

How to convince your parents to let you go on a trip with friends

HRISHIK ROY

In a country where parents often do not let us travel alone within city limits, having to ask your parents for permission to go on a trip with friends is often a harrowing experience. If you want to convince your parents to allow you to go out of town, you must plan ahead meticulously. Here are a few ways in which you could convince your parents to let you go on a trip with your friends.

Ask your parents when they are in a good mood

Asking your parents when they are super busy or frustrated with work is probably the most rookie mistake one can commit when it comes to this. Them being in a bad mood means that they are much less likely to thoroughly consider the request and chances are that they are going to lash back at you. Therefore, you should ask your parents when they are in a good mood.

Do their chores for them

Since it is often difficult to find our parents in a good mood, there are a few things you could do to be on their good side. The most obvious and easiest is to help them with their daily chores around the house. These small actions mean that parents often have less work to worry about, and thus they are much



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

more likely to spend some of their extra free time doing things that they love. This might put them in good mood, giving you the perfect opportunity to ask them for permission for a trip with friends.

Share details of the friends you plan to travel with

This is one of the most important aspects you need to keep in mind while talking

to your parents. Most parents, including yours, are simply concerned about the safety of their child when they are on a trip with friends. Therefore, you should tell them which friends you are going with, how you know them, and provide your parents with their contact information. Get your friends to meet your parents if possible. This lets your parents

know that you know the people you are on a trip with and that they can trust them.

Share the tentative itinerary with your parents

Telling your parents about your whereabouts in detail and providing them with a document even before the trip shows them that you are a responsible individual and this will definitely do a lot to convince them to let you go.

Provide them with emergency contact information

Be sure to provide your parents with information about your accommodation alongside emergency contact numbers, especially the hotel staff. This gives an extra layer of cushioning as it allows them to have a method of reaching out to you in case your phone is unavailable.

While these tips are definitely going to increase your chances of getting your parent's permission, it is difficult to say if Lady Luck is surely going to favour you. Therefore, keep your hands up in prayer and keep your fingers crossed. Hopefully, you will be able to go and enjoy that trip with your friends.

Hrishik desperately needs a break from Dhaka. Send him travel plans at hrdibbo@gmail.com

A safety guide for solo female travelers

TAZREEN JAHAN BARI

I was stranded in the middle of nowhere by a minivan driver. I accidentally left my backpack at a random agency and got lost in a shady back alley. All of this happened during my first and only solo trip abroad.

Safe to say, I learned the importance of taking some safety measures the hard way.

Whether you're travelling in your home country or abroad, the world outside is not always the safest place for a female solo traveller. So here's a handy guide to help you during your solo meanderings.

Have a safety device

Always have a safety device with you. Like a pepper spray or alarm keychain. Also, have a list of emergency contacts you can use in a crisis. Having these does not always ensure safety as we cannot think clearly during a crisis. So make sure whatever you have on you is easily accessible and simple to use.

Pretend you know where you're going

While travelling solo, it is normal that you will get lost or have confusion regarding

the route. Suppose you look confused and unsure while travelling through unknown shady roads. In that case, you become a target, since it is easier for perpetrators to take advantage of your vulnerability.

So, it's important to fake it till you make it in these situations. Especially if you ever encounter shady drivers/strangers on the streets. Walk with your head held high and maintain at a brisk pace so it looks like you know where you're going.



DESIGN: FAISAL BIN IQBAL

Stay at a hostel and make friends

As a solo traveler, it is always better to stay at hostels. If you stay at a girls' hostel/dormitory, you will meet other female solo travellers and be able to make friends. This can save you from a lot of trouble as you'll have someone to rely on or travel with. If not by giving you company, they can help you with information and tips.

Book your seats carefully

Booking isolated seats or aisle seats can give you more room and lower the chances of having to sit next to a creepy stranger.

This is helpful for any ride but becomes quite necessary if you choose to make an overnight bus journey.

Take account of your surroundings and (maybe) make a scene

A friend of mine once said, if you ever find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, slap a random stranger across the face and make a scene. While she meant it to be a joke, creating a scene can sometimes actually get you out of tough situations.

But this decision should be made with care. If you are with people you know will support you and add their voice to yours, by all means, scream at anyone making you feel uncomfortable. But if you're travelling to a place where like-minded support is hard to come by, maybe prioritise your safety and de-escalate the situation.

Safety tips come with a premise of unsafety. But beyond those anxious thoughts is a world for your taking. So get out there and explore. Just make sure you're prepared and responsible.

Tazreen is torn between her never ending travel plans and a nonexistent bank balance. Send moral support at tazreenzahan@gmail.com.