

Trip 2 – Episode #29 – La La Land – Part 1: Brush With Fame

If you're travelling up the California coast, you have to go through Los Angeles. But we didn't really want to drive Charles through the city. So we tried to stick to the coast as much as possible.

At the same time, driving the whole way up the coast would take forever, with all the little beach towns and stop-and-go traffic. So we did brave the freeways with Charles for part of the trip.



Yup, that was us.



As quickly as we could, we went west and continued up the famous Pacific Coast Highway, where there were fewer lanes, and we started to see the ocean. We were headed toward Malibu, where we had booked a couple of days in the aptly named Malibu Beach RV Park.



We started seeing familiar signs...



And it felt good to be close to sea level again.



We knew we were going the right way, no matter what the signs suggested.



However we didn't know we were about to have a "brush with fame".

At one point we saw a liquor store, and realizing we were low on supplies, we checked the parking lot to make sure it was big enough for Charles to get in - and out of. It looked like it was okay, so we pulled in. And I went in for supplies.

By the time I came out, several other customers had filled the parking lot, and we were surrounded by parked cars in every direction.

Jim started trying to negotiate an 18-point turn, as I stuck my head out the window on my side and tried to tell him how close he was to the black, sporty car to our right.

We knew there was someone behind the wheel, because Jim had seen a woman get out of the passenger side and go into the store. I was about to get out and ask if he'd move forward a few inches to help us out.

Then the driver got out of his car to survey the situation and said with a slight British accent, "I hope you're not going to hit my car. That would make me very unhappy."

I told him we were trying hard *not* to. And then it suddenly hit me. I turned to Jim and hissed, "Isn't that Pierce Brosnan?!" I did a quick Google search and found the Pierce Brosnan annoyed look.

Yup, it was him.



He got back in his car and pulled up a bit to create more room. Then he came back out to survey our progress, as Jim masterfully got us out, without touching James Bond's car. Whew! 'Cause the next time he got out of his car, he might've looked like this:



I thanked him for his help, and as much as I wanted to, I *didn't* ask if I could take his picture with us and Charles!

But I did snap this shot just as we left the parking lot.

Later, Jim googled him and found out that he does indeed have a house in Malibu, recently put on the market at \$100 million (!! With 5 bedrooms and 14 bathrooms (!!??))



Reeling from our almost literal brush with fame, we continued up the coast to the Malibu RV Park. What a spectacular spot.



Not only were the views incredible, the grounds were lovely, with lots of floral plants.





There was one little challenge – our spot wasn't quite level. As you can see, Charles' front wheels were quite a way off the ground. But as weird as it looked, it was perfectly safe and stable.



We met our neighbours in the park who were from Quebec, Roby and Dagmar. They were a lovely couple and had been on the coast for a little while. So they shared some info with us on places they had camped. And we shared info on places we had been during our journey out.

And they had a very handsome dog Jackson. (If you look closely you can see him watching us from his perch inside their van.)

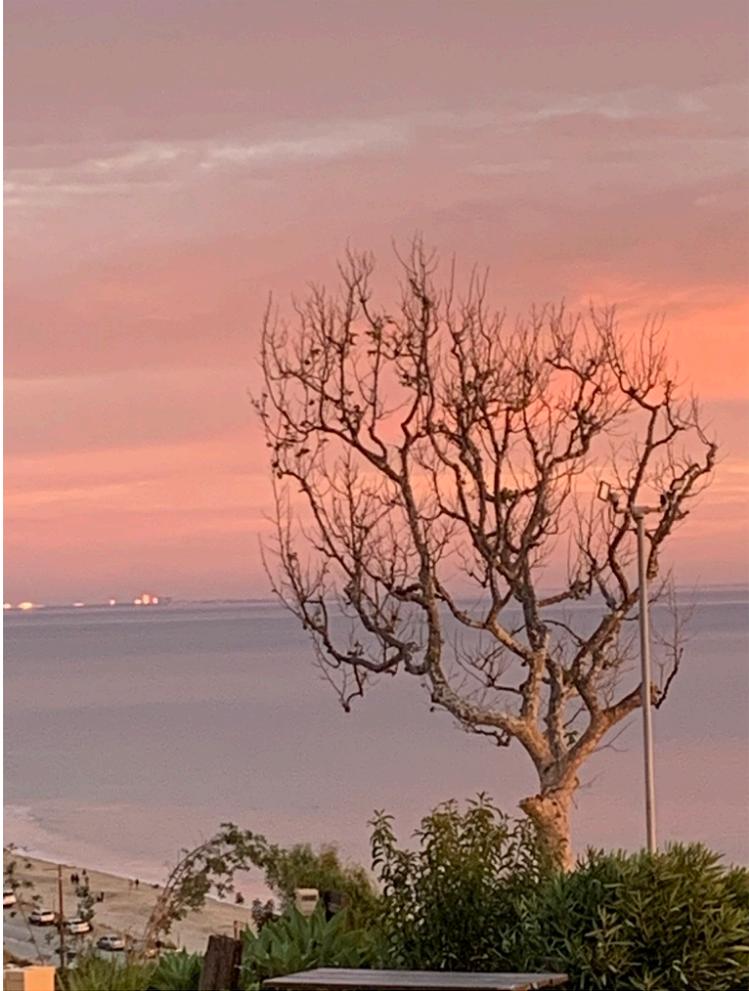


The first night we had an incredible sunset, which cast amazing light in every direction.









I don't know if the sign on this jeep had anything to do with it, but after the first day, we decided to book another week, so we ended up staying for 9 days in total.

