

# TRAVEL HOW-TO

## TESTING OUT A NEW CITY

RESEARCHING A NEW PLACE TO LIVE & PLANNING A TRIP TO TEST IT OUT



### Lyd's Travel Skills Guide

Taking a trip to a new city is the best way to “test” living there, focusing on **experiencing the city as a local** vs being a tourist is key.



## RESEARCH CHECKLIST

Research the city to select the area to stay in for your “test” trip

### SEASONAL WEATHER TRENDS:

- Check the temperature ranges
- History of natural disasters

### LOCAL NEWS & CRIME:

- TV newscasts & newspapers
- Neighborhood crime trends

### COST OF LIVING TRENDS:

- Cost of rent, food & utilities
- Common housing issues

### POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS:

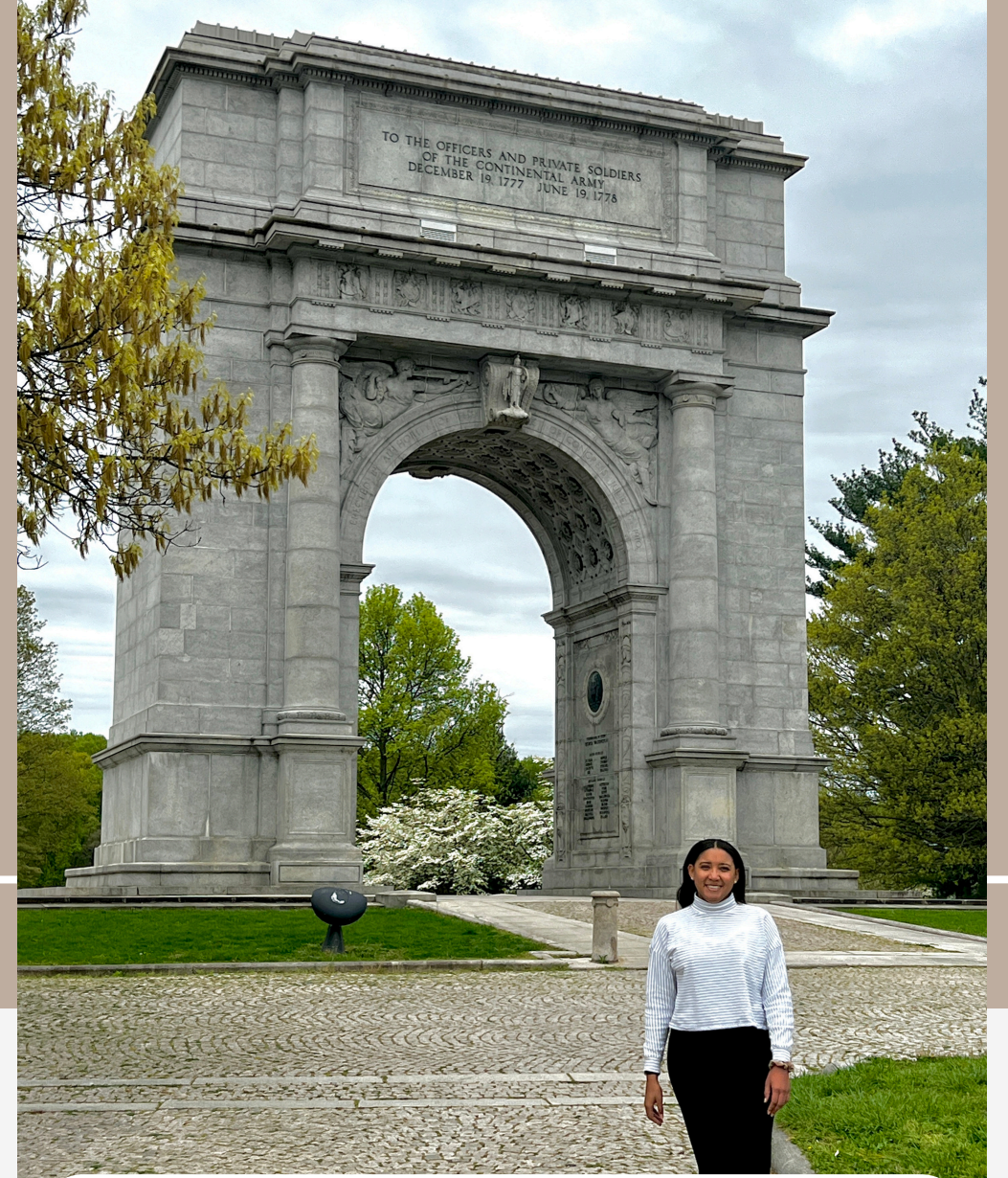
- Age, ethnicity & income
- Languages spoken

### TAXES & GOVERNMENT:

- Local, State & Income Taxes
- Recent laws & elections

### NEIGHBORHOODS & CULTURE:

- Lifestyle amenities & hospitals
- Cultural mix & diversity



BLOG ✂ NEWSLETTER  
TRAVEL HANDBOOK



## CREATE AN ITINEARY AROUND COMMUNITY

You've picked the area of the city to stay in and explore! Let's make a list of trip activities to **enjoy and experience the community**. Keep your trip focused on **everyday activities and needs**. Plan for **7-14 Days**.

### LOCAL BUSINESSES & TRANSPORTATION

- Shop at local shops vs larger stores to meet locals
- Use public transportation with a flat rate metro pass
- Plan a day to just wander through the center of the city exploring shops & cafes

### MEET YOUR NEEDS AND OF YOUR KIDS & PETS

- Get day passes for amenities like gyms, parks and pools
- Scope out schools and aftercare programs with visiting appointments
- Checkout vets, pet stores and pet friendly parks

### EXPLORE EVENTS, MARKETS & FESTIVALS

- Follow the city's social media & sign up for their email newsletter
- Visit the main food market to meet vendors & locals
- Find seasonal festivals for holidays (and city closures)

## CONNECT TO RESOURCES

### FIND GROUPS & PROGRAMS TO HELP YOU EXPLORE & RESEARCH A NEW CITY

- Online Groups - find people that are also new to the city to ask questions and get their perspective
- Discuss common misconceptions of the city like local personalities, safety, traffic & the city's future
- Research any city resources, events and programs celebrating new arrivals & diversity of the city



## BE AWARE & PREPARE

- Research common scams & red flags to keep an eye out for, especially on utilities, transportation & housing
- Watch for unexpected costs and nuanced processes to complete regular tasks
- As you explore, keep track of questions or things you see that seem different, to research later

### STAY ALERT & PROACTIVE TO ISSUES THAT COULD SETBACK YOUR VISIT

