

Why I recommend traveling abroad

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I like to travel— I don't mean just trips inside Japan. No, I mean going abroad. Alone! Today, I'm going to talk about the difference between actually going to a country and what you see on TV about that country.

But first, let me tell you how I started travelling. When I was in 3rd grade in high school, I was trying hard to prepare for an examination during the summer vacation. But I couldn't concentrate on my study. I was thinking that high school life would end soon and I wanted to do something really big before graduation. So I decided to go to Korea by myself. I had always been interested in Korean fashion and music.

However, my family didn't agree with me going alone.

Because the Japanese news was always talking about the Korean presidential problem the comfort women issue and, anti-japanese protests. If I only saw Japanese news, I too would think that Korea is a dangerous place.

However, as long as I have been following japanese people living in Korea on Instagram or twitter, their lives haven't changed. In fact before I went there, I contacted some japanese who were living in korea and asked them about the situation. They said it was the same as usual.

So I bought an airplane ticket with my own money before getting permission from my parents. When I showed it to them they were shocked, they accepted that I was determined to go.

When I got there, actually, Seoul had the same atmosphere as Japan.

When I asked for directions in Korea, there were people who wanted to know about Okinawa.

And when I was coming back to Japan, I lost my passport on the plane. I was in a panic. But a Korean person found it and gave it to me. So I my experience of Korea and Korean people was positive.

In this way, I realized that what is reported in the news is not all true. It is not true for example that, indiscriminate terrorism is occurring all over the world.

At present, there is too much information and it is hard to find what is true. Also, people don't listen to things that disagree with their opinion. We think in a biased way. We need to broaden our horizons. We need visit places we might be afraid of.

For our generation who will become leaders in the future, it is important to study things in a scholarly environment and to know many kinds opinions, and to go many places.

On the other hand, we also need to listen to the generation that experienced the war, who must teach us the sad things they know.

I have been abroad only four times, but I have learned a lot. I have only been to Asian countries but there is still much more to learn. I thought after traveling by myself that I want to be a bridge that will connect Japan and Okinawa with the rest of the world.