



Emily Emails You...

Hey everybody! I'm back! I know you've all been biting your nails, wondering "where the heck is Emily's newsletter?!". Fear not, I did not forget about my pursuit. It's just that my laptop broke! Two weeks before we settled down our trip, it fizzed out and I had to wait a few weeks before I could get a new one.

We parted ways with our RV on October 4th, and since then, we've been staying with Sam's dad in Walpole, NH. We've had a splendid time soaking in the beauty of New England fall. While we miss the RV greatly, this break has been nice. It has given us time to reflect on all that we just experienced, as well as think about what's next.

As of a few weeks ago, Sam is working a part-time remote sales job, and part-time building up the Wiener Beach empire. I'm in the beginning phases of learning how to code. While learning software engineering is certainly an overwhelming landscape, I've been having fun and I'm enjoying the challenge. I'm giving myself two months of near full-time studying, and then I will assess where I am at (basically whether I should enroll in classes or if this is not the career for me).

What are we doing with our RV, you ask? Scroll on to find out!

Questions, comments, concerns, requests?

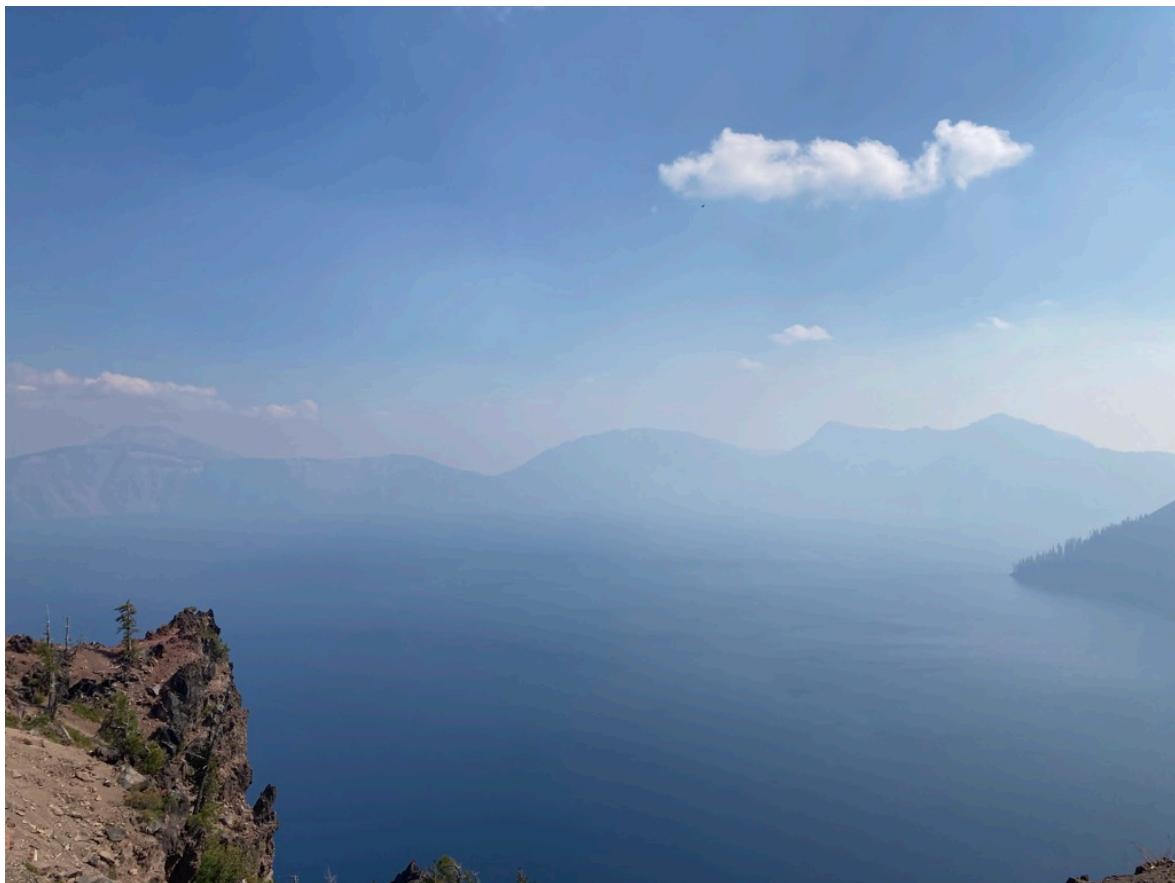
Reach me at emilyemailsyou@yahoo.com or 770-500-0801

Where We've Been



31. Bend, OR. We left Idaho, drove through Washington, and stopped for the night in Bend, Oregon. We stayed at a hostel that our friend, Emma, had previously worked at, and she just so happened to be in town at the same time for a staff reunion!

We ordered the “dirtbag special” – for \$20 we parked our RV in the hostel parking lot. The hostel has a bar in the back, and we each got a beer in exchange for a wooden coin that had come as a part of the dirtbag special. This place was popping, very hip and happening. “Bunk n Brew” – if you ever need a hostel stay in Bend. It was so fun to see our friend Emma, she showed us around Bend which is a verrry cute place, quite St Pete-y.



We stopped at **Crater Lake National Park** on our way out of Oregon. We went on a smoky day, and apparently it had been smoke-affected for weeks. This is on our list of must-return-to. If you google ‘Crater Lake’, you’ll see that the weather greatly changes the views.



32. Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park in Humboldt County, CA. Next stop, The Redwoods!! We spent two nights camping at this state park, and we spent nearly the entire time walking around, absorbing the beauty of these biiiiiiiiig trees. For a first timer like me, it was simply unbelievable. It's like stepping into a fantasy novel, one moment you're surrounding by trees of familiar shape and size, then suddenly you are surrounded by ginormous, ancient beasts!

We went on our longest hike yet, 12 miles, in the Redwoods. Typical for us, we were not prepared for such a hike, our mindset being “let’s just walk around and see what happens”. We had no snacks and a dingy little water bottle, and I was quite faint by the end of it. But we just could not stop walking!!! We were too mesmerized, we had to keep moving.

Here are some pictures, my meager offerings of the most incredible sights I’ve sighted..



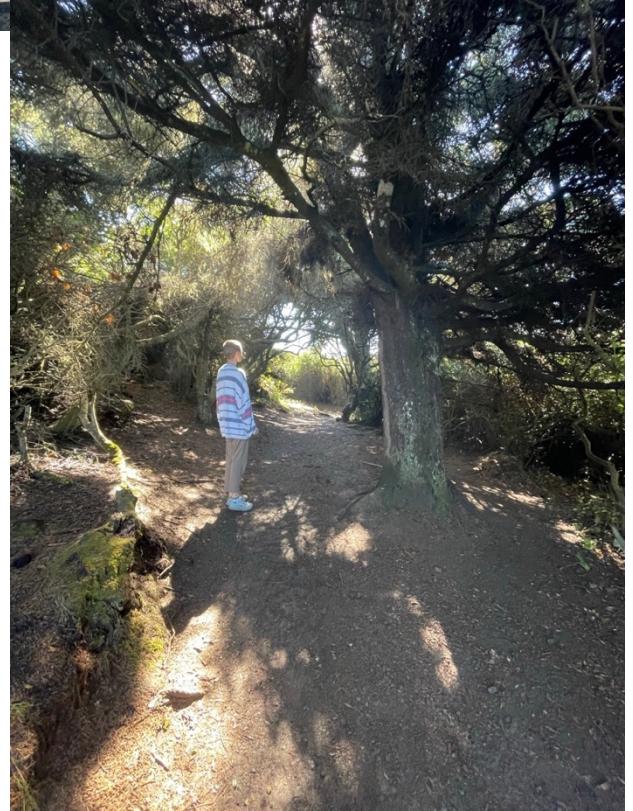


33. Trinidad, CA. We continued our Northern California adventure by spending 5 nights in Trinidad. We spent the first 3 nights at the RV park in the pics above, and the next 2 nights 2 minutes down the road at the park in the pics below. At both parks we were the youngest people by about 40 years, and we had the least expensive RV by about \$20k. We've grown accustomed to such things, living the retired persons dream on a recent-college-grad budget.



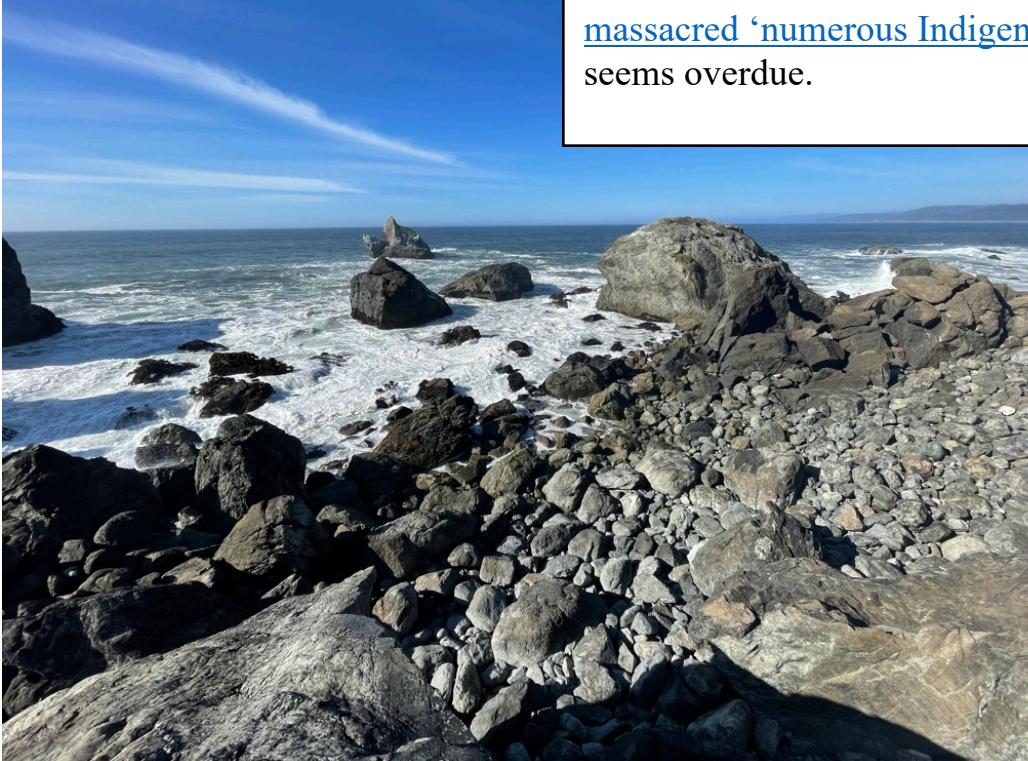


Here's us
staring into the
sun in Trinidad,
a super cool,
small coastal
town with great
hiking, and if
you're lucky,
you may see a
trunk full of
labradoodles!





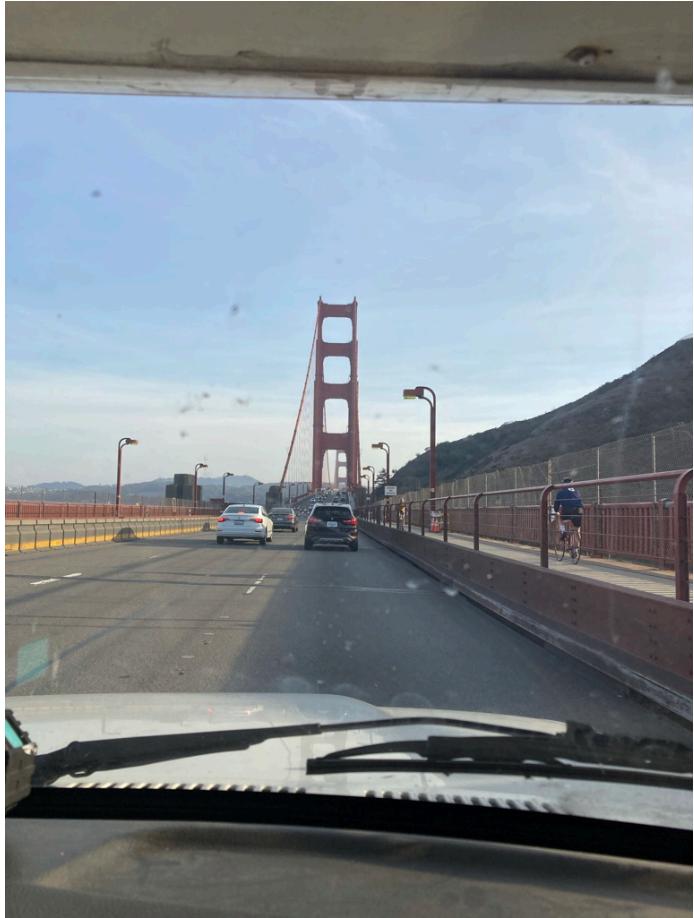
We could walk to this state park from our campsite. Turns out we were some of the last people to experience this park under the name “Patrick’s Point”. On Sept. 30, it was renamed “Sue-meg State Park”, ‘Sue-meg’ being its original title by the indigenous Yurok people. ‘Patrick’s Point’ referred to Patrick Beegan, an Irish guy who in the 1850’s claimed the land and in 1864 he led a militia that [massacred ‘numerous Indigenous people’](#) – So yes, a renaming seems overdue.



Recognize this?!?
Pay no mind to our dirty windshield.

34. Menlo Park, CA. We made our way to the Bay Area to meet our friends Kat and Dustin. Kat's family very kindly let us stay a night in their driveway, and then we joined Kat & Dustin for their dog sitting job, which entailed two nights spent at a very nice house with beds and showers and laundry.

We had a fantastic and busy weekend! Here is a catalog of events, starting with a gorgeously gloomy afternoon at the dog beach.



It was quite the climb to get up and down the beach, but Ms. Riley had an easy go of it.



DIY
see-
saw.





That night we went into Oakland, and I met Sam's friend, Madeline, who was so lovely and fun, and she showed us to perhaps the most incredible cuisine experience of our journey. See more in "What We've Eaten"



We had a rejuvenating weekend filled with dogs (Elly, Molly, and Riley) and cornhole! Which I am good at.



We spent our last night together playing the classic game of miniature golf. And, despite my nearly perfect game, I somehow came in last place!



35. Monterey, CA.

We continued south bound to Monterey, where we spent two nights at a campsite that is above the Laguna Seca Raceway. Thankfully, our time with Dustin & Kat was not yet over, as they met us in Monterey and took us to the Monterey Aquarium!



Growing up right by the Georgia Aquarium, I am privileged when it comes to aquarium-experience. I have high expectations, and Monterey did not disappoint. What makes Monterey unique is a) all the water in the tanks is fed in right from the Bay and b) they have a superb jelly exhibit.



And c) this guy.

Thank you, Kat & Dustin, for showing us such a great time. And thank you to your family friends for letting these strangers sleep in their beds and use their toilet. It was the best!

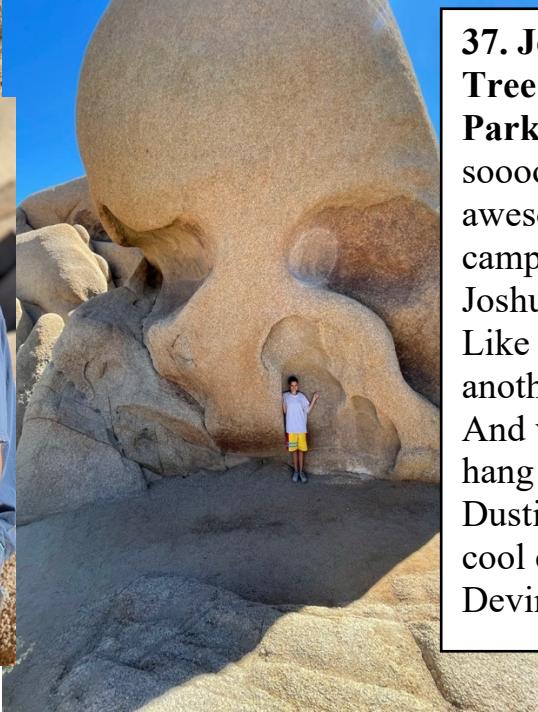
36. Los Angeles, CA. Isn't it great to have friends in high places? Next, our friends Laiken and Cal so kindly hosted us in their apartment in LA!

We had so much fun, we ate great food, they taught us the boardgame Wingspan, Sam took me to Venice Beach, and we met his cool music industry friends Taylor and Angela. Taylor works at Capitol Records!

Despite all this activity, we took next to zero photos! Which was not very 'LA' of us.



Proof that we were in LA



37. Joshua Tree National Park. It was sooooo awesome to camp in Joshua Tree. Like being on another planet. And we got to hang out with Dustin's super cool cousin, Devin.

Sunset in Joshua Tree



Desert nap

38. Tonopah, AZ. The picture below is at our second to last stop. We spent two nights here, the owner of the property had goats, a pregnant pig, and copious amounts of pot plants.





39. Sedona, AZ. Our final stop, Sedona! Why Sedona? Because this is where we will be living in a few months!

Sam connected with Ranjita through 'The Caretaker Gazette', a subscription magazine where people post available jobs like 'ranch hand', 'innkeeper', 'property caretaker', etc.

Ranjita amazingly agreed to let us store our RV at her place, a vast and gorgeous property where she hosts her therapy clients and healing retreats.

We will come pick up the RV in January, do some more traveling around, and then in March we will be back in Sedona, working as caretakers and stewards of this land. Exciting!



Us saying "it's not goodbye, it's see you later" to the RV.



What We've Eaten



Madeline took us to ‘Snail Bar’ in Oakland, where the only thing to do is order small plates and share them. Let it be known that this was the most adventurous and satisfying taste experience of my life. Here’s the menu descriptions of all we ordered, for all you foodies -



- *Galia Melon – Labneh, herbs, purslane, quince vinegar
- *Pan Con Tomate – Early girl tomatoes, mangalitsa lardo, piment
- *Steak Tartare – Nardellos, doengjang, black rice, seaweed ssam
- *Salmon – Steamed coho, macvin beurre blanc, roasted grapes
- *Snails – Cashew miso, garlic confit, kumquat
- *Oblea – Wafers, crème fraîche, strawberry & plum jam, dulce de leche
- *Natural orange wine with notes of pear and mezcal



We ate really well in San Francisco. A ramen place where the line is out the door, French brunch, authentic Chinese food (where Kat knew the owner so we got free dessert), and matcha donuts!

What We've Read



For brevity's sake I will not be writing my ‘book reports’, as Sam calls them. But here is a list of the books I’ve read over the last six weeks. I would highly recommend all of them, except perhaps *Rebecca* which I would only mildly recommend. And if I can convince you to read any book ever, I would make a case for *The Dispossessed*, which is probably my new favorite book. And I don’t usually have favorites! If anyone wants to talk about these books, I beg you to shoot me a message.

Ice by Anna Kavan, *The Buried Giant* by Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Dispossessed* by Ursula K. Le Guin, *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf, *Dhalgren* by Samuel R. Delany, *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke, *Arrow of God* by Chinua Achebe, *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier, *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton, and *The Lathe of Heaven* by Ursula K. Le Guin.

Where We Are



Yurt camping with Elly and Charlie, a weekend Vermont trip with friends, a visit from my mom, a visit to Sam's mom in Camden, Maine, Halloween, lots of good food, some hiking, lots of *The Blacklist*. We've been doing well.

Where We're Going

Nov 5th – We will be St. Pete for the WORLD-FAMOUS Wiener Beach Hullabaloo! See you there!

December – We will be at my parents' house in Sandestin, FL. Soaking up the free rent and the free sunshine.

January – We will be back in the RV, exploring New Mexico!

February 7 – March 7 – St. Pete, FL for a Wiener Beach event every weekend.

March 7 – TBD – Sedona, AZ.

What We've Learned

When I told people our RV adventure plans, the most common response I got was “this is such a good time to do it”. We’re young, we’re career-less, no people or animals depend on us, no house or property to upkeep. Before our decision to pursue RV life, thinking about the vast possibilities of my future was a daunting thought. We were quarantined, I had no idea what I wanted to do for a job, my lack of ties and responsibilities made me feel unmotivated, unimportant. My future felt like a grey mist that I would aimlessly float through. That sounds depressing, and I’m really just trying to be poetic. To put it plainly, I really needed and wanted a shake-up. A spin in the washing machine of life. And, like a washing machine, I ended up in pretty much the same spot I started, except now I am much fresher. There’s still a pandemic, I still don’t know what kind of jobs I want to pursue, I still have no kids and no land (lol), but the vast possibilities that await me are no longer overwhelming. The gloom has lifted, and I feel excited! It’s awesome that I don’t know where I’m headed because that means anything could happen. And there are so many cool places to go and people to learn from. We learned a million small things on this trip, but this is my big takeaway. I feel a newfound confidence in myself and in the fact that life is a very exciting pursuit.

It is certainly nice to have learned that we can live in close quarters 24/7 and still love each other very much. Sam is the best.

We couldn’t have done this without the help of our parents, and I am by no means preaching “everyone should just quit their jobs and take a road trip and they will feel better”, as that is obviously not an option for most. As my life continues and it becomes increasingly difficult to take extended road-trips, I hope and feel that I will carry the spirit of this experience with me. To see every day as a new adventure to learn from, to feel grateful for those around me, for machines that work, and beds that are warm. And to trust that a lot of times, it’ll all work out just fine.



This is the kind of picture that I will look at late in life and I will cry, cry, cry...
How beautiful it all was! How lucky we were!

Thanks for Reading!

I'll be back with
another newsletter
in January. Maybe.