

Immigration, Migration & Starting Again

For moves between countries, towns, languages or social worlds.

This is preparation, not homework. You do not need complete dates, perfect memory, or a box of scanned records. Circle what helps. Leave the rest. Uncertainty is part of an honest history.

Before we speak

- Make two lists: what was left behind and what was found on arrival.
- Record all place names even when spelling is uncertain.
- Think about the first job, first room, first friend and first humiliation or kindness.
- Note which customs changed quickly and which did not.

Gather only if it is easy

- Passports, ship or flight records, visas
- Old addresses and maps
- Letters sent before or after the move
- Photographs from both sides of the migration

Prompts worth thinking about

- Why did you leave?
- Who decided?
- What did you carry?
- What surprised you first?
- When did the new place begin to feel like home?

Set your boundaries first

Before the interview, decide what may be explored, what should be handled carefully, and what is off limits. You can change those boundaries later. A useful history does not require surrendering privacy.

After the first conversation

No quotation is given before the first conversation. If the project is a fit, use the Story Mixer to show the balance you want - emotional depth, humour, intimacy, historical context, voice and boundaries. I then assess the actual scope and normally send a written quotation within 24 hours.

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