

The Trip

by Mike Harris

Limit 500 words ... It cannot be done. Lucky me, I was born with itchy feet. I made many trips. The last, my most memorable one, a whole year in Europe. No way to condense or summarize that trip. So I'll talk about my dream trip.

First destinations, baseball hall of fame, scenic trip across southern Canada, Calgary stampede rodeo, scenic Canadian Rockies, and the Pacific ocean. From there a flight to Australia. The colorful coast, the famous mines, the outback, Sydney, and other important cities. On to New Zealand's famous southern island, then to Hawaii and back home. Time frame one year plus. Transportation: From home to the Pacific coast, travel trailer and leisure travel, meet family at Calgary. Continue together to the Pacific coast. Leave trailer for them to keep in Colorado till we get back.

Second phase of trip flight via Quantas to Australia, purchase a motor caravan and sell it in New Zealand. Fly to Hawaii. Rent if necessary for stay in Hawaii. Fly back to California pick up trailer and go home. Time distribution, two months home to Australia, 6 months in Australia, New Zealand, three months Hawaii, California to home one or two months. The foregoing are only approximates subject to change.

Money: Largest expense air fare, could exceed \$4000.00. Trailer buy and sell from previous EXPERIENCE net loss one to two thousand dollars. Living expenses while trailering 20% over normal living expenses. Hawaii expenses a toss-up, could force early departure. Time spent setting up all the above logistics, one whole year, example, cost of living in Australia, a family of four disposal mean income \$200.00 to \$300.00 a week, a spread of \$400.00 a month. Contingency emergency money in place and readily available \$5,000.00.

All bases covered now to discuss final plans. Colorado family, and talk to our Doctors about the prognoses for our health for the next two years. My partner is not as enthusiastic as I but shows a willingness to go along, saying "if she had not been exposed to my resourcefulness on our European trip, she would veto this project." [quite a compliment] so it looks like go! Still must take into consideration climate. Summer in December and winter in July, and adjust travel to an optimum.

Then the first delay, partner's health, without belaboring everyone, this delay lasted three years. Years we would not want to be away from family and country. Plans put into a folder on hold. Then a fall and my body is compromised, further delay of one full year. Final delay when partner's health deteriorates. Lost appetite for dream trip. The unfulfilled dream trip. MAN THINKS & GOD WINKS.