

What is a digital nomad?

A person who is able to create a lifestyle independent of location - most commonly through a technology based business via the Internet as the medium of communication.

What are the best jobs to be able to be location independent?

The best job in my humble opinion to live a life of a digital nomad is to program a successful piece of software - in which you can manage it and earn an income regardless of where you live. A good example of this would be any service that people need - especially in niche fields. One such software could be for the hospitality industry such as reservation services.

Other jobs include stock or commodity trading - social media work, online marketing, web design, various software design or programming jobs, consultation services for a skill you have, building a brand around yourself which includes videos, large social media followership and various content which can be used to gain advertising revenue, sponsorship or work with companies through a variety of promotional campaigns. Or speak at conferences based on your unique skills - and if you are sought after, often conferences will pay to fly you to their venue.

Blogging, while probably oversaturated by this point can be another source of revenue through advertising. Finding something more niche may be rewarding financially; for example creating a site that independently reviews luxury properties and or services and then building a brand around this.

To a lesser extent and non digital and somewhat seasonal, are tour guiding jobs.

What are jobs you can learn to be a digital nomad?

Computer programming, social media skills, stock & commodity trading skills, travel writing and editing, travel blogging. Author. Tour guiding.

What are the benefits?

Ultimately the financial freedom to live in a number of locations around the world and be able to travel if so desired - and be nimble so that you can move if necessary or if you want to.

You make your own hours and you decide what you "wear" to work. Your commute is hopefully via the Internet rather than stuck in traffic.

Live a more simple lifestyle free of clutter and "things".

What are the downsides?

Depending on your type of digital nomad work, income that can be very sporadic.

Lots of time in front of a computer screen - tied into often working solo without in real life human interaction.

Work goes with you when you travel (this sounds cliché, but I actually am sitting in a hammock in Thailand as I write this) - it becomes a part of a lifestyle, but that is the compromise you make - it is a lifestyle that allows you to travel. However, you find a balance between work and play when on the road.

How to decide on a location? and for how long?

First and foremost (unless you can afford otherwise) find parts of the world where the cost of living is generally lower than more developed countries - there are often already established digital nomad communities in these areas.

As with anything there are degrees - if you are constantly moving from place to place that can be stressful and wearing on your body especially as you try to work. If make a "home base" for a month or longer rather than a few days or several weeks, this will be much easier on you personally and you will be more productive in the long term. Find a balance and what works for you.

How to find out how Internet connection is in a specific city.

This can be a major hassle if you do not have a healthy, strong, fast and reliable Internet connection. I often find that far too often, even in countries that supposedly have great Internet backbones - it can be a challenge to find a good connection especially if you are constantly moving. There is *nothing* more frustrating than trying to get something done and your Internet connection drops or has other issues.

There are a couple of websites that help broadly determine Internet speeds in various countries. Wikipedia lists general country speeds here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Internet_connection_speeds

and this map on Netindex is really good to for a more visual interpretation:
<http://www.netindex.com/download/map>

You can also reach out to other people living the digital nomad life in a destination that you are interested in and find out what they are using for an Internet connection.

How this lifestyle is a lifehack (arbitraging cost of living)

If you work for an International company which is paying you the same salary as if you were living in a more expensive location - this becomes a true economic advantage of living overseas in country where the cost of living is less.

Or if the cost for your own services or product is equivalent to what you would make living in a more expensive location - once you move to a country that has a more affordable cost of living - your income goes a lot further.

The simple advantage to this type of living is your services are typically delivered in a digital format rather than brick and mortar products and you do not need to be in any particular location.

How to decide on a city to relocate to (could filter by affordability, nightlife or beaches).

Affordable parts of the world tend to attract digital nomads - including parts of South East Asia (especially Thailand and parts of Indonesia), Central and South America. Chiang Mai and Bangkok in Thailand have thriving digital nomad communities. These are just a few basic considerations: research the cost of living in an area, the types of weather throughout the year, the type of geographical location, are you located near an International airport and are there digital nomads already working in a particular area you are interested in.

How to meet fellow digital nomads and why a community is necessary to start this journey.

A community is important, not only when starting out but also as you grow your digital nomad business. Others have been doing this before you and they can become good resources as well as friends to bounce ideas off of.

Most every niche industry seems like they have networking events - for example the travel blogging world has a number of networking events including what is probably the most well known representative, TBEX. This event is held in various locations around the world each year and is an excellent venue for sharing of information as relates to the travel blogging industry. Going to these events can also be invaluable as far as meeting other digital nomads or those interested in this type of lifestyle.

I maintain section of my site that lists nearly 4,300 in English domain.xxx travel blogs - a number of which are digital nomads here: <http://www.davestravelcorner.com/links/blogs-of-travel/> this can be a good resource to view what others are doing and reach out to a few that spark your interest. You can also type in "digital nomad" in the search box in the upper left part of that page for more sites of interest.

There are also several resources available for living this lifestyle including a Digital Nomad Academy and several sites promoting digital nomad jobs.