



ArcticTerns

## Worldschooling Newsletter

### Worldschoolers from a war zone.

Worldschoolers love to experience countries and cultures from close by. But there are certain countries and situations we all rather stay away from, for example countries at war. But what if you have to leave your family behind in a war zone? Annette is a Worldschooler who is experiencing this first hand. Read her story in this week's newsletter.

Every Worldschooler has a story to tell

Every traveling family has a unique background, experience or knowledge, that they can share with others to expand and inspire.

In our newsletter we offer a platform to all the different stories that are out there.

**In this newsletter:**

- Annette Kalisnek about travelling while leaving your family behind in a war zone.
- Annette's experience in Worldschoolorg Netherlands
- Up to 12,5% discount on our hubs
- This week in Worldschoolorg Bansko

## Annette about travelling while leaving your family behind in a war zone.

***Hi Annette. Could you tell us about yourself in a few words?***

We are family of four, originally came from Ukraine and already live for 13 years in California.

***How was life for you growing up in the Ukraine?***

Let's say when I was growing as a kid by the age of 16 we didn't travel at all. All summers we as kids were working helping on farms of our relatives. So just imagine how I love beginning of a school each year - finally just learning no hard working until the next summer





***When did you start traveling?***

As a student we just didn't have enough money to travel. But, as we were working on summers in university, we had an opportunity to stay 2 weeks in our student camp in Crimea. That was a start of love to travel and explore. Finally, we got an opportunity to work few years in the USA. We were so young, no kids. We were so happy to live, explore California. Totally different culture, different cities and people - it was so exciting for us. But we were thinking of staying just a few years. Because all our family, parents, relatives, friends, they are all in Ukraine.

So even with small kids (even when they were 8-9mo old) we were traveling to Ukraine almost every year, even long flights as 13 hours from San Francisco to Istanbul. I don't know whose infants are sleeping all flights. Our kids were awake all 13 hours. But we were traveling anyway, because it was time with our parents, and we were still exploring other parts of Ukraine on trains.

***What made you start traveling as a family?***

We were so happy to show kids different life, different cultures. We wanted show kids, that they are free to go to what place they like more. I wish we do it more and more. Who knows that the war came?



***How did the war change your life?***

When Ukraine was first invaded in 2013 we stopped traveling for 3 years. The war was not so far from my parents. After that we started to travel again, even there was already some fights. Hard to explain how we continue to travel there to our parents.

Last time we visit was January 2021. We were planning to come in May 2022 for whole summer . But February 2022 cut our lives in two: before war and after war. We were so shocked to see destroyed buildings (our flat was partially destroyed too, the front line was 5 km from our flat).

Shocked to see pictures of thousands of people waiting for trains to evacuate. I can't forget that pictures.

***How are your family and friends doing?***

Some of our relatives were stacked in their flats/homes because of constant bombings. No electricity, no water, no food. We feel like passengers on Titanic, who just were late to board, and we are now alive, but some of our friends not. Some of our friends with kids were escaping starting first day of bombings. They were driving more than a week from front line to western part - run out of gas, long lines everywhere, and roads full of cars.

When the foreign forces occupied my hometown, they turned off the mobile connection. I didn't know if my parents are alive. I will never forget that feeling, that you can't do anything, just wait for a call, and try to call again and again, with no connection.

***Do you manage to stay in touch with your family?***

After liberation by Ukrainian forces, I enjoy every call with my relatives and parents. Each time with face time I do a screenshot with their faces - just to stop that blessing opportunity to see them and talk with them. I know that it could be part call - because they are now on front line with constant bombings, they don't want to go from their home, but I love them so much so I obey their choice even if it is hard for me and break my heart.

Every year now we travel to Europe to meet with relatives in Poland. Kids are still in on line school - which gives us opportunity to travel. It is long way for relatives to travel from eastern parts of Ukraine to Poland - just trains and buses. Long rides, more than 24 hours. In the same

way I feel so sorry for families who were able to escape, but unable to meet with their relatives because not all status /visa allows going back and forth.

What is **your** story? Share it with the Worldscool world.

## Annette's experience in Worldscooling Netherlands

Last year we went to Worldscooling Netherlands of ArcticTerns.

At first, I was little nervous because we have never ever go to a family camp . I always plan everything by myself : each trip, few countries in one trip , each day and even each hour . Time flies, kids grow . Now kids need kids company on a trip ,not just dad and mom

And .. everything went excellent! I can't imagine how everyday was planned , each hour for a group of families which have never seen before . But after one month all became for me a family

Each day was so organized and days were balanced : some excursions, new cities , guides , some social meet ups, some free days - to explore on your own , or have family time or have play dates with new friends.

A big thanks to an organizer! Emmy You rock! I can't imagine how much time and efforts , planning was done for a group of families so everyone was happy !

After one month we felt in love with Netherland. We can't believe when the last day came..

So this year we are going again ) some pictures of happy faces





Up to 12,5% discount in our hubs.

Our waitlist for next season is online.

Signing up now will grant you a discount up to 12,5%.

We really appreciate your opinion in what you are looking for in our programs, so please fill out our survey!

Join our waitlist now!

## This week in Worldschoolling Bansko

Another group has had its last week here at Worldschoolling Bansko Bulgaria. It's been an incredible week filled with adventures, so let's take a look back at the week's activities.

The week started with a skiing session in the morning. The afternoon was spent with lots of activities for all ages: the kids had the opportunity to become a dentist and learned about oral hygiene, which was followed by an art session with glow-in-the-dark painting. In the meantime, the parents learned how to make Bulgarian moussaka, and learned from Jenna



about how to make travel more affordable with house exchanges and house sittings. The day concluded with a Dungeons and Dragons adventure for the kids, and a board game night for the teens and parents.

Tuesday brought fun times swimming in the pool, and a special teen restaurant visit. The day concluded with a heart-warming potluck, where families shared delicious dishes together.

Mid-week started with skiing with friends in the morning, followed by a busy afternoon with activities. The kids made sushi in the Kid's Restaurant and played a round of dodgeball outside, while the teens had a go at the glow-in-the-dark painting. Parents engaged in insightful discussions on the future of worldschooling kids, and had a lesson in Bulgarian history. The group ended the day relaxing at a hot spring.

Thursday started with volunteering at the Bansko Street Dogs, followed by horseback riding in nature. The day ended with a cozy movie night for all kids, while the teens immersed themselves in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. Being kid free, the parents enjoyed a night out at a fondue restaurant.

Friday marked the week's and this month's group's closure with more skiing adventures, and a unique goodbye celebration starting in separate age groups and ending as one united gathering, cherishing the memories made throughout the week. As the week and the second month of [Worldschooling Bansko Bulgaria](#) concluded, families left with hearts full of memories, the thrill of shared adventures, and looking forward with excitement to reunite again on their upcoming journeys.



## ArcticTerns

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