

Along The Bourbon Trail

October 2023



Kentucky, October 2023

Thursday October 19

We had stayed overnight at the Fairfield in Newport after having had dinner with Hayley at the Governor's House in Covington. We slept late and checked out close to 10am before driving for breakfast at First Watch in Crestview Hills. From there we drove to Lexington via US Route 27, rather than the expressway. It was a very pleasant drive along quiet roads along which we passed lots of open farmland and a relatively few towns and villages. The autumn leaves were close to their best along much of the route and the weather stayed dry, although mostly overcast.

We arrived at the Courtyard in North Lexington around 2pm and went for a Starbucks coffee after checking in. After returning to the hotel, we both took short walks before the late afternoon rain arrived. In actual fact, the heavy rain waited until we left for dinner so the 20-minute drive to the restaurant took us through a torrential downpour. It had abated somewhat by the time we reached Coles, and we were able to enjoy a good meal before driving back in more-or-less dry conditions.

Friday October 20

We slept late and missed breakfast in the hotel (partly because they closed 30-minutes before expected) so we checked out and went to a First Watch near downtown. The forecast was for rain all day, but we started our drive along the Bourbon Trail with dry weather and even a little sunshine. Our first stop was at the Woodford Reserve distillery (right) where we were able to get a couple of bottles in the gift shop. This distillery (as with many in Kentucky) is tucked away several miles down a narrow road, presumably related to the "moonshine" days before distilling was legal.

Our next stop was the Buffalo Trace distillery (below), a huge facility – with crowds to match. There was a long line even to visit the gift shop, so we gave



this one a miss and drove to the Bulleit distillery (below) relatively close by. Here the

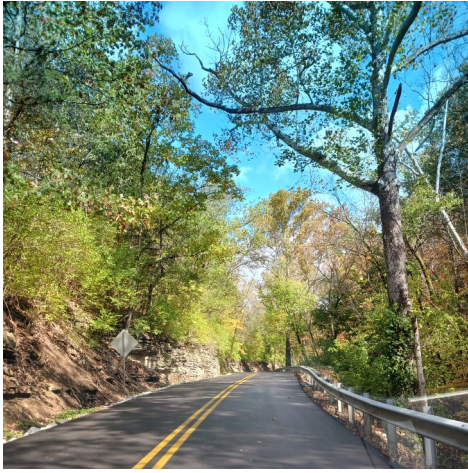
crowds were less intense, but there were many cars in the parking lot. Apparently, this is the season for doing the trail and, in addition to the cars, there were



many mini-bus groups here and at Woodford. Our final stop was at the Jeptha Creed distillery (left) – a new one on us but again situated in very pleasant farmland surroundings.

From there we drove to our Courtyard in Louisville, where I





Autumn Leaves on our Drive

was able to take a short walk before dinner. Tonight, as we usually do in Louisville, we ate at Ruth's Chris on the top floor of a Frank Lloyd Wright building near the airport. Another lovely evening.



Saturday October 21

We were up in time to get to a nearby First Watch before the breakfast rush and then set out on our drive home. It was a beautiful day, so we decided to take in two more distilleries – Four roses (below) and Wild Turkey, both near Lawrenceburg. The Four Roses distillery is in a lovely setting and the Wild turkey facility is huge. A couple more samples bought!





Four Roses (left) and one of many storage sheds at Wild Turkey

We then drove home via Frankfort and US Route 127 until we reached I-71 near Owenton. We then took the expressway home, arriving about 2pm after a very nice short break.



