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TRAVEL THE WORLD FROM YOUR COMPUTER

BY LISA MILDON ([HTTPS://COFFEEHOUSEWRITERS.COM/AUTHOR/LISA-MILDON/](https://coffehousewriters.com/author/lisa-mildon/)) / ⌚ APRIL 20, 2020 / 👁 27 / 💬 0


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If you're like many folks, cabin fever has become an actual condition. While we may all be self-isolating, that doesn't mean we have to sit around in our homes and do nothing. As our nation practices social distancing, we can find creative ways to pass the time. Fortunately, there are tons of companies and websites willing to help out in our boredom so that we can stay home and save lives. Below are a few ideas of where to virtually visit and enrich your lives at the same time.

Google Earth

Feel like exploring the Earth? Want a change of scenery but don't want to risk getting the Coronavirus? Then try Google Earth. There are literally thousands of locations you can explore from the comfort of your recliner at home. For instance, why not check out the Grand Canyon? Or perhaps you'd like to explore something a bit more international. You can explore places like the Eiffel Tower or even the cherry blossom season throughout Asia with just a few clicks of your mouse. Google Earth has a handy feature called **Voyager**. Here there are multiple ideas for virtual visits, including places featured in or inspired by the *Harry Potter* series. Check out the links below from Google Earth and some of the few places that you can visit from their site.

- The Grand Canyon via Google Earth (<https://tinyurl.com/ww7y53e>).
- The Eiffel Tower via Google Earth (<https://tinyurl.com/vyqnagj>).
- The London Eye via Google Earth (<https://tinyurl.com/trjlhdw>).

YouTube

Like Google Earth, YouTube has thousands of videos that you can enjoy anywhere. From train rides across Europe (<https://youtu.be/Mw9qiV7XIFs>) to virtual hikes in Washington state (<https://youtu.be/hld4uaO1MDE>), there are so many videos to help you escape the doldrums of daily quarantining. If trains or hiking isn't your thing, check out the many roller coaster (<https://youtu.be/37IZN6PqzmA>) videos available. There are some exhilarating videos sure to get the blood pumping. A quick tip for better quality videos, look for 4K if you can. The image quality of the videos makes the experience much more immersive.

Some of my faves:

- Hogwarts Express Experience (https://youtu.be/u16kKribb_4).
- Lightning Rod at Dollywood (<https://youtu.be/b1wpAotftl4>).
- Forest Birdsong (audio only) (<https://youtu.be/XxP8kxUn5bc>).
- Redwood National Park, James Irvine Trail (https://youtu.be/74_BBhDMxkl).
- Nature Scenery in HD (<https://youtu.be/BHACKCNDMW8>).

National Park Service

If you're more of an outdoorsy type and yearn for some wilderness or at least a few natural attractions, the National Park Service has quite a few virtual tours (<https://www.nationalparks.org/connect/blog/take-virtual-visit-national-park>) to satisfy your need to roam. Because of the national closures due to the COVID-19 virus, the NPS has had to close several large parks, including Yellowstone (<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtours.htm>), which has influenced them to create virtual tours. Plus, they have tons of virtual activities (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/find-your-virtual-park.htm>) for you and your family to enjoy while chasing the boredom away.

Jam Out Online

If music is more your thing, then you're in for a treat. Many artists and musicians are live streaming on social media like Instagram and Facebook or can be viewed on other sites from concert halls and theatres. The best way to find if your favorite artist is participating is to look them up on social media. Other sites like the Metropolitan Opera (<https://www.metopera.org/>), the Lincoln Center (<http://lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home>), and Carnegie Hall (<https://www.carnegiehall.org/Explore/Watch-and-Listen/Live-with-Carnegie-Hall>) are streaming various concerts for those with a more discerning ear.

Museums

If you'd like a quieter way to escape your four walls, then perhaps a virtual tour through some museums is more your speed. The Smithsonian (<https://www.si.edu/exhibitions/online>) has a large number of tours, all while experts give you some inside information on each exhibit. For a more interactive tour, the British Museum (<https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>) has lots to offer and tries to simulate how you would feel walking through the London institute. Some of my other favorites are below:

- National Gallery of Art (<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-gallery-of-art-washington-dc?hl=en>).
- Van Gogh Museum (<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/van-gogh-museum?hl=en>).
- Google Arts and Culture (<https://artsandculture.google.com/?hl=en>). This site actually houses several museums, including the Van Gogh Museum.
- The Louvre (<https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne#tabs>).

Zoos and Aquariums

Something sure to please both kids and parents alike are virtual visits to some of the largest zoos and aquariums out there. Some, like the San Diego Zoo (<https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/videos>), even offer live webcams of several popular species. If you're into aquatic life more, the National Aquarium (<https://aqua.org/media/virtualtours/baltimore/index.html>) has a realistic virtual tour of their facilities, including some great shots of the fish in their habitats. Places like the Australia Zoo (<https://www.australiazoo.com.au/support-wildlife/adopt-an-animal/>) even offer bios of their animals in case you want to "adopt them" to aid in their care, wellbeing, and future conservation efforts. There are tons of animal life to view online. A few of my favorites include:

- North American Bear Center (<https://bear.org/watch-us-live/live-cams/>).
- St. Louis Zoo YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/x5mYhl4R34A>).
- Victoria Zoo, Australia (<https://www.zoo.org.au/animals-at-home/>).
- Monterey Bay Aquarium (<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>).

So, no matter what your interests are, there are literally hundreds of places to visit online. You don't have to dress up, or get dressed at all, to view beautiful vistas, engaging art, or cuddly animals. Just stay home and save lives.

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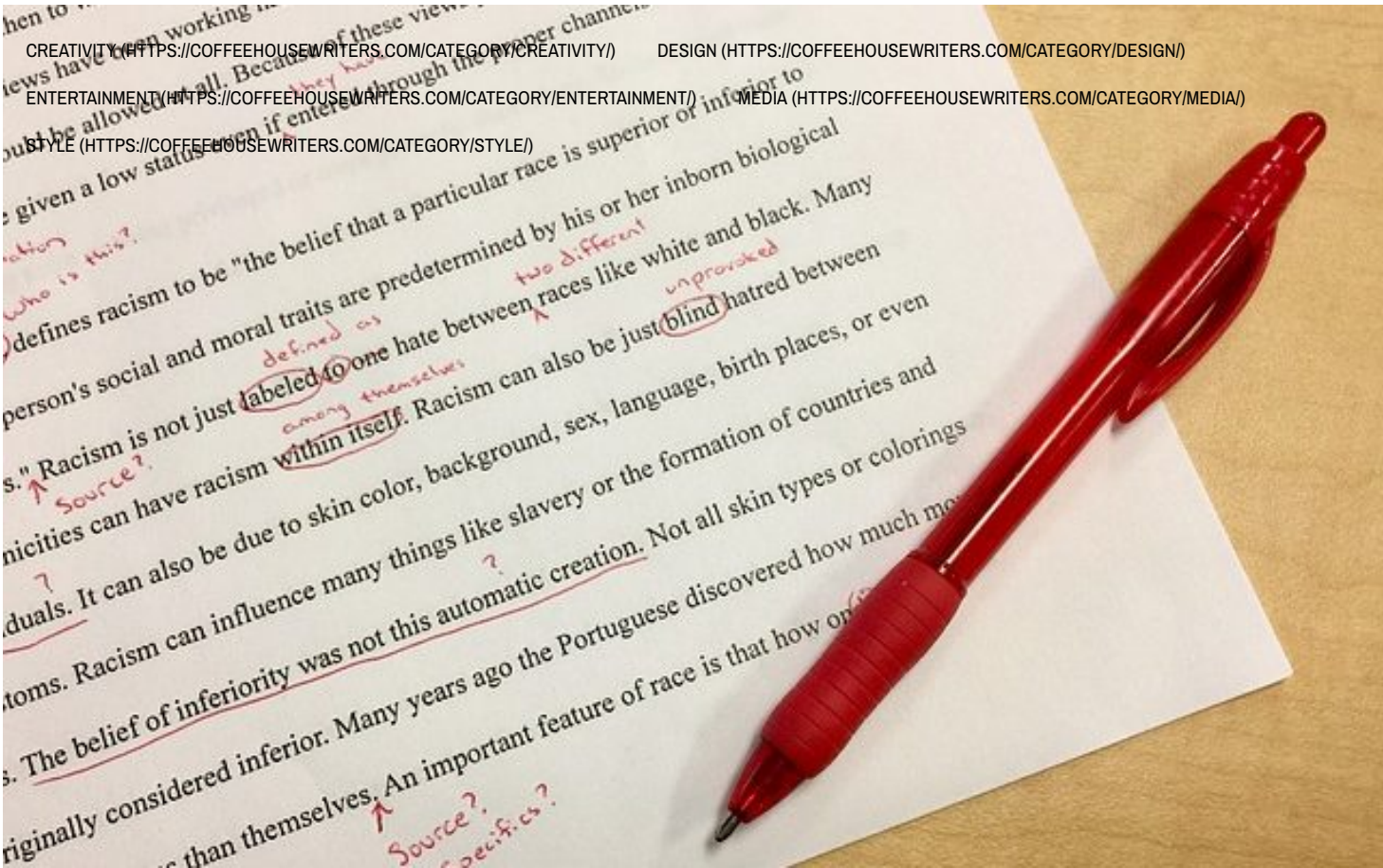
Lisa is an offbeat geeky girl who is a weaver of words and killer story creator. She has extensive editing\writing experience in non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and technical writing. In 2018, she graduated Summa Cum Laude at SNHU in Creative Writing and English. Lisa loves PC gaming, science fiction, and is obsessed with traveling. A self-professed Whovian, she aspires to write for the TV series. With her husband, they have 3 rescues, 2 adorable Rat Terriers, and 1 fat cat.

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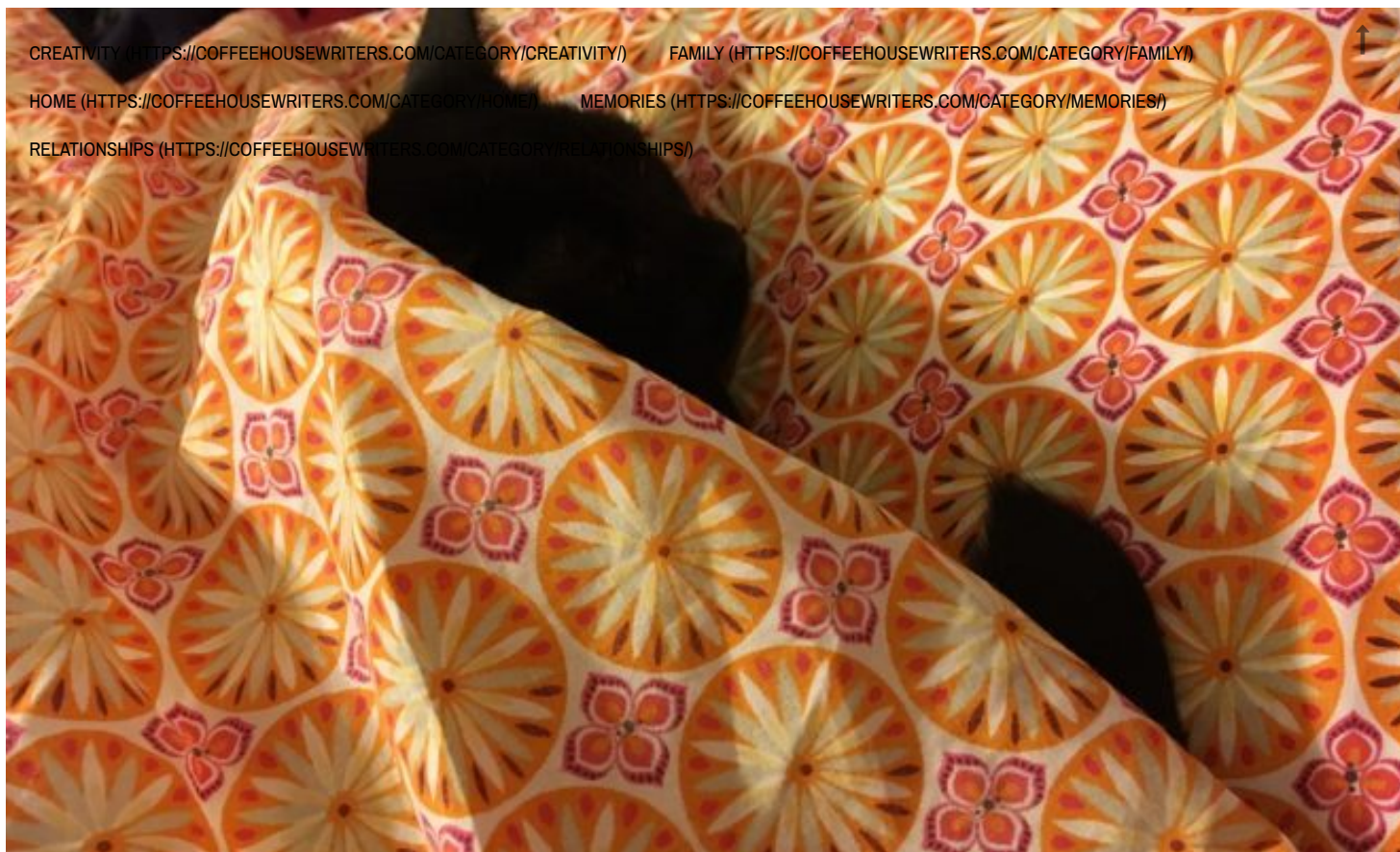
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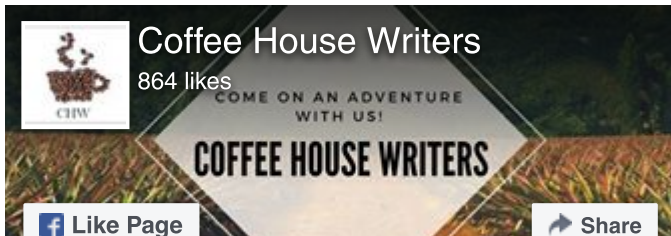
Wow! Lucy, I decided to read every part, one right after the other, in one sitting. ...
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