

Washington D. C.

October 17-24, 2022

Monday, Oct. 17 - Sue and I drove from Brunswick to Portland with my old friends Eric and Pegi from Houston, to take our United flight 6129. But first we planned to have lunch at [Becky's Diner](#). Pegi and I had recently been reintroduced through Facebook and she and Eric were planning to be in Boston just a couple of days before. Although it would be a short visit, we decided to get together before Sue and I left for D. C. So, they took the train from Boston to Brunswick and we spent the Sunday before we left for Washington touring Brunswick and Harpswell with them.

By the time we got to Becky's at around lunchtime, the crowd was so large that we would be forced to wait, leaving very little time for Sue and I to catch our flight. We drove back to the Portland Regency where Eric and Pegi were staying for their last day in Portland before returning to Houston. Then we drove to PWM, had lunch at the airport and flew to IAD.

When we arrived at IAD, we were whisked by [Blacklane](#) to the apartment we rented through VRBO. It turned out to be a clean, nice, well provisioned, but small, place. We settled into the apartment and set off walking toward [Stanton Park](#) and [Bistro Cacao](#) for dinner. On the way, we passed a small market on a corner near the apartment which we would visit later for breakfast supplies. We enjoyed a pleasant French dinner of Salade de Burrata, Escargots au Buerre d'Ail and Pâté de Campagne Before walking back to the apartment for a restful night's sleep.



Tuesday, Oct. 18 - morning after breakfast, we wanted to orient ourselves in the neighborhood so we walked to Lincoln Park and then to the [Eastern Market](#). We walked through the market and saw various places to buy meat, fish, produce and even a few places to eat. After walking for a while, we had lunch at [Le Pan Quotidien](#) on Pennsylvania Avenue SE. After lunch we walked back to the apartment, then called Uber to



go to the [National Museum of American History](#). When we arrived and walked into the museum, we were greeted with an exhibit called "Dave's Dream", about a man named David Jaramillo who died before he was able to complete the customization of his 1969 Ford LTD. In his honor, his family completed



the customization as Dave had planned for his “lowrider”. We walked to the left to find the food exhibition section in order to visit [“Julia Child’s Kitchen”](#). After a nostalgia-filled visit to that exhibit, including watching some old videos of Julia’s shows, we ambled around through the first-floor exhibitions. The one I would have liked to see, called “America on the Move”, was closed. So, we went to the second floor to see the exhibitions there. After an inspirational walk around the floor, we came finally to the “American Democracy” exhibition which, unfortunately, contained reminders of how fragile a democracy can be (a very timely subject). That, and a touch of museum exhaustion, led us to the third floor and an exhibition about the “American Presidency”. Of course, that provided a subtle reminder of #45 and a good excuse to leave the museum. So, we left and called for another Uber to take us home.



We had discovered an intriguing little Spanish restaurant called [Joselito](#) (now closed) on Pennsylvania Avenue SE when we went to the Eastern Market. We were able to walk there and it turned out to be a great find. We had a fabulous tapas meal, followed by a pleasant walk back to the apartment for the night.

Wednesday, Oct. 19 – It was a mild day so we decided to walk to the [National Gallery of Art](#).



We started going west on East Capitol NE toward the Capitol, past the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress. When we arrived at the Capitol we walked around, taking pictures along the way, to the Grant Memorial near Union Square. Then we continued to the East Building near the intersection of Constitution Avenue NW and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. We went in and found our way to the Roof Terrace in the Tower Level where we saw the whimsical fourteen-foot-tall sculpture by Katharina Fritsch called Hahn/Cock. It represents a symbol of hope and renewal donated by the Glenstone Museum to the National Gallery on its eightieth anniversary and completion of the East Building in 2016. Next, we went to Tower 2 from the Roof Terrace to see works by Alexander Calder then found our way to the

Cascade Café on the Concourse Level, stopped for a quick lunch and proceeded out of the East Building across 4th Street to the West Building. We spent the rest of the afternoon viewing the beautiful paintings and other works of art there. We specifically wanted to see the remarkable exhibit of Johannes Vermeer paintings before we left and it was a perfect way to end our visit to the National Gallery.

We decided to walk back to the apartment but called Uber to give us a ride to [Oyamel](#), the first José Andrés restaurant we would visit in Washington. Sue proclaimed that the Mexican food was so-so but they had a great margarita. After dinner, we walked to the Department of Agriculture building at the corner of 12th Street SW and Independence Avenue SW where we met our guide for the Monuments by Moonlight tour. We were taken to a small golf cart-type vehicle, fortunately covered, and driven around in the streets of DC late at night. Below is a collage that Sue made to show some of the highlights:



We ended the evening nearby the White House in front of the [Hay-Adams](#) hotel waiting for an Uber to take us home at last.



Thursday, Oct. 20 - Since our tickets for entry into the [National Museum of African-American History](#) were not valid until noon, we had time to walk across East Capitol and Sixth Street up the corner to [Jimmy T's](#) for brunch. By the time we finished and returned to the apartment to prepare for the rest of our



day, we didn't feel like walking that distance so we called Uber to take us to the museum. The new building is beautiful and inspirational. It appeared that, because our tickets specified a noon entry time, we may have avoided the usual crowds. Nevertheless, the museum was very crowded and we had to wait a short time to actually go into the exhibits. There were three levels in Concourse C and we began in the third level (C3) which covered the "Slavery and Freedom" historical perspective from 1400 to 1877. This genre highlighted the brutality and disregard for human life that slavery allows.

We continued on to level C2 covering "Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom: The Era of Segregation" from 1876-1968. Very

touching for me especially since I grew up in Texas with a lot of what was there. We realized that it was a good time to get lunch at the museum (maybe it was the Lunch Counter exhibit). Afterwards, we realized that it might be wise to get Uber back home. Later, we walked back to Bistro Cacao for dinner, although a slightly different route through Stanton Park.

We had an enjoyable evening walking back. Sue was having fun taking pictures of the Halloween decorations in the yards along the way.



Friday, Oct. 21 - The [National Museum of Natural History](#) was our planned destination. When we arrived at the great steps into the museum, we walked into the massive rotunda and saw the elephant in the room. We then spent most of the rest of the morning touring exhibits on the first floor about evolution and natural history. After



lunch at the Ocean Terrace Café, we went to the second floor where we viewed several more exhibitions. At the Gems and Minerals exhibit we entered a specially designed room and saw the [Hope Diamond](#) as well as a



dazzling array of other gems and minerals. The opals were especially magnificent to me. After an extensive viewing we left the museum and began walking back to the apartment. We passed the Capitol once again (the picture below shows the East side whereas the one taken on our night tour was the West side). We have seen it from both sides now.



Anyway, we were back to the beginning of the street to home. By now we are pretty familiar with East Capitol SE and its environs. The weather has been great again and the walk back to the apartment has been a perfect way to end today's adventure.

We planned to walk to [Ethiopic](#) for an Ethiopian dinner tonight, which was quite a long walk and the food was just OK. Interestingly, our Uber driver yesterday was a woman who was from Ethiopia and she suggested a different restaurant, but it was not within walking distance and we did enjoy the walk to Ethiopic and back.

Saturday, Oct. 22 - We walked to the Eastern Market to check-out the open-air market in the area. There were booths selling cooked and fresh food, clothing, arts and crafts, jewellery, etc. We stopped to look for something we might attract us...something small like a ring perhaps. However, after walking through the booths to Pennsylvania SE, we found a Trader Joe's which offered the required coffee. It was a crowded basement store but fulfilled our needs. After a short wait in the checkout line, we continued walking and looking into the booths until we found the "[The Duck & The Peach](#)" where we stopped for brunch. After lunch we continued walking around the market booths, gradually making our way back to the apartment. We had reserved a table at the [Rooftop Terrace](#) restaurant at the [Kennedy Center](#). Uber (is this a verb now?) took us there for dinner and a hilarious play called "[Shear Madness](#)". It was a lot of fun, both dinner and the play. Incredibly, the weather was still great, so Sue and I went outside onto the balcony. We were looking upriver on the



Potomac when a man offered to take our picture. He and his wife told me they were from Texas and we talked for a while longer. We actually saw them again as we waited for Uber while they waited for a cab.

Sunday, Oct. 23 - We had tickets for an entry time of 10:00 at the [International Spy Museum](#). So, we Uber(ed?) there for an intensive lesson on how spying works. It was fun but it seemed to be designed for kids and there were lots of them around. Two of the more interesting things in the exhibit were on the ground floor entrance. James Bond's (Sean Connery for younger readers) Aston-Martin from Goldfinger and a (fairly) modern espionage drone.



After the Spy Museum, we walked down toward the Tidal Basin where we found the [Rappahannock Oyster Bar](#) on [The Wharf](#).



After a few oysters and some grilled octopus, we started exploring the Wharf and found a



lobsterman statue like the one at Land's End on Bailey Island. There were lots of people and activity, maybe because it was near Halloween. In order to shorten this story, I'll shorten this story now by saying that we ended this day, sparing the details, with dinner at [Jaleo](#), the second José Andrés restaurant we visited. The tapas were delicious and they were better than Oyamel. When we left, it was raining. Let's Uber home now.

Monday, Oct. 24 - of course we flew home. Since you have already read six pages, we won't go into detail about that trip. Instead, we would like for you to let us know where we were living in Washington while we visited. All winners are asked not to give out any hints. Prizes include a reasonable attempt to answer your phone calls, texts or emails.