



FINALLY: WE ARE ON THE ROAD

... the first days ...

We are finally on the road! After weeks and month of planning, the time of garage sales, the final goodbyes from everybody in our Sun City El Paso. It still feels like vacation, it is all still to fresh to understand, what is in our future. But we love the freedom to decide at night what we want to do tomorrow. So after just two weeks we deviated from our original plan of driving north, to visit our big love ==> the desserts of Arizona and Utah!

But let's start at the beginning. The US-Tour started with a three day stay at Elephant Butte State Park. Here we just winded down after weeks of stress. Here we meet our friends Renate and Heinz, which helped us with Jet Ski riding, good food, and good long talks about what lies ahead. Highlight of the weekend was that our friend Timo and his family flew in, just to say goodbye from us. When they could not fly back home, due to the thunderstorms all around, our ALFA was able to show how much space we have. Visitors are always welcome. What a start to our adventure.



Next stop were the Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado. Not far away we set up camp in one of the lovely state parks of Colorado. We feel like being in the Sahara (not only because of the temperatures). I already read, that some of the dunes are about 820 feet high. Standing in front of them make realize how much that is, and it took us about 2 hours to reach the peak. Normally we do not have problems with mosquito bites, but here we have been sucked dry, everybody knows the days after!



After weeks of dry heat, we reached the area around Durango. Forests, rivers, lakes, the smell of fresh hay and the clear air are a great change of pace. For the next seven days we enjoyed long walks, hikes, drives through the Rockies at our "first" real visit here.

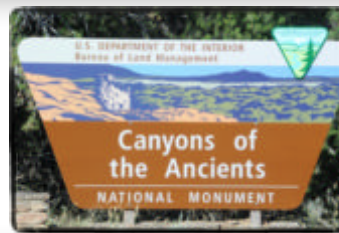
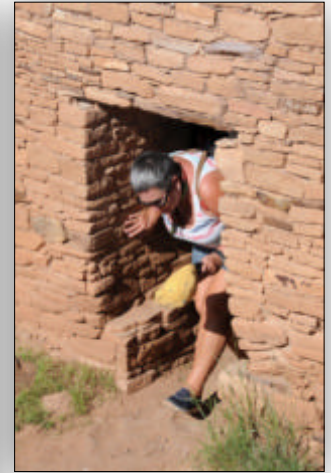




On the agenda was another National Park: Mesa Verde. This park is not necessary about nature, but an archeological site of the American Indians, which lived here about 1000 years ago. The area is home to many Pueblos, which are on the side of cliffs. We are happy that we can take Noah on many of the trails. For national parks not that common. So he was able/forced to explore those settlements with us.



If you are like us, amazed by the old ruins, you stay a couple of extra days and go nuts in the canyons of the Ancient National Monument with more than 5000 archeological dig sites. So we got a map, water, gas, and a little bit of fruit in our Jeep, and took the trails which are usually are not accessible by normal cars. So we could see America the beautiful the way it was intended: with minimal human interaction, it is moving.



The next stop has been booked today: Monument Valley and Moab, like I mentioned in the beginning, did we have a craving for the canyons and sand dunes of Arizona and Utah. We could not just drive by. With all these small adventures we still enjoy the time to ourselves. I don't think I have to mention that we eat like kings. When Beate is wiping out here kitchen aid, we have fresh bread, cakes, etc. at our finger tips.



That's it for today. We keep in touch!

CU soon

Beate, Rudy & Noah

(the German Newsletter 4 is in the making. Please be peasant for the english version)

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