



## Shockingly Easy Way to Adjust to Different Countries' Lifestyles:

# Here's Why You'll Want to Do This

**By Kimberly Weitkamp**

**A**s a mobile freelancer, you'll no doubt experience alternative ways of life. Sometimes, that means your schedule in a new country will be different from what you're used to doing in your home country. But the good news is, this isn't a bad thing...

In fact, it's smart to find out when shops are open or when people hang out so you can live more like a local in your new home. The best time to prepare for this newly adjusted lifestyle is before you leave. And the easiest way to do it is with a little research on your new country's scheduling customs so you know what times are ideal for you to work.

### Slower Pace of Life

Here's an example of a different schedule you'll find if you decide to make sunny Spain your new home.

Sure, you can't wait to eat some paella, see some flamenco, and stroll the cobblestoned streets. Keep these scheduling quirks in mind...

If you need to go to the bank, get there before two o'clock. Very few banks outside of the large cities of Madrid and Barcelona are open after two o'clock.

Between two o'clock and five o'clock in the afternoon it's *siesta* time, when everyone gathers in

restaurants or their homes for a large meal and all the shops close.

But you won't want to work or do chores during *siesta* anyway. It's the perfect time to go out and meet locals at a restaurant near your home.

Certain countries have different schedules because they put emphasis on different parts of life. For Spaniards, being social is very important. The stores may close for part of the day, but if you enjoy going out with friends there will always be a place to go, whether you're 20 or 70.

### Different Days Off

Or, maybe you choose Oceania as your home instead of Europe. In New Zealand, each region has a special holiday. Since you're a mobile freelancer, you can take those days off and enjoy the festivities.

It won't matter that the shops are closed. You can:

- Get to know some native New Zealanders
- Learn some local history
- Visit points of interest
- Celebrate the local holidays with some new friends

No matter where you choose to live or travel as a mobile freelancer, there's resources to help you learn about a country's hours of operation before you leave. One way resource is the [Time and Date website](#). Select the country you will live in, and a calendar will load with all the holidays for the year.

When you arrive prepared for a different schedule, it's easier to adjust. Don't miss out on meeting locals and enjoying your mobile freelancer life. Learn the important holidays and different hours of work and play.

Bon voyage! ■

## the barefoot writing challenge

### Congratulations to the Winner of the June Barefoot Writing Challenge!

Last month's Challenge was to write an essay that answered this question:

***Tell us about one of your passions and explain why you love it.***

The submissions we received were filled with fascinating stories of passions outside the *writer's life*. But one writer's submission not only shared a passion and the related life-lessons, it also gave the flipside of the coin with a thoughtful commentary on what it's like to no longer be able to follow that passion. Go to our [Barefoot Writing Challenge Winners Page](#) to see who won!

**Win \$100 if Your Essay is Chosen in Our July 2016 Challenge:**

***If you were stranded on a deserted island and could send out one message in a bottle, what would you write in that message and why?***

Send your entries to [Contest@TheBarefootWriter.com](mailto:Contest@TheBarefootWriter.com) by midnight ET on **July 18<sup>th</sup>**.

The Barefoot Writer team will award the winning entry \$100!

Please submit entries as a Microsoft Word attachment and limit your essay to 500 words or less.