

A decorative blue wavy border at the top of the page, composed of several segments. Each segment contains a white line-art icon related to nursing or travel, such as a stethoscope, a nurse's cap, a suitcase, a pair of shoes, and a plant.

What is a Travel Nurse?

The Exclusive Travel Nursing Guide

Created by www.TravelNurseSource.com

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When was the last time you got to hold a head together while somebody stapled it?

Travel nursing allows you to achieve more than you believed you were capable of, and it can lead you to places you never thought possible. So, what is a travel nurse? Learn what it takes in this exclusive travel nursing guide!

"A travel nurse is someone who adjusts easily to change; who has a heart open to new ways of thinking and who has extensive experience in healthcare. For those who take the leap of faith in this nomadic career, they'll find a brand-new world of medical knowledge and personal inspiration on the open road. A travel nurse is someone who adjusts easily to change; who has a heart open to new ways of thinking and who has extensive experience in healthcare."

For instance, Erin Schroeder found herself in Katmai National Park of Alaska watching bears swim. Kristle Slason's journey in travel nursing landed her on the edge of the Grand Canyon. Kelley Richards' life has gone from sharing a comfortable home on the west coast of Florida with her husband to roaming the country with him in an RV. What is a travel nurse? Erin, Kristle, and Kelley are real travel nurses. These are their stories. Through them, as well as tips from recruiters and healthcare agencies, we will delve into this exclusive travel nursing guide.

This travel nursing guide will demonstrate to you the history of travel nursing and the challenges and rewards of the job. You'll also discover the education and licensing required, and everything you need to know about finding a job, keeping a job, and filing taxes. Ultimately, this guide will answer the question, what is a travel nurse and how can I be one?

Whether travel nursing is a whimsical dream you've toyed with from time to time or you're on a more serious path to pursuing this career, we invite you to join us on this journey through this exclusive travel nursing guide.

It's time to determine if this is the right career path for you. Grab a cup of coffee, get comfortable and prepare to absorb as much as you can about travel nursing.



Chapter 1

A Saga of How it Started: The History of Travel Nursing

First things first. Who came up with the idea of travel nursing and how did it become this huge layer of the healthcare industry that it is today?



The history of travel nursing goes a little something like this...

Three travel nurses walked into a bar...
Just kidding, sort of.

According to an article posted to [Pantravelers.org](https://pantravelers.org) the history of travel nursing began like this:

A businessman by the name of Bruce Male was at a cocktail party in Boston in the '70s. He overheard some local nurses discussing the nursing shortage across the country. Bruce posted an ad in the Boston Globe looking for "traveling nurses." He wanted to see if he could start a business out of the dilemma. He found some who were interested, and their first stop was New Orleans to help local hospitals during Mardi Gras, since city hospitals would see an influx of patients. Some would say the rest is history. That was in 1977. Before that, though, there were nurses who traveled from the north down to Florida. They went down to work for the winter to help with the incursion of snowbirds, or seasonal travelers who flock south to avoid snow. Travel nursing provided a way for hospitals to fill open positions or handle an unusual arrival of patients without having to take the time to hire and train new staff.

Back then travel nursing didn't come with the many benefits it comes with today, such as housing and higher wages. It was a profession mostly pursued by younger, single nurses. Much has changed and developed in the world of travel nursing. Now people of all ages and walks of life travel the country as nurses. The concept of being a traveling healthcare worker has also expanded beyond nursing to other healthcare professions such as [allied health](#) and [physicians](#). All of these traveling healthcare positions are growing!

So, now that you know the history of travel nursing, it sounds perfect, right? Work for a few weeks doing a job that you love and travel to new and exciting places! Keep in mind that, as with any job, there are challenges that come along with travel nursing. And, Lauren Alston, a recruiting manager for Indiana-based Medical Staffing Solutions LLC, said it best: "The last thing we want to do is sugarcoat travel nursing like it's a unicorn, because it's not. It's a very hard job, but it's a very rewarding job." Learn more about [travel nursing](#) here!



"The last thing we want to do is sugarcoat travel nursing like it's a unicorn, because it's not. It's a very hard job, but it's a very rewarding job."

Are You Meant to Be a Travel Nurse? Travel Nursing Pros and Cons

Travel Nursing Benefits: Get the Goods

Freedom to travel is, of course, the first thing people think of when it comes to travel nursing pros and cons. Exploring the country is what draws many nurses to the profession, according to Lauren Alston, a recruiting manager for Indiana-based Medical Staffing Solutions LLC. "Travel nurses never get bored, and they get to meet new people and experience new things all of the time," Alston said. "Travel nurses get to see great destinations – they can choose to live in the boondocks of Alaska, where there's nothing but dirt roads, or in the center of populated places like Los Angeles. They can move to Hawaii. They have any destination they can think of in the U.S."

Travel Nursing Pros

- Great Destinations
- Top Pay
- New Experiences
- Flexible Schedules
- Meeting New People
- Professional Networking
- Expanding Knowledge of Healthcare
- Exploring New Places
- Travel Stipends
- Housing Benefits

Travel Nursing Disadvantages: Beware of the Bad

Competition is the biggest challenge in travel nursing pros and cons. Since so many people want to take on travel assignments, it is becoming harder to land the job of your choice, Alston explained. "Everybody wants to go to nursing school and travel. Although there are tons of jobs available, the issue is that instead of 20 nurses applying to one job, there are 250 nurses applying to one job," Alston said. "The chances of getting a job are a little bit thinner, which has also caused the pay rates for nurses to drop slightly. So, it's not so much that good jobs are gone, it's just that there are so many more people in line."

Travel Nursing Cons

- Increasing Competition
- Transient Lifestyle
- No Job Guarantees
- Constantly Traveling
- Adjusting to a new town
- Making new friends
- Making assignments feel like home
- Travel nursing taxes
- Licensing

"Travel nurses get to see great destinations – they can choose to live in the boondocks of Alaska, where there's nothing but dirt roads, or in the center of populated places like Los Angeles"



Everybody wants to go to nursing school and travel. Although there are tons of jobs available, the issue is that instead of 20 nurses applying to one job there are 250 nurses applying to one job.

Travel Nurse Schooling: Learning and Licensing

Choose Your Path: Travel Nurse Education Requirements

There are three ways to become a professional nurse, according to Cheryl J. Grab, the chief academic nursing officer at the PA College of Health Sciences in Lancaster, Pa. Check out these travel nurse schooling and education requirements based on the level of education you wish to pursue!

Diploma Program 2 Years

Diploma programs are typically operated in association with a hospital, and are two or three years in length. These are not very common anymore, and exist mostly in the northeastern part of the U.S.

Associate Degree 2+ Years

Associate degrees typically take about two years to acquire and are offered at community colleges or other similar institutions.

BSN Degree 3+ Years

BSN degrees are the most common path to nursing. BSN degrees are typically three to four years in length and are offered at colleges and universities throughout the country.

No matter which path you choose for travel nurse schooling, all nurses must take the NCLEX-RN exam, which certifies them as a nurse through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

In addition to travel nurse schooling, to work as a travel nurse, you should have at least one year of experience working in the field. The one-year requirement exists mainly because it's important that the travel nurse has prior experience before taking on a temporary position. When they get to their assignment, there may be a very short orientation or none at all. They will be expected to jump into their role and get to work. Hospitals expect travel nurses to arrive and hit the ground running, as well as be an example for new graduates entering the field. Since competition is high for travel nursing jobs, it's best to have even more than one year of experience. According to some recruiters, at least two years of experience is best because it will set you apart from all of the competition. Good clinical references, experience in an acute care facility and up-to-date medical documentation are also very important.

Travel Nurse Schooling: Continuing Education Units

Continuing Education Units are ongoing courses and training that are required of medical professionals in order to maintain a consistent growth in skills and knowledge. Each state has different requirements for how many Continuing Education Units nurses need and how often they should add them in order to remain licensed.

"If you're a first-time traveler, it's important to be flexible. It's likely that you won't get your ideal position for your first assignment," Steve Panzeca, account manager from Ohio-based ProLink Healthcare."

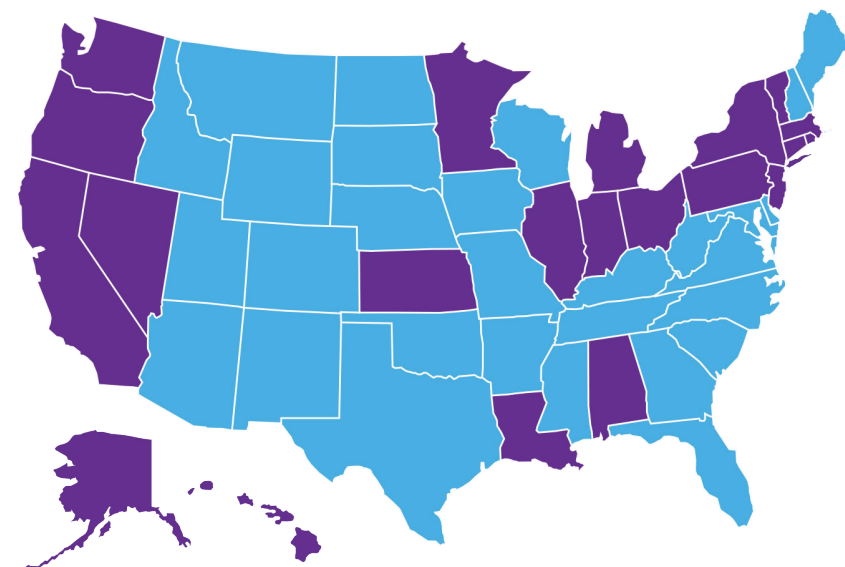


You Need a License for That: Nursing Licensure for Travelers

Nurses have to be licensed in each state in which they wish to practice. For travel nurses, there is a convenient type of licensing referred to as multi-state or compact license. With this, nurses can have a license in multiple states; they just need to maintain them by paying the renewal fees along with the continuing education requirements. Each state, compact or non-compact, has its own renewal cycle. Therefore, your compact license needs to be up-to-date according to the state in which you want to practice, according to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. Most states require a license renewal every two years, but there are a few that require nurses to renew every year, three years, or even four years, the council said.

The updated compact nursing license agreement includes 29 states, as of January 2018. The compact nursing license will allow qualified registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) to practice telemedicine or in-person care across lines of the following states:

Arizona	Iowa	Nebraska	Tennessee
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Hampshire	Texas
Colorado	Maine	New Mexico	Utah
Delaware	Maryland	North Dakota	Virginia
Florida	Mississippi	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Georgia	Missouri	South Carolina	Wisconsin
Idaho	Montana	South Dakota	Wyoming



● Compact License States ● Not participating

Some states have pending legislation and are on the waiting list to be added to the compact nursing license. Those states are Kansas and Louisiana.

If you want to work in any states that are not included in the compact license, you must obtain a license in that individual state.

Please note that this information may have changed since the publication of this guide. To get current information on licensing, please visit the [National Council of State Boards of Nursing](https://www.ncsbn.org/) website.

Dough, Pesos, Loot, The Almighty Dollar: Travel Nurse Salary

Many things affect travel nurse salary, so it's pretty hard to give a true salary range for travel nurses. Although many people ask, how much do travel nurses make, it's hard to pinpoint. Here are some of the main factors that will affect your salary range as a travel nurse.

Six Things That Affect Travel Nurse Salary

1. Specialty

Different specialties have different travel nurse salary standards, depending on the level of education and training required. Holly Fenn, the candidate relations team leader for Nebraska-based Fusion Medical Staffing, LLC, says that it's a myth that all travel nurses get paid the same regardless of the work they do. For example, a med-surg nurse is not going to make the same amount of money as a neuro nurse. When it comes to travel nursing, your modality impacts your pay more than your years of experience.

2. Location

Depending where your assignment is, this can impact your travel nurse salary. Some states have higher cost of living, and therefore your salary may not stretch as far. A high cost of living situation is most likely to happen in popular destinations such as Denver or New York City, Fenn said. Another location factor to consider is demand. Some locations, like Florida and Arizona, need more nurses over the winter when the snow birds arrive. Therefore, those states may pay a little extra to fill gaps in care.

3. Schedule

Your travel nurse salary will be affected by the number of hours you're working as well as what shift. For example, no matter what specialty you're working in, night shift nurses tend to get paid more than day shift.

4. Benefits

Benefits are another factor that come into play when weighing out the value of a salary offer. Some agencies offer better benefits than others. When considering a salary offer, also keep in mind all that's included in the offer such as health insurance, housing, etc.

5. Tax options

Aside from benefits, it's also important to consider what your tax options are. For example, if you take a higher hourly taxed salary and sacrifice some of your non-taxed money, your pay package will essentially be lower even though your salary will be higher. Tax-free money is a way to keep more in your pocket. On the flip side to that, if you accept a really low hourly taxed salary and get

"Payscale says that the average hourly wage of a travel nurse is about \$31.69... total pay for a travel nurse ranges from \$45,016 to \$106,077"



more tax-free money, you're going to make more money. However, be careful doing this as the IRS can see it as wage-characterization. Travel nursing taxes and travel can be the hardest part. We'll cover that in more detail in another chapter!

6. Personal situation

Are you traveling with kids? Are you married or single? Your personal situation can also make a big difference on how you measure a salary offer. For example, if you have an agency that's willing to cover the cost of housing for your entire family, that's huge! At the same time, if you do have a family to support your salary might not stretch as far as a single traveler.

Although all of these factors impact salary, websites such as [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com) have tried to answer the question, "how much do travel nurses make?" So, let's look at the numbers. Payscale says that the average hourly wage of a travel nurse is about \$31.69. Based on its calculations, the total pay for a travel nurse ranges from \$45,016 to \$106,077 when considering overtime, bonuses and of course, all of the factors mentioned above.

Regardless of how much money you actually make travel nursing, chances are you will earn slightly more money doing this than you would have as a full-time nurse in one location. To make the most out of your traveling experience, review your contract and salary offer carefully, do the math, and finally, seek assistance from an accountant to make sure all your decimals are in the right place. Doing this will help to ensure you are getting the most money out of each travel nursing assignment.

Looking for your next travel nursing assignment? Check out all of the great [travel nursing opportunities](#) on our site!

Travel Nursing Assignments: Find a Job, Land a Job, and Keep a Job

What You Need to Know About Finding, Landing, and Keeping a Job.

Now that you know the history of travel nursing, some of the pros and cons, the education and licensing you'll need, and the factors that go into travel nursing salaries, it's time to start hunting for the perfect position! That means you'll need a killer resume that's going to make you stand out in a competitive industry. Here's how to find a job, land a job, and keep your travel nursing assignments.

Top Three Travel Nurse Resume Tips

1. Details, details, details!

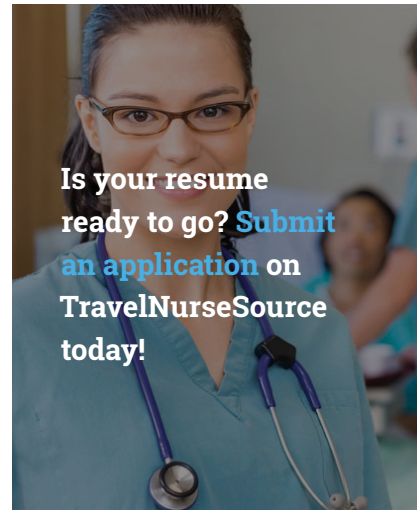
Make sure your resume is as detailed as possible. Not only do you want to include your certificates, certifications, and information about where you've previously worked travel nursing assignments, but dig deeper than that. Include as much as you can about your experiences, such as the number of beds in your unit, patient ratios, what floors you've worked on, and your attendance record. It's also a good idea to mention the size of the hospital and the level of trauma. You want to include several years of work history, as far back as seven, according to some recruiters.

2. Be honest and open

Being as honest and open as possible goes hand in hand with including as much detail as you can. When you're being interviewed for a travel nurse position, interviewing managers want to make sure you can handle the tasks and work load that you'll face at the new hospital. It doesn't do you or the hospital any good if you lie about your experience or knowledge. If you lie about your experience and arrive on site with little, if any, training, it will be obvious really fast. The last thing you want is a travel nurse assignment that doesn't work out because you oversold yourself.

3. Remember references

When you're applying for travel nurse positions, keep in mind that this process happens quickly. You may apply and get a call back just a few hours later, so make sure you have on-hand a list of facilities you've worked for as well as who the charge nurse was while you were there. It's best practice to keep the names and phone numbers of all charge nurses who you've worked under so that you have them readily available to use as references as needed. What hospitals you worked for and how you performed while you were there is much more important to the interviewing manager than which healthcare agency you're with or have used in the past.



Where to Look for Travel Nursing Assignments

Once you have your killer resume ready, the next step is to send it to healthcare agencies and recruiters so that they can place you with a travel job. You can start this process by browsing the internet for specific healthcare agencies or recruiters and send your resume to them directly. Another option for finding jobs is to use a niche job board website such as TravelNurseSource. Using a niche job board allows you to streamline the job search process, because you're able to upload your resume and search for travel nursing assignments in one place. After that, healthcare agencies and recruiters who have jobs that meet your qualifications can find you and give you a call. Although there are many benefits to using a job board site, it's also important to understand how job boards work.

Using a Job Board Website to Find Travel Nursing Assignments

With that said, we'll first go over the benefits of using a job board site and then go into the nitty gritty on exactly how they work.

1. Compare agencies

Job board websites allow you to view [agency profiles](#). This way you can easily compare what benefits each agency offers, where they're located, and what they're all about. This is a lot easier than clicking from website to website on a long Google search. Trust us when we say there are many healthcare staffing agencies out there!

2. Compare benefits

Like we mentioned above, having a list of agencies all in one place allows you to easily see what benefits each agency offers and what agency fits best with your needs and wants. This will quickly give you a good idea of what you can expect from a travel job and what benefits are considered extra perks.

3. Compare jobs across states

TravelNurseSource allows nurses to search for jobs by state or specialty, which helps to narrow down the search. This can give you a general idea of which states have the most travel nurse assignments and which states have less of a need.

4. Access to recruiters

You also have access to [lists of recruiters](#) on a job board site. These recruiters are all knowledgeable in the industry and extremely important when it comes to life as a travel nurse. You can browse through the list and find a little bio about each recruiter. This will help you get an idea if they're someone you'll mesh well with or not.

5. Agencies and recruiters can find you

Of course, you can just browse the job board site, but if you choose to fill out an online application form, healthcare agencies and recruiters who meet your criteria, or who know of jobs you're looking for, can find you. This is great,

because you can apply and sit back waiting for the phone to ring. And it will. With that said, this brings us to understanding how job boards work.

Travel Nurse Assignments: How Niche Job Boards Work

When you fill out an online application on a job board website, it stores your information in a database. Agencies and recruiters who are paying to use the job board services have access to your information, which is how they call you.

If, for some reason, you are no longer interested in travel nursing, you should remove your information from the job board site. However, keep in mind that recruiters and agencies could already have your information saved somewhere within their own private database. Therefore, sometimes you will continue to receive calls after you don't want them anymore.

If you receive unwanted calls about travel nursing, here's how to handle it:

- 1. Call the job board and let them know that you want your information removed.** This way the job board will take your application down and stop distributing it to healthcare agencies or recruiters moving forward.
- 2. Once you call the job board site, remember that there are agencies and recruiters out there who still have your information.** If you are getting calls from them about jobs, don't simply ignore them. They will keep calling. We highly recommend that you answer those calls and let them know you're no longer interested and ask to be removed from their list. This way the agencies and recruiters will remove you from their call list and you'll save yourself a lot of wasted time.

Now that we've covered the basics of job board websites, let's get back to the big picture when it comes to the job search.

When you are searching for the perfect job, know that there are two different ways that a healthcare agency will help hospitals fill nursing positions. The first way is that the healthcare agency will work directly with the hospital. The hospital will tell the agency exactly what position they need filled, they'll work out a contract and the agency will find a nurse. The second way is that the agency works through the hospital's vendor. A vendor is similar to an agency except that the vendor has a contract directly with the hospital deeming them the hospital's only point of contact for staffing. The vendor will then work with different staffing agencies to place nurses at the hospital. The most convenient way to land a nursing job is when the healthcare agency is working directly with the medical facility, because there are no vendor fees and job acceptance tends to happen faster. With vendor jobs, there is more competition between candidates, Lauren Alston, a recruiting manager for Indiana-based [Medical Staffing Solutions LLC](#) said. Nurses should expect an answer within 72 hours of applying to a travel position, but some vendors take longer. The best advice that Alston could give when it comes to the job search – start searching for your next travel assignment halfway through your current assignment.

“Start searching for your next travel assignment halfway through your current assignment.”



Another important thing to note when looking for travel nursing jobs is how competitive the market is. Certain destinations are more competitive than others, so consider going places that others are not willing to go. This can help you not only get a job faster, but also earn higher pay, according to a Ohio-based ProLink Healthcare Account Manager Luke Neilheisel. Another ProLink account manager, Deb Simpkins, chimed in that when searching for jobs, have an open mindset about why you want to travel. "My happiest travel nurses are in it for the adventure and to experience new challenges and environments. Sometimes locations you never thought of going to end up being your favorite assignments," Simpkins said. "Also remember not all contracts are the same. Location, time of year, changes in the market are all factors in the pay you'll receive."

With that said, here are five steps to take in order to find the perfect travel nurse job:

Five Tips for Finding Travel Nursing Assignments

1. Find a good recruiter/agency that you trust

When searching for your ideal agency, be sure to exhaust all of your options. Do a simple Google search, use a job board website like TravelNurseSource, or even call agencies or recruiters that current travelers recommended to you. No matter how you decide to start your search, the end goal is to find an agency and a recruiter that you work well with. Don't be shy. Ask the recruiter for referrals from other travelers to give you a better feel for what your experience will be like with them. Consider what benefits the agency offers and how easy both the agency and the recruiter are to get in touch with during your correspondence with them. Your relationship with your recruiter is going to be essential to your success, according to the travel nurses interviewed for this guide. Because of the importance of the relationship between a travel nurse and a recruiter we decided to outline a list of things to look for in a recruiter!

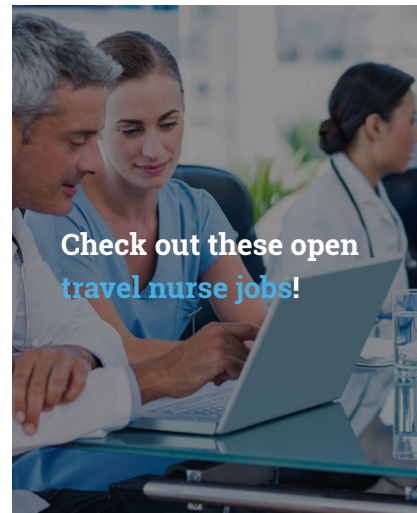
Your Recruiter Should Be...

- **Personable**

Not only should your recruiter be a good communicator, but the two of you should click. It's essential that your recruiter is personable and that you have a friendly and open relationship with them. If you don't feel like you're being open and honest with your recruiter or vice versa, your chances of working well together and finding you successful travel assignments are unlikely.

- **Available**

Not only should your recruiter be friendly and easy to talk to, but they should also be available when you need them. If they're constantly forgetting to respond to emails or not answering their phone, this is a red flag. You need your recruiter to be available to you. The travel nursing industry moves at a fast pace and there's no time to play games or phone tag with your recruiter.



- **Knowledgeable**

The third quality you want to look for in a recruiter is knowledge. You want to find a recruiter who is a veteran in the industry and knows the ins and outs. A knowledgeable recruiter will know more healthcare facilities, will have had more success in placing nurses, and will be able to show you the ropes. As a new travel nurse, your recruiter is essentially your life line in the industry, so pick a good one!

2. Know your strengths and goals in travel nursing

It's important to know what you want out of travel nursing and what you have to offer as a travel nurse. For example, if you don't have any experience working in a large healthcare facility, make sure that your recruiter is aware of that and seek jobs that are similar to what you know and are comfortable with. You can gradually move to larger hospitals as you gain experience, but the last thing you want to do is land a job that puts you in over your head. [Moving to a new place](#), starting a new job, and settling in are hard enough. You shouldn't have to stress over your work environment as well. Also, know ahead of time what your priorities are – location or pay. Dream destinations like [Hawaii](#) don't always offer the highest pay, so know what you want before starting out.

3. Do your own research so you're not going in blind

Do your own research when you go into travel nursing. Don't just take a recruiter or agency's word for it, look into it on your own. For example, talk to an accountant about how [travel nurse taxes](#) will work specific to your situation. If your agency offers housing, make sure you do your research on how much they pay for, what the location is like, and the general quality of the housing overall.

4. Be responsive and honest

If your recruiter is calling you about a job, answer it! Don't be hard to get in touch with, because travel nursing assignments go quickly. If you don't answer first, someone else will. You also should not try to make yourself sound better or more knowledgeable than you actually are. The key to having a genuine and beneficial travel experience is to always be honest. You can't always control if the people around you are telling you the truth, but you can control the accuracy in how you present yourself to them. In a perfect world, both sides will be honest and forthcoming, and your travel experience will be exactly as it was promised to be.

5. Plan ahead so you have ongoing assignments

The trick to being a successful travel nurse is to continually have assignments lined up so your pay and travel is consistent. Most of the experts we spoke with suggested to [start looking for a new travel assignment](#) about six weeks prior to when you want to start working. So basically, about halfway through your travel assignment, which is typically 13 weeks, your recruiter will start helping you to find and start the paperwork for your next travel assignment. This gives you time to decide on a location and find a position that you want, as well as start on the paperwork and interview process. The ideal time frame is about four to six weeks in advance of when you want to start your new contract.

Interview Tips to Land Travel Nursing Assignments

Hopefully, a killer resume and applying to jobs will lead to that anticipated phone call about a job. Once that happens, next comes the interview process. This is critical in landing the travel nursing job of your dreams, so consider these tips from people who know the ins and outs of travel nursing interviews!

Three Interview Tips to Land Travel Nursing Assignments

1. Be available

When someone calls you [about an interview](#), know that time is of the essence. Be available when they want to interview you, because if you're not, chances are another qualified candidate will be.

2. Be honest

Just like you want to be honest on your resume, being open and honest during the interview is also equally important. Remember that you're most likely chatting on the phone or via Skype, so this makes it a little more challenging to gauge someone's personality and sincerity.

3. Ask questions

Ask a lot of questions! Asking a lot of questions will show the agency and recruiter that you are genuinely interested in the position and want to succeed if you are the chosen candidate.

Shary Price, Marketing Director for Ohio-based [Advantage RN](#), was kind enough to share some [questions you should ask](#) during your travel nursing interview!

Top 10 Travel Nurse Interview Questions

- Where is the hospital located?
- Who will I report to and what is their name and title?
- What are the shifts/rotations and floating requirements for the position?
- What type of patients are on the unit and how many beds are in the unit/hospital?
- Is there overtime availability?
- What will the on-call responsibilities be for this position?
- How will scheduling work for weekend and holidays?
- What is the nurse-to-patient ratio for this position?
- How many other travelers will be in the unit/hospital?
- What is the start date?

Travel Nursing Assignments: Before You Go Checklist

Before starting a new travel nursing job ask your recruiter exactly what you need upon arrival. Requirements can vary depending on the healthcare facility, so it's important to know exactly what is expected of you on the first day. With that said, here's a general outline of what you might need before you leave for your next travel nursing assignment:

Before You Go: Checklist

1. Make sure you have all of the immunizations you need...
 - Hepatitis B
 - Influenza
 - Tetanus
 - All childhood immunizations
2. Your packing list should include things like...
 - Clothing and shoes, including your uniforms and work shoes!
 - Personal care items like toiletries
 - Entertainment like books, magazines and electronics
 - Medications
 - Houseware including pillows, blankets, and other things to make you feel at home
 - Car prep. If you're [driving to your assignment](#), make sure your car is ready for the road trip!
3. Don't forget important documentation such as...
 - Birth certificate
 - Social Security Card
 - Insurance Cards (auto, health, etc.)
 - Health Information/Prescriptions
 - Tax Documentation
 - Copies of your contract and assignment information

Finding Your Home Away from Home: Travel Nurse Housing

So, you've landed a job and you start in a week. Now – where will you live?

There are two ways to find travel nurse housing. The easiest way to find a place to live as a travel nurse is through your healthcare agency. Agencies typically have contracts with large rental companies in cities where they're placing nurses. Typically, they can give you a housing assignment that will last your entire contract, is furnished, and is close to the hospital in which you'll be working. It's highly recommended to take assigned housing on your first gig. However, more seasoned travel nurses venture out to [find their own housing](#). In this situation, the agency gives them a stipend, or a housing budget, to work with. They then are responsible for finding their own place to live and paying for it with the money allocated to them. Some travel nurses have unique situations, such as those with pets or those who want to bring their [families](#) along. No matter your situation, finding housing can be challenging, so here are five tips for finding your own housing as a travel nurse!

Five Tips for Finding Your Own Travel Nurse Housing

1. Use online resources

There are plenty of resources online for finding travel nurse housing. There are traditional rental property resources you can use, such as [Airbnb.com](#). There are also online forums specifically for travel nurses, such as [Gypsy Soul Travel Nurse Housing Options](#), where people post housing opportunities. You can also use other sites like Craigslist if you are brave enough.

2. Do your research

When looking for housing in a new city, do your research. Make sure you know the going rate of housing in a particular area, so you can easily identify a scam. Also, look into the different neighborhoods and [crime ratings](#) so that you don't end up in the wrong part of town.

3. Know your budget

It's important to know your budget or how much of a stipend for housing you will be receiving. You don't want to get stuck with expensive housing that your stipend doesn't cover, because then the rest of your rent will be coming out of your salary. Travel nursing jobs are lucrative, but it's important to pay attention to your spending so that you can make the money stretch even further.

4. Follow your instincts

When you're looking for temporary housing, scams are inevitable. If you see something that is super cheap or seems too good to be true, it probably is. Follow your instincts during your housing search and don't rush into something

that doesn't feel right.

5. Don't wait until the last minute

As you probably gathered by reading tips one through four, finding housing on your own can be really [challenging](#). There are lots of layers to finding the right housing for your travel assignment, so don't wait until the last minute to start your search. As soon as you think you know where you're going next, start researching neighborhoods, and figure out where you'll be searching specifically. This will make the process a lot easier, than trying to force pieces to fit in a hurry.

Checklist for Travel Nursing Assignment Arrival

Once you arrive at your assignment, there are a few things you want to check out right away to make sure your housing is in order.

1. Evaluate your housing assignment

Make sure that everything in your housing assignment is in good condition. Make note of any damages, so you don't get accused of it later. Also, make sure all of the appliances work and that the home is in acceptable condition.

2. Familiarize yourself with the area

Find out where the mailbox is, where to take out your trash, and how to contact maintenance should you have any issues. Also find out where your bank, pharmacy and grocery store are located.

3. Practice driving to your new work location

Practice driving to your new work location so you're positive you know how to get there on the first day. This is also helpful because you can scope out what the traffic is like. There's nothing worse than getting lost, stuck in unexpected heavy traffic, and/or being late for work on the first day.

Serious Schmoozing: The Benefits of Travel Nurse Networking

The one thing that will help you move forward in your travel nursing career and open future opportunities for you is networking

In travel nursing, if you don't schmooze, you lose. If you think about it, travel nursing puts you in the perfect position to meet people of various backgrounds and levels within the healthcare industry. Networking will be a critical part of your career as a travel nurse. Here are three benefits of travel nurse networking and five tips on how to be successful at schmoozing.

Three Benefits of Travel Nurse Networking

1. More industry contacts

Every time you relocate to a new assignment, it's another great networking opportunity. Most importantly, it's a chance to meet more industry contacts, so it's important to keep track of everyone you meet. Having more industry contacts is a benefit because, if for some reason assignments are slow or perhaps you want to return to a previous hospital for a permanent position, you can pull out those nifty contacts. You never know when a quick phone call to someone you met months or even years ago is going to be helpful.

2. New job opportunities

As we hinted above, networking can lead to more job opportunities. Perhaps you'll meet someone on [assignment in Vermont](#) who can then connect you to a new contract in California. The more you talk to people, the more you'll learn about where the top jobs are. Travel nursing is a niche industry, so it's important to be in the know.

3. Maintain lasting connections

The third benefit to networking in travel nursing is that you can meet people who you'll connect with for a lifetime. Whether they become a close friend, a mentor, or an idol who inspires you in your career, networking can help you meet critical connections. A successful networker doesn't just meet someone once and forget about them, but they know how to make those connections last.

With that said, here are five tips on how to be successful at schmoozing.

How to be Successful at Schmoozing

It is not enough just to show up to networking events and exchange business cards or phone numbers. You have to make your time networking count. Here are five tips for [how to be successful](#) at networking.

1. Don't be late

It may be tempting to be late, because it's awkward to be the first one in the room. This is especially the case for people who are naturally anxious. Regardless of your reasons, you should do your best not to be late. Being on time makes a good impression and those who are serious about their career will also be on time. The last thing you want is for an important contact to notice that you strolled in late to the party.

2. Smile and relax

If you look uncomfortable and unfriendly, people are unlikely to approach you. It's important to relax the best you can and to smile! Although networking events can sometimes be dry, you don't want to look bored or be daydreaming about pizza and Netflix. Body language is telling, and it's important to be an enthusiastic schmoozer.

3. Talk about your passion

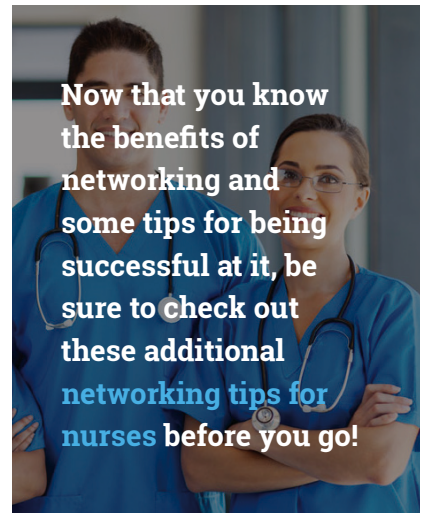
If there's one way to get people's attention, it is to talk to them about your passion. That will help you to relax, be yourself, and say something interesting. Hopefully, if you're a travel nurse who is networking, you're passionate about nursing and traveling and so is the person you're talking to. Finding a common ground for conversation will help to take the edge off.

4. Ask good questions

With that said, it's also important not to dominate the conversation. If you're a talker, be aware of that and try to tone it down so that the other person can get a word in. If you're talking at someone, that can be overwhelming for them. Make sure you ask them questions and learn as much about them as they learn about you.

5. Follow-up

When you finally get home, kick off your shoes, and veg out – don't breathe that sigh of relief quite yet. Your networking isn't finished just because the event ended. The most important part about networking is following up with the connections you've made afterwards. Try to remember what you discussed at the event that you can reference in your follow-up, and do it within a day or two so that you're still fresh in their mind.



Tax Hacks: What You Need to Know About Travel Nurse Taxes

What's that old, but famous, saying? "In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

Well, unfortunately travel nurses can see the country and escape the monotony of full-time employment, but they cannot escape paying taxes. To make matters worse, travel nurse taxes are probably the most challenging and disliked part about travel nursing. Taxes and travel nursing can be very complicated, so it's best to consult an accountant for assistance. Although your recruiter will most likely give you direction when it comes to taxes, they probably only know very basic information that may not apply to your scenario. Instead, it's important to do your own research and be sure that you are doing everything correctly. Here are some basic steps for filing taxes as a travel nurse.

Tips for Travel Nurse Taxes

1. Establish your tax home

When establishing your tax home, you have to think of home in a different context than you do traditionally, according to Joseph Smith, president and founder of Nebraska-based TravelTax, LCC. For example, your tax home isn't necessarily where you have your legal ties and keep all of your things. Your tax home is more like a money home – it's the place where you earned the most income throughout the course of a year. Now, you're probably thinking – if I'm traveling all the time, how does that work? Well, there are things you can do so that you are certain you know where your [tax home](#) is.

2. Keeping a tax home

In order to have a tax home you must meet at least two out of these three requirements:

1. Have regular employment in that area
2. Have a permanent, physical residence in the area
3. Don't abandon your tax home, meaning you spend at least 30 days a year there

Keep in mind that an area for a tax home is a certain radius that can also cross state lines. The area is typically defined by what a reasonable commute to work would be, which can range from 45 to 100 miles, depending on traffic, or about 90 minutes. Basically, could you drive to work and back in one day?

3. Know what items you can write off

Once you have a tax home established, there are certain expenses you can write off each year on your taxes. These expenses are the compilation of costs you have as a result of traveling for your job. You only qualify for these deductions if you have an established tax home, according to Smith. Deductions that you can receive include transportation (the trip to and from travel assignments as well as any hotel stays); meals you buy while traveling; any expenses you spend on housing that are duplicate expenses to your tax home.

Once again, it is important to consult a tax advisor to make sure you're doing this correctly. Don't just guess or take chances when it comes to travel nurse taxes!

Chapter 9

A Day in the Life of a Travel Nurse

It's hard to describe the average nurse lifestyle, because there are so many different types of travel nurses out there!

There's your solo traveler, your married traveler, people travel nursing with a family, and even those who are travel nursing with pets. Here we'll break down the different types of travel nurse life options.

Travel Nursing with a Family

Travel nursing with a family is unique, because there's so much to consider. Where will your children attend school? What daycare options will be available while you're at work? Where will your spouse find work? Will you be able to find a home that's big enough? Although it can be more challenging than the single travel nurse life, it's just as rewarding! Some people traveling with a family choose to live in an RV and homeschool their children so that they don't have to worry about finding new schools each assignment. They relocate every 13 weeks or so, and their children gain many various experiences from life on the road. If RV life isn't for you, some agencies provide housing for travel nurses with families. You just have to let them know ahead of time!

The only way that travel nursing with a family will be too difficult to accomplish is if your spouse doesn't have a job that allows him or her to work remotely. Although technology has opened doors for those looking to live a transient lifestyle, there are certain career paths that simply can't go on the road. However, you can always take a travel assignment that's close enough to home so that you can still see your family intermittently while you are working as travel nurse. If there's a will, there's a way! You just have to talk about it with your spouse and decide what works best for you and your family. Read this [travel nurse blog](#) to learn more about additional things to consider when traveling with a family.

Travel Nursing with a Pet

Just because you're single, doesn't mean you have to travel alone! However, if you're going to bring your pet along with you on your travel nurse adventure the first step is making sure that your housing situation allows pets. Secondly, be aware that you may be charged an additional fee if you want to bring your pet on your next travel assignment. The breed and size of your pet may also impact whether or not they can join you on the road.

Still curious about travel nurse life? Learn more from real travel nurses and check out these exclusive travel nurse interviews!

"Want to do travel nursing with your family? Live in an RV and homeschool your children!"



Solo Travel Nurse Life with Erin Schroeder

Meet Erin Schroeder. She works in stepdown, med/surg units and has been traveling solo as a nurse since 2010. Pictured above is Schroeder on a travel nurse assignment touring the Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood, in Burbank, California, where visitors can actually hold Oscars!



"I like the variety. I don't like to feel like I'm doing the exact same thing, otherwise I'm not learning anything new."

- Erin Schroeder



At the time of this interview, Erin Schroeder was on a travel assignment in Charleston, West Virginia. She is originally from Cleveland, so she likes to spend part of her travel career close to home. Before West Virginia, she spent nine months in southern California. Schroeder described her new travel assignment in West Virginia as an "enormous change" from her time in California. Yet, constant change is what she loves most about travel nursing, which is why she often switches location and specialty.

"I like the variety. I don't like to feel like I'm doing the exact same thing, otherwise I'm not learning anything new."

Here's what Schroeder had to say about travel nursing!

What are the Benefits of Travel Nursing?

The biggest benefit to travel nursing is change. Schroeder says you can do anything for 13 weeks. If you don't love it, look further. If you do love it, stick around. As a travel nurse, when you start to worry about the politics of the floor – this person doesn't like that person – then it's perfect, because you know it's time to move on. Plus, there are no staff meetings when you're a travel nurse and the pay is great!

What are the Challenges of Travel Nursing?

Schroeder admitted there are some challenges to travel nursing. For example, every hospital has a different culture. Although they teach you in nursing school about the culture of nursing, until you go from hospital to hospital and see how they do things – how they meet obstacles they're faced with – you can't quite fully grasp culture. In

West Virginia (a very rural area) the opioid epidemic has hit hard, and it has broken down the healthcare system there. There are patients who used to be nurses but aren't anymore because of drugs. There's also not the same respect towards nurses in West Virginia as there is in other cities and states.

"I'm currently on a floor where most of the staff on any given night are travel nurses, because the hospital can't retain its staff."

West Virginia isn't the only rural area that Schroeder has worked. She took an assignment in Alaska and at one point she worked as a nurse on a reservation in Arizona. Despite the challenges of these different assignments, "It's super interesting to see how people cope with such extreme situations," Schroeder said.

Another challenge is getting from place to place. For Schroeder, who chooses to drive to her assignments, she deals with traffic and getting lost. A second challenge, after adapting to new cultures, is learning how long your commute is going to be and getting that feel for each new location.

Since Schroeder is from Ohio, she doesn't qualify to use the compact license program. Instead, she has to apply for a license in each state that she wants to work in. The wait time for a state license depends on the state, but the longest she's had to wait is about six weeks. She uses a database called [Nursys.com](https://nursys.com), which allows her to keep track of her licenses in once place.

What Advice Would You Give Someone Starting Out?

"Make sure you love your recruiter. Make sure you have a super good relationship with the person who's going to find you the next job," Schroeder said. She said that you always want to make sure the recruiter is listening to what you're saying and that they know where you want to go. For example, for Schroeder, it's not always about the money but more about what's going to be fun – and her recruiter knows that. She added, "Pick someone who knows what you're looking for, who knows what you want to do, and is actually listening."

She also noted that most interviews happen over the phone, so neither party has to be entirely honest. You won't know until you show up for your assignment exactly how things will work out. The person interviewing you could tell you that staffing ratios are beautiful, but they might not be. Her advice – always be honest and know when you go into things that not everything might be what you expect.

"You will always feel like you're starting blind. I don't know if there's any perfect way to go in. There are always questions you don't know to ask. I still feel like sometimes I get a little bit surprised at a location. Issues will pop up. Make sure you can roll with it. Figure out how you're going to cope with them. Issues you have in the very beginning are minor and they will work themselves out. My advice is, wander into those situations blindly and be surprised. That's how you learn if you're going to cut it as a travel nurse."

What are the Benefits to Using a Recruiter?

As she stated above, the benefit to using a recruiter is having someone who knows what you want and has the time to help you find the perfect assignment. They also

know more than you do, and talk to a lot of people in the industry. Schroeder's example – she had no interest in taking a travel assignment in Delaware, but her recruiter insisted that she did. It turned out to be a blast and she learned a lot at the hospital she worked at. That experience made her grateful for her recruiter relationship. It might take you some time to find that perfect relationship though, so there will be times when you have to dump your recruiter, so to speak. That's the number one thing people find super awkward, Schroeder said. They could like their recruiter but not the agency. She compared cutting ties with a recruiter to feel like a very awkward break up.

Real Talk About Picking an Agency

When it comes to selecting an agency, you have to know what's most important to you. For Schroeder, she started out with a really big company, and she felt more like a number than a person. She learned through that experience that she wanted to work with a smaller agency, because she didn't like feeling like a number. With a smaller agency, she can call payroll and they would know who she was and have built a very personal relationship with her. She also likes having her recruiter available when she needs her. She might not have as good of benefits or pay with her current agency, but at least that piece of her life as a traveler is consistent and reliable.

"At the end of the day it was the recruiter that sold me," Schroeder said.

Tips for Meeting New People in a New Town

"Meeting people... I don't feel like I worry about it. I'm okay with going and doing something by myself," Schroeder said. Plus, working as a nurse is pretty social as it is, so it's good to get some alone time in. She often tells patients, some of whom have never lived anywhere else, that she's new to town. They tell her what to see and do. "There are always people around who are willing to talk about what they do for fun. I don't know if I've ever been anywhere where they weren't excited to have a travel nurse. I've met so many good people," Schroeder said. "You're immersing yourself into an entire area, so just ask. People are happy to tell you about cool stuff to do, and they're happy to take you to do a bunch of things."

Not only does she rely on patients, but also on coworkers. She says you'll become friends with them or you'll become enemies with them. When you do make friends with other travel nurses, and there's a group of you together who are anxious to explore, there's always mayhem and chaos to discover. "I've never had any trouble finding interesting things to go do," Schroeder said.

As far as maintaining relationships with people back home, Schroeder said her friends are used to her popping up and disappearing. She has longstanding friendships though, so they usually pick up right where they left off.

How Competitive is it to Find an Assignment?

Although competition is high in the travel nursing industry, Schroeder says she never has trouble getting accepted to the assignment she wants. She attributes that to her recruiter. She only applies to jobs that she's confident she's a good fit for and she doesn't usually apply to jobs in areas that are really hard to get into. She used Napa Valley as an example. "Know what you're good at and go for it," Schroeder said.

How Far in Advance Do You Look for New Assignments?

Your first travel assignment will take the longest to gain because there's so much paperwork and benefit information to go over. Plus, you have to tell the agency the story of your life as a nurse. Once you build that initial relationship with an agency, it will most likely be that they update your file with your newest assignment and things will move faster. Schroeder and her recruiter start talking about her next assignment when it's about six weeks away. When she's down to one month left at her current assignment, she already knows where she's going next.

Additional Advice for First Timers

Taxes...

It's best to have a permanent residence if you can. So, for example, Schroeder uses her parents' home as her permanent residence. That's where her mail goes and then they can forward it on to her wherever she is in the country. She knows of other travel nurses who rent their house out while they're away. For tax purposes, she does have to pay rent, so pays something towards her parents' bills so that it qualifies. You can learn more about taxes and travel nursing within this guide, but talking to an accountant about specifics is highly recommended.

Housing...

Schroeder highly recommends using the housing that agencies provide. This way you're set up with housing that is already furnished and typically in a reasonably safe area. Some people find their own housing on Craigslist – but, she mentioned that she doesn't feel comfortable with that.

Deciding on a destination...

"I completely admit that I am a straight up snow bird at this point. I don't see the need to be hanging out in Cleveland or Wisconsin in the middle of January or February," Schroeder said. Yet, she admits that she likes seasons, so she wouldn't want to live in California all the time either. This is why every contract she signs is what she refers to as a "searching contract" in the beginning. She always starts off with a 13-week assignment and then she can decide if she wants to extend her stay or move on. She also tries to give herself some breaks throughout the year. For example, she planned a trip to Iceland around Thanksgiving and sometimes she tries to take an assignment near home or take time off to go home just to catch up and see family and friends.

There are so many things that can impact the quality of the experience you're going to have at an assignment, from the quality of the hospital to tourism options to weather to the people you meet there. Each assignment gives you a unique experience. For example, "When was the last time you got to hold a head together while somebody stapled it?" Schroeder asked. For her, that was a small hospital in Alaska where she had to do everything from her typical med/surg specialty to sometimes even labor and delivery.

"Every assignment brings you something different, but I don't know that there's one place I loved more than all the others," Schroeder said. "Now I get to be a nurse and be a tourist on my days off."



Schroeder got to see bears swimming at a bear preserve at Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park while on a travel nurse assignment in Alaska. "We took a sea plane into the park and had to wait for a bear to pass further along before we could get ashore," Schroeder said. "The summer is so full of bears they do a live stream [on social media] so that people can watch the bears catch salmon. They make you take a bear safety class."

New to Travel Nurse Life with Kristle Slason



Meet Kristle Slason. She works in the emergency room and has been traveling as a nurse for about one year.

"I had the opportunity to go and do it [travel nursing], so I said, you know what, I'm never going to get this opportunity again so I'm going to take it."

- Kristle Slason



At the time of this interview, Kristle Slason was on a travel assignment in North Platte, Nebraska. She is originally from Arizona and has worked as a nurse for seven years. She's always worked in emergency care and has even worked as a [flight nurse](#). She chose to switch to [ER travel nursing](#) because she was burning out from flight nursing, where she was working 24 hour shifts in an understaffed workforce.

"I had the opportunity to go and do it [travel nursing], so I said, you know what, I'm never going to get this opportunity again so I'm going to take it."

So far on her travels, Slason has been to Sun City, Arizona, St. Louis, Missouri, and now her assignment in North Platte, Nebraska. She recently chatted with a good friend who wants to learn about travel nursing, so she's had some practice sharing the pros and cons, the do's and don'ts. Here's her friendly advice on travel nursing!

What are the Benefits of Travel Nursing?

The first thing that came to mind for Slason when asked about the benefits of travel nursing is the experience you gain. Slason has worked at different level trauma centers on her travels and she's gotten to see how they all flow. "You get a lot more experience in a shorter time frame than you would if you were a staff nurse," Slason said. "You get to see how different areas of the country do things, which is also exciting."

Another benefit to travel nursing is that you get to go places that you wouldn't think that you wanted to go. For example, St. Louis was not on Slason's list. She wanted to go to Texas, but there was nothing available with the pay she needed. "St. Louis called and I was like, I've never been to St. Louis," Slason said. "It was fun to be there. Everyone was super nice there that I worked with. I made friends."

Slason drives to all of her assignments, so she gets to make some stops along the way. For example, a few months ago she hiked the Grand Canyon, from the north rim to south rim – something she may not have made the time to do otherwise.



Kristle enjoying her travel nurse lifestyle at the Grand Canyon

What are the Challenges of Travel Nursing?

The challenge is the “little everyday things that you don’t think of and then you’re like – oh wow, I’m not used to this.”

The biggest challenge Slason is experiencing in her first year of travel nursing is learning to live out of a suitcase and not having all of her belongings with her. Slason admitted that she’s the type of person that packs 20 outfits for five days – you never know what you’re going to need, right?

“That’s kind of why I did it. I knew I was that type of person and I thought, well, let’s try and do something different. Let’s see if I can change that,” Slason said. Also, there are little things that you don’t think about, like when you go to the grocery store in a new part of the country and they don’t have the food you’re used to eating. “Thank God for Amazon Prime,” she joked.

She also admitted she hasn’t quite figured out what makes you more marketable than others as a travel nurse. For example, when she doesn’t get a travel assignment she applies for – why not? “I pretty much just say it’s not meant to be,” Slason said.

What Advice Would You Give Someone Starting Out?

Don’t think that you know everything or what you did in a previous facility is the best way to do things, Slason says, adding that travel nurses should be willing to adapt and change from assignment to assignment. Nobody likes someone new coming and telling them to make changes. The biggest take away is to really enjoy each assignment and get the best out of it by going in and being willing to take the experiences as they come. Although the protocols

and procedures might change, at the end of the day you're caring for patients and that doesn't change. "Sometimes you'll have bad assignments but just chalk it up to, 'What can I learn from this?' and grow and learn for the future," Slason said. "I think every assignment I go to I learn something new. It's kind of a trial by error thing."

What are the Benefits to Using a Recruiter?

Slason has only used one recruiter so far and has only been with one agency. She has no need to change things up because her recruiter is very loyal and she enjoys working with him. For example, he's not constantly checking up on her. He knows that if she wants something, she will text him (which is convenient because she works night shift) and he'll get her the information she needs. Also, she's working with a smaller agency that offers her health insurance and good benefits. "The fact that they have that option for me – I love it," Slason said. In the beginning, she did shop around for a recruiter and an agency and she's satisfied with her choice. She talked to other travelers, learned about their experiences, and found something best suited for her.

How Far in Advance Do You Look for New Assignments?

Usually Slason starts looking for her next assignment about a month before her contract is up. Her recruiter helps her with this process a lot and she lets him do the location hunt. She never uses the housing options through her agency, but finds her own housing. She uses different resources such as Airbnb.com and a few Facebook pages set up for travel nurse housing, such as [Gypsy Soul Travel Nurse Housing Options](#).

Pink Hair and All – Unsolicited Advice for First Timers

At Slason's very first assignment, she had dyed her hair and it had pink in it. She had been on assignment for about two weeks before the manager noticed her hair was pink. The manager asked her to change her hair color. Slason, knowing it would wash out soon, opted not to. She worked until the end of the month and then her contract was cancelled. The hospital still gave her a great review, but it ended with something along the lines of, "unfortunately her hair was pink." Although that was a negative first experience as a travel nurse, it was a learning lesson for Slason.

"I've learned to be a little more diligent," Slason said. "See what everyone else is doing at the hospital and stick to the policies. My hair is currently pink right now, but I knew that I could do it."

RV Ride Along: Travel Nurse Life with Kelley Richards:

Kelley Richards and her husband travel together across the country in their RV to wherever her next nurse assignment is. Originally from Florida, they go home every winter. The rest of the year, they're on the road. At the time of this interview, Kelley was on a travel nurse assignment in West Virginia. [Listen to her first-hand account of what it's like to travel as a nurse!](#)



Kelley Richards and her husband traveling across the country in their RV.

Job Outlook for Nurses Who Travel

Quick Facts about Registered Nurses!

- The median pay as of 2016 was **\$68,450** per year
- **Most Registered Nurses** have a bachelor's degree
- Job outlook for nurses is projected to **increase by 16 percent** from 2014-2024, which is at a much faster average than other occupations.

**Information gathered from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).*

Job Outlook for Nurses Who Travel Based on Data from TravelNurseSource

Most of the people who visit TravelNurseSource are registered nurses who have never worked as a travel nurse before!

"Most of the people who visit TravelNurseSource are registered nurses who have never worked as a travel nurse before!"



Top 10 Most Popular Specialties on TravelNurseSource

1. Medical-surgical
2. ER/Trauma
3. ICU/Critical Care
4. Geriatrics
5. Perioperative
6. Labor/Delivery
7. Home Health
8. Psych
9. Radiology
10. Case Manager

Top 10 States Travel Nurses are Licensed in

1. Florida
2. California
3. Texas
4. Compact License
5. New York
6. Georgia
7. Ohio
8. Pennsylvania
9. Alabama
10. North Carolina

Top 10 States Travel Nurses Want to Work In

1. California
2. Florida
3. Texas
4. Hawaii
5. Alaska
6. North Carolina
7. Georgia
8. New York
9. Colorado
10. Arizona

Most Popular Certifications Travel Nurses Hold

- Basic Life Support
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support or Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program

Travel Nurse Experts: Contributors to the Guide

Travel Nurse Agencies

Indiana-based [Medical Staffing Solutions LLC](#)

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Ohio-based [Advantage RN](#)

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A special shout out
to all of the agencies,
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compile this guide!



Travel Nurses

Kelley Richards, Travel Nurse

Erin Schroeder, Travel Nurse

Kristle Slason, Travel Nurse

Nursing Schools

Cheryl J. Grab, Chief Academic Nursing Officer at the

[PA College of Health Sciences in Lancaster](#)

Accountants

Joseph Smith, President and Founder of Nebraska-based [TravelTax, LCC](#)

Additional Resources

[Professional Association of Nurse Travelers](#)

[National Council of State Boards of Nursing](#)

[International Association for Continuing Education and Training](#)

[Gypsy Soul Travel Nurse Housing Options](#)

[U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

[Entrepreneur](#)