

TRAVEL

E.T. EXTRAORDINARY TRAVEL

BY CAROL GIES  
SPECIAL WRITER

OUTWARD BOUND

Your teens are cleaning out their lockers and you haven't yet decided what to do with them - or yourself! This summer.

You could entertain them. Or, you could impact their future, and yours as well.

The answer may be Outward Bound. I know what you're thinking. You'll be picking up your emaciated, hollow-eyed teenager in a shredded "I Survived the Bloodvein River" T-shirt.

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You owe it to the kids and yourself to thumb through this catalog. Call (888) 862-0863 or check out www.outwardbound.com.

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If your kids dig dinosaurs, take them on a 6-day Dinosaur Discovery Expedition in Col-

orado, Utah, Arizona or Wyoming. You'll shovel right along with the kids (age 8+) and a bonafide paleontologist from the non-profit Dinamation International Society. (800) 344-3466.

Shorter 3 day digs are offered by the Wyoming Dinosaur Center for kids 8-13, and those include dino art classes (307) 864-2997.

COW HANDS

Aunt Ida, you look wonderful in chaps.

Twenty-two percent of American families will kiss their cousins at family reunions this year. If you've got a clan the size of the Osmonds, forget the hotel, rent a ranch. Groups from 30-160 can take over a guest ranch in Arizona, complete with fishing, hiking, golf, tennis, trap-shooting and programs for the junior city as well. Of the Beaten Path will find the right Waldorf corral for your needs and budget from about 200 ranches. (Don't tell the teenagers about the square dancing. Check out www.offbeatenpath.com or call 406-588-1311 for Golf Safari)

"Anywhere the British have been, there is first-class golf," according to Lois Hancock of Worldwide ITC Golf Tours. Kenya, Africa, is no exception. After a day on the links in one of Nairobi's finest country clubs, such as Aberdare, you're off by land-rover to view another game - this time four-legged - at Tree Tops, The Ark, or other protected wildlife area. Optional trip extensions take you to the Mambo Coast for more golf and water sports. Call ITC Golf Tours at (800) 267-4981.

YOUR TURN

If you've been on - or know of - an extraordinary trip ... tell us so we can share it with our other wannabe adventurers ... E-mail gies@ec.net

Carol Gies is vice president for marketing and center planning for the Taubman Co. who coordinates international travel for the company. She is also on the board of the Travel Industry Association.

Couple travel by lighthouse beacons

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER  
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Darrel and Joy Emerson of Livonia have been following the beacon lights from the tip of the Keweenaw to the sunny coast of Florida.

What began as a pleasant diversion during family vacations, has become a focal point for exploration and an avocation - photographing the dramatic lighthouses along shorelines and coastlines.

Darrel, a journalism and history teacher at Wayne Memorial High School, takes crisp, dynamic photos of the lighthouses. Then he and Joy, a secretary for the Livonia Church of Christ, mat and frame the pictures for sale at community craft shows. Their three children are now grown.

"We've based our trips on lighthouses, but also find other

things to see," Darrel said. "On our first trip we went to Savannah, Ga., and two lighthouses there and Charleston, S.C., which has several lighthouses. My wife likes to go to craft shows and we thought maybe we could take our pictures there."

The lighthouse hobby has taken the Emersons all around Michigan's shoreline, which boasts the most lighthouses of any state in the union, to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, to Wisconsin's Door County, to a recent trip to Florida and last summer to a meandering journey through New England.

"I do wedding photos as well and this couple was getting married in New Hampshire," Darrel said. "We took photos all along the coast from Maine to Long Island."

Lighthouses have many appealing qualities to the Emersons. They combine history, scenic locations and often dramatic architecture, which Darrel examines from every possible angle.

"My wife is very patient, she'll sit in the car and read while I'm shooting the lighthouse from every angle," he said.

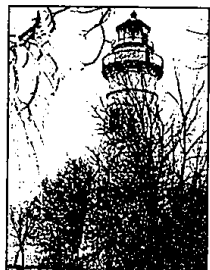
When accompanied by Joy, Darrel will take his father on lighthouse trips through Michigan. Michigan has about 100 lighthouses and Darrel has photographed about 60 of them.

"Ting the photographs is a challenge. "The hardest part is the lighting because shooting into the light is difficult if the time you're there is not the best time of day," Emerson said. "I try to find an angle where the light is better. Occasionally the water is a problem. Sometimes getting to them is a challenge."

America's lighthouses aren't what they used to be. Only one lighthouse is manned and that by order of Congress. All the others are automated and computerized. New radar on boats is making the lighthouse less critical for navigation. Many lighthouses have been decommissioned.



Dramatic setting: Newport, R.I.'s rocky shore is the site of the Castle Hill lighthouse. Bottom left is the popular Old Mackinaw Lighthouse, and right is Marblehead in Massachusetts.



"Some have been nicely restored, but a lot aren't being cared for at all," Emerson said.

Emerson's photographs show the wide variety of lighthouse styles, from the single towers to buildings that look like schools standing on rocky shores. Some have been repainted and preserved, but others show the ravages of water and time.

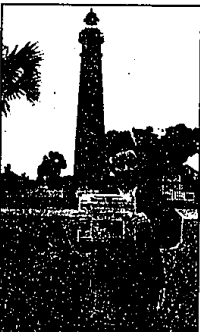
Some lighthouses have been converted to other uses. Sand Hill in the Keweenaw is a bed and breakfast, others have been restored as museums and still

others have been converted to private housing.

As a history teacher, Emerson said the stories behind the lighthouses are especially interesting.

Emerson said this summer he and Joy plan to travel to Montreal and Quebec City to scout out lighthouses along the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The Emersons are planning to display and sell their pictures at a craft fair in St. Clair Shores this autumn.



Lighthouse fan: Darrel Emerson took his Livonia Observer along when he went to the Ponce de Leon Lighthouse near New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

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