

CALIFORNIA ADVENTURES VO
4/24-25/2026

00 INTRO - OUTRO

00a Intro Stuff

Dale VO:

Yep, Las Vegas is home, and an exciting place to be, no doubt! But - it's a big wide world out there, and I had a powerful yen to go see some of it last week! You won't even believe the crazy destinations we've packed into this little travelog!

Paula Live:

From Mother's Beach to the Mother Road, and all kinds of kitschy roadside stops - this is an epic adventure!

Dale Live:

So get ready...

00b Outro Stuff

[tbd]

[in folder **04a**, IMG_2065 holds on waterfall 40 sec]

[in folder **04b**, IMG_2044 and 7934 hold on waves at beach 1 min]

01 MONDAY APRIL 20

01a Ocean Bound

[No VO]

[start with IMG_7880 Dale intro; clips 1986 and 7885 are the ocean, if they work better]

01b Getting There

Let's back up a little. We left home around 1 pm, and took the long way to Ventura - because we'll do anything to avoid LA traffic! Nearing the end of our journey, we are heading due west on California state route 126. This 40-mile stretch, best known as the Santa Paula Freeway, connects Interstate 5 with US Highway 101. Why we love it: it travels through fertile fields of crops, along the road and up the hillsides, and on a spring day it smells fantastically fresh all through here.

[IMG_7867, 7876, 7877; pics out window]

01c Pacific Sunset

It is just shy of sunset, so our timing is perfect. This is called Harbor Cove Beach, popular with Ventura County locals, because the shoreline is so protected and safe, it's been nicknamed "Mother's Beach".

[IMG_1987]

[IMG_7884 Dale lifeguard clip; pop up pic 7881 of Paula when you talk about complaining]

Seriously, though, I couldn't resist propping my camera up on a pile of driftwood, and doing a timelapse of the Pacific sunset. Who says you have to wait til the end of a video to show the sun setting? ...By the way, I cued that sailboat to glide by just as I was filming...

[IMG_7889 timelapse; IMG_1993 sailboat in real time if needed]

01d Photos-HC Beach

[No VO - just to use if needed]

01e Pacific Surfliner

[This section is optional - you may not like the quality of the clips]

I have to throw this in. As we were heading back to our hotel, we happened to catch the Pacific Surfliner - a commuter train that runs between San Diego and San Luis Obispo - heading down the tracks. We've seen many videos about this train.

[IMG_7890, 7891; web map of route]

02 VENTURA BEACH MARRIOTT

02ab Video-Photos-Marriott I

Good morning! We're all about resort tours on this channel, so it only feels fitting to show you our digs here on Harbor Beach Boulevard. [IMG_2026]

This is the Ventura Beach Marriott, a place we've stayed on many occasions, and definitely a favorite, with its location between downtown Ventura and the harbor/marina. By the way, ignore the rain and gloomy skies - it didn't dampen our spirits any! [DJI_0181]

02ab Video-Photos-Marriott II

Check out this huge and welcoming lobby space, decorated in the colors of sun, sand, and water. It's flooded with natural light, thanks to the skylights installed above the entire room. [IMG_2001, 2002]

It leads to a courtyard - we'll see that in a minute. Over here, a bar that begins serving local brews daily at 3 pm...and a restaurant open for breakfast every morning. [IMG_2004, 2008, 2006]

02cd Video-Photos-Courtyard

Stepping outside into the courtyard - we love this garden! It is surrounded by Marriott's 286 rooms and suites, but is something of a hidden oasis, isn't it? ...And, the covered patio is as inviting as the lobby.

[DJI_0182]

There's a large pond set with water plants in pots...waterfalls...and koi swimming in the shallows. Reminds me of Bellagio!
[IMG_2034, 2012]

Many of the first-floor rooms have patios leading right out to the courtyard.
[IMG_2036]

Look at this little guy we found on the sidewalk...the unexpected perks of a rainy day. [IMG_7892]

02e Pool Deck

Adjacent to the pond garden is the pool deck - let's take a look. It's a free-form pool, and it is heated year-round. One thing Paula remarked on is how absolutely clean and spotless all the loungers and lawn furniture were - everything looked so inviting, even when wet. [DJI_0183, 0184]

On this end, there's a hot tub...plenty of umbrellas for shade...and note that the upstairs rooms all have balconies overlooking the courtyard and pool. [DJI_0186 or IMG_2029]

03 VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

03a Andrias Seafood

We skipped breakfast, but that was on purpose - because I had my taste buds all set for my favorite must-stop at the coast...and it's here, at Ventura Harbor Village: Andria's Seafood. They just opened at 11 AM, and with the rainy weather, it's not busy...yet.
[IMG_7906 *reversed*; IMG_7900]

Andria's Seafood opened here in 1982 - as a family-owned "seafood market with some cooking" before the Village itself even existed! The restaurant is incredibly popular, and has received endless accolades over the years - all well deserved! [DJI_0171, 0172, 0173]

03b Lunch Tasting

[No VO]
[in order: IMG_7894, 7895, 7898; pics of food and bill]

SHRIMP & CHIPS
(7 PC)
\$15.99

ANDRIA'S FISH
BY-THE-PIECE
\$9.79

03c Video-VH Harbor

Now this is a rare opportunity. We are at Ventura Harbor Village, and we pretty much have it to ourselves on this rainy Tuesday. [DJI_0175]

[IMG_7915 Paula talk]

We have mentioned on earlier visits that this harbor is one of the largest for squid, or what you order on a menu as calamari. Commercial fishing is big business here. [DJI_0174]

That's not to say there isn't just as much pleasure boating to be enjoyed! Not only boats you're lucky to own...but lots of options for day rentals right here off the docks. [IMG_7917]

03de Video-Photos-VH Village

Look at this - nobody here but us! Ventura Harbor Village is a seaside attraction that offers 35 boutiques, galleries, and waterfront restaurants, plus events and entertainment. Whenever we are in the area, we always spend a lot of time here, we just love it - I guess, because it's so different from our desert world in Las Vegas! [DJI_0176]

[IMG_7929 Dale with scale; pic in 03e, IMG_7935]

The Village sits right between the boats and the beach, with a lovely walking promenade flanked by floral beds and a perfectly trimmed bougainvillea hedge. You can just feel yourself relaxing here. [DJI_0178]

If you visit, don't miss the excellent ice cream and homemade cones at Coastal Cone - that's another must! [IMG_7919]

[IMG_6931 Dale wrapup]

04 TUESDAY AFTERNOON

04a Back at the Hotel

By 2:00, the rain was gone, the sun was out, and the courtyard at the hotel was glowing. We sat outside at the pool for a while, and caught this egret looking for minnows for his lunch. [IMG_7933, 2065, 2042]

04b Back at the Beach

And of course, because the ocean was the reason we came here in the first place, we had to go spend some more time at the beach after the refreshing rain. The surfers out near the breakwall were loving the gnarly waves! [IMG_2051, 7934]

05 CHARLIE BROWN FARMS

05ab Video-Photos-Exterior CBF

It's Wednesday morning, we've checked out, and we are heading back towards Nevada...taking the scenic route. We're on the Pearblossom Highway, and we are going to make a stop - one of many today - at a great roadside attraction called Charlie Brown Farms. [IMG_7939]

[IMG_7940 Dale intro Charlie Brown; IMG_7943 western town; pics in **05b** of town and dinosaurs; also Mykie]

Charlie Brown Farms started as a little fruit stand way back in 1929, and now occupies six huge acres in this tiny town 65 miles north of Los Angeles. Wait'll you see what's inside here! [DJI_0189]

05c Video-Interior CBF

On its website, Charlie Brown Farms describes itself as a one-day getaway - well, you can easily spend an hour anyway! Just inside the main doors is a wall of menus - they offer Texas barbecue and burgers, even buffalo. [DJI_0190]

Like I said, endless shelves of bagged foods...local fruit...and local preserves. [DJI_0191]

They advertise over 1000 kinds of candy, both with and without sugar...toys and fun stuff for the kids.... [DJI_0192]

...and an impressive collection of large animals to decorate your yard! [DJI_0193]

Charlie Brown Farms is Antelope Valley's largest gift shop - and a great way to break up your trip. Have you been? Let us know in the comments. [pic IMG_2070 in **05b Photos**, plus maybe another one or two?]

06 ANTIQUE STATION

06a Getting to AS

All right, we have skirted around Victorville, and we've just turned onto the Mother Road, Route 66. Here it's called the National Trails Highway, built in the early 1900s when automobiles began to take to the road. [IMG_7947]

The railroad line came first, back in the 1880s, running along the Mojave River and connecting LA with San Bernardino. The road naturally followed the tracks. ...More on Route 66 later - but right now, we're going antiquing! [IMG_7949]

06b Exterior AS

[IMG_7954 Paula intro Antique Station]

Check this place out, just from the outside! First, it seems to go on forever, and second...the outdoor decor looks straight out of a movie set. It's no wonder we can never resist stopping here - and believe me, it's not on the way to anywhere! [IMG_6950, DJI_0195]

06cd Video-Photos-Interior AS

Step inside and you're face with a dazzling array of display cases - many that look like antiques themselves. The rooms appear to go on forever.
[DJI_0196]

As many antique stores are, this one is arranged in separate sections by seller. We particularly love the nostalgic items on this corner display.
[DJI_0197]

[DJI_0198 Dale with horse]

As we continue to make our way through the rooms toward the front, we find western items...
[DJI_0199]

...a whole section devoted to automotive memorabilia... [DJI_0200]
...and lots of vintage items for your kitchen. [DJI_0201]

But it's when we get to the furniture that we are at our weakest. [IMG_2082]

06e Antique Station Wrapup

[No VO]

[IMG_7956 Dale talk about purchases; IMG_7956 or pic 8045 of parlor chairs]

[IMG_7955 Paula intro Route 66]

07 BOTTLE TREE RANCH

07a Route 66

Just as we were leaving, we caught two trains traveling in opposite directions. Trains are still a very important transportation method here in the wild west. [IMG_7952]

Pulling out of the antique store, we head north, through the tiny town of Oro Grande, California. The latest data we have says just about 1000 people live here. Because Route 66, built in 1926, was aligned right along the National Trails Highway, Oro Grande was originally on the Mother Road. But, by 1958, with the construction of the interstate, this section was bypassed. [IMG_7958, 7959; web pic of route]

07b Video-BTR Front Area I

Being on Route 66 in this area gives us a rare opportunity to stop at another famous roadside attraction. Have you heard of Bottle Tree Ranch? [IMG_7960]

Drive past this unique art installation and I dare you not to be intrigued!

[IMG_2084]

[IMG_7981 Paula intro Bottle Tree Ranch]

07b Video-BTR Front Area II

The ranch is a two-acre plot of land, where visionary Elmer Long created a thing of wonder and a destination for travelers from the world over. He constructed more than 200 “trees” made of scrap metal and colorful soda pop and beer bottles, and planted them here next to Route 66. The intent was to celebrate the beauty of the desert, and the enduring legacy of Route 66. We have never been here, and we are utterly charmed by it.

[DJI_0202, IMG_7963]

In among the trees, you’ll find the odd used missile...road signs, and other embellishments. [IMG_7974, 7977]

07c Video-BTR Back Area

Walking further back from the roadway, here’s the rust we love! An ore cart... [DJI_0203]

...a rusty Jeep that’s seen better days... [IMG_7964]

...and back here, a building surrounded by an homage to the desert and the agricultural heritage of the area - lots of historic treasures.

[DJI_0204, 0205]

From their website: “Whether you’re a history buff, a road trip enthusiast, or simply looking for a moment of tranquility, our ranch offers a unique experience that blends nostalgia with discovery.”

[IMG_7961; from **07d Photos**, signage pic 2083, or 2085, or 7978]

07d Photos-BTR

[No VO - just use as needed]

08 RT 66 TO BARSTOW

08a Hodge to Outskirts

Back on the highway, we are heading northeast, roughly parallel to Interstate 15. We pass through the tiny hamlet of Hodge, population 431.

[IMG_7982, map]

Route 66 was officially established by the US Congress in the 1920s, intended to connect Chicago to Los Angeles. It took until 1938 to complete and pave the whole thing - more than 2400 miles end to end.

[IMG_7983]

If you've heard the famous Nat King Cole song, it travels through "Kingman, Barstow, San Bernardino". We are approaching the outskirts of Barstow now. [IMG_7983, 7984]

08b Barstow Business Loop

Barstow, California has a longstanding connection with Route 66, and the automobile. You'll find these great road signs adorned with classic cars along the route. It's located in what's called The Inland Empire, and has a population of 25,000. Barstow is an important crossroads to this day, for both auto and rail travel. This section of Route 66 is known as the Barstow Business Loop.

[IMG_7986 thru 7989; pic 7985 and web pic of road sign]

06c Barstow Downtown

Fun fact: Route 66 was often called "The Main Street of America", but Barstow is one of the few cities where the road, on a map, is still known as Main Street. Welcome to Main Street, Barstow. It's classic, isn't it?

[IMG_7990]

And, as a throwback to the early days of auto travel, Main Street heading out of downtown is a parade of old-timey roadside motels. [IMG_7992]

09 PEGGY SUES DINER

09a Exterior-PSD

We are back on the Interstate 15, but definitely not done with the kitschy roadside attractions...plus, we are so ready for lunch! Let's go to the famous Peggy Sue's Diner here at the Ghost Town Road exit.

[IMG_7993]

Peggy Sue's is a true original - a roadside diner built in 1954, located just ten miles north of Barstow. At the time, it had 9 counter stools and 3 booths. [DJI_0206]

09b Entry Area

In 1987, the restaurant was restored and reopened, preserved in its original state. Let's go in.

[DJI_0207]

Just inside the building, Betty Boop welcomes us, and we already know this is going to be interesting.

[IMG_2095]

[IMG_8006 Dale intro Peggy Sue's]

09c Gift Shop

Part of the 1980s restore and upgrade was an expansion, the addition of a five-and-dime type store, complete with curios, memorabilia...souvenir shirts...and treats for sale. [DJI_0208]

Needless to say, there's a nice selection of Route 66 keepsakes to take home. [IMG_7997]

There's a candy counter...a one-of-a-kind jeweled cheeseburger...and pretty Disney Princesses. [DJI_0209, pic 7999]

You can also get a tasty Thrifty ice cream cone before you head back out on the road. [DJI_0210]

09de Video-Photos-Restaurant-PSD

Opposite the gift shop is the restaurant - still small and quaint, looking very authentic 1950s. Peggy Sue's prides itself on good homemade food made from family recipes, with a soundtrack of great 50s music. Plus, there are lots of autographed photos of the stars adorning the walls.

[DJI_0211, DJI_0212 or IMG_8005; IMG_2093]

09f Lunch Tasting

[No VO]

[in order: IMG_8010, 8012; pics of plates]

PEGGY SUE SPECIAL

50's style cheeseburger

100% Angus beef patty

two sides

\$14.39

TINA TURNER

TUNA SANDWICH

white meat albacore tuna salad

two sides

\$13.59

09g Apple Pie

[No VO]

[in order: IMG_8017, 8018; pic of pie and bill]

[clip IMG_2101 shows pie case; also pics 2099-2100]

** There is no description or price in their online menu for the apple pie **

[end with IMG_8024 Dale fortune]

10 WEDNESDAY RETURN TO LV

10ab Video-Photos-Diner-Saur Park

Before we get back in the truck, we want to show you the Diner-Saur Park out back of the building. In here are walking paths, a pond, flowering trees and green grass - a little zen oasis next to the highway. [DJI_0213, 0215]

An oasis that just happens to be inhabited by larger-than-life sculptures of dinosaurs...and even King Kong. I think kids would get a kick out of this - and it's all totally free! [DJI_0214]

Plus, there's a stage, so maybe they have entertainment out here too. [IMG_2110]

10c Eddie World

Last stop, kids, I promise - I can't pass up mentioning one more roadside attraction on this much-traveled highway between Vegas and LA: Eddie World. They boast that they are California's largest gas station, but that isn't the big draw. Inside the building is probably the biggest selection of sweets and goodies that you will ever see under one roof. We are sweeted out, so we won't go in this time. [IMG_8037 drive in; DJI_0216 or IMG_2113 pan front]

10d I-15 to NV Border

On these long stretches through the desert, you tend to look for landmarks that break up the monotony and spark interest. ...How's this? It's a big hand-painted promotional sign for Cirque du Soleil, made out of stacked truck trailers. Catches your attention, that's for sure. [IMG_8038]

OK, for anybody keeping track...from our home over to the coast in Ventura County was about 332 miles. As we head back the other way, it's 113 miles from Barstow to the Nevada border, and then 40 more miles from there to center Strip. Vegas, here we come! [IMG_8040, 8041, 8043]

DALE ADDITIONAL VO:

Pre-Route 66 (1850s–1900s): Oro Grande began as Lane's Crossing, a way station established by Aaron G. Lane in 1858. It served travelers on the Mojave, Mormon, and Spanish Trails. Gold discovery in 1873 led to the town's name ("Big Gold").

Ventura Port District owns most of the harbor, but a 2.74-acre site is owned by the National Park Service. Where the Channel Island Nation Park visitors center is located.

And get this! Ghost hunting in Ventura is a very popular activity, with legends surrounding locations like the Olivas Adobe and local hotels, often with a "lady in black" who's rumored to appear.

Hodge had a gas station, cafe, and cabins by 1946, primarily serving railroad crews. But, its 6x8-foot post office, once the smallest federal building in the U.S., was featured in *Ripley's Believe It or Not!*