

Date: 7/24/2017 8:02:20 PM

Subject: Postcard

In early morning, on a clear day, the sun illuminates the Maroon Bells and they, in turn, reflect off Maroon Lake creating a vista, a tableau, a vignette that will not exist on a cloudy day or even later on the same day. The light will diffuse, the lake will ripple, the shore will bristle with selfie sticks and the view will be a soft imitation. As a result the best part of our day was over almost before it began. So in order to finish with the best, we're going to take you on our hike to Crater Lake backwards.

On our return to the eastern end of the Maroon Lake we observed a painter capturing the splendor of the lake and the reflected Bells. This scene is reported to be the most photographed in Colorado and maybe it's the most painted. What more fitting end to our hike, to see this magnificence through the eyes of an artist.



Well, maybe not.

Coming down the trail we estimated we had passed 250 people and 50 dogs on the entire hike. Why did so many of them look unhappy? (People not dogs. Dogs were happy except when they passed other dogs). Some people carried huge packs with tents and cooking gear. That's a reason. Some carried nothing. Well, the trail was really rocky. One guy we passed yelled to no one in particular "This trail is shit!". That's a reason. *We* were happy.

Crater Lake was not stunning like Maroon Lake but striking in its own right.

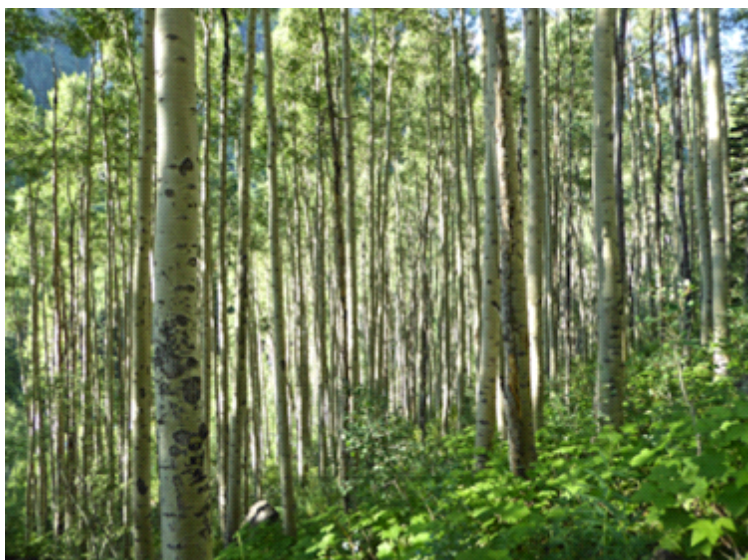


Look! It's Jessica Biel and Tom Cruise!
Only kidding. It's us.
Happy us.



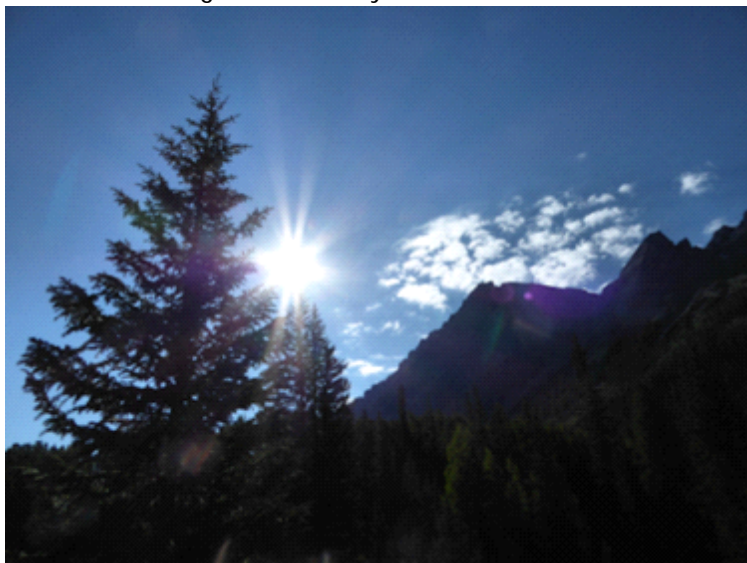
The lake was surrounded with crows (yes, not ravens, Harry) who wanted our trail mix and with nice people who wanted to take our picture.

On our way up the trail wasn't so crowded and we had time to poke around and look at stuff.



On our ascent, we passed plenty of people on their way down who carried huge packs with tents and cooking gear. A lot of the guys looked self-satisfied. A lot of the gals looked like they had just spent one or more nights in a correctional institution.

We were off to a very early start so the trail was mostly shaded all the way to Crater Lake, temps in the 50's. The sun broke through occasionally.



Wow. This is awesome. Someone should paint this.

D&S

Addendum: Second dinner in Aspen.

Food \$17 - Tip \$0

Travel time – 0 minutes

Time to prepare, eat, cleanup – 45 minutes

Dress for dinner – come as you are



Freeze-dried trail food?
Never leave home without it.

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