

DRIVING WITH A FRIEND

When I travel, I feel so free and independent. For me, the feeling of independence is what keeps me traveling. Once you get used to mapping out your own life....you just don't want someone telling you when you can take vacation or time away. As a traveler...you tell them where you want to work and when you are available. That is a good feeling. With all this independence, why bring a friend?

Besides being good company, friends can be handy for safety reasons. When I drove from one assignment to another, I would often pick up a friend of mine along the way that would ride with me to my assignments and then fly home. We would have so much fun. Sometimes we listened to books on tape or took turns reading to each other. We took crazy photos, camped, and toured huge palaces.

Not only did we have a good time, but having someone with me was just a smart way to go. My friend would keep me up when I felt drowsy and read the map if I thought I was lost.

While you can't prevent all danger, you can avoid some. Friends are a built in safety precaution, and can be fun too. Of course, make sure you bring someone you can get along with 24 hours a day for several days in a confined space (the car). This can be a true test of your friendship. Sometimes, it is also a great way to deepen a friendship too. The good news is that the trip eventually leads to a destination. Road trips are often the most remembered times. With our busy lives, it isn't often that we take time out anymore to spend blocks of time with someone just roaming the countryside. This also give you time to reflect on your life and where you are headed both on the road and in your life.