

HITCHHIKING AS A TYPE OF TRAVELLING

L. Savytska

I. Dovgun

National University of Food Technologies

Hitchhiking is a means of transportation that is gained by asking people, usually strangers, for a ride in their automobile or other road vehicles. The latter may require many rides from different people. A ride is usually, but not always, free. If the hitchhiker wishes to indicate that they need a ride, they may simply make a physical gesture or display a written sign. In North America and the United Kingdom, the gesture involves extending the hitchhiker's arm toward the road and sticking the thumb of their outstretched hand upward with the hand closed. In other parts of the world, it is more common to use a gesture where the index finger is pointed at the road [1].

There are several types of hitchhiking:

1. Travelling by road motor vehicles: cars, trucks, buses.
2. Travelling by train, either the risky act of train hopping or, as is sometimes possible, with the permission of an engineer or conductor.
3. Travelling by an ocean vessel, often called boat hitching.
4. Travelling by air: planes and helicopters, also called air hitching [2].

Hitchhiking is a historically common (self-policed) practice worldwide and hence there are very few places in the world where laws exist to restrict it. However, a minority of countries have laws that restrict hitchhiking at certain locations. In the United States, for example, some local governments have laws outlawing hitchhiking, on the basis of drivers' and hitchhikers' safety. In 1946, New Jersey arrested and imprisoned a hitchhiker, leading to intervention by the American Civil Liberties Union. In Canada, several highways have restrictions on hitchhiking, particularly in British Columbia and the 400-series highways in Ontario. In all countries in Europe it is legal to hitchhike, and in some places even encouraged. However, worldwide, even where hitchhiking is permitted, laws forbid hitchhiking where pedestrians are banned, such as the Autobahn (Germany), Autostrade (Italy), motorways (the United

Kingdom), or interstate highways (the United States), although hitchhikers often obtain rides at entrances and truck stops [1]. Hitchhiking is probably as old as the wheel and will probably exist as long as people need to move from one place to another [2].

Here are some offers for the hitchhikers:

1. Be prepared to walk all day.
2. Buy a map of the area, so you can determine whether a ride will actually bring you closer to your destination.
3. Learn the language, at least a little.
4. Make sure to carry enough food and drink if you're going for a long trip.
5. Arrange sleeping places.
6. Dress in layers if the weather is uncertain. Be sure that your heavier layer will shield you from cold winds and random showers, but is light enough that it won't weigh you down too much when you remove it.
7. Bring a black marker, a hat, a flashlight, a pocketknife, some sunscreen. These items do not weigh much.
8. It is always wise to bring a towel [3].

People will participate because it's ecological, others because of the economical aspects. Numerous people pick up hitchhikers to get a bit of excitement in their life. For some people hitchhiking starts as a form of extremely cheap transport and then it turns into a lifestyle that allows to do amazing and useful things without being trapped in an office 5 days a week. Some people have this idea that hitchhikers are stinky bums. Of course, at (rare) times hitchhikers can be on the road for more than 24 hours and feel the need for a shower, but others are travelling equipped with laptops, mobile phones, a fresh shave and shower and GPS devices [2].

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hitchhiking>.
2. <http://www.hitchwiki.org/en/Talk:Hitchhiking>.
3. http://www.wikitravel.org/en/Tips_for_hitchhiking.