

Trip 2 – Episode #38 – San Francisco Here We Are!

Our short, overnight stop in Monterey did not allow us to fully appreciate the incredible shoreline. But don't worry, we rectified that on the way back south. (blog to come ... sometime in the future.)

But there were still lots of views ahead as we continued north to San Francisco, where we hoped to stay for a few days.



I say “hoped” because all the campgrounds in and around San Francisco seemed to be full. Except for one. And it was the kind that offered “First Come First Served”. The good news was that they had a website that let you know how many spots were available that day.

The better news was that as of the time we hit the road, they had three spots available. But we had about a two-hour drive ahead of us. I kept checking the site and it hadn’t changed. But they also hadn’t updated it for a while. So there was only one thing to do: Pray to the Parking Gods. (As some of you may know, I seem to have a special relationship with the Parking Gods.)

When we got to Pillar Point RV, there was one trailer checking in ahead of us. And we found out that they were taking the *second* last spot. Whew! Thank you, Parking Gods!

Pillar Point was a crowded little park right on Half Moon Bay, with a flower-lined path that led to a bunch of restaurants and a very busy marina, where you could buy fresh crabs right off the boats. (Not having packed a crab pot in Charles, we could not sample them, although we did fill up on Dungeness crabs in local restaurants.)





It turned out to be a great spot, just a bit south of San Francisco.



To be honest, though, I was a little worried about driving Charles on those famously hilly San Francisco streets.

But, fortunately for us, our friend Esther Pifko once again came go our rescue. It happens that her son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Carolyn not only live in San Francisco, they happen to LOVE showing people around their beautiful city.

Better yet, Esther happened to be visiting her kids while we were there, so we spent a delightful day being chauffeured around with excellent tour guides and wonderful conversation.

The Pifko Limo Service picked us up at Half Moon Bay and then took us to all the best spots, starting with one of the highest, Twin Peaks.



Of course, getting our photo taken there was part of the service.

From there we went downtown, and drove through a variety of neighbourhoods, all with their own unique charms.

Castro, the area where Harvey Milk lived, which is still the hub of LGBTQ life.





This place is apparently famous for selling all kinds of penis-shaped edibles. I'll take their word for it.





We drove through other neighbourhoods, like the Tenderloin...





Nob Hill...





And the infamous Haight Ashbury, now the home of another iconic name.





In the Mission District, they showed us the incredible Women’s Building, which is a women-led non-profit arts and education community center, advocating for self-determination, gender equality and social justice. The building, covered in murals is stunning.







They drove by Russian Hill, which made me glad we weren't driving in Charles...



And Lombard St., also known as the Crooked Street, which we *couldn't* have driven down in Charles.





They drove us to the Seven Painted Ladies, the famous representatives of the elegant, beautifully detailed and brightly painted Victorian homes that that we saw all over this great city.





One of the best stops was Balmy Alley, which is filled with bright, colourful murals.







The styles were all so different. Some had serious messages, and some were just fun.





And all, very colourful.



It was also filled with colourful characters.

And as if all this wasn't enough, the Pifko tour finished off with a stop at their lovely home, complete with a fine sunset...



And a great dinner provided by the hosts. There aren't enough stars on Trip Advisor to properly rate this service!



We knew we'd have to pay for this excellent day in some way.

The next day we went to jail.

