



Elf About the World

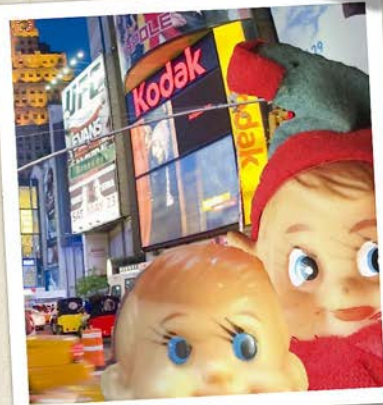
No More Shelf - A trip around the world



I set off on this trip alone but quickly met a kindred spirit at Frosty's New Years party. This is a chronicle of our adventures around the world this past year. We visited over fifty different locations, made even more new friends and had a wonderful time.

Enjoy

Herman & Gilderoy



NEW YORK CITY

Having a great time in the Big Apple.

Nassau, Bahamas & Havana, Cuba

*Making friends and warming up! The
Plaza Vieja in Havana was great as well
as all the classic cars in Cuba.*





Tulum, Mexico - Belize - Jamaica

Where to begin! The ruins in Tulum were impressive. Hanging with the Belize National Beach Soccer Team was, educational perhaps? Ahh Jamaica, hanging with friends on the float and admiring the natural beauty of the Blue Lagoon.





Panama Canal, Costa Rica & Lima, Peru (Not Ohio)

After a quick trip through the canal, it was off to the wilderness of Costa Rica. Got up-close and personal with a Sloth. Lima was next with a visit to the Convent of San Francisco de Asís and then para-gliding with our new friends Enrique and Claire. What a high!



Cape Horn, Chile and the South Pole

We have seen plenty of the North Pole so thought it might be fun to see how the other half lives. We stopped at Cape Horn, Chile on our way. Penguins are actually very photogenic.



Buenos Aires & Río!

Buenos Aires was fun. Did some skating and visited the Cathedral de La Plata. Then off to Río. Saw the artistic side the Festival! WOW!





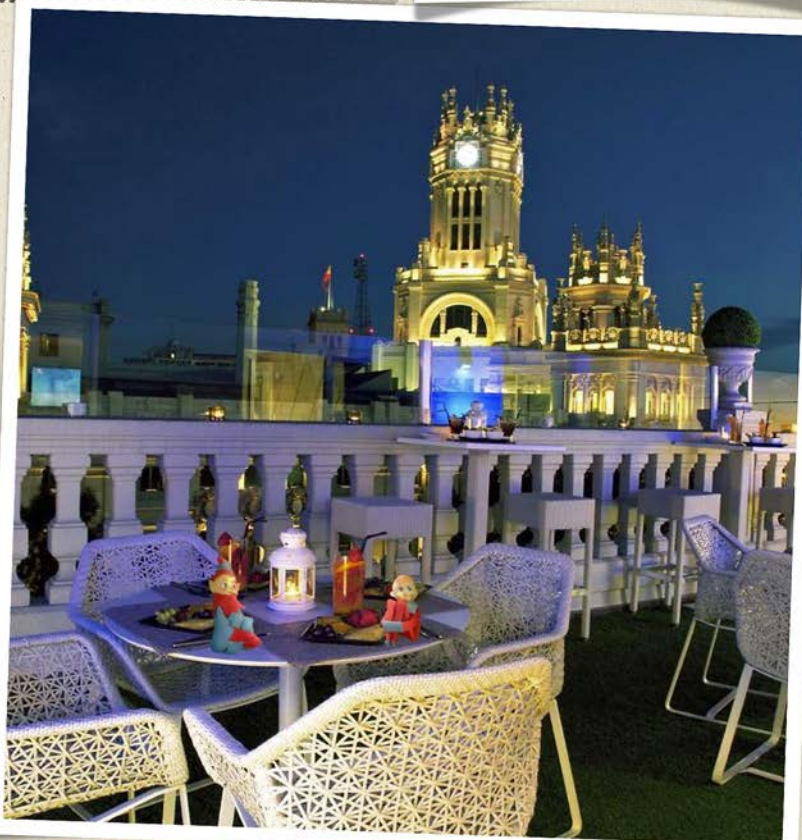
Cape Town, Botswana (The Kalahari Desert), Madagascar & Tanzania

It was time change continents. First stop, the tip of Africa, Cape Town and Table Mountain. Next was The Kalahari to visit with the people and walk with the elephants. Relaxed on the Madagascar beaches before going to ascend Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. We have a thing for mountains.



Casablanca, Madrid and Paris

More great places to visit. Isabel showed us around Madrid and suggested a wonderful restaurant for dinner. Paris was spectacular. The gargoyles of Notre Dame are impressive up-close.









Dublin & London

Historic Ashford Castle and the oldest pub in Ireland, The Brazen Head. The Palace Guard inspection was a lot of fun also.







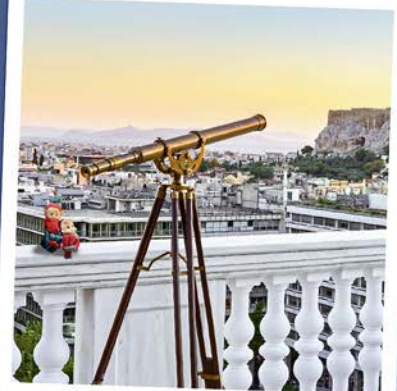
Copenhagen, Denmark Germany & Vienna, Austria

On to Copenhagen to see the canals with Diana. We also saw the sculpture of the "Little Mermaid" of legend. We made a quick stop at a German village on our way to Vienna. Took in the gardens, the Landstrasse Palace and a beer fest. We heard that beer soaks are good for the complexion.



Rome

The birthplace of modern civilization and classical art. So much to see. The Piazza Navona, the Spanish Steps, frescoes in the Vatican and the sculpture of the River Nile. I wish we had more time!



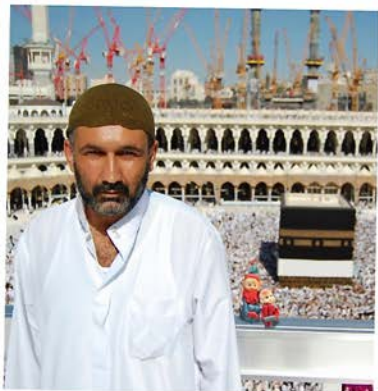
Athens

Greece was just as wonderful as Rome. The architecture is beyond reproach. From our hotel you could see the Acropolis. We also got to visit the ruins and a traditional olympic stadium.



Cairo, Egypt

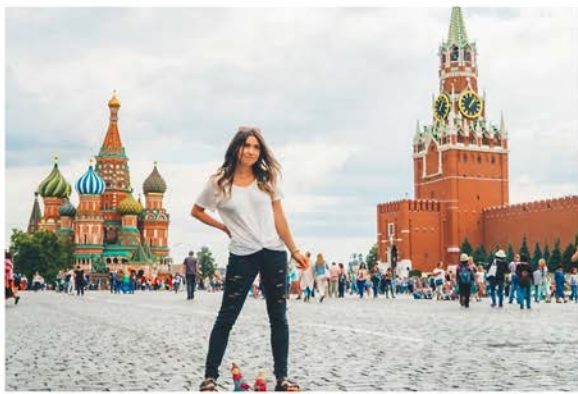
Stepping back to the Cradle of Civilization to hang with the "Sacred Cat", visit the local shops and see what all the fuss is about the Sphinx and pyramids. Truly monuments to last for ages.



Saudi Arabia & Istanbul, Turkey

Mecca, one more important historical site to add to our list. Sidewall surfing with the Sheik. Admiring Istanbul from a unique location and partaking in the famous mud baths.

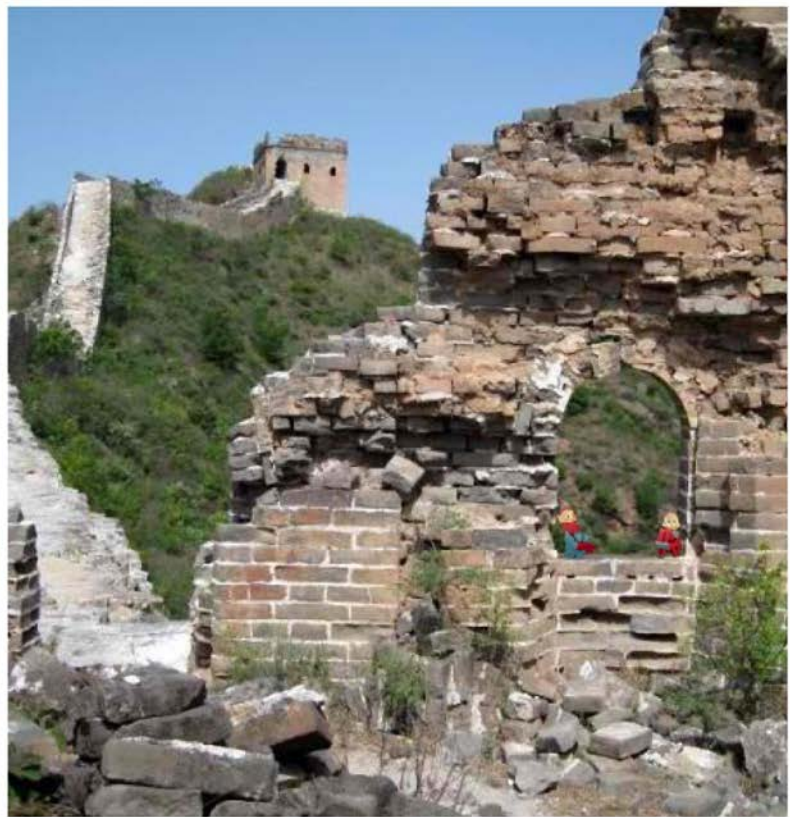




Moscow, Russia - Mumbai, India Nepal & Tibet

A view from the other side of the Iron Curtain. Hanging with the traditional Russian nesting dolls. Madhavee told us stories of Mumbai for hours. Sadupty gave us a unique view of the Taj Mahal. Visited with the holy men of Nepal. Photo bombed by a snow leopard in Tibet on our way to the temple.





Great Wall of China and Hong Kong

*Did you know that there is a marathon on the Great Wall of China?
Neither did we till we were in the middle of it. Enter the Dragon, Bruce
Lee on Hong Kong's Avenue of Stars.*



Japan

One of the more impressive Gates of Japan. They served many purposes and are found all over the country.



Akira is an amazing Sushi chef. Some of the best we have ever had!



Taiwan & Singapore

Taiwan was fascinating, from the lantern lined walkways to the beautiful nature paths. Singapore was equally wondrous, from their modern and artistic gardens to the city skyline from an infinity pool.



Melbourne & Sydney, Australia

Good day mate, we were looking for the crocodile hunter but couldn't find him. Listened to the opera at the opera house and visited Luna Park. Freaky entrance by the way. Finished it of with the Dandenong National Park



Fiji, Tahiti & Hawaii

Crystal clear blue waters, plenty of adventures on and under the water and scenery so beautiful it makes you want to stay forever. Riding turtles is quite fun also.





Anchorage, Dutch Harbor & North Pole, Alaska

Back to more familiar territory. Got to see part of the Iditarod. These dogs are true athletes. Gilderoy got up-close with a bald eagle in Dutch Harbor. "North Pole" was amusing, nothing like the real North Pole.

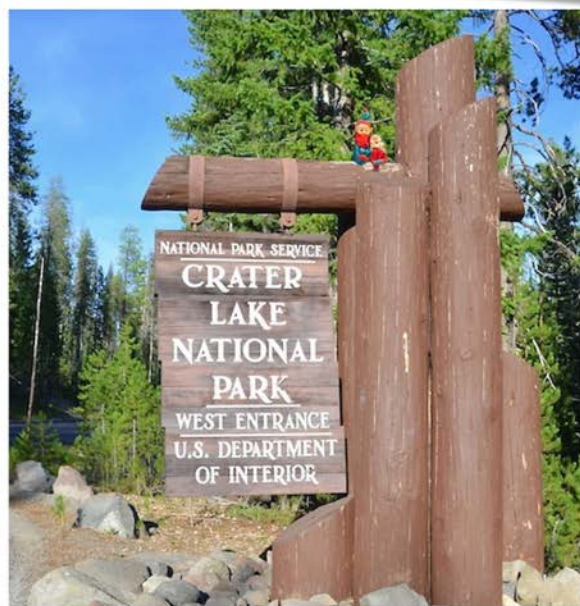


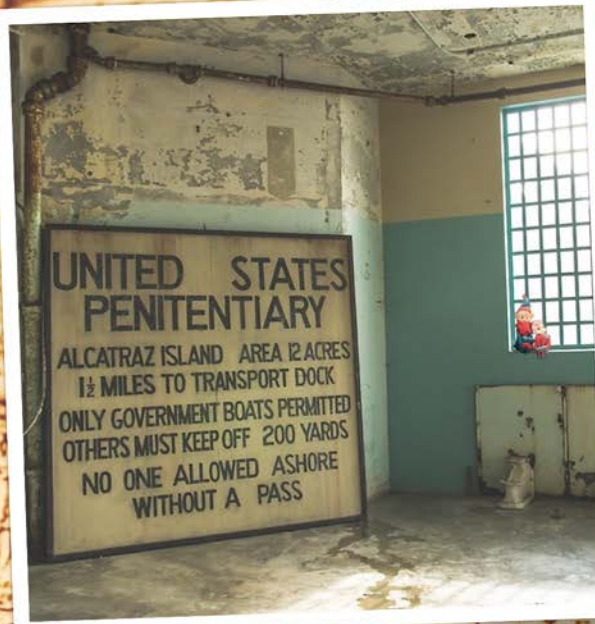




Vancouver, Canada & Seattle, Washington

Heading down the west coast now. Caught a Canucks game with great seats along the boards. A little site seeing downtown then to Seattle. Got some coffee at one of the oldest Starbucks then a Seahawks game.





Crater Lake, Oregon & San Fransico, California

We have heard a lot about Crater Lake and wanted to see it for ourselves. It truly is awe inspiring and must be seen to be appreciated. The wildlife is very photogenic and friendly also.

Alcatraz was daunting to say the least. Couldn't leave San Fran without a ride on a trolly.





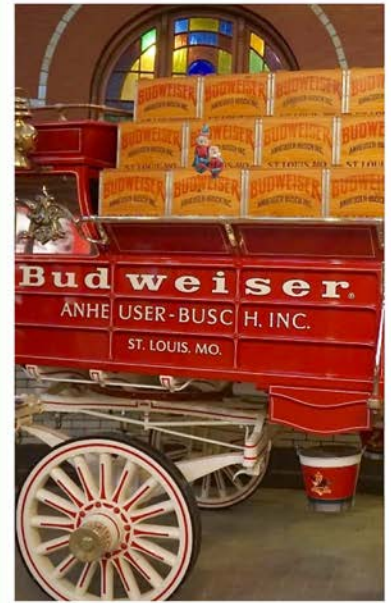
Tijuana, Mexico & Las Vegas, Nevada

A quick stop south of the boarder to sample some Tequila. Did you know a Zonkey is a cross between a Zebra and Donkey? Vegas was next with Ceasar's Palace and the Forum Shops. Hoover Dam was also a must see.



Utah Salt Flats, South Dakota, St. Louis & New Orleans

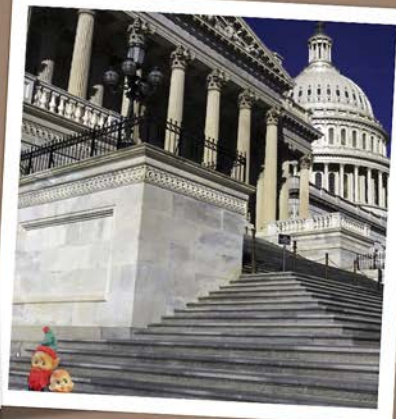
Start to move east through the USA. From the Salt Flats we went to see a few national monuments, Crazy Horse, Mt Rushmore then the Arch in St Louis. A riverboat ride on the Tom Sawyer was fun. Hit the Budweiser plant then on to Bourbon Street and a little jazz.





Orlando, Washington DC & Niagara Falls

Started up the east coast in Orlando doing the typical tourist things like Disney and the Ripley Museum. DC was next with stops at the Lincoln Memorial and the Capital Steps. Finished it off with Niagara Falls.







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Cleveland, Columbus, Mansfield & PIB

We are just about done with our trip now but had some more places to check out that we have heard so much about over the years. It was a must to visit the house in Cleveland where "A Christmas Story" was made. Hanging in Ralphie's room. The Rock Hall was fun but no Christmas section. Down to the "Shoe" for a quick look before heading to High St. A tour of the old prison in Mansfield was cool for many reasons. Those cells are scary. Lastly was the Keys of the North Coast, Put-In-Bay. The view from Perry's monument was beautiful. Finished it off with a stop at Frosty's for the irony of it all.





Frankenmuth, Michigan

The last stop on our way back home. Bronner's Christmas Wonderland to help out before the Holidays. We had a lot of fun mixing in with all the displays and seeing the joy on all the faces around us. Just one thing to say though.

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Our Journey

Here is the path of our trip. We hope you had as much fun looking at the photos as we did getting them. As you probably figured out, we had a lot of help on this trip and the names were too many to remember, but we hope that all the kind strangers and friends that helped us take these photos know the have our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. It was a wonderful adventure.





The Traveling Christmas Tree

We didn't actually take this photo, but we both really like this picture and thought it epitomized the spirit of our adventure and we had one more page to fill.

Merry Christmas



*Just a few more friends
that we met along the
way. We can't remember
where exactly in Ohio
this was taken but we do
remember that Stan
and Edith were very
hospitable and very
friendly. We think it
may have been during
Frosty's New Years party.*

