



MY CROSS  
CULTURAL  
EXPERIENCE  
TRAVELING TO  
NEW YORK

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# My background

- I am from the beautiful warm Island of Puerto Rico. I was born and raised over there till i was 8 years old, because of this I was able to learn spanish fluently from my parents. I also attended school where I was able to learn how to read and write in spanish. Which is a skill that tends to shook people, as it seems to be a skill many hispanics lack.
- My experience living in Puerto Rico was amazing, I remember spending most of my younger year outdoors, playing with the chickens and lizards that tend to be everywhere.





# Puerto Rican Culture

- In Puerto Rico we have “Peleas de Gallo” a.k.a (roosters fights) which are as the translation refers to, they're fights organized usually by men where they bring their roosters to fight each other as they place bets on either or rooster.
- In Puerto Rico we also celebrate the three kings day also known as the three wise men. It's on January 6th, and it's a day where we believe the three wise men will bring us presents.
- The night before kids usually take a shoe box and go outside to fill it up with grass for the three wise men's camels. I remember doing this myself when I was younger.



# Coming to America

The year of 2013 our family decided it would be best to move to the United States. This was because my brother had an ear infection that threatened to render him deaf.

After we got here, our family was forced to split into different shelters as we didnt have a place to live. Luckily my brother and I were able to stay with our parents, but our grandma had to stay at a different only women's shelter. Which was very hard for my mother and I.

Our experience of getting an apartment was plagued with racial discrimination, to the point we were told by another puerto rican woman to "Go back to our country."

This experience especially stuck with me, seeing another of my own culture judging us so harshly.

# How we Adjusted to Living in America

As we adjusted to living in New York City I went to school where a lot of other hispanics attended, it was easier for me to communicate and get around but I didn't learn any english as i had no use of it. It was once I moved to Queens that I really picked up on english. I attended ESL (English As a Second Language) classes where they helped me improve my english skills.

This period of time was tough because moving to an all english school turned me from a straight "A" student to needing to attend summer school because I couldn't understand the language enough to pass the state test.

I remember crying when i found out as I believed I was a failure and no longer smart, which was something i got praised for before.

# Puerto Rican Cuisines



Alcapurrias



Arroz con gandules



Pernil



# Living in America Now

Nowadays living in New York has gotten easier in some ways and stayed the same in others. For example, I am able to communicate well but I still struggle getting used to the seasonal changes despite living here for ten years. As is very different to the hot weather year round you experience in P.R.

Now that I understand the language it has gotten easier to learn and understand the lessons brought forth by my teachers.

Although I still occasionally struggle with acational pronunciation

Fortunately I very rarely deal with racial discrimination nowadays. However I am still aware this issue is still present in the lives of other people like me.

# Conclutions

All in all, I am grateful to have come to the U.S as I was able to fluently learn a second language that I know will help me in the future with jobs and other opportunities. I am also grateful to have the opportunity to have a better shot at education as my parents weren't so fortunate.

Even though I believe my experience in the beginning wasn't the best I am happy to be here.



Thanks for listening!!!

