

## On Travel

Traveling is something that is done by everybody of all different ages and generations. Traveling doesn't have to be an extravagant event that costs hundreds of dollars. Even if it does, money will come back. The money will always come back. The first big trip that I ever took I think sparked my love for travel even at as young of an age as four years old. A little bit before I turned four my parents separated which led to my godparents taking my mother and me on a week's vacation to Disney. This was the first time I had ever seen an airport or an airplane other than in my dreams. I was on cloud 9, and ever since that first time I stepped into the airport I got a tingly rush as excitement filled my body. Through my childhood and early teen years traveling was not left up to me to decide since I had no money and was occupied with school, sports, and friends. As I got older and started to support myself I realized how quickly life goes. Not only how quickly life goes by, but how quickly life can change, for better or worse.

Traveling creates friendships that I could have never even imagined. Having a friend across the world and in an opposite time zone is an interesting thing! I am settling into bed most nights preparing for my next day as they are eating breakfast and getting ready for work the next day. Nothing can break those bonds. Spending time with somebody in a different country takes a special bond and friendship like no other. It is so hard to explain the feeling of being in a different country thousands of miles away from home where everything is different. The first two times I got to visit Europe I was filled with mixed emotions of extreme excitement but also a little bit of fear of the unknown, but that is how we grow.

The unknown can be scary and I think that is something that holds a lot of people back from doing things including travel. For me, I think that is the fun part about it. Getting to experience other people's walks of life, seeing different cultures and ways people go about their day to day. Different items in grocery stores or different policies may seem odd to someone from Lancaster County Pennsylvania, but that is their way of living. Even going down in the southern parts of the United States people have different ways of going on with their lives.

I wanted to speak more on the fact that as I am getting older I am realizing how short life really is. I have gone through some tragic losses of friends and family members at a younger age and that has

helped me put things into perspective. If you are in the mindset of saving all of your money so you can retire young and have a lot of money, where does it say you will live until retirement? Nobody knows how or when they are going to die, and there is nothing we can do about that other than live in the moment! That is one thing I love most about traveling is just being able to live in the moment and try to take everything in. You can be whoever you want to be when traveling and it is so freeing. I am free when I travel.