

Before you read the article, discuss the following questions:

- How do you think people travelled in 1910s?
- What do you think were some popular holiday destinations in the 1970s, the time of the Hippies?
- What seem to be the most popular travel destinations in your country nowadays? How do you think people tend to spend time on holiday?

After reading the article discuss the questions:

- Which way of travelling appeals to you the most?
- Would you like to go back in time and travel? Which decade would you choose? Why?



# Retro travel

Fashion, food and music all take their cues from the past, so why not travel with a vintage twist? Here is a down-the-years guide to yesterday's holidays, with suggestions for how you can get a little taste of more – or less – glamorous eras.

## 1910s

As the twentieth century began, travel overseas was the preserve of the wealthy and was starting to assume some of the grandeur we associate with this era. It was all possible thanks to boiling water, which became the steam that turned the turbines on steam trains and ships. This was the start of the ocean liner era – passenger-carrying airships were decades away – with companies competing for speed, size and luxury. The Cunard ship *Mauretania*, launched in 1907, held the speed record for crossing the Atlantic for twenty years.



**How to do this today:** Cruises are more popular than ever before, but only Cunard's transatlantic crossings between Southampton and New York preserve the spirit of travelling to get somewhere rather than boarding to eat and drink vast amounts. The Queen Mary II (diesel driven) is the only vessel sailing a transatlantic schedule each year. Fares start at £699 including a flight home from your destination.

### Glossary

*Blindsided* - surprised, usually with harmful results

*Hub* - the central or main part of something where there is most activity

*Evocative* - making you remember or imagine something pleasant

## 1920s

Fast forward past the First World War into the decadent 1920s. Whatever people did, it involved jazz playing in the background and an elegantly poised cigarette holder in their hand. The spirit of the age took people to the French Riviera -- maybe Nice, Cannes or St Tropez -- to the house of someone rich and famous, with plenty of gin and tonics, dips in the deep blue Mediterranean and few thoughts for the penniless rabble about to get blindsided by the Depression.

**How to do this today:** The south of France remains a magnet for glam travel – it is just much cheaper to visit than it used to be. For starters, Nice is something of a budget air hub, serving destinations across Europe, and is also an excellent base for exploring the region. A stroll along the city's Promenade des Anglais is

evocative of another age, no matter where you are staying.

### 1930s

The giant Zeppelin airship is the iconic image of this decade, and it was these mammoth beasts that carried long-distance airborne traffic throughout the 1930s. The most famous of these, the ill-fated Hindenburg, carried between 50 and 72 passengers. It was 243m long – over three times as long as an Airbus A380, the largest commercial plane in service. It also took 68 hours to reach Recife, Brazil from Germany.

**How to do this today:** California is one of the few places where you will find airships today. Airship Ventures offer tours of the San Francisco Bay Area and other parts of California, with flights starting at \$375 for 45 minutes.

### 1940s

Tourism in many places ground to a halt in the 1940s, but American trains enjoyed a boom years before the post-war rise of the automobile. Comfortable, sleekly-liveried services operated high-speed, long-distance services with evocative names like the Pioneer Zephyr and 20th Century Limited. Think shiny cutlery serving fine fare inside equally shiny trains.

**How to do this today:** Some great American rail services still operate. The Empire Builder leaves Chicago's iconic Union Station each day, bound for Seattle or Portland. The 2,200-mile journey takes 46 hours and features cheese and wine tasting along the route.

### 1950s

While for some, the '50s were about the development of a political ideology from the back of a bike in South America or road trips across America, (think Jack Kerouac's classic *On the Road*), for others they were as glamorous as the days of pre-war hedonism. The Jet Age, ushered in by entry into service of the Brit-built De Havilland Comet in 1952 means travel becomes sleek, fast and fun.

**How to do this today:** Cocktails in Cuba recall the pre-revolutionary island vividly portrayed in *The Godfather, Part II*. El Floridita in Havana may be a popular spot for a tourist tipple, but you know you are following in some famous footsteps.

### 1960s

The '60s were the decade that travel changed forever. The advent of mass tourism introduced a generation of northern Europeans to just how quickly the Spanish sun could turn you lobster pink, and forever transformed sleepy fishing villages into brash, in-your-face holiday resorts. Even today, the straw donkey remains an iconic souvenir of this time -- one redolent of stellar tackiness.

**How to do this today:** The digital age ushered in choice and flexibility to a sunshine holiday. Now you can come and sizzle on the *costa* of your choice via traditional package or budget flight and self-catering apartment. And going is still the only way of securing a straw donkey, which astonishingly, cannot be purchased online.

### 1970s

While Mum and Dad were schlepping to the Costa del Sol (or other fashionable costa), rebellious teenagers dropped out and headed for Kathmandu. Overland. The Hippy Trail was at its zenith in the 1970s, bringing to various parts of the Middle East and Central Asia gaggles of long-haired kaftan-wearing westerners and impromptu yoga sessions.

**How to do this today:** Crossing Iran and Pakistan takes a little more planning than it did 40 years ago, and Kabul is not the crossroads it once was. But anyone heading from Istanbul to Nepal will find there is still a Freak Street in Kathmandu, complete with chocolate cake, dreadlocks and all the tie-dye you can handle.

*Sleekly-liveried* – (As if) wearing smooth uniforms  
*Fare* - the type of food that is served in a restaurant  
*Ushered in* - caused important changes to start happening  
*Tipple* - an alcoholic drink  
*Redolent* – smelling strongly or reminding you of something else  
*Tackiness* – from *tacky* - cheap and in bad style  
*Sizzle* - make a sound like food cooking in hot fat  
*Schlep* - move yourself with effort and difficulty  
*Impromptu* – improvised

**1980s**

The '80s brought wider horizons for millions of younger travellers as an adventurous few months on the road gained popularity. The European rail pass – whether InterRail or Eurail – was at the peak of popularity. This excellent value way to cross the continent did not just link big cities and idyllic rural branch lines, it also brought together penniless travellers from around the world for a month-long series of rolling parties. Not that anyone even vaguely attractive wanted to talk to you, as you had not had a wash since Belgrade a fortnight ago.

**How to do this today:** InterRail is still around, and still a great way to explore Europe. In fact, you can combine it with budget flights to avoid backtracking. The true connoisseur will take the time-honoured option of sleeping on the free ferry from Italy to Greece, under the Adriatic stars.

**1990s**

In the early 1990s the world opened up to travellers, with previously hard-to-reach places emerging from decades of isolation. From the Soviet Union to Central America, this was a decade of blazing new trails. And as the decade ended, improved transport and communication links meant more places were accessible as well as safer, and you could reliably phone home to brag about it.

**How to do this today:** The old world continues to meet the new in Hong Kong, which began the 1990s as part of the British Empire and finished it as a Special Autonomous Region of China. The cream teas and Rolls Royces at the Peninsula Hotel are still here but they have been joined by fast rail links to the rest of China and ranks of new skyscrapers jostling for space on the city's famous skyline.

**2000s**

How dull flying must have been when we had our bags taken from us with little fuss then receive an assigned seat and a complimentary meal, before arriving at a convenient rather than remote airport for our destination! And yet, before low-cost carriers swept the globe, this was what came as standard when flying. By the time the decade was out, flag carriers were in retreat for all but long-haul flying and a 60km journey to central Oslo had become part of the fun.

**How to do this today:** Take a weekend break to an obscure destination in eastern Europe. Bydgoszcz, Poland or Plovdiv, Bulgaria both fit the bill.

*Lines* – railway tracks  
*Fortnight* – two weeks  
*Backtrack* - to go back along a path you have just followed  
*Blaze a trail* - do something that has never been done before  
*Jostle* - to knock or push roughly against someone in order to move past them or get more space when you are in a crowd  
*Carrier* - a company which operates aircraft

**In each part of the article find the word or phrase with a similar meaning:**

- 1910s: an activity which only a particular type of person does: .....
- 1920s: people of a low social position: .....
- 1930s: unlucky and unsuccessful, often resulting in death: .....
- 1940s: knives, forks and spoons: .....
- 1950s: smooth: .....
- 1960s: too bright and colourful: .....
- 1970s: groups of noisy or silly people [disapproving]: .....
- 1980s: cheap, especially considering the relation of quality to price: .....
- 1990s: to speak too proudly about what you have done or what you own: .....



2000s: given free to repay a favour or as an act of courtesy: .....

## Answers

1910s: an activity which only a particular type of person does: **preserve** (*the preserve of the wealthy*)

1920s: people of a low social position: **rabble**

1930s: unlucky and unsuccessful, often resulting in death: **ill-fated**

1940s: knives, forks and spoons: **cutlery**

1950s: smooth: **sleek**

1960s: too bright and colourful: **brash**

1970s: groups of noisy or silly people [disapproving]: **gaggles** (*gaggles of long-haired...*)

1980s: cheap, especially considering the relation of quality to price: **excellent value**

1990s: to speak too proudly about what you have done or what you own: **brag**

2000s: given free to repay a favour or as an act of courtesy: **complimentary**

The text was taken from: <http://www.bbc.com/travel/feature/20110912-retro-travel-top-travel-experiences-by-the-decade>



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