

**From:** Dale Dieckmann <[dj.dieckmann@swbell.net](mailto:dj.dieckmann@swbell.net)>  
**To:** [dj.dieckmann@swbell.net](mailto:dj.dieckmann@swbell.net)  
**Sent:** Mon, September 11, 2006 9:43:16 PM  
**Subject:** Postcard

There is a kind of trail etiquette at the National Parks. People are universally considerate about yielding to let others pass. Passing hikers say hi or hello. No more, no less. Well, sometimes more or less, but that is the exception.

Most Americans and other anglophones smile and speak. Germans usually don't smile, but they speak. French simply don't make eye contact. Bulgarians are like puppies and you can almost see them wag their tails they are so eager to be friendly. I'm not sure they are Bulgarians but they look like Bulgarians ought to look and I really think they are. Japanese follow trail etiquette when they are in singles, pairs or small groups, although some just smile and don't talk. Busloads of them talk to each other and ignore you. That's probably true of any busloads but we only saw Japanese busloads. Of course you don't usually get on a trail with a busload.

When you get off the trail, trail etiquette ends. Completely. It is truly a phenomenon.

Today we got to the park before 7:00. We had the River Walk to the Narrows practically to ourselves. This guy was there. He neither smiled nor spoke. But he made eye contact so we knew he wasn't French.



We didn't get in the river and wade down the canyon, as a lot of people do. It wasn't quite 50 degrees yet and the sun was still on the outside. This was our view down the river.



Soon the visitors began to roll in. By the busload. Time to move on.



We took the Kayenta Trail up to the lower (yes you can go up to a lower), middle and upper Emerald Pools. The pools are not shown. They are not interesting. But the other things you see on and off the trail are. Some kind of primrose:





Squirrel thinks he's a meerkat.



Virgin River cutting an ever deepening Zion Canyon.



Gotta find a WiFi hot spot. Management describes the hotel's WiFi as "notoriously unreliable" but seems unperturbed at this. Happy Trails.

D&S