

Are you a tourist or a traveler?

What do you think are the differences between a traveler and a tourist? Put the words in the following list in the right column. Explain your choice.

CONVENIENCE – ADVENTURE – EMOTIONS – MONEY - DISCOVERY – ENCOUNTERS –
TRANQUILITY – MAP – SOUVENIRS – CURIOSITY – LEISURE – DISCOMFORT - LUXURY – EASE –
PROGRAM – CAMPING – PROBLEMS – RESORT – UNKNOWN

And which side are you on? Do you feel like a traveler or a tourist when you leave your city?

Compare your answers with the statements in this following article.

Tiziano Terzani was one of the most famous Italian journalists in the world. Tiziano Terzani (14 September 1938 – 28 July 2004) was an Italian journalist and writer, best known for his knowledge of the 20th century of East Asia. His passion for Asia started in 1965, when he went on a business trip to Japan. This was his first contact with Asia and his first step towards his decision to change his life radically and explore Asia. Terzani knew much about the historical and political background of Asia, but had also a deep interest in the philosophical aspects of Asian culture. Though an unbeliever, he always looked in his journeys for the spiritual aspects of the countries he was visiting. He lived for years at a time in Beijing, Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok and New Delhi.

Let's discover it in this interview that appeared in Vita in 2002, two years before his disappearance.

“Terzani, What does travel mean for you?

It means to immerse yourself as much as possible in the reality that you encounter. Let yourself be guided by curiosity and follow a **thread**. When I travel, I let myself be guided by chance, by lucky encounters and by the unexpected. As it happened to me in November in Afghanistan, when I met a Taliban leader in a Peshawar bazaar. Also in Afghanistan I let myself be guided by two students from the Koranic schools. They helped me see the world with their eyes, otherwise I would have traveled using only my eyes and my prejudices, only going where my choices led me.

What is the difference between the tourist and the traveler?

Tourism consumes everything. [...] You sell everything about a place and the people who live there, in order to make money. As happened in my city, Florence, which was transformed into a huge shop.

The tourist gets off an air-conditioned plane and is picked up by an air-conditioned bus. In hotels, he finds international cuisine which is the same everywhere and he washes himself with a soap which is the same in Rome and Timbuktu. He arrives on a boat, loaded with suitcases, at the coast of Benares, takes four photos and returns saying he has seen India.

And the traveler?

To return as travelers, you would have to go back to being like the only real travelers: **pilgrims**. Only in this way can tourism and its destinations be saved. In China, centuries and centuries ago, the first tourist was one who left his home to look for sacred scriptures in India, the Vedic texts, which he then translated from Sanskrit into Chinese and are still preserved today in two pagodas in the south of the country. The pilgrim is one who has respect, who venerates the place where he goes.

A couple of tips to go back to being travelers ...

You have to give yourself time. Whoever thinks of doing everything in three days, visiting something every hour, has finished living the journey. He can never let himself go. You should travel in search of something. There may be those who are motivated by the desire to know a place where **beet** is grown in a different way. It is already something, it is a reason to travel. You have to prepare for discovery, read something beautiful, rediscover the poetry of the journey.”

Taken from an interview with the deceased journalist published in Vita-non profit magazine in March 2002 signed by Emanuela Citterio.

Read and comment on these travel quotes. Which sentence do you like the most? Which one do you like the least? Why?

1. "People don't take trips—trips take people." (John Steinbeck)
2. "The real voyage of discovery consists, not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." (Marcel Proust)
3. "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." (S. Agostino)
4. "Writing is traveling without the hassle of luggage." (Emilio Salgari)
5. "Travel is nothing but an inconvenience. There is always enough trouble where you are." (Charles Bukowski)
6. "Before leaving for a long journey, you need to have the desire to never return." (Irene Grandi)

→ This is why I love to travel

Click on the arrow to watch the video.

Vocabulary of the video:

Customs:

Grip onto something: s'aggriper à quelque chose

To stretch:

to stare:

to acknowledge: reconnaître

items:

boundaries: limites

