

## Steve's Travels – CCCC Presentation November 8, 2016

Summary: Steve's travels this year and last have taken him once again to many varied places and this is a chance for him to share with you some of his images, his trip preparation, the equipment he takes with him, and how he manages to remember what he took and where!

It's been a couple of years since I last gave a travel presentation and at that time I focused on travels from the late 70's through 2014. So what to talk about this time? Well fortunately 2016 has been busy travel year for Jill and me, a road trip to Florida in March, a cruise to the South Pacific in May, a visit to family in the UK with a stop in Iceland on the way back and finally a road trip to Eastern Canada last month. All told that adds up to 8550 (1400 FL, 1821 UK, 659 Iceland, 4670 Canada) miles of driving, 12,265 miles of flying and 10,900 miles on the ocean, 31,715 miles all told for 2016, whew!!

Between us, Jill and I took over 5,000 photos, aren't digital cameras great! Of course the hard part is deciding which images to show, so you'll have to bear with me when I share, I promise, just a few of them later.

I start my talk by just taking a look at the steps I take before setting foot from the house on a trip. It's obviously important that I consider where I am going, what will be types of photo opportunities I will be presented with, be that urban, landscape or nature and how I am both getting there and getting around when I am there and of course this ultimately dictates what equipment I take!

There are some great web based tools to assist in the planning process to give one not only an idea of the photo opportunities you will have, but also to guide you to the best locations. Here are three that I have used to help me. ShotHotSpot (<http://www.shothotspot.com/>) (Global), RoadTrippers (<https://roadtrippers.com/>) (North America) and Google Maps (<https://www.google.com/maps/>) (Global). If you also want to check where the sun and moon might be you can use The Photographer's Ephemeris (<http://app.photoephemeris.com/>) to assist you. As an aside we have the mother of all supermoons coming up next Monday so that's a good opportunity to check out where the moon will rise and will it be ideally placed for that CCCC award winning shot!

This is an all encompassing list of my equipment, obviously I don't take it all with me on every trip, but if I'm on a NA road trip I well might! For example if I'm just doing city sightseeing I'll take my G15, but once other opportunities present themselves the D6 is always in the bag. Jill's camera is the EOS-M and sometimes I "borrow" that! The TG850 waterproof camera was really useful on our Pacific trip! You'll see that I've been renting different lenses this year from Borrowlenses, this is a way to keep the cost of equipment down so more can be spent of travel!

Manuals, take them with you! I have mine downloaded to my phone and tablet and sitting in the cloud so I can always access them!

And at the end of each day when your feet are up at the hotel and your meal is going down there is no rest for the traveling photographer! Download, reject, edit, post, write blog, post and then it's OK to sleep!

Now for some images, I've done this as a movie, but I'll pause as we go along and just describe where the images were taken and if there is anything interesting or special about them. If you have a specific question about any of them shout it out and I'll do my best to answer.

## GA & FL

1. Darien GA – the shrimp fleet at sunset
2. Darien GA – An old warehouse with a tabby concrete wall in the foreground
3. FL – just an interesting street photo, loved the look of the dog on the back of this golf cart!
4. St. Simon's Island GA – A Pelican on the pier, disqualified from PSA Nature because of the building in the background!!!!
5. St. Simon's Island GA – The lighthouse

## The Pacific

1. Waikiki Beach at Honolulu. I have to admit that this was taken with my cell phone! Just to prove that you can get great images with them!
2. On the southeast shore of Ohau, I like the interest of the fishermen and the ruggedness of the coastline.
3. Captured this fern as we walked to the Thurston Lava Tube at the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on the big island.
4. This is Bora Bora, not your usual photo of a South Pacific Island, but typical of what we saw! This was taken from the ring of island that surround the main island. It's still possible to get great images when the weather is against you. As the Brits say, "there;s no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing!"
5. A lady making straw baskets, hats in the market at Papeete in Tahiti
6. Fresh fish in the same market
7. The island of Moorea taken from Tahiti at dusk with a couple of kayakers drifting by!
8. Don't forget your camera rain gear!
9. Or your personal rain gear! See a waterproof camera is very useful! This was taken at the Bevedere on Moorea, the premier photo location on the island, ha!
10. But if you wait it gets better
11. And better....
12. And you can get shots that others can't!

## England here we come!

1. The River Tyne at Newcastle with the Tyne Bridge in the foreground, the Gateshead Millenium Bridge in the background and the Sage Gateshead on the opposite shore.
2. This unassuming house in a small town in Lincolnshire, Brigg, was the home of Jill's 2xGreat Grandfather
3. And this is the church at Barnetby-Le-Wold where her 3xGreat Grandfather was married in 1826!

4. This is taken inside Ely Cathedral. The current building was started in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century and it was designated as a cathedral in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Both the interior and exterior are magnificent and a highlight is the octagon tower and lantern above the transept. I'll admit that I was flat on my back when I took this photo, good job it was late and deserted at the time!
5. Ponies on Dartmoor
6. Some random rocks on Salisbury Plain! Stonehenge!
7. A statue to Billy Fury on the bank of the river Mersey in Liverpool
8. The Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool with narrow boats lined up dockside in the foreground.
9. This is part of the Echo Arena in Liverpool and I'm not at all sure what and why, but it makes a great image
10. A typical street view in Kendall in the English Lake District
11. Some more random rocks, the Castlerigg stone circle thought to be 4500 years old!

Now onto Iceland. We flew to the UK with Icelandair and they route all of their flights through Reykjavik and give you the opportunity for a stay over in Iceland, which we took.

1. The church at Stykkisholmur.
2. The most photographed mountain in Iceland, Kirkjufell
3. The church at Budir
4. The beach at Budir
5. The Bjarnfoss waterfall
6. You can't go to Iceland and not take a picture of a pony!
7. Pingvellir, the site of the ancient Icelandic Parliament. Set on an inland plain that had decent overland routes to all of the Icelandic communities in the 10<sup>th</sup> century! The parliament met each summer from 930 to 1798! It's is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
8. At this park you can also see evidence of the movement of two tectonic plates, the North American and Eurasian plates that are moving apart by 3mm each year. Because Iceland sits upon these two plate edges is why it is so volcanically active.
9. Gullfoss, an enormous double waterfall over 100 ft in height. The volume of water passing over the falls was amazing and apparently during flood situations the 200 ft deep canyon can be completely filled with water!
10. An historic church, Strandarkirkja, perched next to a volcanic lava beach.
11. Another church, Hallgrímskirkja
12. The lighthouse at Grotta
13. The staircase at our hotel in Reykjavik
14. And taken from our hotel room at 12:15am, you need good curtains if you can only sleep in the dark!

So we had a few weeks at home before we set off again to go to Eastern Canada

1. Our first stop was in Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia with its wonderful rugged scenery, a must visit place
2. More scenery
3. And more
4. Lobster pots discarded by an old shed

5. A lobster sandwich, yum!
6. Great roads and wonderful scenery
7. Strange clouds, dolphins or UFO's?? On route to Meat Cove, the northernmost community in Nova Scotia.
8. And fishing boats at sunset at Bay Saint Lawrence
9. The Cabot Trail, an amazing drive around Cape Breton Island
10. A pair of lighthouses at Margaree Harbour
11. A Red Fox at Cabot Links Golf Course in Inverness, NS
12. Beach and boardwalk at Inverness
13. This is Hall's Harbour in Nova Scotia on the Bay of Fundy. The Bay of Fundy is renowned for its tidal range, over 50' in some locations, but here it's only 42'!
14. What a difference 6 hours makes!
15. The Hartland Bridge in Hartland, New Brunswick, is the world's longest covered bridge, at 1,282 feet long. It crosses the Saint John River from Hartland to Somerville, New Brunswick
16. Now we are in Quebec City, there is this fantastic mural in the old town and I managed to get this shot of a family walking towards me, it looks like they have walked out of the mural!
17. Outside of the famous Chateau Frontenac, a statue advertising a Salvadore Dali exhibition, I was more drawn to the sky as a background to the statue.
18. We stayed with some friends at their house on Lake Otty in Ontario, a blue hour shot of lake after a boat's wake started to reach the shore.
19. This image is not actually in Canada, but in upstate NY on our way home and there;s a story here. Jill and I had stopped to take some pictures of the fall colors at a driving range and started talking to a man practicing his game who suggested a better location to see the colors and he was right, so never be afraid to strike up a conversation with someone when out shooting, you never know where it might lead you!

That's it folks, and of course I must finish with a sunset! Happy travels and great shooting!