

Living and Traveling Abroad

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For as long as I can remember I dreamed of adventures in other countries. When I was a child I loved playing with toys but I also enjoyed looking at atlases. I would sit and fantasize about the places I would go, the people I would meet, and the exciting life someday I would lead.

Not everything I fantasized about came true, but to my own surprise many things I hoped for have happened. I never imagined actually living in Japan and if you told one year ago that I would be sitting at this computer in Kita Junior High School I would have been shocked. I made it here by being open to adventure and not fearing the unknown.

Some of my friends and family in America could not understand why I took this job, even though to me it seemed quite simple. I desire to see beyond the familiar and hope to understand more about the world than my country can teach me. Some people are satisfied with only knowing about their immediate surroundings. I think this is perfectly fine for some people, but I have always had the urge for change. I know there are many individuals out there who feel the same as me and there are many of you who desire to learn English for this very reason. I have a few words of advice to those who hope to travel and live abroad.

1. Think about what you want and try to be flexible.
2. Believe that what you want is possible. Always believe in yourself. If you don't believe in yourself, who will?
3. Don't always listen to people who say you can't do it. Those people sometimes are talking about themselves.
4. Be careful, but don't be afraid to take a few risks. If you never take risks you will never be the first to discover anything.
5. Listen to those who have gone before you and use what you've learned.
6. Don't be afraid to ask for help!!! You should be independent, but everyone needs a hand sometimes. Remember to always give back to either the person who helped you or a stranger in need.
7. Don't be afraid to do things alone.
8. When you're not happy think about all the good things this adventure has and will give you.
9. Be open to meeting people and don't make assumptions about others. Give all people a chance and don't assume that others will think the same as you. (I do this a lot and I try not to) Have an open mind and maybe you will learn something. Also, try not to judge someone just by where they're from or how they look. Remember, meeting people can be the most memorable part of travel.
10. Get involved and try new things. What is the point of doing the same things that you did in your home country?

I'm not perfect and I don't always follow everything I said, but I try. We live in a world with so many opportunities and I wish anyone who wants to travel good luck and a safe adventure!