



B-DIGITAL NOMAD

Live and work from anywhere: The ultimate guide to becoming a digital nomad



HOW TO TRAVEL AND WORK REMOTELY FROM YOUR COMPUTER!

If you're curious about the digital nomadic lifestyle and are wondering how you can make it a reality, you've come to the right place! This is a beginner's guide to how to travel the world while working remotely from your computer. We hope you find the following information interesting, exciting and inspiring! First, let's dive into some basic concepts of digital nomad.



What is a digital nomad?

There are many different types of digital nomads. As a result, there is no uniform description that applies to everyone. However, what they all have in common is that they spend at least a few months a year abroad, changing destinations frequently (usually every few weeks, but they can stay in the same country for up to 6 months), and earn their living working online while traveling.

It's worth noting that the words "digital nomad" and "location-independent person" are often assumed the same thing... but there's a big difference. Not all digital nomads earn enough money to live and travel anywhere in the world. While it is possible to manage your business and enjoy a good quality of life as a digital nomad for less than \$1,000 dollars a month, you will be limited to countries with "low cost of living", such as those in Southeast Asia, for example.

Your monthly earnings must be significantly higher in order to be a "location-independent person" and manage your business from locations such as London, Munich or San Francisco. That's why it's much easier to become a digital nomad than a location-independent person (which, should always be your final goal).





Digital Nomad

Someone who has a legitimate source of online income, whether working as a remote worker, self-employed (i.e. freelancer), or even through their own online business, and who chooses to travel the world because they have the freedom to do so. The type of work and lifestyle that a digital nomad lives vary from person to person. After all, there is no “right way” to be a digital nomad. But they all have one thing in common: they appreciate the freedom offered by online work... and they wouldn't want it any other way.

Do you have the right skills?

If you want to join the tribe and start your own digital nomadic lifestyle working from anywhere, the first thing you need to do is review and assess your skills. To become a digital nomad, you must have (or acquire) the right skills. Skills that allow you to easily work online and/or start a business from anywhere.



What are the right skills?

Any digital (computer) skill you can use to sell an online service and earn revenue from it. Some of these are skills that would be useful for remote work, while others are more specific to business development.

You also need to develop some essential life skills, such as adaptability, discipline, time management, communication, etc. But let's focus on professional money-making skills.

Some of the most popular skills in demand if you plan to work remotely or independently include:

- Virtual Assistance
- Copywriting
- Translating
- Software development
- Computer Specialist
- Web Design
- Graphic Design
- Online advertising
- Social Media Marketing
- Video Editing

- SEO
- App Development
- Email Marketing
- Content Writing
- Online Research
- Logo Design
- Customer Service
- Data Content Review
- Animation
- Data Analysis
- Bookkeeping

If you want to work on your projects or in your company, try to develop some of the following skills:

- Blogging
- E-commerce
- Online Business Owner



Now that you've seen the list, we hope you realize you may already have some of these skills and now all you have to do is take the next step. However, if you can't identify with anything on the list, please don't think: "I don't have any digital skills. I'll never be able to become a digital nomad!" (farther from the truth...)

Most people have some basic digital skills, especially when using a computer. If you're currently working, you probably have basic knowledge in a particular area of business. You should find out how you can improve yourself to acquire some other digital skills and combine them with your existing knowledge to create a reliable source of income.



For example, you might be a gift shop assistant who knows a lot about the types of gifts that people like to buy. Then you can learn more about online shopping and e-commerce and create a gift blog, or better yet... Create your own online gift store. This is just one example... the possibilities are endless! You just need to think creatively about how you can use your skills and knowledge.



Ways to become a Digital Nomad

Which path should I take? What are my options? Do I need to find remote work or should I start my own business? These are some of the questions asked by many people who think about the lifestyle of digital nomads.

As mentioned earlier, there's more than one way to become a digital nomad and travel the world.

The path you choose depends on your skills and what you want to achieve.

In general, there are two groups of digital nomad candidates.

1. "Almost a Digital Nomad" (currently living a digital lifestyle)
2. "Digital Nomad apprentice"

Which one are you? Let's see...



You're almost a Digital Nomad - living a digital lifestyle - if:

- You have strong digital (computer) skills
- You have experience using these digital skills

In other words, you're almost a Digital Nomad... you just have to find out how to use your digital skills to create location independent income.

You're a Digital Nomad apprentice if:

- You don't have any digital skills... yet
- You are open to changing your career path
- You're interested in learning and acquiring new skills that will help you become a Digital Nomad

"Almost a Digital Nomad" options

If you've already identified a skill, you're halfway there. What you need to do now is think about how you're going to use this ability. Here are some options to consider:

- Take your current job with you on the road: you may not need to be in the same location to do your work. Ask your boss if you can work remotely. If he/she says yes, hooray! Pack your bags, you're ready to travel.
- Look for jobs online that allow working remotely: Can't you turn your current job into a telecommuting opportunity? Don't worry. Nowadays, there are many companies that are open to teleworking.



Start the job hunt with some of these resources:

- **Flexjobs**
- **Remote.com**
- **Jobspresso**
- **We Work Remotely**
- **Remote Ok**
- **Remote Workers Club**
- **Skip the Drive**
- **Working Nomads**

Start working independently (freelance): if you really don't want to have a boss over your head and prefer to move on your own... find freedom with Freelancing. It's the perfect way to start your new life as a digital nomad.

How does it work?

How working freelance helps you become a Digital Nomad? It's simple.

You have a skill, you find someone who wants to hire you for that skill, and magically, you have an income. Of course, it takes a little time and effort to set up a business and find new customers, but so does everything else, right?

For example, Peter is an expert in Facebook advertising. He decided to sell this skill to customers who needed help with their Facebook Ads. Customers hire him because of his expertise and pay him to help their companies advertise on social media through Facebook Ads.

If you want to start working as freelancer:



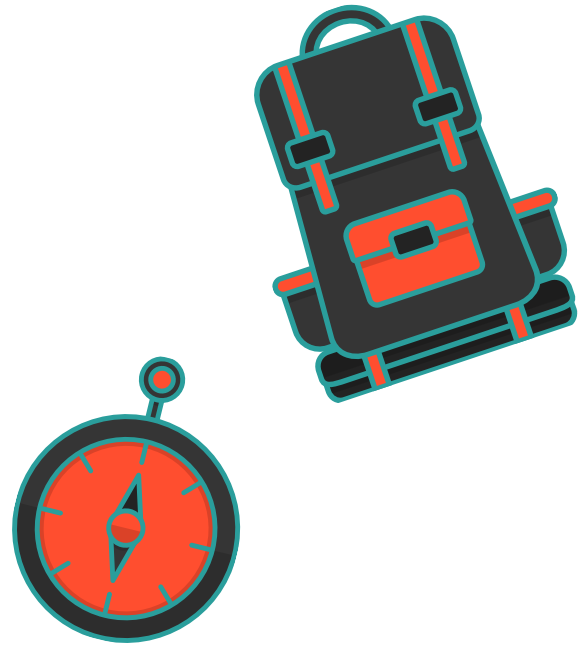
Here are the steps to take:

Step 1: Identify your skill(s) – What skill can you sell to your clients? Identify what skills are on demand that will help you build a successful freelance business.

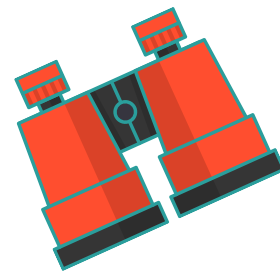
Step 2: Promote your experience: how will people know that you now offer some online services? You must create an online presence before doing anything else. (more on that below)

Step 3: Customer Search: Who will hire you? Find your customers through their presence on the Internet and social networks, or in another way, for example, by letting your family and friends know what you are doing now.

Step 4: Build a side-income – Do you have a part-time or full-time job already? Keep your steady job while you build your Freelancing business.



Once you have a steady income - there's nothing stopping you from traveling the world.





IF YOU HAVE A DIGITAL SKILL THAT IS IN DEMAND, MAYBE YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT FINDING A JOB IN A COMPANY AND MAYBE IT IS TIME TO START AN INDEPENDENT BUSINESS.

Why be a self-employed person?

- Short learning curve: If you're thinking about starting a blog or starting a business, the learning curve can be steep and it can take time to grow. If you want to make money as quickly as possible, Freelance is your friend.

Use the skills you already have: you don't have to spend months and months learning new skills... You already have some skills, you just need to know how to use them.
- A growing economy: The growing number of self-employed people also means that there is obviously more online work available. According to Market, Upwork, 3 million job offers are posted on its website every year. That's more than 8000 job offers per day! That's a lot of available online work!
- Job availability: People all over the world are increasingly willing to hire freelancers and find the right person for the job, even if that person is on the other side of the world.
- Flexibility: Remote work is great, but you're still tied to an employer. Freelance work gives you the flexibility to work when, with whom and where you want.



Where can you find work?

How do you find your customers? As with any new business, you need to be creative. Here are some tips:

- **Freelance platforms:** There are many platforms that connect you with potential customers. Some of them are great, others not so much. Some good examples include Upwork, Fiver, Freelancer, etc.
- **Phone calls/emails:** Do you have any idea who you would like to work for? What about cold (i.e., unsolicited) emails? It sounds intrusive, but it doesn't have to be. If you do your research and do it right, an email could lead you to freelance work.
- **Networking with friends and family:** The people you know are your most valuable asset. Tell them that you are now self-employed and that you can work with them or with people they know. Anyone can be a potential customer. Don't be afraid to ask.
- **Social networks:** Facebook groups and other online forums can be a fantastic source of work. Join groups of freelancers, digital nomads, or any other group where your customers usually hang out. You'll see plenty of opportunities to promote yourself and your services.



Quick Recommendations

Before you start, there are two basic recommendations for your new self-employed business.

- Build an online presence first: One of the biggest mistakes we think many freelancers make is that they're so willing to start and find work that they forget to take the time to build their online presence first. How will customers know who you are and what area of expertise you work in without having a point of reference? Avoid confusion with an online portfolio that presents your skills and experience in a positive and professional manner.
- Find your niche: You must choose an area in which you want to specialize and make yourself look like an expert. You'll want to work for the best clients, but the best clients aren't looking for generic freelancers with generic skills, but rather people who are experts in specific areas.

You can do this in conjunction with creating your own website and, of course, registering on a freelance platform and creating your profile. But if you want to go one step further, definitely set up your own website.



Become a business person

And if you don't really want to trade your skills for money and you want to build something of your own, which is impressive, here are some ideas for doing so:

- **Blogging:** It's probably the best-known, but also the most disconcerting way to earn income online. Create a blog (and an audience) and you can monetize it with advertising, sponsorships, and more.
 - **Affiliate marketing:** Earn money promoting other people's products and services or companies, and earn commissions every time someone makes a purchase based on your recommendation.
 - **E-commerce:** Do you have a product to sell? How about selling it online? E-commerce is very popular as a way to generate revenue. The key is to find a product that is in high demand and find the most reliable way to sell it.
- **Starting a New Business:** Do you have an idea for a product or service that could change the world? Develop your own idea and work on it from anywhere in the world. Remember that building a business from scratch can take some time. So you have to be patient and open to new things. You might fail at first, but don't give up. If necessary, you can always work as a freelancer to earn income while your new business grows and also generates revenue over time.

Options for a Digital Nomad apprentice

Not sure about the skills yet? Don't worry. Everyone has to start somewhere and the most important thing is that you're ready to learn. Here are some options that will help you improve.

Find a job with potential

Wait, what? You want freedom and we tell you to look for a job? Yes!

If you don't have the skills yet, especially if you're young, why not finding a job that can give you at least some of the skills you need? They will pay you, you will learn, and that will give you security.

Alternatively, you can change your career and take advantage of the opportunity to learn new skills. For example, you could work in management and learn skills to become a virtual assistant in the future.

Another option is to look for work abroad. This could give you the experience of living and working abroad without having to worry about how you're going to make money in another country. You could find a job in specific areas or even teach English (or your native language) and spend your free time studying or practicing your skills online.



Take an online course

Can't find a job that teaches you the skills you want to learn? Don't worry, you can go 'back to school' with an online course. There are some great programs that teach you everything you need to know about a specific skill you're looking for. Here are some of the suggestions for online course providers:

**For your information, some of our suggestions below include affiliate links. This means that if you join their program or buy something, we receive a small commission from them at no extra cost to you.*

- [Udemy](#)
- [Skill Share](#)
- [Lynda](#)
- [Khan Academy](#)
- [Treehouse](#)
- [Skillcrush](#)
- [Pluralsight](#)
- [Coursera](#)
- [Codeacademy](#)
- [Udacity](#)



A note of caution: Do some research and buy the course from a well-known, reputable provider like the ones above, or someone you know who is an expert in what you want to learn. You don't want to take classes from someone who isn't really an expert in the area in which you want to develop.

Where to go as a Digital Nomad

So obviously as a Digital Nomad, if you're planning to work while you're abroad, you'll need to choose places that suit your lifestyle. There are many factors to consider, but the first and most important is a good Wi-Fi connection. It's pretty clear, isn't it?

Since you're new on this endeavor, there's a good chance you're going to be looking for a location with a low cost of living. Living in an affordable place also means that you may have a better quality of life, better than living in an expensive major city. It also allows you to save money and really focus on developing your business without having to worry much about high expenses.

It is also important to find information about visas for the country you are going to choose. Depending on your passport, there are a different number of days you can stay in different countries as a visitor.

With that in mind, here are some ideas of places you can visit: all accessible, good Internet access and lots of fun! These are all interesting places where you can live for a short period of time.

- Chiang Mai, Koh Phangan, Thailand
- Merida, Playa del Carmen, Mexico
- Praga, Czech Republic
- Bali, Indonesia
- Berlin, Germany
- Medellin, Colombia
- Budapest, Hungary



There are many more places, but you can choose one of these as your starting point.

Gain experience from a place where Digital Nomads hang around

There are some places (such as Chang Mai, Thailand) that are very popular with digital nomads. Why not go somewhere where you know that you can find other digital nomads and learn from those who already lead the lifestyle you want?

Option 1: Go there for a 'work vacation' to define what type of work is ideal for you as a digital nomad and start from there.



Option 2: If you want to quit your job, you can go to some of these places where you can find digital nomads, use some savings and learn from them, get inspired by them and surround yourself with digital nomads. People who are already living their work and lifestyle online might be the best people to teach you what to do and what skills you should learn.

Option 3: It would be to attend a retreat or training camp where you can learn a skill and see if you like the digital nomadic lifestyle at the same time. A good example of this is the Destination Dev Boot Camp, where you learn to code while living in Medellín, Colombia or Thailand for 8 weeks.

Okay, now that you know the different ways to become a digital nomad, it's time to think about the next step: traveling!



How much money do I need to become a Digital Nomad?

That has a relative answer. It depends on your lifestyle and, of course, where you want to live. To find out how much money you need, do the following:

Find a place: Where will you live? This will largely determine the money you need. Define your 'base' as a digital nomad before moving to the next step.

Calculate your living expenses: your living expenses include everything, such as housing, food, transportation, etc. Everything you need to live in one place for a while. Do some research and add up all of these monthly expenses in the location you selected in step 1.

What is your income? Once you've calculated how much it costs to live somewhere, compare it to your income. You might find that earning \$1,500 a month from your online job might be more than enough to live somewhere like Chiang Mai or somewhere else. Make sure you leave room for savings or, at the very least, have an emergency fund.

As a digital nomad, you're most likely living a minimalist lifestyle, which will then make you spend less and maybe increasing your savings.

Traveling as a tourist is usually more expensive than traveling as a digital nomad. This is because, as a digital nomad, you don't usually stay in expensive hotels. In general, you'll stay away from major tourist attractions or the city center. You'll eat in local places or even cook at home and live a normal life... just in another country.

Okay, you're almost ready to go, but wait... Are you prepared for any 'potential disaster'?



5 mistakes to avoid as a Digital Nomad newbie

1.- Not going ahead with your dream: it's pretty obvious, but many Digital Nomad candidates keep saying: "I wish I could do that..." But they never take steps to make their dreams come true. Don't make the same mistake. Make concessions and get started! You have the power to make it happen, but you have to start somewhere, anywhere.

2.- Not having a plan: Successful digital nomads succeed because they want to. Create a plan to achieve your goals and set out all the steps to achieve it, whether it's having enough customers to start an independent business or setting a deadline to launch your first product. Plan your trips and stays the same way: you may end up spending your budget sooner than you imagine, so plan everything!

3.- Not staying focused on the main goal: focus on the fastest way to make it happen. Don't lose focus on shiny objects or trying to do other things at once.

4.- Building a business without additional income as backup: Do you want to set up a business from scratch? Incredible! But what are you going to do to get money while you're at it? You should make sure that you have enough savings or that you have a job/freelance work while you build your ideal business. You don't want to end up without anything.

5.- Not focusing on just one single area of specialization: this is for those of you who plan to work as freelancers. You should choose a niche that you want to specialize in and establish yourself as an expert in that niche.



Before you leave...

If you're just reading this guide and put it aside, it's useless. This guide won't turn you into a digital nomad. This guide won't turn you into a traveler... YOU ARE!

This guide won't help you earn an income regardless of where you live... YOU ARE!

All the blogs you read, the videos you watch, the podcasts you listen—all the information you get is useless—if you don't take action. You have at your disposal the infrastructure, opportunities and possibilities to make this lifestyle a reality. YOU CAN DO IT! You just have to take action. You must commit to change. Stop waiting all your life. The Digital Nomad lifestyle is real. Right now, there are thousands of people doing it and succeeding, but to make it happen, you must commit to it and start working on this dream.

It may not happen overnight (that rarely happens) and you may have to try it a couple of times before you learn anything. But it's not impossible. Start now, take a step, even if it's small... and you'll see that's all you had to do to begin with. Move forward, YOU CAN DO THIS!

To finish, we'll leave you with this quote:

"Life only changes when you
commit to your dreams."

