

# Chapter 25

## Travels

(Not in chronological order)

### Colorado River Rafting



One spring the Pressleys and the Goulds decided they should take a trip down the Colorado River. We found a journey that went on these large rubber rafts and signed up. The trip took an interesting turn when we read that the rain had been so high during the year that one of the earlier rafts had overturned in one of the big Rapids that they had lost someone. We canceled and scheduled the trip a year later.

The next year we loaded up the raft on the river below the Glen Canyon dam and headed down river. It was a glorious trip. The weather was warm, the water was freezing, and we camped every night in sleeping bags. The first rapids were not too frightening, but the last one or two almost totally doubled up the raft and it was a good thing the raft had ropes to hold on to.

At one of the stops, a side river came into the canyon. There was a swimming hole a ways up the side river and we all decided to go and enjoy it. I did not realize until I got halfway there that the path involved walking along a rock ledge well above the river below. It was here I realized that Jan Gould had no fear of heights as she was shuffling along in flip-flops with a cigarette in one hand. However we all survived.

As the river got toward Lake Powell we were picked up by a motorboat and ferried over to a hotel in Las Vegas. The trip had a combination of incredibly dark and quiet nights on the river with incredible views of the stars followed by one day of recovery in the swimming pool at a Las Vegas hotel. We saw no celebrities and were glad to grab our plane home.

## Disney World

Anne was teaching, and I was at Holobeam. We embarked on a family vacation to Disney World in Florida. We found a portion of the Disney World resort that was on their lake but was essentially a campground called, Fort Wilderness. We packed our large yellow van with camping gear and headed south for a week. We purchased full week passes to the Magic Kingdom for ourselves and the kids. I do not remember exactly what this cost us.

There was a small train that ran through the campground down to a dock where there was a very small ferry that crossed Lake Buena Vista to all that Magic! At this time the kids ranged in age from 5 to 12; each had their own pass. After one or two trips with them in the boat, we let them go by themselves as a group. Disney World seemed very safe and there were multiple staff supervising everything. I remember that every night they had fireworks over the water.

While there were no swimming pools in our camping facility, we could take the kids to any one of the other more expensive resorts and utilize their fancy kid-oriented swimming pools. It was such a good deal. On the first day we were there, John lost his book of passes. He was very unhappy until the next morning someone turned them in and they were returned to us. Each campsite was surrounded by brush and that gave us a bit of privacy. I recall that John had a surprising interaction with an armadillo! I have a nightmare memory of a ride going through some fake countryside and listening to an endless version of "It's a Small Small World." After a delightful week of good weather and fun we

packed up the yellow van and headed north. It was a truly great family vacation.

## Jamaica

I do not remember who we got to take care of the kids while we were gone, but Anne and I went to Jamaica for a week.



We went to a resort on the northern side of the island called Ocho Rios. It was delightful, the water was warm, the beach





was beautiful, and the resort was fairly new. It was a private resort area and the only Jamakans we met were working there. We took a couple of excursions, including one exploring a river with small waterfalls that we could walk through.

We took a tour away from the beach and into the central highlands of Jamaica; got to see some of the kids in their uniforms in the small town schools. At the end of the week, we took a bus across the island and back to the Kingston airport and headed home. A delightful, ultrashort, trip. It was a fun getaway for just the two of us.

## St Croix with the Goulds

Jan and Ron Gould lived two houses down the street from us in Cupertino. Their kids were older than ours, but Jan and Ron were quite outgoing and we became friends. Ron Gould was a longtime employee at Hewlett-Packard and Jan was a nurse at the local hospital. Jan was a good companion for Anne. She was always happy to stop in for a quick conversation, a drink, and a cigarette. Ron had a friend who owned a couple of beach cottages on St. Croix. Ron arranged for the four of us to occupy a couple of the cabins and we flew down for a week's vacation.

St. Croix was a fascinating island. It did not have big luxury resorts but had some beautiful scenery. We enjoyed the beach. We rented a car and did some touring of the wooded inland areas. One night we decided to have lobster and Ron and I went to the local market and bought four lobsters for a feast. When we looked at what we had bought, we realized these were not cold water lobsters that we were used to but spiny lobsters which had one claw and not a lot of meat. Anyhow we feasted. It was interesting being near the dock when the cruise ship pulled in and we almost felt like natives.

We found one man offering a tour of the only underwater national Park and we signed up for the trip; it turned out to be a lot closer to St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands than in St. Croix. It was a snorkeling location. There was indeed a trail of markers on the bottom indicating what kind of coral we were looking at and indicating where we should go for the

next sign. It was strange but memorable. We discovered that Jan was not a swimmer and had brought along some small plastic water wings that she managed to use to keep her afloat. We have memories of warm clear water and relaxation. I forget how much we paid someone to take care of the kids.

### Sailing the Turkish Coast with the Goulds and the Hicks

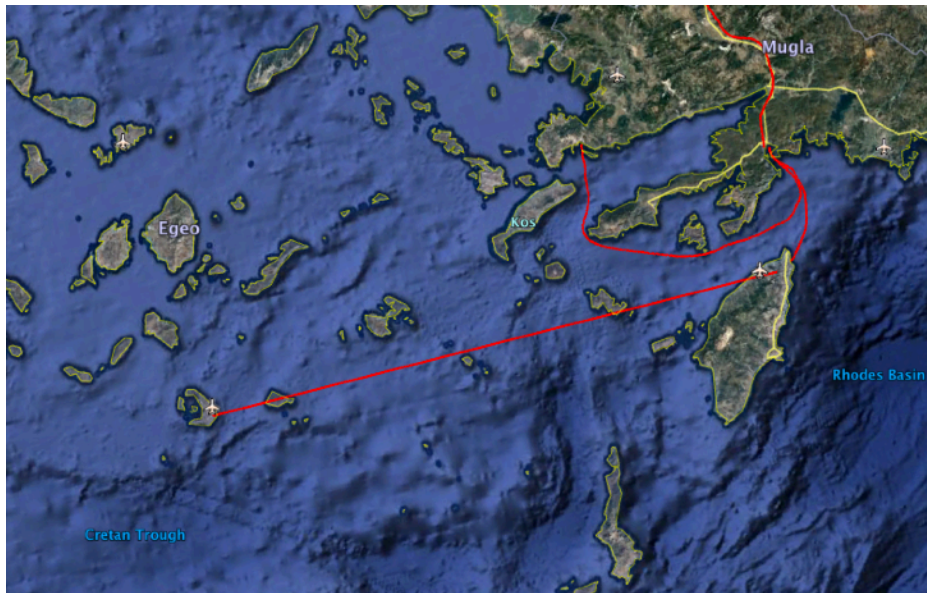
Mary and Acle Hicks, Jan and Ron Gould and Anne and Bob Pressley somehow decided to take a Turkish/Mediterranean vacation. Mary Hicks took on the job of planning this trip and locating a travel agent to make all the reservations.

The overall plan involved flying to a Greek island and spending a couple of days, getting to the Turkish coast, renting a small ship, cruising up the Turkish coast for a few days. We visited Ephesus; traveled with the tour guide in a van, sightseeing our way up to Izmir. Then we flew to Istanbul for a few days. I must've been feeling wealthy because I told people renting the boat that I would cover the cost of a boat for 8 even though we were only 6. It turned out to be a good decision because it was a relatively small vessel. It was wonderful to be able to stretch out a bit.

The first stage was a flight from Newark Airport to Athens. We had a ten o'clock flight to Santorini Island. We thought this was 10 o'clock in the morning but was actually 10:00 at night. We spent the day checking out the Athens zoo and eventually took our night flight. This island is volcanic remains of a historic explosion. It has beautiful beaches around one

side of the island; the other side has cliffs overlooking a core blown away by the volcano. We arrived in the middle of the night, piled the suitcases on top of the bus, and were taken up the hill to the Main Street, I forget the name of the town, but there were the six of us standing in the middle of the street where we were dropped off with no hotel or houses in sight in any direction. It was kind of a disconcerting start. Finally we did a little bit of exploring and either Asle or Ron discovered that there was a rock wall at the edge of the road and when we approached the wall and looked over, we discovered that the steep hillside leading down to the flooded crater was covered with beautiful white villas. The air on the island was so clear that there was no scattered light from the houses to indicate to those of us on the road that there was anything there. We eventually found our inn and collapsed for the night.

We happily spent a few days enjoying the island, checking



out the beaches, visiting a small town at the end of the island and going through a partially excavated ancient Greek village. Santorini is as beautiful as

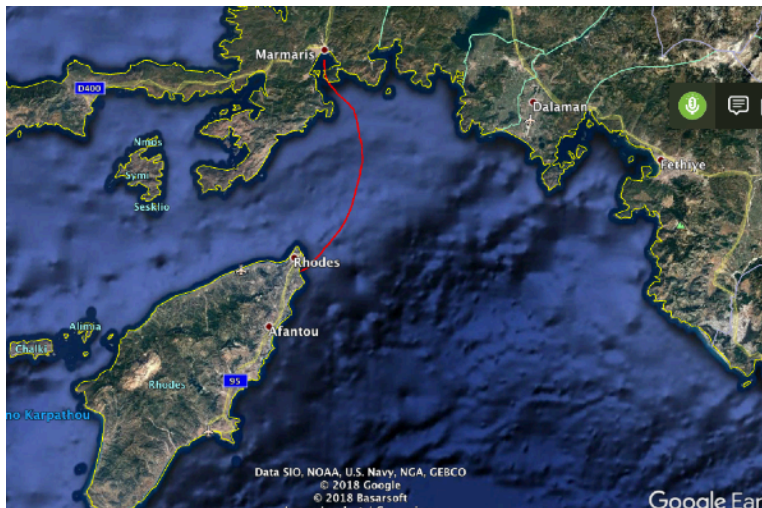
you can imagine an island, with classic white



houses, green soil, blue water, and amazing blue sky.

Greece and Turkey were not on the best of terms in those days and there was no direct flight from Greece to Turkey. We had to take a short flight from Santorini to Thodes, another Greek island near the Turkish coast and take a small ship from that island to the Turkish coast. We arrived at Rhodes in the morning, checked in at the boat dock and discovered the boat was not leaving till late afternoon. Anne and I decided to do a little local touring. Anne had taken some motion sickness medicine and she became exhausted and sleepy quite a few blocks away from the harbor. We had no idea how to call a taxi, but somehow, we made it back to the boat in time.

The next level of traveling fun was that the authorities took all of our passports and left us sitting in a ramshackle waiting room. They then called our names, one by one, and sent us through to the ship. Anne said she was convinced that she



was going to be left behind. Finally we were all on the ship. I remember it as a relatively short trip and I seem to remember purchasing a bottle of scotch from one of the attendants for 20 bucks. I think the six of us quickly finished

it.

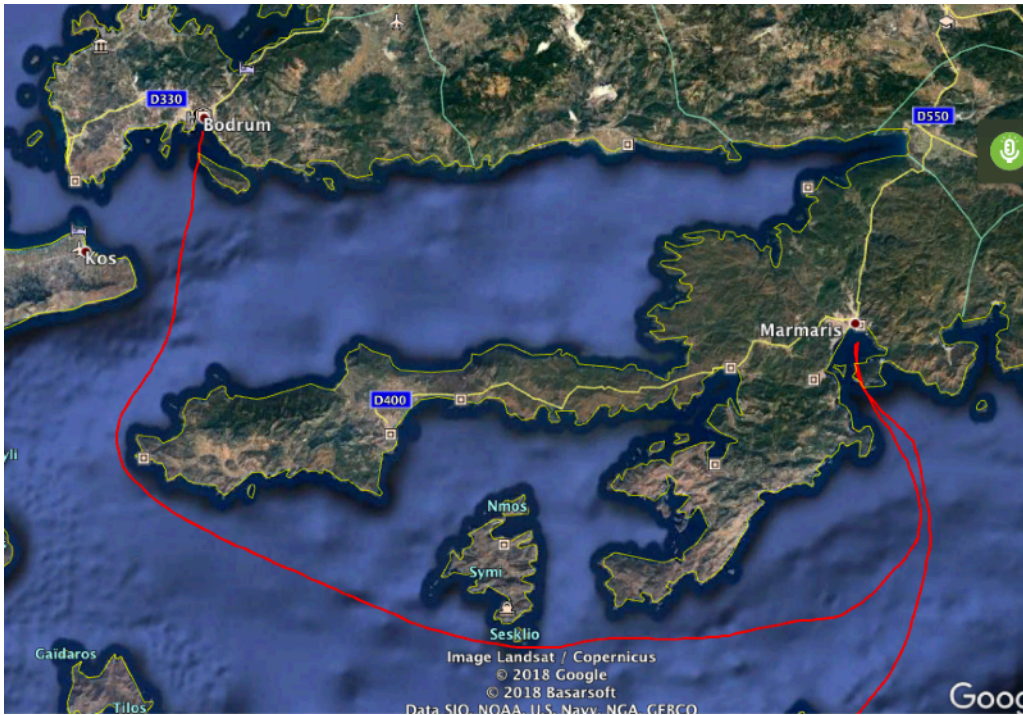
The next excitement was landing in Turkey at Marmaris. It was a very small port and as we pulled in, we could see a row of tables with official looking people behind them, evidently they were set for checking customs.

As we pulled into the dock at Marmaris however, we saw three smiling guys holding up a big sign with our name on it and waving at us. It was our crew. They greeted us and hustled us through the officials.

They showed us to the boat, helped us put our stuff away, and asked us what kind of food we would like. They then went off to purchase supplies. They also loaned us some Turkish money to purchase dinner that night in town. They recommend a simple fish restaurant. We however met a young Turkish rug salesman who went on about the delights of a rooftop restaurant a few blocks away. We were very congenial and anxious to please.

It was a beautiful night, the restaurant on the roof had an excellent piano player and as I remember really good food. It was a small town and we walked back to the boat for the night. The next day we took off sailing along the coast. It would be more accurate to say that we motored along the coast.

We had a good night's sleep and the ladies headed down to the galley to make coffee. They were intercepted by the crew who pointed out that the galley was their territory and we were not particularly welcome there. We motored along the gorgeous coast, and pulled in for the night, always along the



coast. To our utter amazement a rowboat appeared on the coastal side with a wife rowing and the husband holding up a rug in case we wanted to buy one. Now that's salesmanship.

The crew provisioned us well with salad makings, but they heard that Americans like hamburgers so they purchased a grill, I had no intention of lighting a fire in a grill on a boat so they anchored near a tiny island, took the grill to the island, and cooked the burgers there.

We continued up the coast heading north towards Bodrum, stopping every evening for food and a swim if we wanted one. I remember the hot weather and sleeping on deck. The crew said it was their first trip. They had very little interest in putting up the sails and only did so for one day after considerable pressure from us. After an uneventful few days of sailing and motoring we arrived at Bodrum. When we arrived at Bodrum before leaving the boat, we tried to figure

out what would be a good tip with no expertise, and guessed that 10% of the weeks costs seemed fair. We found out later that our tip was the equivalent of a year's salary!

In Bodrum we met our van. We had arranged to meet a knowledgeable Turkish archaeologist, but it turned out that he was not well and had sent his son. The son was a middle-aged retired military man. He was a good driver. He did not however know much about history or archaeology. In any event we boarded the van and headed north.

We drove to a coastal town called Kudasisi in the Turkish countryside. We stayed at a nice hotel there and I remember we were having a meal outside on the terrace, and an Englishman from the nearby table advised us that we perhaps wanted to be a little quieter. It turned out that the Americans had just shot down an Iranian passenger airplane. Such is international travel.

The next day we motored up to Ephesus. It was blazing hot. The reconstructed archaeological museum covers a large area and requires major walking. My recollections are that there were some amazingly restored buildings and that it was hot. Our guy, knowing nothing, suggested that we find another group with an English speaking guide. It worked quite well. After a few hours in the sun, we were glad to get back in the van and headed north towards Izmir.

We were going to fly from Izmir to Istanbul so we headed directly for the airport. It turned out that there was a direct flight from Izmir to Mecca and there were a thousand or so white clad Muslim men in the airport headed in the opposite



direction from us. We boarded the plane with no problem and were underway.

In Istanbul we had been booked into a small hotel called the Greenhouse which was centrally located and very nice. We were in Istanbul a few days, visiting Topaka (a palace), a major mosque and a huge bazaar. I will not attempt to describe my memories of the sightseeing tours in Istanbul other than to say they were overwhelming.

We then boarded a nonstop flight to California. It was a great trip with great memories. Sadly, we have lost contact with the Hicks and the Goulds.

### The Eclipse Trip with the Phillips

1998 was a really weird year for us, as our house on Upland Way seem determined to slide down hill. Or at least our swimming pool and the driveway were ready to slide, but that is not the story of the trip.

The best solar eclipse in many years was happening directly in the Caribbean and a cruise ship offered a trip and guaranteed to be under the eclipse in clear weather.

John and Joan Phillips joined Anne and Bob for this trip. The excitement started before the trip. On the day before we were scheduled to leave, the construction crews were busy drilling large holes in the hillside, inserting 25 foot I-beams in the holes and pouring concrete around them.

The truck carrying the I-beams was parked in our front yard. When the Phillips arrived in their chartered limousine and drove in, it was not clear whether they would be able to get out.

In any event, we finally got out and flew to Fort Lauderdale. The cruise ship was great; it was filled with amateur astronomers. We happily joined the crowd.

The captain set the course for the eclipse path and guaranteed that we would have clear weather. He was absolutely correct. It was a beautiful three-minute total eclipse where it was even possible to see the inner planets.

We did major celebrating as the ship continued our tour to visit some of the additional Caribbean Islands. We stopped at Curaco, a delightful small Dutch island.





We also stopped at a small island run by the cruise line where we got a little beach time.

I think Anne was wishing we had a kayak.

We disembarked at Fort Lauderdale. I rented a car with the goal of driving down to the tip of Florida. Joan was not at all in favor of driving down this narrow overwater highway.

As sophisticated travelers, the first night in Fort Lauderdale, we stayed in a Holiday Inn high-rise with a restaurant on the top. We very casually asked for a table with a view of the ocean. We were only slightly embarrassed when we realized it was a rotating restaurant.

We indeed drove a little way down to the first key and then returned to Fort Lauderdale and happily flew back to California.

At home, the workers had made major progress and stabilized our hillside, but that's another story.

## Hawaii and the Kayak

During the years we were in Cupertino, we had become friends with the Mahlers. They lived over in Saratoga and had a fairly large family. I cannot remember how we first met, but one summer Cliff decided to have a vacation celebration in Hawaii. Actually I think it was a retirement celebration, but he rented a very large house on the North Shore of Oahu and invited us to join.



We knew most of the relatives and other people that were there. We went to the national aquatic preserve on a cove of Oahu and the snorkeling was amazing. Anne once did a kayak tour with Sheila on San Francisco Bay and loved it. She has always imagined having a kayak of her own, and this seemed like an ideal opportunity. We rented a kayak, strapped it on top of a rented car, and headed for the ocean.

It is not easy to get a kayak through the waves, even if the



surface did not seem too rough. In any event we met the wave from hell and were washed back ashore. We had rented the kayak for a week and knowing we were not going to get out in the ocean again we put it in the swimming pool and rented out for photographs. I don't think we were paid. The North Shore of Oahu is truly beautiful and the overall vacation was great.



## Paris and Central Italy by Car



This was sort of a grand tour. We went to Paris first and did the appropriate sightseeing, took a tour up to the gardens at Giverney, went to Notre Dame Cathedral, then on to Rome. In 1999 in Rome, everything was being rebuilt for the holy year in 2000 and the city was a city of scaffolds. We went down to Florence, checked out the cathedrals, and then on South to the beautiful Italian countryside. We spent a few days lodging in a renovated monastery. This seemed like a great idea when we were at home, but it



turned out that the lodging had not been really upgraded to soft beds. Anne and I were both suffering from flu like symptoms hers being by far the worst. We did recover enough to tour some of the small hill towns with multiple towers and courtyards. It was all fascinatingly beautiful, but we were really glad the fly home.

## Alaska 1989

I had always wanted to visit Alaska. I finally found a tour that was exciting enough so that we signed up. The trip involved flying to Fairbanks, visiting the large oil pipeline for a couple of days, then seeing dogsled performances. What a strange town Fairbanks is, then we took the Alaskan railway south to DeNali National Park.

We arrived at DeNali at about 9 o'clock at night and I



assumed we would settle in for dinner and sleep. I was wrong. There was a bus waiting to take us on a three-hour tour to a view of the mountain and the animal herds.

The park is huge and the most exciting animals we saw were the mountain goats which appear as small white dots in the distance.

The next day we booked a helicopter tour to actually go out to the park. It was fairly windy that day and I was not extremely happy about taking the trip, but we had paid for it. In any event, on the way out to the mountain, we flew over a ridge, hit a downdraft and dropped an appalling number of feet. The pilot determined that we were going back and the tour was not going to happen.

The next day we took the train the rest of the way down to Anchorage and toured a glacial lake. The next part of our journey was by bus to Whittier, Alaska. Whittier is on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula. During World War II the United States Army drilled a tunnel from Whittier North through the mountain range. Our bus, along with a fair amount of other motor traffic, was driven up on a string of flat-cars, which we rode to Whittier. I remember it as a couple of hours in the dark. In any event we met our ship at Whittier and proceeded down the Alaska coast. The ship sailed down the inland passage, stopping at several small ports. At one, we took a floatplane trip to the top of a glacier. At another, we bought some interesting jewelry. We saw a fair number of bald eagles in the trees around the villages. We got off at Vancouver and flew back to San Francisco.



## Whale Watching in Baja With Ed and Vips

This trip started with a flight to San Diego, where we boarded the good ship Spirit of Adventure. We cruised down the coast to San Ignacio lagoon where we were greeted by Mexican fishermen with small boats called “pongas.”

With six or seven of us in each boat, we cruised the lagoon and waited for a gray whale to surface and take a look at us. Several did and came alongside the boat to see what we were about. They are huge animals. The next day we left the lagoon and continued on the coast with the pilot searching for other whales. We saw blue whales, sperm whales, right whales, and humpback whales. We saw whales fighting over a female. At one time the captain called us up on deck, saying he had located a large school of porpoises. He accelerated the boat and an amazing school of porpoises swam parallel to us doing cartwheels and flips in midair like some huge ballet troupe.

We sailed around at the tip of the Peninsula and up into the Sea of Cortez. We anchored there and went out in small boats to an area where the sperm whales were diving. We

could see a whale come up, expel their extremely bad breath, and then dive again. We would motor over to see if we could be near where the whale would come up again, but they plainly knew where we were and came up 100 yards or so away.



# BAJA WEST COAST & THE SEA OF CORTEZ

## Natural History & Whale Watching

March 1995

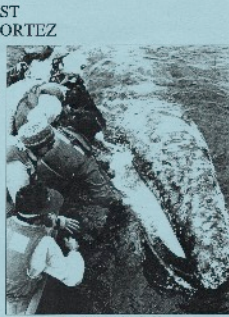


Photo by Bob Schmitt, courtesy of the BIA, Baja California Sur.



OCEANIC SOCIETY EXPEDITIONS  
 HORT HANSON CENTER, BUILDING E SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122 U.S.A.  
 Phone: 415/441-1100, 800/332-1401 Fax: 415/441-1100

1. WHO ARE WE? We are a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the world's oceans and the life that inhabits them. We are a group of people who share a common passion for the sea and its creatures.

2. WHY GO? BAJA WEST COAST & THE SEA OF CORTEZ is a unique and exciting experience. You will see some of the most beautiful and diverse marine life in the world. The trip is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals in their natural habitat.

3. WHAT IS THE TRIP LIKE? The trip is a combination of education and adventure. You will spend time on the boat learning about the marine environment and the animals that live there. You will also have the opportunity to go ashore and see some of the beautiful scenery of Baja California Sur.

4. WHO CAN GO? The trip is open to anyone who is interested in marine life and wants to see some of the world's most beautiful scenery. There are no age restrictions, and the trip is suitable for people of all ages.

5. WHAT IS THE COST? The cost of the trip is \$2,995 per person. This includes everything you need for a comfortable and enjoyable trip. There are no hidden fees, and the cost is very reasonable for the quality of the experience.

6. HOW TO BOOK? To book your trip, please contact us at 415/441-1100. We will be happy to answer your questions and help you make your reservation.

7. CONTACT US: For more information, please visit our website at [www.oceansociety.org](http://www.oceansociety.org) or call us at 415/441-1100.

8. ABOUT US: The Oceanic Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the world's oceans and the life that inhabits them. We are a group of people who share a common passion for the sea and its creatures.

9. OUR MISSION: Our mission is to promote the study and conservation of the world's oceans and the life that inhabits them. We do this through education, research, and public outreach.

10. OUR VALUES: We value the ocean and the life that inhabits it. We believe that the ocean is a source of life and inspiration, and we are committed to protecting it for future generations.

11. OUR HISTORY: The Oceanic Society was founded in 1971 by a group of people who were passionate about the ocean and the life that inhabits it. We have since grown into a large and successful organization.

12. OUR FUTURE: We are committed to continuing our work and expanding our reach. We will continue to study and conserve the world's oceans and the life that inhabits them.

13. OUR PARTNERS: We are proud to have many partners and supporters who share our passion for the ocean and the life that inhabits it. We are grateful for their support and commitment.

14. OUR IMPACT: We have made a significant impact on the world's oceans and the life that inhabits them. We have educated millions of people and protected many species.

15. OUR LEGACY: We are proud to have a long and successful history. We will continue to work hard to protect the ocean and the life that inhabits it for generations to come.

### Baja West Coast & the Sea of Cortez - Natural History & Whale Watching

The Baja Peninsula is a stunningly beautiful island-like land, bounded by the Mexican Volcanic Belt. This area is the heart of the Sea of Cortez, one of the world's most diverse and productive marine ecosystems. The area is home to a wide variety of marine life, including whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals.

The San Juan Islands, one of the most beautiful and productive marine ecosystems in the world, are located in the Sea of Cortez. The islands are home to a wide variety of marine life, including whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals. The islands are also a popular destination for whale watching.

Whale watching in the Sea of Cortez is a unique and exciting experience. You will see some of the world's most beautiful and diverse marine life in their natural habitat. The trip is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals in their natural habitat.

The trip is a combination of education and adventure. You will spend time on the boat learning about the marine environment and the animals that live there. You will also have the opportunity to go ashore and see some of the beautiful scenery of Baja California Sur.

The trip is open to anyone who is interested in marine life and wants to see some of the world's most beautiful scenery. There are no age restrictions, and the trip is suitable for people of all ages.

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The Oceanic Society was founded in 1971 by a group of people who were passionate about the ocean and the life that inhabits it. We have since grown into a large and successful organization.

We are committed to continuing our work and expanding our reach. We will continue to study and conserve the world's oceans and the life that inhabits them.

We have made a significant impact on the world's oceans and the life that inhabits them. We have educated millions of people and protected many species.

We are proud to have a long and successful history. We will continue to work hard to protect the ocean and the life that inhabits it for generations to come.

We have many partners and supporters who share our passion for the ocean and the life that inhabits it. We are grateful for their support and commitment.

We are committed to protecting the ocean and the life that inhabits it for future generations.

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We went further up the bay and anchored near an area where there were many porpoises. I went snorkeling and discovered that the purposes would swim alongside and



mimic my swimming. I'm glad they seemed harmless.





We then motored back down to La Paz and disembarked. The next day we flew home to San Francisco after an incredible trip.

### *Ireland with Tauck Travels*

Anne and I decided to try a group touring utilizing Tauck Tours and visit Ireland. Where we visited castles and towns. We had demonstrations of sheep herding and Irish rural life. The Irish scenery is spectacular. We were there in late spring and Ireland had more shades of green than anyone could imagine. A few of the memorable events are in the photos below. There was an amazing demonstration of a dog or two dogs herding flock of sheep directed by few whistles from that herder. There was a surprise river cruise in a small boat one of the guests turned out to be a retired concert violinist. There was comfortable housing in what appeared to be small castles. There was good food and bus tours from place to place.

In addition to the above there was the amazing West Coast of Ireland with the rocky cliffs independent fields with rock-wall fences and only an occasional small farmhouse.



We toured close to the boundary between Ireland and Northern Ireland but never came close to crossing in the English territory.

It was a most relaxing and enjoyable trip with memories of sheep, dogs, castles, and countryside.



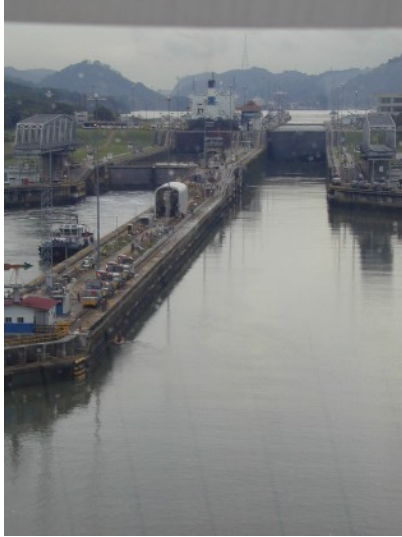
## Panama Canal Cruise



In 2003, we decided to take a cruise through the Panama Canal with our friends the Mahlers. We departed from scenic Los Angeles Harbor in a classic midsize ocean liner. We headed south along the Mexican coast. The scenery became



more and more rugged along Baja.



The most fascinating stop was to watch the people dive off incredibly high cliffs, timing their dive so that they would arrive at the water when the waves



rushed in and the water was deep. They make a living on tourist donations.

As expected on a cruise ship, life was normal and casual during the day with an occasional dress-up dinner.

Eventually we entered the Panama Canal itself. The passengers were fascinated by the water level rising and lowering.

The locks were mechanically quite fascinating, with small electric engines pulling the ship through the locks. The ship was lifted to Lake Gatun, then lowered to the Atlantic Ocean.



The canal is an amazing engineering feat.

After ditching the big ditch, we headed to the Caribbean island of Cartagena. I think this is a Dutch island and the buildings were painted beautiful colors. We got to

stretch our legs on some of the local streets. It was peaceful and pretty; we continued North and debarked at Fort Lauderdale.

We then flew back to California and peace and quiet.

### The English Countryside with Mary, Jay & Kids

This was a combination of pleasure trip and a visit to friends of Jay and Mary in England. We headed north to visit the English countryside and Hadrian's Wall. The towns along the



way were delightful and near the wall we ended up staying in a tourist house which also provided a tour of the wall. Along the way we happily toured a great English Railroad Museum.

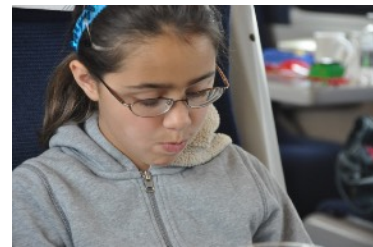
We stopped at the Roman





ruins at Vinolandia, where the British were happily excavating a section of the Roman settlement. They were mostly weekend volunteers who dig for the sheer pleasure of it.

We later saw some of their findings in the British Museum.



Sections of Hadrian's Wall still exist, however time and weather have taken their toll.







After these few delightful days, we headed back to London and home. We were looking forward to our 50th wedding anniversary celebration at Pajaro Dunes.



## Our Cruise to Scandinavia, St. Petersburg, and the Baltic

In 2007 we took a cruise from Stockholm, around Scandinavia, to Estonia in St. Petersburg. The scenery was spectacular, every day seemed more beautiful than the last. To me, the visit to the Royal Palace in St. Petersburg was worth documenting with a few pictures. Here is the resplendent military band greeting Anne on our arrival. And here couple of the many incredibly gaudy rooms.



And another of what seemed to be hundreds of rooms, the building is huge.



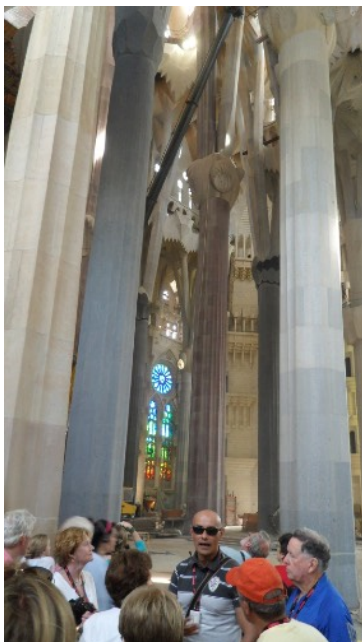
The



Scandinavian coastline had even more beautiful rural scenery as we cruised leisurely along. Scandinavia is one place I would love to visit again. The cities were delightful.

## Madrid

In 2010 we visited Spain to see Carmen and Jerry Torrance and do a little Gaiui's church is and out, we like



sightseeing in Spain. beautiful both inside Barcelona more than Madrid.

I skipped a few trips for which I did not have good pictures.

We plan on more trips but we do not know where and when. These previous trips were taken when it

seemed a good time to take them.