



GOING GLOBAL

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UCLA Education Abroad Program

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I'm Abroad, Now What? By Jessica Purdy

After the application paperwork, the selection process, and the flight are over, you are finally abroad. Congratulations! In a foreign environment, it can be comfortable and easy to stick to what is familiar. Don't make this huge mistake. Studying abroad is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and it is essential that you make the most of it.

How do you accomplish this? I offer some ideas below. It is important that you do not compromise your safety in following any of these suggestions - use your best judgment and get a feel for your environment before you go too crazy exploring. Otherwise, get out there and experience all you can!

Once you have gotten a sense of your new home, it is time to branch out and immerse yourself in the local culture. Here are some ways to truly get the most out of your EAP experience:



where the locals go, and embrace and emulate their culture as much as possible. Go to the same markets, shops, and restaurants, and you will feel like you have truly lived abroad.

- **Allow yourself to get lost!** Just make sure that you are in a fairly safe area. You will discover the most authentic and interesting parts of the city and culture when you wander off the beaten path. Take a different route to and from school each day. Helpful hint: Always carry a good map so you can find your way back.
- **Meet the locals.** Don't just meet them, become their friend. The only way you will gain a truly meaningful overseas experience is if you can honestly say that you gained insight into a different culture by having foreign friends. You won't learn much or have much fun if you always hang out around Americans. You may have to make an effort to make a foreign friend, but it will definitely be worth it.
- **Live like a local.** Don't stick to the tourist traps. Try to speak their language, go

● **Travel!** I can't stress the importance of this enough. Once you are already abroad, it is usually very cheap and easy to travel domestically or internationally. It is rare that you will have such convenient access to world exploration again so make the most of it. **Enjoy it.** Take full advantage of everything that your abroad experience has to offer. Soak it up, appreciate it, and take lots of pictures!

"You will discover the most authentic and interesting parts of the city and culture when you wander off the beaten path."



Does Religion Hurt in Vietnam? By Thanh Thuy Huynh

Before I studied abroad in Vietnam, I never considered Vietnam as a country whose people were very religious. I assumed that most Vietnamese people either followed the ways of Buddhism, Catholicism and/or Ancestor Worship. Believe it or not, some people still believe there is no religion in Vietnam. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to provide information to those of you who are interested in learning about the culture and religious aspect of the Vietnamese people.

The perceived notion about most Vietnamese is that they are Buddhists. The truth of the matter is most Vietnamese people are not Buddhists and an additional fact is there are two main types of Buddhism (Theravada and Mahayana). The average Vietnamese person would claim that they are either "atheist" or "non religious." However, the majority of the population claims to follow Ancestor Worshipping practices. Many state that showing respect toward one's ancestors is a tradi-

tion and not by any means associated with religion. Religious practices which are overlooked as their popularity continues to grow in Vietnam are known by the government as "superstitious practices." Many of these spiritual practices stem from what Americans term "cults" or "heroic cults." In such practices, the person who performs the ritual becomes possessed by the "spirit" and goes into a séance. This person is the mediator between the spirit they are contacting and life on earth. In Vietnam, the Trung Hung Dao religion remains most popular among this type of religion. Trung Hung Dao was a famous warrior and after his death the cult was formed. His followers believe that even though he no longer is on earth, his spirit still continues to protect them from his grave.



Picture from a field trip; Religion and Rituals class:
The mediator of Trung Hung Dao cult stabs a sharp object through his skin in order to display that when he is in complete possession by the hero, he feels no pain. Toward the end of the ritual, he takes a blade knife and slits his tongue to get enough blood and marks pieces of paper on which people have written their wishes.

Should the Bird Flu Stop Me from Studying Abroad in Asia?

By Emily Yan

One hundred seventy-seven cases of the avian influenza, which includes ninety-eight deaths, are reported by the World Health Organization. In the past 3 years the avian influenza, otherwise known as the bird flu, has affected countries such as China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, with Vietnam being hit the hardest. The avian flu is an infection caused by influenza viruses that occur among birds and can also spread to humans. Up to date, the virus has mainly affected the bird population and cannot be spread from human to human. However, it is predicted that the virus will mutate and become contagious among humans. This poses the ques-

tion of whether or not it is safe to travel into Asian countries. Honestly, going into Hong Kong Fall 2005 to study at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), I had no clue what the bird flu was. The fear of contracting the virus never even crossed my mind. Although the bird flu has not put Hong Kong in a panic frenzy the way SARS did in 2003, which affected over 8,000 people, CUHK has still taken precaution by warning students not to eat outside where there is a chance of coming into contact with birds. When I was in Hong Kong, I also spent five days in Thailand where I did not consume any poultry dishes for fear of bird flu. Little did I know that the way the virus

spreads is through saliva, nasal secretions, or feces of an infected bird, therefore I could not have contracted bird flu by eating an infected bird! In response to the question of whether or not travelers should be concerned, Dr. William Schaffner, infectious disease specialist, told ABCnews.com that, "the concern is for that very small proportion of international travelers who find themselves out in the agricultural areas of China, Vietnam, Thailand and [they have not been taking extra precautions]." Although bird flu, like any other disease, natural disaster, or fatal accident, still poses a threat, we should not live our lives in fear but instead go out and just live life!

"We should not
live our lives in
fear but instead
go out and just
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Korea: Asia's Best Kept Secret

By Matthew Chang

I was wandering around Itaewon, the most tourist-friendly shopping area in Korea, when I spotted a t-shirt that a street vendor was selling. The Korean flag was placed on the middle of the shirt and right above it in huge letters, spelled out Korea: Asia's Best Kept Secret. Upon seeing this I realized this is undoubtedly true. I've noticed that the majority of people I've met who are interested in studying abroad in Asia are only interested in Japan and China. When I told my friends I was going to live in Seoul for a few months, they asked if there was going to be any running water or internet. I thought they were joking at first, but they amazingly did not know that Seoul is a bustling metropolitan city on par with Tokyo and Hong Kong. They also didn't know that South Korea is the most wired country in the world, with 70% of the population surfing the net and a "PC Bang" (Internet cafe) on practically every corner. South Korea is one of the largest economies in the world, but is overshadowed by the dominance of Japan and the emerging power of China. Seoul is the most enchanting city I've ever been in. The city never sleeps as people are always out and places hardly ever close. The food is amazing, the shopping is an endless possibility, and the nightlife is crazy. Where else can you go out until the morning without even noticing it's time for class?

The Delights of Durban, South Africa

By Anna Bernice Ines

I guess the question most of us encountered was the standard, "WHY SOUTH AFRICA?" I don't really think I ever knew the answer to that question. I still don't know the answer to that question. But let me tell you what I do know and miss. I miss the charming accents, the "as well"s, the "is it?"s, as well as the different vernacular, the "sms"ing someone instead of "text"ing them, "hiring" a car versus "renting" one, and saying "just now" but really meaning two hours from "now." I miss the great food! Durban, South Africa has one of the biggest Indian populations in the world – and I really miss the biryani and my most favorite dessert, soji. I, of course, definitely miss the people. After actualizing the cliché, "home is where the heart is," I slowly began to feel welcome as the locals invited us into their homes and to celebrate meals with their families. The hospitality and warmth of the locals in South Africa will be something that I will always remember.

Well, what else can you do while you are in South Africa? You can, of course, travel. I went to Mozambique during my one week, mid-semester break. Its beautiful beaches and even more beautiful people were a welcome "holiday" away from school. I also went to Swaziland for the weekend for a cultural affair as I watched the Swaziland king choose his next wife. After classes were over, I traveled to the other coast of South Africa, to Capetown, and drove across country to Port Elizabeth. On my way from one coast to another, I bungee jumped from the highest bridge jumping point in the world. You can of course go

on that much expected "African Safari" and see Africa's Big Five: Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Buffalo and Rhinoceros. Oh, by the way, contrary to popular belief, these animals are not just walking around any streets of Durban, nor do you stay in huts. Sorry to burst your bubble if that is what you expect to get out of studying abroad in South Africa. Durban is an industrialized city with malls – lots of them, infrastructures, and transportation means. However, this does not at all overshadow how culturally rich Durban, South Africa is. While studying in South Africa you meet many other African international students and are able to learn about their culture and history as well, if you just take the time to ask. I even attended shows on Howard College's campus that entertained the audience with cultural dances, jazz and hip hop, spoken word poetry, and

singing. These, of course, are just my experiences – there is so much more to do that returning to South Africa is a definite must for me.

But, I guess the question may still remain – WHY SOUTH AFRICA? Well, why NOT South Africa? When people hear South Africa, three things come in mind: apartheid, Nelson Mandela, and HIV/AIDS. Three things we often hear about but don't really know or understand. If you have any interest at all in race dynamics, social/political movements, or health epidemics and prevention – South Africa is the place to be. Trust me, it humbles you as well as gives you unbelievably fun times. If not South Africa, that's okay. The bottom line is that you should just study abroad, somewhere, ANYWHERE. I'm just saying, South Africa is a wonderful place to do it.

SUDOKU

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Yet Another British Invasion: The Arctic Monkeys Lead A Slew of British Bands Gaining Success On Our Side Of The Pond

By David Lin

First came the Beatles. Two decades later, America discovered the Sex Pistols. The nineties welcomed Oasis, Blur, and Radiohead. Now, another British music invasion is taking place headed by a little band from Sheffield, England, called the Arctic Monkeys.

Already being called the "Saviors of Rock," the Arctic Monkeys are clearly the most popular and promising of the slew of new British bands, including The Subways, Nine Black Alps, and The Zutons, gaining success in the U.S. The band gained their seemingly overnight success by releasing demo tracks on the Internet in late 2004. Based solely on Internet chat-room buzz and the very limited release of their first EP, *Five Minutes With Arctic Monkeys*, the band started receiving the attention of the mainstream media. The huge grassroots following the band generated, demonstrated by a string of sold-out gigs in the U.K., made them reluctant to sign to a record label at first, going as far as barring record company scouts from their shows, reasoning, "We've got this far without them, why should we let them in?"

The Monkeys eventually decided to sign with the independent U.K. label, Domino, in 2005. Their debut album, *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*, was released on January 23, 2006, a week earlier than the scheduled release date, due to "high demand." On the success of their first two singles, *I Bet You Look Good On The*

Dancefloor and *When The Sun Goes Down*, both of which went straight to No. 1 on the U.K. Singles Chart, the album became the fastest-selling debut album in U.K. history, and reached American audiences by entering the Billboard Top 200 at No. 24.

The band recently played a headline set at the annual South By Southwest festival in Austin, Texas, and are on their way to finish out the rest of the sold out shows on their North American tour. The band will be returning to their native UK in the spring to play 13 gigs (oh, and by the way, all of the shows sold out in less than 10 minutes).

So, you might want to keep an eye and an ear out for evidence of this British invasion on today's mainstream radio and television, because there's a good chance that the band who wrote the very song you find yourself singing or dancing to, just may go down in history with the likes of John, Paul, George, and Ringo.



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Stop and Smell the Bread By Jonathan Stone

The question: what was the single most important thing I learned while I studied abroad in Denmark? The answer: I learned to bake bread from scratch. To be honest, this is a very minor achievement but the act of baking bread is far more than yeast, flour, and water.

In Copenhagen I lived in a large dormitory composed of mainly Danish students. Each hall of about 20 students was centered about a communal kitchen which also served as a common area. One day I found a hall-mate of mine pulling a fresh

baked loaf out of the oven and I asked him why he just didn't buy a loaf to make things easier. We argued back and forth and he finally concluded with a statement that trumped all of mine: "Chicks dig fresh baked bread."

I had to try it.

Although baking bread is not exactly a money saving venture, the satisfaction of baking bread from scratch makes up for it. The real reward came from the time and effort spent on working the dough and letting it bake just right. During the many hours I spent working on the dough I came to realize the slower, more relaxed lifestyle of the Danes.

Before leaving Los Angeles, I would always be rushed for time as I ran through my day trying to get everything done. My mornings would consist of chugging coffee and pouring cereal down my throat as I ran out the door. After my escapades in bread baking, I came to the realization of a slower, more rewarding lifestyle. My mornings now consist of sipping tea while I dine on a homemade roll.

An Event Not to be Missed in the U.K.

By Lisa Huey

While studying abroad at Sussex University over the past summer, I had the opportunity of attending one of the largest street parties in the country—the Brighton Pride Parade. It is the biggest and most famous Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Pride Festival in the country, lasting for days and attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world. Pride in Brighton and Hove is a registered charity in England and Wales whose goal is promoting equality, diversity, and advancement in education to

eliminate discrimination against the LGBT community. It raises awareness of issues by promoting and staging a series of events, concerts, and fun. It started in 1992 as a very small afternoon event and has since evolved into the biggest free Pride festival in the U.K.

Pride in Brighton and Hove runs a number of exciting events to help fund the organization, the festival, and the grant fund for the local LGBT voluntary sector as well as brings a wide range of people together who otherwise might not have such social access. The 2005 Pride Festi-

val ran from July 30th to August 7th. The highlight was the Carnival Parade on Saturday the 6th of August. More than 40 floats took part, with more than 120,000 people enjoying the Festival in Preston Park. This was followed by a hugely popular Saturday and Sunday Street party on St. James's Street in Brighton's gay village. The event has been given credit by the gay community across the country as "the biggest and best Pride in the UK." It attracts LGBT members from all over as well as the wider population of Brighton and Hove. The event is free to

attend so there are no barriers to entry for anyone from any community, encouraging the culture of inclusiveness and acceptance of which Brighton and Hove is proud. Brighton Pride is a very important event not just on the gay scene but to a much wider audience. The goal is to educate the public about LGBT issues in a number of ways. People come dressed up in all sorts of costumes and the streets are filled completely, while bands play and other entertainment events take place. So whether you are gay, straight, bisexual, undecided, black, white, brown, male, female, or transgendered—all are welcome and no one should miss this.

Some Tips on Traveling from England and Throughout Europe

By Janet Yoon

England can be one of the best places to travel from if you are based in London. The Chunnel, otherwise called Eurostar, offers a direct route to Paris or Brussels and several other destinations in France. Many airlines, such as Ryan Air and Easy Jet, offer cheap airfare flying from the various airports located in different areas of London: London Gatwick, London Stansted, London Luton, London City and Heathrow, to any location throughout Europe. However, if you are traveling from a more inconvenient location in the United Kingdom, travel will still be reasonable as long as you research to find the best deals.

There are many airports scattered across the United Kingdom, making travel easy and accessible no matter where you are located. If you are based in the Northeastern part of England, Newcastle airport offers flights to many destinations and you can get



there directly by bus, taxi or the metro after exiting the railway station. It is guaranteed that you will have to take the train, but you can find your way to any of the airports in the United Kingdom and mix and match train fares and airfares to find the cheapest route. TIP: Do not be afraid to experiment and to try out the many ways you can get to one place. There is no conventional way to get from one place to another. TIP: For the best rates, plan in advance.

The cheapest and most flexible way to travel throughout Europe is by train. Using a student Eurail pass allows you get the best deal when traveling by train. They range from passes based on the number of countries you may travel through to the number of days you may be traveling for. There is sure to be one suited just for the places you want to visit. TIP: Getting a Eurail pass from the United States is cheaper than purchasing one in the United King-

dom. You can purchase it online and have your parents ship it to you and still save money. TIP: When using such travel search engines like Travelocity or Whichbudget, always check the airline's own website. The fare might be slightly cheaper.

Here are some websites for the traveler in you:

<http://whichbudget.com/>
<http://www.wefly.co.uk/>
<http://www.flybmi.com/bmi-en-gb/index.aspx>
<http://www.easyjet.com/>
http://www.klm.com/travel/gb_en/404.htm?loop=1
<http://www.ryanair.com/site/EN/>
http://www.thetrainline.com/default.asp?href=&T2ID=4376_20041031153220
 (Trains in the UK)
<http://www.qjump.co.uk/index.jsp>
 (Trains in the UK)
<http://www.studentuniverse.com>
<http://www.statravel.com>

Brazilian Tourism: Beach, Samba, and the Ghetto?

Favelas draw attention to the staggering economic disparity in Brazil

By Laurel McAndrews

The dominant image of favelas (Brazilian ghettos) is one of violence. The closest that most Americans have come to these notoriously dangerous low-income neighborhoods was in the recent release of *City of God*, a film that received widespread acclaim in the U.S. The film was even nominated for four academy awards in 2002, an event that catalyzed worldwide awareness of Brazilian favela life. The success of the film has publicized the reality of favelas as places of poverty, drugs, and gang violence.

In Rio de Janeiro, a city with possibly the greatest economic disparity in Brazil, several organizations are working to give a more balanced view of life in favelas. There are over 600

favelas in Rio, home to some 20 percent of the population. Several tourist guides offer tours of favelas for tourists. One, Favela Tour, was set up over fifteen years ago and ploughs 40 percent of ticket revenue into community projects in various favelas across the city. While some criticize the tours for being industries created from economic despair, the exposure of these politically neglected communities plays a part in improving the lives of their inhabitants.

They cling to the side of the hills overlooking the city—some occupying prime areas of real estate. Many border middle and upper-class neighborhoods, next to some of the wealthiest districts in cities. On one side of the road might be a jumble of crudely

assembled bare brick buildings, on the other smart detached houses with lush gardens and high security fences. This is a stark contrast for many American visitors who are used to well-segregated neighborhoods where low-income housing is typically pushed far out of sight. But in Brazil, where city planning is low on the priority list for development policy, seeing these communities side by side is commonplace.

Rochina is over 100 years old and is the largest favela in Brazil—population estimates range from 100,000 to 140,000. It is made up of hundreds of brick buildings, piled high on top of one another, covering a hillside looking down on Rio's prosperous south zone. Electric-

ity is illegally tapped off the nearby power lines. There are two banks (neither of which, incidentally, has ever been robbed), shops, bars, restaurants, bustling markets, dentists, health clinics, and even a McDonald's franchise. There are also material signs of wealth—innumerable satellite dishes dot the roofs and there are new model cars on the streets. There are political and community organizations that try to provide a range of services, from postal delivery to health advice to computer training.

The exposure of the favelas through tours and the film *City of God* does not attempt to underplay the endemic social and economic problems in favelas. Instead the organization aims to provide a deeper understanding of favelas and draw international attention to issues that many Brazilians (including economic and political policymakers) would rather ignore.

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Word Search Puzzle Clues:

- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- East Timor
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Finland

The DMZ

By Lisa Huh and Jin Sung

One place to visit in South Korea is the DMZ. The DMZ, or the Demilitarized Zone, is a strip of land that serves as a buffer zone between South and North Korea. It is 248 km long and approximately 4 km wide. The DMZ is also where the 38th parallel is. The 38th parallel is the official border that was set at the end of the Korean War in 1953. Because of the armistice agreement, there are large numbers of South and North Korean troops stationed along both sides of the line. U.S. soldiers used to be stationed there, however, with the decreased tension between the

two Koreas, the U.S. soldiers were replaced by local Korean soldiers. My professor informed our class that in the past, the North Koreans would send out propaganda by a loudspeaker across to the South Korean side of the DMZ for hours while the South Koreans would blast out pop music. At the DMZ, there is a media center where a short film on the DMZ can be seen. There is also a small museum where you can see a model of the DMZ. After the museum, our class got a chance to look through binoculars and see North Korea. Learning about North Korea at school and then actually

being there was a great feeling. The neatest part of all was going into the underground tunnels that the North Koreans built so that they can spy on South Korea. These four tunnels are deep underground and go on for miles. Moreover, the Panmunjeom is inside the DMZ. This is the only place where North and South

connect and it is the joint security area where meetings are held. Visiting the demilitarized zone is a great way to familiarize yourself with the two Koreas and the long history between them. Along with the scenic drive and the fresh air, the DMZ is a place you must visit if you are in Korea!



Mobile Phones in Japan

By Kumiko Ota

In Japan, mobile phones are seen as an indispensable tool of everyday life. Their usage rate is now over 70 percent. Among young people, like high school and college students, the rate is almost 100 percent. Tokyo, where you can see lots of people talking or e-mailing with mobile phones, is called "one of the most connected cities in the world."

People from foreign countries are surprised at the function and the culture of mobile phones in Japan. You can do lots of things with mobile phones. For example, you can make reservations for restaurants, movies, or even for rides at amusement parks. When there is a long line for a ride at an amusement park, you do not have to wait for hours if you have made a reservation with your mobile phone. What you have to do is show the confirmation page with your mobile phone at the

entrance.

Japanese people do not talk on mobile phone frequently. A more common way is to communicate with someone via e-mail. E-mail is useful because you do not have to make someone spare their time and you do not have to care for circumstances around you. Therefore, the function of e-mail is advanced. You can send an e-mail which has over 1,000 words. This is convenient for young people because they are good at typing messages using buttons, with their thumb, on mobile phones. The phenomenon of the spread of e-mail with mobile phones is called the "thumb culture." Because of the convenience of e-mail, the amount of postal mail has decreased. We have a custom to send cards for New Year's, but its total number has declined dramatically because young people especially send New Year's messages via e-mail with their mobile phone. It is said that the negative thing of the spread of e-mail is that

the ability to write Chinese characters has dropped because mobile phone converts words into Chinese characters automatically.

Because mobile phones are vital for everyday life, running out the battery is troublesome. In such occasions, we use charging stations where you can "breathe life into a dying mobile phone battery." You can find charging stations at convenience stores, stations, and restaurants. Furthermore, you can print out pictures you took with your mobile phone at convenience stores. The popularity of mobile phones provides more opportunities for business. For example, a new type of mobile phone focuses on older people. In accordance with the fact that the functions of the latest mobile phones are too complicated for older people to use, a very simple type of mobile phone with which you can only talk has been released.

In spite of the fact that mobile phones are wide-

spread, the issues related to manners have been argued. At the beginning, there were many people who talked on the phone on the train. However, after harmful effects of electromagnetic waves on the human body was brought into question, it is recommended not to use mobile phones on trains. Train conductors announce to passengers not to use mobile phones or to turn them off. Now it is almost common sense that we do not talk on the phone when we are on the train. Also, when we are in the section of priority seating, we are supposed to turn off mobile phones. Furthermore, in accordance with the fact that traffic accidents are caused by talking on the phone or sending e-mail, using mobile phones when you drive is regulated.

Due to the spread of mobile phones, the culture of mobile phones in Japan is quite different from in the U.S.

Cheap Travel in Europe By My-Dung Pham

Students traveling in Europe have a variety of options for cheap travel fares when traveling long distances. They can fly with popular budget airlines such as Ryanair, BMIbaby, and EasyJet, use the Eurail pass that is sold at student ticket agencies such as STA Travel and Travel Cuts or, if they are near a seaport, catch the ferry to the neighboring countries.

It is important to plan the travel well ahead to get the best deals possible. This is especially important when riding trains such as the Eurostar. The same ticket can fluctuate in price depending on the season and how far in advance one buys the ticket. For instance, when I bought my ticket from London to Paris in October, the price was £60 for roundtrip tickets. When I had to purchase tickets again in December, the cost was £120 for the same trip. However,

there are times when airlines such as Ryanair will have last minute sales, and the price of those tickets may be even cheaper when purchased about a week before departure. When buying airline tickets, it is important to note not only the cost of the ticket, but also the tax that the airline charges per person and the credit card transaction fee. Sometimes the cost of the ticket may be advertised as free or 99p, but the tax may be up to £15. Most airlines also charge a credit card transaction fee that ranges anywhere from £1 to £3. One website worth exploring is skyscanner.net, which searches a number of popular airlines and compares the cost of the ticket (including the tax per person). The visitor can also view the difference in prices for each month of the year.

If using a Eurail pass, the student must remember to

validate it at the first station where they will be using the pass. Students in London who are flying out of Gatwick can also use the Eurail pass to travel on the Gatwick Express without an additional fee. Finally, certain train stations, such as the ones in Italy, require that the rider reserve a seat on the train ahead of time (as close as one hour before departure) to ensure that there are enough seats. I have witnessed train rides where riders must stand for hours on end because of the limited number of seats.

Traveling by ferry may be a cheaper alternative since the price per person is often fixed, so riders do not have to plan too far in advance. The only possible problem with ferries is that they do not operate during severe weather conditions. I had to stay an extra day in Spain before heading to Morocco because of unforeseen severe weather conditions.

One last alternative that may be cheaper than the other three options mentioned above is the bus. However, I do not recommend taking the bus for long distance travel. I once took the bus from London to Edinburgh and back, and it was one of the worst experiences of my life. Even though the tickets were slightly cheaper, it was not worth it. There is no room for lying down or stretching your legs. You will wake up from a nap with neck and back pains. Overall, I only recommend the bus for short distance travel.

It may also be worthwhile to try out a combination of travel methods to find the cheapest price. For example, to get to Interlaken, Switzerland, I flew into Geneva from London, then caught the train from Geneva to Interlaken West. This was actually cheaper than flying into a city closer to Interlaken. With that, I wish you safe and fun-filled travels!

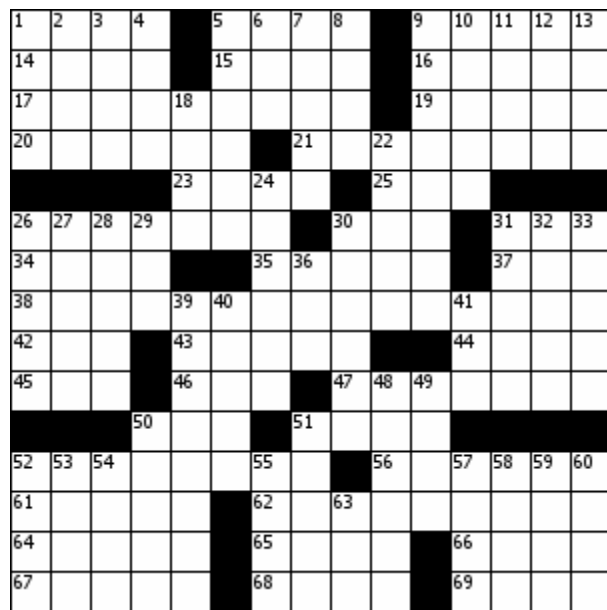
Across

- 1. This and that
- 5. Soprano solo
- 9. Not quite right
- 14. Black and white treat
- 15. Trawling needs
- 16. Zellweger of "Chicago"
- 17. Person to blame
- 19. Aggregate
- 20. Spot for a slot
- 21. Person who prefers solitude
- 23. Battleship color
- 25. Surgery sites, briefly
- 26. Shopping center habitué
- 30. Prefix for pod or corn
- 31. Frodo's friend
- 34. Border on
- 35. Destiny
- 37. Former orbiter
- 38. Person offered in homage
- 42. Tut's relative
- 43. Gambling game
- 44. Italian wine region
- 45. Retiring partner?
- 46. Some Greek letters
- 47. Lane straddler
- 50. "Garfield" character
- 51. "And hurry!"
- 52. Unlikely winner
- 56. Survey box label, perhaps
- 61. Something to rule
- 62. Person with a yellow belly?
- 64. The March King

- 65. Marshy areas
- 66. Skin-and-bones
- 67. Word with dust or hair
- 68. Son of Adam and Eve
- 69. Olympian who married her brother

Down

- 1. Pear pick
- 2. Cousin of a beluga
- 3. Some parties
- 4. Pueblo Indian
- 5. Wool source
- 6. Classic auto
- 7. Member of the Axis
- 8. Concerning
- 9. Main Street, e.g.
- 10. Alley cries
- 11. Keen on
- 12. Secure against leakage
- 13. Word with it or my
- 18. Tech. college major
- 22. Marilyn, at birth
- 24. Diet guru
- 26. Things guys may be attached to
- 27. Humiliate
- 28. Overly fortunate
- 29. Printer tray abbr.
- 30. Lawyers, e.g.
- 31. Boffo hit
- 32. "We ___ please!"
- 33. Character in gangster film spoofs
- 36. Take steps



- 39. Remembered for all time
- 40. Came upon
- 41. Male nipper
- 48. Like a stereotypical palooka
- 49. Flattered, in a way
- 50. Outlaw James
- 51. Fail to clash
- 52. Astronomical bear
- 53. It's after 11
- 54. Heisman Trophy winner Flutie
- 55. Rubs out
- 57. Olympian story
- 58. Joint concern?
- 59. Wild haven?
- 60. Sicilian spewer
- 63. Symbol of industriousness

How to Live Effectively in the Most Expensive City

By Jun Nishikawa

For those who are interested in living in Tokyo, you will first face the financial problem of living there comfortably. As a matter of fact, Tokyo is one of the most costly cities in the world.

However, the Japanese general public simply knows how you can cut the cost of living in Tokyo. "A little money, but enjoyable life," is a common theme.

First of all, you might be afraid of housing. Unfortunately, housing is an unavoidable problem in Tokyo. If you want to live there by yourself and rent a comfortable apartment, you have to pay at least \$600 (though it would be small, old or far distance from a station, and you would need to pay a deposit. Also, there is restriction on foreign people). Room-sharing is not common in Japan. So, the options you have are 1) home-staying, or 2) a university or community dormitory. I recommend the latter option, university dormitory. The price of the university or community dormitory, in general, is really low, and some of them offer a meal plan, Internet access, and student activities. The price ranges from \$200 to \$700.

Second, you have to prepare for your living when you get to Tokyo. Be it furniture, stationery, or clothes, there are a lot of things you have to buy to live. I strongly suggest you go to \$1 shops. There are many, many \$1 shops in Tokyo, and surprisingly, you can buy almost everything you need. Also, \$1 shops give you a wonderful opportunity to buy some furniture and better

goods.

Thirdly, I guess food is the most important item in your study abroad. Most Japanese people cook by themselves, though we have a plenty of good and cheap restaurant in Tokyo. For example, "Gust," "Saizeriya," "Otoya," "Yoshinoya," "Jonathan's," and "Bamiyan" are my favorites. If you want to drink, "Watami," "Yaruki-cyaya," "Amataro," and "Shirokiya" are cheap, but good places. In Japan, you don't need pay a tip, tax is just 5%, and coupons are very common (Please check

www.hotpepper.jp). Besides, if you want to cook and make your meal by yourself, we have "Shop 99", which sells all goods at \$1. Also, most of the supermarkets have so-called discount hours from 5pm to closing time. The goods are discounted from 30 percent to 50 percent or more.

Finally, a cell phone is a vital tool to keep in touch with your friends. You cannot use your phone from the United States, and having a pre-paid phone is now prohibited because of security matters, so you might have to make a contract with a company. I advise "au," which is the second largest cell phone company. If you show your student ID, you will get a 50 percent discount. The cell phone itself is very cheap, (almost free.) If you don't want to buy the newest one, though the price depends on how much you want to call your friends.

There are more methods on how you can save on the cost of living in Japan, so just ask your local friends!!!

My Generation: Eating in a New London

By Carla S. Clayman

Forget Big Ben and Buckingham Palace and leave that Pret a Manger crayfish and rocket sandwich in the shop. To truly experience London, you need to become one with the large, pulsating, and often frenzied mass of locals who call the largest city in Europe their home. And there's no better way to do so than through food. No longer solely a bastion of fish and chips and milk-saturated tea, London has become one of the most progressive culinary cities in the world and, after you've seen the British Museum and taken a ride on the London Eye, it's time to quit the tourist shtick and start eating like a real Londoner.

Buona Sera at The Jam, 289a King's Road, SW3 5EW; Closest Tube: South Kensington / Sloane Square.

This restaurant takes its name seriously - climb a ladder to get to your table stacked atop another, and then take the time to marvel at the Italian waitresses who have to do the same, but laden with bottles and plates. The salmon and lentils taste as if you're in Liguria rather than Chelsea, while the pastas and spiced olives never disappoint. The fruit ices for dessert properly kill the buzz from the Montepulciano your party put away over the course of the meal. Be warned, the bathroom may be the smallest in Christendom, but makes for a great story later.

Busaba Eathai, 8-13 Bird Street, W1U 1BU; Closest Tube: Bond Street.

After the initial scent of Thai

incense wears off, the aromas from the open kitchen let you know just how excellent the meal is going to be. Perfecting Wagamama's take on communal eating, the large, dark woods of the square tables invite conversation rather than evoke the Communist-era uniformity of the ubiquitous London noodle chain's dining rooms. The Pandan chicken is an effort to unwrap, but once you've done away with the banana leaf knots, you'll know that the gift inside was worth the wait. When you've basked in the soft lighting long enough to finish your meal, relax with a pot of lemongrass tea and honey and watch all the shoppers walk past the huge windows facing onto Bird Street.

Gallipoli Bazaar, 107 Upper Street, N1 1QN; Closest Tube: Angel.

Like stepping into Turkey, aside from all the English people, Gallipoli has you eating out of its hand by the time you're seated at a wooden divan in front of an engraved metal table under a myriad of glass lanterns. The harem kecap makes me want to hop the next flight to Istanbul, and the mint tea with rose water confirms the suspicion that you don't have to go to Edgware Road to have superb Middle Eastern food. Wear your dancing shoes, as on the weekend this petite restaurant turns into a veritable Turkish disco, where you'll find yourself dancing on the tables and singing along to songs you didn't know you knew the words to.

The Many Wonders of Rome

By Ladan Bral

Because Rome is a major metropolitan city with so much culture and history, there is always so much to see and do. I was able to discover so many of the things that Rome has to offer while I studied abroad there this past fall. Here are some examples:

First, the food in Rome is quite excellent once you've discovered where the good stuff is. Because Rome attracts so many tourists, there is often a risk of stumbling into a tourist-g geared restaurant or café that may not offer the best quality Italian food. But if you ask around and take a walk along the unbeaten paths of the city, you are sure to find incredible foods such as authentic square-shaped slices of Roman pizza with almost any topping you can imagine, good pastas, and amazing panini. And one cannot forget about yummy gelato! You can find a gelato shop on almost every block you turn to! Plus, the open-air markets in Rome are really special. There is the famous Campo dei Fiori market, and the huge daily market in the Prati district, which was conveniently a block away from my apartment. They always had the freshest and best-tasting foods, great selection, and even better prices. They make food very affordable.

Second, there is good shopping. After all, Rome is the capital of Italy, which is a leader in fashion! Rome is full of retail stores almost everywhere you go. If you're looking for high-end stuff, you can check out streets such as Via Condotti, which is like the Rodeo Drive of Rome. There, you can shop at places like Gucci, Versace, Prada, and the like. And if you're not a big

spender, no worries. There are plenty of other stores that may have what you like for an inexpensive price. You can also come across some cool finds at the city's street markets or famous flea markets, such as Porta Portese.

Third, Rome has a great social scene. Italians are really friendly and know how to relax and have a good time. No matter what day of the week or time of the day, there are places to hang out and have fun. For example, you can go hang out like the Italians do at the many piazzas in the city and chat with people. Or you can go to one of Rome's many bars or nightclubs at night in neighborhoods like Testaccio and dance the night away. There's also a traditional activity called "aperitivo" where you can have a drink and eat appetizer-like foods on any evening of the week.

Last but not least is the enormous amount of sight-seeing that you can do in the city. Rome is known for its countless churches, museums, historical ruins, art, and architecture. You can see the work of artists like Bernini, Michelangelo, DaVinci, and Carravaggio. And the city is very walkable and easy to navigate, so visiting numerous monuments like the Coliseum is easy to do even in a day. There are even gorgeous beaches nearby Rome that are just a short trainride away.

All in all, Rome is a beautiful and fabulous city that has so much to offer, even way beyond what I have described. It is a unique place that is sure to satisfy almost any desire. So hurry up and pack your bags...the eternal city awaits!

Easy Living in Singapore

By Jimmy De La Cruz and Jojo Wong

If you want to study abroad while living in a safe and clean city not too different from the United States, Singapore is the place to be. English is the main language, so no worries about foreign language requirements. With all the similarities between Westernized cities, Singapore is still on the other side of the planet, surrounded by various countries. Since the only city in the small country of Singapore is Singapore, it is an ideal location to travel to many places. You can cross a bridge to Malaysia or ride a ferry to a nearby Indonesian island.

In recent years, many economy airlines have been competing, resulting in very cheap airfares to many countries in Asia as well as Australia. Coming back from trips, you can count on very efficient transportation through buses, MRT (subway system), and taxis. There is simply no need for a car. Singapore is such a safe place that girls walk alone on the streets late at night and are not afraid if strangers approach them.

Life in Singapore pri-

marily consists of eating and shopping. Some people consider Singapore the food capital of Southeast Asia. At the National University of Singapore (NUS), canteens serve different types of food from many different places including Malaysia, India, and China. Many students eat almost all their meals at the canteens because the many different varieties of food are delicious and cheap. There is no need to cook or travel off-campus to eat.

Shopping centers and street markets are all over Singapore. In fact, most shopping areas are adjacent to all the subway stops! And because of the conversion rates between the U.S. and Singapore, you'll be saving a bundle! After eating and shopping all day, you can relax and have fun at a lively, local bar or club. Everything you need and want is just ten minutes away!



London's Outdoor Markets: Cheap and Unique World

By Christine Stoudt

London, England is best known for its museums such as the National Gallery and historical sites such as Trafalgar Square or Buckingham Palace. However, a truly entertaining activity is a stroll through one of London's many outdoor markets (come rain or shine) for unique clothes, art, jewelry, and food.

Leather Lane

Located in the business district between Holbourn and Clerkenwell Streets, this market is designed for the local employees on his or her lunch break, for it is open only 11-2 pm on weekdays. However, I like this market because there are far fewer people than at any other market and therefore it is easier to look at the vendors and make purchases without such a large crowd. There are vendors selling fresh fruit cheaper than you would find at the grocery store and other interesting cuisine items

such as crepes or smoothies. Other vendors are selling clothes, jewelry, general household items, and even bed linens. This market also holds one of the best deals for the popular Pashmina scarves, at 2 for £5.

Covent Garden

Located in the popular shopping area of Covent Garden just off of Long Acre street, the Apple Market is full of unique vendors according to a certain theme such as art or antiques. The prices are a little more expensive than other markets, but the quality and originality of the items are amazing, including paintings and photographs of London and Murano glass jewelry from Venice, Italy. Just around the corner from the Apple Market is another open air market in Covent Garden with London paraphernalia, jewelry, clothes, and shoes for sale.

Camden Town

A huge area including several markets veering off from the main street into alleys and small shops. This area of London is termed a "melting pot" of different clothes, jewelry, music, and food from around the world. The different culture of this area is obvious in the tattoo and piercing stores, as well as the gothic and punk style clothing on people wandering the streets. A half a block from the Camden Town underground station, there is everything from designer shops with expensive items and vendors with bohemian style clothing, South Asian art, and original hand crafted handbags with a picture of Audrey Hepburn on the front. The food is also amazing, ranging from fruit crepes, Caribbean barbeque, or Chinese cuisine. It can take hours to look through this market, so this is a good place to go for an afternoon activity.

Portobello Market

This market is held every Saturday in Notting Hill on Portobello Market Road, but there are a number of vendors open on this road during the week as well. All the tourist books mention this market (and even Hugh Grant can be seen walking through the market in the movie "Notting Hill"), and, as a result, it is extremely packed with tourists about every Saturday of the year. However, this is a well-established market with great organization, with antiques at the top of the street and continuing on to jewelry, food, farmers market, and art. Because of the high flow of tourists, the prices are not that cheap and it is not possible to bargain, however it is worth a look to find an antique tea pot or an unusual piece of jewelry.

Apart from Reagent and Oxford Streets, the major shopping district in London, these markets are some of the best places to look around and find unique world items and food. Nearly every European city has similar markets, so be sure to venture out to find the original gems of each culture.

A Year Full of Life Experiences

By Mehmet Can Yazicioglu

I was a normal sophomore at Bilkent University in Ankara last year. One day, my best friend mentioned an exchange program in the U.S. to me. It was a very good opportunity; I didn't want to miss the chance. Getting admitted to UCLA was not easy. I needed to be selected by Bilkent University for the program. When I was accepted I had to start the application process. (Filling out forms was one of the hardest parts of my EAP experience.) After a long waiting period, I was accepted to UCLA.

I have been here for six months and will stay for three more. I knew that coming to UCLA and living in the City of Angels would be fan-

tastic, but I found more than I anticipated. I traveled to San Francisco (it deserves the title "best city in the world" with Istanbul) and Las Vegas (I will not mention what I did in Vegas, because whatever happens in Vegas stays in Vegas). I went to four NBA matches. Let's go Lakers! I listened to Celine Dion in Caesar's Palace in what was probably the best concert of my life. (I will probably not have a chance to see a concert like that again.) I saw my dream women at the American Music Awards: Pamela Anderson, Paris Hilton, and Carmen Electra—a triple beauty shock. I know that these activities are very common for UCLA students so they may not be so interest-

ing, but you live here. You must look from a perspective of a foreigner to understand what these experiences mean to me.

At UCLA, I learned to feel like a college student. Wearing UCLA t-shirts and supporting the university in basketball and football games were wonderful. Though we lost, witnessing the rivalry game between us and "SC" was a unique experience.

I benefited a lot from my year abroad. I learned that the semester system is the best, after seeing quarter system—it's just too fast. I start to make friends in class and then guess what? The quarter is over. I realized how important my family and friends are

to me. I learned to live without help from my family, on my own. As I said in my statement of purpose when applying to study abroad, "Exchange is not a simple trip from your country to another country for academic purposes; it is a trip from your inner world to the outer world to find yourself." I found the mighty Bruin within myself. P.S.: My best friend that told me about the exchange program applied for the program too. However, he wasn't selected, but instead a really nice guy was selected. Guess who? Thanks again to my best friend. I couldn't have had a memorable year at UCLA without you. Sorry again for your not being chosen. Maybe next time.

My First Day in Los Angeles

By Joanna Asia Skubisz

It had been three hours since I got to Paris. I should have already been on the plane to Los Angeles, but I needed to wait another six hours because I missed my flight. There were considerable delays at the airport in Warsaw, due to an unattended backpack. I caught the afternoon plane and arrived absolutely exhausted to Los Angeles on Friday night. I knew the office at the dorms was closed. I had no place to stay for the night. I showed no emotions when I discovered that my luggage had been lost. I caught a cab and with extorted confidence asked the guy to drive me to Landfair Avenue, just as if I perfectly knew the location. He said I looked Russian and I corrected him that I am Polish. He assumed I understood Russian and put on some folk Russian music. He did not realize he had just lost his chance for a tip. Before we reached the destination I could already hear very loud Salsa music. Cooperative housing, commonly known as 'co-ops' are conveniently located among fraternity houses, walking distance to the UCLA campus in the

posh village of Westwood. Parties are every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, no music variation, and fire alarms on every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (some people are party rebels). I dragged my enormously large hand baggage and entered the main building. I saw some people hanging around and they saw that I seemed confused. I explained to them my situation and asked them for shelter. They inquired about my nationality and this is how I met Michal. He agreed for me to stay at his room for a night. I felt like I never left Poland. Michal has the whole room decorated in red and white (Polish national colors), he has a plethora of posters of Polish soccer teams all over the walls, and a girl on the poster turned out also to be Polish. I wiped my shoes on the red and white doorstep when Michal asked me if I wanted a shot of vodka. I refused, but I still got one. The vodka was also red. He mixed it with cranberry juice. After a 25-hour trip, this was enough liquor to knock me off my feet. I woke up in the early morning hearing a vivid conversation in Polish. Melissa, a Polish born American, had just arrived to Los Angeles and would be studying at UCLA.

Melissa and Michal debated on the future of the Polish club on campus. I was kindly surprised. For the first time experiencing immigration, I saw my countrymen so excited about their origins and homeland culture. I had the impression that they are prouder to be Polish than Poles in Poland. I walked outside the building in hopes of eventually meeting someone American, but the only local thing I encountered was the late September Californian sun burning my face. I passed an Italian couple in the hallway and walked along the group of Turks standing by the elevator. Not only was I still extremely worn out, I was faced with the breakfast dilemma – scrambled, sunny-side up, boiled, half-boiled, pouched egg, or omelet. A couple of hours later I got to see the UCLA campus for the first time. It is enormous. After studying at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, which accommodates merely 3,000 students, I felt lost. There are at least 30 different university buildings, which despite their

short 60-80 years history architecturally, draw the impression of being built in the early 16th century. There are also dozens of various sport fields, several theatres, gyms with 25 racket-ball halls and hiking walls, at least 100 dining spots, bookstores, and a hospital with a pharmacy. The first Americans I met were handsome, athletic soldiers from the recruitment center, who tried to persuade me to join the American Army. I said I just did my hair and nails before leaving to La La Land and that I was sorry. A couple minutes later I was almost forced to leave my signature on the petition for early presidential elections. My phone rang and I tried to answer it as fast as possible. I was almost ashamed because my ring tone is Green Day 'American Idiot.' I talk to my mom for 30 seconds to minimize the cost of the connection. Contrary to the truth, I assure her my journey was fine. I said I lived on the street with growing palms and Ford Mustangs parked all over. It all looked fantastic, juicy promising.



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