

My quest to visit the 193 UN voting states began in 1952; when, at age 12, my father took me on a business trip to Ottawa. It ended in Libya in 2023. I was the first American granted a Libyan tourist visa since 2014 thanks to the efforts of Spiekermann and Amy in particular alongside the tour operator in Libya.

Stamp collecting was the early catalyst in my life that let me know there was a great big world out there with many people to meet and places to see. Twenty years in the US Army let me visit countries and places in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia and only whetted my appetite to see more and experience other places in the world. For the most difficult, Spiekermann was there to arrange safe, interesting, and educational private tours with outstanding guides and facilities where I was able to get to know and interact with local people.

Ihab and Amy Grace at Spiekermann got me to 192 (Yemen/Socotra) in 2021; 191 (Syria) in 2019; 190 (Pakistan) in 2018; 189 (Iraq), 188 (South Sudan), and 187 (Sudan) in 2013; and several others over the years. Now that I have reached 193 UN, I hope to move from 320 to 330 Travelers' Century Club "countries" and I am sure Spiekermann will be there to assist when I am ready.

