

Maritime Day 47    October 8, 2010    57 degrees F, Sunny & getting warmer today!

Today was a travel day. We left Statesville at 10:15 heading for James Island, South Carolina near Charleston. The drive went fairly smooth especially for expressway traffic. We stopped for lunch at a Perkins in Summerville. We also found a BiLo grocery store to restock our staples.

We arrived at "The Campground" at James Island County Park around 5:00. The check-in line was about 4 campers deep! We both have a site for tonight, then moving sites within the campground for tomorrow. We were going to have to park in the overflow area until the late afternoon but Wayne talked to the man and his wife who are vacating our new site and they are planning to be gone by 8:00 am so we can move right in the spot at that time. We are planning to take the shuttle bus into downtown Charleston tomorrow. It leaves the campground at 9:00 & returns at 4:00. Over cheese and crackers, Lorene checked out all the brochures and figured there was plenty to keep us busy in town! It has been a long time since Bill and I were here, not so long for Wayne and Lorene.

It's early to bed tonight to get ready for our early-up and out day tomorrow!

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Maritime Day 48    October 9, 2010    61 degrees F, Sunny with a nice breeze

Up before dawn today—a rarity for us! We had to move onto a different site for tonight and be at the bus for downtown Charleston at 8:45. The ride into town was a short one, 20 minutes, and we were let off right at the Visitor Center. We selected the Grayline Bus tour with George as our tour guide and driver. George had a great sense of humor and a very rehearsed talk. He drove us by many of the important buildings, parks and churches giving dates and names to connect all the historical facts. One of the interesting features of many homes is the 'piazza'--a porch with a big door like a front door. This is where people entered the house. At the end of the 90 minute driving tour, he dropped us in front of the Joseph Manigault family's "in town" house. It is the typical 3 story brick house, Federalist style, with symmetry as an important element. The living space was on the second floor to catch the sea breezes, the bedrooms all faced the East to get folks up in the morning, and the servant quarters were on property in the side yard. The house is nearly 200 years old and still has 70% of the original features and structure intact. Through the years it has been used as a residence, a tenement house, a gas station, a USO building and now a museum. The children (5) had their own staircase in the back of the house, reserving the front stairs for adults and company! All 5 lived to adulthood, very rare in the 1800s, and there are still descendants today.

We walked around the city for a few blocks and found the Charleston Tea Company where we had a quick snack and drink. More walking, caught a city bus to the Market Square. Shopped & Bill got a haircut at a Barbershop. (He's been looking for one for 2 weeks!) The best part of the day was a late lunch at the Charleston Place Hotel Palmetto Room. The waiter, Marco, met our every need; the food was superb gourmet, the presentation was over the top and the atmosphere was exceptional. We relaxed and enjoyed it all!! Before we caught the bus back to our campers, we visited the Macaroon Bakery that we had spotted earlier. We purchased sweet treats for later.

Back at the campground we (Lorene & I) did laundry, had our treats and tea, cleaned up (Bill & Wayne) the campers, and played dominoes (Lorene, Wayne & me)--Wayne won, again!