

## An Awesome Equestrian Trip – How the West Was Run

Our new 2011 Equus was put to the test travelling close to 8,000 km from Vancouver down the west coast of Washington, Oregon, California, to Newport Beach (Balboa Island for a swim in the Pacific Ocean), then east to Palm Desert, up to Las Vegas, Hoover Dam, Sedona (AZ), Grand Canyon, Zion and Bryce Canyon, out the back way via the infamous ‘Hogs Back Road’ to Torrey (UT), on to Salt Lake City, and home through the Columbia Gorge, Portland, and Seattle. To show our German visitors the beauty of the SW USA, we deliberately drove scenic and challenging roads: Big Sur, Mulholland Drive (Beverly Hills), Hwy 74 Palm Desert, Jerome (AZ), Grand Canyon north side through Zion – then, Bryce Canyon through Escalante-Torrey Hwy 12 (UT).

### EXCITING!!!

The Equus was equally at home on tight twisting roads (keeping rear-seat passengers comfortable) and high-speed touring with serene quietness (even at 80 mph – legal in Utah) to enjoy the wonderful Lexicon sound system. Loaded and weighed down absolutely to the max, fuel consumption was expectedly good –managing 9.0 l/100km with normal freeway driving at about 120km/hr (with regular grade) – ‘expectedly good’ because I achieved those figures with my previous Lexus LS430 (using premium grade).



Equus at End of ‘Hogs Back Hwy’

The trip was summed up by my German Mercedes-driving ‘right-hand man’:  
*“awesome, impressive, totally enjoyable!”*

The Equus had an earlier workout as we drove to a family reunion in Winnipeg. Although the return trip included an arduous 15 hour trek from Winnipeg to Shelby Montana, I thoroughly enjoyed driving the two-lane #2 Hwy of northern Montana with 70 mph speed limits. All that to enjoy the beautiful ‘Going to the Sun’ Hwy in Glacier National Park.

After four months driving the 2011 Equus and 20,000 clicks on the odometer, I enjoy every opportunity to drive it again.



‘Going to the Sun’ Hwy (MT)

**Warning to Equus Owners** – budget extra time to satisfy inquisitive admirers, wanting to discuss this special car.

Walter Behnke  
Burnaby, BC (October 2011)