

What Does a Full-Time Realtor's Family Vacation Look Like? Here's Mine

As you read this, Rita and I have just returned from three weeks' vacation. Rita had earned a free trip to Paris as a BeautiControl director, and, since it's a favorite destination of ours, we decided that I would arrive in Paris when she checked out from her hotel on May 7 and we'd stay there together until the 14th. Because I had a 50th reunion at my Connecticut boarding school May 15-17, I thought it would be a good opportunity (and fun) to take advantage of Tesla's free Supercharging network and fly to Paris from New York instead of DIA. We flew back together to JFK where I had parked the Tesla, and we drove from there.

In Paris we stayed in a flat near the Eiffel Tower that I had found online. Committed as I am to sustainability, I was curious to see how

France and Europe might have moved in the direction of increased sustainability since our last trip to Paris several years ago.

The biggest changes I found were in transportation, specifically the prevalence of electric car share vehicles ("Autolib") and bike shares ("Velib"). I posted videos describing each of these programs at www.JimSmithVideos.com, which is a shortcut to my YouTube channel. I also shot a third video in which I wore my iPhone like a body camera (in my shirt pocket) and shot 30 minutes of video showing just what it is like to ride one of the Velib bikes around the heart of Paris, narrating as I went. I hope you find it entertaining and in-

formative!

During that bike ride, I came across a woman

who was taking one of the Autolib EV's and was able to interview her about that program. I myself was unable to experience it myself because of the delays involved in registering for the program — providing driver's license, etc. Registering for the bike share program was quick and easy — 8 Euros for a 7-day membership, then I could pick up and return bikes as often as I wanted for free unless I kept the bike over 30 minutes, which I didn't.

The videos contain URL's for each program's websites, where you can learn more about them. Both programs have smartphone apps and RFID cards which make them super easy to use. Each app allows you to know your nearest rental stations and how many cars or bikes are available at each. Denver has a similar bike program, B-Cycle, which I hope will expand into Jefferson County sometime.

Parisians have always been bicyclists, but I would say that the majority of bikes I saw being ridden — and I saw lots of them — were the distinctive Velib bicycles instead of personally owned bikes.

New York City has a similar, widely adopted program called Citi Bike (www.citibikenyc.com) with thousands of bikes at hundreds of stations around Manhattan, but the streets don't appear as bike friendly as Paris, and I saw fewer of these bikes in use during my two half-days in the city — although still a great move towards sustainability (and wellness). On my YouTube video you'll see how well Paris accommodates bicyclists.

Returning from our visits to Connecticut and New York City, the all-electric Tesla really proved itself as a great long-distance car, thanks to the free Super-charger network. Our only cost to drive the 4,000 miles round trip was the wear on our tires — plus all those east coast toll roads and toll bridges!

Technology greatly facilitated my ability to stay in touch, greatly aided by having a highly capable assistant, Kim Taylor, back in the office. An affordable international phone plan (\$120 for 30 days from AT&T) allowed me to have virtually unlimited text and data use of my iPhone from France, with inexpensive voice calls (35 cents/minute).

As a result, and with the help of Kim and others at our office, I was able to be of service despite my absence, not only to my own clients but to our broker associates. This was a great improvement over past trips to Europe. I look forward to our next one!

REAL ESTATE TODAY



By **JIM SMITH, Realtor®**

This Week's Featured New Listings

Patio Home in a Gated Community



\$380,000

Take a Video Tour at www.CambridgeParkHome.info

This gorgeous ranch-style patio home at **4061 Miller Way** is in the gated community of Cambridge Park. This subdivision, which is accessed from 38th Avenue just west of Kipling Street, is directly behind the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center. Enjoy maintenance-free living at its best! This home has been immaculately maintained and has an open floor plan with a bright and sunny kitchen, a master suite with walk-in closet and 5-piece bath, laundry and guest bedroom with a full bath — all on one level. The basement is finished, with a large rec room, exercise room, bedroom, full bath, kitchenette area with refrigerator, and lots of storage space! This is an excellent location near Lutheran Hospital and the brand new Sprouts being built on 38th & Kipling! Open House, Sat. 1-4 pm.

OPEN THIS SATURDAY, 1-4:

25462 Westridge Drive a spectacular Modern Log home above Blue Mountain Estates. View a narrated YouTube video tour of it at www.BlueMountainHome.info.

Duplex in South Denver Really Shines!



Video Tour at www.SouthDenverDuplex.info

\$600,000

Rental properties make a great investment, and this full duplex at **3576 S. Hillcrest Drive** (backing to the light rail tracks southwest of Hampden & I-25) might fill the bill for you. We're only showing the vacant right side (3780) at this **Saturday's open house, 1-4 pm**. You'll be able to view the identical left side during the inspection period so as not to bother the tenant unnecessarily. Between the two units are 5,945 sq. ft. of living space and 2 detached 2-car garages. With one side vacant, you have maximum flexibility to make this an investment property or your primary residence with rental income. Call me or come to Saturday's open house.



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