

YouTubers: Why it's important to travel – transcript

Transcript for Why it's important to travel

Hi guys!

My name's Sophia and this video's for the British Council's LearnEnglish Teens website and their YouTube channel.

In today's video I wanted to share my thoughts of why it's important to travel. Travelling is a passion of mine. I love meeting new people and exploring new cultures. Travelling is a great way to interact with a culture which might be completely different to your own, and there are so many great ways to do this. You can do this through eating food ... erm, exploring the arts, music, history, architecture or simply just walking through the streets.

When you travel you expose yourself to the possibility of meeting different people who have a completely different outlook on life – and it's a great learning experience for both you and the other person because you can share and exchange your own ideas and opinions on a range of topics.

For example, on one of my travels I met an Iranian philosopher and we talked about the nature of magic. A lot of his ideas were shaped by his Iranian background and Iranian philosophy and also Sufism, which is a mystical form of Islam. It was a really interesting discussion.

The world we live in today is very global and international so I think it's very important to learn to see things from other people's perspective and also to challenge your own ideas.

Travelling might just convince you to move to another country. Before I moved to Sicily I had travelled around the whole of Italy, the south and the north, and I absolutely fell in love with the culture and the language so I was inspired to learn the language and also to move here. And here I am now, living in Sicily.

Travelling will make you a really good storyteller. When you get back home you'll have lots and lots of stories to tell your friends and family. Even if things don't go to plan, erm, on your travels, it will be funny to look back and laugh at those awkward or harsh moments.

For example, I was travelling with a group of friends in Pisa and we took the wrong bus to get to the beach area, so we ended up being soaked in the rain and having to walk back. At the time it wasn't very fun, but now when I look back I laugh because we had soggy pizza and we were just eating and walking at the same time.

Travelling is the realisation of home, and what that means is that when we travel we learn to appreciate our home more – and that's because, being away from home, we realise how much we miss our friends and our family and how much we miss the small things that perhaps we take for granted. It's all lovely travelling and it's great to explore new and exciting places, but it's also a lovely feeling to know that when you return home you're going to be returning to your dear ones and the things that you love about your home. Since I've been away from London, I've come to appreciate the little things that I used to take for granted, like our amazing transport – everything runs on time, everything runs well – so sometimes it takes being away from home to realise how much you absolutely love it.

I hope you've enjoyed this video. Please comment below and let me know if you like travelling – and if you do, where you've been and where you would like to go in the future. I'll see you guys in my next one. Take care, bye-bye!