

# COMMON FEARS OF TRAVELING ABROAD

## ANTIBLACKNESS:

There is a realization that the USA has its systemic challenge with how it treats melanin, so you first need to remember that the new destination is NOT the U.S. When discrimination occurs or differences in treatment, it may be linked to class or the assumption you're a national to somewhere else. It's a different lens that people look at you than in the U.S. It takes a mind shift because we are conditioned to believe we'll be seen negatively. And it's oppressive. Sometimes the questions and stares come from curiosity instead of accusation.

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Antiblackness largely exists because of the framework in which we have lived within the confines of the U.S. When you go to other parts of the world, you are seen as a human being. It just feels different, and that's the part that's exciting to me. That's the part I look forward to. Everyone I spoke to on my podcast (Blaxit Global) said that when they get off the plane and get in line to come back to the U.S., they feel the weight come right back on them. You can go out of the confines of the U.S. and move about, encounter people and be open and engage within a different way without worrying about microaggression or someone calling the police because you look different; it's palpable.



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## OVERCOMING FEAR

Fears are realized for each person, but confidence comes from the mindset. Have you had a time in your life where you faced your fear? If it worked out, then utilize that as a frame of reference. And maybe it's not around the world; perhaps it's a little trip: Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean. Get your feet wet.



# WHAT SURPRISES BLACK TRAVELERS ABROAD?

## Not Traveling Sooner!

People wish they had done it sooner or earlier. And it's okay if you don't stay in your first country of choice or decide to come back to the U.S. if things don't work out or you need to regroup. A mental prep. Get in where you fit in. The path isn't linear. You can control how fast or how slow you move in this.



"I am really looking forward to what I learn about myself when I am no longer looking at myself through an American lens."

"I never felt more American outside the U.S. than in the U.S."

## The "American Dream is Possible!"

People are living the American dreams but in another land. Being born, raised, and educated in the U.S. shapes you, but those skills are largely transferrable. You can exist and thrive in a different land if you bet on yourself.



## Community Abroad

There is a community outside of the U.S. Many communities want to help you thrive, get you involved, and help amplify your voices so others can hear and see people who look like them living abroad. We want people to be aware of our communities.



"It is outside of the U.S. that you realize how much you have to grapple with and embrace your "American" identity. It could be off-putting if you're not ready for that realization."

# DRAWBACKS OF WORKING REMOTELY ABROAD

## TIME ZONES

The U.S. is isolated in its timezone; you feel closer to other times in other parts of the world.



## CURRENCY

Currency fluctuates, and you need time to transfer and move the money.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Depending on the region or the country, your Wi-Fi access may have moments of instability if the country is involved in rolling blackouts. If long term, set up a generator or make sure you have a source of power. Remember, there's more automation on the U.S. side that might not be the case where you are, or there are different practices than what you're used to. Finding your people and learning before you go to prepare yourself before setting up shop. Every place is different, so know what infostructure you need to make your business run smoothly.

# URep Abroad

YOU REPRESENT THE UNDERREPRESENTED



## Our Mission

URep Abroad's mission is to build an accessible and engaging network of thought-leaders and changemakers traditionally underrepresented in international education.

## Who We Are

URep Abroad celebrates underrepresented educators and leaders in international education by intentionally uplifting and spotlighting diverse experiences.

## our ethos

URep Abroad aims to construct an affirming space that supports emerging and experienced leaders while fostering an ethos of trust and ensuring everyone has a seat at the table.

## WHY UREP ABROAD?

**PWYC Policy** | We're serious about community! We know finances vary, and professional opportunities are expensive. We operate a "pay what you can" (PWYC) policy for our events, so we are always financially accessible.

**Contribute To a Great Cause!** | 10% of the total registration fees collected from events go towards a cause that matters. URep Abroad has donated to post bail/bond for immigration detention centers and increased access to COVID-19 vaccines for low- and middle-income economies.