

Greetings and Happy 2026!

I have BIG news. I began living in Portugal In April. In the past three years I've traveled ten weeks here and became enamored with the country. It's a safe, inexpensive place with excellent health care, incredible food and wine, friendly people plus my visa allows me into all the EU countries. I've explored Portugal's three regions: the Algarve (southern Atlantic coast); Central including Lisbon: and the Northern Atlantic region, especially Porto and nearby Aveiro. I chose the latter as the place to live for its canals, size, charm and walkability. It was the coolest place in both temperature and ambiance. Only 6 miles to gorgeous beaches, so there's often an ocean breeze.



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Why Portugal?

#1 - My Portuguese, learned 35 years ago in Brazil, is rusty. But last September, I did manage to lease an apartment, open a bank account and use my limited skills to self check-out groceries, navigate the buses and subway, order food in restaurants and master the quirky Portuguese numbering system to pay. However, fluency is my goal.



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#2 - I want to visit European countries I haven't yet been to. It's now possible, after 14 years of caring for both parents and then husband Cliff, to fulfill the dream I had at age 23 when I went abroad to work in Switzerland and France. After three years there, I felt competent in French and German and picked up Spanish, too.

In 2027, after exploring Europe, I may volunteer teach in Costa Rica while taking short trips around Central and South America. After that, I'll journey to Asia - especially South Korea. While watching K-Drama during Covid I started a notebook of a few expressions. I'm enamored with the culture and cuisine and can't wait to try all the delicious food featured on the dramas. Maybe even learn

to speak Hangul!

Since Cliff's passing in 2022, I've been on the road about a quarter of each year: Australia, Cambodia, Vietnam with my daughter, Amanda; Ireland, Portugal, France, Spain, Ecuador by myself; Costa Rica and Peru on my first ever tours. Adding those to my earlier travels, I have so far been to 37 different countries

with France topping the list at ten trips. Since the human body tends to decline in one's 80s (I just celebrated my 76th), I need to speed things up if I want to see as many of the 90 countries on my bucket list as possible.

The best way to reach me via free calls or video chats will be to download [Facebook Messenger](#) (a separate app from Facebook) or [WhatsApp](#). Portugal is 7 hours ahead of MDT. My phone will allow me to keep both my US number and also one in Portugal, but I have had to switch the primary status back and forth which gets complicated.



Amanda Burkhart © 2023

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I'm working on posting my photos and comments on my own website, thanks to the help of my brother-in-law who did the coding (at age 91).
Woohoo, Lew!

www.judithhiatt.com will take you directly to my site. Please be patient. I'm also working out a lot of issues with getting set up in another country as well as doing a bit of travel and hosting guests. I'll be going to the island of Madeira at the end of May and should have some spectacular images to share.



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Ate logo! Judy

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