



MARDI GRAS & HILL COUNTRY

... ON OUR WAY TO EL PASO

We had planned to visit good friends in Corpus Christi, Patty and Steve. We met them years ago in El Paso. Since then we are visiting each other on an annual basis. This year we got the invitation to both the Mardi Gras parade as well the Super Bowl Party. What a great gesture! Thankful having such friends we said: yes!





What a treat, with perfect weather and barefoot on the beach we experienced the parade. And the beer tasted great, I tell you! However, **NOTHING** but really **NOTHING** in comparison with carnival in Germany. Everything is very colorful and sometimes funny but with no political reference, neither playing marching bands Instead of throwing candy, flowers and kisses the throw beads, colorful plastic necklaces with advertisements on it! But nevertheless for our pleasure it was a great experience! Unrestricted star on the beach: Noah. He got more beads than all of us! It may have been, because he was the only one who had bared his boops. Unfortunately.



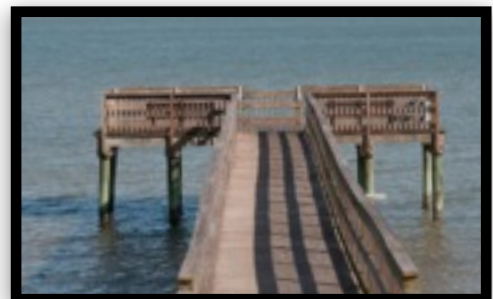
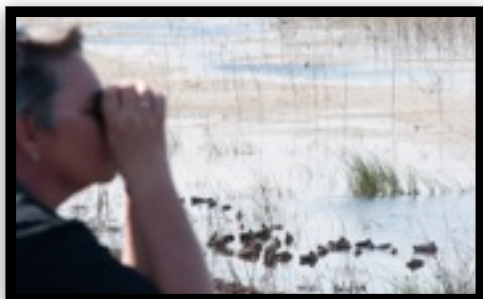
I earned my beads!





Padre Island and Mustang island are the the natural barrier to the mainland and Corpus Christi, however they have only a few feet high dunes. On the sea side there are more than 60 miles long sandy beaches. This deserted coast is very clean and the water almost crystal clear. We walk almost every day and always discover something interesting. Unfortunately, the water temperatures are still below 20 ° C, so that only our feet and Noah enjoy a bath.

On the mainland facing side these islands have marshes, forests and saltwater lakes where thousands of migratory birds spend there winter. Again we hiked a lot. Among others, we meet again alligators, storks and cranes.







Our first ferry ride! The big Alfa took it with pride. Only Beate was a little nervous.



In Rockport we met a great couple: Dieter & Margie with sweet Sofie-Marie, her dog. Nice talks, good food - Thank you guys! You gave us so great informations. We will meet again!





Elaborate viewing platforms allow us an insight view into the flora and fauna of this beautiful countryside. Just like watching the few remaining whooping cranes in Aransas Wildlife Park.





SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

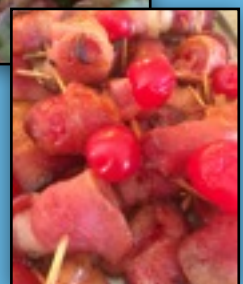
The biggest television event here in the US, with more than 115 million viewers worldwide, has become in recent years an unofficial holiday. Weeks before promotion is carried out on all channels, restaurants, pubs and bars offering deals and there is no food market, where the entrance is not packed

with pallets of beer, chips and salsa for this day. Everywhere there are parties, to celebrate the final of the American football. Much food - lots of drinks - a lot of fun! We are invited to such a party. Friends of our friends insisted to bring the Germans.

They live here on the island very modest: only three garages in front and a yacht behind the house. There would be neighbors who had significantly more is assured. Man lives just as flat!

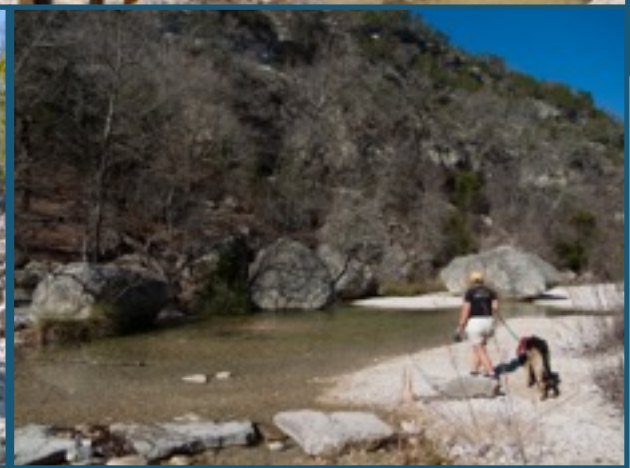


Hosts and guests alike treat us like old friends. How great is that! Thank you so much!



Beate had a special reason to celebrate: She won 2 out of 4 bets => \$ 250
They probably don't invite us again!

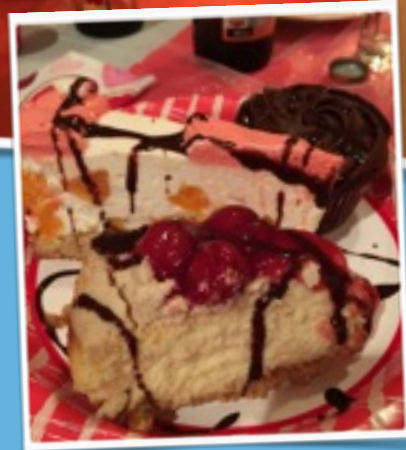
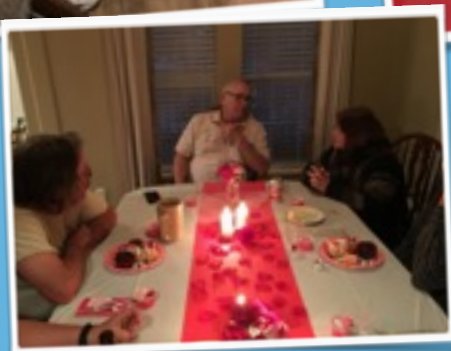
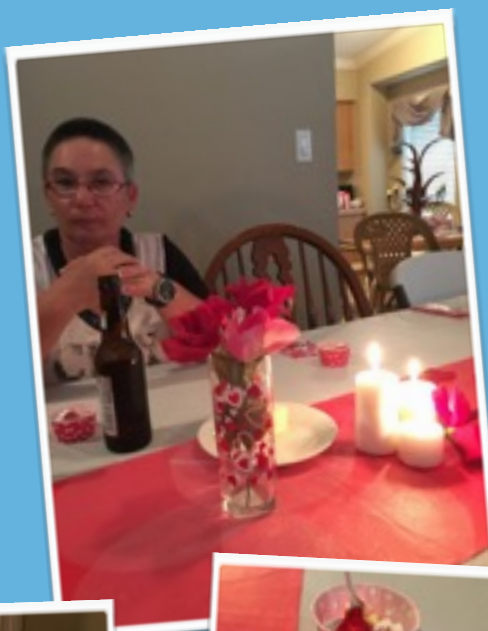






More by accident we ended up in an area that we don't suspected. We thought different about the Hill Country because previously we visited only the beautiful area around Fredericksburg, Luckenbach and New Braunfels. Many trips and visits brought us in recent years into this hilly area. Well we ended up in a really mountainous region of this Hill Country, which is quite comparable with the Bergisch Land in Germany, where we spend our last 5 Years in Germany. We did not think that we had to climb again and so much! Crystal clear rivers and lakes, oak and maple forests, caves and hiking trails. Everything to our liking. Still missing was a suitable campsite or State Park. And here we come again: The best wife in the world wanted to wash. State parks usually have no sewage connection. So we chose a private park. Still in reverse, we've been invited to the Happy Hour at the neighboring caravans and learned at the same time, that all the residents of

this small campground like to "happy hour". So do we! Since the next evening began at 16:00, the setting of the park was awesome and also very good value, we canceled the visit to the Big Bend National Park and extended by four days! Because it really was happy that we stayed, We ever were invited for Valentines dinner at the house of the park manager! That is unbelievable nice hospitality! What a great evening with fantastic food and great people.



The Becs RV Park is our 38th campsite we have visited since August 2015. We had mostly great places with nice people around us, but it is the first park in which the residents (still in pajamas) came out of their campers to hug us and say goodbye.

Miles after we still had a lump in the throat.
Oh man, we love this Camping life! We will be back - promised!

LOST AND FOUND

WAS SONST UNS SO BESCHÄFTIGTE



Apparently there are people who do not pay attention to their cell phone and expose it to the damp weather or water for longer than healthy. For such cases, you go in the US in the nearest supermarket, pay \$ 20 at the machine, wait 30 minutes and ... it should work! ??? At least expanding income of the operator of this machine!

The Pope is gone - El Paso, we are coming! (from 18th Februar)

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So, that would be it for today. We are now 187 days on the road!

Until next time all the best

Your 3 Gefeke's

