

Trip 2 – Episode #30 – La La Land – Part 2: On the Beach & On the Town

Having a 180-degree view of the Pacific was great, but we wanted to actually be on the beach as much as we could during our time in Malibu. As a result, I took lots and lots (and lots) of beach photos.

While we can enjoy looking at a beach all day long, I suspect that after a while, one photo of a beach looks much like another.

So, I'll try to restrain my instinct to post everything.

This is Point Mugu State Beach, where we spent one day.







I know the quality of this photo is a result of the limited zoom that my phone has, but I loved the way it looked more like a graphic than a photo.



Again, as the sun started to get lower in the west, the light on the shore was stunning.





Of course we stayed till sunset.



Later in the week, we went to Point Dume ... more than once.





It's
hard
not to
imagine
what it
would
be like
to live
in one
of these
houses.



I love the crash of the waves on the rocks. To me they're like fireworks. But natural.
And they don't pollute. Or scare dogs.



I'm
constantly
trying to
catch the
wave – the
luminous
colour as
the curl
begins, and
the thrill as
the foam
sprays.

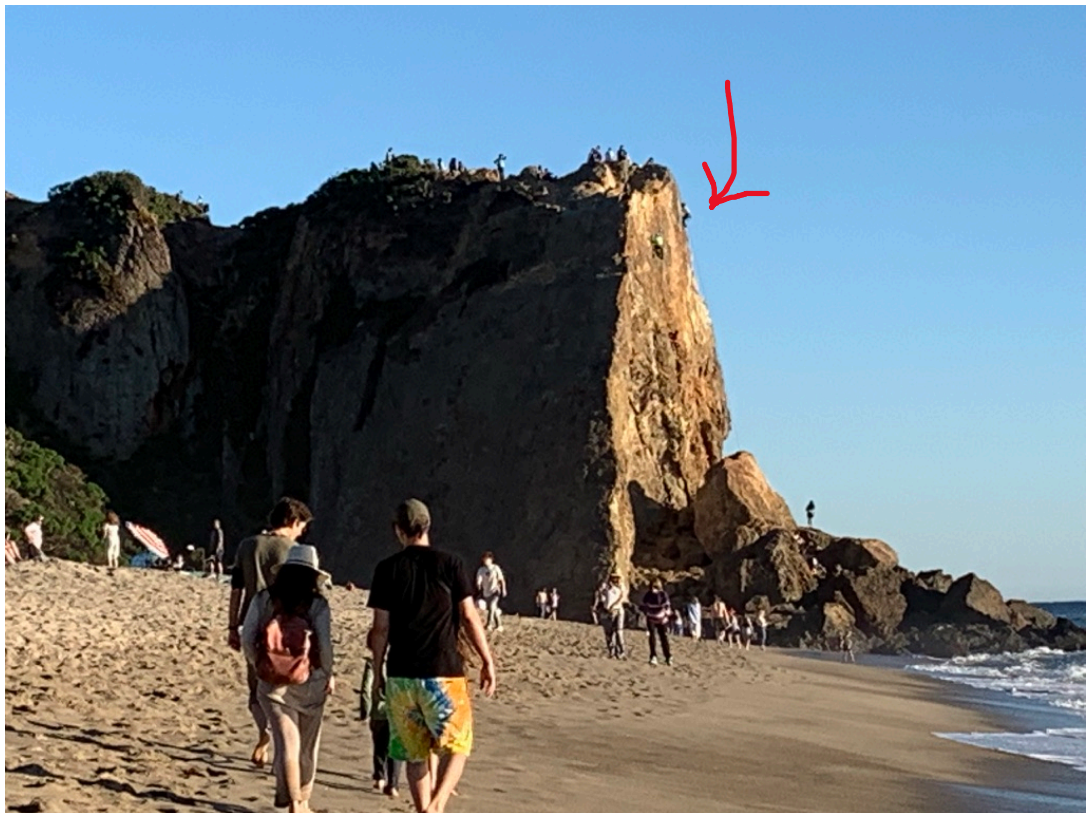




This guy has a different definition of catching the wave.



And these guys have a whole different idea of how to spend a day at the beach.



Proof that
we
weren't
just
walking
on the
beach, we
were also
working
on the
beach.



But, a day at the office isn't bad at all when this is your office.



While in Malibu, we also managed to catch up with some friends.

Two years ago, on our way to New Zealand, we blew through Los Angeles and met up with Jim's friend Stephen Witkin, who took us on a great tour of Hollywood Hills.



Two years later, almost to the day, we met up with Stephen again. And he took us on another terrific tour.

We started in Hollywood where Stephen lives. One of the first sights was not a pretty one. Stephen told us that almost every underpass has these homeless encampments, and that it's become much worse, of course, since the pandemic.



Soon we were looking at more enjoyable sights. Like the infamous Hollywood High.



And the iconic Crossroads of the World, which was built back in the 30s and has been called America's first outdoor mall. It later became the offices for the Screen Actors Guild and such producers as Alfred Hitchcock.



Pink's has been selling hot dogs for 82 years and recently made news by donating proceeds from sales of the "Naked Dog" to the LA Zoo after Betty White (a fan) died.



Then Stephen took us to downtown LA. I remember when I lived there in my youth, there was no such thing as downtown. It was a ghost town. Now it's very very different. So much new and interesting architecture.

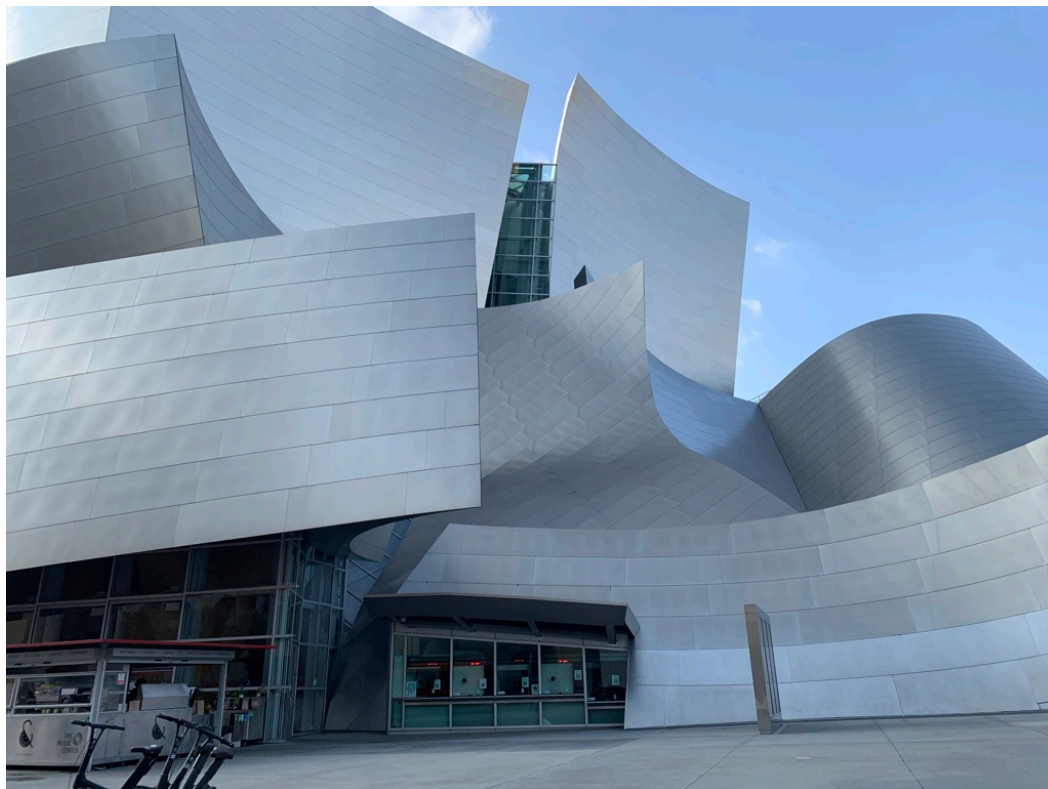
This is the new home of the LA County Museum of Art.



This is the new Automotive Museum.



The Walt Disney Concert Hall, an unmistakable Frank Gehry.



The Broad Contemporary Art Museum...



And it was heartening to see that many of the classic buildings from bygone days had been or were being restored.







He took us to Hancock Park, where the humble classes live...



And Windsor Square, which, because of its elegant palm trees, has often shown up in Hollywood TV series and movies.



And how many times have we seen these arches?



And finally he took us back to his home in the Hollywood Hills, where we finally got to meet the charming Eddie.



All to say that if you're going to LA and you know Stephen and he offers to take you on a tour, say YES PLEASE!

Another highlight of the week was getting together for a long lunch with my old friends David and Mary Corbett. David was the first person to entrust in me the job of being Executive Story Editor of his wonderful series **The Hippo Tub Company**, over 20 years ago. That we're still friends suggests it worked out okay.



Overall, we had a terrific time in Malibu and LA, and as much as we hated to leave our happy place, site V17 at Malibu Beach RV Park, with its magnificent views and its stellar beaches, it was time to move on.



Next stop ... Palm Springs and Other Desert Cities!

