

## Trip 2 – Episode #8: Going For the Joke

As many of you may have intuited by now, Jim and I don't spend a lot of time poring over the road atlas and mapping out our route for the upcoming week.

Or days.

Or day.

We tend, most of the time, to look at where we are and see what looks interesting in the vicinity.

When we meet people on our travels, we ask them where we should go, and if it sounds fun and interesting, we do it. That's almost always paid off for us.



The rest of the time, we just react to what seems worth investigating.



So ... when we were heading to the gulf coast of Louisiana and we looked at a map of the general area, we discovered there was a place called Lake Charles.

Well, of course we had to go to Charles' namesake lake, didn't we? Even though it was a bit of a detour. As my father used to say, we had to go for the joke.

We didn't really know what to expect there. So our first stop was the visitor centre, which was a really nice one ... except for the reminder of alligators.



Despite the gator threat, the town of Lake Charles proved to be quite tame and picturesque.





Lots of big old houses,  
impressive buildings, those  
beautiful live oak trees, and a  
small but vibrant downtown,  
probably partly due to the  
university there.







We found a fun little restaurant for lunch downtown called Luna, with a patio and great food. Our waiter told us about how badly the town had been hit by hurricanes in 2020 – Laura in August and then Delta just six weeks later. He said they were walking around in waist-deep water, and they're still trying to come back from the devastation.



It was evident particularly in this glass tower, with so many windows still boarded up.



We found a place to stay overnight (not great, but by the time we got there, all we wanted to do was sleep anyway). And the next day, we succeeded in accomplishing our main goal.

During our travels, I had discovered a rosé called Charles & Charles. Of course, I had to try it, and I found it more than acceptable.

So, it seemed like a good opportunity to go for the joke, and get a shot of me with Charles and Charles & Charles on Lake Charles.



I think Dad would've approved.