

## **TRAVELING TO RELOCATE**

I recommend travel for anyone wanting to relocate. Even if you know which hospital you want to work in, travel is still a great idea. In this article, I will explain why relocating is so much better if you go as a traveler...first.

### **When you travel, you can...**

#### **Get the local scoop before making a commitment**

As a nurse, you know how small the medical community can be. It doesn't take long to find out what it is like to work at various hospitals in the area, and their general pay rate. A 3 month assignment is plenty of time to gather the information you need to make an informed decision about where you want to work.

#### **Make more money during transition**

While you are playing private detective, you may make more money as a traveler than you would as permanent staff. This can help pay for your transition and local housing until you have established a place to live.

#### **Move without finding housing**

Establishing a place to live may be one of the biggest advantages of all. If you go to the area as a traveler, your housing will be waiting for you when you get there. You don't have to make several trips to find housing before you move. Put your stuff in storage and move. Once you are there, you can check out the "good" areas, traffic patterns and prices before making a decision.

#### **Know the system before hiring on**

After working on your travel assignment, you may decide you like your hospital and apply for a permanent staff position. If so, you will already know the people and the system. This makes for a nice transition to permanent staffing.

#### **Negotiate for better pay**

Finally, some nurses have managed to use their travel pay as a basis to negotiate for optimal pay when going for the permanent staff position. It benefits the hospital to give an incentive to keep you.

Traveling is a great way to relocate. What a great way to figure things out without burning bridges by leaving one hospital and going to another. Nurses who don't travel to relocate sometimes start working permanently in one hospital and get used to it and hate to make a change without knowing if another place would be better. Therefore, they end up staying in that same place while they could be working somewhere else that would be

better for them to get to in traffic or have better hours available to work. Traveling helps you get a better picture of the situation before making a commitment to any one place.