Traveling is not just a means for moving about; traveling is a pleasure. There are few people who do not like to travel. Traveling can mean visiting your family just a few miles away, and traveling can mean going around the world. But deep down, it is all the same: traveling.

One of the oldest known examples is that of Herodotus, who traveled around the known world of the time, observing and reporting everything he saw. This provided the travelers and readers at the time with a treasury of geographical and etymological information. Another of the attractions of antiquity lay in the 7 wonders; most of which have since been destroyed but many people came from all over the world to see them. And later came the Romans, the Middle Ages with the Crusades, and the discovery of America.

But it is Thomas Cook who is seen as the father of organized tourism after he chartered a train at reduced rates from Leicester to Loughborough, England for 540 people to attend a temperance meeting. And that is because we have always wanted to travel...

But a journey does not only imply getting from one place to another. It is much more than that! For many of us there is nothing more gratifying than planning a journey, thinking about it all the time, dedicating ourselves heart and soul to all the preparation it needs. And finally, traveling! Because we all know too well that satisfaction lies in achieving your expectations as far as possible. And one easy way to achieve personal satisfaction is to travel, as your expectations will be readily achieved: enjoying the journey.

By traveling you get to know the world, traveling, you discover monuments, squares, museums, theaters, parks, gardens; traveling opens your mind, it opens many doors to you, and forces you to be critical. In fact, through travel you get to know yourself and what you would really like to be, where we would like to live, where you would like to dream, where you would like to make your dreams come true. And it is that merely by traveling, you are already making one of your dreams come true: you are traveling.
Life is amazing

Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education; in the elder, a part of experience.

FRANCIS BACON

I have a very special friend. And this is not precisely because of her beauty, pleasant personality, or intelligence, all of which she has. It is above all, for her undying passion for life. She finds reason to be joyful, thankful, and fully committed in every instant. Her singular and distinct outlook on existence transforms her into a vital and emotionally moving woman, who is always finding new places to discover, impossible challenges to overcome, new loves to seduce, constant happiness to share. And she manages it all.

“Life is amazing,” she tells me. And I think she is right. Probably dermatologist Javier Pedraz could share with my exciting friend one of the most daring pleasures of existence: the passion of conquest. Isn’t it perhaps this that you seek and find when you travel? The desire to discover hidden landscapes, sleepy sunsets, surprising faces, incomprehensible customs, unknown foods, dangers overcome and battles won... For the traveler abroad, each journey becomes a great metaphor for life, a great spectacle, where it plays the leading role for a time, like a theatrical production for one night only. Traveling is a way of living many lives, of accumulating memories, of creating stories.

I also think that traveling is a sign of intelligence. In the play Pamela, one of Goldoni’s characters stated “he who never leaves his country is full of prejudices.” And that’s how it is. Open-mindedness, adaptation to the environment, definite enrichment of the soul, is what the traveler achieves. But it is not only what you see that is important, but the kind of eyes you are looking through.

I encourage Dr Pedraz to keep on traveling. I appreciate his hobby, his special way of cultivating his mind, of filling his predisposed pupils with art and mystery. Life is amazing, and we must know how to live it... by traveling, for example. But if you, dear reader, do not like to travel, do not feel misunderstood. You already know what Hazlitt said: “I would like to spend the whole of my life traveling, if I could anywhere borrow another life to spend at home.”

It’s all a question of making a wise choice. Don’t you think?

A. GUERRA