



60 Hours in Europe
Travelogue
with love, Noran

July 18th, 2023

I booked a flight two days ago for tomorrow. I was homesick. And bestfriend-sick. I live in New York and I haven't been home to Cairo in 6 months. Six long months where I graduated, got surgery, moved, and entered the awful job market. When it started to feel like a job was around the corner, I wanted to visit home before I was restricted by PTO forever - so I drained the last of my savings on a flight!




Zuhair

Warning I am full of travel nerves.

I got lunch with Zuhair, one of my best friends, who significantly calmed my nerves down. He's one of my favorites:



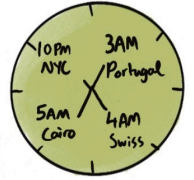
Later, I invited some friends to have Birria tacos at my building. I wanted to see everyone before I left for a while. It warmed my heart that I had cultivated such a wonderful community.



When they left I realized I was severely under-packed.


July 19th, 2023

I just sat down at my seat on the plane. I'm tired but getting more excited by the minute. Earlier today feels like a lifetime ago.



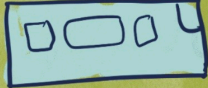
My journey to the airport was quite the transfer-filled voyage. (that's what I get for being cheap)

First, I took the



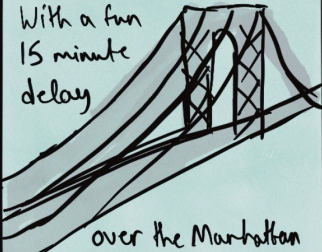
M21 Bus

Then, the




Btrain

With a fun 15 minute delay



over the Manhattan bridge.

Then, the

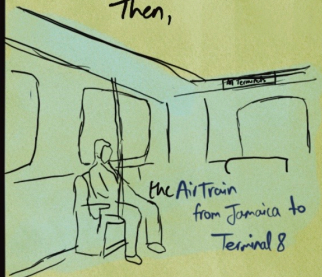


LIRR

from Atlantic Ave to Jamaica, Queens


New York was BEGGING me not to leave.

Then,



the Airtrain from Jamaica to Terminal 8

Then,



Shuttle bus from Terminal 8 to Terminal 1

What I ended up spending to get to the airport:

- \$1.35 on Subway + bus
- \$10.75 on the LIRR
- \$9.25 on the Airtrain
- \$an hour of my life

TOTAL: \$21 ish + an hour

July 19

Speaking of

CHEAP

this is what this trip is going to be. Because

I'm a) unemployed

b) mostly out of savings

c) going to places cheaper than my home base (New York City)

Traveling cheaply excites me, though. Because it reminds me of this once dynamic duo, Damon and Jo.

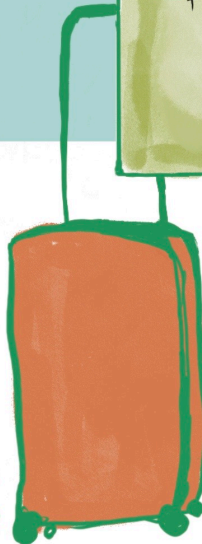
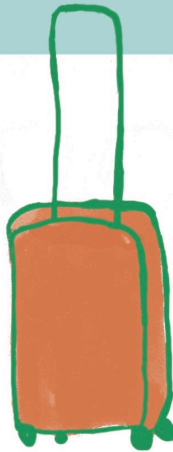
They had a cheap travel

Youtube Channel that singlehandedly gave me the travel bug. They broke up their friendship a few years ago, which was honestly heartbreaking, but I still watch their old videos.



ITINERARY

- Fly to Portugal - July 19
(I booked a 10 hour layover.. cheap!)
- 10 hours in Lisbon - July 20
I didn't plan it at all, which is very unlike me, but I just want to see a body of water.
- Fly to Geneva - July 20
To see my best friend Laila who studies in Lausanne <3
- Fly to Cairo - July 23
Hooooome



10 HOURS IN LISBON

July 20

5pm Headed back to the airport



4:27 had dinner near the beach



8:30pm took off to Geneva

10:30 AM

Landed



12:30pm

Got out of passport control



1:52 pm

At Cafe Bandeira eating Pastéis de Nata



3:34 sat by the Terreiro do Paço coast and contemplated for like an hour

2:40pm went to

Jardim da Graça + Miradouro da Graça

3:20 walked around Santa Maria Maior



July 21



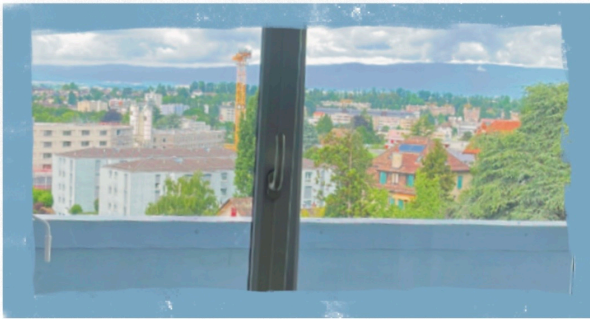
By the time I got out of Geneva Airport, it was past midnight. And I still had to wait for my bag, and take the last train to Laila's place, for an hour.



But that didn't stop us from staying up until 3AM and catching up when I arrived.

10AM

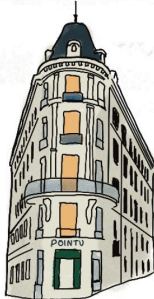
When I woke up the next morning, Laila was at work, and I was blown away by the view from her apartment in daylight.



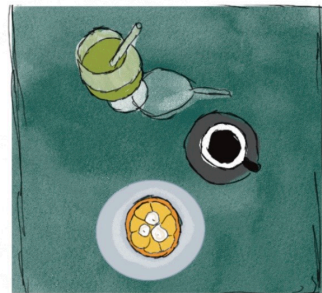
She lives next to the cutest little pink house.

12PM


I went to meet her at work for a lunch break that lasted all day (oops).



She took me to lunch at this beautiful old building Le Pointu.



I got a lemon tartlette and an espresso, she got a virgin basil margarita. Laila ordered for me in French. Je ne parle Français!



Much of what we talked about on the trip was my friend's relationship. They've known each other since middle school and I was friends with both of them for years before they finally got together.

They're incredibly cute and in a wonderful relationship, but talking about relationships so much eventually reminded me how single I am, and how far away I feel from that kind of relationship.

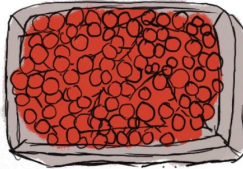
I don't want how I feel personally to ever affect my happiness that my friends are in relationships that nurture them, but sometimes I can't help it.

July 21

At 3pm, we took the bus to Bellerive, a gorgeous waterfront with little snack shops



Laila only moved here 4 months ago, so we were both in awe of the Swiss scenery



We had bought some juicy sour redcurrants earlier to snack on. I had never had them!



When we met in college I never would have thought we'd be in Switzerland together

We then went back to her apartment and I took a big fat nap. I'm known to fall asleep on every trip.



Gonna, 2021



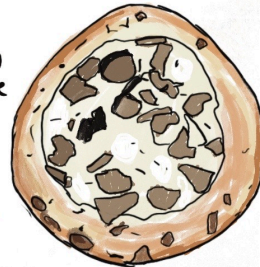
Cambridge, 2022



Lausanne, 2023

When I finally got out of bed, we headed downtown for dinner at an Italian place

LUIGIA



This is where I had the best pizza I've ever had.

Truffle Mushroom with Fresh Buffalo Mozzarella

And their yummy focaccia

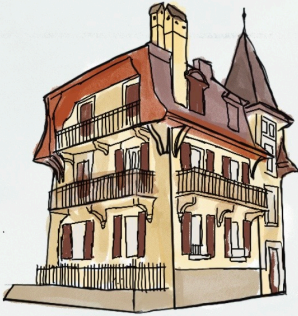


July 21



We sat outside that night and talked about everything and anything.

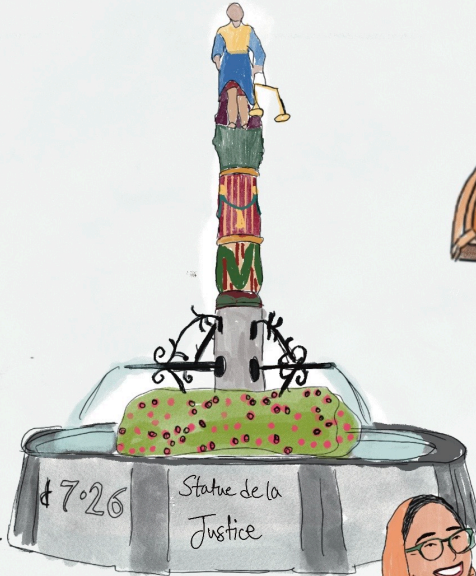
july 22



Cute house!



We started the day in the city center at the Farmer's Market

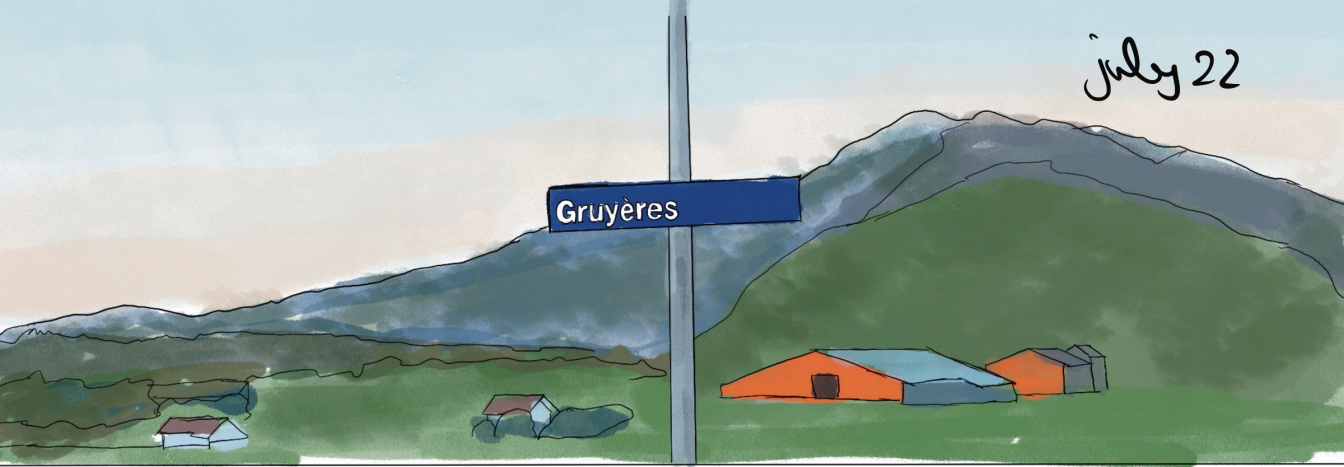


I got cheese tart that I ordered all by myself! "Je voudrais une tarte fromage sil vous plait!"

We then took the most scenic train to...



July 22



CAVE / KELLER / CELLAR

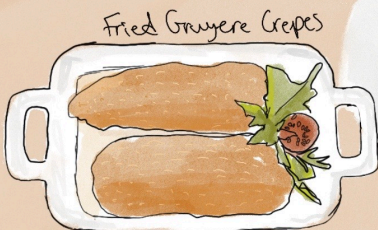


Anonymous watercolor lithograph
1800
Musée Gruérien, Bulle

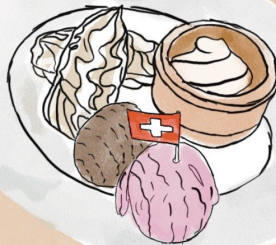
For a
cheese
lover,
Gruyere
was
a
dream.



a beautiful
town high
up in the
mountains



Fried Gruyere Crepes



Meringue with Double Cream



July 23

The flight home to Cairo was only 3 hours, but it was the most social flight I'd been on.



I sat next to an older French man and a cute guy close to my age. The French man told me all about his life working at the Red Cross and his travel agency in Mozambique. He spoke French with the cute guy who turned out to be a Lebanese student going home to Beirut. The three of us chatted in Arabic, English and French.



They asked the entire plane if they wanted chicken or beef, then gave all the chicken people ~ fish ~



I landed in Cairo on the 23rd at 7PM, just in time to celebrate my mom's 50th birthday with her, and give her gifts from New York, Switzerland, and the beloved duty free shop. It felt so good to be home.



— FINIS —