



Bob's route map around the world.



Bob shows his souvenirs in Tasmania.



In formation flight with a Jordanian aerobatic team.



Bob in front of the Rock of Gibraltar.

155 Countries in a 182

Bob Gannon's 10-year journey around the world

DON'T BOTHER ASKING Bob Gannon, EAA 1027625, how his trip was—not unless you have a lot of time. In January, he completed a 10-year journey in which he circumnavigated the globe twice, landing in 1,225 places in 155 countries. He touched down in all 50 states and on every continent, including Antarctica.

He did it all in a stock 1968 Cessna 182 named *Lucky Lady Too* that doesn't even have an autopilot. "That airplane has flown to more places and more countries in the world than any other airplane in aviation history," Bob said.

A look at a map charting his journey shows he rarely flew straight; he took the scenic route. "My goal was to use the plane to see the world," Bob said. "I decided to do it in legs and create an adventure that lasted more than a year or two."

Those legs lasted from 18 to 76 days and took him over the North Pole and to every country in the Middle East, except Yemen. He delivered a \$10,000 check and toys to a children's hospital in Basra, Iraq; led a formation flight with a Jordanian aerobatic team; and is one of the few American GA pilots to ever land in Iran.

During the trip, Bob climbed to the base camp at Mount Everest and landed on a dry lakebed 45 feet below sea level in Australia.

In Timbuktu, Mali, he was refueled from a camel-drawn cart pulling a 55-gallon drum of auto fuel. In remote places where general aviation and mechanics are scarce, he had to get innovative. When his alternator failed in Laos, Bob rigged a truck battery and jumper cables so he could recharge *Lucky Lady Too's* battery in flight and continue into Vietnam during the two-hour window he was given to cross the border.

Over the 10 years, he left his plane in 40 different locations. He would fly home commercially, spend a month or two taking care of his business, and plan the next leg before heading out again. After 2,200 hours and 300,000 nautical miles flown, Bob is trying to figure out his next adventure. This much he knows—he'll be flying to AirVenture 2011, where he'll be giving a presentation about his journey.