

SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado

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Look, Mom! I'm Skiing

Students Enjoy First Ski Trip in Colorado



Russia in Only One Day...by Julie Reznichenko

Would you want to visit Russia? Would you want to see the most famous, interesting and traditional Russia in only one day? If your answer is YES, you should read my recommendations because nobody loves my country as I love it.

First of all, you should fly to Moscow because that city, recognized as a world city, is the capital and a major cultural and religious center of Russia. Directly from the airport, you ought to wind your way to Red Square, for it is the most famous city square in Moscow. It is also the geometric center of the city where you will see the official residence of the President of Russia, the Kremlin, and Saint Basil's Cathedral. The cathedral's design, shaped as a flame of a bonfire rising into the sky, is so beautiful that according to myth its architects were blinded, so they couldn't have built the same cathedral anywhere else. Thus, if you visit Red Square first, you can see many interesting things in just one time.

Secondly, you should go to Arbat Street. It is such a long and interesting pedestrian street that you can spend a lot of time there. Many famous artists and academics live there. Vakhtangov Theatre, which was founded in 1921, is also located there. Right on this street are many singers and guitar players whom you can listen to. Therefore, Arbat Street is known as the cultural street. There are also a number of small shops where you can buy Russian souvenirs, such as *Matryoshka* dolls, samovars for heating water, *ushanka* warm hats, and other stuff. By that time, you might be hungry, so stay on the Arbat Street, where are many restaurants, even the Hard Rock Café. Nevertheless, my advice is to go to the Russian restaurants to taste some traditional Russian food, like *pelmeni*, borsch, Russian vodka with caviar, honey, *blini* and others. Hence, Arbat is the pleasure place, where you can immerse yourself in Russian life.

At the end of your Russian day, you ought to go to a traditional Russian steam bath, *banya*. Russian *banyas* usually have three rooms: a steam room, a washing room, and an entrance room. Russians love really hot *banyas*, so the temperature in a steam room is about 110 degrees Celsius (230 degrees Fahrenheit). Don't forget to use a felt hat to keep the head as cold as possible. After the first good sweat, it is customary to cool off in a cold pool, lake or river. (Cont. p. 2)

RUSSIA (Cont. from p. 1)

Then a *banya* is re-entered, and all things are repeated. It may seem crazy; however, Russians believe that it is excellent for health and beauty. In addition, after a *banya* you will feel as if you are born anew, so you will forget about the hard and long tourist's day.

Russia is such an interesting and kind country that one day to visit it is just a time to know a little part of my sweet, huge country. Nonetheless, my suggestion includes the nuttier things about Russia for tourists, so, in only one day, you can visit historical places, buy souvenirs and taste traditional food, and improve your health in a Russian *banya*. Since you will follow my recommendations about the country that I love as nobody loves it, you will be quite content.

Level Two Writes

Students Impressed by First Denver Snow Storm

Last year in October, we had a heavy snowstorm in Colorado. For the first time, I saw very heavy snow. It snowed for two days in a row, and more than a meter of snow accumulated on the ground. I was surprised to see so much snow because it does not snow like this in Tokyo, Japan. Most of the elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as colleges, were closed.

After being surprised, I saw a white, clean and bright world which was very beautiful. Then children outside played very happily while shoveling the snow. All the lawn looked like a thick and warm quilt spread over it to welcome a cold winter. This snow was also excellent for skiers, and they enjoyed the white world. – **Hidemi Fukada, Japan.**

When the snow was falling from the sky and all the children played with the snow, some kids made a small home of snow just for fun. I think snow is good for people because in the summer all people go to the beach to swim or barbecue, but in the winter many people go to the mountains to ski or do some activity in the mountains, but some people stay home in the winter. – **Abdullah Al-Saif, Saudi Arabia**

I like a lot of activity in the winter and snow is an important thing for me. First of all, when I came to America the first time four months ago, I didn't know it could snow. After approximately two days here, the snow came. My face was like someone who saw snow the first time, but this is actually right because my country is always hot. I was so happy when I saw snow for the first time, I said to my friend, "It's America!" Finally, I like snow, and it's very nice for me. – **Hamdan Al-Shehhi, Saudi Arabia.**

This is the first time I have been in the U.S.A. I arrived when the weather was very cold, more than as usual in Kuwait because we used to be in desert weather. When winter comes in Kuwait, it's also too dry, so we only see snow on TV. But now I see snow in Colorado and it is amazing and also at the same time it is too dangerous because you have to be careful when you drive a car or cross the street. The snow is nice. It makes you feel so comfortable and romantic. Some times when I see snow, I like to play with my friends with snow. We can make snowmen, and it's very funny. – **Abdulahman Al-Shammari, Kuwait**

In my country it doesn't snow. All the people in the U.A.E. want to see snow because the weather in my country is very warm. When I came to the U.S.A. and saw the snow with my own eyes, it was the first time, and I was very happy about the snow. After I saw it I felt great, and I played with the snow and it was freezing outside. I like to see snow, but sometimes it is not good for people and for cars. Snow causes many accidents on roads. For now I hate the snow because my car does not go on the snow. - **Humaid Al-Mansoori, U.A.E.**

"Snow is the best thing I have seen in the United States." I was bored with hearing this sentence when I was in my country. I heard a lot of my friends say snow is beautiful and it is really a miracle. When I came to the United States. I was interested because I would see the snow soon. I was interested in the weather every day because I wanted to see what I had heard about. When the snow was finally falling from the sky, I said, "I see it. W-o-o-w!" But when I stayed outside, I felt I was freezing and my skin was chapped because the weather here is very dry, and I hate it. Today when I see the snow, I hate myself because I can't go outside, and I feel like a prisoner at my home. – **Nasser Al-Mansour, Saudi Arabia**

The first time I saw snow, I caught snow in my hand and fell down three times. There was no school, and I was very happy. First, when I went to school the first week I was in Denver, the snow began. When I walked to school, I was so happy to see snow. Next when I finished school, I went to my home with my friends, so I caught (cont. p. 3)



SNOW (cont. from p. 2)

snow in my hand and played with my friends, like putting snow down their backs and in their faces. After that, when I went home at night, the snow stopped, so the temperature came down and the snow in the pedestrian walkway turned to black ice. I didn't know about black ice, so I fell down three times. The first time when I crossed with the signal light. Next one was close to home I fell down, and the last time close to the house door. Finally, I had a backache, but I had a fun day. – **Mohammad Al-Habash, Saudi Arabia**

The weather in my country is very different from the weather in Denver. The weather in Saudi Arabia is very nice, so sometimes it is rainy, cloudy or warm. I like the weather in my country. First, five months ago I came to Denver. When I came I saw snow, so I liked that. I liked the snow because there is no snow in my country. Now that I live in Denver, I hate the snow, and I want to go back to my country due to the weather. The first time I went with my friends to the mountains it was very cold. When we came back, I was sick. I don't like the cold because I can't stand it. Sometimes though I like ice skating. The college sometimes makes ski trips. Some people in American like to ski on the weekend, but being out in snow is a threat to health. I like no school when it snows. I saw some children playing in the snow, but this is weird. Five days ago when I wanted to go to school, I slipped on the ice. I was angry at that moment. I want to buy a car because of the weather, but I have to ride the bus everyday in the cold. Everyday, I wear good clothes. Three months ago I bought some clothes for the cold. Finally, I like summer because the weather is the same as in my country. – **Zayed Al-Yami, Saudi Arabia**



The first day of my experience with snow was very good. I couldn't believe that I asked for snow coming down from the sky. It was nice to feel human ice. When I woke up in the morning on Saturday, it was cold, so I was not able to get out of bed. Finally I went to the bathroom and washed and brushed my teeth. When I went back to the bedroom, I opened the curtain so the sun would not hit me, and I was surprised that there was no sunshine. I saw it looked terrible. I had never seen this in my whole life, only on TV and in dreams and in stories. The land was in a white coat and the trees were covered with snow. Snow was pouring all the wealth of the time. I decided to go out to play with a little snow. I went to the back garden and played with the dogs and built a snow man. It was fun, and I filmed the ice and sent pictures to my family in my country. I love the snow. – **Fahad Albouq, Saudi Arabia**

Snow is my favorite thing about the weather. Before I came to the United States I just saw snow on TV. In that moment, I wanted to see snow in front of me. When I arrived in the U.S., I asked my brother when the snow will fall. After two months, snow was falling. I was amazed in that moment because it was the first time I had seen it. Now snow is a normal thing because I see it every day. Sometimes I feel bad when I see snow because I don't have a car, so I have a problem when I walk to school. Finally I like snow on the weekend because I go to the mountains. – **Abdulrahman Al-Nuhayt, Saudi Arabia**

The first time I saw snow in the U.S. was five months ago. I did not see snow in my country. I was happy because it was the first time. When the snow fell, I was playing and I made a snow man in my home. When I finished playing in the snow, I was very tired and sleepy. When I woke up in the morning I became seriously ill. Two weeks I was sick because of the snow play. I cannot leave the house and go to school because I am very, very sick. Now I do not like the snow, and I do not play in the snow. – **Khaled Al-Hamd, Saudi Arabia**

The first time I saw snow was in Australia. Everybody was playing and skiing, but I did not want to try it. The second time was in Lebanon. Although I did see snow before, it was the first time I saw it falling from the sky. That time I wanted to try a snowmobile, but I couldn't because my son was too young and did not stop crying. My experience with the snow here in Denver was totally different. The first time it snowed, my wife made some tea and we went out in the car and drank our tea and enjoyed the beautiful snow that covered almost everything. Finally, I will invite my friends to come see life with snow in Denver. – **Abdul Baset AlMarzouqi, U.A.E.**

My Favorite City Is Riyadh...by Hossain AlShedoki, Saudi Arabia

My favorite city is Riyadh because it is a big city. Riyadh is a city in Saudi Arabia, Riyadh is about 250 miles from Al-Qaseem and about 500 miles from Jeddah. There are many streets in Riyadh. There are three tall buildings, and you can see all of Riyadh from one very tall building. There are more than 1200 schools and 15 libraries in Riyadh, and there are eight TV stations. There are more than 200 banks, well-known stores, and a big museum. There are over three million people in the city, so it is a very big city. There is lots of traffic and noise, but people like the big stores and restaurants. They love to watch soccer games. I like Riyadh, and I miss it every time.

ART IS IN EACH OF US...by Khalid Al-Said, Saudi Arabia

Many people develop skills outside of school. When I was young, before my younger sister and brother were born, I spent a lot of time painting and drawing. I was so obsessed with cartoons that I was trying to improve my drawing skills all the time.

I was alone most of the time, so I didn't have anything to play toys or soccer with me. At that time, I had to find something that I enjoyed by myself. I liked the cartoon "Ninja Turtles." It was my favorite cartoon. I was drawing everywhere, even in my older sister's books. She was mad about what I did, so she told my parents. After that, I asked my father if he could buy me a drawing book and crayons. He did and I was so happy that every morning I brought my drawing book and the colors to draw what was on TV. Every morning I woke up at 9 a.m. and started drawing what was in my mind. After a few years, I entered first grade and was so excited to show my teacher and my friends my drawings. I did, and every year I got better and better.

Art is in each of us. Not just art but sports and many other things. It doesn't matter if other people like what you do or not. If one of us has something special and others can't do it, I'm sure we will need that person one day.

A Mother's Custody of Her Children...by Osama A. Enajeh, Libya

Divorce is the termination of the marital relationship when it is impossible for a couple to continue together. Another solution has eluded the couple because of their different ethics, repulsion, or the failure of the continuing process of life between the spouses, which may lead to disappearance of love and the generation of more hatred. When the divorce happens, mothers should have custody of their children because they are more sensitive to the needs of their offspring, they can take care of their babies more efficiently, and they can protect their children from any abuse in the community.

In my opinion, I find that the ideal mother would be someone who is attentive to her children in the right way and always strives to achieve the best for them. As we know, children need their mother's advice, especially when they enter school and become youths. At that time, mothers have enormous responsibility for their children. For instance, they have to listen to their daughters about the changes in their lives, especially in love and the relationships between their boyfriends. On the other contrary, fathers can do these things, but not in the same way as a mother can. Girls have the ability to talk to their mothers more than their fathers.

No one in the world can take care of the babies better than their mothers. Babies acquire behaviors from their parents and they need to be breastfed to grow naturally. In addition, the mercy of a mother to her child is more than others. The common example of this is when the child is sick, we note that the mother watches her child through the night. As we know, mothers are more patient than fathers, especially in the care of their sons.

Life permeates many of the difficulties and problems facing the people, especially children. Mothers must stand with their children towards these risks and deviations arising in life. They are responsible for paying the costs of study for their children and this is not an easy thing because it requires suffering and strong effort. Children face many problems in their lives which cause them to need more attention about the dangers surrounding them. The best proof of that is how animal mothers defend their children.

In conclusion, mothers are the most important parent to their children, who cannot live without them. Therefore, mothers should have custody of their children because of their sensitivity, ability to take care of their babies more efficiently, and their instinct to protect their children from any abuse in the community. Fathers and mothers have to think about their children before they divorce because children are the foundation of life.

The Positive Effects of My Teachers...by Hind Khalifa

In Islam, we believe that God sent prophets to mankind to be their teachers. This indicates the importance of a teacher's role in our lives. Teachers have a strong influence on their students' personalities. Whether we remember the teacher or not, each one of us has been affected by teachers in negative and positive ways. In my life, there were teachers who helped me to form my personality in many ways.

One of the teachers who had the greatest impact on me is Fatimah, who is a doctor in Islamic jurisprudence. Fatimah is very famous in Jeddah. If you mention her name to any person in Jeddah and he does not know her, it means that this person is very far away from the lectures, activities and Islamic parties that are held in Jeddah. I met her after I graduated from the university. She helped me to establish my knowledge of religious jurisprudence while I was teaching at the university. Therefore, whenever I have lectures or activities inside or outside the university, I do not make mistakes about the religion, which is sometimes the problem of other teachers. With patience, love and attention, she taught me for four years in the subjects of forensic science and religious rules. She has given me the right to call her at any time to ask questions. When I wrote a book for adults or children, I asked her to review and comment on them. She is the only person who I give her this right because she is so knowledgeable. She calls me a lot in America to encourage me to continue my studies here, and I hope that I will not disappoint her.

Another teacher who has affected me deeply is Sanaa. Both inside and outside of Saudi Arabia, she is a distinct example of an Islamic social worker. She caught my attention when I saw how much she loved and provided for poor people. I went with her to the villages outside Jeddah in the intensity of extreme cold or hot weather, to provide food and clothing for needy children. She sat with the children on the floor, washed their clothes, bathed them, and told them stories. I traveled with her to Yemen and I was surprised by the large number of people who knew her. After the war, I traveled with her to Bosnia, and I was surprised by the large number of non-Arab people who knew her by name, invited her into their homes, and gave her beautiful handmade scarves as gifts because they knew how much she loved them. I also went with her to Darfur. She went there to teach children our holy book and provided them gifts. Over a period of five years, I learned from her that love is in your actions, not only your words. You should make something of yourself by serving others. As a result of what she taught me, I opened a Center to support poor families in Jeddah. I received permission from the government to collect money to build houses for them. There have been 43 houses built so far. I named the center "Sanaa" after my teacher's name.

The final teacher who helped to shape me is actually a friend and teacher at the same time because she is close to my age. For years, she gave lectures in my home for all my friends every Sunday. She has a unique ability to revive the sense of faith within our hearts. She was especially perfect in her conduct with her family. Her best time, words, and activities had been given to her family. She taught me that success in life starts from inside our home with a happy family; after that the happiness will grow to our life outside. Unfortunately, I lost this loyal friend and spiritual teacher. While I was in America, she died in a tragic car accident. Before I came to America, she took the ring from her finger and put it in my finger and said to me, "Take this ring, it is very precious to me, it is a part of my soul." I miss her greatly.

I have been affected by these unique teachers in a positive way, and they have helped to shape the person that I am today. If they had not been my teachers, perhaps I would not be the same person. Now, it is my turn to be a teacher to others. I hope that I can convey the high values that they taught me, to my children and my student.