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H O L L Y W O O D E D I T I O N



Washington D.C.

When I was in Washington D.C., I thought I was in St. Petersburg, because they look so similar! There are a lot of sculptures, architecture, and museums. When I heard the museums were free, it was a surprise for me. I have been to many countries and I have discovered many museums, but all of them cost money.

Now I love Washington more – not because the museums were free or because it's the capital of the United States, but because it's truly beautiful, it has a lot of history, and it has many opportunities. It's certainly a big opportunity for people who travel a lot and can't pay for museums but are interested in this culture and country.

By Dimitru

My Next Five Months in L.A.

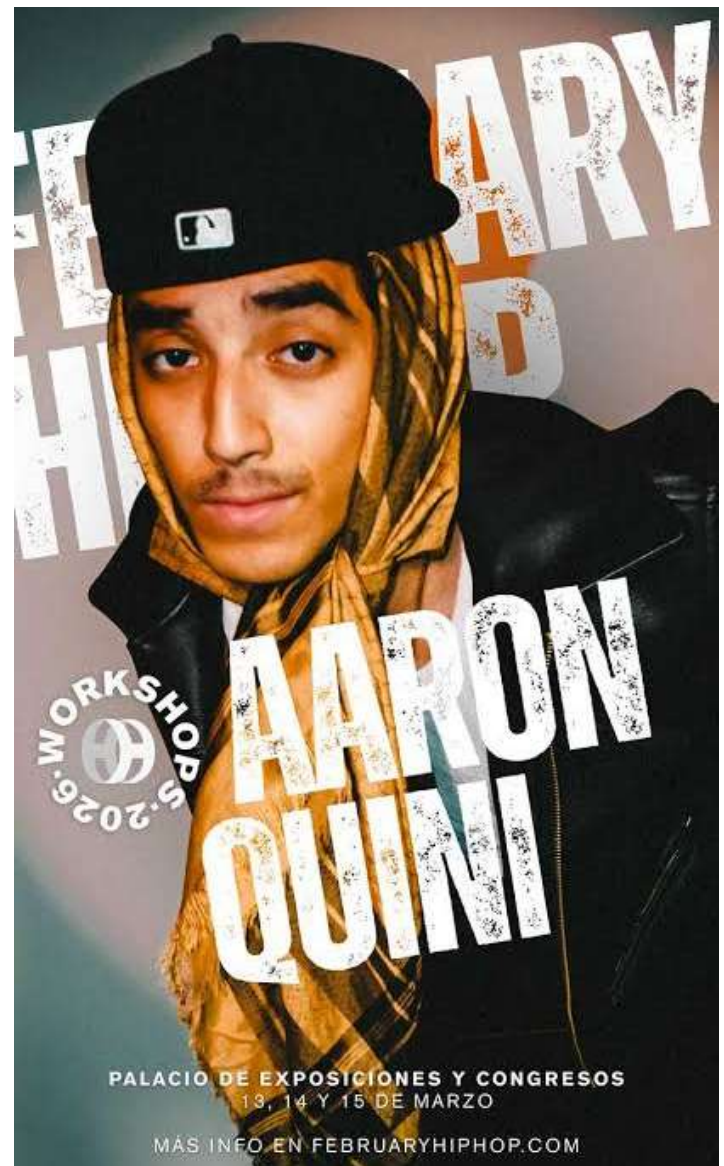
When I was in kindergarten, I was very shy. One day, my parents saw me dancing happily at a school performance and they decided to enroll me in a dance studio. I love dancing because it's really fun. I can also connect with different people through dance, even without speaking to them. I especially enjoy it when I encounter a dance move that is so difficult because it encourages me to work harder and to continue trying until I'm able to do it. That really makes me feel happy about the dance and myself.

While here in LA, I met a dancer who has influenced me. His name is Aaron Quini and he's a choreographer from San Diego. From my first class, I was extremely impressed with his skill. The way he understands the music is very interesting to me and his choreographic style has taught me a lot. I'm really inspired to push myself and I have respect for him.

Before coming here, I felt that I couldn't express myself well enough through my dancing and I often worried about what other people thought and compared my dancing with others. I couldn't dance like myself, so dancing wasn't fun sometimes. However, since I came here, I compare myself with others less and I'm gaining confidence. Now I feel I can dance more like myself.

I only have five months left here. I want to learn as much as I can from as many dancers as I can. I want to make the most of my time and have no regrets about my dance life!

By Rin





MY WILD WEEKEND IN LOS ANGELES

BY SHINTARO

A few days ago, I went to a show to see Newspend with my friends. It was my first time seeing a live show in the U.S. It was f***ing insane! The energy was completely different from what I've experienced in Japan. The crowd went crazy! They were pushing and smashing into each other. I was completely shocked by how intense everything was. I had such a crazy experience.

The next day, I went to look at used cars to buy with my friends. You have to have a car in LA to make living here easier - whether it's going to events, visiting other cities, or heading out to parks. I took the car for a test drive and realized that the air conditioner didn't work. As everyone knows, LA is very hot and not having cold air in your car is a dealbreaker. So, we obviously didn't buy the car, but I'm hoping to find a suitable one soon.

After that, I went to my friend's place. His name is Gento and he lives with his sister. After she got home from her part time job, she took us to try some Korean food. It was my first time eating at a restaurant in LA. We ordered a lot of different dishes and enjoyed eating and talking with each other.

Gento's sister told me some very interesting stories and I was happy because the food was really amazing. We ate and ate until we were completely full. I had such a good time. Afterwards, we went back to Gento's and watched a movie. I didn't realize how tired I was and fell asleep about 5 minutes into the movie.

The next day I woke up in the morning and I decided to hit the gym with my friends. We didn't overdo it with the weights, we just had a good time together. Going to the gym makes me feel refreshed and clears my head. I'm really grateful that my friends invited me to join them.

Looking back, I had such a good time last weekend. I didn't plan anything in advance for the weekend, but it seems that everything we did just happened naturally. This is one of the reasons I came to Los Angeles and I want to keep having new experiences and creating new memories here. I also want to share my journey through my videos and hopefully inspire other people. I'll just keep going!

USA VS. CHINA

By Emma

There are so many differences between my country and the United States. Americans are used to so many things, but for foreigners, they're a surprise. When you're driving and you come to an intersection with stop signs, drivers know which car goes first, and everyone follows this rule seriously. Also, when you come to some intersections with traffic lights, you can turn right even when the light is red. You just have to be careful and watch for any cars or pedestrians crossing in front of you.

Also, in most Asian countries, using drugs is absolutely not allowed. If you use them, you will go to jail. However, in the United States, you can buy marijuana in some stores. I was so surprised the first time I saw that.

Western countries and eastern countries have totally different cultures, habits, food, laws, and so on. Sometimes you find out something that's normal in your country, but you find out that's not the case on another side of the world. No matter what, we must respect every country's differences, wherever we go.





By Kurumi

The More You Travel, The Slower You Age

Did you know that traveling can reduce stress and improve your mood? Here are some good reasons to travel.

1. New places and experiences stimulate your brain.
2. You tend to walk more and stay physically active.
3. You have more opportunities to socialize and connect with people.
4. Travel keeps your curiosity alive and encourages you to keep learning.

These factors are all good and reduce aging. Personally, I love traveling because I can experience the local lifestyles and foods for myself and even though traveling requires a lot of money. However, I believe that time and lost opportunities are things that we can never get back. Also, I once read that “Now is the youngest you'll ever be.” This saying is one of my favorites. Life is short, so I go when I want to see something and take action. I went to New York three years ago and that experience changed the way I thought at that time. Now I carry that experience to this day.

I really value the different foods that I can eat and the things I see when I travel with my own hard-earned money. I'm also grateful for the people I've met along the way. It's given me a lot of energy and motivates me to work harder, so I can travel more in the future.

Maybe traveling isn't just a vacation, but an investment in my health. I want to stay young in both my mind and body, and I know that traveling is a big part of staying healthy.



THE DIFFICULT LANGUAGE?

BY KOTOMI

I've heard that Japanese is the most difficult language for foreigners to learn. In my opinion, as a Japanese person, I feel that my language is difficult too. Why do I feel this way? I think there are several reasons.

First, there are the number of characters in Japanese. Japanese has three types of characters. "Hiragana", "Katakana" and "Kanji". The total number of these characters are more than 2000. This is limited to Jōyō Kanji, officially every Kanji character. It's a lot, but these help the Japanese read easily.

Second, there are many grammatical pronouns; as many as 500. This is too much as well, but it's very important for the Japanese. We can understand relationships, personalities, levels of politeness and respect through these pronouns. Sometimes they change depending on gender, but these days they are becoming more neutral.

Third, Japanese sentence structure is different from English. This is very confusing for foreigners learning Japanese, just as we are confused while learning English. Basically, the verb is at the end of the sentence and the tense is at the beginning. It's the opposite in English. However, I've learned that many other languages use variations of this structure.

In addition to these, there are also three "honorifics" (keishō) which are suffixes or prefixes added to names to express respect, familiarity, or social hierarchy- playing a critical role in Japanese etiquette. These are very hard to master, but using them incorrectly would be considered rude to Japanese people. As a result, children receive strict training starting from kindergarten to avoid offending others.

I feel that the Japanese language is a very considerate language, and I want to learn more about the complexities of the Japanese language as well as English.

My L.A. Life

I'm going to go back to Japan in 10 days, so I'll take a look back on my life in Los Angeles. I've been living here for about 4 months. When I arrived here, I was afraid of the local people and worried about public safety. However, it wasn't as big of a deal as I thought it would be.

The food here in LA isn't bad, but I prefer Japanese food. I was surprised that people here cannot eat raw eggs outside of the home. I like to have a soft boiled egg, but I couldn't find a place that would serve that. That's when I started thinking about returning to Japan. However, I think Ubatsuba-Acai has the best food in town.

The beaches that I've been to in LA are wider than in Japan. I really like Venice Beach because it has a skateboard park and I like the atmosphere. I went to the beach about five times with different friends.

The weather in LA is usually sunny which sometimes is a little too much for my eyes. Generally, I prefer cloudy weather. I also noticed that rain is rare here and that because of this, the city is dirty.

The people here in LA vary widely. There are so many kind people, and at the same time I see so many homeless and crazy people on the streets. Something that surprised me was how people will cross the street anywhere and how bold they are to not get hit by a car. It was a bit shocking, but I respect how people here live their lives freely. I was able to enjoy L.A. life and make friends so I'm satisfied. Actually, I was also able to meet some famous artists and dancers who I like. In the end, LA is a city of dreams and I would like to come again.

