



ArcticTerns

Worldschooling Newsletter

In loving memory: Louise

This week the Worldschool world lost a great leader and I lost my dear friend, Louise Morris. I can not find the words for the loss of Louise and for her children Aloha and Malu.

In this newsletter:

- Some of Louise's last words to the Worldschool world.
- Gofund me for funeral costs.
- Call from the father of Aloha and Malu.

Some of Louise's last words to the Worldschool world.

Almost a month ago Louise send me her story for our newsletter. I eddited a little, to fit the format of the newsletter and was send out a few weeks ago.

I will post her original words with her included photos. Some of the last words she send out to the Worldschool world.

Home to the UK & Having a Home Base

After nearly 10 years of travel, running educational groups, hubs, and helping support a new school in Bali which started in my backyard, it's time for this to take a rest. So I find myself in unfamiliar territory after 3 years running a hub in Egypt. I'm happy to settle.

We went to Egypt in 2021 during the pandemic and slowly we realised the rich history and culture needed to be shared, so we tentatively put word out to invite families to the West Bank of Luxor, home to the largest outdoor collection of temples and tombs in Egypt. In the beginning it was really a volunteer project, nothing big, just a

gathering of families. I think anyone signing up back in 2021 knew it was a rustic affair with a twist and I guess they felt safe we had been on the ground for some time.

After 2 years we suddenly had whole seasons worth of families wanting to join, we acquired a farm location for our own use and every day was a day to organise a new exciting day trip or activity. After 2 years this mumma was burnt out, it was definitely exhilarating but hard organising such big groups whose expectations had changed. Worldschoollers had changed as a demographic.

I woke up one morning with incredible pain in my right side, which I had been trying to ignore, but now it was very apparent there was a problem and we rushed to hospital to get a scan which revealed a grapefruit sized tumor on my Liver.

Just like that my life changed in the blink of an eye. I was dying and I needed to get expert help. My uncle came from the UK to pick me up to take home, against the advice of the doctors who said I shouldn't fly.

Today I'm back home in the UK to receive Cancer treatment for stage 4 Colon Cancer. Big shock for us all and not the return we had planned. It's been a very hard transition spiritually, physically, financial and emotionally.

Surprisingly we are, despite my health news, really enjoying being back in the UK and for once I'm not running any education groups, so we've definitely loved the community of the local forest school, youth club, social meet ups and we've loved going to the library once a week. The children are blazing through the Anime collections.

Where is "home" when you travel full time? Home is wherever you lay your hat right?

It can be. Home is where you find peace and community, where you feel you have all you need to live an abundant life. That is what it means to us. Time spent just hanging out.

My son was 6 weeks young, when we first left the UK for the good life of France and today my children are 12 & 10 years old.

In 2015 when we decided to move to Bali from rural France, which seemed like such a wild idea to every person except us, Worldschoolling was still very much a "rich families" choice or more independent travel.

There were no FB groups really, no hubs, not many blogs and very few normal families like ours. We literally contacted a few people we found from blogs on the Internet, bought a one way ticket and sold our life for the tropical life of Bali....it was one of the best life choices i think i made.

Today Worldschoolling is accessible to any family, anywhere in the world even if you have a small budget. We've been at both ends of budgeting. Very cash rich due to my online work or counting the pennies when we had maybe some big money outlays like Insurance, wholefood costs, flights, internal travel etc.

What big lessons did I learn in all these adventures?

If I were to do it all again?

1/Don't overpack. Sounds simple right? But when you first start downsizing, you may pack more than you need. We originally went to Bali with 8 suitcases. We took the lego, craft kits, the mega untouched first aid kit and a bunch of other useless stuff. Really today all we need is laptop & devices for work, a few bits of clothes,

2/Find your tribe early on into your travels and don't be afraid to look for what suits you and your family.

3/Playdates are not the same as regular interaction with friends. We always traveled slowly for this reason. It was important for us all to have a base for at least 6 months. We could better find community that way.

4/Travelling is not a holiday. Yes it's exciting, but not always and I think it's important to remind yourself you are "living life" not just ticking boxes on a bucket list. There is still dirty laundry to be done, bank cards that get lost, visa applications...

5/Mental health. Do a check in on how you are all feeling. I was a single mum for a huge part of my travels with my children, so it was important to find other solo parenting communities so I could gain support and friendship. You can also do online therapy if needed or use local services or community for health support.

6/You never need as much as you think when packing. I packed a first aid kit like I was going to battle in the Amazon when I first started traveling and used the odd plaster and iodine.

7/Don't assume everyone in your circle is going to be happy for you! You may get some strange reactions for your choice to travel. We did! Family thought we were bat crazy.

8/Every year create a photobook of your photos for your children to look back on.

9/There are lots of different ways to educate your children. Find out what works for your family. I would give yourselves 1-2 months to do no schooling. Yes, just enjoy the ride of travel.

10/Find rentals through the local community once you land, unless you have a short stay. You can find much better deals and standards on the ground through other families, local cafes, playgroups....

We are ready to settle for a wee while back in the rolling hills of West Yorkshire. We are blessed with greenery, nature, geese who wake us up before sunrise, woods, valleys and lots of british rain. I'm resting, healing, in treatment, recovering from the hardest 6 months of my life, plus enjoying the UK, more like a tourist.

I try a 30 min walk every day to keep my strength up and gosh it's just so nurturing and we are all enjoying familiarity, friends, family and visiting local sites of interest when we can.

Life is good too when you have a homebase. That's how we traveled for 10 years, spending 6 months minimum in each new destination and using it as a base to explore and embed more in the local community.

Do you have a homebase? What is your travel style? What are your must have travel items to make you feel at home?

Thanks to Emmy for inviting me to waffle on. I first met Emmy and her children back in Mexico where we both lived in Playa Del Carmen and was a wealth of knowledge when we first arrived and now a great friend who has supported me in my Worldschoooling journey.















Gofund me for funeral costs.

Please note there has been a Gofundme set up, to cover the funeral expenses:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/donate-in-memory-of-our-friend-an...>

Call from the father of Aloha and Malu.

Louis, the father of the kids, has left a message online asking the friends of Louise to contact him, especially when you also know Aloha and Malu.

Louis S (<https://www.facebook.com/louis.s.56>)

Louis here, Aloha and Malu's Dad. I'd love to hear from Louise's friends who I don't have contact with, particularly if you know Aloha and Malu. Please do get in touch! If you send a message I will definitely reply, just give me a bit of time 😊

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