

## TRAVEL THEMES

Do you have a “travel theme”? The word theme often refers to a distinct quality or characteristic. Therefore, I use the phrase, travel theme, when a traveler looks for assignments with a certain quality. For example, perhaps you want to visit all the natural hot springs in the United States, visit all your extended family members or work at all the well known “prestigious” hospitals in the United States. The themes here are: hot springs, family, and hospitals. Do you need a travel theme to travel? No..... However, a travel theme can make your adventures that much more exciting, just like betting on football games can make them more interesting to watch.

Many nurses don't realize they have travel themes. Take a moment and scan your mind. Think about the main reason you travel. Next, write down the assignments you have taken, what lead you to them, and what did you liked about them? Perhaps you will discover your travel theme. You can really have fun with this concept.

One nurse I spoke to recently, says she is just wants to meet new people and see some sights. Then she proceeded to talk about her plans. She plans to go to Wisconsin first to visit her family. Then, she wants to go to Maine for their “perfect lobster” and to San Francisco for “fabulous sourdough bread.” Do you see a potential theme developing here? Can you say...“food?”

Your theme doesn't have to be the main reason you travel. It is simply a trend. Think about how much fun you could have with the food theme. After going to Maine and San Francisco, you would have to go to Alaska for fresh Halibut, to Louisiana for true Cajun cooking, and Philadelphia for the original Philadelphia Cheese Steak.

Your theme doesn't have to be anything spectacular to be fun. Bill, a recently new traveler says, “how about visiting wonderful sunny California as my theme? In the summer months there are many beautiful beaches to visit and many places to go! Ever wanted to see the famous Alcatraz or go to Monterey Bay or see the famous Winchester house? California has it all! Skiing, diving, great places to eat; the variety is endless, not to mention the great people you can meet. Hollywood has all of the glitz and glamour and San Francisco has culture.

I met another couple of travelers that have their own pilot license. They also own their own private plane and fly to their assignments. Doesn't that sound fun? They like to travel and follow the air shows. Whatever your niche is you can find it traveling. That's for sure.

Traveling is so fun. You don't need a theme. Yet it is hard to get away from it. Even random acts of adventure can be considered a theme. The world is one big theme park and we are all tourist.