

YEAR IN REVIEW
2022

**6** My Social Book



## YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2022



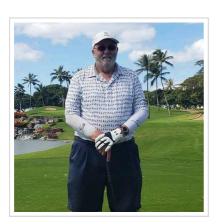
PROUD PAPA MOMENT. LANCE IS CRUSHING IT AS A PARTNER FOR BOREN, OSHER & LUFTMAN. IF YOU EVER NEED AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER, PLEASE CONTACT HIM DIRECTL(...)



To learn more, go to page 142

## 

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# JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

A beautiful day on Oahu. Aloha.

☐ 33 photos

**■** 5 statuses



Saturday, January 1, 2022



Saturday, January 1st, 9:04 PM

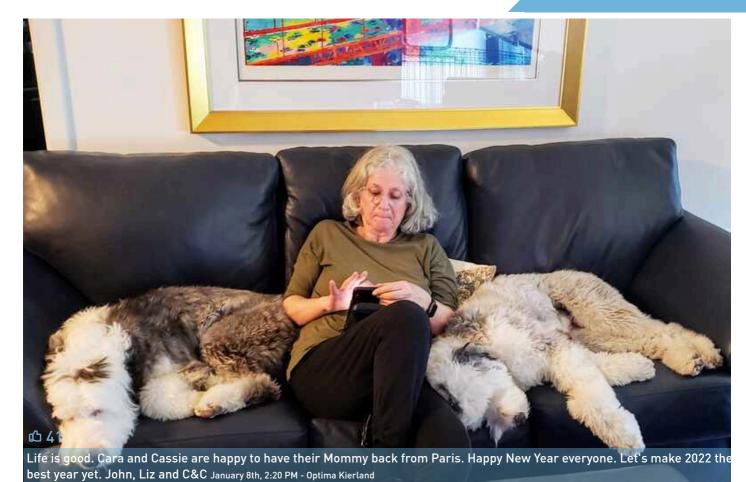
**4**3



Home sweet home Arizona. 24-hour journey door-to-door from Paris to Scottsdale. We dodged a bit of a bullet by connecting through Detroit a few hours before a big snow storm.

Thanks for letting me be your Parisian tour guide for the last week. I enjoyed it. Hope you all did too. Until next time. JW

**Q** Optima Kierland



#### Sunday, January 2, 2022



Sunday, January 2nd, 9:08 AM

"How sweet. I will post another video later today of the same dog run with C&C one year later. They are now 17 months old."



STATUS

Tuesday, January 11th, 4:16 PM

"www.instagram.com/p/CYmjg6Kocg0/ ?utm\_source=ig\_web\_copy\_link"



STATUS

Sunday, January 23rd, 4:34 PM

"WHAT. A. GAME."

**\$\omega\$** 6

**6** 7

**\(\Omega\)** 13

**STATUS** 

**4** 5

Thursday, January 20th, 12:04 PM

"British, black comedy is not for everyone.

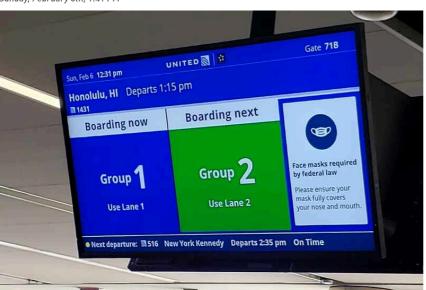
But, if you are willing to give it a try, this series -- written, produced, directed and acted by Ricky Gervais of The Office fame -- you will be glad you did.

Brilliant, short series -- just 18 half-hour episodes. You can watch it in one long binge watch like I did."

#### Sunday, February 6, 2022

MOBILE UPLOADS

Sunday, February 6th, 1:41 PM



And we are off on our next adventure. Eight nights on Oahu at two different resorts and four nights in San Francisco. Yes, the golf clubs are packed. Aloha.

LAX - Los Angeles International Airport

**STATUS** 

**\( \O \)** 

Sunday, January 23rd, 8:12 PM

**\(\Omega\)** 18

"The best football game I have ever seen. Congrats to the Kansas City Chiefs."

MOBILE UPLOADS

**公** 37

Sunday, February 6th, 10:07 PM



We made it safely to Ko Olina. This is our view for dinner. Aloha.

♀ Longhi's Ko Olina

Monday, February 7, 2022



Monday, February 7th, 3:23 PM

**\(\Omega\)** 52



A beautiful day on Oahu. Aloha.

Ko Olina Golf Club

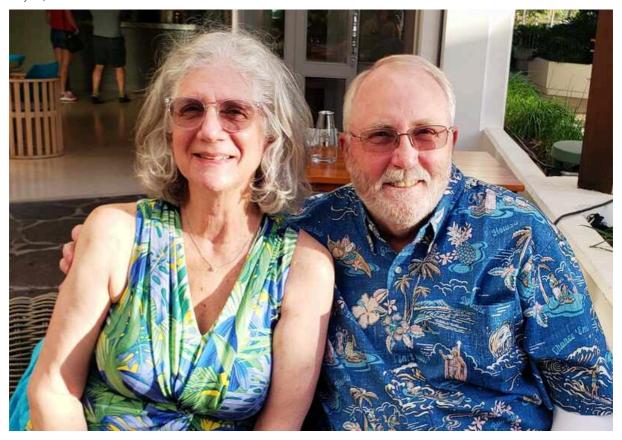
**4**9



18th hole at Ko Olina. Fabulous finishing hole. Need a par to shoot 78. Played the gold tees at 6004 yards. Love playing the senior tees ♥♥ February 7th, 5:39 PM - Ko Olina Golf Club



Monday, February 7th, 8:27 PM



Tonight's dinner is at the Italian restaurant Noe at the Four Seasons.

**♀** Noe

**MOBILE UPLOADS** 

Friday, February 11th, 9:22 PM



Rooftop dinner overlooking Waikiki Beach

**Q**uiora



**4** 34

Wednesday, February 9th, 10:23 AM



Aloha from Ko Olina. My trading day begins at 4:30 A.M. local time. I have the rest of the day to explore. I could get used to this schedule.

Marriott's Ko Olina Beach Club



**\(\Omega\)** 24

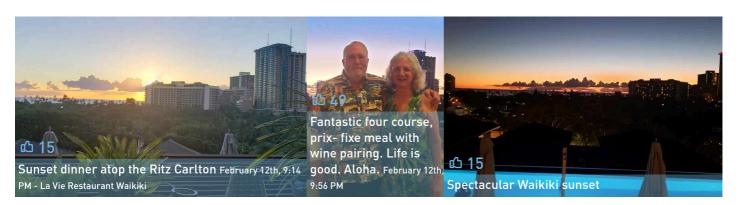
**公** 27

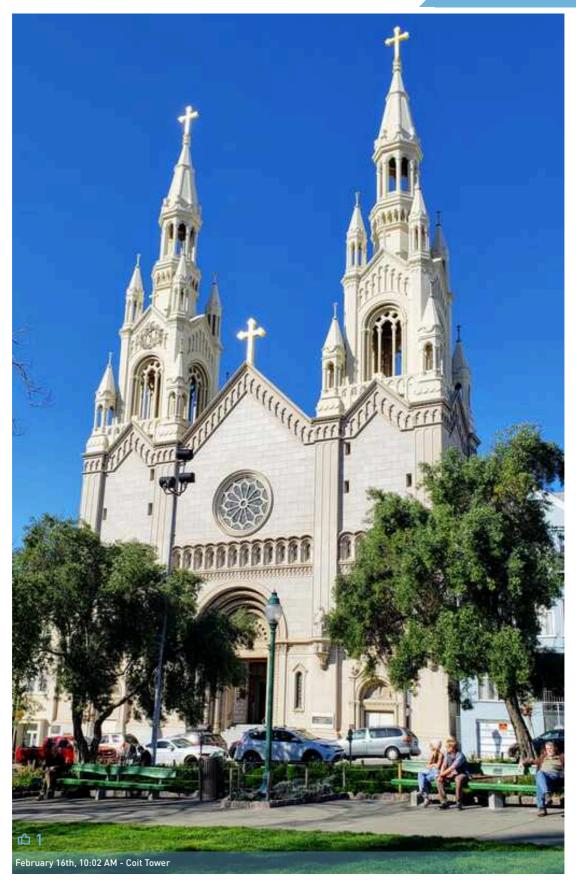
Friday, February 11th, 3:03 PM



Aloha from Honolulu. We'll be here three nights and then are off to San Francisco for four nights to finish this trip. This is my first time in Waikiki and will have time to visit the zoo and a few museums.

♀ Ritz Carlton Hawaii





#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, February 16th, 10:02 AM



Ocit Tower



Wednesday, February 16th, 5:07 PM



♥ Transamerica Pyramid

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, February 16th, 10:02 AM



Ocit Tower



Wednesday, February 16th, 10:02 AM

Good morning from San Francisco. Liz and I are in the City for four nights re-living the early days of our careers which started in 1975 after we had graduated from Cal and were both working downtown. We had dinner last night at Tadich Grill, our favorite seafood restaurant.

**4** 31

Yesterday I took a long, solo walk from Market St to Coit Tower and back. I spotted this Barbary Coast Trail marker near Washington Square. I did not know this trail existed, but now that I do, I plan to walk the entire trail over the next few days.







**Q** Coit Tower



Wednesday, February 16th, 5:07 PM



**?** Transamerica Pyramid

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, February 16th, 5:07 PM

Good afternoon from the City by the Bay. I walked the first half of the Barbary Coast Trail today, starting at the old US Mint just south of Market and continuing onto Union Square, Chinatown, Portsmouth Square, the Transamerica Pyramid, and finally finishing at historic Jackson Square.

Tomorrow I plan to do the second half of the trail from North Beach to Ghiradarelli Square. One of the things I learned today is that much of the Financial District used to be part of the Bay and was filled-in during the late 1800s. The original shoreline extended as far inland as where the Transamerica Pyramid is located today. Many old Gold Rush era ships are still buried underneath all the dirt.







▼ Transamerica Pyramid

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, February 16th, 5:07 PM



♥ Transamerica Pyramid

#### MOBILE UPLOADS

**\(\Omega\)** 25

Thursday, February 17th, 4:32 PM



O Coit Tower



Ocit Tower



Thursday, February 17th, 6:26 PM

I finished the second half of the Barbary Coast Trail today. It took me through North Beach where I had a chance to stop at The Beat Museum and City Lights Bookstore. I bought a couple of books about Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the founder/owner of City Lights.

So much of what happened in the sixties can be traced back to the writings of these guys in the fifties when they were all living in North Beach.





Q City Lights Booksellers & Publishers

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, February 17th, 4:32 PM

My first time to the top of Coit Tower. It's a bit of a hike to walk up the hill from North Beach. I had to stop and catch my breath a couple of times. But the spectacular 360-degree views made it worth the effort.

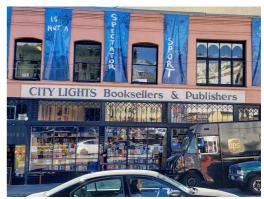




**Q** Coit Tower



Thursday, February 17th, 6:26 PM



**♀** City Lights Booksellers & Publishers



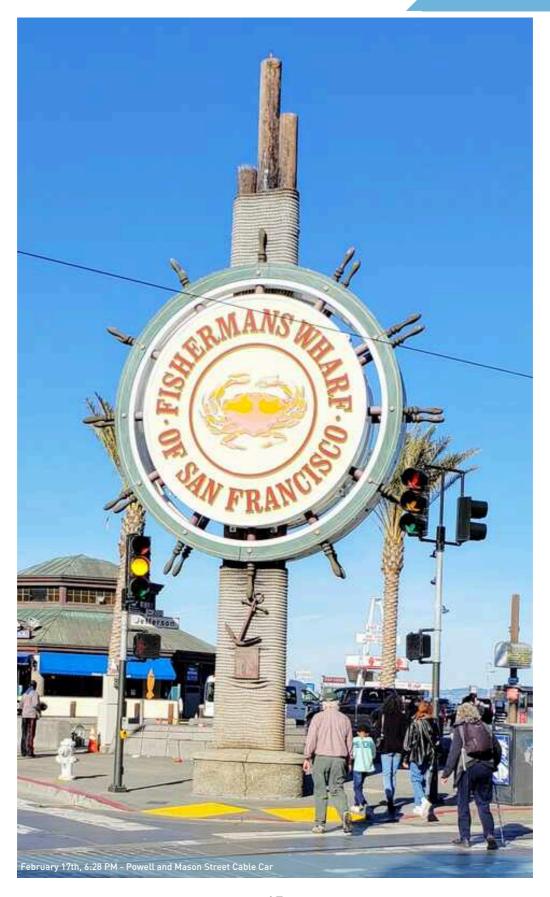
Thursday, February 17th, 6:26 PM



**Q** City Lights Booksellers & Publishers

**公** 2

**\(\Omega\)** 22





Friday, February 18th, 1:43 PM



On our way home from another enjoyable trip. Looking forward to seeing Cara & Cassie. Until next time. J&L

San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

#### **公** 17



Thursday, February 17th, 6:28 PM



Powell and Mason Street Cable Car

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN

**\(\omega\)** 23

#### WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, February 17th, 6:28 PM

And of course I had to swing by Fisherman's Wharf and hop on the Powell - Hyde cable car to take me back downtown.





Powell and Mason Street Cable Car

#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

**©** 24

Saturday, February 19th, 9:29 AM



We are back home and it took no time at all for C&C to find their favorite couch. Life is good. They were at the groomers yesterday and got their summer cuts.

Optima Kierland



**\(\omega\)** 29

Sunday, February 20th, 12:20 PM



The girls are keeping me company while I watch the final round at Riviera









# MARCH - APRIL

2022

Moving Day. We are officially out of Scottsdale and into our rental home at Talking Rock in Prescott AZ, about two hours drive north and at 5000 ft. elevation. It was just 36 degrees this morning when I took C&C to the dog run at the crack of dawn.

凸 58

☐ 32 photos

**■** 8 statuses



MARCH - APRIL



Saturday, March 19th, 2:24 PM



Bummer. Just finished a new, 1000-piece puzzle only to discover not one but two pieces are missing. Our new rental home at Talking Rock has this wonderful granite kitchen countertop that's perfect for doing large puzzles. Might have to try a 1500-piece puzzle next. I find them a great way to relax and not watch so much Netflix.

Talking Rock Golf Club

**\(\omega\)** 28

**TIMELINE PHOTOS** 

Monday, March 7th, 9:33 AM

**\(\Omega\)** 15



HBD Heidi Prows, sister of Kelly Hales

Heidi Prows

**STATUS** 

**©** 14

Saturday, March 19th, 9:54 AM

"Have a great day, Lon. Shooter"





Tuesday, March 22nd, 12:45 PM



Look what Amazon just delivered. Might have to frame this one once I'm finished. It's a keeper.



Thursday, March 24th, 6:50 PM



ഥ 11

Huge upset. Sweet revenge for Coach Musselman winning this game in San Francisco. Great game Hogs

Friday, March 25th, 12:04 PM

'How cute is this. I plan to take C&C with me whenever and wherever I can. They already love hopping in the back of my MDX and hitting the road together."

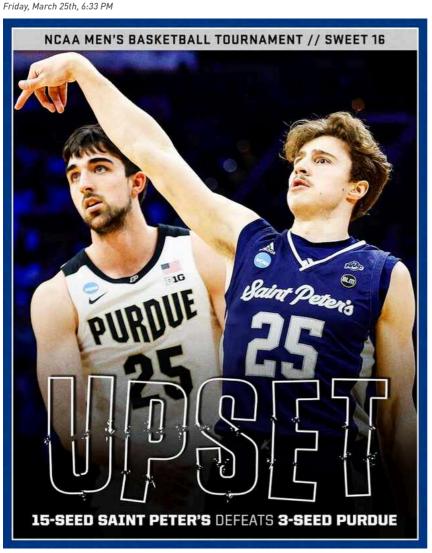


**STATUS** 

凸 4

Friday, March 25th, 12:44 PM

"How great is this. March Madness indeed."



Cinderella is alive and well. March Madness continues. Congrats to the Saint Peter's Peacocks.

Monday, March 28, 2022

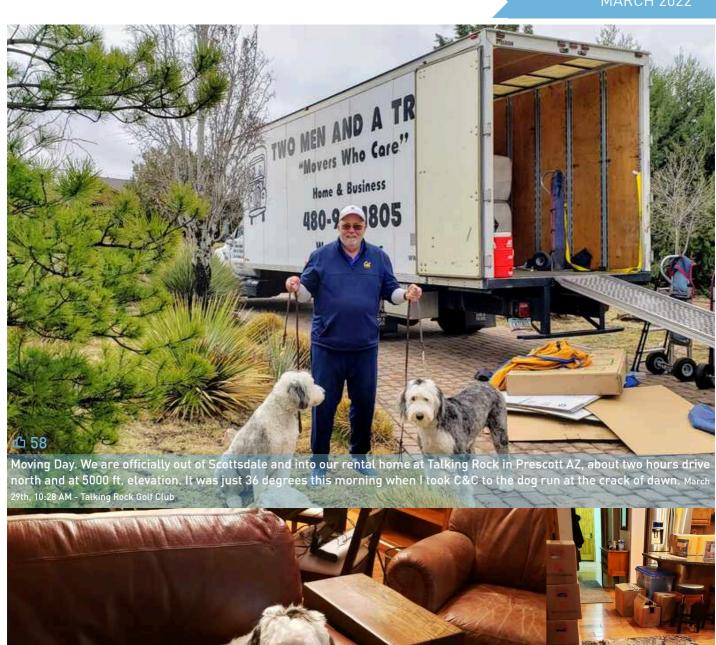


**STATUS** 

**\$**6

Monday, March 28th, 5:55 AM

'Congrats to Scottie Scheffler on winning the Dell Match Play and becoming the #1 golfer in the world"



March 29th, 7:06 PM

Tuesday, March 29th, 7:06 PM

The girls have had a long day too. Everyone is ready to go to bed early.





▼ Talking Rock Golf Club

### Sunday, April 3, 2022



#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, April 3rd, 6:56 AM



For those of you who don't know, I grew up in the Central Valley of California, the so-called Golden State not just because of the 1849 Gold Rush but also the California Golden Poppy, the State Flower, which blooms this time of year. I borrowed this picture from a FB friend in Morgan Hill who spotted these beauties yesterday.

**公** 30



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Sunday, April 3rd, 8:14 AM



♥ Talking Rock Golf Club

#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Sunday, April 3rd, 8:14 AM



Talking Rock Golf Club



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

this one finished by the end of the week. April 3rd, 8:52 AM

Sunday, April 3rd, 8:14 AM

Now that we've got the move to Talking Rock behind us, we can turn our attention to what we hope will be the trip of our lives starting the first of May.

We are flying to Istanbul to spend a few nights before we board this beautiful Oceania ship (The Sirena) that will be cruising the Mediterranean for 28 nights finishing the cruise in Southampton UK.

This will be the longest trip of our lives, stopping at many cities we've never been to before. As per normal, I plan to post pictures and stories on FB on a daily basis. Can't wait.

Carpe Diem.





Talking Rock Golf Club



Sunday, April 3rd, 3:41 PM



• Cruiser's Route 66 Cafe

ഥ 4









♀ Cruiser's Route 66 Cafe



Sunday, April 3rd, 3:41 PM

**\( \O \)** 

In what I hope is the first of many such road trips, C&C and I drove to Williams, AZ, the Gateway to the Grand Canyon. It's only 80 miles away. We had lunch at Cruiser's Cafe on the main drag, the old Route 66, and visited the railroad station that takes you up to the Grand Canyon. The girls had a blast.











**公** 36

**♀** Cruiser's Route 66 Cafe



Golf Puzzle ✓ Next Up: Route 66 Puzzle being delivered tomorrow All things being equal, this was a relatively easy puzzle to complete. All the different colors and words and faces made sorting the pieces into logical groupings fairly easy -- a big time-saver. April 5th, 5:33 PM

#### Thursday, April 7, 2022





Best week of the year begins today !!!



Thursday, April 7th, 10:38 AM



**©** 14

this puzzle AND watching the Masters

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, April 9th, 7:35 AM



It looks like we have a new jigsaw puzzle aficionado in the making.

Coco just finished this 100-piece puzzle and had Melanie Williams take this photo so I could see how proud she is of her handiwork.

How sweet.

■ Melanie Williams

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, April 10th, 9:37 AM

**公** 37



Now I can watch the final round of the Masters without distraction  $\stackrel{\square}{\Leftrightarrow}$ . I am rooting for Scheffler.

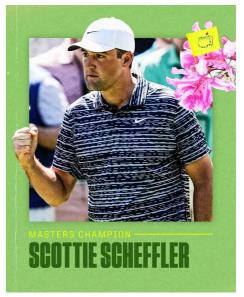
Had to burn the midnight oil last night so I could have a chance to finish this puzzle this morning.

Have a great Sunday everyone.

ESPN
Sunday, April 10th, 4:28 PM

**公** 13

**\(\omega\)** 23



Congrats to Scottie Scheffler on winning the Masters. Golf has a new star. He's got all the shots. Long off the tee and incredible short game. Now that he's learned how to win, he's going to be a dominant force for many years to come.



Happy Easter everyone from John & Liz and Cara & Cassie. This picture was taken at dawn this morning at the Talking Rock dog park where I take C&C every morning and evening. The full setting moon in the distance was just spectacular. April 17th, 8:07

### Monday, April 11, 2022

**STATUS** 

Monday, April 11th, 6:28 AM

"Have a great week everyone. J&L and C&C"

**♀** Talking Rock Golf Club

ഥ 11

**STATUS** 

**\$\pi** 4

"How cool is this?

Monday, April 11th, 2:31 PM

Reminds me a bit of the slot cars we had in the Sixties"



Friday, April 22nd, 7:22 AM



Our first visitor to Talking Rock was Liz Williams niece Morgan Reiss who spent Easter weekend with us. Liz also took Morgan to Sedona for a night to see the red rocks and have a nice meal. Cara & Cassie love all the attention.

Talking Rock Golf Club

Liz Williams

**公** 32



凸 16

Friday, April 22nd, 10:14 AM

"This fire is just above Flagstaff, about 100 miles NE of Prescott. Seems kind of early in the season for a fire of this magnitude to break out. Lots of homes have already been lost."



**公** 32



Sunset at Talking Rock with C&C

▼ Talking Rock Golf Club

Saturday, April 30, 2022



**STATUS** 

Saturday, April 30th, 6:47 AM

**公** 3

I learned to hit the power fade in high school. Still can't hit a draw. But hitting a bad slice is always on my mind, especially when there is trouble to the right."









# MAY 2022

We are back from our 10-hour excursion of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. We had a great day. I'll just post this one photo for now. I'm pretty tired and this is not a good time of day, when everyone else on board is on their computers and cellphones, to be editing and posting a bunch of photos.(...)

凸 52

☐ 309 photos



MAY



Wednesday, May 4th, 7:43 AM



• Heathrow Terminal 5



Tuesday, May 3rd, 1:48 PM



**4** 39

And our next new adventure begins. Flying to Istanbul via London Heathrow. We'll be exploring Istanbul for two days and nights before boarding the Oceania Sirena for our month-long cruise. As per normal I will be posting pictures and commentary on a daily basis. C&C are spending the month with their dog sitter in Phoenix.

DFW Airport

36

### Wednesday, May 4, 2022



### Thursday, May 5, 2022



Thursday, May 5th, 11:31 AM



Good afternoon from Istanbul. We toured all the major sites in the oldest part of the city today including the Blue Mosque below. Strenuous day of over 10,000 steps. The Intercontinental where we are staying for two nights is a lovely hotel.

Plue Mosque, Topkapi Place and Aya Sofia-Istanbul Turkey



Wednesday, May 4th, 7:43 AM



• Heathrow Terminal 5



Wednesday, May 4th, 7:43 AM

London Heathrow is one busy airport. Our plane to Istanbul is on time.

**\(\Omega\)** 18



Heathrow Terminal 5

Thursday, May 5th, 1:36 PM



Good evening from Instanbul. This shot is from Topkapi Palace overlooking the Bosphorous River. It's been a long day for us and adjusting to the ten hours of time zone difference makes falling to sleep a bit challenging. I am working on my photo album and Liz is reading. We did in fact buy a Turkish rug today from a dealer who is only open by appointment. All the arrangements were made by our tour company. We also had a nice Turkish lunch with our travel group of 14. After another day of sightseeing tomorrow, we board the ship and start our cruise.

♥ Topkapi Palace





Liz bought a handmade Turkish rug yesterday from Nakkas - Oriental Rugs & Textiles. They put on quite a show for us pulling out at least fifty different carpets for us to examine while serving us Turkish coffee and tea. I didn't learn until afterwards that Liz had always wanted a Turkish rug but had never told me.

**♀** Nakkaş Sanat Galerisi

■ Nakkas - Oriental Rugs & Textiles

**\(\Omega\)** 16



TIMELINE PHOTOS

Thursday, May 5th, 7:56 PM



I thought the most beautiful and interesting building we visited yesterday was the Hagia Sophia mosque shown below. It is more than 1400 years old and is considered to be one of the world's greatest architectural achievements.

The Bosphorous river shown below is the dividing line between European Istanbul (to the left) and Asian Istanbul (to the right).

P Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque



Thursday, May 5th, 8:14 PM



I need to give equal billing to the Blue Mosque which is equally impressive as Hagia Sophia. They face each other and are a short walk one to the other. One of the hardest things about yesterday was the taking off of shoes and putting them back on without any chairs or benches nearby. It's a tough move for us seniors. You cannot wear shoes inside of mosques and women have to cover their hair and bare shoulders.



Friday, May 6th, 11:20 AM



**Q** Bosphorous Bridge

**\( \omega \)** 2

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Friday, May 6th, 11:20 AM



**Q** Bosphorous Bridge

PHOTOS FROM JOHN

**公** 32

#### **WILLIAMS'S POST**

Friday, May 6th, 11:20 AM

Good morning from the Bosphorous River. We took a 1 1/2-hour boat ride up and down the Bosphorous this morning. As you can see the weather was great. There is a lot of activity on this river that connects the Marmara Sea to the south and the Black Sea to the north. It is also the dividing line between Europe and Asia.





**♀** Bosphorous Bridge





Spice Bazaar



Friday, May 6th, 11:27 AM

After the boat ride, we visited the Archaeology Museum, considered one of the world's best. I explored as many wings as I could while Liz found a nice comfortable bench and rested in the sunlight protecting my beloved Cal backpack. One of the highlights for me was a whole room filled with artifacts from the ancient site of Troy where we are sailing to next.





♀ İstanbul Archaeology Museums



**©** 1

**公** 19

Friday, May 6th, 11:39 AM



Spice Bazaar



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, May 6th, 11:39 AM

**©** 21

Last stop of the day before boarding the ship was the Spice Bazaar where Liz bought some saffron, chocolate covered raisins and Turkish delight. It is located right next to the Suleymaniye Mosque, Istanbul's most important mosque, where we watched afternoon prayers.





Spice Bazaar

**公** 21

Friday, May 6th, 12:00 PM



Goodbye Istanbul. Next stop - the Turkish island of Bozcaada - not far from the Gallipoli Peninsula, a famous WWI battle site.

### Saturday, May 7, 2022



Saturday, May 7th, 3:44 AM



MOBILE UPLOADS

Friday, May 6th, 8:16 PM



Good morning from the Sea of Marmara. Our room is at the very back of the ship and I am taking this pic from our balcony. We are about two hours away from docking at Bozcaada, Turkey, a tiny island west of the Turkish mainland. We will be touring Bozcaada this morning and have a free afternoon to explore this beautiful ship and get some much needed rest. It's been a hectic last few days.

P Bozcaada, Çanakkale

Bozcaada

Saturday, May 7th, 3:44 AM



PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, May 7th, 3:44 AM

Good morning from Bozcaada, Turkey (aka Tenedos), a small but strategic island just off the west coast of mainland Turkey. It has changed hands many times over the years as it sits right at the entrance of the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea. Whoever controls Bozcaada can control all ship traffic to and from Istanbul and the Black Sea. It has been in Turkey's hands since their independence in 1923.

**©** 14





**Q** Bozcaada

Bozcaada



Saturday, May 7th, 3:59 AM



Bozcaada



Saturday, May 7th, 3:59 AM



Bozcaada



We had the best tour guide today. He spoke four languages (Turkish, Greek, French & English) and was an expert on the local area and history including the Trojan War and the Gallipoli Campaign of WWI. Here he is with Liz as we are about to board the tender for the return trip to the ship. May 7th, 4:10 AM - Bozcaada

**©** 29

**凸** 16

Saturday, May 7th, 3:59 AM

We drove around the entire island by bus (it's a small island) and then explored the downtown area and the castle that dates back over 2000 years. If you have the time, read the wiki article on Tenedos that I posted earlier. Homer wrote about this island extensively in his works. It also played an important role during the Trojan War with the Greeks.

In the second photo, if you look carefully, you can see our ship Sirena anchored at sea. We had to take tenders to and from the shore. On the return trip we had sea swells of 5+ feet and because we were sitting at the front of the tender, we both got wet from water gushing in from less than waterproof windows. Liz was not a happy camper. I thought it was fun - sort of like an amusement park ride. To each his own.



Good evening from the Aegean Sea sailing south. Next stop: Ephesus, our last stop in Turkey.

North Aegean, Greece

**MOBILE UPLOADS** 

Saturday, May 7th, 10:46 AM





Bozcaada



Saturday, May 7th, 11:05 AM



I haven't walked the entire ship yet but this beautiful library is definitely one place where I'll be spending more time. I think we have three or four at-sea days coming up where I'll be looking for things to do.



Saturday, May 7th, 10:57 AM



Our room comes with 24/7 butler service. Here is our main man Anand who comes every morning at 5:15 to deliver my fresh coffee and at 6:30 with our breakfast that we order the night before. It's a luxury I could get used to



Saturday, May 7th, 12:01 PM

Saturday, May 7th, 7:40 PM



A nice shot of Liz overlooking the Bosphorous and Istanbul.

I had time this afternoon to process all my photos and saw that I had missed posting this one when I was in Istanbul. I am taking photos from both my Lumix handheld and my Samsung Galaxy cellphone. The quality difference between the two is negligible.

It takes time to upload them all to Google and then crop and color adjust as necessary. I create an online album of each trip so I can always look back and remember where I've been. I've lost track but probably have over 200 online albums that Google safely stores for me.





My morning coffee has been delivered. We have a suite so I can close the door to let Liz sleep in the bedroom. I've been an early riser my entire life going back to my Dos Palos days in the sixties. My dad was a ranch manager and I probably just learned to follow his example.

In case you are wondering, there's a 10-hour difference between Turkey and Pacific time. 5:15 AM here is 7:15 PM the previous day back on the West Coast. It's already starting to get light outside.





One of the places we will be visiting today is the original site of the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven ancient wonders of the world. It is nothing but ruins today, but the picture below shows you how they think it looked like back in the day. May 7th, 8:41 PM



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, May 7th, 8:12 PM

Good morning from the Aegean Sea near Kusadasi where we will be docking.

As the crow flies, we are about 300 miles due east of Athens, Greece. See map below.



♥ Kusadasi, Turkey

JW.

**6 2** 

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, May 7th, 8:59 PM

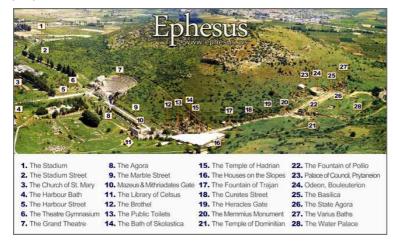


Another site we will be visiting today is the 24,000 seat Great Theater built around 300 B.C. and still in use today. This is where the Apostle Paul preached many of his sermons to the Ephesians around 50 A.D.

**?** The Great Theater Of Ephesus

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, May 8th, 10:21 AM

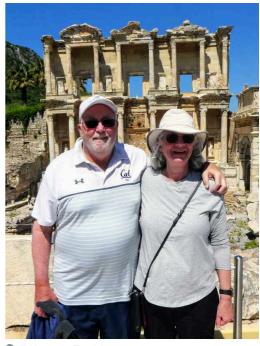


Ephesus Turkiye

#### **\(\Omega\)** 15

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, May 8th, 10:21 AM



**♀** Ephesus Turkiye

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, May 8th, 10:21 AM



**♀** Ephesus Turkiye

Sunday, May 8th, 10:21 AM

Today we drove from the port city of Kusadasi to the ancient city of Ephesus, about 20 km away.

Ephesus was where the Apostle Paul preached for three years (circa 53 - 56 AD) and created one of the first Christian communities outside of Jerusalem. It is the first of seven churches mentioned in Revelations, Chapters 2 and 3.

The ruins are very impressive as is the archaeological museum that contains many of the artifacts that have been excavated from the site.

The Apostle Paul was imprisoned in Ephesus because his Christian message upset the followers of Artemis. He was later transported to Jerusalem and then Rome where he was executed.







**♀** Ephesus Turkiye



Sunday, May 8th, 10:25 AM



♥ House of Virgin Mary





**♀** House of Virgin Mary

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, May 8th, 10:25 AM



**♀** House of Virgin Mary



M F

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**©** 17

Sunday, May 8th, 10:25 AM

We also visited what is believed to be the final home of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus. It is located in the hills above Ephesus

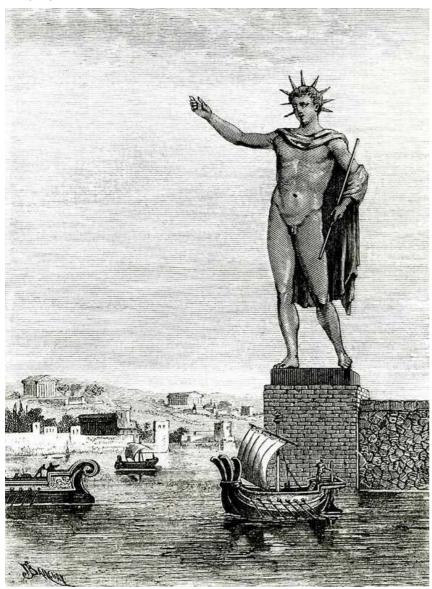






♥ House of Virgin Mary

Sunday, May 8th, 6:01 PM



Rhodes is the site of a second ancient Wonder of the World. An artist's depiction of the Colossus of Rhodes is shown below. It was believed to be over 100 feet tall. It was completely destroyed in the year 653 when the Muslims conquered Rhodes.





We had lunch today at this amazing resort near Ephesus. Just look at this unbelievable swimming pool overlooking the Aegean Sea. The food was great too. I could eat baclava all day long. It's so good here.

**♥** KoruMar Ephesus Beach & Spa Resort

## TIMELINE PHOTOS

**公** 19

Sunday, May 8th, 11:35 AM



Every city we've been to has had lots of stray cats running around. They all appear to be well fed so the locals must be putting out food for them. This beauty is resting atop a marble pillar in Ephesus.

South Aegean, Greece



Sunday, May 8th, 6:14 PM



The Greek Island of Rhodes is a fairly large island approx. 50 miles long and 25 miles wide.

After getting off the ship this morning at 7 AM, we will take a bus down the eastern coastline to the beautiful little city of Lindos where we will do a walking tour of the town and have lunch.

We will then return to historic Rhodes, do another walking tour, do some shopping, and return to the Sirena.

You've got to be in walking shape when you do cruises like this. We've averaged over 10,000 steps each of the last four days.

Rhodes, Greece



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Sunday, May 8th, 7:53 PM

Meanwhile, back home in Arizona, Cara & Cassie are enjoying their time with their beloved dog sitter Heather.







Rhodes, Greece

**\(\Omega\)** 15



Sunday, May 8th, 7:53 PM



Rhodes, Greece



Sunday, May 8th, 7:53 PM



Rhodes, Greece

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, May 8th, 7:53 PM

**公** 17





Breakfast is served. We are having an early 6 AM breakfast as our tour of Rhodes and Lindos begins at 7 AM. We are keeping our butler busy & May 8th, 8:25 PM



**\(\Omega\)** 15

**©** 14



We happen to be in port at the same time as the Celebrity Edge which we have taken once before. Look at the size difference between our ship the Sirena (on the left) and the Edge (on the right) and a mega yacht parked in front of the Edge.

We like both ships but our 24/7 butler service on the Sirena is hard to beat.

Rhodes, Greece



Monday, May 9th, 9:48 AM



The Acropolis At Lindos



Monday, May 9th, 9:31 AM



Cat picture of the day.

I spotted this lovely in the courtyard of the Lindos Acropolis which required an uphill climb of over 500 steps to get to the upper level.

↑ The Acropolis At Lindos

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 9th, 9:48 AM



**♀** The Acropolis At Lindos



Monday, May 9th, 9:48 AM



↑ The Acropolis At Lindos

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN

WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, May 9th, 9:48 AM

The first place we visited this morning was the Lindos Acropolis. It's about a 45-minute drive from downtown Rhodes down the eastern coastline, a beautiful drive. As you can see, it's a bit of a hike to get up to the top of the Acropolis. Oh well. Just another 10,000-step day  $\Leftrightarrow$ 

**4** 32







▼ The Acropolis At Lindos





**6** 

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 9th, 10:34 AM



Next stop: Cyprus and another UNESCO World Heritage site at Paphos

Mediterranean Sea

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 9th, 10:19 AM



Rhodes Old Town Greece

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN

ഥ 14

**WILLIAMS'S POST** 

Monday, May 9th, 10:19 AM

The main attraction today was visiting the castle in Old Town Rhodes which dates back to the 7th Century BC. It's been destroyed and re-built many times over the years. Very impressive. It's been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1988.









Rhodes Old Town Greece



Monday, May 9th, 8:17 PM



Good morning from Paphos - the SW corner of Cyprus - see map below.

We will be anchoring just offshore and taking tenders into the ancient city of Paphos, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Archaeology shows that Old Paphos has been inhabited since the Neolithic period. It was a center for Aphrodite's cult as it is her mythical birthplace. Consequently, it is the most famous and important place for worshipping Aphrodite in the ancient world.

The southern part of Cyprus is an independent country and a member of the European Union. The northern part is controlled by Turkey. The purple line on the map below shows how the country is divided.

Paphos, Paphos, Cyprus

### Tuesday, May 10, 2022



Tuesday, May 10th, 7:13 PM



Paphos Archaeological Park





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, May 10th, 7:13 PM

First stop yesterday was the Paphos Archaeological Park, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980. I never quite learned why, but some of the most outstanding mosaic floors in the world are found on Cyprus.

The pictures below are from the House of Orpheus where they have excavated over 20 separate rooms, all with mosaic floors dating back 2000+ years.

I was solo on yesterday's shore excursion as Liz decided she needed a day of rest. I have to admit I am pretty tired after returning from these 7+ hour excursions and have been taking long naps on the ship before dinner. Just another 10,000+ step day yesterday \(\text{\cup}\) Good thing I brought my sturdy walking shoes.





Paphos Archaeological Park



#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, May 10th, 7:23 PM



Paphos, Paphos, Cyprus



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN

ഥ 14

#### **WILLIAMS'S POST**

Tuesday, May 10th, 7:23 PM

Our ship the Sirena was anchored just offshore from the Archaeoligical Site and we took tenders into the Port of Paphos.





Paphos, Paphos, Cyprus





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, May 10th, 7:31 PM

The second site I visited yesterday was about an hour away. The bus ride there was lovely, taking us past vineyards, olive and avocado orchards, wheat fields and even a luxury golf course. This site and the Kingdom of Kourion date back to at least 1000 BC. More outstanding mosaic floors are located here. Can't beat the view from this ancient stadium.





♥ Kourion Archaeological Site



Tuesday, May 10th, 7:42 PM



Cat picture of the day.

This lovely and a few of her friends joined us for lunch yesterday

**Q** Kourion Beach

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**©** 12

Tuesday, May 10th, 7:39 PM

**TIMELINE PHOTOS** 

**\(\omega\)** 20



The third and final stop of the day was the mythological birthplace of Aphrodite.

According to the legend, the Ancient Greek Goddess of Love and Beauty was born of the sea foam here where she rose from the waves and was escorted on a shell to this particular beach.

Aphrodite's Beach, Cyprus



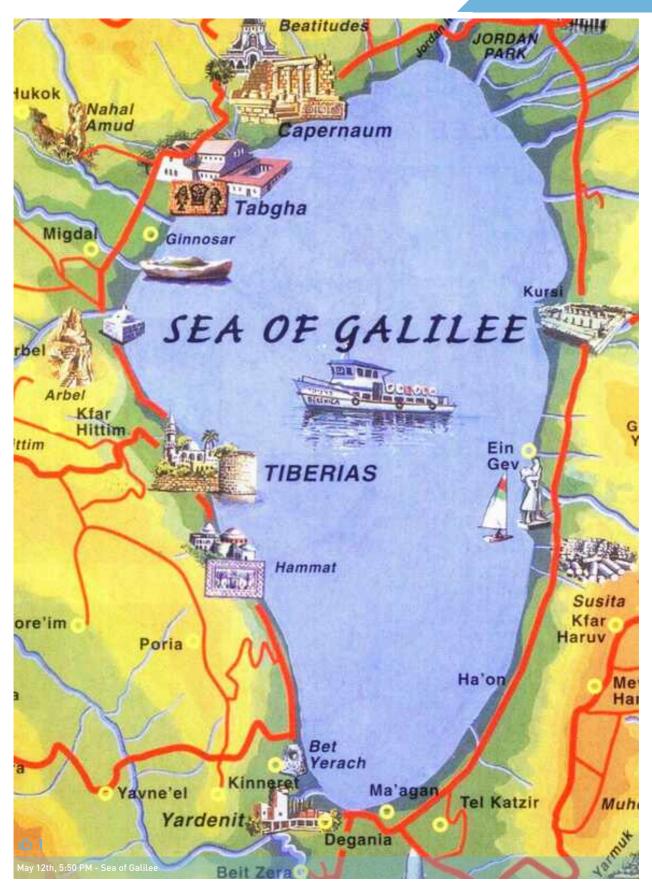
Good morning from Haifa, Israel. We are in Israel for the next three days and nights.

it is not clear they are going to let us leave the ship today. Everyone onboard has to go ashore to get tested for covid and then return to the ship to wait for results.

They have told us the wait could be 8+ hours depending upon the results. We cancelled today's excursion and will just play it by ear. We have two 10+ hour excursions planned for tomorrow and the day after, so a day of rest might do us both some good.

This is my first-ever visit to Israel.

Port of Haifa



Tuesday, May 10th, 10:08 PM



We are back from getting our covid tests and are now in waiting mode hoping Israeli authorities will allow us to disembark the ship.

Haifa is Israel's 3rd largest city and is located on the NW coast, not far from Nazareth.

If we get a chance, I would love to go see the Bah'ai Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. I've posted a Wiki article on it below.

We'll be in Haifa Port two nights before sailing to Tel Aviv and spending our third and final night in Israel at the Ashdod Port, closer to Jerusalem.

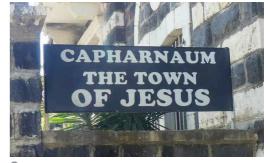
Port of Haifa



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**6** 9

Thursday, May 12th, 5:50 PM



Sea of Galilee



Good morning from Haifa, Israel - Day 2.

We ended up spending the entire day yesterday on the ship and were finally notified by Israeli authorities late in the day that we have been cleared to leave the ship beginning this morning.

Today, we are going to be exploring Northern Israel, specifically the town of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, and the Sea of Galilee aka Lake Tiberias, where Jesus did a lot of his preaching. It's a long 10+ hour excursion, so it's probably a good thing we got a lot of rest yesterday.

Tomorrow we will be exploring Jerusalem all day, another 10+hours.

P Haifa, Israel





Yardenit, the baptismal site on the Jordan River

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Thursday, May 12th, 6:06 PM



Yardenit, the baptismal site on the Jordan River

# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, May 12th, 5:50 PM

Yesterday was our longest day yet -- but very rewarding.

**公** 34

We basically walked in the footsteps of Jesus, starting with Capernaum on the Northshore of the Sea of Galilee where he preached many of his messages and performed many of his miracles including feeding 5000+ with just 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread and walking across the lake.

I had no idea the Sea of Galilee was so large and beautiful.

Just above Capernaum is the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount.







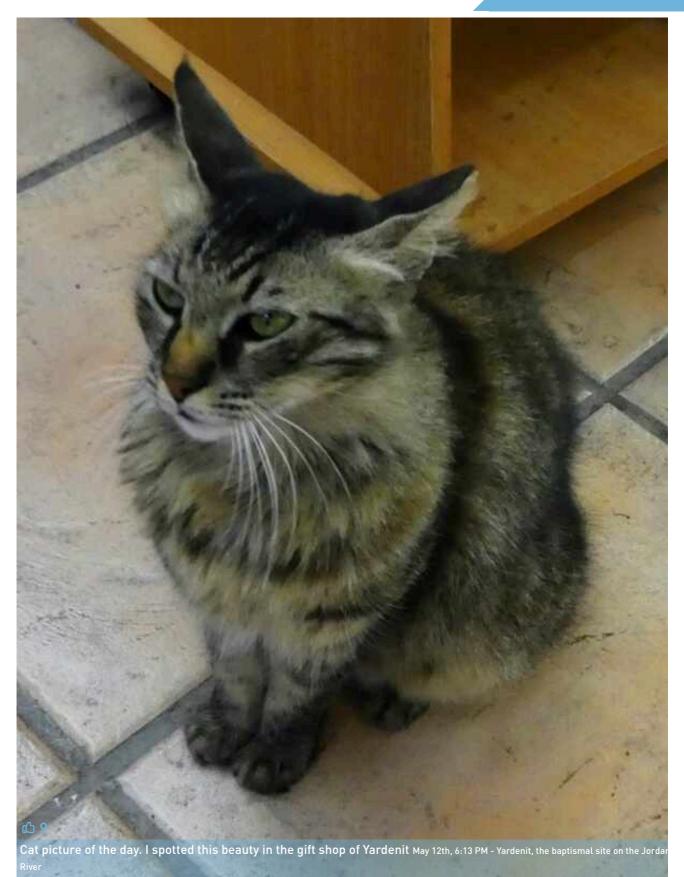
Sea of Galilee



Thursday, May 12th, 6:06 PM



Yardenit, the baptismal site on the Jor...





Thursday, May 12th, 6:24 PM



Sea of Galilee



Thursday, May 12th, 6:24 PM

From Yardenit we drove up the hill to take these scenic shots looking eastward across the Sea of Galilee to the Golan Heights which Israel captured during the Six-Day War in 1967.





Sea of Galilee

#### **©** 1



Thursday, May 12th, 6:06 PM

From Capernaum we drove around the lake to Tiberias on the West Shore and then down to Yardenit where church groups from all over the world come to get baptized in the Jordan River which flows south from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.







**?** Yardenit, the baptismal site on the Jor...



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Thursday, May 12th, 6:24 PM



Sea of Galilee



**公** 21

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

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**\(\Omega\)** 13

Thursday, May 12th, 6:50 PM



Pasilica of the Annunciation

**\(\Omega\)** 16

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Thursday, May 12th, 6:50 PM



**Pasilica** of the Annunciation

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Thursday, May 12th, 6:50 PM



Pasilica of the Annunciation

# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, May 12th, 6:50 PM

From the Sea of Galilee we headed back towards Haifa with a stop in Nazareth where Jesus grew up.

We visited this modern church that was built on the ruins of the ancient church where it is believed the Angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the baby Jesus.







**♀** Basilica of the Annunciation



Thursday, May 12th, 7:05 PM

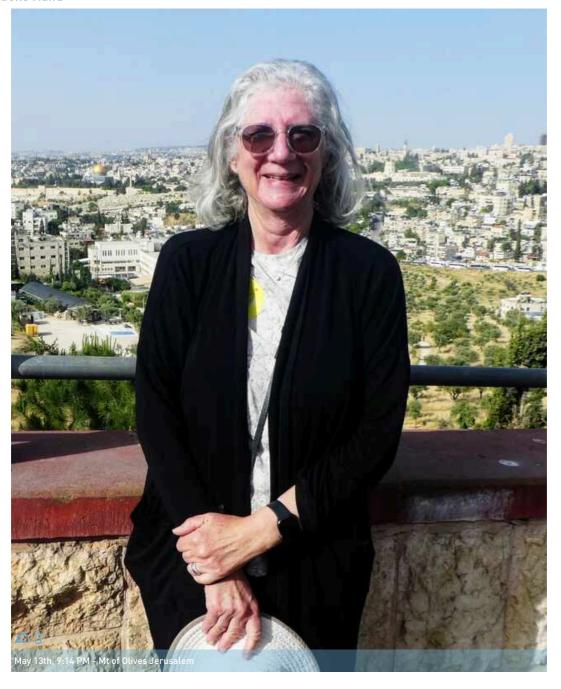
Last stop of the day was this gorgeous view of the City and Port of Jaifa from atop Mount Carmel.

The dome you see about half-way down the hill is the Bah'ai Temple. I wanted to go see the Temple and Gardens but was unable to because we were stuck on the ship our first day here.





Pahá'í Gardens Haifa



Friday, May 13th, 8:27 AM



We are back from our 10-hour excursion of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. We had a great day.

I'll just post this one photo for now. I'm pretty tired and this is not a good time of day, when everyone else on board is on their computers and cellphones, to be editing and posting a bunch of photos.

I will tell you all about our day once I get a good night's sleep. Tomorrow is an at-sea day as it takes two days to sail to our next stop in Crete. I'll be able to get some rest and catch-up on all my photo editing and FB posting. Until then.

Shalom and Go Bears

**♀** Jerusalem, The Old City



I'm back after eight solid hours of sleep. Liz says I was snoring loudly which is not normal. Oh well.

In case you are wondering, all of our excursions this trip have been pre-arranged by Oceania. We could have chosen to hire our own private tour companies (which we have done in the past), but it takes a lot more work on my part and they are more expensive.

Our group tours are a maximum of 18 people with a licensed tour guide, and we drive around in a bus like the one shown below.

Liz and I have always chosen to sit in the back of the bus where there are 4-5 seats. You can spread out a bit and stretch your legs into the aisle. Most of the others prefer to sit more upfront where you can hear the tour guide more easily. Que sera, sera. To each his own.

Ashdod





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, May 13th, 9:14 PM

Our first stop yesterday in Jerusalem was the Mount of Olives, the highest point in the city.

We visited the Catholic Church of All Nations and the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed just before being betrayed by the Apostle Judas and arrested by the Roman authorities.

They believe the olive tree pictured below may be as old as 2000 years and might have been living during the time of Jesus.







Mt of Olives Jerusalem

**\(\omega\)** 28

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Friday, May 13th, 9:14 PM



凸 2

Mt of Olives Jerusalem





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, May 13th, 9:44 PM

Our second stop was inside the Old City of Jerusalem at the Western Wall aka the Wailing Wall.

I made a rookie mistake by wandering into the women's prayer section (to the right) hoping to take a picture of Liz touching the wall.

But I was politely admonished and sent next door (to the left) where the men pray. I also had to be told to keep my hat on as I incorrectly thought that it should be taken off like in most churches. I guess I should pay more attention to the tour guide \(\text{\(\ext{\(\text{\(\text{\(\chi\chi}\)}}}\exitty\exit

This wall is sacred to all three major religions -- Christians, Jews and Muslims.







**♀** Western wall Jerusalem

#### **\(\omega\)** 20

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Friday, May 13th, 9:44 PM



• Western wall Jerusalem



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

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Friday, May 13th, 10:07 PM



**Q** Via Dolorosa

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Friday, May 13th, 10:27 PM



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Christian Quarter, Old City of Je...



Friday, May 13th, 10:07 PM



Via Dolorosa

# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, May 13th, 10:07 PM

Next up was a walk along the path of the Via Dolorosa where Jesus carried his cross before being crucified. There are a total of 14 stations, the last five of which are inside the Church of the Holy Selpuchre which I will cover next.

**6** 5

As you can see below, most signage in Israel is in three languages - Hebrew, Arabic and English.



**Q** Via Dolorosa



**\(\Omega\)** 16

Friday, May 13th, 10:47 PM



**♀** Nativity Church Bethlehem Palestine



WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, May 13th, 10:27 PM

Our next stop was probably the most sacred of all - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre - which was built on the sites where Jesus was crucified (Golgotha) and entombed (Mt. Calvary).

The church complex itself has chapels for several faiths including Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, Ethiopian Orthodox and a few others.







The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Chr...



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Friday, May 13th, 10:47 PM



Nativity Church Bethlehem Palestine



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, May 13th, 10:47 PM

Our last stop of the day was just a short drive from Jerusalem but required that we cross over into the West Bank controlled by the Palestinians. They were pretty relaxed with their passport check, a couple of the guards even posing for pictures with our group.

The Church of the Nativity is built on the site where it is believed Jesus was born and is considered sacred by both Christians and Muslims







Nativity Church Bethlehem Palestine

ഥ 11



## Saturday, May 14, 2022

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, May 14th, 6:50 PM



Chaniá, Greece

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\Omega\)** 18

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, May 14th, 6:50 PM

Good morning from Crete, the largest island in Greece. We are approaching the harbor town of Chania on the NW coast.

Today's excursion will take us 90 miles east to the town of Heraklion where we will visit the ancient ruins of the Knossos Palace built by the Minoans but mysteriously abandoned circa 1300 BC. It has been called Europe's oldest city.

This is the excursion I was most looking forward to before the trip started. I love studying about ancient civilizations including the Minoans. When we were in Santorini a few years ago, we visited the ruins of Akrotiri, also built by the Minoans, that was destroyed by the gigantic Santorini volcano of 1610 BC. It's possible some of the residents of Akrotiri escaped to Knossos before the city was covered in ash and destroyed. The two islands are only 90 miles apart.





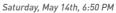








## TIMELINE PHOTOS









Sunday, May 15th, 7:33 AM







Sunday, May 15th, 7:33 AM

I took the first shot on the left earlier today from a moving bus, so pardon the lack of quality.

**公** 12

But I never would have guessed that Crete has snowy mountains visible from the sea this time of year. It's a very mountainous island.

The second shot on the right was taken as we were leaving Crete for our next destination - the Greek island of Zakynthos.





**Q** Crete





**\$\pi\$** 7

Sunday, May 15th, 7:10 PM



Zakynthos is not one of the better-known Greek islands. Here's where it is located.

We'll be doing just a 4-hour panoramic excursion today - an easy day compared to the 8- and 10-hour marathons we've done recently.

Zákynthos, Zakinthos, Greece



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Sunday, May 15th, 7:28 PM



Arolithos Village

WILLIAMS'S POST

Sunday, May 15th, 7:45 AM

We are back from our 8-hour excursion to Knossos. I was frankly a bit disappointed mostly due to an over-talkative tour guide and the fact that four of our eight hours were spent on a bus going to and from. That said, it still is a magnificent ancient ruin dating back over 4000 years.







Knossós, Iraklion, Greece



**TIMELINE PHOTOS** 

**©** 21

Sunday, May 15th, 7:04 PM



Just went out to the balcony to get some fresh air and the full moon overhead was simply spectacular.

We are sailing towards the Greek island of Zakynthos

♀ Zákynthos, Zakinthos, Greece

凸 14

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, May 15th, 7:28 PM



Arolithos Village

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Sunday, May 15th, 7:28 PM

Full-day excursions like we did yesterday come with lunch. We've had a variety of lunches ranging in quality from very good to forget about it.

But yesterday's lunch was especially noteworthy. They took us to an authentic Cretan village created by a local entrepreneur back in the 80s. The village was filled with shops, houses, a hotel and a taverna where we ate and were entertained by dancers and a 3-piece live musical trio. Very nice.





Arolithos Village

### Monday, May 16, 2022



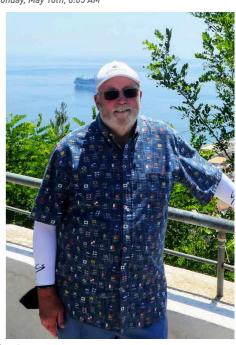
Monday, May 16th, 6:05 AM



♀ Zákynthos, Zakinthos, Greece

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 16th, 6:05 AM



Zákynthos, Zakinthos, Greece



eagle. Check out the Wiki article below. May 16th, 8:29 PM - Zákynthos, Zakinthos, Greece



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**公** 21

Monday, May 16th, 6:05 AM

Goodbye from Zakynthos, Greece. It's 4 PM local time and we are already back on the water, destination Valletta, Malta.

These two pictures were taken on a bluff above Zakynthos Town. That's our ship the Sirena anchored in the bay behind us.

Today was an easy day - just a 4-hour excursion around the island - we were back in time to have lunch on the ship. Tomorrow will be easy as well as we don't arrive in Valletta until 11 AM and are only in port for nine hours, just enough time to do an easy walking tour of Valletta which has some amazing museums telling the story of the Knights of Malta.

We were in Malta once before in 2013 on our first cruise that sailed from Venice to Rome.



Zákynthos, Zakinthos, Greece





Monday, May 16th, 8:37 PM



Aristeon Olive Press & Museum

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 16th, 8:37 PM



Aristeon Olive Press & Museum



Monday, May 16th, 8:37 PM

One of our stops yesterday was this olive oil factory / museum. We bought some olive oil soap and plan to try it during the trip. We'll let you know how we like it.









**©** 14

Aristeon Olive Press & Museum



Monday, May 16th, 8:57 PM



#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 16th, 9:19 PM



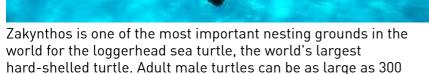
Anafonitria Monastery



Monday, May 16th, 9:19 PM



Anafonitria Monastery



pounds.

There is a rescue center on the island where they are protecting this endangered species. I have posted their website below.

**♀** Zákynthos, Zakinthos, Greece



Monday, May 16th, 9:19 PM

Another one of our stops yesterday was the Anafonitria Monastery built in the 14th century. We were not allowed to take pictures inside.



Anafonitria Monastery



Monday, May 16th, 9:28 PM



**\(\Omega\)** 15

We were close yesterday to this famous beach in Zakynthos. You can only get there by boat.

Shipwreck beach

**©** 19

### Tuesday, May 17, 2022





Tuesday, May 17th, 8:43 PM



**\( \sigma \)** 25



Tuesday, May 17th, 2:10 AM

Good morning from Valletta, Malta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1980.





**♀** Valletta Waterfront

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

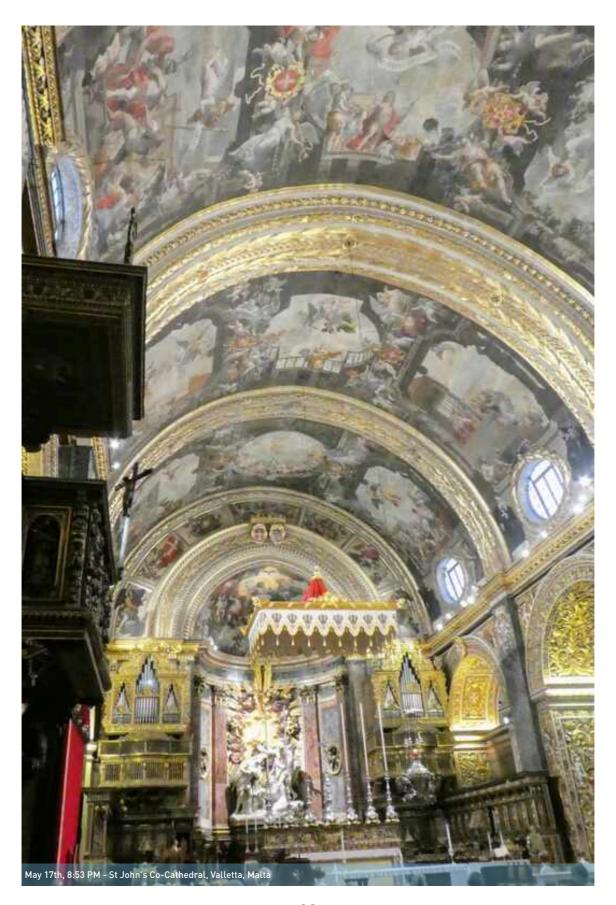
Tuesday, May 17th, 8:53 PM



St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, Malta

Yesterday we explored Valletta, the capital city of Malta. Because of its strategic location in the middle of the Mediterranean, most cruise ships stop here. The streets were filled with tourists as there were at least four other ships in port at the same time as ours.

Valletta, Malta





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**公** 17

Tuesday, May 17th, 8:53 PM

By far the most interesting site we saw yesterday was the St. John's cathedral. It is called a co-cathedral because there is a nearby catholic cathedral in Mdina that shares the responsibility of being the seat of the bishop.

Unlike most of Valletta, it did not get significantly damaged during WWII and it is beautifully decorated - from the marble floor grave markers to the magnificently painted ceilings.

It is perhaps best known for the paintings of Caravaggio including the famous Beheading of Saint John the Baptist shown below.







St John's Square



**公** 15

Tuesday, May 17th, 9:21 PM



We are sailing towards Sicily and will be docking in Trapani on the NW coast in a few hours.

Liz has grown tired of the longer excursions and is going to blaze her own trail today. She is headed to ancient Mothia on the island of San Pantaleo, just a 5-hour tour.

I am sticking to the original plan and am going to visit Marsala, learn all about how they make Marsala wine, and then have a wine-tasting lunch, in total an 8-hour excursion. I think my tour sounds more interesting than hers  $\Leftrightarrow$ 

♥ Trapani Erice Sicilia

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, May 17th, 8:53 PM



### TIMELINE PHOTOS

**\(\Omega\)** 13

Tuesday, May 17th, 9:02 PM



I snapped this photo on the way back to the ship. Our tiny ship the Sirena is docked in between these two giants. The natural harbor here in Valletta is one of the best in the world.

**♀** Valletta Cruise Port



Good morning from Trapani, Sicily. We have gained one hour back and are now only nine hours ahead of Arizona / Pacific time May 17th, 11:35 PM - Porto di Trapani

凸 10

### Wednesday, May 18, 2022





Wednesday, May 18th, 10:32 PM



凸 1 PHOTOS FROM JOHN **WILLIAMS'S POST** 

Wednesday, May 18th, 10:32 PM

Yesterday was one of the more interesting days. I will start with the last stop first- Cantine Florio - where they have been making Marsala wine since 1833.

The wine-producing complex and storage cellars rival anything I've seen in Napa / Sonoma.

Our lunch was combined with the tasting of four of their wines - one red, one white and two fortified (20+% alcohol) marsala wines.

All were outstanding. An impressive operation.







**Q** Cantine Florio

Cantine Florio





Wednesday, May 18th, 11:00 PM



🗣 Laguna dello Stagnone di Marsala

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, May 18th, 10:43 PM

The town of Marsala is built on the ancient ruins of the Carthaginian city of Lilybaeum. It is the most western city in all of Sicily and is about a 30-minute drive south from the port of Trapani.

**©** 14

We visited the archaeological museum where they have the remains of the ship shown below from circa 300 BC and many other relics dating back as far as 1000 BC.







Marsala

**\$\pi\$** 7



Wednesday, May 18th, 11:18 PM



Another unexpected discovery yesterday was the sighting of pink flamingoes feeding in the salt flats. Apparently, they migrate this time of year to Northern Africa and love to eat the little critters living in the salt ponds.

Saline di Trapani

#### **\(\Omega\)** 15

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, May 18th, 11:00 PM



Laguna dello Stagnone di Marsala

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, May 18th, 11:00 PM

I knew from the excursion brochure we would be going to visit the Marsala salt flats shown below.

What I didn't know is that the Marsala Lagoon is considered to be one of the world's best spots to kitesurf. There are all sorts of schools along the shoreline ready to teach you. It looks like an amazing sport. The kite sailors can jump as high as 30 feet above the water.





Laguna dello Stagnone di Marsala

Wednesday, May 18th, 11:58 PM



Today is another at-sea day aka rest day. Our route will take us to the south of Sardinia and to the north of Mallorca, and finally to the Spanish mainland.

When I first looked at the trip itinerary, I was not particularly pleased that there were four at-sea days. That seemed like a lot of down time.

But now that we've reached the half-way point on our 34-day trip, it's become apparent how important rest days are. Daily excursions are tiring, and you need a break from time to time to keep the batteries fully charged.

Next stop: Barcelona. Liz and I are once again taking different excursions.



**4** 39

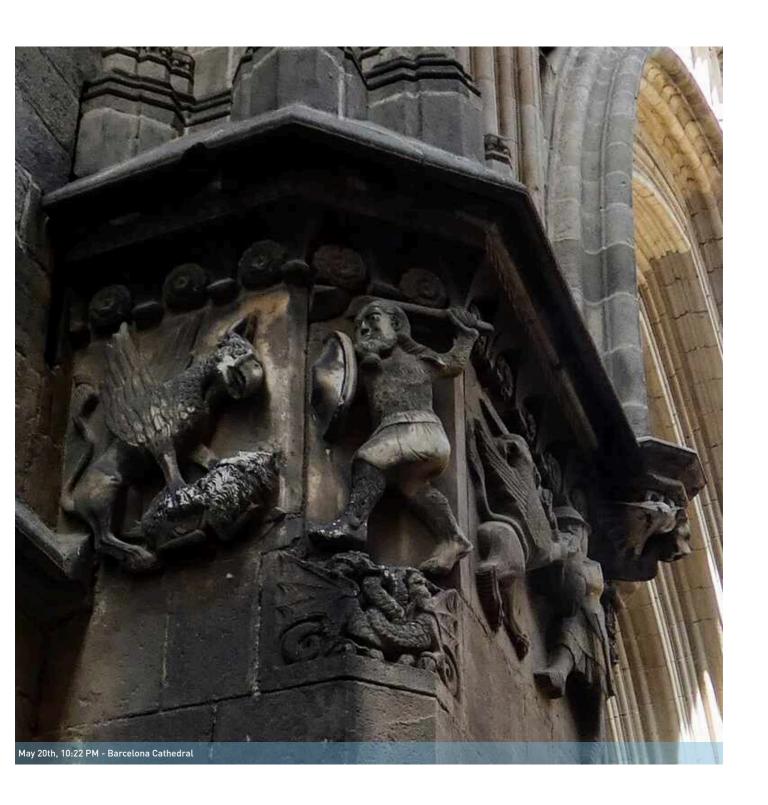
Thursday, May 19th, 1:38 AM



Today marks the exact mid-way point of our 34-day trip, door-to-door. Here's a few random thoughts and observations in no particular order.

- 1. I'm glad we booked a nice suite. I spend almost all my time here in the room when I'm not out on an excursion. I have eaten most of my meals in the room, served by the butler.
- 2. I DO NOT like listening to long-winded tour guides. I often find myself wandering away from the group so I can take pictures and explore on my own.
- 3. A month-long cruise is long, but not too long. You just have to pace yourself. Are we willing to try a longer cruise? The answer is we're not sure. I want to cruise South America and the itinerary I want to do from Rio to Buenos Aires to Antarctica to Lima and Machu Picchu may require more than 30 days.
- 4. WTH can't they have a faster Wi-Fi connection onboard? It takes way too long for me to upload and edit photos and post to FB.
- 5. I really enjoy doing my daily FB posts with pictures and wiki links. I surely hope they are not too boring. FYI I do them mostly for my own benefit and education. I would like to think they will serve as one of my legacies. Plus, I enjoy looking back at them, all the way to 2006 when I became an early adopter to social media. I consider my FB wall as my permanent, electronic scrapbook / memoirs.
- 6. Cruising is a great way to see a new city for the first time. But if you want to go deeper and explore more fully, it's better to fly / drive and spend as much time as you want in a nice hotel. We will continue to do both kinds of travel.

Enough for now. If you have any questions you've been dying to ask me . . . fire away. I don't have a very busy afternoon planned except for my daily nap 😀





Thursday, May 19th, 9:50 PM



Good morning from Barcelona, Spain.

Liz and I are blazing our own trails today. She's taking the half-day panoramic tour and I'm doing the full-monty, 8-hour, all-inclusive tour and hope to come back with tons of photos.

This is my first trip to Barcelona and I am looking forward to seeing all the sites.

We had to get tested for c\*\*\*\* yesterday in order to enter Spain. We both tested negative. This is our third time being tested on this trip -- all negative. Knock on wood but Liz and I have never tested positive going all the way back to March 2020. FB tip. I used asterisks above because the FB AI program is flagging all posts that use the full word.

Port of Barcelona



**©** 14



Friday, May 20th, 10:18 PM



Barcelona is too large a city to see in one day, but we did our best.

There were just 11 of us in the passenger van plus the driver and tour guide. We did four different walking tours (12,000+ steps) and drove around to see all the major sites. The picture below is from the most panoramic spot in the city - Montjuic.

Liz's half-day tour drove around to many of the same sites but did not have all the walking.

Montjuic - Barcelona



Friday, May 20th, 10:22 PM



Barcelona Cathedral



Friday, May 20th, 10:22 PM

We started our day by walking the Gothic Quarter where you can still see ruins from the Roman era dating back 2000+ years.

A lot of the older building have images of soldiers fighting dragons like the ones below. Maybe there were dragons in the ancient past ???







Barcelona Cathedral

**\(\Omega\)** 16

**TIMELINE PHOTOS** 

Friday, May 20th, 10:36 PM



Sagrada Familia (metropolitana di Bar...



Friday, May 20th, 10:36 PM



Sagrada Familia (metropolitana di Bar...

**\(\Omega\)** 15





We then visited and had lunch at El Poble Espanyol, a recreated traditional village.

Our tour guide had lunch with us, and we learned so much about him (he speaks five languages fluently) and his country (he was born and raised in Barcelona). I wish more of the tour guides would do this. It was by far the most informative and interesting lunch of the trip.

Poble Espanyol Picsolve



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, May 20th, 10:36 PM

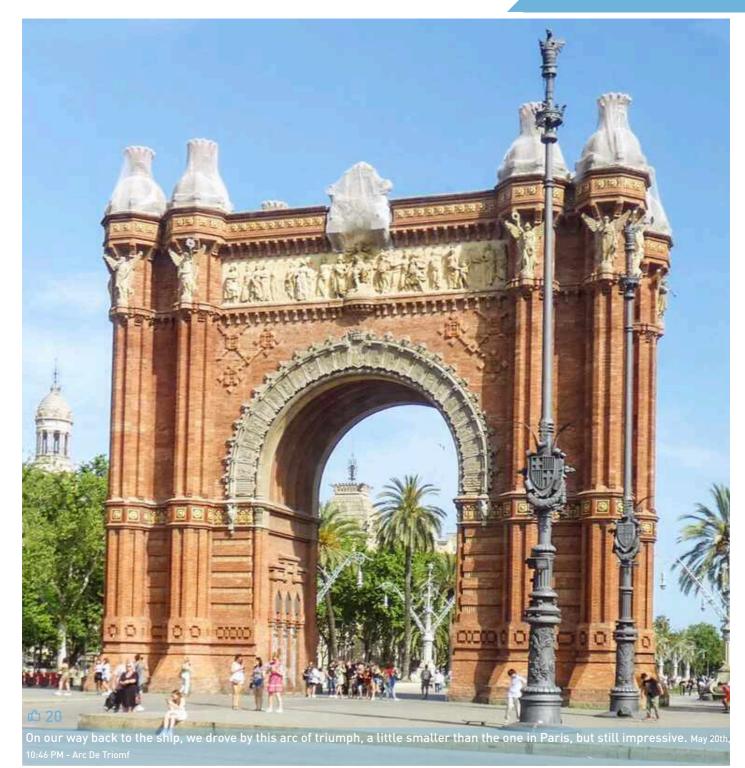
By far the most popular tourist attraction in Barcelona is the Sagrada Familia, a basilica they started constructing in 1883 but is still unfinished.

We did not have time to go inside but the wiki article posted below has some interior shots.





Sagrada Familia (metropolitana di Barcellona)





We also drove by Gaudi's masterpiece Casa Battlo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**♀** Casa Battló

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, May 21st, 6:48 AM







Valencia



Saturday, May 21st, 6:48 AM



Valencia



**\(\Omega\)** 22

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, May 21st, 6:53 AM



Oceanografic City of Arts and Sciences of Valencia

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, May 21st, 6:48 AM

Good afternoon from Valencia, Spain.

We did a quick half-day tour of this lovely city with tons of history. It doesn't get the same press as Barcelona, but in many respects, has just as much to see.







Saturday, May 21st, 6:53 AM



Oceanografic City of Arts and Sciences...



**\(\Omega\)** 25

**PHOTOS FROM JOHN** WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, May 21st, 6:53 AM

Our first stop today was the ultra-modern City of Arts & Sciences built in the late-90s. It stands in stark contrast to the Ancient City of Valencia that we visited next.

凸 11





Oceanografic City of Arts and Sciences...







Saturday, May 21st, 7:23 AM



Valencia



**\(\Omega\)** 30

### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Saturday, May 21st, 7:23 AM





Saturday, May 21st, 6:58 AM



By far the most impressive thing we saw today was the Valencia Cathedral consecrated in the year 1238.

One of the chapels contains what they believe to be the Holy Grail (aka Holy Chalice) used by Jesus during the Last Supper. I have posted a picture of that Chapel below.

♀ Valencia Cathedral



Saturday, May 21st, 7:23 AM

Goodbye Valencia. We just left port and are headed to Seville, Spain.

It takes two days to get there from Valencia, so tomorrow is an at-sea day aka a rest day. We'll be passing through the Straights of Gibraltar late tomorrow.

Seville is an inland city, but it has a river port deep enough for the Sirena to dock there. We'll be in Seville two full days and nights.





Valencia



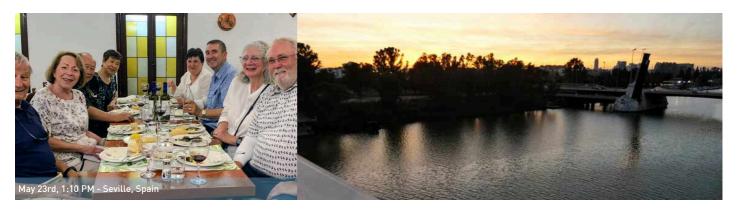


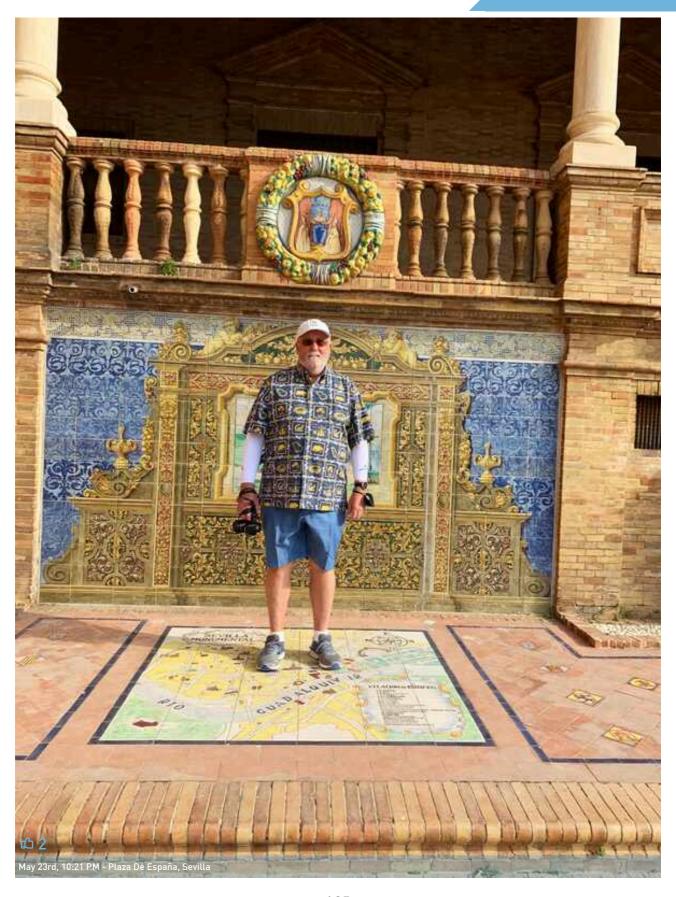
Good morning from Seville which has Spain's only inland port large enough for cruise ships. We are about 50 miles away from the Atlantic Ocean on the Guadalquivir River. We'll be here two days and nights.

After doing a morning excursion of the town of Seville, we will return tonight for an evening stroll, stopping at a bar and eating tapas which is apparently one of Seville's top tourist attractions.

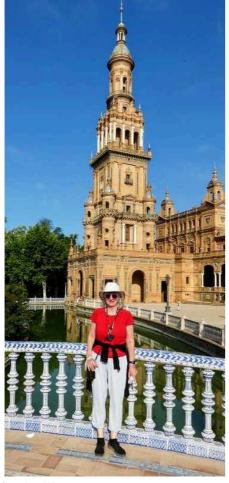
Cervantes wrote his epic novel Don Quixote while living in Seville in the late 16th Century. Christopher Columbus is also buried here.

### Monday, May 23, 2022





Monday, May 23rd, 10:21 PM



**\(\omega\)** 2

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, May 23rd, 1:10 PM

Good evening from Seville, Spain where the local time is 10 PM and it's still light outside.

**公** 33

We just came back from a fabulous evening stroll and 5-course tapas supper with lots of local wine. Feeling pretty good 😀 😩

It's WAY past my normal bedtime, so we'll pick up tomorrow morning.

We had a GREAT day in Seville. Fabulous city.





Seville, Spain

Plaza De España, Sevilla



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, May 23rd, 10:21 PM

One of the first places we visited in Seville is the Plaza de Espana built for the 1929 Exposition / World's Fair.

Inside the plaza are alcoves of all the various areas of Spain. My photo below is from the Barcelona alcove.







Plaza De España, Sevilla

**\$\omega\$** 27

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 23rd, 10:21 PM



Plaza De España, Sevilla





Monday, May 23rd, 10:33 PM



### **PHOTOS FROM JOHN** WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, May 23rd, 10:33 PM

The top attraction in Seville is the Alcazar Palace, first built in the 10th century and slowly added to over the years. It is still in use as the royal place when the current monarchy come to visit Seville.

The architectural style is a mix of Islamic and Christian. Very interesting.

They filmed some of the episodes of Game of Thrones in the palace. I have posted details below.







Palace of Alcazar

**\(\Omega\)** 12



### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 23rd, 10:50 PM



♀ Jewish Quarter, Seville



WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, May 23rd, 10:41 PM

One of the more striking sites in Seville are all the jacaranda trees that line the streets and fill the parks. They are currently in bloom and their purplish flowers are just beautiful.





Seville, Spain



Monday, May 23rd, 10:50 PM



**♀** Jewish Quarter, Seville

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**公** 21



Monday, May 23rd, 10:50 PM

Both of our walking tours yesterday took us through the old Jewish Quarter, a labyrinth of narrow streets and alleys and lots of tapas bars.







#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, May 23rd, 10:54 PM

In addition to its tapas bars and the Alcazar, Seville is best known for bull fighting and its operas especially the Barber of Seville. It is the 4th largest city in Spain.

The bull fighting ring shown below has a seating capacity of 12,000.







Seville, Spain



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Monday, May 23rd, 11:27 PM

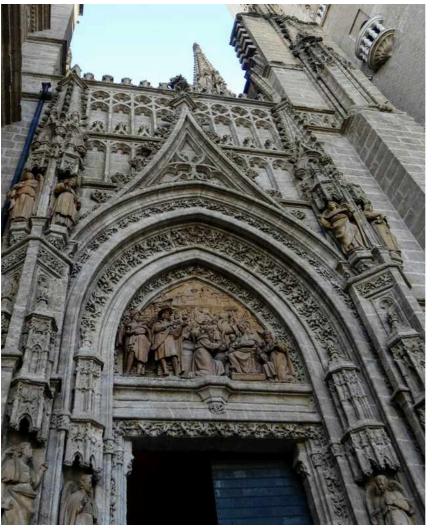


Seville Cathedral

**\(\Omega\)** 13

## TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 23rd, 11:27 PM



♀ Seville Cathedral

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, May 23rd, 11:27 PM



Seville Cathedral

# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, May 23rd, 11:27 PM

Our last stop yesterday before the tapas bar was the Seville Cathedral next door to the Alcazar Palace. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1987.

We didn't get a chance to go inside where Christopher Columbus (and his son) are buried.







Seville Cathedral



Tuesday, May 24, 2022



ഥ 11

## TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, May 24th, 8:20 AM





Tuesday, May 24th, 9:05 AM



Parasol Metropol

# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, May 24th, 8:19 AM

Adios Sevilla. It's been good to know you.

We are being guided out of the river by tugboats. It will take us a couple of hours before we reach the Atlantic Ocean.

Next three stops are all in Portugal: Portimão, Lisbon & Porto







Seville, Spain

## TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, May 24th, 9:05 AM



Parasol Metropol

## TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, May 24th, 9:05 AM



Parasol Metropol

**心** 2

Tuesday, May 24th, 9:05 AM

Today we did an excursion in Seville titled "Over the Rooftops"

The highlight was going to the top of the Parasol Metropol, the world's largest wooden structure pictured below. It is nicknamed the Mushroom of Seville.

Liz is pictured with our guide who spoke perfect English, the first guide we've had where you didn't have to struggle to understand what they were saying.



Parasol Metropol

## Wednesday, May 25, 2022





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, May 25th, 12:01 AM

Good morning from Portimao, Portugal. It is located in the southernmost region of Portugal called the Algarve. We just pulled into port.

Our excursion this morning will take us into the hills above Portimao to the city of Silves, the old Moorish capital, and its 11th century Gothic castle. We will also be visiting a local winery and tasting some Algarvian wine.

An interesting footnote on Silves. The author and archaeologist Peter Daughtery believes it is the home of the lost civilization Atlantis. Here's a link to a summary of his thinking:

www.atlantisandthesilvercity.com/

His book Atlantis and the Silver City is available on Amazon if you are interested in the details. Few historians have bought into his thesis. The prevailing thinking is that Atlantis is just a myth, an imaginary city written about by Plato to describe his view of Utopia.





Portimão

#### **©** 14

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, May 25th, 10:02 AM



Silves, Faro, Portugal





Silves, Faro, Portugal



Wednesday, May 25th, 10:08 AM





Wednesday, May 25th, 10:02 AM

Our first stop today was the Castle of Silves built circa 200 BC by the Carthaginians.

Between the 8th and 13th centuries, the castle was occupied by the Moors who expanded it, making it one of the best-preserved Moorish fortifications in all of Portugal.





Silves, Faro, Portugal

# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\Omega\)** 12

WILLIAMS'S PUST

Wednesday, May 25th, 10:08 AM

One unexpected discovery today was the sighting of the white storks of Algarve. They build their huge nests atop chimneys all over the area. They are huge birds weighing as much as 10 pounds.









Wednesday, May 25th, 10:21 AM

For sure the highlight of the day was a stop at Arvad Winery where the owner told us all about his vineyards and winemaking operations. We then had a light lunch while tasting three of his wines. Delicious. Liz bought a bottle of the blended white to bring home. It was quite tasty. This part of Portugal is similar in latitude to the Napa / Sonoma area in CA.

The name arvad is an old Phoenician word meaning "refuge". The river you see at the bottom of the hill is the Arade river.







**Q** ARVAD WINE



Cat sighting of the day - a black cat from Silves

Silves, Faro, Portugal





**Q** Lisbon, Portugal





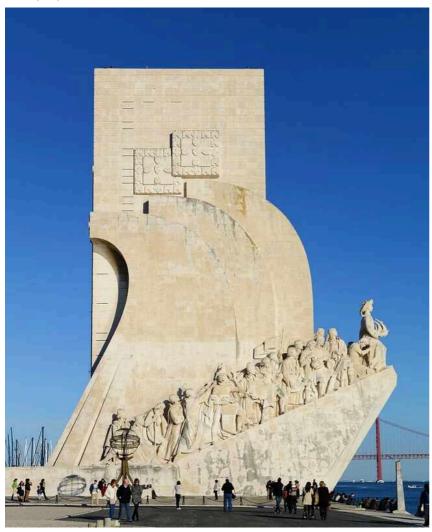
Wednesday, May 25th, 11:36 PM



♥ Lisbon, Portugal



Thursday, May 26th, 9:48 AM



Padrão dos Descobrimentos

# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, May 25th, 11:36 PM

Good morning from Lisbon, Portugal. We are just entering the port.

**公** 19

In case it looks familiar, this bridge (the 25th of April bridge) is made by the same company that built the San Francisco Bay Bridge and it is painted the same color as the Golden Gate bridge whose design is very similar.

The statue to the left of the bridge (top photo) is the Sanctuary of Christ the King.



**Q** Lisbon, Portugal



Thursday, May 26th, 9:48 AM



Padrão dos Descobrimentos





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, May 26th, 9:48 AM

One of the places we visited today in Lisbon is this monument on the shores of the Tagus River that commemorates many of Portugal's ancient sailors, but especially the 500-year anniversary of the death of Prince Henry the Navigator (1460 - 1960).

It's incredible how much of the world was first discovered and opened up to trade by Portuguese sailors in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Did you know that in the late-1500s, Portugal was the most prosperous nation in the world?

Just look at the map I've posted below. They literally sailed around the world and opened up trade routes to all these countries, many of them former colonies.

Today, the Portuguese empire has shrunk to just Madeira and the Azores.



Padrão dos Descobrimentos

**凸** 9

Thursday, May 26th, 9:48 AM





Thursday, May 26th, 10:10 AM

We also visited the Church of St. Mary at the Jeronimos Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and nearby Belem Tower.

We had to wait in-line around 20 minutes to get inside the church. That's been our longest wait this entire trip. The monastery and church are probably Lisbon's #1 tourist attractions.









Mosteiro dos Jerónimos



Thursday, May 26th, 10:10 AN





**6** 20

## Friday, May 27, 2022





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, May 27th, 12:32 AM

I wish I could be posting live photos, but we were just informed by the captain that we are unable to dock in Porto due to high winds and will remain at sea all day today. I was looking forward to walking the beautiful downtown shoreline as shown below.

Next stop: La Coruna, Spain





Porto, Portugal

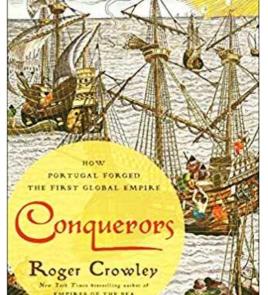


Friday, May 27th, 9:55 PM



Q La Coruña, Spain

Friday, May 27th, 12:44 AM



Well, since I can't spend the day exploring Porto, I will just have to find a nice comfortable reading chair and start this book about how Portugal forged the first global empire.

The Sirena library is well stocked.

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Friday, May 27th, 9:55 PM



La Coruña, Spain

PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, May 27th, 9:55 PM

Good morning from La Coruna, on the NW corner of Spain.

凸 16

Liz and I were here a few years ago, so we're going to take a pass on any organized shore excursions. We might leave the ship after breakfast and do some exploring on our own.

The lighthouse tower shown below (Tower of Hercules) is the #1 tourist attraction and was built in the first century. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Q La Coruña, Spain



This part of Spain is called Galicia. There are two official languages: Spanish and Galician. Interestingly, Galician is closer to Portuguese than to Spanish.

The history of Galicia is fascinating. See Wiki article below. At its peak, the Kingdom of Galicia controlled most of the NW Iberian Peninsula.

**Q** Galicia, Spain





**公** 21

Sunday, May 29th, 9:53 PM



Goodbye La Coruna.

Liz and I decided we both needed a day of rest, and we did not leave the ship all day.

I got in a couple of naps and Liz is powering through another book.

We need our rest for the Big Finish.

We are entering the river port for Bordeaux where we will be docked two nights. We are exploring Bordeaux with a private tour guide today and nearby St. Emilion tomorrow.

We'll be headed home on Friday. Can't wait to see Cara & Cassie.

These next two days were always going to be the highlight of the trip for me. I love drinking wine and eating food from this area of France, and this is my first-ever visit to the area.

I had no idea the river into Bordeaux was wide enough and deep enough to handle a cruise ship the size of the Sirena.

Q La Coruña, Spain





Sunday, May 29th, 10:30 PM



O Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\omega\)** 22

Sunday, May 29th, 10:30 PM

**TIMELINE PHOTOS** 

Sunday, May 29th, 10:30 PM

Yesterday we docked in Bilbao, Spain and I took a 75-minute bus ride (both ways) to the lovely city of San Sebastian aka Donostia in the heart of Basque Country. It's just inside the Spanish border (see map below) on the Bay of Biscay and about 100 miles from Bordeaux, France where we are headed to next. It's a popular tourist destination for both Spanish and French travelers.

Liz is fighting the same cold virus I am and decided to stay inside for another day. Probably a good thing as I managed to get over 13,000 steps yesterday walking all around the old city filled with bars and restaurants and retail stores. My theory is that fresh air and exercise is good for fighting a cold. Not sure Liz agrees with me  $\Leftrightarrow$ 

One thing I learned yesterday is that San Sebastian is one of the top foodie destinations in all the world. It has over 10 Michelin star rated restaurants. I would love to come back someday and experience all this great food.



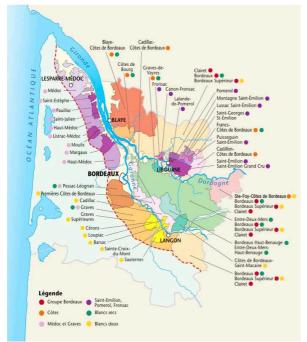


O Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Monday, May 30th, 12:23 PM



Pardeaux. France



O Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**公** 2

Monday, May 30th, 12:23 PM



Page Bordeaux, France



**公** 3

Monday, May 30th, 12:23 PM



Pardeaux, France

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\Omega\)** 25

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**公** 21

Monday, May 30th, 12:23 PM

Good evening from Bordeaux, France. Our ship the Sirena is berthed right across the street from downtown Bordeaux on the banks of the Garonne River. Bordeaux is France's sixth largest metro area and is widely considered to be the wine capital of the world.

We had lunch (with Bordeaux wine) at a downtown brasserie and then came back to the ship for a long nap. Just another 10,000+ step day. It's easy to see why this area of France is so popular with tourists. Plus, it's only a 2-hour train ride to Paris if you want to go visit the City of Lights.

Tomorrow, we are off to nearby St. Emilion to visit a couple of wineries and have another fabulous lunch.







Bordeaux, France



One unexpected discovery today in Bordeaux was walking through this enormous independent bookstore (Mollat) that covered a whole city block.

Sophia told us that Amazon is not allowed to sell any book in France at a price lower than bookstores like Mollat. Not sure exactly how this is enforced but it appears to be working as this store was packed with shoppers.



**公** 19

PHOTOS FROM JOHN
WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, May 30th, 1:37 PM

Here's where we had lunch today in Bordeaux. I had steak-frites. Liz had the cod. Both were excellent. The house bordeaux wine was better than average. It was just a short walk back to the ship. We both needed a long nap after our 3-hour walking tour.

**\(\Omega\)** 16

**\(\Omega\)** 15





La Brasserie Bordelaise



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Monday, May 30th, 1:37 PM





#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Tuesday, May 31st, 10:55 AM



Goodbye Bordeaux. You are a lovely city. We will be back.

Next up: St. Malo, France and an excursion to Mont Saint-Michel, our last stop before heading back home.

Bordeaux, France



One thing I learned today is that England controlled this part of France during the 12th and 13th centuries beginning with Henry II in 1154. The map below shows the extent of their control of France in the late-1100s.

The French did jot regain full control of their land until the end of the 100 years' war in 1453.

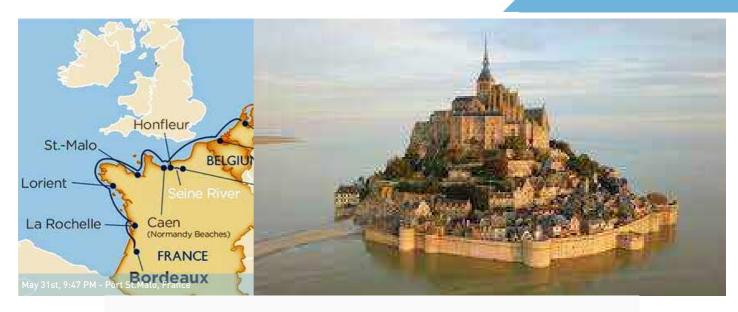
Pardeaux, France



Tuesday, May 31st, 9:47 PM



Port St. Malo, France





Tuesday, May 31st, 10:31 PM



△ 1 PHOTOS FROM JOHN

WILLIAMS'S POST Tuesday, May 31st, 9:47 PM

Good morning from off the coastline of France. We are headed to the Port of St.-Malo, but it will take us another 24

hours to arrive - our final at-sea day.

**公** 30

Tomorrow we will be exploring Mont Saint Michel, about an hour's drive from St.-Malo. This will be our last stop before disembarking in Southampton, UK and flying home on Friday out of London Heathrow.







Port St. Malo, France



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, May 31st, 10:31 PM

Our first stop yesterday in St. Emilion, about an hour's drive from Bordeaux, was Chateau Coutet, a privately owned winery that has been owned and operated by 14 consecutive generations of the same family -- over 400 years.

Liz is pictured below with a member of the family who showed us around the whole property and led us through the wine tasting. We both enjoyed their Grand Cru and bought three bottles of the 2017 vintage that they will ship to us.

We were also able to go down into the family's private cellar and see all the wines they have stored just for their personal use. Can you imagine how good some of these wines must be once they reach their peak potential?







**©** 24

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, May 31st, 10:31 PM







St. Emilion, Bordeaux

**公** 29

## TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, May 31st, 11:00 PM



Chateau Villemaurine

## TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, May 31st, 11:00 PM



# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, May 31st, 10:47 PM

After the wine tasting visit at Chateau Coutet, we did a walking tour and had lunch in St. Emilion, a cute little village filled with wine stores and restaurants. We, of course, had St. Emilion wine with lunch.

The town and surrounding vineyards were made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999, owing to its long, living history of winemaking, Romanesque churches and ruins.





St. Emilion, Bordeaux

## TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, May 31st, 10:47 PM



# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, May 31st, 11:00 PM

After lunch, we visited a second winery in St. Emilion - Chateau Villemaurine - where we got another tour and wine tasting.

We were also able to walk through their underground, limestone quarries where many of the stones to build Bordeaux were mined. They are perfect places to store and age barrels of wine.









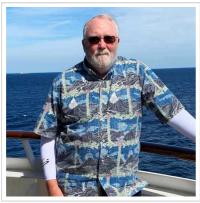
**\(\Omega\)** 20

• Chateau Villemaurine











# JUNE - JULY

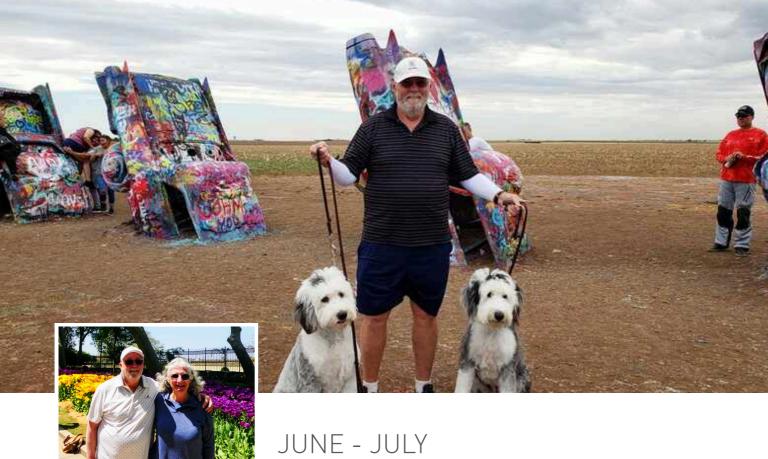
2022

Proud Papa moment. Lance is crushing it as a partner for Boren, Osher & Luftman. If you ever need an employment lawyer, please contact him directly. I know how hard he works and cares for his clients.

凸 93

□ 86 photos

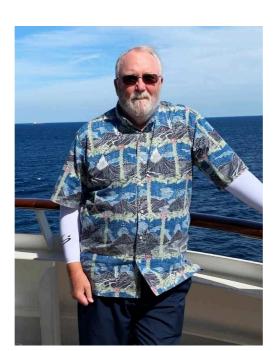
**■ 7 statuses** 



Wednesday, June 1, 2022

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, June 1st, 12:17 PM



All dressed for dinner on our next to last night aboard the Sirena

**\$\omega\$** 47

## Thursday, June 2, 2022



Thursday, June 2nd, 8:56 PM



Southampton, England, U.K.



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\omega\)** 28

Thursday, June 2nd, 8:56 PM

**TIMELINE PHOTOS** 

Thursday, June 2nd, 8:56 PM

Good morning from the UK. We are approaching the Port of Southampton where we will disembark the Sirena, hop on a bus to London Heathrow, and catch a nonstop Delta flight to Seattle.

If all goes well, we will be back in Scottsdale around midnight. We'll be spending Friday night at a Kierland hotel. We plan to pick-up Cara & Cassie Saturday morning and then drive back home to Talking Rock, about a two-hour drive.

Yesterday, we were unble to visit Mont Saint Michel as high winds prevented us from entering the Port at St-Malo. Bummer. I was really looking forward to seeing it again. Last time I was there was 1971 when I was living in Belgium.





Southampton, England, U.K.



Southampton, England, U.K.



**\$\omega\$** 2

**公** 57

Saturday, June 4th, 9:57 AM



▼ Talking Rock

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, June 4th, 9:57 AM

Home Sweet Home.

The best part of coming home after a long trip is knowing these two furr-balls are anxiously waiting for you. We got quite the welcome from Cara & Cassie this morning. As you can tell, they both went to the groomers yesterday and are looking good.





**♥** Talking Rock



**4** 34





Good morning everyone from our rental home in Prescott, AZ.

We are slowly adjusting to the 10-hour time difference from Istanbul and just as slowly unpacking and beginning to re-adjust to life as normal. We both took a couple of naps yesterday and were up at 3 AM this morning. It will take a couple more days for our bodies to adjust.

Here's a pic of some of our travel mementos that we brought back with us. The books are for my travel library. The rug is the one Liz bought in Istanbul, the coasters from Chateau Coutet in St. Emilion, and the two hand-carved statues of the Virgin Mary and Child are from Bethlehem.

We've also got some wine being delivered from Bordeaux and a beautiful piece of ceramics from Turkey.

Prescott. Arizona

## Monday, June 6, 2022



凸 16



Monday, June 6th. 4:30 AM

凸 19

Monday, June 6th, 4:23 AM

"Congrats to Billy Horschel on winning the Memorial. Incredible putting performance down the stretch yesterday. Fun to watch, especially the eagle putt on 15. I wonder why more pros don't try his unusual lefthand low putting grip. It looks really solid to me. His three kids were SO excited to see their Dad win."

"I don't miss this one little bit. At 5000 feet elevation, Prescott is a good 10 -15 degrees cooler than Scottsdale in the summer."



## Sunday, June 12, 2022



## Friday, June 17, 2022

**STATUS** 

Friday, June 17th, 5:54 AM

"Congrats to the Warriors"



Friday, June 24th, 2:07 PM

"Lahontan memories with the Tripod"

**\(\omega\)** 20

**STATUS** 

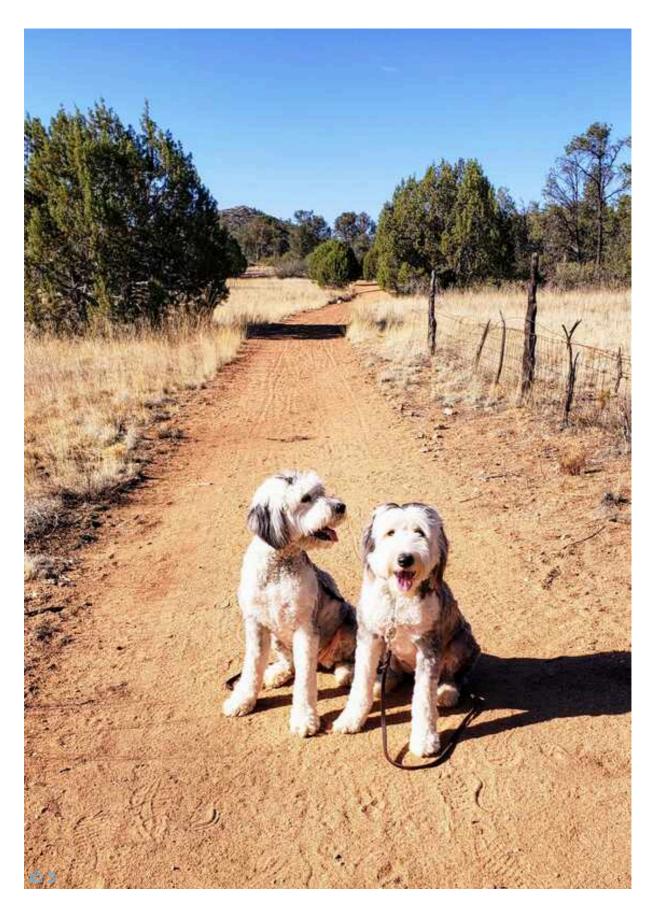
Saturday, June 25th, 6:30 AM

"I am going to have to check this out next week. The world's oldest rodeo is right here in Prescott."

**\(\Omega\)** 10







**公** 29



Sunday, June 26th, 5:41 AM





Saturday, June 25th, 12:47 PM

**公** 19

C&C and I are beginning to explore all the walking trails at Talking Rock. There are over a dozen in total. Our new favorite is the East Perimeter Trail which takes us close to our new lot in Sterling Ranch which is now covered with rocks and dirt.

Our builder is getting closer to starting work on clearing the lot and building the pad which will be approx. 4 feet above the natural grade and require two stone retaining walls.

It's also the start of monsoon season here in Northern Arizona. The rain clouds you see in the distance are pretty much a regular occurrence every afternoon.







**♀** Talking Rock

**STATUS** 

**心** 13

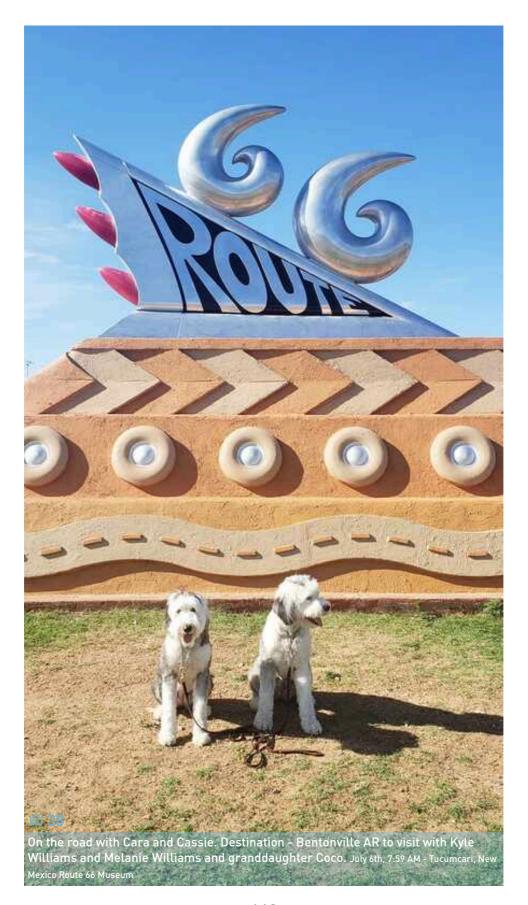
Saturday, June 25th, 6:24 PM

"Lake Tahoe memories with the Tripod gang + wives."

STATUS
Sunday, June 26th, 7:07 AM

"Carpe Diem."

ம் 12



**\(\omega\)** 23





Wednesday, July 6th, 10:55 AM



I have a new co-pilot - Cassie

Amarillo, Texas

△ 24 MOBILE UPLOADS

Thursday, July 7th, 11:01 AM

Love's The Control of 
I am a big fan of Love's Travel Stops. Good gas prices, clean bathrooms, ice, sodas and snacks, and dog runs. Perfect for me and the girls.

♥ Love's Travel Stop



Made it safely to Bentonville and a reunion with Coco. Kyle Williams and I are bachelors this weekend as Liz Williams and Melanie Williams just left for the airport for a week of vacation in London. They will be at center court at Wimbledon on Saturday. July 7th, 3:52 PM - Bentonville, Arkansas



**\(\Omega\)** 29



**公** 55

Thursday, July 7th, 5:40 PM



Backyard fun with the three C's - Coco, Cara and Cassie.

**♀** Bentonville, Arkansas



I know what I will be doing the next few nights.

Pentonville, Arkansas

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**\(\Omega\)** 15

Friday, July 8th, 6:18 AM



I spent the second night on the road in Shamrock TX, a small town off of I-40 and on the old Route 66 highway. This restored Conoco Station called the U-Drop Inn aka Tower Station is the highlight of the town.

For all you Pixar fans, the 2006 Pixar computer-animated film Cars is set in the cartoon village of Radiator Springs, which was created as a composite of real landmarks and personalities encountered by Pixar artists on multiple research trips on 1,200 miles (1,900 km) of the former U.S. Route 66.

Among the buildings and structures based on Route 66 landmarks is a version of Tower Station. U-Drop Inn's unique design and architecture is portrayed as an automotive body shop owned by the character Ramone, a Chevrolet Impala lowrider.







### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Friday, July 8th, 4:27 PM



Kyle and I will be having a good time this weekend !!!

Pentonville, Arkansas

### PHO

**4** 23

PHOTOS FROM JOHN

**\(\omega\)** 10

WILLIAMS'S POST Friday, July 8th, 6:42 AM

I spent the first night of the trip in Albuquerque NM at a motel close to the Rio Grande river which flows right through town.

I drove to a spot on the river with C&C where we found some lovely walking trails.





Albuquerque, New Mexico

### M.

### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

**©** 24

Friday, July 8th, 2:39 PM



The girls are enjoying all the extra attention from Kyle and Coco.

Pentonville, Arkansas

### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

**\(\Omega\)** 19

Friday, July 8th, 5:36 PM



Two down ✓✓ . . . several more to go

Pentonville, Arkansas



Look who's at Wimbledon Center Court. Melanie Williams, Liz Williams, Michelle E. González, and Lance Williams. Kyle and I are back in Bentonville AR about to start a bachelors' weekend with Coco, Cara, Cassie & Bailey. July 9th, 5:41 AM

**公** 27

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**©** 14

Saturday, July 9th, 6:48 AM



Coco is going solo on puzzle #3. I am watching the women's finals at Wimbledon.

**♀** Bentonville, Arkansas



**\(\Omega\)** 30

Saturday, July 9th, 7:21 AM



Coco just finished puzzle #3 all by herself. I think we are just about ready to step-up to a 150-piece puzzle for 7 year-olds. Coco just turned 6 1/2. These 100-piece puzzles are getting too easy for her.

**♀** Bentonville, Arkansas



Saturday, July 9th, 12:39 PM CENTRE COURT o meehgz..

Lance Williams and his wife Michelle E. González are at Wimbledon today. They are a glamorous couple who enjoy travelling around the world as often as they can. I am pretty sure Lance's outfit was purchased expressly to attend Wimbledon. Michelle is the creator / founder of @laxtoluxury which has over one million followers on ticktock.

Lance Williams, Michelle E. González



Puzzle #4 is in the books. This one was 150 pieces. I did the outside border. Coco helped fill in the center pieces. July 9th, 6:17 PM

**\(\omega\)** 22

**公** 31



Saturday, July 9th, 6:29 PM



Liz Williams and Melanie Williams spent the day at Center Court at Wimbledon watching the ladies finals as well as the men's doubles finals. Both were excellent matches.

They are staying in London for another five nights to go see all the sites.

🖪 Liz Williams, Melanie Williams

### **公** 30

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, July 9th, 4:17 PM



On my way back to AZ, I have decided to take a scenic route through the north of Oklahoma and New Mexico that will avoid having to drive I-40. I will be driving mostly on US Highways 60 and 64.

Planned stops include Tonkawa OK, Guymon OK, Taos NM, Four Corners, South Rim of the Grand Canyon, Tusayan AZ and finally back home to Prescott.

If all goes well, I will be on the road four days and three nights with Cara and Cassie as my co-pilots and companions.

### Sunday, July 10, 2022



Sunday, July 10th, 7:11 AM



Cassie is enjoying the extra attention from Kyle.

Pentonville, Arkansas

**©** 16

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, July 10th, 11:11 AM



Much to the delight of Coco, I was the loser at Jenga last night.

Pentonville, Arkansas

Bellion Mice, Al



### Wednesday, July 13, 2022





### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, July 13th, 4:45 AM

I am on my way home to AZ.

I can finally cross off the list driving across Northern Oklahoma and the Panhandle. Beautiful drive but only if you enjoy seeing large tracts of farmland, old abandoned farm homes, wind turbines and oil rigs. I spent the night in Woodward OK.





**Q** Woodward, Oklahoma

**\(\omega\)** 20



Wednesday, July 13th, 4:52 AM



凸 1

© Cimarron, New Mexico

凸 9



Wednesday, July 13th, 4:52 AM

I did a little sight-seeing yesterday in Cimarron NM, one of the important stops along the Santa Fe Trail. Its tagline is "Where the Rockies Meet the Plains".

Taos NM is right over the tops of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains you see in the photo below.

Cimarron's most famous site is the historic St. James Hotel shown below.



♥ Cimarron, New Mexico





Wednesday, July 13th, 4:59 AM



♀ Cimarron. New Mexico



Wednesday, July 13th, 4:59 AM

I saw many signs yesterday for the Santa Fe Trail which used to go right through Cimarron in NE New Mexico.



**Q** Cimarron, New Mexico









### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, July 13th, 5:06 AM

When I am on the road and not pressed for time, I like to explore new places that I've never been to before.

Yesterday's discovery was Capulin Volcano, about 30 miles east of Raton, NM where I spent the night.

It's an old, extinct cinder cone volcano best known for its near-perfect conical shape. It's a National Monument with a nice Visitors Center.

I drove up to the top of the volcano but the dogs were not allowed on the trail so we just talked to the Park Service Ranger for a bit and enjoyed the views.





**\(\Omega\)** 16

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, July 13th, 5:06 AM







La Veta, Colorado

凸 11

**\(\Omega\)** 18

### MOBILE UPLOADS

Wednesday, July 13th, 8:51 AM



**Q** Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Thursday, July 14th, 3:50 AM



Mesa Verde National Park

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, July 13th, 7:27 AM

I am driving US-160 from Walsenburg, CO to Tuba City, AZ. Had to stop for this photo opp. of the Spanish Peaks.

This is a spectacular drive - definitely more interesting than I-40.



Q La Veta, Colorado

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, July 13th, 8:51 AM

Cara & Cassie's first National Park.





**Q** Great Sand Dunes National Park and ...

### MOBILE UPLOADS

Wednesday, July 13th, 8:51 AM



### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Thursday, July 14th, 3:50 AM



Mesa Verde National Park





### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, July 14th, 4:48 PM

It was a bit of a hike from Page AZ, but I drove the girls to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon today. About 2 1/2 hours each way. It's not an easy place to get to.

But I got the photos I wanted after walking all the way out to the end of the trail leading from the North Rim Lodge.

Tomorrow we do the South Rim then head home to Prescott.







North Rim of the Grand Canyon

**\(\Omega\)** 36

### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, July 14th, 3:50 AM

Our second National Park on the same day. We also plan to stop by the Grand Canyon on Friday.

**©** 22





Mesa Verde National Park

### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Thursday, July 14th, 4:48 PM



North Rim of the Grand Canyon

**\(\omega\)** 32

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Thursday, July 14th, 4:49 PM



TIMELINE PHOTOS

Friday, July 15th, 5:07 AM



On the drive from Page AZ to the North Rim, you pass by the spectacular Vermilion Cliffs. So beautiful.

♥ Vermillion Cliffs Scenic Highway



Friday, July 15th, 5:01 AM

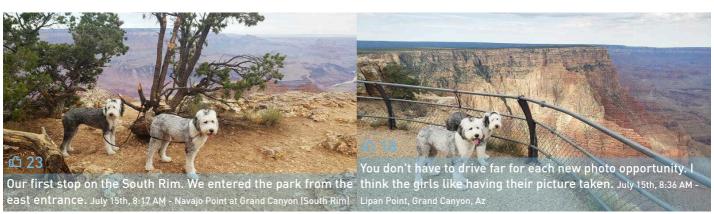


As I was driving from Cortez CO to Four Corners yesterday, I spotted this unusual rock formation, pulled over and snapped this photo.

I later learned it is Chimney Rock, a National Monument, and the former home of 2000+ ancestral Puebloans aka Anasazi between the years 925 and 1125 when they mysteriously abandoned the site just like they did in the more famous nearby Chaco Canyon. For more info, see the Wiki links below.

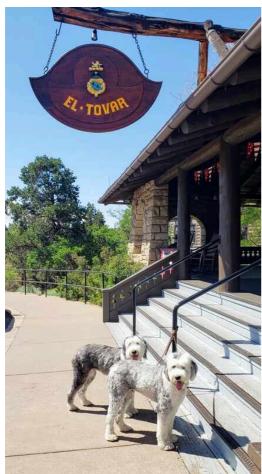
BTW I was hoping to stop at Four Corners and take a picture with C&C. Unfortunately, the site is still closed due to COVID concerns so that picture will just have to wait.

○ Chimney Rock National Monument



**\(\Omega\)** 18

Friday, July 15th, 10:07 AM





Friday, July 15th, 10:07 AM

I've got lots more photos to share of the girls at Grand Canyon but they will have to wait until we get home. We had fun exploring the South Rim.





South Rim of the Grand Canyon, AZ



YOU SHARED A PHOTO

Friday, July 15th, 10:07 AM





Home Sweet Home. Another road trip in the books. Cara & Cassie are officially my new Road Warriors. I hope to take trips like this with them several times a year. Here's a recap by the numbers: 11 Days / 10 Nights 3,235 Miles 7 States 4 National Parks 5 Jigsaw Puzzles With Coco July 15th, 2:55 PM - Talking Rock

**\(\omega\)** 23

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**©** 21

Friday, July 15th, 3:14 PM



I think this may be my favorite picture of the day. It takes some patience to wait for the girls to turn their heads towards the camera.

**♀** Grandview Point, Grand Canyon



I had to trust Cara on this shot not to back up too much. As you can see there was no protective guardrail.

Moran Point at the Grand Canyon

TIMELINE PHOTOS

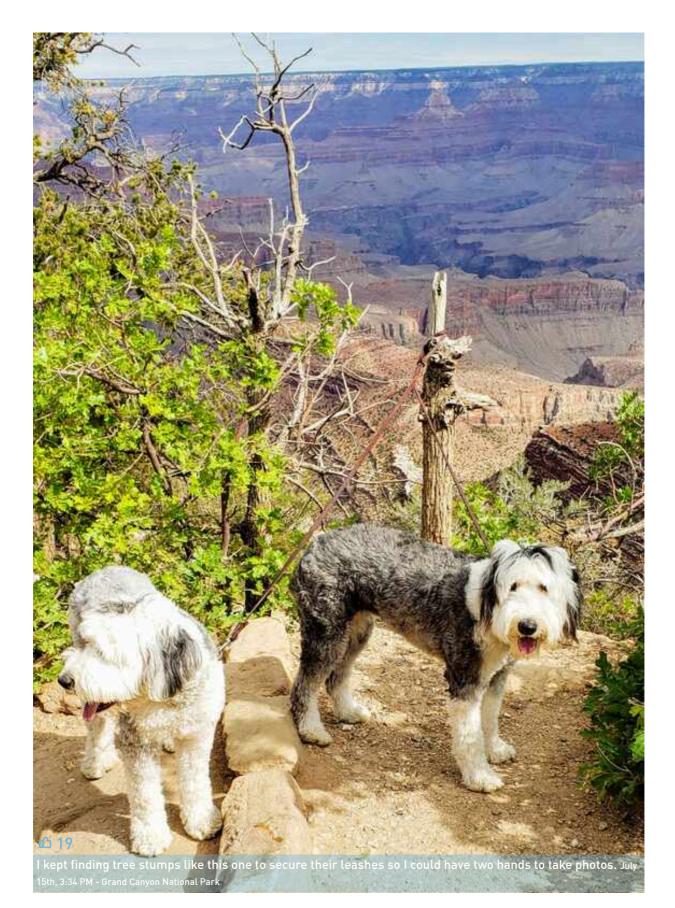
**\(\Omega\)** 18

Friday, July 15th, 3:27 PM



I think the girls were staring at another dog just outside of the picture frame. It's hard to get them to pose for these kinds of shots.

Rim Trail-Grand Canyon



**\(\omega\)** 23

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Friday, July 15th, 3:42 PM

**©** 14

Friday, July 15th, 3:58 PM



This photo was from yesterday's trip to the North Rim. We had just climbed some steep stairs to gain access to the Lodge's outdoor patio and we were all breathing hard. Pretty spectacular view. Well worth the climb.





I drove Liz's 2019 MDX this trip, not my own which I plan to turn-in for the new 2023 model in a couple of months. The girls are having their lunch inside. The second row seats fold down flat so they have plenty of room to eat and sleep.

**Q** Grand Canyon National Park



Friday, July 15th, 3:45 PM



South Rim of the Grand Canyon, AZ



**公** 27

Monday, July 25th, 11:28 AM

# ikigai

(n.) a Japanese concept
literally translates to "a
reason for being"; 'a reason to
get up in the morning', to
enjoy the meaning of life passion, purpose, something
one lives for

Recent reasearch seems to suggest that finding your ikigai (eee-kee-gai-eee) can add years to your life and improve your level of happiness. See links below.

travelmelodies.com

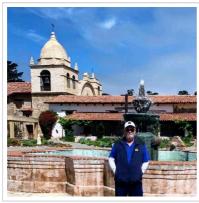


Watching the Open today on tv is not as good as being there in-person.

The picture below is from our summer 2014 trip to Scotland. We didn't get a chance to play the Old Course but that didn't stop us from taking this picture on the 18th hole on the Swilcan Bridge.









## AUGUST

Liz and I had dinner with an old classmate from the DPHS Class of 1970. Just a couple of old farm boys from Dos Palos sharing stories about the good ol' times growing up in the Central Valley of CA.

凸 82

42 photos

**■ 1 status** 



Tuesday, August 2, 2022



Tuesday, August 2nd, 12:59 PM



Pebble Beach Resorts



Tuesday, August 2nd, 12:59 PM

Not a bad place to celebrate my 70th.

**4** 72





**♀** Pebble Beach Resorts



### MOBILE UPLOADS

Tuesday, August 2nd, 12:59 PM



Overlooking the 18th Hole



Just your typical foggy August day at Carmel Highlands. That's Point Lobos off in the distance. Tons of cars are parked along Route One to walk out to the Point and back. August 2nd, 4:22 PM - Hyatt Carmel Highlands

### Wednesday, August 3, 2022



Wednesday, August 3rd, 7:02 PM



Lovely dinner in downtown Carmel-By-The Sea. Liz had the abalone which was to-die-for.

Plying Fish Grill



Thursday, August 4th, 10:40 AM

I walked Point Lobos for about an hour today. Liz took a pass. Beautiful piece of real estate.



Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

### **4** 36

### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, August 3rd, 4:18 PM

Lunch on Big Sur at Nepenthe, first opened in 1949. It's about 25 miles south of Carmel Highlands. Route 1 is open both ways but with road construction.

**\(\omega\)** 23

Did you know that this famous property was once owned by Orson Wells and Rita Haworth?





Nepenthe Big Sur



### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Thursday, August 4th, 10:40 AM



Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

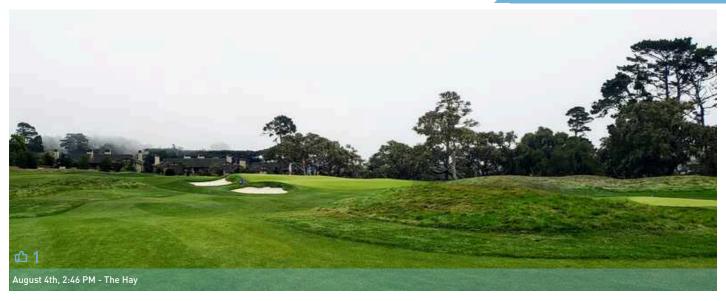


### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Thursday, August 4th, 10:40 AM



Point Lobos State Natural Reserve





Thursday, August 4th, 2:46 PM



**公** 3



Thursday, August 4th, 2:46 PM





**♀** The Hay

PHOTOS FROM JOHN

**\(\omega\)** 35

WILLIAMS'S POST Thursday, August 4th, 2:46 PM

My first chance to play the par 3 course at Pebble Beach called The Hay. Nice.







**♀** The Hay

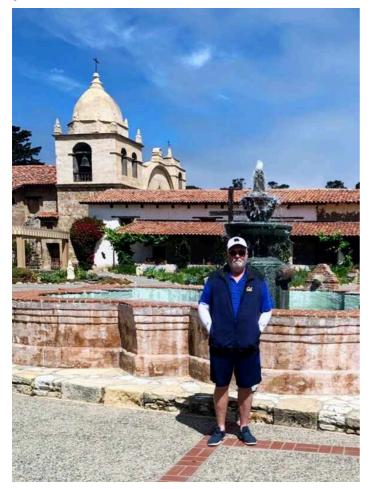
**♀** The Hay

### Friday, August 5, 2022





Friday, August 5th, 11:53 AM



## © 1 PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, August 5th, 11:53 AM

### Quick trip to the Carmel Mission







**Q** Carmel Mission Basilica



MOBILE UPLOADS

Friday, August 5th, 4:29 PM



**公** 24



**Q** Carmel Beach





### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, August 5th, 4:29 PM

Quick pre-dinner walk on Carmel Beach.



**Q** Carmel Beach

**公** 30

### MOBILE UPLOADS

Friday, August 5th, 4:29 PM



**Q** Carmel Beach

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, August 10th, 4:35 AM



Kyle & Family paid me a surprise visit yesterday, flying all the way from NW Arkansas to wish me a happy 70th birthday. It's their first visit to Talking Rock.

It's a little hard to see in the photo below, but Coco bought me a balloon that says "Happy Birthday, Stay Fabulous"

How sweet.

Sessence Kitchen + Bar

**\(\Omega\)** 65



Wednesday, August 10th, 3:38 PM



**\( \omega \)** 30

**©** 24

Grandma and Coco enjoying a golf cart ride to check out the model of our new home.

**♥** Talking Rock



Wednesday, August 10th, 3:40 PM



Cassie seems to be enjoying her new goggles and the attention from Melanie Williams

**♀** Talking Rock

■ Melanie Williams

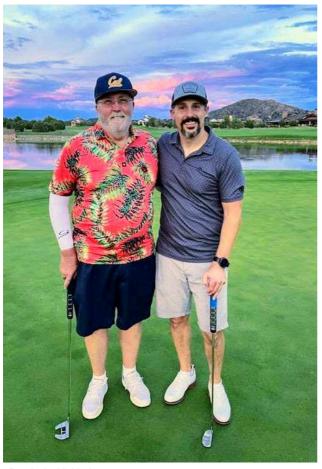
176

**©** 41

### Thursday, August 11, 2022



Thursday, August 11th, 8:40 PM



▼ Talking Rock Golf Club

### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, August 11th, 8:40 PM

A fun Father/Son round of golf at my new club - Talking Rock GC.

Lance shot a 77, the best round of his life. But not quite good enough to beat me, losing his best-ball match 2-1. Kyle had a handicap maintenance round.





Talking Rock Golf Club

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Thursday, August 11th, 8:37 PM



The birthday surprises just keep on coming. Today Lance & Michelle showed up unexpectedly, taking the flight from LAX to Prescott (PRC) late last night.

We played family Jenga this morning and I was able to capture this picture of Coco pulling the losing tile.

The Williams boys are off to play golf this afternoon. Hopefully the monsoon rains will hold off so we don't have to pull-out the rain gear.

**♀** Talking Rock



Thursday, August 11th, 8:40 PM



Talking Rock Golf Club

**4** 36

### Friday, August 19, 2022



### Saturday, August 20, 2022



Saturday, August 20th, 5:04 PM



The girls just love hopping in my MDX and being on the road. It doesn't matter where we go as long as they get to come with. We did a Costco run today and Liz stayed in the car while I did the shopping. Last weekend's activities depleted my wine cabinet but it is now back to normal levels and we are ready for the next round of guests.  $\ensuremath{\mathemath{\mathfrak{C}}}$ 

**♀** Costco

## © 29 PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, August 19th, 5:03 PM

The big earth-moving equipment has arrived and they have finally begun clearing our lot. The trees you see in the background are staying and will be a nice picture frame for the house once it's built. It's going to take some time before the pad is ready. We still don't expect to be in the new house until Q4 next year, hopefully in time to celebrate Christmas with the family.

**公** 35



Talking Rock

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, August 20th, 5:12 PM



Talking Rock

**\(\Omega\)** 20



Saturday, August 20th, 5:12 PM



♥ Talking Rock

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, August 20th, 5:12 PM

Driving around Talking Rock is like being in a nature preserve. We saw these two beauties this afternoon on our daily drive up to the construction lot. It's about 1.5 miles from our rental home.

In addition to deer, we often see javelina, antelope, jackrabbits, roadrunners, and coyotes.





**Q** Talking Rock



**\$\pi\$** 7

Monday, August 22nd, 7:21 AM

"53 years ago . . . I was just starting my senior year in high school"



### Saturday, August 27, 2022



Saturday, August 27th, 1:00 PM



△ 31 TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, August 29th, 6:23 PM



🗣 Talking Rock





**\(\omega\)** 23

**♀** Talking Rock

All the monsoon rain has turned Talking Rock into a lush flower garden. The girls and I are walking the trails and enjoying the beauty.

**♀** Talking Rock



PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, August 29th, 6:23 PM

This is the southerly view of the entire building pad under construction. When they are done, the pad will be more than four feet higher than what you see today. They still have a LOT of rock and dirt to move to build it up to that level.

If you look carefully, you can see Liz and C&C to the far right of the top picture.

This also gives you an idea how green everything is due to the recent monsoon rain.

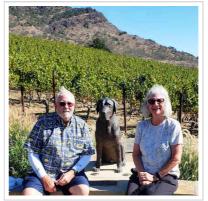


Talking Rock









# SEPTEMBER

2022

Liz was in the Bay Area this weekend to attend her 50th high school reunion from Alameda HS Class of 1971. Here she is with two of her best friends Sally and Darlene. We decided to make an extended trip out of it and are spending the next three nights in San Francisco and then two more nights in N(...)

凸 50

□ 55 photos

**■ 1 status** 



Saturday, September 10, 2022



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, September 10th, 11:03 AM

Doing a little wine tasting in Temecula today in spite of nearby fire. Liz took a pass. Akash Winery was first up. Two more wineries to go.







Akash Winery & Vineyards

**©** 14



Saturday, September 10th, 11:03 AM





**\(\Omega\)** 12

**公** 18



Saturday, September 10th, 12:32 PM



**♀** Maurice Car'rie Winery



Saturday, September 10th, 1:41 PM



Mount Palomar Winery

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, September 10th, 12:32 PM

2nd winery - Maurice Carrie. Bought this very intetesting blended red rose.







Saturday, September 10th, 12:32 PM



PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, September 10th, 1:41 PM

3rd and final winery of the day - Mount Palomar, one of Temucula's oldest wineries.





Mount Palomar Winery

MOBILE UPLOADS

Saturday, September 10th, 1:41 PM





### Sunday, September 11, 2022





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Sunday, September 11th, 7:41 AM

Old Town Temecula has a lot of charm. I need to come back and spend some more time here. Pechanga Resort and Casino is right next door with a championship golf course I have never played. All the necessary ingredients for a long weekend stay.



Old Town Temecula

#### **©** 21

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, September 11th, 7:11 PM



Pelican Hill Golf Club



Sunday, September 18th, 11:19 AM



Sundays are my jigsaw puzzle days with football games serving as background noise.

I really enjoyed doing this puzzle "The Sixties". I will probably get it framed.

It brought back lots of memories of my growing up in that tumultuous decade.

STATUS

Monday, September 19th, 5:14 AM

"Northern Arizona is beautiful this time of year."

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**\(\Omega\)** 23

**\(\Omega\)** 16



Pelican Hill Golf Club

PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Sunday, September 11th, 7:11 PM

I always enjoy coming back to Newport Beach and playing Pelican Hill GC. Played the tougher South Course today. I had no chance of breaking 80 especially with the temps in the high 80s / low 90s. I wilted big time on the back nine. You could take a picture on every hole on this course.



Pelican Hill Golf Club

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, September 25th, 2:14 PM



Paixby Canyon Bridge, Big Sur

187

**\(\Omega\)** 2

**\(\Omega\)** 25

Sunday, September 25th, 2:14 PM



Pixby Canyon Bridge, Big Sur



Sunday, September 25th, 2:14 PM

Today I drove the whole length of Big Sur from Cambria to Monterey on my way to meet Liz in San Francisco.

It's a drive everyone should put on their bucket list -- multiple times. It never gets old or boring. I learn or see something new each time I drive it.

Hwy 1 is in pretty good shape. They are still repairing the road in a couple of places and you have to wait for traffic signals where they have reduced the road to one-way only. But I never had to wait more than a couple of minutes, so it's no big deal.





Paixby Canyon Bridge, Big Sur

### Monday, September 26, 2022



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\Omega\)** 26



**公** 50

Monday, September 26th, 5:39 AM

One of the reasons I spent the night in Cambria was I wanted to see why people would wait 2+ hours in line to get a seat at Sea Chest Restaurant that does not take reservations. I was #8 in line and got there two hours early with a bottle of wine to help pass the time. By the time the doors opened at 5:30, there were over 100 people waiting patiently, many of them enjoying their pre-dinner BYOB cocktails.

Well, all I can say is that it was worth the wait. I had calamari and petrale sole. Both to-die-for. Plus, I got the best view in the house overlooking the beach.

The first service at 5:30 is literally first-come, first-serve. Everyone rushes to secure their favorite tables once the doors open. To my surprise, the first guests ran to the bar where they could see the chefs at work. That allowed me to secure the best 2-seat table in the house,

One added bonus of waiting two hours was I struck up a conversation with a retired linguistics professor who sat next to me on the nearby benches while we were waiting. We had a nice time together and I made a new friend.

PS - if you come to Sea Chest, bring cash. They do not take credit cards.





Sea Chest Oyster Bar and Seafood Restaurant

Liz was in the Bay Area this weekend to attend her 50th high school reunion from Alameda HS Class of 1971.

Here she is with two of her best friends Sally and Darlene.

We decided to make an extended trip out of it and are spending the next three nights in San Francisco and then two more nights in Napa before heading back home to Northern Arizona.

Carpe Diem.

PS - As has become our custom, on trips like this I drive and Liz flies. I started the solo portion of the trip with two nights in Vegas.

Alameda, California



Having lunch at one of our all-time favorite SF restaurants. We ate here regularly back in the 70s when we were both working in the City. PS - Did you know that Sam's Grill, which first opened in 1867, is the fifth oldest restaurant in the U.S. I've posted a small article on their history below. September 26th, 11:31 AM - Sam's Grill and Seafood Restaurant

**\(\Omega\)** 16

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, September 26th, 6:13 AM

**©** 24

Monday, September 26th, 8:16 AM



I skipped over my two-night stay in Vegas before heading to Cambria. It's just a four-hour drive to Vegas from our new home at Talking Rock.

I ate both nights at my favorite restaurant, Mon Ami Gabi, a French bistro at the Paris. It's directly across the street from the Bellagio, so if you get the right seat, you can have dinner AND enjoy the water fountain show. Nice.

My favorite thing to do in Vegas (other than play blackjack of course) is to walk up and down the Strip and check-out all the casinos and retail shops. It's quite an experience. I got over 10,000 steps in both nights.

And in case you were wondering, Vegas is back. The boulevard and casinos were packed with tourists and wedding parties. Good to see.

Mon Ami Gabi



We had dinner last night at Trader Vic's in Emeryville.

When I was first dating Liz fifty years ago, I would sometimes take her to Trader Vics -- both here in Emeryville and in San Francisco. The SF restaurant has subsequently closed.

Lots of memories. This restaurant remains a favorite for Cal alumni, especially after Saturday afternoon football games. Go Bears, now 3-1 on the season.

▼ Trader Vic's - Emeryville

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**\( \Omega \)** 3

Tuesday, September 27th, 8:03 AM



Bix Restaurant



TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, September 27th, 8:03 AM



Bix Restaurant



Tuesday, September 27th, 8:03 AM

We tried a restaurant last night in historic Jackson Square that we had never been to before. BIX is advertised as a San Francisco Supper Club and offers live jazz music every evening.

We had a great meal but unfortunately got there too early to enjoy the live music which began just as we were leaving at 7:00pm. As you can see in the picture below, the main dining room is two stories tall and beautifully decorated.

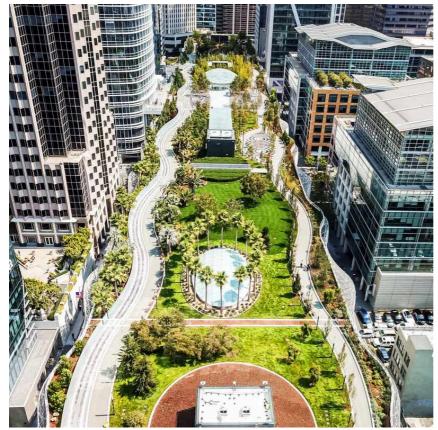




**Q** Bix Restaurant

**\$\omega\$** 27

Tuesday, September 27th, 2:56 PM



**♀** Salesforce Park

TIMELINE PHOTOS

凸 1

Tuesday, September 27th, 2:56 PM



**Q** Salesforce Park

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, September 27th, 2:56 PM

Finally got a chance to check out the Salesforce Park built on top of the new Transbay Terminal. If I was still working in the City, I would definitely come here often for some peace and quiet. It's a public park, free to everyone.





Salesforce Park

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, September 27th, 3:15 PM

I also got a chance to walk through the old Rincon Annex Post Office that contains 29 controversial murals painted in the 1940s.

See the articles I've posted below for more of the story.





San Francisco Murals at Rincon Annex Post Office



8

TIMELINE PHOTOS

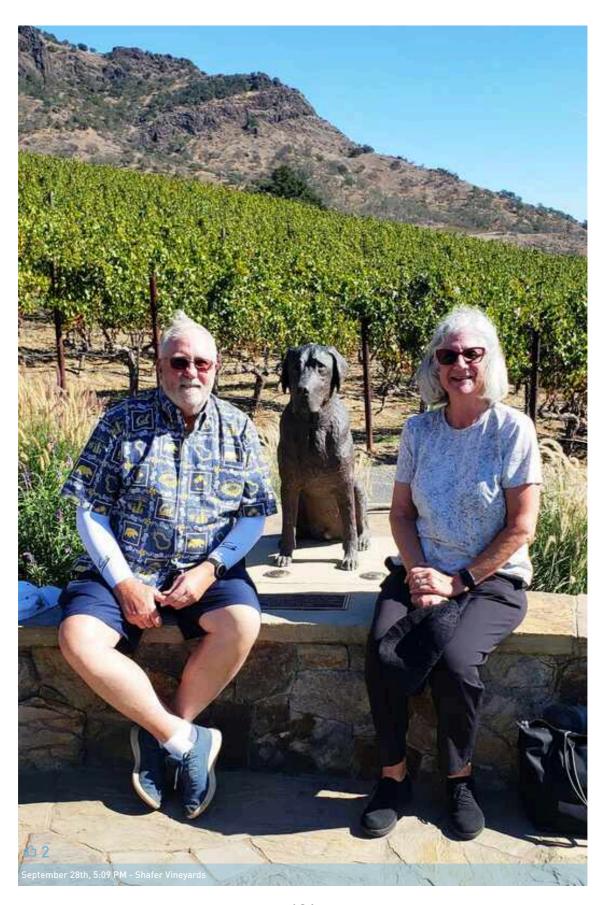
Tuesday, September 27th, 3:15 PM



San Francisco Murals at Rincon Annex...

<sub>ደ</sub>ርጉ 1

**\(\Omega\)** 13



### Tuesday, September 27, 2022

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, September 27th, 3:15 PM



## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\omega\)** 50

Wednesday, September 28th, 5:09 PM

From the streets of San Francisco to the vineyards of Napa. Nice. I could get used to this schedule.







Shafer Vineyards

#### MOBILE UPLOADS

**©** 1

Wednesday, September 28th, 5:09 PM





Wednesday, September 28th, 5:09 PM





**\(\Omega\)** 19

Thursday, September 29th, 12:05 PM



Our first ever visit to Chateau Montelena. We are doing their best 90-minute tasting experience. I'll let you know how it goes.

**♀** Chateau Montelena Winery



Friday, September 30th, 5:58 PM



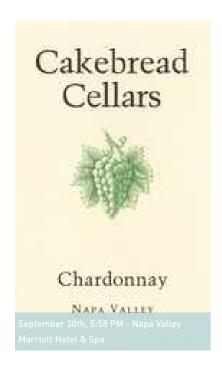
Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa

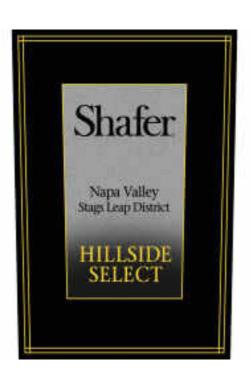


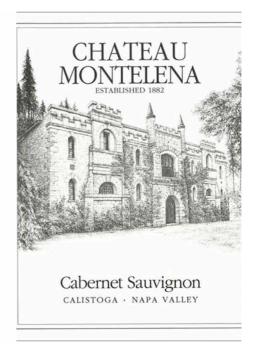


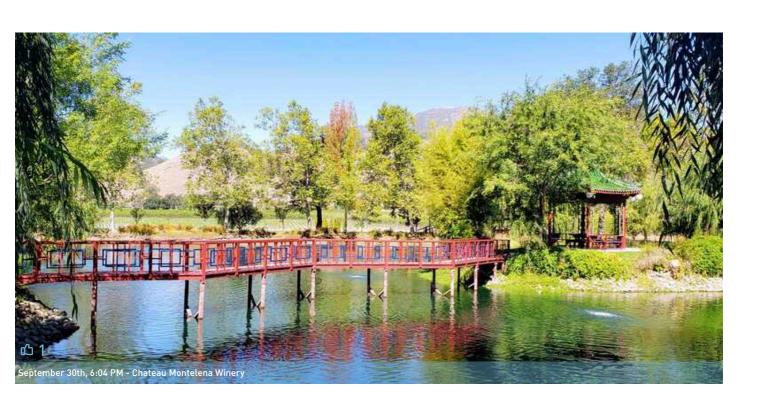
Made a new friend in Yountville. He's a little on the quiet side though 😀.

♀ Yountville, Napa Valley, California



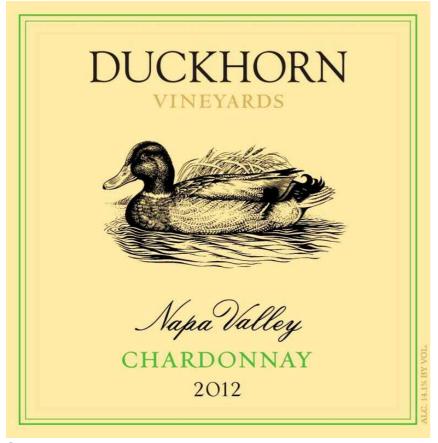








Friday, September 30th, 5:58 PM



Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, September 30th, 6:04 PM

The grounds at Chateau Montelena in Calistoga are spectacular.







♥ Chateau Montelena Winery

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, September 30th, 5:58 PM

Here are the five wineries we visited this week.

Best wine tasting experience: Chateau Montelena

Best wine: Shafer Hillside Select 2018

We have already booked a return trip to Yountville in 2023









**公** 17

Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa

#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

Friday, September 30th, 6:04 PM



Chateau Montelena Winery



**\(\Omega\)** 24

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

**©** 1

Friday, September 30th, 6:04 PM



○ Chateau Montelena Winery









# OCTOBER

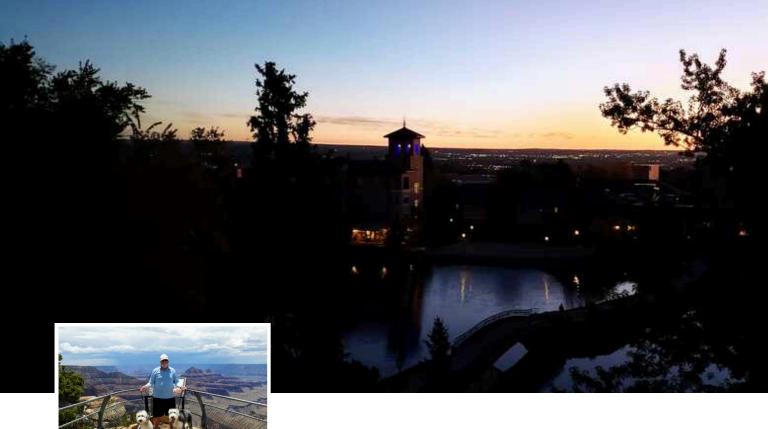
2022

Look at these young kids . . . just 47 years ago . . . what a ride it has been . . . stay tuned for the next chapters . . . we are going to keep pushing the envelope on our USA roadtrips and world travel . . . Carpe Diem. I am a day late posting this photo as yesterday I drove 800 miles from Colora(...)

凸 75

□ 82 photos

**■** 5 statuses



### OCTOBER



**\(\Omega\)** 25



I am back home after a marathon 14 1/2 hour, 871 mile drive from Chico, CA to Prescott, AZ with a small detour through my hometown of Dos Palos.

I am not a big fan of driving this far in one stretch or driving in the dark. But I was tired of being on the road and wanted to see my girls who greeted me warmly when I got home.

I dropped Liz off at the Sacramento airport and she flew back to PHX, picked up Cara & Cassie from their sitter, and drove home. She beat me back by only four hours.

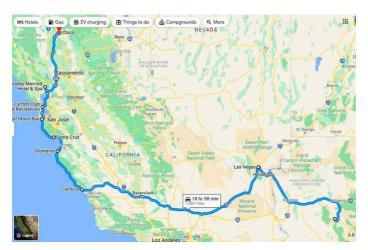
**♥** Talking Rock



SUNDARY, October 2nd, 9:08 AM

**©** 

"I just learned about this fascinating company on an NPR broadcast. Their hydropanels literally are making water out of thin air. This could solve lots of problems around the world if they can scale the technology and make it affordable for the masses."



Here was my path to Chico which I did in five leisurely drives over the past ten days:

- 1) Prescott AZ to Las Vegas NV
- 2) Las Vegas to Cambria CA
- 3) Cambria to San Francisco CA
- 4) San Francisco to Napa CA
- 5) Napa to Chico CA

In total I put a little over 2000 miles on Liz's 2019 Acura MDX which drove beautifully. We are trying to keep the extra miles off of my MDX which is about to come-off lease and get turned in for the new 2023 Type-S model.

Thank God for Sirius XM satellite radio and their Sixties Channel 073. It was my constant companion on most of the drive to and from.

No rest for the weary. I leave this coming Saturday for a 10-day road trip to Vail and Colorado Springs. Liz is flying both ways.

**4** 3

Talking Rock



Sunday, October 2nd, 6:02 PM

"Love this news. I see a 007 binge in my near future."



**©** 24

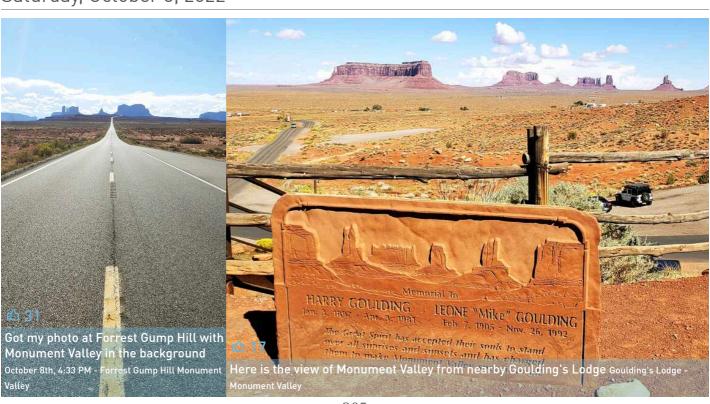


Home sweet home.

Talking Rock



#### Saturday, October 8, 2022



**\(\Omega\)** 16





Not far from Monument Valley is a town appropriately called Mexican Hat because of this unique rock formation.

Mexican Hat Rock Formation



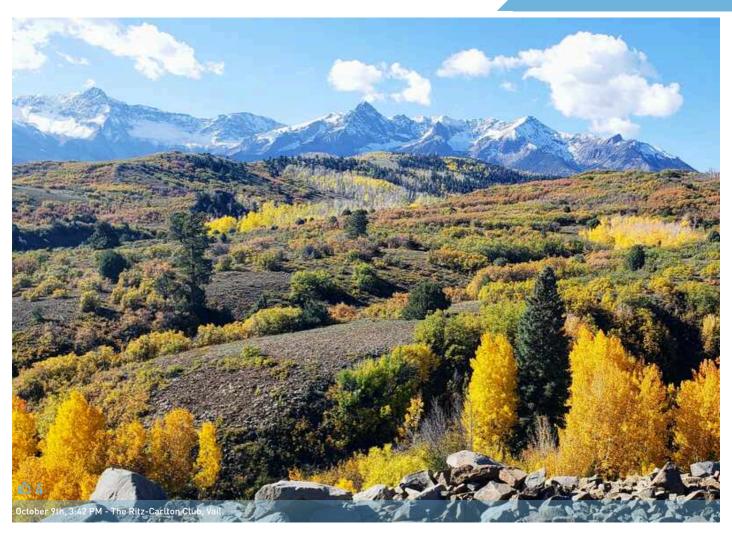
Saturday, October 8th, 4:47 PM



Did you know that over fifty major motion pictures have been filmed with scenes shot at Monument Valley?

See Wiki article and YouTube links below.

♥ Monument Valley





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Sunday, October 9th, 3:42 PM

I took the scenic route to Vail today and am glad that I did.

It may have been the most spectacular 8-hour drive of my life.

The fall colors at lower elevations were at their peak.



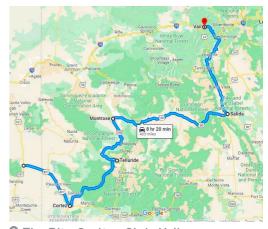


The Ritz-Carlton Club, Vail

#### **\$\omega\$** 21

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Sunday, October 9th, 3:42 PM

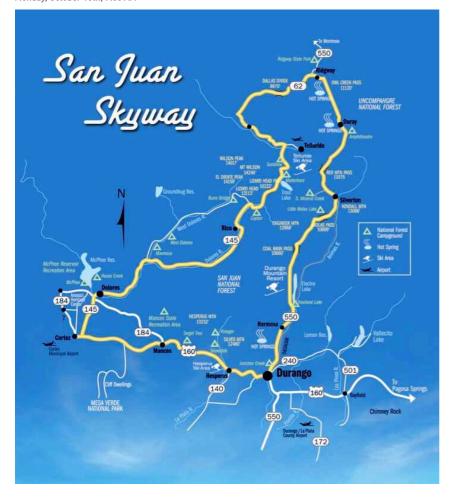


♥ The Ritz-Carlton Club, Vail



#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, October 10th, 7:00 AM



## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, October 10th, 7:00 AM

Yesterday's drive on the western section of the San Juan Skyway (SJS) included my first ever visit to Telluride. I drove the eastern section of the SJS from Durango a few years ago, so I have now completed the entire loop.

This is an absolutely gorgeous drive to take in the fall. Put it on your bucket list.

I've also added a couple of other photos below from yesterday's trip.







TIMELINE PHOTOS

**公** 1

**\(\Omega\)** 13

Monday, October 10th, 7:00 AM



Tuesday, October 11, 2022



#### **STATUS**

Tuesday, October 11th, 6:04 PM

"Here's what Telluride looked like when I drove through a couple of days ago."

**♀** Telluride Ski Resort

**\(\Omega\)** 25

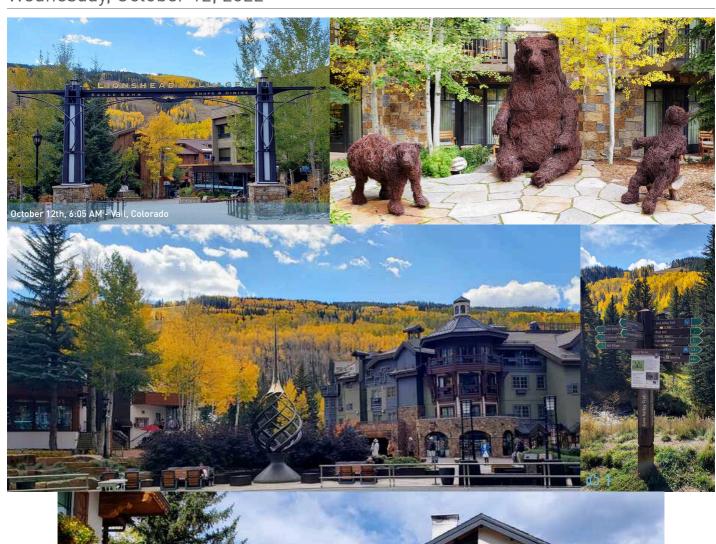
#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

**©** 1

Monday, October 10th, 7:00 AM



### Wednesday, October 12, 2022



**\(\omega\)** 40

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, October 12th, 6:05 AM

The more time we spend in Vail, the more we love it -- especially this time of year (between the summer and ski seasons) when the crowds are gone and the fall colors are still with us.

I've been taking long, solo walks every day (too long for Liz) where I can take all the photos I want and get in my 10,000+ steps. There are so many walking trails to explore.

In many respects Vail is like an outdoor sculpture garden with statues everywhere you turn. The three bears below are right outside of the Four Seasons.

The culinary scene is also outstanding. We've got a list of over a dozen restaurants we have not yet tried but want to. It's going to take several more return trips before we can get to all of them.

We are already booked for same time next year.









♥ Vail, Colorado



**Q** Vail, Colorado





♥ Vail, Colorado



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\Omega\)** 16

Wednesday, October 12th, 6:13 AM

Here's a few of the other statues I've walked by in the last two days.















Vail, Colorado

### Thursday, October 13, 2022



**TIMELINE PHOTOS** 

**\(\omega\)** 13

Thursday, October 13th, 9:38 AM



Yes . . . I did bring my golf clubs on this trip and had a lovely round yesterday at Eagle Ranch GC about 35 minutes west of Vail. The fall weather was gorgeous.

I would have played in Vail except they have already closed their golf course for the season.

P Eagle Ranch Golf Course

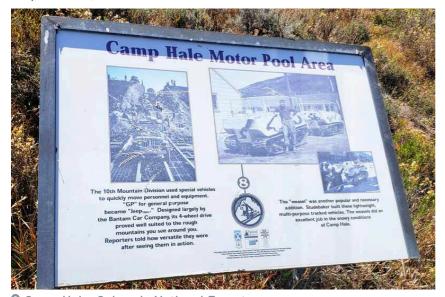
### Friday, October 14, 2022







Friday, October 14th, 6:12 AM



Camp Hale, Colorado National Forest



Friday, October 14th, 6:12 AM

Yesterday we took a Jeep tour to the top of the mountain above Camp Hale which just the day before had been named a National Monument by President Biden.

Camp Hale was the primary training ground for US alpine troops during WWII. I have attached a wiki article below explaining the importance of this camp.

The top of the mountain is about 12,000 ft. elevation which is above the tree line. It was a bit bumpy climbing the dirt road to the top.









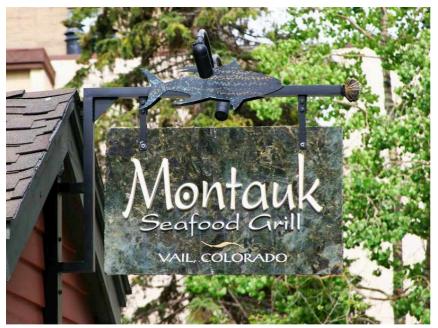
**\(\Omega\)** 17

Camp Hale, Colorado National Forest

**\(\Omega\)** 27



Friday, October 14th, 6:22 AM



We had dinner last night at Montauk Seafood Grill in Lionshead Village Vail.

We both agreed it was our best meal of the trip. Make sure to put it on your list when you come to Vail.

Montauk Seafood Grill

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, October 15th, 6:05 AM



Ravenna Country Club

### TIMELINE PHOTOS

**6 2** 

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Saturday, October 15th, 5:53 AM

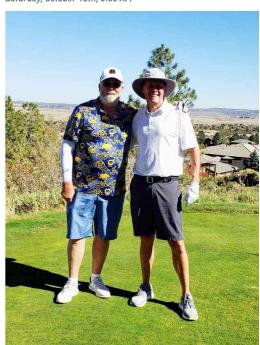


Good morning from Colorado Springs. We are spending three nights here at the Broadmoor, our first-ever visit to this iconic resort.

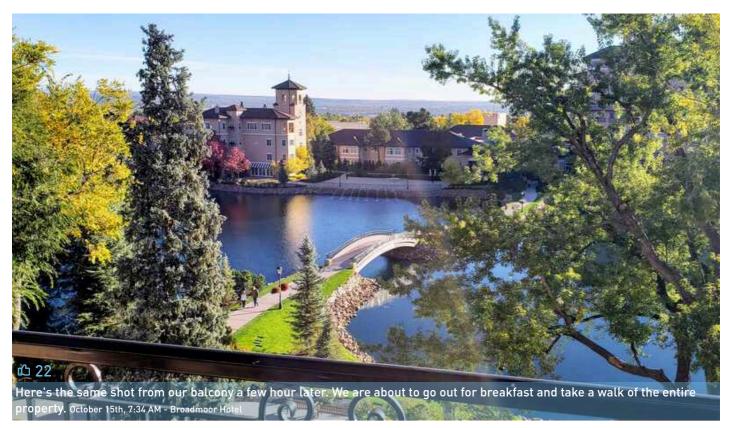
**9** Broadmoor Hotel

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, October 15th, 6:05 AM

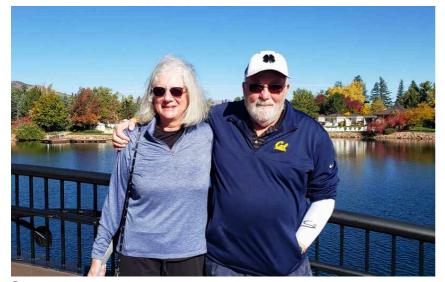


Ravenna Country Club





Saturday, October 15th, 9:20 AM



**♀** The Broadmoor

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN **WILLIAMS'S POST**

Saturday, October 15th, 6:05 AM

On our way from Vail to Colorado Springs, we stopped to visit with Bill and Sue Michel and played a round of golf at their beautiful club in Littleton. Liz rode in the cart with Sue.

Bill and I first met in the fall of 1971 at UC Berkeley and we've been playing golf together ever since - 50+ years. We were also in each other's weddings - just one month apart back in the fall of 1975.

Bill got the better of me today but neither of us played particularly well. Our 70-year old golf games aren't quite what they used to be 😀





Ravenna Country Club

214

**4** 35



Saturday, October 15th, 9:20 AM



**公** 1

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\omega\)** 23

Saturday, October 15th, 9:20 AM

It's a beautiful fall day in Colorado Springs.





**♀** The Broadmoor

### MOBILE UPLOADS

**©** 14

Saturday, October 15th, 9:59 AM



I am playing the historic east course tomorrow. Here's a preview.

**♀** Broadmoor Golf Club





#### Monday, October 17, 2022



#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, October 17th, 8:37 AM

The visionary founder of The Broadmoor was Spencer Penrose. I need to read his biography but until then the wiki articles below will have to suffice.

One interesting fact I learned this morning was that he was very vocal in his opposition to Prohibition. He stockpiled railroad cars full of booze during the 1920s and made sure The Broadmoor was never dry.

I've attached another picture below of the old liquor and wine bottles still on display at the hotel.





**♀** The Broadmoor

ம் 11

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, October 15th, 3:43 PM



**公** 19

## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, October 15th, 3:43 PM

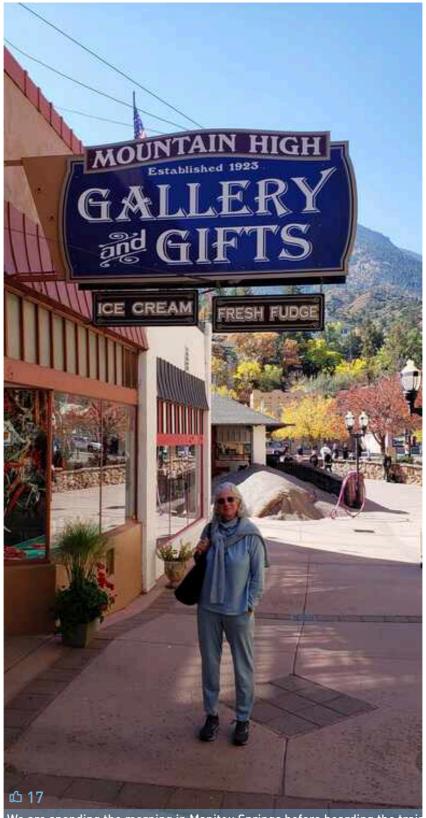
This afternoon we did a guided walk of the Garden of the Gods. We learned a lot from our guide Andrew Ashworth. Well worth the visit when you are in Colorado Springs.



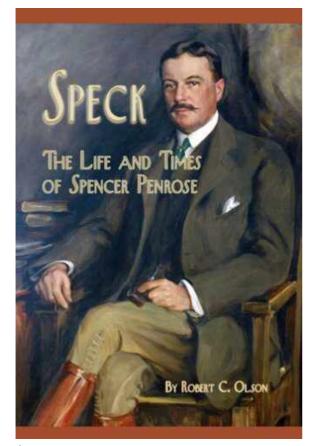








We are spending the morning in Manitou Springs before boarding the train to take us to the top of Pikes Peak. October 17th, 11:26 AM - Manitou Springs Historic District



**?** The Broadmoor



Monday, October 17th, 11:57 AM

Are we ready for the thin, cold air at 14,115 ft?





Pikes Peak Cog Railway



Monday, October 17th, 11:57 AM



**©** 1

凸 1

Pikes Peak Cog Railway



Monday, October 17th, 11:57 AM



Pikes Peak Cog Railway

#### △ 16 TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, October 17th, 4:34 PM



Pikes Peak - America's Mountain

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, October 17th, 4:34 PM



Pikes Peak - America's Mountain

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Monday, October 17th, 4:34 PM



Pikes Peak - America's Mountain

### PHOTOS FROM JOHN

**\(\omega\)** 35

WILLIAMS'S POST Monday, October 17th, 4:34 PM

We made it to the top of Pikes Peak (aka America's Mountain).

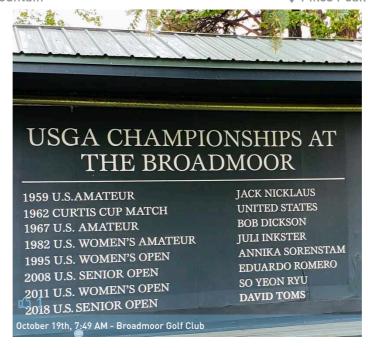
Saw this herd of bighorn sheep on the way up







Pikes Peak - America's Mountain



**公** 75





Look at these young kids . . . just 47 years ago . . . what a ride it has been . . . stay tuned for the next chapters . . . we are going to keep pushing the envelope on our USA roadtrips and world travel . . . Carpe Diem.

I am a day late posting this photo as yesterday I drove 800 miles from Colorado Springs to Talking Rock in Northern Arizona. One of these days I am going to get a speeding ticket as I am getting more and more comfortable pushing the MDX to 80+ mph.

As per normal, Liz returned via air (United thru DEN), picked up Cara & Cassie in Phoenix and beat me home by just four hours. I only stopped three times for gas and restroom breaks, all three at Loves Travel Stops on I-25 and I-40.



Proadmoor Golf Club





Proadmoor Golf Club



© 9 PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

mid-50s.

Wednesday, October 19th, 7:49 AM

**\(\Omega\)** 18

Wednesday, October 19th, 8:19 AM

SMALL KINDNESSES

Danusha Laméris

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you" when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other, We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here, have my seat," "Go ahead-you first," "I like your hat."

Many of you know I am a big fan of Susan Cain, author of Quiet and Bittersweet. Here's her post from today. I have also added her Wiki bio below for those of you unfamiliar with her work.

Note from Susan Cain:

Dearest Readers,

Today, I want to suggest one small thing you can do, every single day, that will reward you a thousand times over.

We might call this thing "Small Kindnesses." This isn't actually my term – it comes from this spectacularly gorgeous poem, by the poet Danusha Lameris, from her book, Bonfire Opera.

I have checked-off one more bucket list golf course. Bill and I played the Broadmoor East championship course a couple days ago on a chilly day when the temps didn't get above the low- to

We had a great match and headed into the 18th hole all square. Bill managed to make a miraculous par from out of the trees and prevailed one-up.

I don't particularly like Donald Ross courses. Most of the greens are dome shaped with lots of slope from back to front. Downhill putts are nearly impossible to stop. We both had our share of 3-putts.

Nonetheless, this is one fantastic golf course that every serious golfer should play at least once in their lifetime. Staying at the Broadmoor is an added bonus.







Broadmoor Golf Club





**♥** Talking Rock



Wednesday, October 19th, 11:33 AM



**♀** Talking Rock



Wednesday, October 19th, 11:33 AM



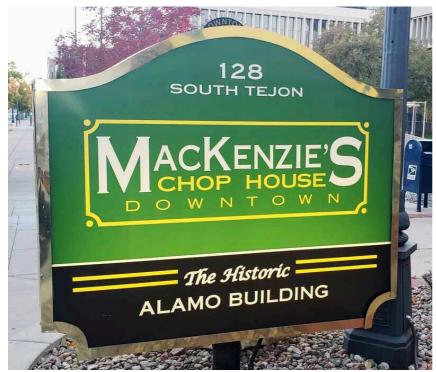
**♀** Talking Rock



**©** 1

TIMELINE PHOTOS

Wednesday, October 19th, 11:54 AM



I saved the best meal of the trip for last. Liz was not feeling well after coming down from Pikes Peak so I walked a few blocks in Downtown Colorado Springs and found this gem of a restaurant where I ate solo at the bar watching MNF.

French onion soup to start, bone-in ribeye, baked potato, creamed corn with bacon, couple glasses of cabernet, and key lime pie to finish. Every course was absolutely delicious.

The food at the Broadmoor was good, but not even close to Mackenzie's Chop House. Put this restaurant on your list if you are ever in downtown Colorado Springs.

MacKenzie's Chop House

PHOTOS FROM JOHN
WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\Omega\)** 12

Wednesday, October 19th, 11:33 AM

It's always fun to come back home after a long roadtrip and see how much progress they've made on our new house.

The building pad is nearly complete. They have run into a big rock on the SE corner of the lot where the garage will be located. Not sure if they are going to have to use any explosives to get it out.

If you look carefully in the 2nd photo you can see Cassie checking out the big CAT that is removing the remaining rock. The highlight of C&C's day is to travel up to the lot where they get to run around without leashes for 10 minutes or so.







Talking Rock

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**公** 3

**6** 9



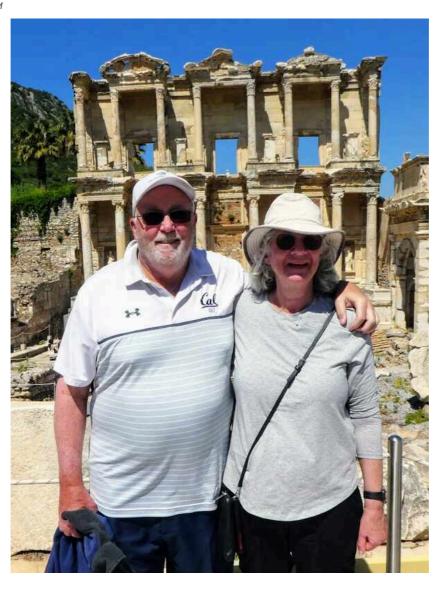
Talking Rock







Wednesday, October 26th, 6:22 AM



ഥ 11

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**©** 66

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**\( \sigma \)** 10

Wednesday, October 26th, 6:22 AM

Happy birthday to my Lizzy who I first met in her college dorm at UC Berkeley spring 1972 -- over fifty years ago -- when she was just 19 years-old.

Here's a picture collage of our six decades together:

- 1 Theta Barn Dance 1973
- 2 Oxford England 1982
- 3 Lake Tahoe 1993
- 4 Atlantis Nassau Bahamas 2003
- 5 Venice Italy 2012
- 6 Ephesus Turkey 2022

I asked Kyle and Lance to add their comments. Here they are:

From Kyle - Mom, thank you for always being there for me and my family. Despite our geographical distance, I always look forward to our weekly check-ins and truly appreciate your dedication to being an enormous presence in our lives, especially Coco's. Happy Birthday and I can't wait to celebrate many more with you!

From Lance - Mom, you are the ultimate boss. Whether you were running our family, a Theta "Barn Dance" in '73, or a whole company 30 years later, you did it all with extraordinary dedication, integrity, and grace. I am forever grateful for your love, support and wisdom. Happy Birthday! Here's to many more!

From me - we all love you very much (Cara and Cassie too) and hope you have a special day today and in Sedona next week where we will celebrate with a couple of nice meals and walks amidst the red rocks. I look forward to continuing to explore the world with you by my side for many years to come. It's been quite a ride since that very first night when I sat down next to you in your crowded dorm hallway and instantly fell in love. You were a beauty then as you are now. I am a very lucky man.





Mission accomplished. Sixty years of 007. I just finished streaming all 25 Bond films from #1 "Dr. No" to #25 "No Time To Die" on Amazon Prime. If you are a James Bond fan like me and a subscriber to Amazon Prime, find the time to do this and watch them all in order. You'll be glad you did. But hurry. I think Amazon is going to take many of the films down in a couple of weeks.



凸 2

**6** 8

Fridav. October 28th. 5:27 AM

Here's the link to the 007 music documentary on Amazon Prime"













Talking Rock



**STATUS** 

Friday, October 28th, 5:46 AM

"How great is this. I don't think I would want to play against the Black Ferns."









## NOVEMBER

2022

Quivira Day 1 golf is in the books. The course was as good as advertised. For sure a World Top 100 course. We were the last group out and finished just as the sun was setting. We are back on the same course tomorrow morning at 11 AM. PS - We managed to birdie seven of the eighteen holes today with (...)

凸 48

☐ 37 photos

**■** 4 statuses



Tuesday, November 1, 2022



**♀** Little Horse Trail, Sedona, AZ

Tuesday, November 1st, 10:20 AM



♀ Little Horse Trail, Sedona, AZ



**公** 32

**STATUS** 

Tuesday, November 1st, 3:27 PM

**\( \omega \)** 10

Tuesday, November 1st, 10:20 AM

We are in Sedona for a four-night fall getaway. Liz arranged for a guided hike this morning on the Little Horse Trail with views of both Cathedral Rock and Bell Rock.

Our guide was Derek Bond from The Hike House who did a fabulous job. Highly recommend if you are looking to do a guided hike in Sedona.





🗣 Little Horse Trail, Sedona, AZ



in Sedona"

Wednesday, November 2nd, 5:13 PM



"They really do celebrate Day of

the Dead here at Tlaquepaque

♥ Tlaquepaque Arts and Crafts Village

Mariposa - Latin Inspired Grill



Wednesday, November 2nd, 5:13 PM



Mariposa - Latin Inspired Grill

PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Wednesday, November 2nd, 5:13 PM

Stormy night in Sedona with a spectacular double rainbow.





Mariposa - Latin Inspired Grill



**STATUS** 

凸 2

**公** 19

Sunday, November 6th, 7:03 AM

Congrats to the Houston Astros"

Thursday, November 10, 2022



**STATUS** 

**\(\Omega\)** 20

Thursday, November 10th, 6:37 AM

"I have finally booked my first trip to Cabo and will be playing this fantastic Jack Nicklaus course with Kyle Williams and Kevin Rooney on back-to-back days the week after Thanksgiving."

#### Sunday, November 13, 2022





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Sunday, November 13th, 7:26 AM

I took the girls on a half-day roadtrip yesterday on AZ-89A over Mingus Mountain into the historic mining town of Jerome and then over to Sedona to take a quick look at and hike in the red rocks. It's a twisty, turny road over the mountain that my MDX handled well. As per normal, the girls enjoyed their trip and are ready for more.

The pictures below are from Jerome looking down at the Verde Valley.



Jerome State Historic Park

**\(\Omega\)** 28

#### Thursday, November 24, 2022



Thursday, November 24th, 10:43 AM



Carbone Italian Restaurant

**\( \O \)** 



**\(\Omega\)** 10

**\(\Omega\)** 16

Saturday, November 19th, 7:47 PM

"The axe stays in Berkeley for one more year.

#### Go Bears !!!"



**TIMELINE PHOTOS** 

Thursday, November 24th, 10:43 AM



• Carbone Italian Restaurant

#### Friday, November 25, 2022



Friday, November 25th, 7:28 AM



Pallagio Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

ഥ 1

PHOTOS FROM JOHN
WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, November 24th, 10:43 AM

We had dinner last night at Carbone at the Aria, a famous Italian eatery chain that started in NYC during the 1920s.

They have other restaurants in Mlami, Dallas and Hong Kong.

Of course I had to order the veal parm which was delicious.





• Carbone Italian Restaurant





♥ Din Tai Fung 鼎泰豐

#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, November 25th, 9:12 AM

We have been very impressed with the restaurants at the Aria.

Yesterday we had lunch at Din Tai Fung and had some delicious dumplings which are being made in the kitchen behind Lance.





♥ Din Tai Fung 鼎泰豐

### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Friday, November 25th, 7:28 AM

We took Lance to the Bellagio (via the tram) to go see the Christmas decorations in the Conservatory.

**公** 37

We then returned to the Aria for lunch and a couple of successful blackjack and craps sessions.

Vegas is packed, especially the Bellagio. SRO crowds in the Conservatory.





Pallagio Conservatory & Botanical Gar...



凸 11

Friday, November 25th, 9:12 AM



♥ Din Tai Fung 鼎泰豐

**\( \O \)** 30

Friday, November 25th, 9:32 AM

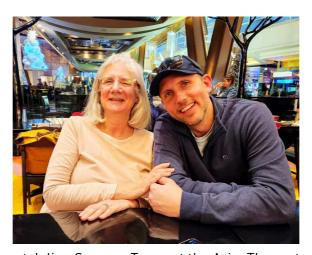


We all travelled to the Wynn for our Thanksgiving dinner and had a fantastic meal at their upscale SW Steakhouse. Such a beautiful venue and great food too. We didn't stick around to gamble as most of their blackjack tables were \$100 minimum, a bit more than we prefer. The \$25 and \$50 tables at the Aria are more to our liking.

**9** SW Steakhouse



Saturday, November 26th, 6:50 AM



Our final meal together in Vegas at Julian Serrano Tapas at the Aria. The restaurants at Aria are all outstanding. We'll be back for sure.

Today is getaway day. Liz is flying back to PHX to pick-up Cara & Cassie. I'll be driving four hours back to Talking Rock.

No rest for the weary. On Monday I'll be flying to Cabo to meet up with Kyle Williams for four nights/ three days of golf.

Carpe Diem. Life is Good.

**♀** Julian Serrano Tapas At The Aria

■ Kyle Williams



Cabo . . . here I come . . . with golf clubs. November 28th, 8:58 AM - SouthWest Terminal Sky Harbor International Airport

**\(\Omega\)** 16



Monday, November 28th, 5:00 PM



Our view for the next four days and nights. Our 3 BR VRBO golf villa is fantastic. Golf begins tomorrow afternoon. That's the 17th hole right below our villa.

Ocpala at Quivira los Cabos



Tuesday, November 29th, 6:38 AM



Good morning from Quivira @ Los Cabos.

**Q** Quivira Los Cabos

**\(\Omega\)** 35

**\(\Omega\)** 19

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

Saturday, November 26th, 7:03 AM



## PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Saturday, November 26th, 7:03 AM

Yesterday I went to go see the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit at the Shops at Crystals right next door to the Aria. Liz took a pass as she had already seen the exhibit in Phoenix.

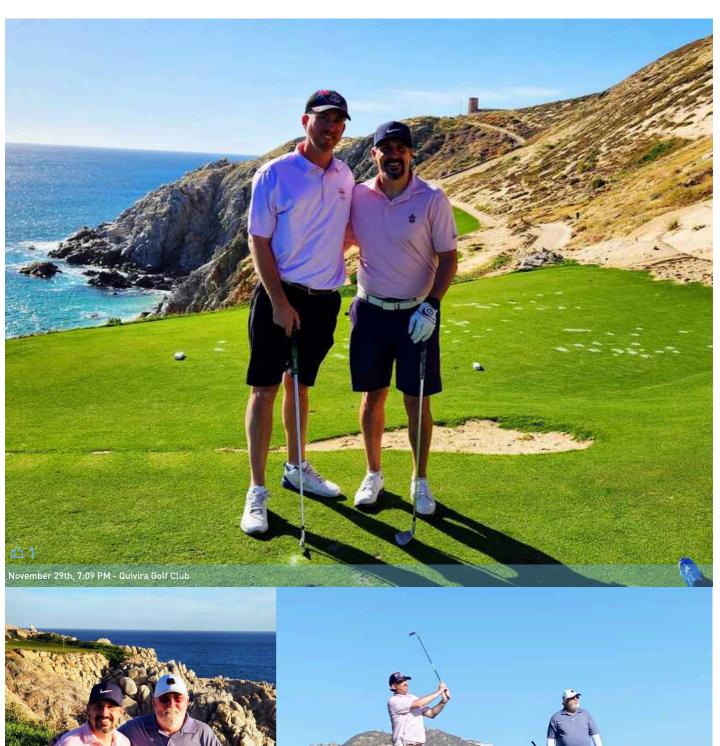
I really enjoyed the show. The combination of music, artwork, and animation was beautifully done. It took me back to the Van Gogh museum in Paris and his country home at Giverny.

The Shops at Crystals is a wonderful upscale shopping mall. It's worth a stop even if all you do is window shop.











**4**8

#### Wednesday, November 30, 2022



Wednesday, November 30th, 11:40 AM



And Day 2 begins . . . \$\$\$ are on the line . . . trash talk has begun.

Quivira Golf Club



Wednesday, November 30th, 1:09 PM



Comfort station @ #6 tee box. Free food & drinks. Great perk. Why don't more courses do this?

Quivira Golf Club

**\(\Omega\)** 36

### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, November 29th, 7:09 PM

Quivira Day 1 golf is in the books. The course was as good as advertised. For sure a World Top 100 course. We were the last group out and finished just as the sun was setting. We are back on the same course tomorrow morning at 11 AM.

PS - We managed to birdie seven of the eighteen holes today with Kevin leading the way with four birdies on his card.







Quivira Golf Club

**\(\Omega\)** 16

MOBILE UPLOADS

മ 11

Wednesday, November 30th, 12:59 PM



Tee box from 6th hole, the start of three straight holes along the Pacific Ocean.

That's the new St. Regis being built down below.

Quivira Golf Club



Hole #7, a short par three.

Quivira Golf Club









# DECEMBER

2022

This is our go-to steakhouse in Maui. It's a beautiful night to be dining outdoors.

ம் 52

□ 71 photos

**■ 10 statuses** 



Thursday, December 1, 2022



Thursday, December 1st, 6:55 AM



**△** 13

Nice shot of me teeing off on the spectacular 6th hole at Quivira

Quivira Golf Club



17th tee box at Quivira. We are staying in the condo building just to the left of the cactus, 3rd floor, corner unit. This is the view we have every morning and evening. December 1st, 7:45 AM



We had dinner last night al fresco at the Quivira Steakhouse. Delicious.

From start to finish, yesterday was a day in heaven for all three of us. Perfect weather. World Top 100 course. Great company. It doesn't get any better than this

Kevin won the match . . . but not by much . . . +5 vs me, +8 vs Kyle out of a total of 116 points including junk.

Stakes are doubled to \$2 per point today. We are playing at Cabo Real in the heart of the Cabo Corridor.







Nice shot of Kyle teeing off on the short part three 14th hole.

Quivira Golf Club



**©** 11

Thursday, December 1st, 7:27 AM



This is what the 2nd shot at the par four 6th hole looks like when you hit it into the sand dunes right of the fairway. It's a tricky, dogleg left hole with the 2nd shot straight downhill.

Quivira Golf Club





We are done golfing. Rooney wins \$85. He had the lowest gross score all three days and the most birdies and greenies. Kyle and I were competitive and we all had a great time.

Quivira Los Cabos





It's always fun to come back home from a trip and see the progress the builder is making on our new home.

They have now completed the perimeter of the foundation. The next step will be to dig the trenches and connect all the pipes from the street for water, electricity, sewer and cable. Then dig a big hole for the propane tank as there is no natural gas at Talking Rock.

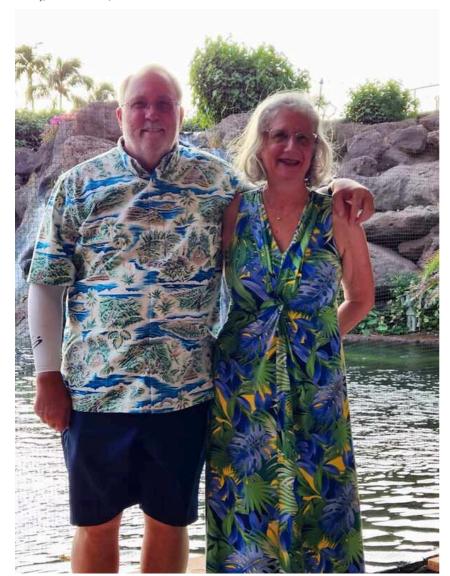
The cement pillars you see in the foreground are for the covered patio that will run the whole length of the back of the house.

**♀** Talking Rock



Good morning from Maui. This is the view from our 10th floor balcony. Activities this week include three days of golf, a day trip via ferry to Lanai, and driving the Road to Hana with return via helicopter. Life is Good. Carpe Diem. December 11th, 9.51 AM - Hyatt Vacation Club at Ka'anapali Beach

**MOBILE UPLOADS** 



This is our go-to steakhouse in Maui. It's a beautiful night to be dining outdoors.

🗣 Son'z Maui At Swan Court - Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa



Our first adult beverage of the trip. Aloha.

Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman Ka'a...

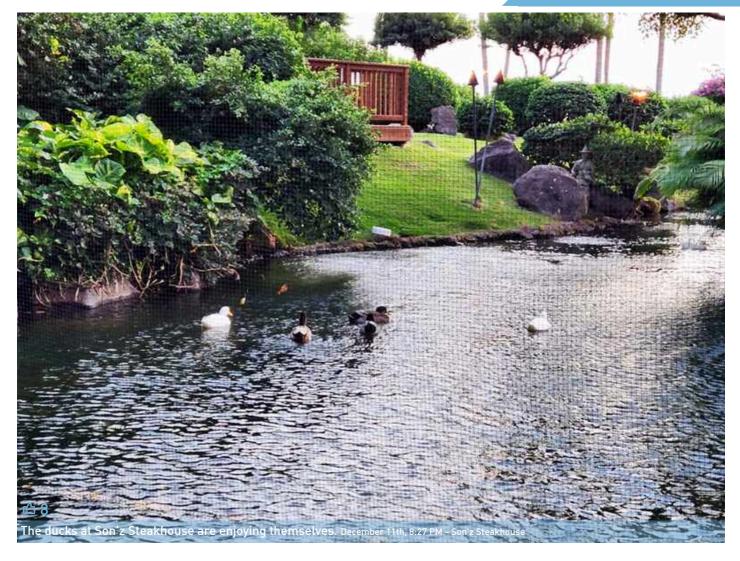


**\(\Omega\)** 15

Sunday, December 11th, 6:56 PM



Pretty much sums up my normal day.



Monday, December 12, 2022







Monday, December 12th, 1:45 PM



10th hole at Royal Kaanapali. It's a blustery day with rain showers. Can't beat the views though.

Royal Kaanapoli Golf Course Maui

# © 22 PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Monday, December 12th, 9:26 AM

A few additional photos from last night's fabulous steak dinner at Son'z Steakhouse.

**\(\Omega\)** 13

As you can see, we shared the tomahawk ribeye steak and had enough left over for at least one more meal. It was a huge steak.

It's a beautiful restaurant which I highly recommend when you are in Kaanapali.







Son'z Steakhouse



**STATUS** 

Monday, December 12th, 8:46 PM

"Add Jimmy Kimmel's name to the growing list of people pushing back on Elon Musk."



**\( \O \)** 5

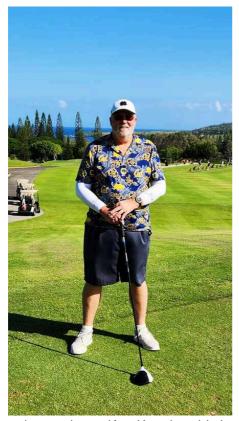
Tuesday, December 13th, 2:52 PM



Shipwreck Beach Lanai Hawaii



Wednesday, December 14th, 1:30 PM



A picture perfect day to play golf at Kapalua. Liz is going to ride around in the cart.

Kapalua Golf the Bay Course



Thursday, December 15th, 11:36 AM



**\(\Omega\)** 26



凸 1

Tuesday, December 13th, 2:52 PM



Shipwreck Beach Lanai Hawaii

# PHOTOS FROM JOHN

**\(\Omega\)** 16

WILLIAMS'S POST

Tuesday, December 13th, 2:52 PM

We took the ferry early this morning from Lahaina to Lanai and then drove around the island with a local tour guide. As you can see, it's pretty windy and desolate. Larry Ellison, founder of Oracle, owns 98% of the island.





Shipwreck Beach Lanai Hawaii

MOBILE UPLOADS

**\(\Omega\)** 18

Wednesday, December 14th, 3:24 PM



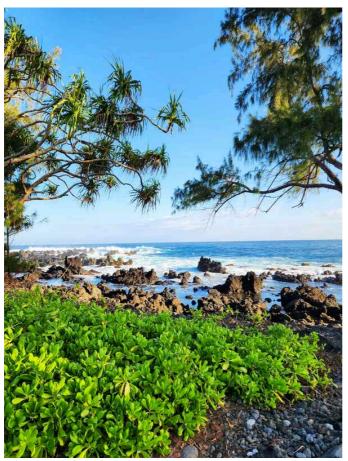
5th green with Molokai in the background.

**♀** Kapalua Golf the Bay Course

## Thursday, December 15, 2022



Thursday, December 15th, 11:36 AM



## MOBILE UPLOADS

Thursday, December 15th, 11:36 AM



# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, December 15th, 11:36 AM

We are on the road to Hana. Spectacular scenery. Many movies have been shot here including Jurassic Park and Papillon.

**\(\Omega\)** 22







Road To Hana - Maui

# HANA AIRPORT IN PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE PROP

Thursday, December 15th, 7:34 PM



Hana Airport





# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, December 15th, 7:34 PM

Our return trip from Hana was via a 35-minute helicopter ride over the north shore rainforest of Maui. It's incredible how lush this island is compared to Lanai . Because of all the rain, there are waterfalls everywhere you turn.











Hana Airport



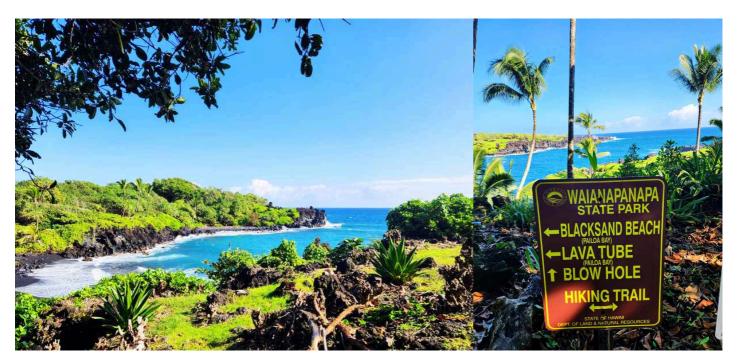
Thursday, December 15th, 7:34 PM



TIMELINE PHOTOS









Thursday, December 15th, 7:54 PM



ഥ 1

# PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, December 15th, 7:43 PM

One of our stops today was Wai'Anapanapa State Park, home of Hana's famous Black Sand Beach.







♥ Wai'Anapanapa Black Sand Beach



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

**\(\Omega\)** 2

**\(\Omega\)** 22

Thursday, December 15th, 7:54 PM



Road To Hana - Maui

Road To Hana - Maui



**公** 19

**\(\Omega\)** 13

Thursday, December 15th, 7:54 PM

Here's a couple more pic's taken by our guide who has been living on the island for over thirty five years. She knew the name of every tree and plant that we drove by and has driven the Road to Hana over a thousand times. Impressive knowledge of Maui. Great driver, too.







One of the more interesting trees that we saw today was the rainbow eucalyptus shown below. The bark has many shades of colors thus the name rainbow.

Rain Forest, Maui

TIMELINE PHOTOS
Thursday, December 15th, 8:38 PM



One of the sites we flew over today was this rock formation off the coast of Maui called Jurassic Rock aka Keopuca rock.

It was featured in the opening scenes of the original 1993 Jurassic Park movie.

**9** Jurassic Rock

ഥ 14

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**6** 14



At our picnic lunch yesterday we befriended a family of feral cats. Here are the two kittens politely asking for us to feed them. Mama and Papa showed up a little later. So cute.

Wainapanapa Black Sand Beach



**公** 31



**\(\Omega\)** 12

Friday, December 16th, 9:25 PM



I wonder what Liz is thinking about?

Japengo



**4** 33

Monday, December 19th, 8:31 AM



Home sweet home.

♥ Talking Rock

**\$\pi\$** 7

#### TIMELINE PHOTOS

**©** 14

Thursday, December 22nd, 1:14 PM



Stay warm and safe out there wherever you are. This Arctic Blast is one for the ages.



Our last dinner of the trip. We are headed back to PHX tomorrow.

Japengo



Tuesday, December 20th, 8:25 AM

"According to a recent tweet by Elon Musk,

"The woke mind virus is either defeated or nothing else matters""



CARA AND CASSIE

Saturday, December 24th, 11:21 AM



I have started a Facebook page for Cara and Cassie that will tell their story in their own words going back to October 2020 when we first picked them up from their breeder in Missouri. They were just ten weeks old.

Like their page and any of their posts and pictures if you want to follow along. It's going to take me a few months to recap their first two years with us. I've taken lots of photos and videos along the way.

PHOTOS FROM JOHN
WILLIAMS'S POST

Thursday, December 22nd, 5:00 PM

Water and sewer pipes are being laid out in the newly dug trenches for our new home.



**©** 14





Talking Rock

TIMELINE PHOTOS

**©** 21

**\(\omega\)** 20

Saturday, December 24th, 2:16 PM



Happy Ugly Sweater Day from Liz Williams and Kyle Williams and Coco in chilly NW Arkansas.

Liz Williams, Kyle Williams







Monday, December 26th, 12:04 PM



Seligman Arizona Route 66/I-40



Sunday, December 25th, 2:22 PM

It's a beautiful afternoon for a Christmas Day hike In Prescott.

Merry Christmas to all from Cara, Cassie and me.

Check out C&C's new FB page that I am building at Cara and Cassie where they get to tell their side of the story along with pictures and videos.





Constellation Trails



**\(\Omega\)** 15

**\(\Omega\)** 15

Monday, December 26th, 12:04 PM

Road trip with the girls. Seligman is just a 90 minute drive from Talking Rock.







Seligman Arizona Route 66/I-40

## Tuesday, December 27, 2022

# TIMELINE PHOTOS

Tuesday, December 27th, 8:36 AM



The freefall in Tesla (TSLA) stock continues - down another 6.4% this morning to \$115.28.

On the assumption that Elon has pledged his TSLA stock to borrow money to buy Twitter, he could be looking at margin calls and forced sales of his TSLA holdings in the not-too-distant future

This would only add additional downward pressure on the stock price with a sub-\$100 price definitely a possibility.

The shorts on Wall Street smell blood and would like nothing more than to prove to Elon that he is a terrible CEO and that he made a horrendous decision to buy Twitter and that it is going to cost him many tens of billions of dollars before it is all over.

## МОВ

**\$**6

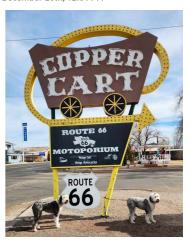
#### **MOBILE UPLOADS**

Monday, December 26th, 12:04 PM



# MOBILE UPLOADS

Monday, December 26th, 12:04 PM



## Thursday, December 29, 2022



Thursday, December 29th, 5:45 AM

"George Santos is nothing more than a con man. How did he ever get elected? How did his Democratic opponent and the DNC not uncover all this in the months leading up to the election?

We cannot elect lying people like this to Congress and he should not be sworn-in on January 3rd."

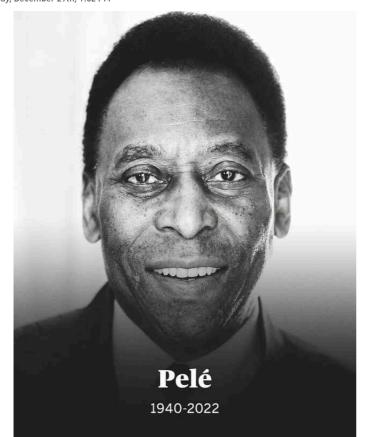


**4** 7

STATUS

Thursday, December 29th, 5:39 AM

"Charlie Warzel of the The Atlantic has been warning us for months about Elon Musk."



RIP Pele. It was a joy to watch you play.

Enjoy the video highlight clips below.



Thursday, December 29th, 5:13 PM

"In case you are wondering what happened in the meltdown of Southwest Airlines this past week, here is the apparent real story from an inside, anonymous source.

I have always been a big fan of flying Southwest, but this article is going to give me some real doubts about how much to use them in the future, or at least until they get these fixable problems fixed."





Talking Rock





#### PHOTOS FROM JOHN WILLIAMS'S POST

**\(\Omega\)** 26

Saturday, December 31st, 8:04 AM

Progress. Our first load of lumber was delivered yesterday.

We are also ready for the cement trucks to arrive next week to pour the slab foundation. Framing will begin shortly thereafter.

If all goes well in 2023, we should be in the new house by this time next year.



Talking Rock



STATUS

**6** 5

Saturday, December 31st, 9:47 AM

"Spectacular photo of Budapest, a definite Bucket List city to visit in Europe in case you have never been.

We started a river cruise there a few years ago on a Viking River boat, ending up in Amsterdam. Fantastic trip."



**STATUS** 

**\( \O \)** 

Saturday, December 31st, 10:18 AM

"Here's a more balanced review of Harry and Meghan, now streaming on Netflix.

My two cents is that theirs is a modern-day love story and that they chose love over the monarchy. Plus, dealing with the British tabloids is not easy.

It will be interesting to see how this story evolves in 2023 and beyond. Harry's new tell-all book comes out in a couple of weeks."



**STATUS** 

**\(\Omega\)** 12

Saturday, December 31st, 8:22 AM

"Happy New Year's Eve everyone.

John, Liz, Cara & Cassie"



**STATUS** 

凸 1

Saturday, December 31st, 8:27 AM

"Need something fun to watch this weekend?

I highly recommend this sequel to Knives Out now streaming on Netflix."



#### **TIMELINE PHOTOS**

**\(\Omega\)** 26

Saturday, December 31st, 9:25 AM



We are ready for an early start to New Year's Eve

**♀** Talking Rock

Saturdav. December 31st. 11:49 AM

"This should be a good game. I plan to watch it if I can stay up that late  $\stackrel{\smile}{\circ}$ 

Who do you like?

I know I have FB friends on both sides of this matchup."





