

How to be a Good Couchsurfing Guest and Host - Francis Tapon 2014



First, I am super social when I travel. I talk with whomever I'm sitting next to on the bus. I chat with vendors. I banter with people while waiting for a train. I ask for directions even when I'm pretty sure I know where I'm going. The more people you talk to, the more people learn about your journey, the more likely that someone will say, "Hey, if you don't have a place to stay, why don't you stay at my home?"

Second, I meet potential hosts on Couchsurfing.org (see my couchsurfing profile). I adore couchsurfing because it gives me insight into a culture that would be hard to get when you're staying at a hotel or hostel.

It's important that people don't think of couchsurfing as a free roof. Technically, it is; however, the reality is that a guest should always give back economically to the host. If he doesn't, then he's just a leech/freeloader, which is totally uncool. Therefore, it's important that you learn....

How to be a great couchsurfing guest

The worst couchsurfing guest is extremely selfish. The best ones are super generous. Here are several ways you can give back economically to your host. These are ways to give economically without spending money :

Buy food for you AND your host

Cook for your host and clean up afterwards

Treat them to a movie and entertainment

Fill up their car with gasoline

Bring a useful, practical gift: food is best, but once I brought 20 rolls of toilet paper for my host! They loved it, saying, "Finally a gift I can use!")

Clean their house, bathroom, car and/or yard*

Help them repair their house, garden, run errands, babysit*

If you're unwilling to do things like that, then you probably shouldn't couchsurf.

If you're so cheap that you can't treat your host, then stay home or camp.

(Source : <http://francistapon.com/Travels/Advice/How-to-be-a-Good-Couchsurfing-Guest-and-Host>)