming back time and time again.

- **Luang Prabang, Laos PDR**

Another fantastic city in Laos that's well worth a visit. Again, there is so much to see here that you will want to keep coming back year after year. There is a wonderful mix of colonial architecture and traditional temples, plus beautiful vistas and plenty to do. It is a bit expensive by Asian standards, but with an average price (on the cheap) of just \$23.46 per person, per day, it is a bargain by almost any other standard. Definitely a destination you won't want to miss.

- **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

Although Cambodia has its own currency, most of the ATM's you will run across dispense US Dollars, making it very easy to get access to your funds, even if you do not yet have an offshore bank account. You can visit the city on the cheap for an average of \$23.75 per day, per week, but there is surprisingly little price variation amongst the hotels you will find (except at the extreme top end), so with a very little extra, you can land yourself and your family a beautiful place to stay.

Most of the restaurants in the city serve Western food, but of course, if you are interested in local cuisine, you will have virtually unlimited choices, and these will be even less expensive. There are a number of attractions to visit, both natural and man-made, and all but one (the firing range near the killing fields) are either insanely cheap or outright free.



- **Bangkok, Thailand**

There are only two drawbacks to visiting Bangkok. First, if you go absolute bargain basement on hotels, you are all but guaranteed to get a dive that will probably be scary to stay in. The good news here is that if you are willing to spend even slightly more, you will find yourself in a significantly better room.

The only other drawback is that if you came to enjoy wine, beer, or other forms of alcohol, you will find getting drunk in the city is quite expensive. With those two things in mind, so long as they're not deal breakers for you, you will find a lot to like here. Bangkok is a magnificent city that will dazzle you year after year. On the cheap, you can get by for an average of \$24.10 per person, per day, but as we mentioned, you will probably want to spend a little more to get a better quality room.

- **Bucharest, Romania**

Some people complain that this city still hasn't shaken off its Soviet-Era past, and that can give the city a bit of a gloomy feel. I personally think this is bunk. The city may lack a bit of polish, but it is one of the cheapest destinations in Europe (second only to Kiev), with an average price per person, per day of \$24.68.

There is a lot to see here, but as mentioned at the start, this city used to be controlled by the Soviet Union, so some of the historical sites you will be visiting while you are here ARE rather dark and foreboding. Even so, the history of the place is deep and fascinating, both before the Soviet era, during, and since.

- **Cairo, Egypt**

On the cheap, you will find a stay in Cairo will cost you an average of \$24.85 per person, per day. You will find plenty of options on the high end, plenty of options on the low end, and a middling amount of options in middle of the price range.

Food is cheap and varied, and there is so much history here that you will be dazzled and amazed. The one thing you won't find here easily or readily is alcohol. As long as that's not a deal breaker for you, this is a fantastic place to visit, time and again.

Bonus Tip – Sky Miles

Remember before, when we talked about how ANYTHING could be used as currency, as long as there was mutual agreement and trust? One of the most popular "alternate currencies" in the world today are Sky Miles.



Some credit card companies have made agreements with the major airlines, and every purchase you make using that card will generate some number of “miles.” Generate enough miles and you can get a free trip to pretty much anywhere in the world.

Here’s what you do: Get one of these cards and use it for EVERYTHING. For gas. For groceries. Pay everything you can using this card. Every purchase you make is quietly generating sky miles. You can pay your bill in full every month, avoiding interest charges while keeping all the accumulated miles. Before you know it, you will have enough miles to take your family anywhere in the world you want to go. For free. First class.

This has actually developed into a kind of obsession for some people. There are a number of blogs on the web devoted to different people’s FREE worldwide adventures. Here’s just one example: <http://metro.co.uk/2015/04/09/traveller-bags-round-the-world-trip-for-free-5141509/>

Try it for yourself. You will be amazed at how quickly you can rack up those miles!