

Ed & Rob's "Out East" 2023 mancation July 7-14



In numerous discussions planning our 2023 trip, Rob mentioned that he would be going to the ALCM convention in Philadelphia. We did Philly in 2018, so there wasn't much we cared to see there again... but why not use that as a springboard to other places. The new 9-11 museum in NYC would be cool to see, though it would involve driving in NYC. We got this. That was the start, then it grew....





Day #1, 07 July 2023. The conference was based at the Doubletree Philadelphia Center City. Rob had been here since Sunday evening, 7/4. Ed flew in Thursday and took the train downtown and met Rob around 8pm. After settling in the room we went for the first beer at nearby Del Frisco.

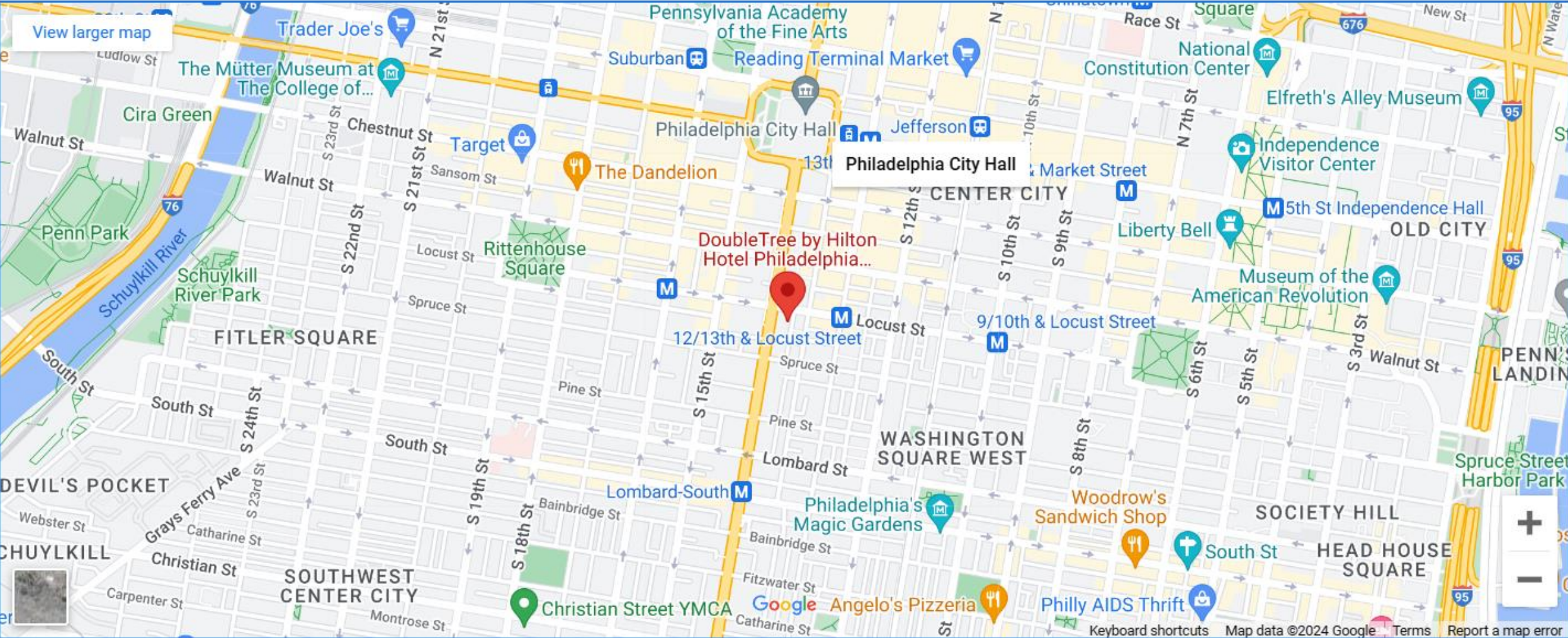


First beer of the trip around 9pm.

DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia Center City

237 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States, 19107

ReservationDesk.com: 833-441-1193





Association of
Lutheran
Church
Musicians

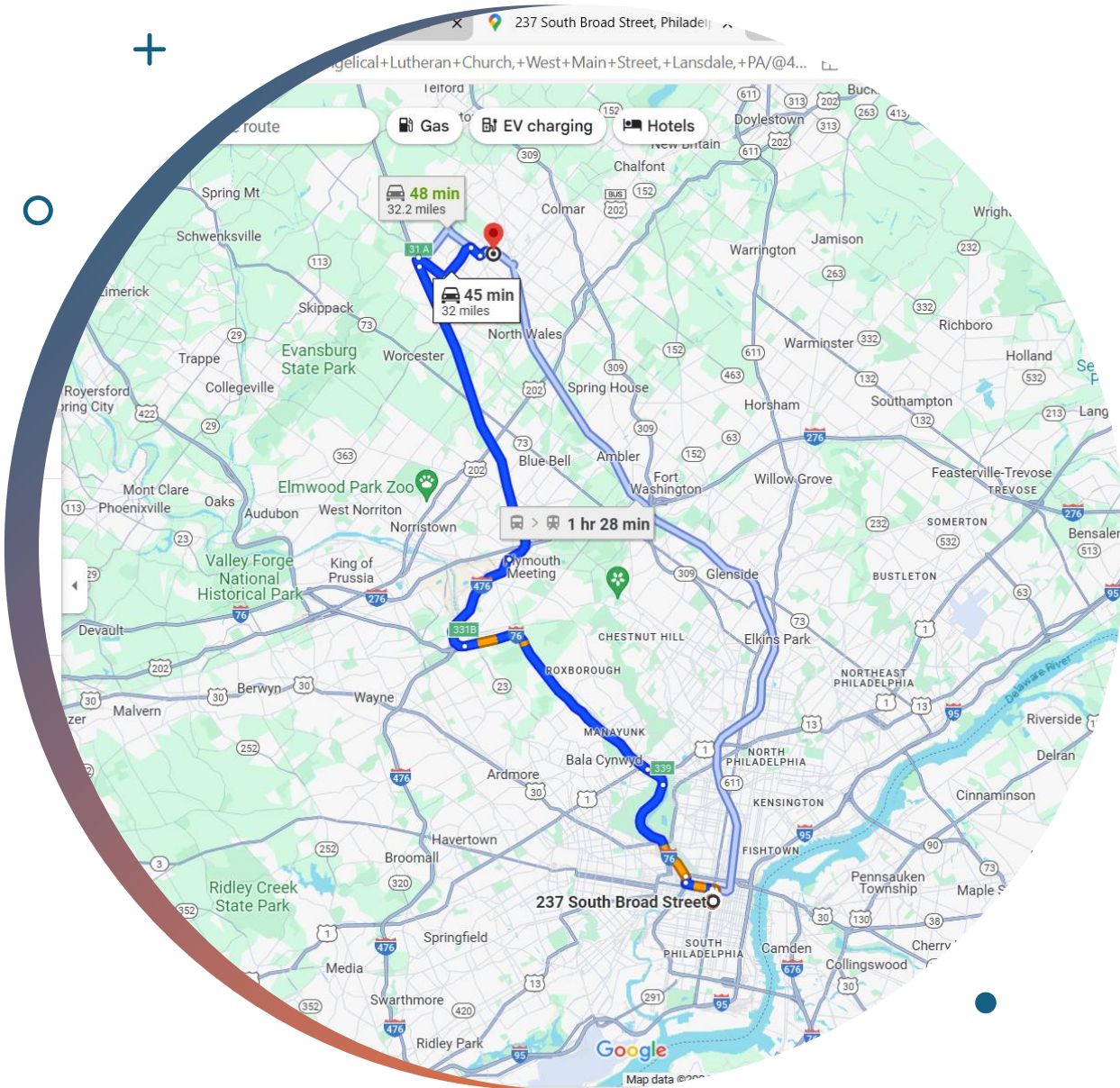
**Thank you
for staying
with us!**



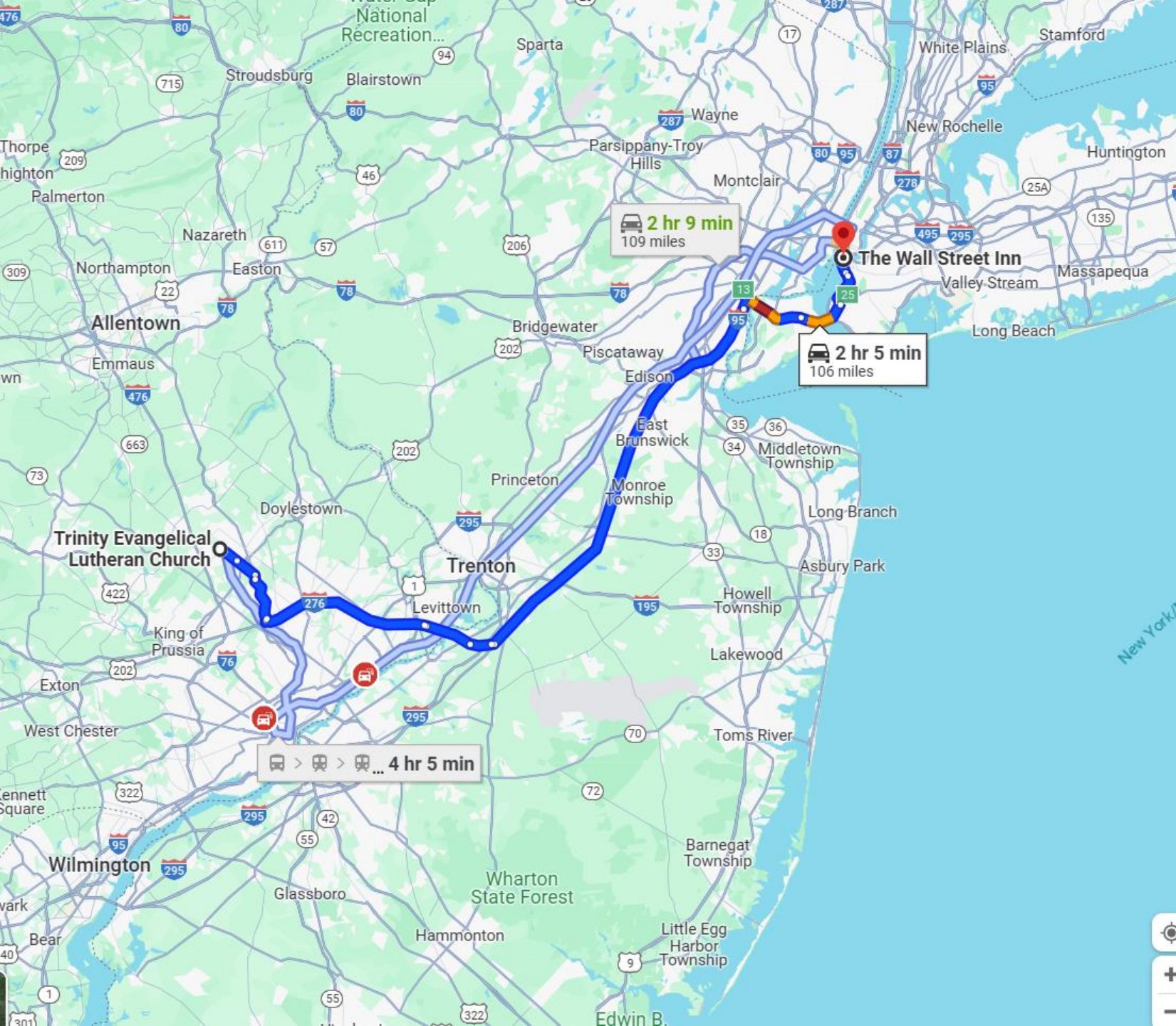
DOUBLETREE
by Hilton™

PHILADELPHIA CENTER CITY





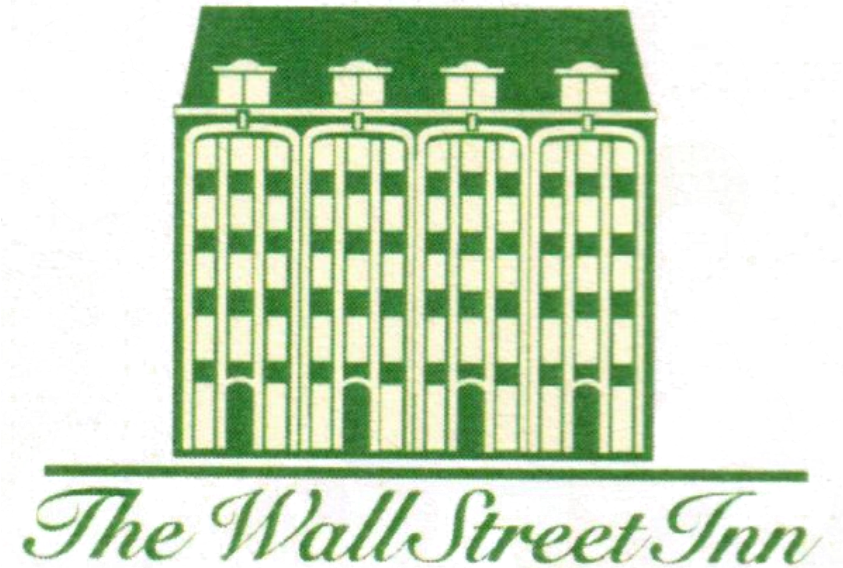
Day #2 08 July 2023. The last event of the conference was at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale, PA. Rob rode out in a car with some friends. Ed took the train back out to the airport and got the rent car and drove out to Lansdale.

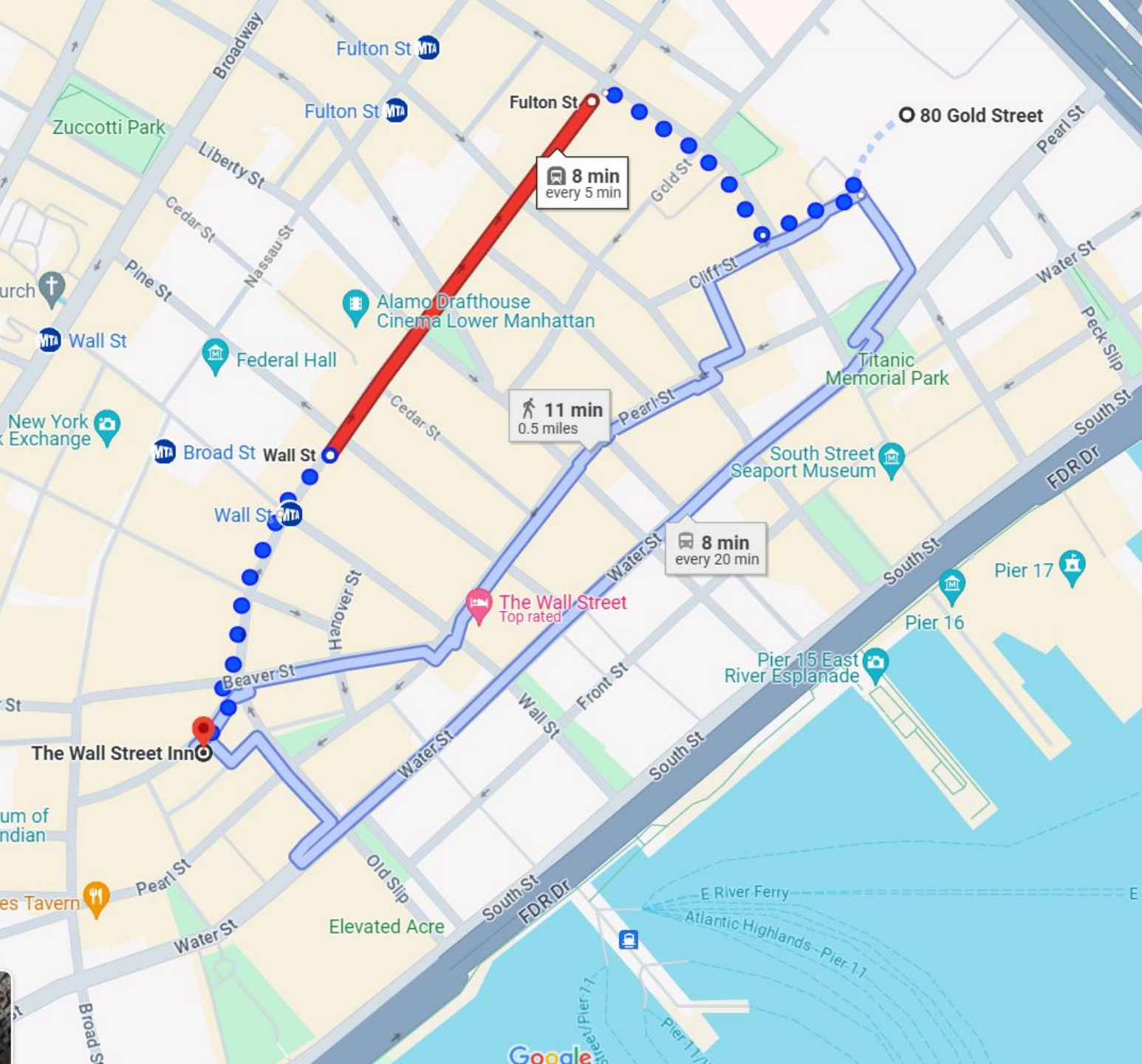


**We met at
Trinity about
1:30pm and
set out to the
Wall Street
Inn, 9 S.
William St in
NYC.**

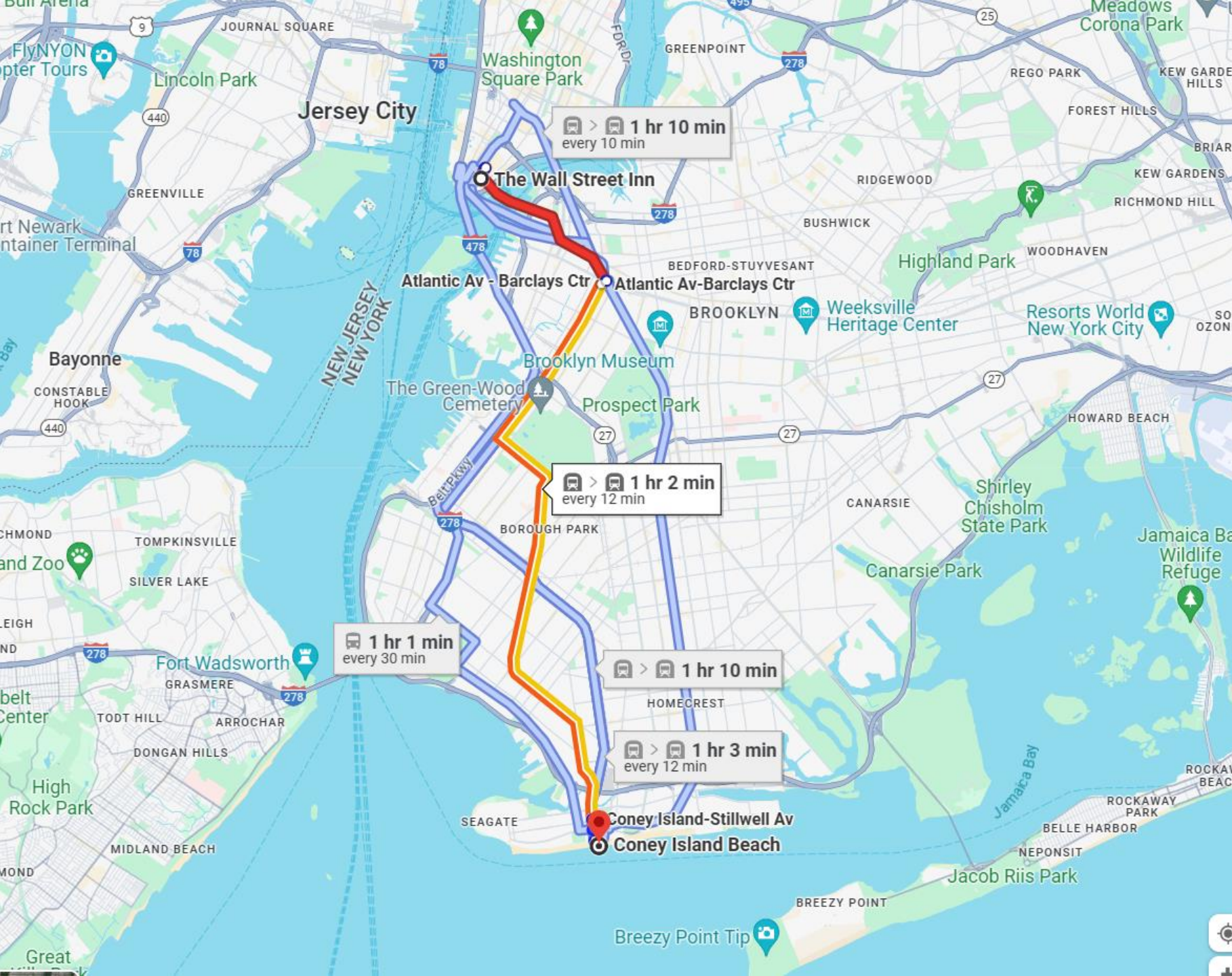


Obviously undergoing a facelift of sorts, this was a nice place to stay, close to everything we needed. Upon arrival, we pulled over and Rob stayed with the car and Ed went in to get us checked in.





We found the Wall Street Inn pretty handily, then to the parking garage on 80 Gold Street. We got in the room at 5:05p. We quickly regrouped and headed to Coney Island via a favorite way to travel in big cities: the subway.



Not sure which subway route we took, but we got there. Let the festivities begin!



We got to Coney a little after 7p and went to the spot where we had our last Coney Island beer in 2006: Ruby's. No more dingy, damp couches sitting around. Unlike '06, this boardwalk was hoppin tonight. Nathan's hotdogs for dinner.





A flashback to 2006

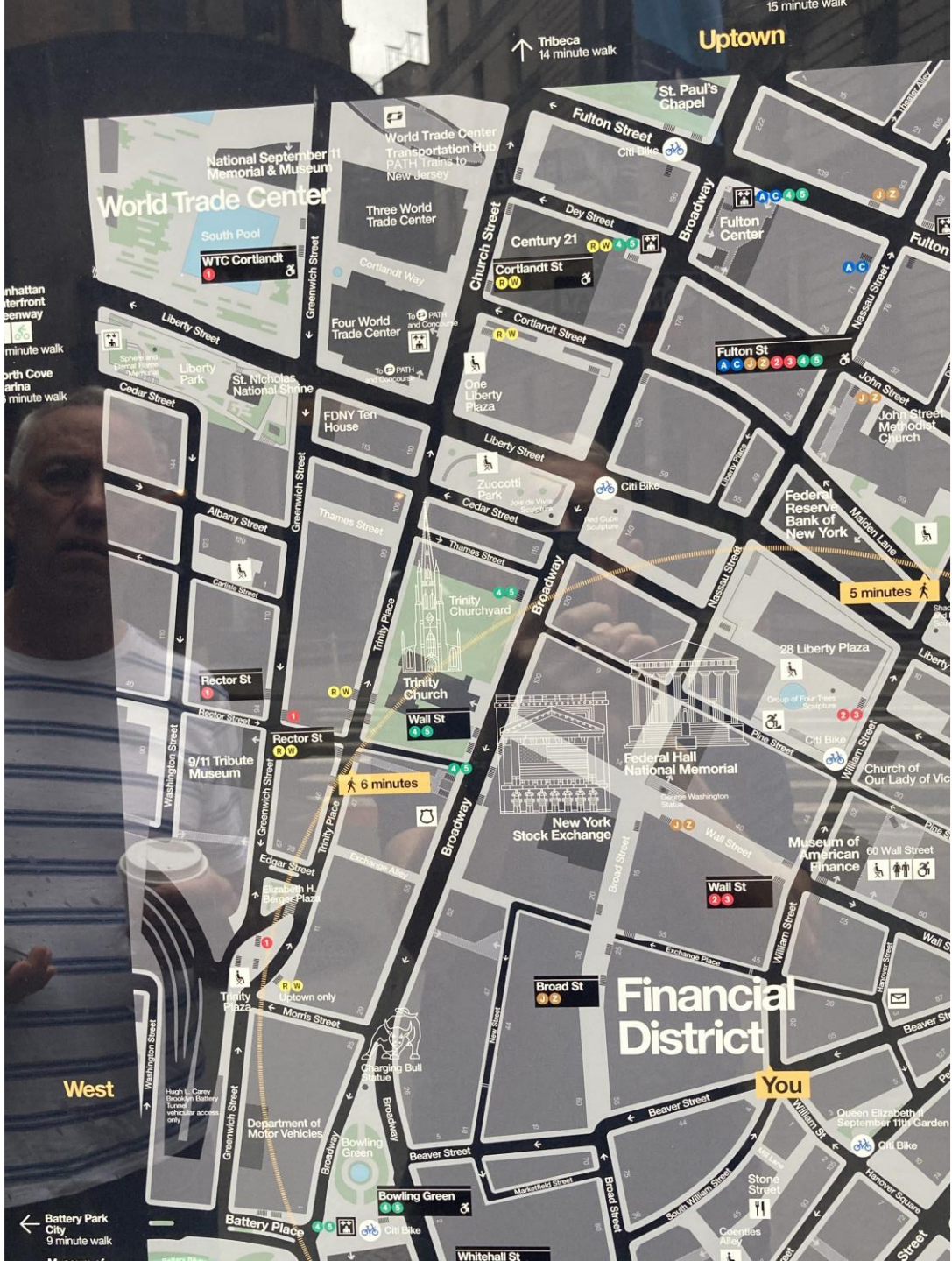


**Yes sir-ee
that is a
snake by
that guy's
feet**



• **Had a night cap beer at this Cuban bar just up the street from Wall St. Inn about 10p before retiring for the night. Neither of us can remember the name of the joint.**

Day #3, 09 July 2023. Got up and had the hotel breakfast before heading to the 9-11 memorial. Picture below is where we would later eat gyros.



**Footprint of
one of the
World Trade
Ctr towers.**



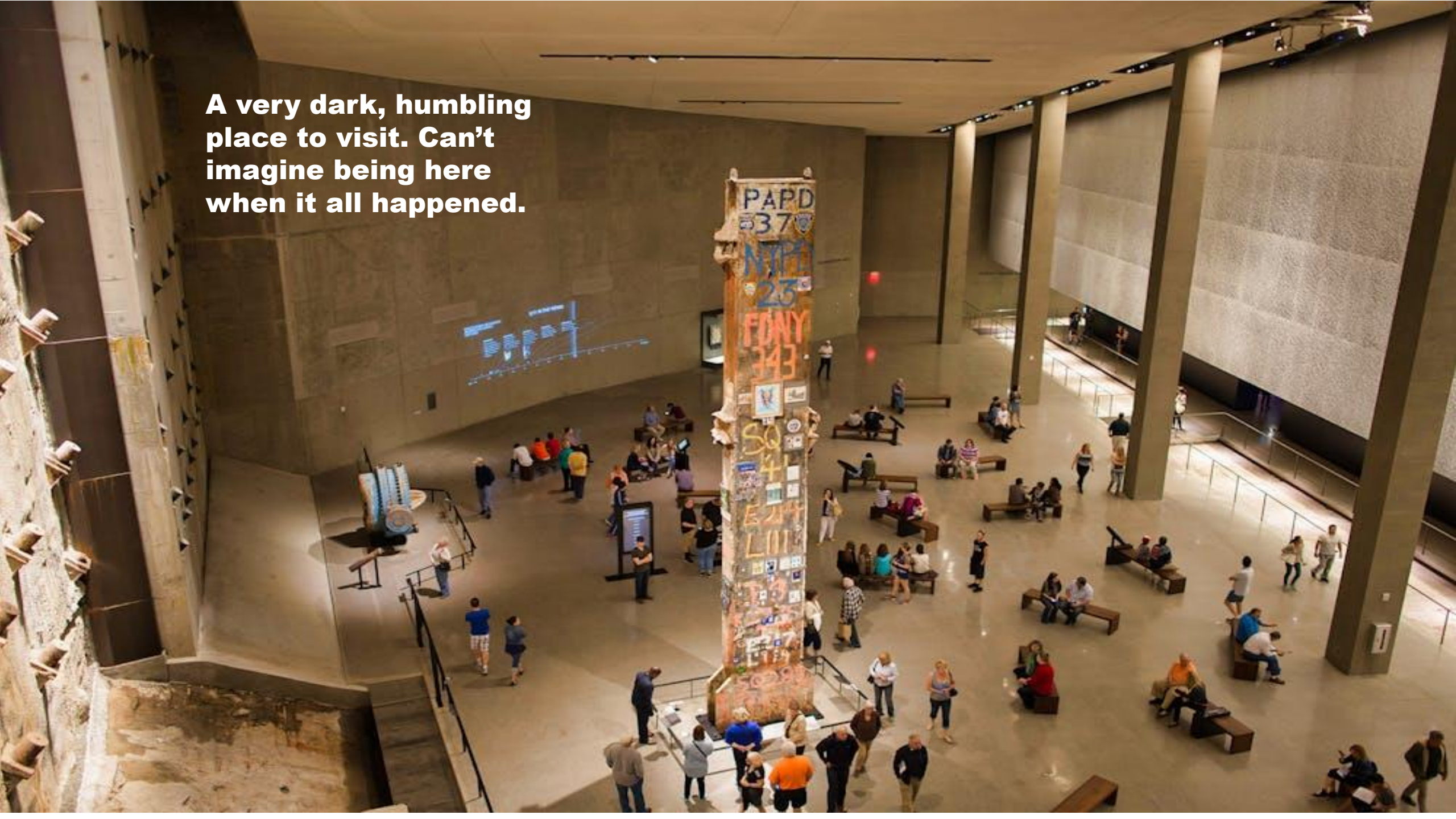
Footprint of other tower





Michael Joseph DUFFY
Eric ALMOND
Bryan BOGGS
Ronald COLETT
Eric ALMOND
Ronald COLETT
Michael Joseph DUFFY

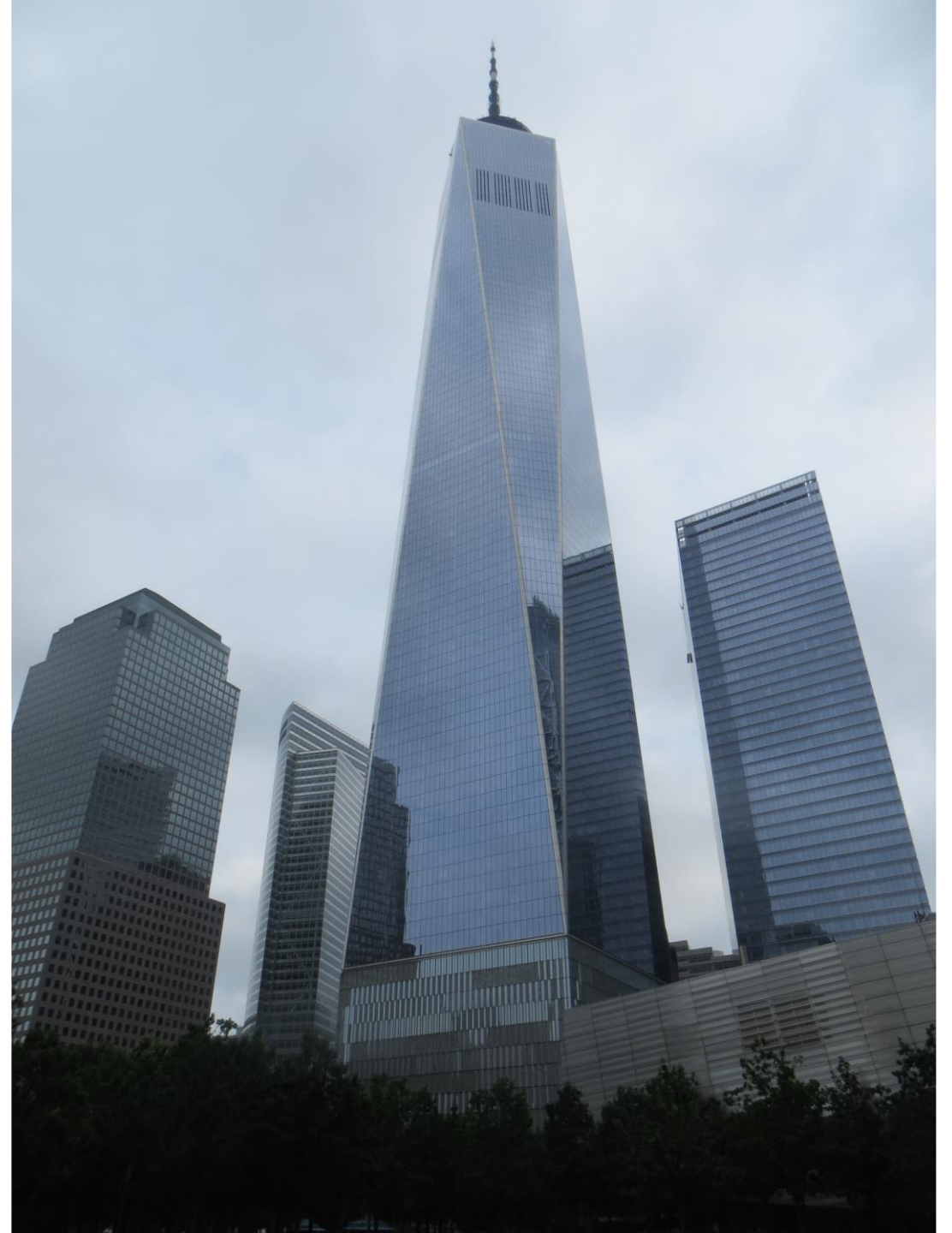
**A very dark, humbling
place to visit. Can't
imagine being here
when it all happened.**





The new ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER. In hindsight we probably should have gone here to experience the observatory, the highest view in NYC

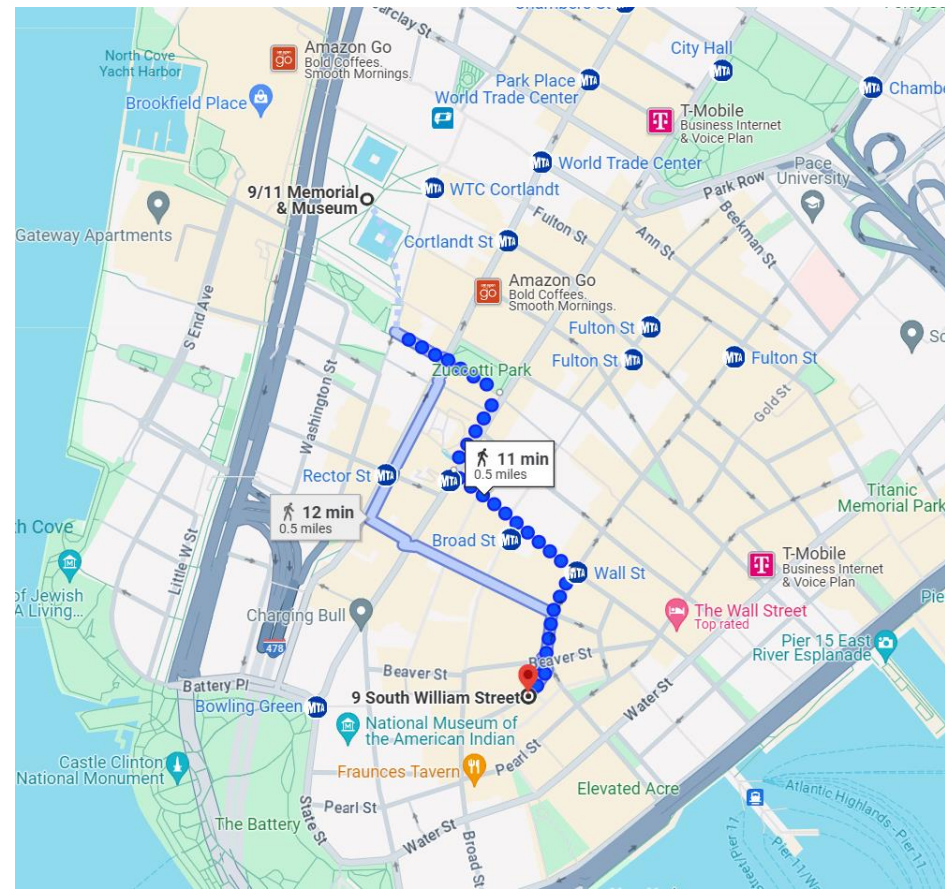
- Opened October 2014
- Architect: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (David M. Childs)
- Tallest of new WTC Complex
- 104 Stories / 1776 feet high
- 3 million rentable square feet of space
- 55 foot high office lobby
- 54 High-speed destination dispatch passenger elevators
- Life-safety systems far exceed NYC building code
- Bound by West, Fulton, Washington and Vesey Streets
- 55% leased to tenants including Condé Nast





**Here is where
we got our
chicken/lamb
gyro lunch**





Got back to the hotel and grabbed our backpacks to start toward Syracuse. When we got to the parking garage we discovered we hadn't gotten our ticket validated at the hotel. Not doing this would cost an extra \$40 or more. Think of the beer that would buy!! With full backpacks we hoofed back to the hotel, then to the garage. Pretty good for a couple of young and strong 67-year-olds. Probably a 40 minute delay, but a lifetime story to tell.

**Heading out
of NYC**

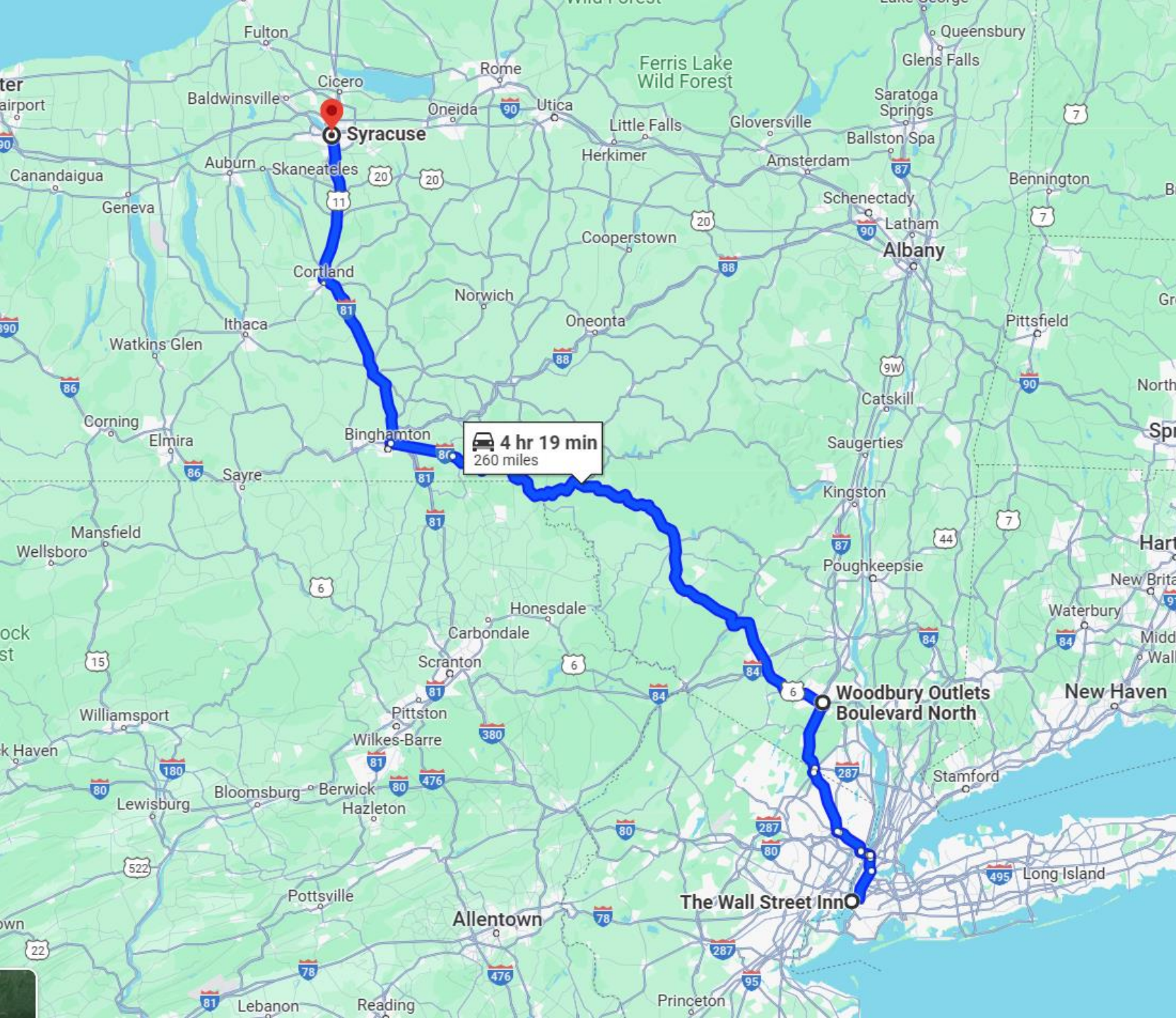




WEIGHT
LIMIT
8000
POUNDS

ROAD
WORK
1 MILE





Other than the layover in Central Valley, the trip was pretty much uneventful. While it doesn't make much sense now, notes indicate conversations included something to the effect of "Mezzo drive in Dodge Charger..." and "... fast cars, hot weather women..." Must have been good.

**A random
rest stop
somewhere
along the
way.**

**(Finding
ourselves
looking for
these just a
little more
frequently
than, say...
10 years
ago... or
even 5)**



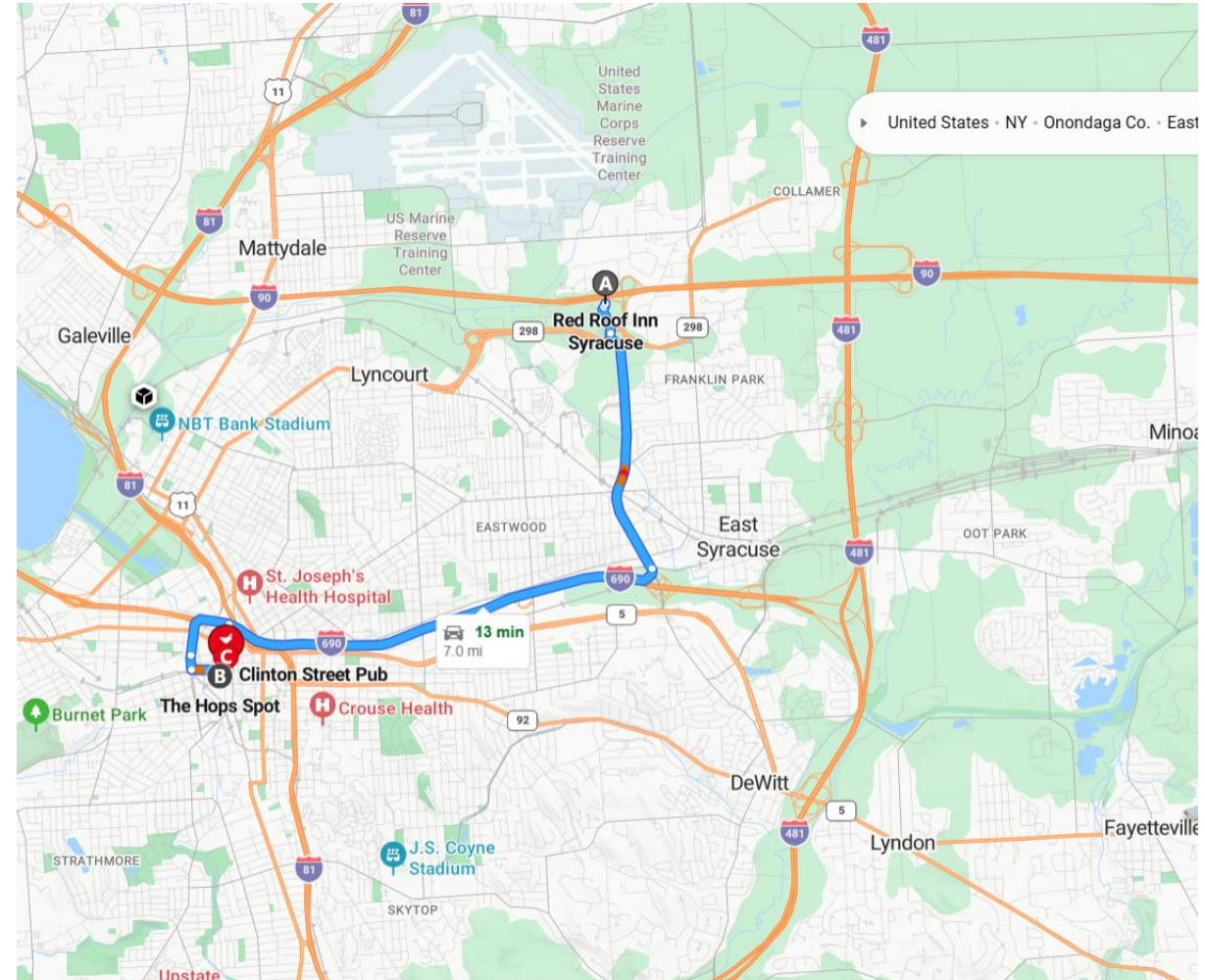


It was dark when we got to the Red Roof Inn in Syracuse. Not your 5-star hotel, but it we've stayed in worse... much worse.

Definitely beer-thirty. We went to the Hops Spot Brewery, but it was closed



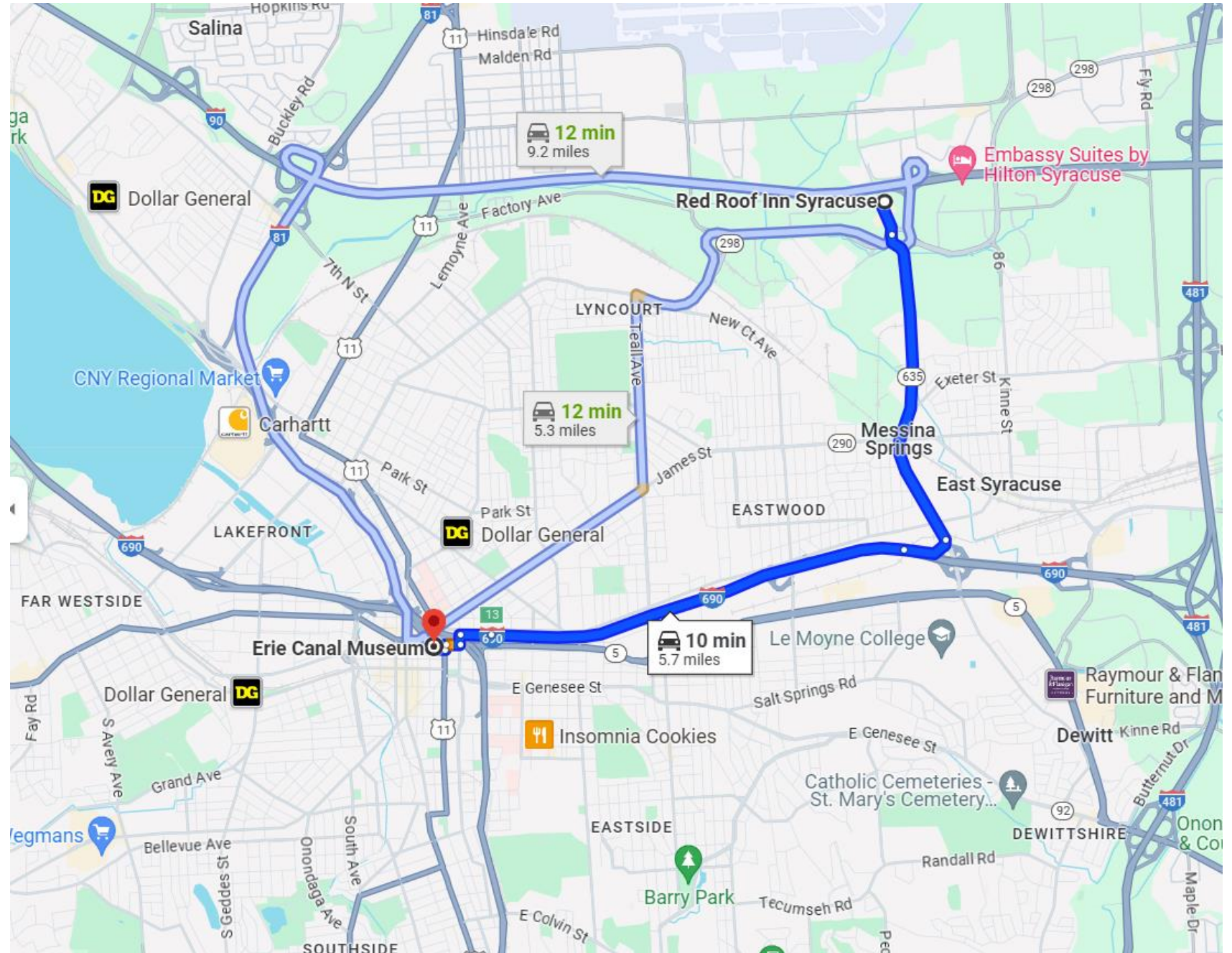
Ended up at Clinton Street Pub where we ate and had delicious Fiddlehead IPAs. Brittany was our friendly server. Finished up the evening here.



**Day #4, 10 July
2023. Breakfast at
nearby Denny's
then to the Erie
Canal Museum.**

***I've got a mule and her
name is Sal, Fifteen miles
on the Erie Canal....***

(Lyrics Thomas Allen 1913)





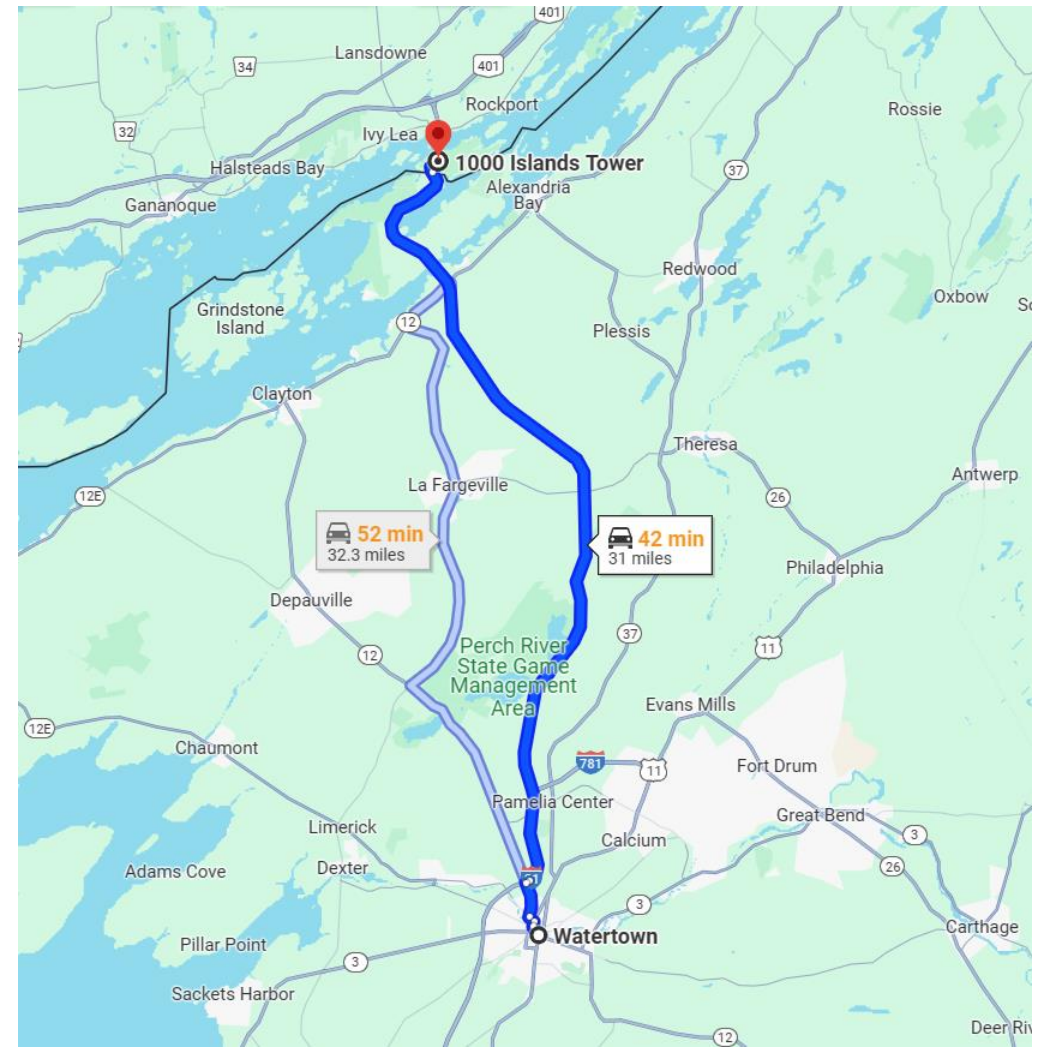
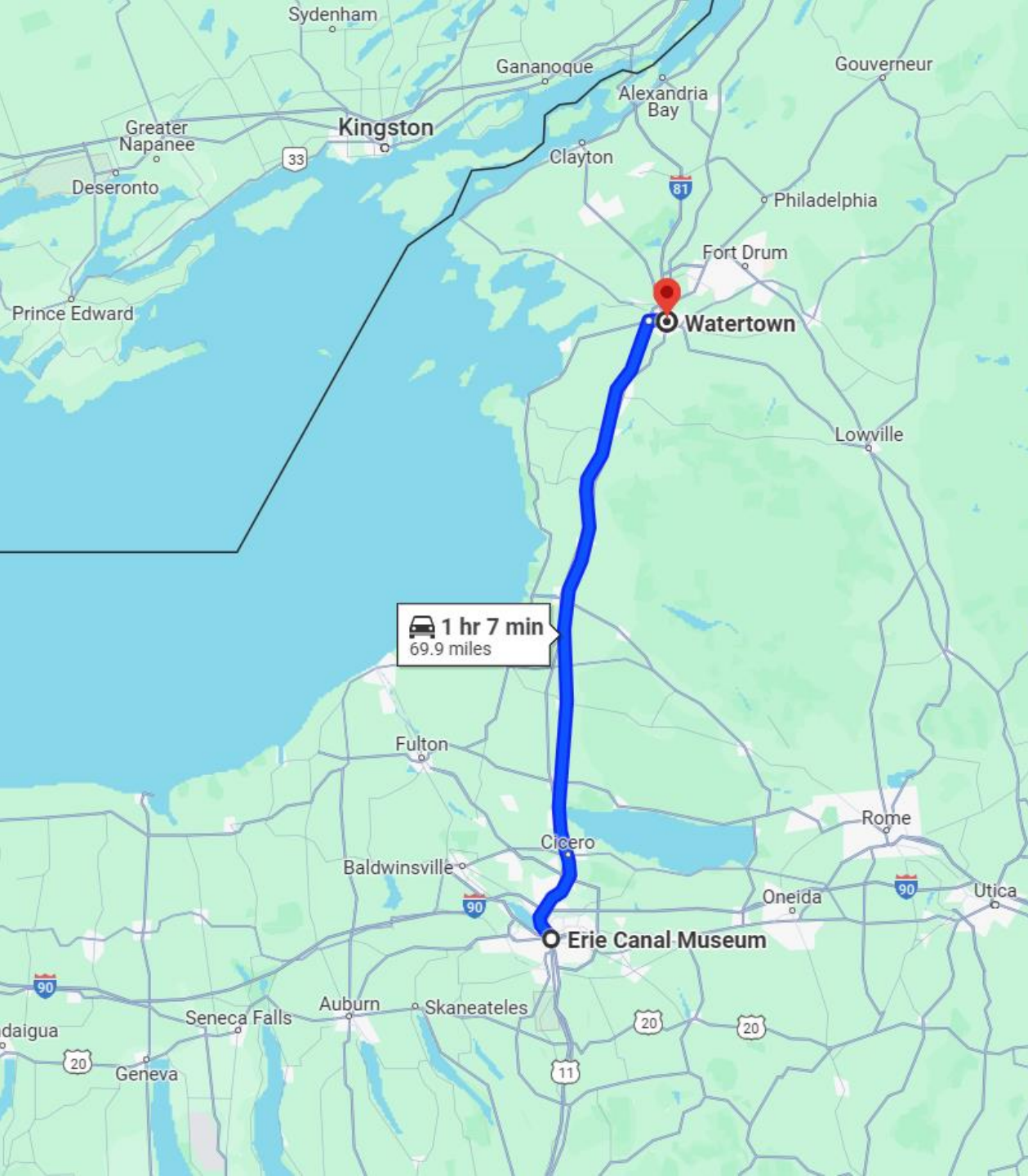




After our 75 minute museum visit (10:45-noon), we started toward Ottawa. Stopped at Watertown NY for Chik-f-lay lunch. We weren't sure what town we were in when we stopped at the Chik. Somebody named Megan told us. Ate our samiches, took pics of the car, and were soon on the road again.



**Getting into
Canada**



Crossed into Canada about 2:15. Border check guy looked puzzled when we told him we were heading to Ottawa to try their beer. Then to 1000 Islands Tower.



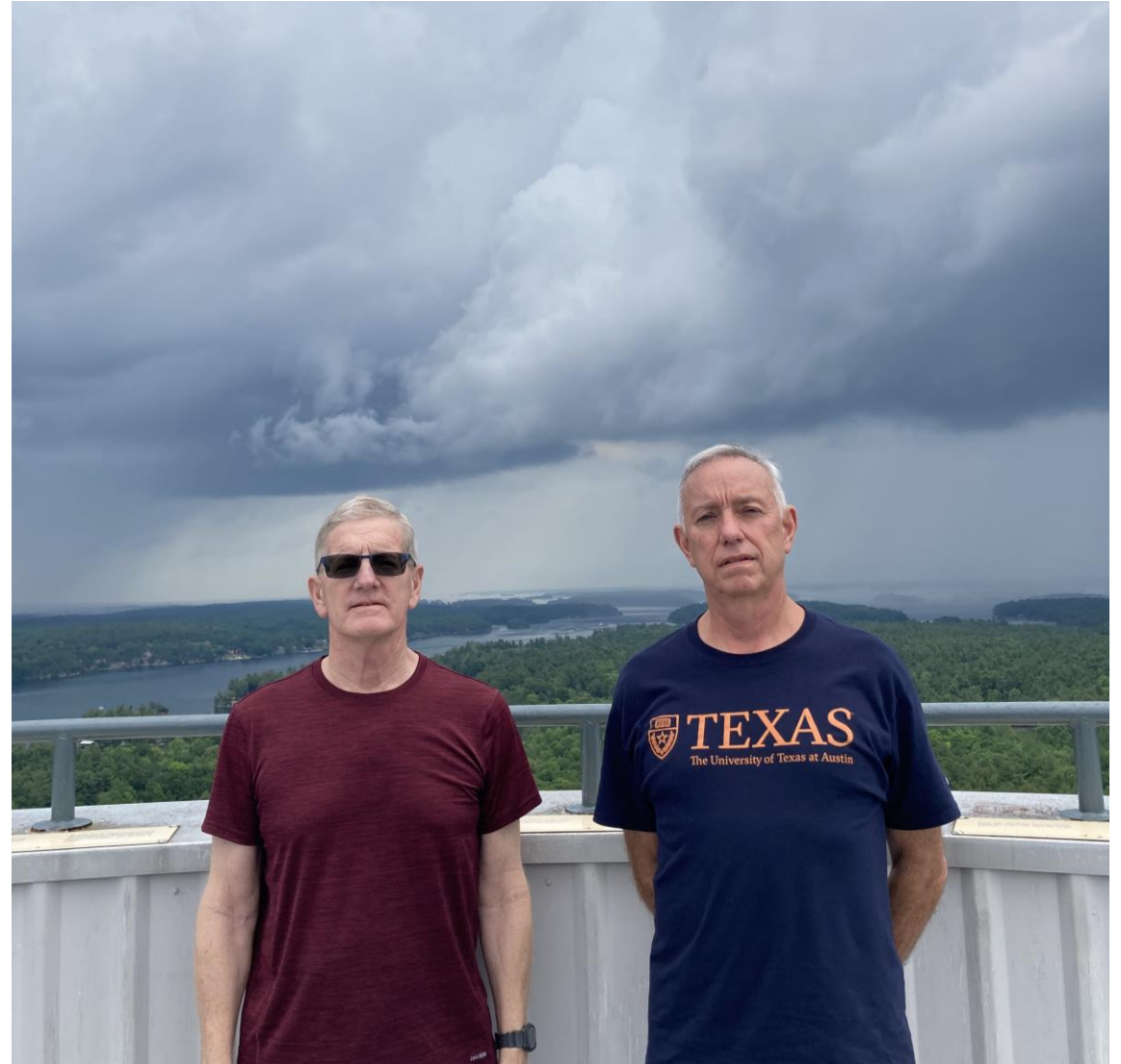
We just happened to drive by and of course, we had to see if it was possible to go to the top. We could, we did. Wikipedia says about 1000 Islands Tower:

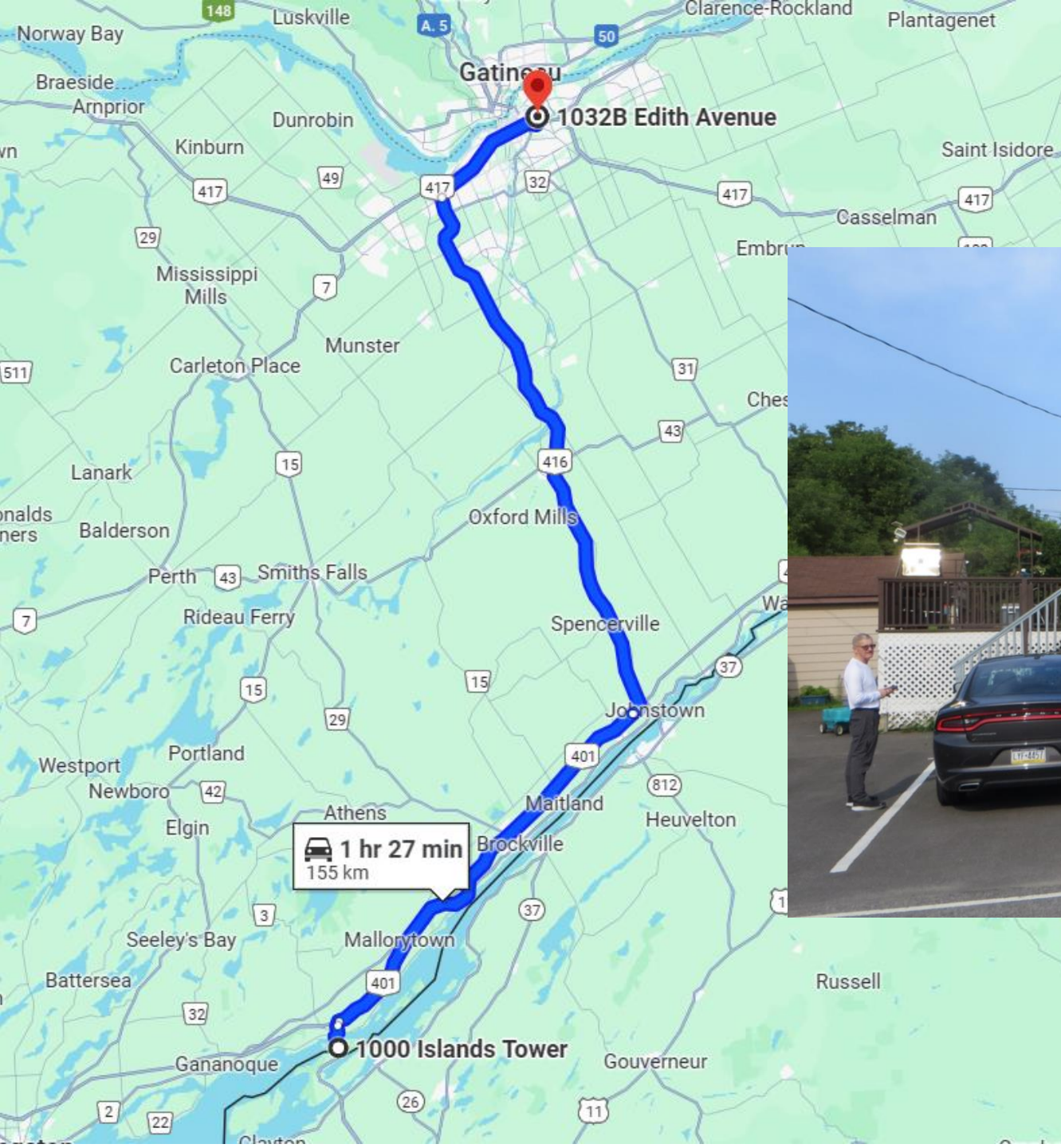
The 1000 Islands Tower is a concrete observation tower, on Hill Island, in Ontario, about 620 meters from the border of New York State. Built and opened in June 15, 1965,^[1] the tower provides panoramic views over the Thousand Islands of both countries, from a height of 400 feet (120 m) above the St. Lawrence River.

Even on a cloudy, gloomy day, the views were pretty spectacular



**Easily the most
astounding sight
atop the tower
today (or most any
day). What travel
specimens.**





On to Ottawa. Next was our apartment rental for the night at 1032 B Edith Avenue in Ottawa. The 155 km translates to 96 miles.



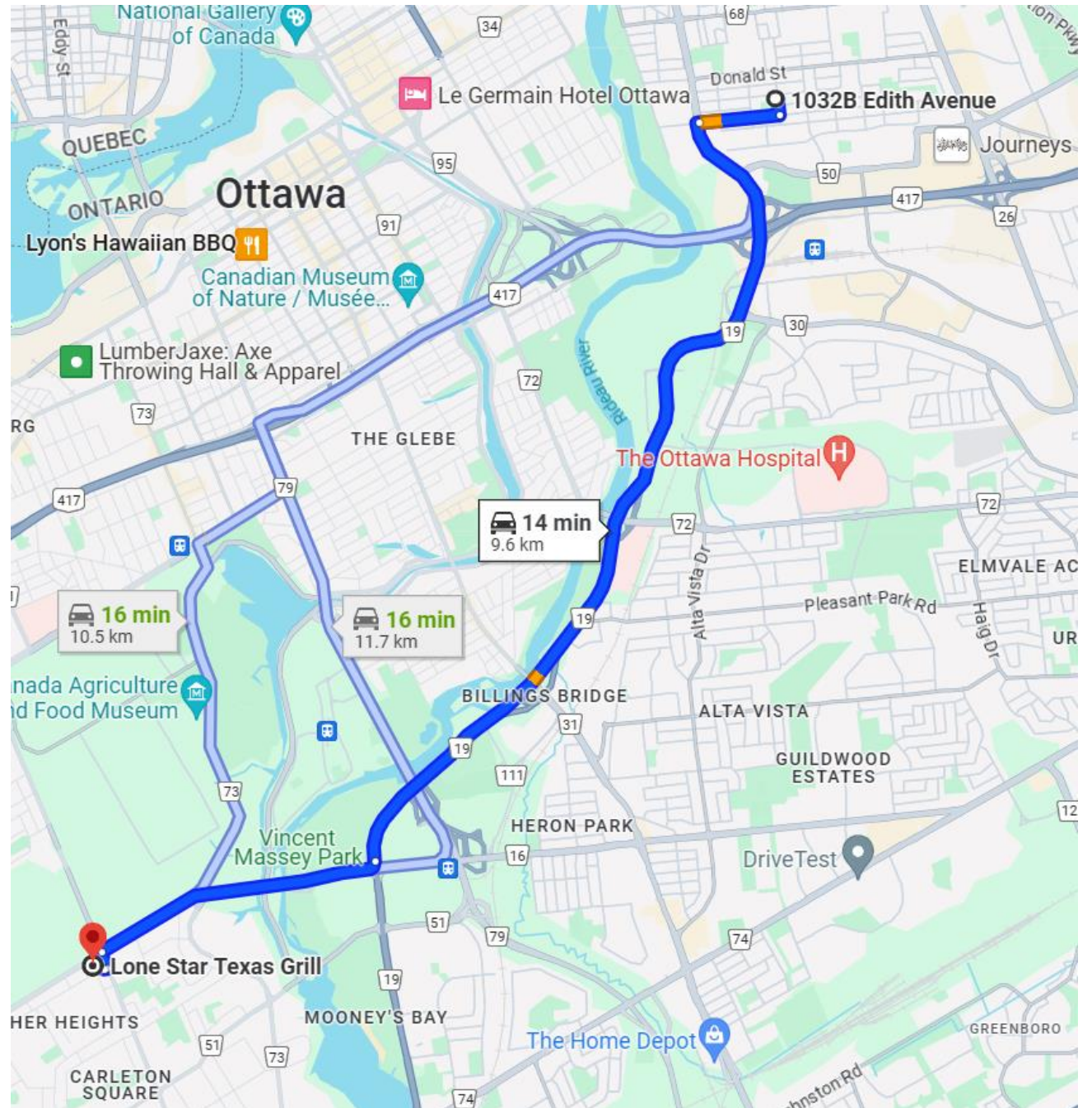
This would be our lodging for two (2) nights. We had the downstairs apartment. Two bedroom, so we each had our own room.



We got to Ottawa 4:30-5ish and drove around during rush hour traffic and landed at a park. We hung out there before checking into the room then going to this place for beer/dinner: Lone Star Texas Grill. Go figure, a couple of Texas residents eating at this place in Canada.




After eating we went to nearby grocery store to grab some beer then back to the room to watch:





Day #5, 11 July 2023. Our day started with breakfast at Bobby's Table. Interestingly enough... a website says it is now permanently closed. Guess they couldn't recover from the sheer enchantment that we brought.

LADY DIVE & GRAY LINE OTTAWA SIGHTSEEING SCHEDULE 

3 buses

		Tour 1	Tour 2	Tour 3	Tour 4	Tour 5	Tour 6	Tour 7	Tour 8	Tour 9	Tour 10	
1	Red Kiosk Rouge / Billeterie Principale @ Corner of Sparks & Elgin Street		10:00	10:40	11:20	12:00	12:40	13:20	14:00	14:40	15:20	16:00
2	Museum of Nature / Musée de la Nature		10:05	10:45	11:25	12:05	12:45	13:25	14:05	14:45	15:25	16:05
3	Lansdowne Park Parc Lansdowne		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	Dow's Lake / Lac Dow (Corner of Preston & Queen Elizabeth)		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Canada Agriculture and Food Museum Musée de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation du Canada		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	Byward Market / Marché By		10:15	10:55	11:35	12:15	12:55	13:35	14:15	14:55	15:35	16:15
7	Rideau Hall, Residence of the Governor General of Canada La résidence du gouverneur générale du Canada		10:20	11:00	11:40	12:20	13:00	13:40	14:20	15:00	15:40	16:20
8	RCMP Stables/Écurie de la GRC		10:25	11:05	11:45	12:25	13:05	13:45	14:25	15:05	15:45	16:25
9	Canadian Aviation and Space Museum Musée de l'aviation et de l'espace du Canada		10:30	11:10	11:50	12:30	13:10	13:50	14:30	15:10	15:50	16:30
10	James Cameron Submarine Free Special Exhibit Sous-Marin James Cameron Exposition Spéciale Gratuite		10:41	11:21	12:01	12:41	13:21	14:01	14:41	15:21	16:01	16:41
11	Royal Canadian Mint / Musée de la Monnaie National Gallery of Canada / Musée des beaux-arts du Canada Basilique Notre Dame Basilica		10:45	11:25	12:05	12:45	13:25	14:05	14:45	15:25	16:05	16:45
12	History Museum / Musée de l'Histoire (in front of Gatineau city hall/dévant hotel de ville de Gatineau) Interzip Zipline / Tyrolienne Interzip		10:50	11:30	12:10	12:50	13:30	14:10	14:50	15:30	16:10	16:50
13	Canadian War Museum / Musée de Guerre (Front Door)		11:00	11:40	12:20	13:00	13:40	14:20	15:00	15:40	16:20	17:00
14	Red Kiosk Rouge / Billeterie Principale @ Corner of Sparks & Elgin Street Parliament of Canada/Parlement du Canada		11:15	11:55	12:35	13:15	13:55	14:35	15:15	15:55	16:35	17:15

All times are approximate. We advise you **to be at your stop 15 minutes early**. We could be late because of traffic, manifestations, accidents, or other uncontrollable situations: do not worry we will be coming by each location as soon as we can, even if we are running late. Please be patient. **ALL SALES ARE FINAL, NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES.** You may Hop-On & Hop-Off any open-top double-decker **no matter the color**, Red, Black or wrapped with a design at all the locations in the above schedule. For information, please contact us at 613-562-9090.

One of the best ways to get an overview of a city is to take their hop on hop off bus tour. We did the loop twice. Once to see it all, then later to get off at a couple of spots.

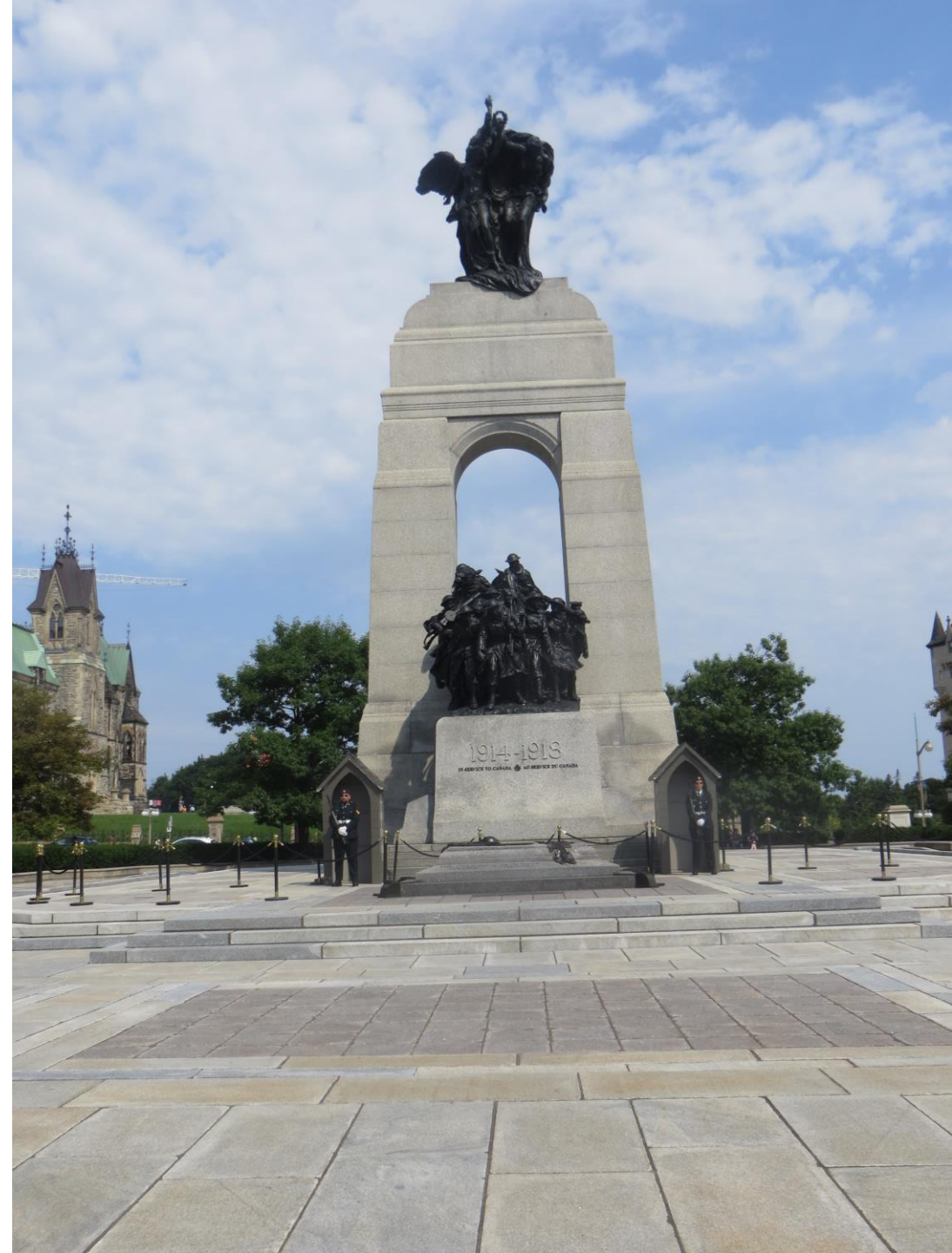
Somewhere throughout the day our conversation came upon words that are fun to say...

Tundra....

Spatula...

Algonquin....

**A few
sights of
Ottawa
from tour**

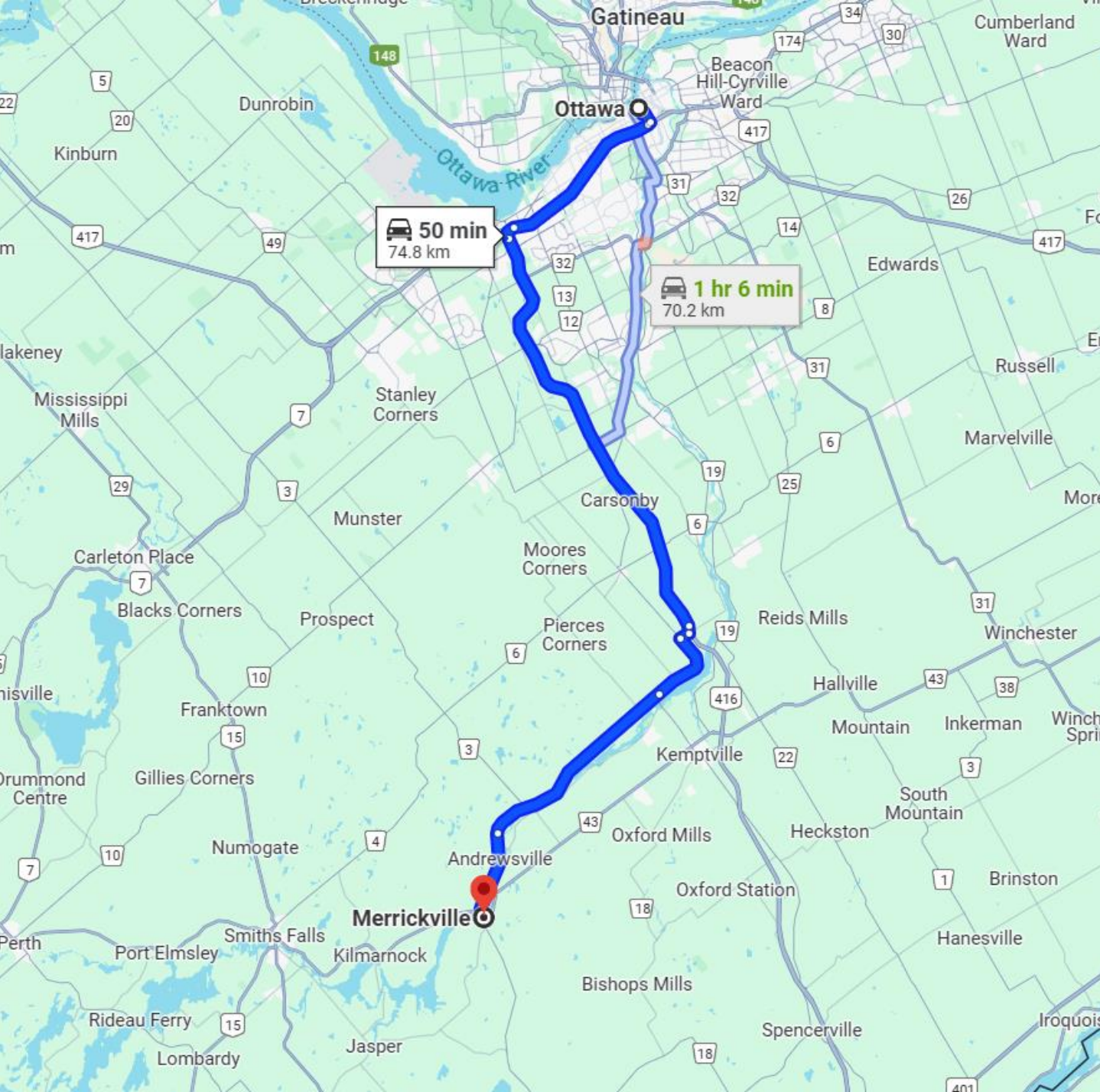








On the 2nd lap we stopped at a market area and had these strange drinks. Kind of a frosty, but with these sweet, mushy, slimy, navy blue, grape-like balls. Upon further research... this is called “boba tea.” a website describes it: *Boba tea is made of tea, milk, water, sugar and tapioca pearls.* That’s my story and I’m sticking to it! Apparently tea places in Austin have this too



After the hop on hop off, some travel suggestion came up about Merrickville, ON Canada. Why not? We've got time.



The beers we had there



We grabbed food here too. Ed got a pogo (corndog), Rob a hotdog.



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ALEXANDER
KEITH
INDIA PALE

ALEXANDER
KEITH
INDIA PALE

**The
flowers
here were
abundant
and very
rich in
color**



It's All Here!

MAP of MERRICKVILLE



For up to date information and event listings go to merrickvillechamber.ca and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

EVENTS



Bicycle Repair Station

Station de réparation de vélos



106 Main Street West
(2 doors down from Mainstreet Restaurant)

Proudly Funded & supported by The Merrickville Lions Club
For general inquiries contact info@merrickvillelionsclub.ca

History of Merrickville

William Merrick, a Loyalist settler originally from Springfield, Massachusetts, founded the village of Merrickville in 1794. Attracted to the site by waterpower, he constructed a dam across the river and there built great saw and grist mills. It was not long before a community sprang up around the milling activity. In 1827, Merrick built a stone house overlooking his mills.

When the construction crews arrived in 1827 to build the Rideau Canal, the village of Merrickville was abandoned. It was then known as a thriving community of about 800. A plaque was erected by the Merrickville and District Historical Society in remembrance of an unknown number of persons who were buried in the Macdougall Cemetery between the years 1820 and 1830. Many died of pestilence, particularly malaria, during the reconstruction of the Rideau Canal.

Unlike most of the pre- canal mills, Merrick's Mills were not displaced or reestablished by canal construction. After the canal was completed, the excessive water again turned the wheels of the mills and the improved transportation system caused a surge in commercial activity in the village. By 1851, Merrick's Mills were an important industrial centre.

Merrick's Mills continued to thrive into the mid-1880s. The end of the community's industrial growth is closely related to the decline of the commercial phase of the Rideau canal. The rise of the nearby town of Smiths Falls as a major railway hub, displaced Merrick's Mills as an industrial leader in the region. Despite the decline, some industry continued in the community. In 1913 a power company was formed at Merrickville to provide electricity for the mills and a foundry, and the wooden mill continued to function until 1954.

Wine and Dine

Enjoy one of the many pubs, restaurants, and drop-in cafes. Merrickville has to offer. Tuck in on a hearty pizza or grab an ice cream cone while you shop. With so many options, there's sure to be something for everyone.

Take In The Arts

Merrickville is home to a variety of artists: glassmakers, potters, painters, sculptors, jewellers and much more. Many artists open their studios daily for the visitors' enjoyment. Watch your glass or candles being made, and enjoy street musicians as you wander the village.



Shop for Something Unique

Merrickville is renowned for its boutiques, which are filled with such things as home & gardening accessories, locally-made products, specialty foods, antiques, furniture, collectible items, art of all kinds and more.



Enjoy the Beautiful Rideau Canal

Dubbed the Jewel of the Rideau, Merrickville is known for its location on the banks of the famous Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The locks here are still operated by hand every day from mid-May to mid-October. Watch from the shore, or experience them from the deck of your boat. You can even rent a kayak for the day or take a longer trip on a houseboat.

Get Active, Get Outdoors

When visiting Merrickville, you can find a myriad of activities to enjoy, whether you're seeking a relaxing vacation or one filled with new adventures. Take a walk down the Dam Trail or Rideau Walking Trail, visit the Rideau Bird Sanctuary, rent a canoe or kayak for a paddle along the river, skate on the village ice rink, and enjoy the endless outdoor fun that Merrickville has to offer. These great outdoor amenities are perfect for your busy four-legged friends as well. Merrickville is a great place to bring your whole family, including the pet!



- KEY**
- Historical Site
 - Church
 - Gas
 - Groceries
 - Parking
 - Washrooms
 - School
 - Bank
 - Medical Centre
 - Library
 - Walking Trail
 - Cemetery
 - Campground
 - Bicycle Repair Station
 - Pharmacy

MAP NOT TO SCALE

Shops

K11 Abel Mountain — 312 St. Lawrence St
613-269-1115

K11 Lark Spur Line Ltd — 230 St. Lawrence St
613-269-3690 larkspurline-trains.com
K11 Merrickville Cheese Shop — 219 St. Lawrence St
778-564-6465

F11 SewnYah's Signs & Stuff — 912 St. Lawrence St
343-987-3457
facebook.com/SewnYahsSigns&Stuff
F23 Billy Goats Home Decor — 1131 County Rd 43

Dining and Accommodations
19 1840 Guest House B&B — 223 Main St W
613-269-3025 1840guesthouse.com

L13 Stella Luna Gelato Café — 111 Main St E
613-269-4943 stella.com
L11 The Goose and Grindron — 317 St. Lawrence St
613-269-2094 facebook.com/thegooseandgrindron

N11 Encore Embroidery — 624 St. Lawrence St
613-208-2875 info@encore.ca
Experience Our Merrickville
localbusinessnews@merrickville.ca

C3 Merrickville Storage Centre — 305 Broadway St W
613-223-4364 merrickvillestorage.com
Pam Watts Bookkeeping
613-205-6488 pam@pamwattsbookkeeping.com

Organizations

Doug Stroud Classic Shows — dclass@meagms.ca
613-852-6448 artique-photos.ca

**The
Merrickville
Locks**









Parks Canada

Parcs Canada

Rideau Canal

National Historic Site
of Canada

Canal-Rideau

Lieu historique national
du Canada

Merrickville Locks

Écluses de Merrickville

Canada 

Left Merrickville around 4pm. Hit rush hour traffic in Ottawa. Got back to apartment, maybe even took a nap before heading to Lorenzo's Pizza, just up the street around 7:45p.





EAT-IN SPECIALS
SMALL TURKEY SUB \$10.99

SUPER BURGER
\$17.99

OPEN

LORENZO'S SPECIAL
\$11.99 \$10.99 \$16.99

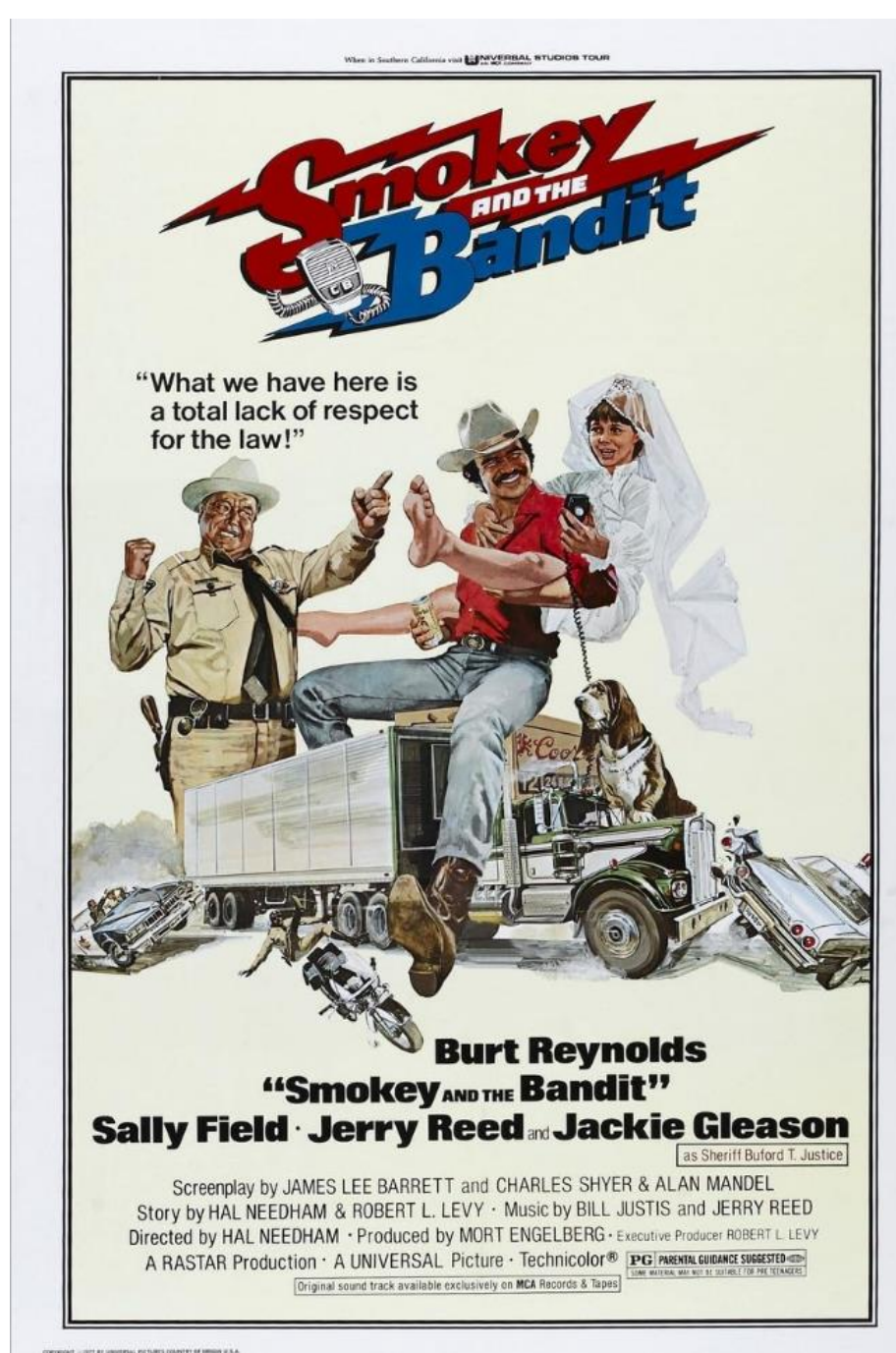
Man in white shirt

Dark grey car

FRIGID RENTALS INC.
BP-82938

White car

The evening beer to go along with the movie.



Tonight's cinematic adventure dates back to 1977, "Smokey and the Bandit." Both of us saw it back in the day, but found it interesting watching from 67 year-old-eyes as opposed to 21 year-old-eyes. Was good. The beer and peanut M&Ms were a good treat. We retreated to our respective bedrooms at 10:15pm.

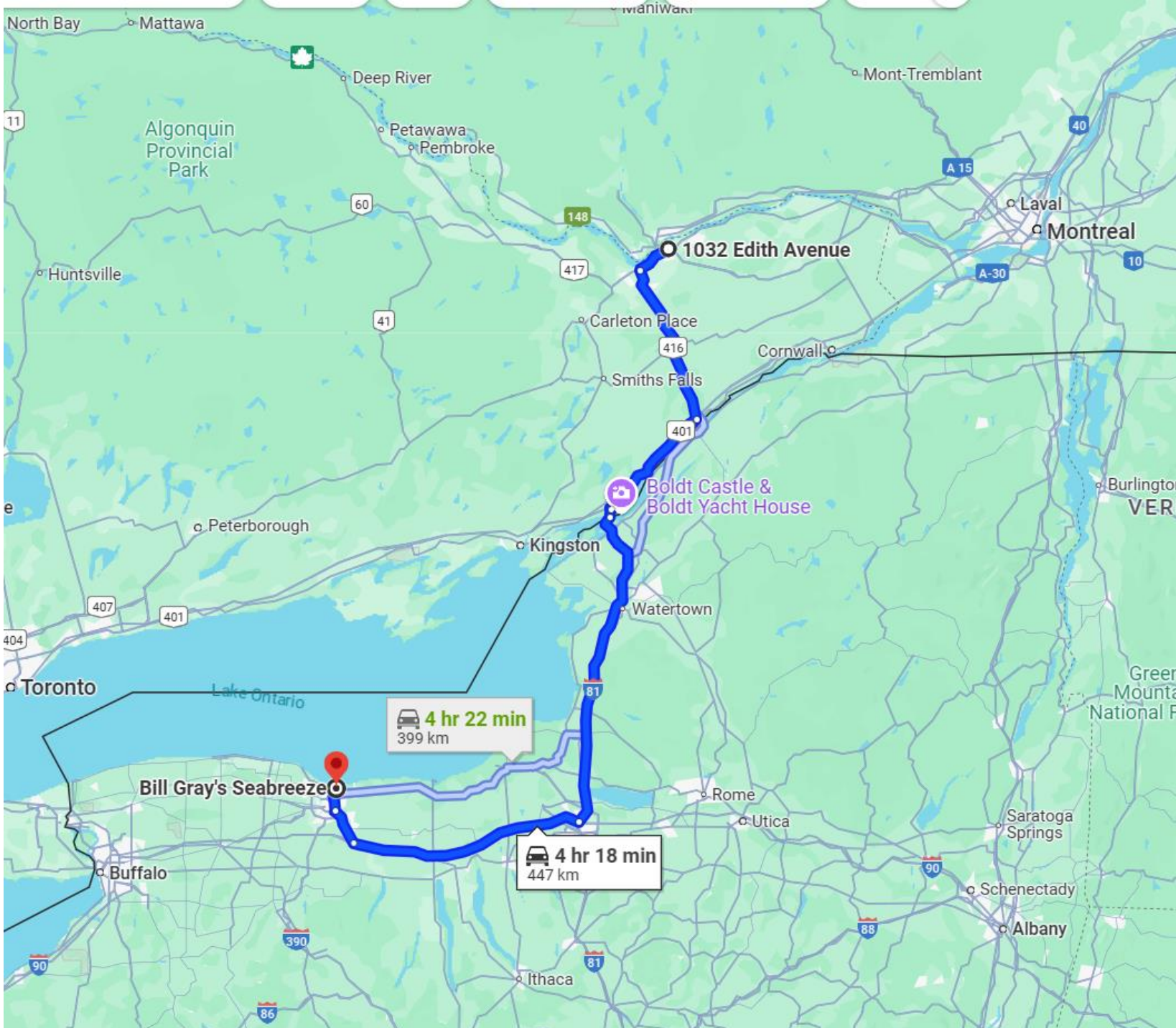


**Day #6, 12 July
2023**

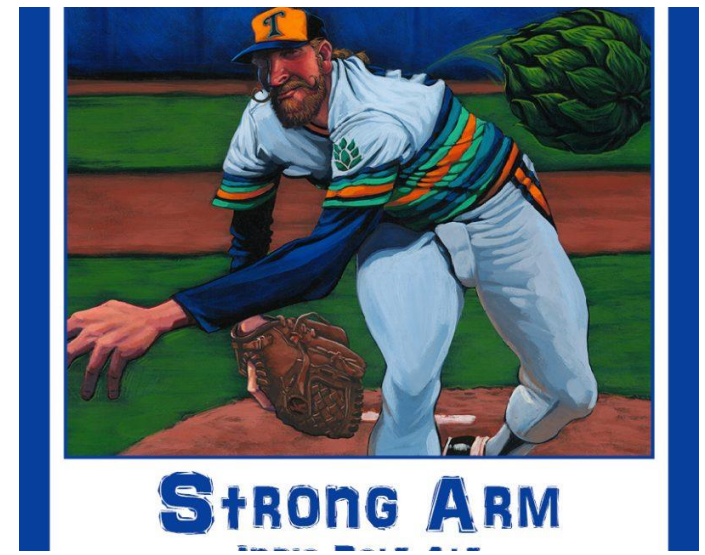
**We were up and
on the road
south by 9am
but waited til
closer to the US
border to get
gas and truck
stop breakfast
items. Pictured
here as we
waited to cross
into the USA
which we did at
11:30am**

FAST
E



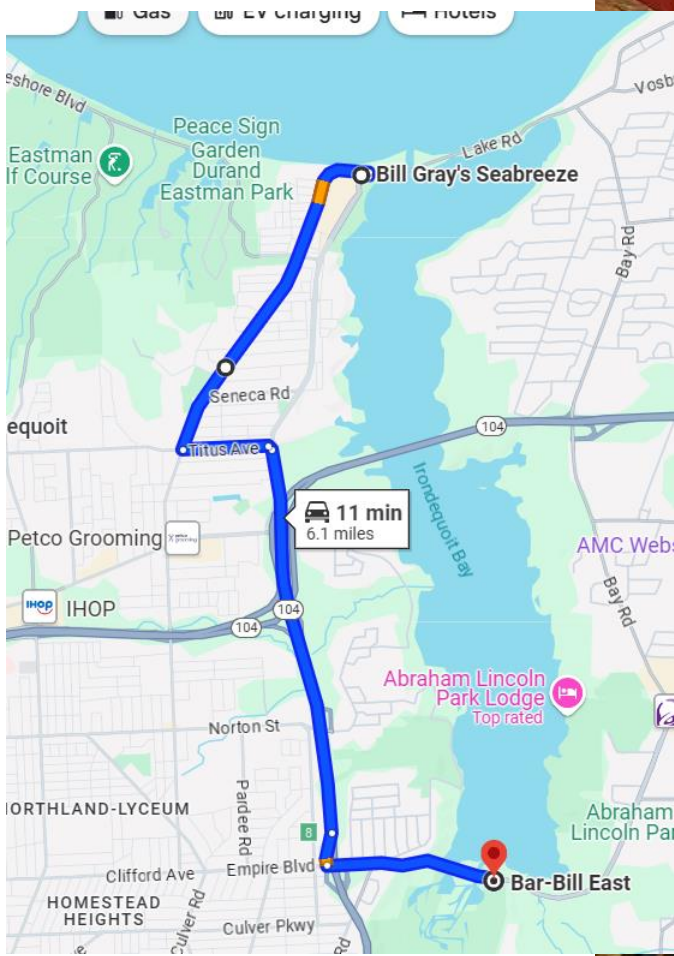


Our schedule is subject to last minute changes. We decided to go to Rochester to visit friends David & Karen. It just so happened they were free this particular evening, so dinner plans were made. We got to our hotel mid afternoon and took a nap before going to Bill Gray's Seabreeze connected to Abbot's Ice Cream. We enjoyed a Strong Arm IPA by Three Heads Brewing Co.



**Deanna was
our bar
tendress and
we engaged
in
conversation
with her.
She told us
about her
kids ages 19
and 4.**





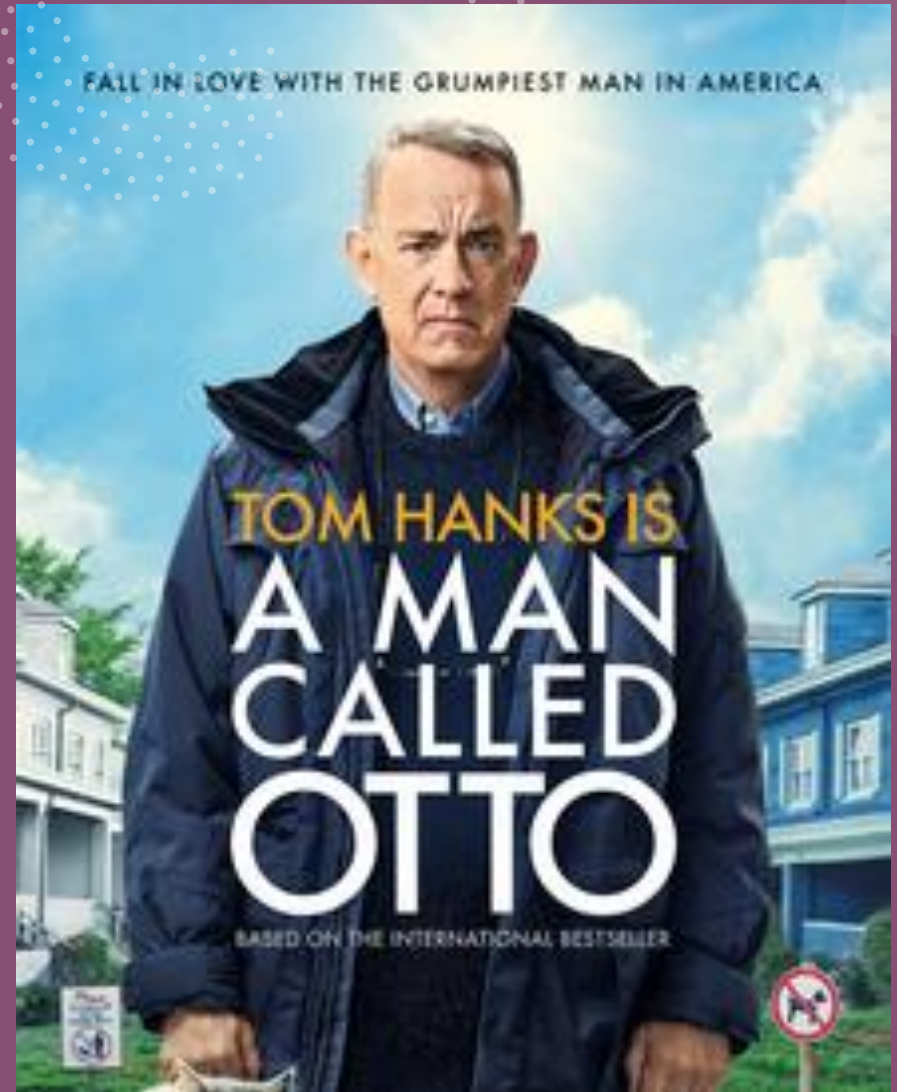
**From Bill Gray's to
Bar-Bill East on
Irondequoit Bay to
meet Karen &
David**

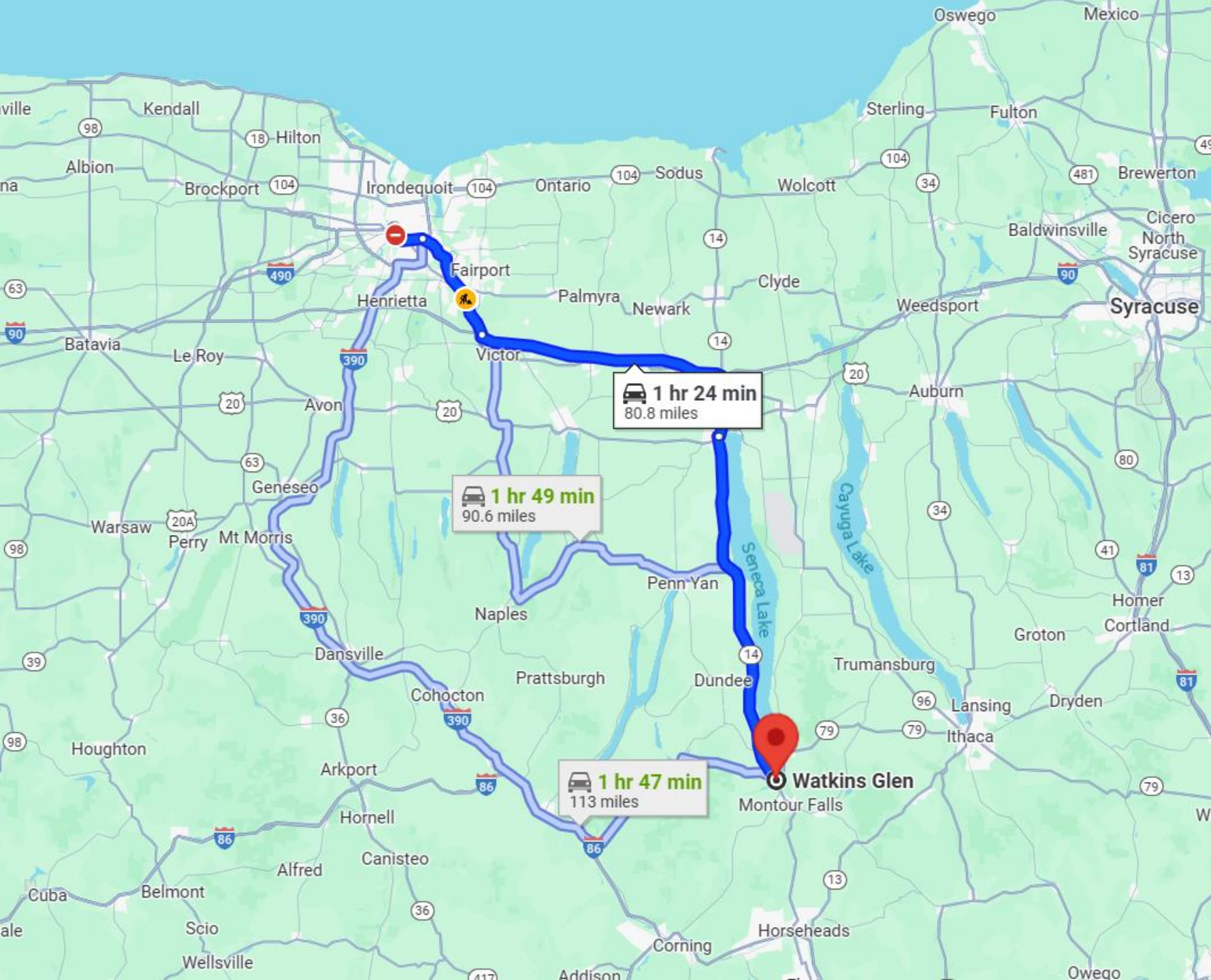


A good visit and dinner was had with David and Karen.



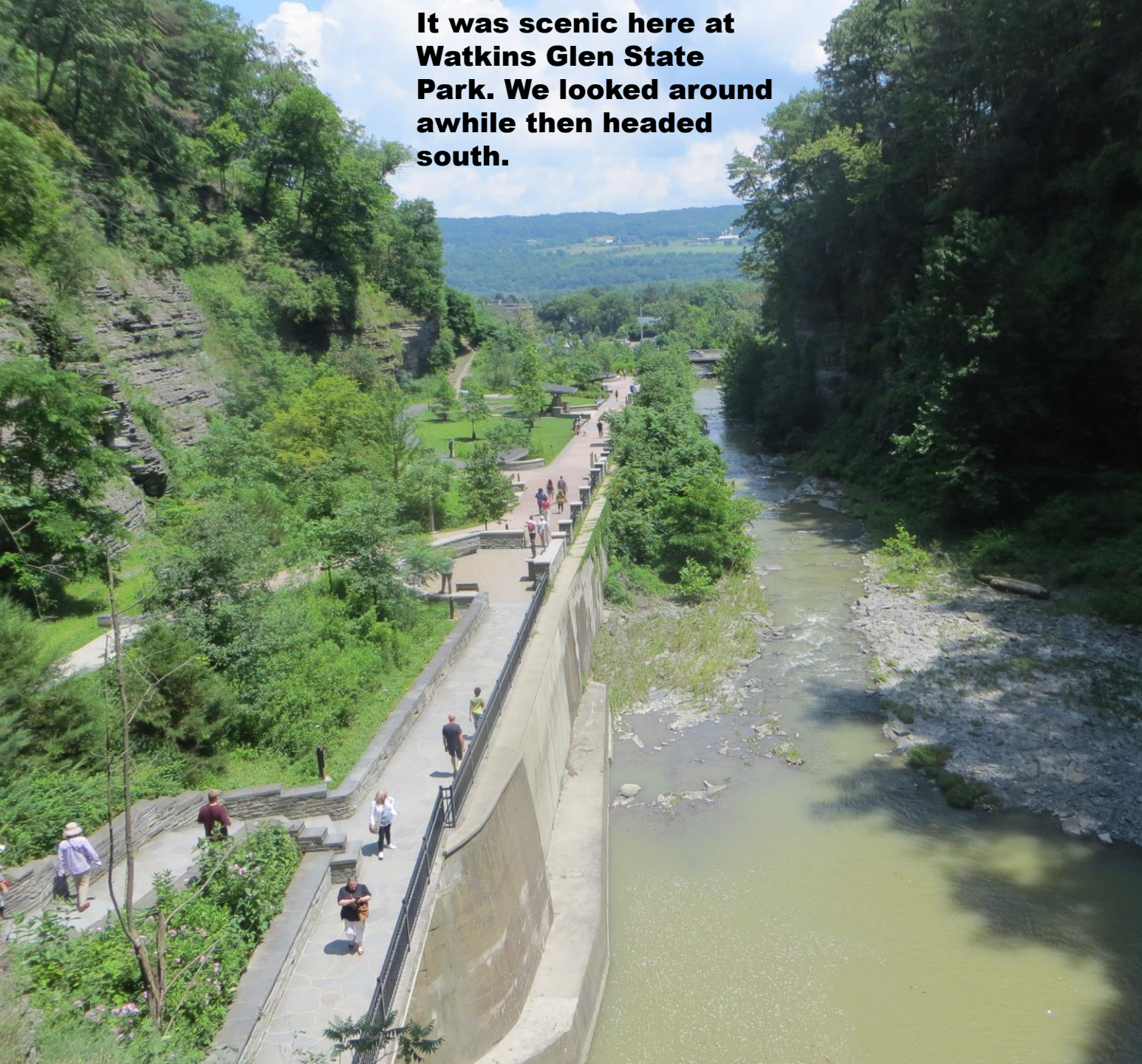
We bid our farewells then stopped at a convenience store for beer and peanut M&Ms before heading to our room to watch Tom Hanks (also a 1956'r) in the movie A MAN CALLED OTTO. Called it a night after the movie.

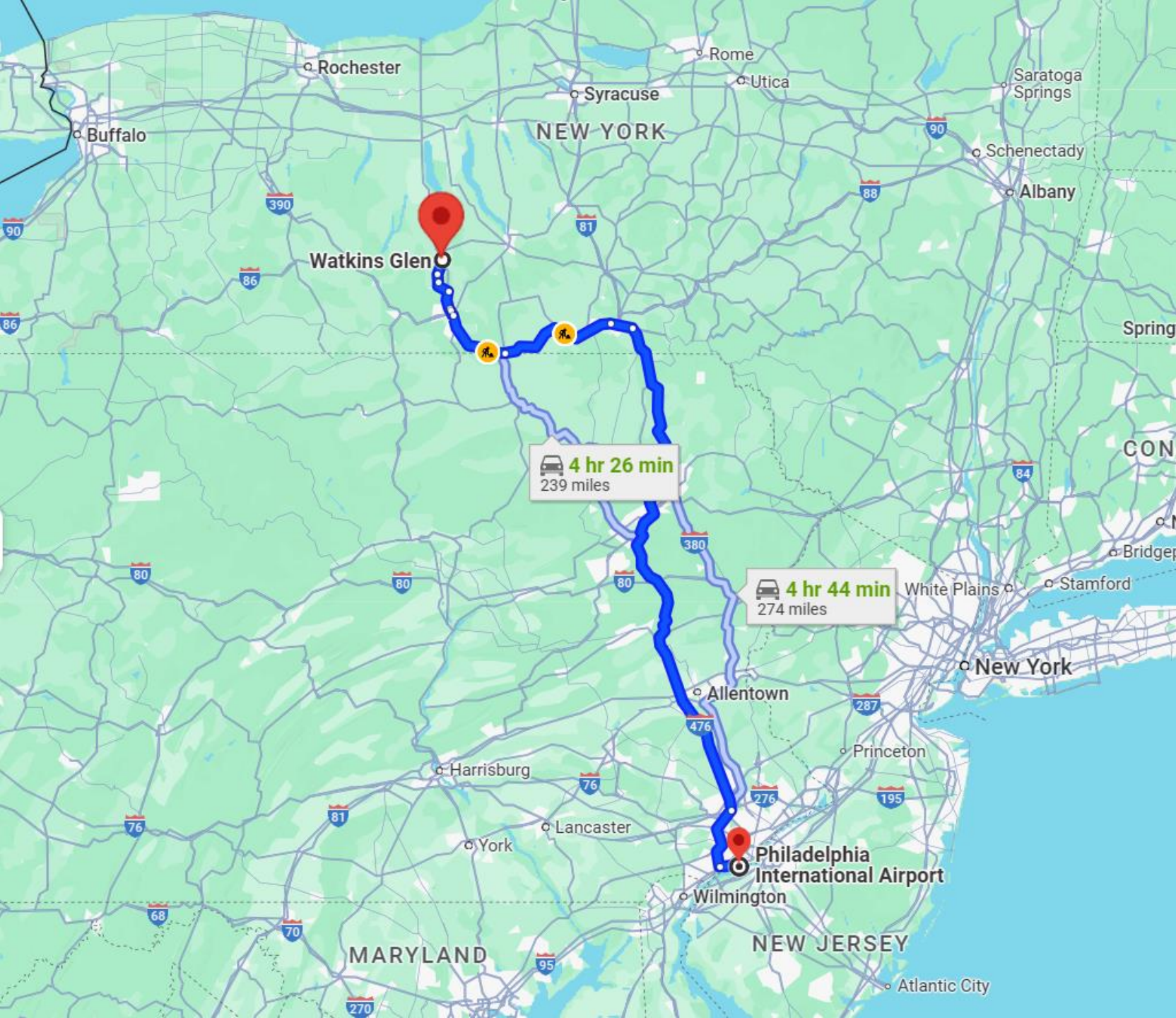




Day #7, 13 July 2023. David recommended we check out Watkins Glen as a nice, scenic place to visit on our way back to Philadelphia. So after the hotel breakfast we headed that way. We drove along Seneca Lake, one of the “Finger Lakes.” Supposedly one of the deepest lakes in the US

**It was scenic here at
Watkins Glen State
Park. We looked around
awhile then headed
south.**





The drive to PHL was nice too. “Ithaca”... another word not said enough in conversation. At 2:25p we crossed into Pennsylvania. Dropped car off at 6:46p. Total miles 1,361. Shuttled to our “Aloft” hotel room which had no bar or restaurant. We walked to the 4-Points Sheraton for food and beer and back to the room to crash out at 10pm. Day #8, 14 July 2023 took us on our respective flights back home. This hearby concludes the recountal of our 2023 mancation.

Other trips these guys have made





Great Lakes 2008



**Euro 2010 (Little Circle)
Bratislava, Slovakia, Croatia, etc**



Northeast 2009



Mid-Atlantic 2011



Scandinavia 2012 (Big Circle)



Out west road trip 2013



Oklahoma "trunk trip" Nov 2013



**Check the box
- a.k.a. Deep
South 2014**



50th state beer – Alaska 2014



San Diego 2015



Euro 2015 – Ed's dad's WW2 route





Euro 2016



Costa Rica 2017

Philadelphia 2018



And of course, 2002 and 2004 the car-lined banks of the Little Flora Creek in Egypt Mills (north of Cape Girardeau, MO)



And our current Wednesday night hangout: Copper Top Tavern





**North-Central
California 2019**



Texas Gulf Coast 2020 (in time of Covid)

**Lubbock, TX
October 2020**



Upper midwest 2021



Heartland 2022





Once again, thanks to our lovely wives for blessing our annual mancation adventures



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