

Preparation for G 166 — The Romance of Travel

The journey not the arrival matters. - T. S. Eliot

The magic of travel is that you leave your home secure in your own knowledge and identity, but as you travel, the world in all its richness intervenes. You meet people you could not invent; you see scenes you could not imagine. Your own world, which was so large as to consume your whole life, becomes smaller and smaller until it is only one tiny dot in space and time. You return a different person. - Kent Nerburn, *Simple Truths*

1. Think of a particularly meaningful trip you have taken. Give some examples of what made it so important to you.
2. Think of a place you have always dreamed of traveling. Can you remember when and how this became an important destination for you? If you haven't already traveled there, how could you make your dream trip a reality?
3. Tell a story about a trip that made you see your life and the world in a new way.
4. Do you see a difference between being a tourist and being a traveler? If you do, tell about a time you were a traveler and a time you were a tourist and how those experiences were different from each other.
5. "Travel doesn't have to be some distant or exotic destination. ... What matters is leaving the comfort of the familiar and opening yourself to a world that is totally apart from your own," says Kent Nerburn. Are there ways you can incorporate the challenges and freshness of travel into your everyday life without actually embarking on a trip?
6. Some people remember their travels with pictures, music, objects or other souvenirs. What things evoke for you the spirit and memory of a particular trip? If you like, bring one such thing to share with your group.
7. Have you ever turned a bad travel experience from an ordeal into an adventure? Describe how you did that.
8. How might you turn a routine business trip into a travel experience?