

TRAVELS BROADEN THE MIND

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Our world is a great mixture of places, people, things, built by humans, or other, created by nature. It is like a huge whirlpool, twirling you in its deep layers of knowledge.

To travel means to discover new and unknown facts and images, which are so drily described in books or on television. Some people say that there is no difference between visiting a place and reading about it. But imagine what will be the feeling when you read about the beauty of Venice and see some photos of its canals and squares, compared to the one when you are there. When you travel in a boat along 'Channel Grande', inbreathe the salty air and touch the little blue-greenish waves with the top of your toes. Even this little experience imprints a sweet memory in your mind, making you smile whenever it shows on the surface of your thoughts.

The most frequent arguments for travel broadening the mind are that you get to interact with a myriad of different cultures, ways of life and new experiences. This is not a hyperbole; generally it is the truth – of course, how much it broadens your mind depends much on how you travel rather than where. If you go to Thailand and spend most of your time in their numerous Irish pubs or eating McDonalds then what you are seeing isn't really Thai culture. If you take the time to visit the slums, the Buddhist temples, stay with a family and immerse yourself in their nightlife – you might begin to get a good idea.

Back in the 18th and 19th centuries, amongst the aristocratic families of Europe, no young man's education was considered to be complete without travel. They either travelled as companions and employees of rich people, or joined professionals which took them abroad. But why was travelling this important at that time? It's simply because travelling was believed to be the best kind of education. It's still true even in today's world. Of course, travel is no substitute for the basic learning of professional knowledge. But it can be a substitute for other kinds of learning: learning to communicate, learning to live independently, to take care of oneself ...

To travel means to communicate. To meet lots of different, unique people, which bring with themselves the knowledge for their cultures, traditions, habits, preferences, ideas...They show you their views for life, their likes and dislikes...or even how they prefer to drink their cup of coffee in the morning. And everything has its charming side. It is know that a lot of good writers and successful people have had extraordinary new ideas after travelling. Travelling can influence our thinking. Although this may be true to many people, there are some cases where travelling cannot always broaden some people's minds. Some people may experience culture shock where they become mentally confused.

Another factor in the broadening of your mind is your attitude, if you are averse to risk or trying anything 'out of the ordinary' then in all likelihood you won't get the most out of your journey, no matter where you go. Also, if you are going for a couple of days over the weekend then there is no way you can see everything, get to know local customs or immerse yourself.

And all what is left, is to pack our luggage and head to a new journey to enterprise the world, and discover its tiny little secrets, which make it such a wonderful place to live in.

You know we can't sit still for a long time. We are supposed to be on the move. Travelling is an activity that can be enjoyed by just about everyone. "Traveling broadens the mind more than reading." says a very popular Turkish proverb. It is true as long as one embraces experiences with an open mind.

World is far from what we see on a screen, that's why we take on a journey. You may stay your sight on the picture showing the Scandinavian fjord, but you will not feel its wild, until you take camp and row a boat there. Then you will know the wild of the earth. You may indulge your mind into the video that introduce Provence, but you will never feel such kind of ease life, until you sit there for a whole afternoon enjoying your hot tea and the sunshine. Then you start to reflect what is live? You may come across an article that telling the history of the Great Wall, but you will never feel shocked of its grandness until you stand on it and touch the block with your fingers. Then you come to realize how great human being is. It is through these visible, audible and touchable ways that the travel broadens our mind.

Travelling is a good relaxation. Sometimes people need to get away from the stress of everyday life. The aim of travelling nowadays may not only be for relaxation, but also business. To business people, travelling is part of their job. They are sent to countries to invest, promote, to enhance the relationship between areas and developing the economy.

There are various types of travelling: active tourism, voluntarism, ecotourism, package tours. Before you hit the road you should think what you want to gain of it. Active tourism aims to combine recreation, education and bring benefits to both the tourist as well to the visited land. Voluntourism is the practice of taking a holiday which combines leisure and sightseeing with the opportunity to work for a charity.

I guess everybody will agree that travel broadens the mind. That's true.

References:

1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travel>
2. J. Speake. *Literature of Travel and Exploration: An Encyclopedia*.- New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2003.