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Is your young teen hankering to join that backpacking trip to Sydney, or wishing youâ€™d allow him to go on that mission trip to the Philippines? And are the dangers and risks of leaving your teen to travel by himself halfway across the world all you can think about? Before you pull out all the stop signs, you might want to think about it.

Teens love to explore and are curious by nature. They are eager to go places and experience new things. But they can also be quite self-centred and immature. Giving them the chance to explore other places, cultures and environments through guided trips abroad can help them lose some of those immature characteristics. It can be extremely beneficial for them, and here are some of the reasons why:

1. Travelling abroad gives teens unique experiences that teach them life lessons. By being exposed to different cultures, people living in harsh environments and difficult situations that are stark contrasts to their own small world back home, teens become more aware of how small they are in the bigger scheme of things. They learn to be humble and develop empathy for less fortunate people, and they also learn to be appreciative of what they have.
2. Travelling abroad prepares teens for real life. For a brief moment, they are no longer sheltered and they experience what it is like to struggle and face real world problems on their own. Many teens who have gone through these trips have stated that no other experience in their life could rival what they experienced there in terms of hardships and struggles. They had to survive in an unfamiliar environment not knowing anyone, not speaking the language and handling certain responsibilities. It became inevitable that they would develop problem-solving skills, critical-thinking skills and learn to handle stressful situations on their own.
3. Travelling abroad helps teens become more mature. Being given new and more challenging responsibilities somehow forces them to be more mature, independent and responsible, which makes them more confident.
4. Allowing your teen to travel develops trust between you and your teen, and this trust consequently develops a better relationship.
5. Travelling abroad is a great opportunity for you to teach your teen important lessons about safety, proper decorum and even saving. Before your teen travels, have a discussion with him about precautionary measures and he will learn how important these are when he is already on his own. And if you let him earn or save money to spend for his trip, heâ€™ll learn a valuable lesson on working hard to get the things he wants.
6. Travelling abroad opens a lot of educational and professional opportunities for your teen. Colleges view overseas travel quite highly as they are aware of the valuable lessons teens learn from it, and businesses will consider it as good experience.
7. Travelling abroad develops in teens a passion for more important goals in life. It inspires them to set goals and aspire for a greater, more meaningful purpose in life.
8. Travelling abroad lets your teen meet new friends from other parts of the world, friends that he could have for life.

Allowing your teen to travel abroad can be worrisome for any parent. But the benefits of having your child travel on his own far outweigh the risks and those risks can be avoided simply by taking some precautionary measures and talking to your teen about them.

When Staying in Sydney

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