What Am I Still Doing Here?: Travel, Travel Writing, and Old Age
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Travel, Travel Writing, and Old Age

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Abstract

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This article offers preliminary thoughts on travel writing from a gerontological perspective. Gender, race, and sexuality have provided important analytical frames for travel writing studies, but age has yet to function as a topic or point of reference. Through a consideration of five travel books by respected modern authors—Jan Morris, Dervla Murphy, V. S. Naipaul, Paul Theroux, and Colin Thubron—the article asks what motivates travel writers to stay “on the road” into their seventies and beyond, and what the distinctive features of travel narratives written at this life stage might be. The article aims to demonstrate the intrinsic fascination of travel books in which a strong abiding curiosity about the world coexists with an acute—and often melancholy—awareness of the passing of time and personal mortality.

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Travel Style Tips. Dave 61 years old of Silver Backpacker. I have been travelling solo and with sometimes with friends for over 45 years now. I have come to the conclusion that travel must be appreciated. So my top tip is to travel slowly, take time to enjoy your trip , no matter how long it is, and immerse yourself into the culture, food and peoples of the country you are visiting. I’m excited to dig deep into the blogs mentioned here to find out more tips and tricks from LIFE experts who love to travel!!!! thanks for sharing! RoarLoud says: Reply. Thank you! I’m 40 and I am still surprised how empowering traveling, hiking and writing about it is! I would add my own advice: accept and embrace the way you are: weaknesses, anxieties, health issues, specific life situations and do what fits you.