

Interview mit Mimi, Couchsurferin (Host/Gast), persönlich, 30.05.2017

Interviewerin: LS, Transkription: GS, Korrektur der Transkription: LS

Mimi: Airbnb and the city kinda had like a fight. #00:00:08-8#

Luise: Yeah. #00:00:05-3#

Mimi: And we had a vote on it and there was all this stuff. So now it's very regulated.
#00:00:09-5#

Luise: I didn't know that there was like – was it like a public vote? #00:00:12-6#

Mimi: Yeah. #00:00:13-6#

Luise: Okay. #00:00:15-1#

Mimi: It was, it was called "Measure F". #00:00:17-0#

[Anmerkung von LS: Auch wenn es mit den gleich darauf folgend genannten Zeitangaben nicht übereinstimmt, ist hiermit wahrscheinlich die „Proposition F“ gemeint. Dies war: "An initiative to restrict short-term rentals, it was on the ballot for voters in San Francisco, California, on November 3, 2015 and it was sometimes referred to as the Airbnb Initiative. It was defeated.]

Luise: Okay. #00:00:17-6#

Mimi: ((It was in)) 2016. We voted in November and it was for limiting the amount of days that you can host, that you can rent out your space on Airbnb. And then also some, it's like if you own your place, you can rent without, but then there's certain rules if you're leasing, if you're like renting from someone out. #00:00:44-3#

Luise: Yeah. #00:00:45-8#

Mimi: That's kind of, it seems a little complicated and like and they are they (...) trying to rent it out. #00:00:51-7#

Luise: Yeah and I think what is also new is that you have to register for being a host on Airbnb. #00:00:58-8#

Mimi: Yeah, but well. #00:01:02-7#

Luise: And what did you vote? Did you vote for or against the regulations? #00:01:09-4#

Mimi: I think I was voting for the regulation because what happens is then some people take advantage of it and then they get a little greedy and instead of having it a place for like someone that works here, a place for them to be able to rent, they take that housing off the market by only hosting Airbnb. And so instead of someone just being ((and live)) there, they rent it out all the time. They charge more than the market rent and then it makes it so that there's fewer places for people to live. #00:01:49-7#

Luise: Yeah. And I think it can have like a huge impact on the whole neighborhood actually. It's not like it's not only about one apartment. It's like about the whole, yeah, neighborhood because it can like raise the rents for all other apartments as well. #00:02:06-3#

Mimi: Well that happened, my friend lives on Broadway. #00:02:09-0#

Luise: Yeah? #00:02:10-0#

Mimi: And that happened to her building where one person was renting out an apartment and then they decided to rent out another apartment and they fixed that up and then started renting it out as Airbnb. #00:02:21-9#

Luise: Yeah. #00:02:22-6#

Mimi: And then, like they wanted, like that became their job. And they were having an income from that and then ... all of a sudden my friend would just be coming home and there be like strangers in and out of the building, you know? And then it sort of makes it a little – not necessarily unsafe, but just like it's a different feeling where you don't know your neighbors 'cause now they are just strangers transiting, you know, coming and going. #00:02:54-0#

Luise: Yeah, yeah, wow. I think so, too. Because where I, now we're having like the same debate in Berlin because Berlin is one of the very big, international Airbnb markets and people there are very afraid that this can like destroy their whole city life and yeah, okay. But let's start with some of the good things. Let's start with Couchsurfing. So just like in general: What would you associate with Couchsurfing? #00:03:26-8#

Mimi: Hmm... Well, I've had positive experiences and it's, I feel that at the core it's just like a way to connect people from different places. And it's a way to ... to sort of share like what your values are, where like you value traveling and you value those new experiences so you share, you open up your home to host anybody so they can have the experience that you're having// #00:04:03-8#

Luise: Yeah. #00:04:03-6#

Mimi: You know in that city wherever it is. I feel like to me that's what I think of when I hear sharing economy. Because now there's all these sharing economy apps where you take a Lyft ride with someone or Uber or you're staying at the hotels, but it's all monetized versus Couchsurfing where that's one of their principles that it's not about money. #00:04:29-5#

Luise: Yeah. #00:04:30-2#

Mimi: That money shouldn't be the reason why you go do something. #00:04:38-4#

Luise: Yeah. And can you remember like the initial moment when you decided, “Okay, I will sign up on Couchsurfing”? #00:04:44-4#

Mimi: I remember signing up because of my friend that like he actually lives in France. So he's, he had been using Couchsurfing and that's how I learned about it. #00:04:58-1#

Luise: Yeah. #00:04:58-9#

Mimi: And I signed up because I liked the idea, but I didn't use it until a few years later. #00:05:05-0#

Luise: Okay. #00:05:06-7#

Mimi: So I've been a member for a long time, but I didn't use it immediately: And when I went on my first solo trip to Spain, I was there for three weeks and I didn't really have my whole itinerary like booked, so I wanted to keep it a little open in case I wanted to stay somewhere an extra night or something. #00:05:32-0#

Luise: Yeah. #00:05:31-2#

Mimi: So what I would do is, I would have, I had the place booked where I was staying the first night and then when I was there, I would book for the next place, you know? #00:05:40-2#

Luise: Alright, yeah. #00:05:41-4#

Mimi: And like every town I visited, I would sort of like just book ahead, but not too far ahead and so a couple nights I ended up using Couchsurfing because I couldn't find places (laughter). #00:05:56-8#

Luise: (laughter) Okay, yeah. #00:06:00-1#

Mimi: Yeah, so it kind of got me out of like a tight spot where like I wasn't sure where I was gonna sleep that night. #00:06:05-0#

Luise: Yeah. #00:06:06-4#

Mimi: But I was glad that it was available and that people were so open to just host you. #00:06:14-3#

Luise: Yeah. #00:06:14-2#

Mimi: Really go out of their way to help you. #00:06:18-4#

Luise: That's nice. And do you have like, or do you remember a special Couchsurfing moment? Something that, yeah, was totally gorgeous or outstanding where you say, "Wow, without Couchsurfing that wouldn't be possible in that same way"? #00:06:34-4#

Mimi: Well, the main, the biggest one was when I went to Granada and I wanted to see the Alhambra [Islamic-Arab fortress] and I didn't know that you needed to get tickets like really far in advance and, you know? That was, that was not, I didn't do my research, but I arrived and I didn't know where I was gonna stay. I was contacting people on Couchsurfing and then finally someone said, "Oh", like, "I'll host you". And I thought they lived in like the center of town. I didn't know exactly where they lived, but they lived on, on this hill outside of town, not too far, not too far, but it was still a little bit far. And I just felt so, I just felt this overwhelming like generosity from him because he came, he drove all the way down and like met me at some random bar and then picked me up, took me to his place and just, you know, it was a very modest place, not fancy, but it was really beautiful in between the trees like in the woods. And you could just tell that this was a very open and like a warm person. He helped me do the research to like figure how to get the tickets to go to the, to go to the Alhambra. They gave me food, they gave me dinner like it was just so generous, it were something that I hadn't really experienced here – where you could just ask a stranger if you could stay at their house. #00:08:14-9#

Luise: (laughter) #00:08:16-4#

Mimi: You know, they would think you were crazy. #00:08:17-5#

Luise: Mhm. #00:08:18-5#

Mimi: Or they think something is wrong with you. Yeah. It was just, it was like a beautiful like human experience where you just, you just remember that like, "Oh, there is a lot of great people in the world" and like we should be open to trusting them and want to be like them, too, so that they can have those experiences where you live. #00:08:45-8#

Luise: But at the same time, would you say you experienced something like an uncomfortable moment or situation where you felt unsafe? Like do you have any bad memories? #00:08:59-8#

Mimi: There was one where it was a little awkward because the person that was, the person that have the listing or the, for their Couchsurfing, they couldn't host me. And then they told me like, "Oh, but if you want, I could let you, I could let you stay at my friend's place, but they're gonna charge you". So that one was a little bit like, "Wait a second, that's not how this works". #00:09:30-4#

Luise: Yeah. #00:09:30-4#

Mimi: But I mean it all worked out. It's all fine, but it was one of those where like I wasn't sure if they were being genuine like if that's just, "Oh, this one time I can't host you and my friends will host you, but you have to pay them" or if that was like a regular thing they were trying to do. And that was a long, that was in ... 2010, so before Airbnb. So it wasn't, like that was not an option. They were so very generous and like kind// #00:10:08-0#

Luise: And did you have to pay for the other place? #00:10:10-4#

Mimi: I did pay for the other place, yeah. #00:10:12-3#

Luise: Okay. #00:10:12-2#

Mimi: But it was a nice room, nice set-up. They had like nicer accommodation than like the other place, but// #00:10:21-0#

Luise: But nevertheless kind of, yeah, kind of awkward. #00:10:26-1#

Mimi: Yeah, because, yeah and I was, the only reason why I ended up going along that was because it was one of those situations where I didn't have many options and it was getting late at night and all that. #00:10:41-9#

Luise: Wow. But what would you say how would you describe like the ideal Couchsurfer? #00:10:48-8#

Mimi: Just someone that's down-to-earth and kind of goes with the flow where they ... they're open to experiencing life in a way that you experience it like in your place, like wherever you are. And like, it's like you just can't be too like have higher expectations of like, "Oh well, this should be like this" and like, "Why don't they have a whole room for me?" and like, "Oh, like what?!", I don't know. You just have to be a little more open-minded like I've hosted somebody and on the listing it says like I have roommates, too, like flatmates, so there's gonna be other people there and like it's not a whole room, it's like literally a couch, but, you know, it's like really comfortable, I don't know – people are welcome to stay. So it's just like you can't expect it to be like a hotel. #00:11:48-6#

Luise: Yeah. #00:11:49-5#

Mimi: If, especially if, you know, if someone is home. And I think someone that's independent, that already has some ideas on what they wanna be doing like ... 'cause like the time I hosted someone, I had to go to work and then, after work we would, have gone out like and do a little tour of the city. But like it was good, this was a very independent traveler where he had other things he wanted to see during the day while I was at work. Yeah, just someone who is down-to-earth like goes with the flow, open-minded, not too picky. #00:12:28-8#

Luise: Yeah. #00:12:30-0#

Mimi: I feel like if you're picky// #00:12:31-9#

Luise: Oh yeah, that's right. #00:12:32-3#

Mimi: Then you should be staying at a hotel like where, you know. And I always look for the people that like, they're verified on the, on Couchsurfing where you know like you have some sense of security, you know that's their real information. It's not like a fake, a fake account. #00:12:55-5#

Luise: Yeah, yeah that's right. #00:12:55-7#

Mimi: So, it's good to look at their reviews like that they have positive reviews or ((if not)) stay somewhere else. #00:13:05-4#

Luise: So did you decide to open up your home to others after your first Couchsurfing experiences as a surfer? #00:13:13-3#

Mimi: Yes. #00:13:14-4#

Luise: Okay. And how did that feel? Like can you remember the first time like actually welcoming a stranger into your home? #00:13:22-7#

Mimi: Yeah it felt really good. I was very excited about it. It was a little overwhelming because you get a lot of requests for San Francisco. #00:13:31-5#

Luise: Yeah, that's// #00:13:32-1#

Mimi: And it's gonna be because it's really expensive to travel here. Like the hotels are really expensive, like one night, like 200 dollar a night or something. #00:13:41-2#

Luise: It's crazy. #00:13:42-3#

Mimi: So it is a little overwhelming 'cause you get a lot of requests and, yeah, it was just, it was very positive and exciting because I was finally able to pay it forward or to pay it back. So that was, that was a good feeling. And the guy I hosted was just really cool and he was from Argentina// #00:14:03-4#

Luise: Okay. #00:14:04-4#

Mimi: And he had done a lot of traveling and so it was good to hear our his travel stories and like share philosophy, just be able to share my city and why I love it here with somebody else. That was a nice experience. #00:14:21-7#

Luise: And what would you say, what should a booking request or a hosting request include? Because, yeah, there a lot of like standardized messages like, "I need a couch to crash". What would you be looking for? #00:14:39-1#

Mimi: Maybe just, well, like for me it's easier to host on the weekends. So like if, especially if they have like specific dates that they're gonna be requesting and then like if they give you a little information about what they're wanting to do or like what they expect from the interaction, you know? Like a friendly, a friendly, a friendly message. #00:15:04-8#

Luise: Yeah, okay. ... and ... what do you do to prepare yourself and your home for the arrival of the guest? Like you would have to brief your flatmates, right? #00:15:20-2#

Mimi: Yeah, so I would just ask them if it's okay or just like give them a heads-up that I'm gonna be hosting somebody. It's not uncommon that we would host somebody, it's just not like officially through Couchsurfing, too. But like definitely if it's like a complete stranger, you know, then like you wanted, you want your flatmates to know (giggles). #00:15:44-5#

Luise: Yeah. #00:15:46-3#

Mimi: And then like if, like the last time, I mean, I just made sure everything was clean and, you know, tidy and then ... I think if I hosted again, I would like to know just like what time they're arriving. So I could like plan around that and maybe like make dinner plans or something 'cause that was really nice the last time, to be able to go out and just, you know, share a meal. I think, I think that's really nice. ... A home-cooked meal when you're traveling is like a nice change. #00:16:27-4#

Luise: That, that is, yeah, that is awesome, that's right. But like on a daily basis, what would you say, how would you combine your own everyday life and your hosting activities? Because I think hosting sometimes can be like a little bit demanding. Especially if you have someone that isn't such an independent traveler. Would you make like big compromises or would you like try to maintain your own life? #00:17:01-9#

Mimi: Well, I think it also just depends on like how open the other person is, but especially if it's on the weekend like they are welcome with me wherever I go 'cause I'm usually out with friends and there's a lot of activities in the city, so for me it's like as long as they are cool with it. But if it's during the week and I'm working, then I do need them to be more independent and sort of like ... like be out when I leave and like be back when I'm back, but not trying to be home all day. So just setting the expectations from the beginning before you accept somebody's request, and it's good to – that's why it's hard when someone messages you and it's like that weekend or that same day it's a little bit harder. So if you have time in advance like sometimes people will tell you like, "I'm gonna" – it's like in a week or two weeks then you know you can prepare a little better. #00:18:03-1#

Luise: Yeah, that's right. But would you hand, give them your keys to the apartment? No? #00:18:08-1#

Mimi: No. #00:18:09-0

Luise: Okay. #00:18:10-6#

Mimi: I ... no (laughter). #00:18:10-6#

Luise: Yeah, especially with your flatmates I think, I think, yeah, but ... What would some aspects be you pay special attention to when you are hosting or how would you like the others to treat your place in terms of like personal boundaries or stuff like that?

#00:18:33-0#

Mimi: Yeah, just keep things neat and tidy like you don't wanna like have someone strip like, take everything out of the suitcase and spread all over the place. #00:18:44-5#

Luise: Yeah. #00:18:45-1#

Mimi: So just keep it like in your little space, organized, but give them a heads-up about the shower because we have one shower for the three of us, so in the morning it can get busy. So as long as they know that like, okay, between this time and this time they can use the shower. That's the really the only thing and then just sort of let them know like the fridge, like whatever food like they can have or like the water like what water to drink, you know? What like – just like a little tour of what to do, then how to use it. #00:19:25-2#

Luise: But other than that, they could like move freely around your place? It's not like you'd be like, "Okay, stay on the couch, don't go in the kitchen"? Because, so, on some Airbnbs you actually have like this straight house rule of what to do and what not to do.

#00:19:42-7#

Mimi: Ooh. ... Well, our apartment is really small. So there's the three bedrooms, the bathroom, then like the living room and then the kitchen. So pretty much the shared spaces, the bathroom, the living room and the kitchen that's like free for everybody.

#00:19:59-5#

Luise: Okay. #00:20:00-3#

Mimi: And as long as they are not going into like the rooms, like my flatmates' rooms or anything then// #00:20:04-8#

Luise: Sure. #00:20:05-4#

Mimi: That's like the only rule. And no smoking 'cause that's, the landlord doesn't allow smoking. But other than that, I mean, there's, it's not really a place where you like want to be there all day because there's not that much going on (laughter). #00:20:17-9#

Luise: Yeah. (laughter) #00:20:19-9#

Mimi: It's a small place. It's a small place. #00:20:24-0#

Luise: So the last part is about the references because I found that the reference system seems to be like a very big part of this whole Couchsurfing thing. What do you think about the reference system in general? #00:20:39-4#

Mimi: I think it's really helpful because other than the references you wouldn't have anything to really go after, like when I first signed up, my friend gave me a recommendation, like he wrote about me because we traveled together. We had traveled together two times. Even though we didn't host each other, he was able to sort of give a little description of what kind of traveler I am and my personality. And I think, it also encourages you to host and to request a couchsurf because that's the only way you get to have the references – if you actually participate. #00:21:25-5#

Luise: Yeah, yeah. #00:21:27-5#

Mimi: So I think, it's really important because they're, they're strangers so, like you need to know that someone in the community is gonna vouch for them and say that they are safe, they are a good person like, you know, they are not crazy// #00:21:43-3#

Luise: (laughter) Yeah. #00:21:43-6#

Mimi: They're not trying to murder anyone// #00:21:45-4#

Luise: (laughter) #00:21:46-7#

Mimi: So I think it's very important. #00:21:48-0#

Luise: So, would you always write a reference after you hosted someone or you stayed with someone? #00:21:56-2#

Mimi: Yes. #00:21:57-8#

Luise: Okay. And did you ever receive a review or reference where you felt like, "Ey, this is unfair or this is inappropriate or ... okay?!"? #00:22:10-4#

Mimi: No. #00:22:11-8#

Luise: So there was like no problems or like a conflict? #00:22:15-1#

Mimi: No. #00:22:16-3#

Luise: That's, okay, that's cool. How would you feel when someone doesn't write a review for you? #00:22:24-1#

Mimi: I would be surprised because ... as long as we, if something bad happened, you know, then you would definitely expect that to be in the review. And if nothing bad happened and it was a positive experience, I'd be surprised if they didn't wanna write something because ... I mean it's a mutual thing where you write for them and they write for you, so I'd be surprised. #00:22:53-9#

Luise: Yeah. #00:22:54-6#

Mimi: I'd be, like if, if while they were staying with me, they didn't say anything and then they just didn't write a review, like I would be confused like, "Why? What happened? Why didn't you tell me something was wrong?". #00:23:08-4#

Luise: Yeah, sure, yeah, that's right. So what do you consider when writing a reference for someone? What would be like typical topics you would include? #00:23:22-9#

Mimi: I would just write about, you know, if they were a good, a good guest, just like considerate and followed the rules whatever rules there were. And a little bit about their personality just so the other person can see if they are consistent or not. If this person was very friendly and had a lot of stories to share, liked to talk a while or something, you know? Just share those experiences, so that the person know that if the person is acting the same way, that's consistent with whatever else was written about them. #00:24:06-8#

Luise: Yeah. Okay, that's cool. Do you think you behave different because you know that you get like evaluated after an encounter? #00:24:22-7#

Mimi: I mean, I would definitely want to put like my best forward, you know? Like I would wanna make a good impression and I think part of being a host is also making someone feel welcome in your home. But I don't think, I would necessarily do anything that's like over the top, like really get out of my way. Just sort of treat someone the way I would want to be treated in that situation. So it, I think, it starts with put me, it would start with setting the expectations where when you're communicating and making the plans and then just following through once they arrived at, you know, whatever you said you were gonna do. That you actually follow through with it. #00:25:10-5#

Luise: Yeah, sounds good. #00:25:13-4#

Mimi: I think, I liked it a lot, that when I did host somebody, I definitely gave them more time because like when I was at work, I couldn't be there and so I made an effort to make sure my schedule is clear in the evening, so that we could go out and see a little bit of the city. #00:25:30-0#

Luise: Yeah. #00:25:31-0#

Mimi: So. And I mean, and I guess in that aspect I would act differently where I would make sure I'm not so busy doing other things. #00:25:38-9#

Luise: Yeah. #00:25:39-9#

Mimi: Yeah. #00:25:41-0#

Luise: And in the beginning you told me that you would also use sometimes Airbnb as a guest? #00:25:47-6#

Mimi: Yes. #00:25:48-3#

Luise: But what would you, when would you decide to try to find a Couchsurfing place and when would you decide to find an Airbnb place? #00:25:58-9#

Mimi: I think, it depends on how long I'm traveling. ... So the times I had used Couch-, sorry, the times I used Airbnb, it's when it's like a short-trip. And when I used Couchsurfing it was more other ... I mean, a little more other than necessity. Just because I was in those situations where it was last-minute and I didn't have anywhere to stay, but if I, if I planned another trip and I knew where I was gonna be, I would definitely maybe incorporate a little bit of both. #00:26:44-7#

Luise: Yeah. #00:26:45-1#

Mimi: Where you stay at Airbnb or like maybe stay at a hotel and then also do Couchsurfing just to get a little bit of a different experience. 'Cause I feel like you learn more about the places you travel when you stay with somebody. ... And ... and I probably would consider it, too, just based on like the cost, if it's like really tourist season, like high tourist season, then maybe Couchsurfing could be more of an option because of that ... Like Airbnb has the flexibility where you come and go whenever you want, you have a little more freedom. But you are paying for that freedom, so that's the other part. I was recently in Cuba and I stayed for a week with Airbnb, but that's because there's no Couchsurfing,

you're not allowed to use Couchsurfing there ((as a tourist)), so. That was a good option (laughter). 'Cause either that or a hotel, and the hotels are very expensive there. #00:28:04-7#

Luise: Oh they are? #00:28:06-4#

Mimi: Yeah. #00:28:06-5#

Luise: Really? Wow. #00:28:08-7#

Mimi: Well, I mean some of them. You can, you can probably find some hotels that were the same as the Airbnb, but then they like, other hotels are really expensive, like 100, 200 dollars a night, like 300 dollars a night. And so Airbnb was a good option. #00:28:27-7#

Luise: Yeah. That's nice. Yeah so ... I think I'm out of questions. Let me check. ... Yeah, but if you think there's anything that we haven't covered, you think like, "Oh, this is a story I need to share", or, "This is like a yarn I need to like tell", now's your chance. #00:28:57-7#

Mimi: Well ... I tell you this that I think, I really appreciate that there's a community around Couchsurfing where it's not just the transactional part of it where you stay at someone's place or ((that)) you host somebody. Because there's other ways you can participate in the community, where you can go to meet-ups and meet travelers or you can, you know, go like on the forum, there's like a topic that you know about, like, "Oh, someone's traveling to where I've been – I could help answering questions or give suggestions". #00:29:41-6#

Luise: Yeah, that's right. #00:29:42-4#

Mimi: So it's a lot more integrated, I think, whether Airbnb is very transactional. It's like you stay somewhere and then you can leave a review and that's it. #00:29:55-1#

Luise: Yeah. #00:29:56-0#

Mimi: And it's, it doesn't go far beyond that. ... And there's only two ways to participate: either you stay somewhere or someone, or someone stays with you. Now they have some other things where you can pay for like a tour guide// #00:30:13-2#

Luise: Yeah. #00:30:14-3#

Mimi: And stuff like that. But it's still like, "Oh you're paying for this experience" versus Couchsurfing where there's lots of ways for like, right now, maybe I, like you can open up your place and host and then you can close it up again because if things change. But then you can also interact in different ways. Like when I was in Cuba, like I said, I just told every, I put up a message on Couchsurfing, "I'm gonna be in Cuba these days, if you wanna meet up let me know and we could go plan something". And this one girl reached out to me and we went on a trip to the countryside. We rented a car and went on a trip to a tobacco plantation. And she also messaged someone else, so there were three of us. We split the costs of that tour and we had a great time, so that was really cool because it didn't necessarily mean that we had to stay with each other or host each other. It was another way to be a part of it. #00:31:21-3#

Luise: Aaah, so did, do you have some experiences using the hangout function on Couchsurfing? I think this is like a new application they just introduced that's pretty nice. You can just like say, "Okay, I'm available to hang out" and then// #00:31:39-6#

Mimi: Oh, I think that's what I, yeah, I think that's what it was. #00:31:41-9#

Luise: Alright, yeah. Because I think you can be like super spontaneously. #00:31:48-4#

Mimi: Right. #00:31:49-6#

Luise: And, yeah, that's, I think, super nice. And I, just – have you ever been to some meet-ups of Couchsurfing? Because I've been so far to a movie night in their headquarters// #00:32:04-2#

Mimi: Oh nice. #00:32:05-5#

Luise: That was quite cool, yeah. But, yeah, did you, did you ever participate in such events? #00:32:10-7#

Mimi: I would go to a meet-up that they had here in this neighborhood and it was, it was just like a social mixer where you go and it's like happy hour and you just meet other people that are also members of Couchsurfing. It was a nice mix of people that lived here and then people that were traveling. #00:32:31-2#

Luise: Cool. #00:32:32-6#

Mimi: And, yeah, it's nice because like if you, if you're traveling somewhere else that's a place where you can find other travelers, where you can look on the events and see if they, they're meeting somewhere near you and so that way even if you're traveling alone, you can have nice interactions with other people. #00:32:54-2#

Luise: That's right. #00:32:55-8#

Mimi: So I did, I did, I did meet up a couple times. And then there's a Facebook group, too, for like San Francisco Couchsurfing// #00:33:05-1#

Luise: Oh, I didn't know that. #00:33:05-7#

Mimi: And then people also post there a lot where they're saying like, there's a lot of people that will come and they're like, "Oh, I'm going to Yosemite these days, does someone wanna come with us?" Stuff like that. #00:33:15-3#

Luise: Cool. #00:33:16-3#

Mimi: Where they trying to do little road trips, day trips. #00:33:19-0#

Luise: Yeah. #00:33:20-5#

Mimi: I haven't really gone, but I feel like, that's like, being in the know is like a way that you can participate. Because one of these days I'm gonna be available and like they're gonna have something that I wanna do and then it'll work out. #00:33:37-7#

Luise: Yeah. That's cool. Nice. Thank you so much for your time, really. #00:33:47-1#