

A day trip to Florence.

When I was at university I had a really awful travel experience! It was a nightmare! I worked in Turin as an English language assistant in an Istituto tecnico Commerciale for a year. My friend Lawrence worked in the same school.

One weekend we decided to go to Florence. We went by train because we didn't have much money. We decided to stay at the youth hostel in Florence. We left Turin very early on Saturday morning and we got there at about twelve o'clock. The journey took five hours.

When we arrived in Florence we had lunch in a small self-service restaurant near the Ponte Vecchio, then we went sightseeing. We visited the cathedral, the Uffizi Gallery and we walked around the beautiful streets and squares of the city. We stopped for an ice-cream at Vivoli's - it was delicious. At about seven o'clock we took the bus to the youth hostel.

That's when the trouble began! We went to the reception and we filled in the forms, then the woman asked us for our passport – nothing! He thought for a bit then he remembered. “Oh, no! I left it on the table in the living room!”

At first I laughed. I thought it was a joke, but then I looked at his face and I realised this was not a joke. We asked the woman on reception to let him stay without showing his passport but she said no. So we caught the bus to the town centre and went to a restaurant for dinner.

After dinner we decided to sleep at the station. But this was November and it was very cold so we couldn't sleep. Finally at eleven o'clock we caught the train back to Turin, but it was a slow train and we got there at seven o'clock in the morning. We had a terrible night on the train and when we got home I was tired, cold and a bit angry with Lawrence!

