

We watched as the train pulled in, with our car being right behind the locomotives. The car was then uncoupled from the locomotives so we could go in the opposite direction.



There were all kinds of canapés available, along with beer, wine and soda .It was real a pleasure to be in this car.



The viewing platform of our car was very large, and could accommodate 3 people taking pictures on the same side. As we pulled out, we could see another train that would be following us.



MP 6.9 Inspiration Point with our ship



MP 8.8 Buchanan Rock



MP 11.5 Bridal Veil Falls



MP 16.0 Tunnel Mountain

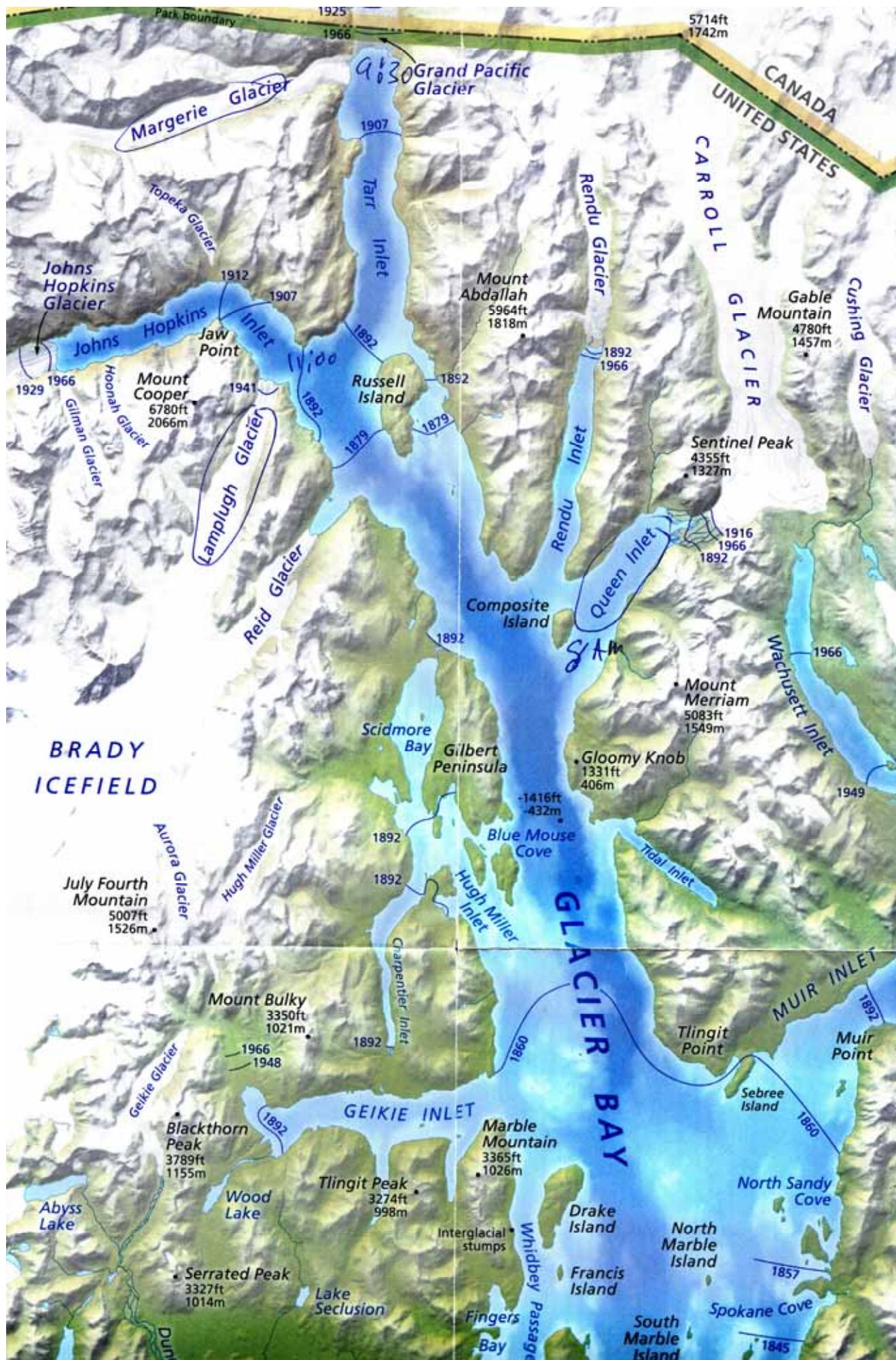


MP 16.8 Abandoned Steel Bridge



When we were here in 2007, it was June, and most of the snow had melted. This time, the mountains really stood out, and the snow looked like marshmallow cream in the glorious sunshine.





.The ship had a special offer for Glacier Bay. They have a place called the Sanctuary forward on the top deck. It is fitted out with lounges and blankets arranged in a big semicircle. Part of the package was a continental breakfast of coffee and pastries. Later on, Mimosas and Bloody Marys were provided. We got the last two lounges on the port side because the viewing would start there.



When the ship turned around for the starboard people to view the glaciers, we went back to our suite, which was on the starboard side of the ship and sat on our balcony. The weather was fantastic for our cruise into Glacier Bay. It was bright and sunny and about 54 F.



Our first stop was in Queen Inlet to view the Carroll Glacier



We then proceeded up to the end of Glacier to view the Grand Pacific Glacier. I had seen it in 1988, and was quite surprised at how much it had receded

1988



Present day



Off our port side was the Margerie Glacier, which seemed to be in good shape. We had hoped to see some big chunks break off, but there were just a few small pieces.



We sailed back down Glacier Bay enjoying views of the snow covered mountains



The last glacier we stopped at was the Lamplugh Glacier



All in all, it was a very enjoyable experience, and I was glad to share it with Kathy.

VICTORIA

Since Kathy started me enjoying horse drawn carriage rides, we have tried to take them wherever we have gone throughout the world. We found a company called "Tally Ho" which offered these trips. We certainly do not want to go on one of the ship's group gropes with a bunch of other people. We saw a horse drawn trolley with 30 people in it squeezed 3 abreast, as opposed to the two of us alone. We booked a 90 minute "Premier" tour. On our last time in Victoria, we visited the Butchart Gardens, and had High Tea at the Empress Hotel. But we really did not get to see any part of Victoria. This time we saw many beautiful historical refurbished homes in the neighborhoods.



We passed through many fields of lupine, and stopped to view the world's tallest totem pole.



We passed by a number of these homes that had been declared “heritage homes” with a small plaque.



The home on the left was the home of Emily Carr, a noted Victoria author. The home on the right resembles the “Painted Ladies” of San Francisco. There were 53 colors used to paint that home.

The photo on the left is a carillon donated by the people of Netherlands as gratitude for Canadian soldiers freeing the country during WW 2. The photo on the right is the parliament building.



When we were in Victoria in 2015, we were treated to High Tea at the Empress Hotel below. Across the street from the hotel we stayed at least time, was the Robert Bateman Gallery. They had a nice outdoor restaurant, but were not serving food then.

This time, they were open, and had a nice outdoor patio where we could watch the comings and goings of boats and seaplanes in Victoria's Inner Harbor. It was a nice final memory from Victoria.



We celebrated our last port at the Share Restaurant on board with Lobster Bisque and Duck Leg Confit.



The restaurant featured a menu designed by the famous Chef Curtis Stone and consisted of six delicious courses. The dish on the left had big chunks of lobster and just a small amount of perfectly seasoned lobster bisque, the best we have ever tasted. The duck confit did not seem that special although the procedure for making duck confit is extremely complicated, and something we would not prepare at home, however, the experience was well worth it.

HOME AGAIN

Our driver was there to pick us up when we arrived at Los Angeles where we started our cruise, and drove us the hour back home.

We are so fortunate to have some wonderful memories and pictures from this spectacular trip, and it's also good to be back home once more.

Thanks to all of you for your continued interest in our travels...

Best Regards,
Steve and Kathy

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