

2013B RV Trip to Northern California

Wednesday, September 11 – Fly to San Francisco (56 miles; 1 1/2 hours)

Fly to San Francisco
Andrew picks us up at airport
So much traffic, that we spend time in SF before driving to Petaluma
Help Andrew build coffee table and TV stand
Walk to dinner at nearby Asian restaurant – meet Hilda and Celeste
Andrew drives us to Petaluma KOA
Take RV and Subaru out of storage
Camp at Petaluma KOA

Thursday, September 12 – Errands and Petaluma KOA (0 miles; 0 hours)

Spend day doing errands – food shop, car wash, etc.
Herb works on Subaru brakes
Hang out at pool
Go for a run from campground
Camp at Petaluma KOA

Friday, September 13 – San Francisco (79 miles; 2 hours)

Drive down to San Francisco
Walk Coastal Trail in Presidio along Baker Beach
Meet Andrew and Celeste at Planet Granite (climbing gym) to climb
Go for dinner in Haight section – sausages and beer at Toronados?
Go for ice cream at ?
Drive back to Petaluma
Camp at Petaluma KOA

Saturday, September 14 – San Francisco (80 miles; 1 1/2 hours)

Drive down to San Francisco with bikes
Go for a 26 mile bike ride with Andrew and Celeste
 Pastries at Arizmendi Bakery?
 Golden Gate Park – buffaloes, fly fishing pond, etc.
 Ocean Beach
 Cliff House and Sutro Baths
 Crissy Field – Ice Mochas at Beach Hut Café and canceled America's Cup
 Palace of Fine Arts
 Beers at Velo Rouge Cafe
Dinner at ? – not great; portions too small
Drive back to Petaluma
Camp at Petaluma KOA

Sunday, September 15 – Marin and San Francisco (103 miles; 2 1/2 hours)

Drive to scenic route to Stinson Beach (with Hilda) to meet Andrew and Celeste
Hike Dipsea Trail, to Steep Ravine, to Matt Davis Trail
After hike, chill on Stinson Beach – sunny and warm (much different than last year)

Drive down to San Francisco via windy Panoramic Highway
Have dinner with Bergs and Wade at Turkish restaurant?
Drive back to Petaluma
Camp at Petaluma KOA

Monday, September 16 – Petaluma through Redwoods to Klamath (294 miles; 6 hours)

Start driving north to Seattle
Drive through Redwoods on Redwood Highway (101) to Klamath
Camp at Klamath River RV Park in Klamath, California
Sit in Adirondack chairs by river enjoying a glass of wine and sunset

Tuesday, September 17 – Oregon Coast Highway to Sunset Bay State Park (156 miles; 3 ½ hours)

Continue driving up the coast of Northern California and Oregon
Stop at various viewpoints
 Samuel Boardman State Park
 Arch Rock Point
Arrive at Sunset Bay State Park
Attempt to run the Oregon Coast Trail to Cape Arago and back
 Make wrong turn onto steep, switchback jungle trail
 Turn run from a 5 miler to an epic 8.5 miler
Go to beach across from campground and watch sunset
Camp at Sunset Bay State Park in Coos Bay, Oregon

Wednesday, September 18 – Sunset Bay State Park (13 miles; ½ hour)

Kayak South Slough Estuary and up Elliot Creek – 9 miles
Find geocache by boat launch
Drive to Shore Acre State Park Botanical Gardens
Drive to Cape Arago
 Stop at Simpson Reef Wildlife Viewpoint to see and hear seals
 Hike down to tide pools in South Cove
Go to beach across from campground and watch sunset
Camp at Sunset Bay State park in Coos Bay, Oregon

Thursday, September 19 – Oregon Coast Highway to Fort Stevens State Park (254 miles; 6 hours)

Continue driving on Pacific Coast Highway up the Oregon Coast
Stop at Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Overlook (Mile 200)
 Hike 2.3-mile round trip dune trail to ocean and back
Stop at Heceta Lighthouse (Mile 179)
 Hike up to lighthouse and keeper's house atop the bluff
Drive to Fort Steven State Park at the mouth of the Columbia River in northern Oregon
Desperately try to catch a good sunset
 Peter Iredale wreck – crazy hippy guy with dog and RV with Jesus loves you
 South Jetty observation deck - sunset where the Columbia River flow into the sea

Friday, September 20 – Fort Stevens to Redmond to Leavenworth (350 miles; 7 hours)

Stop in Astoria to climb the Astoria Column on Coxcomb Hills for views of the Columbia River

Drive to Trader Joes in Bellevue, Washington to meet Tommy after work

Drive to Leavenworth, Washington via I90 and 97

Camp at Pine Village KOA in Leavenworth

Saturday, September 21 – Leavenworth (27 miles; 1 hour)

Have lattes at campground coffee shop

Drive to Forest Ranger Station in Leavenworth to find a good hike – Colchuk Lake

Drive to trailhead – 8.4 miles on Icicle Creek Road, left on Eightmile Road, and then 3.8 miles on washboard dirt road to parking lot

Hike 8.4-mile (RT) to Colchuk Lake – beautiful glacial-blue, alpine lake surrounded by granite mountain faces and glaciers

Drive back to Leavenworth and have beers on the outdoor patio at Munchen Haus Bavarian Grill and Beer Garden

Go back to KOA to shower before coming back to town for dinner

Return to Munchen Haus for dinner - sausages, sauerkraut, and potato salad (and more beer)

Walk around town

Stop for coffee and more beer at and listen to live music at the Leavenworth Sausage Garden

Camp at Pine Village KOA in Leavenworth

Sunday, September 22 – Leavenworth to Seattle (175 miles; 4 hours)

Drive about 4 miles east on Route 2 to Peshastin Pinnacles State Park

1 mile hike up and along base of climbing routes

Drive back to Seattle along scenic Route 2

Stop at rest area for Herb to fix RV brakes

Drop Tommy off at Microsoft to pick up car

Tommy and Lolo go to REI while Herb goes to Home Depot

Camp at Seattle/Tacoma KOA in Kent, Washington

Do lots and lots of laundry

Monday, September 23 – Seattle (51 miles; 1 ½ hours)

Get oil changed in Subaru in morning

Shop at Fred Meyers

Meet Tommy at Stone Gardens (climbing gym) in Bellevue to climb

While waiting have coffee at Starbucks and shop in Barnes & Noble

Buy great book – Moon West Coast RV Camping

After climbing, eat Thai food in nearby mall

Try to follow Tommy back to see his apartment – get totally lost

Wind up getting on wrong highway, pull over to use GPS, cop pulls over

Finally find our way to Tommy's – an hour instead of 10 minutes

Drive back to Seattle/Tacoma KOA

Tuesday, September 24 – Columbia River Gorge Scenic Byway from Troutdale to Columbia Hills State Park (243 miles; 5 hours)

Drive to Troutdale, Oregon (start of scenic drive) – rainy day
Stop in Camping World – employee advises us against taking motorhome towing a car on the windy Historic portion of the scenic drive – decide to stay on 84
Stop at Bonneville Lock and Dam
Visit Bonneville Fish Hatchery – see Herman (70-year-old, 10-foot long, 450 pound sturgeon)
Cross over to Washington on the Bridge of the Gods
Continue driving along Columbia River on Washington side
Camp at Columbia Hills State Park (used to be called Horsethief Lake State Park)

Wednesday, September 25 – Columbia River to Sisters, Oregon (166 miles; 4 hours)

Continue driving along Washington 14
Visit the Maryhill Museum of Art
Visit the nearby replica of Stonehenge
Find several geocaches
Cross over Columbia River on 97 and drive to Sisters, Oregon
Drive past to check out Tumalo State park
Go back to Gardens RV Park (used to be a KOA)
Drive to Route 20 scenic viewpoint (a few miles down the road from campground) to photograph sunset over the Sisters
Dinner at The Open Door – grilled salmon
Camp at Garden RV

Thursday, September 26 – Sisters to Klamath Falls (185 miles; 4 hours)

Wake up to chilly morning – 28 degrees
Hike 3.6-mile (RT) hike to the top of Black Butte
Geocache enroute – veggy theme (Tomatoes, Corn, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Spinach)
Drive towards Lava Beds National Monument
Stop at scenic viewpoint along Route 20 to photograph Sisters again
Camp in a Walmart in Klamath Falls, Oregon
Food shop

Friday, September 27 – Klamath Falls to Lava Beds National Monument (84 miles; 2 ½ hours)

Drive to Lava Beds National Monument
Stop at Wildlife Refuge Viewpoint before entering park
Stop in Visitor Center and get White-Nose Bat Disease clearance
Get campsite in Indian Wells Campground in the park
Do 3 cave hikes: Sunshine, Upper to Lower Sentinel, and Skull
Sunshine (along cave loop) – moderately challenging 466 feet long
Upper to Lower Sentinel (along cave loop) – 3,280 feet long
Skull (2.4 miles from Visitor Center) – 580 feet long
Drive the entire road through the park (about 15 miles) making stops along the way
Hike 1.5-mile (RT) to the top of Schonchin Butte to fire lookout

Talk to ranger about his job as fire lookout
Great views of McNulty and Lassen Peak
Short hike to Black Crater
Hike the .5 mile Captain Jack's Stronghold Historic Trail – inner loop
Watch the sun go down over Tule Lake from the East Wildlife Overlook
Have wine and cheese
On way back, stop at Canby Cross and Fleener Chimneys
Camp at Indian Well Campground in the park

Saturday, September 28 – Lava Beds National Monument to Lassen Volcanic National Park (171 miles; 4 hours)

Drive to Lassen Volcanic National Park
Drive scenic drive to Bumpass Hell
Hike 3.0-mile (RT) Bumpass Hell Trail to bubbling mudpots, hot springs, and fumaroles
Hike around Manzanita Lake and photograph sunset over Lassen Peak
Camp at Manzanita Lake Campground in Lassen NP

Sunday, September 29 – Lassen, Chico, and Auburn (184 miles; 4 hours)

Decide to leave Lassen a day early because of weather – cold, rainy, and windy
Drive towards Auburn, CA
Stop in Chico and tour the Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park
Continue onto Auburn
Camp at Auburn Gold Country RV Park
Relax by pool and go in hot tub

Monday, September 30 – Auburn and Nevada City (62 miles; 1 ½ hours)

Mountain bike the 7.5-mile (RT) Clementine Lake Trail along the North Fork of the American River from the Old Foresthill Road Bridge to Lake Clementine
Drive to Nevada City (25 miles north on Route 49) to walk around
Hang out at campground pool
Camp at Auburn Gold Country RV Park

Tuesday, October 1 – Auburn to San Francisco RV Resort (135 miles; 2 ½ hours)

Drive to San Francisco
Change oil in motorhome
Run 5 miles to pier and bluff
Andrew comes down to meet us after work; Celeste bike rides later
Watch sunset over Pacific Ocean from back of RV
Dinner at local Thai Restaurant
Camp at San Francisco RV Resort – overlooking Pacific Ocean

Wednesday, October 2 – San Francisco RV Resort (90 miles; 2 ½ hours)

Drive down Coast (Route 1) to Pescadero stopping at various viewpoints
Stop at Pebble Beach in Pescadero
Hang out at Gray Whale Cove State Beach in Montara
Meet Andrew and Celeste at Planet Granite (climbing gym)

Dinner at local Vietnamese Restaurant
Camp at San Francisco RV Resort – overlooking Pacific Ocean

Thursday, October 3 – Petaluma KOA (50 miles; 1 hour)

Drive up to Petaluma KOA
Pack up for home and prep RV for storage
Camp at Petaluma KOA

Friday, October 4 – Fly Home (55 miles; 1.25 hours)

Put RV and car in storage at campground
Take Petaluma Taxi and Sonoma County Airport Express to San Francisco Int'l Airport
Use passes to United Plus lounge
Fly home to JFK Int'l Airport
Limo home

Total Trip Mileage: 3061 miles
Average Miles per Day: 127 miles per day