



1914 JC Penney



Oregon Trail pioneers and later as a steamboat destination and terminal as industry and farming grew.

The town is also famous for its murals on a number of the buildings which depict life in the area and, once again, its key role in the various westward migrations.



Some of The Dalles famous murals

Finally, we drove back to Hood River but took a ten mile diversion on Historic Route 30, the Columbia Gorge Scenic Highway. We have been on the western portion of this road (past many waterfalls and culminating at Vista Point, near Portland) but had never taken this shorter, eastern section. Other than the fact that there are no dramatic falls in this area, we found the road itself and the view from Rowena Point (at almost 900 feet above the river) to be equally attractive. It was a great way to end our day and our latest visit to the Columbia River Gorge.



Tonight we went into Hood River to dine at Kin. This is a restaurant in the same location as Nora's Table where we have eaten several times in the past and we were hopeful that it was just as good. It turned out that the food was good, although the service was a little different. Apparently the restaurant has just two employees (husband and wife) who do everything, so appetizers and main courses came out when ready as opposed to being presented to both of us simultaneously. It worked out quite well and there wasn't much of a gap in timing – and with a nice bottle of wine, it was a good evening.

Thursday September 29

We had breakfast on the hotel deck again, although it felt just a little cooler this morning. Around 9am we checked out and started our drive to Medford, essentially covering the length of the state of Oregon just east of the Cascades.



We had good views of Mt Hood as we climbed south from Hood River and then, as we descended some towards Bend, we had spectacular vistas across a huge plain with mountains to the west and southwest, most of which were snow-capped. In Bend we stopped for coffee and then continued south towards Crater Lake (we didn't visit the Park this time) before heading west down a long, heavily forested slope towards Medford.



The weather was beautiful once again and the temperature reached the mid-eighties under clear skies so, although it was a long drive (about seven hours), we were treated to some magnificent scenery. We arrived in Medford around 4pm and soon picked out a nearby Italian restaurant (Vinny's) for dinner.

This had a very nice ambiance and the host/chef (Vinny) had a dry sense of humor as well as producing some very good food and an unusual grappa to finish.

Friday September 30

We had breakfast at a local McDonald's in Medford on a cool but bright morning and then headed south to Sacramento.

We crossed the border into California, got some good views of a cloud covered Mt Shasta and made a quick stop for coffee in Redding. From there (or just a few miles south) we left Interstate 5 in favor of US 99, which was slower but presented us with a



look at this great produce area. We saw orchards of olive and walnut as well as several other fruits and lots of (already harvested) fields of hay. We passed through several small towns and a couple of larger ones (Chico and Yuba) where the traffic was slow but other stretches allowed us to maintain a 60 mph speed or better. It was a great way to see the countryside at closer quarters than on the expressway and we still arrived in Sacramento before 4pm.

At six, we met Sammy, Christopher and Cyndi as well as Bill and Shirl at a nearby Italian restaurant (Anthony's) where we were able to do a little catching up before they had to leave for Davis where they were to see "Beauty and the Beast". We returned to the hotel and planned to meet up with them again on Saturday morning.

Saturday October 1

We walked to Starbucks for breakfast and then I continued for a further two miles. Around 11 we went to Christopher and Cyndi's home, spent a little time working on a bike tire and then went to lunch. After a little shopping we worked on the bike some more and then drove back to the hotel for an hour.

At six we went back to the house where Angela and her two daughters were just arriving for a pancake dinner. We spent a very pleasant evening enjoying pancakes, sausage and bacon and some great conversation, particularly with the older of the two daughters. We returned to the hotel about 10pm.

Sunday October 2

Again we walked to Starbucks and again I continued for about two miles. At 11:30 we met Christopher, Cyndi and Sammy at Waffle Experience for brunch and then spent the afternoon at their home watching a slide show of our European trip as well as some recent pictures of theirs in various locations.

We returned to the hotel about five and were picked up again at 6:30 for our dinner reservation at

Ruth's Chris, where we spent another lovely evening with our California family.



Monday October 3

We checked out of the hotel, had breakfast at iHop and then set out on our 400+ mile drive east on Interstate 80 as far as Elko, Nevada. It was cooler and quite dull as we left and as we approached the top of the Sierras near Donner it was down to 38F and there was snow not only on the hills around us but a dusting at road level. We made it over the top to Reno, however, and stopped for coffee about 40 miles further east.

By now (noon) it was much brighter and a little warmer and the 300 mile drive to Elko was through some spectacular Nevada scenery. We have travelled this route and the parallel US Route 50 on a number of occasions and the vast expanses are always impressive. 8000 foot peaks are never out of sight (in almost any direction) and the road climbs over 6000 feet at several passes. In between there are very wide valleys or undulating topography with very little flora except tumbleweed.





Crossing Nevada

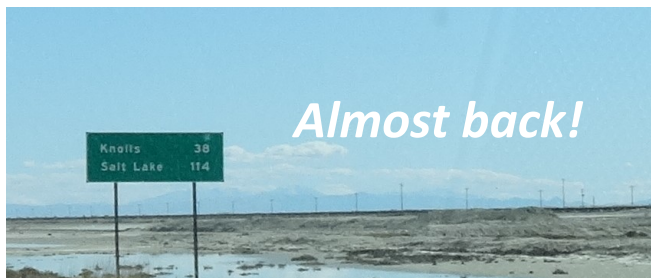
Nevertheless the ever-changing views are magnificent and the drive goes by very quickly. As we crossed towards eastern Nevada we saw more and more snow-capped peaks, several of which were over 10,000 feet in elevation. Wonderful!

We arrived in Elko around 4pm and checked in the Holiday Inn Express. We found an Italian restaurant that looked reasonable so made a reservation for 7:30. It turned out to be a good meal in rustic surroundings with little ambiance but perfectly adequate for a pleasant meal.

Tuesday October 4

We woke to a temperature of 27F but clear blue skies. After a McDonald's breakfast and a fill up we left Elko and re-joined I-80 East. We stopped for coffee at a casino in Wendover on the Nevada-Utah state line and then drove across the border to make another stop near the Bonneville Salt Flats.





From there it was about 120 miles to Salt Lake City where we left I-80, filled up the car one last time and checked in at the airport. We had a couple of hours in the Lounge before our 5:15 flight to Cincinnati. We arrive here on time and were home by about 11:30 after a very interesting drive (3300 miles) through the Northwestern states.

