

January 2020 Newsletter

Come Travel With Me!

Hi everyone! Wow, already a month into 2021 – time does fly! I hope the winter is treating you all well and that you're healthy and happy during these winter months.

So...are you wondering why you've been hearing from me so much lately?

Well, I thought it might be a good time to tell you why. Or...if you don't care, skip right past the next paragraphs and get to the good stuff, haha.

But, for those of you who do want to know why I've been filling your email boxes, posting copiously on Facebook, etc. here goes.

Initially, I just wanted to create a travel blog so that I could bring my friends and family with me on my travels to Argentina and Chile this year. I started telling folks about it.

You might know that I was also writing a novel about my year-long trip through South America.

When COVID hit and I wasn't able to travel as planned, all of a sudden, I had a TON of time. And so...

I FINISHED MY BOOK!!!

I was so excited. My nose has been buried in books since I was two (so my mom says) and I've loved writing travel journals and poems all my life. But, I never could have imagined I'd write a real BOOK myself!

I started researching next steps. And I learned that it wasn't that easy to get a book published. That to get my book published, I needed a 'platform.'

A WHAT?

What the heck is a platform? Well, after much research, I've learned that a platform is a person's visible and online presence. For example, do I have a website? Can I be found on Facebook, Twitter, Linked-In and other social media sites?

Agents want to know that people are enjoying what I write. That people are following me on my website and on social media. They want to know that if they decide to represent me, there are lots of potential customers who might buy my book.

So, that's why you've been hearing from me. I'm building my platform. Such a boring word for SUCH AN EXCITING ENDEAVOUR!

I'd rather look at it as "The Spaces where I SHARE MY PASSION."

My passion for travelling.

To SHARE what I've learned during my 36 years of travelling the world, living out of a backpack for 4 months, a year, and once, for 2 years. To...

**INSPIRE and HELP people
maximize their travel experiences**

And by people, I mean YOU! You who've encouraged me to write. You who've subscribed to this Newsletter 😊. I hope you know how **VERY MUCH I appreciate your support!**

So...as you've seen, I expanded my Travel Blog to a full-blown website - [Come Travel With Me.](#)

So that I can share stuff like:

- New Travel Blogs like this one: **Explore Northern BC (Part 2)**
- Other Blogs like: [Learning a New Language Quickly](#) Did my blog intrigue you? Drop me a note to tell me you're joining me on my confident and fearless quest to learn a new language.
- Handy Tools like: The [Spanish Phrase List](#) I built to help you focus your efforts on the words and phrases that will get you talking to locals quickly?
- Things that Entertain, like this video of me struggling through [My First Russian Conversation](#) with my daughter's Ukrainian boyfriend.
- Great websites like this one by journalist, Lola Mendez. Check out her thoughtful and eye-opening essays like [Reasons Why You Should Be Peeing In the Shower If You're Not Already Doing So.](#)
- My Progress as an Author: I've added a pdf of my 1st two chapters of [Mama's Goin' Backpacking](#) - it's looking better and better thanks to the great critique I'm getting from my new Virtual Travel Writing Group.

YES, of course, at the end of the day, I hope you will be excited to buy my book WHEN it is published (note the positive thinking 😊).

But, almost even more, I hope you will continue to enjoy what I write. That it excites you, inspires you to buy a ticket to somewhere you didn't think you'd ever go. Maybe travel a little differently than you're used to. Learn a new language.

Please feel free to share this Newsletter with your friends. Pump up my platform, haha. And send your questions, your suggestions about what content you'd like to see. I need YOU to inspire ME. In return, I'll try to inspire YOU.

Let me know if you're enjoying what I'm sharing.

Reply to this Newsletter, leave a comment on the [Contact Me](#) page or leave a comment on a Travel Blog you read.

I'd love to hear from you.

Caryn