



Canada Edition

Happy Trails

Notizen von Unterwegs

Juni 2016 Vol. 19

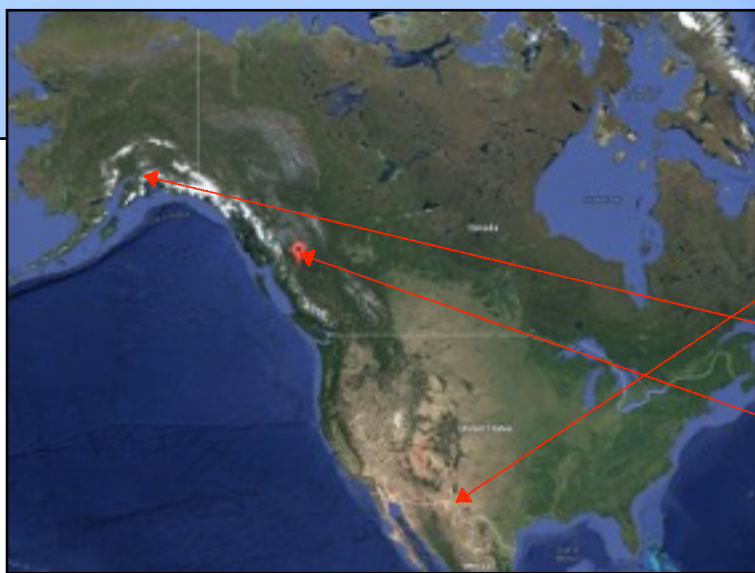
THE WAY IS THE GOAL.

No other trip did Beate and I plan like this Alaska tour. Countless maps, books, websites, blogs, advice from other campers, etc. were studied and analyzed over the past year. Every inside tip was written down somewhere (PC, I-Pad, napkins, you name it). Which route should we take, which route is not feasible with the Alfa? What is the weather like in May? How are the road conditions? What do we need to take with us? 1000 questions and countless more answers, and as always in life, everybody made their own experience and told us differently. But everybody said no matter the trouble, a tour to Alaska is a must. So what to do? First and foremost PANIC, just kidding, the opposite calm down. And since long trips through the beautiful nature does not bother either Beate, Noah or me what can go wrong? Often was the journey more fascinating than the destination, so we started our 4000 miles tour towards the North. We wanted to take the time to enjoy the way, at this point I want to make sure retreat was not an option. And with every mile we went into the nature, did our jaw drop a few inches.



To understand the different to our 30 former RV tours ==> the distance to Alaska! 4000 miles from El Paso. That's more or less the same distance we have between EL Paso and Cologne, Germany!!!!

And we don't drive more than 250 miles a day. With some layover days to explore: you need month to get up and month to get down. But that is our treasure, tourist don't have. They are on a tied schedule. We will stick out our fingers in the morning and decide if we move on or stay! That is freedom folks!



El Paso, Texas

Anchorage, Alaska

our location last week

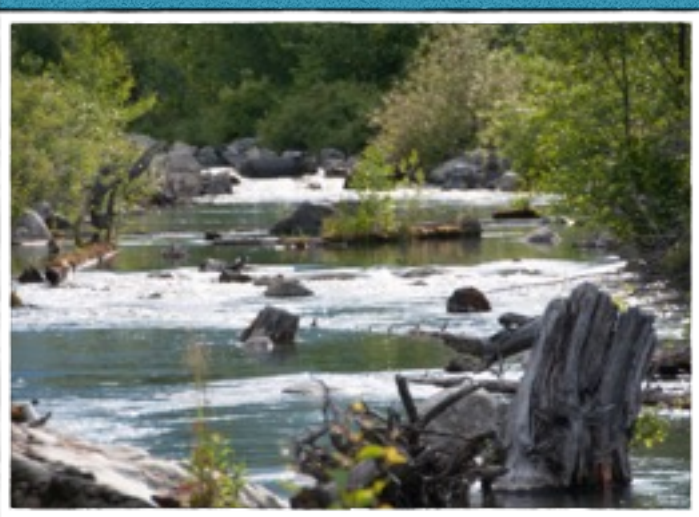
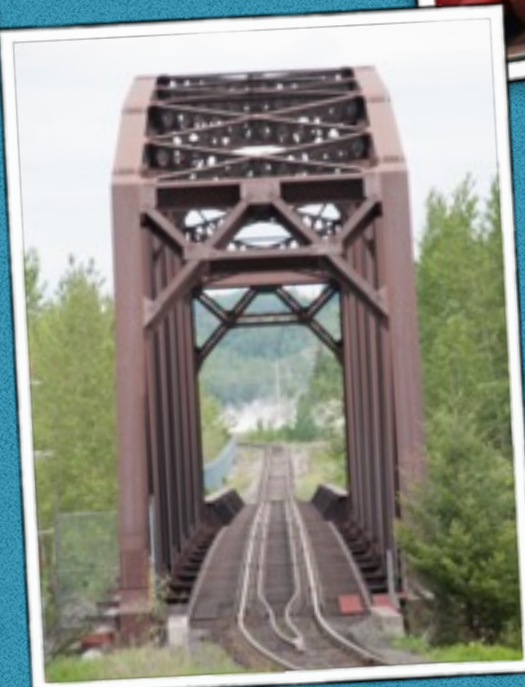
Forests, lakes, and mountains as far as the eye can see, sometimes a little hill and turquoise water, sometimes rough rockface with streaming waterfalls. On top of that: freezing wind and a sky full of low hanging clouds. That was the first day we encountered. We are still in the populated south of British Columbia, means every few miles a little town and in between farms and settlements. The roads most of the time have a side shoulder and a middle line. So no sign of wilderness yet. Even our cell reception is great.





The weather all of a sudden gets better. We resting for a few days in an alpine similar region, above 656 feet there is snow. Other than in the Alps there is no small restaurant on top of the mountain where you can eat, drink, and rest after a 4 hour hike up a mountain. Too bad, since I really wanted a Radler (beer mixed with carbonated lemonade), Kaiserschmarren or a Tiroler bacon. On the bright side: we found not only one but two German butcher in town.





Only those who have been absent for so long from Germany like us, can understand how ecstatic we were, when we found original German deli meat. Which did not survive long, since at night we ate it on top of Beates fresh made bread. That for us is better than most four star restaurants. You can't compare that with the deli meat which was labeled German in various US grocery shops. Even our beloved Milwaukee - sorry- when it comes to deli meat you are second place, and we all know second place is called first loser.

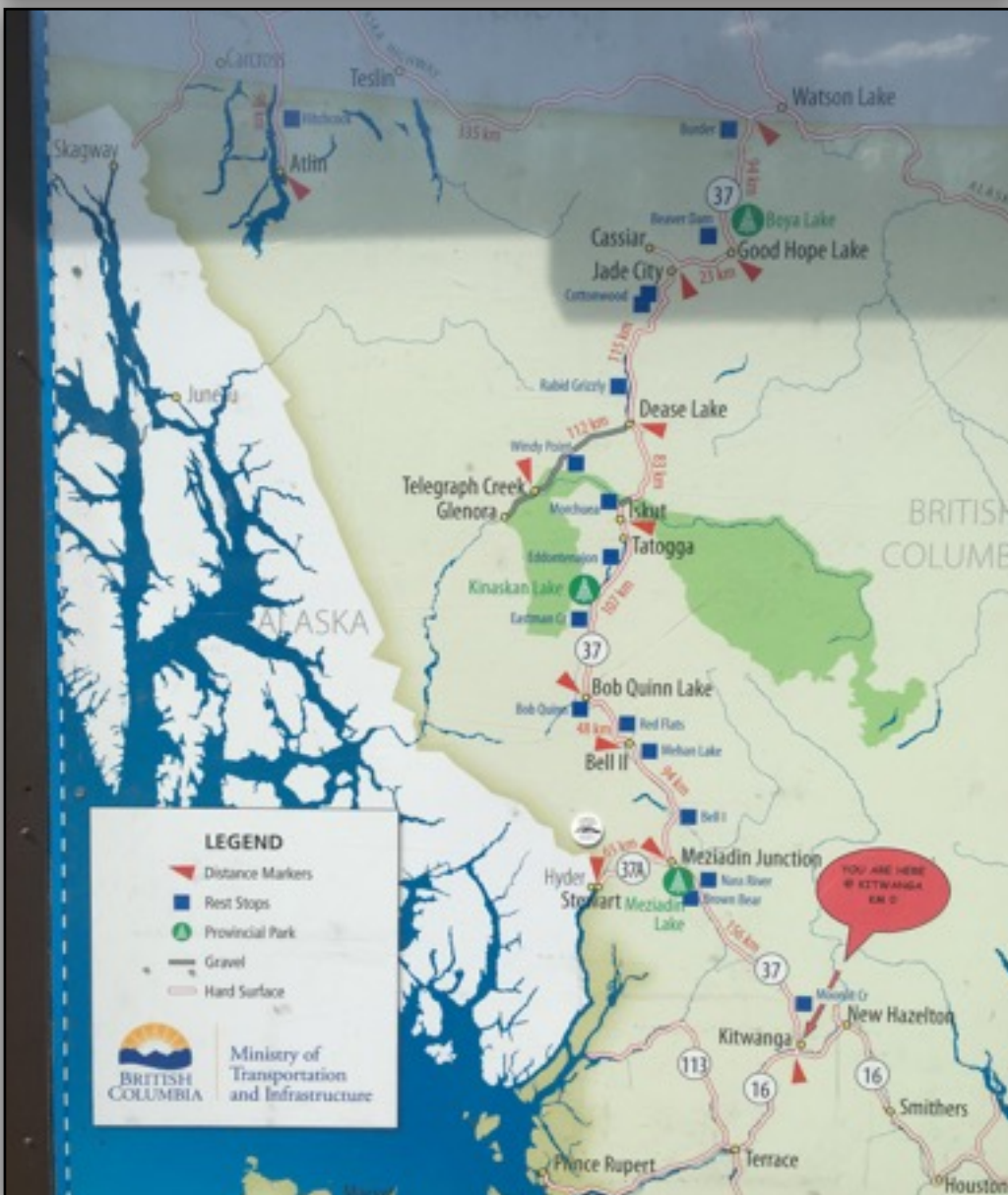


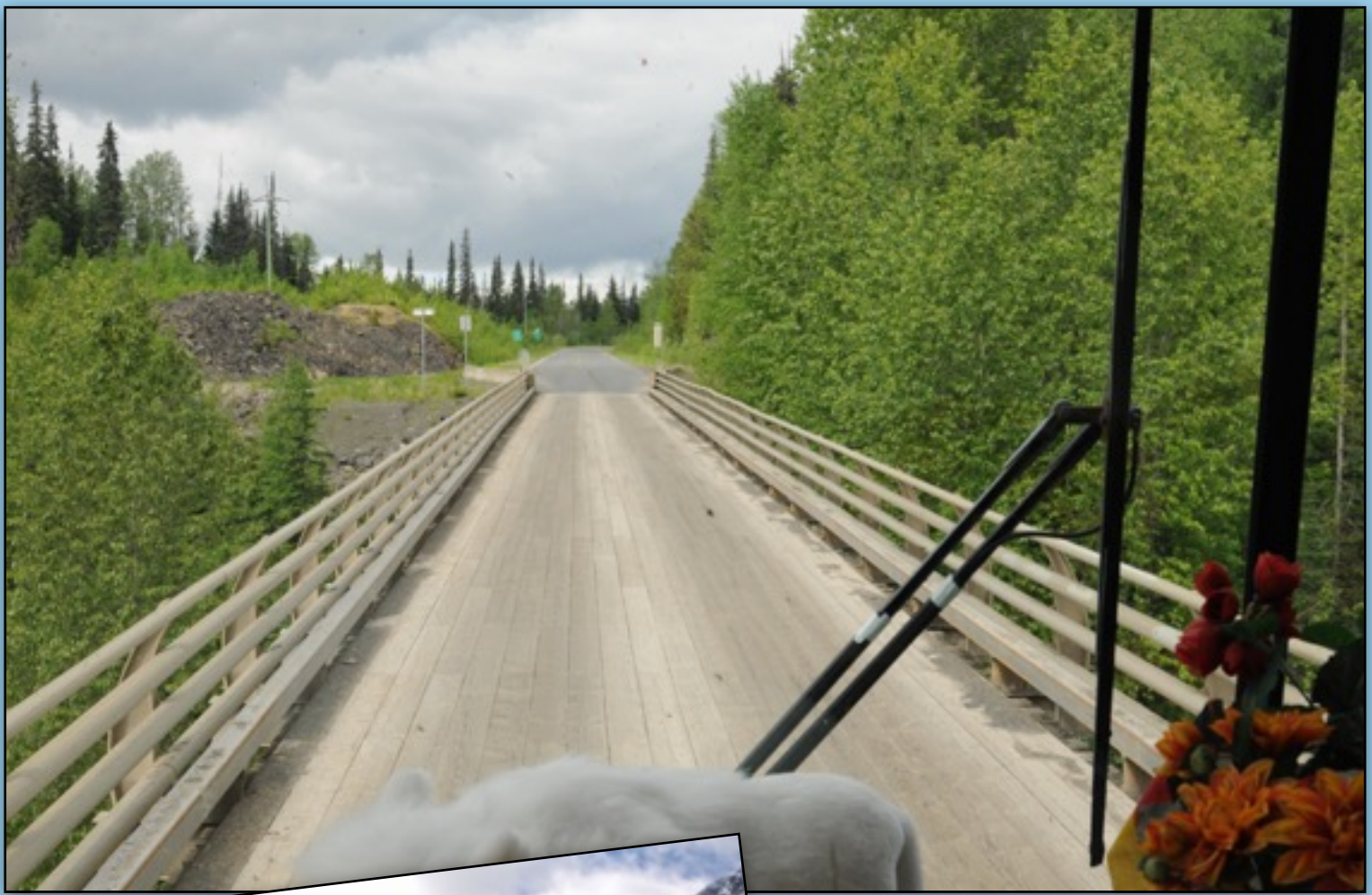
In Hazelton we visited 'KSAN, a village that housed the native tribe *Gitksan* till the 50's. More than 50 old totem poles show the culture in this area. Once again this is an area in which we could spend month, British Columbia is a good destination to visit for everyone, winter or summer.



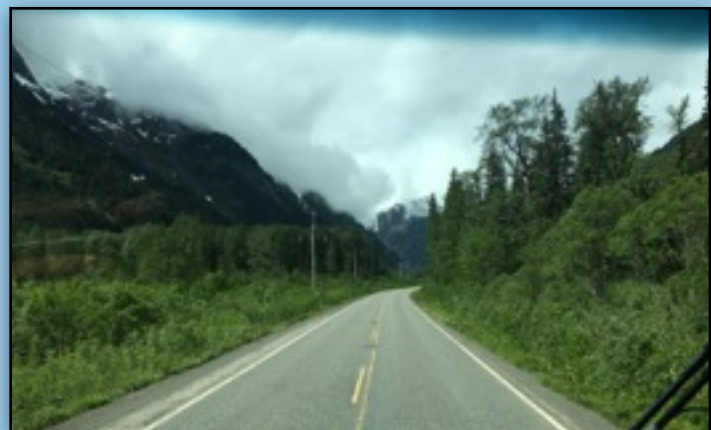


But we are drawn further north. Next stage, the *Cassiar Highway*, who is recently completely finished, meaning no dirt road anymore!? But the road is getting smaller and does not have any markings on it. The opportunity to put gas or diesel in your car is also scarce. Phone service negative, so does that mean the wild starts here? So we stock up on diesel, gas, water and other groceries.



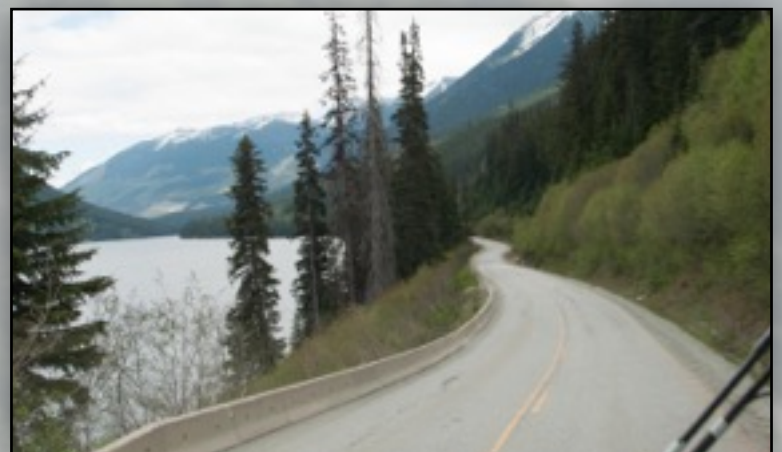


CASSIAR HIGHWAY





Our first glacier, *Bear Glacier*, on our way to Stewart.





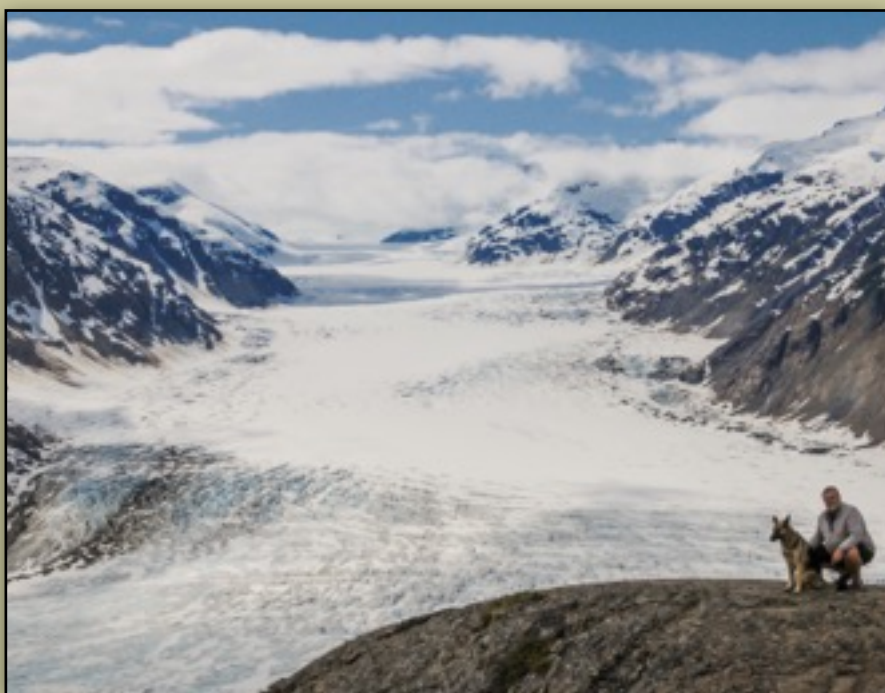
We made it to **Stewart**, which is located at the end of a long fjord/inlet. From here we can go to the Pacific, if we choose to do that. Here we established our base for the next 2 days, since the main objective is to reach Alaska.

From Stewart you can reach Alaska without any US border checkpoints, which is unique. The American ghost town of **Hyder** is just a few miles away and shows a time, when whale hunters and gold miners lived here. Today there is just a small harbor in which ore is loaded on ships and a few old houses. So we off to a stroll into Alaska, since for whatever reasons we cannot continue this tour, at least we can officially put our 30st state sticker on the RV map. But it got even better from here on.



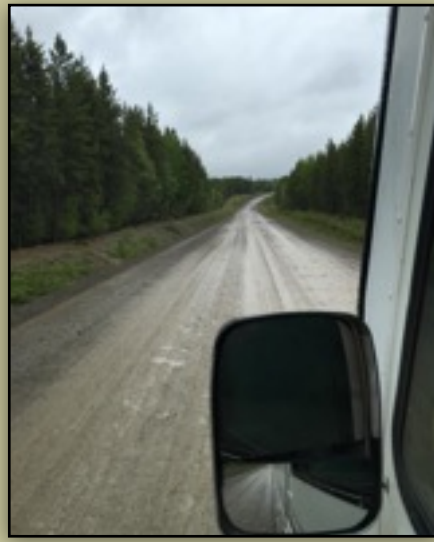


Salmon Glacier



In Stewart we meet a German couple, which reported that this year the dirt road to the **Salmon Glacier** already is free of all the snow and therefore for our jeep no problem. So we mounted the 4x4 and drove the better than expected road. Our Jeep showed us in Utah, that he can handle other kind of terrain. And once again did the jeep bring us to a place which words cannot describe. Just unbelievable those dimensions. The ice is glare, absolute silence, expect the birds and the water inside this majestic glacier are audible. Once again we are thankful that we can enjoy all of this together. Up here you will get very modest and humble. A place of peace, unity with god and nature! An absolute highlight of our tour so far.





On we go, further north along the **Cassiar Highway**. The road get's even smaller, and become more and more a dirt road, which are relatively good to drive on. Downside it makes our Jeep, which is towed behind us, look like a mess. The dirt sticks to the cars like concrete. But every car looks like this up here and every campground is equipped with a high-pressure hose to get the dirt off. We made it into the Yukon Territory on the 60° latitude, which puts us at the same as the Shetland Islands, Sweden, or Norway.



Even though the pictures show otherwise here we have almost no traffic, every 30min we see a car. Mainly trucks and RV's are encountered up here. Unfortunately the weather is dark and wet, but we reached the worse Alaskan Highway, the condition is worse since it has more traffic. We reached the settlement of **Watson Lake**. From here will we report next time.



LOST AND FOUND: WAS SONST UNS SO BESCHÄFTIGTE



Was it the driving style of the Captain, the bad street conditions or too much of a washing load? One of the belts in the washing machine slipped. So the beer had to wait and the “together team” started to fix it. Beate always helps me to prevent a meltdown!



Thank you for all the nice comments to my last newsletter. We feel blessed having **Y O U** with us on our tour!



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[Facebook](#)

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That's it for today. We are already 308 days on the road!

All the best

Your 3 Gefeke's

