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Subject: Postcard



The reason for driving to the unlovely Bloomfield, NM, is for its proximity to Chaco Canyon – if an hour+ away can be considered proximate. Indeed, Chaco is a long way from anywhere and is protected by dirt washboard along both entry routes. (Doesn't stop folks from driving their Beemers in then bitching at the visitor center, though. And no, sorry sir, there is no restaurant.)

We paid our tenth visit to the park today and hiked to Pueblo Alto for the sixth time. It was also our hardest Pueblo Alto hike. NPS has somehow made the trail steeper, rockier and longer even though it still looks the same.

Chaco is renowned for its abandoned pueblo dwellings which are worth the effort without going hiking. But for us they have become background accompaniment to the peace and serenity we find on the trails. The wind blows, raven wings whoosh, stones occasionally crunch underfoot and the other hikers are both infrequent and respectful of the moment.



The Pueblo Alto Trail starts from the canyon floor near Kin Kletso ruin and climbs through a narrow slot to the East Mesa. From there it's wind, sun, rocks, ravens, lizards, cairns and occasional remnants of a lost civilization.







Pueblo Alto







We finished our Chaco visit as always, lunch with a view of Fajada Butte.

D&S