

Date: 10/22/2012 8:16:23 PM

Subject: Postcard

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We are staying right in the park at Zion Lodge. Zion Lodge was built in 1925 but it fortunately burned to the ground in 1966. It was rebuilt that same year with electricity, running water, carpeting and heat. Our room is spacious and commodious and there are enough towels. There is a balcony on the back that has two rocking chairs and a view of the red walls of Zion Canyon. The lodge is located down the main park road which is closed to all but lodge guests and shuttle buses, so it clearly satisfies the snob in us. Or would if there were any. J

Sometime after 1966, let's guess it's in a year starting with 2, Zion National Park got the greenies. As a result it has biodegradable nontoxic bulk liquid soaps, recycle bins with printed usage instructions, dual flush toilets (#1 and #2, your choice of 3 liters or 6 liters, but no one counts how many times you flush), low-flow water fixtures – read “pathetic shower”, and complimentary organic coffee. Tastes bad but it's organic. But the pièce de résistance is keycard-operated power. When you enter the room you put your keycard into a slot that activates your electricity. When you leave, taking your card, everything shuts off – except what they want left on. There may be a reason “greenie” rhymes with “weenie”.

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Today's adventure was the trail to Hidden Canyon. It's not hidden very well as it's on our map and there are trail signs. But it is fun to get to. We got on the shuttle with only a couple of other early birds, and rode to the Weeping Rock stop. We saw Weeping Rock on our way up the trail but you're not going to see it because it was dark and it just looks like a big wet spot.

We looked at other things.



We did some easy climbing.



And some harder climbing.



Sidebar: Only 2 people have died from falls on this trail. For reference, 5 have died on the Angel's Landing trail, making Hidden Canyon 250% safer.

We found the not-so-hidden canyon. Big rocks are wedged into its opening and the official trail ends here. A sign advises you to scramble if you want to continue up the canyon. We opted instead for over-easy and turned around.

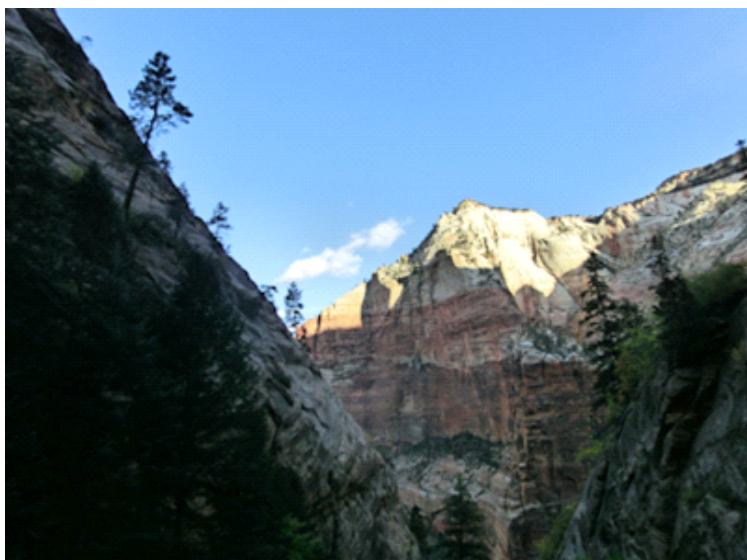


And we saw more things. Betcha you don't have three of these in your yard.



We also saw a half-full potato chip bag (I like to think of it as half empty), neatly folded and waiting for its owner to return. And we met a couple from St. Louis. We ate trail mix while they told us stuff.

We came down. We kept looking around.



At the bottom. Angels' Landing in light and shadow.



Ate lunch at Oscar's Café. It's as good as it was six years ago and apparently, based on their prices, they think so too. We had shrimp and avocado salads with poppy seed dressing. The salad consisted of romaine, corn, pistachios, mushrooms, shredded carrot, black olives, tomato and the aforementioned shrimp (grilled to perfection) and avocado (perfectly ripened).

Thanks to a clerk in a gift shop we solved the mystery of all the swarms of kids here, at Bryce, at Capitol Reef. It's UEA weekend! Teachers have 4 days off! Families swamp the parks! Note to selves: have a UEA plan for next Utah trip.

D&S

