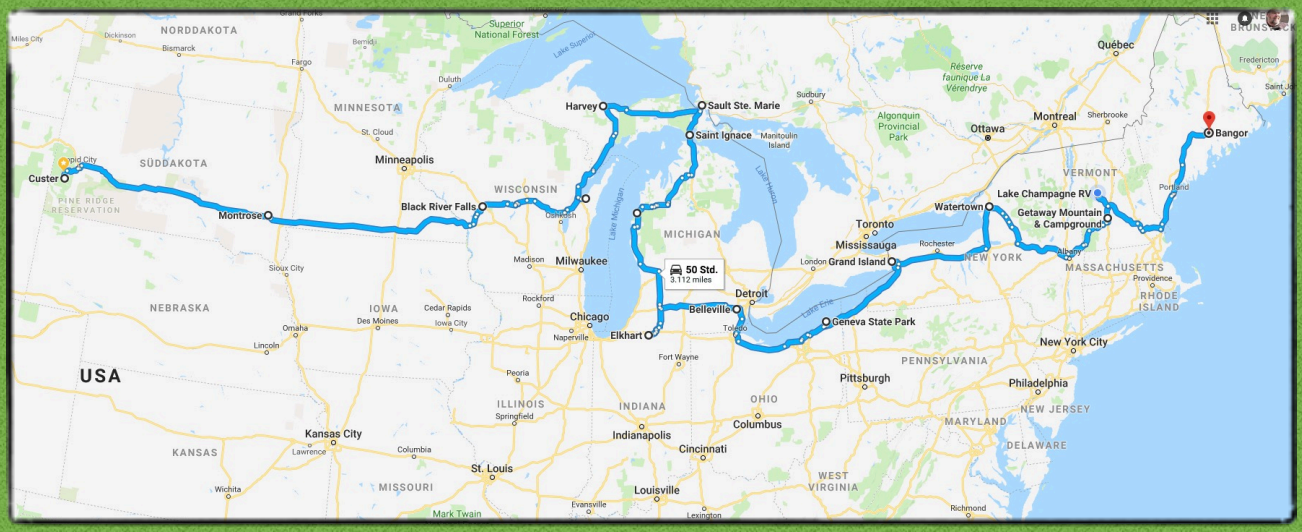


A SUMMER FAIRYTALE

THREE MONTHS IN THE BLACK HILLS AND OUR JOURNEY TO NEW ENGLAND

After spending three wonderful months in the Black Hills of South Dakota, we have been "on the move" for a month now. I could write a newsletter every day; so much beautiful and interesting things we experience on our way to the east coast. Again and again we find areas where we say: here we must stay longer and explore more in detail. But autumn in New England (top right corner of the map) is not waiting for us and the first storms whipping heavy rain on my window right now! It is time. In addition, most state parks and private campgrounds close in mid-October. So we can only spend a few days in one place.



Almost 2500 miles are behind us since September 1st and I can assure you: we are not always behind the wheel. After about 250 miles we usually make a 2-3 day stop and explore the surrounding area. As I said, some things we just have to leave aside and pick those up "next time". But before I go into our Eastern tour some impressions of our three months in the Black Hills.

Custer State Park, South Dakota













CUSTER

some of our visitors 2018



wonderful time with nephew Aaron

He came to us for 5 weeks



ALFA owner Carol & Brian from Washington State



ALFA owner Ce Anne, Ray & Kuter



Zella & Charles Dahlquist from St. George, Utah



Nephew Marc from Lippstadt

accompanied us for 3 weeks



Michaela, Franz & Tessi out of El Paso

It's just great to be able to explore the beautie of this area together with friends and family. Even if we had to "repeat" many things this year, there was always something new for us.

So: come to CUSTER. We look forward to every guest.

Yes, and then the great time with our Custer family. For the first time here as "Workcamper", we had three great months. So we will be back in 2019 for sure!



















Wyoming

Devils Tower













South Dakota

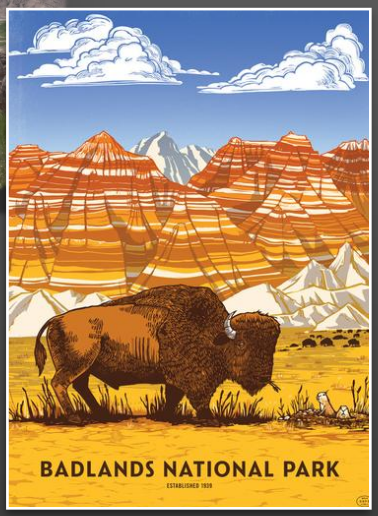
Sturgis always top













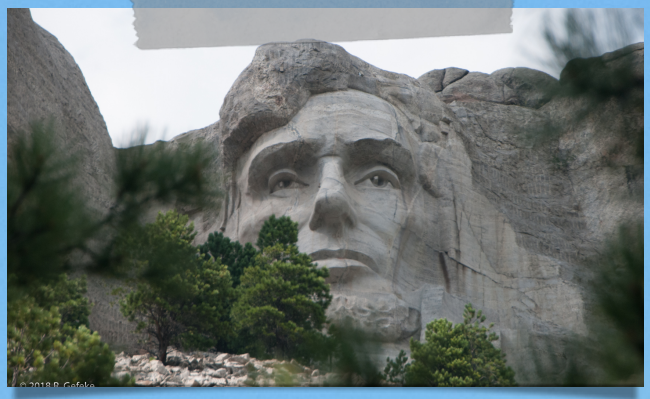




Badlands National Park, South Dakota



MT. RUSHMORE
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ★ SD







We are on this campground with friends - we feel almost like family. This year, the owner offered us to work for him. We did not think twice. Mow lawn, chop wood, cleaning cabins. Not really bad work! Specially when you are in a great team. Now we feel part of this place! And it was fun as well.

Today at Greg & Diane for Cowboy breakfast by the campfire, tomorrow fresh sausage by John, on Saturday music with Rose, Van and Frank, gun shooting with Rob, Lee Anns famous potato soup, a visit at the "V" with Dick & Lou and then the next week schnitzel food at our place! There were always reasons to celebrate and have a good time together. Everyone helps everyone without being too close to each other.











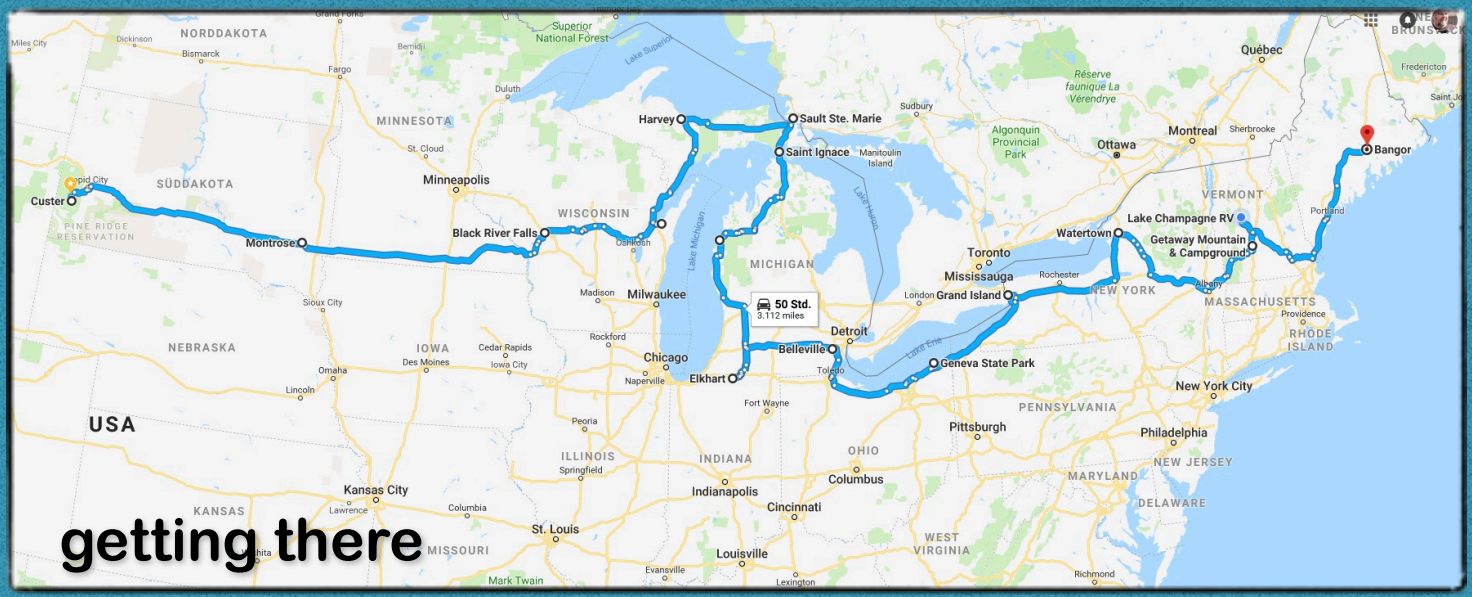




On the 1st of September we left Custer. After the Alaska Tour in 2016 our next big tour. As already mentioned, the Indian Summer lures us to New England, but also the completely different USA on the East Coast. If you like to visit the USA in its entirety, the historic East Coast is of course a top priority. Boston, New York, Washington, Savannah and Charleston - what sonorous names. But especially autumn in New England has been a top priority on our wish list for decades. The last 30 years, the distance from El Paso was just too far. This year or never! Planned trip: one month from South Dakota, then two months south along the east coast and one month back to Arizona, to our winter quarters. Sounds good, but has its pitfalls: camping here is much different than in Arizona, Texas or Montana. Here, more than half of all 300 million Americans live in much smaller spaces. There is almost no public land - everything is in PRIVATE possession. New York in a 40" RV? We will see. In addition, everything is much more expensive here: we pay in the western United States on average $ 25 the night for a parking space - here easy 50, 70 or 100 dollars! But the rest is also very expensive: food, entrance and parking fees, road toll - no comparison to the southwestern United States. But on a vacation you can treat yourself something! In addition to the natural spectacle in fall, we are also interested in history. For 40 years we know and experience the USA only from approx. the year 1800 onwards. The colonization of the West has accompanied us for decades. Rarely have we been east of the Mississippi. But now, let's dive into 1620, follow the Pilgrim Fathers, learn more about the War of Independence, and visit the cities where Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Jefferson had their homes.



Especially beautiful for us: there are some friends and acquaintances on this route, whom we have known either for decades or only recently. A reunion is very welcome and we can mostly benefit from the many insider tips!







Bonnie & Leo

First goal on our tour east: our friends Bonnie & Leo in Wisconsin, with whom we have been connected since our stay in the Hill Country of Texas. The two have a beautiful lot on the Black River and could even offer us a private parking space! Luxury camping at it's finest!











Wisconsin is always worth a visit: by American standards very cheap bratwurst, top beers (Leinenkugel) and really good and affordable real cheese.















General Eisenhowers armored train from the year 1942





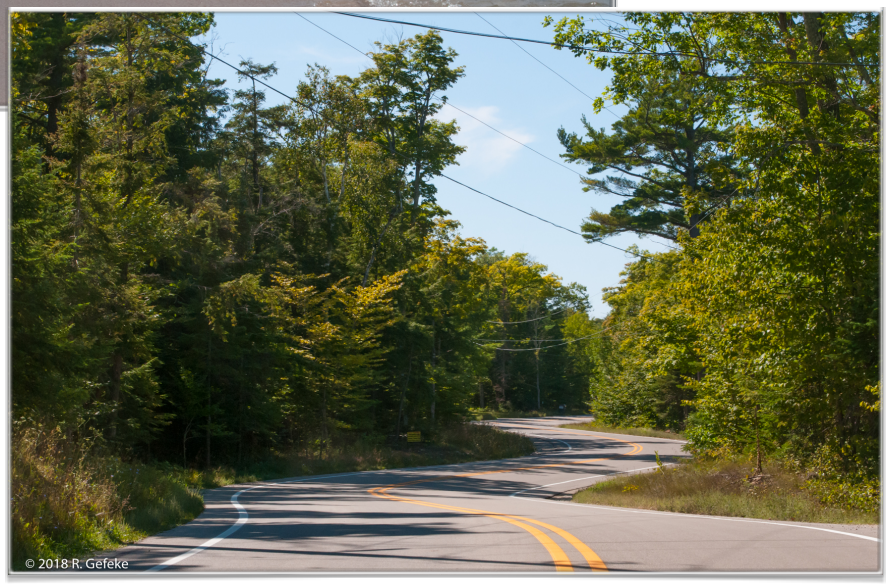
DOOR COUNTY
WISCONSIN
live life well

Yes and then there is Door County on a peninsula at Lake Michigan! We can not believe that we are that far north and that in a few weeks temperatures well below 32 ° F are the order of the day. Colorful farms, shallow hills and dream beaches. A real great vacation destination.















Lillien







Even if an ocean separates us - our great love belongs to our granddaughter, whose photos and videos we look forward every day!

Michigan

The unexpected beauty of this state hits us completely unexpectedly. Coastal landscapes like in a picture book, deserted beaches, crystal clear fresh water, bizarre rocks and forests up to the horizon. Oh my god - how we loved the short time up here!











Mackinac Island

After the unforgettable ship tour with the LuLu-Belle in Alaska in 2016, we experienced our most beautiful trip in years on this island in Lake Huron. This day alone rewarded us for all miles traveled so far. What a beauty and a must see for everybody!



The nearby Mackinac Bridge, also known as BigMac, is one of the longest suspension bridges in the world, at 2226 meters it surpasses even the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Nice if the ferry to the island makes a detour under this imposing structure!



The weather god is with us:
we have dream weather.





The island, until now completely car-free, presents itself like a museum. Fairytale turquoise stretches of beaches, Victorian mansions of superlatives and well-preserved military forts from the 17th to the 19th century characterize this popular resort of the upper ten thousand, because life here is sinfully more expensive. But magic. The Grand Hotel, built in the late 19th century, has the largest veranda in the world. Since a German TV show about 20 years ago, I've always wanted to sit where Marc Twain, Thomas Edison and five US presidents previously enjoyed the magnificent view. Well, this year it worked.











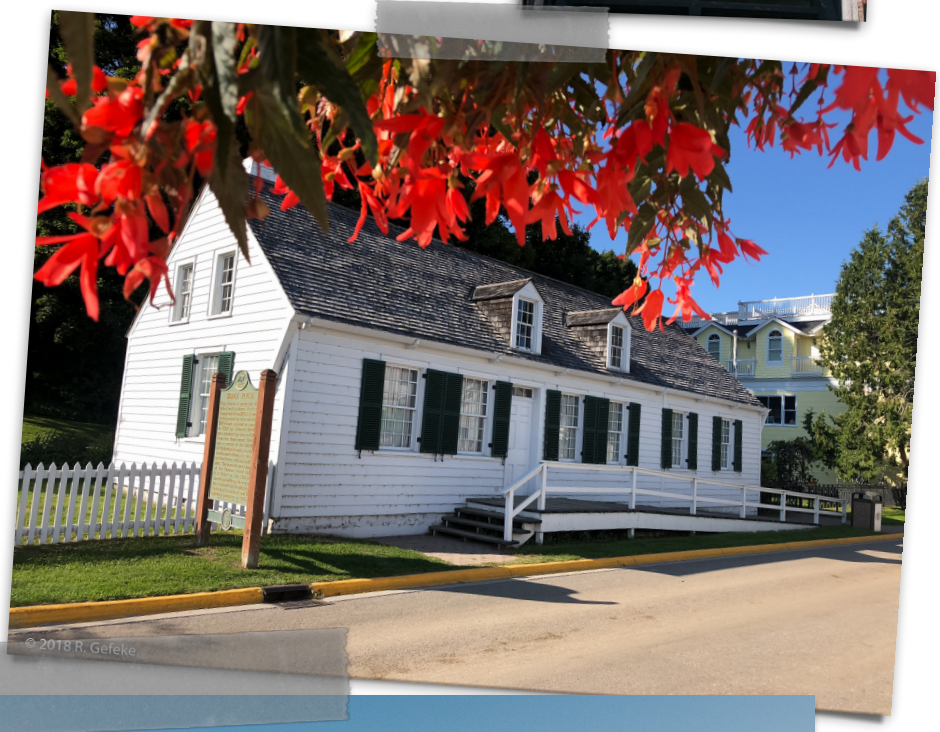




Mackinac Island
MI











It is unusual if you are in Holland after only another day's tour.







Everything is real and was brought stone by stone across the Atlantic. Even the female miller was trained in Holland and grinds the wheat almost every day. Thank you Denise Gray, for all your wonderful Insider tips!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After a few days,
a short detour to Indiana
visiting the RV
Hall of Fame.
Yes and then we met the first Amish.



Henry Ford Museum, Detroit

Not just a museum of technology, but also an exhibition for the many items that Henry Ford collected during his lifetime in order to make them accessible to the public. Automobiles, steam engines, computers ==> too much to explore in one day. Well worth seeing and really worth the trip.

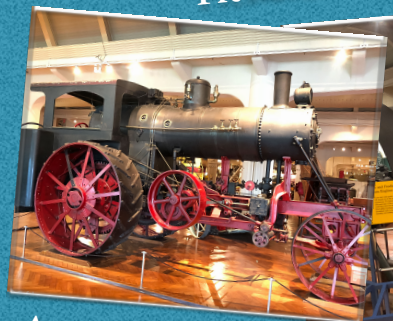


President Reagan's limousine





President Lincoln's armchair
in which he was shot in 1865



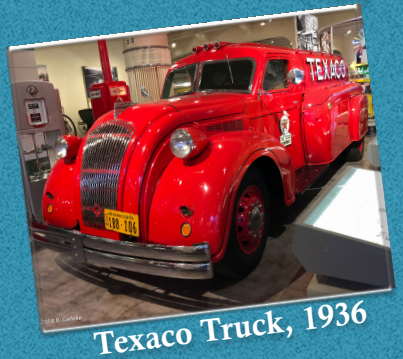
Avery Traktor, 1916
30 HP - 23to heavy!



Steam Engine, 1859



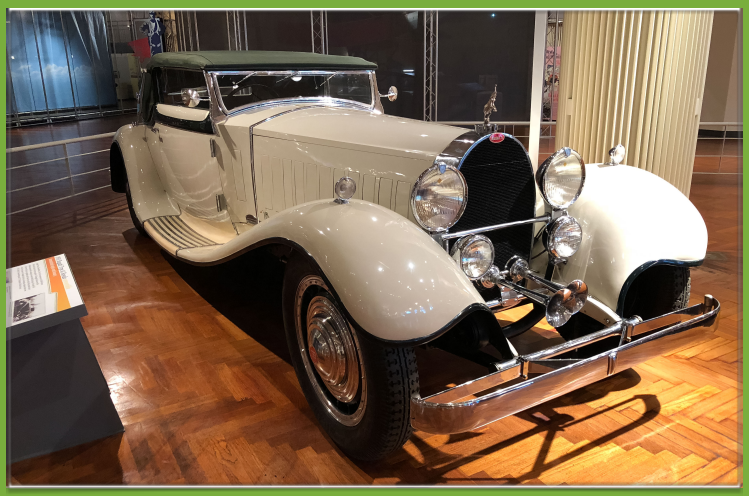
Washingtons bed, 1783



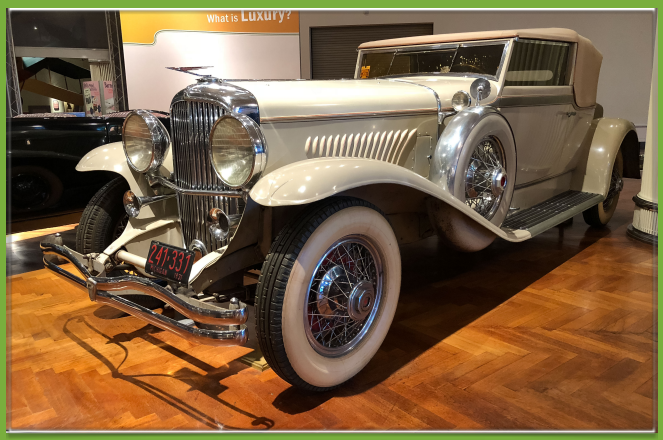
Texaco Truck, 1936



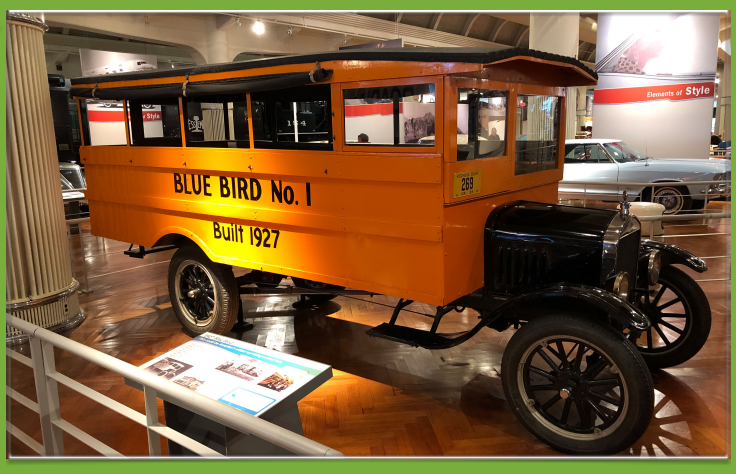
Anyone who believes only seeing Ford vehicles is disappointed. This VW is my absolute favorite!



And this rare Bugatti 41 Royale has done it to me. Already in 1931 the most expensive automobile in the world.



also luxury: Duesenberg Model J von 1931



first Blue Bird, 1927



Wood Electro truck, 1898 !!!



Niagara Falls











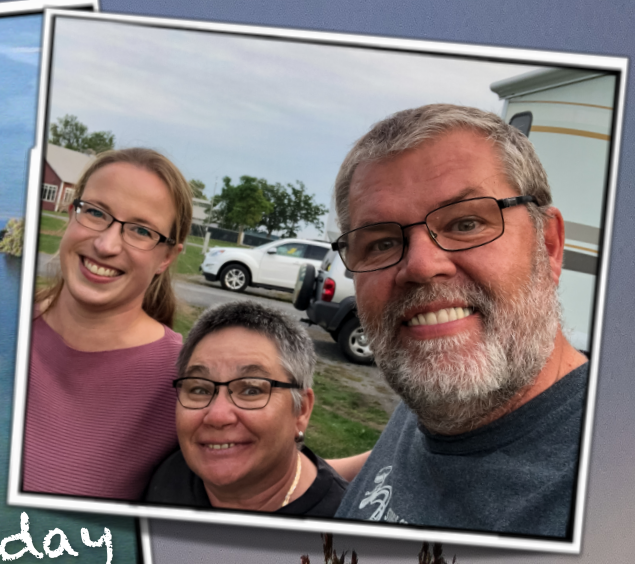






Fort Niagara 1679 - 1963





island holiday



Hard to believe that this young woman once went in and out of our house in Germany (1990). Sandra now lives with her husband Corey in upstate New York – a beautiful area with more than thousand islands, near the Canadian border.
Great, that the diligent student had two evenings time for us!



On one of those thousand islands we found one of the nicest campsites on our journey so far.

Another day trip and we are finally in New England. The weather is playing along and also the foliage discoloration is just beginning. We are here at the right time!

That's it for today. Already on the road for 1180 days.

Until next time

SeeYa

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