

my name is CVCV CVCVCVC
today is june second two thousands thirteen
and i will be talking about travel
so my whole life our family has done a lot of traveling
my parents have never really bought us stuff
they would rather put their money towards experiences
so i've been to more countries than states and almost as many continents
so i'm very grateful for that
when i was in fifth grade
i don't remember if i was ten or eleven
it's a little fuzzy
cause it was so long ago
but our family took a trip
our grandparents decided to take us on a trip down to the galapagos
which i think actually will be closed to tourism soon
which is unfortunate
cause it's so cool
but on the trip down there we joked that hey we visited texas
because we were in the airport
but my mom said it didn't count
so whatever
but on our way down we stopped in the houston airport
and then we had another leg down to ecuador
and then from there we took a one hour flight out to the islands on this rickety plane that i
was convinced it was gonna fall out of the sky
because it was creaking as it was flying
and it was really freaky
but it was cool
we landed
and we didn't die
so it was ok
but when we got there
we all got loaded onto these little boats that took us to the main boat
i guess you could say
there were forty eight people
it wasn't really a cruise exactly

cause when i think cruise
i think those big behemoth boats that are just ridiculous and hold a thousand people or something
but there were forty eight of us
there were a few kids mostly adults mostly old people
but that was ok
cause i was young and i wanted to be friends with everybody
so i made friends with everybody
but when we got there
we were all exhausted
so we went to bed yada yada
the next day they took us ashore
and we went on a hike
and it was a lot of fun
and of course i got yelled at
because i had the tendency to run ahead of everybody else and get lost
so they had to make sure i kept where i was supposed to
but one of the little girls she was about six
and she was really shy
but she got all excited
because there was someone who'd like to do active things
and so she had her dad come up to me
he's like my daughter was wondering if you would be her friend
and i said oh yeah sure of course i'll be her friend
and so that was the start of a glorious one week relationship
it was awesome
we had a really good time
she was adorable
her and her family were from argentina
and so i was happy that i had a friend while i was there
because my brother is a little standoffish sometimes when he's with other people
he likes to pretend that we're not related
so it's ok
but we get along sometimes
in any case there was also other set of siblings
and we spent a lot of time with them

they thought my brother and i were a little insane
cause we enjoyed jumping off the top of the boat
but that's alright
it was fun anyway
they were missing out on a good time
one of the things that i remember very clearly ironically cause it's about clear water but was
that we would stand on the boat and we'd be in sixty to seventy foot deep water and you could
look straight down and see straight to the bottom
it was that clear
and it was amazing
you didn't actually get a lot of sunsets
while you were there
cause sunsets are created by the particles in the air blah blah blah
i'm getting my biology brain on again
but so while we were there
apparently we got really lucky
cause we got one sunset
and it was pretty spectacular
it was very very beautiful
another thing that was pretty awesome
because that's another great adjective
cause i don't know how to exactly describe it
but the animals there are not afraid of humans
because they haven't been conditioned to be afraid of humans per se
and so you could basically walk up to the wildlife all of the wildlife
like you would get in the water
and the sea lions would swim to you
and they'd play with you
we have a video of my brother playing in the surf with one of the baby sea lions
it was so cool
and when you snorkel
they would come up
and swim around you
while you were snorkeling through the water
and it was really cool
on the other they have a tradition there

they have this old post office
it's not really a post office
but what you do is you go and you leave a card
you put your address
you write a little note
and then you go through all the ones that are there
and if you find one that is from where you live
you're supposed to take it
and then hand deliver it to the people that is addressed to
so we left one
and we actually found one from there
which was cool
i didn't deliver it
my parents did
but that was still fun
but we left one
and about a month later after we got home
we got it in the mail
a family in germany picked it up
and mailed it to us
and i think you missed the point of the experience
you're supposed to pick it up
but whatever it was ok
apparently there's a redman in germany which is where we live
and so they got all confused
but that's ok
we got our postcard back
which was fun
a downside to the trip a little bit was that one of the guides who was there
he was best known for his penguin call
there're penguins in galapagos found the story
but he got kidney stones about halfway through the trip
and so they had to get him out of there really fast
that was unfortunate
cuz he was really nice
i missed him

when he went
but while we were there
there was this guy who was taking a video of the trip and everything
and he made dvds for everybody
sometimes i still go back
and watch it
and realize that i was a very awkward looking child
but that's ok
it was fun
i had this awesome pink bathing suit and with snorkels on
it made it awesome
but one of the other things that we did was we went to a wildlife preserve i think
and they had the last of his species
it was a giant tortoise lonely george
i think he just died a few years ago
but we got to visit him
and he was the last of his species
so he couldn't exactly make new baby lonely georges
that didn't work that way unfortunately
but i'd say it was exciting
except for he didn't really move
so
as a ten year old it's a little hard
when things aren't moving
cuz you want things to be exciting
on the way back home unfortunately my mom actually my grandpa my mom and my dad and
i all accidentally drank the water
on the way back we had managed to drink bottled water the whole time we were there
and then in the airport back we thought we were ok
i think my grandpa and my dad had ice in their drinks
and so we all got really really sick
so the plane ride home was not a lot of fun
that's most of what i remember from that one
last summer i went on a school exchange to australia for three weeks
and i stayed with a family
while i was there

i know i went on my summer vacation to go to school for three extra weeks
but that's ok
it was still a lot of fun
and while i was there
it wasn't hard to adjust
but it was very very different there
you go to a new place
you're expecting oh the culture's really different obviously blah blah blah
but i'd never really been to a place
and lived with a family
or been with the locals i guess
to do what they do and see what they do
cuz when you go to a place
and my family's more of like we go to places and we're the tourist
which i wish wasn't as much of a thing
but sort of full places
so i didn't complain obviously
though i was there
i was sort of in the culture as opposed to watching it
and so i went to school with them
and there were a lot of things that were very very different
most of what i noticed was at school
their school is a lot different than our school
and maybe i go to a odd school in terms of relationships with students and teachers
i'm very close with my teachers
but there it was a business relationship
the teachers taught
and the students were supposed to pay attention
but they didn't
the girls i spent time with basically didn't do their homework ever
which was weird for me
because especially our class is sort of like let's do our homework and then some
because we're just that over achieving
cuz it's hey it made me do my work
but that was hard for me to watch
because i'm like aren't you supposed to be doing this

but we got there
and they didn't do their homework
they'd much rather be social
and be in bed by nine o'clock
and that's wasn't really something that i was used to
so one of my biggest things was keeping my mouth shut about it
because i'm only there for three weeks
choose your battles
there were a lot of cultural things too that i was unfamiliar with
i'm sure they're here just in my small sheltered little community
we're all very open and everything
and so everyone's very accepting
and they're very can't think of the word right now
but anyone outside of their own little bubble
you're not white and australian
they make jokes about you
which was uncomfortable for me personally
because i don't know our school is like everybody all in one place
and we're all pretty open about everything
so they would make a lot of slurs about things
which was me being all righteous
but it was hard for me not to say anything
and i probably should have
but i didn't
because there for three weeks
and i decided to be friends
instead of having oh that's the girl from america she doesn't approve of us or something like
that
which is probably good
because then the girl i stay with came and stayed with us for three weeks
so that'd been awkward oh hey that's the girl who doesn't like us maybe i don't wanna live with
her
that would've been a problem
i actually got along with my host sister really well
and she was really happy i was there
because she didn't quite agree with a lot of what her friends said either

because she wishes

when she came to visit us at our school

she's like i wish i went to your school instead of mine because your guys are a lot more accepting and you're actually interested in doing well in school and you're not

that was not a sentence

but in any case yes that was a very interesting experience for me

and yes that is my story