

# Unlimited

THE AUGUST ISSUE

OUR UPPER INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS DISCUSS THEIR FAVOURITE  
TRAVEL EXPERIENCES



ENGLISH UNLIMITED

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ENGLISH UNLIMITED

# ON THE COVER

ANDREQUIELI -  
EU STUDENT



# NATIONAL MANAGER'S WELCOME MESSAGE

The *Unlimited* magazine published by English Unlimited is a vehicle for our students to express their boundless creativity.

This month's topic is *Travel* and our students from all three cities have submitted wonderful articles that take us around the world.

A big congratulations to our 3 winners, Alessandra, Bruna and Kate. You guys should be proud of your achievements. Writing in a second language is not an easy task and I commend your efforts.

Next month we have an exciting special issue so look out for that.



*Dr. Ivan Kumar*

## OUR GUEST JUDGE: DAVID POSNIAK

Thank you *English Unlimited* for asking me to be the judge for this month's articles from the Upper students. The essays were fantastic and I am so happy to announce that Alessandra from Brisbane is the winner for Best article of the month.

I am currently a Security Receptionist with the Australian Museum, providing customer and administration services which support the Museum's Security and Facilities operations. The services I provide help one of Sydney's popular attractions to be a safe, secure and accessible venue for exploring and learning about nature and culture.





## MY AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE

I chose Sydney because it's a big city with a lot of people. I'm from a small city back in Colombia with a population of 500K. When I first arrived I was really surprised by how respectful everyone is here. Like when you're lining up for a coffee or getting a train ticket, people really respect queues. This experience has been amazing. Being around so many nationalities has made me so interested in other cultures. Now I really want to go out and explore the world. What I've discovered while being here is that we're all the same just with different accents. Before I thought we were all different, but now I realise we just create invisible borders for ourselves."

[Diego, Colombia - EU student]

An aerial photograph of the North Stradbroke Island coastline, showing a steep, rocky cliff meeting the ocean. The water is a vibrant blue, and the cliff face is light-colored with some green vegetation. A large yellow circular seal is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'WINNER 1st PLACE'.

**WINNER  
1st  
PLACE**

# **NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND**

by Alessandra Damiano from  
Brisbane

If you want to visit an amazing place near Brisbane you must explore 'North Stradbroke Island'. It is a special place if you love nature and the ocean! I visited this gorgeous place last year and I suggest you explore the "North Gorge Walk". It is a long track around the coast of the island where you can see spectacular areas and an amazing view of the Coast, ocean and incredible beaches. The walk track takes 2 hours to walk where you can explore fantastic and relaxing places. If you are a lover of bikes this island is the perfect place to take a bike because the streets on this island are very easy to ride and don't require big workout. I think this year I'm returning to this island with my bike because from my memory, I was very Impressed by the views of the ocean and the amazing cylinder beach where you can do a lot of sports, for example Surfing Windsurfing.

This Beach is the best place for a surfer. Actually I'm afraid of the sharks in the ocean and so I prefer to walk along the amazing beaches that you can find on this beautiful island. If you want to stay for a few days on this Island you can find verb comfortable hotels or a Bed and Breakfast with rooms with a sea-view. The Hotels have different prices and you can choose cheaper options to stay on this island. I suggest you stay on one of the beautiful beaches on this Island and see the sunset where the contrast of the colors and their tones are very fascinating! I remember these colors and this special place gave me inspiration for my paintings I love this Island! You must explore it!



## THE JOYS OF TRAVEL

by Laura Medina Rivera from Melbourne

For everyone, travelling is the best thing that you can do to relax, open your mind, find yourself and be happy. However, not everyone does that because they are scared to live something different, to go out of their daily routines and their comfort zones. Living something different always gives you fear, but after you travel the first time, you will want to more and more.

Nowadays, too many people think that for travel you need to have enough money to do that, although that is not always true. It just depends what kind of travel you want to do.

If you are an adventurous guy, you could travel with a little money and start the adventure. You can find cheap hotels or go camping. Regarding the food, you should cook and just try to improve your knowledge.

To sum up, when you travel, you always learn something new. It will help you to be a better and wiser person and when you understand that life is just to be happy, you start to really live.

**WINNER  
2nd PLACE**

## THAILAND ELEPHANTS

### by Bruna Chiavegato Fontanesi from Sydney

My favourite place that I've been to is Thailand, maybe because I'm obsessed with elephants ( I think I was an elephant in my previous life! ) I went there with my ex boyfriend last year to celebrate our 1 year relationship anniversary.

Everything was amazing but my favourite part, with no doubt, was the experience at the Nature Elephant Park. I spent three days caring for elephants who suffered some kind of mistreatment because of work expectations. I learned a lot about these amazing and pure creatures. They look big and strong but they are very fragile and kind.

I think one of the famous tourism attractions in Thailand is when you "climb" and ride on the back of the elephant for a walk, but this should stop, cause most of the animals in the nature park suffered got a broken back due to this kind of tourism. There is no law to protect them. It's something people must read and learn about before going there

Well, you always have to look up the culture, food and what to do and not to do before your trip. We should show respect!

At the end, my dream came true. I did what I always wanted to: Live with elephants ( just for 3 days, but it's ok).

Now I want to be rich, move to Africa, build an elephant orphanage and live with them forever!





**WINNER  
3rd PLACE**

## MY BEST TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

by Kate Minhye Kim from Sydney

Travelling to Europe was one of my dreams. This dream came true in 2006. When I was a university student, during my summer vacation I went to Europe for 40 days with a group of strangers that I had met online. We found each other through a website which matched people with their travel plans. Then we travelled together for 40 days. Of course we sometimes tried to have our own time there. It could be a day or two days. We arrived in London first. I still remember the weather and the sky when I saw the Tower Bridge at first. That was awesome! That still makes me happy. Everything was perfect. When we travelled, we took flights, trains, ferries, cars and cable cars. They all have their own unique atmosphere. That was very interesting for me. People, the parks, the food markets, one of the best thing was heading to an unexpected place.

Barcelona wasn't in our list. But we tried to go there by chance. Exploring new places and new food was unforgettable. It's not easy to visit many cities in only 40 days! It couldn't be called "travel" but it was the best chance for me at that time. After finishing the trip, My way of thinking was broadened and I was eager to travel and experience a lot.

My next travel plan is South America. I wonder how many amazing things are going to happen to me! I can't wait.

# GOLD COAST AND SURFERS PARADISE

by Vincent Cloquard from  
Brisbane



In this little paragraph, I will tell you my experience about the Gold Coast. Firstly, this is a wonderful place where you can find a lot of beaches and tourist attractions. The water is really transparent and of the most original things is the number of high-rise buildings just in front of the beach. I think that my favorite place is Surfers Paradise because it's very tranquil and peaceful and if you come from France, like me, it's like a dream. The Gold Coast is full of gorgeous landscapes. According to me, it's better to come here during spring or winter because the weather is still nice. The sun shines and there are less people than in summer but it depends on what you prefer. Moreover, I can advise you to go there on Sunday because there is a beautiful market along the waterfront and also several events that you can enjoy (like an old car exhibition for example).

It's a really good place to take amazing photos. This is one of the best places for surfers, so you can't go there without trying surfing at least once. This is why I suggest you to try it without any hesitation! Personally, I experienced it and it's just awesome!

It's a very hard sport but if you take some lessons, you can progress and enjoy it even if you're not good. The water is not so cold and you can rent a wetsuit for a day and also a surfboard so it's very accessible for everyone.

Finally I can say that Gold Coast is a place where you can discover new things and enjoy all the time. It's a really good place to be or at least to visit. If you come to Australia, you must go to the Gold Coast!

# DISCOVERING AUSTRALIA

by Ingri Ramirez Isaza from Sydney

Australia isn't the first country I have known, but it's the first I have travelled alone and for a lot of time. For this reason I consider I am in my best experience right now because I feel that I learn a lot of things about myself. I can be strong.

I have also met a lot of people and they have made my life here very funny and easy because when I arrived here I was alone and felt nervous, but now I see life in a different way and I am enjoying this step of my life in this beautiful country.

I have enough time to know different places in this country and I think that is really amazing and I like having the opportunity to share this experience with people from different parts of the world with crazy cultures. I came here because I wanted to improve my English but I think that I have learnt many more things that help me to grow as a person.

Although there are many things that I don't like in Australia, for example I think food here isn't good and it's very expensive. In general life in this country is very expensive, even more when I compare this to my country, but this is all part of this great experience and I prefer looking at the good things.

The weather is another thing that I don't like because those months are very cold and I want to go to the beach. To finish this writing task the most important thing is that I miss my family, friends and work in an office.

# LIFE IS A TRIP

by Juan Camilo Para Guerra from Melbourne



To talk about travel as the main topic of this article it is necessary to distinguish what the purpose of the trip is. It could be for meeting new people, gastronomic experience, or finding yourself in any way.

When you have clear what you want, the next step is to find which place can provide all the things you are looking for. Then when you've decided the place it is time to look for a route. You can search on websites about the places and all the things you can find or do but it will always be better to research with locals or people who are from there because they will always have the best tips to take advantage of the place.

Then try to mix the things you have found on the websites and the recommendations of locals to create your own route. In this way you will go off the beaten path to have a holistic experience during your trip and will have an open mind if the plan changes. Sometimes things happen in a different way to what we want so try to adjust your original plan to the new situation. If this happens, it is because life wants to give you more on your trip, so let's enjoy it.



# MY TRIP TO SRI LANKA

by Sonia Rossi (Sydney GE coordinator)

This story starts before I was born: My mum is Dutch and my dad is Italian and my parents had been living in Sri Lanka (also known as Ceylon), south of India. As a construction manager, my dad was working on a project there in a town called Kandy, up in the hills, known for its production of tea. We lived there for the first two years of my life. We then moved to Sydney, Australia where my sister was born, three years later. We were in Sydney until I was 13 and my sister was 9, when my dad got another job offer to go back to Sri Lanka! To finish the construction of a resort in the south of the island, in a small village three hours from the capital Colombo, called Weligama. So we decided to pack our bags and go!

It definitely wasn't an easy decision, as we were very happy in Sydney, but it was a great chance to spend more time there again and for me, to get to know my birth place. Our plan was to go there and then at the end of the project, move to Italy where my dad is from, for a few years. I have vivid memories of these nine months in Sri Lanka, the smells, the heat, the animals and the atmosphere, as I was 13 and my sister was 9. We stayed in bungalows on the resort, which was on a hill overlooking the ocean. We used to love eating all sorts of fresh tropical fruit every day: pineapples, mangos, passion fruit, papayas and coconuts as well as playing on the grass outside our bungalow, surrounded by palm trees and cheeky monkeys !n.

I also remember going snorkelling and seeing all kinds of beautiful and colourful fish! We went for walks through the small villages around the resort, walking past huts to get to the beach, and little kids used to run out to say hello, touch our hair and say "Look at these white people!" This was so strange for us, but of course these people hadn't ever seen foreigners before! Let alone little blond kids.

I will never forget the day the prime minister was assassinated. We were staying with Dutch expat friends in the capital city of Colombo, and we heard the news. An immediate curfew was set off and I remember feeling quite scared! Everyone had to be at home by dusk and you weren't allowed to go out. He had been killed by a suicide bomber cycling past him. So tragic! I will also never forget all the animals we saw, playful monkeys in the garden or running up the palm trees, chipmunks, big iguanas who would roam around the resort and the streets of the little village, as well as tiny little geckos we could see on our ceilings! And so many cows!

A man used to come and get the laundry, on a cart attached to a donkey! It was an incredible life experience which changed our lives, we learned about the Sri Lankan culture, food, way of life and met some beautiful people. Two of these were our teachers, as we did distance home schooling, following the Australian primary school curriculum. We received weekly packages with books and materials and would have lessons every morning with two Sri Lankan teachers. My sister loved climbing trees and she was very good at surprising her teacher every morning from the top of a tree!

After these 9 months we moved to Italy to get to know my Italian side of the family, learn Italian and settle in Italy, start a new life and thus we had to say goodbye to this spectacular island. That is another story. However, the tastes, smells and tropical colours of beautiful Sri Lanka will always stay with me!





# A TRIP TO MELBOURNE

## by May (Hui-Mei) Chang from Sydney

I like traveling. I have been to a lot of countries, such as Japan, Korea, Thailand and Australia. This is my second time here in Australia. The first time was four years ago. I came with my family for holiday. This time I come here not only for travelling but also for studying English.

Last week, I had a four-day tour to Melbourne with my family. We flew there then rented a car from the airport. It was my first time driving in Australia.

Driving in Australia was very different from driving in Taiwan. The biggest difference was driving on the left hand side of the road. Besides, the road was narrow and everybody was driving very fast. I was nervous and scared on the first day.

Melbourne was a fantastic place. The first day, we went to Peninsula Hot Springs in Mornington Peninsula. It had nature thermal mineral waters flowing into various pools. I felt relaxed while enjoying the hot springs. The view from the hilltop pool was absolutely marvelous.

The second day, we went to Phillip Island to see penguins parade. They were the smallest penguins in the world. Those little penguins definitely drew everybody's attention. They were really cute!

We went to the Enchanted Adventure Garden on the third day. We participated in a number of Tree Surfing activities, which had 5 different levels of challenges. We all felt excited about it. We spent over two hours to finish all level of challenges. It's really an adventure wonderland!

The last day, we visited Brighton Bathing Boxes as well as Graffiti Street and Degrares Street in Melbourne CBD. There were many special sight-seeing hot spots to see. We took a lot of pictures so that we won't forget such a great memorable experience in Melbourne.

I hope one day I could come back to Melbourne again.



*Sydney*  
PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



*Brisbane*  
PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

# PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

## *Melbourne*





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