



ANTICIPATION

Longing for Faraway Places

You know that pining — almost aching — desire you sometimes get for a faraway place? Like the breathtaking views of Wyoming’s Tetons, the flashback-in-time feel of New York City’s Little Italy, or the sweet fragrance of Paris in the springtime? Well, the Germans actually have a word for that: *fernweh* (pronounced “fairn-vay”). Its meaning also describes somewhere you’ve never been but are longing to go. Perfect after a year of isolation, right? Turns out, the world is filled with them — foreign words that precisely define a travel situation or place, but have no English equivalent. A few of our faves:

Voorpret (Dutch; “VOR-pret”) literally means “pre-fun,” but it relates to that heady, heightening feeling of anticipation for upcoming travel, before you even leave the house.

Resfeber (“race-fay-ber”) is the Swedish word for the same thing, travel anticipation, but their version also incorporates a sense of pre-travel anxiety.

Dépaysement (French; “day-payz-mon”) actually means “disorientation,” but it only applies to the out-of-place feeling that people experience while traveling. Essentially, it’s the awareness and realization of being a foreigner, exhilarating for some, a bit unnerving for others.

Utepils (Norwegian; “OO-ta-pils”) refers to the first drink of the year taken outdoors, which is quite a celebration in Norway after a long,

dark winter. But these days, folks say it any old time to describe the act of sitting outside and enjoying a beer, especially while on holiday.

Rènao (Mandarin; “rua-now”) literally translates to “lively” or “bustling,” but its reference is to a place so festive and inviting, it makes you want to go inside.

Smultronställe (Swedish; “smool-tron-steh-leh”) means “place of wild strawberries,” but colloquially it is used to refer to your “happy place” — be it a private hideaway or favorite vacation spot.

Trouvaille (French; “troo-vye”) is a “lucky find.” It’s that iconic or one-of-a-kind place that you stumble upon while exploring — a reminder of why you travel.

Onism (Danish; “OHN-iz-uhm”) is that heartbreaking awareness of how little of the world you will actually get to in your lifetime.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

UPGRADE YOUR HOTEL ROOM WITHOUT A FEE

Want to know a secret? Hotel check-in clerks don’t much care (or don’t believe) that it’s your spouse’s birthday or your anniversary. Unless you are a high-ranking member of their elite program, they’re unlikely to upgrade your room for free. So here’s a better plan: Since front desk staff are in charge of assigning your room, once you’ve booked, call back to the front desk directly and request a corner room. According to the website Skyscanner, corner rooms are almost always larger, brighter, with better views, and usually have bigger bathrooms. And being out of the path of hallway traffic and the elevator, they are more shielded from noise. Hotels don’t consider corner rooms an upgrade, so your larger digs won’t cost you any extra.