

HOW TO BE A PET SITTING TRAVELER

Part III

I had pet sits in San Diego, on Catalina Island and up in Morro Bay after the graduation. On July 20, 2018, I escorted my 16-year-old granddaughter to Washington DC to check her into a leadership conference she was attending. I had my own plans there for a concert, nighttime electric bicycle tour of the monuments, tour of Ford's Theater and a comedy show. Next, I went to NYC for five nights where I went to a Yankees game and saw Sponge Bob Square Pants on Broadway.

Then, using **Amtrak** to get to Concord, came a pet sit in Loudon, NH for three dogs and six cats, a family re-union in Vermont with my sister and cousin, a flight (**Southwest Airlines**) to Chicago to visit my rock star God son and his wife Kat (she's also a musician and singer: check out LAVA Rock in Chicago and Google 'JET!', the bass player), other friends near Springfield (hi Rob and Patti!) and a Beagle sit in Elmhurst, IL. I had another pet sit south of Minneapolis to keep me busy until I cat-sat in Atlanta. Sometimes I ask the homeowners if it would be alright to have a friend come with me, so my good friend Michelle flew in from Seattle to hang out in Atlanta with me. A dog sit in Austin, TX was cancelled (Teddy had passed away) but the couple (Peggy and Bill whom I had pet sat for 4 previous times and it's their daughter I cat sit for in Atlanta) were moving so I went and helped. Doing pet sitting does lead to new friendships and some become lifelong.

October 6, 2018, I flew non-stop to England (**Norwegian Airlines**) to do my first pet sit there. I stayed a few days in hostels coming and going and to sightsee in specific places before spending ten days caring for one dog and a cat in Marlow west of London.

But to make the trip across the pond even more worth the price, I then flew (**Ryanair.com**) to eastern Europe for a whirlwind tour using hostels (**Booking.com** or **Hostelworld.com**), hotels (**Booking.com**), trains (**Amtrak in the US; Trainline.eu; ItaliaRail.com**), buses (**Greyhound; Flixbus.com**) and an overnight ferry (**directferries.com**). The cities included, in order, Prague, Krakow, Brno, Bratislava, Vienna, Trieste, Naples, Rome, Palermo and Genoa. That's all before a twelve-night cruise to Greece on **MSC cruise** ship Magnifica because they charged only a 50% single supplement on an already great price that I found on **VacationsToGo**. Lastly, I took a train to Milan for five nights before flying back to LAX on Norwegian Air (their fare was nearly as good as using a buddy pass from

my sister for Delta). US to Europe and back, rooms, transportation, transfers, attractions but not counting food, a total of ten weeks: \$4500. Not bad!

When I do need to earn some extra money, I look for temp or seasonal jobs on **coolworks.com**. I've told dozens of people about this site, too. You can look for jobs they refer to as 'Older and Bolder' that may include RV hookups in national parks. You can search by state, season or category or look for jobs on the water, on ranches or at ski resorts. There are a slew of jobs working as kitchen staff, in housekeeping, as drivers or tour guides, as retail clerks, ski lift operators, ticket sellers and even a couple places will train you to be a white-water river guide. Many include housing but will withhold a daily rate from your pay to cover costs. The neat thing is finding work for a short term where completing your contract will likely earn a bonus and a good referral for the next job. Even I can stay in one place for 2 or 3 months.

There you have it! A pensioner's guide to traveling and living nearly rent free and a site to find work when you want it. As long as I have my health (knock on wood), I'll keep traveling to old favorite places or to new exciting ones. **Maybe I'll see you out there!**