

What is My Global Welcome about?

Traveling, moving, living and working abroad are all fantastic experiences, but also very challenging ones.

On one hand, travelers and future expats have to overcome not only **linguistic, informational and bureaucratic barriers, but also emotional ones, too**: when they leave their familiar environment, the need to feel secure and the wish to receive a helping hand abroad increases.

On the other hand, expats living abroad feel a strong desire to **maintain a close and personal connection** with their people and their native land. Even though social media is helping expats keep in touch with their family and friends back home, online interactions are no substitute for real face-to-face social interactions.

What, then, is more obvious than building an easy-to-use, structured support network in which travelers or future expats and their fellow countrymen already living abroad can help each other out with benefits on both sides of the table?

For travelers and future expats, fellow countrymen living abroad **provide emotional support** and represent a **reliable point of contact** for all kinds of questions. Their in-depth knowledge, which has been acquired over time, and their treasure trove of experience is invaluable for those who are new in a foreign country.

For expats living abroad, meeting up with visitors from their native country helps them **stay up to date** with the latest changes and developments in their homeland.

In addition, having a conversation in their mother tongue, where they can easily share the same values, perspectives and behaviors, often **brings a sense of relief** and helps them **stay closely connected to their own roots**. On this occasion, expats aren't just breathing in their old homeland right there in the place where they are now living, but they can also benefit from these meetings to stock up on longed-for **foods from their homeland**.

➤ On one side, My Global Welcome provides travelers and future expats ...

● ***information online offered directly by your fellow countrymen living abroad***

To get prepared in a targeted way for the new country, its culture, customs and every day habits, you can directly ask your fellow countrymen living abroad all of the questions you have in advance online.

● ***practical help offered directly by your fellow countrymen on-site abroad***

You can also easily and quickly find fellow countrymen on-site who will be there to personally provide you with valuable advice and suggestions, and to give you practical help in order to deal successfully with the challenges and the practicalities of every day life in another country.

● ***personalized activities and professional services offered directly by your fellow countrymen on-site abroad***

You can take advantage of all the personalized activities and professional services that your fellow countrymen offer on-site abroad.

Furthermore, through My Global Welcome employers can directly establish work contacts with expats in their own country or anywhere in the world.

Employers can easily establish work contacts with fellow countrymen living abroad. Additionally, employers can also look for staff of any nationality in their own country or anywhere else in the world.

➤➤ On the other side, My Global Welcome offers expats living abroad the opportunity ...

● ***to help visitors and future expats from your native country with online information***

If you are an expat and you have acclimatized and settled into a foreign country, you can provide valuable information and first hand testimonials online yourself to your fellow countrymen who would like to visit your local area and to future expats.

● ***to earn an income by offering visitors and future expats from your native country practical help on-site***

When “home” and your friends and family are no longer a short trip away, and you aren’t always able to get back to your country of origin, you can easily establish new personal contacts and even friendships with your fellow countrymen locally by providing practical help on-site.

You can help them to get integrated, for example by providing active, personal support with housing, work, child care and schools. You can offer assistance with the demands of bureaucracy, administrative processes and in a variety of other types of formalities, as well as introducing them to your local contacts. You can also organize regular meet-ups for expats and locals, or create an association to exchange information, to organize sociocultural events and to keep up the customs of your home country.

● ***to earn an income by offering visitors and future expats from your native country personalized activities and/ or professional services on-site***

a. If you are a private individual living abroad, you can...

offer customized personal activities and/ or services of any kind on-site to earn money abroad, in ways such as:

hospitality, accommodation, ridesharing, or a number of other activities and/or services for people traveling for tourism or for business, for solo travelers, students, families with children, women traveling alone, people with disabilities and pensioners.

embark upon a professional self-employed career to earn an income abroad. Here is a collection of ideas from other expats:

- Transform your expertise into an online consultancy.
- Teach languages, or intercultural awareness, both offline and online.
- Write a blog, or articles about your new home country and your own experiences, or your interests and hobbies.
- Enter an online co-operation with a company from your native country.
- Offer counseling services to travelers and newly arrived expats.
- Sell handicrafts from your new country of residence online.
- Work as a real estate agent, employment agent, wedding planner or personal shopper.

Since many visitors from your old home country prefer to take a vacation without worrying about the local language, they will very much appreciate if you...

- work as a tour guide or an athletics instructor;
- organize excursions;
- organize classes, workshops, events or exhibitions;
- start a taxi service;
- open a hotel, guesthouse or a B&B;
- open a restaurant, cafe, inn, bar, bakery or pastry shop, offering also specialty foods from your old home country.

Once you started your own business endeavor you can promote it with the help of My Global Welcome directly to your fellow countrymen both in your native and your adopted country.

b. If you own your own business abroad (or have a VAT ID number), you can...

promote your commercial, industrial, artisan or professional business or products offline or online directly to your fellow countrymen both in your native country and your expat destination.

- ***to create sustainable exchanges between visitors from your native country and the local people.***

Travelers are looking for authentic experiences. They want to see places and understand customs that haven't been described in any travel guide; they want to get to know the local people and their products; they want to find out how the locals live, what challenges they face, and what matters in their lives.

Similarly, there are many small family owned businesses for local handicrafts and producers of local specialties that travelers would never manage to find on their own.

Therefore, once you have lived abroad for a longer period of time, you can bridge the gaps of both culture and communication with your in-depth knowledge of both cultures and languages.

Bill Bryson, born in the USA and currently living in England, his adopted homeland, points out in his book "The Road to Little Dribbling: More Notes from a Small Island" that as a foreigner "you get to spend your life with a whole new set of cultural attachments in addition to the ones you inherited at birth" and that "anybody who has a second country is greatly favoured".

- ***to receive job offers from employers both from your native and your new home country***

Through My Global Welcome, employers from your old and your new home country can easily establish work contacts with you.

- ***to find other expats from your native country who live in your immediate area***

If you move to a country with a culture that is very different from your own, when the cultural divide between you and the local people seems insurmountable, and culture shock, homesickness and a sense of rootlessness hit you hard, you'll need a shoulder to lean on. Here you will find fellow countrymen who live right around the corner in your immediate area, who can provide you with emotional support and who will welcome you to their own circle of friends and acquaintances.