

Trip 4 – Episode #4: Welcome to Colorful Colorado, Part 1

We left Warm Springs Ranch in Missouri, and soon after, we left Missouri.



Oddly, the Kansas City limit is also the limit of the state of Missouri. And the state you enter next is Kansas, where the next major city is Kansas City. Just a little confusing.

Nobody had recommended any places we MUST visit in Kansas. But of course, we kept our eyes open for any interesting-looking possibilities.

Somehow, the boyhood home of Eisenhower in Abilene didn't have the same pull as Lincoln's Springfield home.



Nor did Russell, the hometown of Bob Dole and Arlen Specter.



And looking ahead ... we couldn't see much reason to stay.



So, although the Oz Museum might have been interesting, we kept driving.



And soon we weren't in Kansas anymore.



The main reason we left Canada as early as we did was to get to Colorado and ideally Utah, and visit some of their amazing National Parks before winter came and it was too cold and snowy. We arrived in Colorado on November 5th, and the temperature was quite mild. Forecasts predicted 21C, and we were hopeful.

And although the road ahead didn't look much different from Kansas, we knew there were mountains in our future.



And eventually, there they were.



We settled in a campground on the outskirts of Denver.



That evening we saw the most spectacular sunset – without ever seeing the sun actually set. Honestly, when we stepped outside of Charles, it wasn't just the sky that was full of colour. It was like the *air* was orange and pink and golden. Both of us had the same reaction.







One of the things we had hoped to do in Denver was meet up with the son of a good friend of ours. We had only met Chandler Burton briefly, but we knew he lived in Denver, and we also knew his father, Rob, would get such a kick out of knowing we'd sought him out. So, we found Chandler online, and fortunately he was available to meet with us for brunch. We took this photo (Chandler's friend Jeff was in town and he joined us), and we sent the photo to Rob. As expected, he loved the surprise.



Chandler and Jeff had all kinds of great advice about places to go in Colorado, and so after brunch, we said goodbye, and spent the rest of the day checking out some of the towns surrounding Denver.

First, we drove under threatening skies, to Boulder.



Boulder is a university town with some interesting sights, and impressive homes.









Along with the unusual architecture of this one, we liked the sign in the window, surrounded by some monsters: Vaccines aren't scary. We are scary.





While most of the fall colours had vanished during our last few days of travel, it was definitely fall in Boulder.



From Boulder, we drove through more mountains toward Golden. Although it was still fairly mild, there was some snow around. In fact, Chandler and Jeff had been up skiing at higher elevations the day before.



Golden is a much smaller town than Boulder, but it has a lot going on, starting with being “Where the West Lives”.



Buffalo Bill welcomes you to town.



And sculptures of other western characters populate the sidewalks.





It's also a big brewing town, with a number of micro-breweries.



This is mostly because Golden is the home of Coors. It's apparently the largest single-site brewery in the world, and you can take tours. We didn't.



There's also a little historic area by the creek, called Golden History Park, with some original cabins, barns and other structures from the 1800s.





Tourist information about the ranch says "Peek through the windows of real 1800s cabins...."

So, Jim dutifully did.



It was a pleasant afternoon. And we would like to have spent more time in the Denver area. But we were eager to see more of Colorado before the temperatures plummeted.

Unfortunately, we didn't get a repeat of the previous evening's sunset.

But that was okay. We had lots of beauty ahead of us the next day.

To be continued...

