

Trip 2 – Episode #52: Some New, Some Deja Vu

On our way west, our plan was to take the less-travelled roads and find interesting, out-of-the-way places. And that plan was hugely successful. We zig-zagged our way west and found amazing towns and natural wonders.

On our way back east, we had more of an urgency. We needed to be back in Canada before our health insurance expired. And we had people to visit and places we really wanted to see along the way.

We also recognized that we were wearing out. Exploring takes a lot of energy, and by the time we started driving east, we'd already been on the road for almost four months!

So, we decided to take a few more direct routes, more major highways, and although we were still interested in exploring new places, we also liked the idea of revisiting some of our favourite stops, rather than having to search out new campgrounds.

One of our favourite stops in Texas was Sunset Point on Lake LBJ. It really is a beautiful campground.







While enjoying the peaceful setting, I discovered one neighbour who had an odd collection on display. We had the feeling we didn't have a lot in common.



But we were happy to discover that, once again, Sunset Point lived up to its name. It was nice to relax for a couple of days in a lovely, peaceful setting.





During our travels through Texas, a number of people had suggested we check out Fredericksburg, which, we were told had a strong German influence.

That was apparent from the moment we arrived.





The town was founded in 1846 by Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach, who you'll be surprised to hear was German. Apparently, many Germans emigrated to Texas at that time, fleeing the social, political, and economic conditions that were causing unrest in their homeland.

The German influence was evident throughout the town, and so was the sense of fun, in the architecture, the shops and restaurants, and their signs, all of which definitely made us feel willkommen.













We found a lovely patio with perfectly acceptable food and drink.



There's also an impressive looking museum (which is all we can say because we didn't go in), the National Museum of the Pacific War, with the Admiral Nimitz Gallery.



It's named after Chester W. Nimitz, who was born in Fredericksburg in 1885, and grew up in this steamship-shaped building, which was a hotel owned and operated by his grandfather.

He went on to join the navy, and at the height of the Pacific War, Fleet Admiral Nimitz commanded more than two million men and women, 5,000 ships and 20,000 planes.



One of the most interesting stops, though, was this park in the middle of town. This playful piece of art told the history of the town.



But much more impressive was this piece nearby, depicting the signing of a treaty and sharing of peace pipe between the founder of Fredericksburg and the chief of the Comanche nation. The plaque beside it states that it's the only known peace treaty with North American Indians in the United States that has never been broken.



That evening, near a town called Edna, Texas, we found the beautiful Brackenridge campground.



We were immediately charmed when we were greeted by a herd of deer, who wandered about for most of the evening.



We were able to park right by the lake, which is always our first choice.



And while strolling around the grounds, I caught some lovely shots, before and during the sunset.









Great park!

Our next stop was another return visit. We'd really enjoyed Galveston the first time around, so we went back to the same campground, right near the same beach and stayed a couple of nights.





We even went to the same restaurant (Katie's) on the same deck by the same fishing boats.





The last time we parked near this amusement park, we could barely see it for the rain. It was much clearer the second time around – but the park was closed!



Our last stop on this leg of the journey was another return visit, this time to the KOC campground in New Iberia, Louisiana. But the last time we were there, we didn't notice the lovely lake on the grounds. So, we were glad we returned.



Although both of us had been to our next stop before, we'd never been there together, so that would be new. Hold onto your hats.

