



## **Colorado Springs and Denver Trip Notes** **October 31 – November 5, 2019**

### ***To Colorado - another trip?***

Was I supposed to be going on another trip? Maybe not as time home was short following my Camino de Santiago trek in Spain, too many happenings both good and bad, and rough weather both in NJ and CO. Colorado had many inches of snow and now more predicted. New Jersey seemed fine but I got this United Airlines notice the night before departure:

**From United:** East Coast winter storm: sometimes bad things happen to good travel plans - Winter is coming and this week it's truly here, with snow forecasted for the East Coast tomorrow, October 31. This could easily put a damper on your travel plans, so we're going to do our very best to get you where you need to go safely. If your travel plans are flexible, you may want to consider flying on a different day or connecting in a different city. The good news is that we'll waive all the change fees. So, visit the United app to check out your options instead of holding for one of our busy call centers. End.

**Delay home:** Recall that Barcelona protest demonstrations caused me an extra day stay-over so I was pressed to reshuffle appointments and head off to the first of three full day-trips within 8 days:

- A Camino reunion with "pilgrims" from May 2018 held at NYC's Morgan Library and Museum,
- a visit in New York's Hudson Valley to Washington Irving's Sunnyside Estate followed by
- a tour through the noted Pumpkin Blaze, and
- another trip up north to the Lakota Wolf Preserve.

It rained on me for all three trips. Now I'm promised snow?

**RIP Kurt:** Today was a true "rainy" day. With much sadness I report that we lost Kurt this morning. He passed away, as I was arriving at the airport, following his nightmarish time of hanging on from a heart ailment and stroke about a month earlier. Only a month? His ordeal started just as I was leaving for Spain. Kurt has been close to us for many years. Maybe it was early 1980s when the Three Taurus Boys started skiing together, we've been close through his girlfriends, marriage, children who are now 23 and 25, divorce and new girlfriend. Our spare room used to be referred to as Kurt's room. RIP Kurt.

**Brightness ahead!** Runner friends turned hiker friends; NJ friends turned Colorado friends; Starting today I'll have 5 days visiting Dave and Dana, with friend and hiking leader Nola joining us for the last couple days. This is where I've indulged in a Taco Marathon going from one taco truck to another and eating marathon numbers. I'm not likely to lose my extra pounds here.

**Fat!** Nor does one likely lose weight traveling. It's not just tacos or restaurant food or extra alcohol. Up at 4am for breakfast. Another breakfast in the airport lounge at 6am. Breakfast on board. And it isn't even 10am yet.

**Snow on the ground and road:** I was in early in the day, managed to traipse through snow in my little ballet flats, drive onto Colorado Springs with no major problem despite the construction, traffic, and snow covering the edge of the road, all to give me a nice evening of pizza at Dave and Dana's home.

**A US Castle:** On one of my past trips, Dana and I had visited the Glen Eyrie castle and indulged in their afternoon tea. This time we were able to add the tour of the castle and some of the grounds. Glen Eyrie - [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glen\\_Eyrie](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glen_Eyrie) - Glen Eyrie is an English Tudor-style castle built in 1871 by General William Jackson Palmer, the founder of Colorado Springs. There are 17 guest rooms in the castle, as well as 7 meeting rooms including the Castle Great Hall and 2 dining rooms.

**Art Walk:** With a half hour back in my room, then we headed off to old Colorado City's art walk. What a deal, they give food and wine and in return some of us purchase things. I have a big surprise coming (but fortunately it is not like Tom's surprise of a 5-foot bronze geisha).

And we didn't miss a taco! More tacos on the way.



Glen Eyrie, the carriage house complex, and the school house at Glen Eyrie.







One of the attractions to this downtown Colorado Springs second art show was the “living doll” shown here with the artist. It’s all even better with the free wine and snacks.





### **Two more days in Colorado - part 2**

With part 3 still to come when we drive to Denver to see the Monet exhibit at the Denver Art Museum.



The Colorado Art Museum always has a lot to offer. This John Singer Sargent was seen at Glen Eyrie – a daughter. But this was the original. More on this weird art that I grew into appreciating.

Super interesting after I got over the weirdness – Paul Cadmus -

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_Cadmus](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Cadmus)

Art: "A change is a comin" - <https://m.csindy.com/coloradosprings/change-is-a-comin/Content?oid=1123090> - This is an exercise in composition, a display of bravura technical

brilliance, and a cheerful, witty, rendition of love and desire. David, the golden-haired boy with the mischievous smile, was Cadmus' lover, Jon Andersson. Goliath is the artist himself. The painting is clearly derived from Caravaggio's self-portrait as Goliath's severed head, a reproduction of which is shown pinned up on the wall behind Paul's nude body. But Cadmus' message is that of the triumph of love, not death -- beside the smiling artist is an art book open to Caravaggio's "Amore Vincitore" (1598), a beautiful nude study.

Paul Cadmus other art is also interesting. I will look for more of his basic work.

You will recognize some of the following as Georgia O'Keeffe and also a lot of Dale Chihuly.



Leaving the Art Museum, we ventured to town, a coffee shop, and a walking tour focusing on Colorado Springs during the TB crisis. I later learned of a friend who had lived the TB crisis at the age of 8 when his father was sent to Denver to recover.



Lots of churches in Colorado. Wonder why?





In the Pioneer Museum, we saw an example of the little huts they used to keep TB patients separate. Now they are seen through the town area as sheds or playhouses. As are sleeping porches still around. It was believed the fresh air was good. Surely it was as was the high elevation and dryness.



Off to better things: a Taco Tour! Trying to re-create our last Taco Marathon. Somehow I lost all my descriptions . . . .



A view from my hotel before meeting Dana and Nola for a cave lantern tour. See the Adirondack chairs made of skis? We watched a crazy bungee drop ride that then swung across the canyon. I was called something like "terror" – no wonder!

The lantern tour was a bit crazy for me as I had a lot of trouble seeing. Might have to get those cataracts fixed sooner than expected.

Then, since I wanted to see Manitou Springs again, we ventured to the Cliff House where I'd stayed twice before and eaten at a couple more times, before dropping by the Pie Shop for sweets. Pies, cheese and crackers and wine at Dave and Dana's home followed.

***The last of Colorado for now.***

I'm at the Westin Hotel at the Denver airport and so appreciate the quality, lushness, and convenience of this super memorable hotel. To look out my window and see those giant sails of the airport and the mountains behind - wow! Then in the morning to just walk out the hotel door and direct into the United check in and Pre-Check.

Westin's "heavenly bed" started the whole theme of mattress toppers and duvet covers. They are still of the best.



But I'm on my way home. Happily, on my way home but also happily having had five lovely days in Colorado. All the while planning on another Colorado trip next summer.

My Colorado Springs hotel was simple but a fantastic bargain. Even had I paid for all four days instead of getting three of them free, it would have been a bargain. It was well run, in a good location, close to my friends, and near to everywhere I wanted to go.

Colorado is great for a holiday but it probably isn't for everyone's full-time residence. If you love the Northeast, Colorado might take a little bit of getting used to. I've always known that I could live anywhere and everywhere has their good and their bad but I think it would take a bit of adapting for me to live full-time in Colorado. Yet it is clear to me that my super bright Colorado friends love it and do well in Colorado. It's a good thing that everybody doesn't love the same thing or this traffic would never ever move. Or all those big pick up trucks that practically push my car might come to the Northeast.

From Monet at Denver Art Museum - <https://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/claude-monet> -



The Denver Art Museum will be home to the most comprehensive U.S. exhibition of Monet paintings in more than two decades. The exhibition will feature more than 120 paintings spanning Monet's entire career and will focus on the celebrated French impressionist artist's enduring relationship with nature and his response to the varied and distinct places in which he worked.



Lunch at an employee recommendation - <https://eatleven.com/>



Interesting building, and a full complex of museums. We went in early and toured the regular exhibits pending our 2pm Monet entry. All was full of folks and busy with the Monet Exhibit being a bit more crowded than was comfortable. That last picture of the huge wall hanging? All liquor tags.



Selfies? I laugh at people doing them, but is this any different?

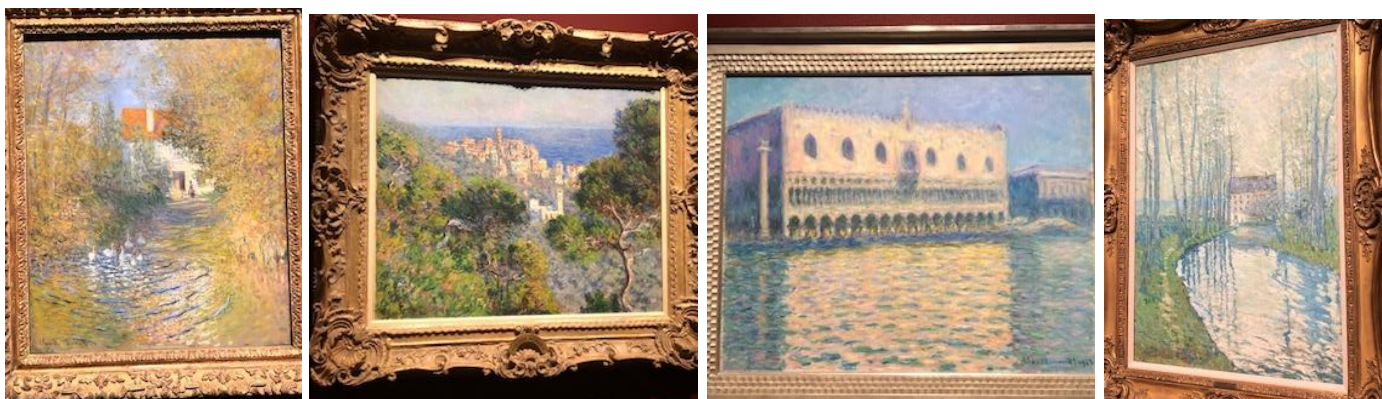




That huge round exhibit needed to be looked at more closely. Each item of art was not much larger than a silver dollar.

That Japanese screen with the circle? Try to make one! We have an even better one from one of Tom's Japanese Art Tours where he met the artist and watched the circle being painted.

That silver piece? Ah ha! We have one too. It's a candle snuffer.



Everyone knows Monet paintings. These were some of my favorites. The one in Venice – little did I know there would be that much water on the wrong side of the palace so soon. Ugh, over 6' of water over sea level invaded Venice.

We were in Giverny a couple years back and I wouldn't mind going again. Dana said she'd like to go too.

### **Miscellaneous** -

Ambassadors Recommend the One Book to Read Before Visiting Their Country - Reading recommendations straight from the source.

<https://apple.news/AqqVaeCT1R9mTQlbGphmgHA>

11 Secrets Hidden in Famous Works of Art - <https://www.travelandleisure.com/slideshows/art-world-secrets-paintings>

Anthony Bourdain Quotes That Will Inspire You to Travel More, Eat Better, and Enjoy Life -

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/celebrity-travel/anthony-bourdain-travel-food-quotes>

## ***Itinerary***

### **Thu Oct 31**

7:30am Depart Newark EWR via UA#282

9:52am Arrive Denver DEN

Rental car Hertz

Hotel Hyatt House Colorado Springs – 4 nights  
5805 Delmonico Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919 Tele 719 268 9990

### **Fri Nov 1**

1:00pm Tour Glen Eyrie Castle – 90 minutes

From gleneyrie.org - Castle Tour - Step Back In Time - Immerse yourself in the historical grandeur of the Glen Eyrie Castle! From the rich heritage of General Palmer, our city's founder, to the deep spiritual legacy of The Navigators, our guided Historical Tour will take you on a journey filled with stories of rival turn-of-the-century railroad wars and oil tycoons to what is now the soul-stirring property of Glen Eyrie. Our Historical Tour is approximately 90 minutes in length. It includes a brief video filled with history of General Palmer and The Navigators, and a Guided Walking Tour through the Carriage House and the first and second floors of The Glen Eyrie Castle. Our trained Tour Guides will entertain you with stories of the Palmer family, Glen Eyrie Estate, unique architecture of The Castle, surrounding landscape, and Colorado Springs history. For over a century, Glen Eyrie has been a place of stunning beauty, profound history, and awe-inspiring grandeur. Join us for a Historical Tour where your journey will be more than educational, it will be unforgettable! \*Glen Eyrie is an active conference and retreat center; therefore, on any particular day, certain rooms in The Castle may not be available for viewing.

2:30pm Tea – 75 minutes

Autumn Tea at The Castle - The seasons are changing and soon the Colorado mountains will be sprinkled with golden Aspens. As temperatures begin to cool, the air becomes crisp, and our breathtaking property transforms, Autumn is the ideal time for a warm and inviting Tea at The Castle! Join us in the Castle Music Room for tasty treats from our hand-crafted menu, flavorful cups of tea, and heartwarming conversations.

Eve First Friday Art Walk in OCC and in Manitou

### **Sat Nov 2**

Am Day of the Dead at the Art Museum

1:00pm Walking tour in Colorado Springs - City of Sunshine – booked by Dana

By 1900, over 20,000 health-seekers emigrated to Colorado Springs searching for a cure for tuberculosis. Through the streets of Downtown Colorado Springs, discover the history of our region's greatest asset-turned-industry – stunning scenery, abundant sunshine and mild climate. Visit the locations of notorious TB treatment centers and explore the economic and social impact of the “white plague” on The City of Sunshine.

This tour starts at 1 p.m., to avoid conflict with the Veterans Day Parade.

Other Ideas to do:



Food tour or more tacos or both  
Old Pueblo historic house and museum  
Penrose's house tour near Broadmore

From Dave with other ideas:

Pueblo bird/raptor sanctuary, Pueblo Riverwalk, and Bent's Old Fort (in La Junta...one hour east of Pueblo). If you want to go back in time 180 years to an Old West Frontier trading post, it does not get much more authentic than Bent's Old Fort. It's a National Parks Historic Site. I found it quite impressive and worth the drive. Also about 10-15 degrees warmer than Colorado Springs if it happens to be cold here.

**Sun Nov 3**

? Cave of the Winds Lantern Tour – starts at 11am  
<https://caveofthewinds.com/tours-and-adventures/#lantern-tour-info>.

**Mon Nov 4**

2:00pm Tickets for special on Monet at Denver Art Museum for Diana, Dana and Nola  
[www.DenverArtMuseum.org](http://www.DenverArtMuseum.org)

Ideas to do:

Tea at the Brown Hotel  
Botanical Gardens

8:00pm Turn in Rental car

Hotel The Westin Denver International Airport – 1 night  
8300 Pena Boulevard, Denver, CO 80249 Tele: 303 317 1800

**Tue Nov 5**

10:55am Depart Denver DEN via UA#513 – 3:33 hours  
4:28pm Arrive Newark EWR

Denver Airport: I must see this! Have you? Still there?  
<https://nerdist.com/article/denver-airport-talking-gargoyle/?amp>