



Travel in a time of terror

Recent events, it's fair to say, have us all thinking about terror and travel. Whether or not it has affected you personally, the attacks in London, Manchester and earlier events across Europe play on most of our minds. We'd like to take this opportunity to share our love and support with those affected, and with the wider communities involved. As travellers, and risk-takers, we love this world in a way that we could never have imagined before we took to the road and saw it for ourselves. By our very nature, we are defiant. We will not be beaten by these events, nor will we use them to spread hate and marginalise an already marginalised people. As travellers, and citizens of the world, we observe with awe and respect, the other cultures and countries we pay visit to. On behalf of the Rule Breakers community, our hearts go out to Londoners, to Mancunians, and to those caught in the fray.

This featured post, in light of these events, is brought to you from Rule Breakers co-founder Cheri.

My friend just sent me a message "All this crap lately in the news makes me hope and pray nothing is going to happen when you are away."

Of course, I reassured her that I would be fine and I've got more chance of dying falling out of bed than a terrorist attack. Then I thought about it.

I am afraid.

Honestly, not to be would be naïve. There have been 6 attacks across Europe in the last 6 months, with London bearing the brunt of it most recently.

My ex was caught up in the attack in Munich last year. I was in Canada at the time and knew nothing about the attack until his cousin, whom he was supposed to be meeting, contacted me because he was concerned. "I don't want to alarm you," his message read "but there has been an attack in Munich at a shopping centre." He'd be fine I thought to myself, he'd never go to

a shopping centre unless I dragged him to it! Nevertheless, I was worried. I checked my phone constantly for over an hour, emailed friends who he had recently been in contact with. Until finally I got the message I had been waiting for “I’m ok, I’m safe”.

THANK FUCK!

He’d gone to the Hofbrauhaus while waiting for his connecting bus. Apparently the Hofbrauhaus is a short distance from the shopping centre where the attack had begun. He told me he was just about to order a beer when suddenly hordes of terrified people burst into the beer house frantically yelling in German. People around him began to panic, fleeing from their tables and meals without paying, knocking over glasses as they seemed to flee for their lives.

He didn’t speak German.

He also began to panic, stopping someone to ask what was happening. A distressed German man told him in broken English “Terror! Terror!” before running off. Here he was in an unfamiliar city, didn’t speak the local language and had no idea what exactly was happening. You can’t use Google to find out what is going on in that situation because no one knows. I had chills when he told me his story. People who I told his story to also got chills. Because this shit is real and it’s scary!

This experience hasn’t stopped him from travelling. It hasn’t stopped me from travelling and I sure as hell hope it won’t stop you.

There will always be things that are out of our control, and yes that’s scary. What is the alternative, stop enjoying one of the things we love most in our life? Stop learning and living? I’m not going to bother saying anything like “don’t let them win” because I don’t think they really care if we travel or not. If everyone stayed in their own countries and towns, there would still be attacks. I will however say don’t let fear win. Live a life of adventure, whatever your idea of adventure may be. Enjoy the places you go and the people you meet. To quote my friend who sent me that message of concern tonight “At least if you died on holiday, it’s better than dying while you’re at work.”

P.S. be careful not to fall out of bed tonight!