

Park City, Utah



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Saturday, 1 September 2007

✿ September 1 – the departure

At long last after all the planning we're off and running. We left home just after midday and took off on time at 14:40. No issues with the check-in. Luggage is pushing the limits of the 20kg limit per person on Vueling.

So we finally made it to SLC – FC on United was great – particularly the totally lie flat seats. The service was fine but nothing over the top, the lunch / dinner was fine but not really better than BC – breakfast was very ordinary.

Upon arrival at the SLC airport we went to pick up our Avis car which we had booked via Hotwire for \$181. This was the first negative surprise of the holiday – while we knew that insurance would be extra we were somewhat taken aback with the \$300+ charge for 1 week of insurance which only includes CWD (no excess) plus third party. I planned to log comments on Flyer Talk and write to the travel editor of the SMH but in fact never got around to it!!!

Our condo at the Marriott Summitt Watch was right on historic Main Street. The condo is a very large one-bedroom + a fully contained locked-off studio – clearly much more space than we required – perhaps we can take in a boarder. It has no outlook to speak of – we could have moved but then the outlook would have been into a courtyard and we were too tired to bother.

We had a walk around town, made a reservations at a restaurant called Zoom then stopped for a pre-dinner drink at a nearly pub. We immediately fell foul of Utah's interesting licensing laws – if you sit outside you must order food in order to have a drink – so we ordered some nachos.

It was a fine evening – the day time high is in the low 30's but it falls to low teens at night.

Dinner at Zoom was disappointing – mediocre salads followed by even more mediocre pastas.

✿ September 2 – Sunday – first real day of the holiday

We both slept poorly so the otherwise fine day did not get off to a good start; in addition I awoke with a pain in my back. We went off to the local supermarket to stock up on groceries for the week – then back to the condo for breaky – a solid mountain breakfast of bacon and eggs.

We then went for a village walk – there was a local market on. Unfortunately my back was getting worse by the minute so after a mid-day drink at a local pub we headed back to the condo for a sandwich and lie down. Around mid-day a band of thunderstorms moved in and it rained on and off for the rest of the day.

A very quite day – we finished off with dinner at a very close by steak house – which was excellent. Off to bed early.

✿ September 3 – Monday – labour day holiday

I slept pretty well and awoke refreshed but my back was still bad – Dieter was still battling jetlag and had a poor sleep. After breakfast I planned to find the local medical center to see if they could give me something for my back – at this stage our plans of hiking the mountain did not look very promising.

Forecast for the today was 90°F and partly cloudy – hopefully no repeat of yesterday's afternoon thunderstorms.

We had lunch at the bottom of the lift then tried to go up the Town lift for a bit of a look see but they had temporarily halted ascents due to some local lightening so we walked over to the upper village. By the time we got back the town lift was running again so we headed up then walked down – I did OK in spite of my back. It only took an hour but I got to try out my new hiking poles – I can definitely say they are the “ant's pants”.

We decided to have sandwiches at home that evening.

✿ September 4 – Tuesday

Woke to a clear but cooler day (high70's) with a 30% change of thunderstorms. We had a slow start again – my back was still bothering me and Dieter had another sleepless night.

We headed over to Deer Valley – just a couple of clicks up the road. Drove around a bit gawking at the multi-multi-million dollar homes. We stopped at the upper village which was pretty deserted; however, we found that the Stein Erikson Lodge was serving lunch. We had very nice lunch on the deck overlooking the ski-trails. Afterwards we did a couple of short walks then back to the condo for another evening at home – pesto pasta tonight.

✿ September 5 – Wednesday

Major thunderstorm overnight – then we awoke to a rainy day. We spent the morning at home then went to a local Mexican restaurant for lunch which was notable for its all time low rating of 2 out of 10.

We went for a scenic drive – the Mirror Lake Byway – about a 120 mile circuit taking us up to over 10,000 feet past many lakes – it was very scenic. We even saw some snow on the side of the freeway as headed home.

We stayed at home and had sambos and watched the US Open – Federer vs Roddick in which Federer won in a very tight 3 sets.

✿ September 6 – Thursday

Another clear and sunny day just a bit cooler – low 70's. We did a major walk (2.5 hours) – we walked from the bottom of the Town lift up to the top of the Payday lift then down the other side to upper village. We had a quick sandwich lunch at small pub which was open.

We had a nice dinner at the Prime steak house again.

✿ September 7 – Friday

A repeat of yesterday weather-wise. We went to the upper village (Silver Lake) at Deer Valley and did a major hike – up to top on the Ontario trail and back down on the Silver Lake trail – about 2 hours 45 minutes. My new hiking poles are the ant's pants. We rewarded ourselves with a nice lunch at Stein Eriksen's Lodge – sitting on the deck in the glorious sunshine.

We had portobello mushroom pasta and spinach salad at home.