



THE ROBERT ALLETT HOUSE
THREE COURSES OF BRICK
FORM WALLS FOR THIS HOUSE
COMPLETED 1893 AS HIS OWN
RESIDENCE BY ROBERT ALLETT
(1853-1910), A BRICKMASON AND A
PARTNER IN FUESS & ALLETT,
CONTRACTORS WHO BUILT MUCH
IN CUERO, OTHER SOUTH TEXAS
CITIES, AND NORTHERN MEXICO.
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK-1973



September Ramble



A Travel Book By



Quail Run Tripping



September Ramble

August 20 – October 5, 2019



This is a trip across the Southwest to Texas. We will see family and Mark Knopfler concert.



51

Footprints



1

Countries



47

Days



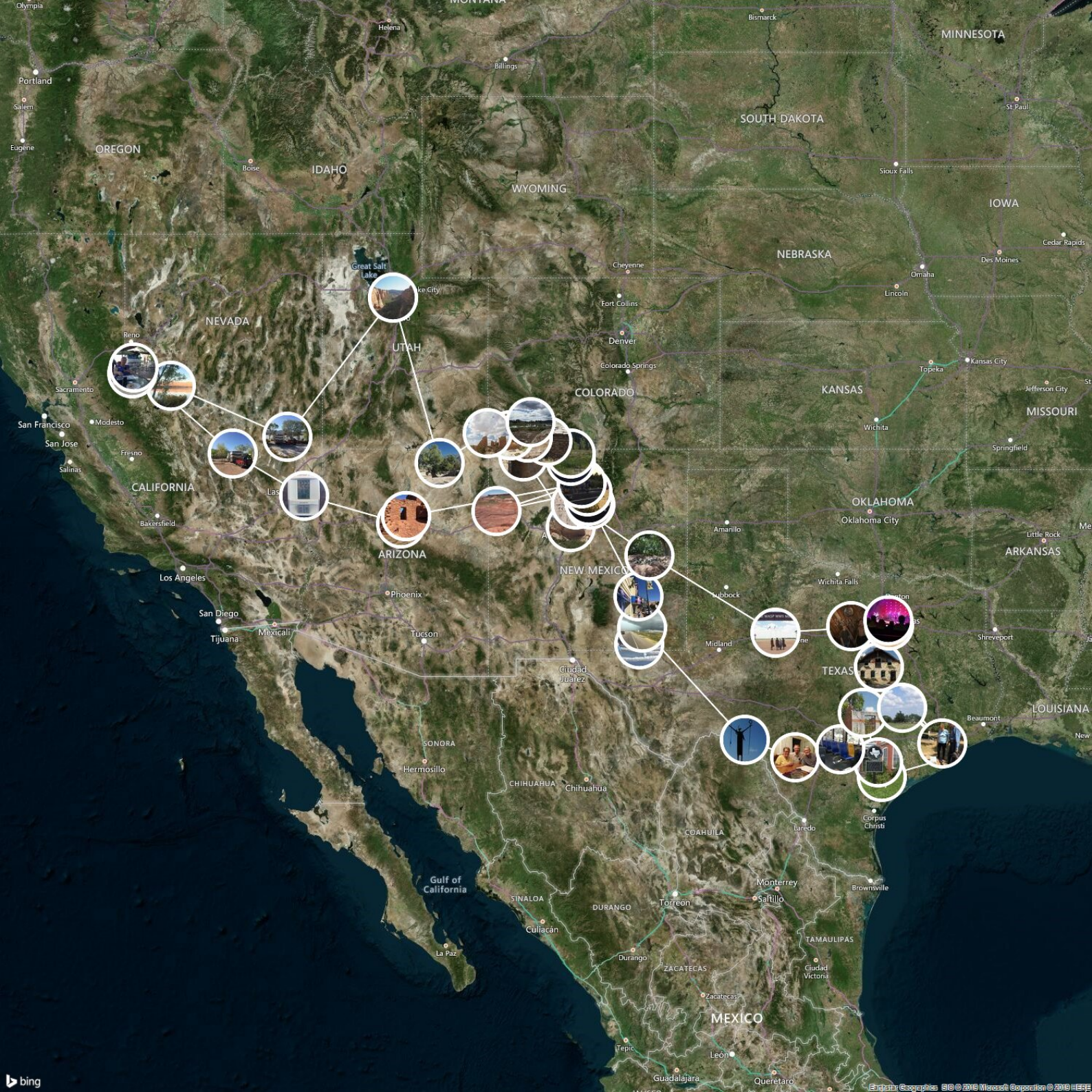
261

Photos



5,136

Miles



DAY
1



Leaving home



August 20 in the United States

We have left and are eating breakfast in Gardnerville.

Clear day

☀ **81 °F**

Altitude

4,790 ft





Beatty



August 21 in the United States

With the late start, we only made it to Beatty, NV before Les got too tired to continue driving. Towing the new Jeep works fine. We will see how the heavier vehicle affect the motorhome fuel mileage when we fill in Las Vegas today.

Clear day

☀️ **79 °F**

Altitude

3,271 ft





Lake Mead Overlook, AZ

 August 21 in the United States

Lunch stop - 122 degrees. Graffiti and stickers on wall and sign.

Clear day

 **102 °F**

Altitude

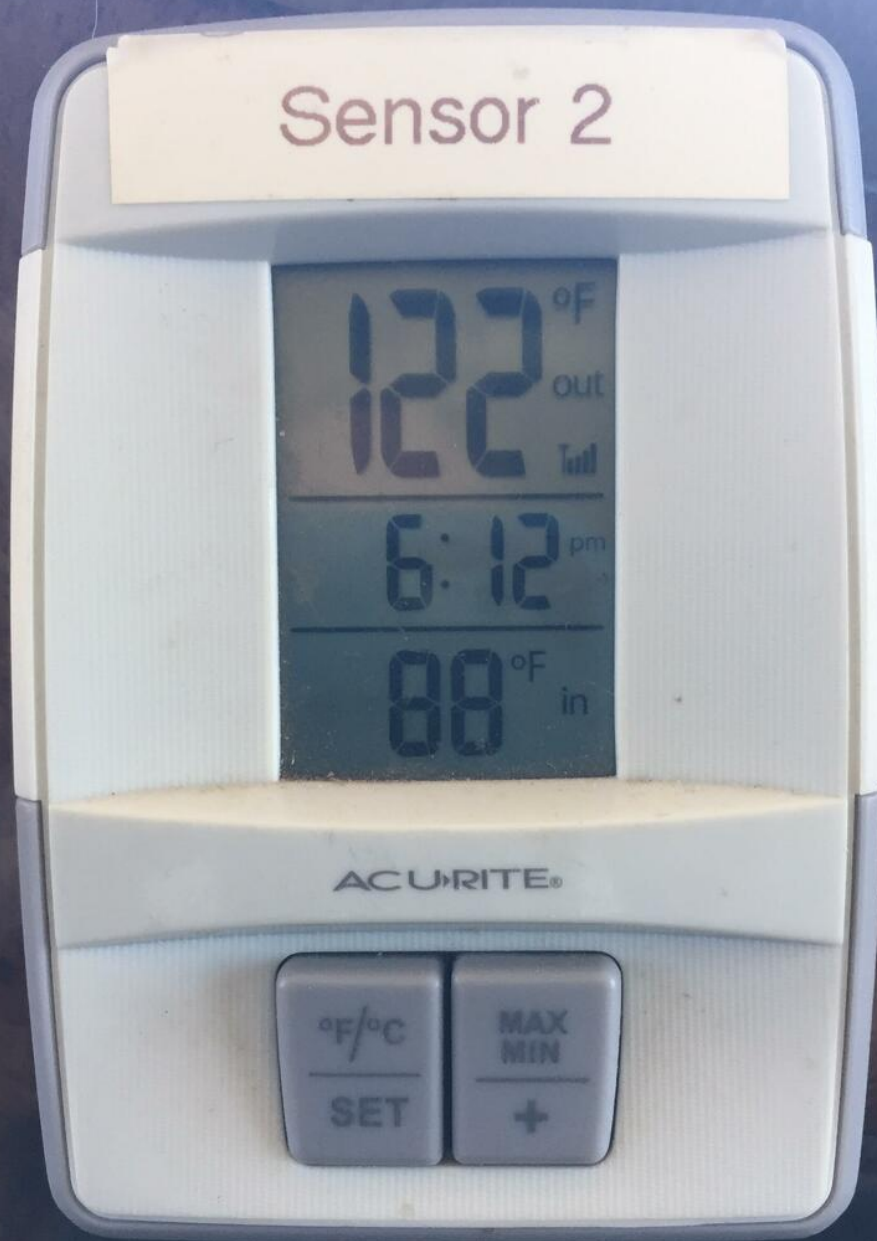
1,788 ft



How did they get stickers up on the sign? It is about 15' to the sign.



Graffiti on the wall, lovers, no Trump's friends from the south.





Flagstaff - Woody Mountain RV Campgroun



August 22 in the United States

We got two nights at a campground west of down town Flagstaff yesterday. This morning we took the Jeep to visit Wupatki National Monument and Sunset Crater National Monument.

I shot 7 large format photo at the first stop, Lomaki and Box Canyon ruins. At the visitor center for Wupatki NM, I changed to Digital.

Partly cloudy



75 °F

Altitude

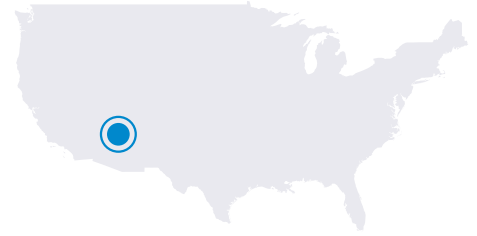
7,060 ft



Wupatki Pueblo



Looking through a door and past the broken wall beyond.



Bonita Campground



August 23 in the United States

Well the weekend has arrived and we could not stay at Woody Mountain. But we found a new or at least refurbished Forest Service Campground called Bonita Campground just outside Sunset Crater National Monument. Les went out at dawn today and did more large format photography at Wupatki National Monument. On the the way back, he got a camp site and we moved in a few hours later. Of course, the site he selected was the sunniest site in the campground, so Jill found a shady site to relocate to.

Clear day

☀️ **70 °F**

Altitude

6,985 ft



Back lit grass in a doorway.



Looking out of a room open to the public.



Site 37



Morning light on Wupatki Pueblo.



Walnut Canyon National Monument



August 24 in the United States

This morning, we went to Walnut Canyon. It was a cliff dwelling area occupied by the Sinqua people about 1125 to 1250ad. Sinqua is Spanish for “without water”. The trail dropped off the canyon rim about 200’ and went around a point of rock surrounded on three sides by the canyon. The area reminded me of Grand Gulch in Utah.

Angela Gatto I love Walnut Canyon!

Clear day

☀️ **73 °F**

Altitude

6,985 ft



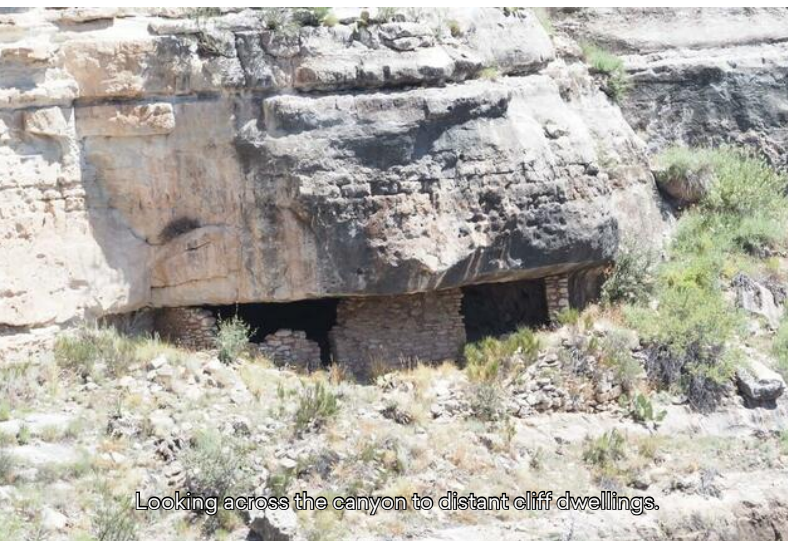
Looking down into the canyon.



The front of several cliff dwelling rooms.



Looking from an open room, through a doorway.



Looking across the canyon to distant cliff dwellings.



Rockmat grows out of cracks in the limestone.



Star Party



August 24 in the United States

The Verde Valley Astronomy Club put on a star party at the Lava Beds Trail head parking lot. They brought about a half dozen telescopes ranging in size fro 90 mm to about 13". They showed us Jupiter, Saturn, Andromeda Galaxy, an open cluster and more. After the star party, we went out on a paved trail to a pre-selected location and shot star trails and the Milky Way.

Clear night



82 °F

Altitude

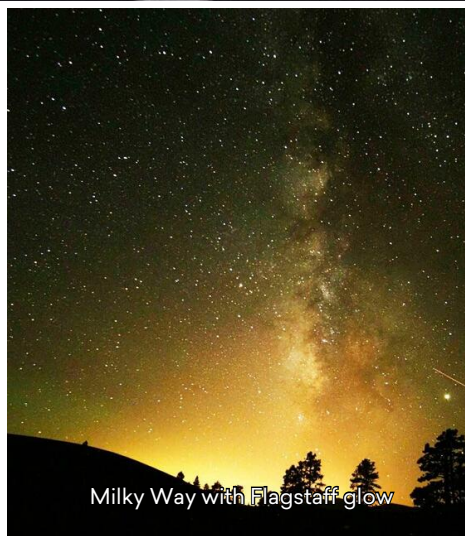
6,207 ft



Homemade Dobsonian telescope



Star Trails (30 minutes)





Gallup, NM



August 25 in the United States

Leaving Arizona, we drove through the Petrified Forest National Park, but it was a bit too warm and it was mid day and photography was limited. We would like to spend more time in spring time. Tonight is laundry, showers, topping off the water and dumping the septic system.

Clear day

☀ **88 °F**

Altitude

6,476 ft



Painted Desert



Petrified Tree



Fighting Wind and Dodging Pot Holes



August 26 in the United States

We made it to Chama, NM. The 4 hour trip took 7 1/2 hours. There is no major road or highway from Gallup to Chama, so we took the scenic route on County roads, tribal roads, a State Highway and finally US Highway 84. The path was at least scenic. But these roads need a lot of upgrades. The wind was out of the north west all day which tried to push us off the edge of the road. The road surfaces for the majority were very rough, pot holed, cracked and bumpy. When we got to US Highway 84, we had just crossed the Abiquiu Dam (US Army Corps of Engineers). Along the US Highway we found a scenic wayside stop that was not EZ off / EZ on. But we stopped and Les got out and shot a few digital photos of the best scenery of the drive.

Clear day

☀️ **93 °F**

Altitude

5,587 ft



Stuck Stick



The Castle



Painted Hills



Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Part 2



August 27 in the United States

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad runs 64 miles between Chama, NM and Antonito, CO. Round trips from both ends meet in the middle, Osier. In 1999, we did the round trip from Antonito, to Osier, so today we did the round trip from Chama... to Osier. We started 22 minutes behind schedule due to track maintenance and we were stopped twice pushing the trip to an hour behind schedule. The twelve mile an hour speed allowed us to enjoy the late wildflowers. We loved the sound of the steam engine climbing to the 10,000 foot pass (see and hear the video below). The return trip was noisier...with the sound of the brakes and oh yeah the smell of the brakes.

Clear day

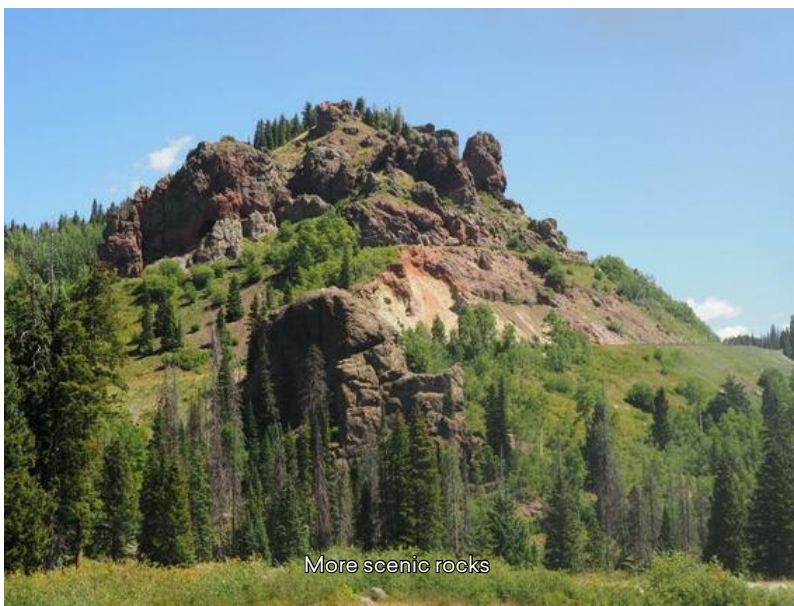
☀️ **79 °F**

Altitude

7,907 ft



The back of the train



More scenic rocks



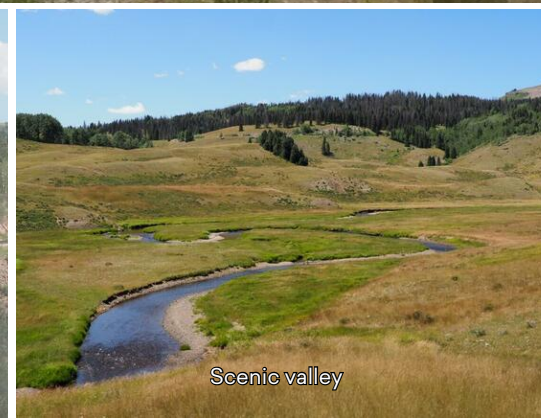
More scenery



Train by cliff



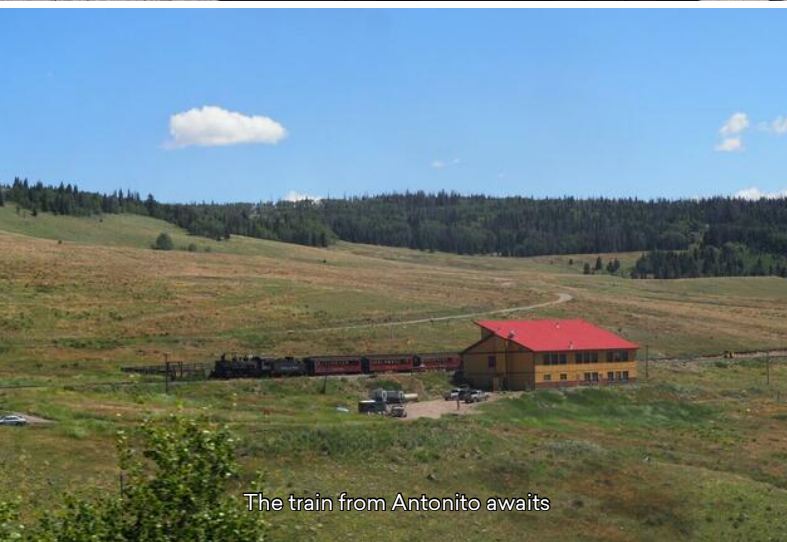
Crossing the highest trestel



Scenic valley



Taking on water at Cumbres Pass, 10020'



The train from Antonito awaits



Scenic rocks



Hanging in Chama and Los Ojos..



August 28 in the United States

Got up late, went to breakfast at the Boxcar Cafe...then Les took more B&W 4x5 pictures of the trains and rail yard. I also tried to get a couple of pictures using my iPad of a steam engine getting water etc.

We went over to a nearby Los Ojos, that has Terra Wool.. This wool shop spins, dyes, and creates its yarn for sale from local churro sheep. They also sale beautiful handwoven rugs etc. They also teach classes in spinning and weaving. We came here in 1999, when I was into weaving. When I retired I thought I needed more work with color...watercolor, oil painting and color pastels. Weaving was pushed aside. I do travel with a small lap loom to try and pick up weaving again. Here at Terra Wool, they offered private lessons! So, I left Les at the RV, picked up my little tapestry loom and spent two hours learning to weave again. Boy, I had forgotten everything. I had so much fun we will have to return next spring so I can take a week long class.

More of Les B&W photos after we get back, and hopefully more of my weaving...

Clear night



79 °F

Altitude

7,356 ft



Steam engine.



Getting water to make steam.



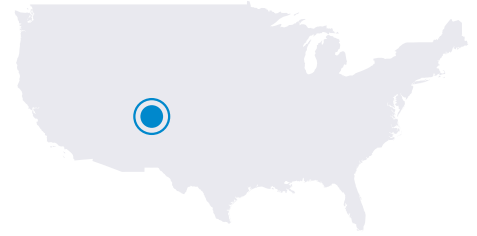
Great place for yarn



Lots of hand dyed yarn and their rugs



The loom room, I worked on my small loom



Chimney Rock National Monument



August 29 in the United States

We left Chama today to continue our rambling. We have been generally headed to Texas, but we have been staying in the high country to avoid the heat. So we turned to the northwest and we stumbled upon Chimney Rock National Monument.

This is a National Monument managed, not by NPS, but the US Forest Service. We assumed that the monument was about the geological feature of Chimney Peak. But when we took the guided tour, we found the monument is about a major cultural site.

The site is related to a much larger cultural area with Chaco Cultural National Historical Park in northwest New Mexico. We visited there many years ago and really enjoyed it. Chimney Peak is an out lying site with a unique astronomical location. The civilization appears to have understood astronomy including the cycles of the moon.

Clear day

☀️ **77 °F**

Altitude

6,827 ft



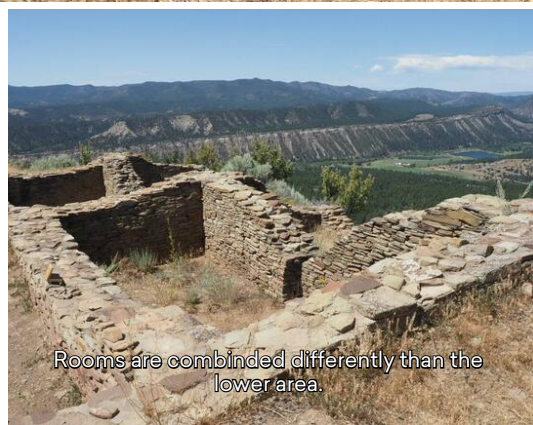
Much of the lower part of the site is constructed as scene in this house site.



The ruins on the upper site is constructed as Chaco is constructed with the use of small rocks.



Also the use of straight lines and square corners.



Rooms are combined differently than the lower area.



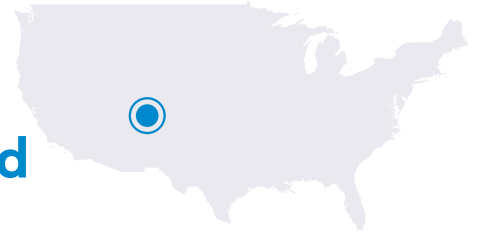
Round gathering areas are still used, but the construction is Chacoan.



No, that is not Les, but another photographer shooting a Takahara like Les!



Chimney Rock is on the right and the moon will rise in the gap when it reaches it's north limit.



Another Bucket List Item Checked



August 30 in the United States

We arrived in Durango, CO yesterday. Today is another train ride. This time it is the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. This is something we have been wanting to do for a very long time.

Unlike the Cumbres Toltec Scenic Railroad, this train travels a deep river canyon, following the Animas River to Silverton, one of the highest towns in Colorado. It is a mining town with many sites located in the surrounding mountains.

Clear night



64 °F

Altitude

6,837 ft



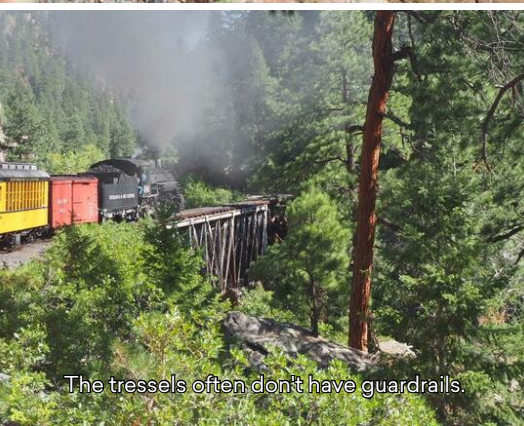
At some places it is 300' down to the river, straight down.



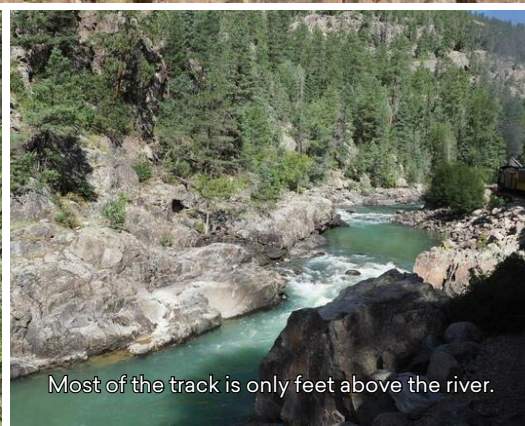
Many places the rocks and trees are within reach of the train.



The train clings to the cliffs.



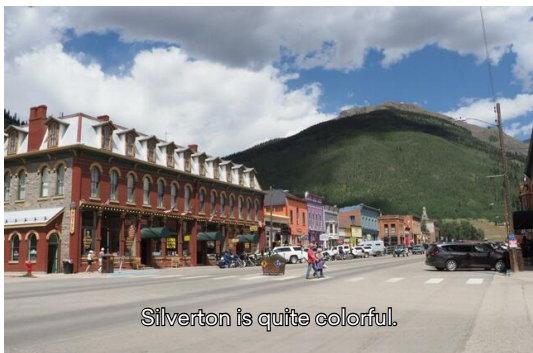
The tressels often don't have guardrails.



Most of the track is only feet above the river.



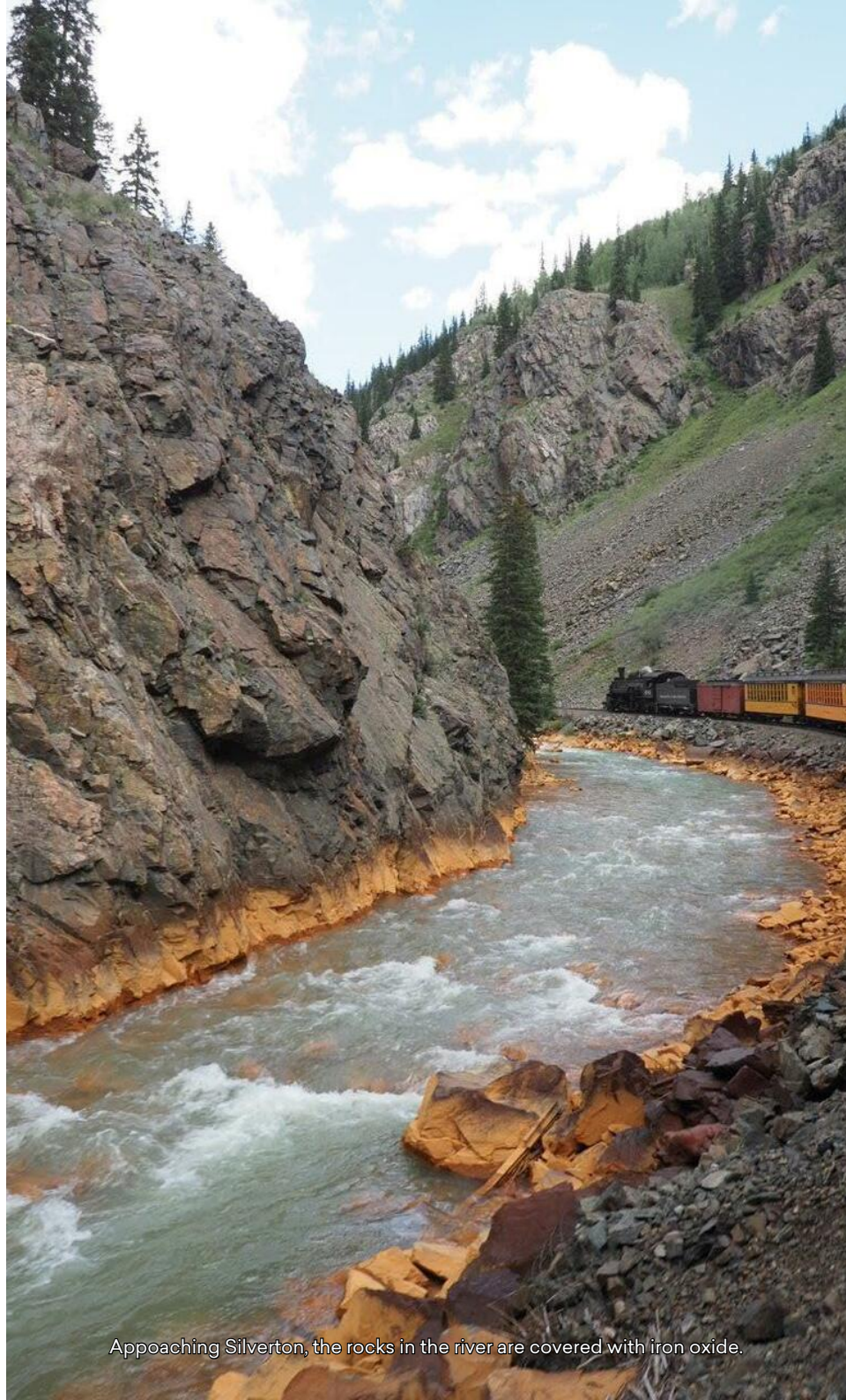
Stops are made to drop off or pick up hikers, fishermen, etc.



Silverton is quite colorful.



Returning to Durango.



Approaching Silverton, the rocks in the river are covered with iron oxide.



A Relaxed Day in the Mountains



August 31 in the United States

We needed a day off to relax. We went into Durango to the Visitors Bureau. The lady we talked with told us about the lily pond at Potato Lake Trailhead. So we picked up Sampson and headed north of town and found the lily pond. Since I could not find an official name for the pond, we are calling it "Lily Pond"

We ate lunch and set about to work on our art. Jill set up a chair and worked on a pastel drawing, while Les went off to photograph the Lily Pond from various points of view with the large format camera. Then he switched to the digital camera and shot some more.

Partly cloudy



73 °F

Altitude

9,367 ft



Jill working on her pastel..



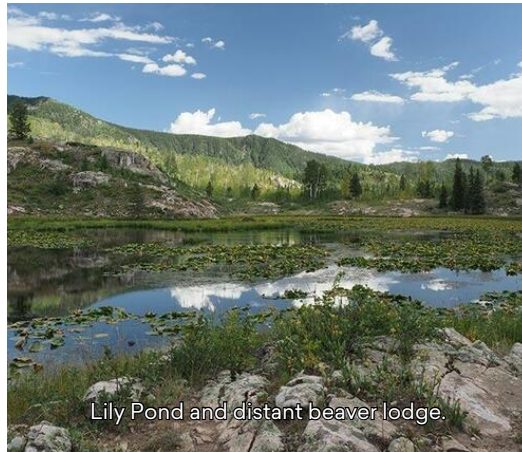
One of the beaver lodges.



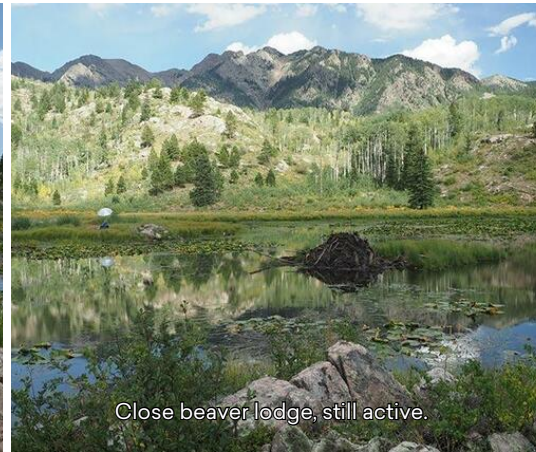
Lily Pond



Close up of beaver lodge



Lily Pond and distant beaver lodge.



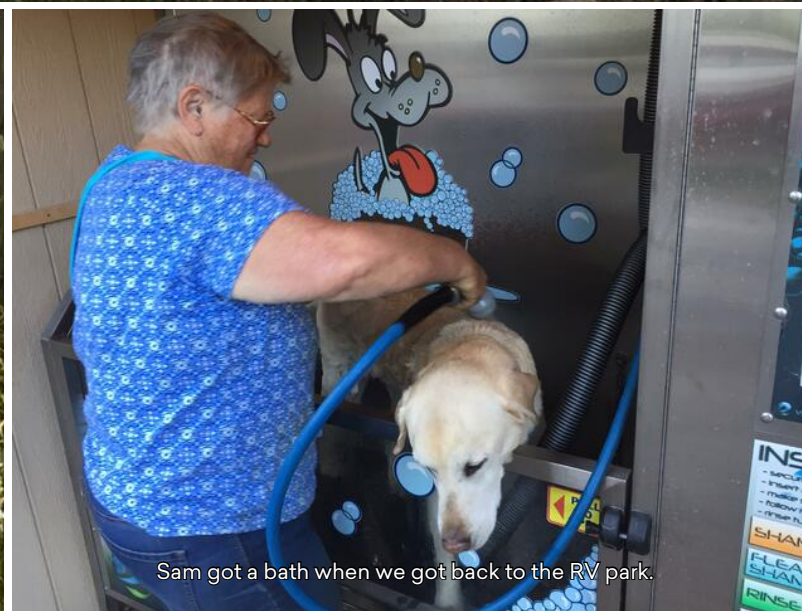
Close beaver lodge, still active.



Reflection of the clouds and a beaver dam.



We tried to keep Sam out of the pond, but failed.



Sam got a bath when we got back to the RV park.



Aztec Ruins?



September 1 in the United States

More site seeing today, we drove down to Aztec, NM today. We had heard at Chimney Rock National Monument that Aztec Ruins NM became the center of the Chacoan civilization as Chaco itself began to decline. So we went to see it for ourselves. It turns out that the early Spanish explorers thought these ruins were part of the the Aztec civilization. The name stuck. The construction style of these ruins are the same as is Chaco Canyon.

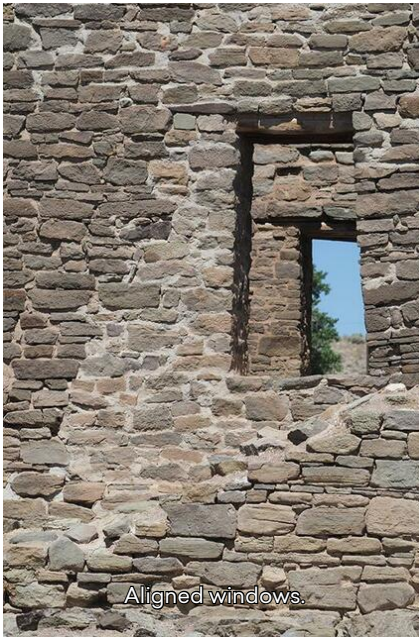
We returned to Durango and did laundry getting ready to head south east again tomorrow.

Clear day

☀️ 77 °F

Altitude

5,663 ft



Aligned windows.



Another window or perhaps a door.



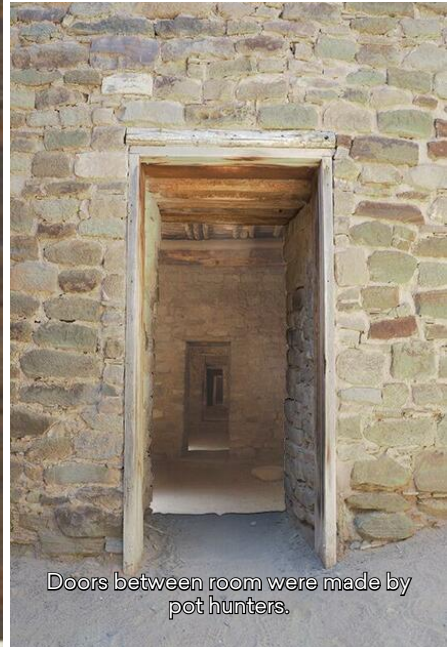
An interesting feature of these ruins are several doors built into corners of rooms.



More alignments.



Roof beams in a room with a high ceiling.



Doors between room were made by pot hunters.



Original door.



Another interesting feature is this band of green stones.



The great kiva was rebuilt by the archaeologist that did the early work on these ruins.



The light come in from the original doors.

DAY
14



On the Road to Santa Fe



September 2 in the United States

We left Durandgo and headed to Santa Fe. We at lunch at Echo Amphitheater. It is a natural amphitheater with a developed trail up into the middle of the cave. The echo was pretty good and was tested by almost everyone that came there. As we left, a guy with a guitar was heading in the play it in the amphitheater.

Then we stops at the Georgia O'Keeffe visitor center. Les was concerned about driving time to Santa Fe and we had an issue with the parking there.

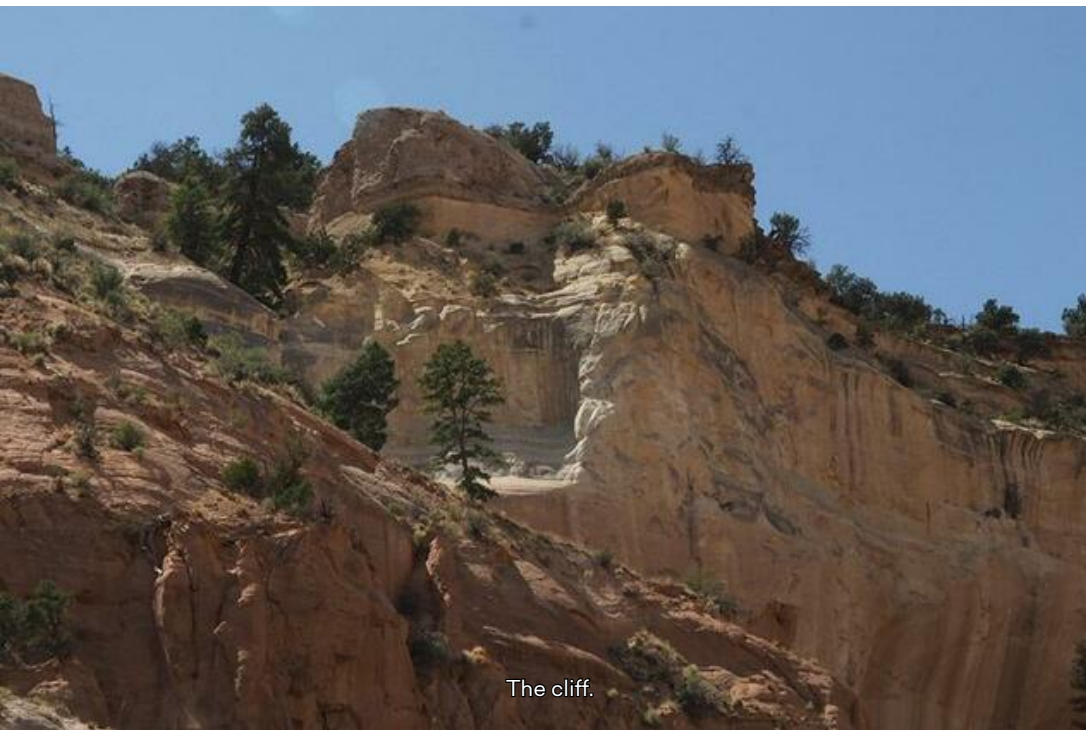
Partly cloudy



91 °F

Altitude

5,246 ft



The cliff.



Great Clouds



Echo Amphitheater



Shopping...more yarn.



September 3 in the United States

We arrived in Santa Fe yesterday and have set up camp in the KOA east of town. Today we visited "our" type of shops. First we stopped at "Artisan" an very nice Art Supply Store. They have classes but not in Pastels. Jill spent \$\$\$.

Next we visited with Melody Bostick of Bostick & Sullivan, the supplier of Les' chemistry for the printing processes he uses. Then we toured a couple of Galleries which specialized in Photography.

Finally we went hunting a shop which advertised as a weaving school...basically a yarn shop. Very nice yarn and again Jill \$\$\$ We decided we need more time in Santa Fe...so spending another night.

Clear night



77 °F

Altitude

7,064 ft



Tent Rocks National Monument



September 4 in the United States

Today we got up early and headed west of town to Tent Rocks National Monument. This monument is managed by BLM, so Sampson went with us. However at the gate there was a big Sign reading "No Dogs". We were upset by this as poor Sam has had to stay in the motorhome while we play tourist. The staff at the gate gave us a card for a dog sitter near by. So Sampson stayed with the dog sitter and her two dogs.

The monument has two trails and we went out to see the sights.. The monument was set aside for its unique geology. Violent volcanic activity laid down a thick layer of volcanic ash and then placed harder rocks on top. As the area erodes, the hard rocks protects the lighter soil under them, forming tent like "HooDoos".

We started up the loop trail and then followed the canyon trail deep into a very narrow canyon and up to the top of the mesa (Jill stopped to paint when the trail became a long stairway to the top). When we came out of the canyon, we finished the loop trail going past a cave carved in the softer layer of the cliff about 1200 AD. Round trip was a little over 4 miles.

Partly cloudy



88 °F

Altitude

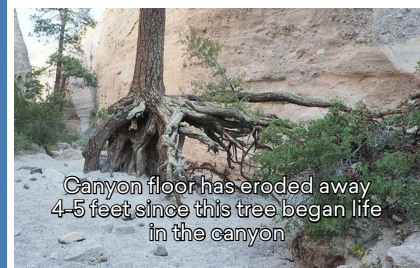
5,909 ft



A typical Hoodoo



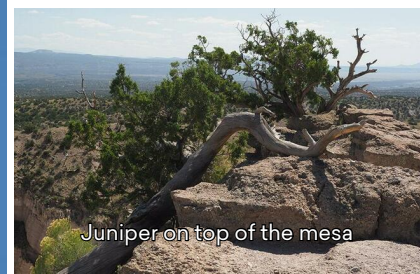
Pine tree in a gap



Canyon floor has eroded away
4-5 feet since this tree began life
in the canyon



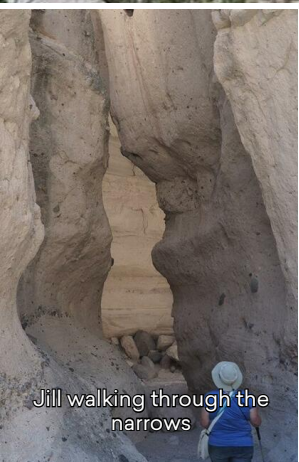
The canyon narrows



Juniper on top of the mesa



Hoodoos as seen from above, or is this a meeting of Gnomes?



Jill walking through the narrows



Great light in the narrows



Hoodoos outside the canyon



Man made cave with smoke residue on the ceiling



Billy the Kid



September 4 in the United States

So heading to Texas finally, on US 84. Very flat out here in eastern New Mexico... come to Fort Sumner. Drive right past the Billy the Kid Museum...but it is lunch time so told Les to go 3 miles down little country road to see his grave. To our surprise there is a New Mexico Historic site for Fort Sumner and more important Bosque Rodondo Memorial Park. This was the end of the Navajo's Long Walk. The Calvary forced both the Navajos and Apaches here in 1863. This was horrible reservation, more a concentration camp. Everyone should come here to understand how we keep repeating history over and over again! Oh, we also saw Billy the Kid's Grave.

Partly cloudy



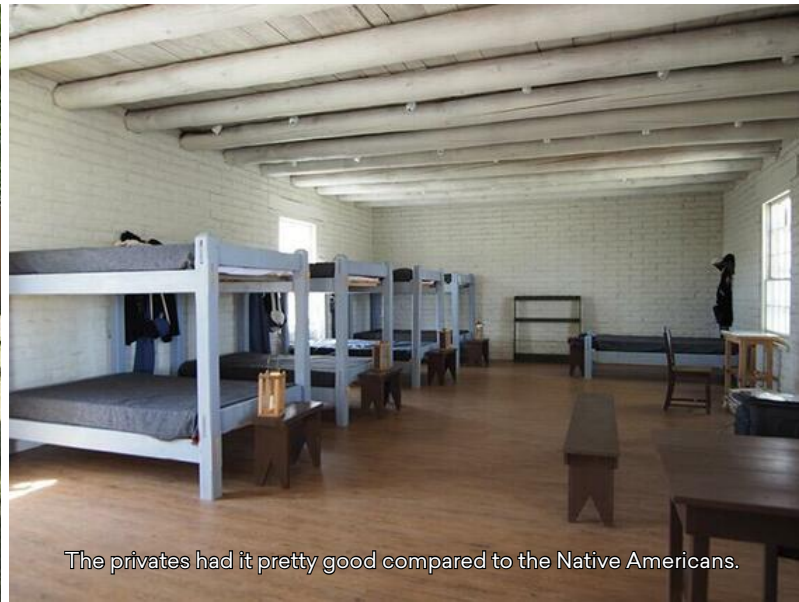
88 °F

Altitude

3,950 ft



They could only reconstruct the Fort...



The privates had it pretty good compared to the Native Americans.



Navajo Memorial Rock.



What saved the Navajo were their sheep



Churro sheep allow them to create blankets



Billy the Kid's Grave



Caged because people steal the headstone



WASP



September 6 in the United States

On our way from Lubbock to Grand Prairie, we stopped for lunch in Sweetwater, TX. Jill is always finding little interesting stuff stops. This is where the Army Air Corp trained women to fly military air craft during WWII. WASP stands for Women Army Service Pilots. So we took a little time to visit the museum.

Partly cloudy



91 °F

Altitude

2,169 ft



Jill stands in good company.



Avenger Field, home of the WASP Training.



WASP Logo, thanks to Walt Disney



Jacqueline Cochran, pilot, contacted Eleanor Roosevelt to get the WASP started.



Jill tries to fly.



ARG!!! Ants!



September 7 in the United States

When we checked into Cedar Hill State Park, the ranger told us the park had a problem with some kind of Argentine Ant. So we went out to eat dinner and went to Walmart and bought ant spray. We sprayed around the tires and the electrical and water connections. This morning I found a few ants in the bathroom, then checked the kitchen. They were everywhere we looked. The rangers came by about then to replace the bad hose bib at our site and told us to use diatomaceous earth instead. It is non toxic to pets and wildlife. So, we went out to breakfast and then to Home Depot and bought diatomaceous earth. Returning to the camp site, we circled everything touching the ground with the stuff. Then I noticed the nearby trees were touching the roof and when I climbed up there, I found ants on the roof too! So I got out my limbing shears and trimmed back all the branches. We are still killing individual ants inside, but the volume is dropping off.

Partly cloudy



99 °F

Altitude

600 ft



Diatomaceous Earth around the front tires and jacks for the motorhome.



Diatomaceous Earth around the tires of the jeep too!



Mark Knopfler Concert



September 9 in the United States

We are here at the Theater at Grand Prairie to see Mark Knopfler in concert. Entering the gate, we were stopped and they would not let us in with an iPad. They did not want it used to record the concert. Even though a cell phone can do the same thing an iPad, they are allowed. So Les had to run back to the Jeep and leave the iPad there. The concert was AWESOME! Mark Knopfler brought ten great musicians with him and the range of instruments they played was great.

Clear day

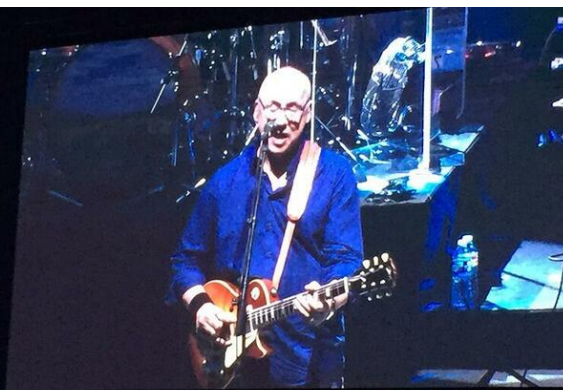
☀ **97 °F**

Altitude

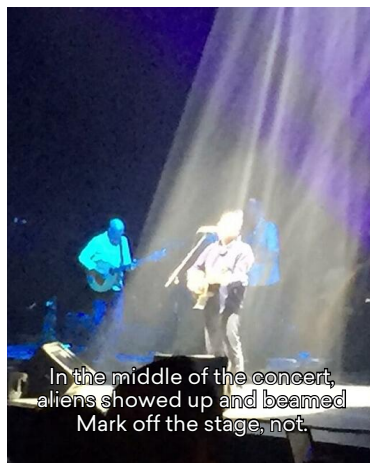
430 ft



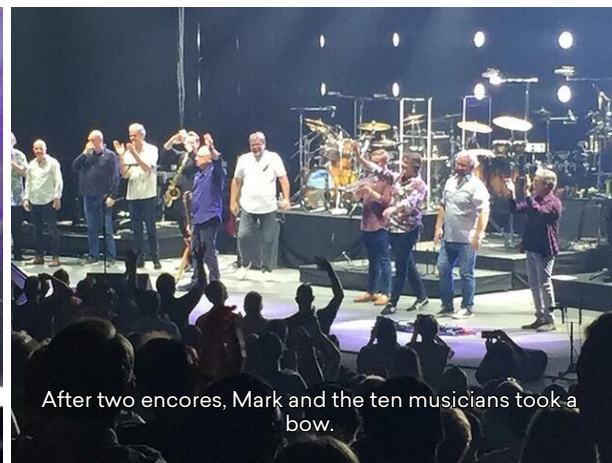
The seats were great, second row behind an aisle about 200 feet from the center of the stage.



Mark Knopfler



In the middle of the concert, aliens showed up and beamed Mark off the stage, not.



After two encores, Mark and the ten musicians took a bow.



Cindy



September 9 in the United States

We left the ants behind and traveled up to the west of Weatherford, TX to stay at Coffee Creek RV Park. This evening we had dinner with our friend from the Lake Havasu BLM, Cindy Barnes. She too is retired and now living in Weatherford near family an loving it.

Angela Gatto She hasn't changed a bit!!!

Partly cloudy



95 °F

Altitude

804 ft



Cindy and Les after having burgers at Sheps.



South to Waco



September 10 in the United States

We began heading south today, taking a campsite on the shore of Lake Waco at the US Army Corps of Engineers Reynolds Creek Park.

Then we went into town to Magnolia Silos, the outlet store for home decorating owned by Chip and Joanne Gains of Fixer Upper TV show on HGTV. Expecting to see one of the hosts of the show, we were met by crowds of viewers and a horde of employees. We didn't see the hosts, but they should have had cardboard cutout of them that we could have taken selfies with. We did buy a metal sign for our house.

Next we went to see Homestead Heritage Park. we got there just before closing time so we will likely go back in the morning, The have a weaving shop, blacksmith, grist mill and furniture shop.

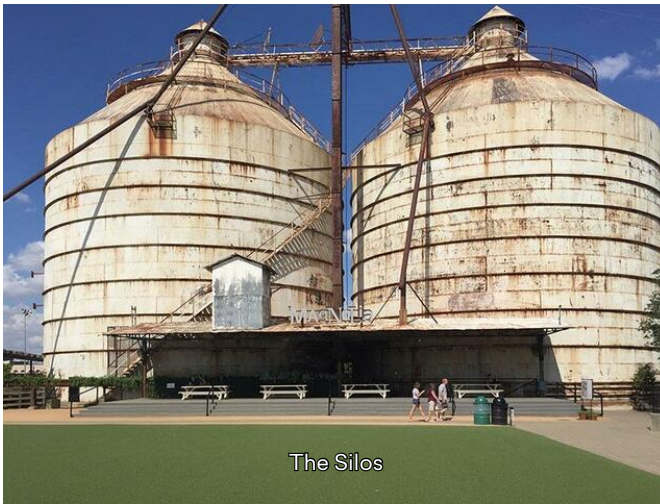
Partly cloudy



88 °F

Altitude

489 ft



The Silos



Tee shirts, mugs, decorating stuff, you name it they have it for sale.



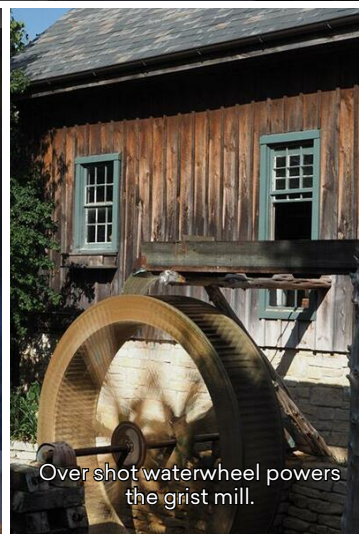
The view of Lake Waco from the motorhome.



No shiplap or painted brick, but columns of books supporting shelves.



Chip Gains has a corner of the store.



Over shot waterwheel powers the grist mill.



Belt drives direct the power to modern milling equipment.



Still at Waco



September 11 in the United States

We extended our stay at Waco for an extra day so we could go back to Homestead Heritage Village. Les took the large format camera and shot several B&W photos. We ate lunch and bought some stuff. Les wants to take a wood working workshop here at some point in the future.

Next we went to Waco Mammoth National Monument. This is a relatively new National Monument and the National Park Service has teamed up with Baylor University and the City of Waco to manage the site. The mammoth fossils found here are Columbian Mammoths. Standing 14' tall and lacking most of the body hair of the small Woolly mammoths found further north in North America.

Returning to the campground, Jill checked the weather that indicated we should get rain in 10 minutes. The rain began on time and it has been heavy.

Rain



91 °F

Altitude

489 ft



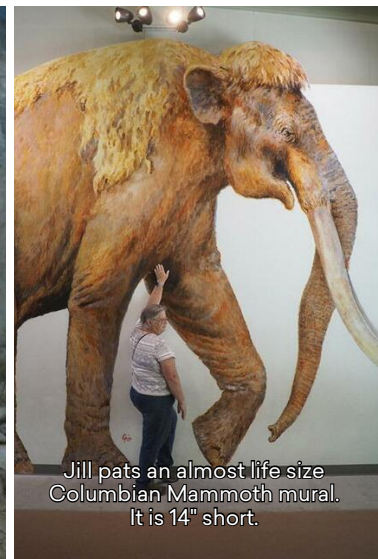
The grist mill building.



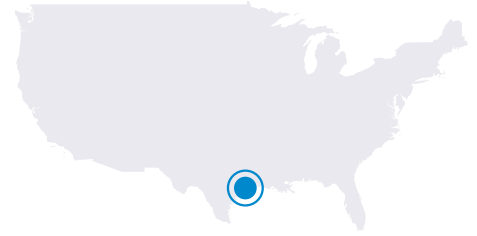
Exit from the grist mill.



The male Columbian Mammoth.



Jill pats an almost life size Columbian Mammoth mural. It is 14" short.



Circling Houston



September 12 in the United States

We were traveling to Pearland, south of Houston so google said fastest way was using Sam Houston Toll road. The first toll booth said it was \$5.25 because we are towing (number of axels!, standard car 1.75 for 2 axles, but twice as many axles costs three times as much????). Ok...five miles down the toll road another Toll booth and another \$5.25,! We had to get off that toll road...not knowing how many more booth between us and Pearland. Just then iPad dies... wee paper maps don't enlarge for my old eyes... luckily there was an easy parking lot and I was able to weave our way through town. Not a fan of toll roads.

We met up with Anna Lee, Les' cousin at her house and had a great dinner. We planned a trip to Burelson County for tomorrow to see the oil well. We are oil barrens, don't you know!

Partly cloudy



88 °F

Altitude

105 ft



Anna Lee and Les



Oil Well and Providence Cemetery



September 13 in the United States

With Anna Lee as guide, we took a day trip to Burelson County. For many years, I had assumed that the well was drilled on the ranch I visited in 1955 when I was 5 years old. But that was wrong. The oil well was drilled on the 40 acre ranch owned by my great Grandfather John Franklin Leatherwood.

Next we visited the Providence Cemetery across the road from the ranch. The cemetery dates back to the 1830's and before. It contains over 600 graves of slaves and local farmers from the earliest days of ranching and farming of this area. Several distant relatives of Les' are buried here. It is interesting to find the mix of slaves and settlers in the same cemetery.

Partly cloudy



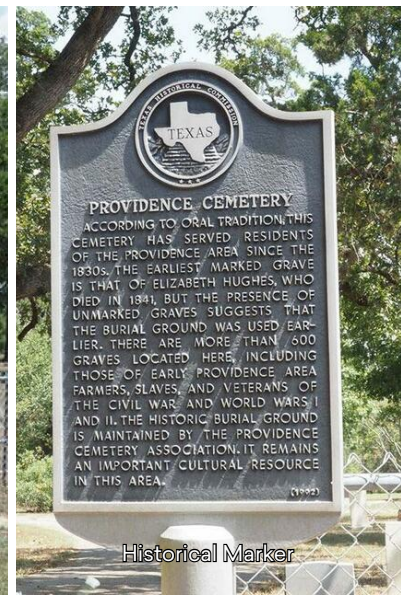
93 °F

Altitude

358 ft



Providence Cemetery



Historical Marker



The large tree in the center was in the yard of the house site and the oil well was near by.



Les' Great Grandfather, (Les has Tin Type Photo)



Les' Great Great Grandmother (Les has Tin Type Photo)



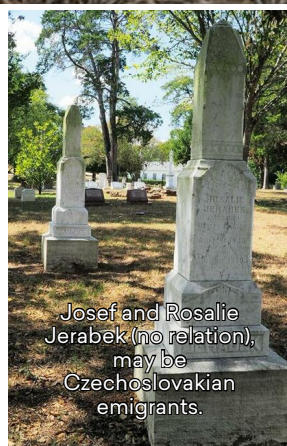
Mass Grave from epidemic.



An individual grave with a newer marker



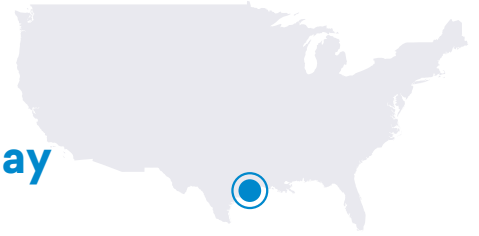
"Ranger Detrick NOSPF9 Pat Pend" a very unusual grave marker, possible Texas Ranger?



Josef and Rosalie Jerabek (no relation), may be Czechoslovakian emigrants.



Providence Baptist Church next to cemetery, Est. 1841



Grandmother's Houses and Galveston Bay



September 14 in the United States

Went looking for Les's Grandmothers house near Alvin Texas, think we found it but Les doesn't remember it.. Then on to Galveston...found the house his Grandmother and Grandfather owned and ran as a boarding house back in the great depression. Then went out to lunch and have fresh sea food from gulf. Then spent the afternoon at the Texas seaport museum. Learned all about the Texas Navy back in 1836...then went through a sailing ship and then took an hour boat tour of the bay.

Clear day

☀ 86 °F

Altitude

20 ft



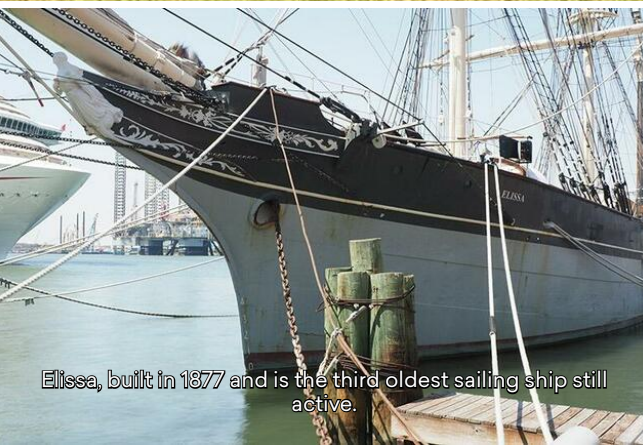
The Galveston boarding house. It was not purple in the 1930's.



Elissa in the foreground and Carnival Vista in the background.



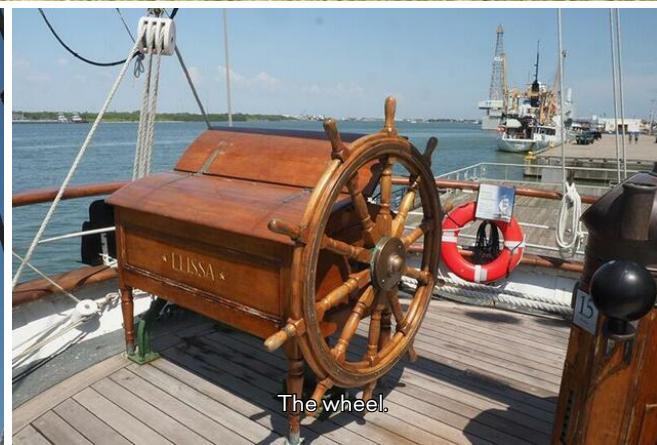
Les remembers this house near Alvin differently, but then he was only 5 years old at the time.



Elissa, built in 1877 and is the third oldest sailing ship still active.



Pulley



The wheel.



Four oil drilling platforms being refitted.



Bottle-nosed Dolphin feed next to a barge.

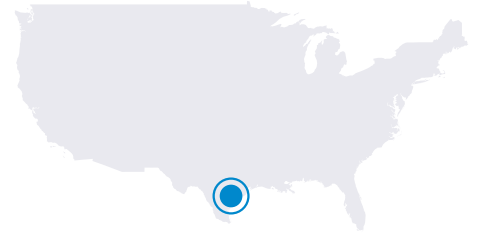


Scuttled CONCRETE ship in the bay



Les relaxing on the bay tour.

DAY
27



Leaving Houston



September 15 in the United States

We left the Houston area this morning after fueling at Costco at \$1.79.9 per gallon. We only drove for a few hours to the KOA about 15 miles west of Victoria. This is a very nice KOA with lots of grass and Sampson likes the big grassy dog park.

Clear night



84 °F

Altitude

131 ft



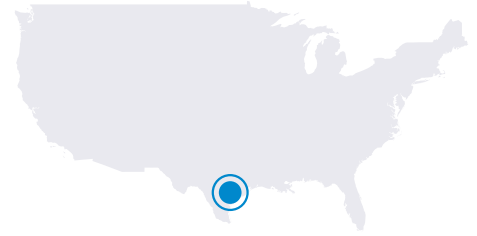
Cinnamon in her donut in the evening looking out of the front window.



Sunset



Sampson returning the tennis ball.



Les's Family History



September 16 in the United States

So part of the reason for our Rambling is so Les can trace his family history. Today we went to Cuero, Tx to see the Robert Allert house built in 1893. This historic house while not still in the family, roots the Allert's to Texas. They are lucky who owns the house today understand the importance of history. It's the small stories which truly tie us to our American story.

Clear day

☀️ **79 °F**

Altitude

180 ft



A monument brought from another building built by my great grandfather.



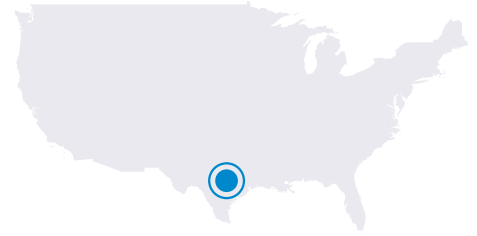
The Robert Allert house, Cuero, TX



THE ROBERT ALLERT HOUSE

THREE COURSES OF BRICK
FORM WALLS FOR THIS HOUSE
COMPLETED 1893 AS HIS OWN
RESIDENCE BY ROBERT ALLERT
(1853-1910), A BRICKMASON AND A
PARTNER IN FUESS & ALLERT,
CONTRACTORS WHO BUILT MUCH
IN CUERO, OTHER SOUTH TEXAS
CITIES, AND NORTHERN MEXICO.
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK-1973

Historic Marker



On to Cheapside



September 16 in the United States

Named for a street in London, Cheapside once had 500 people. The soil stopped being productive and people moved away. Today, there is one family, living in the Thomas Carter house (Les' distant relative). Cheapside is considered a ghost town. Fracking of oil wells in the area has made the area more productive.

Partly cloudy



93 °F

Altitude

814 ft



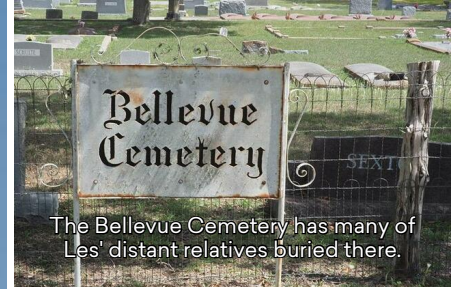
The multi-denominational church is still partially active.



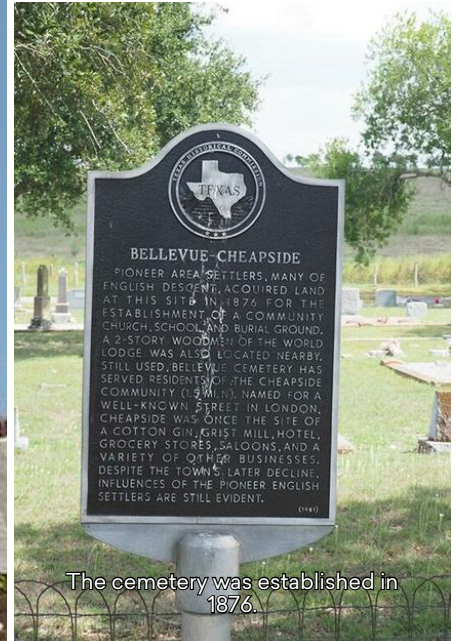
Hidden in the trees is the Thomas Carter house.



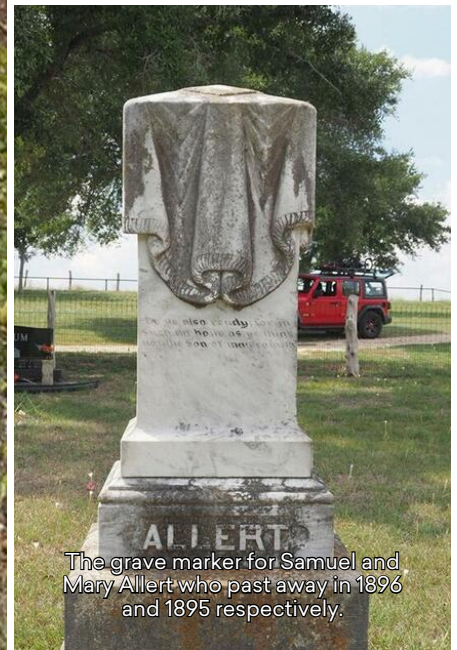
The store in Cheapside



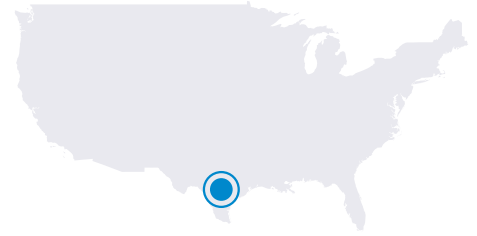
The Bellevue Cemetery has many of Les' distant relatives buried there.



The cemetery was established in 1876.



The grave marker for Samuel and Mary Allert who past away in 1896 and 1895 respectively.



Just spent the day in a nice KOA



September 17 in the United States

We traveled a little over two hours to San Antonio KOA. Very nice place with lots of trees. So spent the afternoon relaxing ☺. Jill went swimming and Les took a short nap. Les discovered the modem at home went off line 11 days ago. Jamie came to the rescue by rebooting the modem. Dinner was a very good pizza cooked in the park.

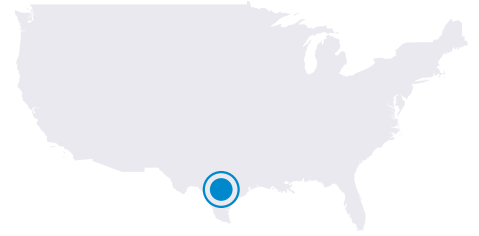
Partly cloudy



90 °F

Altitude

604 ft



Taking the bus



September 18 in the United States

We wanted to see the Alamo and other places in downtown San Antonio, but didn't want to drive there and look for parking. When we checked into the KOA, the lady at the desk told us about the bus system that made pick up in front of the park every 12 minutes and drops off a block from the Alamo.

So we took the bus today and visited the Alamo, had lunch along the River Walk, take the boat tour on the San Antonio River. We chilled ourselves in the Western Museum. Then visited an arts& crafts area near by and returned to the museum and toured the three floors of the museum.

Returning to the KOA we hit the pool and ordered chicken wings from the park.

Clear day

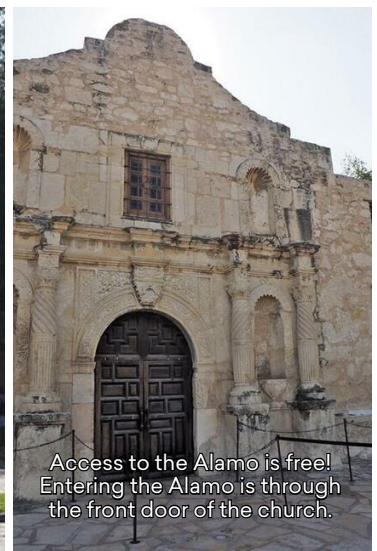
☀️ **82 °F**

Altitude

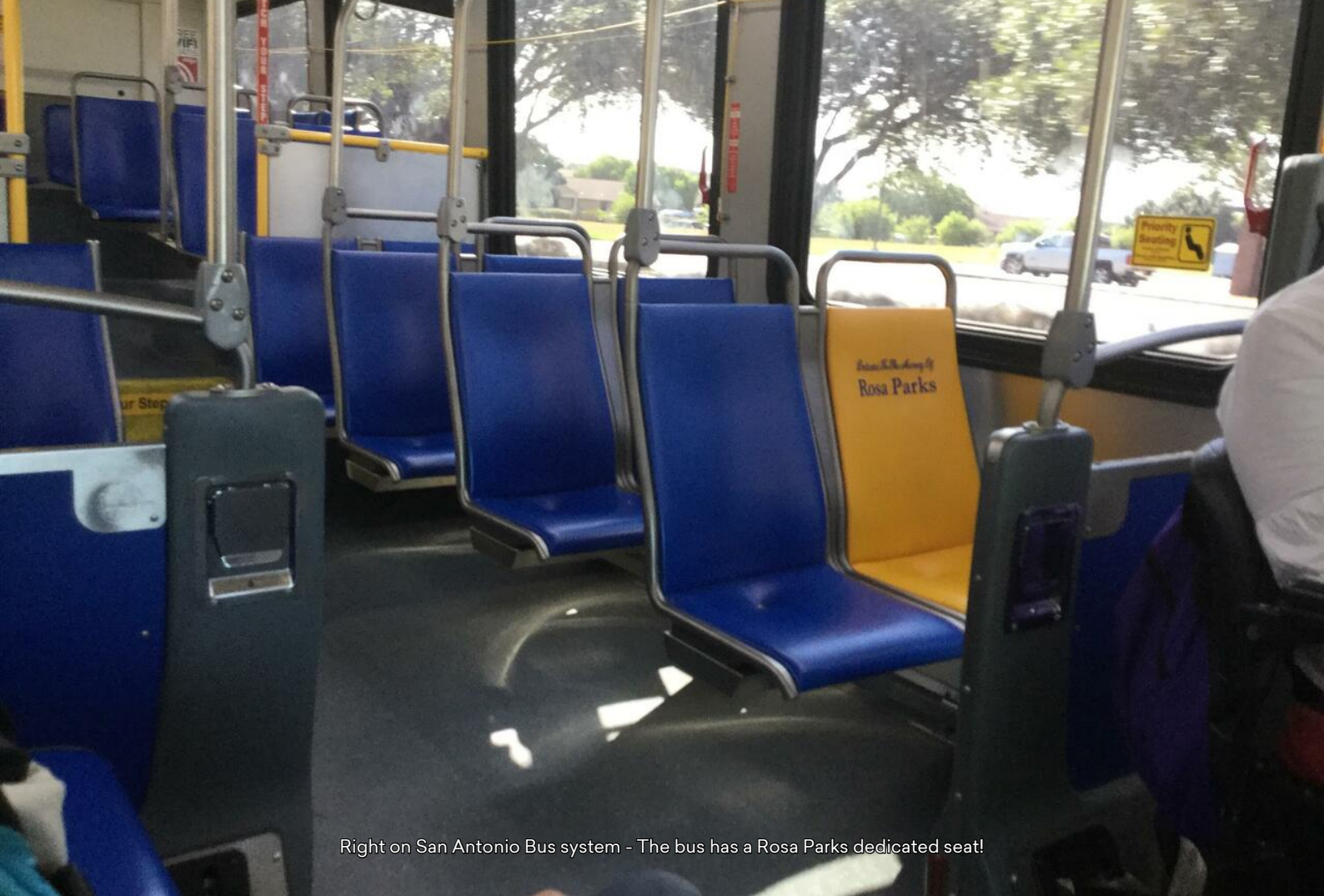
558 ft



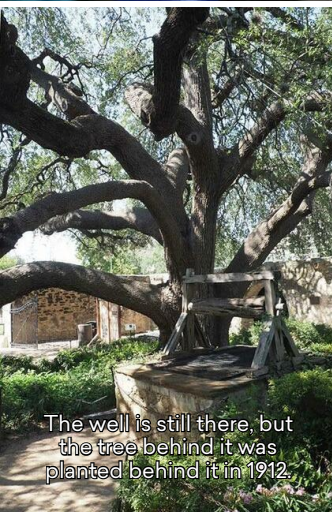
The church at the Alamo. Most of the fort was in front of the church, but that is all gone today.



Access to the Alamo is free!
Entering the Alamo is through the front door of the church.



Right on San Antonio Bus system - The bus has a Rosa Parks dedicated seat!



The well is still there, but the tree behind it was planted behind it in 1912.



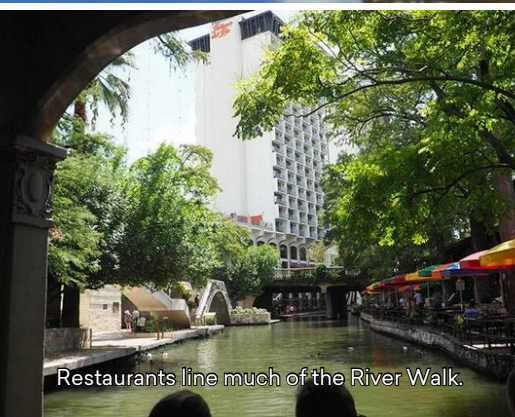
The River Walk follows a loop of the San Antonio River.



Boats are used for tours and taxi services.



Remember, this is all in the downtown, therefore there are tall buildings everywhere around.



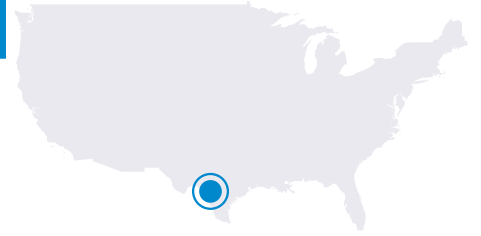
Restaurants line much of the River Walk.



The tops of tall buildings show up when ever the trees open up.



Jill takes a close look a large sculpture outside of the museum.



Visiting Family



September 19 in the United States

Stopping in Uvalde, Texas to see Les's Cousin Beth and her husband Tommy. One thing about this area is the beautiful Live Oaks. We left Huston before the heavy rain...then we left San Antonio before heavy rain and wind. It just hot and humid here.

Clear day

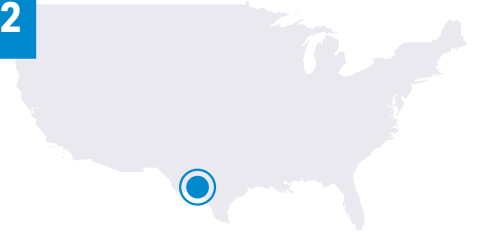
☀ **88 °F**

Altitude

955 ft



The three Amigos



Seminole Canyon State Park

 September 20 in the United States

After breakfast at The Local Fix with Beth and Tommy, we headed west on US 90. We stopped for lunch at Seminole Canyon State Park and decided to camp the night. We took the 3 o'clock Fate Bell guided tour to the cave along the wash tributary to the Rio Grande. It's about 98 degrees so without the wind they would of canceled the tour. We were the only ones on the tour. This and other caves in the park have some of the best pictographs in Texas or that we have ever seen. They date back to 2700 to 4200 years ago.

Partly cloudy



82 °F

Altitude

1,362 ft



After climbing 250' down from the visitor center to the wash bottom, we walked to the cave.



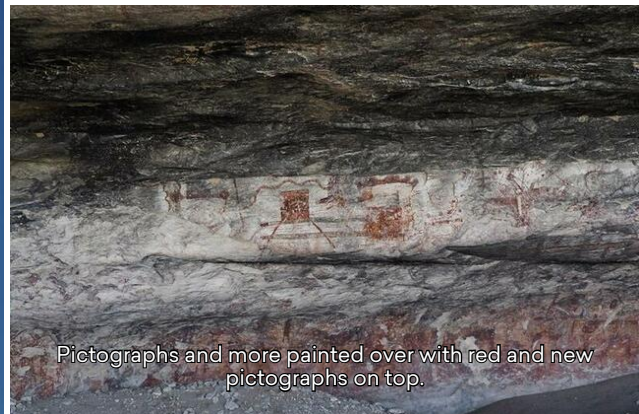
Plant growing on a ledge.



Sculpture at the visitor center.



Looking up wash from the cave.



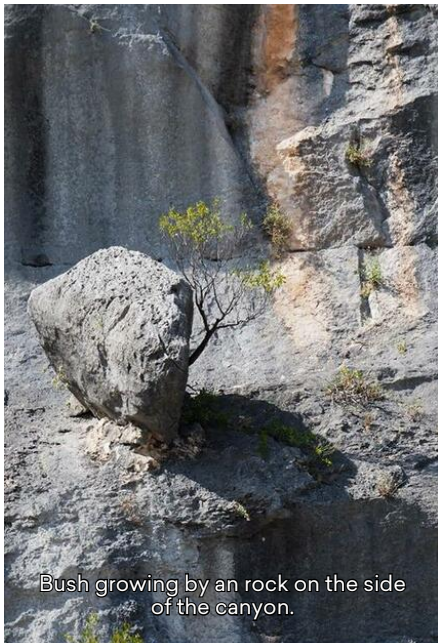
Pictographs and more painted over with red and new pictographs on top.



The best of the pictographs.



Gnarled roots of a mesquite tree at the end of the cave.



Bush growing by an rock on the side of the canyon.



Looking to another cave is wash from the visitor center.



Les and the guide discussing the pictographs.



Storms caught us..



September 21 in the United States

So we decided due to lack of RV parks in west Texas and the heat, we turned north to Carlsbad, NM. But instead of getting away from the weather we drove into the worst thunderstorm and flooding. But we made it to the KOA north of the town of Carlsbad. Tomorrow the caverns...

Rain



66 °F

Altitude

3,287 ft



Streets are flooded in Carlsbad



Boating on US 285



Driving into the squall line



Into the Dark



September 22 in the United States

Scratch another bucket list item for Jill. We went to Carlsbad Cavern National Park today. We walked in through the natural opening and down to the Big Room, the largest natural underground room in the US. Then returned to the surface, over 750 feet above to eat lunch. Then at 1:13 we were part of a guided tour of the four rooms of the King's Palace. These rooms were part of the self guided tour when Les was here in the early 1970's with his father.

Partly cloudy



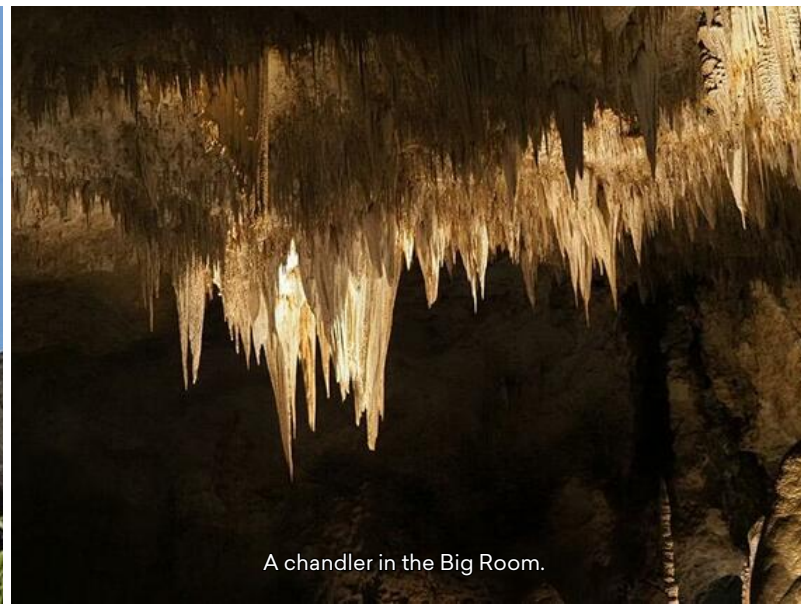
73 °F

Altitude

4,370 ft



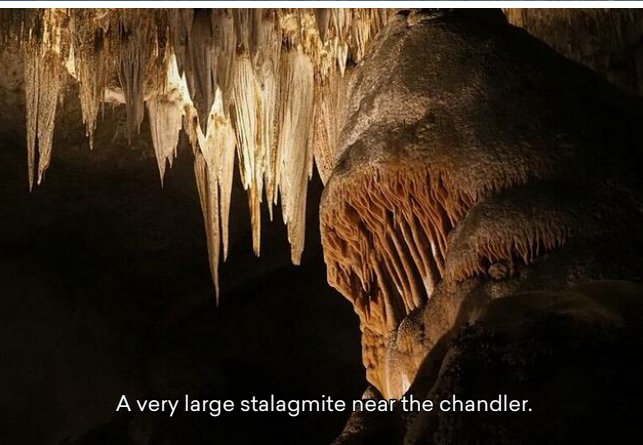
One of two sentinels watching us enter the cavern.



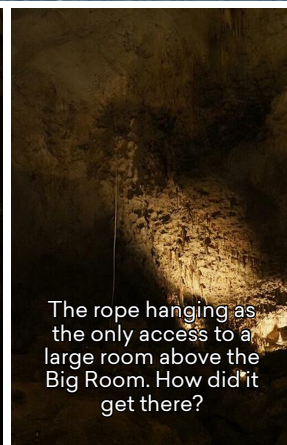
A chandelier in the Big Room.



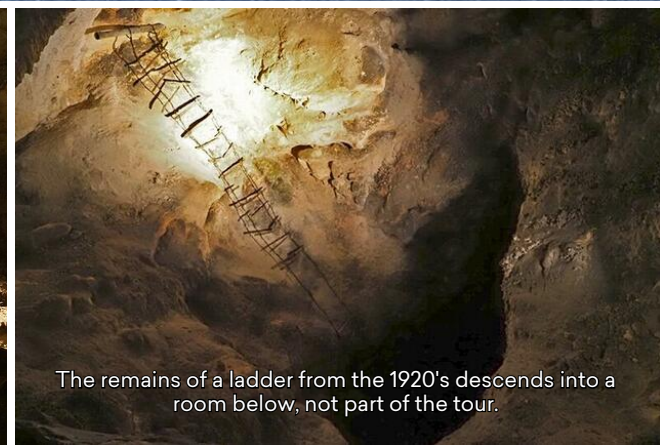
Jill descends into the dark of Carlsbad Cavern.



A very large stalagmite near the chandler.



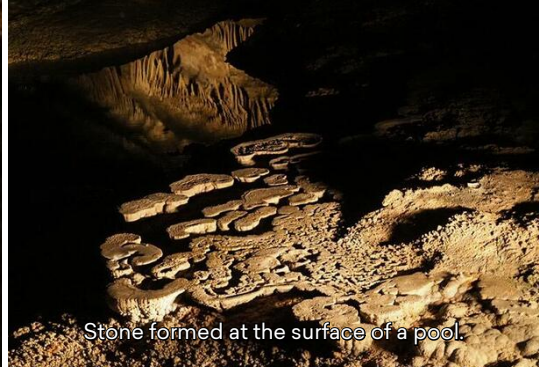
The rope hanging as the only access to a large room above the Big Room. How did it get there?



The remains of a ladder from the 1920's descends into a room below, not part of the tour.



Reflection in Mirror Lake.



Stone formed at the surface of a pool.



Thin translucent ribbon stalactite.



Extremely clear reflective pool.



Museum of the Third Kind

 September 23 in the United States

Passing through Roswell, NM, we visited the International UFO Museum.

Clear day

☀️ **75 °F**

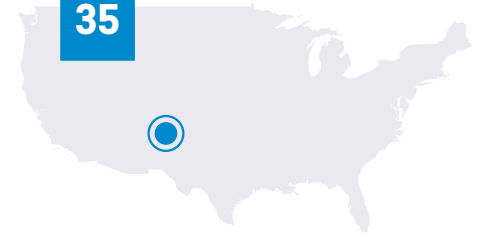
Altitude

3,579 ft





Jill going into the International UFO Museum.



Experiencing Meow Wolf

 September 23 in the United States

After arriving back in Santa Fe, we went to Meow Wolf. It is closed on Tuesdays and we wanted to go to see it last time we were here. Meow Wolf is an experiential art exhibit. You walk through it. You walk into a house inside the building and start looking around in the rooms. Soon you realize it is a maze.

Angela Gatto That's one of my bucket lists!

Partly cloudy



66 °F

Altitude

6,768 ft



Walk through a mammoth.



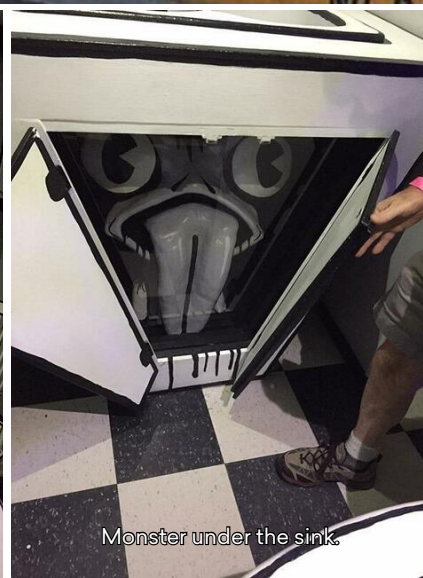
Jill among the colored trees with a eye monster lurking above.



Meow Wolf outside.



In the cartoon kitchen.



Monster under the sink.



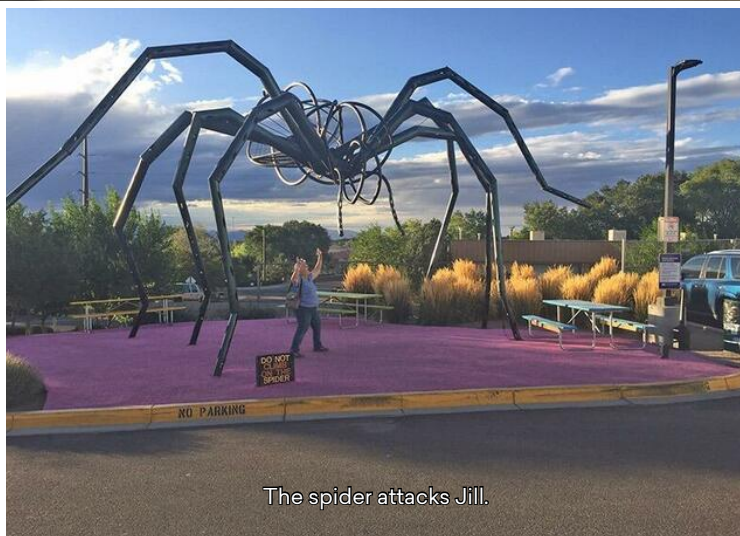
Upstairs, we got a look at the mammoth from above.



Les disappears into a dryer.



Leaving, Jill got a picture with Rat Fink.



The spider attacks Jill.



Les posses with the robot.



Out and About @ Santa Fe



September 24 in the United States

Well, we were all over the place today in Santa Fe and out in the countryside to the northwest. We started off at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum just off the square in Santa Fe. Lots of her art and a few photos by her ex, Alfred Stieglitz, as well as 2d and 3d work by Ken Price.

Next we headed out to San Ildefonso Pueblo, but could not take picture there because they don't allow photos to be sold without prior permission from the tribal governor, and he was out of State.

On to another pueblo, but we got side tracked to Puye Cliff Dwellings where we had a great guided tour by a Tewa guide. He drove us up to the pueblo on top of mesa and then hiked us down the cliff past the cliff dwellings that were partially dug into the volcanic ash cliff.

Then we stopped at a weaving shop and went to Santuario De Chimayo, a church established in 1816. After that we had an early dinner at a restaurant nearby that we remember eating at back in 1999. On the way back to the RV park we photographed a church in Nambe Pueblo that I think I photographed in 1999.

Clear day

☀ **57 °F**

Altitude

6,703 ft



"I have picked flowers
where I found them"

Georgia O'Keefe

A quote Jill liked on a tee shirt, so she bought it.



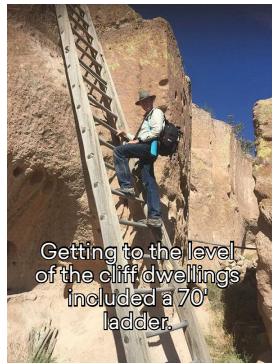
"Black Mesa Landscape" 1930, a favorite of Jill's



Rebuilt mesa top house used during the summer months.



Heading down the cliff in a water collection trench.



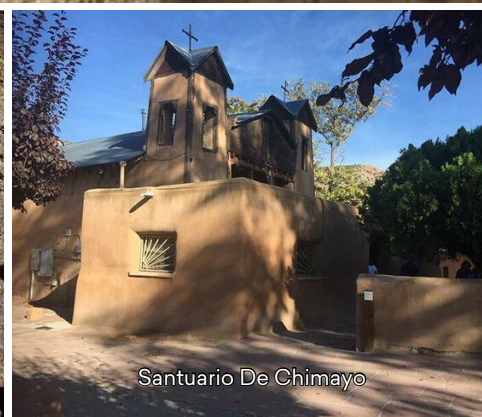
Getting to the level of the cliff dwellings included a 70' ladder.



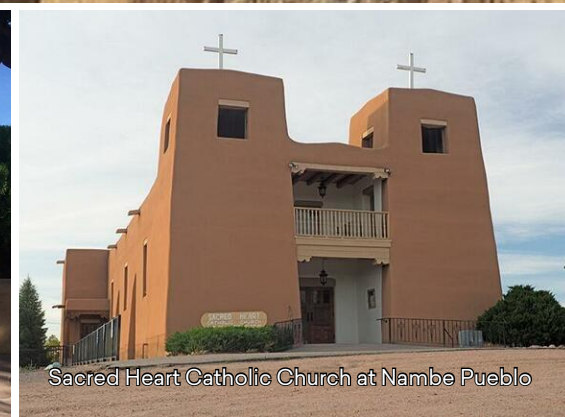
The cliff dwellings were used in the winter months.



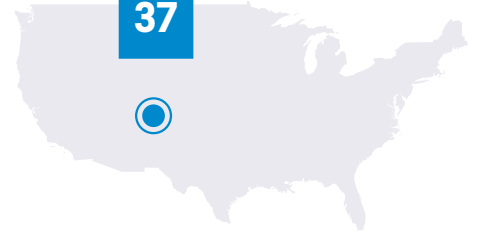
Petroglyphs of a deer with a target and a quail are just a few rock art items found on the cliff.



Santuario De Chimayo



Sacred Heart Catholic Church at Nambe Pueblo



Anniversary missed and now celebrated.



September 25 in the United States

When we drove to Seminole Canyon State Park on September 20th, neither of us remembered it was our anniversary. While eating a snack and sharing a table with strangers, We suddenly realized we had forgotten the important date. Yesterday, we had an expensive dinner and today in Pagosa Springs, CO we had a couples massage and hot spring soak. Sorry, no photos were taken!

Anna Lee Chanis Happy Anniversary several days late. And blessings for many more.

Angela Gatto Now we know, and can send a card on time! Happy Belated !

Clear day

☀️ **72 °F**

Altitude

7,605 ft

Mesa Verde National Park - Part 1



September 26 in the United States

We left Pagosa Springs and got to Mesa Verde RV Park. We initially got 2 nights in site 70, a great site. Then we went to the National Park to book a tour for tomorrow. Tomorrow, all tours are booked up. So we booked the Long House tour for 9:30 am on Saturday. The starting point is 1.5 hours drive from the park entrance. We will need to get up early on Saturday. Next we drove into the park and did the self guided tour of the Mesa Top loop. There are lots of pit houses on top of the mesa and great views of cliff dwellings. When we returned to the RV Park to extend our stay one more day, things had changed, but we could move sites, so we opted to move to a different site tonight so there would not be a conflict while we were site seeing.

Clear day

☀️ **73 °F**

Altitude

6,864 ft



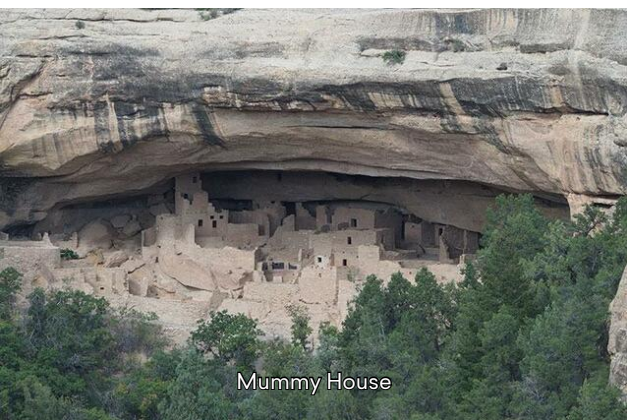
Shiprock from Point View, 32 miles away. Would be better if not for the coal fired power plants.



An excavated kiva.



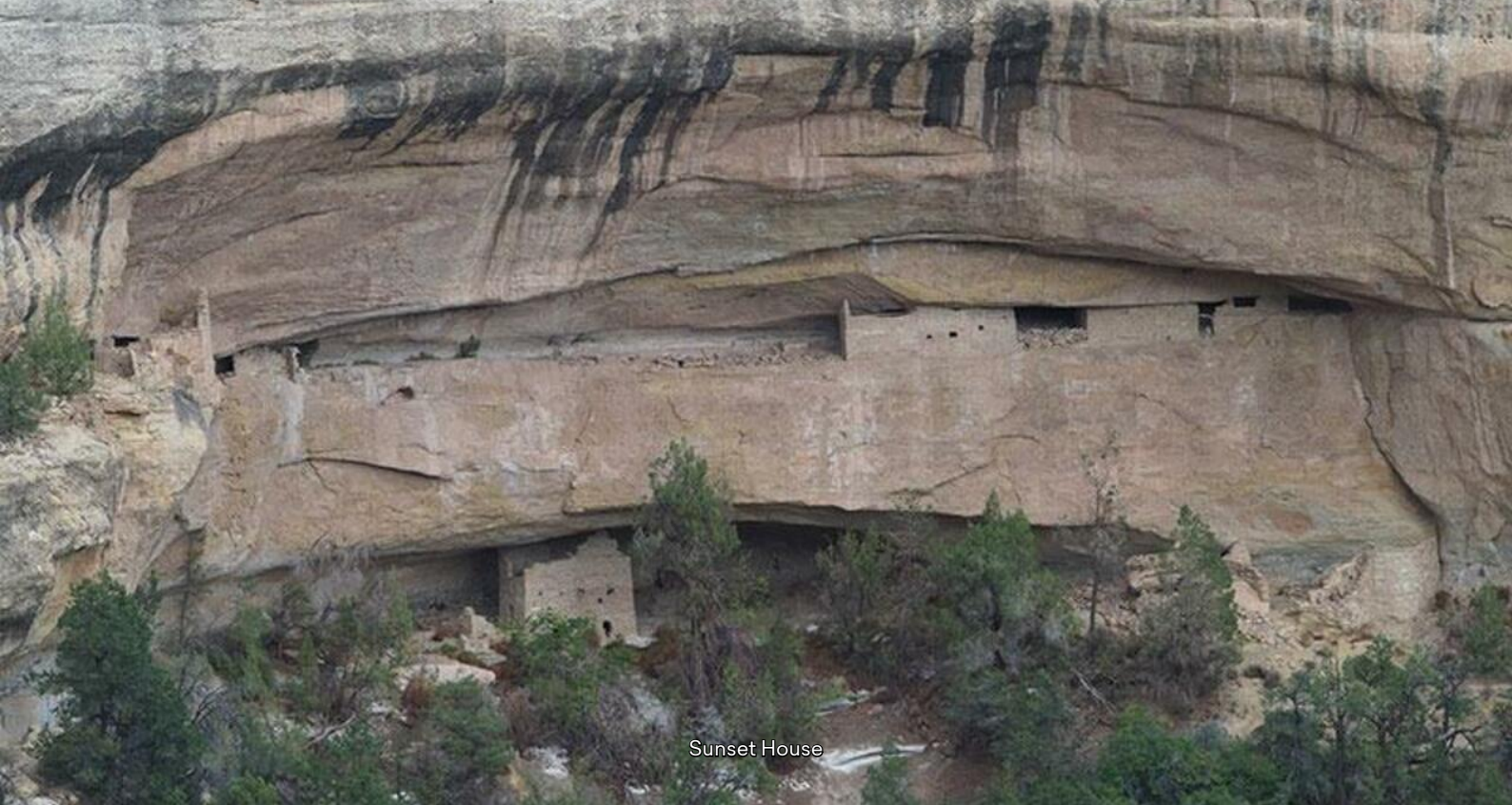
Square Tower House



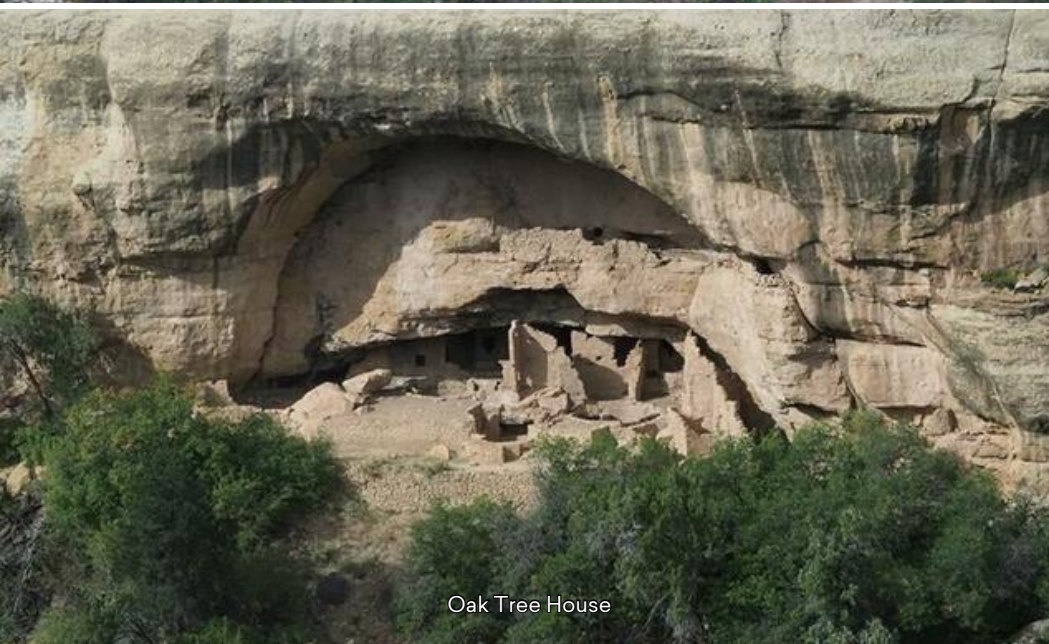
Mummy House



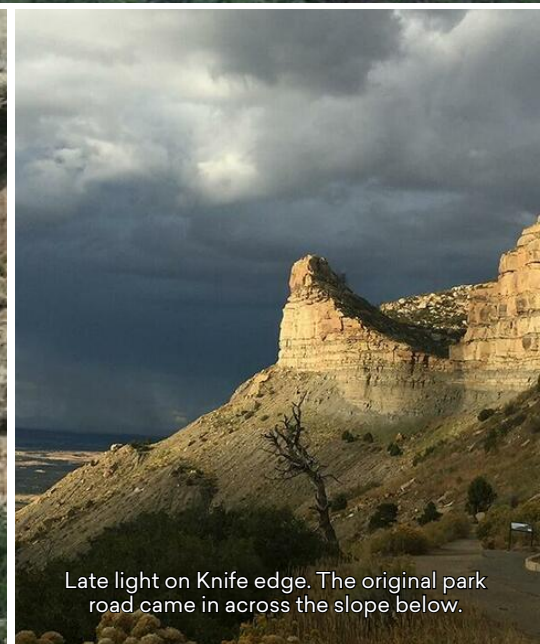
Bronze sculpture in front of VC.



Sunset House



Oak Tree House



Late light on Knife edge. The original park road came in across the slope below.

A New National Monument



September 27 in the United States

Back in the early 1990's, we had visited Hovenweep National Monument briefly (weather scared Les into leaving) and wanted to return. That monument has several small units in southeast Utah and southwest Colorado. While looking for how to get to the part that we had visited, we discovered a new National Monument surrounding Hovenweep in Colorado, call Canyons of the Ancients managed by BLM. They have a Visitor Center, but it is not located in the monument, but in nearby Dolores. This seemed strange to use, so we started the day by going to find out why. As it turned out, a large lake was being built near Dolores and they found a huge amount of archaeological sites. The lake could not be moved, so they had to do salvage archaeology. That is when the visitor Center was build, to house and interpret these artifacts. Afterword, the the new national monument was formed and the visitor center was then associated with the monument.

From the visitor center we went out to see Lowry Pueblo. It is a medium size building on top of the mesa with several interesting kivas. From there we went looking for Painted Hand Pueblo, but found signs on the access road saying no public access across private land. As it turns out the land owner has been known to shot at trespassers with a shotgun. Glad we missed that pueblo. So on down the county road toward Hovenweep. We turned up another dirt road and found three pueblos in Hovenweep that we had not seen before, Horseshoe, Hackberry and Holly. The firs two we had to hike to and Les took the large format camera. Jill had to wait for him at Hackberry, so she did a watercolor while she waited. Holly was further down the road and only had a short trail, but Les was too tired to shoot the big camera, so he went digital.

Returning to the county road we went on the the visitor center at Hovenweep. When we visited before, these roads were all dirt (now paved) and the visitor center did not exist. We looked over the campground and plan to move there on Sunday to explore the pueblos located there, two of which we have seen.

Clear night

☾ **48 °F**

Altitude

6,837 ft



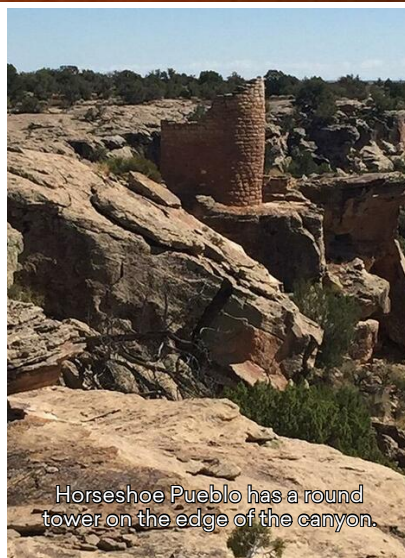
Doorway are typically short and narrow so enemies must come through one at a time.



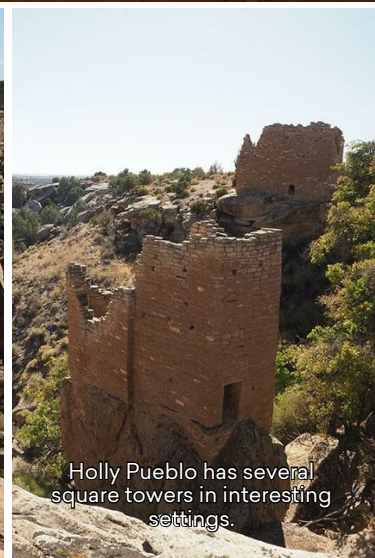
The taller portion of the pueblo is covered with a roof. Access to this kiva was on hands and knees



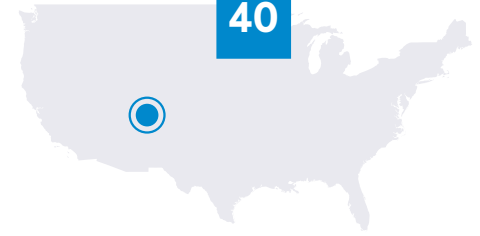
The great kiva was near by and has two people figure in the floor.



Horseshoe Pueblo has a round tower on the edge of the canyon.



Holly Pueblo has several square towers in interesting settings.



Mesa Verde - Part 2



September 28 in the United States

This morning we had set the alarm for 6 am so we could drive out to Wetherill Mesa to take the 9:30 Long House tour. The drive is an hour and a half from the park entrance. Driving in the entrance, we met the ranger hoisting the flag and offered to show our senior pass, but he said it's Public Lands Day and the entrance fees are waved. So we drove on through the chilled morning light, up on to the mesa. We expected the gate on Wetherill Road to open at 8 am, but we were early and found it already open. Rounding a bend in the road about a mile in, a beautiful adult Mountain Lion jumped into the road a 100 feet ahead of us. It turned its head and looked at us and kept on going into the brush on the left side of the road. We only saw it for a little over a second, but wow, what a sighting. We noted the time and location so we could report the sighting to the visitor center in the afternoon.

The tour to Long House was about 2 miles round trip with a lot of down at the beginning and seemed like twice as much up at the end. Long House is one of many sites in the area raided by a Swedish archaeologist before the park was a National Park. The man was arrested in Dolores for the thefts of more than 143,000 artifacts. Then it was discovered that there was no law protecting the artifacts, so he was released and the artifact are now in Sweden. This triggered the passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the creation of Mesa Verde at the same time, ten years before the National Park Service was established. The tour was great, led by a seasonal ranger that has worked here for 18 years.

We at lunch at Farview and then went back to Square Tower House so Les could

take a large format photo of it. We visited a couple of other sites we had missed the other day until the Rabbit Brush triggered Les' allergies. Thus ended another great rambling day.

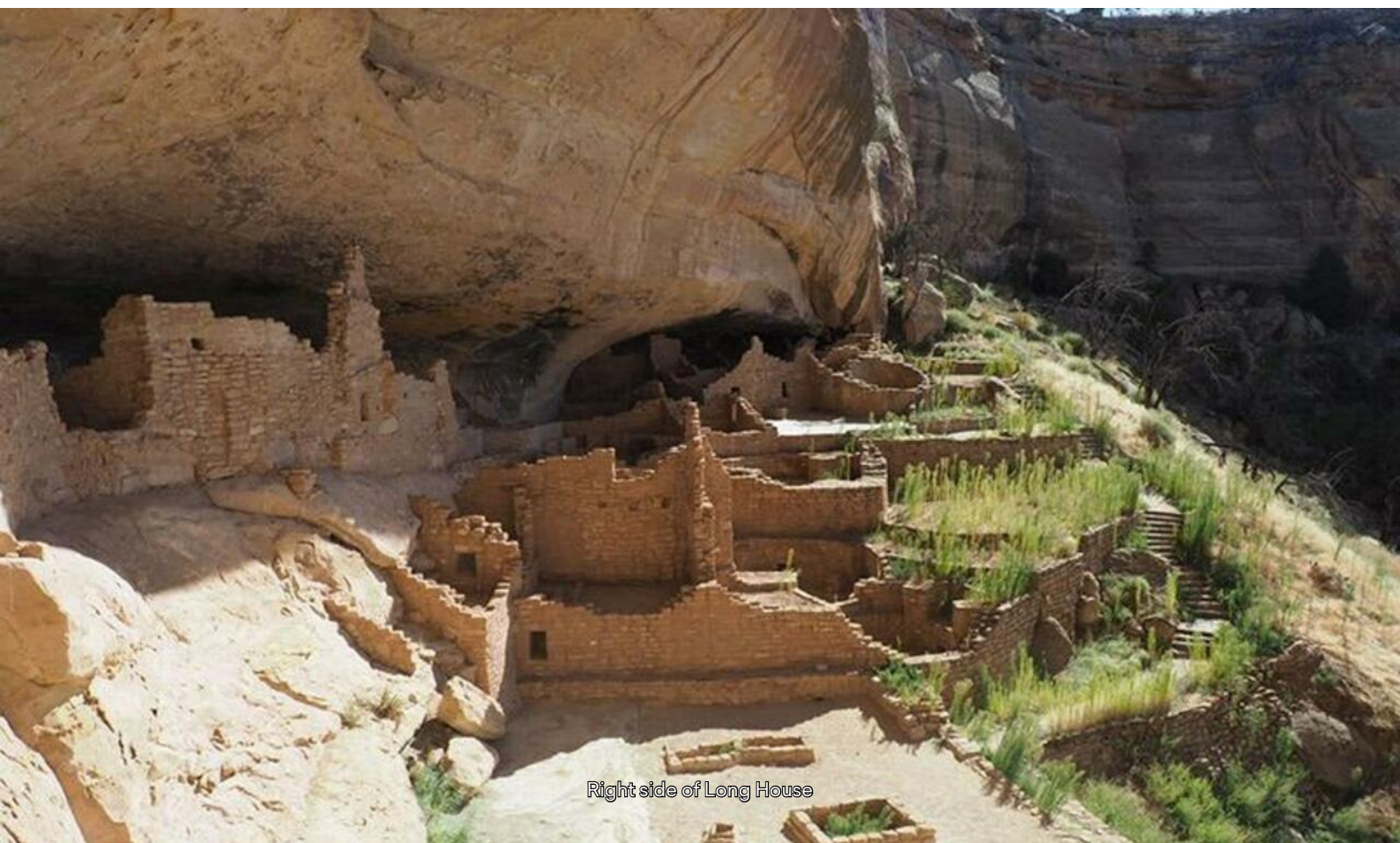
Di Williams Heron Do you guys know Margo - she worked at the state office & Phoenix. She's got a great place (40 acres with 3 RV spots w/ hookups!) in the Cortez/Dolores area - give us a call if you like!

Clear day

☀️ **61 °F**

Altitude

6,841 ft



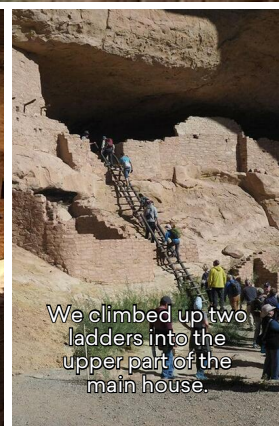
Right side of Long House



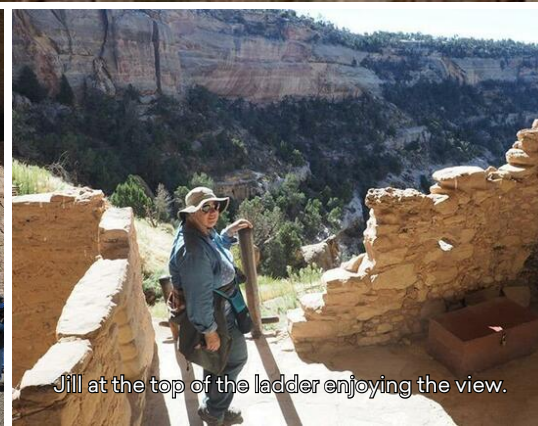
Middle of Long House



Left side of Long House



We climbed up two ladders into the upper part of the main house.



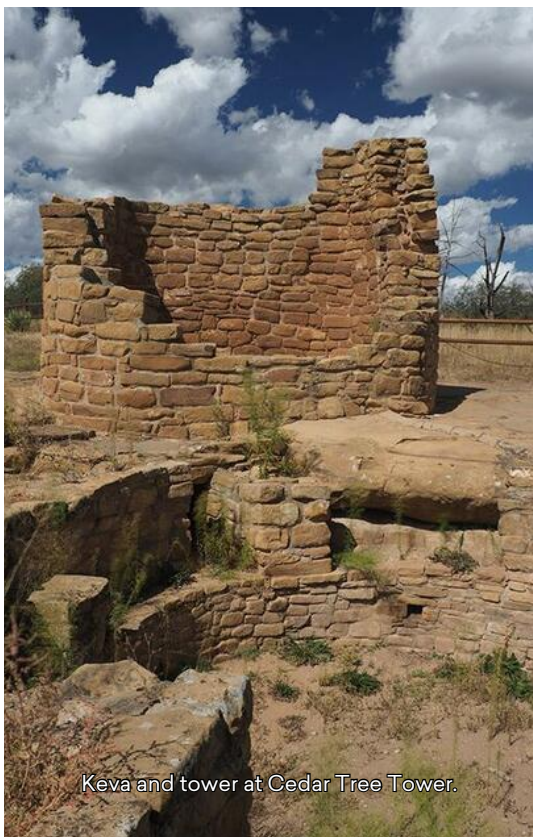
Jill at the top of the ladder enjoying the view.



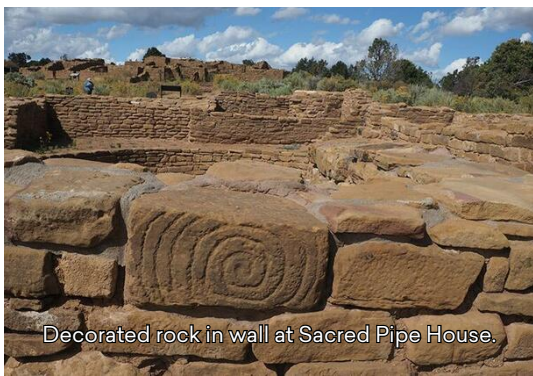
Food storage rooms have no soot on the ceiling and in the doorways.



On the high ledge, the wall with holes help keep track of stars, sun and moon.



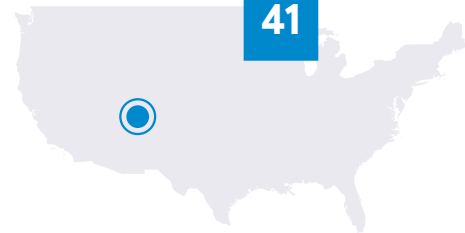
Keva and tower at Cedar Tree Tower.



Decorated rock in wall at Sacred Pipe House.



The primary spring seep at the back of the cave and water collection divots.



Chasing light at Hovenweep



September 29 in the United States

We moved on to the campground at Hovenweep National Monument. This afternoon we walked the trail around Little Ruins Canyon by the visitor center and campground. The wind was blowing and clouds streaming overhead. Les took the digital camera this time and plans to return to selected locations for morning shots with the large format. Most digital shots had to wait for the sun to shine on the ruins. There is a Star Party at the visitor center tonight that we will attend.

Partly cloudy



77 °F

Altitude

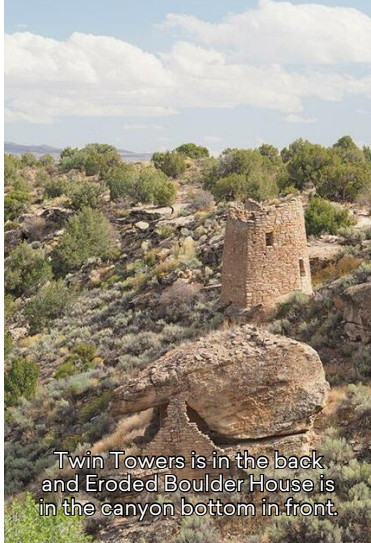
5,226 ft



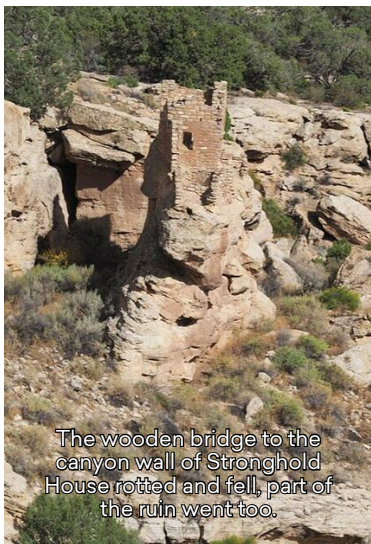
Hovenweep Castle includes a round tower.



Up at the upper end of the canyon is a square tower.



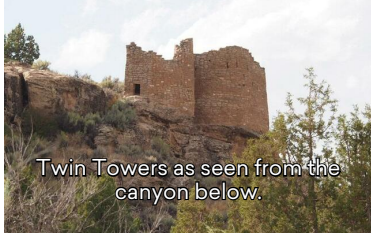
Twin Towers is in the back and Eroded Boulder House is in the canyon bottom in front.



The wooden bridge to the canyon wall of Stronghold House rotted and fell, part of the ruin went too.



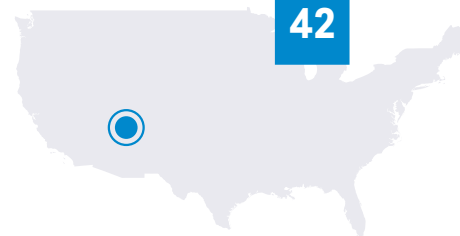
Twin Towers, D shaped tower close and oval tower behind almost touch between.



Twin Towers as seen from the canyon below.



Hovenweep Castle was one of the ruins we visited many years ago.



Westward Ho!

 September 30 in the United States

Les got up before the sun today and got some sunrise large format and digital photos of select ruins in Little Ruins Canyon, Hovenweep. Then we left, heading west. Lunch was at Goosenecks State Park in southeast Utah. Heading through Monument Valley area, we stopped at the Forest Gump pull out to take a few photos. We stopped for the night at Navajo National Monument and the 30 campsites are free and there is no entrance fee!

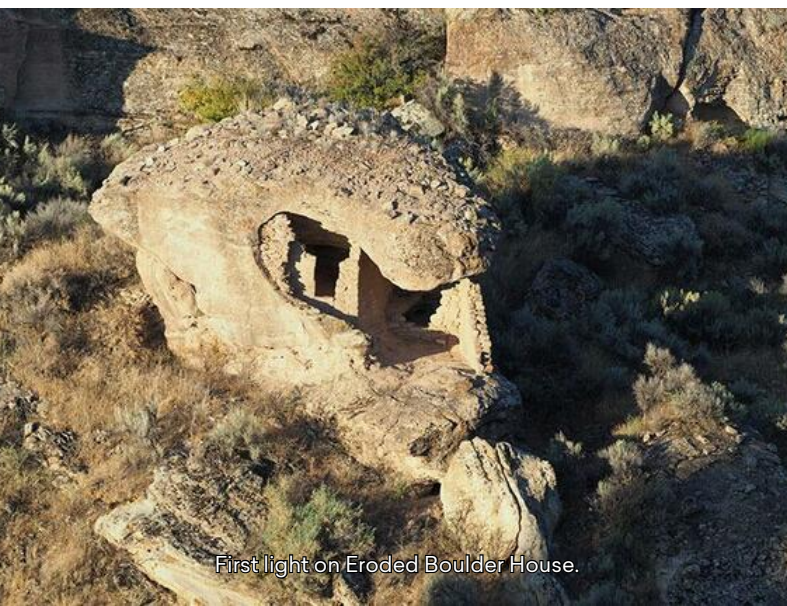
The video below works, but it may take time to load.

Clear day

 **70 °F**

Altitude

7,136 ft



First light on Eroded Boulder House.



Mexican Hat Rock



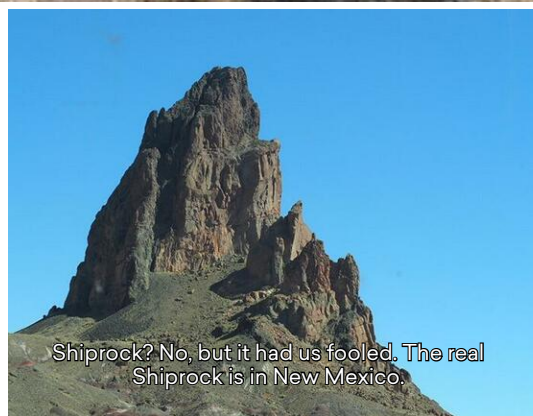
A Juniper for Jill to paint in Little Ruins Canyon.



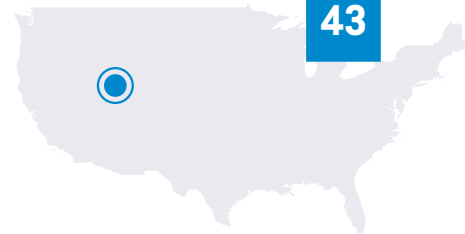
Westward Ho! through Monument Valley.



It is a wonder people don't get run over at the Forest Gump pull out.



Shiprock? No, but it had us fooled. The real Shiprock is in New Mexico.



To Miss A's @ Fredonia, AZ



October 1 in the United States

We started the day by taking a hike to Aspen Forest Overlook in Navajo NM. That's right Aspens in the Arizona desert. Behind the visitor center the trail leads out to the north and down, down, down into a canyon running east west. It is a very deep canyon and the bottom indeed has a forest of water loving plants including Aspens and Douglas Fir trees, to mention a few. we descended about 300 feet to a vista of the canyon. The trail continues, but you need a ranger as a guide.

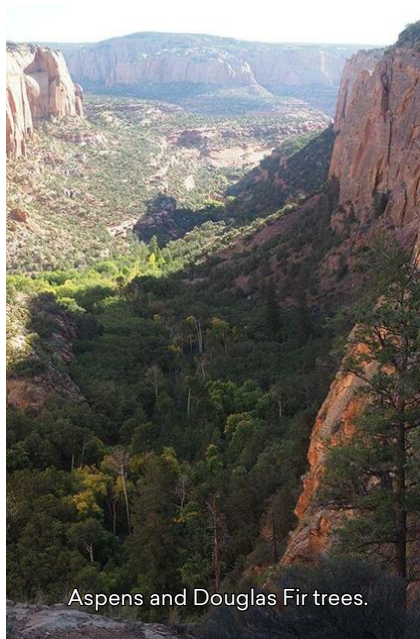
We returned to camp and left, heading more or less west, arriving at Angela's house in Fredonia, AZ. She and Scotty fed dinner and we camped out in her driveway.

Clear day

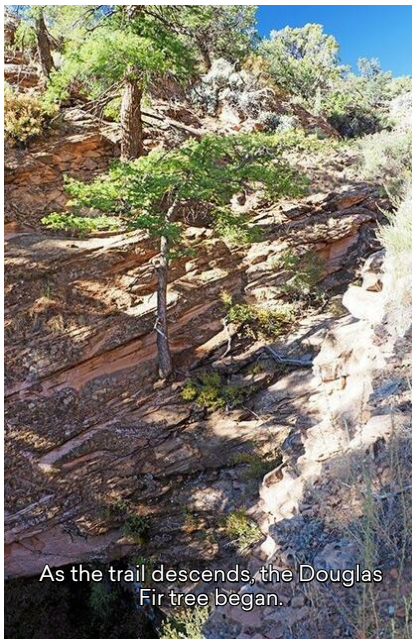
☀ 55 °F

Altitude

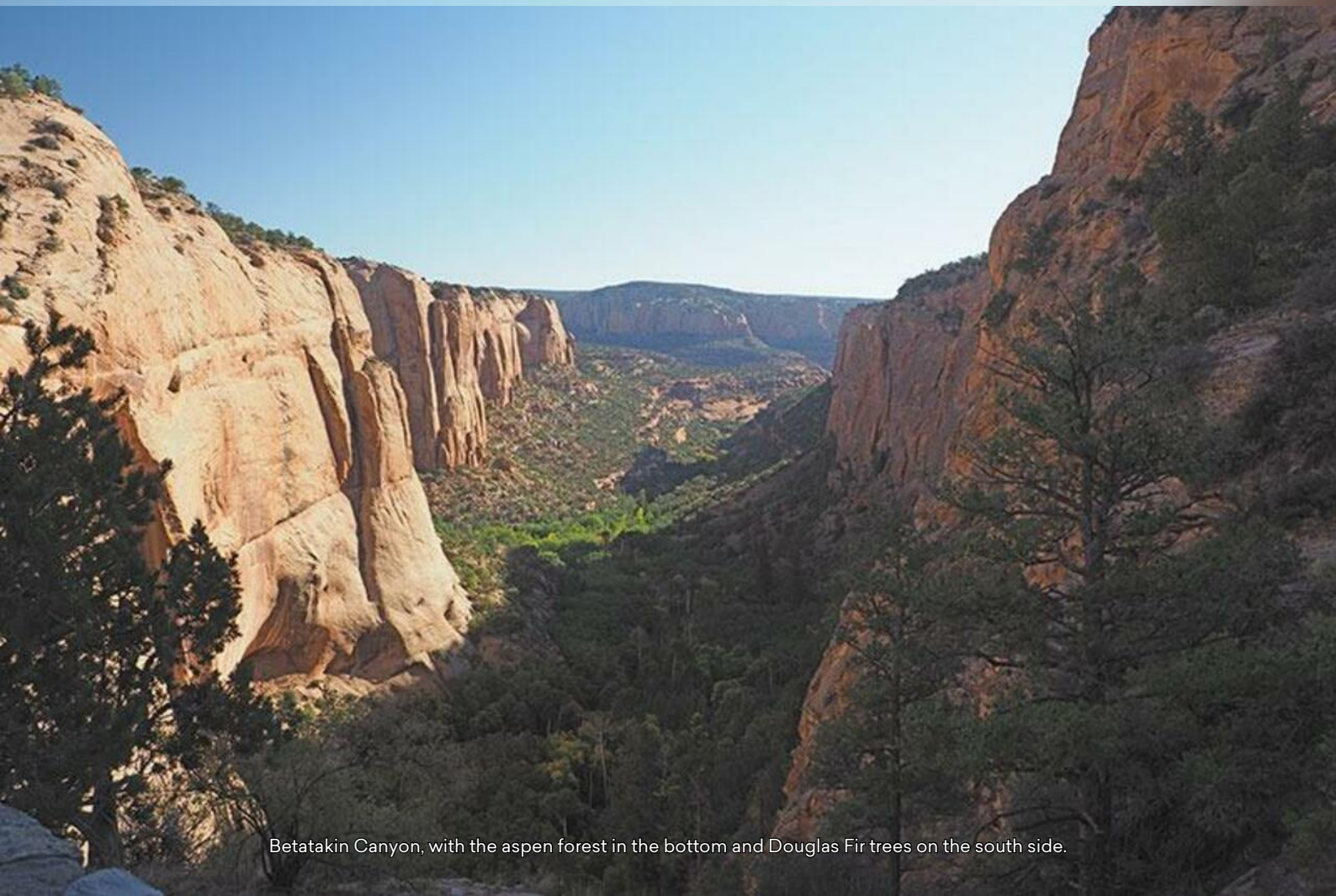
4,413 ft



Aspens and Douglas Fir trees.



As the trail descends, the Douglas Fir tree began.



Betatakin Canyon, with the aspen forest in the bottom and Douglas Fir trees on the south side.



North Rim of the Grand Canyon



October 2 in the United States

Angela and Scotty are working today, so Jill and Les headed to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. This has been another bucket list item of ours for many years. We made several stops and took some walks. Lunch was at the North Rim Lodge overlooking the canyon. Returning through Kaibab National Forest we finally saw the hybrid buffalo. They have cow DNA, but still look like buffalo. We also had to slow down for a wild turkey crossing the road.

Partly cloudy



50 °F

Altitude

4,413 ft



The Colorado River through the window.



A view from the top of Angels Window.



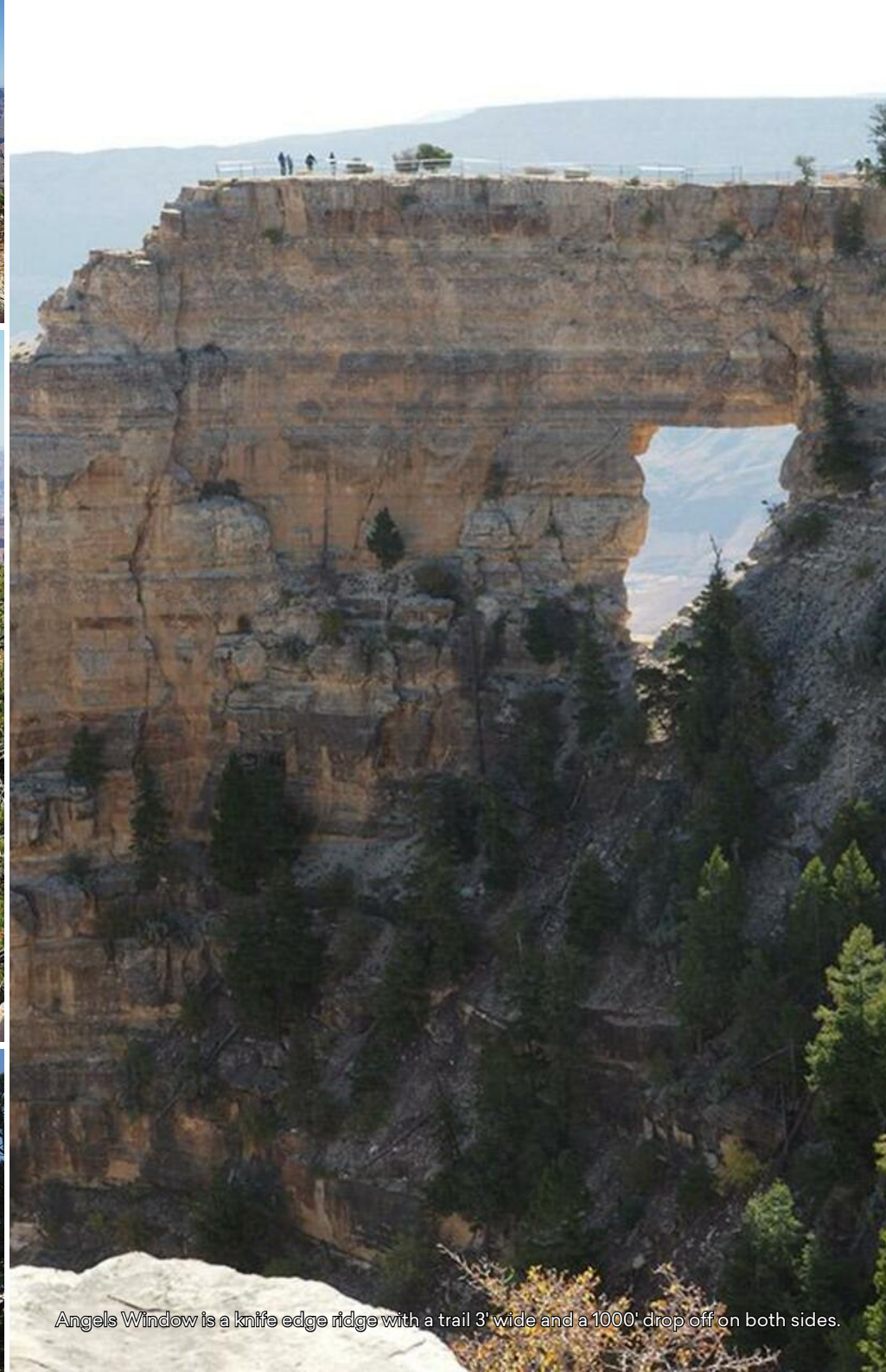
The view from Cape Royal to the south.



Another view from Cape Royal to the west.



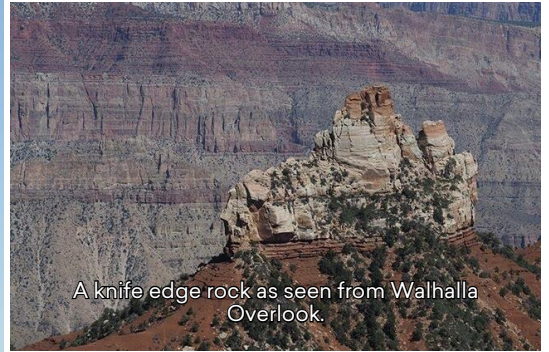
Walking out to Bright Angel Point.



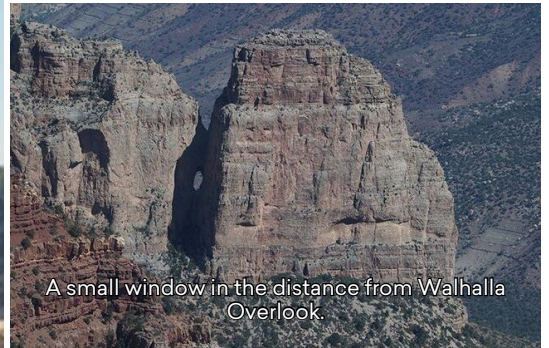
Angels Window is a knife edge ridge with a trail 3' wide and a 1000' drop off on both sides.



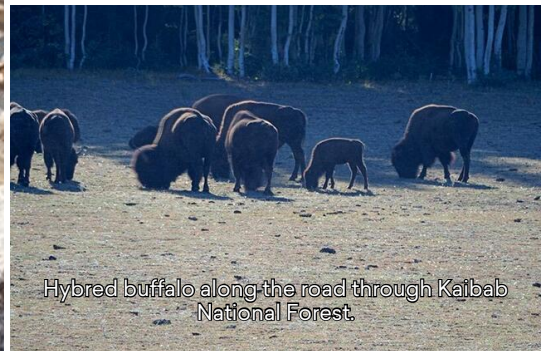
A small pine tree clings to the rock along Bright Angel Point.



A knife edge rock as seen from Walhalla Overlook.



A small window in the distance from Walhalla Overlook.



Hybrid buffalo along the road through Kaibab National Forest.

Westward to Pahrnagat NWR



October 3 in the United States



We left Fredonia, AZ this morning. Thanks to Angela and Scotty for a camp site with dinner for two nights. We were not certain of our destination for today, so as the early afternoon came on, Jill started looking for somewhere to camp. We found Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge along US 93 south of Alamo, NV has a 15 site free campground on the east shore of the shallow lake. In the winter they have Sandhill Crains visit. Most sites were already taken, but we found a great site facing the lake.

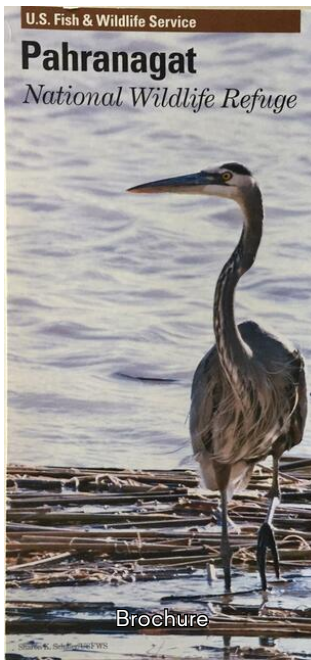
Angela Gatto Ooh great find!

Clear day

☀ **75 °F**

Altitude

3,409 ft





Site 8



Almost Home



October 4 in the United States

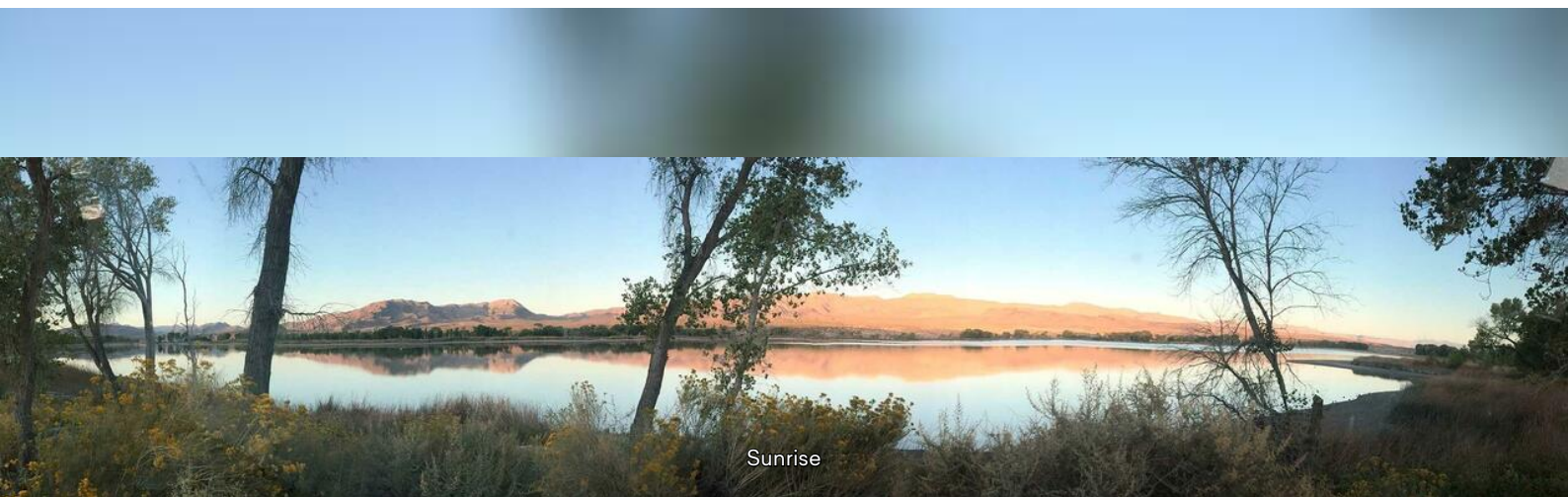
We woke to a beautiful sunrise at Pahrnagat NWR. After breakfast, we drove to Hawthorn, NV and are camped in Whiskey Flats RV Park. Tomorrow we have a 3 hour drive to get home.

Clear day

☀️ **59 °F**

Altitude

4,314 ft





Home Again



October 5 in the United States

We have made it home so our September Ramble is done. We had fun but will need to go over our tiny house after being out so long. But first just relaxing at home.

Clear day

☀ **54 °F**

Altitude

5,709 ft



Now to clean the jeep and motorhome.



