

November 2, 2023

Prologue to Our Travelogue

Pat and I have never been on a vacation like we did on the Caravan Fall Colors Tour. We took our friend Norma's recommendation of Caravan Tours and booked the trip to a place we always wanted to visit, New England. All we had to do was to make it from Atlanta to Boston and check into our hotel. Caravan took over from there for the whole week. We found the full days to be fun and informative and slowly decompressing.... by 9:00 each night we were ready for bed. With 7:00AM "bags out" we were ready and eager to go well before that time.

I can't say enough about our Tour Guide, Barbara Weis, She was a so knowledgeable and upbeat and gave us a great commentary during the whole trip. Each day she had a "surprise" or three up her sleeve that made the trip so much fun! Photo-ops galore; we saw a lifetime of lighthouses and covered bridges! And, Vance our driver was a total pro making our journey so smooth and carefree, while maneuvering the highways and narrow byways.

I also have to say I was surprised to sense that my spirits were uplifted by the people we met. The issues consuming the world and our lives in recent years have been burdensome. We 48 folks on the bus were a cross section of America from 17 states. Everywhere we went we met and benefited from hardworking, compassionate people. I found people everywhere to be more than just nice, more than just good...they were caring. We met a couple who were both physicians; Gloria an Oncologist and Carlos an "old school" GP who was struggling to prevent succumbing to "corporate takeover" of his practice...this was his first week off in over a year. I sensed his exhaustion and lingering frustration from the relentless tragedy he endured during the Covid epidemic. He cared deeply. And, I know he appreciated my more optimistic view that no matter our differences, we aren't so stuck in our bubbles as we may think....I think we can do this together...we can figure this out by taking care of each other...God is here to help us make it through. We also met an anti-gun advocate while we were discussing the Lewiston, ME mass shooting at breakfast...she was from Texas of all places. Our spirits were lifted!

We are ready to go on another Caravan adventure!



Pat and Roger

Caravan 2023 Fall Colors Tour Itinerary:
Arrive BOS Friday, Oct 20, Depart BOS Friday, Oct 27



Fall Foliage in New England



New England is beautiful year-round, but a great time for viewing fall foliage began on October 21 this year. Peak fall colors vary yearly and are affected by wind, temperature, and moisture. Caravan's broad circular tour route, covered all six New England states –Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine, plus a brief loop in New York. We had great foliage viewing in ALL seven states. Sunny days made for “wicked” New England fall colors.

Day 1 Friday Oct 20

Boston, Massachusetts



briefing.

Left Coats house at 6:30AM.....Roger drove Pat, Becky and Julian to airport ParknFly; Flew Delta Lv ALT: 11:15AM; Arr BOS 1:52PM; Our vacation began in Boston, the “Cradle of Liberty.” We transferred from Boston’s Logan Airport by hotel courtesy shuttle. Dinner: 5 star Nico, 417 Hanover Street, Boston, MA; tiny Italian restaurant of ~15 tables. Expensive wine...double tipped by mistake-I hate when I do that! Adventurous LYFT van to Boston’s crazy North Side and small Mercedes from. We joined Caravan for an 8:00 p.m. welcome

Hotel: Embassy Suites Logan Airport, 207 Porter Street, Boston, MA 02128

Day 2 Saturday Oct 21**Plymouth Rock, Hyannis Bags 7AM Depart 8AM**

Rainy day/gale warning didn't hamper us. Stopped at Boston's Old North Church, where Paul Revere began his famous midnight ride (Nico was ½ block from statue!). Pit stop at Faneuil Hall Marketplace. Drove around Boston's neighborhoods, by the State Capitol and the Boston Commons (and Cheers bar). Continued to Lexington, where the Minutemen had their first Revolutionary skirmish. Saw the Battle Green, where "the shot heard around the world" signaled the start of the American Revolution. Followed the route of Paul Revere to Concord (actually, he was arrested before arriving there). Stopped at the Old North Bridge in Concord where "the actual first shot" of the Minutemen happened. Then, headed south to Plymouth Rock, where pilgrims from the Mayflower landed in 1620. (Mayflower II was given by the UK in 1957. It was restored in Mystic, MA for the 400th anniversary.) Humbled by seeing the impressive National Monument to the Forefathers: Morality, Education, Law, Liberty. Next, we went to Cape Cod's southern shore for a two-night stay in the popular vacation community of Hyannis, site of President John F. Kennedy's summer White House (couldn't get near it).

Breakfast: Hotel

Lunch: 5 stars, The Lobster Hut, 25 Town Wharf, Plymouth, MA 02360, the BEST clam

strips!

Dinner: Hotel: 3 stars, tasty salad, roast veggies and baked cod. JOSH wine was reasonably priced. Can you say two bottles?

Hotel: Doubletree Hilton Cape Cod Hyannis, 287 Iyannough Road, Hyannis, MA 02601

Day 3 Sunday Oct 22**Martha's Vineyard****Depart 8AM**

Morning ferry (with our motor coach!) from Woods Hole across the bay (6 miles/45 minutes) to Martha's Vineyard, named for a European sailor's daughter, Martha, who found wild grapes growing on the island. The island is a haven for artists, poets, singers and celebrities, and The Black Dog, who are attracted to its laid-back, charming lifestyle. Enjoyed an island tour of Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven and central MV Campground with over 300 "cottages." Visited the historic whaling town of Edgartown with its narrow streets, elegant homes and the Edgartown lighthouse. Saw beach where Jaws movie was filmed. Returned by ferry to Woods Hole.



Breakfast: Hotel

Lunch: 3 stars, The Wharf Pub, 3 Main street, Marth's Vineyard/Edgartown, MA; end of the season so not many shops or

restaurants open...had a very good scallop roll.

Dinner: Hotel: 4 stars, wood-fired Pizza was "better than average" after a long and gratifying day.

Hotel: Doubletree Hilton Cape Cod Hyannis, 287 Iyannough Road, Hyannis, MA 02601

Day 4 Monday Oct 23**Rhode Island, Connecticut****Bags 6:30AM****Depart 7:30AM**

Journeyed this morning to the sailing capital of the world, Newport, RI. Sightseeing drive of Newport, saw the mansions including a tour of the Breakers, the historic Vanderbilt “summer cottage.” This opulent Italian Renaissance style palace has 70 rooms and is the grandest of all Newport estates...the 2-story butler’s pantry blew my mind; upper balcony with glass-front-door-cabinets for China, a safe for the silver, “soft” wooden counters, large tables for serving and a dumb-waiter. Saw St. Mary’s Church, where Jacqueline Bouvier married John F. Kennedy.



Continued to the seaport of Mystic, CT. Visited Mystic Seaport, the nation’s leading maritime museum, dedicated to the golden age of seafaring. Impressive tall ships.

Breakfast: Hotel

Lunch: 5 stars, Brick Alley Pub, 140 Thames St, Newport, RI 02840; Awesome fish tacos!

Dinner: NO stars, Steak Loft, Mystic CT. Should have gone to the Jealous Monk, 27 Coogan Blvd, Mystic, CT 06355...decent food and heated outdoor patio.

Hotel: Mystic Hilton, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355 ·

Day 5 Tuesday Oct 24**Norman Rockwell, Vermont****Bags 7AM****Depart 8AM**

This morning, into the beautiful Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts, where Norman Rockwell spent the last 25 years of his life. Visited the Norman Rockwell Museum with 300+ collection of Rockwell’s Saturday Evening Post covers which extol the virtues of everyday Americans. Visited Rockwell’s studio, preserved exactly as it was when Rockwell painted here. Then, overnight in the Green Mountains of Vermont.

Breakfast: Hotel

Lunch: “picnic” at the Norman Rockwell Museum.

Dinner: “Wicked Rustic.” Experienced the Bromley Market, 3776 Vermont 11, Peru 05152; Bought tasty salads, quiche, and wine...pulled out the desk/table and ate in our room with the Coats.

Hotel: The Lodge at Bromley, 4216 Vt Rte 11, Peru, VT 05152 ·

Day 6 Wednesday Oct 25**White Mountains, New Hampshire****Bags 7AM****Depart 8AM**

A scenic mountain drive this morning along country roads took us by Plymouth Notch, birthplace of President Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President who took the oath of office from his father, by the light of a kerosene lamp. Continued to Woodstock, VT described as “the prettiest small town in America.” Pat “would stay” at the awesome Woodstock Inn and Resort. Photo stop at the 1890 Saco River covered bridge. Surprise visit to Fadden’s General Store and Maple Sugarhouse, 109 Main St, North Woodstock, NH 03262. Since the early 1800s the Fadden family has been harvesting sap to make maple syrup. They use 7,500 taps and over 17 miles of tubing to collect the sap...fresh syrup was tasty and more mild than usual. Another surprise stop at The Apple Barn, Bennington, VT for a soft serve “Maple Creemee.” Journeyed through the White Mountains of New Hampshire to the new Glen House hotel at the foot of Mt. Washington...beautiful.

Breakfast: Hotel

Lunch: 5 stars, Molly's Restaurant & Bar, 43 S Main St, Hanover, NH 03755; Loved the bread with maple butter and Budda Bowl with salmon.

Dinner: Enjoyed meeting The Glen House chef Cody...good meal of salad, veggies and baked Haddock.

Hotel: The Glen House, 979 NH Rte 16, Gorham, NH 03581

Day 7 Thursday Oct 26**Portland, Southern Coast of Maine****Bags 7AM****Depart 8AM**

This morning we traveled past Maine's lakes to Portland, ME on the rocky Atlantic coast for a boat ride around the harbor to see the five lighthouses. Banks, shops and most restaurants were closed due to gunman of mass shooting 36 miles north in Lewistown, ME was still on the run. Saw \$3 Dewey's Ale House (\$1 lookee, \$2 touchy, \$3 Dewey). Continued to Kennebunkport for a sightseeing drive past the Bush oceanside compound.



Continued to the resort town of Ogunquit along the Maine coast. Our resort had direct access to the nearly 1 mile long Marginal Way, one of New England's most scenic coastal walks, which we walked before dinner. Maine's rocky coast, strong wave action, and cold, nutrient-rich waters help create the world's sweetest and best-tasting lobsters. Did you know there are left-handed and right-handed lobsters?

Breakfast: Hotel

Lunch: 5 stars, DiMillo's, 25 Long Wharf, Portland, ME; built on a retired ferry boat; awesome clam chowder...and delish whole belly clams!

Dinner: Hotel, enjoyed a 5 stars, OMG, full blown Maine "lobster bake".

Hotel: Anchorage by the Sea Resort, 125 Shore Rd, Ogunquit, ME 03907

Day 8 Friday Oct 27**Boston, Atlanta****Bags 7AM****Depart 8AM**

After breakfast, Caravan transferred us to the Boston airport.

Breakfast: Hotel

Lunch: at BOS airport

Dinner: 5 stars, Sugo, 10305 Medlock Bridge Rd, Johns Creek, GA 30097; a great meal to wrap up our journey!

Delta: LV BOS 1:20PM, ARR ATL 4:10PM

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