

The America Awards 2014

We've been back in China for 5 months and 2 days. Part of being back has been processing all that we just experienced while spending 6 months in America.



Whew. We had some fun!

And so we present to you: **The America Awards 2.0**

A USDA certified organic, flax seed, omega 3, pro-biotic experience.

FOOD

best chicken: Chick-fil-A

best mexican: [Olivia's](#)

burger: In-N-Out

sauce: Chick-fil-A's house sauce

best meat: Hubs smoked brisket

chai: Peet's with a nod to [Trabantcoffee](#) in Seattle

best quick lunch: \$1.50 hot dog + drink at Costco

most unexpected dietary love: Great Value cinnamon almonds

most unexpected deliciousness: Theo chocolates

calories I'd do again: yogurt buffet

wish we could have eaten: Hodad's Burgers in San Diego (line

was a block long)

thankfully, we did not enter: McDonalds, Burger King, Captain D's, KFC or Subway even once.

MOVIES & TV

best movie: Hubs took Schäfer to see "Planes" – his first movie in a theater

new-to-us reality TV show: Storage Wars & Amish Mafia

also new to us: watching TV on netflix

hmmm...: Hubs and I never saw a movie together. I don't think there was anything I wanted to see.

TRAVEL

best airport play area: Seattle (though we would vote Singapore if we could)

place we should have gone: Mexico

so glad we: went camping at Wollawa Whitman National Forest

wish we could have stayed longer: California Redwoods

most treasured item lost: baby stroller

theme parks: Disneyland, Sea World, San Deigo Zoo & Safari Park, Legoland

total states visited: 10

ID,OR,WA,CA,AR,MS,AL,NC,VA, GA

BUCKET LIST

items completed: March Field air museum, San Deigo Safari Park, Space Shuttle Endeavor, pumpkin patch, Oak Glen Apple Farms, hiked Mt. Rubidoux, Legoland, Disney at Christmas, ate at a famous cupcake bakery, Sea World, San Deigo Zoo, USS Martin

we didn't get to: Sequoia National Park, the Grand Canyon, or Mexico

NEWS

exciting news: the house we stayed in had a pool!

best news: the house we stayed in had a lawn service

ONLY IN AMERICA

biggest return culture shock: how many people make debt a pet
price of gas: \$3.59/gallon
thing I thought I would do, but didn't do: print photos and
put together albums
biggest surprise: how many parks and events were free
best public service: the library

SHOPPING

best generic shopping: Target
best discount: Target dollar bin at 70% off
best coupon redeemed: Kohl's stack-able coupons
Hubs best find: jerky-gun
Sandra's best find: craft supplies at Michael's + 40% off
coupon!
best weight saver: Kindle
best sale: Old Navy
favorite place to shop: Goodwill
new-to-me: Erin took me shopping on the last day of a
consignment sale where everything was 50% off – Wowza!

SEASONAL

best weather: August in Oregon
most anticipated event: Christmas Day
best food on Christmas day: smoked brisket
best post-Christmas event: after Christmas sales
wish we could have done...: snow skiing

OH, WE ALREADY MISS

Sandra: clean public bathrooms with changing tables
Hubs: Prime shipping from amazon.com
Schäfer:
Sianna:
Selah:

This concludes our 2nd edition of **The America Awards**.
*A low-carb, zero grams trans fat, 7 vitamins and minerals,
certified fair-trade experience.*