

How to Hitchhike Safely and Successfully



For many travelers, hitchhiking still seems to get a bad press and many are afraid to give it a go. They're seriously missing out though, and it's often one of the safest, most convenient, fastest and obviously cheapest forms of transport you can do. So, here are the three most essential tips on how to do it safely and successfully.

Appearance

For a start, don't do what this person is doing in the picture. Wearing a hoody or covering your face in any way isn't going to make you an attractive prospect to drivers as they might think you're up to no good. You want to be wearing bright, colorful clothing – especially if you're hitching at dawn or dusk. And don't forget to clean up too – nobody is going to want a dirty, smelly traveler in their car. Make sure you're clean and tidy to maximize your chances of getting a ride.

Location

Knowing where to stand is half the battle for getting picked up, so make sure you do your research before venturing out. Stand in a safe spot somewhere visible – with plenty of space to stop and pull in. Make a

big, bold, professional looking hitch sign to your destination on a bit of cardboard. Drivers will be able to see you much easier and you'll have a stronger chance if you look like you know exactly what you're doing. Confidence, interaction, and a friendly approach are key elements to securing your next lift.

Common Sense

Safety wise, as with traveling anywhere, make sure you tell someone where and when you're going. Hitching in pairs is always a good idea, but don't be put off if you're solo. Remember the cardinal rule – you can *choose* whether or not you get into a vehicle – so use your common sense. If it doesn't feel right, just politely decline. Another car will always come along in a moment. Remember, the chances of someone driving along and wanting to do you harm are very, very slim indeed. Good luck!