Travel

**An advanced city is not one where even the poor use cars, but rather one where even the rich use public transit. *(Enrique Penalosa, Colombian politician)***

**Airbus' jet-lag-fighting plane: "Jet lag is as integral to international travel as long lines at passport control," said Christopher Muther in The Boston Globe. So I felt skeptical when I heard that Airbus' new A350 XWB airliner had been designed to reduce the fatigue that usually follows a long-haul flight. The plane's engines are quieter. The cabin's advanced LED lights mimic the changes in natural light occurring at the plane's destination -- helping to reset your body clock. Fresh air is filtered in every few minutes. And a powerful humidifier combats dryness. When I recently flew from Boston to Doha and back on one of Qatar Airways' new A350s, "I didn't exactly feel refreshed, but I didn't feel haggard," and suffered nothing like the "jack-hammer" headaches I'm used to. Jet lag is impossible to eliminate entirely, but Airbus has at least created "a worthy challenger" to Boeing's similarly equipped 787 Dreamliner. "In many ways," it "offers a superior experience." *(The Week magazine, May 27, 2016)***

**He who has traveled alone can tell what he likes. *(Rwandan proverb)***

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**While Americans drove 15 percent fewer miles last year during the pandemic, the number of people who died in highway crashes from January 1, 2020 through November rose to 38,370 -- an increase of 7 percent over 2019. Experts said less-congested roads led to more speeding and aggressive driving. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 26, 2021)***

**According to a poll by Progressive Insurance, 63 percent of Americans talk to their cars. *(Uncle John's Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 121)***

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**Why people are so angry at airlines: "Few things make Americans more publicly irate than flying," said Ester Bloom. Every day, Twitter is full of rants from outraged customers, excoriating some airline for terrible service. This is justifiable -- air travel has gotten more unpleasant in recent years, as cost-cutting executives have "stripped away everything fliers associated with luxury or even dignity." But then modern life is full of mediocrity: Restaurants charge more for less; movie theaters subject us to endless commercials; we work longer hours for fewer benefits. So what is it about flying that "makes so many people explode?" It's partly that we have a dim memory that things weren't always this way. Old movies and TV shows remind us that flying used to be "sexy, even fun." Today, first-class passengers "still get the Don Draper experience," with flight- attendant pampering, complimentary drinks, and so much legroom they can stretch out and go to sleep. As the rest of us squeeze past them on the "shuffling walk of shame," toward our cattle-car seats in coach, it evokes "our usually dormant class rage." Americans like to believe that we're all equal, but flying puts the lie to that. It's galling to "see other people getting what we are being denied, perks we retain the memory of receiving ourselves." *(The Week magazine, September 25, 2015)***

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**The best time to go to Disney World, if you want to avoid huge crowds, is 1962. *(Dave Barry)***

**Camping is nature’s way of promoting the motel business. *(Dave Berry, humorist)***

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**Airline agent to waiting passengers: "Boarding first will be the disgruntled, followed by the hopelessly late and, finally, the just plain infuriated." *(Charles Almon, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**Most of the coronavirus cases in New York and on the East Coast were brought in by travelers in late January to mid-February, according to an analysis of small mutations in the virus by genome scientists. Those coronaviruses originated in China but traveled to Europe and spread there before coming to the U.S., the analysis showed. The coronavirus found on the West Coast , researchers said, arrived with people coming directly from China. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 24, 2020)***

**Travel agent says to Ziggy: “If that’s your budget, we have a plan where you stay at home and we mail you postcards!” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Kilometers are shorter than miles. Save gas; take your next trip in kilometers. *(George Carlin)***

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**They say travel broadens the mind, but you must have the mind. *(G. K. Chesterton)***

**The whole object of travel is not to set foot on foreign land; it is at last to set foot on one's own country as a foreign land. *(G. K. Chesterton, writer)***

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**Through the years, how long has it taken to travel from coast to coast? 1849 - 166 days by covered wagon**

**1860 - 60 days by stagecoach**

**1870 - 11 days by train**

**1923 - 26 1/2 hours by air**

**1938 - 17 1/2 hours by DC-3**

**1975 - 5 hours by 747**

**1981 - 8 minutes by space shuttle. (Rocky Mountain News)**

**Long commutes don't make all of us miserable. Harvard researchers have found that lengthy commutes were less likely to lead to job burnout for people who used the time to plan ahead for the workday. These people reported less burnout after six weeks than workers who didn't plan. (The Boston Globe, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 19, 2016)**

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**United and U.S. Airways recorded 1.36 passenger complaints for every 100,000 customers, the highest rate in the industry. Southwest Airlines, at 0.18 complaint per 100,000 passengers, had the fewest. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 13, 2007)***

**Traveler complaints about airlines jumped 34 percent last year to the highest level since 2000 -- despite data showing more flights arrived on time and fewer bags were lost -- according to an annual airline quality report. Virgin America ranked as the best, domestic airline for the fourth year in a row. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 15, 2016)***

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**When adjusted for inflation, the cost of commercial airline flights has fallen by half since 1978, thanks largely to deregulation. (The Atlantic, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 15, 2013)**

**Cruise ships played a significant role in seeding the coronavirus around the globe, health officials say. More than 2,500 total Covid-19 cases have been identified on 55 cruise ships touring the world, and at least 65 passengers and crew have died*. (The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 8, 2020)***

**Asked to switch seats on the plane because I was sitting next to a crying baby. Apparently, that's not allowed if the baby is yours. (Ilana Wiles, in Reader's Digest)**

**For travel to be delightful, one must have a good place to leave and return to. *(Frederick B. Wilcox, in Unicorns and Tadpoles)***

**I have wandered all my life, and I have traveled; the difference between the two is this – we wander for distraction, but we travel for fulfillment. (Hilaire Belloc)**

**A woman called our airline customer-service desk asking if she could take her dog on board. "Sure," I said, "as long as you provide your own kennel." I further explained that the kennel needed to be large enough for the dog to stand up, sit down, turn around, and roll over. The customer was flummoxed: "I'll never be able to teach him all of that by tomorrow!" (From gcfl.net)**

**Adventure is worthwhile in itself. (Amelia Earhart)**

**The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies. (The Daily Chronicle)**

**Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**A traveler to distant places should make no enemies. *(Nigerian proverb)***

**I have never been to Europe, but know it end to end. I've had to view the colored slides of every traveled friend. (Anne Leighton, in The Wall Street Journal)**

**Traveling is all the good things said about it, except for those who constantly have to do it. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Medical records indicate it's the rich rather than the poor who are most likely to die of exotic ailments -- because they travel more. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**William Faulkner, declining an invitation to attend a White House dinner honoring Nobel Prize-winners: "I'm too old to travel that far to eat with strangers." *(Joseph Blotner, in Faulkner: A Biography)***

**What was the first passenger airline? The Saint Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line of Saint Petersburg, Florida, began flight operations on January 1, 1914. The twice-a-day service took passengers one at a time across 20-mile-wide Tampa Bay. The complete trip in a Benoit flying boat covered 36 miles and cost $5. The service ran for four months. *(Barbara Berliner, in The Book of Answers, p. 75)***

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**Why flights are dumpier: If you think airplane flights have gotten bumpier in recent years, you’re not imagining it, reports BBC.co.uk. Climate change is making turbulence worse. Researchers at Reading University in the U.K. looked at climate data from 1979 to 2020. They found that severe clear-air turbulence – which, unlike disruption from storms, is hard for pilots to detect – had increased by 55 percent over that period, while moderate turbulence was up 37 percent. The reason is that warmer air creates stronger wind shear – differences in wind speed – in the jet stream, a system of air currents a few miles above Earth’s surface. That in turn causes greater turbulence. The biggest increases were on routes in the U.S. and the North Atlantic, followed by those in Europe, the Middle East, and the South Atlantic. “Following a decade of research showing that climate change will increase clear-air turbulence in the future,” says study co-author Paul Williams, we now have evidence suggesting that the increase has already begun.” He adds that people should always keep their seat belts on unless they’re moving around. *(The Week magazine, June 30, 2023)***

**There are eighty-seven thousand flights daily in the United States. *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, 2011, p. 80)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Traveling is like flirting with life. It's like saying, "I would stay here and love you, but I have to go; this is my station." *(Lisa St. Aubin de Teran, novelist)***

**Business travelers gain an average of 15 pounds over three years on the road. Considerably more than leisure travelers gain, presumably because vacationers aren't out there as long. This, according to an extensive medical study. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If God had really intended men to fly, he'd make it easier to get to the airport. *(George Winters, humorist)***

**Bob Hope to reporters at Heathrow Airport, after taking his first supersonic flight from Washington, D.C., to London: "The Concorde is great. It gives you three extra hours to find your luggage." *(Reader's Digest)***

**Dennis asks his Dad: "If the engine has horse power, why don't you yell 'Giddy-up' when you step on the gas?" *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**How come it takes so much luggage to get away from it all? *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**Insomnia is an all-night travel agency. *(Charles Simic, poet)***

**Fun tip: Instead of going on vacation with a baby, stand outside until you're sunburned, then light $1,000 on fire. *(@JULIUSSHARPE)***

**It took a man on horseback three months to go from Massachusetts to South Carolina . . . if he made it at all . . . in the 1700s. Travel by water was a big improvement . . . also if you made it at all. Between 1810 and 1850, on Western rivers, 44 steamboats collided, 166 burned, 200 blew up, and nearly 600 struck a submerged object and sank. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 335)**

**Chili and chicken help jet lag: Good news for frequent fliers, reports CNTraveler.com: The Australian airline Qantas may have worked out the best way to reduce jet lag. Ahead of launching its ultra-long haul, 22-hour nonstop services from New York and London to Sydney, the company conducted a test in which volunteers wore biometric monitors during a special flight, on which cabin lighting levels and in-flight meals were timed to align with the internal body clock. They found that those passengers slept better and reported less severe jet lag afterward compared with a regular flight, and even showed better cognitive performance two days after the flight. And it wasn’t only the timing of the meals that helped, but the ingredients, too. To help people stay awake, the researchers gave them meals including chili, chocolate, and caffeine; to help them nod off, they offered foods rich in the amino acid tryptophan, such as dairy, breads, and chicken. “The early findings have given us optimism that we can maker a real difference,” says Peter Cistulli from the University of Sydney, which helped Qantas. “No airline has ever done this kind of research before.” *(The Week magazine July 7 / July 14, 2023)***

**The joy of travel is in the wandering. (Joe Robinson)**

**Airline accidents killed 641 people last year, according to the International Air Transport Association -- up from 210 in 2013, even though the number of fatal crashes fell from 16 to 12. The figures don't include the 298 people killed when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over Ukraine, because the disaster was not classified as an accident. (Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 20, 2015)**

**There are only two kinds of travel: first class and with children. (Robert Benchley) 822912**

**Thanks to the Interstate Highway System, it is now possible to travel across the country from coast to coast without seeing anything. *(Charles Kuralt, in On The Road With Charles Kuralt)***

**Lawyer, reading will, to assembled relatives: "He turned it all into traveler's checks and took it with him." (Bernhardt, in Friar)**

**The longer you stay in one place, the greater your chances of disillusionment. (Art Spander)**

**Good thing most planes have TVs. Nothing's worse than having to look out the window at Earth's sacred majesty from the point of view of angels. (@PHARMASEAN)**

**Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world. (Gustave Flaubert)**

**A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it. (George Moore)**

**The travel miracle we take for granted: Complaining about the indignities of air travel is practically the new national pastime, said Patrick Smith. But with all the grumbling about delays and overcrowding, we've lost sight of what a remarkable achievement commercial aviation truly is. A few decades ago, air travel was "extraordinary and available only to a privileged few." Now virtually anyone can step onto a plane and in just a matter of hours, step off "halfway way around the world, in Bangkok, Singapore, Tokyo, or Mumbai. Adjusted for inflation, the cost of air travel has dropped sharply over the last two decades. No, the meals and amenities aren't what they used to be, but if you're paying $79 to fly from New York to Florida in three hours, what do you expect? As for safety, based on the number of fatalities per mile, air travel is six times safer than it was 25 years ago. The last major U.S. crash was in November 2001, the longest such streak in aviation history. We can now zip ourselves around the world in a matter of hours, for pennies per mile and "in near absolute safety." Remind yourself of that the next time "you're wedged into row 57 next to a screaming infant." (The Week magazine, December 28, 2007 - January 11, 2008)**

**Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living. (Miriam Beard)**

**A traveler nearing a great city asked a man seated by the wayside, “What are the people like in the city?” “How were the people where you came from?” “A terrible lot,” the traveler responded. “Mean, untrustworthy, detestable in all respects.” “Ah,” said the sage, “you will find them the same in the city ahead.” Scarcely was the first traveler gone when another one stopped and also inquired about the people in the city before him. Again the old man asked about the people in the place the traveler had left. “They were fine people, honest, industrious, and generous to a fault. I was sorry to leave,” declared the second traveler. Responded the wise one: “So you will find them in the city ahead.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**An Indian businessman has launched the ultimate no-frills airline. Bahadur Gupta's airline has only one plane, a used Airbus 300 with a missing wing, and it never actually leaves the ground. But in a nation where 99 percent of people have never flown, citizens are lining up to pay $4 to board the plane, strap themselves into seats, and listen to "Captain Gupta" make such announcements as "We will soon be passing through a zone of turbulence" and "We are about to begin our descent into Delhi." (The Week magazine, December 28, 2007 - January 11, 2008)**

**A nomad I will remain for life, in love with distant and uncharted places. (Isabelle Eberhardt)**

**Last year, complaints about airlines increased 22 percent. There were probably more complaints, but the airlines lost them. (Conan O'Brien)**

**A traveler without observation is a bird without wings. (Moslih Eddin Saadi)**

**World’s oldest known paved road is 40 miles southwest of Giza under what was Egypt’s Old Kingdom. Runs 7 ½ miles between the great tombs and a basalt quarry. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Travel offers the opportunity to find out who else one is. (Rebecca Solnit, author)**

**Travel is a frivolous part of serious lives, and the serious part of frivolous ones. (Anne Sophie Swetchine)**

**If you look like your passport photo, in all probability you need the journey. (Earl Wilson)**

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**Why can't the airline industry understand that people simply want an airport they can reach in five minutes, to board a plane that won't fly over anybody's house? *(Bill Vaughan, in Kansas City Star)***

**People travel to faraway places to watch, in fascination, the kind of people they ignore at home. *(Dagobert D. Runes, philosopher)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Our daughters received an adorable airport play set as a gift. Since some assembly -- actually a lot of assembly -- was required, my husband spent much of the day putting together the plane, the control tower, the runway, the little baggage chute, and arranging the pieces into a teeny tiny air hub. As he finished up, I noticed he was frantically digging around in the box, checking at the packing materials. "You are not going to believe this," he said. "The one piece missing is the luggage." *(Susan Perry, in Reader's Digest)***

**First president to visit all 50 states while in office was Richard Nixon. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Airline-reservation clerk to traveler: "I'm sorry, sir. The reduced rates don't apply if you have a particular destination in mind." *(Artemis Cole, in The Rotarian)***

**I retired about 4 years before my wife did, and when she retired, a friend of mine asked, “You and Eleanor will do a lot of traveling, won’t you?” I said, “Yes, to the doctor, the drugstore, the hospital and the funeral home.” And that’s been the truth! *(Rex Grable, in Reminisce Extra magazine)***

**The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page. *(St. Augustine)***

**I love it when the stewardess says, "Your seat cushion becomes a flotation device." Well, why doesn't the plane just become a boat? *(Steve Shaffer)***

**Sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason. *(Jerry Seinfeld)***

**Travel should be something you do -- not something you buy*. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**Space travel affects heart: Exposure to cosmic radiation during deep-space missions may damage an astronaut's heart, a new NASA-funded study suggests. Researchers at Florida State University compared the deaths of 35 astronauts who never traveled into space with those of 42 astronauts who ventured beyond Earth's protective magnetic field, including seven Apollo veterans who flew to the moon between 1968 and 1972. The study found that lunar astronauts were five times more vulnerable to heart disease -- 43 percent of them died from cardiovascular ailments compared with only 9 percent of the astronauts that didn't journey to the moon. A follow-up study involving mice reveals that radiation can trigger long-term changes in the lining of blood vessels associated with atherosclerosis, or "hardening of the arteries." What researchers hesitate to draw definitive conclusions, the findings do have important implications for future missions to Mars or beyond. "We've probably underestimated the impact of deep-space radiation," study author Dr. Michael Delp tells NBCNews.com, "on not just cardiovascular disease but health in general." *(The Week magazine, August 19 / August 26, 2016)***

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**There are no foreign lands. It is the traveler only who is foreign. *(Robert Louis Stevenson)***

**To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive. *(Robert Louis Stevenson)***

**I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel’s sake. The great affair is to move. *(Robert Louis Stevenson)***

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[**In 1930, Ellen Church recruited seven other young nurses to work 5,000 feet above the Earth. They were the first airline stewardesses, flying on Boeing's San Francisco -- Chicago route, a trip that, in good weather, took 20 hours and made 13 stops. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 194)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**I have, thanks to my travels, added to my stock all the superstitions of other countries. I know them all now, and in any critical moment of my life, they all rise up in armed legions for or against me. *(Sarah Bernhart)***

**T-shirt purchased in Cape Cod, Massachusetts: "My Mother Was a Travel Agent for Guilt Trips." *(Quoted by Herb Caen, in San Francisco Chronicle)***

**One thing travel teaches is why living at home is so popular. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Yes sir – you’re in pretty good shape if the only person who ever tells you where to go is a travel agent. *(Milwaukee Journal)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The man who goes alone can start today; but he who travels with another must wait until the other is ready. *(Henry David Thoreau)***

**He who is only a traveler learns things at secondhand and by the halves, and is poor authority. (Henry David Thoreau)**

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**FLEECED: I stayed in a hotel where the towels were so thick. I could hardly close my suitcase. *(Adam Joshua Smargon, in Reader's Digest)***

**The truth is, most of us discover where we are headed when we arrive. *(Bill Watterson, cartoonist)***

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**Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness. Broad, wholesome, charitable views cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth. (Mark Twain)**

**I have found out that there ain’t no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them. *(Mark Twain)***

**Get a bicycle. You will certainly not regret it, if you live. *(Mark Twain)***

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**Flying really is getting more unpleasant. U.S. flights arriving on time dropped to 76.2 percent last year, from 78.4 percent in 2013; lost, stolen, or delayed baggage rose 13 percent; passengers getting bumped from oversold flights rose 3 percent; and complaints to the government shot up 22 percent. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 24, 2015)***

**To the untraveled, territory other than their own familiar hearth is invariably fascinating. Next to love it is the one thing that solaces and delights. The things to see are too important to be neglected, and the mind, which is a mere reflection of sensory impressions, succumbs to the flood of objects. Thus lovers are forgotten, sorrows laid aside, death hidden from view. There is a world of accumulated feeling back of the trite, dramatic expression "I am going away." *(Theodore Dreiser, in Sister Carrie)***

**Most of American life is driving somewhere and then driving back wondering why the hell you went. *(John Updike)***

**Any long-haul flight can plausibly be described as an act of violence. *(William Atkins, travel writer)***

**It was an icy, blustery and bitter-cold winter day when a fellow decided to visit a sick friend. After much slipping and falling, he arrived at his friend's house, cold and shivering. "I had a terrible time getting here," the fellow complained. "As a matter of fact, for every step I moved forward, I slid back two steps." "Now, just wait a minute," the sick one said. "If you slid back two steps for every step you advanced, how did you manage to get here at all?" "Oh, I almost didn't," came the reply. "But then I said to myself, 'The heck with it,' and turned around and started home." (*Carl R. Simon, in Reader's Digest)***

**Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, need nothing, done with indoor complaints, libraries, querulous criticisms, strong and content I travel the open road. *(Walt Whitman)***

**Why does it take so much luggage to get away from it all? *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**Checking baggage is like how I imagine childbirth to be. You do it, it sucks, takes forever to come out, you forget, you do it again. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**Woman complaining to marriage counselor about her husband: "When he won a trip for two to Hawaii, he went twice!" *(Van Masters, in Weekly World News)***

**My friend was complaining to me that her husband, a telephone-company executive, was constantly on the go, traveling to various parts of the globe. But later, when I told my family about all the traveling he was doing, my 16-year-old daughter was not impressed. “What’s the matter?” she quipped. “Won’t they let him use the phone?” *(Carol Hambrecht, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**When Wilbur and Orville Wright conducted their historic first flights beginning in 1901, few newspapers took notice. Not many people appreciated that "many incremental moments, over years" would add up to the invention of the airplane. *(The Week magazine, May 27, 2016)***

[**When the Wright Brothers made aviation history at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, their initial 12-second flight spanned a distance shorter than the wingspan of a Boeing 747 jumbo jet -- which measures 195.7 feet from tip to tip. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 20)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**You couldn't get me on the moon if it was the last place on earth. (Erma Cohen, quoted by Martin Marcus, in The Power of Yiddish Thinking)**

**You’ve got to go there to know there. (Zora Neale Hurston)**

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