

oh, what a wonderful world

lions recall their travels here and abroad

Yosemite ■ Olivia Rutherford, 12

"I went to Yosemite National Park for three days with my mom for a little mother-daughter trip. Inside the park, we went to Glacier Point, which was probably the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. It all felt so serene when I looked out over the vast landscape of snow-capped mountains. The air in Yosemite also felt more fresh and clean. My mom and I have been huge fans of a rock climber named Alex Honnold, who was the first climber to ever free solo El Capitan. Becoming fans of him kind of sparked our interest in going."

Photo courtesy of: Olivia Rutherford



Iceland ■ Alexa Cumming, 12

"It was freezing for starters, but the culture, the food, the people and the landscape is [very] different and really beautiful. There was mainly Nordic and Viking roots in the culture around. Seeing the northern lights was definitely my favorite part. During the trip, we went on the Golden Circle tour to see the tectonic plates, glaciers and geysers. Then we went to the Blue Lagoon at the end of the trip."

Photo courtesy of: Alexa Cumming



Hawaii ■ Adyson Brown, 11

"I went to Hawaii over the summer and was there for five days. My favorite thing I did was definitely surfing because I have been surfing since I was little. I always like [traveling to] places to surf because you can't really [do that] here. I went with my cousin for her senior trip, and it was my first time in Hawaii. It was really fun."

Photo courtesy of: Adyson Brown



Turks & Caicos ■ Aidan Perrott, 10

"In the Turks, we went tubing over sharks and it was kind of scary. They were just there in the water all around us. We stayed in each place for a day, and were on the cruise boat for the rest of our trip. Turks were nice all around. The people were nice, the city was nice and the water was really nice."

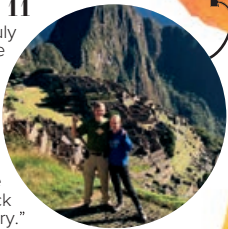
Photo courtesy of: Aidan Perrott



Peru ■ Elise Rogalski, 11

"My dad and I went to Peru in July for two weeks just for fun. We had both wanted to visit Machu Picchu and hike the Inca Trail. Every year they put more restrictions on the site, so we thought [there was] no time like the present. It was surreal and very interesting because the site is like a direct look back on history."

Photo courtesy of: Elise Rogalski



Puerto Rico ■ Celestino Arellano, 11

"My mission group went to visit Old San Juan. There are vendors and street performers just all around the area. This one guy had two pet iguanas, a baby one and the one I'm holding. He let me hold it and it felt really weird, but it was still really cool."

Photo courtesy of: Celestino Arellano



Q&A

HOW DID YOU PASS THE TIME DURING LONG TRAVELS?



South Korea - 22 hours
"I tried to sleep as much as possible while I was on the plane. I would pull out the tray and put my neck pillow on it. Even though the sleep was terrible, it at least helped the time go by more quickly."
McKenzie Henningsen, 11



Greece - 16 hours
"The flight was overnight, so I slept for most of the time and listened to music. On the way back, I binge-watched Stranger Things."
Pranav Abbaraju, 12



Alaska - 24 hours
"During the day, we did a lot of trivia and took some napkin folding classes [on the cruise ship.] Every night after dinner we would go to one of the bars and listen to people sing karaoke. A lot of the travel time was also at night, so we slept through it."
Hannah Twining, 12

italy ■ gabrielle hammerbach, 12



"I went to Milan for a family trip and stayed there for two weeks. It was my first time in Europe and it's so different. Everything is smaller, the food is so good, and the culture of how people spend their day is really different. We went to a lot of churches like the Duomo De Milano. It's a really old church and had one of the nails used to nail Christ to the cross inside. It was so pretty."

Photo courtesy of: Gabrielle Hammerbach

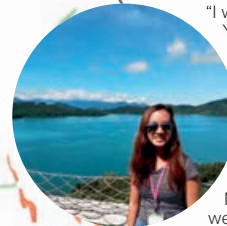
china ■ amanda lee, 11



In Shenzhen, I took pictures at a place called Window of the World where people can see all the most famous monuments and attractions around the world but in miniature sizes. It's one of the most popular tourist places in Shenzhen, and it was cool to see these man-made replicas that looked super accurate. Even though they were mini-sized, a lot of detail was put into it all."

Photo courtesy of: Amanda Lee

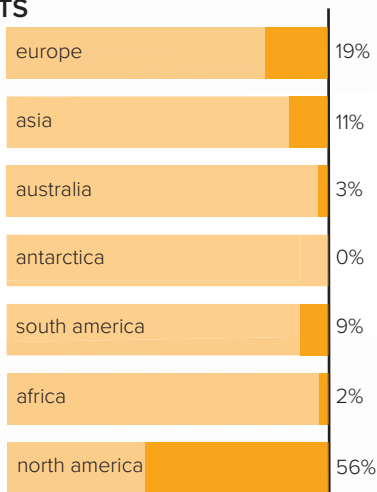
taiwan ■ celeste hoang, 12



"I was in a program called Overseas Youth English Teaching Volunteer Service Program where I taught elementary kids English in Taiwan. Every day we made PowerPoints for our lessons with vocabulary on it and presented it to the students and had them repeat after us. We were on tour during our last week of the program, and we visited Sun Moon Lake in Nantou County. When we were there, [we] did a lot of hiking and the view was really nice."

Photo courtesy of: Celeste Hoang

WHICH CONTINENTS HAVE YOU BEEN TO?



100 students surveyed

abroad view

foreign language groups take their skills overseas



france

"[Students from] our Spanish class went to Spain and France over the summer and stayed for about a week and a half. We went to different cities and toured around to [different] landmarks with our tour guide. We saw the Eiffel Tower, [which] was very pretty when the sun was setting and the lights came on. It was a little bigger than I had expected, and I didn't expect to see it so far away."

Natalie Whiddon, 11



greece

"Joanna Craig, Mackenzie Nichols and I went to Arachova, Greece with our American Sign Language teacher. My favorite part was definitely getting closer with the people I was with. Our tour group got paired up with a church group of 60-year-olds that were from North Carolina. It was such a weird match, but we actually all got along. It was really fun to hear the stories and meet new people. Getting closer with them was the best part."

Brelyn Cary, 12

Photo courtesy of: Brelyn Cary