

What does age have to do with it?

Question:

I am 49 years of age. Have been in nursing for 23 years at the same facility. Is it realistic for someone my age to take up travel nursing? I absolutely love to travel and not just to high interest areas. I have a background in critical care nursing. My current expertise is working in PACU, both inpatient and ambulatory care setting. Grown children and a husband who is used to me taking off to places on my own. The main question is the age factor and being accepted by facilities everywhere. Thank you for your input

Response:

I am so glad you asked this question because it portrays a common misconception regarding travelers. Travelers in general are perceived as young and fancy free. However, this is not the case, especially in current times. As a matter a fact, I would say that 90% of the travelers I talk to are in their forties. Although more and more nurses are becoming interested in travel, the empty nest phase of a person's life is still one of the most popular times to travel. Many nurses travel once their children leave home. In addition, more and more married nurses with children are traveling in an effort to support their family and prevent burnout.

I will never forget one 65 year old traveler I worked with named Bunny. She reminded me of a bunny with her gray hair and little hop-along walk. She got her hair done every Friday no matter where she was and her husband liked to visit her on assignments. Bunny was very happy and everyone loved her.

While your concerns are common, I would say you have nothing to worry about. You will fit in just fine and have the advantage of several years experience behind you. Hospitals want experienced nurses first and foremost. Your experience will help you be a valuable independent traveler in the work place.