
Stop 25. Sedona

Arrival datetime: Wednesday, May 15, 4:30PM
Sites visited: Coconino National Forest, Slide Rock State Park
Accommodations: The Ridge on Sedona Golf Course
States traveled: Arizona

Michael's sister Mary has a house in Arizona on a 20-acre lot near Keyenta. The house has only solar power and a cistern for water. She does not currently live there. She works as a nurse practitioner on some kind of oil construction site in Gila Bend and lives in a trailer there. When she heard we were coming to visit, she reserved accommodations at a timeshare she owns in Sedona. So we stayed in a nice apartment on a very green golf course with a great fitness center.

We took scenic 89A from Flagstaff. This gave us views of red rock formations, some with white sandstone at the top. The striking difference between the views here and in the canyons or Monument Valley, besides the fact that these formations were a bit smaller than those other more famous ones, was that there were surrounding by so much green, hilly forests with green trees. Also, they were accessible. You could see them from the parking lot of the supermarket, or sitting on a patio of a restaurant.

We visited with Mary for bit, and then went out to dinner at the Silver Saddle, where Mary had buffalo. The Silver Saddle left us alone in the dining room, cappuccino gone for twenty minutes, without the desert we ordered. When we

finally wandered about looking for a check, they explained that our waiter should have told us the desert would take twenty minutes to cook, a chocolate cake with soft insides, a soufflé. But he did not, and apparently had forgotten to order it from the kitchen as well, so we left without it.

The next day, we went on a off-road "Pink Jeep" tour in Coconino National Forest.



On the Pink Jeep tour with Mary.

The road was difficult and scary in terms of climbing and descending steep rock formations, but we were always on firm ground with no steep drop offs. The red rock formations were smoother than those in the canyons, and correspondingly more aesthetically pleasing to the eye. But they were made of the same sandstone layers and mineral deposits as those in the canyons. The driver was entertaining. He



Red rock formations in Sedona.

told some jokes and one memorable riddle. “Algae and fungi took a likin’ to each other, but now their marriage is on the rocks.” The answer is lichen, the green, orange, or yellow moss that grows on the faces of rocks. It is actually both algae and fungi, whose lifecycles are somehow mutually dependent in that environment. It is pronounced like, “likin’.”

In the afternoon, we went to Slide Rock State Park. It was a long stream that flowed on top of and was surrounded by smooth red rock. Where the rock under the stream was very smooth, you could sit on it and slide down like a water slide. It was a bit rough, and only Jennifer tried



Slide Rock State Park.

it. But she made it with no serious injury and had fun in the process. All three of us walked up the stream in our sneakers. As we moved further up the stream, it was less and less crowded, and the red cliffs grew progressively higher. We



Jennifer in the Slide.

stopped at a deep area to swim, then headed back.

We shopped till we dropped in Sedona, and then went out to dinner at a very good Mexican Restaurant that our tour guide had recommended, Javelina. In the morning, we worked out and swam in the timeshare's fitness center, repacked the car with clean laundry we had deposited the previous day, and moved on.

Miles traveled:	111
Departure datetime:	Friday, May 17, 1:00PM
Departure weather:	93° Sunny