

A SPECIAL MEMORY

By Kay Montgomery

How to select a favorite memory? Could I single out a favorite among my children? No, each has a special place in my heart, but I find that my travels have left me my most special of memories. How to choose?

I would begin with a first European trip to Holland and the miles of tulips, the taste of that pea soup at a street side cafe in The Hague; the thousands of bicyclists and their commanding presence on the streets of Amsterdam, the nuns with habits flying.

Kenya and the wide sweeping plains, the giraffe that greets us as we top a hill; the tented night at the watering hole, hippos mingling peacefully with the elephants and later the lazy lions.

New Zealand and spring's green hills, the thousands of sheep with the young lambs; Christ Church resembling British villages with over-hanging willows along the waterways.

Riding the train from Anchorage to Fairbanks, overcast skies, and then the miraculous parting of the clouds with the sight of the glorious Mt. Denali in sunshine and that majestic snow-covered peak which looms over the landscape.

Russia's St. Petersburg – the Winter Palace and Hermitage with tales of the misery and triumphs of the Russian people., the gold and glitter not rightly belonging to royalty but an overwhelming sight; the river trip on the Volga and small cities greeting us, with peasant women selling their precious dandelions.

Prince Edward Island's fresh caught scallops, prepared simply; the references to Lucy Maud Montgomery and her famous Ann of Green Gables.

Norway – Bergen, gateway to the fjords, a port city of hills with a Gulf Stream bringing mild winters, a 900-year-old Hanseatic League community and the colorful markets teeming with the handsome, friendly Norwegian people.

Minnesota –Week long canoe trips in the Boundary Waters with portages and bears; the Gunflint Trail Resort, enjoying walleye for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Cannon Beach, Oregon – sunsets, rocks and pounding surf, and hard packed sand for the morning walks. Family reunions.

Columbia River cruising with Lewis and Clark for a history lesson of a young nation.

Santa Fe at 7000 feet with spectacular skies and sunsets behind the Jemez Range, art galleries and the Indian Market on the square, low adobe style homes and a 400-year-old culture, but inhabited for 1000 years.

Joyous, fondest memories, though, are of Telluride, Colorado with the jagged snow-covered peaks guarding the box canyon, and gold which covers the valley floor, not the coveted gold of seekers, but the millions of golden dandelions that send greetings as we arrive in June.

“These are a few of my favorite things.”