



CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB

FOUNDED IN 1902

YEAR 2023

NUMBER ONE

# THE LOG



INSIDE: DISCOVER FLORIDA



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FOUNDED 1902

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# The LOG

## THIS TIME AROUND

BY DAVID A. MINK - International President & Editorial Director

Our venerable publication, The LOG, has traditionally focused on international travel. However, this issue features the cover story on Florida. More than 200 members live in Florida and many other Circumnavigators visit each year. We asked some Circumfloridians to identify interesting Florida venues that are off the beaten track. The results are good tips on what to visit on a trip to the sunny state.

Talking about going south, we noticed that a number of Circumnavigators have been making the trek to Antarctica, some to complete their goal of visiting all seven continents. We have some of their stories in this issue. Members who are planning a visit to Antarctica should consider reaching out via headquarters to get more info on their trips. Also in this issue (as illustrated) are intriguing signs from around the world and a feature on Greek life in Florida.



Luck to you,

*David*  
David A. Mink





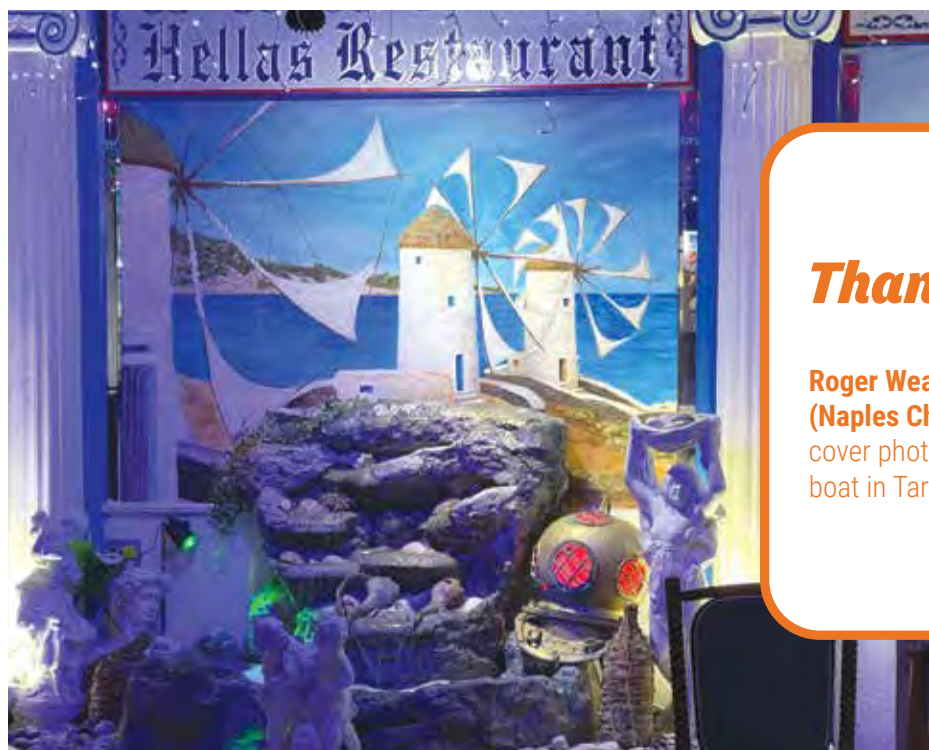


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*Circumnavigators Paula and Roger Weatherburn Baker use Eva Peron's office in Buenos Aires.*



## *Thanks to*

**Roger Weatherburn Baker  
(Naples Chapter)** for the  
cover photo of a sponge  
boat in Tarpon Springs, FL.



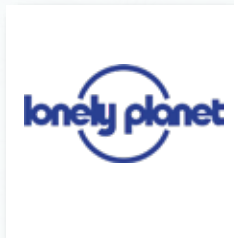


# CLUB NEWS



Our recent Board of Governors meeting was held in Naples, FL, a nice change from our regular meetings in New York and on Zoom. Coming from the chilly north, Executive Director **Tracy Sancilio** was able to enjoy the sunny Florida weather and a chance to meet and interact with many Naples Chapter members. We are happy to report that the Club and Foundation are both on solid financial ground and that our membership is showing signs of growth after the pandemic. Ten new members from as far as Singapore to Chicago were admitted at the meeting.

## Magellan Event



We are delighted to announce that our prestigious Order of Magellan will be awarded to travel experts **Tony & Maureen Wheeler** from Australia. The Wheelers are internationally known for their books and guidebooks the *Lonely Planet* which have sold millions of copies. They have been honored as Officers of the Order of Australia for

"distinguished service to business and commerce as publishers of travel guides, and as benefactors to a range of Australian arts and aid organizations." The Circumnavigators Order of Magellan event will be held on **October 6, 2023** in New York City.



## Annual Meeting

The historic Whale's tooth gavel will initiate our 121st Annual Meeting on **May 19, 2023**. The meeting for members only will be held at the Penn Club in New York City. Following the official meeting, lunch and a presentation will be available for members and guests. Our speaker will be esteemed traveler **Azman Mokhtar**, who will describe his epic venture of circumnavigating the globe on 77 trains over 77 consecutive days. Invitations will be arriving shortly. To reserve a room at the Penn Club, contact Tracy Sancilio at [club@circumnavigators.org](mailto:club@circumnavigators.org) or call 201-612-9100.



# GETTING TO KNOW *FLORIDA*

BY CIRCUMFLORIDIANS

Florida is one of the most frequently visited states in the union. Visitors love the expansive sandy beaches, the vibrant night life, sunny pool sides, great fishing and much more. Miami, Orlando, Tampa/Saint Pete, Palm Beach and Naples are among the popular destinations. However, we asked some Florida Circumnavigators to recommend spots that tourists may miss.

The LOG is only offering a snippet of each attraction, so go to the Internet or the (remember?) library for more information and directions.



*Cabbage Key...* A quiet little island, accessible by boat, known for its bars and restaurants with thousands of signed one-dollar bills taped to the ceiling and walls. Grab one if you are short on cash!

**Shark Valley...**one of the best spots in the Everglades for animal viewing. This is the spot to see turtles, birds, and tons of alligators. There is a seven-mile road with tram rides from the Visitor Center to an elevated observation deck.

**Koreshan State Park...** Cradled by majestic oaks along the banks of the Estero River, the park's historic buildings and gardens are a testament to the industrious lives and unique beliefs of a pioneering cult organization.

**Key Largo ...**the first of the fabulous Florida Keys and the Dive Capital of the World. Onshore and offshore state parks provide opportunities for wildlife encounters, fishing, kayaking, and diving.

**Fernandina Beach...**Florida's northern most beach town, located on Amelia Island, its quaint town is loaded with great restaurants and unique shops, as well as access to the waterfront.

**Mount Dora...**famed for its antique shops, museums, festivals, and excellent seafood restaurants.

**Little Palm Island...** a lush, private island dotted with crushed seashell paths amid verdant tropical foliage and exotic wildlife, features Little Palm Island Resort & Spa – a destination like no other. The adults-only paradise features thatched roof bungalows, inspired by British West Indies design.

**Micanopy...**Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the town contains antique stores, restaurants, a library, firehouse, and post office. The town's unofficial slogan is "The Town that Time Forgot."

**Kanapaha Botanical Gardens...** home to the state's largest collection of bamboo trees, the biggest herb garden in the Southeast, and ponds full of giant Victorian water lilies. Twenty-four different gardens sit side by side.

**Neptune Memorial Reef...** an underwater columbarium in what was conceived by the creator as the world's largest man-made reef. It's a haven for scuba divers, boaters, students, and marine biologists.



*Gasparilla Island...* A barrier island border with a state park and the charming town of Boca Grande, the island has been an important part of Florida folklore due to its connection to the pirate Gasparilla



# GETTING TO KNOW FLORIDA

## **Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens...**

experience gorgeous trees and foliage, as well as serene ponds and peaceful fountains. These tranquil gardens offer the chance to see a variety of exhibitions on Japanese culture.

**Dry Tortugas...**In the Gulf of Mexico, it comprises seven islands, plus protected coral reefs. Garden Key is home to beaches and the 19th-century Fort Jefferson.

**Apalachicola...**Established in 1831, Apalachicola boasts a rich and unique past. Glimpses of that by-gone era can still be viewed today through its charming shops, inviting parks, historic museums and acclaimed restaurants serving fresh locally caught seafood.

**Whitney Laboratory...**Marine Bioscience Lab at the University of Florida is a research and teaching facility that conducts research pertaining to Marine Bioscience. Tours available by reservation.

**Blue Springs State Park...**The park is a popular tourist destination with canoeing, Scuba diving, kayaking, fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife watching, and swimming. Great place to see a manatee.



## *Ussepa Island...*

Known for luxury resorts since the late 19th century, it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, due to its archaeological significance. It was once a secret CIA training base.



*Falling Waters Chipley...* a 171-acre Florida state park located in northwestern Florida contains a 73-foot waterfall, the highest in the state known as "Falling Waters Falls".



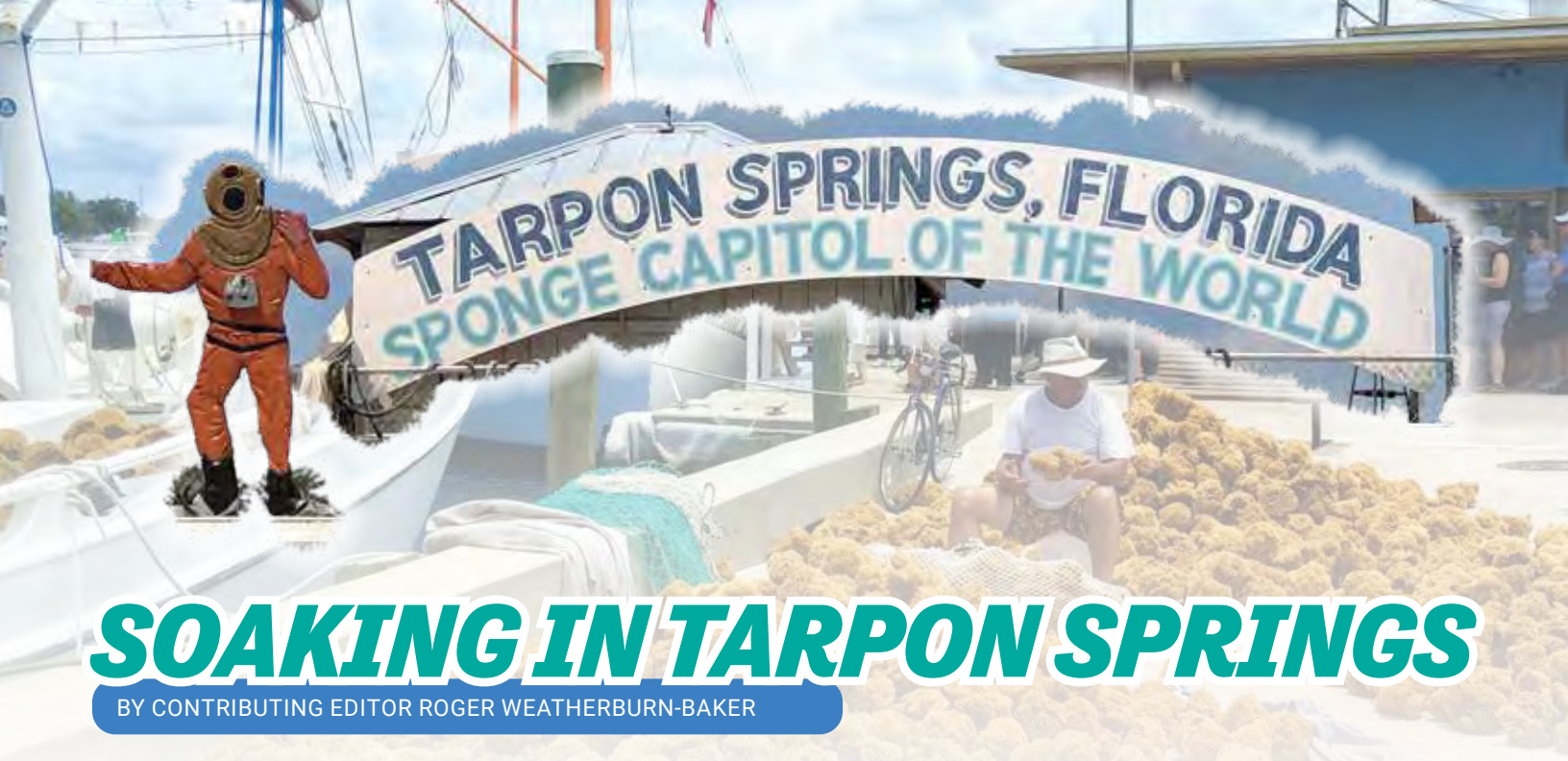
*Cedar Key...* known for Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuge, a group of small islands with trails and rich birdlife. The park offers a nature trail, and 1920s homes and artifacts depicting Cedar Key's history as a busy port.



## *Loop Road at Big Cypress National Preserve...*

Loop Road is a 24-mile dirt road in the national preserve with scenic views and an adventurous experience.





# SOAKING IN TARPON SPRINGS

BY CONTRIBUTING EDITOR ROGER WEATHERBURN-BAKER

**What has holes but holds water? It created one of the biggest industries of the 20th century and built what is today the most vibrant Greek community in the United States. It's a humble aquatic animal we call a sponge. And where's that Greek community? Tarpon Springs, Florida, once a capital of the world's international sponge industry, today one of America's most unusual and underrated travel destinations.**

Thousands of sponge species are found throughout the world thriving in habitats ranging from shallow tropical seas to the deep polar abyss. However, the best and therefore the most valuable are generally considered to be those from Florida waters, notably Key West, Apalachicola, and Tarpon Springs.

Sponges have been used since ancient times. Most of the sponges came from the Greek islands where the spongers were legendary. The supply of Mediterranean sponges collapsed in the late 1800s when the traditional sponge beds between Greece and North Africa suffered disease and the hunt was on for new resources.

About this time, a wealthy American entrepreneur named Hilton Disston bought four million acres of the central west coast of Florida in 1880 for 25 cents an acre. His purchase included a small fishing village on the gulf called Tarpon Springs.

But in 1887 one of Disston's employees named John Cheyney changed Tarpon Springs forever. He discovered money could be made harvesting sponges growing offshore and launched the town's first

sponge fishing boat. Three years later, sales by the Cheyney Sponge Company topped over one million dollars.

Along the way, Cheyney met a recent Greek immigrant named John Corcoris, a sponge buyer for a New York firm. He hired him to help develop his burgeoning enterprise. Corcoris encouraged Cheyney to recruit experienced spongers from the Greek islands. At first, a few adventurous, young Greeks arrived, then their friends, sweethearts, wives, and children followed.

By 1905, over 500 Greek sponge divers were at work off 50 boats just as new diving technology arrived. Wearing a brass helmet, diving suit, and a weighted belt, divers could walk along the sea floor using a long tube connected to the sponge boat above. Divers could now go deeper, for longer, and harvest more.

Over the next 30 years, Florida's sponge industry became bigger even than the state's citrus and tourism industries. In time, more than 100,000 Greeks made their home in the Gulf Coast community; immigrants who brought with them their culture, food, music, and religion recreating a rich and lively Mediterranean community.

But, in the 1940s, a blight in the Florida sponge fishing grounds and the introduction of synthetic sponges caused the demand for actual sponges to plummet.

Today, a handful of sponge boats still leave the docks daily, but now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Tarpon Springs is renowned mostly for its rich Greek heritage. One in ten residents claim

Greek descent. More than seven percent speak Greek at home. The high school sports teams are nicknamed the Spongers.

Visitors can tour charming Victorian neighborhoods or stroll along the brick streets of the Historic District browsing through art galleries, antique shops, a sponge museum, and specialty shops housed in buildings more than 200 years old.

Along the main street, appropriately named Dodecanese Boulevard, boutiques painted with the Greek colors of pale blue and white, sell actual sea sponges, handmade soaps, clothing and nick-nacks.

Down some side streets, you may still hear men in cafés chatting boisterously playing cards and sharing a bottle of tangy retsina wine. Along others, Greek restaurants and bakeries offer the promise of authentic Greek specialties often prepared by descendants of the original immigrant families. The tempting aromas of souvlaki, garlic lamb and baked chicken mingling with the honey scent of baklava, lure tourists from far and wide.

The sponge industry may not be what it once was, but the town's Greek roots are deeply embedded, and Southwest Florida is the better for it.

The next time you use a sponge, take a moment to think where it came from. If it's actual, the chances are it came from Florida waters and a Greek had a hand in getting it to you.





# RIGHT AT HOME

BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR KATIE KOONTZ  
(NEW YORK METRO)

Circumnavigator Bojo Macaraig loves museums. In fact, he loves them so much that he decided to build one for his own travel collection.

Welcome to the "Homeseum".

Bojo's Homeseum is a two-story building in the Philippines, with the ground floor occupied by Bojo and his collections and the second floor consisting of two residential units. Planning started on the Homeseum in July 2019, and it was completed in early 2021.

"I called it Homeseum, because it's my home and my collections are displayed like in a museum," he says.

Bojo started traveling in 2007. Ever since, he has collected famous landmark miniatures and other objects from around the world. Now, he has items from more than 100 cities in six continents.

"I make sure that I have something (miniature-keychain-magnets) from each city I've been to," he says.

In the main gallery, which doubles as Bojo's work-from-home office, you'll find miniature objects from around the world on display. There's a mini airport, with diecast models of the airplane he used to fly. The focal point of the Homeseum is his new seven wonders of the world display.

Other displays are assorted by different types of objects, including magnets, coins, and framed artwork.

The most recent additions to his collection are figurines of an Arab man and woman from his trip to Saudi Arabia.

Bringing new pieces back home to the Philippines is not always an easy feat, especially when traveling for months at a time. Bojo traveled in Europe for 60 days in 2015 and circumnavigated for 60 days in 2017. He says it was heartbreaking to come home and unpack and find that some items were broken in transit.

"My tips for other collectors? Take care of your collection because it's precious," he says.

This year, Bojo plans to do his second circumnavigation and bring back more souvenirs to the Homeseum. Each piece is a reminder of his past adventures.

"When I'm feeling stress, tired and unhappy, I just look at them and I started to smile and relive," he says.







**Circumnavigators Susan & Norm Dailey (Washington DC Chapter)** also spend a lot of their time on the road. A recent journey took them far and wide to venues such as Cape Town, Mozambique, Seychelles, Maldives, Mumbai, Abu Dhabi and finally a dog-sledding adventure in Norway.



**Circumnavigators Bill & Pam Girtman along with Elaine Christian (all Naples Chapter)** made an extensive cruise in the Caribbean including Curacao where they stood in front of a rock formation called Boca de la Pistola or Mouth of the Pistol. The sea water has made a channel in the rock so that when a wave crashes in it makes a loud noise and explodes in impressive sprays of water.



Does **Circumnavigator Suzanne Frye (New York Metro)** ever stay home? Recent venues are Ethiopia where she photographed baboons in Simien Mountains National Park and Dubai where she wined and dined.



As the LOG goes to press, **Circumnavigators Bill & Connie Kleinfelter (Naples Chapter)** are winding down their extensive six-month circumnavigation. The trip has included fun and frolic in Australia and a rare visit to Pitcairn Island.

Circumnavigator **Helen Jenkins (President UK Chapter)** reminds us that sometimes we find gems close to home. She visited the boat house home and writing shed of poet and Author Dylan Thomas in Laugharne West Wales, an hour from her home. She says, "It is a magical place and worth a visit when in Wales."





## Circumnavigators Melanie & Dan Peterson (Chicago Chapter)

made an in-depth tour of Egypt. Among the highlights was a close encounter with the Grand Imam from Luxor who invited them to participate in his weekly audience with residents who needed help. Dan reports, "This is one of the most amazing things I have ever been a part of. Almost like something out of The Godfather. One by one, people, mostly women, would come up to see him, with his team of advisors also surrounding the table. Each applicant was struggling with some sort of problem with the government bureaucracy, or their employer, or a hospital or school, or whatever, and they were seeking his help with this. Most brought a few sheets of paper documenting their problem. Some brought a hand-drafted letter they wanted him to sign to help them. They would tell him about their problem, some of them in tears. He would look through the papers. His team would ask challenging questions to the applicant. Some of this, our guide (who was across the table from me) would translate for me. The Grand Imam would then get them the needed help. Each interaction took only 3-4 minutes. The applicant was then amazingly grateful and tearfully appreciative, with much ring-kissing." The Petersons saw most of Egypt's historic sights and finally visited Sinai where they ascended Mount Sinai (or Mount Moses as it is called there) by camel.





# ANTARCTIC ADVENTURERS



At least a dozen Circumnavigators (that we know of) have visited the “bottom” of the earth in the last several months. Setting foot on their seventh continent was the goal and achievement for most. Just getting there was an adventure. The following in this issue are some of their tales.

## GOING BY AIR

Crossing the infamous Drake passage by sea, as you will read later, can be tough. Four Circumnavigators opted to fly to Antarctica... expensive but quick and easy. **Jon & Melody Dill and David & Dottie Mink (Naples Chapter)** took the two-hour flight from Chile to a gravel strip on the continent. It was smooth and featured a light meal. From there it was a zodiac to the passenger ship, SilverSea's new Silver Endeavour, for a six-day luxury cruise with land excursions twice a day. Shackleton would have been astounded. It was the seventh continent for all. During the cruise, they meet **Irene Thompson** from Naples, Florida who has now joined the Circumnavigators Club.

## PHOTOGRAPHER'S DREAM

**Circumnavigator Walter Suslak (At Large, Jacksonville FL)** and his wife **Sally** visited his seventh continent. They marveled at the astounding scenery and wildlife and came home with a trove of photos to prove it. They did, however, have a rough passage through the Drake Passage. About half of the crossing was in rough seas with high winds. Anticipating the problem, they chose a cabin midship on the lowest deck and didn't have any ill effects although as Walter reports, “one night my wife was tossed out of bed, and it wasn't my fault.” They were on a Hurtigruten Expedition ship- the Roald Amundsen -which was state of the art. The Suslaks say it was the voyage of a lifetime and recommend it highly.





# DRAKE AND SHAKES

BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR LISA BRIGHTON  
(MICHIGAN CHAPTER)

My journey to Antarctica began as part of a month-long, three-country adventure in the Southern Hemisphere.

I first flew to Santiago, Chile, then to San Pedro de Atacama, Chile in the northern Atacama Desert. Situated less than 100 miles from the Bolivian border, the climate there is hot and dry. However, when I arrived, the community was in a stir because of the unusual snowfall that morning. Another stir, or should I say, “shake” happened hours later when I awoke at 3:41 a.m. to the rumble of the earth beneath my bed.

I quickly sprang up, realizing I was experiencing my first earthquake. The walls shook, rattled, and creaked as I tried to assess whether it was accelerating and dangerous or “normal” for this seismically active part of the world. I didn’t hear people screaming or any alarms, so I stayed in my bed, waiting for it to subside. Seconds felt like minutes.

At breakfast, I learned the quake was 5.6 magnitude and lasted one minute. The epicenter was not far away. One resort employee said he “slept right through it, so it must not have been that bad.” I liked his confidence and made a note to let some of it rub off on me. ***It might come in handy when traveling to and from Antarctica through the Drake Passage.***

## TAKING COVER

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I spent my second week in Chile traveling south to Patagonia to enjoy some horseback riding and hiking. The dramatic and picturesque landscape was extraordinary. However, on the last day, a hike on one of the windiest trails put an exclamation mark on this part of my adventure. While standing on the shoreline of one of the lakes, my guide and I took in the panoramic views. With the wind thrashing and making communication difficult, I barely heard him mumble, “Uh-oh.” I looked in the direction of his gaze to see a horizontal, slinky-like wall of wind and water rapidly moving across the lake toward us.

“Get as low to the ground as you can!” he immediately yelled, wrapping his arm through mine as we hurriedly crouched down, huddling. “Cover your head, especially your face!”

I did as he instructed, and the speeding wind shear rolled over us, spewing beach rocks, twigs, and sand everywhere. It was over in seconds, but again, it felt like minutes.

“You okay?” he asked as we slowly stood up.

“Yes,” I replied. “I think so... That was really something.”

“It’s intense but normal for here,” he said, seeming unaffected. “C’mon, let’s go. We’ve got a little way to hike to the end of the trail.”

He left, leading the way. I brushed myself off and tried to shake off the experience as “normal.” Continuing in high winds, we finished the hike to what is literally called “Fin Del Sendero” or “End of the Trail.”

## IS THIS A DREAM?

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I suddenly awaken startled in the darkness of cabin #509 on the northbound National Geographic Endurance. I realize that what’s happening is not a dream and that the storm in the Drake Passage is as bad as they’d warned. I feel the pull of the expedition ship going up and then plunging. I gasp. The walls around me creak, just like the walls creaked in my room during the earthquake in Chile nearly three weeks ago.

I use the remote to turn on the TV and look at the view from the crow’s nest camera. Seeing the tumultuous seas, a wave of fear moves through me, and my heart pounds. I turn it off.

I’m grateful that Judy from housekeeping wrapped my bedding as tightly as possible and told me to try and keep it that way. The taunt tucking makes me feel safe.

I try to remain calm and not think about worst-case scenarios. I’m struggling. My mind races irrationally. It flashes to an image of an overturned cruise ship from the movie “The Poseidon Adventure,” which, at this moment, I wished I hadn’t seen.





***Stop it... You want pleasant thoughts... good thoughts... calming thoughts...***

I feel the vessel's pull, and I am reconnected to the rhythm of the dramatically rolling water. It's said that you either get "Drake Lake" or "Drake Shake" as part of your Antarctica adventure. This is definitely "Drake Shake."

I remind myself that ships endure this kind of weather regularly. ***After all, they are built for it, aren't they? It must just feel worse when you're alone in the middle of the night.***

I tell myself to replay my trip to the white continent in my mind's eye. It's difficult, but I start with the smooth, southbound Drake Passage crossing at the beginning of the voyage. Then, there was the special moment of crossing the Antarctic Circle on the summer solstice with the sun shining so brightly that day and almost every day after. Visions of the landscapes with its penguin colonies, stunning snow, and ice fields with bergs that shimmer like diamonds divert my attention from what's happening outside. I feel myself start to relax a little and give way to the ship's motion. The boldness of my polar plunge and kayaking in Red Rock Ridge reminds me of my intention with this journey: to travel to my seventh continent. Not only did I want to achieve this travel goal, but I wanted to push myself through some fears. The dark, rough crossing of the Drake Passage was one of them. But I didn't expect winds of 70 mph and 25-foot swells.

I reach for my iPhone, which is plugged into a power source near the head of the bed. It's after 4:00 a.m.

Trying to distract myself, I look at some of my favorite videos. I want to stay connected to the beautiful journey and not let this storm overshadow the quest. Videos of penguins make me smile. Then one of The Gullet, a remote location that few expeditions travel to, brings me a feeling of calm. We gently navigated the narrow channel just days after a fresh, powdery snowfall under a low-cloud ceiling. It felt like being in a pristine white cocoon on another planet. It was one of the most magnificent and once-in-a-lifetime moments I've ever had anywhere in the world.

A sense of gratitude warms me.

I put in my AirPods, listen to calming music, and re-watch more videos.

Surprisingly, through the shake of the Drake, I drift back to sleep.



# GETTING A SECOND CHANCE

BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR MARK PROSS  
(WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER)

Why Antarctica—and why now?

My fascination with the “Great White Continent” began more than 50 years ago when I was a 17-year-old high school student. I attended a spellbinding lecture on Antarctic research and vowed right then and there that someday I was going to visit Antarctica!

On my first attempt in 2022, I embarked on a 23-day Norwegian polar expedition aboard the Hurtigruten ship MS Fram to Antarctica, Falklands, South Georgia—The Ultimate Expedition. The expedition, booked more than a year in advance, was a long-anticipated retirement present to me after a 45-year career. Unfortunately, I caught Covid-19 from another passenger at my dinner table aboard the ship. I spent 14 days in quarantine aboard the ship due to the strict Chilean Ministry of Health requirements and Hurtigruten Covid protocols. I was not able to go ashore on any of the 19 landings and experience “boots on the ground” on the continent of Antarctica. We did encounter some rarely visited sites below the Antarctic Circle that most travelers never get to see. This included the abandoned Antarctic research station on Stonington Island in Marguerite Bay that was featured in the long-ago lecture. Having waited almost exactly 50 years for this moment, it was heartbreaking for me to not go ashore and see the well-preserved artifacts inside the historic wooden huts. Because my quarantine was not the experience Hurtigruten had hoped to provide me, and because they felt that I had handled the two-week quarantine with “such grace and dignity,” they invited me back for the next season.

In January 2023, I tried again. I returned to Central and South America on a six-week, 23,000-mile adventure, including the 23-day Hurtigruten polar expedition In-depth Antarctica, Falklands & South Georgia Expedition aboard the same ship. Fellow travelers called it “Antarctica 2.0.” I chose this specific expedition primarily because it was during the height of the Austral summer in Antarctica with the best weather conditions and because it included the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Shag Rocks, the South Orkney Islands, the South Shetland Islands,





*Abandoned research station on Stonington Island*

Antarctica, the Beagle Channel, and Straits of Magellan. I was particularly interested in retracing British Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton's epic expedition over a century ago and seeing some of the now-abandoned historic sites in Antarctica.

On this trip, I included three stopovers (in Panama, the Atacama Desert in northern Chile, and Paraguay), since I had to cancel them last year due to Covid-19 restrictions, most of which have now been lifted. During my four-day stopover in Panama, I was able to visit Circumnavigator Club board member Steven Barnett and his wife Karen, who live in Panama City. On to Bogota, Colombia, and Santiago, Chile, where I met up with my fellow passengers. We took a charter flight to Punta Arenas, Chile, at the tip of South America where we boarded the ship. It was an 8,605-mile trip for me to get from my home near Washington, DC, to Antarctica. Each polar expedition is unique, and the itinerary changed daily—sometimes hourly—due to weather, sea, wind, and ice conditions.

Highlights for me included the sheer adventure of exploring a vast, remote, and isolated continent; following in the footsteps of Antarctic explorers—Amundsen, Scott, Shackleton, and Rønne—some of whose historic huts are well preserved frozen in time; and observing up close some of the most extraordinary wildlife on Earth: the fluffy gray Albatross chicks nesting on Westpoint Island in West Falkland, Rockhopper penguins ascending steep rocky cliffs and Macaroni penguins with their orange-plumed “eyebrows” on Carcass Island in West Falkland, curious fur seal pups at the abandoned Stromness whaling station on South Georgia Island, tens of thousands of King penguins all dressed up in their “tuxedos” on Salisbury Plain and on Gold Harbour beach on South Georgia Island, three-ton Southern Elephant seals fighting on Gold Harbour beach to see which one will get mating rights to a harem of females, Southern Right whales migrating in the Southern Ocean, a Gentoo penguin feeding her chick by regurgitating krill on Aitcho Islands in the South Shetland Islands, the restored 1940s-era British

Antarctic Research Station “Base A” at Port Lockroy, and a Leopard seal asleep on an iceberg in the middle of the Lemaire Channel in Antarctica.

Highlights also included camping on Antarctica at Kerr Point on Rongé Island in Andvord Bay. Only 29 out of 175 passengers got the opportunity (determined by lottery) to experience this unique activity. We took our camping and personal gear in the Zodiac rubberized inflatable boats across a choppy sea to Kerr Point. We climbed out of the Zodiacs in knee-deep water and hiked some distance in the water until we could go ashore amid the boulders and large chunks of ice. We hauled our gear in a pulka (Finnish sled) about a quarter mile across the slushy snow and ice to our campground where we pitched our two-man tents. Five Weddell seals dozed lazily nearby, and one Gentoo penguin stood sentry on the hillside above our campsite. I felt a sense of abandonment on Antarctica as the MS Fram sailed out of sight for the night. But the captain returned



at 5:00 am the next morning to pick us up. It was a unique experience to watch the sunset turn the snow-capped peaks across Andvord Bay orange and then a soft pink; lie in my tent, snuggled in my polar sleeping bag, in total silence broken only by the Weddell seals conversing with each other throughout the night; and listening to three separate avalanches high above our campsite announced by a sharp, cracking "boom!" and then the sound of tons of snow and ice come crashing down into the bay.

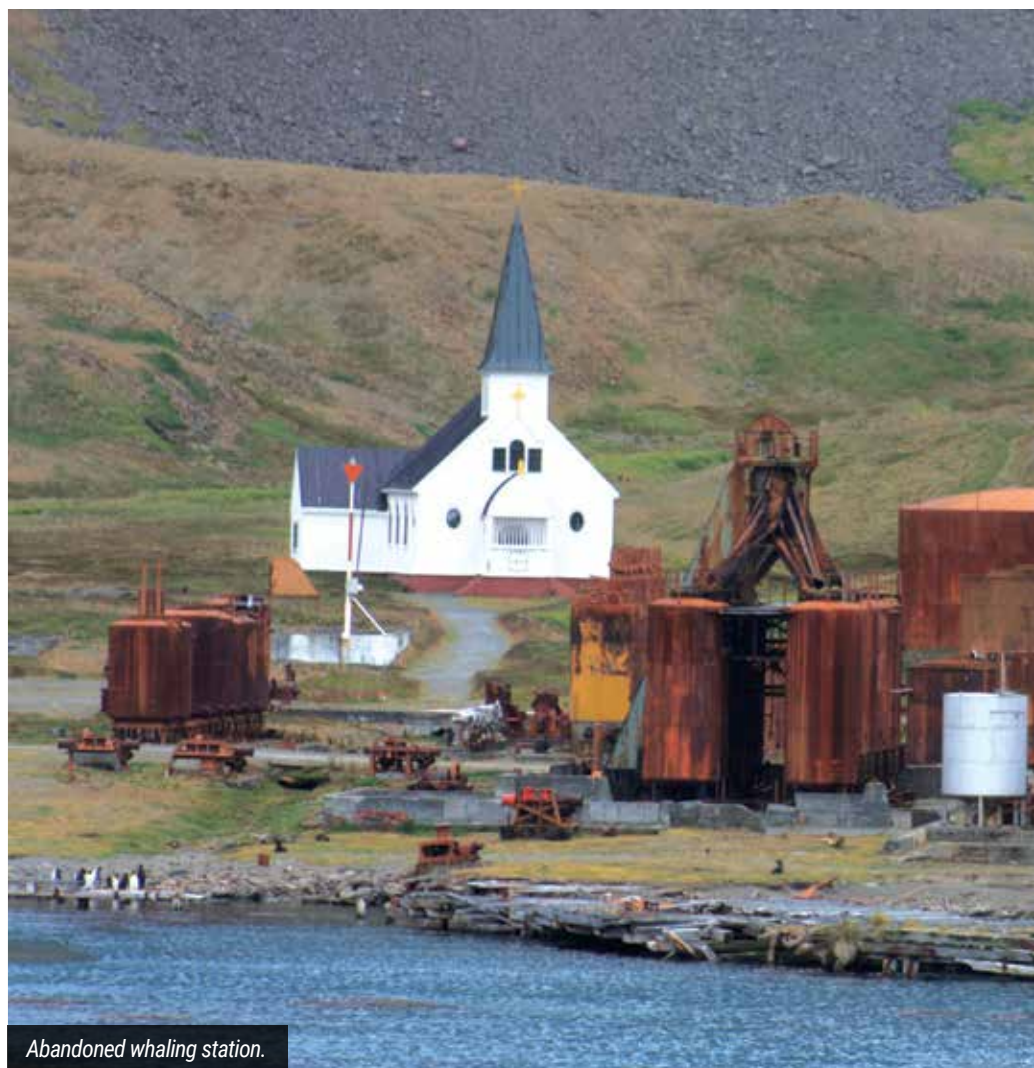
Another highlight was broadcasting live from Antarctica. My niece, who is the librarian at an elementary school in Bristol, Tennessee, conducted a special unit on "Survival at the Bottom of the World" for her 4th grade students. The theme centered on Sir Ernest Shackleton, who sacrificed all to achieve seemingly impossible goals. She taught her 10-year-old students about the attributes Shackleton possessed, such as courage, perseverance, ingenuity, and compassion for others.

Since I was following in Shackleton's footsteps from the Weddell Sea where his ship, Endurance, was crushed in the ice in 1915 to his heroic journey by lifeboat to Elephant Island and eventually South Georgia Island, I arranged to conduct three surprise "Live from Antarctica!" WhatsApp broadcasts to her classroom in east Tennessee to help enrich her unit. The most important takeaway I shared with her students was that "Antarctic adventurers must be self-reliant, resourceful and courageous. They need to be able to keep a cool head while enduring some of the toughest physical and psychological conditions on Earth. Above all, they need to put the team before themselves." I believe that still holds true today.

Having just returned to my ship soaking wet from the snow, sleet, and rain from a landing on the continent of Antarctica—my seventh continent—at Neko Harbour, I broadcast for about 35 minutes from the bow of the ship. The children got to see the Gentoo penguins waddle up and down the "penguin roads" in the snow to their rookeries, icebergs floating by in Andvord Bay, and hear live the ear-shattering boom of an avalanche nearby and tons of ice and snow come crashing down the Laussedat Heights into the harbor. They were so excited! Each child got to ask a question,



Shackleton's gravesite



Abandoned whaling station.





*Camping on the ice*



research scientist in Antarctica!" I hope this exposure will not only enrich her students' understanding of Shackleton and courage, but help instill in them a curiosity about science and the environment; a sense of adventure, exploration, and discovery—and maybe someday even become a member of the Circumnavigators Club!

On both Antarctic expeditions, I experienced Mal de Debarquement Syndrome (sickness of disembarkment)—the illusion of movement after movement has stopped, particularly after getting off a ship. It can last up to three years. Symptoms include a sensation of rocking, swaying, and loss of balance, particularly when standing still or lying down. There is no diagnostic test or cure. On my 2022 trip when I never went ashore for 23 days, it lasted about three months. This time when I went ashore on 17 landings, it only lasted about 8 days.

My overall impressions are an appreciation of how immense Antarctica really is. Although I only saw a small portion of the continent, words cannot fully describe the true wonder, grandeur, and harsh, yet breathtaking, natural beauty of Antarctica's pristine landscape, its brilliantly white icebergs with their sapphire-colored crevasses, and absolutely stunning pictures of its wildlife. These two polar expeditions clearly demonstrated for me the critical need to protect both the Southern Ocean and Antarctic environments, carefully manage the number of travelers visiting Antarctica, and both acknowledge and take action to address the adverse effects of climate change.



which made the unit more memorable. "Can you pet the penguins?" (No, although they're very curious and sometimes waddle right up next to you, we must keep 15 feet back because they're still wild animals, and even farther away if they have chicks or are molting, since these are stressful times for the penguins.) "Did you name the penguins?" (No, some of the penguin rookeries have up to 70,000 mating pairs and I don't know that many names.) "Were you attacked by a polar bear?" (No, polar bears live only in the Arctic regions of the northern hemisphere and not in Antarctica.) I think I had as much fun as her students!

My niece reported that her students thought it was amazing to talk to someone live from the southern hemisphere so close to the South Pole and seeing me retrace Shackleton's footsteps brought his story to life. They could see for themselves the kind of dramatic terrain and ice and weather conditions he faced. Many of her students expressed a desire to make this same journey someday to the bottom of the world. The broadcasts gave her students motivation to have this once-in-a-lifetime experience—just as I was motivated some 50 years ago during that lecture by Antarctic explorers Finn and Edith Rønne. One 10-year-old boy said, "I want to be a



# MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

## NOTHING IS CERTAIN



BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR MICHAEL PULDY  
(PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CHAPTER)

Traveling to Antarctica is hard.

Traveling to Antarctica via the Falklands and South Georgia Island is even harder. Of my 20 shipboard days, more than nine days were spent traveling across open ocean.

The journey started with lots of flying from Los Angeles via Houston to Buenos

Aires and finally to Chile's Ushuaia which is the jumping off point for most cruises headed to Antarctica. In Ushuaia, I joined a Poseidon Expedition cruise on the Italian-built Sea Spirit, a 30-year-old ship roughly 300 feet long. I wanted to travel on a smaller ship. The Sea Spirit limits its guests to 114 and maintains an international crew of 74.

During my nine days of open seas, the swells were at worst 30 feet high with head winds at the bow as strong as 70 knots which is roughly the strength of a Category One hurricane. And at night, I would often

wake up as the ship would perilously fall into the trough of a massive wave sounding as if the hull was breaking in half.

We always knew we were approaching open ocean when the crew placed seasickness bags in the hallways and the stairwells every ten feet.

The weather created a level of anticipation and uncertainty everywhere we traveled. Waves exceeding three feet meant the kayak adventure would be cancelled. Heavier waves and winds exceeding 50 knots meant the zodiac landings would be



cancelled. Ultimately, the crew arranged 12 wet landings (meaning we exited the zodiac about 15 feet from shore and waded to land), and then spent two to three hours wandering each area.

While on South Georgia island, the normal hiking route at St. Andrews Bay was partially blocked as tens of thousands of King Penguins lined the glacier fed stream trying to stay cool in the 55-degree Fahrenheit weather. Very hot for penguins! The team plotted a less crowded hiking path.

Separately, at the Stromness whaling station (also on South Georgia Island and made famous by Ernest Shackleton when he arrived after surviving his two years in Antarctica), a passenger was injured during a hike.

When you purchase medical evacuation insurance, what actual happens? There's no airport or military helicopter evacuation option when you're in South Georgia. Even in Antarctica, there's no quick and easy way to transport an injured passenger.

This passenger's injury ultimately led to the ship rerouting to meet an evacuation aircraft in the South Shetland Islands. If there hadn't been an evacuation aircraft, the injured passenger would have been transferred to a ship headed north to Ushuaia, facing more than two days of open water seas.

### **MARVELOUS SIGHTS AND SOUNDS MADE THE EXPERIENCE AMAZING.**

During an early morning zodiac-to-kayak transfer, a mother humpback whale and her calf surfaced about 30 yards from us. As they surfaced, air and spray launched from their blowholes, and then they dove before resurfacing a few minutes later. During that same morning, while paddling through an ice field in our "ice breaker" kayak, we were able to approach a 10-foot leopard seal resting on an ice floe.

Meanwhile on South Georgia Island, whale bones are everywhere. More than two million whales were slaughtered at the South Georgia whaling stations and then on the self-sustaining factory whaling ships operating in the area. Our guide at Grytviken, the only occupied area of South Georgia Island, said in the early years of whaling at South Georgia, only the whale blubber was harvested while the rest of the

animal was discarded. She said the lagoon is filled with bones. Whale bones are scattered across the land too.

Yet deeper south, around 65 degrees latitude, on the west side of the peninsula, a pod of humpback whales fed for hours. First, from the Sea Spirit, we watched them encircle krill, and the whales breach the surface in groups. Next, we were loaded into zodiacs and spread out among the whales so we could watch them feed as we bobbed in five-foot waves. Our group watched these whales feed for hours.

***(Side note: Shackleton is now buried in a small cemetery at Grytviken. Visitors to the grave are encouraged to take a shot of Jameson and pour the last drop on the grave for Shackleton. I did my part.)***

Whales became more plentiful the farther south we sailed, and every island and shoreline was teeming with penguins hiking across rock fields or parading across a penguin highway. The landscapes are massive, and each island looks like a Hollywood version of King Kong's Skull Island with huge snow-covered mountains literally rising right out of the sea.

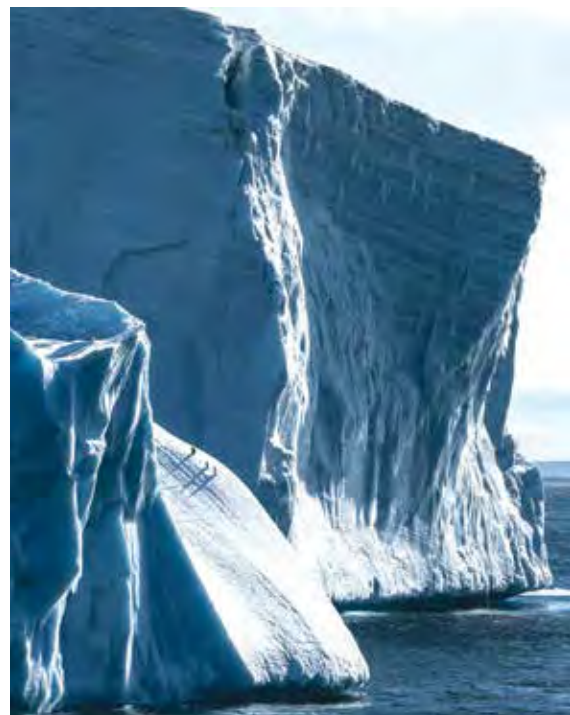
You can't go to Antarctica without thinking and talking about climate change. Roughly 100,000 people will visit the 7<sup>th</sup> continent during the 2022 – 2023 season which is roughly the same number of people who visit Glacier Bay, Alaska. By comparison, 5.5 million people will visit the Grand Canyon.

Because of weather changes, the migration and nesting pattern of penguins are being impacted. When there's snow on the ground, penguins can't build a nest and can't mate and lay eggs. They aren't evolving fast enough.

One crew member told me March travelers are considered part of the "dead penguin tour." The chicks born in March do not have enough time to mature and molt before the winter cold winter sets in. Nearly all these chicks will die.

The mechanics of the food chain was visible everywhere. Whales eating krill. Birds eating fish. Leopard seals eating penguins.

Writing this only two weeks after returning from my trip, I still marvel at my experiences. Even though on my last day, I said I would never return, I now find myself wanting to go back and travel even farther south.





# ***SOUTH AMERICA A LAND OF SUPERLATIVES***

BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR ROGER WEATHERBURN BAKER  
(NAPLES CHAPTER)

It seemed we were never far from the snow-capped Andes. The highest mountains outside Asia, they gloriously dominate the landscape standing tall in crisp black-and-white livery outlined against a brilliant blue sky. Whether we were bumping along a rutted tractor path through the endless vineyards of Mendoza, or watching a gaucho ride off across the grasslands to work herds of cattle, the jagged backdrop of the majestic mountains was always there reminding us of exactly where we were—Argentina.



*Mendoza vineyards in the Andes foothills*

The first impression of Argentina is size. South America sprawls across almost 18,000 square kilometers, most of which is in the southern hemisphere and almost half of which is occupied by Brazil. Next down in size is Argentina, on the southeastern coast, the eighth largest country in the world.

## **WIDEST RIVER IN THE WORLD**

We began our journey in Buenos Aires, the nation's cosmopolitan capital, situated on the western shore of the Rio de la Plata, the widest river in the world. Reaching a maximum width of an unbelievable 140 miles, this watery highway is so wide, it's impossible to see the other shore most of the time.





In keeping with this huge scale of things, the nation's capital is a city of monumental buildings, tree-lined streets, immense public squares, and broad, multi-lane boulevards, all reminiscent of an oversized Paris.

The oldest public square in the city is the Plaza de Mayo, the historic beating heart of the metropolis that has been at the center of many of the milestone events in the city's history.

### MASS, SPEECHES, PROTESTS AND SONG

Around the square are several important buildings including the Metropolitan Cathedral where Pope Francis held mass for 20 years and the Casa Rosada, seat of the national government. The square has long been the focal point for public gatherings, either in support of or to protest successive governments, a tradition that reached its apex with the monster crowds that came to hear Eva "Evita" Peron speak from the balcony of the Casa Rosada in the 1940s.

The sophisticated city's opera house, the magnificent Teatro Colón, is also something of impressive proportions. The horseshoe-shaped auditorium has 2,500 seats, which is more than London's Covent Garden, plus standing room for 1,000 more, and six floors above ground and three floors below it. Many of the world's greatest superstars have performed here including Luciano

Pavarotti, who was one among many to claim the theater's stunning acoustics, place it among the top five classical music venues in the world.

### BIRTHPLACE OF THE TANGO

Superlatives touch almost every aspect of life in Argentina including dance, of course. Buenos Aires is the birthplace of the tango, one of the most popular dances in the world. The mesmerizingly seductive partner-dance is synonymous with Argentina where the steamy dance evolved in the late 1800s in dance halls and brothels in the low-class port districts along the Rio de la Plata. It roared onto the international dance scene in the 1920s.



Here in the nation's capital, you can see some of the finest professional tango dancers in the world performing electrifyingly sensational dance moves seldom seen anywhere else, and hear musicians who have raised music and song accompaniment to an art form. An exceptional evening of such entertainment can be had at *Gala Tango*, one of the most famous and long-running shows in town.

### GAUCHOS ON THE PAMPAS

When we think of Argentina we also tend to think of exceptional beef and the legendary horsemen known as gauchos who corral great herds of cattle on the vast grasslands known as the Pampas. They're first mentioned by name in the 18<sup>th</sup> century records of the Spanish colonial authorities who considered them "the dregs of the Rio de la Plata," no more than "outlaws, cattle thieves, robbers, and smugglers."

Today, gauchos, still traditionally dressed in distinctive flat berets draped across their heads, knotted scarves at their necks, and knives stuck in belts or in a leather holster at their side, are hard-working cowboys often leading a rugged outdoor life on horseback in all kinds of extreme weather. They can be seen patrolling the herds of cattle roaming the rich grasslands that cover five provinces of South America, all of Uruguay and the southernmost state of Brazil, a total expanse of 460,000 square miles.



There are many ways to experience life on an authentic estancia (ranch), watch gauchos demonstrate their exceptional horsemanship and wrangling skills, try horseback riding for yourself, or a typical Argentine barbecue cooked over an open pit. You can find helpful resources online like [www.gauchoexperience.com](http://www.gauchoexperience.com).

## THE FIRST VINEYARD

No mention of Argentina could pass without raising a glass to its historic viniculture going back almost 500 years. During the Spanish colonization of the Americas, wine cuttings were brought first to Santiago del Estero in northern Argentina in 1557. The first recorded commercial vineyard was established there by Jesuit missionaries, followed by an expansion of vineyard plantings into Mendoza three years later. During this time, the missionaries began construction of complex irrigation channels and dams that brought rich, mineral-laden water down from the melting glaciers of the Andes to sustain the vineyards, as they still

do. Argentina today is the fifth largest wine producer in the world with the province of Mendoza producing more than 60% of the country's output.

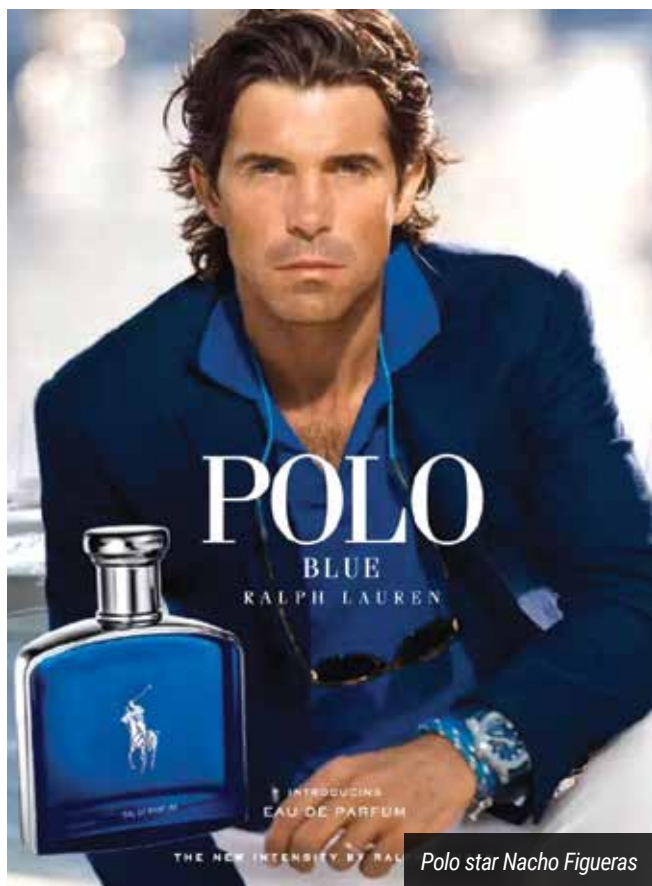
One of the best places to stay in Mendoza and take a wine-tasting tour from is the **Cavas Wine Lodge** situated in the foothills of the breathtaking Andes surrounded by vineyards. This luxury resort boasts individual retreats among the vines, with each romantic hideaway featuring a private plunge pool, a whirlpool spa, open fireplaces, a spacious double shower, and an upper-floor terrace with panoramic views of spectacular sunsets over the mountains enjoyed fireside with a glass of Malbec.

## THE SPORT OF PRINCES AND KINGS

Of course, the country has many other well-known attractions. Argentina is credited globally as the capital of polo, the world's oldest known team sport, which has been played here since 1875. Even if you've never set foot on a polo field and don't know the difference between a mallet and a hockey stick, you've probably heard of Nacho Figueras. You may not recognize his name, but you've certainly seen his face.

In part that's because Figueras's ruggedly handsome visage is the face of Ralph Lauren's men's fragrances. But he's far more than a polo-playing model. He's a high-profile friend of princes in this sport of kings and an international ambassador. In short, he's the David Beckham of polo.

Talking of Beckham, it's not polo but soccer that is the national obsession. Lionel Messi, the legendary captain of the multi-cup winning Argentinian soccer team, is a national treasure. Widely considered the finest soccer player in the world, he too is featured in multi-media all over the country. His career



earnings are over \$1 billion making his income as super-sized as the Messi Berger on offer in a Buenos Aires McDonald's.

One more mega-scale attraction not to be missed is the UNESCO World Heritage site on the nation's northern border with Brazil. Iguazu Falls, dividing Argentina and Brazil, is one of the largest and most famous waterfalls in the world. Technically, it's not one but a series of waterfalls, anywhere between 160 to 200 of them, depending on the time of year, plunging together side-by-side over towering basalt cliffs in such powerful volume they fuel no less than three power stations downstream. It's significantly wider than Victoria Falls and three times wider than Niagara Falls.





Iguacu Falls

## DEVIL'S THROAT

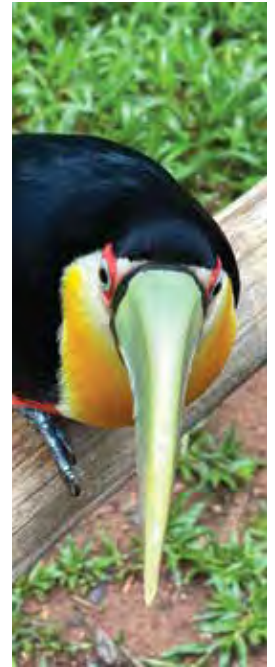
The highest and deepest of the falls is known as Devil's Throat, an astonishing 300-foot-wide canyon. Directly facing it is the Hotel das Cataratas, owned by the Belmond Group (think Orient Express), last year verified by Forbes Travel Guide as "One of the finest properties in the World," with almost every room facing the forever roaring Devil's Throat. It's an unforgettable sight to wake up to giant plumes of feathery spray dancing in the morning sunshine as the waters ceaselessly plunge earthbound just a few breathtaking steps away.

But there's more. Set within 40 acres of Brazilian sub-tropical forest close to Iguacu Falls is the Parque das Aves, the only institution in the world focused on the conservation of Atlantic Rainforest birds. Hundreds of exotic birds of multiple

species roost, eat and fly here within enormous, caged enclosures so carefully camouflaged by fauna and flora the structures are barely noticeable. Visitors following a carefully controlled walkway are allowed to step into one or two of these gated enclosures here and there allowing access to within an arm's length of some of the world's most beautiful aviators or within a telephoto length of those too shy to come too close. Some can be seen perched high in the forest canopy ripping apart a furry lunch. Some swoop past in a flapping riot of color homing in on a group target in a technicolor squadron, while still others feed nonchalantly in brilliant clusters of yellow and green around trays of seed placed conveniently close to the meandering pathways.

## ADORABLE TOUCANS

The Toucan is the world's most popular bird and practically a national mascot here, which perhaps is why its busily cawing enclosure is kept as a spectacular finale at the end of the route. Toucans can grow up to 25 inches tall and proudly sport a beak as much as eight inches long. It looks like an awkward bulk that must be painfully heavy to drag around but in fact it's hollow. Charles Darwin thought such a Cyrano de Bergerac protrusion was a sexual lure to attract a mate. But a new study



believes the outrageous structure is an AC unit keeping the bird cool in tropical climates. In any event, accustomed to their celebrity status, or possibly aware that their stuffed effigies are the hottest item in the gift shop, these adorable toucans have no hesitation in dragging their plump little bodies over to their visitors to be admired.

In fact, there's much to be admired in this land of superlatives: dramatic mountain landscapes, super-sized rivers and waterfalls, and vineyards and grasslands that reach as far as the eye can see.

The economy is volatile and the politics unstable. Much of the population is poor, but the natives still enjoy their traditions, their culture and pastimes. And still take time out to enjoy their coffee, food and wine, and music, song and dance that has made their homeland justifiably famous. All of which they are happy to share with open arms.





# GETTING A KICK FROM SOCCER

BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR LARRY GLICK  
(AT LARGE, TEXAS)

I recently returned from Qatar after attending my fourth World Cup—on four different continents!

My introduction, however, to soccer was on June 15, 1975, at Downing Stadium on Randalls Island in New York City. There the New York Cosmos introduced a player that was already known worldwide as the greatest football player ever - Pele.

When I was given two tickets to the 1994 World Cup in Dallas (20 minutes from my home), I didn't realize how difficult it would be to find someone to accompany me. Brazil vs. the Netherlands turned out to be the best game of the U.S. World Cup that year. But I remember to this day, the comments from two gentlemen sitting directly behind me. They correctly knew that Brazil was "somewhere south of the U.S." As for the Netherlands, they both agreed it was an all-star team from several different countries - hence the "Lands".



Colorful Uruguay





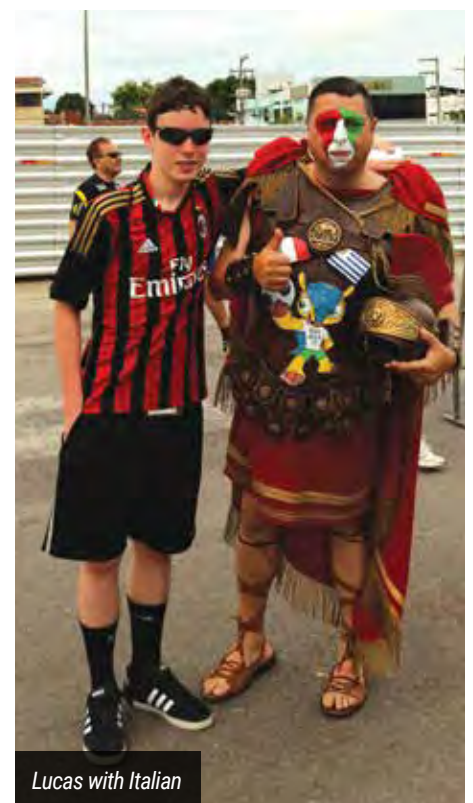
American fans



Brazilians



Japanese



Lucas with Italian

In 2014, it was off to Brazil where my son Lucas and I attended seven games all over the country. A highlight was meeting Miguel de Lima, truly one of great ambassadors of world soccer. He regaled us with stories about each of the world's great players. His office was filled with photos and memorabilia from his time as a player and coach. He saved his best stories for tales about his good friend Pele. We traveled to Brazil with a group known as The American Outlaws, major



# GETTING A KICK FROM SOCCER

supporters of U.S. Soccer. The Outlaws had arranged for a game between themselves, mostly former American collegiate players, and a second division Brazilian team. Lucas was asked to participate.

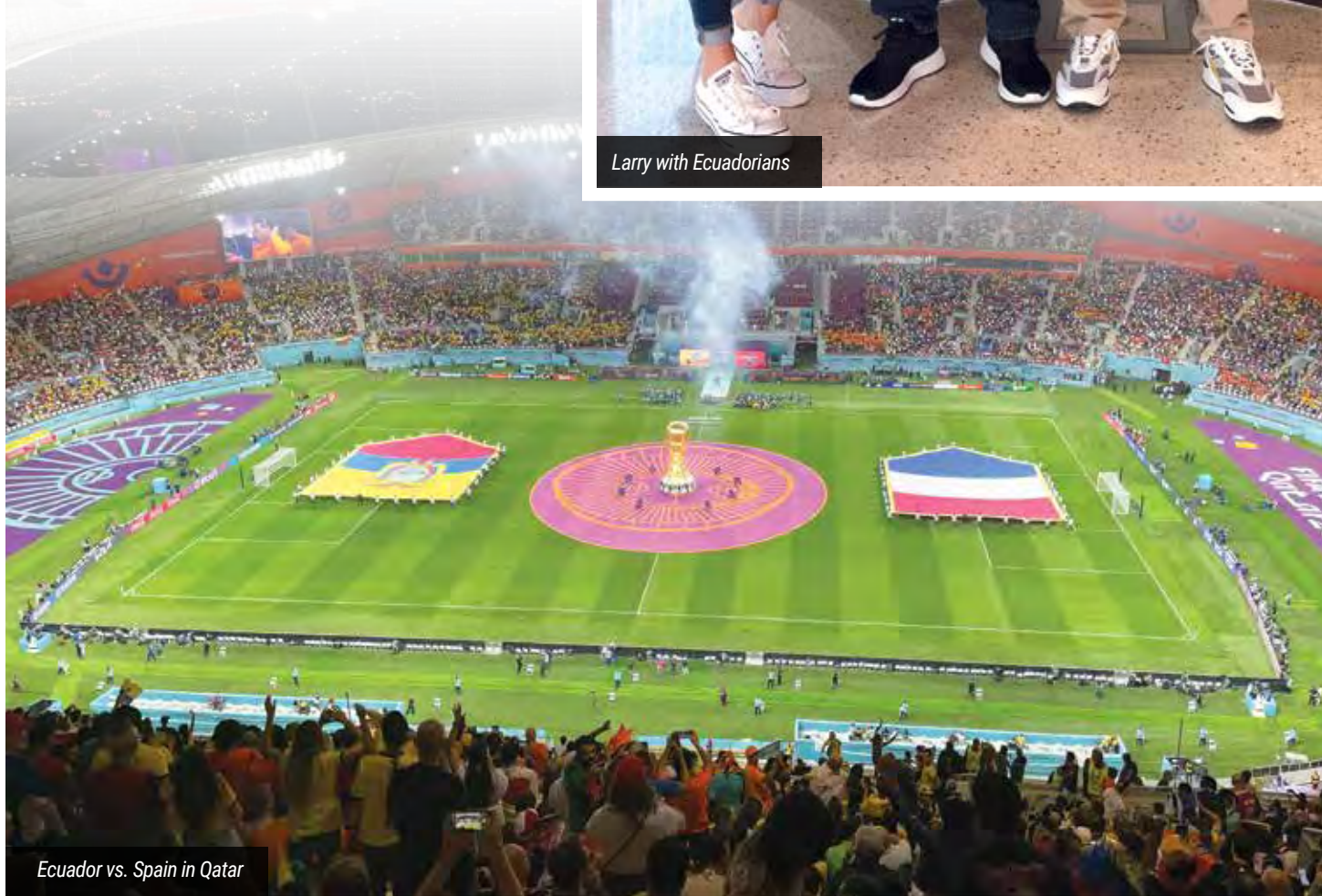
In Moscow for the 2018 World Cup, we attended THE game as Russia shocked world power Spain, in a quarterfinal match. Everyone in Moscow (and the remainder of Russia) celebrated that momentous victory. My son and I walked the streets of Moscow for hours and hours enjoying the fervor of the fans.

In 2022, it was an Asian World Cup in Qatar. Because of the small size of the country, travel between games the same day was simplified. I attended the "new" revolutionary war, as the USA faced England.

In 2027, the World Cup will come to North America. Games will be held in Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. I have attended major sporting events throughout the world. Nothing compares to the atmosphere at a World Cup game. For those living in North America, do not miss this opportunity.



Larry with Ecuadorians



Ecuador vs. Spain in Qatar



# SAILING THE SEVEN SEAS

BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR WIN EVERETT,  
RET. CAPTAIN USN (AT LARGE, FLORIDA)



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy, I had the honor of literally sailing (and flying in my A-7 Corsair II and F/A-18 Hornet) around the world. Crossing the seven seas and visiting six of the seven continents, I finally made it to the 7<sup>th</sup> Continent - Antarctica in 2022 not in uniform and got to cross the Antarctic Circle (66° 33' S) on this adventure.

The Navy has many traditions and unique milestones dating back to Mariners of long ago to mark accomplishments in which they had "Been there, Done that." Since times of old, all sailors knew of Neptune's (God of the Seas) Rule and his fickleness. To document their accomplishments, unofficial certificates are awarded. Some of these have ceremonies required to earn, others are awarded by just sailing through that part of King Neptune's realm.



Win then and now

My introduction to King Neptune came on my first cruise around the world, aboard the U.S.S. Carl Vinson (CVN-70) off the coast of West Africa when I crossed the equator for the first time and earned the title of "Shellback." This is the granddaddy of all seagoing ceremonies and most revered. To become a shellback, one must go through an initiation when a ship crosses the Equator. Here the uninitiated Sailor "Pollywog" (Sailor who has not previously crossed the Equator) becomes "Shellback" and a subject of King Neptune.

I was a pilot in VA-37 "Raging Bulls" on board the Carl Vinson (a.k.a. Starship) when I crossed the Equator at the Prime Meridian (0° latitude / 0° longitude). This is a rare event as most navy ships from the east coast cross into the Indian Ocean via the Suez Canal, but in 1983, no large Navy ships were passing through the canal. Traditional shipping lanes would not take a ship across this point in the ocean as it was a long detour for sailing around Africa. But I was on the "Starship," the Navy's newest aircraft carrier and as the Skipper said, "We have 20 years of

nuclear fuel on board, and we could either use it or lose it" (for the reactor fuel had an expected lifetime of 20 years). So, our Navigator charted our course to cross the Equator at the Prime Meridian. Crossing here, we earned the special Shellback designation of "**Royal Diamond Shellback.**" All other equator crossings grant a sailor a "Shellback" title. A fun bragging-rights challenge that sailors can use to flex on the uninitiated (a.k.a. "pollywogs").

My participation in the time old ritual of becoming a Shellback festivity began the night before with the Beauty Queen competition for King Neptune. I was one of three JOs (Junior Officers) who were still pollywogs in my squadron. The ceremony was exhausting but fun, however the non-skid started wearing away at your knees as they had us crawling across the flight deck. I had thought that I had prepared myself for the ordeal, placing extra padding in my pants to soften the Shellback paddles; it worked for a while. All



# SAILING THE SEVEN SEAS

the paddling was tolerable but the activities of drinking grog and kissing Neptune's belly I could have done without. Red axle grease covered King Neptune's belly, covered



your face, and caked in your hair. It was an exhausting day, nonetheless the ceremony was unforgettable, and I earned the right to be called a **"Royal Diamond Shellback."**

The real fun was trying to get clean after the ceremony. I tossed my greasy clothing in the overboard off the flight deck and went below to clean up. I went through one bar of soap, half a bottle of shampoo, one



comb and two towels trying to remove all the grease caked on during the ceremony. Forty-five minutes later I started to become less greasy when the water stopped running in the showers as there were too many trying to get clean (the ship's water supply was shut off). Later that night, still a bit greasy, I returned to the shower once

the water supply was replenished to sufficient levels. I found that Wisk worked wonders on greasy hair. Although there was a temporary loss of water, the ship never did deplete its water supply although it was reported that 270,000 gallons of water were used that day.

The U.S.S. Carl Vison world cruise was unforgettable and my first cruise as a Naval Aviator. As the F.N.G (F\*cking New Guy) I had to walk aboard the ship to start the cruise. We flew up from NAS Cecil Field, Florida to Norfolk VA were underway on March 1. The rest of the squadron pilots flew the jets aboard the ship the following day. As an omen for the cruise, the jets flew on board with 50 kts of natural wind, so the ship was backing down at 15 kts to reduce the wind over the deck to a tolerable 35 kts. For the pilots flying aboard, it was quite the sight coming into the break overhead the ship for landing and see the wake coming from the bow of the ship. The cruise was from March 1 to October 29 (eight months), the normal cruises were six months. After all the aircraft were aboard, we headed south to the Caribbean to finish workups. Then the ship turned eastward for the Mediterranean Sea passing the Strait of Gibraltar for the first of many times with the Navy thereby earning the **"Order of the Rock"** certificate.

We had a port visit to Monte Carlo before heading to the Indian Ocean, via a trip around the Cape of Good Hope. Enroute, we had port visits in Casablanca, Morocco, and Abidjan Ivory Coast (the African Rivera). We spent several weeks flying around the Northern Arabian Sea before a quick (5,400 mile) jaunt to Perth Australia. Best liberty port ever, but we had to return to the Northern Arabian Sea for few more weeks of flight operations afterward. Price of returning to the "Gonzo Station" was worth the trip to Perth, although coming to the six month point in the cruise, many were ready to head home, but we still had two more months to go. Extending the cruise was fine by me, as it meant more flights, catapult shots and arrested landings (a.k.a. cats/traps). I enjoyed flying off the ship daily (both day and night flight ops) which made the days go by faster, unlike for the ship's sailors who remained "Haze gray and underway" waiting for port calls or the return home.

When we finally started to turn the ship eastward, everyone was ready to steam quickly home. But not so fast as the "Starship" had more things to do and places to go first. We visited Cubi Point Philippines, Hong Kong, Sasebo Japan, Pusan Korea, and Pearl Harbor before sailing into Alameda California, then flying back to NAS Cecil Field Florida completing the around the world cruise. Scheduling all these port visits at the end of a long cruise was a smart move by the Navy Leadership,







helping to erase the memory of all the long at sea periods. My first operational cruise earned me title to the rarest unofficial U.S. Navy "Order of the Magellan" award. This order goes out to every sailor that completes what Ferdinand Magellan couldn't, circumnavigating the world.

As a Midshipman five years earlier, I joined the U.S.S. Emory S. Land (AS-39) in Alameda, California for a summer cruise and sailed through the Panama Canal to Norfolk VA and earning the "Order of the Ditch" certificate. Although not part of my world cruise aboard the U.S.S. Carl Vinson, having sailed on these two ships I can state that I have completely circumnavigated the world on the seven seas.

My Naval career has taken me on many incredible adventures and some cruise workups carried me to the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico qualifying me for the "Order of the Spanish Main" having plowed the seas of the Conquistadors and pirates.



Desert Storm led to the first of many transits of the Suez Canal, I earned the "Safari to Suez" Certificate. During these transits to pass the time with flight operations cancelled, we would have a steel beach day on the flight deck.

Getting to Antarctica in 2022 brought me to the Antarctic Ocean, the final sea to sail. The ancient mariners had a different classification of the term "seven seas," sailing the seven largest bodies of water. They are the four oceans (Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic and Indian), the Mediterranean Sea, Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico. Since the ancient Mariners didn't know of the Antarctic Ocean, it's a suitable substitute for the long-known Arctic Sea, rounding out my adventures of the Seven Seas. Crossing the Antarctic circle venturing south to 66° 40' 17" S / 67° 07' 44" W, I completed my collection of Nautical certificates that King Neptune has bestowed on me, the "Order of the Sparrow."

"Join the Navy – See the World, it's Not just a Job but an Adventure," truly sums up my circumnavigation of the Seven Seas.





# IF IT'S TUESDAY THIS MUST BE BELGIUM



Beautiful Florence



Six Circumnavigators among the travelers.  
Jeff Clarke, Dottie Mink, David Mink, Cindy Clarke,  
Fran and Vincent Cucchiara (all Naples Chapter).



BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR VINCENT CUCCHIARA  
(NAPLES CHAPTER)

How many of us can recall this movie which poked fun at Americans attempting to see all of Europe in 18 days? Well, a better idea is to concentrate on one particular region.

A few pre-COVID years ago, a group of like-minded travelers were discussing how much fun it would be to have a staycation in Tuscany. Our desire was to discover the back roads of Tuscany without feeling rushed.

Over glasses of wine, we adopted our motto: "Food, Friendship, Knowledge and Experience." Maybe the motto should have been "Experiences", but our motto is an example of planning by committee.

We planned our staycation, and then COVID forced us to place the entire trip on hold. Finally, last September, we embarked on our trip. We rented the Villa Dimora in Imprunetta overlooking the hills of Chianti and began our back roads journey.

Some trip highlights included cooking classes in Pontassieve at Fattoria Lavacchio, cheese tasting and al fresco dining at Podere Il Casale in Pienza, and a visit to the American Cemetery near Florence.

Fattoria Lavacchio is located near the medieval village of Pontassieve. Our chef directed us in the proper preparation of biscotti, potato gnocchi and veal scallopine and sage. We learned to make the perfect gnocchi; roll the dough and then pinch

the gnocchi with your thumb. We rolled and pinched until we had enough perfect gnocchi for the first part of our meal. More instructions followed on sautéing the veal; only flour one side of the veal; sauté the other side with the sage leaves and serve. We dined on our results of our labors and finished with our biscotti and Vin Santo. Fantastic!

Podere il Casale is located in the village of Pienza in the Val d'Orcia, a UNESCO Heritage site. Fifty years ago, as the young people left for the city, this southern end of Tuscany was almost deserted. While most think of the richness of the Tuscan soil, the southern end of Tuscany suffers from poor soil conditions. The Italian government offered land to Sardinian farmers to bring their sheep over and reclaim the land for sheep grazing.





At Podere il Casale we witnessed the cheese making process and the aging of a unique cheese, Pecorino di Pienza. This cheese is unlike Pecorino Romano. Pecorino Romano tends to have a very strong salty taste. Pecorino di Pienza has a softer flavor but still is best served with sweet jam and honey. The sheep dine on a diet of wild herbs and clover which gives the sheep milk a distinct flavor to make this unique cheese. Later we dined al fresco overlooking the Val d'Orcia; a magnificent day full of laughter and great memories.

The Florence American Cemetery & Memorial is located off the auto route from Rome to Milan. Some may say it lies forgotten like the World War II battles fought in Italy against the Germans. Over 4400 American men and women are buried

there, and a wall of remembrance has the names of over 1400 soldiers and airmen missing in action. It is beautiful: a peaceful and serene place. It doesn't receive the number of visitors as the American Cemetery in Normandy, but the United States maintains it impeccably. The U.S. ensures that their sacrifices, in the name of freedom, are not forgotten.

We were a group of 16 travelers, six members of the Circumnavigators Club. The beauty of our staycation was detailed planning, arranging activities and the handling of logistics in advance, making our trip less stressful. It never felt like we were herding 16 sheep.





# In Our Circle

BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR MICHAEL PULDY,  
ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

# WORLD OF

Circumnavigator Don Parrish (Chicago Chapter) has been called by one international publication, *The Most Traveled Man in History*. Considering that extensive air travel only became prevalent in the last decades, this may be true.

Meet Don Parrish.

He has held 15 passports ranging from two years to ten years in duration because like all seasoned travelers, he required one passport so he can always be traveling and a second passport to secure an all-important visa for the next trip.

He is fluent in German and English.

His largest single passport contains 122 pages.

His cousins include five ancestors from the Mayflower, 12 ancestors who fought in the American Revolution, and notable historic figures from early America including Eli Whitney, John Brown, Harriett Beecher Stow and Clara Barton.

He has visited all 193 UN recognized countries, and all 330 countries and territories denoted by the Travelers Century Club.

He holds the number one pole position on the Most Traveled People website, having visited 937 locations, and he is a member of the Extreme Traveler International Congress.

A long-time resident of Chicago, Don was born in Washington, DC, grew up in Iowa, graduated with a computer science/math degree at the University of Texas, when computer science was in its infancy, and spent a career in telecommunications with Bell Labs.

While Don's accomplishments traveling to every corner of the planet places him in a league of his own, what truly differentiates Don from the pack is his meticulous attention to documentation and details.

"Since 2006, my trips have an 'executive' summary spreadsheet with trip objects, flights, train information and hotels. Then I find or make a map for the trip. Finally, I create a laminated sheet with the exec summary on one side and a map on the other. Very handy and an easy show and tell."

All trips and passports are also numbered and catalogued.

For example, on trip 94 to Kazakhstan last year, each day was planned from morning to afternoon to evening and included key objectives such as visiting a world heritage site.

It's clear without both focus and organization, achieving the success in seeing what feels like the entire globe, and receiving Don's well-deserved notoriety, would not be possible.

After six decades of global travel, Don said it's difficult to find an "untouched" country, and he remembers the day when security checks to board a plane were non-existent. Also, because of the rising tides of tourists, places like the Parthenon and Stonehenge are now blocked versus the open access of days long gone.

And even though Don is a two million miler on United, he doesn't track his air miles or connect with many loyalty programs.

"I don't have a favorite [airline or hotel] because I travel to so many remote places where you only have one airline [or hotel]. However, I recommend the Dwarika in Kathmandu for its atmosphere. Really special!"



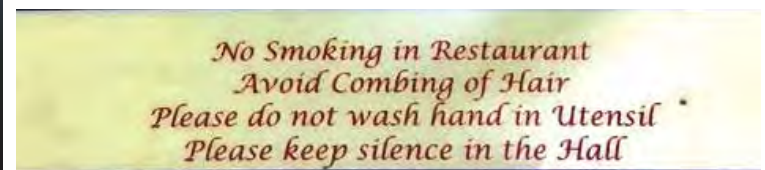


# EXPERIENCES EXPERIENCES EXPERIENCES





# GLOBAL GOBBLEDYGOOK





Circumnavigators sent us numerous amusing signs that they found around the world. Here are a few that readers will enjoy. Please continue to send photos of signs to headquarters.



**PLEASE NOTE**

SURFACES WITHIN THESE TOILETS  
HAVE BEEN TREATED WITH A  
CHEMICAL TO PREVENT THE USE OF  
ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES.



トイレを綺麗にご使用下さい。

Please use a toilet finely.

请清洁的使用厕所

화장실을 예쁘게 사용해 주십시오

鹿苑寺







# WELCOME *aboard*

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE ELECTED TO OUR "GREAT CIRCLE" BY OUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## MEREDITH AMON



A former nurse and Peace Corps volunteer, Meredith spent 6 years living in

Africa including time spent as a docent at the Nairobi National Museum under Richard Leakey. A resident of Portland, Meredith's circumnavigation was aboard a Russian ice breaker through the Northeast Passage. She was one of the first tourist passengers in the Russian arctic. Meredith will join the Pacific Northwest Chapter.

## ROBERT AMON



A member of the Travelers' Century Club and Most Traveled People, Dr. Amon

was a physician with the Peace Corps in Africa before returning to the US to practice dermatology. He also acted as a clinical investigator for Proctor & Gamble Company. Robert joined his wife Meredith on their circumnavigation of the Northeast passage aboard a Russian ice breaker and will also join the Pacific Northwest Chapter.

## MELANIE ARMSTRONG



A four-time circumnavigator and member of the Travelers' Century Club, Melanie

joins us from her home base in Virginia. She is the founder and owner of ThroughLine Consultants where she uses genetic genealogy to help law enforcement close cold cases, and a former partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers and lead the development of PwC's International Development practice. She has two teenage children.

## ANTHONY BAILEY



Anthony is a senior public relations and public affairs consultant

who specializes in government and diplomatic missions, media relationships, and crisis management. Born in Dublin, and now splitting his time between Palm Beach and Portugal, Anthony completed his circumnavigation in 1991, with Dublin as his terminal travel points. Anthony is a Life Fellow of the United Kingdom's Royal Geographical Society.

## JEFFREY CARRIER



A graduate of Florida State University, Jeff has traveled to more than 150 countries and

is a retired CPA and bank board consultant. For over 15 years, Jeff served as a board member for a publicly traded financial institution and worked for the International Monetary Fund as a subject matter expert. Jeff is also qualified in US courts as a financial sector expert. Jeff joins the Naples Chapter.

## TIMOTHY DEVITT



Tim is a diplomat of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, and is the author of

over 100 publications in the fields of environmental engineering, science and economics. Before retiring, he served as Managing Director for consultancies focused on environmental risk management. Tim and his wife Suzanne live seasonally in Florida and Massachusetts and have two children and four grandchildren. His circumnavigation was completed in 1989.

## EDNA FOSTER



Born in Germany and now living in Jacksonville, Florida, Edna worked for the U.S. government,

and lived across Europe, Africa and Asia. She completed her circumnavigation in 2014 on a 40-day itinerary after retiring from a career in public service.

## TORREY FOSTER



A graduate of Yale, and with service on the U.S.S. Missouri destroyer, Torrey

pursued a career in international law. His international career led to expat assignments in Sao Paulo, Brazil and in Oslo, Norway. Torrey has held board and leadership positions at the Red Cross, American Cancer Society, and United Way of Naples, Florida. Torrey is married and joins the Naples Chapter.

## HEGINA (HENNA) FULLER



Originally from the Philippines, Henna is fluent in several languages, and

founder of Cultural Wanderer, a magazine and tour company. She is also a member of the Travelers Century Club, Philippine Global Explorers, and 220+ on the list of Most Traveled People. Henna has traveled to 108 countries and has completed two circumnavigations (2006 and 2001). Now living in Kansas City, she also runs her yoga studio, NKCYOGA.

## MACKENZIE GENTZ



Currently a graduate student at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich,

Mackenzie completed her first circumnavigation last summer with the support from a Circumnavigator Research Grant. Inspired by her recent trip to Prague, she is learning Czech as her third language. Mackenzie also hosts *The Book Album* podcast published bi-weekly with a catalog of 230 episodes. In episode 229, she shares her study techniques to become proficient in Czech.

## CHERYL GLORCH



Cheryl spent 7 years as an expatriate living in Istanbul and Phnom Penh where she ultimately

created a recruitment business for English speaking teachers. While in Cambodia, Cheryl started a foundation to educate children with disabilities, and she currently serves as a school Director. She has completed multiple circumnavigations and splits her time between Naples, Florida and Tarbes, France. Cheryl will join the Naples Chapter.

## IAN GREEN



A resident of London, Ian leads Green Financial, a firm that focuses on pre and

post retirement financial advice. Ian is also the author of *The Financial Advisor* plus numerous professional papers. He completed his circumnavigation in 2022, as part of his participation as a speaker at industry symposiums in Chicago and Sydney. Ian is married with two children and will join the London Chapter.





# WELCOME *aboard*

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE ELECTED TO OUR "GREAT CIRCLE" BY OUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## HOLLY HENNESSY



Holly's travel lifestyle began as a student with a semester abroad in

Copenhagen followed by work in Japan. She has circumnavigated the globe four times – three times by ship and once by air. Originally from Wisconsin, she has retired from a career in wealth management and now lives in South Florida. Holly will join the Palm Beach Chapter.

## PETER HO



Peter is executive chairman and co-founder of HOPE Technik Pte Ltd a provider

of robotics and special purpose vehicles. Early in his career, Peter focused on race car engineering and was involved with the robotic exploration at the Great Pyramid in Egypt with National Geographic. He holds various appointments within the Singaporean commercial and government community and joins the Singapore chapter.

## JOY KUNDAHL



Dr. Kundahl received her doctorate from the University of Virginia and retired

as an educator after 38 years. Joy also enjoyed a home in Southern France on the Mediterranean where she would spend 6 months a year across nearly 2 decades. From her French base, she enjoyed frequent travels across Europe and Africa. Joy is a member of the Florida International Club and joins the Naples chapter.

## VIVICA LEWIS



A recipient of the 2022 Round the World study grant, Vivica headed south to

Buenos Aires before spending the remainder of her travels in England, Ireland, France and Singapore. Vivica's project, "Birth Control Bans to Contraceptive Care," investigated historical restrictions and modern-day cultural practices around contraceptives. Vivica will graduate with her Bachelor's degree from Northwestern in June, and joins the Chicago chapter.

## ALLAN LIM YEE CHIAN



Allan is chairman and founder of Comcrop, Singapore's first "in-city" rooftop

production farm company which uses sustainable technology to grow fresh vegetables and herbs for local markets. Allan also led a team to create a futuristic farm on Singapore's famous SCAPE building, voted in 2015 as one of the 25 most futuristic farms in the world. Allan completed his circumnavigation in 2019 and joins the Singapore chapter.

## JEREMY ONG



Jeremy is the CEO of Universal Aquaculture, a Singapore company focused on the

production of sustainable seafood. A long-time entrepreneur and investor of projects focused on reducing carbon emissions and sustainability, his previous venture helped Singaporean companies reduce carbon emissions within their fleet vehicles. Jeremy completed his circumnavigation in 2022 during an around the world business trip. Jeremy will join the Singapore Chapter.

## FARLEY RENTSCHLER



Originally from New York, Farley began a career in art before turning her focus to film producing

several documentaries. Farley is a portfolio manager and VP of the Board of Directors of the Charleston Corporation Holding Companies. A member of the Explorer's Club and the Junior League of the Palm Beaches, Farley divides her time between Palm Beach and Portugal, She joins the Palm Beach chapter.

## TIMOTHY ROBERTS



Dr. Roberts was awarded his PhD from the University of Cambridge and is

currently an engineer with Apple. His thesis was based on Sparsity-based signal recovery, and he has published several professional papers with the IEEE honorary society. Timothy completed his circumnavigation during the summer of 2019 with trip highlights in South America, Africa and Southeast Asia. Timothy lives in Jacksonville and New York City.

## WALTER SUSLAK



A resident of Jacksonville, Walter is a retired marine engineer. Born in Salem,

Massachusetts, upon college graduation, he received his Ensign commission in the US naval reserve and spent much of his career on merchant ships traveling the world. During his time as Chief Engineer on the American New York, he made 3 round the world trips. At that time, this vessel was the largest container ship in the world.

## IRENE THOMPSON



Irene is the executive advisor to the CEO of Vizient, the leading healthcare

improvement company in the U.S., and she is highly recognized within the healthcare industry receiving the B'nai B'rith National Healthcare Award and listed as one of the top 25 women in healthcare by Modern Healthcare Magazine. Irene completed her circumnavigation in 2014 and will join the Naples Chapter.

## NATASHA VAN BENTUM



A Canadian, Natasha has been active as a fundraiser, advocate of

global initiatives and writer. She was the wife of the late Henri van Bentum, a legendary member of the Circumnavigators Club. Natasha made her first circumnavigation in 1974 when she accompanied Henri on a world cruise on which he served as artist and lecturer.

## CAROLINE VOLK



Born in England and now a resident of St. Augustine, Florida, Caroline

began her career as a trauma nurse working in the United States and in Australia. Today she volunteers at a free clinic and was instrumental in setting up the outreach program bringing healthcare to the homeless population of North Florida. Travel is in Caroline's blood, and she was an avid scuba diver as locations permitted.





# FOUNDATION *news*

## FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S *LETTER*

Dear Fellow Circumnavigators:

Your financial gifts, from the very smallest to the hugely generous, are put to work to help further in a very tangible way our club's quest to make the world a better place. There is no better evidence of that than the testimonials of our Foundation Scholars, virtually all of whom attribute their grant-funded circumnavigations as turning points in their lives. We invite you to view a sampling of those testimonials – in the Scholars' own words – in the videos produced to observe our first 50 years of grant-making. Their stories are enlightening, inspiring, and full of wonderful travel anecdotes that all Circumnavigators can relate to. Please visit [circumnavigators.org](http://circumnavigators.org) and view the video under the Foundation tab named "Foundation 50th Anniversary".

It is not often that we single out donors but are compelled to do so in the case of C Richard Stephan, for his support of the Foundation has been nothing short of exemplary. This is all the more so since Rick is one of our first Foundation Scholars (Georgetown, 1973; topic: "Influence of Youth in Foreign Countries") and has served the Foundation both as Treasurer and Director. Rick is not only a generous regular donor to the Foundation, but also recently became the first double qualifier for the Foundation's Leadership Council (comprised of members who donate \$10,000 or more) by making a second qualifying donation on top of the first one of more than a decade ago. Rick made both \$10,000 donations without fanfare, but the note he enclosed with the latest is worth sharing, for it captures the spirit of what our grant program is all about. It is reproduced to the right. Please take a moment to read it and to view Rick's Foundation Scholar video to in which he relates his fascinating – and at times harrowing – experiences during his travel-study circumnavigation in the summer of 1973.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqYscfQzDw>

Luck to You!

Greg Rider

## CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB FOUNDATION SCHOLARS 2023

*Our 2023 Foundation scholars are leaving soon  
on their trip around the world!*

*Wish them luck as they begin their adventure.*



**SOFIA DOROSHENKO**  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

**RESEARCH TOPIC:**  
*"Remembering the past: how  
does civil society challenge  
official government memory?"*



**ELIZABETH HYUN**  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

**RESEARCH TOPIC:**  
*"A comparative study  
on psychotraumatology:  
investigating factors that  
contribute to the prevalence of  
trauma diagnoses in  
post-conflict countries."*

Mr. Gregory Rider  
Circumnavigators Club Foundation  
50 Vanderbilt Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Greg,

As we are coming up on the 50th(!) anniversary of my travel study grant and first circumnavigation, I thought it would be appropriate to re-up my membership in the Foundation's Leadership Council with this donation.

The recent video you posted of the past grantees was so inspiring. It was very impressive to see their accomplishments and to hear their thoughts on what the grants meant to them. Similarly, the grant was an integral part of my education at Georgetown and it helped me remember, during a long international career, to try to do whatever I could to make the world a better place.

How pleasing it is to be among the first who perhaps blazed a trail for such an accomplished group and to see that the Foundation's work continues to thrive and grow!

All the best,

Richard Stephan  
1973 Grantee



# OVER THE HORIZON



## **BARBARA FRANCH - CHICAGO, IL MARCH 7, 2023**

Barbara Franch, long-time member and wife of International Treasurer, Jim Franch, crossed over the horizon on March 7, 2023. Barb was a dedicated member and treasurer of the Chicago Chapter for many years. She will be greatly missed and long remembered.

**Charles Dunnavan**  
Orono, MN  
November 21, 2022

**Hildegard Jones**  
Palm Beach, FL  
September 16, 2022

**Marilyn Sherwood**  
Naples, FL  
December 22, 2022



## **LOIS KAHAN - NEW YORK, NY NOVEMBER 26, 2022**

The Circumnavigators Club Honorary President, Lois Kahan, passed away in her New York City apartment on November 26, 2023. Our entire membership mourns this charming and vivacious woman who exemplified what it means to be a Circumnavigator.

A native of Chicago, but a longtime die heart New Yorker, Lois had a long career as an educator in both cities. After retirement, many of her travels were to remote areas where she taught English. She spent many journeys to Eastern European countries including the Ukraine on these missions.

But to the multitude of her friends, Lois was the model of growing old gracefully while not relinquishing the spark of adventure and

fearlessness. Flights, cruises, trains to every continent was her task at hand. Nothing was too far away! There was no voice in her unconscious that whispered to her, "this might be too much to handle." Suitcase and passport in hand, off she ventured. Whether to Southeast Asia, Sri Lanka, Africa or Latin America, this great lady thrived living new experiences and most importantly, meeting and learning from new individuals. She was at home equally comfortable, whether her conversation partner was an octogenarian or a teenager.

Lois Kahan's life was an inspiration to us all. She was greatly loved and will be greatly missed.



## **ALBERT PODELL - NEW YORK, NY APRIL 9, 2023**

Author and Adventurer Albert Podell (New York Metro) has passed away after a lengthy battle to recover from a stroke. Albert's humorous tales of world travel were often presented to Circumnavigators. His books, including the best-selling Around the World in 50 Years, gave lively accounts of his visits to every country. He contributed to The LOG which carried his column Rambling with Albert. He was a classic and will be missed by his friends and the Circumnavigators Club.

**Alexander Sutherland**  
Pittsford, NY  
January 26, 2023

**Mary Wright**  
Lake Forest, IL  
June 9, 2022



# chapter highlights

## CHICAGO

The **Chicago Chapter** hosted two events featuring Northwestern University's most recent scholars.

**Vivica Lewis** presented her research project "**Birth Control Bans to Contraceptive Care**" at the Union League Club in Chicago. She captivated the audience with her discoveries, the implications of her research, and her passion for the field, to which she will continue to contribute. Vivica's family, along with former Scholars Amanda Davis (Northwestern) and Daniel Dozier (Georgetown) attended the event.

**Mackenzie Gentz** presented her research project "**Linguistic Baggage: A Global Examination of Adult Accent Training in English as a Second Language (ESL) Classrooms**" at Lake Point Tower in Chicago. She provided a detailed look at the variables, and their implications, of ESL education at her 6 destinations. Foundation Coordinator Deanna Padgett congratulated Mackenzie on her successful journey. Vice President of Membership, Jim Franch presented Mackenzie with her official membership certificate, as well as a Chicago Circumnavigators travel journal.







## MICHIGAN

The Michigan Chapter enjoyed a luncheon at the Plum Hollow Country Club. Chapter President Kathy Sinclair welcomed new members Bill Volz and Mary Kramer.



## PALM BEACH

The Palm Beach Chapter held a successful event at the Irish Brigade in Fort Worth, FL. Circumnavigators Brad and Susan Gary made a fascinating presentation on their trip to the

Arctic, Russia and the "Top of the World". Additionally, Circumnavigator Tom Van Horn reported on his visit to watch the NASA Artemis launch. Tom realized that he had to get it right since distinguished Astronaut and Circumnavigator Robert Crippen was in the audience.

Chapter officers Paulette and Paul Noble with Susan and Brad Gary.

## NAPLES

The Naples Chapter held its monthly meeting on March 12th at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. Seventy members attended to hear David Mink, Circumnavigators Club International President, tell us stories, dramatic and humorous about our historic Club, which was founded in New York City in 1902. He also shared information on our worldwide chapters. Executive Director, Tracy Sancilio, joined us from New York and presented information on the Circumnavigators Club Foundation. A very interesting presentation, and a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all.



## MIAMI



The Miami Chapter of Circumnavigators enjoyed a wonderful event at the Royal Indian restaurant in Fort Lauderdale.

## PACIFIC-SOUTHWEST



Members and guests gathered for a delicious brunch on March 24. George Beebe presented "Round the World Trip #14 with a quick look at Singapore, Bangkok, and Jeddah."

Arthur Hammons, George Beebe, Larry Branton, Ken Mink, JJ Mink, JaNell McCullough, Virginia Foster, Kathleen Beebe, Lynn Payette and Caroline Parrish



# chapter highlights

## PACIFIC-NORTHWEST

The Pacific-Northwest Chapter gathered for a holiday celebration.



## WASHINGTON DC

The DC Chapter met at Panda Gourmet in Washington DC. Foundation grantee **Sophia Doroshenko** gave a presentation on her planned circumnavigation this coming summer.



## UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom Chapter House of Lords dinner was held on December 8, 2022.

Ges Roulstone, Don Parrish, Mo Vin El Fouly, Helen Jenkins, Rob Wilkinson, Lord Faulkner, Ann Swinford, Laura Schramm, Gigi Sutton, Alan Soper, Jane Lewis, Roberta Roulstone, Gavin Shaw, Marii Mak, Anthony Willoughby, Evan Tucker

## SINGAPORE

Singapore Chapter President Ang Hao Yao presided over a successful Singapore Chapter 2023 AGM followed by a sumptuous dinner. The event was held at the prestigious Tower Club which sits at the top of one of Singapore's tallest buildings with panoramic views over Marina Bay. Guests looked forward to the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit as they ate beautiful Chinese food accompanied with fine wines and sang along with the excellent band.





# THROUGH MY LENS

TIPS FOR A TRAVELING  
PHOTOGRAPHER

## PEOPLE CLOSE UP

BY CIRCUMNAVIGATOR  
GUNTHER WINKLER  
(NAPLES CHAPTER)



When I travel and document a country with the camera, the most fascinating subjects for me are the local people. Walking through the streets of a foreign city or roaming the countryside provides plenty of opportunities to observe and capture in pictures people at their daily activities. Most rewarding but also most challenging are closeup portraits. Shall I ask them for permission in advance or take a candid shot and ask for permission to use the photograph afterwards? It depends on the situation and the skill is to judge the reaction of the subject in advance. Of course, it always helps to thank them with a big smile. Almost always the resulting photograph is a great memory of a brief and very close-up encounter with a stranger in a far-away country.



I encountered these two ladies in Vietnam. The young woman was outgoing and gave me a great smile when I ask her to pose for me. The older lady was very reluctant at first to give me a smile but after a few minutes of trying to initiate sign language conversations with her she finally warmed up and gave me a smile. Tooth lacquering with black dyes is a custom in some Vietnamese tribes.



**Three men from three continents.**

The portrait of the Maasai in Kenya is an example of taking a candid shot and thanking the man after the fact. The result expresses the dynamic of the encounter. The young man from



Rajasthan, India, had no objections to pose for my camera after we had made some small talk. In this photo I placed him intentionally against a white background to avoid any distractions from the portrait. The opposite holds true for the tobacco farmer in Cuba. This is his environment, the dark wooden shed where he hangs the tobacco leaves for drying. The opening to the right illuminates one half of his face while the other half stays mysteriously in the dark. I blurred the background by choosing a large aperture, thus emphasizing his face.





**Portraits can also be taken of a person who is a part of a group.**

In these instances, I find it advantageous when one person is highlighted and the others become part of the assemble. There are four examples on how to achieve this. The three Vietnamese women in white dresses walked by me and in the very moment that I took the photo one of them turned towards me. In this shot she becomes the main subject of the group portrait. In the case of the three women in Iran I focused my camera on the woman in the foreground and blurred the others. In the picture with the woman and her baby in Bhutan I placed the mother in the center of the frame. The baby is to the right and I cropped the photo so that another child's face is just showing in right lower corner. It indicates that there is more to the family than shows at first glance. In another shot from Vietnam I encountered a mother with her teenage daughter. The mother was very shy and looked away when I ask if I could take a portrait of the two. The daughter on the other hand wanted to be photographed and urged her mother to pose with her. It turned out perfectly. The daughter self-confidently smiling directly at me while the mother avoids looking into my lens but can't help smiling herself when she sees her daughter being so excited.



**These are two examples of frontal portraits with the eyes in the center of the frame.** A dance performer in Panama and a Ovahimba woman in Namibia.

**The next two photos are examples where the person is off center.** This technique can enhance the mood of the situation or can show to the viewer the context of the encounter. I captured the photo of the orthodox priest at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. This is a very busy place crowded with tourists and pilgrims. This clergyman found a quiet niche for rest and contemplation. Placing him to the side of the picture increases the notion of him being secluded from the crowd in person and in spirit. In the next picture we see a coffee plantation worker in Panama. Showing her in the context of her environment. The coffee plants and the berries that she is picking conveys the situation, a nameless hard-working hero who provides us with our daily coffee.



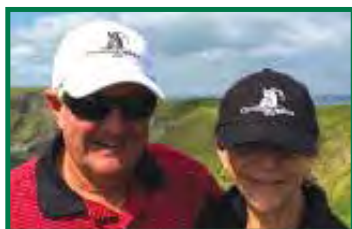




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## CLUB HEADQUARTERS The Yale Club of New York City

50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, New York 10017



The Yale Club is International Headquarters for the Circumnavigators Club allowing members to utilize the facility for private dining, special events, cocktail receptions and meetings. The club offers three restaurants including the elegant Roof Dining Room, the pub-like Grill Room and the Yale-inspired Tap Room. Members will have access to these rooms by checking in at the front desk and letting the staff know you are a Circumnavigator Club member. You no longer have to make reservations through our Executive Director. The Yale Club welcomes you to stop in or call for reservations. There are also well-appointed guest rooms available from studios to suites. When booking an

overnight stay, guests have full access to the club including all three restaurants, a full-service library, and a fitness facility with a swimming pool, squash courts, cardio equipment and freeweights. Once a reservation is made, a personal credit card is required upon arrival.