

**From:** Sheila Dieckmann <sheilad711@swbell.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:25 PM  
**To:** vaca.dieck.2000@swbell.net  
**Subject:** Postcard

Gunnison, CO

Yesterday we slipped through the traffic construction noose on US-50 to visit Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Colorado DOT had given us all the planning help we needed:

Travel Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6:30-8:30AM	Open to two-way traffic	Open for single-lane, alternating operations				Open to two-way traffic without delays	
8:30AM-12:30PM	Full roadway closures						
12:30-1:30PM	Open for single-lane, alternating operations						
1:30-5:30PM	Full roadway closures						
5:30-7:30PM	Open for single-lane, alternating operations				Open to two-way traffic		
7:30PM-6:30AM	Full roadway closures						

All closures and operations are weather dependent. Traffic schedule and timeline is tentative and subject to change.

Month-to-Month

2021									2022											
April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
Road Closures													Daytime: Alternating Traffic   Hightime Closures							

Right. We made it to the park anyway.

Our temperature varied from 15-65° through the day and was probably about 25 when we arrived. Of course the rangers were set up outside. For our safety.



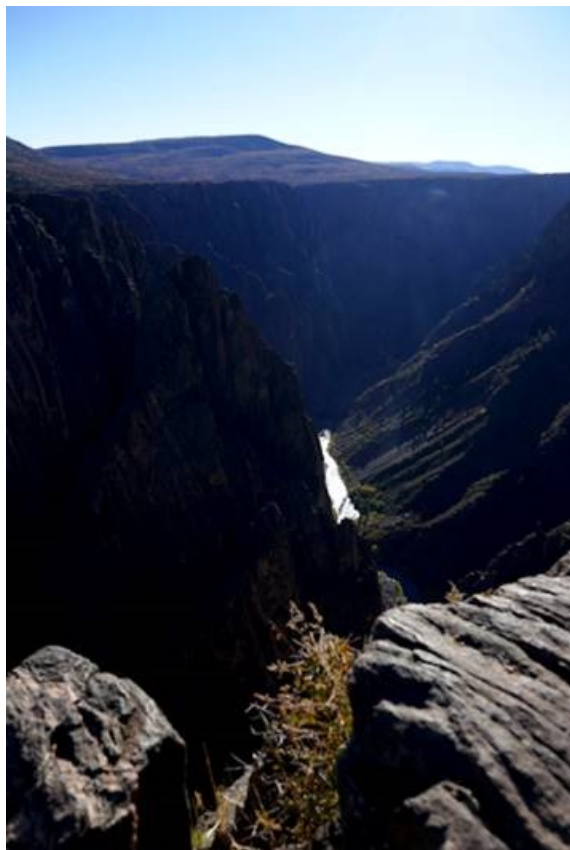
Behind the building are stairs to the first viewpoint.



This view is available online 24/7 at <https://www.nps.gov/webcams-blca/srv.c.jpg>

But these views are not:









The weather forecast looked threatening for the next day, so we crammed South Rim and North Rim into a single visit, adding a 2 hour drive around the canyon. On the way we stopped for lunch in Montrose at Jimmers Steak-BBQ Bar & Grill. They had green chile cheeseburgers on the menu.

The green chile cheeseburger is a New Mexico artform – long strips of roasted Hatch green chile, covered with melted Colby-jack or cheddar, topping a lean 1/3 lb. beef patty between the halves of a fresh wheat or potato bun. Heaven.

But we have been burned before. So after careful interrogation of a waitress who looked like a Dillard's makeup counter clerk we each ordered one. Soon they arrived at our table, two steaming heaps of cheesy glop sporting a mélange of green, red and white flecks. Some investigation revealed the gunk to be covering a beef patty and two pieces of toast.

"What's this?" we asked our walking mannikin. She said "Chile cheeseburger!" "But it's not!" we cried. "It's not even a sandwich!" "Yes it is" said our Tammy Faye Bakker clone "It's a smother sandwich!"

Blinking her beguiling 1" lashes she faded back leaving us to our latest chile cheese frustration. Burned again.



The North Rim is remote, all dirt roads, no rangers in evidence, just signs to obey. And tourists whining about the lack of pavement.

More canyon.





Two flowers.



And a kneeling camel.

Gotta launder now.

D&S