

Rick Steves® TOP 20 “NO-TRAVEL TIPS”

Clever ways for travelers to enjoy a little Europe while homebound

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- 1 Gather all the little toys and trinkets in your house. Then, follow your housemates from room to room showing off each toy while shouting, “One euro, one euro, one euro!”
 - 2 Yell “MIND THE GAP!” whenever your family gets in the car.
 - 3 Stand around the corner from a painting for hours as if waiting to get into the museum to see it. Or, hang all of your children’s artwork in the hallway. Then slowly walk through, stroking your chin and discussing with your family what the artist was trying to depict.
 - 4 If you’re missing those wonderful European fountains, you can throw coins in your neighbor’s birdbath.
 - 5 Serve your housemates tepid water, and say you’ll be right back. Return three hours later, smile, and ask, “Would like some bread?”
 - 6 Gather up all of your family’s souvenirs and set up a gift shop. Charge people you’re quarantining with to buy them back.
 - 7 Put different types of alcohol in each room of your house. Then go on a pub crawl...and make a point to talk with the locals while you drink up!
 - 8 Put all your clothes and essentials for the trip you dreamed of taking in a carry-on-sized drawer and use only those things for two weeks. Or, use a suitcase for dirty laundry. That way, it’s just like unpacking from vacation every time you wash your clothes.
 - 9 Place your La-Z-Boy in front of your partner’s favorite chair, recline it all the way back as if in economy class on an airplane, then say, “*Mi scusi, per favore.*”
 - 10 Open up a map. Stand right next to the bathroom and ask loudly and deliberately (ideally, in your best second language), “Where is the toilet?”
 - 11 Next time you go to the grocery store, gather all the cash you have in your hands, hold it out to the cashier, and say, “How much?”
 - 12 When your quarantine partner asks for water, ask, “Gas or no gas?”
 - 13 Deep-store your standard-size toiletries and use all of the little soaps and lotions you’ve collected over the years from different hotels.
 - 14 When you do venture out, wear your money belt. Then, to pay for things, pull up your shirt and dig out your money.
 - 15 Refuse to acknowledge anyone until they say, “Bonjour, Madame” or “Bonjour, Monsieur.”
 - 16 Tell everyone else in the house to pretend they don’t speak English, and then talk to them speaking SLOWLY AND LOUDLY.
 - 17 Wash all your unmentionables in the sink and then drape them over every possible bit of furniture in the bedroom.
 - 18 Walk through your living room every three minutes while people are watching TV, wag your finger at them, and solemnly announce, “No photo, no video.”
 - 19 Dig a hole out in the garden, put foot-shaped cutouts on each side, and tell your family, “From now on, this is the toilet.”
 - 20 Gather all the little toys and trinkets in your house. Then, follow your housemates from room to room showing off each toy while shouting, “One euro, one euro, one euro!”

