

Half a Century on the Road

WAA Travel celebrates fifty years of tours around a world that keeps changing.

This year the Wisconsin Alumni Association is celebrating fifty years of offering tours across the country and around the globe to Badger grads and friends. The Badger spirit hasn't changed much in all that time, but the rest of the world has changed a lot. Follow WAA's travel highlights in the bottom portion of these pages, while the top notes cultural developments over the last half-century that have changed the way we look at travel.



1964-67
Gilligan's Island premieres: SS Minnow begins three-hour tour that lasts three years

1964-65
World's Fair in New York

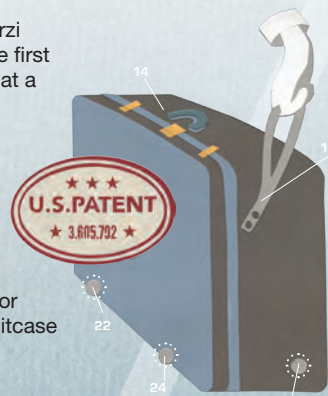
1963
Kennedy administration restricts U.S. travel to Cuba

1969-70
Thor Heyerdahl attempts to sail the Atlantic (Africa to Caribbean) in a boat made of papyrus



1971
Amtrak forms

1970
Bernard Sadow applies for a patent for the rolling suitcase

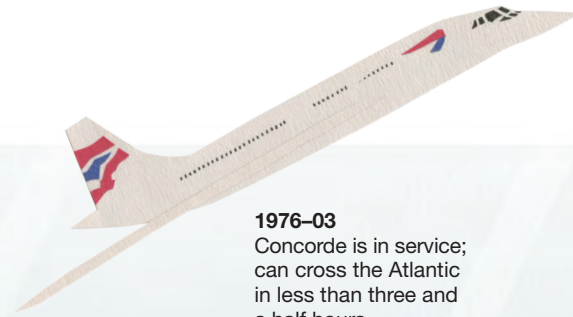


1973
Bonnie Tiburzi becomes the first female pilot at a major airline (American)

1978-81
Garden State Bowl in operation



1976-03
Concorde is in service; can cross the Atlantic in less than three and a half hours



1975
Hotel key card invented by Tor Sørnes (it used hole punches, not a magnetic strip)

1977-86
The Love Boat airs on ABC



1988
Smoking is banned on all domestic flights under two hours



1991
The Soviet Union is dissolved, turning one country into fifteen



2001
The Transportation Security Administration is formed. Please report any unattended baggage!



2001
Dennis Tito becomes the first space tourist; no dates yet for a WAA tour to space



2006
U.S. begins issuing biometric passports with computer chips



2013
WAA celebrates fiftieth anniversary of its travel program



1963

2013

- 1963:** Rose Bowl: Badgers fall to USC 42-37
- 1963:** First international WAA tour visits eight European nations
- 1964:** World's Fair trip to New York
- 1965:** First of annual trips to Hawaii
- 1967:** WAA takes first cruise (to Caribbean)
- 1968:** First WAA trip to Asia
- 1969:** First WAA trip to South America

1970

- 1970:** First WAA trip to Africa, as Mediterranean cruise lands at Tunis
- 1978:** WAA tour group returns from London on the Concorde



1980

- 1980:** G'day, Bucky! First trip to Australia
- 1981:** First cruise around the world
- 1981:** Jersey, here we come! Badgers go to Garden State Bowl, first bowl game since '63
- 1983:** WAA takes a Love Boat cruise
- 1986:** First WAA tour to the USSR
- 1987:** First trip to Antarctica

1990

- 1991:** First WAA cruise to Galápagos
- 1992:** First WAA trip to the North Pole; Santa was not at home
- 1993:** International football: WAA takes group to watch the Badgers play in Tokyo and clinch Rose Bowl berth



2000

- 2000:** Badger men's basketball team in Final Four for first time in 59 years; WAA tour to Indianapolis
- 2002:** First WAA trip to Cuba, as travel restrictions are lessened
- 2002:** First WAA service-learning trip (to Blackfoot Reservation in Montana)
- 2007:** First WAA trip to Vietnam

2010

- 2011-2013:** Three straight Rose Bowls
- 2013:** WAA celebrates fifty years of travel. What will the future bring?
- 2014:** Centennial cruise of the Panama Canal
- 2014:** Time-travel tour arrives*
- 2014:** Normandy trip near seventieth anniversary of D-Day
- 2019:** Time-travel tour departs*

*Tour will be offered only if scientifically feasible