

# TRAVEL

## Weather delays thousands of holiday travelers<sup>1</sup>

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**(CNN) -- Thousands of Thanksgiving-weekend travelers heading through Nevada, Colorado and the Northeastern United States on Sunday were dealing with delays caused by snow, wind and rain.**

A snowstorm is slowing motorists heading through Nevada's mountains, and stranding thousands of airline passengers at Nevada's Reno-Tahoe International Airport. ([Full story](#))

Elsewhere, flights were being delayed both in and out of Boston, Massachusetts; New York and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

More than 37 million Americans, according to the American Automobile Association, are estimated to be traveling more than 50 miles from home this weekend, and many of them may not have an easy journey. ([Full story](#))

"It could be a tough go," said Travelocity Business air traffic expert Rally Caparas, "especially if you're heading into Boston, New York or Philly."

CNN Meteorologist Rob Marciano said as much as a foot of snow could fall Sunday in parts of the southern Colorado Rockies. "They've already received a foot in some spots," Marciano said. Expect travel delays in and out of Denver and Las Vegas, Nevada, Caparas said, because of heavy winds.

Also, travelers in Detroit, Michigan, can expect showers mixed with rain and snow, Marciano said.

For drivers, AAA suggests planning for a longer trip than usual, leaving additional distance to cars and trucks in front of you, and driving slower than the posted speed limit.

In addition, the nation's economy might be hurt by Sunday's weather, possibly dampening strong spending reports at the start of the weekend. ([Full story](#))

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<sup>1</sup> From the webpage <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/11/28/holiday.travel/index.html> on Nov/28/04

# Writing a Story based on a News Report

Márcio Aurélio Recchia

Miriam had just finished packing. There were two suitcases and some bags full of skiing equipment. Scott loved skiing. Actually, he loved anything related to snow. The cold weather fascinated him. He was born in Indiana and, as a good Northerner, used to spend the school vacation on the mountain with his parents and brothers. But what he liked most was the winter: all the children playing outside, making snowmen and throwing snow at each other. That time was unforgettable. Miriam had learned that through his telling her about his childhood memories. She had always noticed how shiny his eyes got when he talked about that time. He really missed the North and the cold winter.

They started planning that journey six months ago. Miriam was very anxious, as she had seen her in-laws just on the wedding day. Spending Thanksgiving with Scott's parents, brothers and sisters-in-law would be a unique experience. Americans have different customs and she did not know how to behave in front of them, especially at Thanksgiving, a holiday not celebrated in Brazil. In addition, she did not know for sure how his family would treat her. She had always learned that Americans were full of prejudice towards foreigners. She was insecure, maybe because of the tone of her skin, which was neither dark nor white; maybe because of her dark eyes and dark hair. She knew she was very beautiful and pretty and she had always had a good self-esteem; besides, Scott fell in love with her when he first saw her tropical beauty. However, it would be the first time she would be face to face with her husband's family as Mrs. Smith. Anyway, regardless of what they would think, Scott would be there by her side and his presence would be enough.

They loved each other very much. They met in Germany for the first time three years ago, and it was love at first sight. Miriam used to clean an old German bachelor's apartment, as he had gone mad after he returned from war. Scott, who was on business in that country, used to work as a car engineer at an automobile company, and lived alone in a small flat. Once he mentioned to a coworker he

needed a maid to clean his flat and cook sometimes, as he had been working overtime. His fellow, Paul, gave him a telephone number. It was Janaína's, one of Miriam's Brazilian friends, who was also a housekeeper. As her schedule was full, Janaína gave him Miriam's phone number, since Miriam had some free time; besides, she was not getting along with her crazy old German boss. They set an appointment and the next week she was cleaning his place. Soon they were hanging out. That was four years ago and it was so fresh in her mind, since she loved to remember that. Scott also liked to tell this story to everyone. He loved her very much.

"Miriam, have you packed everything?" he asked from downstairs. "Yes, I'm coming down! Hold on!", she woke up from her reverie. Scott was impatient. He hated to wait. Delays were not for him – his motto was, "the sooner, the better". He took some days off at work as he wanted to spend a week with his family in Indiana. He missed his parents, his brothers but especially his niece - the only child in the family. Her name was Emily and she was eighteen months old. But, besides his folks, he was very anxious to feel the cold weather. It had already started snowing, as he had seen on TV. Miriam had never seen the snow. She had never touched it! She lived in Germany for six months, but during spring and summer.

They had always lived in Florida since they got married. She liked that place; it had something that reminded her of Brazil – maybe the latino environment, maybe the weather or the beaches. There were a lot of Cubans and Brazilians, which made her feel at home in that faraway land. She had made many friends there, but her best friend – believe it or not – was from the Philippines. All the other Brazilians were not very good people and just thought about money, money, money! She wanted some sincere friendship and she found it in Rosa, her Philippine friend. Rosa was also married to an American, William, and they had many things in common. "Miriam, I've put everything on the truck. Are you ready?" Yes, she was ready; she was in the bathroom, in front of the mirror. She had been daydreaming again. There was some acne on her forehead that annoyed her. But she could not delay. They locked their house and went to Rosa's house, which was next door. Rosa would take care of Star while they were out. They gave the last recommendations to William and Rosa, gave them their house key and reminded their neighbors to walk Star every morning, as she was a very active dog. Then, they departed.

There they were, on the road to Indiana. Scott loved maps. He had already planned all the places they would stop at, where they would eat and sleep over and the spots he wanted Miriam to see. He was very proud as Miriam was going to visit his house – the house he had grown up in. She would see the mountains and the lakes where he used to play and would eat the food his mom used to cook. He was very excited. Miriam was happy because her husband was excited and happy. To her, that was what mattered. That moment was magic. She remembered when they were in Germany and they had to get apart as her visa had expired. She had to return to Brazil, and as soon as his contract ceased he bought a ticket to São Paulo. He spoke no Portuguese at that time, but he knew Miriam would be there at the airport to meet him. He would finally meet Miriam's family and would ask her to marry him. Her eyes were red as she remembered that, so she wiped her upcoming tears. That was a moment of bliss and there was no reason to cry, not even for happiness. She knew how bad it was to be far from him, so she wanted that moment to last forever. "Miriam, I'm tired, can you drive now?" They had already crossed all the state of Florida and had been in Alabama for two hours.

The scenario was getting different as they were driving north. They stopped at a motel to sleep and woke up very early the next morning. Scott was very anxious to arrive at their destination. They crossed Alabama and entered Tennessee. It was a very small state and they could reach Kentucky in the evening. Miriam was delighted to discover how beautiful Scott's country was. She missed her country. She wanted to visit Brazil the next year and had to talk to Scott about her plans. He was a very practical man and liked to know everything in advance. There would be no snow for him, but he would certainly love the beaches. Actually, she missed her mom, sister and nieces so much. It was decided: they would spend next year's Christmas in Brazil. As they had saved for that journey, they could as well save for next year's trip. Her Green Card would be ready and there would be no problems for her to leave and enter that country again. Scott would love it! He had been there only once and it was a very short stay.

The night came and they slept at another motel. Scott was very proud to show his country to his beloved wife. She was fantastic, beautiful and an excellent wife. He was sure his family would love her. They had always asked about her and were dying to meet her. He was the only member of the family to marry an "exotic" girl. But it was no problem, as all of them were very "liberal". The journey continued and they started feeling the weather change. That morning, they were obliged to

wear warmer coats as they were approaching Indiana. But his family lived further north in the state, near Michigan. It was near the Great Lakes. Just remembering the Lakes made Scott more excited. Their journey continued, both of them shifted driving during the day and soon they crossed the border between Kentucky and Indiana. There was still a whole afternoon to drive and it started raining heavily. “Scott, can you drive now, please? I’m afraid to drive now” There was a storm and, as the temperature started decreasing, soon the rain became snow. Miriam was amazed, since she had never seen it before. They stopped awhile; she could touch it and even taste it. The taste was no good but she was happy. She learned that while it was snowing the temperature was not that cold, but as soon as it stopped the temperature would drop sharply. And before it stopped snowing, they came back to the truck.

Only three hours separated them from their destination. However, although it was two p.m., it looked like ten p.m. The storm had gotten worse and they were obliged to stop their truck in the middle of the road, as all cars had also stopped suddenly. It was a terrible traffic jam. All the vehicles had their headlights on and it was impossible to move. Many families had also planned to visit their relatives in the north for Thanksgiving and all of them got stuck on the road. The problem was that it was getting late. Scott felt it was worse than he thought. Police came and said to the travelers they had to wait, as a bridge had fallen fifty miles ahead. Miriam could not understand very well what was going on, but she felt it was no good. Scott got very disappointed and, as they could not move their truck, they had no other option but to wait in it.

Local people brought the travelers coffee, hot chocolate, tea, milk and some bread and cookies. They were very glad. Scott was upset because they would not reach his parent’s house on the planned day. It was Wednesday, and Thanksgiving was on the corner. But as he looked to his right and saw his beautiful Miriam, he learned that the best was to relax and be patient. Nothing would work – it was useless, a lesson in patience. They had no choice but to sleep in the truck. Thursday came and nothing had evolved. At least it had stopped snowing. Some subtle sunlight crossed the sky and illuminated all the white surroundings. Green from pine trees had started to appear as some ice started to melt down from the trees. This is how they woke up. At least they had each other – this made them feel sublime. That night had not been so comfortable but they woke up very happy. Later, children from the other vehicles started playing with the snow and soon Scott

and Miriam joined them. Scott remembered his early years in that region and Miriam felt as she was a kid again. As they were hungry, they ate some sandwiches offered by some residents. Both of them were so amazed that they did not see it was past eleven a.m. and they would not spend Thanksgiving lunch with his family. Even if they had noticed it, it would have made no difference: that was the best family reunion both of them had had in their whole lives.