

Daniel Hall Presents



## Episode 82

# Stimulate Your Creativity with Travel – Here's How to Travel for FREE

with Gina Henry

Welcome to this episode of the Real Fast Results podcast! Gina Henry is today's special guest. She is an expert when it comes to being able to travel and make money at the same time. In fact, when this episode was recorded, she was in Austin, Texas, traveling and visiting friends, but at the same time, she taught a group about how to travel and make money. So, Gina had actually been traveling and making money herself.

## Promise: How to Travel for Free

Well, I think the importance of travel... I know in my life, and [that of] many of our listeners and viewers, it's stimulating. You're learning, you're seeing things differently, you're meeting new people, you're exposed to new cultures, even if you are here in the U.S. traveling. There's a stimulation, I think, and I get so much out of it. It helps me with my writing, my speaking, my business ideas, and my brainstorming. It gets you out of a rut. **Sometimes, when we get too much routine in life and get sidetracked with laundry and chores, we just need to get our focus back. For me, travel is what does it.**

You can not only use your travel for inspiration, but also, at the same time, maybe work on the road. That can make part of your trip a business trip, and a possible tax reduction (part of it). **But, the whole idea is that you're out there, getting inspiration, and you're coming up with new ideas.** Maybe you'll have time to

focus on those ideas, and maybe without some of the distractions that you may have at home.

Put me on a plane, train, bus, or any kind of transportation. To me, that's my favorite place for brainstorming. I love people watching at airports, for instance, because there are very interesting things that you might see on a day to day basis, when you're at home, like when you're at the grocery store or just doing your normal things here.

## Financing Traveling

Well, you have to make it practical and, kind of, pay for itself. There's a lot that you can do out there, and there are so many seasonal jobs that deal with tourism. **There's the growth of organic farms worldwide, and there are opportunities where you can either trade a few hours a day for a free place, or you can actually get paid to work at these places.** There's a lot of teaching English opportunities, and there's a ton of volunteer opportunities.

I like to help people who are, maybe, approaching retirement and are thinking about, "Well, how do I make that leap from working really, really hard in my career now, with all of my expertise and talent, to retirement, where I still want to give back and do things to contribute? At the same time, if it could pay for my travel, that would be the best of both worlds." There are 75,000,000 Baby Boomers retiring now. So, there's a big, big market out there. I mean, teaching English, working in tourism... There are tour companies...

## Top Opportunities

I think that Number 1 is to realize that a lot of people will not go on a trip unless they sign up for a tour, a cruise, or they go with a friend who is planning the trip. So, whether you organize your own tours, or you affiliate with tour companies... Tour companies used to market to travel agents, and travel agents would earn a commission for promoting these tours to their clientele.

Now that there are so few travel agents, tour companies are now going directly to individuals, like ourselves, who have friends that want to go on a trip together. **We promote that trip, and in turn, we go free because we are the tour coordinator.** We're making the trip happen. But, we are affiliated with this tour company, and we are going free on their trips. **This has really become big with almost every tour operator that's out there.**

On the other end, if you want to design your own tours, I've been doing that for years too. **I will help people to coordinate the airfare, the hotels, the sightseeing, finding the local guides, down to how many meals to include.** I've taken groups to Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar (formerly Burma)... We just came back from Thailand and Myanmar with groups. I've taken people to China on the Trans-

Mongolian train to Outer Mongolia, to Turkey, to Costa Rica, the northern part of Mexico... That beautiful train journey, through the northern part of Mexico. There are great overlooks, and things like that, for hiking.

**I'm taking a group, in July, to Peru.** This will be my fifth time to Peru. So the idea is that people are hungry for travel. Many people are, and they are reluctant to go on their own. So, the tour industry is a huge opportunity for people to get involved, whether it's part-time, seasonal, or maybe just one trip a year. The idea is that if you help make that trip happen for other people, that can fund your own travels. I like that part.

## How To Go About Doing This

For example, you could go to a website, [SpecialtyTravel.com](http://SpecialtyTravel.com). **Tour companies pay to advertise on this website, and you could look at destinations.** Say that you wanted to take a group to China, and you wanted to see what tour companies go that direction. Maybe you want to take people on a bird watching themed tour. It would have tons of tour companies advertising those kinds of trips.

Friends of mine just came back from Mexico on a wonderful butterfly migration tour, and they just had such a great time. The idea is that there are tour operators that advertise on this website. You can contact that tour operator by either emailing them or calling their toll-free number, and ask them if they have an affiliate program. Most tour companies will, and generally, between... You get 6-10 people to go on one of their upcoming trips, and you go free on that tour.

One of my favorite companies to work with is [Go Ahead Tours](http://GoAheadTours.com). They have worked for years with high school teachers who would coordinate trips for their high school students, and possibly the parent of the high school student. If a high school teacher would get six of their students to go on that trip, they would go free. That was [EF Tours](http://EF-Tours.com), and now they have expanded this and offer this to anyone, not just high school teachers. So any of us can work through their program, [GoAheadTours.com](http://GoAheadTours.com), and we can put together a group. Another company that I work with now is [Intrepid Travel](http://IntrepidTravel.com). [Overseas Adventure Travel](http://OverseasAdventureTravel.com), many people have traveled with them, or [Collette Tours](http://ColletteTours.com). Practically every tour company out there has an affiliate program now.

## Be Open To Volunteering

**There are a lot of things that can be stepping stones to paid jobs. One thing I always encourage people to do is to be open to volunteering.** There's a group called the [International Executive Service Corps](http://InternationalExecutiveServiceCorps.com) that's looking for people that have a lot of real-world experience. They will take your background, and they will help you to find a way to consult with that background. **You are volunteering, but they will cover all of your expenses, including your international airline ticket, and your hotel, and your meals.**

You go overseas. They work in over 120 countries worldwide. And, you consult for a week, or two weeks, or three weeks. If you consult for three weeks or longer, they will have your spouse go with you, and they will also pay for your spouse to be set up as a volunteer. You can use this to help you make the leap to consulting. There are a lot of things that we can do around the world, with our experience, as consultants.

I like the idea of going to a foreign country. My background is in marketing, or marketing/advertising. I worked in New York City for some years, and I really enjoyed that training. I didn't care for the stress and the lifestyle of 80 hours a week of work, but it was good exposure. I still love doing things like that when I'm traveling around the world, and it's amazing how many small businesses and individuals around the world just don't know how to start their own business. So that's a lot of fun, getting involved with that.

**Use one volunteer program to help leapfrog yourself into your own independent consulting. I think everyone should always think of themselves as an independent consultant, even if you are working for a company.** I think everybody should have three income streams. Everybody should make sure that the five people that they spend the most time with are people that are going in the direction they are going. You know, sometimes that means inviting new people into your life.

It is amazing to me, the number of people who say, "It's hard meeting new people." I think that, with travel, it's not hard meeting new people because you're putting yourself out there. So, whether you are putting together a group, or you're going over and you're consulting... Maybe you sign up to a volunteer program to help young people with their English. There are all sorts of volunteer English programs that can turn into paid opportunity, and it's unlimited with English as the world's business language, and the world's travel language, with the number of paid opportunities. That's whether it's for a week or two, whether it's for a paid vacation, or it's a semester or an academic year contract that you are willing to continue with.

## Would I Have to Devote a Full Eight Hours a Day?

When you are volunteering, generally it could be two hours a day, it could be eight hours a day. **Talk to the program and find out what the details are.** I think that, genuinely, you want to help when you are there, on location, and you know that it's a short period of time. You want to contribute as much as you possibly can while you are there. Plus, they want to get you involved in the local culture, and so, usually you're having meals with the locals. They may take you out sightseeing in the local area. To me, that can't be included in my two hours, or eight hours, a day. It's not work; it's fun.

For me, that time kind of goes quickly. It doesn't really matter because I'm doing something that I love. At the same time, you're helping people, and in turn, that's going

to grow into something bigger. Every time you meet someone, you network, you make connections, and they are giving you ideas of something that you're going to do next. That's one thing that I love about travel, is that one thing leads to another. You think you're going from here to here, but you end up going way over here. I love how that has happened in my life in the last, you know, thirty years.

## Tips

Again, the site for the volunteer consulting is International Executive Service is a big one. The idea is that you can go online and look at that organization (<http://www.iesc.org/>). You can go to [TransitionsAbroad.com](http://TransitionsAbroad.com), which gives you a lot of good brainstorming ideas. If you are thinking about planning a trip, or what you want to do on vacation that would work and pay for your tour or vacation, Transitions Abroad will give you thousands of ideas. Taking my class will give you thousands of ideas. I do everything from travel free to ways to work on vacation to doing things on trade. I talk a lot about Homestays, house swapping, frequent flyer programs, reward programs, hotel stays, and there's so much opportunity out there.

At the same time, I think taking a class is ideal because you are meeting like-minded people in the classroom, in the city where you are living. I teach in 90 cities, nationwide. I'll tell you, I get as much out of that class as, I think, the students do because I'm meeting interesting people. Many of them are doing the things that we're talking about, and that inspires other people in the class. So, I encourage people to go to the meet-up groups, to join clubs and organizations, to go to conferences in their field, or in the field that they are interested in, which requires you to travel to get to the conference. That's quite nice too.

## Gina's Best Travel Hack

**I look at my reward frequent flyer programs, and I see the points in that program.** For example, United Airlines is one of my favorites. I go to the United Airlines website, and I start looking at all the places that I could go this month with my miles and points. It's an easy program to look up. You have the calendar on your screen with all the places you can go, on United.com, and I get excited about, "Yeah, I could go there Thursday. I like that." I know it's great to plan ahead when you travel, but I also like those last minute opportunities.

Two other websites I like looking at are, [Travelzoo.com](http://Travelzoo.com), has a lot of last minute opportunities... And, sometimes in your mind, it's like, "I don't know if I can go there this Thursday, but gee, I could because it's available." You get your mind thinking forward, and you're like, "Okay, maybe not this Thursday, but maybe it's next Thursday, or three Thursdays from now." You know that you're going to get yourself going that direction. For me, trip planning is the best part, and when I know I have a free plane ticket, or I see a really good deal on [Travelzoo](http://Travelzoo.com). [Gate1Travel.com](http://Gate1Travel.com) is another website to take a look at. It has a lot of good specials on it.

I think that it's stimulating, going to conferences and hearing people speak about their travels. You start getting ideas about what you want to do and how much longer you might want to stay in a country. When I find a deal with my reward points, I only book one way, which is the outbound. Then, as I get into exploring where I want to go and what I want to see... I might decide before I go when I am coming back, but I only book the outbound, and I'm committed to that, and that helps motivate me to plan the rest of the trip and then say, "Oh, I really want to stay two months, not just a couple of weeks." If you can work from the road and make your income in life while you are on the road, you can stay for two months. So, for me, a short trip is two months.

## How Rewards Points Work

You have to pay it off in full every month, but basically, I put every dollar I spend, every day and every month, on that rewards credit card. That will earn lots of free plane tickets for the future, and other stuff. They all give sign up bonuses and things like that. Then, always check your credit score via [CreditKarma.com](http://CreditKarma.com). I have a very high credit score right now. I'm very pleased. I just got the Chase Sapphire Reserve credit card. It has an annual fee of \$450, but for all of the stuff they give you, it's a wash.

It's nice when they give you the \$100 value of global entry. They give you \$100,000 bonus miles, which equates to \$1,000 cash back. They give you 1,000 priority club, the airline clubs around the world that you can go to for free. They also give you a \$300 voucher for travel. So there are so many good perks to all of these, and it's like Candyland. A lot of the reward programs are cash back, and then you use that cash back to put into the investment of your business, which will, in turn, help you to have more time to travel.

## Teaching English Overseas

**There are thousands of language schools overseas.** There are companies that will hire us to come in and help their employees with their English. Often times, it's an industry, and they have a certain English vocabulary that they want their employees to improve upon. It's amazing how many people around the world have studied English much of their life, even starting as a young child, but now they just want the conversational practice.

Growing, too, with technology, there are more and more online opportunities for paid English teaching. So, you could be sitting right here at home talking to someone in China, or South Korea, or Morocco, helping them with their English. You're getting paid to do that.

## Other Opportunities

One very easy website, for one-stop-shopping, is [ESLFocus.com](http://ESLFocus.com). ESL, people are familiar with that, English as a Second Language. This website, [ESLFocus.com](http://ESLFocus.com) has companies and schools, all over the world, advertise job postings on their website. Also, it has a chat board, and it has a lot of teachers that are contributing information, but the job postings are a really big opportunity. Some of them are one semester, and some of them are longer. That's a short enough period for people being interested, but a lot of them now are the online touring. So, you're doing that in the comfort of your home.

Some of them will let you work as little as two hours a week. Some of them would love you to work more. So, if you are really enthusiastic and want to grow your income, then you pick up as many hours as you possibly can. A lot of these services are online 24/7. With the time changes around the world, they want people here that are available. If you are willing to put in 20, 30, or 40 hours a week, they are going to love working with you. They need people.

**A lot of it will depend on your experience.** It will depend on whether or not you are TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certified, which is usually an investment of a couple thousand dollars to get that certification. A lot of these online programs don't need you to be certified. **They just need you to be fluent in English, and ideally, a native English speaker.** Making \$15-\$20 an hour is very common, and you can do that from home.

## Connecting with Gina

You can look at my website, which is [GinaHenry.com](http://GinaHenry.com). You can also email me at [GinaHenryTravel@gmail.com](mailto:GinaHenryTravel@gmail.com). You can see my class schedule on my website. I'm all over the country, in 90 different cities, and I spend several months out of the year out of the country. You're welcome to join me. My whole plan is to take people out there traveling and help you to really have the confidence, the time, and the money to be able to travel as much as you want.

## Resources

[GinaHenry.com](http://GinaHenry.com)

[SpecialtyTravel.com](http://SpecialtyTravel.com)

[Go Ahead Tours](#)

[EF Tours](#)

[Intrepid Travel](#)

[Overseas Adventure Travel](#)

[Collette Tours](#)

[International Executive Service Corps](#)

[TransitionsAbroad.com](#)

[Travelzoo](#)

[Gate1Travel.com](#)

[ESLFocus.com](#)

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