

Date: 5/30/2018 9:24:19 PM

Subject: Postcard

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McLloyd Canyon is a magnificent amphitheater of red rock in the center of Cedar Mesa, Utah.



It's worth a visit for its own sake, but it's also home to Moon House Ruin, one of the best preserved Anasazi ruins outside of the major National Parks. In order to maintain its condition there are three tiers of protection. The first tier is a permit system that limits the number of visitors. We got our permit on the internet and brought the printout to the Kane Gulch Ranger Station, as directed. We were awarded our little pink dashboard card. We also met our co-visitors: Linda and Dan; Dave and Barry. After the ranger (who looked remarkably like Chip Gaines) finished his instructions we all left. Sheila and I delayed to give everyone a head start and then we left too.

The second tier of protection is trailhead access.



In addition to its being 50 miles from anywhere, the last two segments of access road comprise 9 miles of a rocky, rutted,

good to have a jeep, thoroughfare. And in spite of our delay we quickly caught up to Linda and Dan. She was clearly not comfortable on that road regardless of driving a Silverado. She let us get in the lead and followed us to the trailhead. That's only because we told her no, they couldn't ride with us.



They geared up and hiked off. We delayed, geared up and hiked off.

The third tier of protection for Moon House is the trail itself.

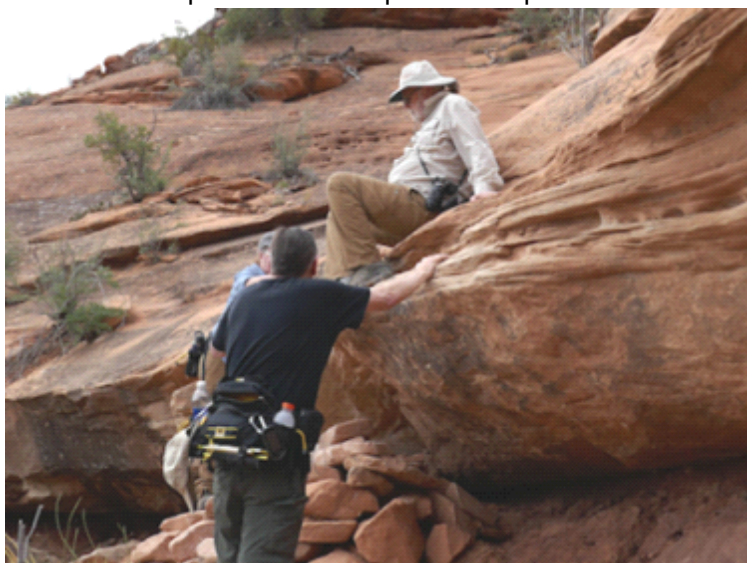


It's pretty much straight down (on the return you'll be unsurprised to discover it's pretty much straight up). This discourages some. There is also a wicked scramble, from slickrock to a loose pile of scree, that dissuades others. The ranger made it a point in our orientation that it was OK to turn around here and go back to your car. He illustrated his point with a photo of a terrified hiker balking at the scramble. At the time we thought it was funny.

In spite of our delay we caught and passed Linda and Dan – who were by then separated by twenty yards or so. Dan

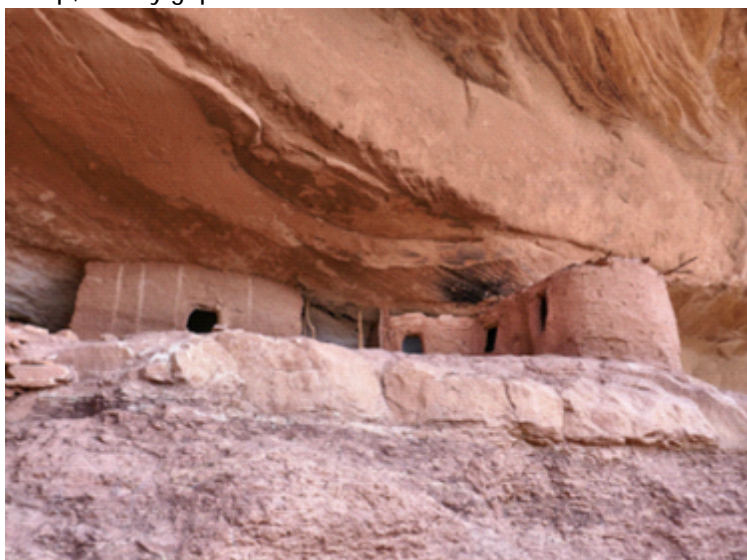
confided that he really wasn't much of a hiker and was only doing this for Linda. How generous. If he didn't go along she had threatened to kill him and take his wine collection. How creepy. Ha Ha?

We beat them to the scramble but stayed to assist, hoping Dan simply had a strange sense of humor. Linda came down first ("here, hold my water bottle... and grab these poles") followed by Dan whose terrified expression was eerily familiar. He required all the help we could provide.



Sheila and I went full bore for the ruins, trying to leave our BFF wannabes in the dust.

The ruins were up the other side of the canyon, through a steep, skinny gap.



The ruins were magnificent. Dave and Barry had already been there and had since disappeared around the bend, looking for a kiva. Dave and Barry didn't want to be BFF's and we really liked them for that.

Linda and Dan were well behind us and we were certain they were not going to make it all the way. We explored Moon House.



As we looked for the way back down, there was Linda. She had made it to the ruins by abandoning Dan at the canyon floor. And we found him later, dejectedly waiting along the trail. He started to elaborate on the wine collection, that by getting divorced, Linda would only get half. SHEEEESH!!!

But the canyon was still gorgeous.





And there's no escaping weird.

Whatta day.

D&S

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