

AROUND THE WORLD

WITH DEVON SWINBURNE



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN



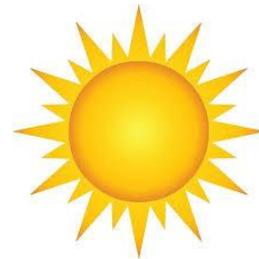
I traveled alone for the first time when I was 18 years old in 2008. I graduated high school in Vermont and after the summer I moved to Costa Rica. I lived and studied in Costa Rica for a whole year. I lived outside the country's capital in a small city called Heredia. It was very interesting for me. I was able to learn about a new culture, a new place, a different lifestyle and I also began to learn Spanish. It was an eye-opening experience. During my year in Costa Rica, I fell in love with travel. Since that first year abroad I have traveled every single year up until today.

I have been traveling for the last 12 years.

I have traveled to over 30 countries all over the world.



COSTA RICA



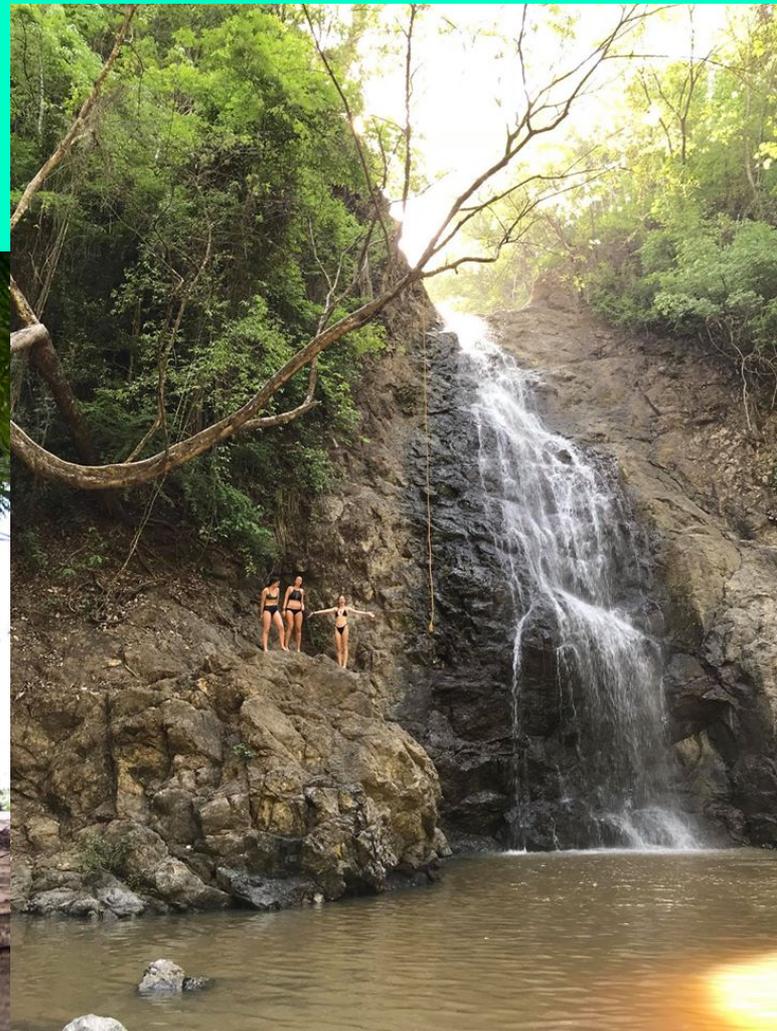
Language: Spanish » They speak a very different dialect of Spanish. Ricans speak using the “usted” form almost always. If you ask a Costa Rican how they are doing they respond with “pura vida”, their expression for a greeting and a response.

Culture: Life moves slowly in Costa Rica. This slow pace is called “tico time”. Everything happens at ‘tico’ (what Costa Ricans call themselves) pace. Siesta is between 12 and 2pm, similar to Spain businesses are closed during this time everyday.

Fun Fact: Costa Rica is one of the **most biodiverse countries** in the world — you can find nearly 5 percent of all known plants and animal species in its national parks and wildlife refuges. I have lived in Costa Rica at 4 different times in my life. I lived in the Capital, in the mountains and on the beach.

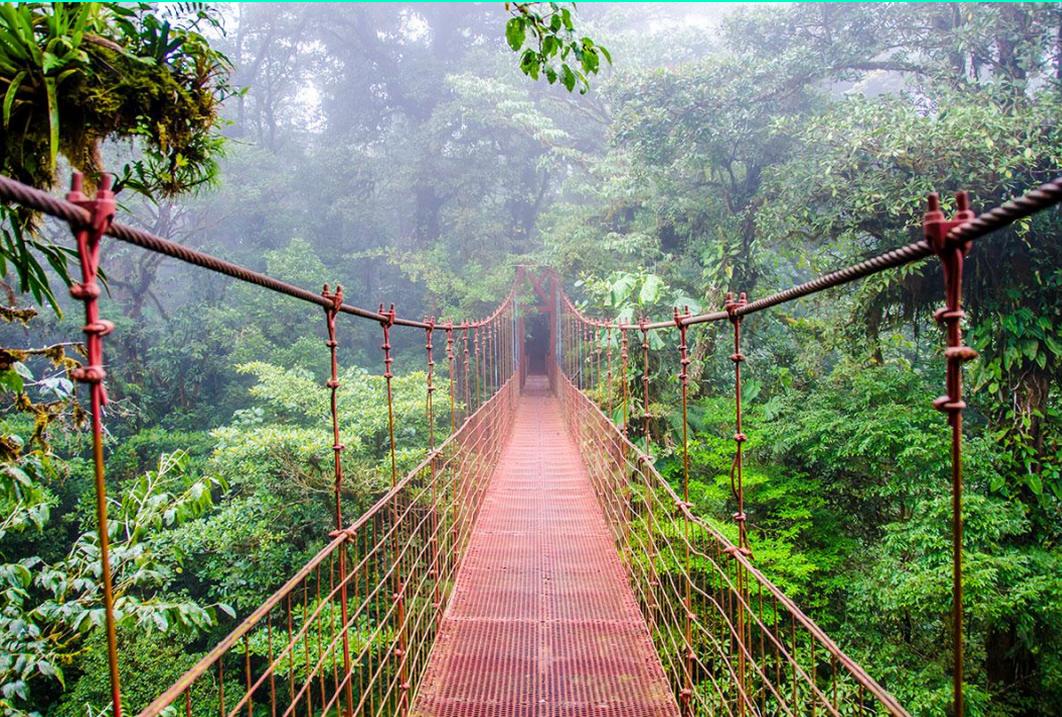
SANTA TERESA

IN THE NICOYA PENINSULA



MONTEVERDE

IN THE MOUNTAINS OR CLOUD FOREST IN THE NORTH





INDIA



The Taj Mahal

Language: Hindi is the official language.

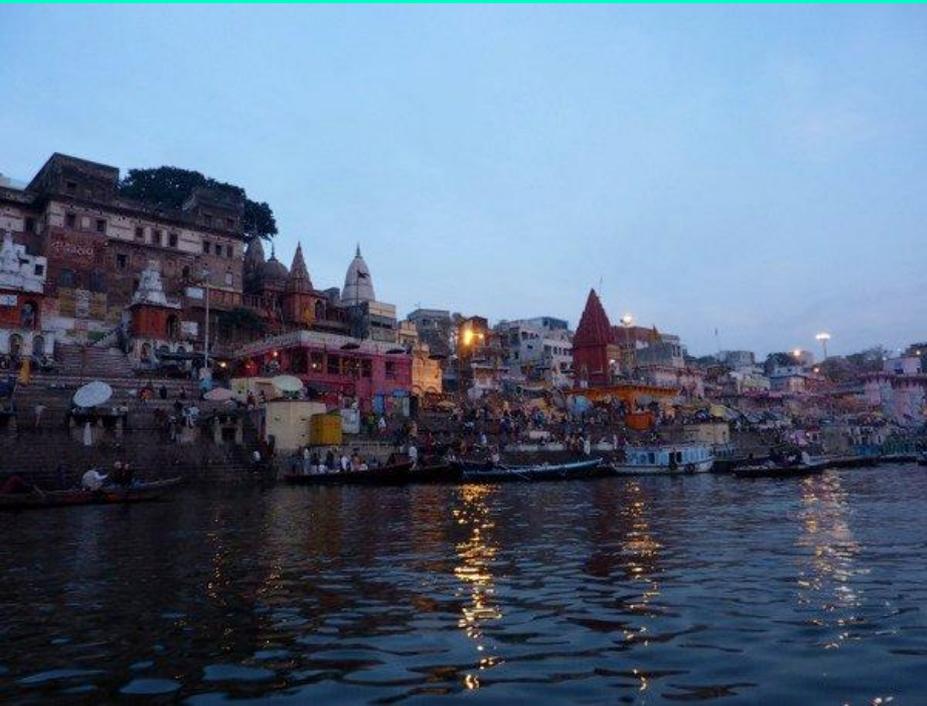
However there are more than 22 languages spoken across India.

Culture: India is a very large country that has many unique cultures of all religions and communities. India's languages, religions, dance, music, architecture, food and customs differ from place to place within the country. India is the birthplace of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and other religions.

Fun Fact: India is home to the Taj Mahal. Which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. I spent 4 months there and never went to see it. However, I did hike to 15,000 feet in the Himalayas and saw the Golden Temple!

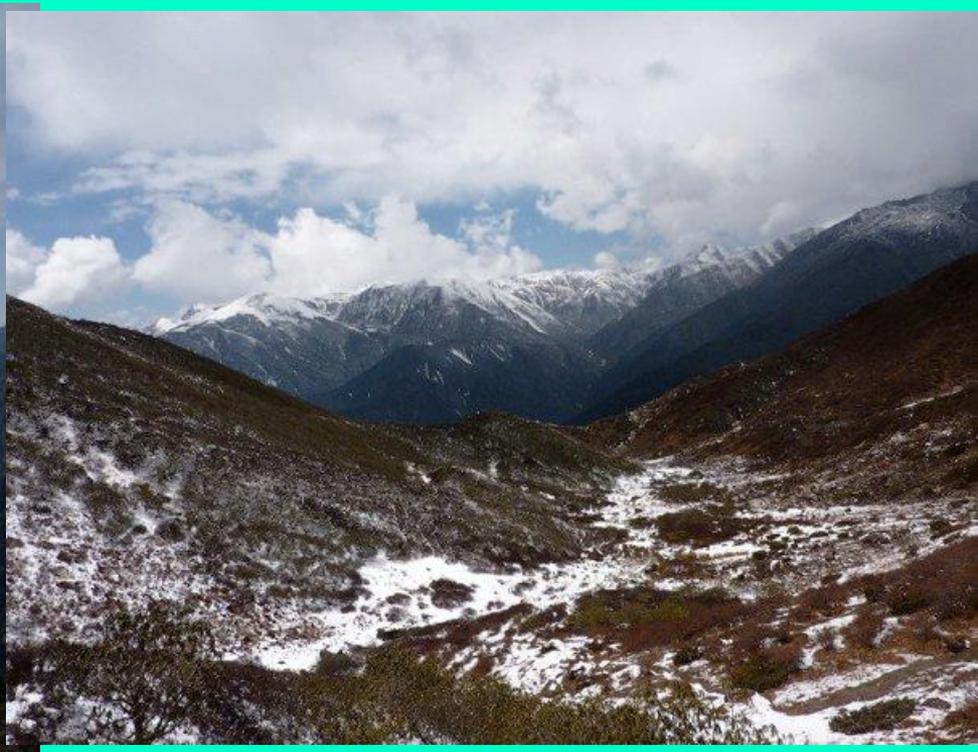
VARANASI

A NORTHERN CITY THAT THE GANGES RIVER RUNS THROUGH



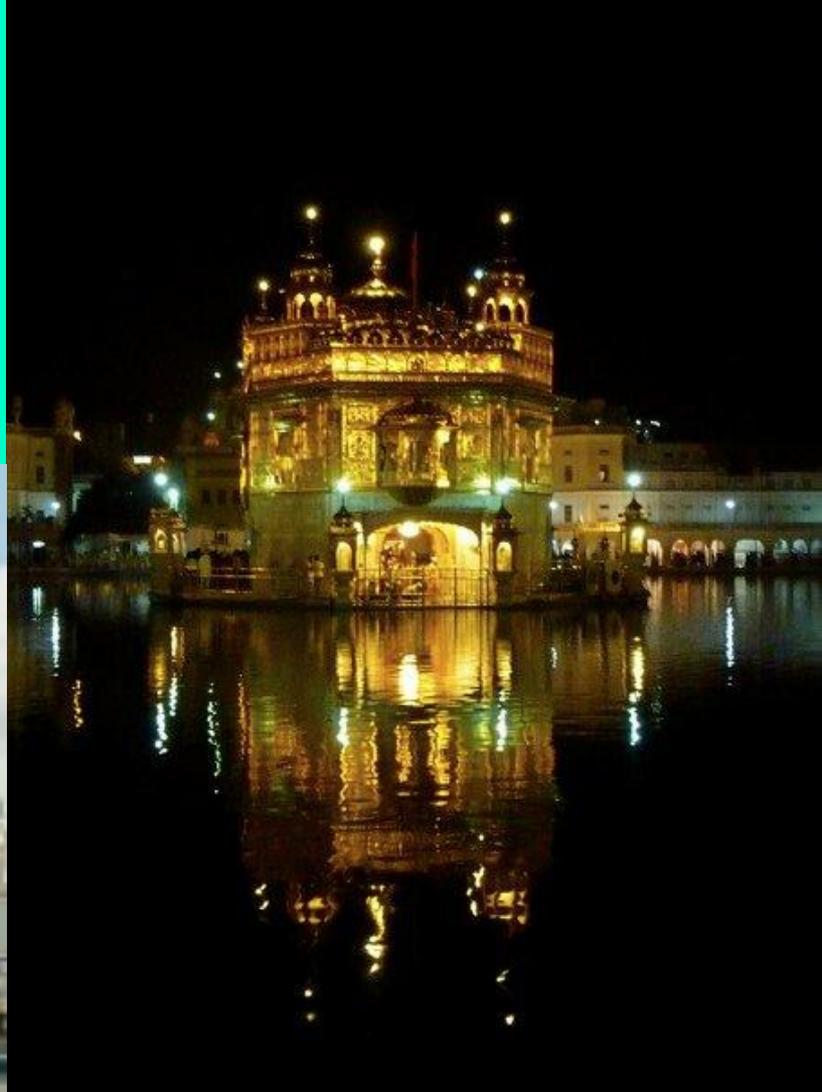
SIKIIM

A CITY BEFORE THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS. THESE MOUNTAINS BOARDERS TIBET, NEPAL, BENGAL AND BHUTAN

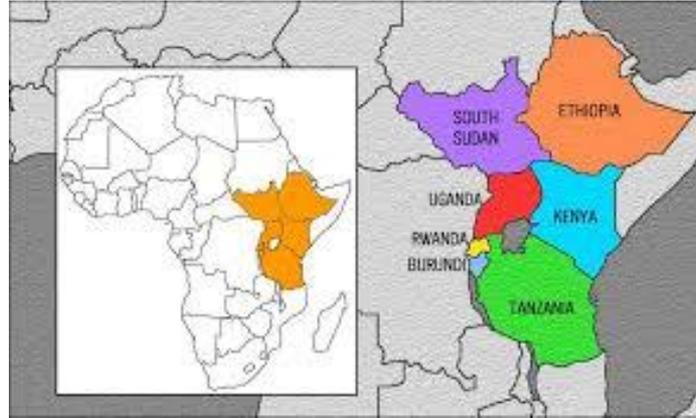


GOLDEN TEMPLE

BUILT IN 1577, THE TEMPLE'S DOME IS
GILDED WITH 750 KG OF PURE GOLD.



EAST AFRICA



IN 2019 I TRAVELED TO 3 COUNTRIES IN EAST AFRICA. I SPENT 4 MONTHS TRAVELING BETWEEN UGANDA, RWANADA AND TANZANIA.



Country: Tanzania

Language: Swahili

Fun facts: When I was in Tanzania I studied Swahili for a month. It's a beautiful language. Mount Kilimanjaro is in Tanzania. It is the tallest mountain in Africa, 5,895 meters above sea level. I went on a week long safari in Tanzania and I saw many animals I had never seen before. I also went scuba diving for the first time in Tanzania.



Country: Uganda

Language: Bantu, Central Sudanic, Nilotic, Swahili and Luganda

Fact: I spoke English and Luganda while traveling there. I volunteered at an organization for child soldiers. These children had at one point been forced to fight a war. This NGO worked to rehabilitate the children to live a normal life both physically and mental.



Country: Rwanda

Language: Kinyarwanda (although they use English, French and Swahili as well)

Culture: Rwanda suffered a terrible genocide that took place in 1994. It last 100 days and half a million to a million people were killed. It is this tragedy that has had a huge economical, social and political impact on the country.

TANZANIA

THE SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK IN NORTHERN TANZANIA

ELEPHANTS



LION



SAFARI ANIMALS IN THE SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

ZEBRAS



GIRAFFE



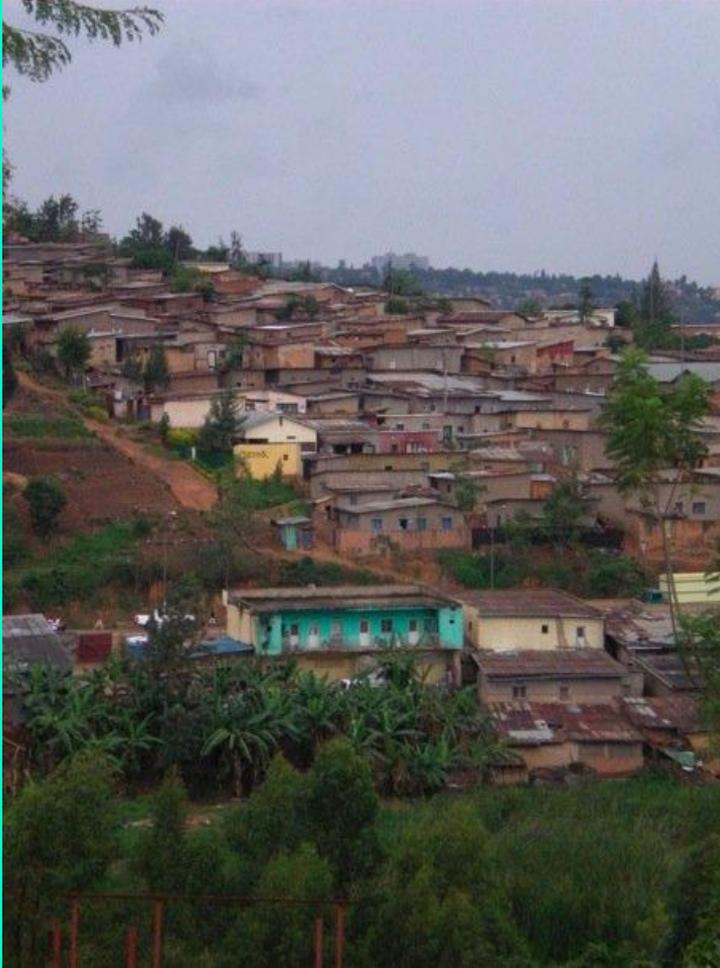
UGANDA

SOME OF THE CHILDREN I WORKED WITH

THE NILE RIVER



THE POVERTY OUTSIDE THE CITY'S CAPITAL



RWANDA

THE MEMORIAL TO THE GENOCIDE IN KIGALI





NICARAGUA



Language: Spanish

About: Granada, the capital of Nicaragua, is the oldest city in Central America. Nicaragua is known for its volcanoes and lakes as it has a large number of both. One of the major lakes in the country is Lake Nicaragua. The biggest in Central America and one of the biggest in the world. Lake Nicaragua, despite being a freshwater lake, has sawfish, tarpon, and sharks. Yes, freshwater sharks! There is an island on the lake called Ometepe. This island has two large volcanoes called Concepcion and Maderas.

Fun Fact: I spent 2 months working on a Permaculture farm on an island in Lake Nicaragua. I spent my days harvesting fruits and vegetables, learning how to build a compost garden and studying tropical agriculture. While living there I climbed both the volcanoes on the island!

VOLCANO MADERAS

Maderas is the smaller of the two volcanoes on the island of Ometepe. Maderas has a height of 1,394 metres. Unlike Concepción, the other volcano on the island, Maderas has not been active in recent times. At the top of the volcano there is a crater lake! I swam in this lake. And it was actually full of mud!



VOLCANO CONCEPCIÓN

Concepción is 1,610 meters tall. Concepción is an active stratovolcano. Unlike Maderas, Concepción has no trees or forest. Hiking up the volcano was brutal in the hot sun with no shade. At the top you can smell and see sulfur gases coming from inside the active volcano.





ECUADOR



Language: Spanish

About: Ecuador is a country straddling the equator on South America's west coast. Its diverse landscape includes the Amazon jungle, Andean highlands and the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands. Ecuador has a famous hiking trail called the "Quilotoa Loop". It is a circuit of small towns in the Cotopaxi Province of the Andes connected by roads and it is famous for the Quilotoa volcano and crater lake. Quilotoa Volcano is 3,914 meters high and has a 2 mile wide brilliant blue lake. A typical food in Ecuador is Guinea pig meat, known as "cuy", it's often grilled and served whole.

Fun Fact: I have been to Ecuador 3 times! I went for the first time when I was living in Costa Rica. During this trip I ate Guinea pig, it tasted like chicken! I returned to Ecuador in 2013 and traveled there for 2 months! It's my favorite country in South America.

QUILOTOA LOOP

HEY! That's me



MY TRAVELS

Well, as you can see I have traveled all around the world, I have had many different experiences, I have eaten many different things, I've worked many different jobs and been to many Spanish speaking countries.

The adventures I shared with you are from my favorite countries in the world. However, my most recent adventure has been my favorite, SPAIN! You have all been a part of this wonderful year in Spain, the best adventure so far!

Thank you!

The countries I have traveled to: USA, Canada, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Aruba, Grenada, Germany, France, UK, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Spain, India, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Pakistan, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda.



YOUR TURN!



WHAT COUNTRIES HAVE YOU BEEN TO?

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE COUNTRY AND WHY?

WHAT COUNTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT OR LIVE IN?

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?