

A note from the editors

THERE IS NOTHING QUITE LIKE THE FEELING of waking up in a different place for the first time. In the first few seconds of consciousness, it all comes rushing back: the journey of the day before, the sights, sounds and smells of the unfamiliar, and the knowledge of not knowing exactly what is in store in this new place.

Those who travel thrive on this feeling. The anticipation of some new adventure has spurred travelers for centuries to pack their bags and depart for the unknown. In today's world, where one can travel everything from the internet superhighway to the canals of Venice, the idea of travel becomes less of a daunting undertaking and more of an initiation ceremony to being recognized as citizens of the world.

We could isolate ourselves on our own lands, under the one flag we let define ourselves, or we could take a risk and step off into the unknown, letting ourselves be shaped by whatever we may find. One may never completely grasp the differences that define one culture from another, but through travel, we can learn to appreciate the good and bad in every way of life, in every travel experience, in every culture we put under a magnifying glass.

When one returns to whatever place one calls home, one may experience a sort of reverse culture shock, having grown accustomed to the rites and traditions of somewhere else. Often we begin to question our own ways based on what we have seen in others. It is through this process of questioning ourselves that we can grow individually as people, and together as cultures.

There will always be another place on the map, another unknown destination that beckons. Such locales strain the imagination, but the reality of experiencing them leads to a greater truth and understanding about what makes us one world. In the end, no matter where we are located, we can gaze at the sky and picture what lies beyond our line of sight – wondering what it would be like to journey beyond our comfort zone, beyond what we knew before.

Such are the elusive horizons that define our lives.

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-The editors