

Sacramento



December 2022



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Friday December 9

We were up at 6am after a night at the airport Courtyard hotel to get the 6:30 shuttle to the airport. The flight to Salt Lake City left on time at 8:15 and, after a bumpy take-off, we had a very cloudy but relatively smooth ride in which we ate a good breakfast. It was still quite overcast in Salt Lake, where we had an easy gate change and about 1 ¼ hours before our onward flight to Sacramento. This was also a little bumpy for a while but we arrived in Sacramento essentially on time at about 12:30 local time.

We quickly picked up the car and drove to the Roseville Courtyard where we were able to check in shortly after 2pm. I went for a three-mile walk on a relatively cool (low fifties) and overcast afternoon and then we relaxed until we drove about 10 minutes to meet Christopher and Cyndi for dinner. Sammy didn't join us as she and some classmates were finishing a school project. We had a very good Italian meal, once we figured out the ordering system – which was all done on the cell phone.

Saturday December 10

We were up before 8 and drove to Starbucks for breakfast. It was a rainy, extremely windy morning, so we spent time in the hotel until we received our lunchtime instructions. Lunch was at iHOP and was followed by our "Christmas", at which we exchanged our Holiday gifts at Christopher and Cyndi's home. We then returned to our hotel for a couple of hours before meeting Christopher and Cyndi for dinner at Avatar, a very good Indian restaurant. Sammy was at her Christmas formal dance at school.

Sunday December 12

We had coffee at Starbucks again and then I went for a short walk on another cold morning with the continuing threat of rain. We all met for lunch at MOD Pizza and then Cyndi and Sammy went to a show in Davis, Christopher went home to work on Christmas lights, and Molly and I returned to the hotel. I managed a three-mile walk in the afternoon during which the weather brightened considerably and the rain stayed away.

Soon after 4:30, Cyndi brought Sammy to the hotel and the three of us set out on

our traditional birthday shopping expedition. The first stop was Cold Stone Creamery for an ice cream (on a very cold afternoon!) and then Barnes and Noble. In B&N we spent about 1 ½ hours selecting about eight books before time ran out and it was time to meet Christopher and Cyndi for dinner at the Yard House. This was a good meal and a good chat and a nice way to end our time with the California family before early spring.

Monday December 12

We were awake about 8am to find a message from Delta saying our flight would be late leaving Sacramento, leaving us just under an hour in Atlanta. I called Delta but there were no alternatives, so we decided to risk it. However, as we were finishing breakfast at our new-found favorite – the Window Box Café – another text said there was an even longer delay and we would definitely miss our connection. To cut a long story short, we booked on the overnight flight via Los Angeles, leaving Sacramento at 7:30pm.

So, we had a day to fill (fortunately it was now sunny, if not warm) so we drove to Vacaville to spend time in the outlet mall which had been a favorite visit when Christopher loved there. As with so many things, however, strolling around the stores was not the experience we remembered and many of our favorites were gone. We visited the local Starbucks and then drove



to Sacramento Old Town for another walk. Again, this was not the place we had remembered and it seems to have become another popular spot for the homeless, although the many old buildings are still well maintained.



We arrived at the airport at 5pm and had a good dinner at the Iron Horse Tavern and then flew home. The flights were on time, the connection in LAX was easy (although gate changes caused us to walk further than we had anticipated) and we arrived in Cincinnati at 5:30am Tuesday morning. It was cold (right around freezing) but we were soon on our way after retrieving our car and drove north for breakfast at the Half day Café near home. It had been another good weekend with our California family.

