

# Pacific Northwest



FROM LEFT: Karim and big brother Rahim.

## ullah family meanderings

BY DR. MARNIE LAICO ELIZAGA

This year we explored weekend destinations in the Northwest. In March we went to a well-known beach in Washington State called Ocean Shores and parked on the beach along with all the other tourists. What we didn't realize was that in March the ocean is affected by offshore storms and can be unpredictably wild.

A wave came in and lapped at the wheels of our Ford Explorer. Another wave followed and the water quickly rose around the Explorer to 18 inches deep. One family had doors of their new Taurus sedan open and the water went straight into the car and flooded the car floor. Drivers rushed into their cars to move them to higher ground. Salman was reluctant to ruin his leather shoes in seawater, but I was imagining the Explorer being carried out to sea and he finally ran through the water and got into the car. The cars had to drive out into the water further to find the stable route onto the road.

The water finally ebbed and unaware tourists in little Toyotas continued to drive onto the sand and be surprised when the waves came in. We tried to warn them away, but they thought we were joking until the water came and you could see them panic as they struggled to get their cars to safety.

The kids enjoyed the vacation even though it was chilly, windy and gray, and we had to be prepared to scoop them up and run to higher ground whenever a wave came in. Their sand castles never lasted long, but they enjoyed collecting interesting shells and rocks and other treasures from the sand. Grandpa Dan and Grandma Nini brought Malia along and the kids loved running between our adjoining rooms.

IN SEPTEMBER WE WENT TO CANNON BEACH IN Oregon, a quaint little town of shops and galleries, with gorgeous views of the famous haystack rocks, and a long wide stretch of dry sandy beach. The boys could play in the sand all day. The water was cold but it never came in far. We made a side trip down the rural coast to the Tillamook Cheese Factory and to a naval air museum in a musty wooden hangar full of historic fighter planes. We've decided it's worth the extra time to drive to Cannon Beach, for a better, calmer beach and a prettier town.

VANCOUVER, B.C. HAS BEEN WORTH SEVERAL weekends, as it's only two to three hours away and a whole new city to explore. We like to stay on Robson Street where there are a lot of shops and restaurants and people walking around. We also went to Victoria with Grandma Nini and Papa Dan. It's hard for them to refuse an invitation to go on a trip, and we all have more fun when they come along.

SALMAN BUILT A TREE HOUSE THIS PAST spring, in an unproductive pear tree. In summer he built a sandbox, so Rahim and Karim keep busy. They put on their boots and turn on the hose and play in the wet sand. Then they come totally filthy to the back door and we have to throw everything into the washer and the boys into the tub with a hefty dose of Star Wars bubble bath.

At dinner time Rahim shouts to Karim, "Let's take off all the pillows!" and the sofa pillows get piled into a mountain on the floor and they hide underneath. Rahim is into action and adventure. He wears his rain boots to school every day so he can play Ghostbusters with his friends; evil slime can't get into boots.

Karim is turning two. He has been a very gentle and easy baby but now he has a bit of toddler stubbornness, especially when he wants to play in the sink or do his toddler computer game. At bedtime, Rahim falls asleep instantly, but Karim often needs to be put to bed by his yaya, Piling, who carries him into her room and lulls him to sleep with his favorite lullaby--her tape of love song oldies. "And I kissed you on a Monday, a Tuesday, a Wednesday, a Thursday's very good . . ."

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