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I'm willing to bet many of you are saying, "How in the world did this subject come up?" Well, I'll tell you. Recently, we received an e-mail from a member who, in my opinion, was trying to take over for Yogi Berra. The comment was, "You're not telling me anything that I can't find somewhere else." Guess he doesn't like the local paper either. His displeasure is with the Retirees' Corner stressing too much on the benefits, regulations, and health entitlements for military retirees. Well, let's be honest here. It is difficult for this Association to take care plumbing problems, either

# Elderhostel

*By Tom McAtee*

physically or in the home, so our subjects stay relatively close to those that effect military retirees. But this time I'll stray a little bit off the beaten path.

What is an Elderhostel? It's an elderly traveler who stays at inexpensive lodging or an inn. But the overall term means an educational experience for adults over 55 looking for something different and a unique way to spend their time. Consider it an adventure in learning, with much of it hands-on. Those who have experienced the Elderhostel way of travel and learning consider it mind-opening and challenging. Above all, they were glad they tried the program.

Elderhostels are all-inclusive programs at an extraordinary value. Elderhostel programs are sponsored by universities, not-for-profit organizations specializing in travel/educational programs, and even state tourism bureaus. Many programs are

in your own local area. Others can be half way around the world. The saying goes that "if you can imagine it, there is probably an Elderhostel program that does it." To start an informational search, just type the word "Elderhostel" into a search engine such as Google, and up will come a variety Web site to review.

When you let the world be your classroom, accommodations can vary but they are always comfortable even if they range from well-appointed hotels to safari tents. The same can be said for meals. And yes, almost all offer private bathrooms.

So, is your next vacation going to be spent lounging around the pool at a five-star hotel that puts a chocolate on your pillow, or are you going to learn how to make chocolate? Think of something you want to do and do it. And, if you do participate in an Elderhostel program, let us know about it. 📌