

## In search of the Spruce Goose and Glacier National Park in 2022

My first stop was the Merced National Wildlife Refuge. I didn't realize that I was lucky to see a refuge with water. Nice stop.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/MercedNWR2022/index.htm>

My next stop was the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge which I had previously visited in wetter years. However, it was lush compared to Klamath, which I had also visited when it was wet. Totally dry, and in following years it would just get worse.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/Sacramento2022/index.htm>

Stopped for quick photos at Camp Tulelake. Sorry for the redundant Klamath photos.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/Klamath2022/index.htm>

More successful visiting Lava Beds National Monument. Did a lot of hiking around it and climbed up the former fire watch tower.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/LavaBeds2022/index.htm>

Getting up to Oregon, I made a return visit to Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum which has grown since my last time there.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/Evergreen2022/index.htm>

Although Evergreen has plenty of content, the big draw is the Spruce Goose. This time I spent the extra money to get a tour of the cockpit and got to sit where Howard Hughes was pilot in command.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/SpruceGoose2022/index.htm>

Perhaps this was in preparation for a return visit to the Museum of Flight in Seattle. This museum has really grown with display halls devoted tot World Wars I and II and a huge outdoor area. This is a must see.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/MuseumofFlight2022/index.htm>

[http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/MuseumofFlight2022\\_2/index.htm](http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/MuseumofFlight2022_2/index.htm)

While in Seattle I visited the Wing Luke Museum and walked through what had once been the Japanese Town. The tour of the museum was unfortunately cut short when someone decided to disappear in the exhibits.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/WingLuke2022/index.htm>

Also visited the Seattle Asian Art Museum

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/AsianArt2022/index.htm>

Now for the real main purpose of the trip, a drive through Glacier National Park. It was late enough in the year that I did not need reservations. That may or may not have been a good thing since it was nearly bumper to bumper traffic in some places. Unlike California parks, the ranger told me to get bear spray if I was going to do any hiking. Dutifully I bought a used can and watched the training video. Thankfully I did not have to use it when I went on the recommended hike. I have to admit the place lives up to its hype. I had to stop at one place and just stare at the scenery.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/Glacier2022/index.htm>

Next stop was the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. I walked through as much as I could.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/UIdArboretum2022/index.htm>

Going into Twin Falls, you cross the Perrine Bridge. Stop to see the incredible views. This should be a state or national park, but there is a golf course at the bottom instead.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/Perrine2022/index.htm>

Not too far away was Minidoka National Historic Site. Needless to say the visitor center was closed for the season, but I was able to walk around the site.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/Minidoka2022/index.htm>

Another destination was Craters of the Moon National Monument. Went on a big hike there.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/CratersoftheMoon2022/index.htm>

In Idaho Falls the water running through the town is truly beautiful considering that it is in an urban setting. There is also a very nice Japanese garden situated near the rapids.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/IdahoFalls2022/index.htm>

Pulling for another roadside break on the way to Blackfoot, I stumbled upon Hell's Half Acre which is a kind of mini Craters of the Moon. There is a nice trail that you can take to learn about the area. Amazing what can be packed into rest stops.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/HalfAcre2022/index.htm>

Had to see the Golden Spike. Got there a few minutes too late to actually see the locomotives pull up to each other, but I did get to see them. Hiked around and explored the area. Bought a load of loot, including spikes.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/GoldenSpike2022/index.htm>

Pulled into Bear River Refuge in Utah on the day it was closed. Did walk the trails around the visitor center but didn't find the auto trail. Don't worry I came back in a couple of years when it was open.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/BearRiver2022/index.htm>

Final stop was the Topaz Internment Camp near Delta. Besides some monuments there was not too much left of the camp although I did drive around it. In Delta itself the community has a very nice museum dedicated to the camp. Apparently it started when a pilot came back from the war and was outraged to find that American citizens had been imprisoned with no charges there.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/Topaz2022/index.htm>

OK, I lied. I wanted to do one more hike and found that Las Vegas has a nature center on its outskirts. The Clark County Wetlands Park is where Las Vegas sewage is treated before it is dumped back into Lake Mead. The visitor center has some interesting exhibits and there are a number of trails. I went on enough of the trails and was satisfied.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2022/WetLandsPark2022/index.htm>