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**A TRIP TO SUCCESS**

**By Arleen M. Kaptur**

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Thank you.

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Today's the day – our bags are packed and we are on our way. Our destination is SUCCESS. Our car has enough ENTHUSIASM in the tank and we checked our 4 MOTIVATION tires to make sure they are ready for the road. Our map is clearly marked and we even brought a snack bag filled with cans of PURPOSE and SPIRT as well as assorted snacks named GOALS and PASSION. We double-checked with our insurance carrier, RESEARCH, and we are ready to roll!

The day is bright and sunny and the road itself is a beautiful ribbon of smooth concrete. Driving conditions are perfect and the scenery is

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breathhtaking. We come across our first road sign just up ahead. It reads TRY ONLY ONCE – THEN STOP HERE.

We decide to keep driving. But now the road is getting rougher and the scenery is starting to get a little bleaker. The clouds seem to be building up and it looks like rain is in the forecast.

We keep on going.

There's a motel to the right with some cars around it. It's called THE DESERTED DREAMS MOTEL. There's also a restaurant on the left called THE BAR

OF LOST HOPE. We have our snack pack so we keep on going.

We are trying to beat the storm that is fast approaching. We notice a lot of abandoned vehicles along the roadway, They seem dusty and old. We hit a huge pothole and our car shakes a little. We decide to pull into a service station called DETERMINATION. They check out our vehicle and we are on our way again. The road is now mostly gravel and the turns are getting narrower. It is rough and bumpy and our car is finding it hard to maneuver some of the twists.

A very large building is just ahead. It appears dark and foreboding. There are no lights on but a lot of cars and people are there. The sign says WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF OBSTACLES. COME AND STAY AWHILE WITH US. We keep on going.

Now there are a lot of people on the side of the road. Some are pointing at us and some are laughing. A few are throwing stones, but we incur no damage. A troop of SPIRIT is fielding the stones so they never touch us.

The storm is right on top of us. It started with rain, and now there is lightning and thunder. We are pelted with hail and the road is slippery and winding. There are some dark, dismal buildings alongside our road. They have signs–DISTRUST, APATHY AND DISCOURAGEMENT. They are run–down, with broken windows and weeds growing all around.

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There is a roadside turn-around with a lot of track marks going in and coming out. The signs reads:  
DOUBT-TURN AROUND HERE AND GO HOME.  
We pass it by just as a car makes a turn and heads on back to wherever they came from.

The road is now just a slit of what it was. The clouds seem to be giving way and little specks of sunshine are beginning to glisten in the raindrops. There is a clean scent in the air – spring rain – an aromatic delight of fields and flowers.

Then we see it – a rainbow – but not just any rainbow. This one has every color you could imagine. It is spread across our road like an arch and it is the most breathtaking rainbow we have ever seen. Just past the rainbow we come to a town sign:

YOU ARE ENTERING THE TOWN OF SUCCESS–  
DON'T JUST VISIT – STAY WITH US.

We have arrived. We are safe and we are here. We are a little tired so we decide to rest at the hotel called GRATITUDE. We'll also grab something to eat at an inn called APPRECIATION.

We have reached our destination.

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Arleen Kaptur has written numerous articles, e-books, and the novel: SEARCHING FOR AUSTIN JAMES

Websites:

<http://www.rusticliving.info>

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### **Planning Your Adventure**

**By B.J.Baker**

**Planning Your Adventure by B.J.Baker**

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### Planning your Backcountry Adventure at AdvenQuest

#### Finding Your Adventure

Survey your family or travel group and make sure everyone has the same expectations from the trip. Some things to keep in mind: trip length, degree of comfort needed (sanitary options), price, flexibility on trip dates, and the degree of adventure you are looking for – family, or high adventure, or somewhere in between.

#### Always Know What You are Getting

When talking to the outfitters ask questions about their company and staff. Sample Questions: How experienced is your staff? Is the trip price all-inclusive? Will you provide references of others that have been on this trip? Can you provide for special dietary needs? Can you tell me about other guests on my trip? Are there children? Other families? Are there any age or other restrictions? Always advise the outfitter of known medical conditions of persons in your group.

#### Reserve in Advance

Half-day or full-day trips may sometimes be reserved as late as the day before you want to go. However, the more popular activities fill up fast, so call well in advance to get the most desirable trip dates. Long trips should be booked earlier. Understand the cancellation policy before you book the reservation! After reviewing the literature and your notes, book your trip. Note that restrictions may vary from outfitter to outfitter and trip options, including age limits, may vary by vendor and destination.

B.J. Baker is an avid outdoor enthusiast who currently resides in The Woodlands, Texas. As a child, BJ accompanied his family on family excursions to Japan, China, South East Asia, Europe and to the Rockies snow skiing. Still traveling the world and instilled with a love for travel and adventure, today BJ is the owner of several travel websites. [www.placestosleep.com](http://www.placestosleep.com), [www.vacationresorttravel.com](http://www.vacationresorttravel.com), [www.advenquest.com](http://www.advenquest.com), and [www.snow-skiing.com](http://www.snow-skiing.com).



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