

4 REASONS YOU SHOULD LEARN THE LOCAL LANGUAGE BEFORE YOUR TRIP

Learning the local language is one of the best decisions you can make before any trip. Learning even just a few phrases allows you to communicate and experience travel in a different way. It adds depth and nuance to your trip, making it more memorable while also opening the door to new opportunities.

Here are 6 reasons you should learn the local language before your next trip.

You're Less Likely to Be Ripped Off

Knowing the local language helps you in two ways:

First, you become instantly more likable to the other person. People don't tend to rip off people they like. In fact, after a bit of small talk, you might even get a discount or some other kind of special service.

The second reason you should dive straight into the local language is to demonstrate that you have some level of understanding of how "things work" locally. The other person may assume that you've visited before and know your way around and how much things cost. This gives them less reason and opportunity to take advantage of you because you're demonstrating you're savvier than the typical tourist.

Learning the Local Language Will Make Life Easier

In a country where few natives speak English, not learning the local language is a recipe for a hard life.

Once you learn the language, you'll be able to navigate daily activities in that country. There are numerous ways life will become easier. Most non-speaking travelers resort to the "point and hope" method of ordering food. But when you know the local language, you can order specific foods you know you like or want to try. You'll also look like a boss when you go out to eat with your non-speaking friends, which is always a plus.

Avoid miscommunication

Most visitors who don't speak the language struggle to communicate even the simplest things to locals. Suddenly, trying to buy a shirt or deposit money at the bank becomes lost in translation.

Locals Love to Hear You Speak the Language

Learning the local language is the ultimate way to show you care about the local people and culture.

When you show that you care about another's way of life, you show that you are a compassionate, thoughtful person. This display of empathy will open all kinds of doors.

You're more likely to have support when you need it. When people see you're genuinely trying to speak their language, they're more than happy to help you find your way when you're lost, order the food you want or meet new friends. In fact, they might even buy you a drink!

As an engaged and intelligent traveler, make sure you don't waste this chance to get out there and learn the local language!