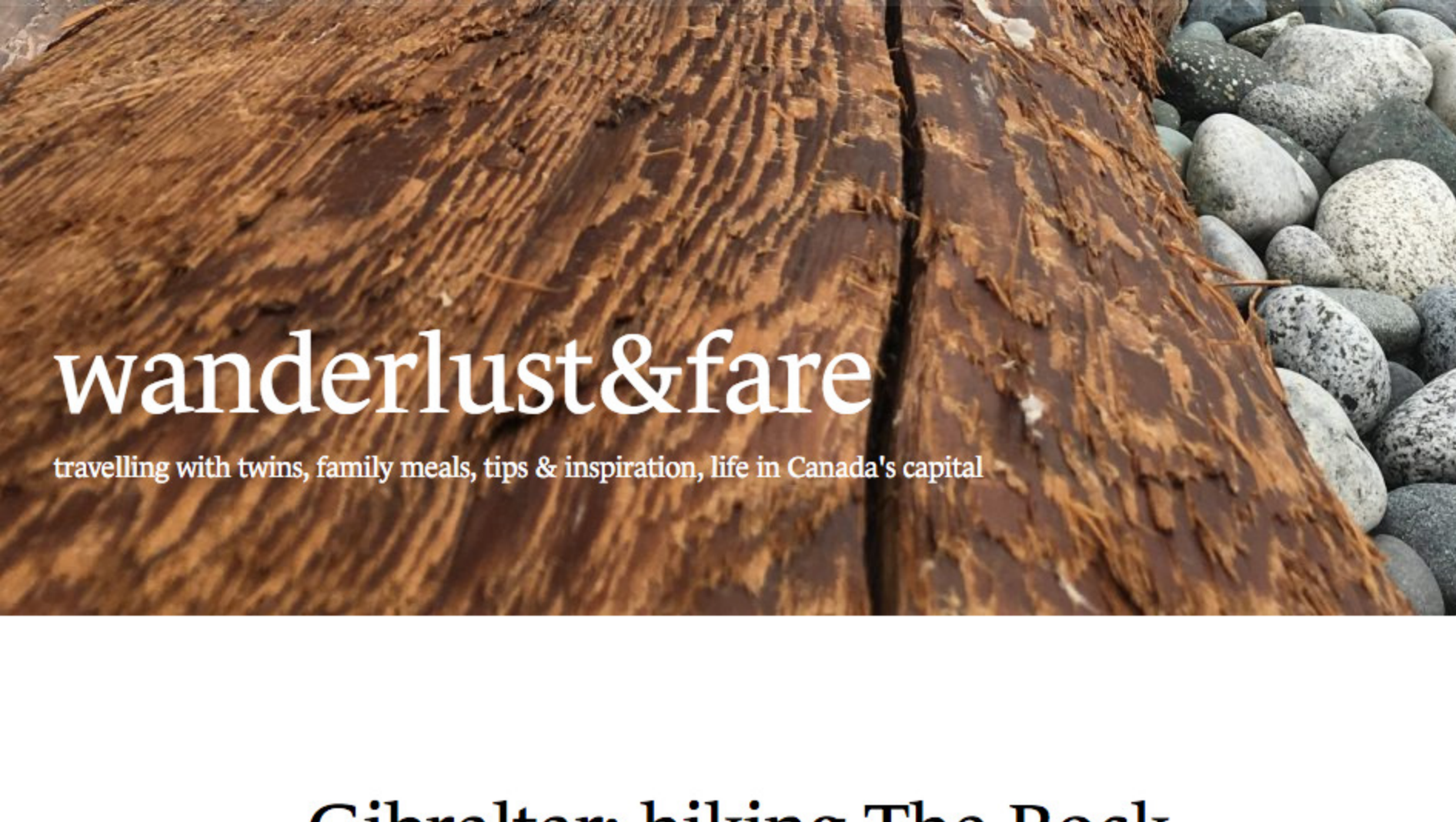




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Gibraltar: hiking The Rock with kids

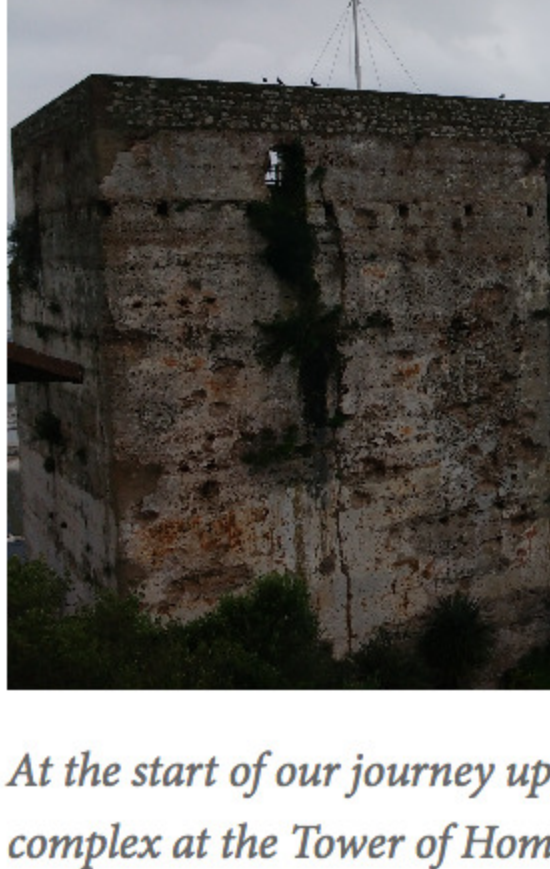
February 6, 2019 Amber Nickerson

I'm not sure when the fascination with The Rock began for me. Possibly as far back as my geography studies, or maybe in young adulthood when an air force friend stationed on a ship made a stop there and sent a postcard depicting the landscape. What I do know is that when I first caught a glimpse of Gibraltar on that grey, rainy March day nearly two years ago, it was surreal. That feeling of elation, of seeing something in reality, right in front of me, is one of the defining emotions of wanderlust for me personally. (I've felt it time and again over my travels, and it might even warrant an entire blog post!)

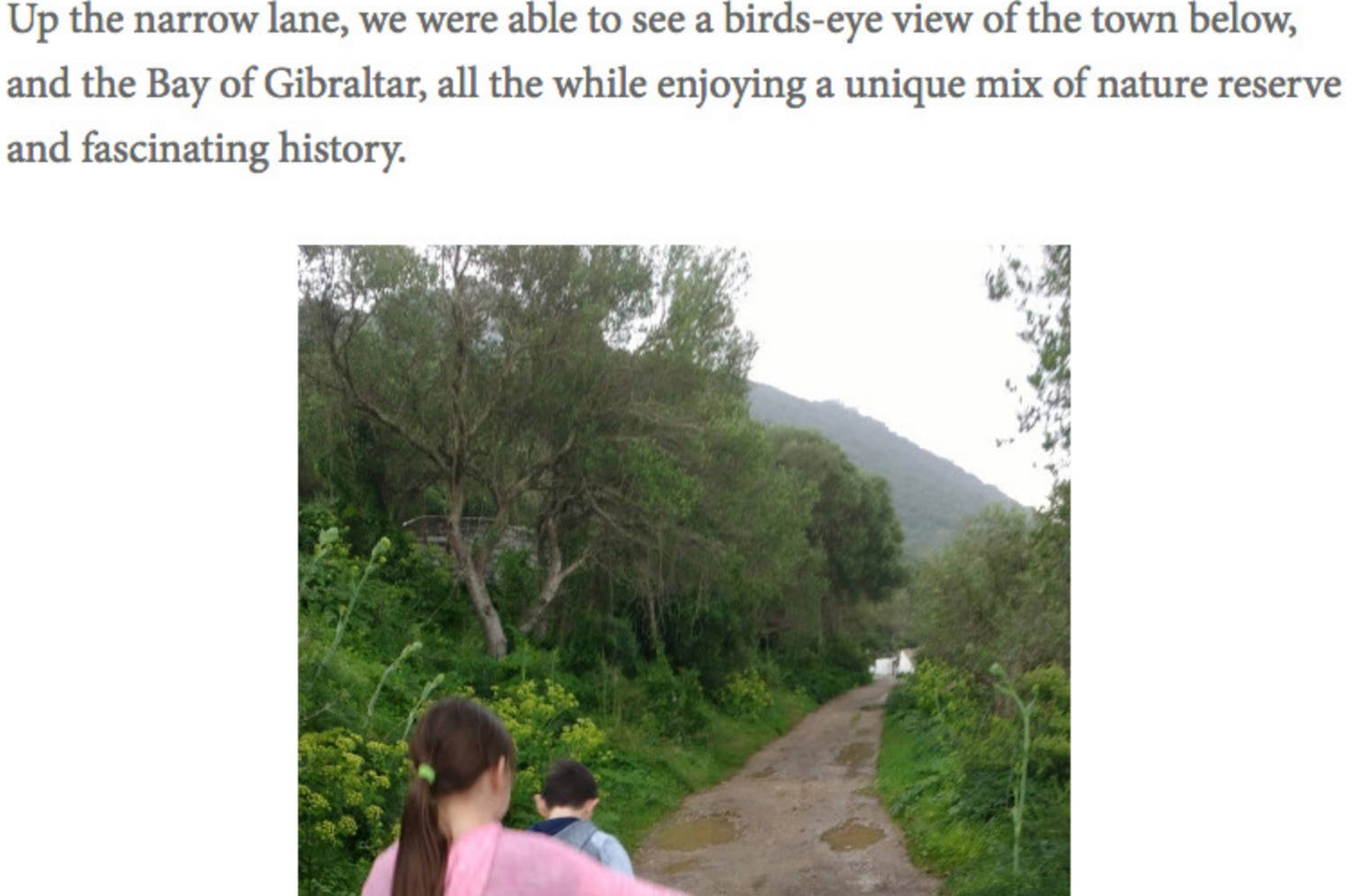


It was a grey, rainy day on our family trip to Spain when we crossed the border into Gibraltar.

Let me start by saying that we are a family who loves to plan, but we're also very good at being carefree with the daily details on our holidays. We may know where we're sleeping well in advance, but we never know where the day may take us. So, on our way from Seville to Fuengirola, we had planned a day to cross the border from Spain and explore Gibraltar. I had researched the walk up The Rock a little but found it difficult to find clear, concise information on what the expect, especially with our two nearly-10-year-olds in tow. We planned on parking our rental car, seeing the historical sites on foot, the Apes Den (Europe's only wild monkeys the Barbary Macaques), and possibly climbing the Mediterranean Steps, but exactly what all this would look like, we didn't know for sure. One thing was certain — with the rainy, overcast day we had, we knew we wouldn't be setting our eyes on northern Africa.

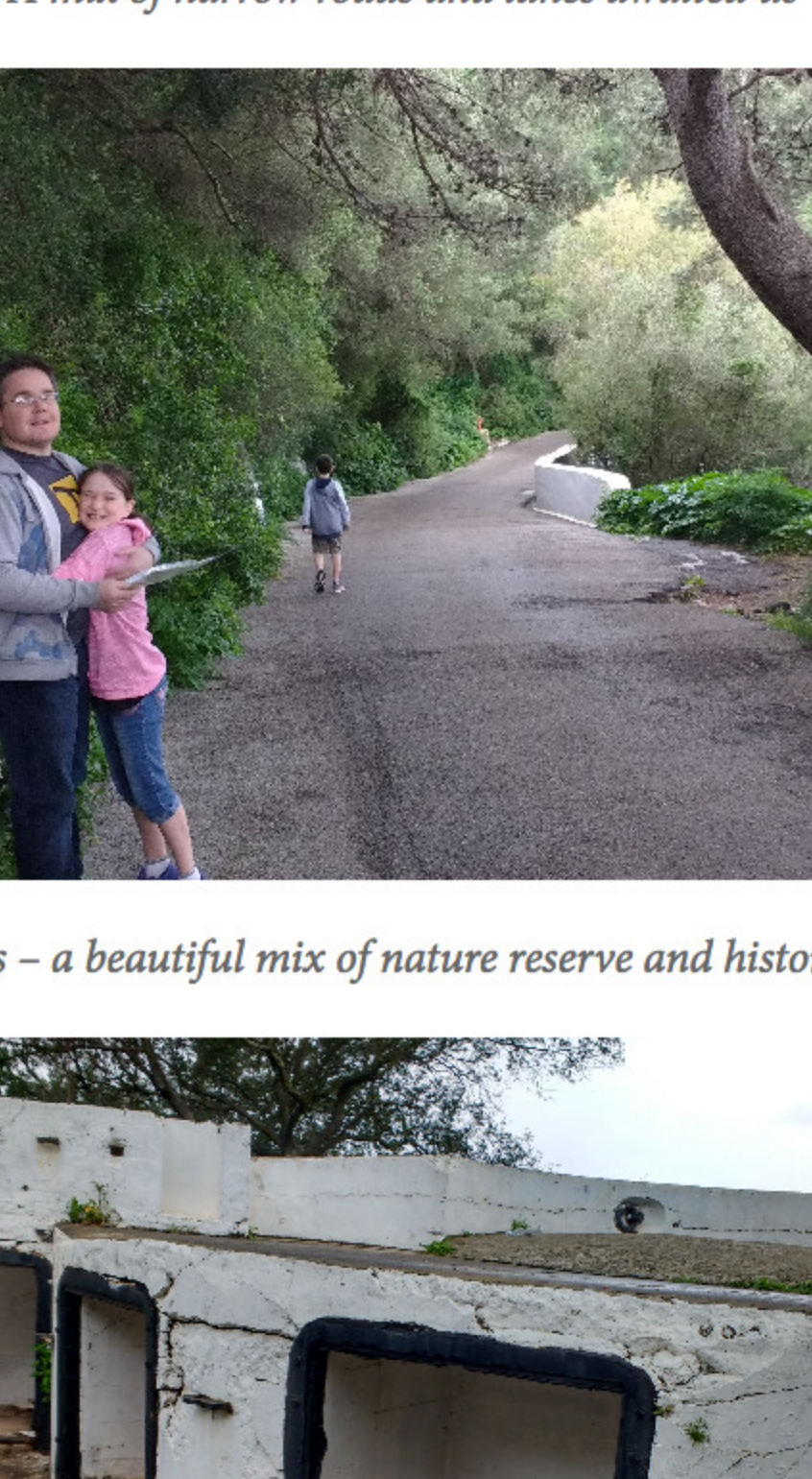


It was midday already, and we drove from town up the narrow, winding road towards the Moorish Castle complex. After speaking to a gate attendant, we parallel-parked alongside the road before the entrance. We explored the area around the Tower of Homage (circa 1333) and the Gate House, caught our first glimpse of a few Barbary Macaques, and then decided to start our hike up the narrow road and path system through the Gibraltar Nature Reserve.

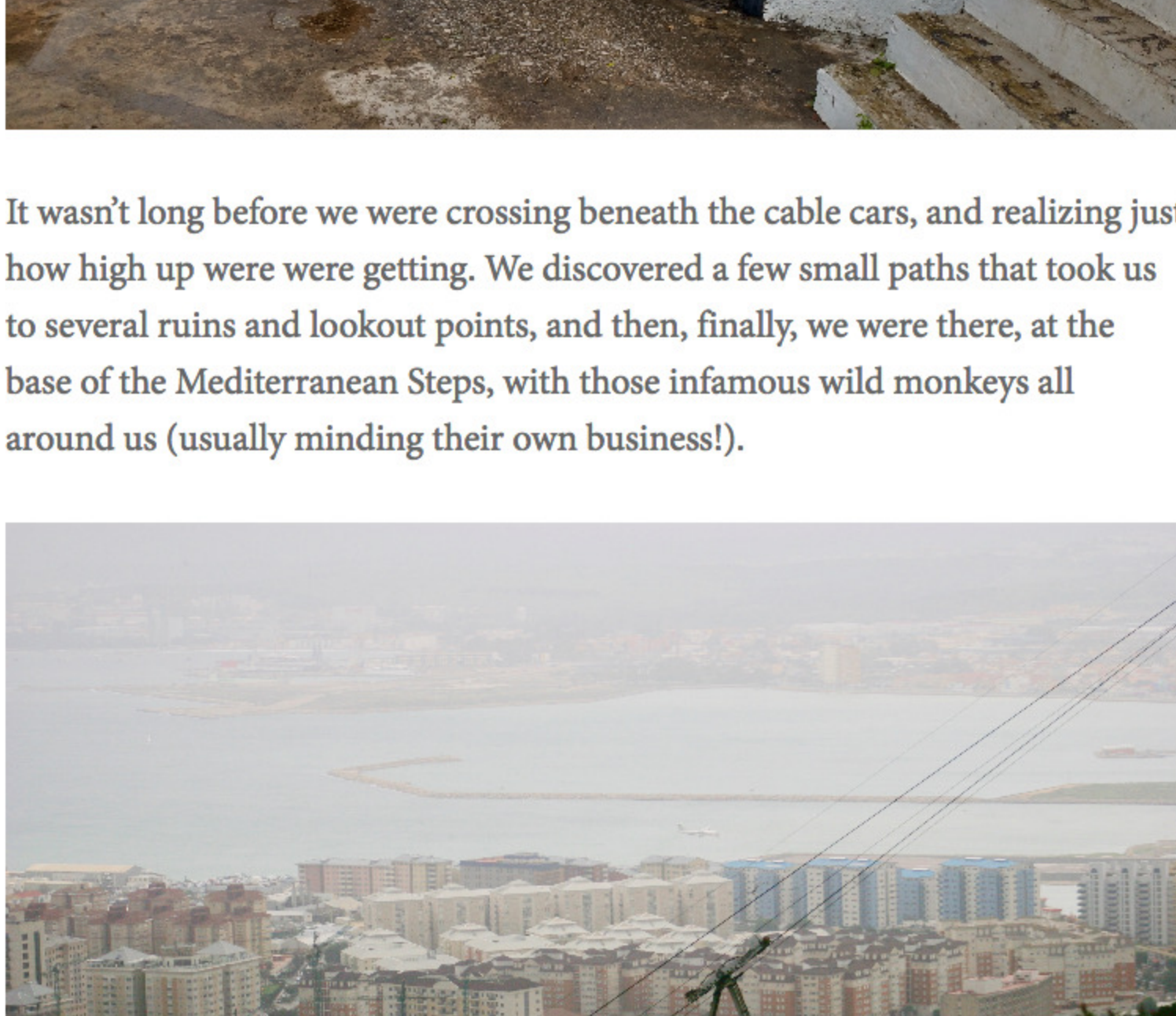


At the start of our journey up! Already fantastic views from the Moorish Castle complex at the Tower of Homage.

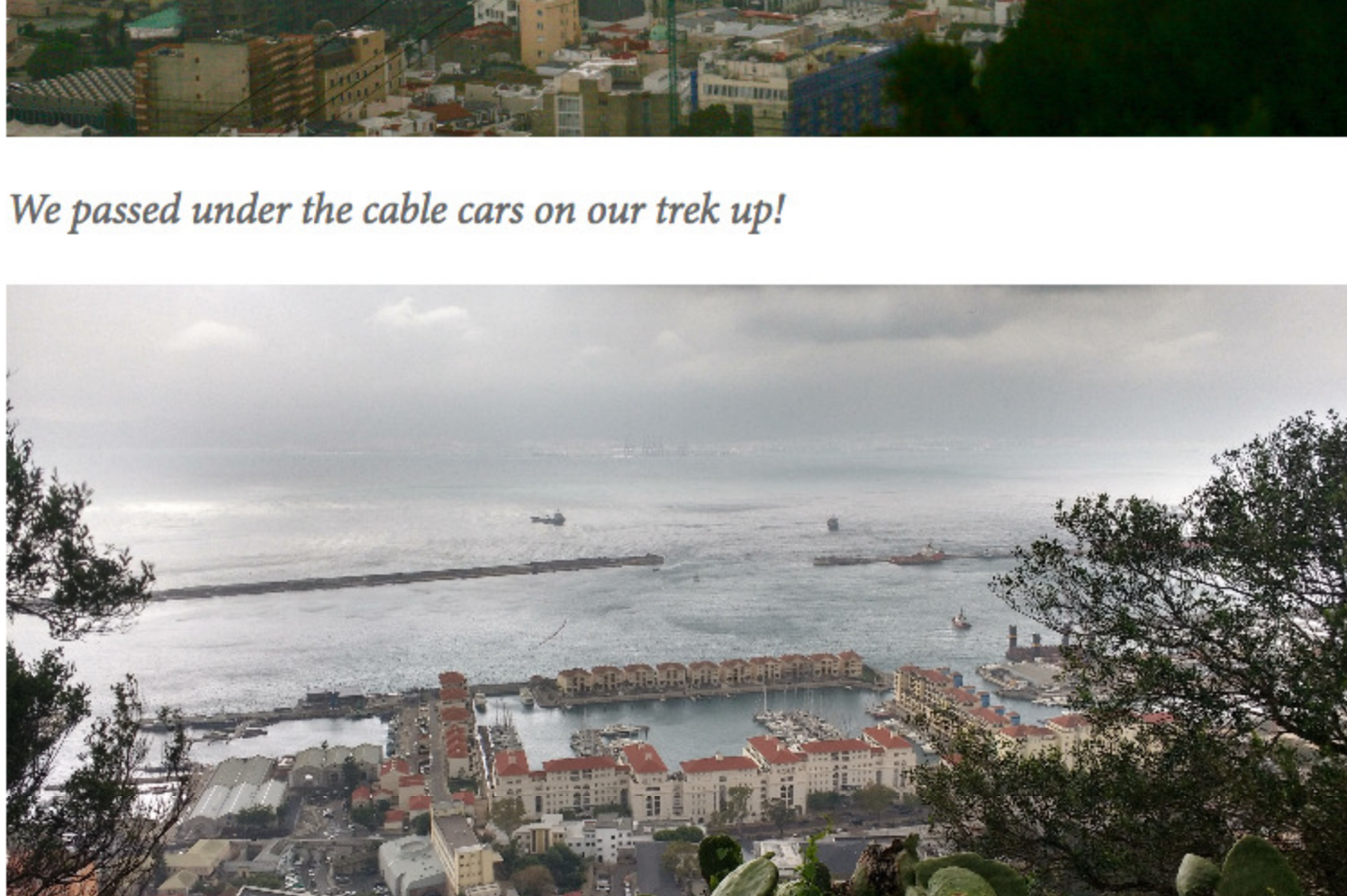
Up the narrow lane, we were able to see a birds-eye view of the town below, and the Bay of Gibraltar, all the while enjoying a unique mix of nature reserve and fascinating history.



A mix of narrow roads and lanes awaited us



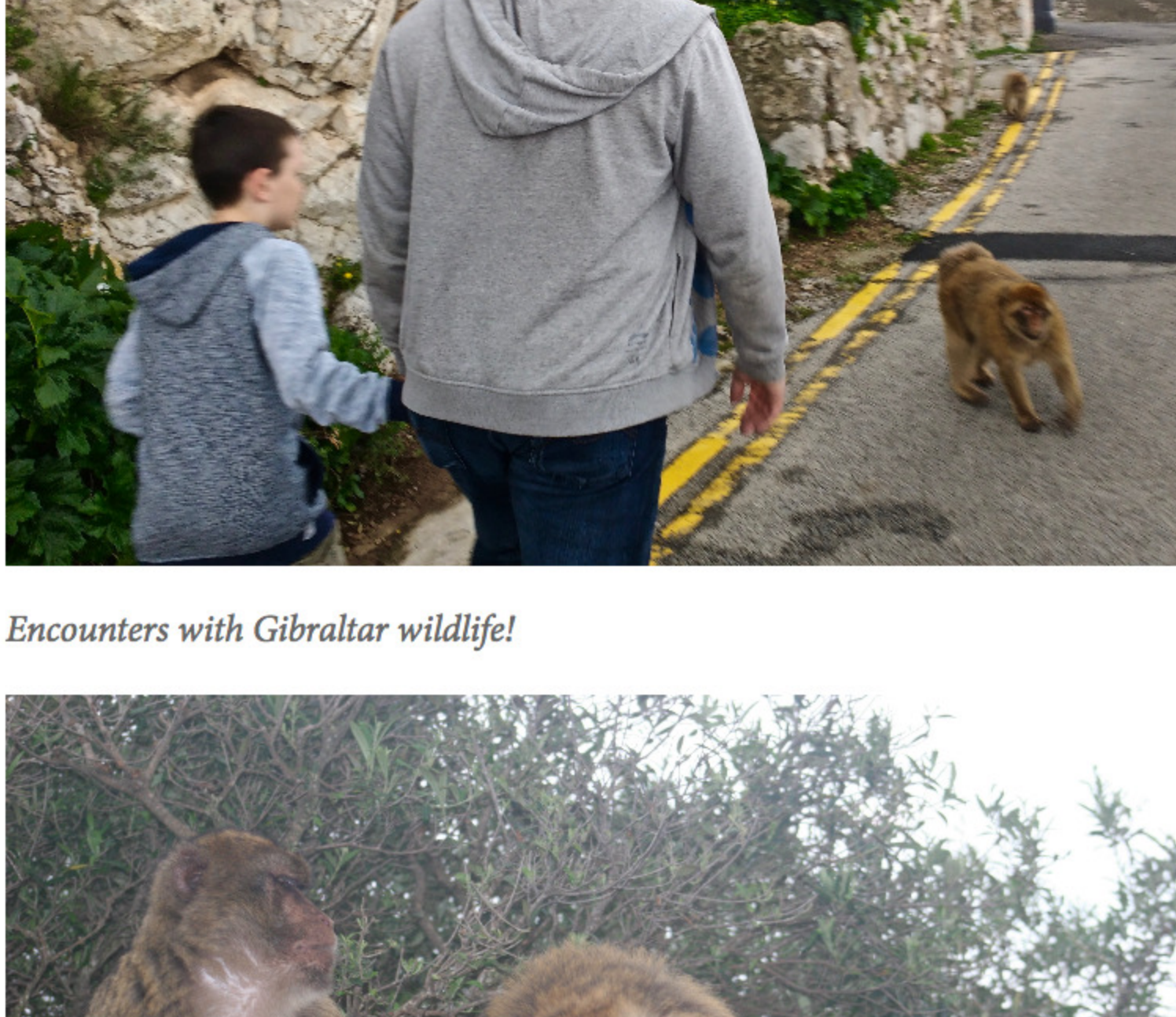
Family memories – a beautiful mix of nature reserve and history.



Stunning views even on a cloudy, rainy day!



Taking a few little detours to explore the area as we headed up to the Apes Den.



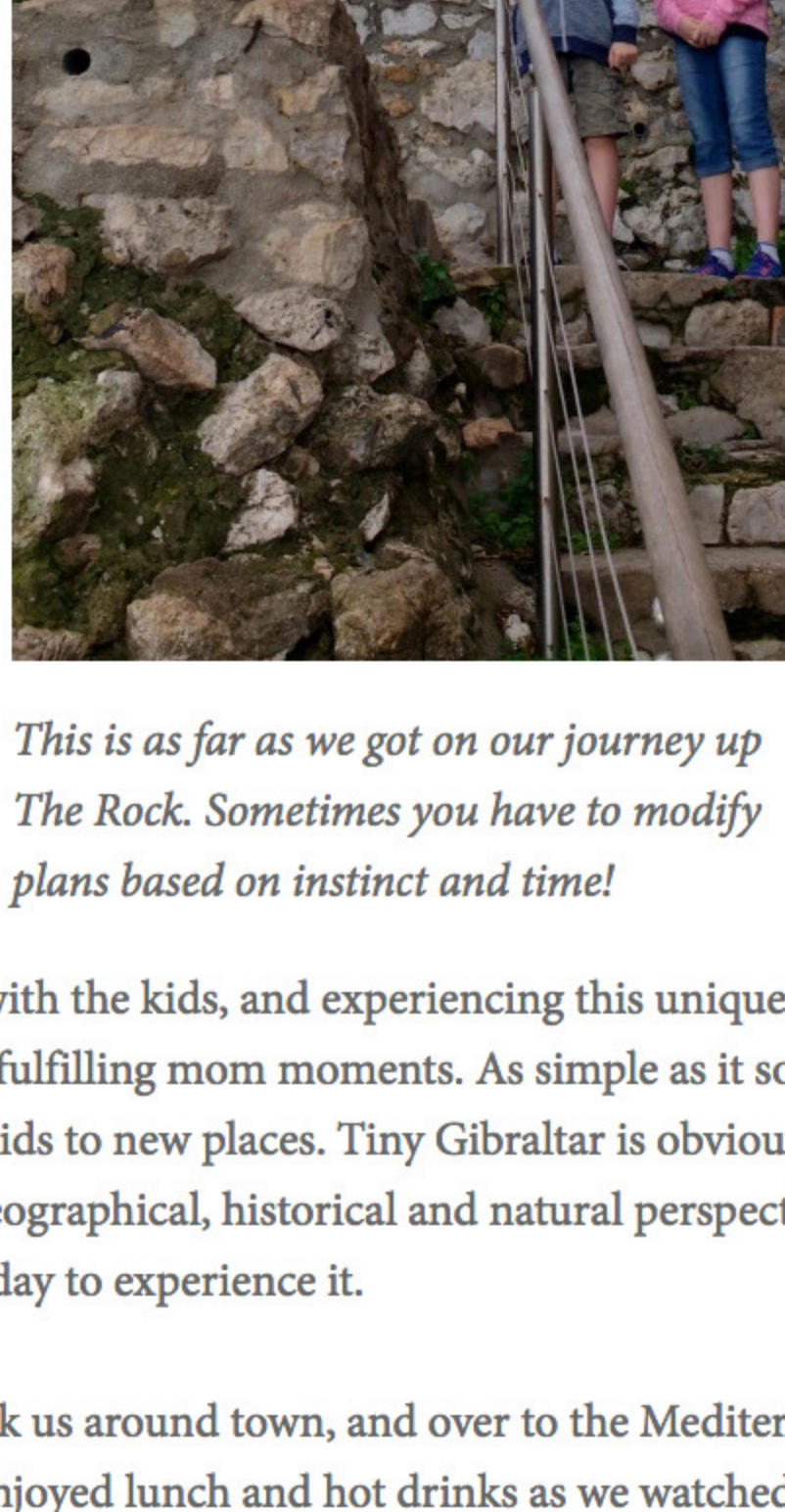
Encounters with Gibraltar wildlife!



A couple of monkeys chilling on a stone wall near the Queen's Gate.

After a long day of driving and navigating the streets of Gibraltar to find our best way up The Rock, we were getting tired! This is where that flexibility comes into play when traveling with kids. As soon as I saw the steep, rustic Mediterranean Steps in front of me, my husband and I both agreed — exploring on foot would have to end here. It was chilly, misty, and getting late, and we still had our trek back.

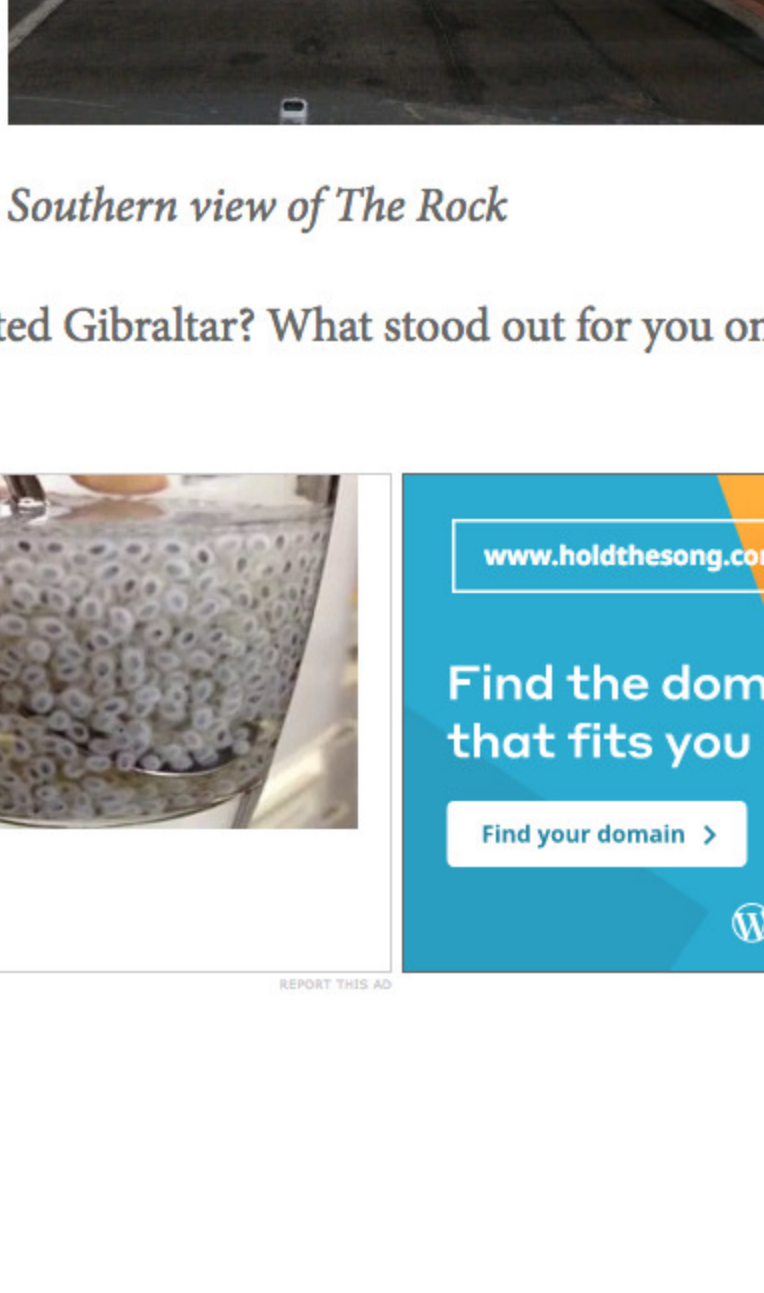
We didn't rush back down. Just to say we did, we walked up a few of the steps and hung out with those entertaining monkeys for a bit. We were fascinated with the Charles V wall, built in 1575 and Queen's Gate, created in 1790, which is located right at the base of the steps. Personal note: I always put my hands on the stones of historical sites I visit and imagine who else has touched them, and who first placed the stones. A little hokey I know!



This is as far as we got on our journey up The Rock. Sometimes you have to modify plans based on instinct and time!

Just being there with the kids, and experiencing this unique place was one of those incredible, fulfilling mom moments. As simple as it sounds, I just love introducing my kids to new places. Tiny Gibraltar is obviously wonderfully unique, from a geographical, historical and natural perspective, and I'm so happy we took a day to experience it.

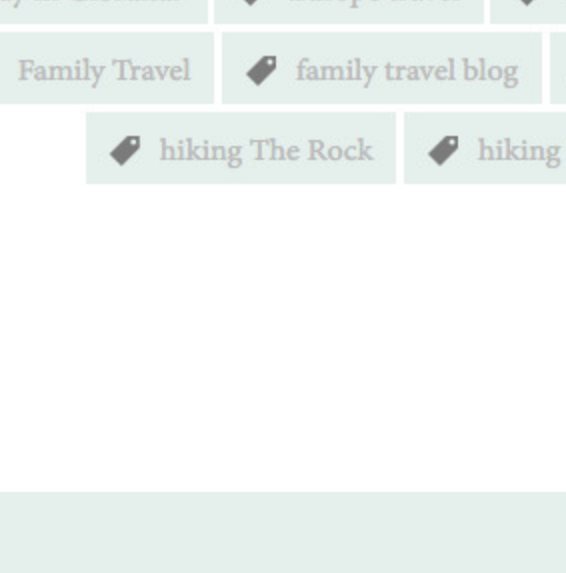
Our visit also took us around town, and over to the Mediterranean side of The Rock where we enjoyed lunch and hot drinks as we watched the waves crash into the seawall. There is so much more to see in there. I would suggest two or three days to explore some of the other historical and natural sites. For official tourism info and more ideas, check out [Visit Gibraltar](#).



Southern view of The Rock

Have you ever visited Gibraltar? What stood out for you on your travels?

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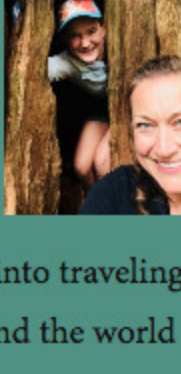
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Hi! Welcome to wanderlust&fare – a blog dedicated to providing stories and insights into traveling in Canada and around the world with twins, showcasing my culinary adventures at home, and sharing a little slice of family life in our nation's capital.



I'm Amber, a freelance writer, mommy to boy/girl twins, and a lover of nature, photography, and of course, food and travel.

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