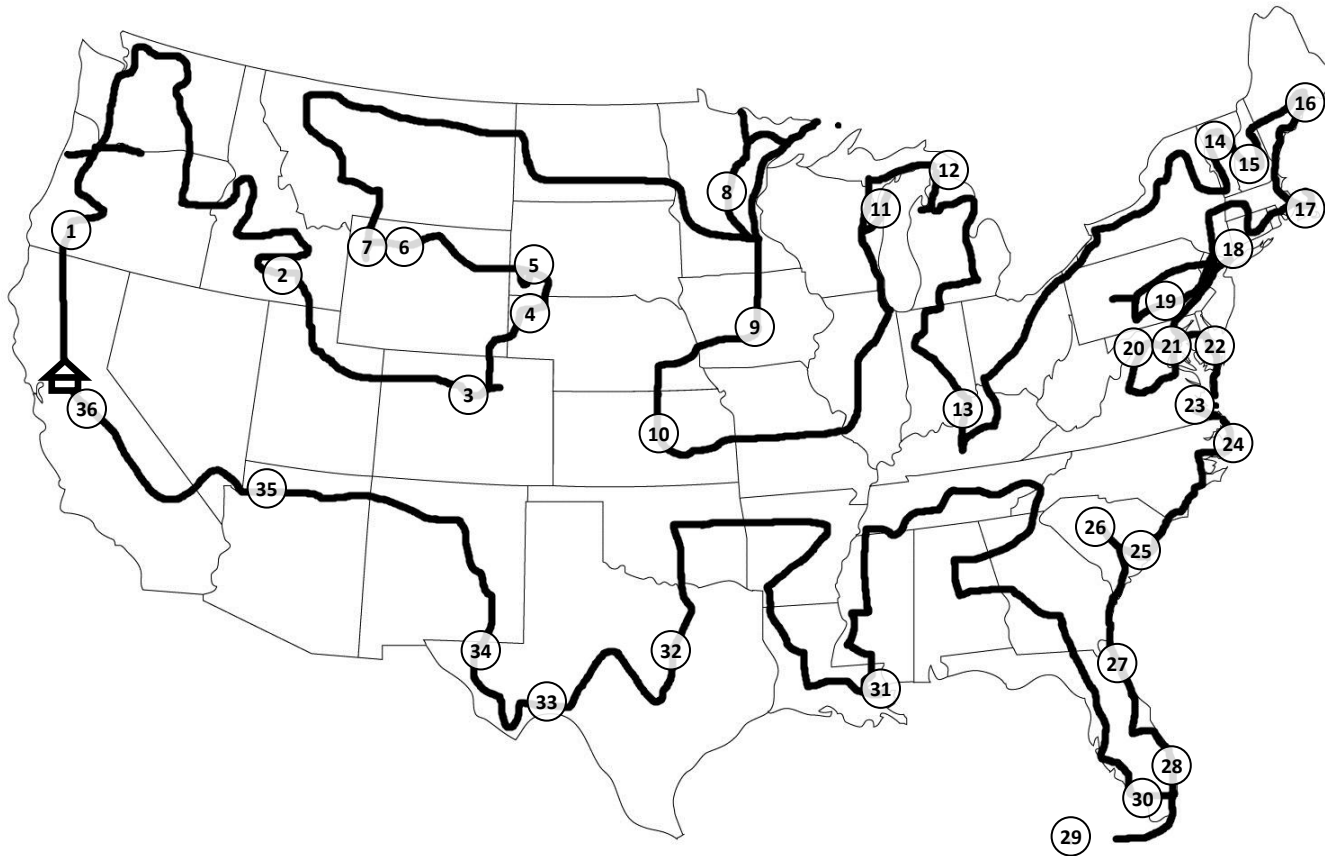


Try to match the numbers on the maps with the memories from our trip!

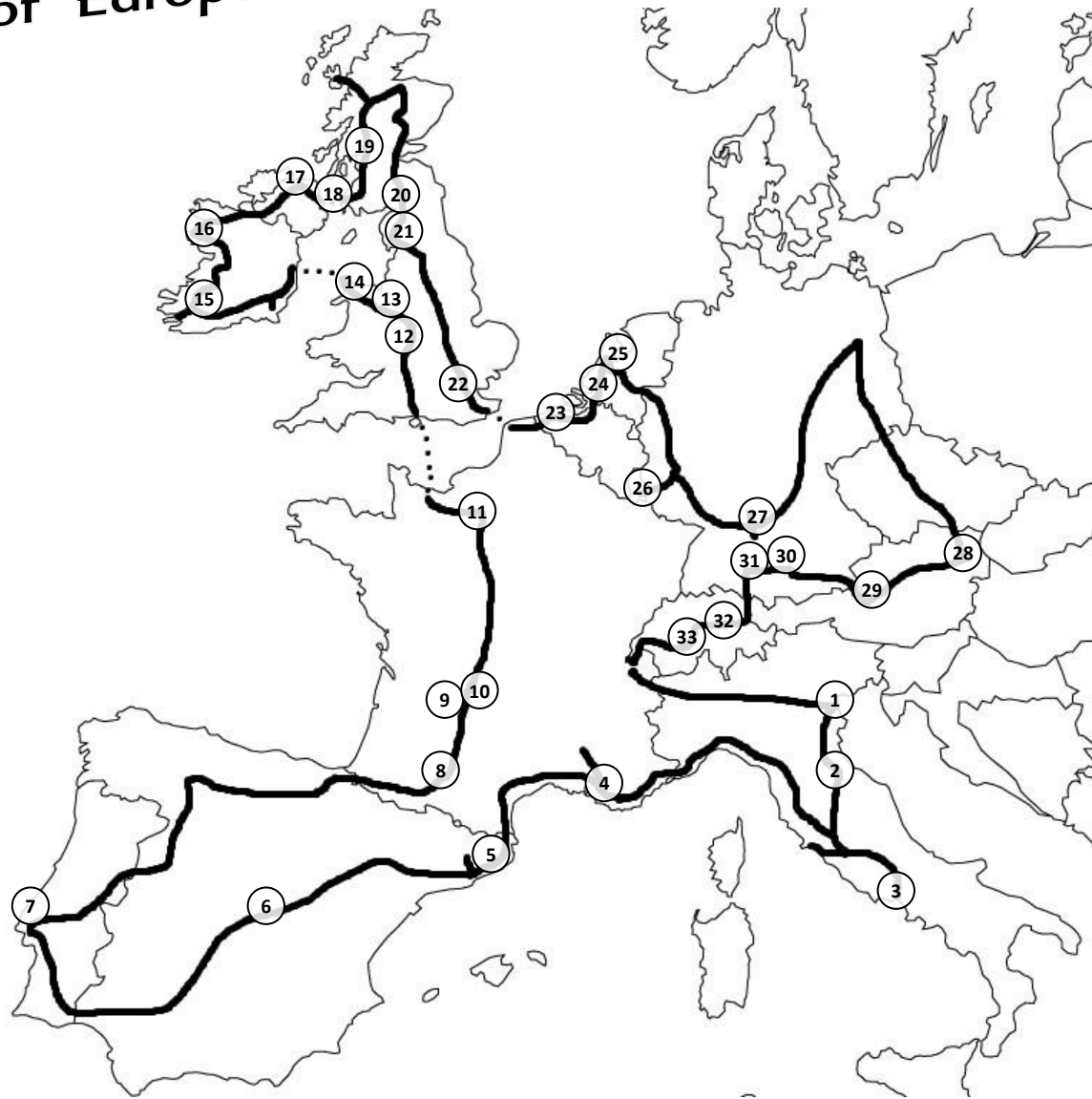
Highlights of the USA:



Want more stories? Our website is still up at <http://taylortravel.yolasite.com>, where you can read all 399 blogs and see our photos (to view: username = Elk, password = Grove). We're working toward publishing a book of our adventures. Let us know if you'd like to purchase a copy when it comes out.

Try to match the number on the map with the memories from our travels!

Highlights of Europe:



Try to match the number on the map with the memories from our travels!

Snippets of Stories from the States:

- A. Abby chipped a tooth while tubing on East Gull Lake.
- B. Admired alligators up close in Everglades National Park.
- C. Ate the “Kitchen Sink” at the Charcoal Pit.
- D. Ben and Dad climbed Mt. Missouri (14,086 ft) while the girls sipped root beer milk – tasty!
- E. Ben and Dad climbed to Guadalupe Peak in Guadalupe National Park
- F. Ben and Dad’s ascent of Mt. Washington was impeded by snow.
- G. Ben visited Cape Cod Emergency Room.
- H. Breakfasted with the buffalos in Yellowstone National Park.
- I. Caitlin commented on the lumpy and lopsided National Christmas tree on Russian TV, and we ice skated in a sculpture garden.
- J. Climbed the Precipice Trail (a non-technical rock climb) and ate and dissected lobster.
- K. Delicious fried food, but disgusting collard greens at Everybody’s Restaurant.
- L. Descended into an underground salt mine, one of the Eight Wonders of this state.
- M. Enjoyed a beautiful white Christmas in Williamsburg.
- N. Enjoyed *Hamlet* and *Pride and Prejudice* at the Ashland Shakespeare Festival.
- O. Entertained by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and an amazing dance troupe in N’Awlins.
- P. Experienced a traditional Friday Fish Boil on the Door Peninsula.
- Q. Flat tire in the middle of nowhere, 14 miles from Mexico.
- R. Gerald’s Tires replaced two RV tires and gave each Taylor lady a single red rose.
- S. Halted 10 minutes from home, after 8 months away, by a tragic goat massacre on I-5.
- T. Hiked in Badlands National Park at sunset – gorgeous!
- U. Hilarious canoe tour of Biscayne Bay (Caitlin: “Ben!?! Tree! Tree!! TREE!!”).
- V. Joined over 3000 RVs at a state fair listed as one of 1,000 Places to See Before You Die.
- W. Mom slipped on black ice while visiting Harper’s Ferry.
- X. Moonrise over Statue of Liberty – stunning! Mary Poppins on Broadway – awesome!
- Y. Pam continued our birthday lunch tradition at Beaver Street Brewery in Flagstaff.
- Z. Sampled cheese, maple syrup, and Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream.
- AA. Sampled potato ice cream – delicious!
- BB. Saw the Cody Night Rodeo and ate the best BBQ buffalo dinner.
- CC. Snorkeled in Dry Tortugas National Park in January.
- DD. Stayed in a lovely beach house for New Year’s and watched Stanford win the Orange Bowl.
- EE. Tandem biked around Mackinaw Island.
- FF. Toured biology department at Baylor University.
- GG. Viewed our first awesome antebellum architecture in the mansions of Madison.
- HH. Visited an Amish family farm and iron foundry in Lancaster County.
- II. Visited Carhenge and Mom received a speeding warning for driving 4.9 mph over the speed limit.
- JJ. Visited the ancient trees of Congaree National Park.

US Answers: 1N; 2AA; 3D; 4II; 5T; 6BB; 7H; 8A; 9V; 10L; 11P; 12EE; 13GG; 14Z; 15F; 16J; 17G; 18X; 19HH; 20W; 21I; 22C; 23M; 24DD; 25R; 26JJ; 27K; 28U; 29CC; 30B; 31O; 32FF; 33Q; 34E; 35Y; 36S

Try to match the number on the map with the memories from our travels!

Epic Experiences in Europe:

- A. Abby and Lindsey swam in the lake where Mad King Ludwig drowned under suspicious circumstances; we went luging near Schloss Neuschwanstein.
- B. Abby's 12th birthday on the seashore of Caba da Roca.
- C. At the Stadtkeller, we ate great cheese fondue and played the alphorn just as Mom did 30 years ago.
- D. Biked on cobblestone streets and among the canal windmills.
- E. Blown away by crazy 70 mph winds at Giants' Causeway.
- F. Cliffs of Moher were windy and awesome.
- G. Danced in a freezing cold whiteout at the top of Jungfrauoch.
- H. Driving through rural France, Mom: "Jim, STOP! Kids, look at that TREE!!"
- I. Drove 14 times around the roundabout in Dinkelsbuhl for Lindsey's 14th birthday.
- J. Enjoyed a medieval dinner at Ruthin Castle, where Jim and Ben won the limerick contest.
- K. Ferry ride to Scotland, spinning in the high seas at midnight.
- L. Girls got the French flu; to escape, the boys went hiking by Goeffre d' Enfer (Abyss of Hell).
- M. Hadrian's Wall: Roman army demonstration, complete with working catapults!
- N. Jaw-dropping flamenco dancing.
- O. Joined an English-speaking congregation for Easter brunch.
- P. Jousting Festival in Kaltenberg – yummy pretzels, savory sausages, and Daddy's BIG bier.
- Q. Lost and found Dad's camera in Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace.
- R. Luxembourg: Mom found a portapotty, so she could say she went in every country.
- S. Messiah Performance at the Concertgebouw.
- T. Night cruise down the Seine and croissants at the top of the Eiffel Tower.
- U. Our Cerqua Rosara hosts gave us a personal tour of quaint Italian villages.
- V. Paddy the dog accompanied us on walk along the seashore near our Irish cottage on the sea.
- W. Painting lessons from resident artist David Birch in Chipping Campden.
- X. Purchased delicious red peppers and chocolate croissants at Market Day in Arles.
- Y. Stayed in a lovely villa in Venice and enjoyed transversing the waterways despite a transportation strike.
- Z. Stayed in the Mafia center in Naples, but ate great pizza and gelato.
- AA. Stayed in Tower Cottage at Hanlith Hall, with Yorkshire pudding, trifle and other tasty treats from our hostess.
- BB. Traditional Scottish breakfast at a quaint B&B – yummy haggis!
- CC. Tried pickled herring in Haarlem, which gave mom the heebie geebies.
- DD. Visited the Deml Café for Sacher Torte, amazing chocolate cake, and 'conducted' the Vienna Philharmonic in the Haus der Musik.
- EE. Watched *Much Ado about Nothing* as "groundlings", with our elbows on the stage of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.
- FF. Watched sardana dancing and tasted thick, pudding-like hot chocolate in Barcelona.
- GG. Wonderfully wet tour of the water garden at the Hellbrunn Palace.

Europe Answers: 1Y; 2U; 3Z; 4X; 5FF; 6N; 7B; 8L; 9H; 10O; 11T; 12T; 13Q; 14J; 15F; 16V; 17E; 18K; 19BB; 20M; 21AA; 22EE; 23D; 24S; 25CC; 26R; 27I; 28DD; 29GG; 30P; 31A; 32G; 33C

Now that we're home...

In this economy, **Jim** is grateful to have a job. To be able to return to the same school and same position, teaching math at Cosumnes Oaks High School, is a pleasant bonus. Even so, it took months to adjust to the intensity and rhythm of going to work every day. Singing with the University Chorus and reconnecting with Elk Grove friends helped ease the transition.

After living "out of the box" for a year, **Pam** feels she is clinging to the edge and being sucked back into the obligations of schedules and societal expectations of "everyday" life. She continues to enjoy working as a pediatric physical therapist, and is grateful that, during our year away, her business partner built up Taylor Pediatric Physical Therapy to provide plenty of work for two therapists. She and Jim are excited to begin leading a Parenting Ministry at our church.

Caitlin, age 17, now a senior in high school, hit the ground running upon our return. In addition to carrying two AP classes, she is completing college applications and working on her driver's license. She enjoys teaching Sunday School preschool and caring for disabled children at our church's Respite Night.

Ben, almost 16, enjoyed some growth over the past year - in height (6'3") and in hair (4"). He is enjoying his sophomore year in high school and likes the academic challenges of his first two AP classes. A new venture this fall was being the accompanist for two choirs at his high school, and his first professional piano gig, playing for a community theatre performance of "Scrooge, the Musical".

Lindsey, age 14, has had an amazingly smooth transition to high school. As a freshman, she has pursued her love of singing as part of the Franklin High School Choir and is the section leader for the first altos. After Winter Break, she plans to audition for the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. She is happy to be back among friends, back to healthy eating and exercise, back to holding babies in the nursery at church, and back to swimming in the spring!

Abby, age 12, is enjoying being back in school immensely. She loves being a middle-schooler (7th grade), playing tuba in the band, and taking on every task with gusto. She is also the president of Jaguars for Jesus, her school's Christian Club. At church she continues to enjoy teaching in preschool and helping out with our church's Respite Nights - providing care to children with special needs and their siblings while the parents get a much-needed break.

Before the trip

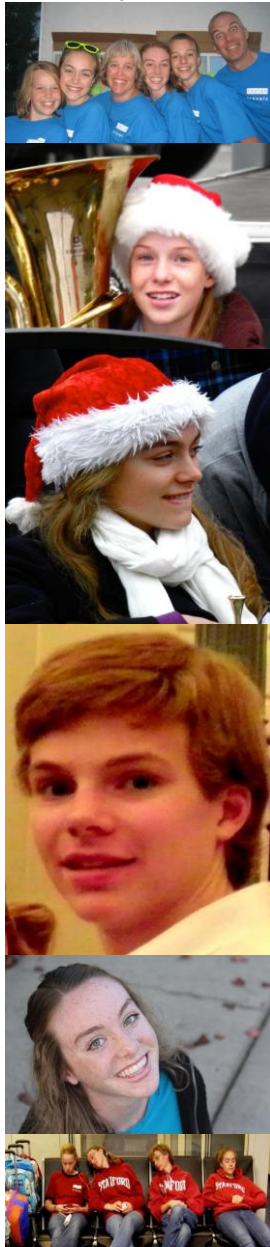


On the way home



On the way home

Before the trip

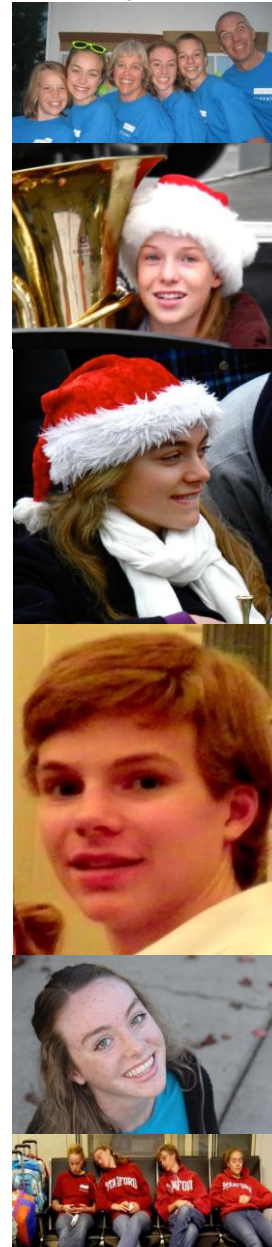


On the way home

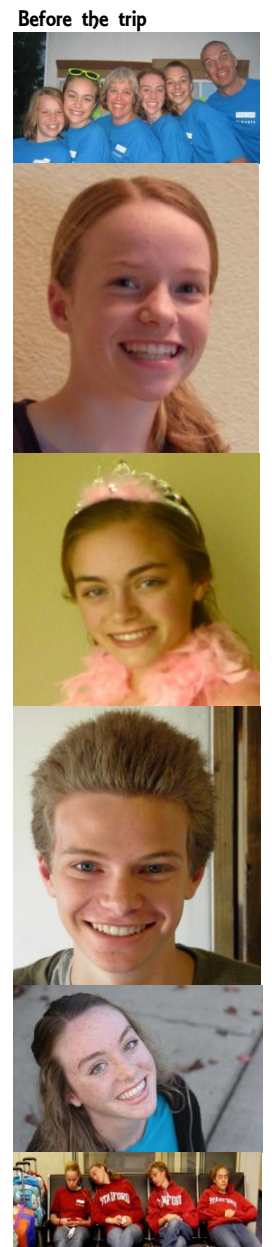


On the way home

Before the trip



On the way home



On the way home