

= Traveling (song) =

" Traveling " (stylized as " traveling ") is a song recorded by Japanese ? American recording artist Utada Hikaru . It was released as the second single from her fourth studio and third Japanese language album , Deep River (2002) . The track was written and composed by Utada , whilst production was handled by Utada , her father Teruzane Utada , and long @-@ time collaborator Akira Miyake . Musically , " Traveling " is a dance @-@ pop song , influenced by house music . Lyrically , it discusses human activities and dreams .

The song received positive reviews from most music critics . Many selected it as one of Utada 's best singles , and was complimented for its production and dance @-@ oriented composition . It was also successful in Japan , peaking at number one on both the Oricon Singles Chart and Tokyo Broadcasting System 's (TBS) Count Down TV singles chart . It was certified in two categories by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) , and was the second best selling single of the year 2001 . A music video was filmed for " Traveling " in 2001 , featuring Utada as a hostess travelling on a spacecraft with passengers . It has been performed on some of Utada 's tours , including Utada in Bokuhan (2004) and Utada United (2006) .

= = Background and release = =

" Traveling " was written and composed by Utada , whilst production was handled by Utada , her father Teruzane Utada , and long @-@ time collaborator Akira Miyake . This was Utada 's first original single to have been handled by Utada , her father , and Miyake since her single releases from her debut album First Love (1999) ; she had primarily worked with American producers , such as Rodney Jenkins , Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis for her second studio album Distance (2001) . The song included live instrumentation by Saito Mitsutaka , who played the bass guitar , and Tsunemi Kazuhide , who played synthesizers , while it was arranged by Utada and Kawano Kei . The song was recorded and mixed by Ugajin Masaaki and Matsui Atushi in 2001 at Bunkamura Studio , Shibuya , Tokyo . It was released as the second single from her fourth studio and third Japanese language album , Deep River (2002) . Since then , the song has been remastered and re @-@ released twice ; the first on April 1 , 2004 , and the second time on December 9 , 2014 for Utada 's first greatest hits album Utada Hikaru Single Collection Vol . 1 (2003) .

It was released as a CD single , in both Japan and China . Both formats included the original track , two remixes by PlanetB and Bahiatronic , plus the instrumental version . The artwork for the CD single 's were photographed by Utada 's husband at the time , Kazuaki Kiriya . It has a close @-@ up shot of Utada in front of a multi @-@ colored background . A promotional 12 " vinyl was released by Toshiba @-@ EMI in December 2001 , and included both the remixed tracks . Then on January 30 , 2002 , Toshiba @-@ EMI released " Traveling " as a DVD single , which included the " behind the scenes " video and the music video . The vinyls artwork was a screenshot taken by Kiriya .

= = Composition = =

Musically , " Traveling " is a dance @-@ pop song , influenced by house music . Kano , editor in chief for Rockin 'On Japan magazine noted elements of house music in the song 's composition . An editor for Amazon labelled the track a " party tune " . CD Journal staff member 's wrote that the song had a " speedy dance beat " . Similarly , rock musician and music journalist David Bertrand Wilson had reviewed the parent album Deep River , and described the composition as a dance song . Lyrically , it discusses human activities and dreams . Kano felt that although the song themes are about dreams and nightmares , he believed it should " be taken seriously " as he felt it intertwined with reality . The reviewer from Amazon stated that " Traveling " was proof that Utada was one of the most successful singer @-@ songwriters in Japanese music .

= = Critical response = =

" Traveling " received very positive reviews from music critics . Journalist and rock musician David Bertrand Wilson had reviewed the parent album with journalist John Alroy , and selected it as the album 's best track ; he believed that the song was a " consistently catchy [melody] " , one of the major factors that made the parent album " work " . Similarly , AllMusic 's David Jeffries selected the song as one of Utada 's best singles . Fellow Japanese recording artist Kyary Pamyu Pamyu contributed to The Guardian 's music playlist columns , and highlighted " Traveling " as one of Utada 's best songs ; she further stated in a detailed review : " People living outside Japan will also enjoy her creativity . It 's pop and yet a little bit dark and scary . I like the chemistry . " A reviewer from Amazon praised the track , calling it " perfect " . In another positive review , a critic from CD Journal complimented the dance composition , but favored the lyrical content as the best feature from the track .

== Accolades ==

At the 16th Japan Gold Disc Awards , Utada won the Song of the Year award for " Traveling " ; she had also won another similar award that year for her single " Can You Keep a Secret ? " . Similarly , she also received the Silver Award recognition at the 2003 Japanese Society for Rights of Authors , Composers and Publishers Awards (JASRAC) . In December 2015 , in honor of Utada 's comeback into the music business , Japanese website Goo.ne.jp hosted a poll for fans to rank their favourite songs by Utada out of 25 positions ; the poll was held in only twenty @-@ four hours , and thousands submitted their votes . As a result , " Traveling " was ranked at number seven with 71 votes in total .

== Commercial performance ==

Commercially , " Traveling " was a success in Japan . It became her sixth single to debut at number one on the Oricon Singles Chart , with over 277 @,@ 100 units sold in its first week . It stayed at number one for a sole week , and spent a total of 20 weeks on that chart . By the end of 2002 , the single was ranked at number two on Oricon 's Annual 2002 chart , just behind Ayumi Hamasaki 's extended play *H* ; it sold 856 @,@ 140 units by the end of the year . This made it the second highest selling single by a female artist , just behind Hamasaki 's entry , but was the highest selling single that did not include any other b @-@ side or a @-@ side tracks . The single was certified million by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) for physical shipments of one million units .

The single debuted at number one on Tokyo Broadcasting System 's (TBS) Count Down TV chart during the chart week of December 8 , 2001 , her seventh non @-@ consecutive single to do so . It stayed at the top spot for two consecutive weeks . The single stayed in the chart for 20 weeks , and was ranked at number 26 and 39 on their 2001 and 2002 Annual Chart . Eight years after its initial release , " Traveling " entered the Billboard Adult Alternative Radio Songs chart at number 81 during the chart week of April 6 . It re @-@ entered the chart during the chart week of May 6 , 2015 , peaking at number 75 . It was certified gold by RIAJ for cellphone downloads of 100 @,@ 000 units . According to the Oricon Style database , it is Utada 's sixth highest selling single .

The DVD single was a success on the Oricon DVD Chart , peaking at number one . The Oricon Style database ranks the DVD single as Utada 's second best selling DVD , just behind the live release of her *Bohemian Summer* 2000 Concert tour . As of May 2016 , it is the 51st best selling DVD in Japan , selling over 820 @,@ 000 units .

== Music video ==

An accompanying music video was directed by Kazuaki Kiriya . It opens with the camera traveling through a tunnel full of lights , and includes the song 's title and Utada 's name . For the first part of the song , it has Utada singing into a microphone , whilst walking inside the head of a spacecraft . The spacecraft exits the station , and flies all over a futuristic cityscape . The first verse has Utada

as a hostess on the spacecraft , helping and serving the passengers in a dancing manner ; the passengers are wearing theatrical clothing and headpieces that cover their faces . During the pre @-@ chorus , Utada sings in front of a forest @-@ like backdrop , whilst a stop @-@ motion animation of her is walking through the woods , observing disfigured creatures . The chorus has Utada and the passengers marching across a bridge , while continuous intercut scenes of Utada outside a party is seen .

During the second verse , it has the spacecraft traveling past the moon , whilst Utada cleans up the mess the passengers left on their tables . By the second pre @-@ chorus , several passengers play ping pong , as Utada exercises . The second chorus has Utada dancing inside a party , whilst intercut scenes of different stop motion animations are seen . In the bridge section , it has a close @-@ up of Utada in front of a forest @-@ like backdrop again , and also has Utada sitting on a swing . The final chorus has the spacecraft falling onto the ground , and creates a vast field of flowers , trees , and grass . The final scene has the camera zooming out of the spacecraft next to a tree , riddled with vines and flowers . The music video and the behind the scenes video was included on her DVD compilation Single Clip Collection Vol . 3 (2000) .

The video achieved success by critics and several award ceremonies . Japanese recording artist Kyary Pamyu Pamyu wrote for the The Guardian , and said that the video " is a strong interpretation of the music . " She also praised the video 's creativity . At the 17th Japan Gold Disc Awards , " Traveling " won the Music Video of the Year trophy .

= = Live performances and promotion = =

The single has been performed on majority of Utada 's concert tours . Its first performance was in 2004 , during her Bokuhan concert tour . It appeared on the live DVD , which was released on July 28 , 2004 . It was included on Utada 's debut English concert tour named Utada United , which was later included on the live DVD , released on December 20 , 2006 . The song was performed during Utada 's two date concert series Wild Life in December 2010 . Since the track 's release , it has appeared on three compilation releases : Utada Hikaru Single Collection Vol . 1 (2003) , its 2014 remastered version , and a special bundle of the compilation and the vol . 2 collection on a USB .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Charts = =

= = DVD charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =