

Travel Journal Entry 1: Getting Ready to Go!

Hi girls! I am starting my world trek and I am really excited. I hope you are, too!

I am all packed and ready to go. I think I have everything I need. The latest weather report says that it is -8 degrees in Beijing, and I have my coat, mitts, hat, scarf and comfortable shoes. I have winter clothes and summer clothes, as I will be visiting countries with different temperatures. It was hard trying to decide what to pack. My luggage had to weigh less than 30 pounds and I wanted to leave room for souvenirs. I have my camera, journal, passport, and books to read on the flight. I also have my personal CD player and CD's of my favourite music. Some of the flights will be very long, so I will be able to read and practice some of the languages of the different countries.



I also had to get some special visas stamped in my passport to visit China, Kenya and Brazil. And, oh, yes I have my plane tickets as well. I have done a lot of reading to get ready for my trip. If any of you are planning a trip you need to check the following Web site: www.voyage.gc.ca/dest/ctry/visa-en.asp to make sure you have all your required visas.

I also learned that, to travel to some countries, I had to get some vaccinations. I was little afraid of needles so my mom had to go with me and hold my hand. The other thing is that I will need to exchange my money in each of the countries because they don't accept Canadian money. I do not want to carry too much money with me so I have some traveler's cheques that I will cash when I get to each country.

During my trek across Canada, I learned we have five different time zones, so I am used to always changing the time on my watch. On this adventure, I will pass through many more time zones and even cross the International Date Line. This will mean I will repeat the same day twice. That is exciting because I will have double the fun.

I have to admit I am a little nervous about the trip, but more than nervous I am excited! I can't wait to see all the sites, taste the food and learn more about the cultures. I also hope that I will be able to connect with other members of WAGGGS associations.

Last night at my Unit meeting, they held a Bon Voyage party for me. It was really great! We had a lot of food and treats and I received some presents for my trip including this travel journal, which I will use to keep you updated on my travels.

I am not sure if I will be able to sleep but I will try. I will write you again from the airport.

TTFN (Ta, Ta For Now),

Your too-excited-to-sleep trekker,

Zoë