My 2023 sabbatical offered me time and resources not only to visit collaborators and pursue ongoing research, but also to develop, deploy, and refine a range of outreach projects. The highlight for me was spending a 6-week term as the official Astronomer in Residence in Grand Canyon National Park. In this role, I led programs that encouraged park visitors to engage with the ideas of cycles and changes in the sky as well as preserving darkness as part of our environmental and cultural heritage. I also got to live and work on the South Rim, hike down to the Colorado River and back, and explore the beauty and richness of the canyon and surroundings in satisfying detail.

In this talk I'll take you on a trip through the Grand Canyon from an astronomer's perspective, touching on various aspects of my experience there both in research and outreach, and including lots of photos of astonishing scenery. I'll also tell you about my other sabbatical trips to Prescott, Tucson, San Diego, and Madison, and give you a glimpse of some of the exciting research collaborations that are arising from these visits. Along the way I'll reflect on the perspective-shifting value of escaping one's comfort zone, becoming a novice again by developing new skills, and learning new things from colleagues and non-experts alike.