

WHY TRAVEL

Nurses travel for a variety of reasons. Most travel for a combination of reason, but one reason will predominate all the others. Being clear on why you travel will help you make decisions easier. For example, if you are offered a low paying job in the Virgin Islands or a high paying job in a run down facility in Los Angeles, which one are you going to take? I have found nurses to travel for basically 8 reasons: to seek adventure, to make money, to avoid hospital politics, to prevent burnout, to find a place to relocate, to further their career, gain autonomy, and to aide in a life transition. Why are you traveling or considering travel?

Seeking Adventure

Adventure is the first reason that comes to most people's mind. Travelers are often thrill seekers and traveling is no doubt.....fun!

Making Money

Money is a big factor in traveling. Most nurses can make more money as a traveler than as permanent staff. When I traveled, I worked 6 months out of the year and made as much as I did my first year as a full time nurse.

Avoiding Hospital Politics

Some people just hate hospital politics. They just want to go to work, do their job, and go home. This is exactly what a traveler can do. They don't have to worry about who is going to do what, what new procedures need to be put into place, or whether so and so like them.

Preventing Burnout

Traveling is a great way to prevent burnout. Sometimes, a nurse needs a little variety and challenge. With travel nursing, your environment is changing every 3 months and these changes are challenging.

Finding a Place to Relocate

While traveling, a nurse has the opportunity to live in an area to see if he or she likes it. It is like trying on a shoe and wearing it around for a few days before deciding to buy it. What an opportunity.

Furthering your Career

In my opinion, there is no better way to speed up career development for the ambitious nurse than traveling. A traveler can opt to travel to prestigious hospitals and learn a variety of skills quickly.

Gain Autonomy

Autonomy is not my main reason for traveling, but it is the main reason that keeps me traveling. Once I had the taste of what it is like to take vacation when I want and work where I want, I never wanted to go back to permanent staffing.

Aide in a Life Transition

Finally, some nurses travel to distract them while going through a life changing event. For example, many nurses travel to deal with empty nest syndrome.

Whether you are going through a transition or perfectly happy, traveling has many appealing characteristics and is a great option for many nurses.

