

Bishop trades LA for quiet Colorado

By Jae-Ha Kim
Tribune Content Agency

Singer-songwriter Stephen Bishop ("On and On," "Save It for a Rainy Day," "It Might Be You") had a sold-out tour planned when the COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench in his plans.

"Sadly, we were never able to reschedule the dates," said Bishop, now 73. "(But lockdown did give) me time to really reflect on my career. In the end, it was the (50 years of touring) that got to me. The \$20 airport sandwiches that were terrible, endless hotel rooms, hauling heavy luggage and guitars and constantly being away from home. I've realized I'm more of a homebody and that spending only a few months at home each year wasn't the life I wanted."

This interview with Bishop has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: What was it like when you moved to Colorado?

A: After living in Los Angeles for 47 years, it was a tough transition. It would be for anyone after calling a place home for so long. But I came to realize that LA was no longer the right place to raise a child. Most of my friends had either moved away or passed on, and the new neighbors in the Hollywood Hills were constantly throwing parties. (There was) construction noise all around. I would step outside and never find a moment of real peace. Also, LA traffic is horrible. In Colorado, it's different. I have space, land and quiet.



Singer-songwriter Stephen Bishop, known for his hit "On and On," said Sweden is on his travel bucket list. LIZ KAMLET

At the end of the day, home isn't just a place, it's where your life and the people you love are.

Q: What was your first really big show?

A: When I opened for Linda Ronstadt. That was really my first time performing for thousands of people. She had 27,000 people in attendance. I had to get over my stage fright pretty quick, but it was an exhilarating experience. Linda was and still is great.

Q: Of all the places you've performed, which one was your bucket-list venue?

A: Madison Square Garden. I played there in the late '70s. And the Roxy (Theatre in LA), along with the San Diego Sports Arena (now the Pechanga Arena). Being from San Diego, that was nice.

Q: What is your best or worst vacation memory?

A: When I was 15, I went to Puertecitos, Mexico, with a few of my friends from my band, The Weeds. It's about six hours away from San Diego, where I grew up. I got severely sunburned. I never forgot that and I always wear sunscreen whenever I go out now.

Q: What untapped destination should people know about?

A: I'm not telling you, because then everyone will go there. (Laughs) Just kidding. Woodloch Pines Resort. My wife used to go

there growing up and it's tucked away in Hawley, Pennsylvania, and is truly top notch.

Q: What trip you took as a child that stands out?

A: When I was 5, my mom took me on a bus from San Diego to Key West, Florida, to see my relatives. Looking back now, with a child of my own, I have no idea how my mom kept me sane with one comic book for almost five days. We did not fly. It was not fun. It was hot and exhausting. So was the ride back.

Q: What's the most important thing you've learned from your travels?

A: Never let the promoter book your travel. They do not know you or your preferences. I remember my last trip to the Philippines on the way back was awful. The promoter booked me for an eight-hour layover at one in the morning, separating me from my entire team, forgetting to book their travel. I had to sleep on the floor of the terminal. It was a truly awful experience. I went from (receiving a) standing ovation to the cold concrete floor of a random country.

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

A: I've always wanted to go to Sweden. The people seem really nice and (it has) a rich historic culture.

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