

4/20/2024

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digital-nomad- work-while- traveling

Cruising Review

Working Remote While Traveling - Becoming
a Digital Nomad



This webpage QR code

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Working Remote While Traveling - Digital Nomad
Information Series - Becoming a Digital Nomad

PDF Version of the webpage (first pages)

<https://cruisingreview.com/topics/digital-nomad-work-while-traveling.html>

4/20/2024

Extreme Ownership gives you the tools to become more organized

Read From Successful Role Models: My all-time favorite book on productivity is Extreme Ownership. It gives you the tools to build your own successful routine, all at the same time while empowering others to achieve their best.

Providing accessible and clear communications for your customers can make the difference between a sale and buyer loyalty.

Whenever possible, emphasize email communications with your customers and use voice only when needed. A written trail is essential for good business, and email provides that foundation.

Deploying workable solutions to communicate while traveling provide huge rewards since you are not tethered to a physical office location, but rather to secure and reliable phone and internet.

Template For Success

Develop a plan of action. The most important starting point is to write down a outline of how you want to work remotely.

Follow your strategy. Deploy your strategy with backup plans, if one segment doesn't work well. Give yourself feedback, to always improve yourself, and your business.

Deploy solutions and have the discipline to follow them. Use workable time flow apps and database solutions which allow you to work faster and more efficient. Refine work flows to redirect efforts which result in rewards. Drop efforts which result in poor performance or low sales.

Time Capsule

Streamline your busy work. Find apps and database solutions which save your time.

Automate routine. Whenever possible, make routine work actions automated. This reduces errors, and speeds your response time.

Preflight your communications. Always double-check your work before you send it out. It's a degree of professionalism that will set you apart from your competition. Don't trade expediency for mistakes.

Infrastructure

Use Filemaker to organize your business and time. A database allows you to develop good structure for cataloging data, which can be used multiple times with one entry.

Develop custom solutions to solidify your time savings. Automate routine tasks saves you time, and allows you to enjoy your travel experience.

Smart phone with data backup capability. Have a smart phone which allows you to access database solutions. Backup data on a daily basis with a USB stick, or via a online backup cloud.

My Experience of Working While Traveling Abroad Updated on 9 January 2020.

Summary: For the past six months, I've been dipping my toe in the water to see if I can work while traveling. This most recent trip included a week in Dubai, a two week cruise, a short stay in Doha, and then a week in the Maldives. All this during December and the festive season. The juggling act was to run a machine shop remotely, maintaining machinery sales, optimizing my Filemaker business databases (which allow me to work remotely), and try my best to answer all incoming calls. At the end of the four weeks, I was surprised how easy it was to not only work, but also get distracted. The key is having discipline to get your work done first, then play. This means getting up earlier than everyone else, to get things done. It also means playing marionette with the iPhone and portable computer, to maximize the efficiency of each.

Goals: By far the biggest challenge was to establish a daily routine (unsuccessful), adapt to the local time zone (successful), and try to figure out the nuances of receiving calls from a 9+ hour time zone lag (challenging, but doable). The one nice thing about the time zone difference is that you have the entire day to do whatever you wish, since calls don't come in until after 6pm (and most between 9pm and midnight). The downside is that calls come in late, when you're not normally working. The biggest lesson here is to do everything in manageable steps. Don't try to do too much at once, or you'll be chasing failure, or running out of time to do things. The nuances of travel make the days very random, which means extra planning to get into a daily routine (especially when traveling with others).

How To Organize

Emerging through all the organizational needs and challenges, was one application call Filemaker.

This database powerhouse was originally designed by Claris (an offshoot of Apple) far back, and has become my go-to source for writing, optimizing, and deploying a functional and fun-to-use organizing tool. It basically runs my businesses, and frees up time while traveling while providing a one-stop shop for storing and organizing data. I use it to make well-formed InstaGram and YouTube captions with tags, organize emails, and even keep track of receipts. For the power user, it is a method to automate sending email and letterhead inquiries, tracking daily to-do items, and managing contacts in one place.

New Versus Existing Business: If you're trying a new business, try to get it established (as much as possible) at your home base first, where you have access to a stable address, communications, solid internet access, and have a comfort zone to fall back on. If you have an existing business, making it mobile is a lot less burdensome, than diving right into a new business.

Media Posting: Manage (building your own, or buying pre made) apps to reduce screen time as much as possible. Use power of FileMaker to pre-format post captions and tags for InstaGram, YouTube, FaceBook. Moreover, use FileMaker to completely automate email inquiries, accounting, and other items. Reduced screen time conserves power, frees up time for exploring and eyes up into experience.

Develop a Strategy: When you are considering working as a digital nomad, the first few goals are to develop a strategy that you can practice at home, prior to departure, and then deploy when traveling. Don't make your first trip a big experiment, gradually phase into the concept. I regularly do this with my FileMaker apps before a trip. Sometimes I'll get on a trip, and realized that I really needed a bit more practice time first (but it's all part of the learning process).

Make Each Trip An Experiment: Instead of trying to do everything at once, for each trip, focus on making one additional task automated, or more efficient.

FeedBack Loop: Whenever I travel, I make notes on what works, and what does not. I focus on the most time-consuming things during a trip, which can be streamlined with Filemaker, and then work from there. Anything that can be automated, or formatted are the first items to focus on. I also do the same with non-computer items.

Seamless Travel

For me, the drudgery of packing and unpacking, have led me to develop and deploy luggage that is function specific. I have a bath kit (and toothbrush kit) that hangs from just about any fixture in the bathroom. Not only does it save space, but also keeps items off a normally cluttered counter and out of splashing water. I developed thin carbon fiber rod clothes hangers with paracord, which allow me to put all my shirts neatly organized into a roll-aboard, then simply pull out and hang at my destination. It saves huge amounts pack time, keeps everything virtually unwrinkled, and gives me more time to explore when I arrive at a destination.

Standup Desk: Be creative when working out-of-office. I find ways to elevate my portable so it becomes a standup arrangement. My favorite was a leather mini-chair (ottoman) that was on a MSC cruise ship. It fit perfectly on the small desk to bring my computer to perfect height. The leather provided a excellent non-slip working surface, and was very comfortable to work on.

Website Hosting: Try to find a website hosting service, which has easy access while traveling (either web-based or app based). I use WordPress, which as proven to be easy to update and access while traveling.

Communications: I use the iPhone when I travel. ATT (carrier) has some good plans abroad, but try to use free WiFi whenever possible. The biggest challenge is how to deal with phone calls. To that end, I'm now removing my phone number from my business sites, and just having email as the first point of contact. This reduces huge cost and time overload from traveling. The biggest problem with cellular phone calls is the major time difference (if traveling far away) and the big lag in sound. Most long distance calls will most likely go via satellite, making an already poor quality call go even worse. The best way to avoid this is to encourage your customers to use email. Not only does it provide a clear history of transactions, but typically is needed for a written follow-up or summary of a call regardless. There have been countless times when a customer claimed to have heard one thing, when reality was different (and was backed up with a written email). Proper business communication discipline really encourages the use of email instead of trying to rely on memory, and what was said on a call. I try never to use texting for business. It's sloppy, and does not provide an easy document trail. Keep emails specific to the point. Do not use mark-ups, or other clutter. Make plain text. Do not use huge signature blocks with junky images and other noise.

Battery Power: I use AA and AAA Blackube Lithium cells which are USB chargeable. They are available on Amazon (at a premium price), but retain charge, and function flawlessly. Using USB as the primary go-to hub for power needs, it reduces the need for additional cables, charges, etc.

Power Plugs: All resorts have adaptor plugs. I typically will carry one country-specific plug to where I'll spend the most time. The plug will have one passthrough 110V power, and two USB ports. This covers everything I need.

USB Hub: If you need more USB ports, consider a hub. Try to acquire devices that are USB concentric, which lessens the needs for other cables, adaptors, etc.

Proprietary Battery Packs Versus Standard: I prefer anything that uses a AA or AAA battery, which can use my Lithium batteries. While drones and some digital cameras may use proprietary batteries, try to find devices that use standard batteries. The result is less weight, and less complexity.

Email Structure: The backbone of most business communication are emails. I have a Filemaker email database, that I can easily search and display customer information. I use Gmail for my domain email hosting, and will copy and past a email into my Filemaker database, then move the email message into a customer labeled area, if they are a paying customer. Otherwise, the email gets stored into my Filemaker database, and deleted (into trash). I try to keep my email

4/26/2024

Becoming a Digital Nomad My First Impressions

Date: 1/9/2020

While running a machine shop remotely for years, I have a great deal of experience as a digital nomad. Taking the business on the road through multiple time zones adds new challenges and rewards.

The nuances of additional time zones makes communications (both phone and internet) the only major challenge when traveling abroad and working simultaneously.

Reliable and accessible phone and Internet become the key factors in any decisions for successful deployment when considering working remote.

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