

Golden Getaways: A Journey Through Our Year of Travel

Discover. Explore. Wander.

We explored our world one journey at a time. Our love of traveling broadens our perspectives and allows us to immerse ourselves in local customs, traditions, and lifestyles. Travel is a rich and transformative experience and provides a space for our contemplation and meditation, cultivates our creativity, and sparks inspiration and personal growth. And most of all, traveling with our fellow adventurers fosters a bond through shared experiences.

In 2023, we went on 13 trips, including day trips, overnight trips, and long cross-country trips. We passed through various landscapes like the deserts of New Mexico, big cities, quaint towns, the plains of Texas, and picturesque coastal New England towns, all combining a unique blend of culture and natural beauty. From the lows of Carlsbad Caverns (1,600 feet down) to the highs of the 14,000-foot-high Sangre de Cristo Mountains in New Mexico to the top of the 10,378-foot crest on the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway in Albuquerque.

We visited historic homes, plantations, Vanderbilt mansions, churches, and cathedrals, where people lived and worshipped, as we learned about their lives, cultures, and architectural styles of bygone eras.

We learned about sawmills, textile mills, micro yarn mills, blacksmith shops, the aerospace industry, agriculture, Florida state government at the Old Historic Capitol, the Pacific theater of WWII, aquaponics and hydroponic greenhouses, Spanish missions, whaling in New England, and the music of the Jazz Age.

We experienced a bit of sparkle and magic on our travels with Christmas lights in Atlanta, the Mardi Gras Museum in Mobile, spray painting at The Cadillac Ranch in Texas, the puppet museum in Atlanta, hot air balloons in New Mexico, fireworks, sampling international Coca-Cola flavors, and a fun murder mystery dinner – all adding a touch of magic and warmth to our journey.

We traveled via airplane, bus, trolley, tramway, boat, ferry, gondola, river cruise, and paddlewheel riverboat.

We delved into presidential history and the personal lives of influential leaders: George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, the Jimmy Carter Center, the LBJ Ranch, and the Kennedy Compound and Memorial in Hyannis Port, supporting the preservation of our national heritage.

We reveled in nature at an eco-resort, caverns, botanical gardens, a national estuarine research reserve, a pitcher plant bog, marine life at America's largest aquarium, and state and national parks, appreciating the beauty and significance of our natural world.

We journeyed into the past as we learned the history of the Alamo, the Indian Pueblo culture, antebellum homes during the Civil War, the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, old whaling ports in New England, and Spanish colonial life.

We enjoyed local art scenes with musical plays, folk-life plays, dramatic plays, the making of historic Cajun accordions, seeing the summer homes of artists and writers on Martha's Vineyard, and visiting the lively artist colony in Provincetown, the tip of Cape Cod.

We sampled regional food everywhere we went: Cajun food in Louisiana, lobster and clam chowder in coastal New England, cannoli in Boston, tacos, queso, and margaritas in Texas and New Mexico, German and Mexican street markets, and good ole' Southern food in Atlanta – dressing, greens, turkey, cornbread, and peach cobbler.

Thanks to all who made all these wonderful travel memories possible, and may your New Year be filled with many more new adventures, discoveries, and unforgettable experiences.

Happy traveling! Your next adventure is a bus trip away!

For inspiration for your future travels, go to our website, www.pstravelers.org