

Going Back to Your New Home

Do you want to go back to your new home, but do not know how? It is not always easy to find a way back to your new home, but many opportunities can present themselves. Not everyone will have the same experiences with returning, and do not be discouraged if you are not able to return immediately. Using the experiences of other people and maintaining contact with your friends and family can help make your return trip a reality.

Be Realistic

- Every trip home will have different challenges and different opportunities
- There are various ways to return
 - Going back with your family
 - Working to pay for your trip
 - Another exchange program
 - Attending a university in your host country
 - Working abroad (for a summer or longer)
 - Doing service abroad
 - Fitting your return into a larger trip
- Consider when you are able to return
 - Is it immediately or in the next 20 years?
 - Each trip will have pros and cons
- Consider how long you will be able to stay when you return
 - A weekend return (as a part of another trip or another exchange) may not be ideal, but is an opportunity to see everyone again
 - An entire summer trip back is not always practical or possible
- Remember that things will be different than during your exchange
- Set realistic goals, and they can become a reality

Talking to your new families and friends

- Stay in contact with everyone now
 - Sending an email or snail mail can be quickly done
 - It is easy to put off, but is also done easily
 - Do not regret your decisions
- Do not make assumptions that everything will be the same when you return
 - You understand your relationships with your new families and friends
 - Check with your new families first
 - Not everyone will be able to host your visit
 - Questions you need to ask:
 - Are there new rules when you visit?
 - Will the rest of your family that wants to visit be welcome?

Real Rotex Stories

Ethan Manthey

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Ethan traveled back to Norway in June after 1 year back in the US. He was able to travel back for part of the trip with his parents, which allowed them to see his city and friends and family. He was able to stay longer than his parents, so he could also see all his friends and family in Norway and catch up in Norwegian and not be stuck translating the entire time. His parents helped him pay for part of the trip, but he worked the entire school year to save up money.

Sarah Bygd

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Sara was able to travel back to Ecuador in June after 1 year back in the US. She traveled back by herself, but was given part of the airfare as her Christmas present and covered the rest using her skymiles. She stayed with her host family for just under a week, and then stayed with a friend for the rest of the time. By staying with both, she was able to see everyone, but her family was working the entire time, and could only see them when she was back at the house at night.

Joe Groom

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Joe was able to travel back to Brazil in June after 1 year back in the US. He traveled back with his brother and father for a family vacation where they visited the Amazon Rainforest for a week, followed by a two week visit to Belo Horizonte (with his brother only). He stayed with his second host family for the two weeks and spent a lot of the time visiting friends and other family, while showing his brother the city. Going back with your family can create lower costs, because your parents may help finance the trip.

Rhianna Gawrys

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Rhianna went back to France in the fall to study abroad after 4 years back in the US. She directly enrolled into a department for foreign students to improve their language skills which is associated with the major universities in Bordeaux. One of the major advantages of going abroad without a program is lower costs, association with native students or more international students rather than Americans, and a better opportunity to be immersed into the culture again. She was able to visit her friends and families throughout the semester and joined the Rotary exchange program & Rotex in Bordeaux making many aspects similar to a second Rotary year abroad.

Adam Hennings

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Adam went back to Austria in the fall of 2008 after 4 years back in the US. He was working on a research project in Germany, and stopped in Austria for a few weeks after the research project was completed. This allowed him to work overseas and then visit his host country through his college experience.