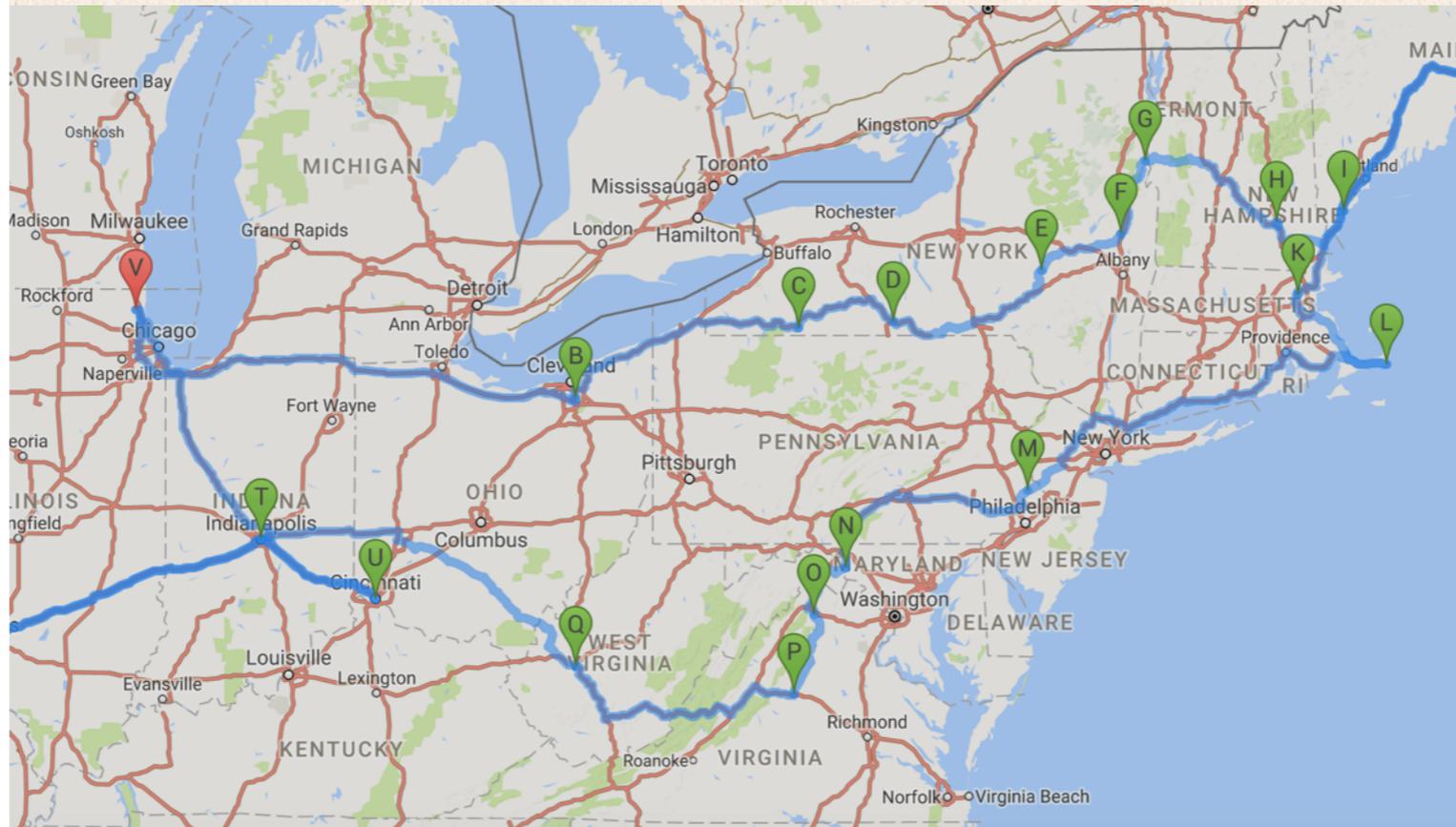


2017

Road Trip



LOU AND PATTIANN SHARP

Forward



We decided to plan a trip with the expressed idea to go to Acadia National Park in Maine but in doing so there were other places that we decided to visit including Cape Cod in Massachusetts and Doylestown, Pennsylvania where we lived in 1980.

As the planning began we also found two other National Parks that we could visit, Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Shenandoah National Park.

Our itinerary kept expanding to various National Battlefield sites and then to several other places of interest such as the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. As we finalized our trip we decided to keep our driving each day to a minimum and to provide extra time to allow stopping at other sites that we might stumble upon.

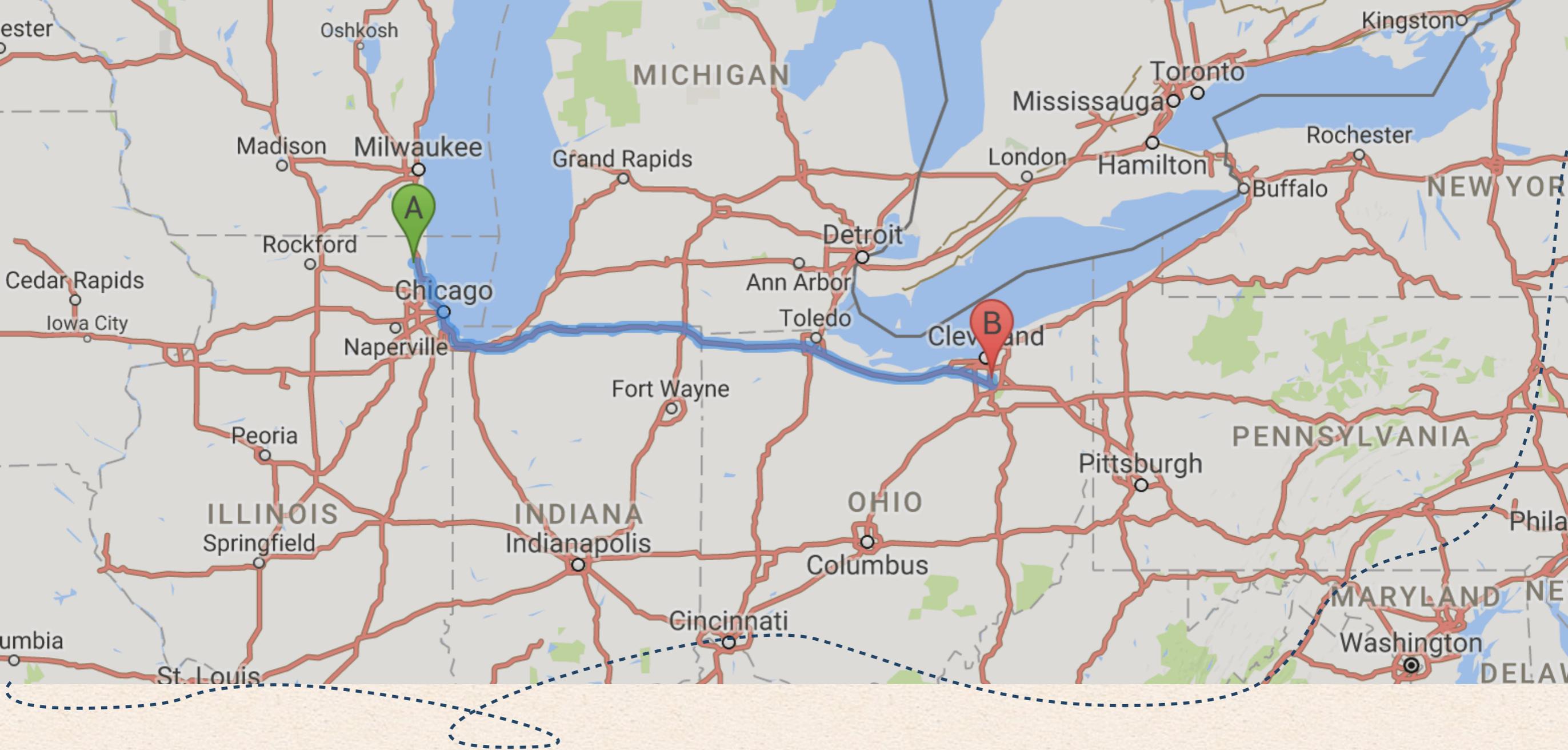
Our plan was to end up in St. Louis to visit and help Aunt Jane who was planning some minor surgery and then finally back to Cincinnati for a party for our daughter in law, Patti, on her 40th birthday.

With all this on tap, we decided to call this our “War and Wildlife” trip although it tended to cover more than just those two topics.

We hope you enjoy our day by day commentary and the pictures of our stops that are included. These are not all of the pictures but are representative of what we saw.

Hopefully our children and grandchildren will get a flavor of the adventure and fun that we had on our travels.

Lou and Pattiann



Day 1

Our road trip to see the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states began in a familiar way, driving on the Tri-State Tollway through northern Illinois, Chicago and the Indiana Toll Road.



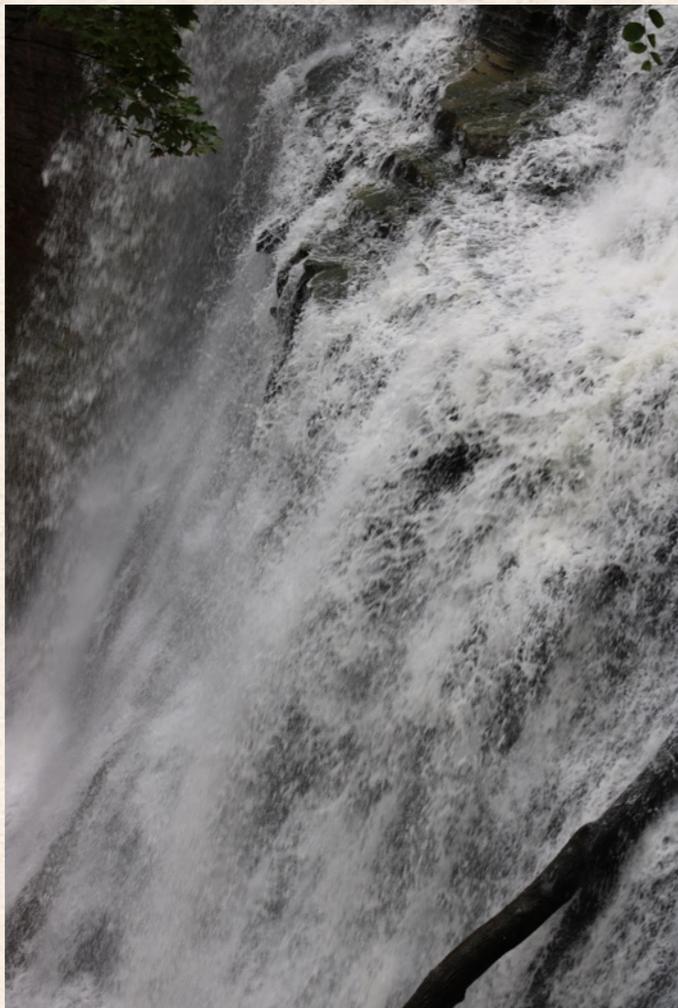
The first day was 385 miles. We stopped for lunch in Fremont, Ohio at Billy's cafe. It was a really old, dark place with comfort food and cash only but kind of fun to be there.

After lunch we completed our journey and found ourselves in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Our first stop was at the Boston Store Visitor Center to collect maps and directions for our driving to various sites in the park. The interesting thing about this National Park is that several little villages are in and around the park and thus there are numerous entrances.

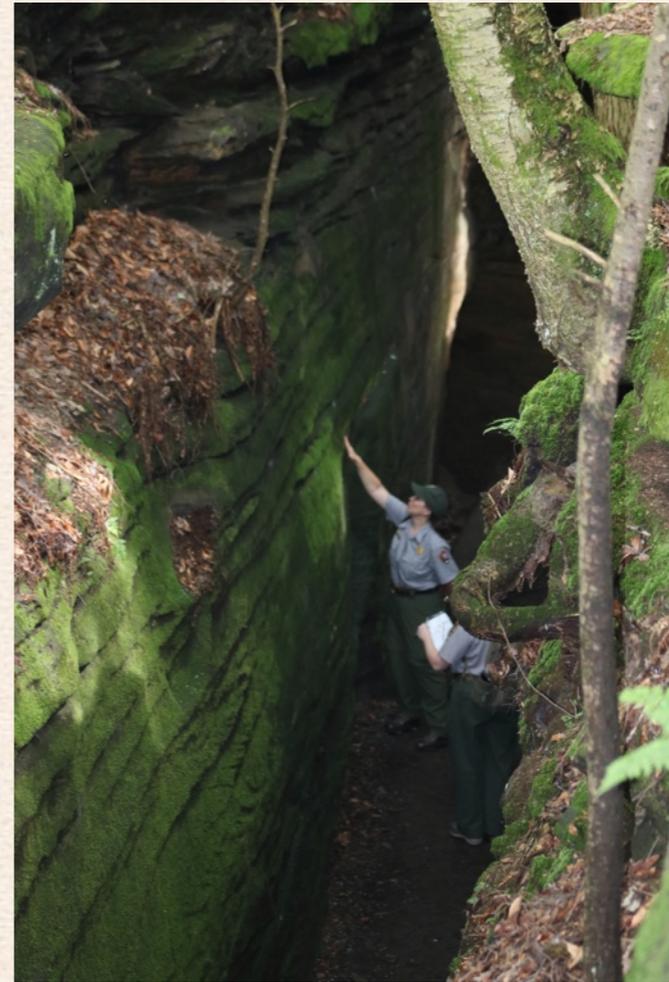
Our next stop was to Brandywine Falls which is the second highest falls in Ohio at 60 feet. We followed the boardwalk from the parking lot to the side of the falls and the site of an old mill.



As can be seen from the pictures, it is truly a beautiful waterfall and we even saw a robin on the hike back up the trail.

Our next stop was to the Ledges. This was an area of rock formations that were on both sides of a small creek forming a canyon which was heavily wooded. The walk took us on the top of the formation and then proceeded down the side so we could view it from below. The next few pictures show the gaps in the rocks that could be hiked through if one wanted. On the hike down to the Ledges we also saw a number of birds. The pictures shown are of an Eastern Phoebe on the gutter of the shelter and an Alder Flycatcher on a tree branch.







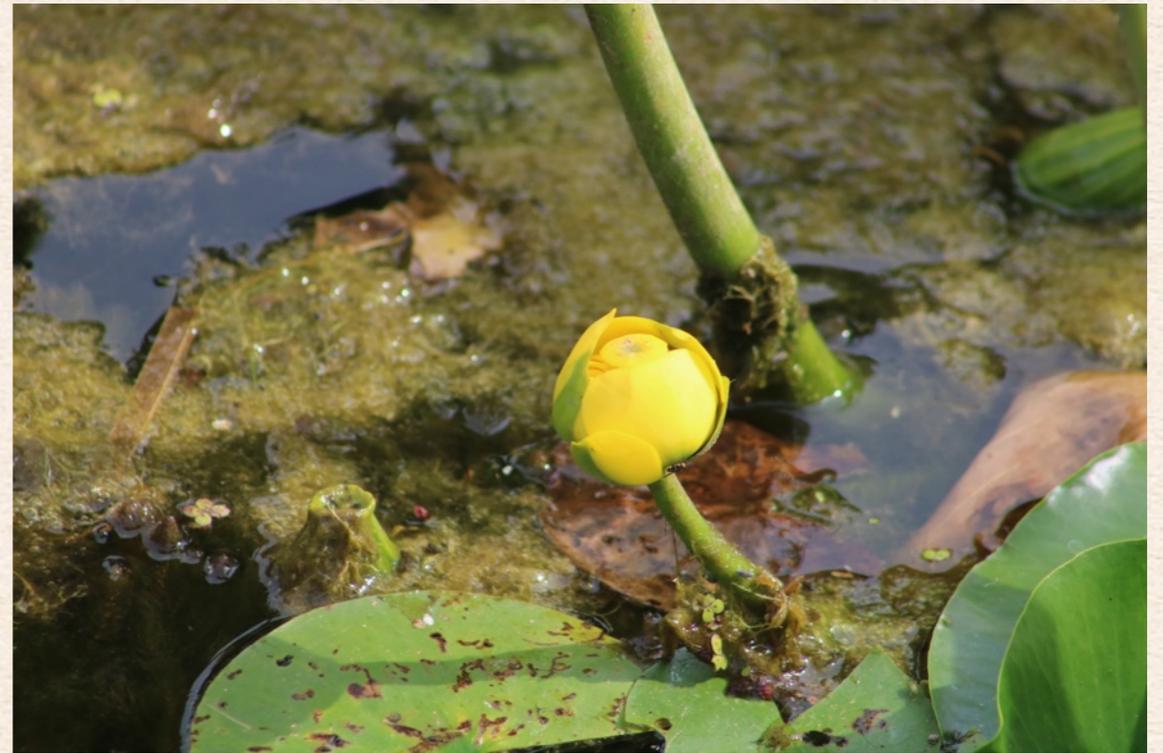
After the Ledges we went down to walk toward Beaver Marsh along the Ohio and Erie canal that ran from Cleveland to Akron. The path went along the canal and onto a boardwalk into the marsh. Along the canal we saw the remains of an old lock system but most of all we noticed a number of bird species and various forms of marsh grass and flowers.

The species seen were the Green Heron, a female Yellow Warbler, a Common Yellowthroat, a male Yellow Warbler, a Tree Swallow flying over the marsh, a Great Blue Heron, a female Mallard on nest, Eastern Kingbirds in a tree and the blossom of a water lily.

On the way back we saw the Green Heron trying to swallow a rather large fish that he had captured.









We spent the night at a Clarion Inn in Hudson, Ohio which was adjacent to the National Park. For dinner that evening we dined al fresco at Fishers Cafe and Pub which was very close to the Peninsula station of the Cuyahoga Valley Railroad that runs through the National Park.



Day 2

On day 2 of our trip, we spent some time in the morning going to several other sites in Cuyahoga National Park. The first was the Everett Covered Bridge which was down a short path from the parking area. The bridge crosses Furnace Run and is no longer available to automobile traffic.



We then proceeded up the road slightly to visit Blue Hen Falls which was accessed down a steep trail through the woods. The





falls had unusual rock ledges over which the water cascaded. After the pictures, we have added a short movie clip of the falls showing the beauty of the site.



MOVIE 2.1 Blue Hen Falls



While there were other sites in the National Park that we could have visited we decided to head out on our second day adventure. Over all we travelled 300 miles to our second night stay in Corning, New York.

Our lunch was taken in Jamestown, New York at Lisciandro's Breakfast and Lunch. It was remarkably similar to Billy's from the day before, being dark with comfort food and cash only. It turns out that Jamestown is famous as the birthplace of Lucille Ball and there is the Luci/Desi museum in downtown Jamestown.

We also noticed that there is a museum devoted to noted ornithologist and artist, Roger Tory Peterson just outside of Jame-



stown. We took a side trip there and while the museum was closed to change out their exhibits, we did take a brief hike on some of the nature trails around the museum. The following pictures show the museum building and inside the main hall. Only the museum bookstore was open to visit.



After touring and eating lunch we proceeded on to our destination of Olean, New York where we planned on spending the night.

However since we were somewhat ahead of schedule, even with our side trip to the Peterson Museum, we stopped in Olean to go to mass on Saturday evening. We found ourselves at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels in Olean at the 4 pm mass. We were both surprised at the beauty of the church inte-

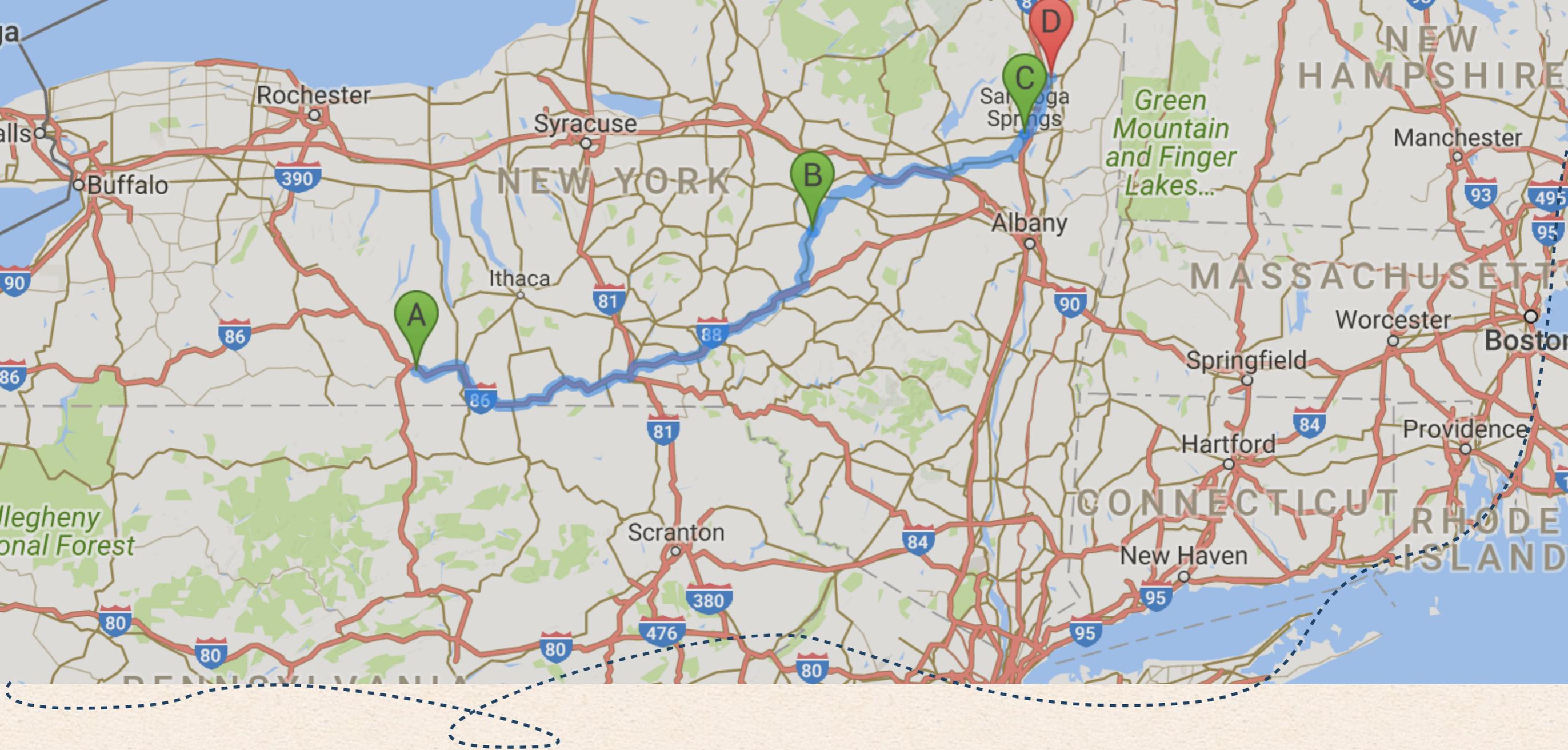
rior and found that it had only been named a basilica just earlier in the summer.



It is possible to see, in the picture of the church interior, the red umbrella which is a sign of the stature of being a basilica.



After mass we continued on our trip finally ending for the evening in Corning, New York at a Fairfield Inn. Our dinner that evening was at a great Italian restaurant, Sorge's. We finished the evening by strolling the streets of Corning. We covered Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York on the second day.



Day 3

After breakfast we headed out of Corning toward Cooperstown, New York and the Baseball of Fame. As we entered



Cooperstown, it was obvious that this was a baseball town since there were a number of baseball stadiums and a fantasy baseball park with plenty of players and spectators.

The Hall of Fame tour started on the second floor which began with an area that simulated a baseball locker room with a locker for each team. It was really remarkable because they had memorabilia from great players and great moments for each team. They also listed those players whose numbers had been retired. It was interesting that some of the jerseys hanging were even dirt stained. We were particularly taken by the areas for the Red, Cubs, Royals and Rays.





After exiting this area of the second floor, the displays included special groups such as the latin players, the negro league and the women's league during World War II.

The third floor included displays about the stadiums, special fans, mascots and some of the old traditions of the early years of baseball.



The first floor was devoted to the plaques from the members of the Hall of Fame. That was the least interesting section of the hall.

After touring, we had lunch at Mel's Diner just up the street from the Hall of Fame. Then it was off to our next destination in what we called our "War and Wildlife" tour.



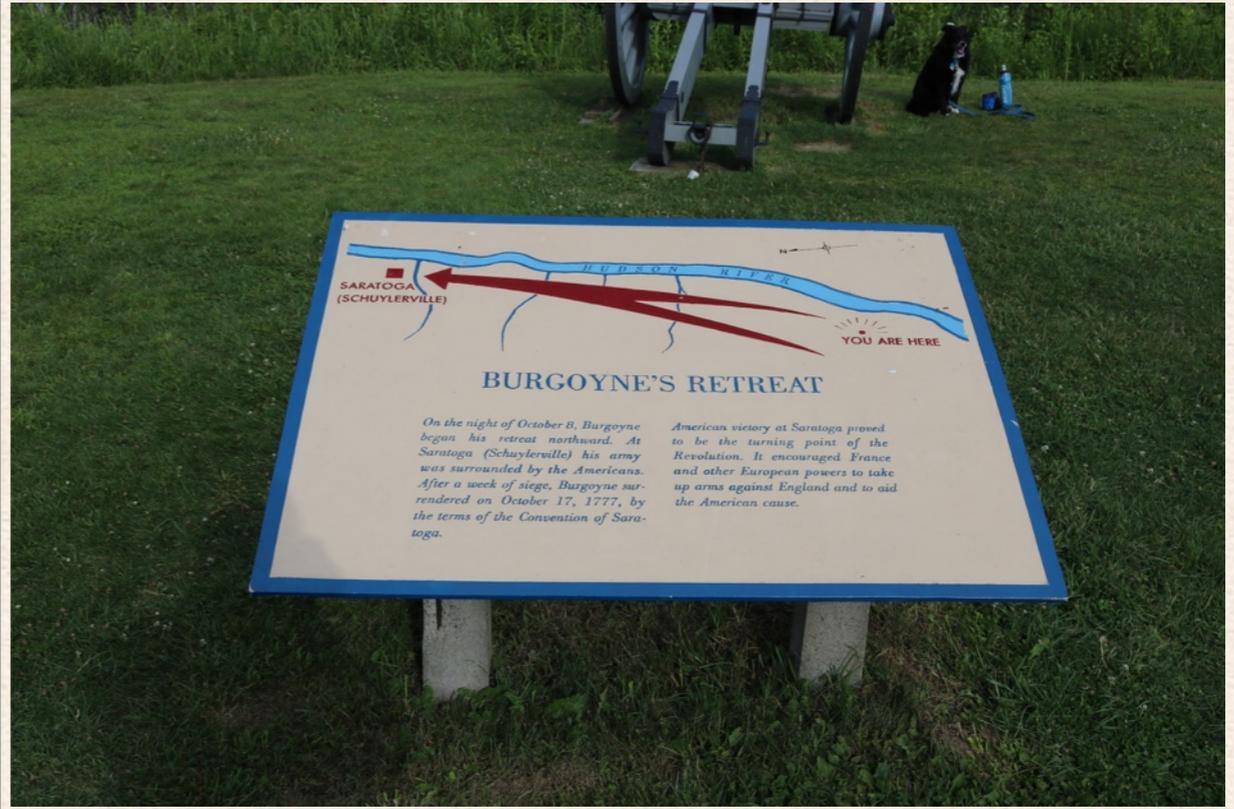
Our next leg was toward the Saratoga Battlefield just outside of Saratoga Springs, New York. But our route from Cooperstown led us through the countryside just south of the Adirondack mountains. The roads were mostly two lane up and down the hills. We saw a number of Amish buggies on the road and even a church service at a farm house. The Amish men were sitting on chairs in a circle obviously discussing something.



When we arrived at the visitor center at Saratoga it was almost closing time. We looked at the exhibits briefly and then took the driving tour through the battlefield.

All in all we were disappointed with what we saw on the drive. There were a few overlook points, some canons and mostly empty fields. We actually finished the driving tour in about



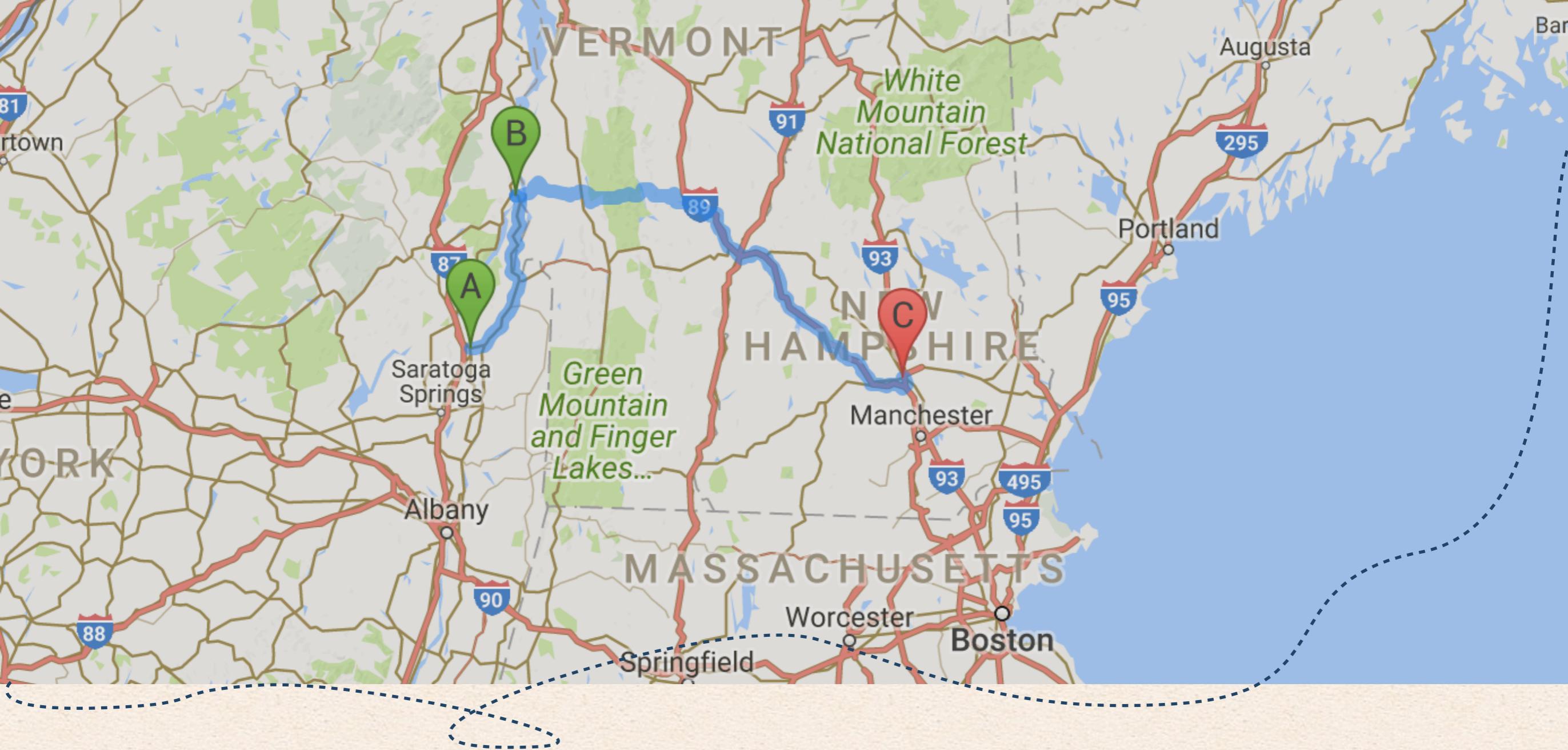


an hour although the guide books indicated we should spend a full day within the battlefield. On our last stop we could actually see the Hudson River which was the critical feature in the topography of the battlefield.



After the driving tour we went into the town of Saratoga to the site where General Burgoyne surrendered. That site is now an obelisk shown on the left.

Finally we ended the day in Glens Falls, New York at the Queensbury Hotel which was an old restored grand hotel close to the downtown area. The interesting thing was that it was not in good shape. The door to the bathroom in our room would not close or at least stay closed. After walking around for a while we enjoyed an ice cream and retired. Our trip was about 252 miles this day.



Day 4

Day 4 began with a lovely breakfast on the patio at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, New York. Our table was overlooking a village green space where a group was exercising.

After breakfast we headed out to Ft. Ticonderoga which was our main attraction on the schedule for Day 4. The surprising thing was that the site is controlled by a private foundation.



The other interesting thing is that the young people working in the fort dress up and act like the French, the British and the Patriots at different times. While we were there they were acting like the French and the fife and drum group were responding to orders given in French. There were also some young men cooking food in the traditional French military style using food grown in the gardens down below the hill.

The fort is high on the bluffs overlooking Lake Champlain and guarding it from invasion or the use of the lake for moving troops from Canada into the Hudson River. The view below is



from the ramparts of the Fort looking at the lower reaches of Lake Champlain.







After walking around the fort we were led by the Fife and Drum group down the hill to the King's garden. There we heard a lecture about the gardens and the house that was on the property.





After viewing the gardens and the interior of Ft. Ticonderoga, we proceeded down the hill from the entrance to a dock for a ferry ride across Lake Champlain to Vermont. It was an interesting ferry since it ran on cables under the water to keep it on track as it moved to the other shore.



On reaching the Vermont shore we began our trip toward the Maine coast. Shortly we ran into construction in the Green Mountains and actually drove for several miles on dirt roads. That was pretty unusual for a state highway.

Since we were somewhat ahead of schedule we just continued on and found a stopping point in Woodstock, Vermont. There we stumbled upon a National Historic Site the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller home and farm. We were able to see the



introductory movie at the Visitors Center but the house was already closed for the evening.

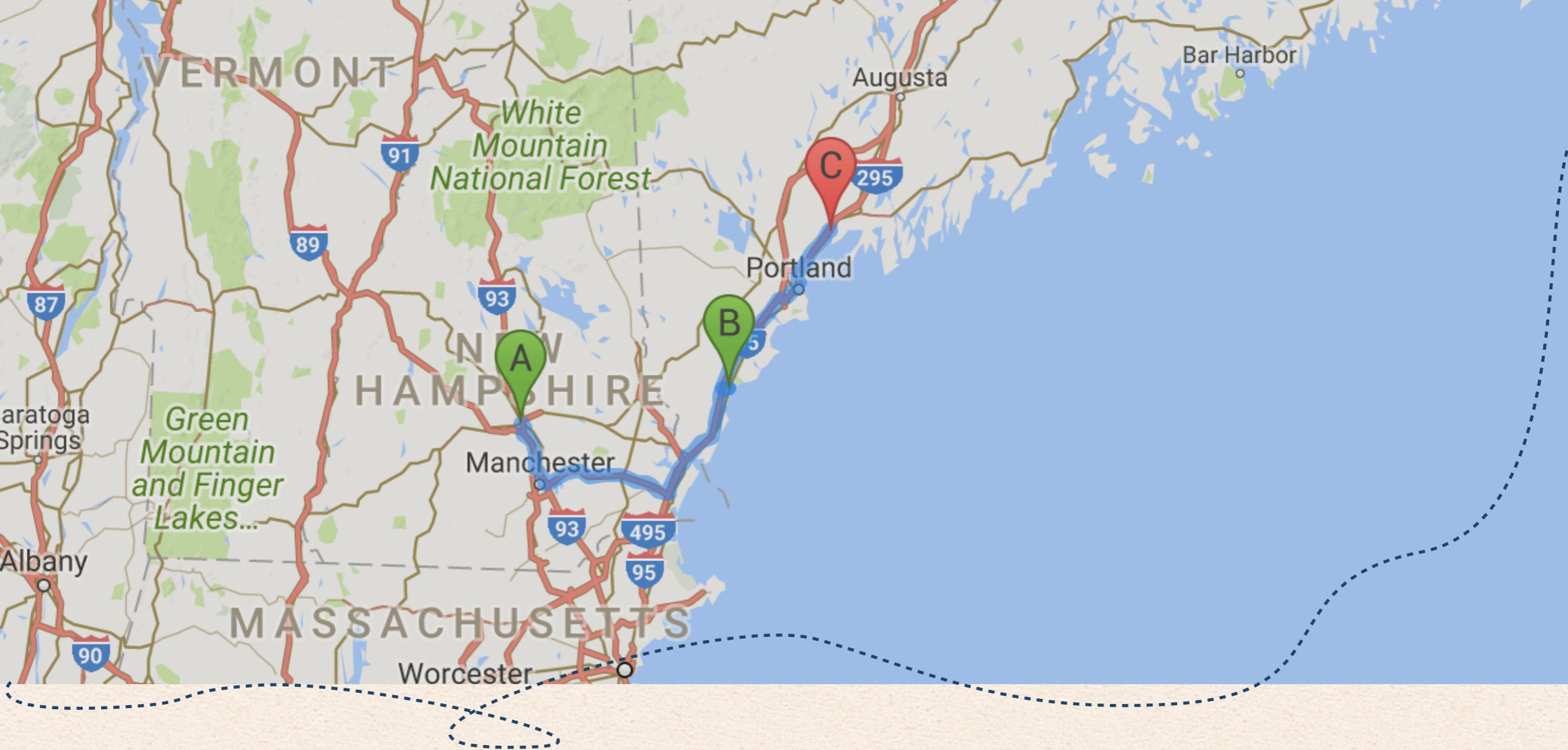
The site was the home of George Marsh who was an early environmentalist, whose daughter and granddaughter furthered his work because of the love of the house and its surroundings.

After leaving the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller home, we had dinner at Bentley's Restaurant near the village green in downtown Woodstock.

After dinner we continued on to Concord, New Hampshire for the evening. We travelled 211 miles on Day 4.







Day 5

Our hotel in Concord, New Hampshire was very close to the New Hampshire Capitol and in fact we could see it from the parking lot. After breakfast we took a side trip to the Space Discovery Museum in Concord which was dedicated to Alan Shepard and Krista McAuliffe both of whom were natives of New Hampshire.



The museum while interesting was obviously geared to children with exhibits about space, the planets, and the moon.

After spending time at the museum we headed to Kennebunk, Maine with the plan to visit the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. The visitors center is located near Well, Maine and from there we took the Carson Trail which led us along the edge of a salt marsh.



The weather was cool and foggy so it was difficult to observe

much wildlife along the trail. We did see some Canadian Geese, gulls flying over the salt marsh, an Eastern Phoebe and



a Chipping Sparrow on the return trail.



After a brief hike we had lunch at the Maine Diner, which was highly touted by the locals but we found it to be only so-so.



After lunch we were looking for another trail in the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge and we came upon a Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport. We briefly stopped and walked



on the grounds.

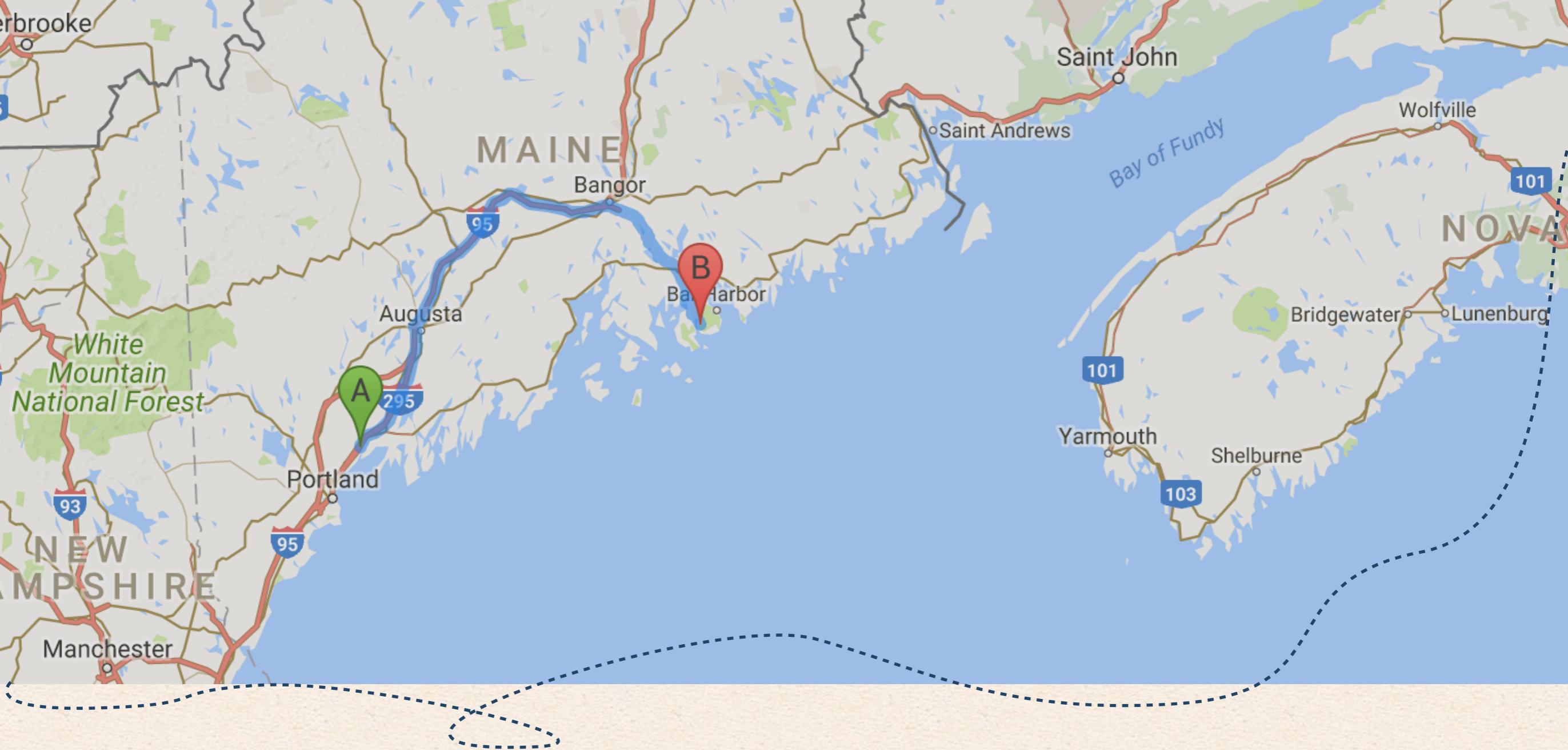
We then briefly walked on another section of the wildlife preserve and observed several species of birds, including a North-



ern Gannet, which was being rescued because it was injured. We also found a Song Sparrow and a chipmunk.

Day 5 had the worst weather of the entire trip being cloudy and foggy almost all day spent on the southern Maine coast.

We continued on and stopped for the night in Freeport, Maine. Freeport was interesting because we broke our rule of not going to McDonalds but they offered lobster rolls at the one in Freeport. Pattiann tried it but found it to be too dry. After dinner we walked around and found a Land's End store that was open 24/7. That is because it was the headquarters for Land's End. Our travel on Day 5 was 132 miles.



Day 6

Day 6 dawned with beautiful weather, which was great because this was our day at Acadia National Park. We drove from Freeport, Maine to Acadia National Park which is on

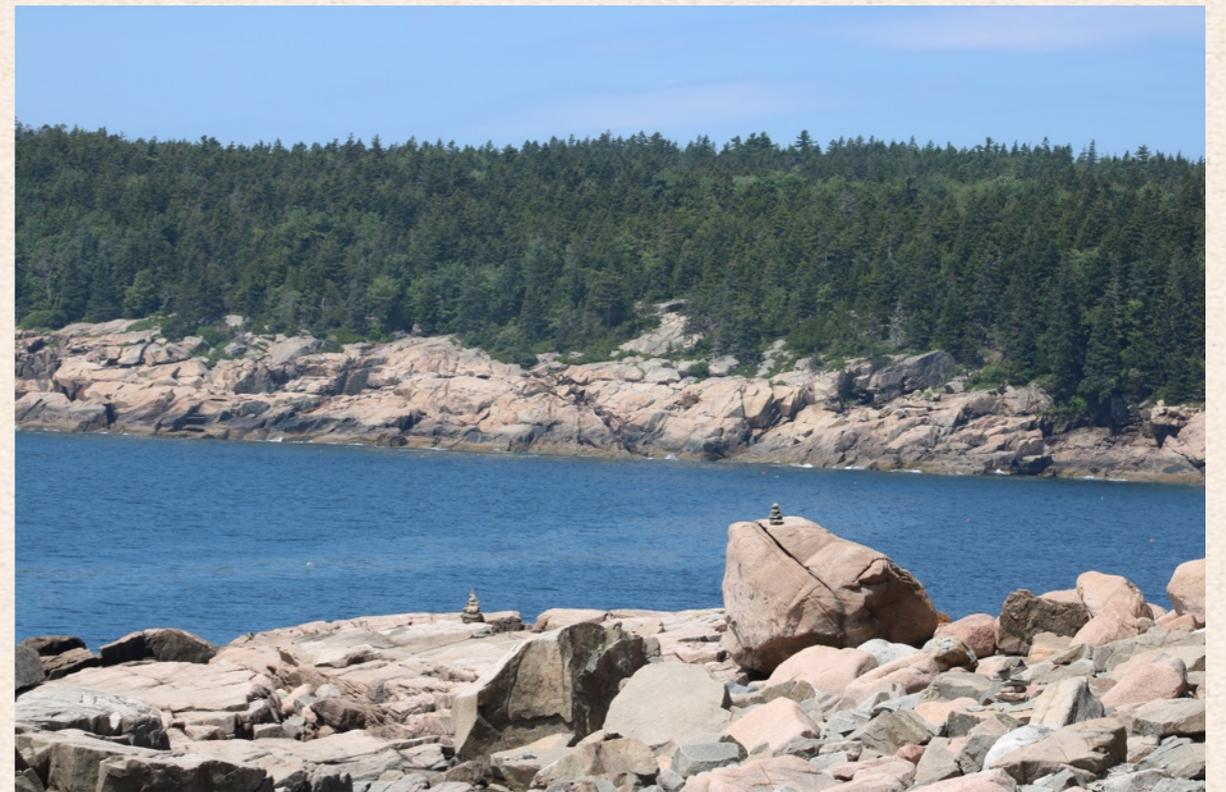


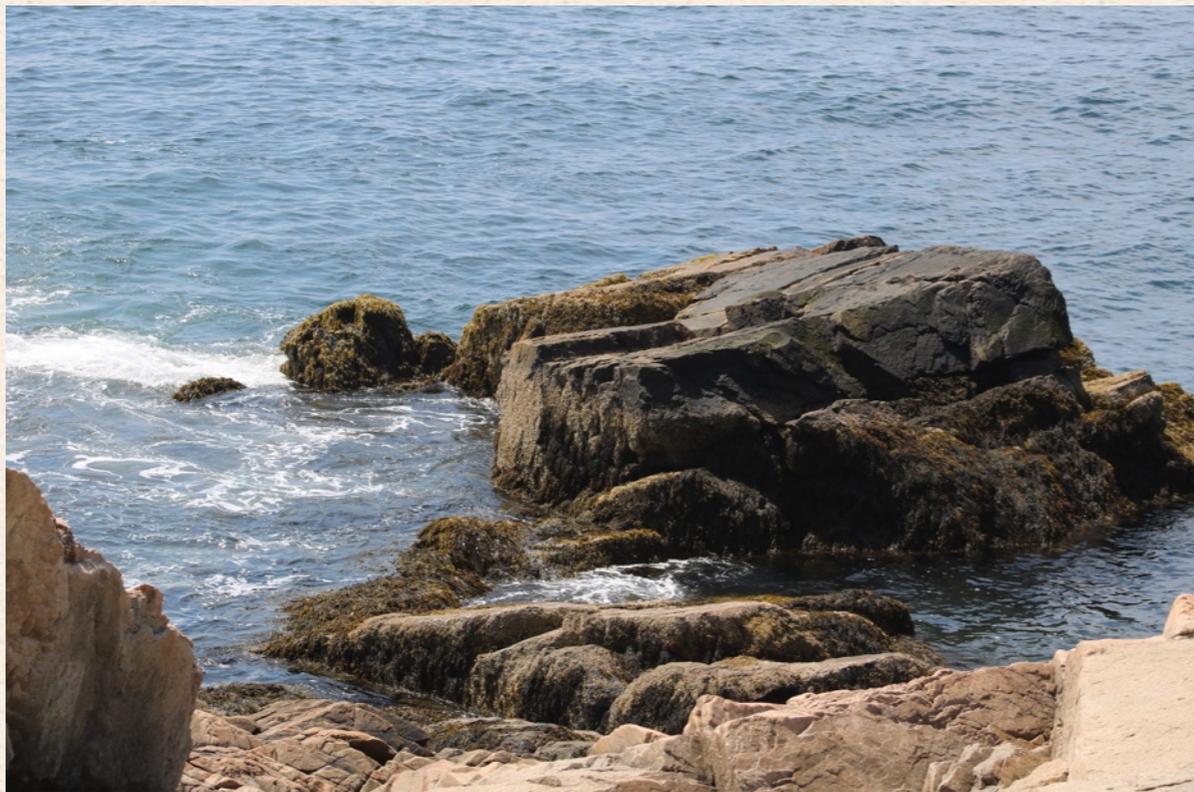
Mount Desert Island.

Our first stop was to the Visitor Center at Acadia. The rangers suggested that we go to the Precipice and view the Peregrine Falcons that are nesting and hunting there. We were able to get a few pictures of the Peregrine Falcons at the Precipice.

After that we continued past Sand Beach which was very crowded and continued on to Otter Point. Along the way we were able to get some spectacular views of the rugged shore line and a group of Common Eiders swimming and feeding in the surf. The next group of pictures show some of that scenery and the wildlife.







As we were traveling along the road we were able to see the lighthouse that is on Egg Rock off the coast. We also were able to get a picture of a Northern Parula in a tree on the side of a parking lot near Thunder Hole. After this we drove into Bar Harbor where we had lunch and toured the village.

We continued on the loop road a second time to stop at Sieur do Monts which had a nature center and several nature walks which we did follow. The first was on a board walk through a swampy area and returned on a path that was on higher ground. Along the way we saw a Downy Woodpecker and heard other species which were far off.

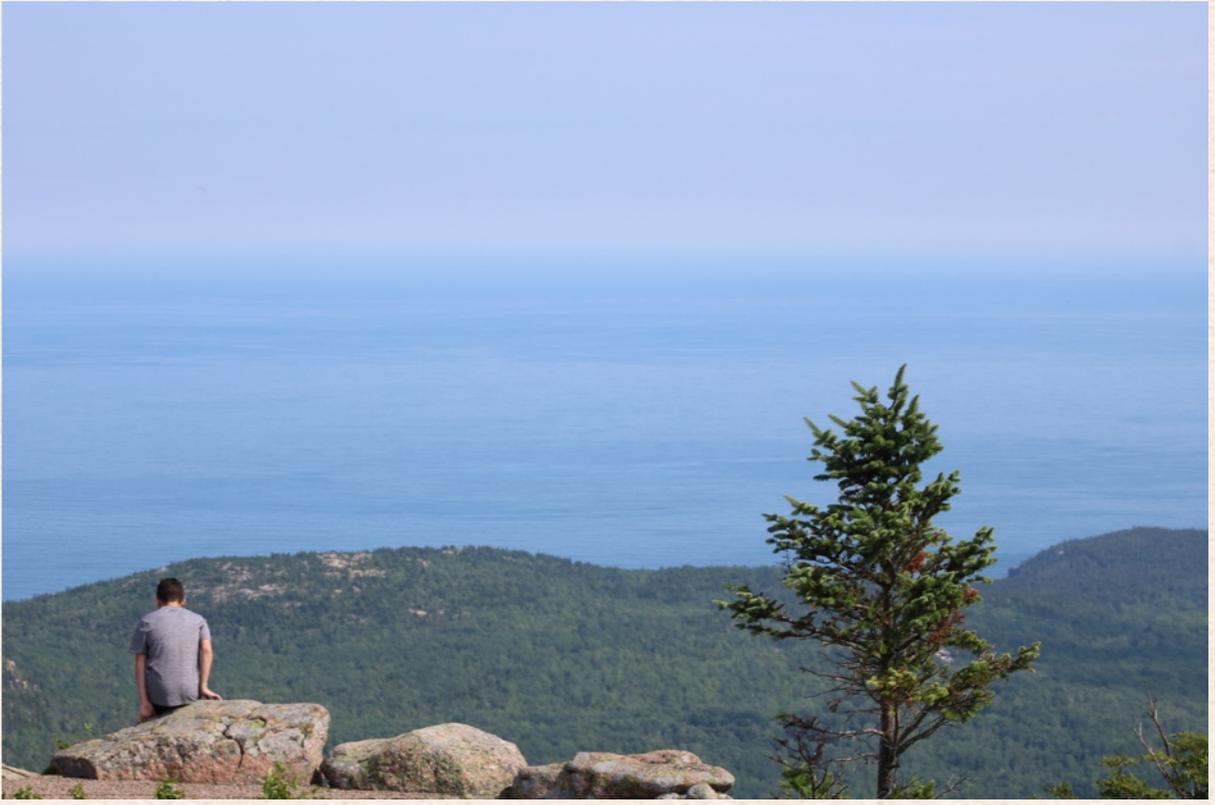






Finally we had to continue again past the Precipice, Otter Point and Otter Cove to take the road up to the top of Cadillac Mountain.

After finishing our overlook from Cadillac Mountain we proceeded down the road and stopped at Jordan Pond with some views of the mountains behind the far shore of the Pond.



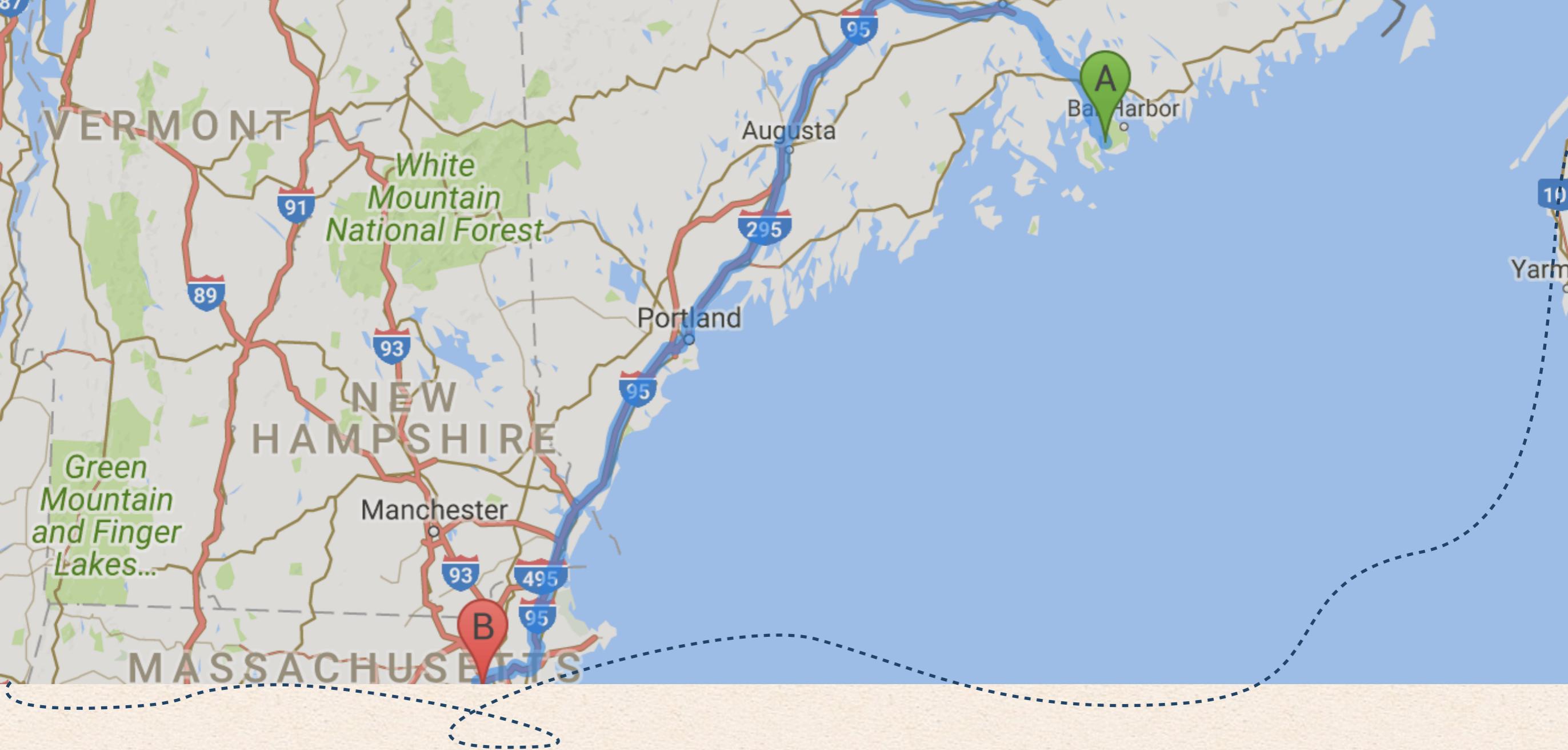




We thoroughly enjoyed Acadia and the weather was bright and sunny as can be seen in the photographs. After finishing our tour we left Mount Desert Island and Acadia and spent the night in Ellsworth, Maine just off the island.

Our trip on Day 6 consisted of about 175 miles.





Day 7

Day 7 began under cloudy, rainy skies as we left Ellsworth, Maine and began our trip to Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. Much of the travel was on the same roads that we traversed the prior day.

On arriving at Lexington, we went to the Lexington Visitor Center and booked a tour of the Lexington/Concord area which included a tour of the Minute Man National Historical Park.

The Visitor Center was adjacent to the Lexington Village Green where the first conflict in the Revolutionary War took place. The tour then proceeded to the North Bridge over the Concord River where the Patriots first fired back at the British soldiers.

After the tour we had lunch at a small sandwich shop near the Visitor Center and then retraced the tour in our own car.

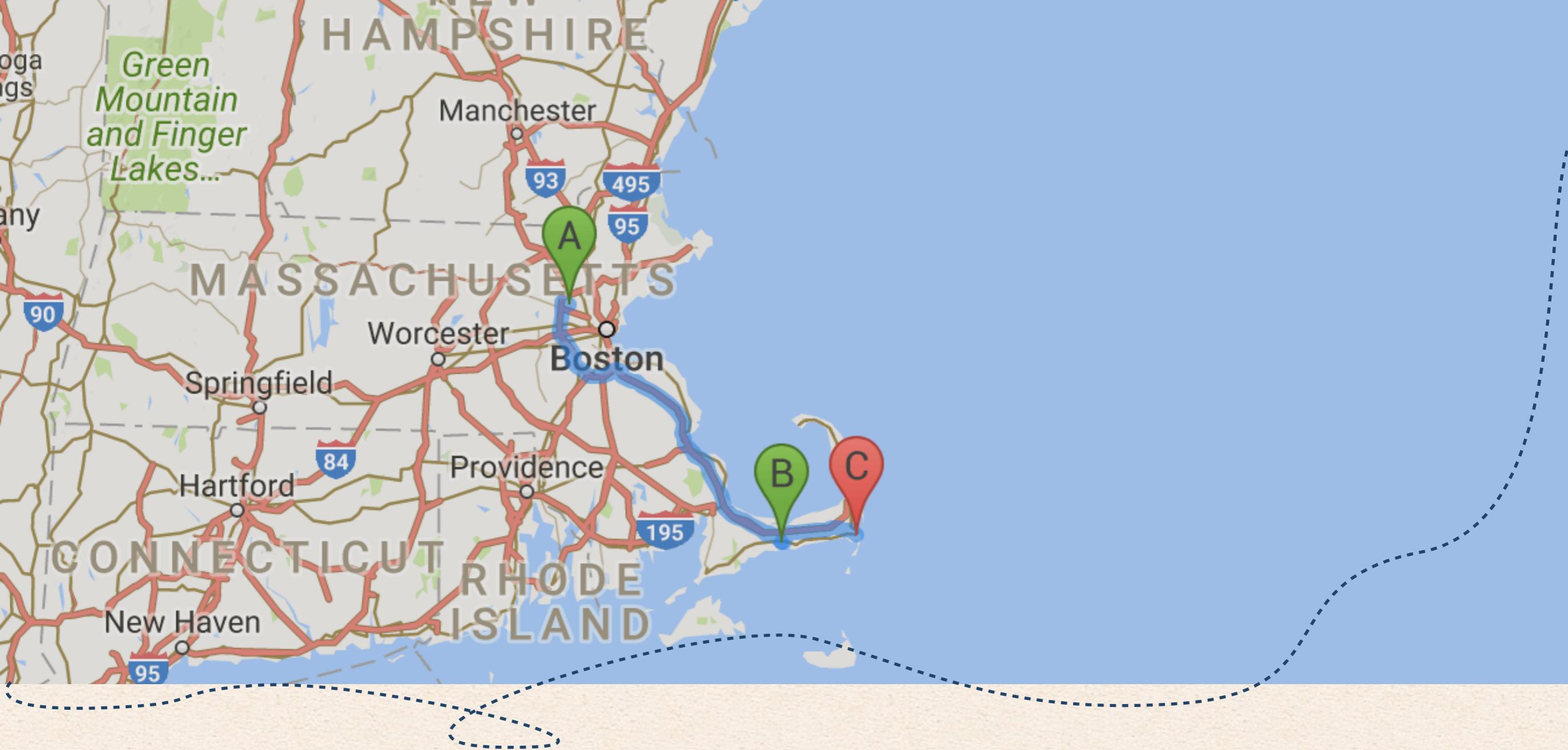
We stayed that night in Lexington and had dinner at the Colonial Inn on the village green in Concord.

Our trip that day was about 290 miles.









Day 8

On Day 8, we headed to Cape Cod for our first visit there. The trip led us around Boston and toward Hyannis, Massachusetts where we had planned to stay for the evening.

On our way we contacted Vince and Michelle Marinara and agreed to meet them for lunch. They live in Harwich, Massachusetts. We met them and had lunch in Chatham at a wonderful restaurant.

After lunch, Vince took us to the fishing docks in Chatham to view the boats unloading their catch and the ensuing rush of seals and gulls trying to steal a meal. Chatham harbor is where the film, *A Perfect Storm*, was based.











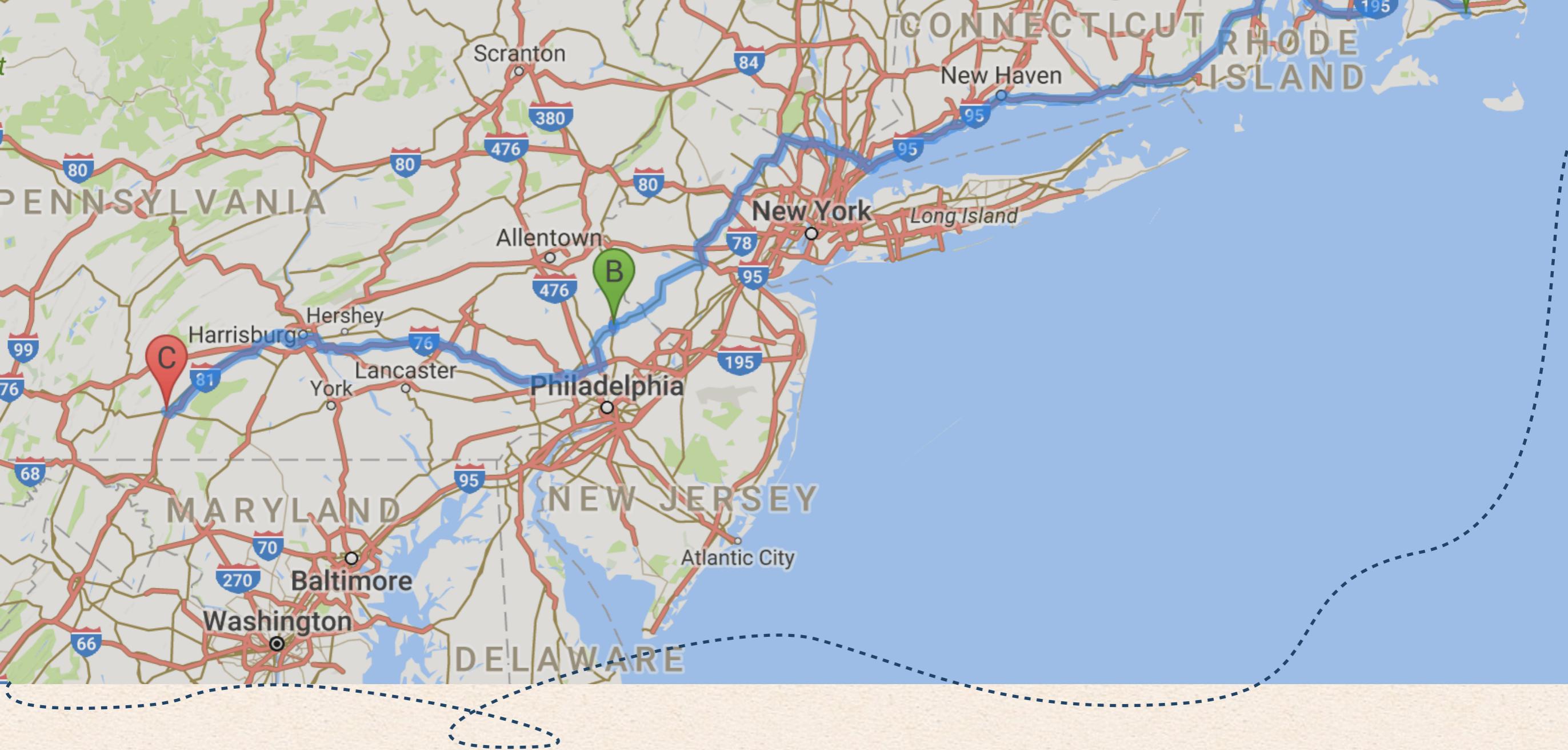
After visiting Chatham, we bid Vince good bye and headed back to Hyannis, Massachusetts. We then visited the JFK museum which documented the former President's time spent at the Kennedy compound in Hyannisport.

After dinner at Tugboats in Hyannis, we drove to the beach in search of the lighthouse. We found that it had been converted or at least became part of a restaurant on the beach.

Our place to stay in Hyannis was the worst of all the places on our entire trip. We could not wait to leave in the morning. We travelled 113 miles on Day 8.







Day 9

Day 9 started very early, as we wanted to leave our hotel quickly. This was a very long day with travel through Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Somewhere around New Haven, Connecticut we had the unfortunate incident of a rock hitting the windshield and causing a crack which kept expanding over the next two days.

Our main destination on this day was to revisit Doylestown, Pennsylvania and locate our old house on Pinevale Road. But it was necessary to circumvent the congestion around New York City and Philadelphia. We crossed the Tappan Zee bridge over the Hudson River shown below and then proceeded into New Jersey.



Since we had failed to get maps for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, we were able to find a AAA store in Flemington, New Jersey to pick up the additional maps and guide books.

Our trip into Doylestown was somewhat familiar but we noted that many of the roads had been turned into one way streets and there were a lot of new restaurants from what we remembered.

We were able to find the route to our old neighborhood and were surprised at how big the trees had become. Our home was much more hidden by the trees but otherwise it seemed the same. We did notice that the owners had installed air conditioning and had enclosed the back porch.





We also took a picture of Farmer Happ's barn which the boys remember from their time in Doylestown.



After touring our old neighborhood, we went to the site of the "great sledding hill" on the grounds of the Mercer Museum, to Fanny Chapman park and swimming facilities and Central Bucks West high school .

We then found a place for lunch and happened to notice that they were setting up for a car show on the streets outside of the restaurant. The cars that they displayed while we were eating were awesome and we took a number of pictures.









After lunch we went searching for Friendly's, a restaurant that we would visit to indulge in their Reese's Pieces Sundae when the children were younger. The Friendly's in Doylestown was gone but we did travel to Horsham and found one there.

Since I was still bummed out by the cracked windshield we only ordered the small sundae but did manage to take a picture of the larger one that we on the menu.

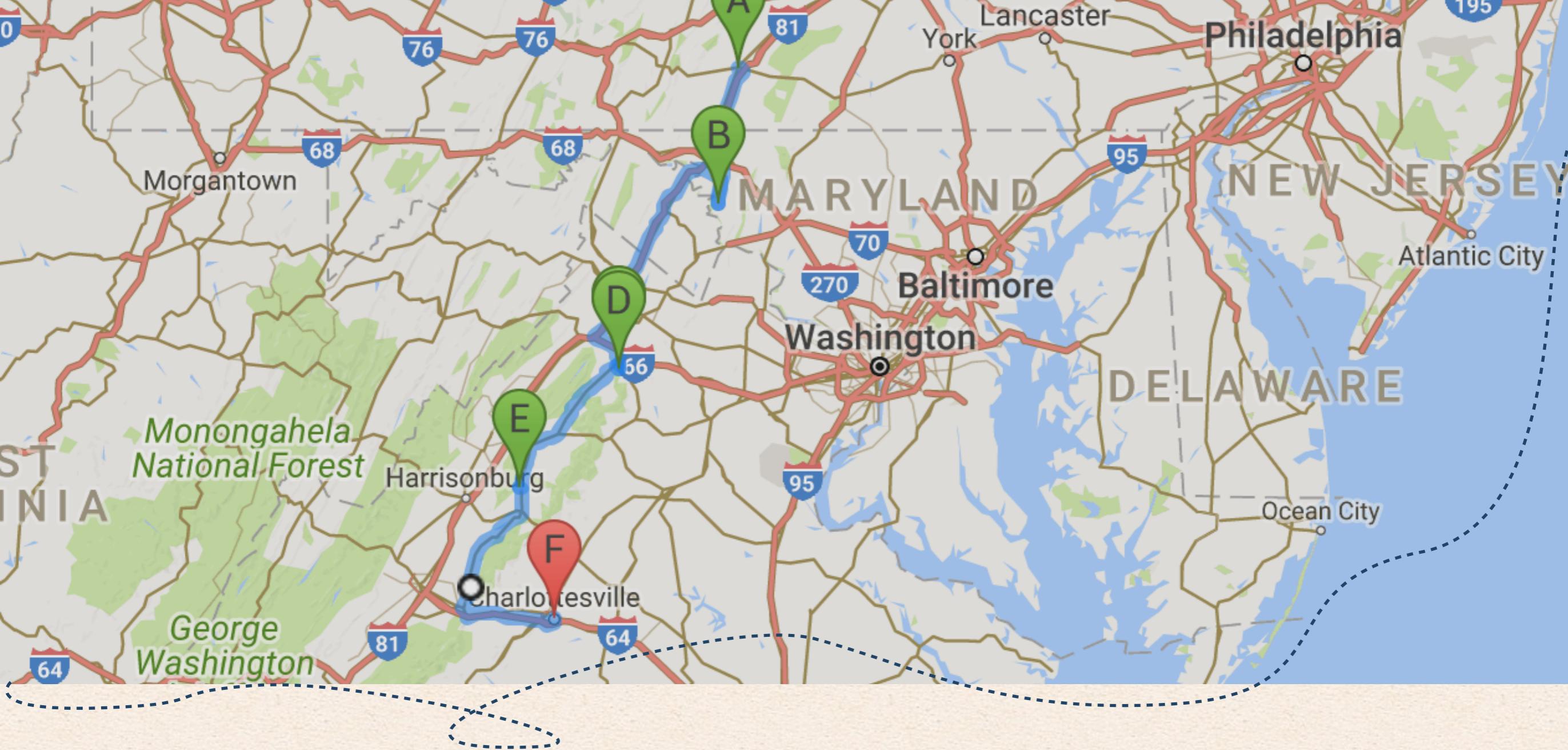


After ice cream we went back to Doylestown to find mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel church. It looked somewhat the same on the outside but a different color on the inside.



As was the case on most of the trip we were ahead of schedule so instead of staying in Doylestown we decided to head to our next destination thinking we would be able to find a place to stay around Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Unfortunately, some kind of a car show was going on so the closest place to find a room was in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. That made for a long day. Day 9 was a trip of about 510 miles.



Day 10

Day 10 started in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania with a brief drive to the Antietam National Battlefield just outside of Sharpsburg, Maryland.

The visit began with a brief lecture at the Visitor Center and then proceeded to follow a ranger on several stops around the battlefield where he continued his lecture. After the first stop we decided to go it alone for the rest of the driving tour since the group was asking crazy questions.



The next few pictures show some of the sites along the tour ending at the Burnside Bridge. When the Union soldiers finally crossed that bridge, it forced the Confederates back toward Sharpsburg.

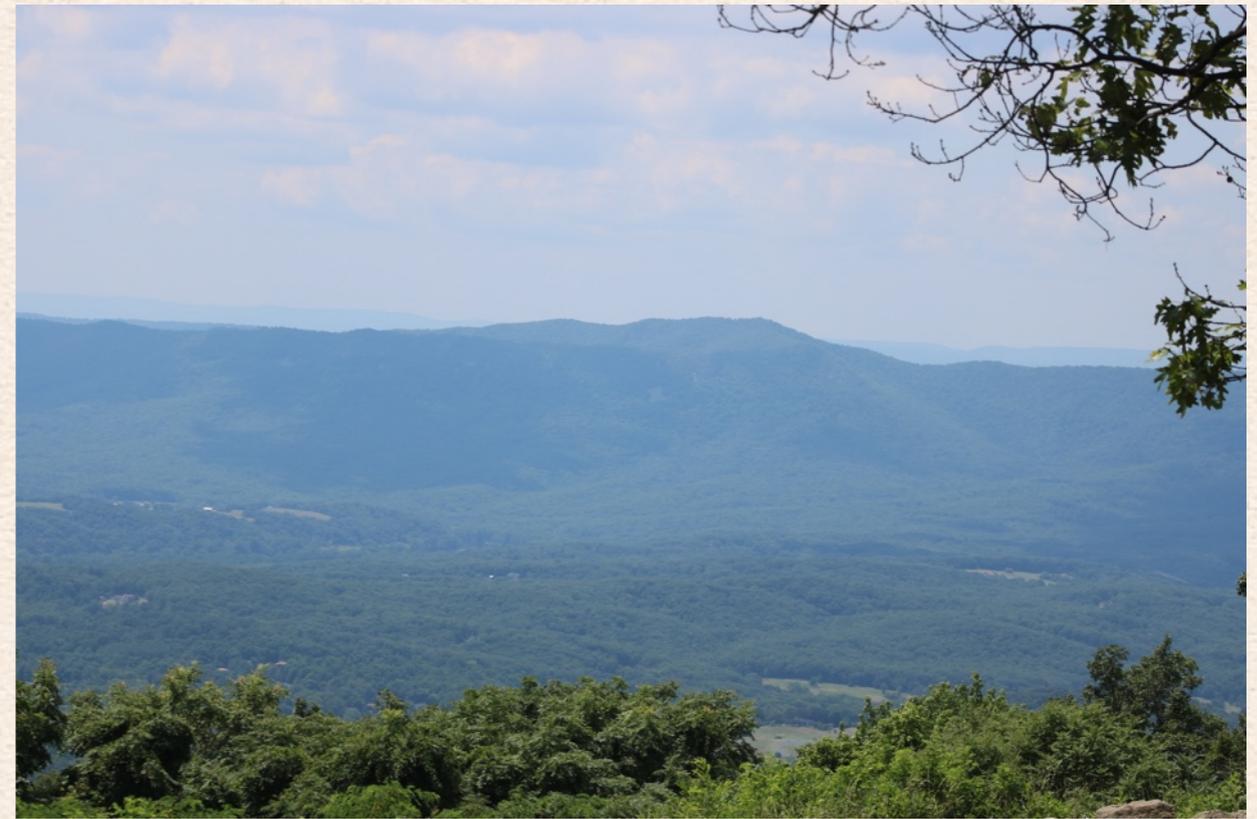




After Antietam, we proceeded toward Front Royal, Virginia crossing the Potomac River. We had lunch in Front Royal and then went into the Shenandoah National Park and planned to drive its length on Skyline Drive.

While the drive was beautiful with a number of overlooks, views of wildlife and wildflowers, it was also somewhat monotonous in that all of the views seem to be similar. The road was narrow and the traffic slow. There were only four entrances or exits from the drive and since we were going on to Charlottesville, Virginia we drove the entire distance. It took us about four hours to complete the drive.

The following pictures were taken on the trip.

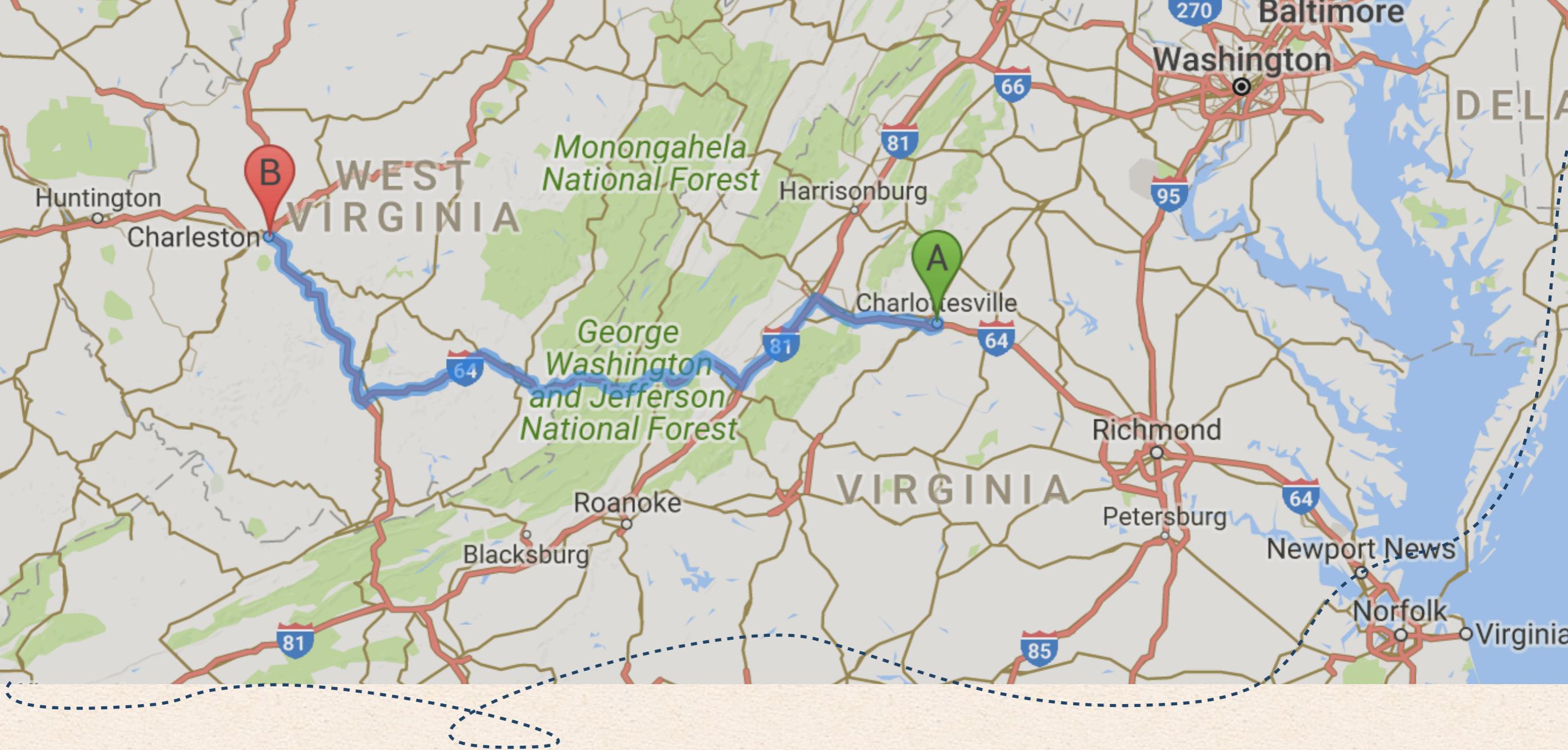








After exiting the National Park, we proceeded on to Charlottesville, Virginia for the evening. We drove around Charlottesville looking at the sites and found an unusual place for dinner where they served Mexican food that we shared. Our table was on an outside porch. Our trip on Day 10 was about 230 miles.



Day 11

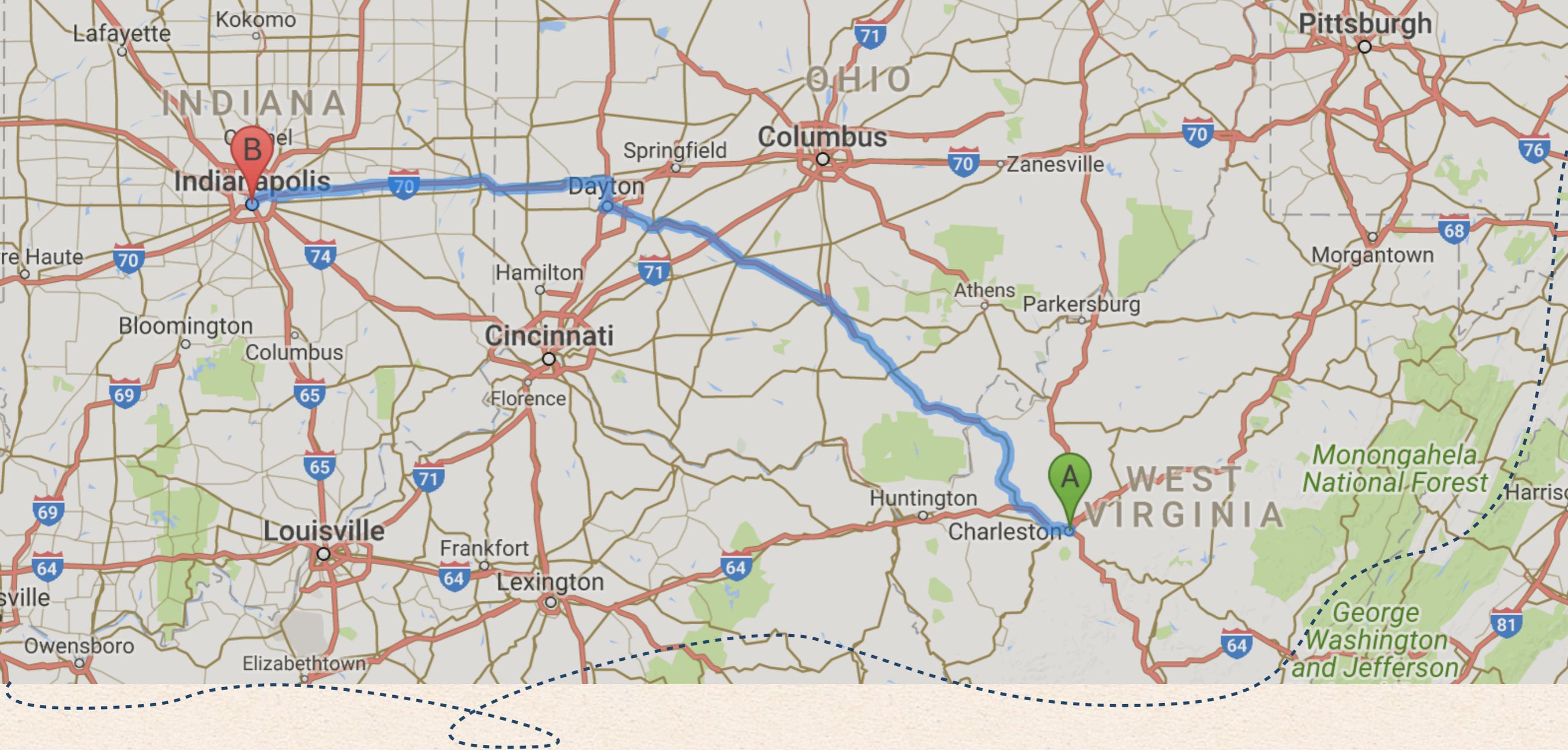
In the morning of Day 11 we drove to Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home, rather early and were able to get on a tour at 9:20 AM. While both of us had been there before, it was a great and very interesting tour. After touring the house, we spent some time walking around the grounds before heading back down the mountain to Charlottesville.

We had an appointment to have our windshield replaced and after that was completed we began our long trip back toward our final destinations of the trip.



We did not leave until about 2 PM from Charlottesville and arrived in Charleston, West Virginia in the evening. Our plans were to stay overnight there and then proceed to Indianapolis, Indiana the next morning.

We drove about 250 miles on Day 11.



Day 12

This was really the last leg of our “War and Wildlife” road trip but we had several other duties before we returned to Libertyville.

We spent the evening with our cousins, Donna and Therese, laughing, touring downtown Indianapolis, and having dinner.

The next morning we drove to St. Louis, Missouri to be with Aunt Jane since she was having a stent put in her left leg the next day. We were able to visit, take her to the hospital and be with her that day.

She spent the night in the hospital and we were able to bring her home the next morning and finally headed back to Indianapolis for another evening with Donna Ross.

In the morning, which was actually Day 15, we drove back to Cincinnati, Ohio to be with our daughter in law, Patti for her 40th birthday party. The highlight of the party was a scavenger hunt in downtown Cincinnati where we were teamed up with our two granddaughters, Hailey Nichol and Regan Sharp. That was a complete blast and below are a few pictures from that hunt.

Finally the next morning we completed our trip after 16 days having travelled to 16 states, 3 National Parks, 5 National battlefields, several historic sites and 26 different species of birds. We travelled about 4100 miles in total.



