



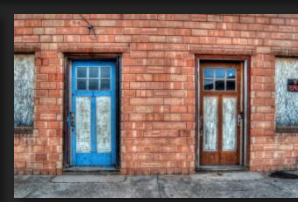


# ADVENTURE 2016

May 6, 9:09 we head out of Marysville, but have to stop by at Pepsi to pick up my laptop, arriving at 9:48 sneaking in and out quickly. We head west and hit Indiana at 11:45, Illinois by 14:24, Missouri by 6:02 and by 9:29 our time we hit Kansas. I slept from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM and Rita slept from 4:00 AM to 8:30.

5/7 9:04 we hit Colorado, Grand Junction by 15:38 and we stop into Wal-Mart for supplies and grab a bite to eat. We are in Utah by 17:17. In total, about 31 hours on the road. We start with a short tour to Cisco, a semi-inhabited cross-roads and ghost town. We take a break and a couple photos then head to Sego. We walked through the short trails and were impressed with the sage brush that was everywhere, it smelled good. There were a few people there as tourists, one said that he used to work in the mining camp. The rancher had his cows in the pen, and some of the tourists were talking to them and watching the cows. We saw a few antelope and mule deer in the area. We head to Green River, eat at Arby's refuel and Jeep Sleep near the trucks.











5/8 Mother's Day - 4:34 we head toward the Buckhorn Wash. It is 48 degrees and cloudy. This was a pretty good road, driving past Sinkhole Flats there were a few turnoffs and we passed some people camping out. When we got to the Buckhorn panel we were the only ones there, shot some photos and then headed back the way we came. We stopped to see the Black Dragon, but didn't see anything from the viewing point. We drove toward Emery and the Rochester Panel. A nice drive and a nice hike under cloud cover through some hilly country. We leave the Rochester panel about 13:30 and visit Sinbad and try to find the Copper Mine, we drove for a while, but it was rough and I wasn't real confident about the hitch mounted carrier, so we headed back up the hill and circled the couch for a video-kiss then headed to Hanksville to setup camp so that we could sleep in the tent. We arrive at 7:04













5/9 4:34 It rained and was pretty windy most of the night. We headed back to Sego so that we could beat the crowd (anything more than 2 people), drive further into the canyon to see the deserted mining camp, and to photograph the rock art in better light. It is 53 F and sunny and we head toward Crack Canyon. We get there at 9:25 and hike toward the canyon; it is cool hiking in but warming up. When we get done we snack on our hiking rations; peanut butter crackers and tortillas with cheesy dip. Good stuff. 14:14 we head toward Capital Reef from Hanksville this is one of the most scenic routes in Utah. When we arrive at the Hickman Bridge pull-off it is packed. I would normally turn around, but I know most of these folks don't head the same direction as I do, and they are probably leaving now. At the Hickman Bridge turnoff we go right to photograph Pectol's Pyramid. We leave Capital Reef at 18:05 and it is sunny, breezy and 71F. We head to Panorama Point and hike on a couple short overlooks, Rita doesn't like the ledges but she poses for a photo anyway. Back to Hanksville.













5/10 7:08 we head south on 95 toward the Butler Wash. It is partly cloudy and 68F. We stop at the Kane Gulch Ranger Station to inquire about a few locations and camping. We head back to Hanksville stopping to see the Moki Maiden and we also stop and hike in the Leprechaun area but still haven't found the tunnel; and this is my 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt. We return to Hanksville and have dinner at Duke's. It rains again at night, and it's pretty chilly but we don't use the heater. I get up early and photograph Factory Butte and had some good light. At day-break I return and tear down our tent and we head back to Factory Butte area and find an old mine at the end of Temple Mountain Mine Road and found some rocks for Ayden.









5/11 we head through Capital Reef and into Escalante where we fuel up and get a Subway sub at 2:15 PM. We drive to Willis Creek but the sun is high, the dirt road leading there is well graded but very steep. There are a lot of cars. We hike down the creek and then head on to Cedar City, we have a hotel reserved. We get to Abbey Inn and it is very nice. I clean my camera equipment and crash, Rita soaks in the hot tub for a little bit.

5/12 On the road we hit Zion at 9:39 and it cost us \$30 just to drive through. We did our duty and carried the last-car baton through the Zion tunnel. Meggan graduated today. Rita "Randy re-routed and went through Zion for me. How Sweet. Love him for the little things he does for me." 11:40 heading to Page AZ, we stop at the Coral Pink Sand Dunes at 12:28 and Rita gets some sand for Ayden. At 2:27 PM we hit the Cottonwood Canyon Road and stop at the ranger station. 16:00 we hit the TH for Toadstool Canyon it is 84F but feels hotter hiking in the rocks. We hike for several miles, shoot some video, see some toadstools and then continue on to Page. We reserve our hotel room then head back to Big Water to find the White Rock TH. It is pretty remote, unmarked, but very accessible. I wanted to find it because I plan to head out very early. We head back to the hotel and Rita gets another Hot Tub.









5/13 I head out and start hiking but I pass right by some of the turnoffs to the White Rocks. I wander on for miles then circle back. I find some of the cutoffs and snap a few photos but could spend days in this area. It is a lot of walking and the pack gets heavy after a few miles. I spent about 6 hours in this area but didn't see anyone else in the area until I left. 10:30 it is 73F supposed to get to 91 today.









Rita has a big breakfast and when I returned we went to Wal-Mart to pick up some supplies, then head NE toward the SE corner of Utah, we drive up the Moki Dugway to the Cedar Mesa to Slickrock Canyon. We find a place to setup our tent, but drive to the end looking for Caprock Ruin. We find a ruin, it has a caprock, but not the one we are looking for. We wander around for a while. This place is pretty big, the parks are packed, but in Cedar Mesa we never saw another person, just the ranger. A volunteer ranger checks us out then we head back and setup our tent. It is dusk, but we hike down Slickrock Canyon for a mile or two then head back. I am scouting for a morning hike.





5/14 I sleep in a little later than I wanted, or the sun rose a little sooner. It seemed too bright to start a 3 or 4 mile hike. About an hour in the sun rose and ruined my enthusiasm. I hiked to find the two little granaries, found one, then headed back to camp. Cedar Mesa is easy to get lost in, no real trails, and hiking alone can be tricky. It is hard to get too far lost because you are in a small canyon, but it is pretty easy to twist an ankle and there are a lot of little animals, so probably lots of snakes too. I never saw one. I changed cameras and didn't get it zipped completely, so when I threw the pack on my back, the big camera hit the ground, broke the haze filter and dented the screw adapter. I was upset, because this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time I have done this. Fortunately, no major damage.



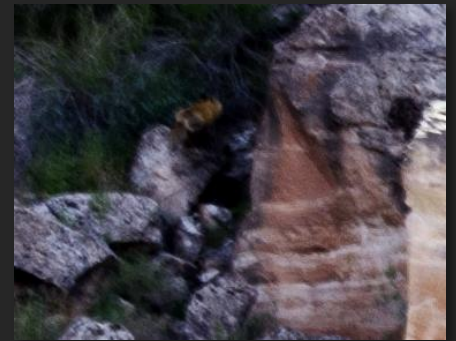


We broke camp at 9:00 AM and head to Bluff which isn't very far away. We stop at Twin Rocks for lunch (Chicken Tenders) and then go to see the horse panel that is very near this location. A nice hike and we saw a lot of Eagles near the rock ledges. I hiked up to the horse panel to take photos; there was a lot of old graffiti. We headed up the Butler Wash and hiked to Monarch Ruins, but there was a crew there doing reclamation work so we couldn't get close to it. Not sure how anyone can repair a 1500 year old structure and call it reclamation. It looked fine to me as it was.





- We head to Pedestal Ruin and I was pretty excited to find this because I had seen pictures, but never knew it was in this area. I got my directions wrong and hiked the wrong direction, wore my ass out, scared the hell out of some cows and saw a huge red wolf (fox?) in a distant canyon. He saw me and ran into his hole, I tried to take his photo but wasn't telephoto prepared for this type of task. So we back-tracked and found pedestal ruin. I hiked up the rocky canyon, there isn't a path, but found the perch with the petroglyphs and shot the Pedestal Ruin photo just like in the book.. We drove north to the Butler Wash rest area and slept in the Jeep









5/15 to Moab. We drove to find the Big Feet Panel but no luck so we drove to Moab stopping at Hole-In-The-Rock first then on to the Canyonland visitor center just to check road conditions, all good. We drive around sight-seeing and eating beef jerky. When we arrive at Moab camp it is 12:40 cloudy and 78F. We setup the tent, unpack everything and take a shower. We did our laundry and ate some Wendy's lunch. Our reset complete, we headed for Island In The Sky stopping at the overlooks – Grandview, Orange Cliffs and Mesa Arch. There are always a lot of people at Mesa Arch, so I walk around the rim for a while getting closer to Washer Woman Arch. We watch sunset at the Green River overlook at 8:26 then head back to Moab.







The Green River Overlook - Canyonlands National Park – Island in the Sky







5/16 4:00 up and headed to the White Rim Overlook. I have been here with the girls a couple times, never before with Rita. I took a lot of pictures while Rita had a panic attack and had to walk back to the Jeep. The sun rises and I get my shots and meet her back at the parking lot. There is a storm in the distance and we are driving around trying to catch up. We drive to Gemini Bridges the long way up Gemini Trail but passed on Bull Canyon because it looked like it was ready to pour but it passed by. We drove down to the Colorado River and looked at rock art. We headed to Fisher Towers at 5:53 it was cloudy and 66F. We hike in a little ways and I take a couple 360 panoramas and then we head back to Moab and the Diner for some real burgers and milk shakes. We went shopping at the Rock Store and got some pretty rocks for ourselves and for Ayden. It starts to storm again so we head to the canyon hoping for some good shots but didn't really get much. We head back to camp, it rains all night.









Rita relaxed and played some games and drank coffee. We ate lunch at the Moab Diner, a great restaurant that serves breakfast all day so I took advantage of that. We walked around Moab shopping for a dream catcher for Ayden's bad dreams. We stopped by the Rock Shop again and then parked along the Colorado again and I took a nap. Rita took pictures and looked at the rock art. We returned to camp and some popcorn and beef jerky and Rita bought a 32oz Miller. It was a good time camping in Moab.







5/17 I get up early and head to False Kiva while Rita catches up on some sleep. I got there in great time and saw a great cloudy sunrise. The clouds rolled over the hills and at one point filled the Kiva then dispersed. It was very serene. Leaving the Canyonlands I saw a line to get in that was pretty incredible, I counted 143 cars and quite a few motorcycles.





There and Back  
On the hike to False Kiva









5/18 we leave Utah and head in a new direction toward Colorado Springs. It was 46 and windy. It got cold in the Colorado mountains but we stopped in Fair Play county and took a tour of an old mining town, it was neat but damn it was cold. Back on the road a storm kicked up, a snowstorm that had it all, rain, sleet, hail snow and lightning. We were 37 miles from Colorado Springs but we were headed to Cripple Creek. I booked a room in a casino and they gave us a very nice suite. Cripple Creek was a pretty cool place but wasn't busy due to the season I'm guessing. They still bussed a lot of people into the casinos there.





5/19 leaving Cripple Creek it is 36F and we had to let the Jeep defrost. The Casino was nice but the food wasn't good. I had buffalo that was very tough and Rita had rubber Talapia. We played some slots, lost \$10. When the Jeep is ready, we head to the Valley of the Gods. I had wanted to go here for years because Clinton went here Oct 3, 1920. I found it very regulated, very upscale, very forbidding to explore so we drove around and took a quick pick and headed home.



We took in this trip today, about  
40 miles from Denver by interurban  
and then about a 12 mile hike up  
the canyon. We picked up by  
motor truck driver on the return trip  
Sunday Oct 3-1920

Clinton would have been 28 at the time this was written

May 19, 2016  
Almost 94 years later





By 14:16 we were in Kansas and it was a windy 59F. We had lunch at DQ in Ellis KA at 15:39. Hit Missouri at 19:33 and we took a nap in Macon MO at 22:04  
5/20 3:20 we hit Illinois, 6:46 Indiana and by 10:49 we were in Ohio















Canyonlands National Park – Island in the Sky





Somewhere near Hanksville, Utaah



