

New England in the Fall; a 2 day Roadtrip through Vermont

Day 3

Keith and I got an Uber from our Boston city apartment to the airport, leaving Mum and Alec to finish their packing and have a quick clean up of our Air BnB. We weren't abandoning them, we just felt the process of hiring our Rental car would be quicker and easier as a twosome rather than a four – and it also saved us having to lug all our luggage back to the airport.

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We hired our Medium sized SUV from **Dollar-car** and for 6 days with unlimited mileage it came in at around £200. The pick up process was quick and easy and we were left to our own devices to go and pick the vehicle we wanted.



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We chose a lovely white Kia Sorento and half an hour later I was making my American driving debut. Initially it was terrifying given that the airport is slap bang in the middle of the city. And the driving in Boston reminded me of the driving in Delhi! OMG. But I soon got used to it- basically no rules, expect the unexpected, and Keefy was a fab co pilot. Talking of Co Pilots - **Colin the Co Pilot** (my iPhone Map system) worked a treat - I had downloaded the whole of America offline for £19.99 and it was brilliant.

We picked up Mum and Alec from the apartment along with all the luggage - which **JUST** fit in the back - wow we sure **don't** travel lightly! We drove past Harvard University before picking up the Highway, where it didn't

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take too long at all before we started seeing some phenomenal Autumnal colours on the roadside trees.

Around 3 hours later we were rolling into Wilmington, which is where we were picking up the Scenic Highway 100. Just before Wilmington there was the most beautiful scenic lay-by, which turned out to be one of my favourite views in Vermont.

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We stopped for lunch at the Village Roost in
Wilmington, before heading North on the
Scenic Highway 100, which offered fabu-
lous views as the road wound up and around

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various ski resorts. The villages were fairly small and remote really, and the houses just so charming – all wooden with picture perfect porches. You could just imagine kicking off your shoes, jumping in one of the comfy chairs and watching the world go by.

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Not too far into our journey on the Scenic Highway, we stopped off at the **Vermont Country Store** in Weston. This is one of the oldest Country Stores in America and dates from the 1940s. It is huge - and here is a tip - don't go in hungry (or do if you fancy a free lunch- so many samples available!) Wow, what a place - thank goodness we were flying in and out of America and therefore had to consider weight limits, otherwise my credit card would have had a right battering! It was filled with local meats, cheeses, chutneys, jams, maple based products, local alcoholic beverages, clothes, games, old fashioned sweets, kitchenware - oh the list goes on. We brought some maple syrup and some hot Apple Cider (none alcoholic) and made our escape. Certainly worth a visit

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though – what a lovely shop!

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We carried on to our next Air BnB, which was near to Woodstock, with plenty of picture stops on route.

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The apartment was a charming loft conversion above a country store. Another chance to buy tons of local produce!

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The owner met us and was very friendly – she said they operated an honesty system, basically leaving the shop open for us overnight and if we fancied midnight munchies we could just go down and help ourselves – make a note of what we had and settle up when we leave. She would also prepare us a breakfast basket each morning and leave it at the bottom of our stairs! How cute!

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Once we had got over the fact that we all had to share a room (ahem) we got our glad rags on and went for a meal. Unfortunately the downside was that there was nowhere within walking distance, however I didn't mind driving.

Day 4

Sunday dawned cooler than what we'd been used to on the previous days but it was still clear. We were up relatively early and on the road by 9am. Today's destination was the Northern part of Vermont. We had fun driving over the historical covered bridge opposite our accommodation - these are a common

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sight in Vermont and are really pretty.

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We carried on just down the road to Quechee Gorge, which is billed as New England's answer to the Grand Canyon. It's a steep gorge with a tree lined river running at the bottom and you get a good view from both the bridge at the top and on the river level at the bottom, after a mile or so hike.

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Back to the car and our next location was somewhere which I was very excited about - The Ben and Jerry's Factory!

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It was definitely an indulgence for me this stop, I adore Ben and Jerry's! As you got out of the car, the air carried the smell of ice cream. Yum. We signed up for the next tour, which was 30 mins long and although nothing too special, it was really cool to be there and you got to see briefly where the magic

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happens!

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Next stop was Stowe, home to the Von Trapp Family Lodge – the place which they escaped to from Austria. It's in a really pretty area and is a ski resort from end of November. The scenery was gorgeous, although the town was more spread out than we imagined which made it hard to explore on foot.



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We had a fabulous meal at **Piecasso**, which specialise in pizza – of course Keith HAD to have the large (just for himself!) ! Oink! It

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made a good picture though lol and tasted
gorgeous.



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Alec was nominated to try the local beer “Heady Toppy” - I’d read about it, apparently its voted the best beer in the world. Well, at 8% it must be one of the strongest! Keith really enjoyed the Von Trapp beer. Mum had a Stowe Cider which she loved. I had wait for it..... a tap water as I was in charge of Kelly

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the Kia.

We started heading back towards our digs along the Scenic Route 100, but this time North to South. We managed a stop at a **local distillery** to pick up some Bourbon with Maple and some small batch gin. Both of which are gorgeous! We also stopped at the Cider Mill where we had some fresh apple juice, hot cider and I tried the cider donuts, which were good.

We opted for a chill that night as we had been non stop since arriving. It was nice to catch our breaths for an evening – the boys fell asleep by 9 and Mum and I caught up on Strictly.

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Vermont Highlights

- Wilmington
- Quechee Gorge
- Ben and Jerrys Factory
- Vermont Country Store
- Stowe- esp Piccassimo Pizza and Von Trapp Beer/Stowe Cider

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