

Postcards from the World

G'day mate – greetings from Australia

The country is so beautiful. The nature down here is really extraordinary. I have never before seen so many different animals and plants. The scenery is one of a kind – some places everything is sand, rocks and a few plants as far as the eye can see. Other places are completely the opposites, green forrests where nobody has ever been before. Some of the animals living on this continent are not to be found anywhere else in the World, but they are well-known all over. Take for example the kangaroo, which is such a characteristic animal protecting its kids by carrying them around in a "pocket" on the stomach.

And the sky. The sky is more blue than anywhere else in the World I have been. Even in the winter the sun is shining most of the time in parts of this country.

But Australia also has civilization, small villages, towns and big cities. Brisbane is really beautiful, and in the middle of the city near the river is a big park, and inside the park is a small beach. People gather here all year round. They make barbeques, small beach parties, or they just hang out. Really fascinating considering that we are in the middle of the city. Another, and the most famous, city in Australia, Sidney, is not as beautiful, but it is the home of the Opera House, which is one of the most famous buildings in the World. Outside it looks like the sails of two ships, and inside it is created to make the best possible atmosphere for any kind of performances. Even though the Opera House is really big, no performers need microphones. The acoustics make microphones unnecessary. That is amazing! But what is even more amazing is the architect – he is Danish!

I am sure some of the World's nicest people live on this continent. Wherever one is, people want to talk, show one around and help to make the visit to Australia an adventure of all time.

The beauty of the rocky island – greetings from Bornholm

Bornholm is exactly how I thought it would be. An old-fashioned society with a beautiful nature and small houses. The streets are small, too, and very hilly, but it does not seem to bother either the inhabitants or the tourists. I have not seen many cars. Most people are either walking or riding a bike. I like that!

In the middle of the island is the most untouched nature in Denmark. The Valley of Echoes still looks more or less as it must have done when it was created after the Ice Age. Bornholm also has the oldest ruin in Europe. Parts of it only looks like a few rocks, but some of it still stands, and that is a very popular tourist place. On really clear days one can see all the way to Sweden. The whole island is an important part of the Danish history.

The people who live here are nice. They speak with a really characteristic dialect, especially the older people. Maybe because the island is closer to Sweden and Eastern Europe than to the rest of Denmark.

I like being here, and when the sun is shining, Bornholm is one of the most beautiful places in Denmark – and I liked the ferry trip to get here, too. It lasted seven hours, but it was worth it. I feel like I am back in the 19th century, but they do have technology here. I even saw a satellite dish. That destroyed the old-fashioned picture, but what else could I expect? We are in a new millennium – also on Bornholm.

How are you today? – greetings from Kentucky

Kentucky is a little different from Denmark. Not as much, as I thought, but still a little different. The biggest differences are the food and the people. The food is disgusting, especially in the cafeteria, and much of it does not really taste like what it is. And the people eat far too much fast food, which is probably also the reason why many Americans are fat compared to the Danes. At least I have tasted good food once in a restaurant, but the funny thing is that people here rarely cook themselves. They go out for both lunch and dinner. I met a woman one day who has not cooked since her oven broke seven years ago. Wow! That would never happen back home...

Another thing I do not think I will ever get used to, is the way people greet each other. When the Americans meet someone they have met before, they always say: "Hi, how are you?" – and they just keep on walking. They do not care about how one really feels, and I do not think they would really mind if one did not answer, but polite as I am, I always answer: "I am fine, thank you." What would they do, if I stopped up one day and started telling about all the work, I have to do or that my back is hurting? They would probably look at me as if I just arrived from another planet, but then again it will probably never happen, because I am not brave enough to say it.

They also have more cars here than we do in Denmark, and the car is important. They rarely walk, and the roads are not built for pedestrians. Some places the sidewalk is only on one side of the road; other places there are no sidewalks at all.

However, I like the weather here which is more or less like home. When the sun is shining, it is warmer, though, and the summer is longer, too. I like that! I like being here, but I also look forward to going home again. Denmark is still where I belong.

No chewing gum allowed – greetings from Singapore

Everything is so clean – not one piece of paper in the streets. Throwing paper on the street is prohibited, and chewing gum is not allowed anywhere. Not even in the airport one can get chewing gum. If an officer catches one in chewing gum, one risks a ticket of up to 150 dollars. Weird!

The weather is great, too. Even though it is winter here, the temperature is close to 40° Celsius, and the wind is only a light breeze. It is hot, but it is great.

So far, I have only met nice people, and because I am a tourist with – hopefully – a lot of money to spend, they treat me like a queen. But it is nice – they carry my luggage, open the doors and do everything to help. And in the hotel room is a small free welcome champagne. This is luxury. Not only the treatment is royal, the hotel looks royal, too, and I feel royal, especially when I am lying on the king-size bed that I have. But the best is that the prices are really low. Everything is so cheap.

I love this place, and I really want to come back and enjoy the cleanliness, the friendly people, the cultural differences and the beautiful surroundings. Singapore is just perfect!