

8/24/2024

We made it. Three days, 32 driving hours, and 2205 miles later, my daughter and I are now having a brief respite at the Jersey Shore before finally driving all the way home on Sunday. We left Jackson Hole in the dark on Tuesday, and as the sun was rising, we saw two rainbows. Good luck, no doubt!

A few observations: other than the Tetons and surrounding ranges, Wyoming is flat and brown...Nebraska is a really wide state (and also kind of brown)...Iowa's undulating cornfields are Norman-Rockwell scenic, and it has the cleanest bathrooms we encountered...the road-work in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio will no doubt result in pleasant passages through those states for my next cross-country drive, but sadly, not for this one.

Catherine and I shared the driving duties, but I remembered the reason her dad taught her to drive instead of me. I'm a nervous passenger and much more comfortable behind the wheel. (Notice I resisted criticizing her driving.) She was a great DJ, though, and found true crime podcasts to hold our attention the entire way.

We found clean and safe hotels for our brief overnights – first in downtown Omaha, and then in downtown Cleveland – both sites chosen for the way they broke up our drive. Wednesday morning as we turned onto our route in Omaha, I was shocked that less than a minute into our drive, we were crossing the river into Iowa. (Nothing like a cross-country trip for a good US geography refresher!) And I'll say this for Cleveland, Lake Erie is a beautiful backdrop.

This trip was obviously much more than a way to get a car from Point A to Point B. As Catherine enters her second year in college, there are so few opportunities to spend chunks of time with her. I am grateful that we had a safe trip and made memories that will last forever.

God Bless,

Margaret

Margaret Keightley

Executive Director

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