

Travelling with a powerless passport

adapted from an article by **Aileen Adalid**

- 1 As a Philippine citizen I can only visit a few countries visa-free, and I was brought up to believe that world travel is a luxury meant only for the privileged, the rich or the retired. Yet, in my early 20s, I've visited more than 15 countries in two years, all while building a profitable and stable online business that funds my lifestyle and enables me to work less than three hours a day.
- 2 When I was 21 years old, and working for a big investment bank, earning very little money as a new graduate, I met three strangers who asked for directions to their hostel. We started chatting, and ended up talking for the rest of the night. They were full of travel stories, and I was captivated by the way their eyes lit up as they talked about their adventures. They had an excitement for life and a confident aura that I hadn't previously encountered – they seemed to believe everything was possible.
- 3 That same year, I quit my job to travel the world. I had little to no money, definitely not enough to travel through wealthy European countries or in the US. On top of that, I had to convince my family and friends that I was not out of my mind; I'd been brought up to believe that a corporate life was the only way to secure a future. I also knew that getting visas would be a challenge. But I wanted to prove to others and to myself that our life circumstances should never hinder us from going after our dreams.
- 4 With meagre funds, I knew that I had to make smart decisions right from the start, so I spent two months doing groundwork before handing in my resignation. I brushed up on my knowledge of graphic design, web development and online marketing. Once I was confident about my knowledge, I searched for clients on freelancing platforms to set up my own business. I managed to ensure a steady cash flow for the first year. Passion can push us to do amazing things, but without the right skill set, it can prove futile.
- 5 Worried about my Philippine passport, I started off by visiting visa-free destinations. Thailand and Hong Kong were my favourites, due to their dynamic culture. I kept records of my recent earnings, savings and tax documents to prove financial independency. And I used proof of my



previous and future travels to establish that I wouldn't be at risk to overstay in the country.

- 6 After 12 months, I launched my travel blog, iAmAileen.com, to share my adventures and to garner opportunities through partnerships with tourism boards and travel brands. Next, I started work on a budding online business idea, Adalid Gear, selling outdoor and travel products online. The online realm made me a citizen of the world instead of a girl from the Philippines. By freelancing online, I was able to compete with my global peers and so I managed 31, which gave quite a boost to my income. And by building my business online, I was able to expand rapidly in a short amount of time.
- 7 Today, I am no longer working for anyone else, and the way I see it, I have truly secured my future. I have built my own dream, regardless of the obstacles!

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Tekst 9

- 1p 27 What becomes clear about Aileen in paragraph 1?
A Her family prefer keeping quiet about the fact they are wealthy.
B Her nationality limits her chances of finding a job in tourism.
C She has started a prosperous commercial internet enterprise.
D She lacks the means to be able to travel abroad on her own.
- 1p 28 Which of the following sentences connects paragraph 2 to paragraph 3?
A Having friends in high places finally made things possible for me.
B It is difficult to achieve anything without the support of relatives.
C Leaving behind those you love is easier said than done.
D Meeting those travellers inspired me to follow my heart's desire.
- 1p 29 'life circumstances should never hinder us from going after our dreams'
(alinea 3)
→ Hoeveel verschillende hindernissen noemt Aileen in alinea 3?
Noteer het aantal hindernissen in de uitwerkbijlage.
- 1p 30 Which of the following is in line with the contents of paragraph 4?
A Accept that there will be some setbacks.
B Avoid showing too much enthusiasm.
C Believe in yourself and hope for the best.
D Prepare well before taking a next step.
- 1p 31 Kies bij 31 in alinea 6 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
A to ask for a permanent position at their company
B to avoid being paid developing-world prices for my skills
C to network with relevant entrepreneurs and experienced people
- 1p 32 There are different types of nomads (people who travel a lot).
Which of the following descriptions fits Aileen's lifestyle?
A Corporate Nomad: someone who works abroad for a company in exchange for leave periods at home.
B Digital Nomad: someone who depends on technology to earn a living, operating in an international setting.
C Phase Nomad: someone who travels around for only 1-3 years to take advantage of what they can do with their youth.
D Traditional Nomad: someone who has a job that enables travel sprees such as being a tour guide, a pilot, etcetera.
- 2p 33 'Travelling with a powerless passport' (titel)
In de eerste zin van alinea 1 legt Aileen uit waarom ze haar paspoort 'powerless' noemt.
→ In welke **twee andere** alinea's stipt ze nog eens aan dat het lastig is om met een Filipijns paspoort te reizen?
Noteer de nummers van deze twee alinea's.

Bronvermelding

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