

Kate & Jim's Travels with Charles

Episode #5: Salt Spring Island

When people talk about the Gulf Islands, almost inevitably Salt Spring Island comes up. Neither Jim nor I had been there, but when we decided to check out a few of the islands, Salt Spring Island was at the top of the list.

Then we found out that friends of Jim's were living on the island. *Then* we found out that they would welcome us at their new home.

We didn't even ask!

Marilyn and Daryl Logan invited into us to their spectacular home overlooking the water, and offered up their "cottage" for two nights.

I mean really. Look at this place!



Then there's the terrace! And as you can see, the culinary offerings were pretty impressive too.



After a lovely evening of catching up, we were greeted the next morning with coffee and scones, and then we were chauffeured around the island for an excellent tour.

We started at the Saturday market, which offered a wide range of arts and crafts as well as produce and foods, all right by the bay. But what was just as much (or maybe more) fun was seeing the characters who were both buying and selling. There's a definite hippie vibe here.





Then we went to a little park area, just by the water, where they had several food trucks offering a variety of cuisines. Almost as good as the food was the general attitude of the vendors who obviously loved the freedom and the customer contact they experienced in this relaxed environment. I got the grilled gouda, green apple and chutney sandwich from the friendly woman in the Buzz 'n Bite. Yum!



Once we were nourished, Marilyn and Daryl drove us all around the island.

We stopped by one of the vineyards, the Garry Oaks Estate, but didn't end up trying the wine there. However, when we stopped in a restaurant for dinner, they had one of their wines on the menu, and it seemed like the Garry Oaks Pinot Gris would be a perfect accompaniment for my crab cakes, so of course, I had to give it a try. 🍷👍



One quirk Marilyn and Daryl told us about is the variety of things you can buy at local stands, at the end of people's driveways. Not just produce and honeys and eggs, but also baked goods and soaps and even pizza. They generally aren't manned. The vendors leave the items in wooden boxes – kind of like outdoor cupboards - by the road and count on the honour system. People just leave money in a container. One spot that offered great smelling bread had this sign to alert customers to their payment "system".



They drove us all the way to the south end of the island, where went for a nice walk, through more great forests.



We got to the southern-most point just in time for rush hour, Salt Spring style. (How many boats do you see?)



At the end of the day, our hosts got us to another beautiful waterfront spot in time for another gorgeous sunset.



The next morning, I awoke in time to catch the sunrise outside our cottage window.



A little while later, I heard something rustling outside our door. When I opened the door, I met another local, just a few metres away.



All in all, we give the Logan B&B five stars. ★★★★★