

24-Day Trip Around the World



Taken in 2025 by Anna Fang and Jim & Raina Crawford

Stops in Peru (Machu Picchu), Chile (Easter Island), Tahiti, Australia, Cambodia (Angkor Wat), India (Taj Mahal), Tanzania, Egypt, and Morocco.

Text by James L. Crawford

Photos by Anna Fang, Raina Crawford, & Jim Crawford

Trip Around the World 2025

Our trip around the world left Boston on Jan. 23, 2025 and returned on Feb. 16. I did not write anything during the trip, as I was either too tired or found I could not write on the plane or buses because of the bumpy motion. So now we are home, it is Feb 19, and I am going to write what I can.



Greg, Paula, Anna, & Raina at Logan Airport

Thursday, Jan 23. It was a cold day in Boston, with plenty of snow on the ground; the type of day where you would just like to get away from it and go somewhere warm, which is exactly what we did. We (Anna, Raina, and I) were driven to the airport by Paula and Greg (2 cars). Once at terminal B for American Airlines, we checked our bags and went through security. We had plenty of time before boarding. The flight took about 3 hours. When we

landed and got our bags, we were met by a van driver who loaded us up and drove us 1/2 hour to the hotel. We were one of the last to arrive, and we missed the start of the briefing, but were there before dinner. The hotel was large; registration desk on floor 7 and our rooms on floor 21. As with most nights, we returned to our rooms after dinner and went to sleep early.



Jim, Anna, & Raina with luggage

Peru: Cusco and Machu Picchu

Friday, Jan 24. Suitcases were picked up early (for the whole trip, it ranged from 5:15 to 8:00). We then had breakfast and took the bus with everybody else (several buses) and at the airport went through the soon-to-be monotonous grind of going through passport control, then everything x-rayed, followed by walking to the gate. Most often we then got on a bus that took us to the plane, although a few places we walked to/from the plane to the terminal. This was our first view of the private jet we would be on for the whole 3 weeks. It looked large from the outside, and inside had 14 (?) rows of seats, 2 on each side, with lots of room for each. We were in row 8, over the wing. Most flights lasted 5 to 8 hours long. They always left in the morning and included lunch



Raina, Anna, & Jim on plane with plenty of footroom (seats could lie flat)

(except the 1.5 hour flight to Cairo). This first flight was straight south for about 5.5 hours. We landed in the airport at Pisco where we needed to change planes to fly to Cusco. We had to walk off the plane, down the stairs, and maybe 100' to the terminal. Anna and Raina were ahead of me about 25' and heading off to another door, so I hurried after them. They self-corrected and went in the correct door and disappeared. I was still hurrying and didn't notice the curb in front of the building. There was a raised sidewalk all along the building, with three parallel lines painted red on the pavement, each about 2" in width and 1" apart, with one line on top of the curb and the other two below. When I got to the curb, I took a normal step with my right leg. My foot hit the side of the curb and my momentum carried me forward, and I fell on my right knee. I was carrying my backpack in

my left hand, and it also hit the pavement hard with the back of the hand. Somebody immediately helped me up; my left hand hurt with a couple of scrapes on it, but my right knee felt okay, although I discovered over the rest of the trip that the knee hurt if I bent my leg and put weight on it, such as in going up or down stairs. So I had to

take stairs one step at a time, putting both feet on each step. The knee might have swollen somewhat the first day, but it was never too bad. The trip doctor took a look in the airport and gave me an ace bandage wrapped around the knee. This worked for 2 or 3 days, but then I lost one of the clips and the ace bandage seemed unnecessary so I discontinued using it.

We got to Cusco okay, and got a look at our first foreign hotel, the Palacio Nazarenas, a former nunnery in the center of old Cusco. It was basically dark in the hotel hallways, so I had problems seeing. This was a common theme throughout the trip, where indoor places were under-lit and hard to see, and I needed Anna or Raina to look for steps which I could not see. The dinner was a buffet style, which also was a constant problem for me since I could never tell what the food was, and could not read any cards identifying it, so I needed Anna to tell me what each food was. I could not have taken this trip without her to help me!



Room in Cusco. Raina & Anna are wearing their new alpaca scarves – Jim's is on bed

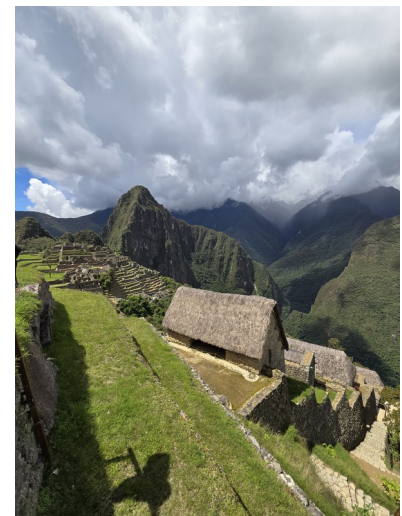
Machu Picchu



Jim & Anna at end of train



Jim listening to LOUD 3-person band



1st view of Machu Picchu

Saturday, Jan. 25. In the morning we got on the bus which drove an hour to a train station where we got on the Hiram Bingham train. The train had 5 cars: engine, kitchen, 2 passenger cars with 4-seat tables, and a caboose with a bar, live band, and porch at end of train. No napping possible on this train, so we watched the scenery as the train paralleled the river. After an hour or so on it, we arrived at the station where we took a bus up the switch-backs to Machu Picchu. One could hike up on a trail, but it was steep. At the top, we got off and split into groups with different tour guides. We three were given our own guide since they were unsure I could move up the trail with all of its steps. I did okay, and we made the trip up the trail which had look-outs quite often overseeing the ruins. The first photo of the ruins above shows a house with a thatched roof. That is a modern building; all of the 600 year old buildings are roofless, as the government maintains the ruins as they were found in 1911, with only the removal of debris and the cleaning of stones. As we got near the top of the ridge, the guides (2 of them) kept saying I shouldn't go any higher. The other groups either turned around or went to the top and down the other side into the town, going down long stairways without railings (because this was in the old ruins and they wanted to keep the site as authentic as possible).



Anna, Jim, & Raina at Machu Picchu!



View of all of the ruins of Machu Picchu, built in the 15th century



Left side of previous photo. The Emperor lived on this side with his relatives



Right side of historic ruins. The common workers lived on this half of the town.



Jim is getting ready to pet the llama (or is it an Alpaca?)
These animal are farmed close by



Raina finds herself among 5 llamas; wouldn't Willow enjoy it if Raina brought one home?

That part seemed dangerous with my knee, so at the top we turned around and went back (with hand-rails). Saw several llamas by the path, and I even petted one (hair was very stiff and felt like wires). I noticed the groups that made it into the ruins returned on a flat trail to the parking lot, and asked if we could go in on that trail rather than up and over. The guides said the trails were all one-way, and even handicapped people could not go the wrong way on the flat trail.

We had great views of the ruins, and it was definitely worth seeing. Photos of me show that I am really smiling the whole time there. We returned to the buses, and then the train station. We had an hour there, so we went looking for a geocache, which we found! Then back to the train, with no time for shopping. Dinner was on the train - we always had wonderful food during the whole trip.



Jim being helped down a no-handrail stretch while Raina and 2 llamas ignore him

Cusco

Sunday, Jan 26. We avoided the morning excursion so we could sleep late. We went geocaching, which involved a nice half-mile walk through some old passages. The cache was in an old Inca wall that lined a



Artist selling his wares on a pedestrian path in Cusco center; we bought the one he is holding

pedestrian walkway we walked on for a couple of blocks. Right before the cache, there was an artist displaying his paintings. He had at least 4 paintings of Machu Picchu which I liked, and we bought one for \$50. He had told us the price in Peruvian pesos, which was around \$40, but since we did not have Peruvian money we gave him more for the

exchange rate. I noticed later that Anna took a photo which was practically the same viewpoint as the artist's. We then found the geocache, our second on the trip, and we walked back to the hotel by a different route.



Anna took this photo at about the same place the artist painted his work



Jim and the wall surrounding the old fortress

After lunch we took a tour that first went to the old fortress Sacsaywaman up at the top of one of the hills, followed by an old Cathedral near the hotel. The fortress was a good example of Incan walls, using both large (over 10' high) and small (1' high) stones in the same wall. The stone sides that touched each other were cut precisely,

while the sides facing in and out were left natural. The fortress was built in the 15th century, and is one of the best remaining examples of Incan walls. The cathedral was more modern and didn't seem particularly noteworthy. It was an old Spanish one, but I've seen plenty of Spanish missions in Mexico and California and I would have preferred seeing more Inca ruins.



The old Spanish cathedral in downtown Cusco

Rapa Nui

Monday, Jan. 27. This day we took the bus to the airport, where we had some trouble. After going through security, Raina could not find her passport. She looked everywhere, and got the workers to check the conveyor belt, with no luck. After 15', I happened to see the passport in the hood of the jacket she was wearing! We then flew to Pisco where we joined the rest of the group that had stayed along the coast. We flew southwest to Rapa Nui (Easter Island), getting there early enough to take buses from the airport to Ahu Tahai, where there were some moai standing along the coast: one group of 4 (Ahu Vai Ure), and 2 single ones (Ahu Tahai and Ahu Ko Te Ridu). The moai at Ahu Ko Te Ridu is one of the best preserved statues, with not only reddish hair stone, called pukao, on top, but also one of the few with restored coral eyes. This site was about one mile from our hotel. Anna and I were driven in a van maybe a quarter mile, where we got out and searched for a geocache. After finding it, the first of 3 we would find on the island, we walked along the shore road to our hotel.



Looking south, hotel on spit behind 4 moai, town in background



Jim with hat and poles, looking west with all 6 moai visible



Anna, Jim & Raina with Ahu Ko Te Ridu; zoom photo to see coral eyes

Tuesday, Jan 28. First thing in the morning was the drive to the quarry (Rano Raraku) where all the moai were originally carved. We took a nice walk along the slope by scores of statues stuck in the dirt or broken and fallen over. Nobody is allowed to touch any of the moai, but we could get about 10' from many of them. We also saw the Ahu Tongariki, which is the largest ahu on the island with 15 moai. Unfortunately we could only walk on one side of the Ahu, and the sun was shining in our faces so the view was not good.



View of the quarry from down below. The grassy slope half way up has scores of moai, upright and fallen



Closer look at the quarry with a fallen moai close to camera, and standing moai in a row



Jim taking a photo of a nice head and one fallen face down, with more beyond



Raina, Jim & Anna with 15 moai (Ahu Tongariki), the largest ahu on the island. Note the 2 tall moai



One of the nice heads in the quarry



Tallest moai in Ahu Tongariki with a bird perched on the hair



A solitary moai called the Travelling Moai near Ahu Tongariki

From there we took the vans to the northern beach (Anakena Beach), which is the largest beach on the island though it only consists of sand around an inlet a couple hundred yards long. There were tables set up for a barbecue lunch, and after lunch we had time to see the handful of moai at Ahu Nau Nau, which contains five complete moai, four of which have hair. Then off to the right was one additional moai at Ahu Ature Huki. In the 1800s, every upright moai was toppled over (probably by members of rival clans). The first moai to be returned to an upright position was this moai, with the effort the project of Thor Heyerdahl in 1955-56. He used a dozen men with only rocks and ropes over an 18 day period to show one possibility the original natives could have used to move and position the statues. We then walked along a dirt road a half mile to another geocache.



These 5 moai are perhaps the best preserved because they were buried in sand



Jim & Raina looking at the 1st moai to be restored (by Thor Heyerdahl and his workers in 1955-56)

We chose not to do any of the scheduled activities when we got back to the hotel, and instead Anna and I walked a half mile to a third geocache in the bushes near another hotel. That evening there was dinner followed by Polynesian dancing, although most of the women, with brown hair, did not seem Polynesian.



Jim at the Puna Pau quarry where there are rocks that were the beginnings of the hair pieces



Ahu Akivi, one of the few inland ahus, and the last moai we would see on the island

Wednesday, Jan 29. First thing in the morning was an excursion to the quarry where the "red" hats/hair were obtained, Puna Pau. There were about a dozen large rocks in a grassy field that were the raw material for making the pukao (hair). We then took a short hike up a slope where we could look down into the old quarry, but there were no stones there, just holes where the stones had been. From there we drove to one of the few inland moai, a cluster of seven moai at Ahu Akivi. We then went directly to the airport for the flight to Tahiti.

Tahiti

Once in Papeete, it was just a fifteen minute bus ride from the airport to the Hilton hotel. Once there, we loaded a zodiac boat and took a cruise along the west side of Tahiti where we snorkeled once. It was better snorkeling than our last cruises to Mexico and Australia, but not nearly as good as the last time in Tahiti. The main fish were sargeant majors, with a subtle pink tinge to them. After getting back to the hotel, we saw dancing (with all the females looking Polynesian) followed by dinner and sleep.



Anna & Jim on the boat

Australia

Thursday/Friday, Jan 30-31. We had been told that the plane was going to stop on the way to Australia at New Caledonia for refueling, but when the plane started the pilot said we would fly non-stop to Cairns, Australia. We crossed the International Dateline, losing a day. We were then told that the coming cyclone was going to prevent any seeing of the Great Barrier Reef, so the plan was made to only spend one night in a hotel in Cairns before traveling to Cambodia where we would spend four nights. We made it to the airport and took a bus to the hotel. After checking in, Anna and I walked across the street to find a geocache at a church with beautiful tall stained glass windows. In the day the windows were bland, but we went back after dark when an interior light shone through the windows and made them very attractive.



Geocache was hidden just to the left of the stained glass windows



One of the big turtles swimming in one of the cages at the aquarium



A koala bear posed for us at one of the hotel bars

We then headed by foot to the aquarium, which the group toured. It was nice, with one tank showing a lot of five foot fresh water fish, and another with turtles. There was plenty to see over a couple hours, but nothing better than the Boston Aquarium. When we finished and went outside, it was starting to rain so we hurriedly walked back to the hotel. Unfortunately, this was the start of my demise, since my clothes got wet and my throat started to scratch. I should have immediately changed clothes, but we had to go to one of the hotel bars where a koala bear was being displayed. From there Anna and I looked for another geocache under a beach platform, but it required crawling under and was getting too dark to see, so we DNF'd. Then we went back to our room, and slowly over the next weeks I developed a cough that kept getting worse. There were plenty of other people on the trip that were coughing, and Raina got a worse version than I did.

Saturday, Feb 1. On the way to the airport, the buses took us to a national park with a Skyrail gondola that transported us several miles, a few feet above the rainforest. It took us in three stages to a river that had a stupendous waterfall, broken up into several parts. We heard the guide talk about animals and birds, but we only saw a few birds. When the gondola took us back to the start, we got on the buses again to return to the airport for our flight to the northwest to Cambodia. We arrived in Siem Reap, Cambodia, took a bus to the hotel, ate, and slept.



Waterfall seen from the Skyrail system

Cambodia: Siem Reap & Phnom Pehn

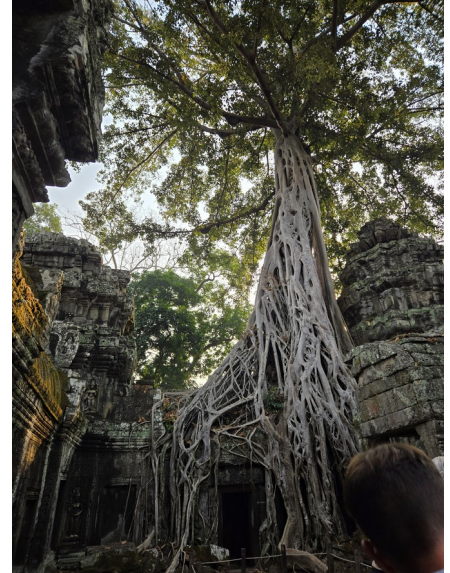
Sunday, Feb 2. This was a big day for seeing old temples. We took buses to Ta Prohm Temple, Angkor Wat, and Bayon Temple. Anna, Raina, and I had our own guide due to my leg, which worked out just fine for us. The first stop was Ta Prohm, also known as the jungle temple, built in 1186. It (and the other two) is where Lara Croft: Tomb Raider was filmed. It had plenty of trees growing in and over the walls like the movie. The whole temple seemed run down, but had marvelous carvings in many of the walls. It was slow walking since there were a lot of steps up and down, but since we had our own guide there was no pressure to move fast. One interesting structural component was that many of the doorways had a window frame on the outside of the wall besides the door, but it would be filled with close-together columns (see the 1st photo in the 2nd row below).



Raina, Jim & Anna in the Ta Prohm Temple; more trees than rocks here



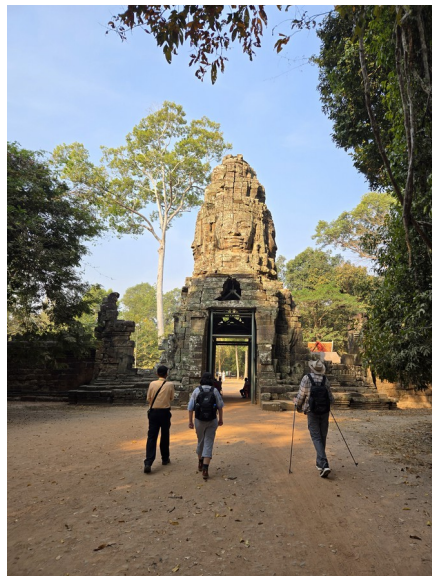
The tree root grew over the wall and down, endangering the stones



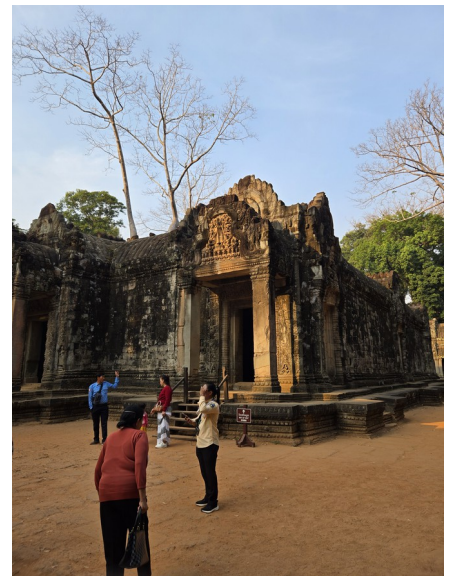
Here the tree starts on top of the wall, with the roots reaching the ground



Even with the jungle, this temple is amazing for the sculptured walls



The many small towers have a large face on each side of the top



More detailed sculptures and artwork over the doors

Next we went to Angkor Wat, built in 1122, which is much more intact, with no jungle growing, as it is surrounded by a moat. It had plenty of nice carvings also, and the inner wall that surrounds the five towers is hundreds of yards long, etched up to at least 10' high with a story about an army. The complex is the largest religious complex in the world. I thought the etchings in Ta Prohm temple were far more artistic.



Raina, Jim & Anna in front of Angkor Wat



Closer view of the central temple with its 5 iconic towers



Some statues missing their heads



Jim looking at the etching on the inner wall



Many columns supported the roofs

Finally we went to Bayon Temple, built about 1200. We convinced our guide to go to the east gate, where there was a geocache along the top of the wall surrounding the temple. It took us 15 minutes to find, as the tree it was in was not the closest tree to the GPS coordinates, but we were able to show the guide what the sport is all about. This temple was had plenty of carvings and towers. It is noted for having smiling faces of Brahma on all four sides of every tower. It was built in the baroque style, as opposed to the classical style of Angkor Wat.



Raina, Anna & Jim in front of Bayon Temple



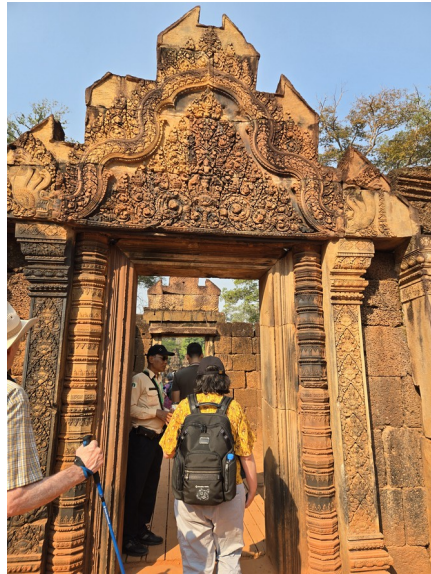
Closeup of some of the artwork at Bayon Temple

We returned to the hotel for lunch, and I decided to sleep in the afternoon while Anna went on a shopping tour and bought lots of things, including 2 rugs and many scarves.

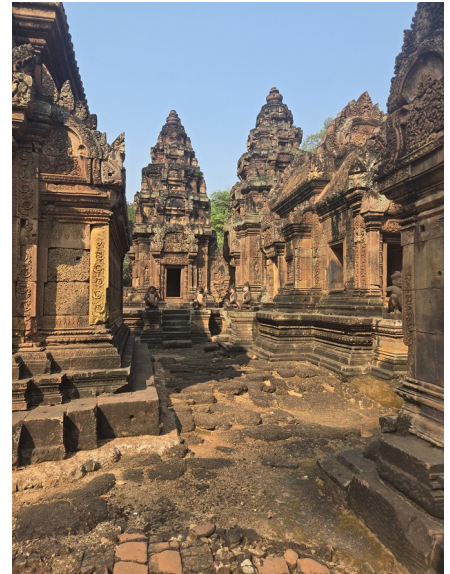
Monday, Feb 3. The morning was once again a time for touring another old temple, Banteay Srei, built in 967. We had the same guide, and after walking through the area we told him there was another geocache we wanted to find. He was very amenable, so instead of walking back through the temple, we went around it to the west, and found the cache in the exterior wall.



Banteay Srei Temple from outside wall



Raina entering the temple wall



Inner courtyard

In the afternoon, we avoided temples and instead took a tour to an elephant range, the Kulen Elephant Forest. They keep elephants that have retired from circuses, etc., and let us feed them and watch them wallow in a pond.



Dancers at the Tginneabib Tenoke

At dinner time, I was too tired to go out, and I just stayed at the hotel and went to sleep. However Anna and Raina went to the Thommeanon Temple where they saw ethnic dancing, and then had dinner outside. I might mention that the hotel seemed very British colonial to me. The room had an early wood-box telephone in it, and the elevator was an elegant wooden box that was visible as it went between the stairs.



Hotel elevator

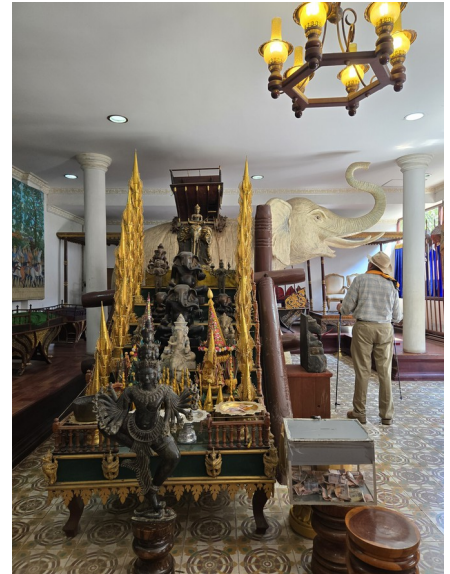
Tuesday, Feb 4. Today was a replacement day for the canceled Australian day. We went to the airport and took an hour flight to Phnom Pehn, the capital of Cambodia, where we took a bus to the city center to tour the Royal Palace. The kings no long control the country, but they still have an official status and live at the Palace, which was first built in 1866, but most of the current buildings replaced the original ones between 1912 and 1932. Most of it is now a museum, with quite beautiful architecture with wood carvings in building gables and towers. After lunch, we went to a museum with a completely different tone: the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. It was a school converted to concentration camps during the 1970s civil war. Most of the rooms were converted to cells, and now have photos of thousands of prisoners who were killed. We then flew the hour back to stay in our hotel for the fourth night.



The Throne Hall of the Royal Palace



Royal Stupa (mausoleum) of King Norodom



Jim looking at the statue of the White Elephant

India

Wednesday, Feb 5. This was our travel day to India. Since the final airport at Agra was a military base, it did not have a Customs unit, so we had to first land at Varanasi, India to go through customs. This meant we only had time to check in to the hotel, eat dinner, and sleep. Our room had a nice balcony from which we could see the terraces of the hotel, followed by a forest with the Taj Mahal visible in the distance (about 3/4 of a mile away). We were the closest commercial building to the Taj!

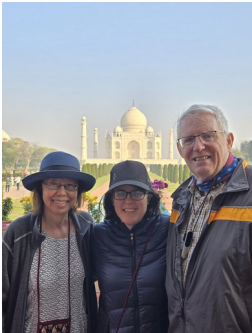


Anna took a selfie from our room balcony



Raina with the Taj Mahal buildings on the skyline

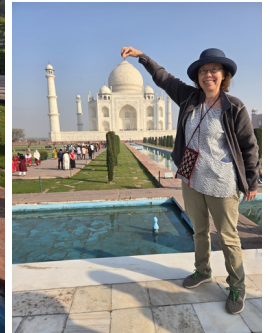
Thursday, Feb 6. Another big day, as we left early for the Taj Mahal. Once we went through the entrance gate, we spent a long time slowly walking through the gardens with many fantastic vies of the Taj, including some with it and a reflecting pond. We finally made it to the central building with the big dome and 4 towers. Here we went inside, which for me was a big disappointment. The outside is beautiful white marble with some parts having been sculpted and other parts inlaid with stones. However inside it was dark, with only a few low candle lights. I could barely see the walls inside, and nothing to admire about it. The only thing to see inside is reproductions of the two tombs (the real tombs were one floor below and off limits).



Anna, Raina, & Jim



Raina's photo of the Taj Mahal and its reflection



Anna touches the top



Anna and the west gate to the Taj Mahal complex



The identical building to the east to preserve symmetry

In the afternoon we took a tour to the Red Fort, which for a time was the principle residence of the Emperor and his harem. The walls there were all reddish stone, giving a much different feel from the Taj. There were sculptured walls in lots of places, and it was nice to see so much of what I had read about the fort in the "20th Wife" trilogy. We returned to the hotel and went shopping in the hotel stores. I loved all of the inlaid marble dishes and tables reminiscent of the Taj Mahal. We had dinner, and went outdoors to the hotel gardens to hear and see some Bollywood music.



Fine artwork around doors



Marvelous carvings in the Red Fort



Taj Mahal seen from the Red Fort



Gardens inside the Red Fort, which is not so red here



Beautiful inlaid marble column



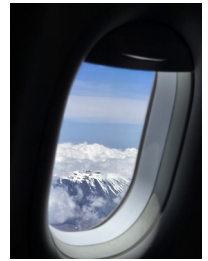
Raina & Anna at dinner



Prepared for Bollywood (Raina left, Anna right)

Tanzania

Friday, Feb 7. Travel day to Africa. When the plane got near the landing airport, we could see Mount Kilimanjaro, highest mountain in Africa, with plenty of snow on the top. There were also plenty of clouds, so we only saw the top of the mountain. We then boarded a smaller charter jet to get closer to the Serengeti Park. It still was a long drive in a Range Rover-type Toyota vehicle (fitting 8 people including the driver, although most only had 4 passengers), but we got to see our first game: zebras, hippos, and various types of impalas.



Mt Kilimanjaro

Saturday, Feb 8. Got up early, while it was still dark, and took the vehicles to where the hot air balloons were launched, very close to the air strip that we had landed on the previous day. It was still dark when we got there and watched the workers get a dozen balloons ready (only 3 of them were for the TCS group). The basket was a little different than Steamboat, with 5 compartments in a rectangular shape. Two on each end, with a fifth for the pilot in the middle.



Jim with balloons expanding

The baskets were lying on their side, so you had to crawl in and lay on your back to get ready. Then the balloon rose and the basket tilted 90 degrees to be upright. There were at least five ground crew members helping. When the balloons rose, we then saw the sunrise. We were up in the air for an hour, drifting about 4 miles to where we came down on a dirt road. The vehicles were there to pick us up and take us back to the launch area, where there were tables set up for breakfast. After breakfast we safari'd back to the hotel, seeing more of the usual (giraffe, elephants, hippos, zebras, impalas, water buffalo, ostrich, etc.) We got back to the hotel for lunch and then napped in the afternoon.



Anna, Jim & Raina at breakfast



3 of the dozen balloons

Sunday, Feb 9. We slept late, and took the afternoon safari tour. It was long, over 4 hours, and saw lots of great game, including 4 giraffes eating at one tree, an elephant that walked parallel to the road for 1/4 mile, then crossed the road just ahead of us, went maybe 40' off the road, turned and looked at us. The vegetation was unusual - not the rain forest I had expected, but mainly grasslands. At one point, we could see nothing but grass ahead of us and to both sides. Then we got to the top of a slope and could see grass for another couple miles ahead before there were trees. At other parts, there were individual trees dotting the land. The trees were never close enough to touch, and were about the height of a giraffe. The grass was just grass, no bushes or sage brush like Montana. A few times the guide drove off the dirt road toward some lone trees.

We were then heading back to the hotel when the guide obviously heard some chatter on his walkie-talkie and he started racing down the road, going 40 mph rather than the 20mph he had been traveling. Shortly before the hotel he took a side road, and in a few more minutes stopped where several other vehicles were parked. There on the left side of the road were 9 female lions, about 100' off the road. Four of them were together (one adult and perhaps 3 young ones), with a couple about 50' to their left, and another couple 50 more feet to the left, and a single adult closer to the road. The lions were all awake, but not moving much. After 15', we drove by the other vehicles and was going to turn around when the guide pointed out a 10th lion on the right side of the road back 100'. This lion was pointed away from the road and was slowly walking away, perhaps stalking a lone zebra we saw several hundred feet near some trees. Then the single lion from the left side of the road crossed the road right in front of our vehicle and slowly wandered toward the 10th lion. We turned the car around, and about 1/2 mile down the road we saw 2 male lions on the left side. One was sleeping, but the other

was looking at the road with its mane obvious. What a treat to see the lions at the end of our safari



A group of at least 6 elephants



Elephant



Elephant looking at car (note car window)



Older elephant



4 giraffes eat around 1 tree



Giraffe away from trees on way to water



Lone giraffe



At least 9 hippos seen from the balloon



Water Buffalo and Zebra grazing by each other



Water Buffalo



Zebra



Zebra looking at us



We sometimes saw hundreds of zebras



Common Warthogs



2 Ostriches



Helmeted Guineafowl walking on road



Gray Heron & Hamerkop



Impalas, one looking right at us



Impala



Thomson's Gazelle



Topi (type of antelope)



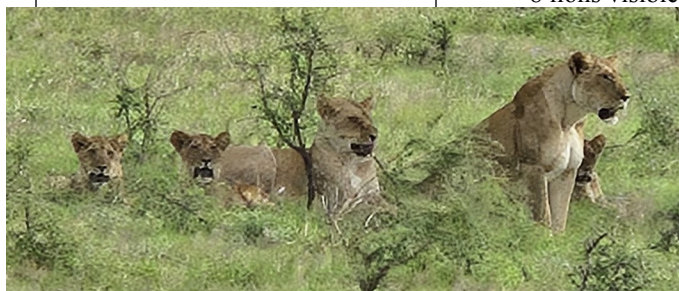
Topi



Thomson's Gazelle plus a few Topi



8 lions visible in photo



The 3 lions in the above photo are now 5



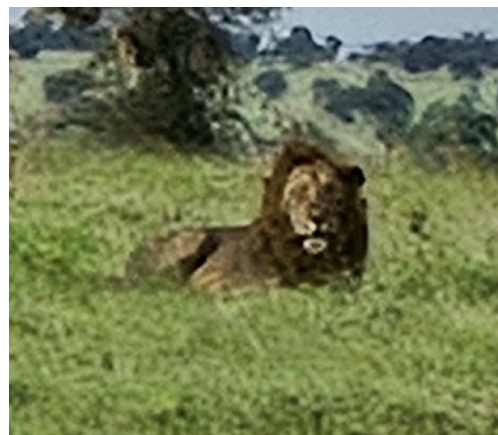
The far right lion in the above photo



Lion crossing the road in front of us



Lion after he crossed road



Male lion looking at us

On the safari, I wrote down what we saw and when we saw them. However the ride was so bumpy that most of what I wrote is illegible. Here is what I make of it:

1st 10'	hundred impala & 2 water buffalo	2:38	rocks left side ??? ????
:49	5 warthogs	2:46	26 impala & 200 zebra
:51	4 giraffes		50 water buffalo
1:10	1 elephant		100 zebra
1:39	2 hooved animals	3:10	9 & 1 female lions
1:48	5 water buffalo & 2 impala	3:30	200 zebra
1:54	1 giraffe		5 impala
2:08	2 giraffes	3:34	2 male lions
2:31	rocks left side ??? ????	3:38	water buffalo

That evening, we had an outdoor dinner at the edge of the hotel property, with native music and dancing. The hotel was next to nothing. From our room porch we had a view directly onto the grasslands, and if we had checked with binoculars every time we were in the room in the daylight, we certainly could have seen game. I should also mention that Anna several times saw animals on the hotel walkway. Our rooms were in cabins a 100 yards from the main lodge, with a wooden walkway connecting the two, raised 10' off the ground. Anna saw 3 klipspringers and a banded mongoose down on the ground beneath the walkway, and a rock hyrax on the walkway. Then on the last day she saw 3 baboons on the ground, one with a baby hanging on to its back.



Panoramic view from our hotel room balcony



3 Klipspringers under the walkway



Banded Mongoose



Rock Hyrax on the walkway



Baboon on some rocks



Baby Baboon hanging on



Non-panoramic view from balcony

Egypt: Luxor & Cairo

Monday, Feb 10. The airstrip where we came to was now going through construction work and was off limits for planes. So we had to drive in the opposite direction (west rather than south) to get to another airfield. The road there went through a village so we finally got to see some buildings other than the hotel. This airstrip was just dirt and grass, but our turboprop plane had no problems taking off. We had to fly back to the Kilimanjaro Airport to get on our TCS jet and continue to Egypt. At Luxor, we went from the airport straight to the Luxor Temple, the oldest building we had yet seen on this trip, as it was built about 1400 BCE. It was definitely in ruins, but the columns were unique and plenty of carvings and statues to see. One obelisk stands before the entrance, but there used to be a companion one that is now in the Place de la Concorde in Paris. An interesting avenue leading from this temple to the Karnak Temple was lined with dozens of miniature Sphinxes, about 10' high. We also saw the outside of the Abu Haggag Mosque, which has been in use since 640 AD, and

before that a Christian church since 395 AD, and before that part of the Luxor Temple. After the temple, we went to the hotel on the east bank of the Nile.



Entrance to Luxor Temple with Obelisk



Avenue of Sphinxes with sphinxes on both side



One of Luxor Temple's many plazas with columns & statues



Abu Haggag Mosque with its minaret

Tuesday, Feb 11. We woke up, looked out the window at the Nile, and saw a bunch of hot air balloons floating across the river. It was still early and many of the balloons were still close to ground. It took me a while to see them if they were below the haze. I counted 31 in one of the photos. We then toured the Karnak Temple, at the northern end of the 1.7 mile Avenue of the Sphinxes from the Luxor Temple. The Avenue used to be lined the whole way with 1057 sphinxes on both sides. A lot of them are now broken or just have the pedestal, but you can see them in a Google aerial view of Luxor. The ones at the northern end are a lion's body with a ram's head. A few middle ones are a full ram. The majority, at the Luxor Temple end, are a lion's body with a human head. The Karnak Temple was equally in ruins as the Luxor Temple, but with more intact walls and buildings. At one point we got to go into a room that still had excellent carvings and paintings.





West entrance of Karnak Temple with ram sphinxes. This is not the Avenue of the Sphinxes, which is at the south gate



Anna & Raina inside Temple with more ram sphinxes. The dirt shows how much had to be removed in the excavation



Statue of Ramses II (with small wife)



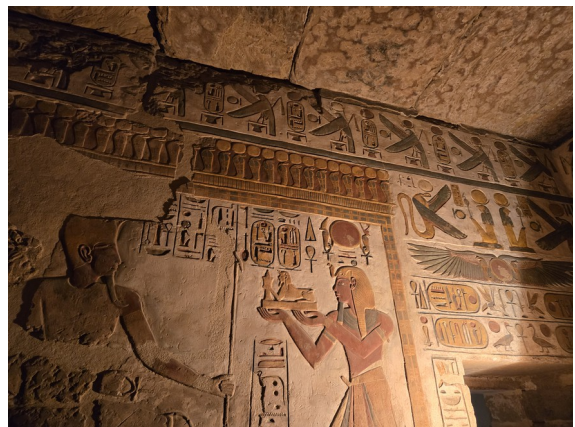
Many columns with engravings



The obelisks are made out of 1 block



One of many rows of columns, with obelisk at back



Well preserved painted engraving inside a room

From this temple, we went to the river and boarded a couple of boats to have lunch floating on the Nile. The river is quite wide here, about 1/3 of a mile. We napped after lunch - with all of the early morning tours and plane trips, I was constantly needing more sleep! After sundown, we drove to the Valley of the Kings, where our guide took us into 3 of the tombs, which might have been KV6 (Rameses IX), KV9 (Rameses V), and KV17 (Sety I). They all had good etchings in the walls, and quite long corridors before reaching the



On the Nile – Luxor Temple is behind Anna

crypt rooms. The last one was a long corridor down steps, probably over 100, so it took a while for me to do. The Taj Mahal was a much more impressive mausoleum, but it was built 3000 yrs later. After seeing the 3rd tomb, we took our bus to the Medinet Habu Temple where we had dinner and music on the terrace outside the temple.



Painted etching in one of the corridors



Jim & Anna in one of the corridors



Arwork besides stairs returning to start

Cairo, Egypt: the Pyramids & Sphinx

Wednesday, Feb 12. The day started with a quick flight to Cairo. From the airport we drove straight through Cairo to the west side of the Nile and reached the pyramids. The first stop was to hear a talk between the paws of the Sphinx that lasted about half an hour. The body and head of the sphinx was carved from one giant stone, but the legs and paws are made from brick-size stone. The pyramids are all made from smaller pieces of stone. I was surprised at this, since I had always thought the big challenge in building them was how do you move 10 foot cubes of stone that weigh perhaps 100 tons. However the largest stones, near the base, were only 2 or 3 feet, and just 1 to 5 tons each. I was surprised to see the crude steps on all of the sides of the pyramids. The pyramids were originally finished with limestone and mortar, making the sides smooth and the edges continuous. However most of the limestone was removed over the years, and now only the middle pyramid still has a limestone layer at the top. The three pyramids were made by 3 generations of pharaohs: Khufu, who died in 2566 BC, built the tallest at 454 feet. His son, Khafre, who died in 2532 BC, built the second tallest at 448 feet. Khafre also built the Sphinx. Finally, Khafre's son Menkaure, who died in 2503 BC, built the shortest of these three pyramids at 213 feet. There are also six other small pyramids, three by Khufu's pyramid and three by Menkaure's pyramid, which were used for queens of the pharaohs.



Jim, Anna, & Raina by the paws of the Great Sphinx



Photo taken from the 9 Pyramids Lounge, with lots of camels. Note 3 small pyramids at the left, and 1 at the right. Also note the original covering still exists at the top of the middle pyramid



The Sphinx & middle pyramid, both made by Khafre



Classic view of the 3 Pyramids overlapping



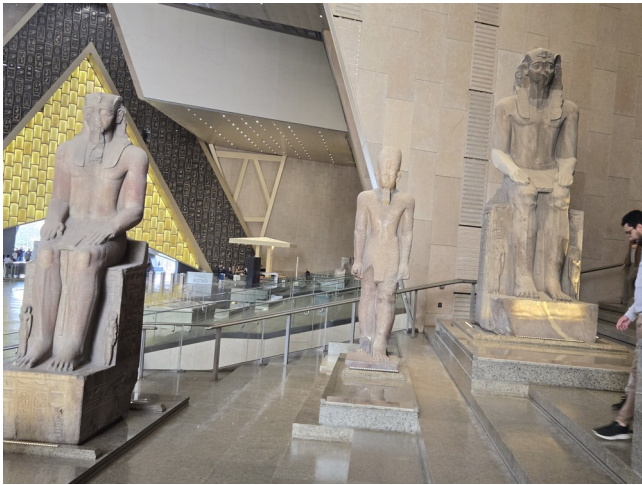
Raina, Jim & Anna in same view as photo at top of page; note there are now horses on the left edge



Raina in front of the Great Pyramid of Giza, the right-most photo in the previous 2 photos

After taking photos of the Sphinx and Pyramids, we got back in the vehicles to go to lunch, which was held at the 9 Pyramids Lounge, south of the pyramids and with a great view of the three large ones. They were perhaps a half mile away, separated from us by only sand, with several camels carrying people to and from the

pyramids. After lunch we drove to the north of the pyramids where a new Museum had just opened 2 months earlier. We had an hour or two tour of the exhibits. We saw several statues in the exhibits that probably came from the temples we toured in Luxor. I was not very impressed; the exhibits seemed to be arranged in a funny order, and I was never sure if I was looking at something 4000 years old or just 1000 years old. Then we went back across the Nile to our St. Regis Hotel, dinner and sleep.



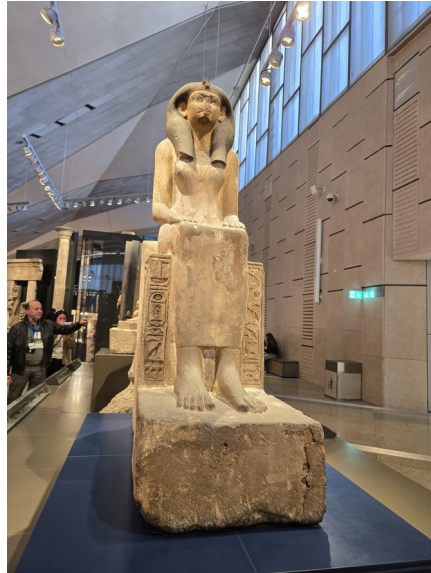
Grand Egyptian Museum



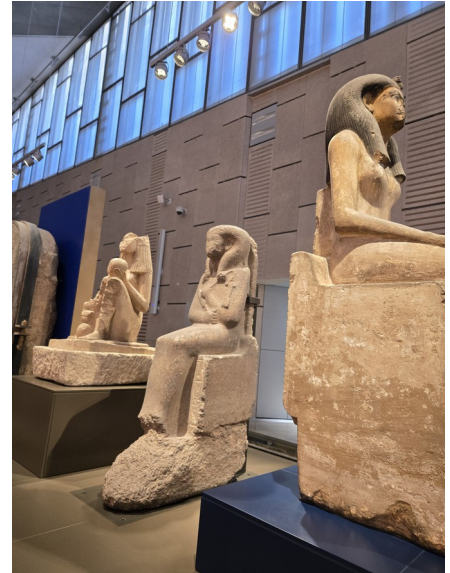
Grand Egyptian Museum



Grand Egyptian Museum



Grand Egyptian Museum



Grand Egyptian Museum

Marrakesh, Morocco

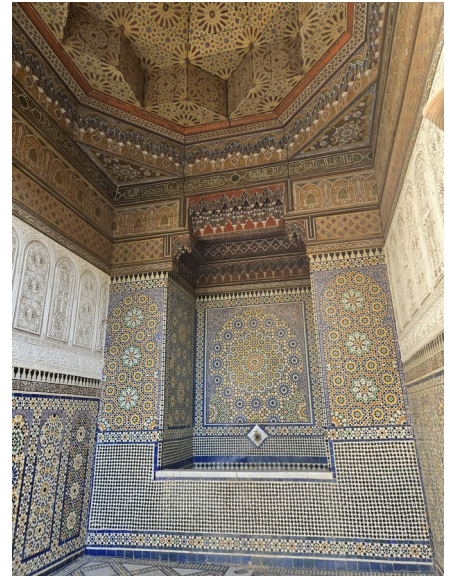
Thursday, Feb 13. Another travel day, this west to Morocco. I had thought Morocco would just be a rest day before the long flight back to Miami, but it turned out to have a couple of very nice gems, the minaret of the mosque, the palace, and the retired college. When we arrived, we went to the hotel, then took a tour of the town center food market. It was near the mosque, so we could easily see the minaret. The market was a several block area with food stalls inside and outside. The whole area was crowded and confusing. I had some of the nuts, they were delicious, but was unsure about the other foods. After the walk around, we ended in an outdoor plaza that had snake charmers.



Minaret of the Kutubiyya Mosque



Dar el Bacha Museum



Dar el Bacha Museum



Dar el Bacha Museum



Medersa Ben Youssef

Friday, Feb 14. The morning tour started at the old Kutubiyya mosque, the oldest and tallest minaret in Morocco, over 800 years old. The minaret is really spectacular at 253' in height with various arched windows in its sides, nice inlaid tile near the top, and a spire with 4 copper balls of decreasing sizes starting at 2m in diameter. The minaret is surrounded by the one-story mosque, gardens and plazas and can be seen from many parts of the city. From the minaret we headed to the older section of Medina and there toured the Dar el Bacha museum, which was the residence of the Pasha of Narrakech built in 1910. It has marvelous architecture, including intricate tile work on the floors, walls, and columns, and carved cedar wood ceilings. Following this, we toured a former Islamic college building, Medersa Ben Youssef, that had much the same exquisite tile and cedar decoration. Then we walked through the artisan market place, which like the food markets extended several blocks with stalls outside and in large open buildings. No traditional stores anywhere. The passageways were off limits to cars, but not motorcycles and bikes. We often had to move to the sides as we heard a motorcycle coming. The bicycles were completely silent so these we had to just rely on the skill of the riders. We also occasionally had two motorcycles pass in opposite directions, and saw a handful of wagons pulled by donkeys, all in the pedestrian passages. What an experience!



Even our hotel room had exquisite tile and engravings on walls

After lunch eaten by the outdoor swimming pool at the hotel, Anna and I went geocaching. We had already

logged one cache by taking a photo of the minaret, but this was a real cache about 1/2 mile from the hotel in the garden of a cafe. When we went through the gate, a man was there ready to take us into the cafe, but when we mentioned the geocache he walked over to a tree and pulled out the container for us. After signing and letting him replace it, we left for a walk. The only other caches nearby were all in cafes, and we decided we did not want the hassle. Instead we walked around the old fortification wall of the town, and through some nice garden parks.



Anna boarding the plane for the last time

Saturday, Feb 15. The trip to Miami had to stop at some place along the way to refuel and to get proper security clearance authorization. It turns out that the U.S. does not approve of the Moroccan security and will not allow any plane from there to land in the U.S. So we flew to the Azore Islands for refueling. However most of us stayed on the plane. Two passengers were picked to take their carry-ons into the terminal and have them x-rayed. What a joke! We arrived in Miami while it was still light, and mysteriously got our suitcases, gave them to TCS porters, and followed the porters not through customs, but through an empty hallway and out to the street, without ever passing a customs agent (we had earlier showed our passports). At the hotel, Anna and I quickly left for geocaching. We could not find the first one, even though we found the sign-pole mentioned in the hint, but the second cache we found as a neat takeoff on Mario and Luigi. This was our 16th geocache found on the trip, in 9 countries and 5 continents. We found one in every country we entered except Tahiti and the Azores, both of which we had found caches years earlier.

Sunday, Feb 16. On this day we took our flight back to Boston! It was very bumpy the whole way, but the snow had stopped in Boston and Paula and Greg picked us up just fine. We were glad to be home!

Hotels

Hotels (we booked 2 rooms in each hotel; 1 or 2 connected directly, 1 or 2 connected via balcony)

Jan. 23	Four Seasons Hotel Miami, U.S.
Jan. 24,25,26	Belmond Palacio Nazarenas, Cusco, Peru
Jan 27, 28	Nayara Hangarua, Rapa Nui, Chile
Jan 29	Hilton Hotel Tahiti, Papeete, Tahiti
Jan 30	crossed International Date Line
Jan 31	Crystalbrook Riley, Cairns, Australia
Feb 1,2,3,4	Raffles Grand Hotel D'Ankor, Siem Reap, Cambodia
Feb 5,6	Oberoi Amaravilas, Agra, India
Feb 7,8,9	Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti, Arusha, Tanzania
Feb 10,11	Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa, Luxor, Egypt
Feb 12	St. Regis Cairo, Egypt
Feb 13,14	La Mamounia, Marrakech, Morocco
Feb 15	Four Seasons Hotel Miami, U.S.

Airplane flights

Jan. 23 American Airlines to Miami	1,258 miles	
Jan. 24 TCS World Travel to Aeropuerto San Andres De Pisco, Pisco, Peru	2,761	
Jan. 24 charter plane to Aeropuerto Internacional Alejandro Velasco, Cusco, Peru	285	
Jan. 27 charter plane to Aeropuerto San Andres De Pisco, Pisco, Peru	285	
Jan. 27 TCS World Travel to Aeropuerto Internacional Mataveri, Rapa Nui, Chile	2,334	
Jan. 29 TCS World Travel to Fa'a'a International Airport, Papeete, Tahiti	2,637	
Jan. 30/31 TCS World Travel to Cairns Airport, Cairns, Australia	4,250	
Feb. 1 TCS World Travel to Siem Reap Angkor International Airport, Siem Reap, Cambodia	3,543	
Feb. 4 TCS World Travel to Phnom Penh International Airport, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	133	
Feb. 4 TCS Wirkd Travel return to Siem Reap Angkor International Airport, Siem Reap, Cambodia		133
Feb. 5 TCS World Travel to Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi, India	2,400	
Feb. 5 TCS World Travel to Agra Airport, Agra, India	386	
Feb. 7 TCS World Travel to Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania	3,408	
Feb. 7 charter plane to Seronera Airstrip, Tanzania	193	
Feb. 10 charter plane from local airstrip back to Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania	~223	
Feb. 10 TCS World Travel to Luxor International Airport, Luxor, Egypt	2,017	
Feb. 12 TCS World Travel to Cairo International Airport, Cairo, Egypt	317	
Feb. 13 TCS World Travel to Marrakesh Menara Airport	2,328	
Feb. 15 TCS World Travel to Aeroporto de Ponta Delgado, Azores Islands, Portugal	1,096	
Feb. 15 TCS World Travel to Miami	3,267	
Feb. 16 American Airlines to Boston	1,258	

	34,512	