



Marie in New Jersey
July 6-10, 2019

It was a short trip, in part because the calendar was full by the time Marie granted us some time. Smile. Busy kid. Pictures above include Marie's main destinations – besides shopping! We covered plenty of ground.

- 1) The Sculpture Garden of Hamilton Township,
- 2) Rats Restaurant,
- 3) Princeton University, and
- 4) Natural History Museum in NYC.

What did we do? It was good. It felt like a marathon!

- Dinners at Sono Japanese Restaurant locally, Did Ya Eat in Shrewsbury, Rats Sculpture Garden in Hamilton Township NJ, Mistral Restaurant in Princeton, History Museum Café in NYC, and Marseilles in NYC.
- Shopping at Nordstrom, Target, Famous Footwear, Victoria Secret, Gap, Athleta, and Company Store for bedding.
- Tourist at The Shore in Long Branch, Sculpture Gardens in Hamilton Township, Walking Tour in Princeton, and New York City for Natural History Museum.
- Added haircut at Cosmos, dental visit with Dr. Margiotta which included a conference about medical schools and scholarships, accompanying Tom to cardiologist for echo-gram, and visit with Pat.
- Planning for the January week in Las Vegas and surrounding area.

Some pictures:

A couple hundred are on my iCloud shared drive for anyone who requests.



The first meal out was at a favorite and traditional for us – Sono Japanese. The next day onto the Grounds for Sculpture. Our second time there and it won't be the last.



Tom and Marie found an air-conditioner! Sometimes its hard to tell if a sculpture is real or not. As an example, I started to take a picture of someone until he moved . . . Tom had the same thing happen to him, he was so still he could have been a sculpture. This Renoir picnic scene goes on and on and this gal with the puppy would later become Renoir's wife. Seward Johnson, the artist, put himself into the scene.

We walked and looked, took some time out for the famous restaurants called Rats, then walked some more.



From 10am opening of the Sculpture Garden until about 3pm, we enjoyed but could have spent more time. But we'd arranged for a 4pm two-hour walking tour in Princeton where we were meeting Pat. We continued on with a 6pm dinner at Mistral in downtown Princeton.

See the picture of Marilyn Monroe? It's a copy of the 20 foot one that's now in Palm Springs. I caught the picture just right that it looks like Tom is looking up her dress. Here's his reply to many comments from my iCloud Photo Shared drive: "Contrary to comments received from recipients of this photo that was sent around, I AM NOT peering up Marilyn's dress! (I'm actually fixated on her chest.)"

Read about the artist and the sculpture garden here:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grounds_For_Sculpture

Now – to add to the pictures for those not on iCloud but asked for pictures, here is a report from a November 2018 trip to the Grounds for Sculpture and Rats Restaurant:



Rats Restaurant and Grounds for Sculpture Trip Notes **Tuesday November 27, 2018**

Weather – it was cold and windy but we bundled up and had 2-3 hours walking the grounds.

The Gardens -- <http://www.groundsforsculpture.org>

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grounds_For_Sculpture

Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) is a 42-acre sculpture park and museum located in Hamilton, NJ, on the former site of the New Jersey State Fairgrounds. Founded in 1992 by John Seward Johnson II, the venue is dedicated to promoting an understanding of and appreciation for contemporary sculpture by organizing exhibitions, publishing catalogues, and offering a variety of educational programs and special community events.

In July 2000, GFS became a nonprofit organization open to the public. Operation revenues come from visitors, art patrons, donations, and grants. GFS maintains an ever changing collection of sculptures, with works by Seward Johnson and other artists.

Rats Restaurant, info from Wikipedia -

Rat's Restaurant is located on the grounds, and was conceptually designed by Johnson with an **Impressionist Claude Monet**-styled atmosphere. The scenery surrounding the restaurant features Johnson's own impressionist-inspired sculptures, including a bridge over a lily pond which is an homage to Monet's painting *Water Lilies and Japanese Bridge* (1897-1899).

The restaurant is named after the character "Ratty" from **Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*** which is one of Seward Johnson's favorite books.

Seward Johnson – a character and apparently a good one to form such a treasure:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Seward_Johnson_II

His father, Seward Johnson Sr., was such the character and often in news, the more recent being his marrying his nursemaid, leaving everything to her, and the subsequent and naturally lawsuits.



These are life-size and when one turns a corner to find them, you're stunned that they are just art. Many are clearly copies of art, with a particular fascination for work of Renoir Paris in the Park type pictures, and of Manet such as the Picnic in the Park.



Yes these are all sculptures. A picnic table next to the lake, a sailboat in the background and even ducks, then an exercise area with a bathhouse complete with sculptures of the gal's hanging clothes. Note the amusing mirror placement at her behind.



The

The restaurant named Rats is only one of about four places to eat, with more outside during the warm season. It looks old and European as they used old wooden beams and most rooms are smallish.

We ate with a view of the lake and a copy of Monet's bridge in Giverny France. Behind the bridge but at the lake was the nude bather. Full size as are most of the sculptures other than those bigger than life. The 'party table' is amazing with a plaque nearby identifying the persons.

We will return in the spring time!

Rats: A relaxing and exotic escape featuring delightful cuisine, spectacular views and elegant ambiance, Rat's Restaurant is the perfect dining destination. Named for the fabled entertaining character in Kenneth Graham's children's classic, *The Wind in the Willows*, Rat's Restaurant is designed to give visitors the sense they have stepped into a village reminiscent of the impressionist painter Claude Monet's beloved town of Giverny. From the moment you arrive you'll see why this extraordinarily charming venue is a favorite for fine dining, celebrations and corporate events. Rustic fireplaces, country French cuisine, seasonal hand-crafted cocktails and an eclectic beer and wine list are just the beginning. Regarded as one of the most romantic restaurants in our region, Rat's was named Philadelphia Magazine's "Most Romantic Restaurant. Rat's Restaurant and catering is proudly managed by Constellation Culinary.

Itinerary from 2019

Sat Jul 6

6:20am Depart Kansas City MCI via UA#2330
10:06am Arrive Newark EWR

Marie - call home 732 671 7045 when wheels down for pick up
For contacts: Meet at top floor, first door, Tom in Lexus

Ideas: Freehold Mall, Barnes and Noble on the way to Mall, Clarkes Shoes in Shrewsbury
Arrange Tuesday in NYC – museum tickets and restaurant reservation
Decide about January in Las Vegas

4:00pm Haircut in Freehold by Cosmo; blowout by Angie

Sun Jul 7

9:00am Depart home – 1 ¼ hour drive
10:15am Arrive Sculpture Garden – open from 10-6pm
16 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton NJ 08619

12:00noon Rats Restaurant – reservations made

3:00pm Depart garden – drive 25 minutes to Princeton

Park at 30 Spring Street, Princeton

3:45pm Meet Walking Tour and Pat
116 Nassau Street, Inside Princeton Shop, next to Labyrinth Books

4:00pm Princeton Tour Company – tickets for 4
(855) 743-1415 • info@princetontourcompany.com • princetontourcompany.com

Shameless Name Dropping Guided Tours of Princeton - 4 to 6pm

April through November, our two hour guided tours allow you to learn about the famous students and residents that help to make Princeton the most treasured Ivy League town in America. Private tours are available every day of the year!

For 12 years running, our signature tour has been the #1 Attraction on TripAdvisor. Big news, right? Naturally, the New York Times, Chicago Tribune and Washington Post have all written about it. Spoiler... they say it's awesome!

When it comes to legendary movers and shakers, the town of Princeton has an embarrassment of riches. Yet we never shy away from bragging about them non-stop during our most popular and comprehensive guided tour. On this picturesque 3-mile stroll, you'll learn the fascinating history of Princeton University while taking in all the must-see campus sites, including Nassau Hall, Princeton Chapel, Prospect Garden, Blair Hall and Rockefeller College. Outside the gates, we'll visit the homes and hangouts of Albert Einstein, F Scott Fitzgerald, TS Eliot, Woodrow Wilson, Grover Cleveland, Robert Wood Johnson and even '80's icon, Brooke Shields, just to name a few! Whether you like to curl up with a history book or an US Weekly, this tour has something for everyone.

These tours, which run April through November, begin at 116 Nassau Street inside the Princeton University Store and end in the heart of downtown inside Mistral restaurant at 66 Witherspoon Street.

We recommend parking in the nearby garages at 30 Spring Street. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to tour departure – we cannot wait for late arrivals. Dress appropriately for the weather forecast and anticipate a 3 mile leisurely pace.

6:15pm Mistral Restaurant – reservations for 3, call to add 1
66 Witherspoon St., Princeton, NJ 08542 Tele: (609) 688-8808

Mon Jul 8

9:00am Marie to Dr. Margiotta

9:30am Diana to Nails – does Marie want to meet there?

1:15pm Tom (and Marie?) to Dr. Harris, cardiologist, for routine echo-gram

Ideas Sono Japanese Restaurant
See Asbury Park including their main street of restaurants
Or Ocean Grove and Day's Ice Cream
Go by Long Branch Pier shopping and restaurants and see the ocean

Tue Jul 9

8:00am Bus from PNC Center – print Academy Bus Schedule to Port Authority

10:00am New York City Natural History Museum – Open 10 to 5:45

Restaurants: Marseilles

Wed Jul 10

7:29pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#1784

9:29pm Arrive Kansas City MCI