

Trip 4 – Episode # 8: California Here We Come – Again.



When you first enter California in this area, it doesn't look much different from Arizona or New Mexico.



But then things start to change. There are more palm trees.



We were heading for the coast, but had to stop along the way and decided to return to Desert Edge, which is just outside Palm Springs. There are a number of campgrounds in that area and they all promote the fact that they have hot springs, so we decided to try a different one than we went to last time. As you can see by this shot of our neighbours' site, it was a little more upscale than where we'd been the night before.



It was a nice place, but a little Pleasantville-ish for our tastes. However, there were some lovely skies, and the hot springs were nice.





We stayed a couple of nights but realized where we really wanted to be was on the coast, so we continued west. And were happy to return to one of our favourite campgrounds.



Along with offering spectacular views from our campsite ...



... it was also right across from Dan Blocker Beach, so we were able to park there and walk the beach a bit until the sun set.





The next day, we went to another favourite spot in the area, Point Dume Beach State Park, which has incredible surf. Let's just say I'm glad we no longer have to concern ourselves with how many photos we're taking.





I know this shot isn't anywhere near crisp, but I loved the row of people sitting, watching the show, and the waves crashing high above them, even though they're sitting way above the beach.





The next day was Thanksgiving (in the US) and our friends Stephen and Eddie didn't have plans. So, we spent the day together, which was great fun. We started it with a beach walk.



Then we drove up the coast for a bit, enjoying the views, lots of good conversation, and a special Stephen Witkin tour of a neighbourhood where the 1% live.





Then we went back to our campsite and had a barbecue for our Thanksgiving dinner. And even though we were quite sure none of the 1% were eating burgers and dogs, we all felt very thankful.



The next day, we headed up the coast. This was our third time driving the Pacific Coast Highway in less than a year. It never gets tired.



Even when you're not overlooking the ocean, the sites are stunning.



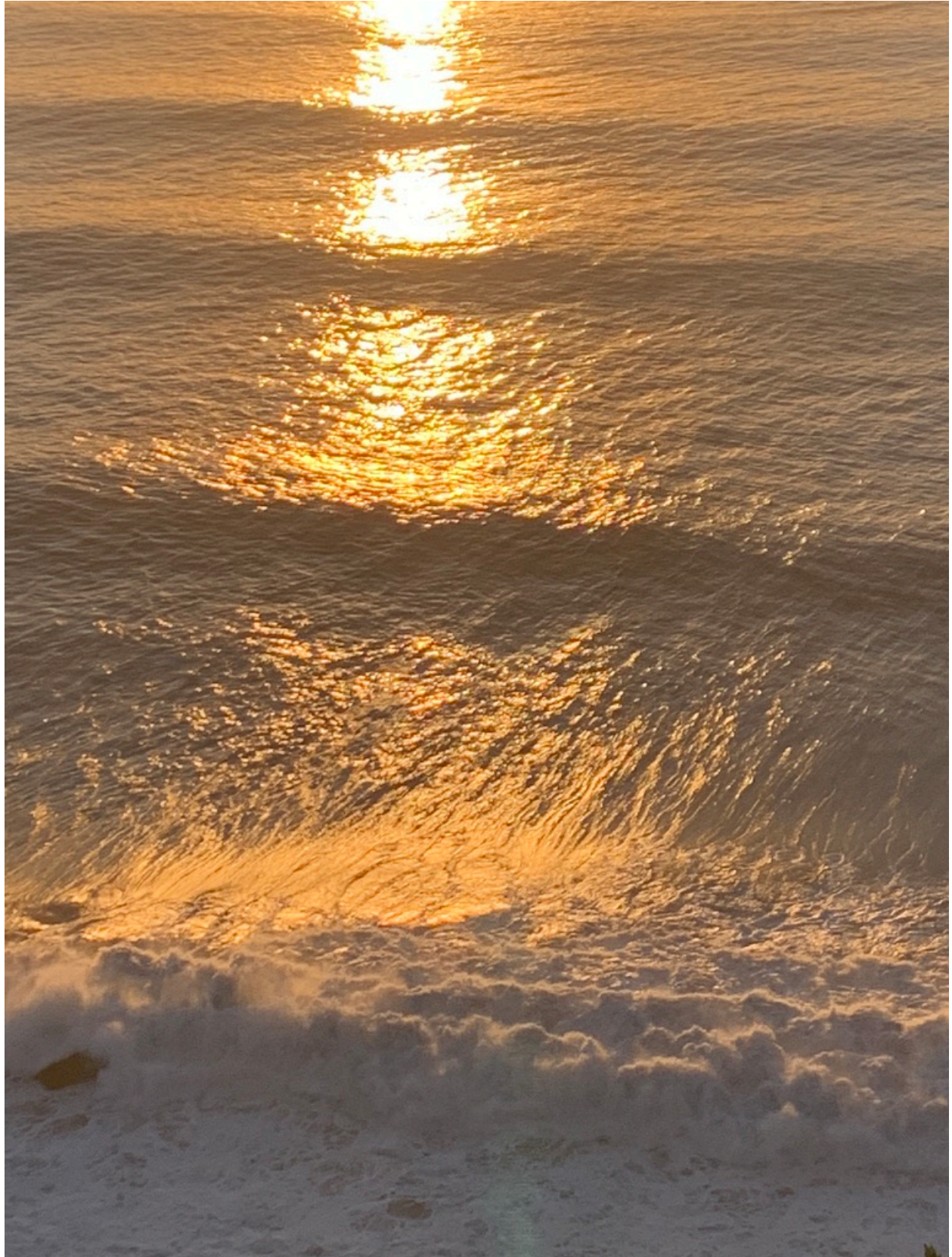


We hoped to find a spot where we could boondock along the coast. Our iOverlander app told us there was only one spot – near Ragged Point. And, the app was right. Fortunately, we got there before others did, and had a great spot overlooking the ocean.









The sunset kept getting more and more beautiful.



And in the morning, it was just as gorgeous. We were so happy to find this special spot.



We continued north, with more spectacular sites. In past trips I don't remember the golden pampas grasses adding so much beauty to the roadside. We must have just caught them at the right time.







We stopped overnight in one of our favourite towns in the Sonoma area, Petaluma. The reason for the chickens is that the area used to produce lots and lots of chickens and at one time was known as the "Egg Capital of the World."



It's got a lovely downtown with interesting shops (one of the best bookstores we've been in), a welcoming parkette, and lots of good restaurants. We went back to the Peruvian one we went to last time. Yum!





Then we continued north. It was interesting seeing the vineyards in the autumn. The colours were totally different.





Up to this point, we'd been covering and revisiting territory we explored last year.

From this point on, it was all new. Which seems like a good time to end one blog and start another.

See you around
the next bend.

