

# Christmas 2019

## Travel News from the Javor Family

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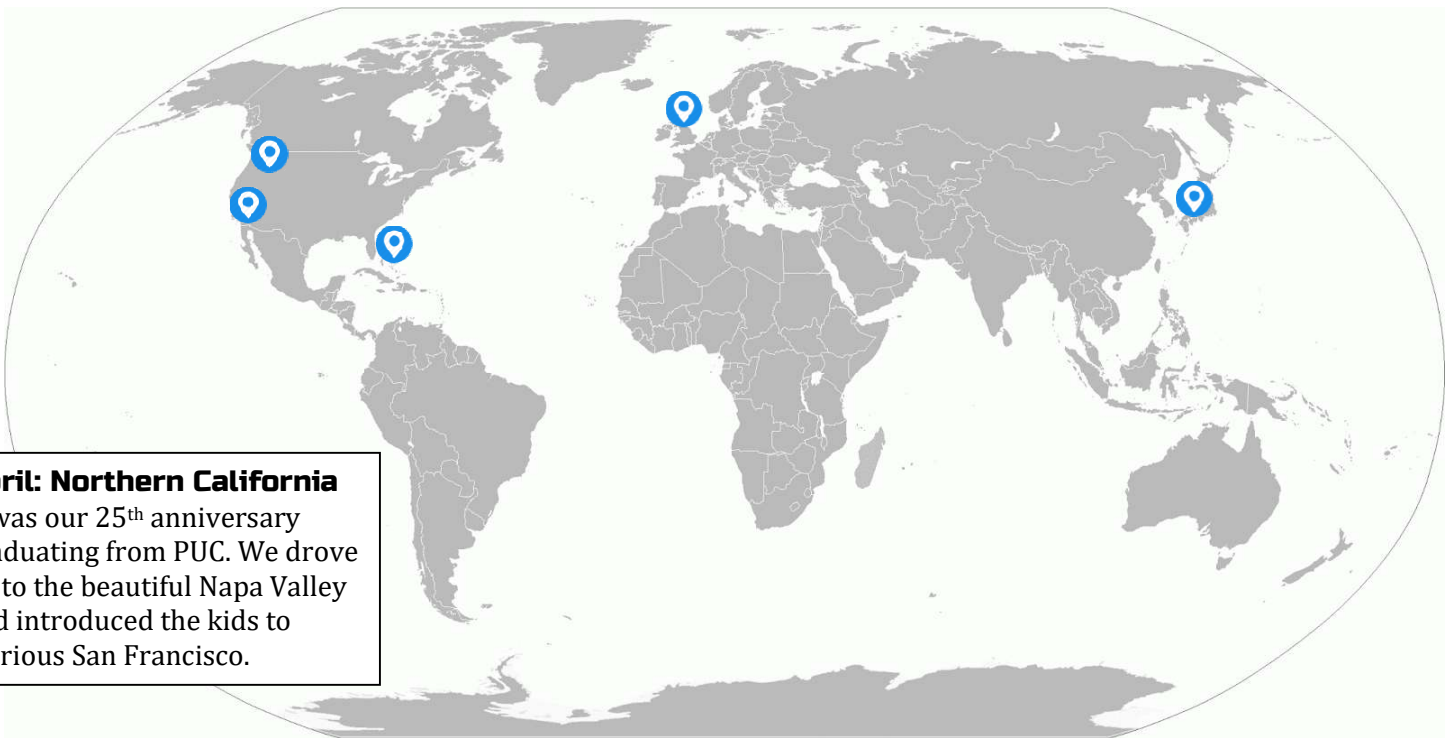
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### March/June: Florida and the Bahamas

Our family finally decided to pony up and go on a Disney cruise this year, but not before coaxing the Suphol family to join us. Before setting sail, we spent a week experiencing all the different amusement parks in the Disneyworld Complex – our favorite collective ride was *Avatar Flight of Passage* in Disney's Animal Kingdom. Then we boarded a massive ship and spent three days enjoying giant water slides, on-board Disney entertainment, a couple Bahamian islands, and pirate night. We liked it so much that Ed and Gina returned to Epcot to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### June: United Kingdom and Ireland

We convinced Grandpa Leonard to go on his most fun trip ever when we spent most of a week in the Scottish highlands, basking in the glorious Loch Ness summer and going on a couple Outlander tours. We then jetted over to Ireland to visit the remote filming location for scenes in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*. We saw porgs (aka puffins)! The trip culminated in a whirlwind three days in London and a spectacular space concert at Albert Hall.



### April: Northern California

It was our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary graduating from PUC. We drove up to the beautiful Napa Valley and introduced the kids to glorious San Francisco.

### July: Washington/Idaho

It was fun in the sun for three glorious weeks in Pasco, WA and Hayden Lake, ID, filled with swimming, sliding, and zip-lining. Our return to Camp Mivoden's med-dent family camp was heralded by an early morning five-lecture endocrine series presented by Ed. (Gina slept in.)

### September/October: Japan

This wondrous trip of a lifetime was made possible by the combined efforts of family and friends, who looked after the kids so Ed and Gina could enjoy some CME and sushi on their own. We luxuriated in the land of the rising sun, where shoguns and samurais once vied for power and where emperors still rule. From highly stylized tea ceremonies to treks through endless torii gates, we were humbled by the gracious beauty of the people, awed by the vast expanses of land, and shattered by a grim visit to Hiroshima. Still, we felt quite cheerful at the thought of tasting Western food again upon our return home.

## Family favorites:

**Ed** – *“It was satisfying to get our family on top of Skellig Michael. That took a lot of coordination and luck.”*

**Gina** – *“I love Scotland, especially the highlands. It felt like coming home. I can’t wait to go back.”*

**Rachel** – *“I liked going to Pasco: Princess, Nana, tree house, swimming, and family. Also I really liked London. I liked going to all the castles, we got to go IN to them. The Queen was actually in [Windsor] Castle when we were there but unfortunately she didn’t come out.”*

**Nathan** – *“The cruise, there were movies and we went on treasure hunts to find the [villains]. Oh yeah, the Aqua Duck [waterslide]! One time the water was so strong we went upside down.”*

**Grandpa Leonard** – *“My favorite was the trip to Europe, especially climbing Skellig Michael.”*

## Status quo, or things that did not change:

Ed’s work – partner endocrinologist at Kaiser Permanente in Riverside

Gina’s job – per-diem employee health physician at the Fontana Kaiser

Kids’ school – Rachel is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Nathan is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Mesa Grande Academy

Leonard’s volunteering – at Loma Linda Broadcasting Network

Our address – we still live in Redlands

## New things we did this year:

**Ed** – discovered matcha isn’t entirely horrible, experienced Japanese spa (read up on it)

**Gina** – tried Japanese corn soup (and loved it), had a fleeting thought that she needs to cut back on travel

**Rachel** – went night zip-lining, started flute lessons and handbells, sang a solo in front of 1000 people

**Nathan** – lost his first three teeth in just under 2 months, acquired a scooter (not related to tooth loss)

**Grandpa Leonard** – travelled to Europe and the Bahamas (first cruise!), injured himself wave surfing

## Not all our news is travel... or happy....

We lost one of the great ones among us this year. Gina’s grandfather, Esteban Lopez-Porrás, was laid to rest in August after a well-fought battle with cancer. His life served as a template and inspiration to all who knew him. We deeply miss him and grieve as we carry on without his mighty presence. Soon and very soon, we will see Papi again, where pain and sorrow have no foothold.

*There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:5*

## The Christmas season:

This year we celebrate with family: George and Shirley Javor, Ed’s parents, live in Banning, not more than 20 minutes drive away from us. Gina’s grandparents, Ken and Doris Cummings, have spent a little over a year living in the Brittney Place townhouse in Loma Linda, and decided they like it ok for the most part. Gina’s dad, Leonard, continues to live with us. Gina’s mom, Betty, flew out to us last week for the 4<sup>th</sup> time this year to join our seasonal concerts and festivities. How lucky we are! We wish you safe and memory-filled holidays, and a wonderful 2020!

## Ed, Gina, Rachel, and Nathan Javor

