



## Hitchhiking In Europe Conversation

**ran into:** to unexpectedly see someone

**Joe:** Hey, you know I **ran into** John today and he's gonna actually be doin' some travelin' in Europe. He's, uh, he says he's gonna spend a lot of time in Prague.

**David:** Oh, Prague's awesome. Ah . . . did I tell you I lived there?

**get out of here:** are you serious?

**Joe:** No, **get out of here**. You never told me that.

**David:** Yeah, I lived in Prague about 15 years ago.

**Joe:** Oh, whoa, du-, what were you doing there?

**end up:** to go to a place last

**David:** Well, I was traveling. I didn't actually know that I would **end up** in Prague. I was just gonna do whatever came along.

**Joe:** Wait, where'd you start out traveling?

**David:** I got a one way ticket to Amsterdam.

**Joe:** [laugh] Oh, nice.

**chick:** girl or woman

**go out with:** date

**look her up:** contact her

**David:** And one of the only people that I knew in Europe was this **chick** that I used to **go out with**. So I figured I'd **look her up**. I knew she had another boyfriend at that point. But she said she could get me a place to stay and she was in Prague. So I figured I'd go there for a few weeks and see how it went.

**Joe:** She was from Prague? Or...

**David:** No, she was American, but she was over there teaching English.

**Joe:** Oh, nice, nice.

**David:** Yeah.

**sick of it:** no longer interested in it

**hitching:** hitchhiking; traveling by getting a free ride in a car with someone you do not know

**Joe:** So wait, how long did you spend in Amsterdam?

**David:** I only spent about four days in Amsterdam before I got kind of **sick of it**.

**Joe:** So you were just goin', you were just basically like, uh, travelin' through.

**David:** Yeah, and then I started **hitching**.



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**Joe:** Oh, nice, nice.

**hooked up:** met

**on the road:** traveling

**David:** And kind of **hooked up** with some English chicks and just kind of spent a little bit of time with them **on the road**. And then eventually ended up, uh, on a train late at night and, uh, didn't have any money, but pretended I didn't understand what anyone was saying and ended up in Prague.

**took off:** to leave

**Joe:** Wait, when you first **took off**, um, from the U.S., were you actually traveling alone?

**David:** Totally by myself.

**sweet:** very good

**Joe:** Oh, **sweet**.

**David:** Yep.

**Joe:** Nice...

**David:** It's funny, looking back, I didn't have anything with me, y'know.

**on a whim:** to do something without a lot of thought

**Joe:** Yeah, you could just like basically, uh, take off **on a whim**.

**livin' large:** doing very well

**David:** I had like one pair of shoes and no health insurance and I was just, uh, **livin' large**.

**totally broke:** had no money

**Joe:** [laugh] That's nice. And you know what, now you would probably look back and think that you were **totally broke**. And, uh, that, now that you have kids, that would be a difficult, a very difficult thing to think of.

**anonymous:** no one knows you

**David:** If I had to be responsible for them it would be difficult. But, y'know, I, uh, I was only responsible for me. And I kind of... I was, I was in the mood to, uh, to feel **anonymous**. I wanted to go where no one recognized me.

**not into doin' that:** do not want to do that

**Joe:** Yeah, no that sounds great. So you, I, that's great that you just traveled alone. A lot of people, uh, are **not into doin' that**, y'know?

**a big deal:** important

**David:** Yeah, well, it's **a big deal**.

**Joe:** Yeah, some people...



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**put yourself out there:**  
*to get involved*

**David:** You've got to kind of **put yourself out there** and just see what happens, y'know.

**Joe:** Yeah, exactly. I actually, I've never traveled alone. But, uh, I, I'm sure I could do it, y'know, because, uh, I'm good, I, I feel like I'm pretty good at meeting people, y'know?

**David:** Yeah, yeah. Well sometimes it's fun to meet people and other times it's fun to just truly be on your own. And, y'know, you get into a situation where you, where you realize that nobody knows where you are...

**Joe:** [laugh]

**David:** ...and you just have this total sense of, uh, freedom.

**Joe:** Yeah.

**it's crazy:** *hard to believe*

**David:** **It's crazy.**

**Joe:** Yeah, I can only imagine.

**David:** Yeah.

**Joe:** You took the train from Amsterdam to, uh, to Prague?

**thumbing:** *hitchhiking;  
traveling by getting a free  
ride in a car with  
someone you do not  
know*

**David:** No, I took the train to somewhere in Germany and then I started **thumbing** on the side of the road.

**Joe:** [laugh] Oh, how long did you stay in Germany?

**David:** Uh, like two days.

**Joe:** Oh, that wasn't long at all.

**David:** Yeah, just long enough for a couple of weird people to meet me and, uh, help me out, and take me to different places.

**picked you up:** *gave you  
a ride in a car*

**Joe:** So they actually **picked you up**?



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**David:** Yeah, at one point I decided that I didn't really care what direction the car was going as long as it was warm and dry, I was getting in.

*headed to: going to*

**Joe:** Wait, did you, were you actually like, uh, did you believe that you were **headed to** Prague at that point or were you just...

**David:** Yeah...I was...

**Joe:** ...headed wherever?

**David:** No, I was headed to Prague, but I didn't really care if it took me a while or what.

*cool: good*

**Joe:** Oh, that's **cool**.

*went with the flow: to do without planning*

**David:** So I just kind of **went with the flow** of what was happening.

**Joe:** Yeah, what did you think of Germany while you were there, because I've never been there...

**David:** Kind of weird...

**Joe:** ...either.

*Jew: Jewish person*

**David:** ...kind of weird. Uh, y'know, being, uh, being a **Jew**, uh...

**Joe:** [laugh]

**David:** ...I was kind of aware of the history.

**Joe:** Yeah, I'm sure that that's something that is pretty hard to forget.

*deadhead: a fan of the American rock and roll music band the Grateful Dead*

**David:** Yeah, although, you know interestingly, the only person I met in Europe who was a **deadhead** was in Germany.

*the Dead: short for the Grateful Dead; an American rock and roll music band*

**Joe:** Oh really!

**David:** Yeah, and he was like so happy that I was into **the Dead** when he met me and I gave him one **tape** that I had...

*tape: cassette tape*



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**Joe:** [laugh]

**ecstatic:** very happy

**David:** ...and he was just **ecstatic**, because they weren't able to get tapes like we were at that point.

**Joe:** Oh, so he was actually German.

**David:** Yeah.

**Joe:** [laugh] That's great.

**David:** Because this was before computers.

**Joe:** Yeah, well if you think about it the Dead played there in, uh, '81, and, uh...

**knew what was up:** to know about

**David:** Yeah, he, he knew about them. He **knew what was up**, but he was like, y'know...

**Joe:** Yeah.

**David:** ...I could use some music. And he had a Dead shirt on. He showed me. It was funny.

**Grateful Dead:** an American rock and roll music band

**Joe:** Wait, he, he was actually wearing a **Grateful Dead** shirt when you met him?

**David:** Uh-huh.

**Joe:** [laugh] That's great.

**tie-dye:** a colorful t-shirt

**David:** It was like underneath a sweatshirt. He was like, "No, really." He pulls over... He lifts up the sweatshirt. He was like "Look." It was like an old **tie-dye**.

**Joe:** Were you wearing one also?

**David:** No.

**bootlegs:** cassette tapes with a recording of a music band playing in concert

**Joe:** Oh, so how did he know?

**David:** Uh, I just started talking about it and I had **bootlegs** with me.



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**Joe:** Oh, that's great.