

Gulf's Adventure

I have always wanted to travel and see the world, and last year I decided I was finally going to go ahead and actually do it. After extensive reading of various travel blogs I managed to put together the perfect itinerary, I got a chance to visit all of the places I've ever dreamed of.

I'd heard of this cool thing where if you breathe out into cold air, your breath will form a cloud of water vapor. Someone described it to me and made it sound like you look like a dragon that can puff smoke. I wanted to try this out for myself, so I decided that the first stop on my trip would be in Canada. Tickets were booked, a passport was dusted off, and I was on my way to the lovely city of Dauphin. Dauphin was exactly as amazing as it sounds on Wikipedia, and I spent several days checking out the very interesting rail museum they have there. There's also a fort, which was fascinating to look at. I even managed to get up close and personal with the fort and touch its walls with my own hands. I was wearing gloves at the time so I didn't really touch it, but it was still very exciting.

Close by Dauphin is another city called Brandon, which I of course wanted to visit because it shares its name with international superstar Brandon Buddy. He plays Cole Thornhart in *One Life to Live*, and is by far my favorite character in the show. When they killed his character I was numb because I was so sad. I had to eat two whole tubs of ice cream in the shower before I could sleep that night. The city really lived up to its name though, and they had a huge mall that sold everything from socks to slightly larger socks.

At this point I realized I hadn't actually tried the breathing-like-a-dragon thing so decided to go outside and try it. Sadly, it wasn't cold enough so it was not a very dragonsque experience. I tried for a few hours but quickly realized that I would need to go somewhere colder. Luckily my next stop was further north, the town of Peawanuck. The main reason I wanted to go there is because they have a population of 237 people, so I would be the 238th person if I went there. 238 can of course be factorized to $2 \times 7 \times 17$, which is my favorite numerical sequence ever since I ate 17 hot dogs 7 days a week for two weeks. It was amazing, both the hot dog weeks and actually visiting Peawanuck. It still wasn't cold enough for the dragon thing, but that's ok.

I've never been to the United States, so when I was so close to the border it felt like the perfect opportunity to visit the birth country of Gary Brolsma. I have always wanted to visit ever since his video lip syncing to the numa song. Of course he was born in Saddle Brook in New Jersey, but that felt a little too far away, so instead I made my way southeast and crossed the border over to Caribou, the most northeastern city in the United States. I enjoyed being somewhere northeastern, and I could definitely see myself living at a place that's northeast of something else in the future. Caribou is also close to New Sweden, an old Swedish colony, and I met a nice person called Sten who explained to me how Swedish immigrants settled there back in the 1800's.

Next up I decided to visit Edmundston, to see the site of the Edmundston Jazz and Blues Festival. I hadn't checked the festival dates so there wasn't actually any festival there when I arrived, but that was ok because I decided to wait for a few days. Apparently the festival only takes place in June, so they didn't come while I was there, but it was still pretty exciting to have been where it was going to take place later. There was also a bridge that I don't remember the name of, but everyone loves bridges so I managed to fill a few memory cards of my camera with pictures of it.

I wanted to move on to a country that had more green in their flag, and by good luck it wasn't a very long trip to the town of Paz de Ariporo, Colombia. This was of course extra exciting because the name of the city has three words in it, and the most words that any other city on my trip had had so far was just a measly one. I went to a park and saw some turtles, but they could also have been tortoises. It's actually very easy to tell them apart, but I don't know how to do it. There was also a flower that was purple that had an extremely long, thorny stem. I tried to pick the flower and bring it home but the thorns were very sharp and I just ended up getting pricked. The streets were also very straight, which made it easy to navigate the city while making as few turns as possible.

In Paz de Ariporo I met a lady called Maria who told me about her friend Francisco from Mexico. He came from a city I had never heard of called Cancún. I immediately decided that I did not want to go there, so instead I flew to Sinamaica in Venezuela. I did not understand much of what people said, but I think everyone was friendly. I could snag some food at a local restaurant right before they closed, and then I found a store called SevenVideos. I was very confused because there were more than seven videos in there, so I asked why they had such false advertisements, and they answered me. I don't know what they said though.

For the next stop on my trip, I visited the lovely coastal town of Mendoza. It's actually around 250 km from the coast, but it definitely had the right vibes. It was probably the largest city I visited on this trip, it seemed to span forever, but I don't know for sure because I didn't check. There were plenty of museums with all kinds of things. I just looked up the city on Wikipedia, searched for the word "museum", and visited the ones I thought sounded fun. The city is also twinned with São Paulo and Nashville, which I thought was neat because I have a childhood friend called Paul Nash. I don't think he's from either of those cities, but I think he would find it interesting because he is also a twin.

In the blogs I read before I left I heard of people swimming with dolphins and doing other exciting things. I felt that dolphins were a bit intimidating though, so instead I decided to swim with some kind of fish. I decided that some tuna felt like the most obvious choice. I went back to Canada and took a quick hike over to Aguanish, because the name rhymes with "aquafish", and I would prefer to swim with water-based fish. Swimming with them was an incredible experience, even though they were so far out in the sea that I never actually saw any of them. Just the knowledge that they were there and enjoying their swim with me was enough to make me ecstatic. I had to stay for an extra two days just to soak in the glorious atmosphere. I did not find

a place to stay while I was here, but an abandoned shed was right next to the beach so I just slept there. There was no breakfast available, but luckily I found a restaurant nearby.

After spending some days in Aguanish I felt like it was probably time to go back home and feed my pets. The flight home was very nice and I got some free peanuts. I don't remember the flight attendants' names, but they were very polite. I'm so happy I got to go on this trip of my dreams. I could not have imagined a more perfect travel itinerary, and I hope you enjoyed reading about the places I've visited too.

See you next time,
Gulf Glorkwimp