

What We Did on Our Summer Vacation ... Part 2 ~ Headed West

Following up from our September article ... After leaving Michigan we headed west.... Traveling through Wisconsin, Minnesota, and into North Dakota. When we arrived in Dickinson ND, a big storm with rain, wind, and hail came in shortly after we'd settled into our lodging for the night. Timing IS everything!

The next morning was clear and beautiful, with no stormy remnants of the night before. As it turned out, our motel was located next door to some very interesting area attractions. So after breakfast we took some time taking a tour of the Dickinson Museum Center {<http://dickinsonmuseumcenter.com/>} ~ which has exhibits on dinosaurs plus pioneer and heritage presentations in the Prairie Outpost Park.

There was more available to see & do ~ there's a lot of history here. But we ended up leaving Dickinson early afternoon & continued west. The Enchanted Highway {www.ndtourism.com/best-places/7-ways-be-awed-enchanted-highway} is a quirky & charming bit of Americana, with giant metal sculptures along the roadway. If you are traveling in the Gladstone / Regent area you'll want to check it out.

Traveling along I-94 also brings you to Glendive, Montana. Along the frontage road is the Frontier Gateway Museum {www.frontiergatewaymuseum.org/}. This historical museum offers exhibits from prehistoric times up to the 21st century. Bonus? Entry is Free. Donations are appreciated to help with upkeep. For as much as we got to see, there were still displays we missed, due to time constraints. It was all quite engaging.

The next area where we spent some time exploring was Kennewick, Washington; in the Tri-Cities area of the state. The Hanford Reach Museum hosts exhibits pertaining to geological topics such as the Ice Age and volcanic activity, plus displays re-

garding the historic WW2 'Manhattan Project'. The Reach is also a National Monument, preserving natural grass & wetlands on the Columbia River. This protected tract of wilderness provides habitat for a wide variety of birds, animals, and plants.

Another activity in this area is taking a riverboat ride on the Columbia River. These trips can be as short as a few hours to several days... depending on your interest, time, and budget.

And while you are in the area... check out the SagePort Grille in Richland for some tasty grub. It's a breakfast/lunch place... closing at 3pm. Be sure to arrive good & hungry.

Any roadtrip is gonna include some stretches of travel where there's not much going on but just 'heading down the highway'. Being able to take some breaks to explore along the way made for some great memories. Having the ability to use our ipad to check out what interesting things were up ahead helped us to make good use of the time we had ~ so we didn't miss out on some really cool stuff.

No doubt some of you are already starting to think about your next road trip. Ours is a beautiful and interesting country. Be sure to allow time for being spontaneous and enjoy the roadside attractions that present themselves along the way.

Ride safe & have fun!

Betsy & Bruce

