



3 Resorts
\$13,808 in Reimbursements
One Epic Adventure
And a Lot of Hard Work

Around the World
with
Mystery Shopping

Steve SoCal

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Around the World with Mystery Shopping

3 Resorts

\$13,808 in Reimbursements

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And a Lot of Hard Work

Written by SteveSoCal

Published by Mystery Shopper Magazine

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Introduction

This little e-book is the story of a mystery shopping adventure that spans the globe.

It is about the very best assignments available to mystery shoppers. Imagine traveling to remote resorts and high-end restaurants, while getting reimbursed for every expense.

That is the type of adventure SteveSoCal set out on.

It turns out that mystery shopping can be a lot of work.

This book is about planning and logistics and much as it is about luxury and world travel.

If you've ever dreamed of snatching the very best assignments in faraway places, this book is both a warning and a guide.

You'll be in for an amazing adventure. But not without pitfalls.

In this book, Steve shares the ups-and-downs of his latest trip around the world as a mystery shopper. He starts with an

ultra-high-end hotel on the California Coast, visits Hong Kong, Singapore, the Maldives, Mexico, and more.

It's quite the adventure – and, as you'll discover, quite a lot of work as well.

–Jacob Jans

“Be Careful What You Wish For”

When Jacob first approached me about writing another article for Mystery Shopper Magazine, I was working on setting up a big mystery shopping trip and thought it may be interesting to share all of the planning that went into making the trip happen, as well as the results of the assignment. A sort of pep talk for up-and-coming shoppers that hoped to parlay their hard work into a grand vacation someday. I tossed around thoughts for titles, starting with ‘The Big Payoff’, then moved on to more motivational ideas, like ‘Don’t Give Up On Scoring That Great Assignment!’. So here I am, 10 weeks after first applying for the assignment, going over my notes, reflecting on my experience, and thinking, ‘Be Careful What You Wish For’.

This is not to say that mystery shoppers should not strive to do their best work they can in hopes of getting the best assignments, or dream that their hard work may result in a great assignment at some point. It’s just a reminder that the payoff is seldom as lucrative, fun or amazing as it may seem when you are dreaming about it. A reminder that sometimes

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it may be better to take a step back and reconsider things, even when you feel like you are too far in.

For those that have been around for a while, you may remember my thread on Mystery Shop Forum from a few years back; [“The \\$5 shop of my dreams...”](#)

I have learned quite a bit since then and hoped to pull of a similar shop with a shorter time frame. One that ran smoother, was more luxurious, required less writing, allowed me to take some pictures for Facebook and most importantly...traveled eastward!

You see, the \$5 shop of my dreams had me traveling westward around the world, constantly writing, and I was always battling jet-lag. In my recent travels, I've found that heading east leaves me far less jet-lagged, so I wanted a new adventure that took me around the world in an easterly direction and offered a true vacation experience.

I just needed that fulcrum shop. One on the other side of the planet that gave me a reason to travel around the world... and I knew just the shop! The key was to see if I could make that happen through only mystery shopping, with no additional expense and no long narratives.

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The Set Up

I had an offer for a fantastic assignment last year but my work schedule did not permit taking it. It cropped up again recently and a friend, who previously took the assignment, assured me that it would not disappoint. I emailed the scheduler and got a promise that I could have it.

A four night stay in the Maldives for me and a guest at two different world class resorts!

The catch? The travel money was not that great, and it would take some other assignments to raise the full travel expense of getting there.

The payoff? This assignment had a very minimal labor investment. In exchange for an evaluation of many of the dining outlets at each resort, all required food, transit to and from the local airport and the overnight stays would be covered. That meant no wake up calls, no taking the toilet chain off the hook or removing the batteries from the remote, and most of all, no lengthy hotel narratives.

The Preparation

Once I got the agreement that I could have the assignment, I start researching travel to the Maldives, and specifically getting there from the west. There's really no simple or inexpensive way to do that from LAX, and no award tickets were available from the airline I have miles banked with, but I did manage to reserve an award flight back from the Maldives to LAX via Hong Kong for just \$56.70 per person. With a little more research and help from my other favorite forum, Flyertalk, I found a flight on Turkish Airlines that would get us there for \$895 each. That's pretty amazing, considering it's an international one-way ticket, and those are typically more expensive. The next catch? A really long layover. We would be stuck in Istanbul at the airport for the evening and the connection left at 1:00 AM the following day. Yuk! After a 12-hour flight there...double yuk! However, one key to setting up a great travel route is perseverance. When I played with the departure and arrival dates, and increased the layover to 2 nights, the price dropped to \$769 each! I put those flights on hold and started looking for a way to make a layover in Istanbul work.

For Istanbul, I found an interesting option. A hotel company that I am VIP with (though mystery shopping) offers a particular benefit for VIP members: A free night at any hotel in their portfolio within the first six months of its opening, and they have recently opened one there. I email the hotel and they confirm the complimentary reservation, including breakfast. That's with no report required, so the vacation part was shaping up nicely. Now I just needed a way to bolster the travel budget.

As it stood, I only had \$400 for travel and the flights getting there alone were going to cost me over \$1500.

I quickly located another shop in the Maldives and negotiated an additional \$400 travel reimbursement for that assignment. This one was a hotel shop, with narrative, but would net me \$800 of my needed travel fees and offer me a full week in the Maldives, plus I would be receiving \$225 in fees for the combined assignments.

I decided to go with it, since it would be at the end of the trip and I could write the narrative on the flight home. It just so happens that during the time I was looking for flights, I also received two email offers for domestic hotel assignments. One offered a \$350 fee and the other was \$300, with all travel

expenses covered. Since my air miles and hotel benefits were all earned on mystery shops, and those seemed fair game to use for this trip, why not take a few local hotels to help cover travel costs and help alleviate writing requirements during the trip? The reports would be submitted before I boarded the flight, so my vacation experience would remain intact.

At that point I'm up to \$1,675 in fees and reimbursements, and have \$1,655 in flights on hold.

Things were looking good except for catch #3. Though I was able to move the return award flight to a later date, it only had availability on Sunday, and my assignment had me checking out of the hotel on a Saturday.

I emailed the scheduler to see if I could get approval for a third night on the hotel evaluation, and was on to catch #4. A visa for Turkey was now required, since we would be leaving the airport. That's another \$40 added to the travel budget, but I also found a dinner evaluation in Istanbul with a \$30 fee attached. As a backup, I located a transit hotel in the Maldives for \$109 per night, so I didn't expect too much of an issue if the hotel assignment wouldn't accommodate a third night.

That left me potentially \$10 in the black for travel with almost all food expenses covered during the trip, and very little narrative to write on site. Only few dollars more will be required for transit to and from the airport in Istanbul and L.A., since I am planning to use public transit, and I pick up a pre-departure dinner assignment at LAX for another \$30 fee.

That leaves me \$40 in my budget for airport transit. A ticket on the LA metro to or from LAX is \$1.75 per person and transfers in the Maldives are covered by the assignment, so I can apply the remainder to transit in Istanbul. I'm feeling pretty comfortable with the trip at that point and decide to pull the rip cord.

That's when things start to unravel....

Catch #5-7

The cost of the Turkish Airlines flights had apparently gone up \$3 since I put them on hold, and the hold is subject to changes in taxes and fees. Even with that change, I would still have \$30 for transit in Istanbul and my research told me it would be less than \$25, including a day of sightseeing there,

so I was feeling like I might just pull this trip off with potentially more than \$5 in profit.

I purchased the airfare and visas for the layover in Istanbul, then call the airline to complete the transaction for the return award flights.

Catch #6 is a little bit more problematic. Policies on the award airfares have changed since I last booked a trip back from there and since the Maldives are now defined by the airline as the Indian sub-continent, the connection through Hong Kong requires me to purchase two separate award tickets, rather than just one, and I just don't have the miles. A quick call to Turkish Airlines informs me that the tickets I purchased are non-refundable, and it will cost me more to cancel than to move forward at that point. I decide to look for another way to make up the cost and use my award miles for the more expensive option (Hong Kong to LAX), then purchase tickets from the Maldives to Hong Kong for \$419.30 each. If there's any silver lining to be found, it's that I can book the ticket for Saturday night and I don't have to worry about the extra night in the Maldives. That's still a lot of travel expense to recover, however.

Catch #7 comes the following morning when I finally hear back from the hotel scheduler. The hotel cannot accommodate my request for a third night because they have decided to cancel the assignment altogether, as they are having maintenance problems at the resort and will be closing for repairs. Now I'm researching cancellation fees for flights I didn't even want to buy 12 hours earlier! The scheduler feels bad and agrees to help find another assignment in the area to help cover travel expenses, and to have the company make up any difference.

We settle on them paying the cancellation fees and previously agreed upon travel reimbursement, provided I take another hard-to-fill assignment in the area.

Unfortunately, the closest option for another assignment is in Malaysia, but it's also a restaurant-only assignment that includes a complimentary hotel stay, since the hotel is on a remote island. Based on my history with the company and this client, I ask for an oceanfront room, two-night stay and airport transit provided by the hotel in exchange for the dinner evaluation. This particular client has been generous in the past when I didn't ask for direct travel expenses. The hotel manager counters with one night at the hotel, basic room and an offer to cover taxi fare to and from the hotel.

Malaysians are shrewd negotiators, apparently, because when I come back with an offer for two nights in a standard room with no transfers required (they are only approximately \$12 each way by taxi), he says that his original offer stands, but I'm also required to report on the complimentary breakfast. Take it or leave it!

I decide to take it because my research uncovers one-way tickets to Singapore from the Maldives for \$85.46 each, and a trip from Singapore to Langkawi (where the hotel is located) for just \$33 each, plus the promise of some potential assignments in Singapore.

Catch #7 comes when I find out that prices on the discount Singaporean airline I have elected to travel on do not include additional fees like a Passenger Security Service Charge (\$16), Aviation Levy (\$12.20), Passenger Service Charge (\$39.80), Bundle Fee (\$25.26), Airport Fee (\$50) or Service Fees of \$76.70 to cover checked luggage.

The bright side is that some of the fees are in Singaporean dollars, which are approximately 80% of US dollars, and I get another \$30 for the Malaysian assignment, plus all required food. I also have researched the menu for the restaurant in Malaysia and it seems amazing.

On top of that, I have reduced my overage from \$838.60 to \$390.92 and kept the length of the vacation intact, with no hotel narratives required during the actual trip. There are a few more catches with this new plan, however.

Catch #8 is that I need to be in Singapore for two nights, and cover both hotel and airport transportation there. Catch #9 is that my next assignment, a trip to Mexico, has been moved up to an earlier date that overlaps slightly with this trip. I decide to add Mexico to the overall trip, despite Puerto Vallarta being somewhat east of Los Angeles, and head straight there from Malaysia. The savings I would get from booking an award flight from Malaysia to Mexico may make the budget work, but I would also have to pay another cancellation fee for the award ticket I was holding.

Unfortunately, It's time to leave for my first hotel assignment at that point and I start to realize that I will have to play the back end of the trip by ear, make adjustments as I go along, and accept the fact that I may be paying around \$400 for this vacation instead of getting it for free.

The Payoff Hotels

The first hotel is an awesome experience.

It's in a resort area off the coast of Southern California and I rack up a bill well over \$2,000 for the three nights there, including spa visits and a lot of great food.

The bad part comes when I realize just how much work this narrative is going to be. No time was available for writing at the resort and 48 hours after arriving back home, I'm only 75% finished. The company is sweating me for the narrative and it's time to depart for the second hotel, which is a six-hour drive away!

I beg for an extension, make the drive and stay up all night at the second hotel in order to finish. A required room service meal gets me through the night and I finally get the 40-page report submitted around 7:00 AM, Just in time for a shower and breakfast evaluation.

The second hotel is not as great of an experience. Besides me being tired from staying up all night the first night, the work chair at the writing desk are one of the most uncomfortable setups I have ever experienced, and I end up

sitting on a stool by the makeup mirror to attain any comfort while working.

The food at the second hotel is also sub-par and management has asked that I skip the high-end restaurants and commit to all meals outside of room service to be eaten at the 24-hour diner. I should also mention that this hotel is in Vegas, so you have some concept of what the 24-hour diner is like. Breakfast at the diner is a depressing environment, and even more so in comparison to the previous hotel.

After napping for a few hours at the pool while waiting for the room to be serviced, I make an attempt to stay on top of the narrative, but am barraged on my second night there with questions from the editor on the first hotel. I finally do sleep that night, but nowhere near enough.

Since I'm already in Vegas, I decide that I will gamble for my odds at alleviating my travel expenses. Once hotel #2 is complete, I take a free night at another Vegas hotel (offered from previous mystery shopping assignments at the hotel) and it comes with a free \$50 bet, plus enough food credits for a few meals. The gamble pays off. I win the \$50 bet at a craps table and decide to keep playing with it. For those that know craps, a really amazing series of events happened and

the shooter never made his point while I was at the table. He rolled a 7, 11, 2, 12, 2, 3, 12 and then another 12. I had been making and pressing insurance bets all the way along and when I cashed out and tipped the dealers, I had \$400 in chips in my hand, with no initial investment. I enjoyed the free dinner and headed home...possibly \$9.08 in the clear for the trip if it could work out the remaining details.

The “Vacation”

I get the Vegas hotel submitted with no questions asked of me and it's time for us to leave for the vacation.

Apparently I've left my luck in Vegas and catch #10 appears when the L.A. Metro is out of service that morning. I decide to utilize an Uber credit that I had banked and the trip to LAX is only \$16.35 via Uber. That leaves me \$22.73 for transit in Istanbul remaining on the exiting budget, but there are way more catches on the horizon for me.

Catch #11 is the instruction that I have to wait until after 5:00 PM to order drinks at the airport bar, and that if I approach for food before that and then visit the bar, my shop will be voided. With flight boarding starting at 5:35 PM, we

hover over the bar and pounce at 5:00 on the nose. I'm not sitting in economy for 14 hours without a margarita before we leave! Catch #12 comes when I step over to the main counter to order food and the order taker (who's seen me at the bar) tells me I need to order directly from the bartender, then passes my order to him. Catch #13 comes when the bartender does not ring the cash payment for the drinks (a cash payment is required) and proceeds to add the food order to the bar tab. At this point, I'm panicking because I don't have that much cash in my wallet and I charge the meal and drinks to a credit card after trying to rush the payment by explaining that we have a flight to catch (only to later remember that I have a hundred dollars cash tucked into my travel bag for the other assignments). I formulate a plan to pay for dessert in cash after we finish closing the tab. Catch #14 comes into play when the bartender explains that ALL of the pre-made desserts are sold out. The only option left is a custom dessert that takes 15-20 minutes to prepare. He knows we have a flight to catch and so I give up...and we make the 12-minute jog to our gate, boarding with just minutes to spare. I email the mystery shopping company before the flight leaves and throw myself on their mercy.

The flight is actually pretty comfortable, and the food is really good considering the price of the ticket.

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We get Turkish delight after takeoff and complimentary wines. I get the airport shop written after dinner and we even land slightly early in Turkey. I exchange some currency for both our transit to the hotel and the bar portion of the upcoming dinner assignment. After a quick trip to the complimentary hotel, they give us drinks on arrival and a dessert amenity is set up in the room.

We have even been upgraded to suite with a balcony overlooking the city. We sleep in, wake up with very little jet-lag, then enjoy the breakfast. I hear back about the airport shop that morning and considering the difficulty of scheduling shops in the international departure area of LAX, they agree to accept the shop as is. Crisis averted. I submit the narrative I had written on the flight and we are off to explore the city.

I start to think the worst is behind me, but when we attempt to board a streetcar that day, the crowd and heat overwhelms us. After three cars have passed by and we still have not been able to board a train, we decide to walk the city, ending up late in the day at the hotel where the restaurant evaluation is to take place. Drink prices (not posted on the hotel website)

are also astonishingly high and I burn the remainder of my Turkish cash reserves on the bar portion of the assignment. After the meal, we are exhausted and ready to head back to the airport, but we are out of local currency and the metro card I purchased is exhausted as well. I decide to bite the bullet and spring for a cab back to the airport, then approach the front desk and ask about exchanging currency. Catch #15; Only hotel guests may exchange currency. When the desk agent offers to show me to an ATM so I can withdraw local currency, he also notes that I have an iPhone and asks if I use Uber.

I'm thrilled to hear that Uber now exists in Istanbul and the desk agent even offers a wi-fi passcode for me to get my phone online. I find one car in rage. It's six minutes away. I submit the request and breathe a sigh of relief when I see the car turn around on the Uber map.

The next part will make the most sense to those who have used Uber and who have any familiarity with the geography of Istanbul, but my heart sinks when the car is four minutes out and I watch the representation of the car on my phone drive off the embankment and into the Bosphorus strait. Seriously! The counter starts rolling up and somewhere around 2,600 minutes, the car, which the map has positioned

over the water, disappears! No other Uber cars available. I'm looking around for a hidden camera at that point and my travel partner is explaining the events to the valet, who suggests offering to pay a cab driver in another currency. Now why didn't we think of that? The valet calls a driver over and negotiates on our behalf. My travel partner has 20 Euro on her and the driver agrees to take us by our hotel to pick up bags, and then on to the airport. He doesn't speak a word of English, but manages to help us collect our bags and drop us at the airport with plenty of time to spare. Twenty Euro well spent, but it's outside of the exiting travel budget by at least \$5 (it's hard to tell with the currency exchanges) and I give up on keeping track at that point. I once more write the dinner narrative on the flight that night and we are on to the next destination.

The Maldives

Now, I can safely say that if someone offers you a trip as a guest to the Maldives...take it!

If it's an assignment for yourself, take some time to consider what's involved. It's an amazing place, however, and the staff quickly usher us into a transport lounge on arrival, provide

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welcome drinks and soon we are on a speedboat heading for the resort.

Our every need is catered to at the resort, but so much so that meals start to become extremely difficult to report on. The staff get to know us. They sit with us, learn our names, ask about our daily activities, and basically make it impossible for me to take any notes.

They also create so many interactions that the narratives are about double what one might expect from any other restaurant, and I have one or two due each day. Add to that the fact that the editors are continually contacting me for clarifications like why a server was asking about our satisfaction with room service the previous night, why we are on a first name basis with each and every staff member, and why we had access to the restrooms outside of the time we were at the restaurant. The editors were also seemingly not in the loop on the type of resort that these assignments were taking place at (and didn't bother to research it) because with each submission, I was explaining things like why there were no windows in the restaurants (there were no walls), why there was no check presenter for breakfast (it's complimentary for hotel guests), and why I did not observe

cash handling (there is no cash exchanged at the resorts). It leaves little time for actual vacationing.

We finish up at resort #1 and head off by seaplane for another two nights at the next resort. There's a minor hiccup in the plan at this point as the first resort has transferred my bill to the second one, and they are adding the new expenses on top. Normally this would not be a problem, but neither of the first group of hotels has reversed the charges yet and that's reducing my expense limit on the credit card I was planning to use. I use my backup card, which is clear of charges and has been pre-authorized for travel, but these are very expensive hotels and this second card does not have as high of a credit limit.

When I check the folio the night before we are due to depart, I'm \$80 away from my credit limit! I'm growing weary from the barrage of questions from editorial, from the heat, and from the dizzying amount of food that we've been ingesting, so we settle for drinks and a single appetizer the final night there. Luckily it's within budget and breakfast is complimentary, as always, so I check out with just over \$27 of credit remaining on my card.

Singapore

We still have two nights in Singapore coming up and I have no plan in place for it. The mystery shopping company has just posted a two-night no-narrative stay in Singapore that could cover us, but it's going to take a lot of cash, plus credit, and I need my remaining credit for the hotel stay coming up in Malaysia. I make a decision to cash in some hotel points for Singapore, and to take a simple dinner assignment to pay for the local metro expenses. The hotel there, as expected, comes with free breakfast so not much more will be needed. It's a good move since we arrive exhausted, buy a three-day metro pass and get to the hotel just in time to fall deeply asleep.

We attempt to go exploring the following day in Singapore, but the heat is relentless and my travel partner is not feeling well. The heat exposure really staves off any appetite we had and I withdraw my request for the dinner assignment, which luckily has not been assigned to me yet. I also feel grateful that I elected not take to the hotel assignment in Singapore, as it required a lot of eating and the credit reversals from all my previous hotel evaluations are still pending.

At that point, I'm on the phone with the airline, trying to re-route my award flight from Malaysia to Puerto Vallarta when catch #15 crops up. I get a lead on a potential new career-level job and spend the evening updating my resume, then get an offer for an interview. They want to meet me that same week, so it's good that I have not yet cancelled the original return flight from Hong Kong. I'm back on the phone with the airline once more and I am able to move the return flight to arrive at LAX on the morning of my interview, and even upgrade our seats to business class so that I'm well rested. It's a much better deal to book one more flight into Hong Kong and connect with the award flight, rather than pay for changes to the award itinerary, but that's still almost another \$300 added to the travel budget. I book the flights and the confirmation comes with a discount offer for a hotel in Hong Kong. Since I don't have an assignment for Hong Kong yet, I reserve the hotel and contact the mystery shopping company about options for Hong Kong. It's the end of the month, however, and I don't hear back immediately about any options for hotel stays there.

Soon we are off to resort #3 and that goes smoothly. A rainstorm hits just as we arrive at the restaurant for dinner and as it cools down, we get our appetites back just in time for an amazing meal. It's a short one-night stay at resort #3,
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however, and we are back in the air the following day, heading for Hong Kong. Things don't go that smoothly at the airport either. We are hours late in departing and I can't get the wi-fi at the airport to work. When we finally arrive for a layover in Kuala Lumpur, I get online and see an offer for two nights in Hong Kong from the scheduler, and also see that one of the original hotels has finally reversed the charges. I am now past the cancellation point for the hotel I had booked, however. At that point, I'm also still catching up with questions from the dinner assignments, exhausted from travel, worried about the upcoming job interview and just plain tired of eating. I decline the hotel and dining assignments they offer for Hong Kong and opt to simply pay for the hotel stay with credit card points. I've reached the point where I'm so far over budget, I'm happy to pay for our food over the next two nights. We eat dinner that night at the Hard Rock Café, fully well knowing that the assignment for that restaurant is sitting untaken on a job board. It's a nice luxury to take once in a while.

I spend my last few Hong Kong Dollars on a cab to the Metro station the morning we depart, knowing that we at least get one last complimentary breakfast in the business class lounge. My plan to be well rested also falls apart, however. I drink too much champagne in the lounge and I

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fall asleep with the plane still on the tarmac. I am wide-awake halfway home and it's 2:00 AM in Los Angeles. I'm once again exhausted when we land, don't have the energy to battle the metro and end up taking the flyway bus into town. I cap it off with an Uber trip back to my house. I have two hours to shower and get to the job interview, and less than 48 hours before I have to be back at LAX for the trip to Mexico. Here's hoping the job comes through because I'm too burned out with mystery shopping to utilize it to cover the budget overages for this trip.

I take the remainder of the day to rest and make an attempt to reconcile my budget as I take the metro to LAX the next morning for my trip to Mexico. That one goes by without much trouble, but it's a hotel style report and even with the time spent writing when I was there, it takes me another two days to get everything submitted once I'm back home.

Epilogue

With two weeks passed since my return, I had only seen one reversal for the over \$10,000 that I put on my credit cards for the assignments, and my credit card statements were nearing due. I email all the mystery shopping companies involved

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and receive apologies. They each promise to follow up. One hotel reverses the next day and when I don't see anything from the other, I email them again three days later. This time I receive a reply the following day. They state that reversals have been confirmed and I see one more credit quickly post, but the high-dollar resorts from the Maldives remain on my credit card for another week. The last reversal finally posts on the first of the following month, the same day the payment for the assignments comes through, and more than a month from when they were charged to my card. The final catch is that I was not reimbursed, as promised, for the cancelled flights. I once more email and hear back that they need receipts. I send receipts over and get a promise that the reimbursement will be included in payments the following month, along with the fees and reimbursement for the stay in Mexico.

Assuming that all goes well with the forthcoming payments, I'm still nowhere near making a profit on this trip. I will have received \$13,808 in reimbursements and reversals from the assignments, but am still on the hook for \$323.54 that I spent on my own. Now, that's not bad for a trip that took me all the way around the world, but I also utilized around \$8,000 of award travel and hotel stays during the vacation. The reimbursements included most of our food for 21 nights of a

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30-day period, however, and my dining expenses were much lower than normal for the month.

In the end, I visited seven different countries, travelled on a speedboat, seaplane, and so many other kinds of aircraft and trains that I lost track. I got to do some amazing snorkeling and add many new stamps to my passport, as well as pictures to my Facebook page. It was a successful vacation in many ways, but I can't say that I'm up for it again. Even with this trip being much shorter than the previous one and requiring a lot less narrative, I'm once more exhausted at the end of it. My eyes hurt at the end of each day from writing and I'm getting too old to be staying up all night for any reason. More time was spent planning the trip and following up on payment than just about anything else, and I'm starting to think that perhaps there is a future for me where I get on a plane, travel and just simply enjoy myself for more than two nights somewhere. It's getting hard to remember what that was like.

To learn more about the author of this book, visit his [profile on Mystery Shop Forum](#).