

In May-June 2019, Brenda and I travelled across Canada by train. Well, at least we got to Quebec City. From there we rented a vehicle and drove to Maine, New Hampshire, and New Brunswick.

To Vancouver

Flew from Tucson to Phoenix to Vancouver. Saw the beautiful mountains at North Cascades National Park including Mt. Baker. Cleared customs in Vancouver, which took about an hour with all other international arrivals. Driver picked us up and took us to Hampton Inn & Suites for the evening. Since train leaves in the afternoon we had time to see a bit of Vancouver including nearby Terry Fox Statue and the stadium for Major League Soccer and football, BC Place.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709081357897>

Leaving Vancouver

Train had 22 carriages. The last 3 were reserved for Prestige Sleeper Class. The cabin had a modular leather L-shaped couch by day and a Murphy bed for two by night facing the window. Didn't sleep too well on first night (of 4), but we adjusted on other nights .

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709081442452>

To Kamloops and Jasper

Beautiful countryside with waterfall and the highest mountain in Canadian Rockies, Mount Robson. The concierge on train said this was the clearest he has ever seen.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709083834166>

Jasper to Edmonton

Arrived in Jasper where more passengers got on train. Reached Edmonton before sunset.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709085634323>

To Winnipeg

Saw sunrise, buffalo, many other freight trains. All freight trains have priority, so passenger trains must stop. At Portage la Prairie, they have the world's largest Coca-Cola can. Arrived in Winnipeg about supper time.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709085497127>

Winnipeg

Spend a few hours here. Went to The Forks, which is a National Historic Site.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709085830361>

To Toronto

We passed the westbound (sister) VIA Rail train as well as more sights.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709085792242>

Toronto to Niagara

Checked into Fairmont Royal York for 3 nights. Hotel is undergoing renovation; Library Bar is unreachable by elevator, so we had to access through kitchen. Toured Niagara Falls and Niagara-On-The-Lake. Saw winery owned by Wayne Gretzky. Niagara Falls is quite the commercial enterprise. Also several protestors supporting the Rainforest Cafe strikers. The same owner also has Hard Rock Cafe, Niagara Brewery, Starbucks, Hersheys, Freshii's, Sweet Jesus, and any gift shop in Sheraton/Crowne Plaza Complex. Took Hornblower Cruise boat tour of the falls, then took funicular back up.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086053191>

Toronto

Toured city by foot and hop-on hop-off sightseeing tour.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086224313>

Hockey Hall of Fame

Many jerseys including Tim Horton; there is a large chain of Tim Horton's restaurant all over Canada and into Maine. Other notable hockey players include Willie O'Ree, who I saw play hockey with the San Diego Gulls in 1969. Other exhibits include a Stanley Cup with legends including Tony Esposito. Attendees can play offense or defense with video gaming capability.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086259738>

Roundhouse Park

A train roundhouse still survives as a museum.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086317713>

Dinner Cruise

Toured the harbor and Toronto Islands. Notice all the high water. This is the most water that Lake Ontario has EVER had.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086420356>

Toronto to Montreal

Back on the train for the second leg to Montreal. Excellent meal was served.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086461783>

Montreal

Hotel was a block from Notre-Dame Basilica. Very beautiful inside. I had forgotten about Expo '67 held here.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086501248>

Botanical Garden of Montreal

This is designated a National Historic Site of Canada, and is the 3rd largest garden in the world. Among the 75 hectares is a large lilac garden - quite nice. Walked to the Planetarium and saw an extensive meteorite collection.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086568541>

Montreal to Quebec City

Final train trip with another excellent meal. Still noticing the high water levels.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086413297>

Quebec City

This is considered the crown jewel of French Canada. We felt like we were in France and not Paris. Old Québec is the only walled city north of Mexico. In 1759 the British defeated the French at the Plains of Abraham, nowadays enshrined as a national park.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086653636>

Maine

Rented a vehicle and drove through Maine and into New Hampshire.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086686883>

Acadia National Park

Toured this National Park - voted favorite by both of us.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086586552>

Bailey Island

My 5th great grandfather, Timothy Bailey, acquired this island in 1742 for his wife Hannah Curtis.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709086627947>

Durham Friends Meeting House

My maternal grandmother was born in Durham, Maine. The family is solid Quaker.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709087620748>

New Hampshire

This is the final stop on our vacation. My Cartland family owned a house in Lee, New Hampshire, that was used in the Underground Railroad. Quakers were known abolitionists. Moses Cartland operated the Walnut Grove Quaker School across the dirt road from their home. He taught school in Lee from 1848-1853.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157709087663276>