

This is a transcription of a logbook I kept on a trip to Europe and Africa in October 1990. The trip was taken by Dennis Gallagher and Sharon Ronsse (husband and wife).

*(Note: additional commentary added now, to the original text, will be displayed in italic)*

**1990-10-05 – Friday - Frankfurt, Germany → Bad Orb, Germany**

We've arrived in Frankfurt Germany. There was minimum customs and no passport stamp.

Then we had a very long walk searching for the euro car rental people.

And, upon driving out of the garage, there was mass confusion.

I wanted to drive east to skirt the city center, but in fact we got lost several times in and around Frankfurt.

At one point, we stopped at the Wolfgang Hotel/Bar with a Wild Cowboy country Bar adjacent. Nope, decided we didn't want to try that.

We finally got out of the city (*on 86 going east*) and we drove (*55km*) to a community called **Bad Orb** and stayed at the Heidelberg Pension.

*(see: <https://www.expedia.com/Bad-Orb.dx5493>)*

*(The pension we stayed in does not apparently exist anymore).*

Along the way Sharon got some good practice in on her Map reading.

We had dinner in the evening (after much dictionary reading) - it was lasagna.

After our meal we took a long walk-through Bad Orb. There were many old interesting houses and buildings there.

**1990-10-06 – Saturday - Bad Orb, Germany → Arnstadt, Germany**

*(We crossed from West Germany into the former East Germany today. The border was officially opened on Nov 9, 1989. So, we are crossing into the east 11 months later.)*

Sharon awoke today at 4 AM. We realized this morning that we had forgotten to change money at the airport!

We departed Bad Orb and drove towards the former east German border.

We continued on 86 and stopped and got gas at a small town called **Fulda**. (*55km*)

*(see: <https://www.tourismus-fulda.de/en/>)*

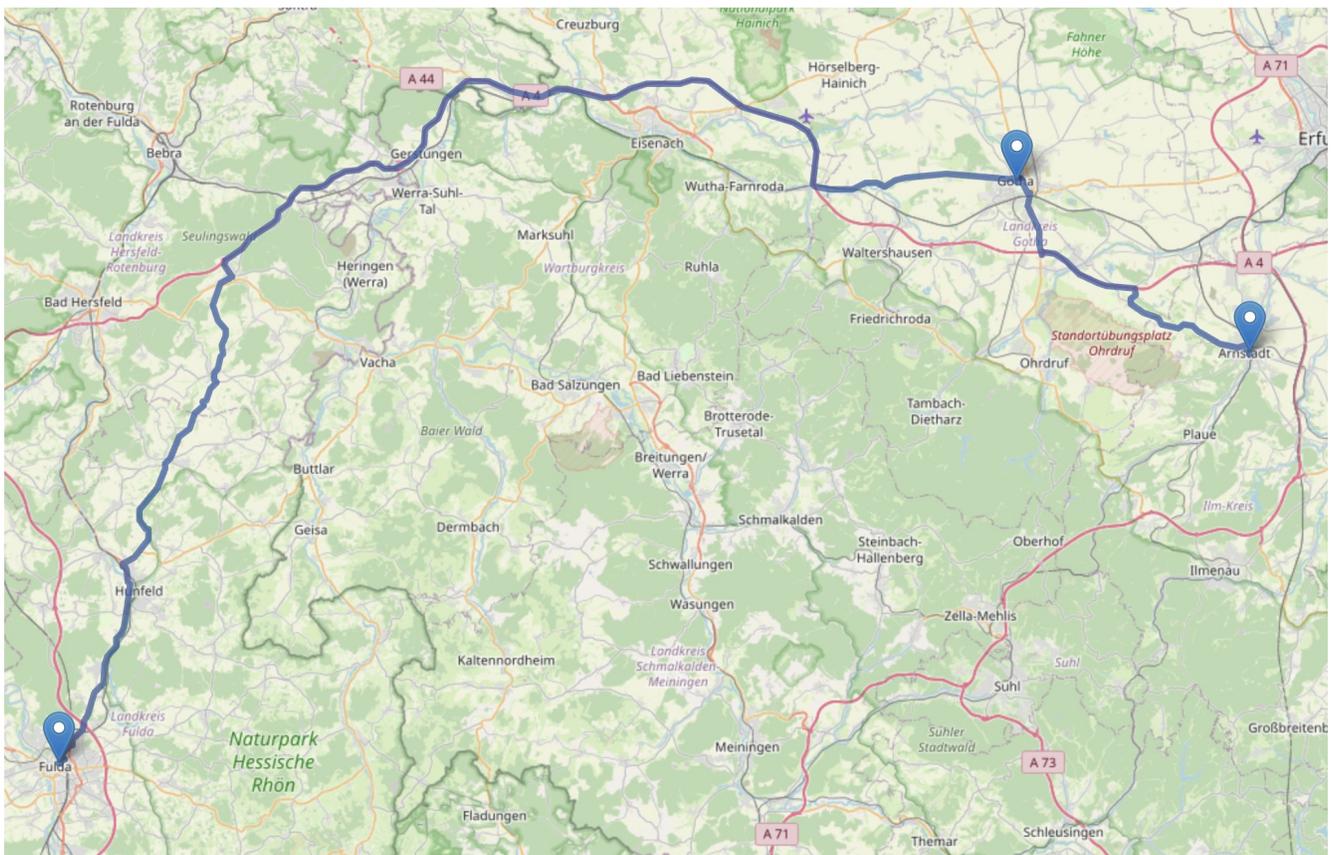
We encountered a border post but it was non-functional and all boarded up. The car gates were open. We walked to the fence and had a look around.

From there, we drove east to **Gotha**. But we felt bad vibes and there was no guest house.

Later we arrived after dark, in **Arnstadt**. And checking with the local hotel, we found out that they were completely booked. But they connected us with the Beirau family, who lived close by, and we went over to their house and they gave us a room.

Before we went over, we had a dinner at the hotel. But we didn't have our German dictionary with us - so we ended up eating salad, bread and butter.

*(An AI generated map of our likely routing on today's drive.)*



*(The Beirau Family was very nice and made us quite welcome. At the time of our visit, the former East Germany was being flooded with people from West Germany all looking to rush in and buy up things as investments. Hence, I think, why we could not get a hotel room.)*

*(we recorded the Beirau's names and address)*

Georg Beirau

Brigitta Beirau  
Marko Beirau  
Address:  
Thomas-Mann Strause 3  
Arnstadt / Thuringen  
0.5210 Germany

**1990-10-07 – Sunday - Arnstadt, Germany → Eibenstock, Germany**

Up having breakfast at 0830 in the morning with the Beirau Family.

We had a very long talk with them with Sharon's help doing translations.

It turns out that we are the first Americans that they've met.

There was a good deal of exchanging of photos, directions addresses and etc. and then we said our goodbyes

We drove east east towards Karl Marxstadt (*100km*) which is also known as Chemnitz. We had a very fast drive on the Autobahn. But, when we arrived in **Chemnitz**, there was no gas.

(see: <https://visitsaxony.com/cities-towns-regions/cities-towns/chemnitz>)

So, we continued on towards Zweikau (*40km*) and, once there, we found a station with a 40 minute waiting line.

(see: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g187402-Zwickau\\_Saxony-Vacations.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g187402-Zwickau_Saxony-Vacations.html))

Then we continued south towards the Czechoslovakian border and got lost several times along the way and the border crossings we found were closed.

So, we finally stopped at Eibenstock, Germany (*35km*) at the Ratskeller Hotel.

(see: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eibenstock>)

(see: <https://hotel-rathaus-eibenstock.de/>)

I'm recalling quite a bit from our visit to Eibenstock that's not in the logbook so I'm going to record it here as if it was in the logbook. I think it will be pretty accurate.

When we arrived, we were in a town which had previously part of East Germany. It turned out that this particular hotel had **only** ever received guests with passes from the Communist Party. Apparently, they had been good workers and had received a pass to stay at the hotel as a reward.

But the problem was when we two Americans arrived wanting a room and wanting to pay cash, they had no idea what to do. A big search ensued until someone was found who was deemed to have the authority to issue us a room and receive our money. It seemed quite surreal to us.

Once established in our room, we decided to go out for a walk in the neighborhood. One of the first things I see is some sort of 'worker's poster'. I essentially steal it off the post and we take it back to our room where we can decode its mysteries. In the end, it wasn't that interesting – I can't recall now what it was on about.

We had a meal at the hotel's restaurant. It was fish & mushroom soup; which was good. We also had some beer and wine.

There was, in the dining room with us, a large group of older ladies who were quite boisterous and, I thought, a bit crooked from drinking.

It came time for us to consider dessert. And, looking at the menu, we decided to splurge a bit and order the best thing we saw.

Well, once we said our order, you could have heard a pin drop in the restaurant. Everyone was staring at us.

Finally, it was explained to us that 'that' desert was considered to be a 'very big deal' and no one ever ordered it - except for marriages and/or funerals.

Well, that was a bit of cultural fun. As I recall, we ordered it anyway :-).

**1990-10-08 – Monday - Eibenstock, Germany → Prague, Czechoslovakia**

We had a breakfast at the Ratskeller Hotel. Then we went out and walked around the town some more.

Back at the hotel, there was lots of laughter when I paid with a 100 Dutch Mark note.

Then we took off seeking a crossing point into Czechoslovakia. After several tries found one and it was closed. We continued east looking for border crossings and following the border towards Dresden.

We had alternate bursts of rain and sun. It was really quite pretty with lots lots of woods along the way.

We finally found an open crossing into Czechoslovakia. It took us 40 minutes to cross, but no visa was necessary.

We changed \$50 USD into Czechoslovakian money and now, at 1325, it is snowing.

We drove through the Czechoslovakia countryside. There are almost no people to be seen. We passed through **Karlovy Vary** and everything was under construction there with lots of detours.

*(see: <https://www.karlovyvary.cz/en>)*

The architecture here seems quite different from Germany.

We drove onto the outskirts of Prague and we stopped at coffee at a truckers stop. Nude posters, rough crowd, and the coffee very thick. Sharon guzzled sludge.

And then on into Prague. Another wild toad ride to the Centrum. The hotels seemed few and far between. We found a Forum Hotel International but they were booked out.

Then we went over near the city center to the Centrum Hotel and it was cheap. The bathroom is down the hall. We could park our car there all night there for 20 koruna (*about one USD*).

We walked to **Wenceslaus Square** - massive buildings all around.

(see: <https://www.visitczechia.com/en-us/things-to-do/places/landmarks/urban-architecture/c-prague-wenceslas-square>)

We called Sharon's mom and Lisa.

Then we had dinner at a fish place. \$4USD for everything. But all you could get was fish with the head on. And we had a long discussion over dinner about money inflation, Czechoslovakia, and etc.

**1990-10-09 – Tuesday - Prague, Czechoslovakia → Pirna, Germany**

In the morning we checked out of the centrum and we put everything into the car and locked it so that we could walk around Prague all day. We'll have to try for another hotel here this evening as this one has no room for us.

We took a walk into the Jewish quarter and wandered along many streets and saw fantastic buildings everywhere.

Then we went over a walking bridge to a castle area up on a hill with many stairs to access it.

A Czechoslovakian military band marched by us while we were in **Hradcanske Square** and we wandered into many shops.

(see: <https://prague.eu/en/objevujte/hradcanske-square/>)

At 1620, we go back and see if we could get a room for the night. We strike out everywhere. So, we decide to eat a good dinner at a fish restaurant I saw and have some coffee and then drive to Dresden for a room. We even tried to see if we could locate a room through the fellow at the parking lot..

During the day I bought a Russian soldier's fur cap for a souvenir. And I carried it on my belt all day like an American Indian might carry a scalp as coup - and I got a lot of looks. (*wish I still had it*)

We walked at twilight to the "special" fish restaurant I'd seen and it looked nice. But all they had was trout, bread and beer. So, instead, we went back to the fish place from last night and had a fish again with the head on.

Sharon hardly touches hers.

*(As I recall, we couldn;t find much of anything to eat in Prague except fish from the local river with the head on)*

We walked back to our car ,which took about 20 minutes or so, and set out for Dresden.

As almost always, there were some missed turns until we finally get onto the correct Dresden road.

Driving here is OK, but I have to watch things carefully.

At one point a group of people flagged us down by their car on the side of the road.

Sharon didn't like the situation, or them, and she told them that we don't speak Czechoslovakian, but that the car behind us did.

The car behind us had two Hungarians in it who were following us to Dresden because they were boggled by their map. The Hungarian car had an "H" sticker on it (indicating it was from Hungary). The people trying to stop us looked at the plate of the car behind us and they weren't impressed - but we just drove off.

Maybe they were gypsies - we don't know - and we never will. I think we lost the Hungarians at this point.

The Moon rose, red and half full just beside Mars (we believe). At one point we stopped up in the hills to pee and to try out the binoculars. Sharon found that she could see a seven of the individual Pleiades stars with her naked eyes.

The border crossing was high in the hills and cold and windy when we arrived at 2330. We exchanged our Czechoslovakian money for German marks. The only time you can turn in Czechoslovakian money is exiting the country and if you have your original receipts.

Then we went back, just after finishing, and pestered them to get our German and Czechoslovakia stamps in our passports.

We arrived in Dresden at 0030 or so. Very confusing city.

We try all the hotels we can find but they're all booked solid because of the **1990 Aeronautical Conference**. We had a similar problem in Prague; but there is was the 1990 GastroPrague event!

*(see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Astronautical\\_Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Astronautical_Congress))*

So we're bummed. We drive south east towards **Pirna** and finally, at 0230, we decided to sleep in the car.. It's uncomfortable and cold but we sleep in the parking lot there for two or three hours until the sky begins to lighten at 0545.

(see: <https://visitsaxony.com/cities-towns-regions/cities-towns/historic-towns/pirna>)  
(we once slept in a parking lot overnight here)

**1990-10-10 – Wednesday - Pirna, Germany → Hof, Germany**

0545 - We got up in Pirna, which is on the Elba River, and we drove around and found a hotel - but it was solidly booked also. We also tried the hotel for coffee - but it was too weird so we split.

We did find some bakery goods next-door, however, and then we took off to Dresden at 0720.

Once back in Dresden, we went back to the town center, which is quite strange. A very big square with commercial buildings and hotels. Huge low, block-long buildings full of stores. And then, off to the side, a mix of classical European buildings, towers, spires and such.

Some of these buildings were whole and were still bombed out; just as they had been at the end of World War II.

(see: <https://www.germany.travel/en/cities-culture/dresden.html>)  
(see: <https://www.visit-dresden-elbland.de/en/memorial-year-2025>)

We walked around about half of the bombed out section but we'd forgotten the camera. On the way back to get the camera, we found an international hotel and we went in for a cup of coffee. **Whoa!** \$14 USD for two coffees and two orange juices! We staggered out. But the coffee was good.

We bought a postcard for Brenda and wrote it. Then we walked around some more with the camera. We crossed the river and saw some of the other side and then returned.

We also saw a small geological museum.

And then we were off down the autobahn towards West Germany.

We stopped at a town, called **Plauen** for coffee and a walk and we saw a big tent sale. There's lots of West German goods now being sold and available in the former east Germany.

(see: <https://visitsaxony.com/poi/city-of-plauen>)

At sundown where near the border to West Germany on small roads looking for a Gasthaus but we have no luck. So we press on to Hof on the West German side. We never did see clearly where the border between the east and the west was when we crossed it.

At **Hof** we have trouble finding a room. It's all booked! Apparently the east German's are flooding over.

At one hotel a guy tries to trip Sharon as she walks out. She curses him out.

At the next one, she talks to the owner and, even though it's full, the owner gives us the room of a

potential no-show rather than have us sleep in our car again. Sharon is quite near tears when she tells me all of this.

(see: <https://us.trip.com/travel-guide/destination/hof-25749/>)

We had dinner and wine at an Italian restaurant where Sharon charms the waiter and talks to him in Spanish.

**1990-10-11 – Thursday - Hof, Germany → Regensburg, Germany**

We got up late this morning. Had breakfast at the hotel and then we called Peter in Amsterdam to get him to set up our Salzburg reservations.

Then we took off at 1130. Driving, we alternated from the autobahn to country roads and mid-sized roads.

Near Ploss we see a castle on a hill and go to investigate. After a search, we find out how to get up to it.

It was first built in 1105 and destroyed in 1634? in the 30 Years War with the Swedes.

We meet a German man, who speaks good English, and he translates the big descriptive sign describing the castle for us.

He's talkative and we discuss a lot of stuff. His family was from the German territory given to Poland at the end of World War II. He said that more people died in that forced migration than in the war itself.

He talks a bit about the former East German state; its laws, its censors, spies and etc.

We press on towards **Regensburg** on the autobahn. I'm driving 120 to 140 km an hour. It's fun.

(see: <https://tourismus.regensburg.de/en/#/veranstaltungen>)

At Regensburg, at the first hotel we try, I find that they only have one double left and the others are all full so we grab it happily.

We walked to the old town. There was a big political rally going on. I feel weird at this point for unknown reasons.

We eat a Greek meal and then I feel better. And then we return to the hotel.

**1990-10-12 – Friday - Regensburg, Germany → Ried, Austria**

In Regensburg Germany; we get up pretty late.

We have breakfast at the hotel and Sharon absconds with two of the hotel's bananas for the road.

We lock and load the car and walk into old Regensburg town again. Lots of history here!

We see the old bridge and the oldest fast food joint in Europe which is from 1200 (the bridge builders ate here).

We see the Praetorian Gate from 167 A.D. built by the Romans.

We go into the cathedral and look at it and then into a side building where there is a church museum which goes back to the 1100s. I buy a booklet on the churches history.

We walk over to the city of Regensburg's Museum and it's really something. Beginning with caveman, it comes Forward through all the ancient peoples who've lived in the Regensburg area. Many many authentic pieces of history. It was mind-boggling, even while all the legends were written in German.

At 1430 we realize we should be getting on the road so we walk back to the Avia Hotel where our car is parked and have some coffee on the way and then we're off on the autobahn east towards Austria.

We make good time getting to Austria and we stop for the night at a town, called **Ried** at a motel.

(see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ried\\_im\\_Innkreis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ried_im_Innkreis))

The proprietor tells us we should eat at the **Alexander Restaurant**.

We take a long walk around town finishing with a trip to the grocery store where Sharon is inspired to buy a lot.

We dropped the goods at the car and returned to the **Alexander Restaurant** where I have Cordon Bleu and Sharon has mushrooms and both of us have wine. I'm tired at first but midway through the dinner I perk up and then we're back to our room by 2200.

(see: <https://cafealexandra.at/>)

### **1990-10-13 – Saturday - Ried, Austria → Lake Mondsee Austria**

We had a good breakfast and then we packed the car and drove into the center of Reid to look for a ring and bracelet we saw last night. We spent a long time at the shop.

There was confusion over the bracelet as it has several confusing prices. In the end we decided it was nice but too much.

The ring I liked was 3300 ATS but I found another for 4300 ATS which I got for 4000 ATS. I almost didn't get it as we had to use travelers checks.

(Note: Austrian money, at this point in time is about 10:1 with USD. So, 100 ATS is approximately 10 USD. Austria changed to the Euro in 1999)

Then we left out on small roads working our way towards the lakes east of Salzburg as per Peter's recommendation.

We arrived at the Dachsbrücke Gashaus on the shores of Lake Mondsee about 20 miles east of Salzburg. We took a room with a lakeview for about \$47 USD.

*(I tried to locate a website for the Dachsbrücke Gashaus but they were defunct. Too bad; it was a pretty place. It was at: Niedersee 30, 5311 Innerschwand am Mondsee, Austria)*

Then we zoomed into Salzburg on the autobahn. And parked downtown. We walked to the Novotel hotel where Peter had made unsecured reservations for us for Friday and Saturday night, which we didn't take and we got ourselves a city map.

Salzburg is in a narrow River Valley. A huge Bishop's Castle sits atop of rock ridge within the city and dominating it.

We walked over a bridge into the old section. It's a lot like Regensburg, but less crowded. Small streets, shops and churches. The architecture seems much more conservative than say, Prague. The church style is much simpler than Regensburg cathedral.

We found the tram which runs at 45° up to the castle and we rode it up. When we got up there, I bought tickets for a tour in English. Then there was lots of confusion, after we bought the tickets, if it would actually be an English or German.

About them, I began to feel hot and sweaty and weak. This lasted about 30 minutes until the tour was rolling. I'm not sure if it was emotional or physical. Perhaps too much continuous stress from the traveling in strange cultures?

We walked down from the castle when it started to rain and we found a "Pizzaland" restaurant and had a fruit of the sea pizza and mushrooms and garlic. I also had a half liter of wheat beer.

Sharon gave me a long talk about openness and personal centering as the result of my stress at the castle.

We walked some more through the huge underground tunnels under the midtown ridge and then we went to find the car.

It was foggy on the drive back to Mondsee Lake. We arrived at 2130.

**1990-10-14 – Sunday - Lake Mondsee Austria → Innsbruck, Austria**

Up at 0915 and then we had breakfast.

We drove towards the Berchtesgaden area. Sharon is very quiet.

At **Berchtesgaden**, we find the area is now a US forces rest and relaxation area.

We drive around and then stop at a hotel where we talk to an English clerk. We buy a copy of the Stars and Stripes after using a US dollar changer machine.

I decided it's not worth our time to go up and see the "**Eagles Nest**"; which is now a restaurant and which we can see a bit from the ground.

(see: <https://www.berchtesgaden.de/en/nature/eagles-nest>)

We leave and head south to dip through a corner of Italy and then back up to Innsbrook Austria.

We go through a long tunnel (*the Fortezza Tunnel*) and pay \$18 USD for the experience.

(See: <https://mapy.com/en/zakladni?source=osm&id=1031876153&x=11.6129847&y=46.7893494&z=16>)

Also, we pay 130 Austrian shillings on two other occasions for autobahn tolls.

At some point I pick up two Italian 1000 Lira bills. I don't know if I was short changed or not. There were too many cash transactions on the road.

We saw lots of castles on this leg and even drove through one which spanned the highway.

We called the USA. Everything's OK at home.

Got to Innsbrook about 1900 and stopped into the **Mozart Hotel** for 90 USD per night.

(*The Mozart Hotel has been renamed the Nala Hotel now*)  
(See: <https://www.nala-hotel.at/en/>)

Then we walked into the old town for supper. We spent at least an hour walking around until we decided on "Mama Chorizos" where we had an excellent pasta and then home.

Sharon was quiet all day.

### 1990-10-15 – Monday - Innsbruck, Austria → Enger, Germany

We were up early and drove out of Innsbrook. We got some gas on the autobahn.

Lots of tunnels and tolls. One tunnel was at least 15 km long. Two or three were long enough that they put signs up for an FM radio station (88.5) so you had something to listen to as you zoomed through it at 80 km/hr. We worked our way east to west across Austria from Innsbrook to **Lichtenstein**.

(See: <https://www.liechtenstein.li/en>)

Huge mountains, valleys, and tunnels. Many villages up on the steep mountain slopes. We crossed the border into Lichtenstein and drove down towards the capital, **Vaduz**. The whole place is only 16 miles long and has 58,000 people.

(See: <https://www.vaduz.li/en>)

Along the way, we found the road up to the **castle of the prince** who rules Lichtenstein. We drove up but it's a no visitors residence.

(See: <https://en.tourismus.li/map/poi/schloss-vaduz-8fb7e6cf-99b5-4ffb-b600-9e4c66398e1f.html>)

We found a small parking lot above the castle and we climbed the slopes above the parking lot for 100 yards or so and then we sat down and talked and meditated.

The weather had turned windy and two trees fell while we were there. It was quite beautiful. On the way down, I broke a rock and kept a piece as a souvenir.

In Vaduz, we bought some Lichtenstein stamps for Mike Bryga and also a small book about Lichtenstein.

On leaving, I went up an 'einbahn'. That is a one way street - and I'd gone, the wrong way. And I got yelled at.

Then we drove north and crossed into Switzerland; just south of a lake (**Lake Constance**, I believe).

(See: <https://www.bodensee.eu/en>)

We followed the southern shore of this lake for a long time; very pretty country. We stopped and looked around at an old barn full of antique furniture.

At the town of Konstanz, we crossed back to Germany just at twilight; and it was a mess.

It's a busy university town between two lakes with several major roads meeting there. There were no currency exchanges at the border so we had to turn around and go through it all again to get back to the Swiss side and exchange our Swiss money. Then back through to the German side again. Bikes, cars, signs, curves, and gridlock everywhere. It took nearly an hour to get cleanly out of it all.

Then we drove up the autobahn to **Engen** where we found a nice hotel.

(See: <https://www.engen.de/start>)

My nerves were pretty shot. The hotel manager recommended a nice restaurant which we tried. It was very nice. We argued a bit at the end of supper and then talked until 0015 later in bed.

We slept in until 0930 the next morning. Hopefully, we've resolved the problems.

**1990-10-16 – Tuesday - Enger, Germany → Saint Die des Vosges, France**

We woke up and thought it was early, but it was actually 0930.

We drove through some backwoods roads in the black forest area. The farmhouses here are made so that the house and the barn are one thing; with the barn downstairs.

We stopped at **Sankt Peter** to look at the church and to write postcards over coffee.

*(See: <https://trek.zone/en/germany/places/383300/abbey-of-saint-peter-in-the-black-forest>)*

We crossed the border into France over the Rhine via a car ferry. There were no customs.

And then we drove through a long tunnel which cost us \$3USD on the way to Saint Die des Vosges. And, we got lost along the way.

At **Saint Die des Vosges**, we couldn't find a hotel so we parked at the train station and walked the town until we found the Hotel Vosges.

*(See: <https://www.saint-die-des-vosges.fr/vivre/la-ville/presentation-de-la-ville/>)*

*(I could not find the specific hotel nor the restaurant we ate at. But things change over the years)*

We ate at the Tetras restaurant for \$50. It was very classy, very quiet and formal.

We are getting along well at this point.

**1990-10-17 – Wednesday - Saint Die des Vosges, France → Ronse, Belgium**

Up for breakfast at the hotel.

The man beside me, Sharon said, look like her father and he kept staring at her. The woman behind her thought we were quite interesting too.

There were Japanese cartoons in French playing on the room's TV.

We drove to the nearest autobahn and drove towards Luxembourg. This part of Europe seems pretty boring. Zoom zoom all the way to Bastogne, Belgium, after we passed through Luxembourg.

*(I was in Luxembourg three years earlier on my way to the Soviet Union)*

In **Bastogne**, we saw several US tanks of World War II vintage and I remembered then that there was a big battle here.

*(See: <https://en.ardennes-etape.be/experience/city/bastogne>)*

*(Apparently, we continued on to Ronse, Belgium, that afternoon because that's where my notes show us being the next morning.)*

**1990-10-18 – Thursday - Ronse, Belgium → Amsterdam, Netherlands**

*(There's a story behind why we went to Ronse, Belgium. It turns out that the town of St. Mary's, Kansas, where Sharon grew up, was largely populated by people who had migrated en masse from Ronsse, Belgium, to the United States.)*

We got up at 0930 in the Ronse Hotel. *(finding a hotel in Ronse had been difficult. It did not seem to be much of a tourist town. And two of the three hotels we saw were closed.)*

*(See: <https://www.ontdekronse.be/en>)*

We had breakfast there and the proprietress gave us a copy of the town's local phonebook.

We put our stuff in the car and walked to the Tourist Office and the City Hall to get maps and to buy a plate with “Ronse” on it. And we got some window stickers and a keychain.

Then we went to the Ronse Museum where we saw a lot of local history; including all the way back to Roman times.

Sharon saw some people there *(in the museum's displays)* with the same names as in Saint Mary's.

We did a short meditation in the church.

At noon, the museum closed so we drove to the town cemetery after a nice older man in a knick-knack shop told us where it was. He gave us a Ronsse postcard as a souvenir.

At the cemetery, we looked around for awhile but only found one Ronsse. (“Ronsse” is the older spelling of “Ronse”.) He was Marcel Ronsse who died in 1957 and was described only as a “Political Prisoner”.

*(Another interesting thing I remember, even though it is not in the logbook, was that we saw a picture on the entire end of a building (the town museum?) of women being dragged away. They were in clothes from around the 1700;s, I think. They were being accused of being witches or of being insane. I tried to locate a picture of this on-line but I could not. We joked about this at the time with each other as possibly 'explaining' things about Sharon and/or the people in St. Mary's.)*

Then we went back into the town proper where we bought more postcards and mailed them.

Sharon told some people from St. Mary's *(via the postcards she sent)* about the town and the names in the phonebook.

I found a toy at the “Tandy” Store on the town's main square. *(Tandy is the European equivalent to the US's RadioShack)* and I bought it. It was a combination tachometer and a clock all in one. *(I later*

*installed this in my Land Cruiser at home).*

Then we went over to the church to see the crypts. Very interesting. This church, like many others, was developed piecemeal over the centuries since about 1000 A.D.

*(See: <https://www.ontdekronse.be/en/st-hermes-crypt>)*

On our way out of the town we had a cup of coffee and we made a quick stop at an antique store that turned out to be spectacular.

Then we drove straight through to Amsterdam and then spent one and a half hours looking for the hotel we were to stay at. *(Amsterdam traffic was the worst – I can still remember it)*

Once we found the hotel, we checked in and then went out onto the streets. Quite a weird party. We ate at a Chinese food place and then walked. We went into a small bar, which seemed to be a pick up place and had a picture of Winnie the Pooh on the sign. And we bought some marijuana there and we enjoyed it at our room. We watched CNN on TV until 0200.

### **1990-10-19 – Friday - Amsterdam, Netherlands**

*(We're at the SAS Hotel (now known as Radisson Blu Hotel, Amsterdam City Center))*

*(See: <https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-amsterdam>)*

We slept in late this morning and missed breakfast.

Then we went to a local laundromat to wash our clothes and we ate cheese sandwiches and drank coffee at a French place next-door.

We had a bit of marijuana and then we walked over to the van Gogh Museum. But, along the way, we found an antique shop with an old Citrine that Sharon liked.

The van Gogh Museum is very nice.

*(See: <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/>)*

Now we headed over over towards Anne Frank's house.

*(See: <https://www.annefrank.org/en/>)*

But, on the way, we discovered an art shop. It's got some really wild stuff. Indonesian batiks and fake palm trees from Bali.

Sharon found a batik she likes and, and I did too, and we also got a neat Bat which we've named "Oscar".

We walked to the Ann Frank house but found it closed by 15 minutes so we're back to the hotel now.

We cleaned up and took the car. We're going to meet Peter at the airport for dinner with he and his wife Mary-Ann.

Now there are several reasons why we have problems on the way to meet Peter.

- (1) The automatic garage door opener at the SAS hotel failed for five minutes so we were stuck inside.
- (2) On a one-way street, a guy stalled his car and couldn't get it started.
- (3) The concierge gave us direction to the edge of the map we had on how to get to the airport. But, he failed to mention that the airport was way off the edge of the map and way down on autobahn.
- (4) Out at the airport Hilton, a misunderstood sign sent us off down the one-way autobahn so I drove off the ramp, but failed to find a way back through the bushes and dirt so we got back on the ramp and backed all the way up.

But we did, finally, get there and Peter met us and we followed him home to a beautiful dinner. Peter drove us home afterwards and we got some marijuana and got into CNN again.

**1990-10-20– Saturday - Amsterdam, Netherlands**

We got up late and we ate breakfast at the SAS hotel and then we went out to the jewelry street to look at the Citrine ring that Sharon liked.

We found other shops with jewelry there and in one we found out that there's a large jewelry and antiques convention on in Amsterdam right now at the RAI convention center. It's a long walk for us, but we go.

It's fantastic. Excellent stuff, including Roman historical artifacts. Also, a woman artist with very self contemplative paintings.

Then we walk back to the jewelry street and, along the way, we find a rock shop and buy some native As, Bi and Au as well as Argonite and Rose Quartz.

At the jewelry store, Sharon does buy the Citrine for \$190 US.

Then we went back to the hotel to meet Jan de Boer and his wife Arriene They take us for drinks in the Jordan sector of Amsterdam; which is very old, authentic Amsterdam. We went to a place called the Brown Bar. They are both Dutch and it's fun talking with them.

They drop us at a nice Indonesian restaurant but it is full so we find another one and I really pig out.

Then we head back to pick up the jewelry pieces and for a spice cake and then back to the hotel where we watch CNN until we sleep.

**1990-10-21– Sunday - Amsterdam, Netherlands → Bremen, Germany**

We're going to drive to Sharon's friend Sue's, near Bremen Germany today.

In the morning, Peter picks us up and takes us to his place so we can recover our car. Then we say our goodbyes and we're off.

Lots of advice for us, including from a Dane over breakfast about how to go.

We take the northern route because I wanna drive over a **Dutch seawall** in the North Sea. It is spectacular cold and windy and fun. And then we continue on.

(See: <https://theafsluitdijk.com/>)

We drive all day long. We get a Dutch passport stamp at the border and then press on and arrive at Sue's in **Bremen** just after dark.

(See: <https://www.bremen.eu/>)

Sue and Sharon were roommates at Washburn University in Topeka Kansas. Sue makes dinner for us and we have some Dutch marijuana and then settle in to watch the movie "Out of Africa".

We're going to Kenya - so it's just the right movie.

And last night, with Jan and Arriene, we also talked about Kenya since they spent most of September there after their wedding.

### 1990-10-22– Monday - Bremen, Germany

Sue took the day off today to spend it with us.

We went to the BX on the base and cashed a check for \$400 USD that Sharon wrote to Sue so that we have more cash. We also bought three more rolls of slide film there and got some cable hook up stuff for Sue's TV so she can connect the roof antenna.

Then we went to a travel agent Sue uses to see if we can set up a better room in London and to get one in Frankfurt on the eve before we fly to Kenya. We do get a London bed and breakfast, but we don't achieve anything with Frankfurt.

Then we went into **Bremen** and we walked around and we saw the **mummies** at the cathedral.

(See: <https://www.wfb-bremen.de/en/page/bremen-invest/bleikeller-mummies>)

We have some coffee and rolls in one shop and then some fried mushrooms at a stall at the Freimark.

We returned to the travel agent again.

And then we went home to Sue's.

We were going to go out and buy her supper but she wanted to stay in so we ate odds and ends there at her house had some more marijuana and then watched Cher in the movie "Moonstruck" and then we went to bed.

**1990-10-23– Tuesday - Bremen, Germany**

Up at 0930. Sue's gone to work and we have the day to ourselves.

Sue recommended a town, **Stade**, which is an hour away to the north east. We go there and it's nice. It's apparently Swedish.

(See: <https://www.stade.de/>)

We have some coffee and rolls and then walk some more. And then we have coffee and rolls again. Sharon says I'm asleep.

We walk around and through the old town and then we find a **city museum** in a restored three-story building dating from 1650 A.D. or so. It's very nice and not unlike Regensburg.

(See: <https://www.museen-stade.de/schwedenspeicher>)

We buy three T-shirts for 9.5 dm each for Kenya's heat.

Then we head for the Parkplatz (*parking structure*) where we have some fun because we don't know the system. The attendant finally lets us out for free.

When we arrive at Sue's, Sharon calls the attorney back who's been working with her about her accident settlement and then we call USA. All is well at home.

We agreed to call again on November 5 from London and also to check with Pan Am between.

We drive to Sue school at 1800 and meet her for dinner. We go to an Italian restaurant, which is quite good. And then we head home.

Sharon rides home with Sue. And as I drive, I hear the **Hotel California** by the **Gipsy Kings** and I like it.

At home, we have the last of the marijuana and while Sharon and Sue talk I write poetry and think about what I've been reading in the book, **The Nature of Personal Reality** by Jane Roberts.

(See: [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/422356.The\\_Nature\\_of\\_Personal\\_Reality](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/422356.The_Nature_of_Personal_Reality))

(I located the poetry I write that day and have entered it into my poetry website here:

<https://samadhimuse.com/2026/01/10/1990-10-23-bremen-thoughts/>

And then we go to bed.

**1990-10-24– Wednesday - Bremen, Germany – Wiessbaden, Germany**

Today we drive to the Frankfurt area. Sue wakes us up at 0700 as she leaves.

We're on the road and zooming along by 0830. We have no Deutschmarks and a half a tank of gas so we'll drive until the banks open and then we'll change some money, gas up and eat.

In **Dinklage**, we changed dollars and gas up. Soon after, on the autobahn, we find a restaurant. Then we're off for more zooming. I'm used to the Audubon now so we're driving 120 to 140 km/h.

(See: <https://www.dinklage.de/>)

Alter, we're on a small roads near **Koblitz** and then, about 1530, we're driving down the Rhine River Valley. Many castles here. Sharon takes a number of photos up through the Polo's roof window.

(See: <https://www.koblitz-touristik.de/>)

At **Wiessbaden**, we get lucky on our second hotel try. It's \$100 per night but we don't care. We have to be at the airport tomorrow without problems.

(See: <https://tourismus.wiesbaden.de/>)

We meditate together and then walk the town to the Spanish restaurant called “**La Paella**”. We have a Maronara of the same name. Sharon gets to use some Spanish.

(See: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/la-paella-saarbr%C3%BCcken?osq=Spanisches+Restaurant>)

We walked down a long pedestrian only street to our neighborhood and at the hotel I buy a bottle of champagne, which I thought was wine, from a vending machine for five Deutschmarks then we go to Bed.

**1990-10-25– Thursday - Wiessbaden, Germany → Nairobi, Kenya**

Check out after 0700. We confirm the way to the airport and we're off. We can't afford any mistakes as we must make the flight.

The signs are good, getting gas is easy; just off the autobahn the car return is easy and we go to Pan Am and check in.

There's a lot of close questioning of us for security at Pan Am.

Now we're in the PanAm lounge. We talk with an Indian-born lawyer from Berkeley.

We board our flight. Easy. We're in a first class non-smoking section, but a French lady just behind us

insists on smoking. Sharon raises a fuss about this which lasts most of the flight.

We fly over the Austrian Alps, Yugoslavia, then it's overcast and then dark.

Good food. The movie shown is "The Hunt for the Red October".

*(See: <https://www.paramountpictures.com/movies/the-hunt-for-red-october>)*

We arrive in Nairobi after crossing two time zones and it is 2200.

*(See: <https://nairobi.go.ke/>)*

Suresh is not there to meet us so we stand in the reception area for 15 minutes being eyed by dozens of people; some of whom insist on trying to get us a cab. I'm nervous, Sharon's OK.

Suresh arrives and we're off. Suresh, his wife, Ela and their son Ramu drive us to Safari Park Hotel, which is outside in Nairobi. Strange to drive on the left side.

*(Tried to get a working website for this hotel. They are still in operation but they've apparently let their SSL certificate expire)*

The city looks a lot like Central America or Mexico to me. We check into the hotel. We have a nice room. There are peacocks wandering outside.

And we're off to bed.

### **1990-10-26– Friday - Nairobi, Kenya**

We get up at 0700M so we can meet Suresh. I'm feeling pretty grouchy.

In the hotel, we put our valuables into the hotel safe. This is our passports, cash, rings and etc.

We have breakfast in the hotel and we sign the check to our room. It's a buffet style breakfast.

The waiter offers to get us some small tree-ling (*whatever that is*) but we decide no due to the USA entrance and quarantine problems.

Then we sit in the lobby to meet Suresh who is late; must be standard Kenyan time.

He drives us into Nairobi and we park in a parking structure and then walk. He has several hotel executive groups that he wants to parade Sharon in front of. I'm just tagging along.

We meet with three different groups or individuals. Basically, it's just Hello, yak for a while and then goodbye. It is good public relations for Suresh, I suspect.

We go into a shop that belongs to Suresh's friend and we buy \$250 worth of stuff.

Then we have lunch at an Indian restaurant. And after that we drive out to Karen Blixen's place (Out of Africa) which is now a Kenyan National Museum.

*(See: <https://nmk.go.ke/karen-blixen-museum/>)*

We take a lot of pictures and have a walkabout.

Then we go over to the Giraffe Center where they have giraffes and Warthogs. The giraffes come right up to you and you can hand-feed them.

*(See: <https://www.giraffecentre.org/>)*

Then we go back to Suresh's "SAL" office to meet his staff. We sit around and drink coffee and look at some of his books.

Then we go to Suresh's house, pick up Ela and Ramu and go out for Chinese food.

On the way back to the hotel, we sample "Pan" (which we are not fond of) and then we go to sleep.

*(I have no idea what the "Pan" was that is referred to here)*

### **1990-10-27– Saturday - Nairobi, Kenya**

We're up again early to meet Suresh. We order two continental breakfasts from room service and we eat it out on the balcony, which is very nice.

A local scruffy cat arrives and Sharon plays with it and then it bites her. There's a lot of jokes about rabies after that.

We go downstairs to meet Suresh - he's late again.

Then, we meet some executives at the Safari Park Hotel. First, there's an Indian who I like and who is going to Canada. Then a Mr. Kim; a Korean. And then a Swiss fellow and then the General Manager.

*(A lot of this was about the fact that Sharon was an executive at a company (Computerized Lodging Systems (CLS)) that sold computer systems to five-star hotels; world-wide)*

Everyone's enjoyable but the Swiss fellow; who grills Suresh and Sharon for 30 minutes.

Then we go out to shop at Suresh's friend's place for more art.

And then we're off to Suresh's house to pick up Ela and then off to lunch at a Greek restaurant where I have some very odd calamari salad.

Suresh and Ela drive us out of Nairobi to the Rift Valley Overlook where some peddlers almost sell me

some trinkets at a very high price. Suresh saves me and gets the goods for 1/4 of what I was going to pay!

Then we go on to Lake Naivasha and the Naivasha Hotel grounds. A very idyllic scene here. Lakes, animals, birds ... very nice.

Then back into town to Suresh's parent's home to meet his full family. 15 people live there.

We have a beer and talk for almost an hour to Jackie; who owns the "Big Five Safaris" business. Most of our talks are about politics.

Then back to the hotel where I get room service and stay up late washing watching a 1977 New Zealand mystery called, "Died in the Wool". Then off to bed.

**1990-10-28– Sunday - Nairobi, Kenya → "The Ark", Kenya**

We are up at 0800 to call Big Five Safaris to see if we have an early or a late pick up. Thankfully, it is a late 1330 pick up.

Sharon goes back to bed and I eat breakfast and then read Thursday's Wall Street Journal.

Sharon gets up and we go for coffee and then check out. Then we wait for the Big Five Safari to pick us up in the lobby.

I take a photo with a Masai man out front of the hotel's entrance.

Big Five arrives and we meet our companions for this trip. Ephraim is our guide. He's a black Kenyan about 40 years old. Trudy is from Los Angeles, California. Gertraude Kinet is a former East German who's now living in San Francisco and Marianne is from Ohio in the US. All these ladies are 50+.

*(Gertraude and Sharon and I become good friends on this trip and remain so for the rest of Gertraude's life; which ended in 2025)*

We're off now on the way to "**The Ark**" which will be our first night stop. We pause at some falls where Sharon buys an elephant mask.

*(See: <https://thearkkenya.com/>)*

We arrive at The Ark, which is 20 years old and up in the Aberdare Mountains. It is built on obtrusively next to a major salt lick.

When we arrive, we can see two elephants in the water and a Water Buffalo is also there. The elephant shows everyone has a massive tool.

We eat dinner. The place holds about 100 guests. We watched the animals some more from the balconies and then we went to bed.

**1990-10-29– Monday - “The Ark”, Kenya → Sarova/Shaba Hotel in Shaba National Park**

We get up at 0630 and have breakfast at the same assigned table with the same people. Then we drive back from The Ark to the hotel where we meet Ephraim and drive on.

We go north. And on the way we cross the equator so we stopped to shop and see a “demo”; which is quite bogus.

*(I recall this. They would walk to where they were just north of the equator and then pour some water onto a bowl and then we would all watch as the water poured out of a hole in the bottom of the bowl and as it poured out, it would begin to swirl in a circle; either clockwise or counter clockwise. Then would walk to the south of the equator and repeat the exercise and in this case, the water would swirl the other way. Ha!)*

We drove on then to the **Sorova/Shaba Hotel**, which is way out in the country. No TV, no phones but still quite nice. We will be here for two nights. We check in and get a nice room with a sliding mosquito net around the bed and a fan over it.

*(See: <https://www.sarovahotels.com/shabalodge-samburu/>)*

After lunch, Sharon and I went for a walk by the river where I saw a 2 foot long monitor lizard. We sat and meditated there for awhile. Later, that evening, we find out that the river has crocodiles in it!

*(They gave a demonstration the following evening where they fed the crocodiles. And they were ravenous and it was a vicious demonstration. And we had been sitting, meditating just beside the river earlier! This rather freaked us out when we learned it)*

At 1600, we're off to our first game park drive. We drove about there with the van's top raised up so we could all stand up and see out.

We see lots, including two lioness, and on the way out we get stuck in mud. We all help (along with two of the drivers) and get the van out.

Back at the hotel, we shower and go to dinner.

Afterwards, there are native dancers, which make me uncomfortable.

In the room, we do some postcards and then turn into bed. I'm reading the book I have about the Dalai Lama. It is named, **A Policy of Kindness**.

*(See: [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/418571.The\\_Dalai\\_Lama](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/418571.The_Dalai_Lama))*

**1990-10-30– Tuesday - Sarova/Shaba Hotel in Shaba National Park**

Up at 0600.

Had a remarkable spiritual dream last night. Sharon and I walked hands in hand through multiple spiritual breakthroughs until finally, I was crying with tears of happiness and thankfulness. A very good omen.

We're off on our game run by 0630, but we get bogged down in the first water hole and we can't get out. Another Big Five Safari truck picks us up. And we leave Ephraim to sort it out. The run is a flop for us. We see next to nothing. Trudy's not along with us.

We're back at the lodge now for breakfast and a snooze. At breakfast we cleared the air with Trudy about taking a side trip to the crater and prehistoric site at Lake Navarro.

At lunch, we talk about World War II with Gertraude; who was 17 in Leipzig, Germany when it ended in 1945. She stayed in East Germany as a teacher until 1955. Very interesting.

Another snooze and then we're off on the 1600 game run. Our truck's fine now and we see some elephants and it's good.

Back at the lodge, we go down to see the crocodile feeding by the river. Big fat crocodiles. I got some nice photos.

Then we had dinner with lots of laugh about Tusker Beer and we see the Masai dancers again. And then we're off to bed.

**1990-10-31– Wednesday - Sarova/Shaba Hotel in Shaba National Park → Mt. Kenya Safari Club**

We're up at 0700. Sharon Skips breakfast.

Today we're off to the **Mount Kenya Safari Club**. It was established by the late William Holden along with Stephanie Powers.

*(See: <https://www.fairmont.com/en/hotels/nanyuki/fairmont-mount-kenya-safari-club.html>)  
(The property is now operated by Fairmont Hotels & Resorts and is officially called the Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club. It's located in Nanyuki, Kenya, at the foothills of Mount Kenya.)*

At a gas station fill-up we were mobbed by sellers. I brought a bracelet for 20 Kenyan shillings (KSH)

Down the road we got a flat tire while we were still in town. So, we all walked about outside and stared at the locals who walked by and stared at us while our guide changed the tire.

At the Mt. Kenya Safari Club, we have coffee and take photos of peacocks until our room is ready.

Then we had lunch and afterwards Marianne and I played tennis while Sharon and Gertraude took a wander. Three sets 6 to 1 6 to 5 and 5 to 6. I lost the first two. But it's great fun.

Now we have to try to track down a coat and tie for me and a dress and shoes for Sharon so that we can

attend the dinner here - which is very fancy. I wrote them a scathing comment card about this throwback to 1910 British colonialism.

**1990-11-01– Thursday - Mt. Kenya Safari Club → Nakuru Lion Hill Hotel**

*(my notes for today are quite abbreviated. My usual daily pattern was to jot brief reminders to myself on the left page and then to write it all out in detail on the right page/s that evening while I could still remember it all. On this date, all I have are the brief notes. Apparently, I never got around to the longer form write-up in the evening)*

We got up today at 0730 and I had some coffee and at 0800 we were off.

We went to see Thomson Falls and then we went to the **Rift Valley Overlook**. We tossed tennis balls *(over the edge?)*

*(See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomson's\\_Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomson's_Falls))*  
*(See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Rift\\_Valley,\\_Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Rift_Valley,_Kenya))*

I read a story about Lagos.

Then we checked into the Nakuru lion Hill hotel and had lunch.

*(See: <https://www.sarovahotels.com/lionhill-nakuru/>)*

Sharon and I had a snooze.

And then at 1500 we were off to a Lakeside game drive.

We saw some sort of a religious group and then we went back to the hotel.

**1990-11-02– Friday - Nakuru Lion Hill Hotel → Maasai Mara Hotel Tent Camp**

We sleep in until we just have time for coffee at 0710 and then we takeoff at 0730. Two new travelers failed to meet us.

It's a long drive to the Maasai Mara Hotel and, along the way, we stop at a roadside vendor where Sharon and I buy a three-piece necklace for 500 KSH and as part of the deal, we also trade them a pair of Sharon's pants, worth one USD and a free SAS pen.

Later, at a gas station stop, Sharon buys another one piece necklace along with Marianne and they each pay 200 KSH.

We arrive at a Maasai village and pay 1000 KSH to the chief to enter and shoot photos.

A woman invites us into her baked mud hut. It's hot inside and dark and dirty. We sit on low wooden benches and she opens a pot she's cooking in. It looks like rice. She shows us three sleeping rooms off

the main room and then she puts two bracelets onto Marianne's arm to sell herr. We rise and go outside.

Outside, the village is arranged in a circle, we find the village women have laid out a long line of goods to sell. Mostly bead necklaces. I walk and shoot many photos and Sharon and I both get into bargaining for stuff. It's becoming fun.

I tease and bargain with a fellow and buy myself a bopper stick for 240 KSH. Sharon buys a pair of nice earrings right off a ladies head for 150 KSH.

Then we continue onto the Maasai Mara Hotel. We check in and we have lunch.

It is a tented camp and we are in tent #66 - out on the farthest edge.

A few minutes, ago as I was writing these notes, we heard a big cat growl close by outside. We had Mace at the ready and took a cautious look outside but we saw nothing.

After lunch and a snooze, we took on it off on a game drive at 1600 and it was excellent. Best one so far!

We saw a Lion and a Lioness, a Serval Cat, a Hyena, another Lion and Lioness and two Rhinoceroses.

The weather was quite spectacular with big thunderheads building up in the late afternoon. In all four directions, the sky was just too beautiful. It began to rain and our guide had a hard time not to bog the vehicle down in the mud.

We returned to the camp to an excellent meal.

A young man named Sam. Macharia served us, and I was very impressed by him. I instantly liked him. He's very open, intelligent and charismatic. I've written him a note with our address because I believe he will be successful at whatever he does. Currently, he's just finishing school in Nairobi in food and beverage service and is doing a two year internship here at the Maasai Mara hotel.

We turned in by 2230.

### **1990-11-03– Saturday - Maasai Mara Hotel Tent Camp**

*(Another day where all I have are my left page quick notes to work from)*

We are up and about by 0815. Marianne went off an adventure ballooning at 0500.

After her ride we meet her. And then we all takeoff on another game ride

This time we see a lone lioness, and we drive down to the Tanzanian border; which is a river.

There, we see hippopotamuses and crocodiles in the river and I pick up two rocks to take home.

Later we see about 20 mongoose's, and then at another spot about 20 vultures who are all gathered or around a Wildebeest carcass.

We are hoping to see a leopard or a cheetah - but we see none.

Then back to the camp and we have lunch.

Sharon takes a snooze and I write Sam a note.

Then at 1600, we go out on another game run. It's dark clouds around and light rain this time and we don't see much until the very end when we do see a leopard.

At dinner, I give Sam my note.

And we turn in by 2130.

**1990-11-04– Sunday - Maasai Mara Hotel Tent Camp → Nairobi → Frankfurt**

*(abbreviated notes again today)*

At breakfast time I talked to Sam.

At 0730, we made a start.

We are apparently driving back to Nairobi and we bought things at several points along the way.

I see listed two bracelets and a necklace at the first stop. Then we had another necklace which was bought at a gas station. And then, at the third place there were four bracelets. Ephiram and I have coffee and a Coke there.

At some point, on the journey, we got stuck on a dirt road and we could not get the vehicle out until locals helped us.

*( I remember that soon local people were crowded around the vehicle and it must've taken 40 to 60 of them to push us out of where we were stuck .It was, as I recall, a scary moment with us, being alone, and all the impoverished locals looking in at us and all our cameras and wealthy stuff.)*

we returned to the big five offices and we drop off Trudy, Marianne and Gertraude there. We talk to Jackie.

Then Ephiram took us to Suresh's house.

We have lunch there with Suresh and his family. Then Sharon and Suresh go off for a business meeting and I watch a copy of **Die Hard II** until Sharon returns,

There's some packing, we deal with some money stuff, and then there was a period where we were looked at Suresh and Ela's 's wedding photos.

Then Su drives us to the airport where we see Gertraude in the Clipper Lounge. And then we all (Sharon, myself and Gertraude) fly to Frankfurt.

**1990-11-05– Monday – Frankfurt → London**

*(Another day of very partial notes)*

We arrive at 0730 in Frankfurt. We've been sitting on the plane with Gertraude. We go through currency exchange and then we have some chocolate.

We catch a flight at 1215 to London.

Paul and Brenda meet us and take us to our hotel where we check in. We have a snooze and Sharon gets a Pepsi.

We take a walk in the local area and we get fish and chips.

*(This is my first time to experience British fish and chips in a newspaper which I think is quite an amazing thing.)*

Paul and Brenda come back and pick us up and they take us out to a nice dinner in London. But, after we come out, we discovered that their car has been towed. So, we have to catch cabs to get home and then we turn in.

**1990-11-06– Tuesday – London**

We had breakfast at our hotel at 0800 and then we took off on a long walk through Hyde Park, generally working our way towards the museums. We began at the geological part of the British Museum and, except for a brief breakfast for a pastry and some cappuccino, we spent all day doing a major museum burnout. It is a really fine museum, and their minerals collection was truly amazing.

At 1700 we walked to the hotel and ate at a deep dish pizza place. And we took the extra pizza home along with a bottle of Spanish white wine.

Sharon took a nap while I drank most of the Vino and later she woke up and we watched the movie Critters.

And then off to sleep. (And in the morning Sharon ate the rest of the cold pizza – yuck!)

**1990-11-07– Wednesday – London**

We get up and have breakfast about 0815 and then we're off to the Paddington Tube station to ride to the station that's near to the **Tower of London**.

We saw stuff dating to Roman times there. We joined a tour given by a "Beefeater" - A funny guy and a good tour. Then, we saw the Crown jewels, and Sharon and I were absolutely boggled by the world's largest diamond. And we saw a collection of suits of armor and arms. All of that was in the tower of London, I believe.

(See: <https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/>)

We walked to the **All Hallows Church** and looked in but did not enter.

(See: <https://www.ahbtt.org.uk/>)

We got a sandwich at a street shop in the lunch bustle and ate in a park by **Saint Pauls Cathedral** and fed pigeons.

(See: <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/>)

We saw **Saint Peter's**, but didn't go in as the city kids were doing a service there.

(See: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/italianchurch/>)

We walked the embankment until we got to the **Egyptian Obelisk**.

(See: <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Cleopatra-Needle/>)

Near there, we went into a holographic/laser shop where I bought a small holograph of a printed circuit board.

Then we continued on to **Westminster Abbey**, which was quite impressive.

(See: <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/>)

And then to **Westminster Cathedral**, which was different and Catholic. We could see problems described in the years 1530 to 1570 on a historical plaque there.

(See: <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/>)

*(The plaque refers to the Catholic martyrs who were executed at Tyburn during the English Reformation and subsequent religious persecutions.*

*It commemorates the period when English and Welsh men and women were martyred for the Catholic faith from 1535 to 1681 [Diocese of Westminster](#). This was during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Elizabeth I, and later monarchs, when Catholics faced persecution for refusing to accept the English monarch as head of the Church and for practicing their Catholic faith.)*

We ate some fries at a McDonald's and then, as a dusk fell, we went onto **Buckingham Palace** which I was not impressed with.

(See: <https://www.rct.uk/visit/buckingham-palace>)

We caught the tube back to Paddington with an transfer on the way for 70p each.

Once back, we sat reading in the hotel for a bit and then went out for a terrible meal at **Garfunkel's Restaurant**. (*Since gone out of business*)

Then we came home, did some repacking and turned in.

**1990-11-08– Thursday – London → Seattle**

Flight home.

---

Trip mates address/contact information (for the African part of our trip)

Mrs. Ray L. Winders (Maryann)  
86 North Hayden Parkway  
Hudson, OH 44236  
(216) 650-4219

Ms. Trudy J. Voll  
21701 Parthenia – Apt 203  
Canoga Park, CA 91304  
(818) 998-7744

Gertraude Kinet  
8440 La Salle Ave  
Cotati, CA 94931

- Note: as a result of this trip, Sharon and I became very good friends with Gertraude. Later, we went on another trip with her to India and Nepal in 1994 and, still later, Gertraude and I went on a 1999 voyage to the Remote Islands of the South Pacific. Gertraude passed away in 2025.