

I was in Innsbruck, Austria when the virus took its hold in Europe. I decided in October, long before we knew anything of the virus, that I would be going to Innsbruck, Austria to visit a friend who lived there. I left for vacation in early March, and when I left the only fear about the virus was going to China and catching it, it hadn't even taken hold in Italy at that point. During my first 2 days in Innsbruck it was all over the news that Italy was being devastated by the virus and that the borders to and from the country had to be closed. I remember so vividly being woken up on Wednesday March 11th, by a text from my cousin asking if I had seen the announcement by President Trump. I quickly looked it up and immediately began to panic. He was announced that no one in any of the countries apart of the European Union would be allowed into the United States. At that point the address was vague and no knew when it truly began, if Americans would be allowed back in and what this meant for the rest of the world. Innsbruck had a small airport that only had one flight to and from London a day, and consequently all of them were booked so I had no other option but to wait until my flight left on Friday to be able to go home. The next few days were spent trying to keep myself distracted in order to not remember the stress of the whole situation. I barely remember what tourist things we did because I was consumed with the fear that I would not be able to make it back home. After what felt like a week, Friday finally came and I was on my flight to London from Innsbruck, but due to heavy screenings in Heathrow airport my flight was delayed, and I missed my connection to Phoenix. I had to spend the night in an airport hotel where I spent most of my time crying and constantly refreshing the news to see if any updates about travel had been made that would bar me from arriving home safely. Thankfully nothing was cancelled, and I found myself on my flight to Phoenix in a few hours. When I arrived home, I was placed in quarantine for 2 weeks; I wasn't allowed to leave the house for any reason and I had to miss another 2 weeks of work and

couldn't see friends and family, which made the stress of the situation that much harder.

However, I would take a mandatory 2-week quarantine over being stranded in a foreign country any day.