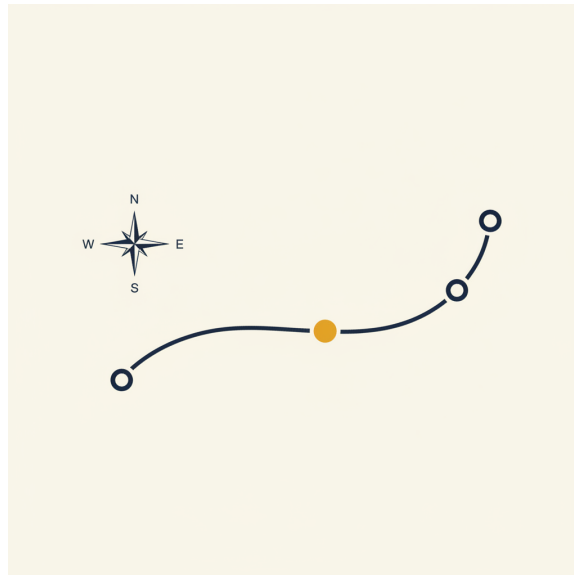




TIER 1 - FOUNDATIONS \* V1.0 -- MAY 2026

# FOR TRAVEL AND EVERYDAY RESEARCH

Where AI shines for trip planning and research, where it lies about current local information, and the verification habits that keep you from booking the wrong hotel.



**BY**

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Anyone planning a trip, comparing services, researching a place, or trying to make sense of a multi-factor everyday decision -- without falling for AI's confident-sounding fiction about local details

15-20 minutes

Free. Forever.

**EDITION**

**AUDIENCE**

**READ TIME**

**COST**

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## CONTENTS

# What's in here

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- 1 The trip-planning trap** **3**  
*You'll see this on social media regularly. Someone asked ChatGPT to plan their week in Italy, and the screenshot of the itinerary looks...*
- 2 The two-pass pattern (travel edition)** **4**  
*Same shape as the big-decisions module, applied to travel:*
- 3 Prompt library -- common research questions** **5**  
*The output: a real planning framework. How to split between 1-2 city bases, how to think about day trips vs overnights, what 'typical'...*
- 4 The specific lies -- what AI gets wrong about travel and local research** **6**  
*These come up over and over. Memorize them. Catch them every time.*
- 5 Three worked sessions** **7**  
*You're going to Lisbon for 7 days with your spouse, no kids, in October.*
- 6 The verification routine before booking or driving** **9**  
*Before you commit money or hit the road, run through this checklist:*
- 7 When AI isn't enough -- and you need a person** **10**  
*Three categories where AI alone won't get you there:*
- 8 Where to go from here** **10**  
*You have the travel + research framework. One module left in the Tier 1 expansion:*

## SECTION 1

# The trip-planning trap

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## "AI gave me an itinerary that was perfect"

You'll see this on social media regularly. Someone asked ChatGPT to plan their week in Italy, and the screenshot of the itinerary looks impressive -- restaurants recommended, day-by-day routing, attractions in optimal order, even hotel suggestions with specific names.

Then they actually go on the trip and three of the restaurants don't exist anymore, two of the museums are closed for renovation, the "5-minute walk" between attractions is actually 45 minutes uphill, and the hotel they were so confidently told was a good deal is double the price they'd been quoted.

The pattern is consistent. AI is genuinely useful for trip-planning structure -- but the specific local details it confidently asserts are often months or years out of date, occasionally invented from pattern-matching, and never reliable enough to act on without verification.

This module is the same two-pass pattern from *AI For Big* and everyday research. AI for the framework. Real sources for the specifics. The difference between a successful trip and a trip you tell stories about for the wrong reasons.

## What you'll have by page 13

By the end of this primer:

- The *AI For Big* **trip-plann** that uses both correctly.
- A *AI For Big* **prompt li** abroad, and road-trip regulations.
- The *AI For Big* **specific li** local rules.
- The *AI For Big* **verificatio**
- **Three worked sessions** -- a vacation, a road trip, a foreign-country language situation.
- The *AI For Big* **honest li**

**AI is a great trip planner and a terrible travel agent. Planning is structuring; travel agency is current local knowledge. Don't confuse the two.**

## SECTION 2

# The two-pass pattern (travel edition)

Same shape as the big-decisions module, applied to travel:

### Two-pass travel planning:

#### Pass 1 -- Structure (AI shines):

- The framework of the trip (how many days, how to split between cities/areas)
- The categories of things to consider (food / culture / outdoor / kids / driving)
- Typical tradeoffs (more cities = more travel days; fewer cities = deeper experience)
- The questions you should be asking yourself
- The kinds of things to look up before booking

#### Pass 2 -- Specifics (AI is dangerous):

- Current hotel prices
- Current restaurant hours, menus, whether they still exist
- Current attraction tickets and availability
- Current local transit schedules
- Current visa, customs, or COVID-style entry requirements
- Real reviews from real people in real time

The structure work saves you 5-10 hours of planning. The specifics-verification takes maybe 60-90 minutes. Together: a week-long trip planned in an afternoon, that actually goes the way you expected.

## SECTION 3

# Prompt library -- common research questions

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## Trip planning

*"I'm planning a 7-day trip to [destination] in [month]. Two adults, no kids. We like food, walking around old cities, occasional outdoor activity, hate being rushed. Walk me through how to think about structuring the trip -- how many cities/areas to cover, what daily rhythms work for travelers like us, what would be the typical tradeoffs we'd face. Don't recommend specific hotels or restaurants -- give me the framework. I'll do the actual booking with current sources."*

The output: a real planning framework. How to split between 1-2 city bases, how to think about day trips vs overnights, what 'typical' looks like for that destination at that time of year. You haven't yet locked anything; you have an opinion to react to.

## Hotel comparison

*"I have three hotel options in the same neighborhood for the same dates: [Option A -- name + brand + rough price tier], [Option B -- same], [Option C -- same]. Walk me through the typical things I should be comparing beyond just price. What are the questions I should look up about each one before deciding? What kinds of red flags should I be watching for in the reviews?"*

This is structure work. The model gives you the comparison framework. Then you go to actual review sites (Booking, Tripadvisor, the hotel's direct site) to do the verification. AI doesn't recommend an option; it gives you the right questions.

## Restaurant research before a trip

*"I'm going to [city] for 4 nights. Walk me through how to actually research good restaurants without ending up with the same TikTok-famous spots everyone else is at. What are the categories of source I should be checking, what's the pattern for finding the locally-loved-but-not-tourist-trapped place, what should I avoid in restaurant articles for that city? Don't give me specific restaurant names -- give me the research framework."*

This is the kind of structuring AI is great at. Specific restaurants you'll find on the actual review sites with current photos and current hours.

## Language help abroad

*"I'm going to [country] and I don't speak the language. Walk me through the realistic situations I'll encounter where a phrase or two would help -- restaurants, transit, basic needs, emergencies. Give me the actual phrases for those situations, including pronunciation if needed. Then walk me through when I should use voice mode on AI to actually translate live versus when I should learn the phrase in advance."*

This is genuinely useful. AI is solid at language basics and the voice-mode live-translation use case is one of its strongest practical features. You'll still want to verify any high-stakes phrases (medical, legal) with a real translator if it matters.

## Road-trip regulations

*"I'm driving from Wisconsin to [destination state] over a 3-day road trip. Walk me through the categories of state-by-state difference I should be aware of -- speed limits, cell-phone laws, fuel costs/availability, weather considerations for that route in [month], and any specific oddities for crossing the states I'll go through. Also tell me the kinds of things you can't reliably know that I should look up day-of."*

This is exactly where AI is honest about its limits when prompted. The output gives you the framework + an explicit "look these up day-of" list. Use that list.

***The questions to ask are AI's job. The current answers are the world's job. Don't ask AI for the current answers -- ask AI for the right questions.***

## SECTION 4

# The specific lies -- what AI gets wrong about tra

These come up over and over. Memorize them. Catch them every time.

**Lie 1 -- Current prices.** Hotel rates, flight prices, restaurant pricing, attraction ticket costs. AI's data is months old. Real prices are now.

Verify on

**Lie 2 -- Current hours and availability.** Restaurant open/closed, museum open/closed, transit schedules. These change seasonally; AI doesn't always know the current schedule.

Verify on

**Google Maps, the venue's website, or a recent review.**

**Lie 3 -- Whether places still exist.** Restaurants close. Hotels rebrand. Attractions get sold or shut down. AI sometimes references places that no longer operate.

Check Go

**"permanently closed" before assuming AI's recommendations are real.**

**Lie 4 -- Reviews.** AI sometimes generates plausible-sounding "reviewer quotes" that aren't from any actual reviewer.

If a quote

**find the source, the quote is probably AI-fabricated.**

**Lie 5 -- Walking times and distances.** AI confidently says "X is a 5-minute walk from Y."

Sometimes that's true; often it's optimistic or based on stale geography.

Verify on

**directions. If you'll have luggage or kids, double the time.**

**Lie 6 -- Local rules and regulations.** Right-of-way oddities, speed-camera locations, parking rules, beach access rules, alcohol open-container laws. AI is pattern-matching from training data that may be wrong for your specific area.

Check th

**anything that has a fine attached.**

**Lie 7 -- Visa, customs, and entry requirements.** These change. AI doesn't always know the current rules.

Verify wit

**Your country's state-department travel-advisory page is also worth checking.**

### The travel verification rule:

For anything that has a fine, a price, a closure date, or an entry requirement attached: don't trust AI alone. Find the authoritative current source.

For everything else (the framework, the categories, the things to consider): AI is great. Lean on it.

## SECTION 5

# Three worked sessions

## Worked session 1 -- A week in a foreign city

You're going to Lisbon for 7 days with your spouse, no kids, in October.

**Pass 1 (structure):** Run the trip-planning prompt from Section 3. Output: framework for splitting time between Lisbon center and a day-trip or two (Sintra is the obvious one), how to handle the hilly terrain, the typical Portuguese meal-time rhythm, when shops close.

**Pass 2 (specifics):** Take the framework to:

- **Booking.com / Hotels.com** for actual hotel availability + prices for your dates
- **Google Maps** for restaurants (filter for 4.5+ stars, see the current photos and current reviews)
- **The official tourism site** for current museum hours and ticket booking
- **A recent travel blog post** from someone who actually went in the last 6 months

You spend an afternoon planning instead of three weekends. The trip goes well because you verified.

## **Worked session 2 -- A long-distance road trip**

Driving from Wisconsin to Asheville, NC. Three days. Family of four.

**Pass 1 (structure):** Run the road-trip prompt from Section 3. Output: framework for which states you'll cross, what the typical fall-weather considerations look like through the Appalachians, the cell-phone-while-driving law differences, the "things to look up day-of" list (gas prices, weather, road closures).

**Pass 2 (specifics):** Day before departure:

- **GasBuddy or your bank's fuel app** for actual gas prices on the route
- **Weather.gov** for the actual forecast (not AI's general "October is usually mild")
- **Google Maps current traffic** for any construction or closures
- **A quick check of any hotel chain you typically use** for the overnight stop

Trip goes smoothly because the structure was set days ago and the specifics were checked the day of.

## **Worked session 3 -- Language help in a country you don't speak**

You're in Spain, you've never studied Spanish. You need to navigate restaurants, transit, an apartment-rental check-in, and one minor medical situation.

**Pass 1 (structure):** Use Section 3's language-help prompt before you go. Output: the 8-10 phrases you'll actually use, the pronunciation guide, when to use voice mode for live translation.

**Pass 2 (specifics):** In the actual moment:

- **Voice mode on your phone** for live translation when someone speaks to you and you don't catch it
- **Google Translate camera mode** for menus, signs, anything written
- **A real-translator service or the hotel's English-speaking staff** for anything medical or legal

Voice mode is one of the genuine wins of consumer AI -- the live-translation experience has gotten quite good in the last two years. Use it freely. Just don't trust it for anything where the wrong word costs you.

## SECTION 6

# The verification routine before booking or driving

Before you commit money or hit the road, run through this checklist:

### Booking / departure checklist:

- [ ]
- [ ]  
your inbox
- [ ]
- [ ]  
ferries) -- booked, confirmation number saved
- [ ]  
currency on arrival
- [ ]  
verified with the official source
- [ ]  
the major rules differences known
- [ ]  
accommodation noted; phrasebook for "I need a doctor" if you don't speak the language
- [ ]

Hotel -- na

Flights --

Restaura

Reservati

Cash and

Travel do

Driving ru

Emergen

Day-of w

This list is not AI's job. It's the verification job. AI got you 90% of the way to organized; this list closes the last 10% that matters.

# 7

## Seven specific lies

AI tells about travel: current prices, current hours, whether places exist, real reviews, walking times, local rules, entry requirements. Verify every one against an authoritative current source.

### SECTION 7

## When AI isn't enough -- and you need a person

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Three categories where AI alone won't get you there:

- **Complex multi-leg international trips with elderly parents, special-needs travelers, or significant medical considerations.** A real travel agent earns their fee here. They have current visibility you can't replicate.
- **Insurance, visas, and immigration that's even slightly unusual.** A real consultant or attorney for the destination country. The "is this gonna be a problem" question deserves a human who can actually be wrong on your behalf.
- **Local recommendations from someone who knows the place.** AI's recommendations are pattern-matched from internet content. A friend who lives there, or a coworker with a vacation home, will give you better signal in 5 minutes than AI in 50.

Within those limits, AI for travel and everyday research is one of the most-used personal applications of the tool. Most trips get planned better and faster. You just have to know which parts to trust and which parts to verify.

### SECTION 8

## Where to go from here

---

You have the travel + research framework. One module left in the Tier 1 expansion:

- **Recovering when AI is wrong** -- the diagnostic procedure. Spot the wrongness -> diagnose what kind -> re-prompt with the diagnosis -> verify the fix. The meta-skill that turns a bad answer into a 5-minute recovery instead of a dead end.

After that, Tier 1 is full at 18 modules.

**Get the next module the day it drops: [theaiguynwi.com/training](https://theaiguynwi.com/training)**

One email per release. No drip. No spam. Opt out anytime.

If you want this same research-and-verify pattern installed across a small business -- for vendor research, supplier comparison, location scouting, or any multi-factor decision the team handles -- that's the consulting offer.

**Reach out: [alexanderjahn79@icloud.com](mailto:alexanderjahn79@icloud.com)**

A short call. Honest scope. We figure out together if it's a fit.

## Closing -- the lock-in line

The trip-planning two-pass pattern saves you most of the planning time without giving you the trip-from-AI-fiction experience. The questions belong to AI; the current answers belong to the actual world. Don't confuse the two and you'll plan better, drive better, and travel better than you have before AI was on the table.

You have the pattern. One more module in this batch.

-- Alex

**Agent Logic --**

Fond du Lac, WI. This is module 17 of 18 in Tier 1 (Personal).

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