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## Virtual Journeys: Seeing . . . and Being Seen

by Meredith Mullins on November 10, 2015

Have you been waiting for the hourly light show at the Eiffel Tower?  
 Are you ready for a stopover in Sydney?  
 Do you want to see if the sun is sparkling over Niagara Falls?  
 Can you make time for a peek at the vivid autumn colors of New England?  
 Are you up for a climb to Machu Picchu?  
 Do you crave the energy of Times Square in New York?

All it takes is a click on a webcam link, and you are there.



A virtual journey to Niagara Falls via webcam.



The energy of Times Square via webcam.

Of course, a virtual journey lacks the vibrancy of being there, where all your senses come alive. And webcam resolution is not the best. You are sometimes looking through raindrops, suffering from shaky camerawork as winds rock the camera, or peering through the graininess of night.

But, at least, you can see, in real time, what's happening in the world (even if you have to wade through a few ads to get there).

Should I toast my Irish heritage at a Dublin bar?



Dublin in the rain via webcam.



A dream vacation via webcam, with white sand and turquoise sea

Will I vacation near an azure sea on the beach at St Bart's?

I hope so. But, in the meantime, I can make a virtual visit any time.

And I will caution those who may be unwitting characters in a webcam drama. Be aware. A webcam may be focused on you anywhere, anytime. The whole world could be watching.