



Everett – Skate America Trip Notes October 17 – 23, 2018

Why? Why Not!

Beverly introduced me to competitive ice skating a few years ago and while I dislike sitting on my bum so much, I find the music and dance form quite entertaining.

I've been to three World Competitions: Boston, Helsinki and Milan and was ready for Tokyo but the tickets were slow to get priced and I decided on a river cruise from Prague to Berlin with Tom instead.

Competition with internationals has become much more enjoyable as the Americans simply don't have it except in a few minor cases. The beautiful skaters like Jason Brown and Ashley Wagner didn't have a change against the little Asians when all the jumping/quads got into the program. I have not learned to enjoy ice skating as a gymnastics type sport.

This was Skate America, the first in the Grand Prix Series, with international skaters like the Russians, Italians, Canadians, and even a new Malaysian skater.

In December Beverly and I will go to Vancouver to see the Grand Prix Finals. I tried to go to the last of the series in Grenoble France but air fare was wild and tickets not so easy to obtain.

Nathan Chen: An article about our little hot shot Asian who is American. Nathan is in his first year as a premed student at Yale, taking a huge amount of classes, and we wonder if he will be able to keep up. <https://olympics.nbcports.com/2018/10/20/nathan-chen-wins-skate-america/amp/>

Notes from Everett:

To Everett for Skate America competition.

To the airport on my way to Seattle and then drive about an hour and a half north to Everett where my sister Beverly and I will be watching skate America competition.

Going early to the airport can be important:

- There was a truck fire resulting in miles of back up but fortunately going in the opposite direction
- There were similar numbers of folks lining up to get through TSA. Why I set off the security, I have no idea, but it required waiting for a pat down. No. I did not enjoy it. I have a good one at home.
- The lounge was in the wrong wing, extremely busy, and then my gate was at the far far end. I did have time for a rushed bite of vegetarian chili and a few swigs of red wine but no time for my planned shopping.
- Boarding was pretty discombobulated with people jumping in line even before handicap or children.

- I had what was supposed to be a special 1K upgrade coupon but it didn't work. Though I was number one on the upgrade list there were 16 more who were equally disappointed. Dear United: It is unwise to give promises you can't keep.

Go to the airport early is the main message. Then don't count on promised perks — TSA Precheck, club lounge, upgrades, or early boarding.

The arrival in Seattle was quite easy; Bev and I met up at the car rental counter which also was easy to drive straight north on Highway 5. Catch up, hotel check in, shopping and simple dinner was plenty as 9pm really meant midnight body-time.

Our hotel is near enough to the arena that it is full of other skate fans and allegedly some noted skate personalities. I never recognize them but Beverly will. We drove a couple of them to the arena (because of the San Francisco type hills) and then I came back to the hotel car park and walked back the approximately eight blocks.

You will see by the pictures that after practice sessions we had a drive around the beautiful hills during sunset hours. Followed by a Mexican dinner.



Sunrise out of our hotel room on the bay.

We have a long enough stay to warrant flowers in the room.

At a local art shop it appeared to be a school where they were doing glassblowing. We are after all in the home area of Dale Chihuly.

Too funny - bras as humorous art.



Pumpkin earrings? I don't think so but maybe I should check with an earring wearing friend? Did you notice they came along right after the bras?

Driving mansion-row along the water.



Beverly has leftovers. I ate all of mine. Wonder why I'm gaining weight?

Good thing we had a view upon arrival. The next morning gave us fog. And all the following mornings too.

Last day: The Sunday evening Spectacular Exhibit is always the best for me. The winning skaters stay on for a show and they are comfortable, not worried about judging, not trying to do a half dozen quad jumps, and everyone has fun.

We had all of Monday to drive from Everett to an airport hotel to catch a Tuesday early morning flight home. We chose to drive along the foggy shore, enjoy the houses, a light house complex, and finally into Edmonds, an artsy little town where we enjoyed the small streets, art shops, and of course some seafood.

Last Notes

I have given up on national skating events because the Americans haven't been very competitive. We are skipping both Detroit Nationals and Anaheim Four Continents. Beverly follows the junior competition and says we may have some talent coming up and the couple videos she sent were very hopeful.

I like the world's competition and in December will go to Vancouver for the Grand Prix finals. All because we have Russians, Canadians, Italians, etc. there.

This is not to say the Americans are not capable but my personal believe is it has to do with other countries supporting their artists whereas Americans don't get sponsors until they are already winners. In addition, in my, to my view, the heavy emphasis on quads and the athletics has damaged our larger framed Americans.

Itinerary

Wed Oct 17 - Bev

4:15pm Depart Kansas City MCI via Alaska Air#729
6:14pm Arrive Seattle SEA

- Diana

1:00pm Depart home
3:00pm Depart Newark EWR via United#1932
6:03pm Arrive Seattle SEA

Rental Car Thrifty
Drive SEA to Everett about 55 minutes to 1:10 hours or 42 miles

Alternate transport ideas were not good: Bus is \$14-\$26 each but not recommended; Taxi is \$270-\$330; Shuttle is \$16-\$75 but not recommended; Seattle Airport 24 Shuttle is \$47; Shuttle Express is \$72; Super Shuttle is \$230? Surely not! Uber is \$60 - \$85

Hotel Hampton Inn Seattle/Everett – 5 nights
2931 West Marine View Drive, Everett, WA 98201 Tele: 425 349 4466

Distance to rink 14 minutes or .6 miles walking per mapquest. ½ mile per hotel but up a hill.
2000 Hewitt Avenue, Everett WA 98211 – Rink: Angles of the Winds Area seems to be the same as Xfinity Ice Rink

<https://www.2018skateamerica.com/>

Thu Oct 18

Official Practice

Fri Oct 19

Session 1 (7:30 p.m.): Pairs Short Program & Men's Short Program

Sat Oct 20

Session 2 (1:15 p.m.): Pairs Free Skate & Men's Free Skate

Session 3 (7:15 p.m.): Ladies Short Program and Rhythm Dance

Sun Oct 21

Session 4 (11 a.m.): Ladies Free Skate and Free Dance

Session 5 (6:15 p.m.): Skating Spectacular

Mon Oct 22

Check out, find touring on way to airport.

Hotel Aloft Seattle Sea-Tac Airport – 1 night
19030 28th Avenue South, Sea-Tac, Washington 98188 Tele: 206 241 0260
Free parking; 470 SF, free airport shuttle; upgraded corner room
Yes mini-refrig and coffee making. Cat 4

Tue Oct 23 - Diana

11:15am Depart Seattle SEA via UA#1155
7:27pm Arrive Newark EWR

Beverly

9:30am

Depart Seattle SEA via Alaska Air#478

3:10pm

Arrive Kansas City MCI