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The Great IPA Holiday Travel Playlist

(updated 12/22/15)

If you're going to be stuck traveling, you might as well get smarter, the IPA way. Here are some podcast episodes we in the family liked:



Note: These tend to be about social sciences and development, if you want more variety of episodes others like, see New York Public Radio [staff picks of 2014](#), [earbud.fm](#), and the [audio signal newsletter](#).

- Freakonomics' episode "[Is Migration a Human Right?](#)" interviews several economists and others to smartly delve into the different arguments on both sides.
- Tyler Cowen's [interview with University of Chicago Economist Luigi Zingales](#) covers a lot of interesting topics, including why he's upset the world's leading coffee company isn't Italian.
- The Financial Times Alphachatterbox podcast has a [longform interview with Esther Duflo](#) covering the basics on econ of poverty, microcredit, the ultrapoor graduation pilots, and ethics of aid.
- Unfortunately timely is the [Radiolab episode](#) on how people mis-remember the Kenya Westgate attacks, even people who were there.
- The [Rationally Speaking](#) podcast has very good social science guests, worth browsing, but political scientists Andrew Gelman explains [why people vote the way they do](#), and Phil Tetlock on ["Superforecasting: The Art and Science of Prediction."](#)
- Freakonomics had two episodes on Preventing Crime for Pennies on the Dollar, featuring IPA and J-PAL RCTs on crime prevention. [Part one](#), [part two](#).
- Iran is the only country with a market for kidney buyers and sellers, Econ Talk spoke with the New York Times Tina Rosenberg in depth, covering issues from [economics of markets when lives are at stake to the ethics](#). It was nice to see two very smart people from different perspectives really wrestle with the issues thoughtfully. A nice companion is Planet Money's ["Your Organs Please"](#) on how people are nudged to donate organs in the U.S., where we can't use money.
- WNYC's Only Human podcast is doing a series of short episodes on [how to be a better listener](#), with advice and exercises from experts in different areas. (Economists of course don't need this.)
- Econ Talk with economist David Skarbek on how prison gangs [create their own political institutions](#) was fascinating.
- In the course of Planet Money telling the story of the [Onion King](#), they end up teaching us why futures are a really important tool for farmers.
- Here the Planet Money folks look into an [ISIS municipal budget](#), and discover among other things, they issue permits for and tax looting.
- Two pocasts about development where you're guaranteed all espisodes are good are [Tiny Spark](#) and [Humanosphere](#), but some interesting ones:
 - Tiny Spark: Kentaro Toyama on why we [shouldn't be looking to technology for answers in development, and in a crisis do medical volunteers help or hurt?](#)
 - Humanosphere: Michael Clemens mythbusting on the [economics of \(im\)migration](#), and collaboration and optimism in the [hunt for an AIDS vaccine](#).

Leave your suggestions for others in the comments section!

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