

1875 kilometres.

That is the total distance between my home in Sweden and my new home in Turin, Italy. The route planner on Google maps says it would have taken 355 days to walk the distance nonstop. To fly it would take approximately 3 hours and 40 minutes. It's also a situation of zero co2 emissions if walking (if we ignore the co2 that supposedly would be emitted by the survival of a human body) against the flight that would emit 507kg co2.

It would definitely have been an experience to walk all the way from Sweden to Italy, but of course in my case, this was not really an alternative. But maybe that would have been *the* alternative long back in time, when there were not really so many alternatives (despite the fact that they didn't usually do travelling for fun as we do).

I will be as daring as to say that this is the way that we should experience traveling. By using the pace of our own body. To get the understanding of the inapprehensible ability of that we are even able to be at different places in a world so big in relation to ourselves. I think this understanding is related to the pace of the human body, and how the time, distance and effort it takes also is what creates the respect of our world's greatness.

It's not really the final destination that makes the whole journey when we travel, is it? It's also the time it takes to travel, no matter how we make the transportation, but the closer this duration is to human pace, the easier to understand the world's greatness, the more respect and consciousness we get to the idea of traveling. I would almost say that today it's way too easy to travel, within one day you can reach wherever you want in the world by airplane and half of the glamour of it is gone.

As I said, there was not an alternative for me to walk to Italy of course, the slowest pace I could reach this time was to go by train.

What I also want to add before I start telling about my trip is to emphasize the changes of culture that you, by the word, just fly over when travelling in the air. This is a very cool experience that I haven't thought about before. When you go by train and also as you may stop at some destinations in-between, you will notice the culture differences that blend into each other between the borders of the different countries. The way people act, communicate, language, acceptance and so on. All this meanwhile you feel a bit unsecure whether you manage to blend in to the differences among the way or not. But it's very exiting and a remarkable experience!

My trip started in Gothenburg early in the morning on September 8:th. My bags were to the limit of what I could bear, but I was also to be away for six months at my final destination Turin. The ticket I had was an Interrail ticket valid for five days, which is probably by no doubts the best alternative when travelling such a long way. Actually the trip was only planned to take four days, but Interrail only has the three or five days options to choose between.

I had the fortune of having my living partner as travelling company on my way, which made it feel more comfortable if something went wrong. I had also never done such a long train trip before taking place in such a long period. We knew that some of the train changes were a bit tight but we didn't bother too much but decided to be flexible with

our plans if necessary, and also we booked the accommodations along the way so that we were flexible also in that case. It was easy to book, one of the stops we stayed on a hotel and booked via booking.com and at our other two destinations we stayed on Airbnb.

The stops we did among the way were first of all the beautiful town of Heidelberg, Germany, where we spent one whole day. It was a relief to be able to get rid of the bags and have some active time after the 14 hours long trip. We recovered well with a sightseeing day in the old town, by the castle and on the big hill beside the city centre. We stayed at a hotel just outside the core of the city. The great advantage with train stations is that they always are sited near the centre of the town, so that another transfer to the accommodation is not always necessary, as in our cases.

A new travelling day of eight ours through Germany and Switzerland lead us to our next stop in France, Annecy. This was a stunning town known to lie by the cleanest lake in Europe, which you could really believe only by looking at it. Despite being a nice city, the adventurous possibilities of Annecy were really good. One of the two days we spent there we had a real adventure, renting bikes and ascended the summit of the nearby mountain La Tournette (2351m). The view was stunning and once again our batteries were charged to continue with another whole day on a train.

In our last stop we were in Nice, the French Riviera. We had once again two days to get to know this city, although one of the days we went to visit Monaco. Monaco was to be reached by a local bus and was a nice tour for one day (we planned to rent bikes but unfortunately they were all booked during our stay).

After this we had our final trip to Turin, where we arrived at the time we had estimated from the start. This trip offered a pleasant surprise because it went through a beautiful landscape and there was a woman on the train guiding us through it as well as the small villages we went past.

I did for sure experience the large distance between Gothenburg, through Europe, to Turin. Almost so that I feel homesick when I think about how long it would be if I'd frantically want to go home...

During the way I am surprised myself to tell that I never really felt that I got bored. I had lots of things to prepare before my arrival in Turin, and also I had time to get rid of a long to-do list that had been pressing my conscience long enough. And I had time to read a book for a long time in a row; I don't know when I had time to do this last time!

I really would like to encourage more people to take the train also in longer distances, not only for the benefits of the environment but also for the great experience of feeling the real distances between different places in our world.

PICTURES explanation:

1. Gothenburg: Excited to start the trip!
2. A few hours later...
3. Copenhagen: Train change, fully fitted with all my bags.

4. Denmark-Gremany, train goes overseas
5. Hamburg- Stretching legs and having a snack!
6. Heidelberg- First destination to charge batteries with a day of city- sightseeing
7. Reflections...
8. Annecy: great adventures when ascending the summit of Mountain La Tournette
9. On the go again!
10. France Riviera, Nice: our clothes has changed from raincoat to swim wear
11. Monaco: Daytrip. Once again charging the batteries for the last trip.
12. To do list is done and it's time for reward by reading a lovely book!