



ALASKA THE LAST FRONTIER

IN THE 49TH STATE

Best autumn greetings from the Black Hills of South Dakota. We have been camping in the magnificent scenery of the Custer State Park for now over four weeks and we enjoy not being "on the road" again the next day. We will leave Custer mid-October and then slowly head south. The many e-mails, calls and our Facebook friends, who ask if we still live, can calm down:

A simply grandiose summer lies behind us. I'll tell you a little today..

I don't know how many evenings Beate and I have dreamed about this trip, how we discussed first routes, procured literature and maps, explored the Internet and watched videos about this wild country in the north-west of the American continent. Now we are back in the "lower 48". Oh, what a pity! But we do not want to be ungrateful, because we were able to spend more than 11 weeks in this unique state. We are very thankful and proud to have experienced all this. However, we will not really understand the whole tour, until we have been able to take a look at our memories some day, to admire the many photos and to think about the wild stories of Opa and Oma and the bears, eagles, whales and the friendly people of Alaska and Canada.

O, this will be fun! Can't wait for some grandchildren. So boys - do your part. I'm ready for some great stories at a campfire!!!





All the hardships, the countless tank fillings and the long journey have really paid off. Alaska is still an adventure and so completely different than all our many travels and tours before! We loved it!





In addition to Beth, Noah and me this summer thousands of people are traveling in a camper solo or in a caravan to Canada / Alaska. Nowhere else have we encountered so many Germans traveling in a RV. Neither Vegas nor Grand Canyon. Most of them have to return home after a few weeks. But we also met some Germans, who like us, spend the whole summer up here. Young and old. A colorful mix of people we meet on our tour over and over again. The country is huge, but the streets and camping sites are manageable. In the course of time one can already see from a distance the type of camper and recognize neighbors from last week. E.g. the Barefoot family who were looking for a house in Alaska. These lovely people gave us valuable tips and suggestions what to do in this part of the country and they shared with us there most precious: Halibut filet!!



I am sure - our paths will cross again in the future. In addition, Internet & Co. connects this great community of travelers wherever we are.



Where have our expectations been confirmed, what has been surpassed and what has not been true?

roads

Their condition is much better than we expected. Despite all the sloops and longer passages on gravel, we came through comfortably everywhere. Driving slowly is the secret. So, the many horror stories we read in the run-up have not occurred. Unfortunately, the reports on stone impacts on windshields have been true for both vehicles!

mosquitoes

Patty, we will bring back most of your donation of bug-spray. In Alaska and Canada, the stinging creatures and the black flies did not really bother us on our daily walks and trails.

daily length

Blackout measures in the RV provided us with a sufficient and restful sleep period. However you have sunshine until 01:00 clock. This is unusual and somewhat funny-honest! Sunset and sunrise more or less in the North? This confuses the orientation. Or to see how the presenter on TV speaks of the fact that after a phase of clouds the sun will shine again after 10:45 pm! Here people picking weeds between there flowers at midnight or begin the window cleaning of the house. We had not seen that in our life before. Also, everyone here runs their own vegetable garden, because the day length permits extremely large and fast growing plants. Especially vegetables thrive gigantic!

animal world

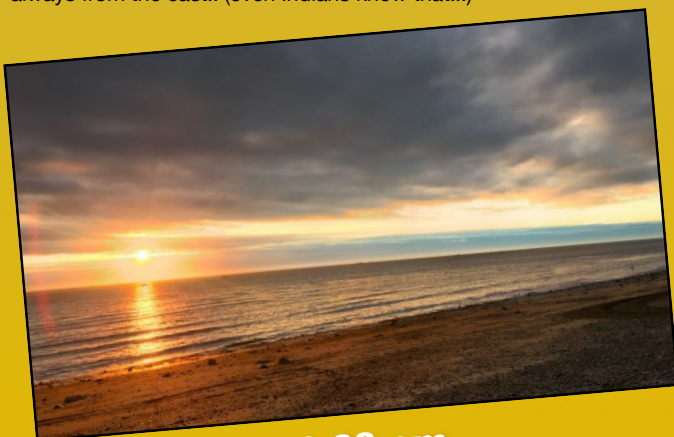
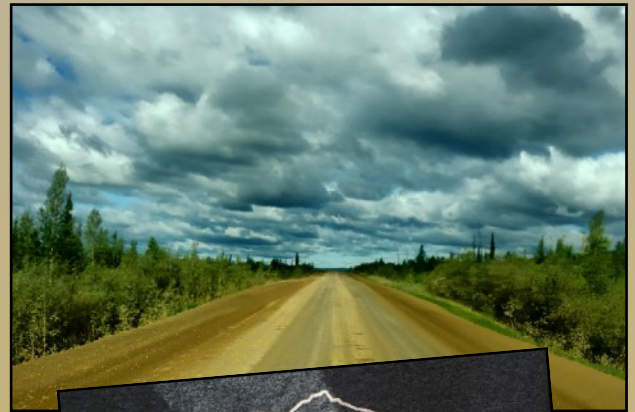
This is really diverse and omnipresent: majestic eagles above us, the road-crossing caribou, bears close by, whales, antelopes, goats, pigs and jumping salmon. All live, in full color and without any fence !!

people / Homo sapiens

Nowhere else have we met (outside our RV community) such friendly people as in Alaska, the Yukon and in British Columbia and Alberta. Simply nice people, who are always interested and helpful These men and women are very active in sports and they take care and respect their environment. All this can be seen on the road, the shopping center or on our numerous hikes and walks. Sometimes strangers stop next to us and ask, if we are happy in their area, if we need something or just wishing us a nice day! They also gave us tips and hints of not so public sights in the area. Great.

distances

What are 1000 miles? In this part of the world everything is shrinking. The size is difficult for us Europeans to describe. Texas is already huge: compared to Alaska but a small brother. The distance Fairbanks - Cologne is also shorter than the distance Fairbanks - Dallas. And Russia is suddenly in the West! That's very strange to realize from my old military perspective, because danger comes always from the east!! (even Indians know that!!!)



0:38 pm

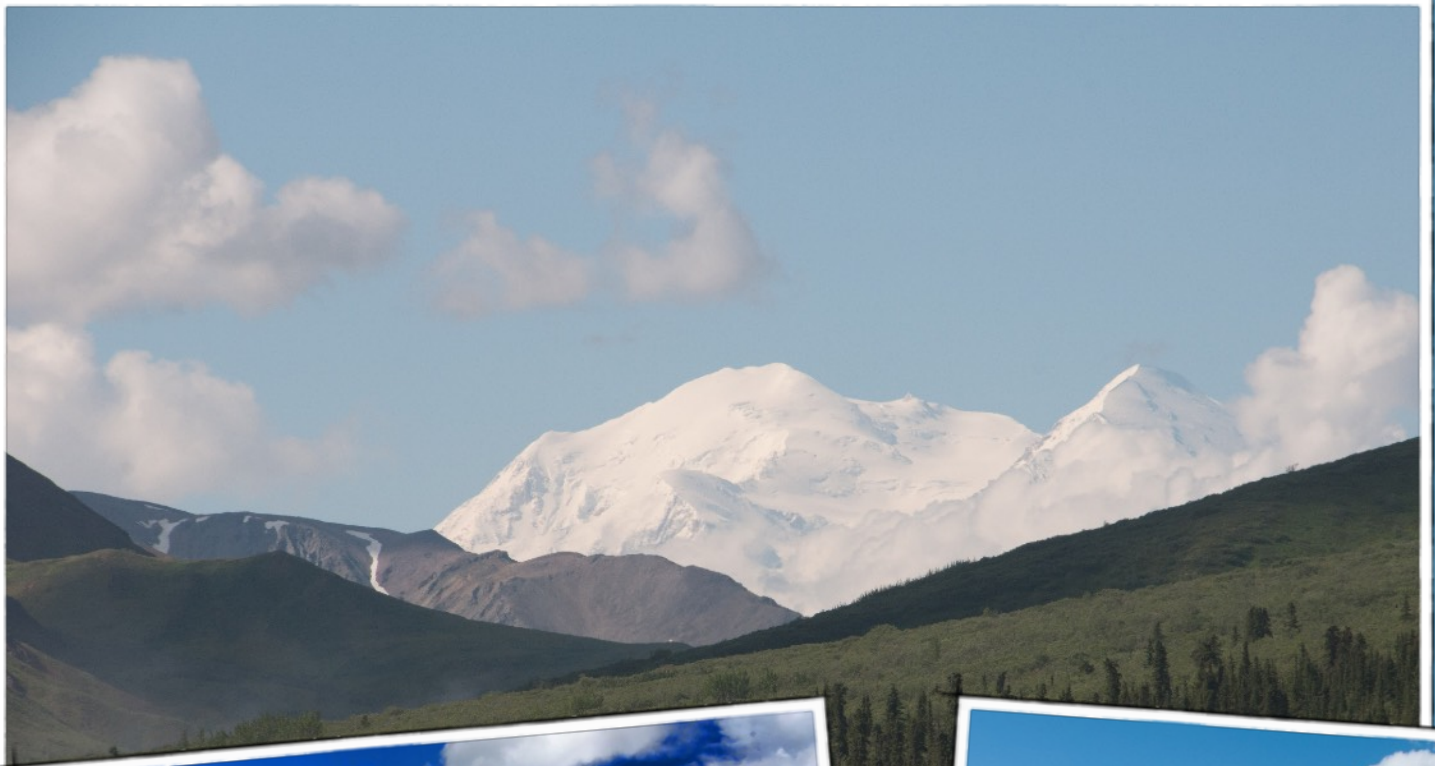


great RV campgrounds



North America's highest mountain, the Denali, 20,310 feet. Due to its isolated position, it is the mountain with the highest relief on the earth, so no other peak extends so far beyond its surroundings. And this is simply breathtaking. When we came closer to the mountain later that day, clouds unfortunately covered the summit.





Our nephew Marc
joined us for a couple of
weeks. He lives in
Germany but loves the
USA.



Denali





Chicken, Alaska on the "Top of the World" Highway



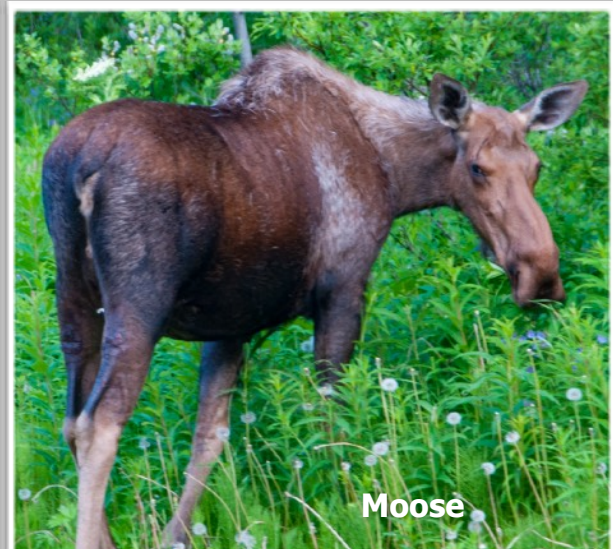
glaciers



Bald Eagle



German Shepard



Moose

Alaska's wealth: oil, tourism and fish. I mean a lot of fish !! Everywhere the waters are full with salmon and trout. The sea also offers Halibut and other sea fish in abundance. At some rapids the salmon are standing by hundreds and are waiting for the jump. A real experience to see how powerful these elegant swimmers can jump a few meters wide and high. Many campers from the "lower 48" have additional freezers on board to take their catch with them. Or you send your fillets via airmail. Each of Walmart sells dry ice and thermo boxes by the thousands each week here. As I told you, some of our great neighbors on the campgrounds provide us very generously with delicate fish!



In some streams there are so many anglers that we ask ourselves how some salmon can escape. There is no catch quota in Alaska! However, using fishing nets is prohibited. Only Eskimos are allowed to use these and fish traps. We enjoy the luxury of eating salmon for breakfast, lunch and dinner - grilled or smoked. Simply heavenly.





Beyond the Bay of Anchorage, numerous volcanoes of the Pacific Fire Ring.



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You Know
It's the End of
Winter When..

...trucks haul boats
instead of snow
machines

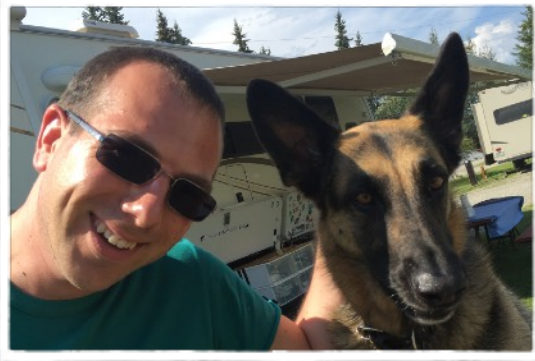
...the
snow is
wet enough to make a
snowball

... the
first
mosquitoes
come
out
of
hiding

Honey,
Please don't forget to
plug the freezer back in when
it warms up in April.
Mom



Having fun
with Marc.



Whittier, Alaska

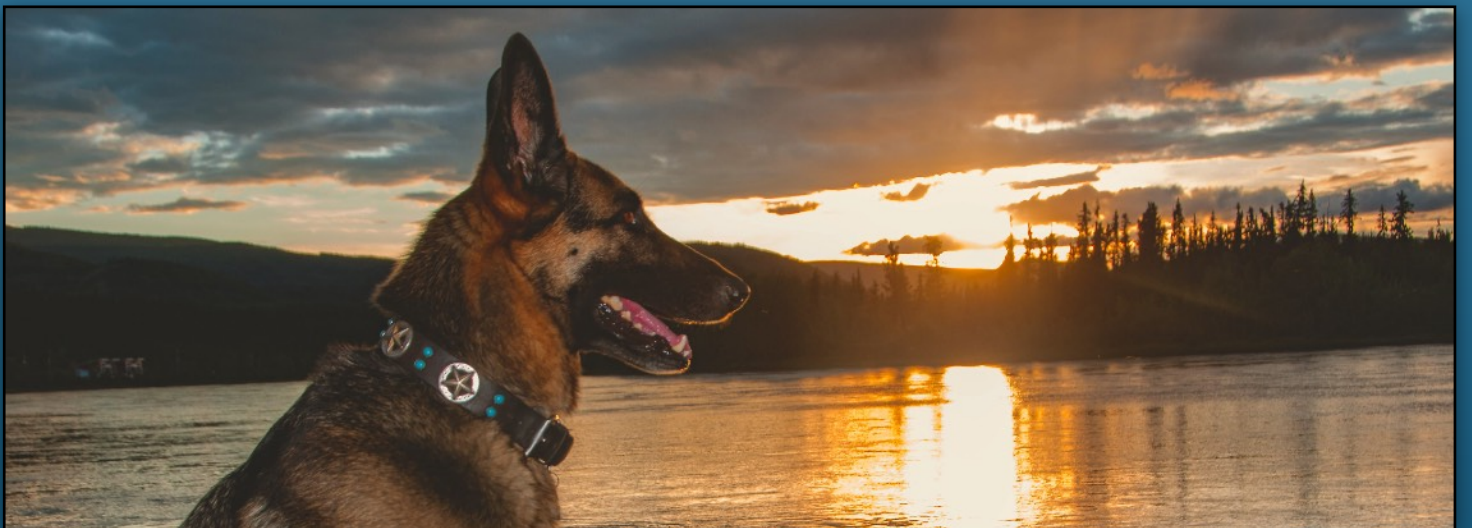


Travel to the Arctic Circle and the North Pole are a MUST, when you are in Alaska.





And then again and again this breathtaking landscape, which never ends, always looks different, always captivates us, which does not let you go and always invites you to linger. My photo collection breaks the capacity of the hard drive





Numerous museums show us very vividly the history of the aborigines. Especially interesting: the World Eskimo Indian Olympics in Fairbanks with simply wonderful "other" sports, such as ankle bouncing, tug-of-war with ears or the carrying of 4 people as far as possible. Exciting and instructive at the same time.

Some information under www.weio.org in english.





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And when we do not wander, the forest is plundered by us. They are full of blueberries and raspberries. We could not do this family tradition for years, because we lived in the desert!



And of course, each game of the European Soccer Cup was watched by Beate in Alaska. Even if we had to drive some Miles to find the next sports bar!!

LOST AND FOUND:



Germans wonder: Many parking lots have an electrical outlet. But not to supply Tesla cars with voltage, but to warm the cooling circuit of the vehicle in winter. That's why a 110V plug always hangs out on almost all radiator grills in Alaska!



The next newsletter will tell you something about our time in Canada.

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[Facebook](#)

[Whatsapp](#)

[skype](#)

That's it. We are 438 days on the road.
More to come!

Stay healthy and thanks for reading

Your 3 Gefeke's

