



HI-MN Travelers Circle Speaker Guidelines

The purpose in holding Travelers Circles is to increase our world view, to discuss travel destinations, tips and techniques, to swap insights, and to have a good time. It's an informal discussion of destinations for people who love to travel. **Thank you for sharing your experience and expertise with us!**

Travelers Circles are held the 3rd Thursday of every month from 7-8:30pm at the HI Office in St. Paul.

Speaker Preparation:

- **Time:** Total time for Traveler Circle is 90 minutes, with 45min. to 1hr for the speaker to present and 30 min. of audience Q & A following.
- **Audience:** Expect an audience of 15-35 people. Invite your friends and family!
- **Host:** An HI-MN representative will host the evening program
- **Presentation:** Powerpoint is standard, but slides are fine. We provide a laptop and LCD projector, or a slide projector for your presentation. If you need any technical help, please ask us.

Speaker should bring (as possible):

- **Handouts** – perhaps a map and a list of resources – *we'll make copies for you!*
- **Wall Map** (or ask HI-MN to provide one)
- **Books** (travel guides are great to pass around)
- **Memorabilia**, souvenirs, artifacts, photos or postcards, tourist pamphlets

Cultural Focus: *We are extremely interested in the cultural aspects of travel!*

- Language and local culture are important components – what did you learn?
- Responsible travel issues – what does it mean to be an ethical traveler there?
- Tell stories of your interactions with locals. What did you learn?
- Connect the audience to the people of the country or region as best you can.

Other Topics to Cover – choose any:

- How to get there (esp. for the hard to get to places, i.e. Moldova or Cook Islands).
- Any restrictions – length of stay in the country, Visa required?
- Packing List: What to bring, what to leave at home
- Public holidays, local celebrations
- What time of year to go | Length of time to stay
- What to see, what to avoid (festivals, towns, cities, etc.)
- Transportation issues, costs (buses, trains, etc.)
- Where to stay (hostels, pensions, guesthouses, B&B, etc.)
- Places to eat, national dishes to eat and those to avoid
- Safety/Health issues and Political Issues
- Traveler, Ticket resources | online, books, local and national organizations

Hostelling International USA – Minnesota Council

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