

Andersonville prison camp and National Prisoner of War museum

I don't know about the rest of you, but I prefer to ride back roads so I can see more of the historical aspect of the area. Historical waysides, local museums and historical places makes for some interesting visions. Well here is one that I attended while Lorie and I were in Atlanta, GA to drop off a friend of ours.

The goal for me was to see the Ft. Sumter/Andersonville Prison Camp located in Andersonville, GA, just 26 miles from Interstate 75. The distance from Atlanta is between 120 and 140 miles, depending how you drive down. Driving through the small towns with their extraordinary mansions from the 1800's giving you some real perspective of what the area may have looked like over 100 years ago. There are many cotton fields flowing over the landscape and billowy cotton dotting the side of the road from where it fell off the trucks that were hauling it to market. I have to admit, I did stop and pick a cotton branch just to see what it felt and looked like up close. I do believe I will leave the cotton picking to others more interested than I to cut up their hands.

Once arriving we went into the museum and found out there was tour about to start in the Civil War section of the cemetery. The guide was Chris and if anyone was into this place historically, he was. He had stories of the one prisoner that kept records of who died, where they were from and the dates. Other graves Chris gave us insight as to who they were from records he could find. Mentioned the section of only black soldiers were buried, the mixed race section. We even got a chance to see the grave of what is possibly the first casualty of pearl harbor. All I can say is the insight was fabulous and the tour was extremely informative.

Then we headed back to the museum to get a CD for the driving tour of the prison grounds. The CD explained what each stop was that included memorials from different states, the entrance to the 26 acre walled prisoner area, history of the disease and conditions of the camp, (not pretty, look it up) the command center above the camp and what the deadline was and how if you stepped over the line you were shot, along with some other interesting features of the prison that made it infamous.

After Lorie and I explored outside we attended a short film on the prison in the museum and after that checked out the great artifacts at the museum. One story we found interesting was that Chris our tour guide was talking to a former POW and they got to talking about how the prisoners would take materials from coats given them and make socks out of them. In fact, the pair of socks in the museum belonged to him. It really is a small world, isn't it.

My suggestion is to take your time to see places along the side roads, because them are the treasures you will remember. See you on the road in spring.

Preacher

<http://www.nps.gov/ande/faqs.htm>



Beautiful Mansions



Museum Entrance



During the Tour



Rows of Civil War and other Wars Markers



Deadline: Between Wall and Posts



Entrance Prisoners first Walked Through



Lorie in Front of the Wisconsin Memorial Statue



Inside the National Prisoner of War Museum

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