

Cross-country Prius Road Trip August 2016

22 Days - 8895 Miles

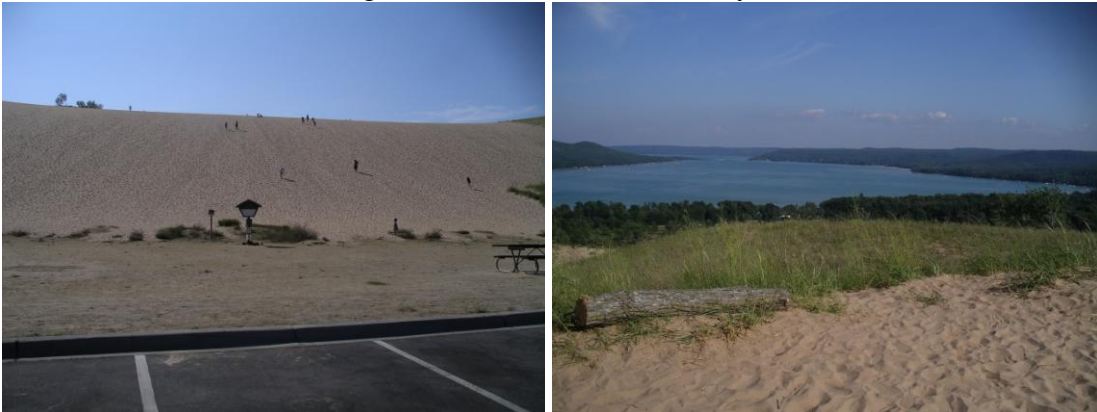
Day 1

Drive west from Anne Arundel County, MD to Overnight at Ohio Turnpike Rest Area, Mantua, OH. Notice triple tractor trailers on Ohio Turnpike which were replaced by literally mile long trains farther west.



Day 2

Drive to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lake Shore in western MI. Make Dune Climb to overlook Glen Lake. Overnight RT 75 Rest Area near Gaylord, MI



Day 3

Take 15 minute passenger ferry from Mackinac City to Mackinac Island, MI for the morning. Ride a rental bike around Mackinac Island's 8 mile, flat, circular RD. Hike to Fort and Arch Rock. Sample fudge at the for competing fudge chains. Drive to Tahquamenon Falls State Park in Paradise, MI on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Hike to both Upper and Lower Tahquamenon Falls which are 3 miles apart by road. Overnight in Lower Tahquamenon Falls Hemlock Campground.



Day 4

Drive to Detroit Lakes, MN Overnight in the Detroit Lakes American Legion Campground. Many campers stay the entire season in this campground. The lake below is right across the street from the campground.



Day 5

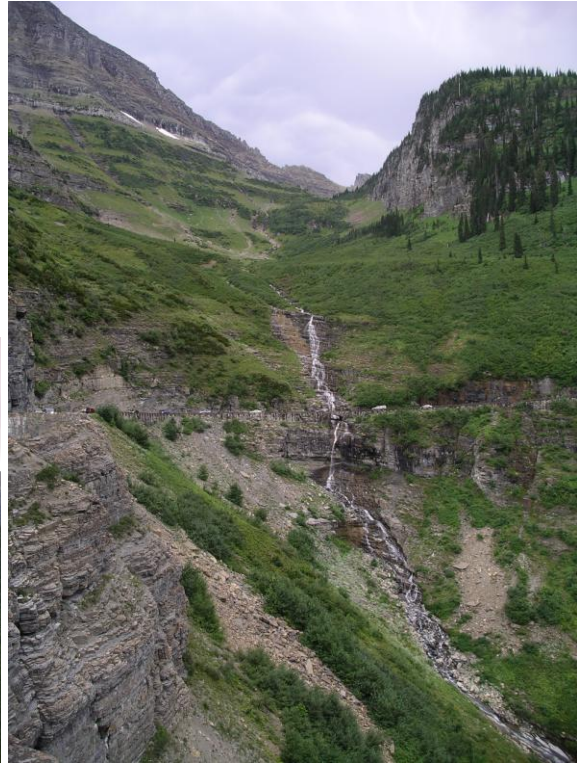
Hike along Detroit Lakes Beach and through their Park with Frisbee golf. The US has hundreds of beautiful recreational lakes. There are thousands of trailerable, smaller, aluminum boats in yards waiting to taken to the lake.

Drive to Theodore Roosevelt National Park South Unit, Medura, SD. Drive Scenic Loop Drive with roaming bison and prairie dog towns. Hike the short Ridgeline Nature Trail and Cottonwood Trail. Overnight RT 94 Rest Area near Wibaux, MT



Day 6

Drive north on RT 13 dodging deer jumping out of sage. Hear Native Americans speak their own language at Wolf Point, MT breakfast shop. Drive through East Glacier Park and admire the historic East Glacier Park Hotel. Drive the Going To The Sun RD round trip from West Glacier Park over to Logan Pass to St Mary and back. Overnight in National Forest campground near Fortine, MT on RT 93.



Day 7

Gas up in Eureka, MT, in gallons before entering Canada at Roosville with expensive Canadian gas sold by the liter. Canadian border official want to see my passport, asked where I would be going in Canada, how long would I stay in Canada and did I have any firearms or parts of firearms. Drive to Lake Louise in Banff National Park, Alberta. Hike Plain of Six Glaciers Trail to the Teahouse. Very warm day and glacier above groaned

twice during hike. Encountered horses on Plain of Six Glaciers Trail. Lots of European and Far East tourists at Lake Louise. Very difficult to find a parking space. Drive to Banff. Overnight at Two Jacks Campground on Lake Minnewanka. Campground office warned me that the campground has a resident bear and showed a picture of naked campsite except for tent. This was how they wanted all campsites to look in bear country. This campground also had a wolf alert which did not register with me. I later learned that wolves will try to take small children, so parents should pick up their small children if they encounter a wolf.



Day 8

Drive to the Columbia Ice fields in Jasper National Park on the Icefields Parkway. There are over 20 glaciers along this parkway. Hike to the base of the glacier across from the visitor center. Wished that I had bought a ticket to take a guided walk on the glacier. Signs state that it is unsafe to walk on the glacier without a guide. Drive to the town of Jasper and walked around the town. Many people take whitewater rafting trips from vendors in Jasper.

Drive through Kamloops, BC towards Vancouver. Overnight at RT 5 Rest Area near Brookmere, BC



Day 9

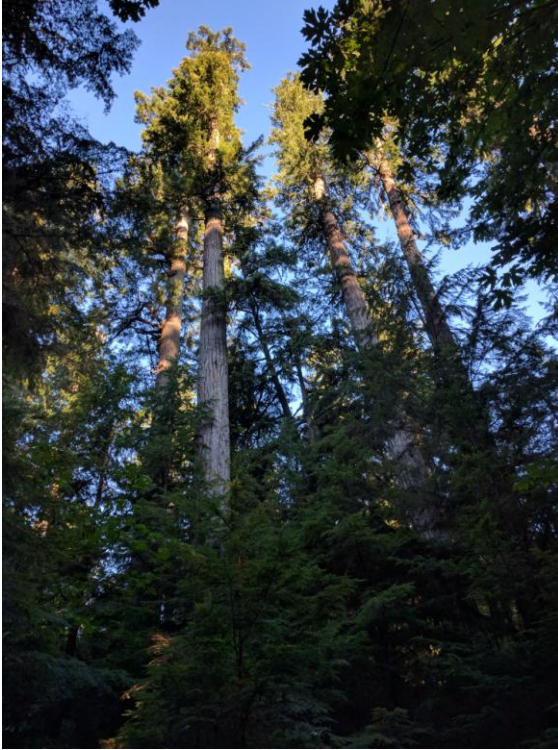
Drive to Vancouver and take car ferry to Sidney, Vancouver Island. I should have taken the car ferry from Vancouver to Nanaimo, Vancouver Island. Drive to Ucluelet,

Campground, Vancouver Island, which was closer to Nanaimo than Sidney. Hike the Wild Pacific Trail through the rainforest to the 100 year old Amphitrite Lighthouse and then to Terrace Beach. Drive to Big Beach and also hike Ancient Cedars loop trail. Overnight at Ucluelet Campground.



Day 10

Drive to Black Cove Ferry terminal in Victoria, BC after stopping at Cathedral Grove to admire the 300 ft tall trees. Walk around Victoria harbor watching float planes give sightseeing rides from in front of the historic and lavish Empress Hotel. Walk to Fisherman's Wharf and then on to the beautifully landscaped Beacon Hill Park. Take the car ferry from Victoria, BC to Port Angeles, WA, USA. Drive to Hurricane Ridge overlooking Olympic National Park, WA and the Strait Of Juan De Fuca that the car ferry had crossed. A lightning strike several weeks earlier started a wildfire with trees visibly burning and audible chain saws on a hillside not far from the Hurricane Ridge access RD. Overnight in Klahowaya Campgrounds, Olympic National Park, WA.



Day 11

Drive to the Hoh Rain Forest, Olympic National Park, WA. Hike the Moss Grove loop and the Hoh River Loop. Learn what nurse logs are. Drive to Ruby Beach and photograph the Sea Stacks of tree trunks washed out to the Pacific Coast. Drive to Kalaloch Campground and beach in Olympic National Park and take pictures of windblown trees and shrubs. Drive to the Paradise area of Mt Rainer National Park, WA. Hike the combined Golden Gate Trail and Skyline Trail to Panorama Point and then descend using the combined Skyline Trail and Deadhorse Creek Trail. Drive towards Mt St Helens National Volcanic Monument, WA. Overnight at Merrill State Park Campground



Day 12

Drive to Windy Point on the blowout northern side of Mt St Helens National Volcanic Monument, WA. View Spirit Lake that was once a thriving vacation spot with cabins and

lodges. Mt St Helens 1980 eruption caused a landslide into Spirit Lake which caused the lake level to rise 200 feet, completely submerging the established vacation community. The side of Mt St Helens had been expanding by five feet a day for three months before it erupted. Drive almost 50 miles to the south entrance to Mt St Helens National Volcanic Monument and walk through the bottom half of the Ape Cave or lava tube. Had to provide own flashlight and headlamp for this Ape Cave walk. Dress for 42 degrees F in the Ape Cave because that is the cave temperature in August. Drive to Vista House Overlook on RT 30, the Historic Columbia River Highway to view the Columbia River Gorge, OR. Take small hikes to Latourell, Bridal Veil and Multnomah Falls on RT 30. Overnight at RT 84 Rest Area near Baker City, OR.



Day 13

Drive to Bruneau Dunes State Park, ID. Arrive near noon when it was too hot to climb the larger dunes. Hiked the trail around Sand Dune Lake. A very tiring hike in the heat and entire trail composed of sand. Wildfires can provide driving hazards and road closures in western states at this time of year. The ranger at Bruneau Dunes State Park checked the internet for wildfire road closures that might affect my next day destination in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area of ID.

Drive to Twin Falls, ID, to view the Shoshone Falls and favorite local swimming hole, Dierkes Lake Park. The Twin Falls Visitor Center has a Canyon Rim Trail that allows viewing of the 486 Ft high I. P. Perrine Bridge. Base jumpers use this bridge to jump into the Snake River Gorge below.

Drive north on RT 75, the Sawtooth Scenic Highway through Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum and Sun Valley. Overnight along the crystal clear Big Wood River in the North Fork National Forest Campground.



Day 14

Drive to Red Fish Lake Lodge, near Stanley, ID . Hike to the second Bench Lake on the advice of the Red Fish Lake Lodge store clerk. Share this trail to Bench lakes with horses carrying a family of four on a trail ride to Bench Lake - a first class family fun trip in my opinion. Utilize the public laundry and pay by the minute showers associated with the Lodge and their campground.

Drive to Craters Of The Moon National Monument and Preserve. Hike the short north Crater Flow Trail to view the different formations created by past flowing lava.

Wondered how horse drawn wagons heading west, ever made it past the miles of obstacles the now solidified lava provided. Drive the one way loop road to the Snow and Splatter Cones and hike to Indian Tunnel which is one of four lava tube "caves" off the same trail. Some of these caves require you to supply your own lighting and dress for cooler cave temperatures.

Begin drive towards Idaho Falls. Overnight at RT 20 Rest Area.



Day 15

Drive to Jackson, WY, and visit the National Museum of Wildlife Art overlooking the National Elk Refuge. Discover that fishing from rowed Dorries on the Snake River below Jackson, WY is very popular. Drive to Grand Teton National Park, WY and drive counterclockwise on the looped park RD. Take pictures of the Grand Teton mountain range, rafters, kayakers and SUP enjoying the meandering Snake River and the north side of Jenny Lake with its Grand Teton mountain background. An active wildfire closed the RD between Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park and obscured the

view of some of the Tetons. Drove back through Jackson, WY, and back into ID in order to approach Yellowstone from the west. Overnight in Henrys Lake State Park, Island Park, ID.



Day 16

Enter Yellowstone National Park, WY, from its West Entrance. Drive counterclockwise around the Yellowstone National Park loop RD. Encounter a bison walking right down the double yellow line of the loop RD twice during the day. Taking one handed pictures of a bison that you could reach out and touch through the driver's window is a trip. Hike the short trail through the Lower Geyer Basin with Fountain Paint Pots. Killed time waiting for the Old Faithful Geyser to erupt by hiking the trails around Geyser Hill and the Firehole River. Drive by Yellowstone Lake. Witness a wolf approaching an injured bison in a meadow in Hayden Valley. View the Upper and Lower Yellowstone Falls and Yellowstone Canyon by hiking the South Rim Trail from Uncle Tom's Point to Artist's Point. Notice signs on the South Rim Trail stating a bear has been seen multiple times in the area and that carrying Bear Repellant spray and knowing how to use it was advisable. Bear spray was available for rental at all Visitor Center Stores. Drive to Mammoth Hot Springs and hike the Upper and Lower Terrace Areas. Drive to Roosevelt Lodge to take pictures of trail rides and horse drawn coaches based at the Roosevelt Ranch. Exiting Yellowstone National Park through the Lemar Valley and Yellowstone's Northwest Entrance was a mistake. This exit path took me over the 10947 FT high Beartooth Pass on the switchback Beartooth Scenic Highway in a 34 degree wet snowstorm. Snow stuck to the grass, but thankfully, not the road. I should have exited through Yellowstone's East Entrance towards Cody, WY. Overnight in Cabala's parking lot in Billings, MT.



Day 17

Buy bear repellent spray at Cabalas. I had been in bear country as soon as I entered PA through western MD. If nothing else, I would have it in the car for self protection while camping the rest of the trip. Drive to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. Take bus tour through the battlefield. Hike up to Last Stand Hill to view the monument. Listen to 45 minute ranger talk about battle at the visitor center patio. Drive to Devils Tower National Monument. Hike the Red Bend Trail around Devils Tower. Although there have been warning signs about rattlesnakes on trails beginning back in OR. I was overcome with a fear of rattlesnakes after 4 foot wide gravel trail that I started on, reduced to a one foot wide, five inch deep foot path with prairie grass brushing against both ankles. The trailhead sign had an avoid rattlesnake warning. Overnight in park's Belle Fourche River Campground.



Day 18

Drive to through the Black Hills of SD to Wind Cave National Park, SD. Take the 1 1/4 hour ranger led Natural Entrance Tour of the Wind Cave which noted for its boxwork calcite formations. The threat of rattlesnakes made me abandon hiking the narrow Elk Mountain Trail.

Drive to Mt Rushmore, SD and walk the down and up trail to the base of the monument and to the sculptors studio. The Mt Rushmore parking fee was expensive at \$11.00. Good for a year for that particular car, but who is coming back in such a short time.

Drive to Badlands National Park, SD, and drive the Badlands Loop RD from the Pinnacles Entrance to the Ben Reifel Visitor Center. Spend 15 minutes speaking with ranger about rattlesnake behavior because I have never encountered one. The ranger reported that the rattlesnake really does make a lot of noise. Can only strike a distance of half its body length. You can usually walk around it at an appropriate distance without encountering another rattlesnake in the adjacent grass because the ranger said the rattlesnake usually travels alone. Even with that knowledge, I still don't want to encounter one. Overnight at the park's Cedar Pass Campground.



Day 19

Exit Badlands National Park, SD, through the Northeast Entrance. The golden grasses of the SD prairies stretch to the horizon and are amazing. Long horn sheep wander out of prairie grass in the park. Although I wanted to visit the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Visitor Center on RT 90, I did not want to wait 30 minutes for it to open. Drive towards Iowa City, IA. Overnight at a RT 80 Rest Area near Monroe, IA.



Day 20

Drive to the Illinois Railway museum in Union, IL. Take the 30 minute out and back train ride. Ride the electric streetcar around the grounds. Visit the 8+ sheds that house more historic rolling stock than anywhere else in the USA. Drive to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Chesterton, IN. The threat of ticks made me abandon hiking the Great Marsh trail. Drive Lakefront DR to the park's Lake View site and view the Chicago skyline across the lake. There are 15 miles of beach to enjoy at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Overnight in the park's Dunewood Campground that had more mosquitoes than I encountered anywhere else on the trip. The Dunewood Campground was near the park's Great Marsh.



Day 21

Drive to the Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame on the Cleveland, OH, waterfront. Spend four hours reading histories of inducted groups, seeing their instruments and stage costumes and most enjoyably, listening and viewing their performances. I should have allowed more time to view the performances of each year's inductees because the three screen production was wonderful.

Drive to towards the PA Turnpike. Overnight in PA Turnpike Somerset Service Area.



Day 22

Return home to Anne Arundel County, MD. My Prius looking forward to driving down next "Road to Adventure"!

