

## Trip 2 – Episode #36 – Love Letter to Morro Bay

After our artful tour of Lompoc, we headed back to the coast, eager to drive up the Historic Pacific Coast Highway, and stay in as many places on the beach as possible.

Well, our first stop was such a winner it was hard to beat it after that.

We passed some nice little spots on our way to the coast. Like Guadalupe, The Small Town with the Big ❤️.



Which was also where they were offering up the latest production at the Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville.

And as  
tempting as  
that  
sounded...



... we were headed to a place called Morro Bay. We didn't know much about it, but it seemed the campground was right by the ocean, and we liked that idea.

If you just look at the little harbour and marina, Morro Bay looks like any pretty little coastal town. Cue the seagulls.



But if you look just offshore, there's this. Morro Rock.

Morro Rock is an ancient volcanic mound. Well actually, it's a volcanic plug. Which doesn't sound quite so romantic. Apparently 20-some-odd million years ago, there was a volcano, and after it finished shooting its mouth off, the lava in the "vent" hardened into what they call the plug.



Eventually, the original volcano eroded away and all that's left is the plug.

But, what a plug!



We got to our RV park and were delighted to find out it was right next to the beach where the Morro Rock is.



We could see Morro rock from our window.



And although the park wasn't actually on the beach, we could just walk through a little gate and be on the beach. Which we were for sunset the first evening.



Gorgeous!

The next morning, I went for a walk to get a closer look at the rock and the beach.

The beach is huge and wide open and lovely. You'd never know, looking this way, that there's this huge mound when you look the other way.



It just got more magnificent the closer I got to it.







It's difficult to tear your eyes away from this awesome rock, but when you do, you also appreciate the tremendous view of the beach and the nearby town on the hill.



Originally, the rock was surrounded by water. But then they built a breakwater to protect the harbour and a road linking the rock to the mainland. It's a popular spot for people to park, enjoy the beach, surf and just sit and contemplate the world's beauty.

Although it does come with some dangers.



That first morning, I walked around to the other side to see what was there.

More  
awesomeness.



In the bay, there were seals and otters. This isn't a great shot, but I just love the way the sea otters float on their backs, often cradling their babies.

In the video below,  
the active ones are  
seals, fishing and  
cavorting, while  
the otters just lie  
back and gaze at  
the skies above.



But looking the other way toward the sea, there's the breakwater. Which was magnificent in a variety of ways.

Despite the signs telling people not to walk there, it was clear nobody paid attention to them.



Though it was very rocky, there were well-worn paths through the rocks, allowing you to get closer to the breakwater. While I was there, I saw a few people just sitting or standing and looking, as though it were part of a meditation ritual. It was mesmerizing to watch as each wave came in and crashed against the breakwater.





Another attached video catches one of the shows, which to me looked like synchronized fireworks.



Other people engaged in a different kind of exercise.



And others contributed to the hundreds of inukshuks scattered across the breakwater.





It struck me that there's  
something in us that wants to  
leave evidence of our existence.

I proved that I was there by  
including myself in this photo.



But then I decided, what the heck. And I created my own inukshuk to leave as a marker of my existence.



Twenty minutes later when I retraced my steps, I couldn't find it.

We stayed in Morro Dunes for three days, and parked by the beach to write. It was terrific, and productive. Every time we looked away from our screens, there was something beautiful or surprising or exciting to see.





We loved Morro Bay so much, that a couple of weeks later, when we were driving back down the coast, we decided to stop again for another three nights.

Our return was heralded by the most gorgeous sunset.







We parked in two different spots over the next two days and wrote with different views. We watched surfers and other forms of wildlife. We enjoyed the restaurants in town, which we could walk to along a trail from the RV park.







But finally it was time to move on and say goodbye to Morro Bay. We'll return if we ever can. But in the meantime, we'll have lots of great memories.



