Juvenes Translatores 2025

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Your translation [hrvatski]

Putovati amo-tamo

Dragi Aleks,

drago mi je da putuješ državama! U pravu si: i ja sam putovala u svojoj mladosti, 90-ih godina prošlog stoljeća da budem preciznija, kada sam bila još studentica.

Prag je bio vrhunac mog putovanja, no prije putovanja sam trebala poslati dokumente kako bi mi odobrili vizu. Tada je sve to bilo jako uzbuđujuće, a sada sam toliko zahvalna što imam mogućnost pokazati putovnicu Europske Unije te njome lagodno i brzo proći graničnu kontrolu. Ako si u Šengenskom prostoru, naravno, nećeš ni znati da si prešao granicu, osim što će ti mobilni operater postati poruku.

Mislim kako ne trebam ni spominjati da studenti 90-ih godina prošlog stoljeća nisu posjedovali mobitele. Ako si htio rezervirati sobu u hostelu, trebao si naći telefonsku govornicu, na ulici ili u kafiću, i uplatiti poziv. Naravno, u svakoj državi si trebao koristiti različite valute.

Za smještaj u Pragu imala sam samo ime i adresu žene koja je ugošćivala putnike, no nisam imala njezin broj. Zbog toga sam joj napisala pismo, uistinu, pravo fizičko pismo. Prije no što me kreneš ismijavati, nisam pisala pismo labuđim perom i krvlju. Vjerojatno sada misliš kako sam čudna i staromodna jer ti šaljem ovu poruku preko e-pošte, ali čak i to nije postojalo tada.

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Prag je tada bio grad u Čehoslovačkoj. Zapadna Njemačka je još jedna od bivših država koje sam tada posjetila. Posjetila sam je samo par tjedana prije ujedinjenja Njemačke. Sjećam se kako su ljudi bili uplašeni. Neki su mislili kako se sve to događa prebrzo, dok su drugi smatrali da bitne stvari ne treba usporavati.

Postoje još neka imena koja danas više ne postoje na geografskoj karti. Kada sam bila mala na karti, preko velikog dijela Europe, pisalo je "SSSR". Poslije, 1989. godine, kada je pao Berlinski zid, sve se promijenilo. Mi smo se tada trebali priviknuti na nova imena država, koje su iz naše perspektive zapadnih Europljana, bile skrivene iza diktatorske vlasti.

Isto tako, postojala je i Jugoslavija, nekad davno velika država u Jugoistočnoj Europi. 90-e godine prošloga stoljeća bile su vrlo značajne za nju. Tada se Jugoslavija raspala, a na njenom teritoriju nastale su države čija bi imena znali naša prabaka i pradjed.

Iskreno Ali, ja nisam toliko stara, što god ti mislio, no za vrijeme mog života dogodile su se ogromne promjene, većinom promjene nabolje. Jako je bitno da ih ne zaboravimo. Europska Unija nije savršena, ali, s obzirom na našu burnu povijest, dobro je ispala.

U svakom slučaju, dosta propagande, kako bi tvoj otac rekao.

Želim ti da se odlično provedeš na putovanju i Ali, dušo, dok ne znamo što nam budućnost nosi, probajmo uvijek osvijestiti koliko smo daleko dogurali.

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S ljubavlju,

teta M

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Text to translate [English]

Journeying back and forward

Dearest Alex

Great to hear that you're going interrailing! And you're right: I did it myself back in the day, 1990 to be precise, when I was a student.

Prague was a highlight. I had to send off my passport in advance to get a special visa. At the time it was all very exciting. These days, I'm so grateful to be able to flutter my EU passport and waltz through border control. Of course, if you're in Schengen, you wouldn't even know you've crossed a border except for your phone company pinging you.

No need to tell you that students didn't have mobile phones in 1990. If you wanted to book a bed in a youth hostel, you had to find a payphone, in a street or bar, and pump in coins, different ones for every country, of course.

For my accommodation in Prague, I had the name and address of a lady who took in visitors but no phone number. So I wrote a letter: yes, a physical letter and before you snigger, no I didn't use a swan's feather and my own blood. I know you think I'm quaintly old-fashioned for still using email, but even that was unheard of back then.

Prague, at that time, was in a country called Czechoslovakia. Another ex-country that I visited on my interrail trip was West Germany, just a few weeks before German Reunification. I remember there was a certain apprehension. Some people thought it was happening too quickly, but others felt it was too important to wait.

There were other names now no longer on the map. When I was growing up, a whole swathe of Europe was marked 'USSR'. It was after the fall of the Berlin Wall, in 1989, that everything changed. We had to get to grips with the names of countries which, from our vantage point on the western edges of Europe, had been 'hidden' behind the Iron Curtain.

Then there was Yugoslavia, once a considerably sized state in south-east Europe. In the 90s, that momentous decade, it ceased to exist and, in its place, countries emerged with names that our great-grandparents would have known.

Honestly Ally, I'm not even that old, whatever you might think, but the changes in my lifetime have been extraordinary, and largely for the better. It's important we don't lose sight of that. The EU isn't perfect but, given our tumultuous history, we've done pretty well.

Anyway, enough propaganda, as your dad would say.

Have a wonderful trip with many adventures and Ally, my darling, while we can't know exactly what the future has in store for us, let's always remember how far we've come.

All my love,

Auntie M