



Prendre l'Airstream et partir

Harriette a trois enfants, un mari, une Airstream... et trois mois devant elle pour vivre une expérience unique en famille. Voici le récit de son road trip qui la fera quitter son confortable New York pour Vancouver, sans itinéraire ni emploi du temps : une aventure inouïe.



Regarder les paysages en écoutant un livre audio, sortir après le dîner observer les oiseaux, s'arrêter voir un rodéo : la petite famille d'Harriette ne se refuse aucun stop, aucune envie. L'absence totale d'emploi du temps, de deadlines ou d'impératifs les rend totalement libres.



Photos DR



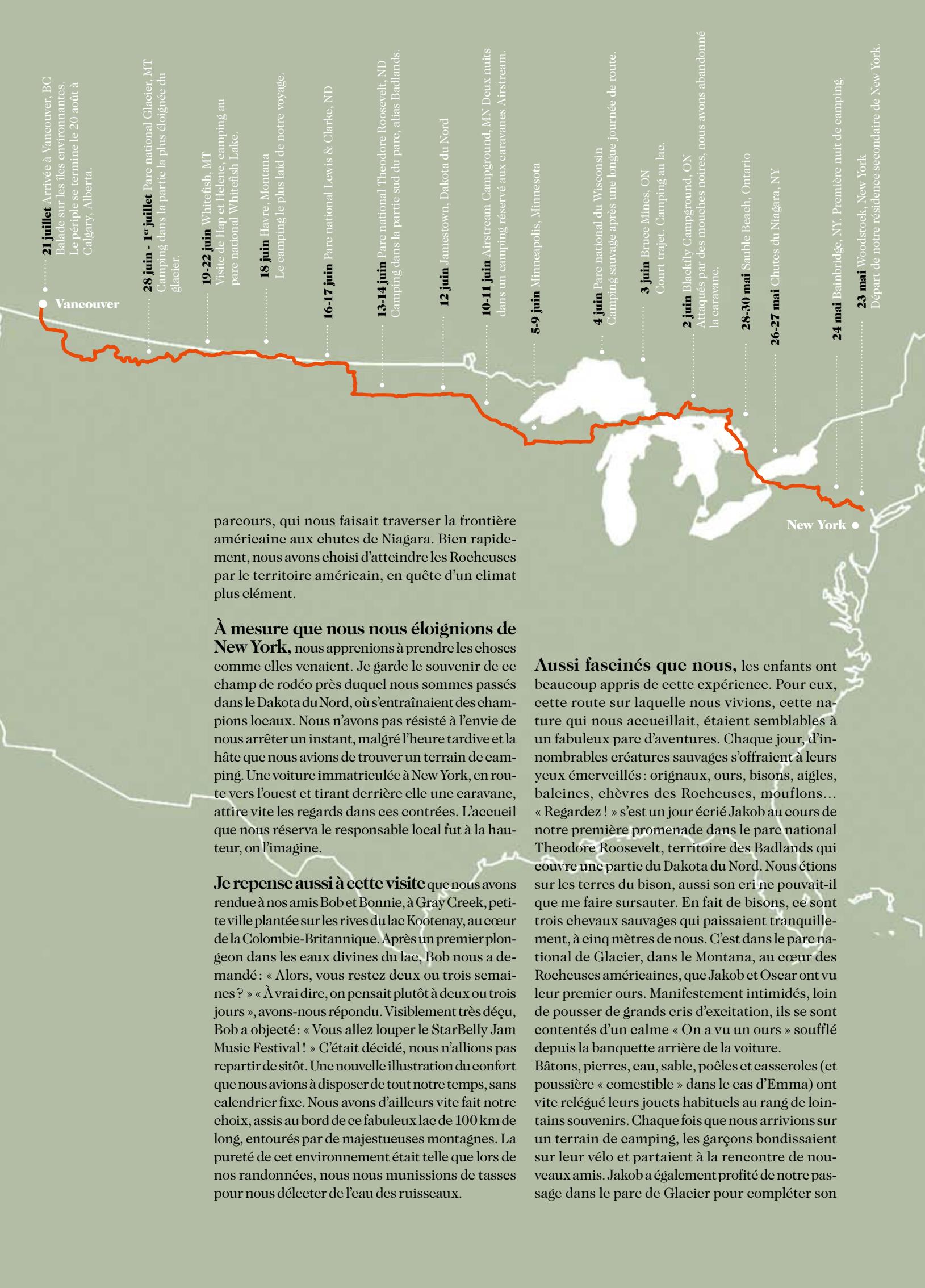
Les sacs étaient prêts, nous n'avions plus qu'à partir. L'heure du départ avait enfin sonné. Nous étions à l'arrêt, à l'entrée de notre allée, l'œil rivé sur le rétroviseur dans lequel resplendissait notre caravane Airstream, ignorant si nous allions tourner à gauche ou à droite. « On prend la route 28 ou l'autoroute ? » ai-je demandé à mon mari. « Pas l'autoroute, je préfère la petite route, » a répondu Jakob, notre fils ainé, assis à l'arrière. Il avait raison : autant privilégier les panoramas, puisque notre destination n'était pas définie et que nous avions trois mois devant nous. L'été dernier, mon mari et moi sommes partis avec nos trois enfants, Jakob (5ans), Oscar (3ans) et Emma (pas tout à fait un an), pour une virée en voiture de trois mois, qui devait nous mener de New York à Vancouver. Ce moment

précis, au point de départ de notre voyage, illustrait à merveille le confort qui était le nôtre : pas de carte, pas de calendrier, et ce qui nous semblait être l'éternité devant nous.

Ces conditions étant posées, quitter à cinq un appartement de 250 m² pour une caravane de 12 m² semblait ne pas correspondre à l'idée que certains se font du confort. « Alors c'est vrai, vous partez sur les routes pour trois mois ? », m'a un jour demandé une mère à la sortie de l'école. « Oui, absolument, » ai-je répondu, pleine d'enthousiasme. « Et vous emmenez vos enfants ? », m'a-t-elle lancé, incrédule. Une question m'est alors venue à l'esprit : notre projet était-il à ce point audacieux ? Il est vrai que les enfants ont besoin d'une certaine forme de routine. Pour autant, en choisissant de partir à bord de notre Chevrolet Suburban 1987 doublée de notre caravane Airstream 1974 (l'une comme l'autre dans leur état d'origine), nous nous offrions les conditions optimales pour un dépaysement « comme à la maison ». Nous dormions chaque soir dans le même lit et préparions chaque jour nos repas dans la même cuisine (ou disons, presque chaque jour). Comme n'importe quelle famille, nous avions notre propre routine, quoique vivant dans une maison de poupée géante.

Pour les esprits pratiques et souples, capables de prendre les choses comme elles se présentent, une virée de cet ordre a toutes les chances de devenir une expérience extraordinaire, dans tous les sens du terme. Emmener trois jeunes enfants dans une caravane, là n'était pas le défi principal. Après tout, les enfants sont par nature téméraires, adaptables. Leur sens de l'exploration et leur curiosité n'ont pas de limites. Autant d'attributs nécessaires à la réussite d'une telle aventure. C'est bien à nous, parents, qu'il peut être difficile de lâcher prise et d'accepter les événements comme ils vont. Un constat auquel nous allions nous confronter maintes fois durant notre périple. Tout débutant vous le dira, une Airstream de 35 ans vous apprend la souplesse. De quoi intituler votre carnet de route *Traité du zen et de l'entretien d'une Airstream*. « Oh, oh... », hasardait mon mari à genoux, affairé à localiser une fuite. « Qu'y a-t-il ? » « On a un sérieux problème. » Bien entendu, nous arrivions juste à Sudbury, une sinistre ville industrielle du nord de l'Ontario, où les stigmates d'un déluge récent nous obligeaient à mesurer chacun de nos pas pour éviter d'arriver couverts de boue dans la caravane.

Deux mots sur notre itinéraire : nous avions prévu de traverser le Canada en direction des montagnes Rocheuses. La fin du mois de mai s'est toutefois révélée trop humide et trop froide en Ontario, première province canadienne sur notre



livre d'activités des Junior Rangers afin d'obtenir, bien avant l'heure, son badge au poste de ranger du parc. Il lui était demandé de participer aux activités des rangers, nous sommes donc allés leur demander de nous parler des ours. Alors que nous évoquions les différences existant entre les ours bruns et les grizzlis, Jakob a levé la main et a demandé : « Lequel des deux a les plus grosses pattes ? » Bonne question, que personne n'avait encore soulevée, et qui m'a permis de mesurer à quel point ce voyage était l'occasion pour nos enfants d'apprendre les choses de la vie.

Ce contexte extraordinaire n'a bien sûr pas empêché la vie « normale » de suivre son cours, avec ses apprentissages et autres petits événements : notre

fils ainé a perdu sa première dent, son petit frère a appris à faire du vélo, et notre petite dernière a fait ses premiers pas ! Avouons que dans l'intérieur réduit de notre Airstream, idéal pour un bébé sur le point de découvrir les joies de la position debout, ces trois mois sur la route lui auront certainement facilité le franchissement de cette grande étape. Alors que nous organisions notre voyage, nous avions la conviction qu'il constituerait une expérience aussi fascinante qu'enrichissante pour notre famille. Nous ignorions tout, en revanche, du sentiment de liberté qui allait nous emporter trois mois durant.

Harriette de Swaan Arons





Pique-nique, séance de dessin à l'ombre du auvent, pipi dehors, lecture au calme dans l'Airstream, bain dans le lavabo... La vie de Robinson offre aux enfants la possibilité de vivre mille choses, de se frotter à la nature et de faire de chaque moment de la vie quotidienne un jeu, une expérience. Les trois mois de ce voyage n'avaient rien de monotone.

Photos DR

5 bonnes raisons de partir en Airstream

1. Offrir à ses enfants un dépassement digne d'une vie de Robinson, le temps de quelques semaines, pour ouvrir leur esprit.
2. En caravane, oui, mais avec style, en Airstream... pour son look « logé de star » et son histoire.
3. Finalement, dans un espace si réduit, vos enfants sont toujours à portée de coup d'œil, et donc en sécurité.
4. Dans une caravane, la vie est un jeu ; apprenez à vos enfants à vivre dans une maison de poupée.
5. Il est toujours délicieux de bousculer les habitudes de la famille le temps des vacances... non ?

Location

... d'un camping-car

Il est conseillé de faire appel aux grands organismes du marché, qui proposent d'innombrables relais pour récupérer votre véhicule ou le restituer. Si vous passez par votre agence de voyage habituelle, il est fort probable que celle-ci contacte l'un de ces organismes :

- www.cruiseamerica.com
- www.cruisecanada.com (il s'agit de la même société)
- www.canadadream.com

... d'une Airstream

- www.airstream.com/dealer_locator.php : si l'idée de louer une Airstream (aussi appelée Silver Bullet) vous intéresse, contactez un concessionnaire Airstream proche de votre point de départ. Tous ne louent pas des caravanes.
- www.airstream4rent.com : site établi en Arizona, pour ceux qui souhaitent visiter le sud des États-Unis avec style.

- www.silvertrailer.com : pour ceux qui aimeraient vivre l'expérience Airstream mais n'en possèdent pas. Ce site vous indiquera divers endroits où l'on peut louer une caravane Airstream.

- www.airstream-collector.com : pour tout savoir sur l'Airstream.

Parcs nationaux

Parcs nationaux américains

Le récent documentaire *National Parks, America's Best Idea* (Les Parcs nationaux, la meilleure idée de l'Amérique) porte sur ce qui peut mieux son titre. Depuis sa création, le National Park Service est parvenu à trouver l'équilibre parfait entre la préservation de la beauté naturelle des presque 400 trésors naturels du pays (parmi lesquels 58 parcs nationaux) et l'accès au grand public de ces espaces uniques.

- www.nps.gov : le site idéal pour organiser la visite de l'un des parcs nationaux américains.

Parcs canadiens

Le Canada compte 39 parcs nationaux et des centaines de parcs provinciaux, dont le fonctionnement est comparable à celui de leurs grands frères. Si les parcs nationaux du pays sont le premier centre d'intérêt des touristes étrangers, il est à noter que les parcs provinciaux, d'une incroyable beauté, constituent certainement le secret le mieux gardé des Canadiens.

- www.pc.gc.ca : le site idéal pour organiser la visite de l'un des parcs nationaux canadiens. Sachez que l'on parle l'anglais et le français dans tous les parcs du pays. Chaque province propose un site Internet regroupant les informations relatives à ses parcs. Quelques exemples :

- www.ontarioparks.ca
- www.beparks.ca
- www.albertaparks.ca

www.bcferry.com : toutes les informations nécessaires à votre excursion.

StarBelly Jam Music Festival

Le StarBelly Jam est un festival de musique qui se tient chaque année au cours du troisième week-end de juillet à Crawford Bay, au bord du lac Kootenay, en Colombie-Britannique, Canada. Le festival est destiné à toute la famille, avec de nombreuses activités et spectacles prévus pour les enfants. La nourriture y est succulente et l'environnement absolument magique. www.starbellyjam.org

Du 16 au 18 juillet 2010.

Plaque militaire

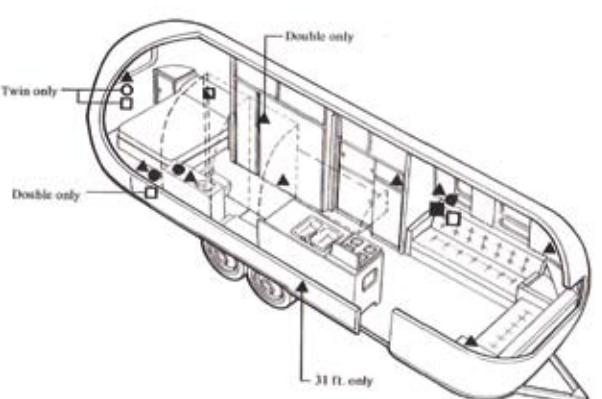
Passant notre vie sur la route et dormant chaque soir dans un camping différent, nous avions commandé pour nos enfants de petites plaques d'identité militaires portant leurs nom et adresse.

Ils étaient ravis de ce petit accessoire, et nous pouvions en toute sérénité les laisser explorer ces environnements nouveaux.

Activités

Service de ferries pour l'Île de Vancouver:

Il est facile de se rendre sur l'Île de Vancouver grâce à un service régulier de ferries qui relient Vancouver et les deux plus grandes villes de l'île, Victoria et Nanaimo. La traversée est un régal pour les yeux.



✓ REFER TO PAGE 198 FOR THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION



But you always wanted to do a kids line?

Yes I've always wanted to do a kid's line. And I just felt that this collaboration was a really nice way of doing it and you know – though we didn't really have Gap in England so much, and also I grew up in a tiny village in the English country side so there certainly no Gap's around.

I don't remember wearing Gap as a little kid until I got older. But I think that their kids stuff has great staples; like the socks with the grips on the sole; which are brilliant and last you forever. Staples become even more important in kidswear, as I really believe you need to be able to chuck everything in the washing machine and know that it won't shrink or wear out after three washes – you want really great usage and for kids pieces to get better with age. For me gap was a really good way of achieving this with my kidswear collection.

Longevity is something I believe in – even when I designed lingerie I really like that part of the collection you can wear everyday - throw it in the washing machine and it gets better as time goes on. So this was very important for me to do with Gap – as it means you don't have the pressure of more expensive pieces.

Has your experience as a mother influenced the design of this particular collection?

Yeah, just being a mother - Tiny things, like Miller loves super heroes so we tried to create super heroes and we carried that theme through into the second collection for pj's. When we first started we thought; "We'll do princess and fairies for girls" we had this little theme - but we found the girls way more difficult than the boys - which surprised me. The superhero theme for boys came really quickly; and then done, including the packaging and labels etc. We've done some really exciting things this season too, like wall stickers and height charts that bring a little bit of decoration to the collection.

What are the challenges compared to the Read-to-Wear Collection?

The biggest challenge is the age span – within the collection there are three very distinct age ranges. New born is very specific, especially with babyGap – as there are a number of strict safety regulations, for example you can't have a cord that is more than 4 centimeters long – which limits you a little in the design process. You can't have sequins, buttons, or embroidery – where as in my womenswear I work with lots of embroidery and can really go for it – so initially these limitations were a little bit tricky. The biggest challenge though is try to think about mind sets – both of a parent dressing a child, and then all of a sudden when the child starts dressing themselves. And I'm just hoping we managed to get that balance right, because it's quite hard when you're

pretty much doing the same product for all those ages. Somebody dressing themselves, as a teenager, and somebody being dressed by a parent as a toddler, is just about the most different mind set you can get when it comes to design! It's been a massive learning curve, but I love learning in all my collaborations.

What was the inspiration for the new collection? How did you tackle the summer collection compared to the first one?

Summer always comes very naturally to me. What I really wanted to do from the start was to try and create a whole collection; so you have everything you need within one complete collection. So you have gorgeous little cotton dresses, pieces in fun bright block colors, and then bright poppy prints.

I wanted to design pieces that insure your child looks like an individual, with their own style statement. In creating a whole collection I also needed to have some very simple, minimal pieces in it, set against some more detailed pieces. But also I wanted to maintain really high quality fabrics and still go super light weight for summer. But the inspiration definitely started from creating a bit of everything you really need in your kids summer wardrobe.

Is there a playful dress up theme in that collection compared to the first one?

Not really, I think it's just more eclectic. The colours are more poppy, there are more mélange knits – I feel it is more versatile because there are more pieces that perhaps stand on their own. I think that's really important because with children its key that they have an attitude and that you don't make soulless children's clothes. I think it's really important that you reflect the energy of a child in their clothing.

Question: Are there any anecdotes about designing or fitting the collections and working with kids?

In the final fitting of the first collection we had these 7 year old little twins, called Joe and Duke – and it was really weird fitting children you know, I'm not used to that! We were just taking a couple of pictures but I wanted them to have fun and enjoy it, so I asked Duke; "What kind of music do you like?" and he said, "Oh yeah I like Morrissey, do you have any Morrissey?" and I said, "What are you nuts?! You are the coolest little kid in town - yeah I do have Morrissey". All of a sudden I was trying to impress a 7 year old kid, and make him think I was cool! So to finish this story I was like "Yeah, I do have Morrissey, but I'm also going to go see him tonight" and Duke goes "Oh my god, really, really? I have Morrissey's new album".

So then we started to have a "who can do the best Morrissey" competition and I said, "Well, I know Morrissey, and if I see him tonight I'm going to get you his autograph." We went to see him and after the show I told Morrissey that Duke is his number one



fan and I got his autograph and sent it off to him just the other day; I hope he got it.

Stella: Now, it's my turn. What kind of stuff do you dress Milo in? Does he dress himself now?

Liv: No, I still pick everything, he sort of has an opinion - it's more about textures though. I'm really big on things being comfortable and soft for him, and sort of chic in a basic and simple way – I just always want him to be comfortable and not sort of over dressed.

Family Road Trip

All packed up and ready to go. The moment of departure had finally arrived. Here we were, at the end of our driveway, glancing in the rearview mirror at our beaming Airstream trailer, suddenly wondering whether to turn left or right? "Uh, are we taking route 28 or the freeway?" I asked my husband. "No, not the freeway. I want to do the road that's not a freeway," Jakob, our eldest said from the back. He was right: a scenic route was the way to go, especially since we had no planned destination and were far from rushed with three months ahead of us.

This past summer, my husband and I took our three children, Jakob (5), Oscar (3) and Emma (turned

spaces. The two separate buildings sit on the edge of the Ultima Esperanza (Last Hope) Fjord next to the Balmaceda Glacier and enjoys spectacular views over the mountains and icy giant. Wood has been used everywhere in this beautiful contemporary hotel designed by architect Sebastian Irarrazaval. Puerto Natales is the ideal launching pad for taking off into the famous Torres del Paine Park, classified as a UNESCO biosphere reserve. After soaking up sights in the national park named after its three granite peaks culminating at 2900m, visit the Los Glaciares, a glacier park over the border in Argentina. This untouched natural wonderland is full of forests, mountains, valleys, lakes and waterfalls. You might catch a glimpse of an Andean deer, a guanaco, an ibis or an armadillo. After adventuring out on a horse trek along the steppe to the Milodon Cave or kayaking down the fjord, take a boat past looming icebergs to encounter the immense bright blue glaciaries.

Elen Pouhaer

(1) www.indigopatagonia.com & (2) www.explora.com

Interview: Stella and Liv

Liv: How did your collaboration with Gap come in the first place?

Stella: there was somebody I knew, Domenico De Sole, formerly the CEO of Gucci, and we got chatting and it came about because he is on the board of Gap now; we both just thought it was a good idea, so it came from there really.

P. 92

Photos DR

P. 174



1 during the trip) on a three-month long road trip from New York to Vancouver. That moment, right at the start of our journey, epitomized the luxury of what was ahead of us. No plans, no calendar, and plenty of time.

Having said this, moving from 250 sq m apartment to 12 sq m trailer with a family of five was not perceived a luxury by others. “Did I hear you’re going on a road trip for three months?” one mother asked me astonished at school drop off. “Yes, that’s right,” I said brimming with excitement. “You mean with the kids?” she asked staring at me incredulously. At that point, I wondered, “Is our plan really that adventurous?”

Yes, children function best with some form of routine. However, travelling with our ’87 Chevrolet Suburban and our ’74 Airstream trailer, both in original condition, we had the ultimate set up for a home away from home. We slept in the same bed

every night and breakfast and dinners were prepared in the same kitchen every day (o.k., almost every day.) Like any other household, we had our routines, albeit in an outsized doll house.

As long as you are practical, flexible and decide to take things as they come, a road trip is sure to become an extraordinary experience in every sense of the word. Having three little children in tow was not the challenge. After all, children are inherently adventurous, adaptable, explorative, and boundlessly curious. Quite a good set of attributes for a posse in tow. Instead, us parents tend to be the ones challenged to let go and take things as they come; something we were confronted with repeatedly throughout the trip.

For starters, a 35-year-old Airstream forces you to be flexible – a phenomenon we like to think of Zen and the Art of Airstream Maintenance. “Uh oh,” I would hear my husband say while on his knees trying to locate a leak. “What?” “We have a serious problem.” Of course, this happens in a place like Sudbury, a dreary industrial town in Northern Ontario, where it had rained so much we had to skip puddles to make it to the trailer without being covered in mud.

Also, in terms of itinerary, we had our minds set on crossing Canada towards the Rocky Mountains. However, end of May appeared to be too wet and too cold in Ontario, the first Canadian state we entered from the US at Niagara Falls. So before we knew it, we were on our way towards the Rockies via the US

Photos DR



in search of warmer temperatures. Yet the more distance between ourselves and New York, the better we got at the taking-it-as-it-comes mantra. Like when passing a local rodeo practice in North Dakota, we couldn’t resist making a quick stop even though it was getting late and we had yet to find a campground. Before we knew it, we were the out-of-towners (pulling a trailer out West with New York license plates, you do catch people’s attention) receiving a warm welcome from the local rodeo chief.

Or when we went to visit our friends, Bob and Bonnie in Gray Creek, a tiny town right on Kootenay Lake in the heart of British Columbia, Canada. After a dip in this gorgeous lake upon arrival, Bob asked, “So how long are you staying for, two, three weeks?” “Uh, we were more thinking two to three days,” we said. “But then you’re going to miss Starbelly Jam Music Fest!” they exclaimed with great disappointment. And so it was decided that we were not leaving any time soon. Again, the luxury of having time at hand and no fixed plans. By the way, not a tough decision to make when sitting at this stunningly beautiful, 100km-long lake surrounded by these majestic mountains. To give you a sense of the pristine nature we were at, while there we would hike up the mountain with a mug in hand to drink straight from the creek.

In the meantime, the children were soaking it all up like sponges. To them, being on the road and camping in nature, away from all the conveniences at home, was like being in the ultimate adventure park. Where else would you spot wildlife – including moose, bears, bison, bald eagles, whales, mountain goats, bighorn sheep - on a daily basis? “Look!” Jakob yelled on our very first hike in Theodore Roosevelt National Park (NP) in North Dakota a.k.a. the Badlands. It being our first hike in bison territory,



I literally froze only to see he was pointing at three grazing wild horses at less than five meters distance. As we entered Glacier NP in Montana at the heart of U.S. Rockies, Jakob and Oscar spotted our first bear. They were clearly humbled, as there was no exciting scream, just a quiet “We saw a bear” coming from the back of the car.

Entertaining themselves with sticks, stones, water, sand, pots and pans (and eating dirt in Emma’s case), the toys at home were long forgotten. Jumping on a bike to meet instant new friends was part of the routine when arriving at a campground. In Glacier NP, Jakob kept himself busy completing his Junior Ranger activity book to earn his own, much anticipated Junior Ranger badge awarded at the ranger station. Attending a ranger event was a required activity for which we attended a bear talk. After the differences in appearance between a black and grizzly bear were discussed, Jakob raised his hand and asked, “Which bear has the biggest paws, grizzly or black bear?” Good catch, since paws had not been discussed. Impressed with him for this timely question, it struck me how this trip was the ultimate homeschooling experience for our children.

And then to think that on other levels, life just went on as it would have at home with milestones, such as our oldest losing his first tooth, our middle one learning to cycle on his own and our youngest learning to walk. Although, with the compact interior of the Airstream being ideal for a baby on the verge of walking, life on the road might have given her an advantage achieving this one milestone.

In the lead up to the trip, we anticipated for it to become an exciting and bonding experience. Never did we dare to imagine how liberating the whole experience would be.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- US National Parks

The title of a recent documentary : National Parks, America's Best Idea hits it right on the mark. Since its formation, the National Park Service has managed to find the perfect balance between preserving the natural beauty of its nearly 400 natural treasures including 58 designated national parks and allowing the public to enjoy these unique places.

www.nps.gov - the ultimate place to plan your visit to one of the US National Parks

- Parks Canada

There are 39 National Parks and hundreds of Provincial Parks in Canada. While different in name, their workings are very similar. Its National Parks tend to be Canada's great attraction for international visitors; however, its Provincial Parks, as stunningly beautiful, are the country's best-kept secret.

www.pc.gc.ca - the ultimate place to plan your visit to one of the Canadian National Parks. On a side note : All national parks in Canada are bilingual – English & French.

Each province has its own provincial parks website with all visitors information e.g. www.ontarioparks.ca www.bcparks.ca www.albertaparks.ca

- Vancouver Island Ferry Service

Visiting Vancouver Island is easy with regularly scheduled ferry services between Vancouver and the Island's two largest cities : Victoria and Nanaimo. The scenery en route is beautiful.

www.bcferry.com - all the information to schedule your visit to Vancouver Island.

- RV rentals

Renting an RV is easiest through one of the larger organizations with its numerous pick-up and drop-off locations. If you book via your local travel agents, chances are you end up with a RV from one of these organizations.

www.cruiseamerica.com & www.eruisecanada.com (same company)

www.canadream.com

- www.airstream.com/dealer_locator - In case you are interested renting an Airstream a.k.a. Silver Bullet, find out from the nearest Airstream dealer whe-

rever you are going, if they also rent out Airstream trailers. It is not custom, but some do.

www.airstreams4rent.com - located in Arizona for those interested to explore the southern part of the US in style.

www.silvertrailer.com – for those who would like the Airstream experience, but not necessarily travel with one. Here you can rent Airstreams at certain locations.

- StarBelly Jam Music Festival

StarBelly Jam is an annual music event every 3rd weekend of July in Crawford Bay in the heart of the Kootenays in British Columbia, Canada. It is a child-friendly festival for the entire family, with great performances (including plenty of knee-high entertainment for the children), and great food in a magical environment.

www.starbellyjam.org

Date: 16–18 July 2010 (3rd weekend of July annually)

- Army tags

Being on the road all the time, constantly camping at different places, we had our children wear army tags with their personal information. Not only making them look cool, but giving us peace of mind while they were off exploring. Google Army Tag to order one online or try your local pet store.

- Audio Books

i-Pods and headsets were an important companion on the road. Download plenty of audio books on an i-Pod, so children can enjoy listening to stories without missing out on the beautiful scenery from the car.

Harriette de Swaan Arons

Surrealist family

For the past four years, Marion Peck, Mark Ryden and their two children Jasper and Rosie had been living in a beautiful stone LA home built in 1925 nicknamed The Rock House. The interior is a surrealist journey in the world of the two artists.

Mark Ryden and Marion Peck's home in Eagle Rock is something like a curious little village with its small yellow cottage and outbuildings which the artists use as workshops. Mark's den, just a few feet from Marion's workshop, is a bursting with strange and wonderful 'things'. You might encounter his four-armed monkey or catch a Barbie doll talking to a skeleton. Ryden has a passion for Renaissance curiosity cabinets filled with artefacts, scientific objects, stuffed animals, shells, fossils and works of art. He has created his own eclectic colourful world populated with dolls heads, children's books, vintage toys, religious statues and symbols set in an acid green background. As a child the "pop surrealist" artist developed a passion for all forms of art, finding inspiration in album covers or National

Photos DR



Geographic articles. Little Mark didn't like sport. He preferred comics, sciences and maths but spent most of his time drawing, painting and admiring Dali, Ingres, Magritte and Bosch.

Mark Ryden's paintings are full of imaginary creatures, characters and objects. Children with strange expressions, slabs of meat, robots and curious monsters meet with Leonardo di Caprio, Jesus, Abraham Lincoln and Jimi Hendrix. His latest pieces are set in snowy fairytale lands where furry white animals roam. For his next New York exhibition, the Californian artist has looked to the 19th century for inspiration to question kitsch and beauty. 'Incarnation', the first piece of the series unveiled during Art Basel, presents a young pale girl in a misty garden wearing a long dress made of pieces of meat.

Mark Ryden and Marion Peck met nearly eight years ago at a party held at the Frye Museum, Seattle. It was love at first sight. The two artists now share their lives, their passion for art and their many sources of inspiration. In 2004, Mark and Marion created a painting together entitled 'The Star' and recently produced a wacky children's fairytale 'Sweet Wishes' based on a short film with the same name. The book is the tale of Dolly, Baby and Bear who encounter a fairy that can make all their wishes come true. Inside their home sweet home, the two artists stimulate their creativity by surrounding themselves with inspiring objects. An eclectic mix of old photographs, engravings, children's portraits, animals and butterflies line the walls. As you wander through the house you catch echoes of their work among all the treasures they have collected over the years. Furniture, old toys, stuffed animals, pain-



tings and curiosities from the sea have been collected from various travels and peregrinations. They have explored many car boot sales and markets, especially the Rose Bowl Flea Market where the family likes to roam about on Sundays. Rosie and Jasper, Mark's children, have often modelled for his paintings. The little girl loves posing for her dad. She examines his sketches to make sure she gets the right pose. 'Rosie's Tea Party' is dedicated to her - a scene

P. 168