



**Salida "Our Colorado" hike and Colorado Springs Trip Notes
July 29-August 9, 2017**

Headlines.

- Hiking group was most unique with smart, accomplished and lovely ladies. Even an unnamed dignitary. I'm not fond of women-only events but this turned out great and I'd do it again in a heartbeat.
- My second time to do this same hike. I'd do it again in a heartbeat. Smile
- My fifth time in Salida. More than that in Colorado Springs. I'd do it again in a heartbeat. More smiles.
- Many times in Colorado Springs, first for a marathon and then to visit ex-NJ friends. Clearly my heartbeats in Colorado. An understatement since the elevation adds to it.
- Like Colorado hugely but reminded how New Jersey suits me best. My Colorado friends like their home state the best. Lucky me to feel at home in both and to have choices. Glad everyone doesn't like the same places.
- Taco Extravaganza in Colorado Springs – 9 Tacos! (2 in Salida, 5 in Colorado Springs all in one afternoon and 2 at Westin airport.)
- What more can I say other than "I'd do it again in a heartbeat."



Social Inability. More and more realization that hearing disability forces me into near hermit status. It's entirely possible that it's mental since quiet one-on-one is less difficult.



Up on top of Monarch Pass with the week-long hikers; Dana, Dave and C.C. near Colorado Springs.

Daily Notes sent home:

Colorado Again. Day 1 of travel.

I would not purposely go on a women's only trip. After all, I grew up in the era of "women not allowed" so why would I participate in a "women only"? But it is a trip I did before and it is an area that I enjoy very much and I had a spare open week. I have visited Salida an additional three times to do their mountainous run, though I copped out of the run at the last minute all three times.

Overview from www.ParksPlusHiking.com - Since the idea for Parks Plus first blossomed, we knew we would want to share the wonders of our home in Salida, Colorado, and the mountains that surround it. With "This is Our Colorado", that dream has been fulfilled as we hike in the stunning (and challenging) Sawatch Mountains, including a signature hike along the continental divide. To soothe our bodies along the way we stay (and soak) at fabulous Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort. We also spend time in the heart of vibrant and picturesque Salida at the historic Palace Hotel. We love our home and think you will too on this women only tour. End.

We will also visit the Great Sand Dunes National Park where I don't think I have visited except going through as a child.

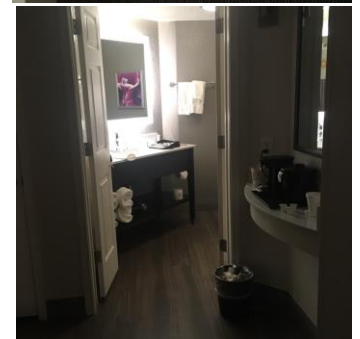
United Air: I am always sorry when they don't use terminal C at Newark airport. I am spoiled. Terminal B does not have TSA pre-check nor a United Club. Terminal A is third world. Fortunately, since the flight was delayed, they have an American Express platinum club, just as fortunate, I had been upgraded so dinner and wine was had at the lounge at 5pm and on board at 8:30pm. Gotta tell you that many in first class didn't look much above the Wal-Martians. It was an old plane like I used to commute from Newark to Palm Beach from 2000 to 2007. Some customers looked like leftovers. Saggy bottoms in short shorts and many flip flops. The food, drink and attendants were quite good.

Books. I was reminded by my seatmate to read Philip Roth's "The Plot Against America" a book from 2004, erringly if not frighteningly telling the same political story as today yet 13 years premature. I'm still into finishing "Monuments Men" -- art seems a nicer subject than politics.

Hotels: Why don't they furnish multiple plugs bedside? Don't they know we have devices to charge? To use as alarm clocks? The need to be fully charged in the morning so they can be used as phones, cameras, GPSs, and video recorders? So I planned, bought and carry a multi-plug adapter now. Especially after the Canadian hotels. Then I didn't need it!

La Quinta Hotel: they are either really good or really bad and this one is exceptionally nice and a bargain. The room was huge, with refrigerator, microwave, and separate coffee area, flat screen TV, desk, thermostatic control air conditioning, big bathroom with counter space and light built within the mirror, recently renovated, Wi-Fi that works and plenty of plug outlets next to the bed. How about \$109 with breakfast and airport shuttle included! So many things that I didn't have in the 4 & 5-stars in Canada.

Sorry. No real pictures except to give credit where credit is due – a good La Quinta. No big dinners. Coming up!



Day 1 and Day 2 of hiking.

Itinerary: 9 AM start of hike. Midland Trail - 6.5 miles

After departing Denver, we will make our way south and west across Kenosha and Red Hill Pass to historic Fairplay, where we'll stop for lunch. We'll then stretch our legs on a portion of the Midland Trail, a former railroad grade and now popular outdoor recreation destination. Luxury awaits us as we proceed to our hot springs haven for a two-night stay at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort. End.

www.mtprinceton.com

We typically stop at a Subway and order sandwiches to take on for a picnic. I like Subway a lot. Many vegetables, good whole-wheat bread and it always seems healthy. Dinner was special.

Day 2 hiking itinerary:

Colorado Trail/Browns Creek Falls Trails - Distance: 11 mi - Difficulty: 5

After breakfast, we hit the trail in earnest, climbing the famed Colorado Trail to views of 14,196' Mt. Princeton. Following an equally challenging descent, we make our way past the foot of 14,245' Mt. Antero to a lovely waterfall along Browns Creek. Numerous soaking options and perhaps even a massage greet our return to Mt. Princeton followed by dinner and the spectacular star-filled sky—if you can stay awake that long. End.

I didn't do the entire hike. Two hikers went on and three of us cut short; I clocked 8.9 miles and about five hours. It was hot, there was 1000 feet of elevation gain in the first hour, and it kept going up. We started at 8390 feet elevation and had I gone to the top, which I have done before, it would have been 10,000 feet. I have been to Brown's Creek Falls twice before yet was a wee bit sorry not to do it again. This is getting to be a habit?

Pictures include:

The first two days hike, and the first dinner, and I gave up the second dinner having plenty of food in my room and preferring to have a quiet time and extra time to talk to Tom.



Canyon walking and when the sun was gone, it was dark. Picnicking trail-side.



Mt Princeton Hotel and Spa has a lovely menu, and my huge trout couldn't be finished, but incentivized some to share it the next night. I think three shared it.



The room was lovely with high beams and the glitch with hot water in the shower was nothing to ruin the ambiance. Many loved the outside hot springs and also indulged in the spa with massages. It is nothing I enjoy. Water is for washing. I remember the White Chalk Cliffs especially from the driving tour by Tom and me. Yes, the sky was that blue, but oftentimes turned stormy mid-to-late afternoon.



Water levels were high. Campers and even the lost-and-found hat were in abundance. The scene was up around 12,000 feet.

Day 3 and 4 of hike - Tuesday and Wednesday

Tuesday Plans: Ptarmigan Lake/Ptarmigan Pass - Distance: 8 mi - Difficulty: 4

We pack out. It was an odd goodbye. I have enjoyed Mount Princeton before for a two nights stay and then again with Tom for an afternoon and a meal. The room was big and well-appointed with lovely high rafters. The reception was very kind and helpful and the restaurant was high class. Then comes the weird part: my shower was not even warm yet the sink gave hot water so I told reception that it was probably the regulator not allowing warm water in the shower. When I returned from the hike she said it was fixed, and wow, was it fixed. There was no way to cool the hot water enough to stand under it. I had to finish rinsing my hair in the sink. Then it got even stranger: the wall heater came on and I couldn't turn it off and the air conditioner (despite being set at 60° never cooled my room under 78° -- my clock shows the temp) until I was able to open the window (when the outside got under 60°). Is it paranoid to think the maintenance man was just showing me? He had left a message that I should just let the cool water run until it heated up which was really silly. Ha ha ha.

From the itinerary: Having acclimated to the altitude, we head up towards 12,000' Cottonwood Pass, stopping just short of the summit for our hike to Ptarmigan Lake. The lake makes a great lunch and turnaround point; views of 14,199' Mt. Yale will wow us at our sub-alpine destination. Not quite enough? Motivated hikers may wish to continue on (and up!) to Ptarmigan Pass before returning to the trailhead. However far you hike, we're headed home to Salida for the night. End

The Palace Hotel coming up. www.salidapalacehotel.com - I stayed here on my first hike and then came back every March for three years. It felt so nice to be at the Palace Hotel that I may come back again. I'll save the stories about Salida because you've probably already heard or could read about this sweet little town in past trip reports. There were three years in a row and surely more to come.

Not sleeping for the last two nights and I don't know why. Altitude? Cousin Cheryl said the same thing. Good thing we're having to stay active and I would fall asleep in my soup. I stayed awake long enough to join the group for Mexican dinner with the first of my fish tacos.

Wednesday plans: The days were switched to Thursday's plan because the weather was better and we were going up on Monarch crest. Nola says you don't want lightning up there.

From the itinerary: Monarch Crest - Distance: 11 mi - Difficulty: 5

Several times over the course of our season, our travels take us near or even across the continental divide. Today, however, we hike along the divide on the famed Monarch Crest Trail. From the crest,

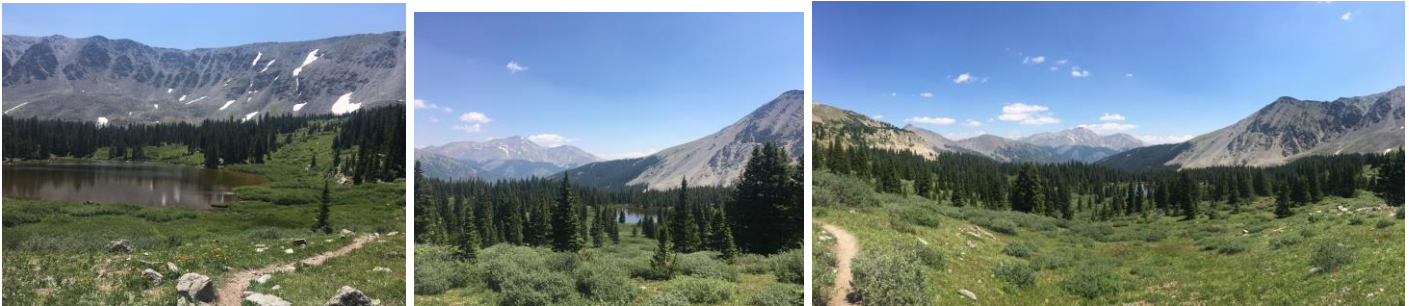
we'll scan the trail's edge for tiny alpine wildflowers and expand our view outward to include several "fourteeners" in the nearby Sawatch Range and down towards Monarch Pass at 11,312'. End.

This is always a headline trip. I did it the first time I joined this hike and I did it another time with Nola, Dave, Dana and their puppy. You would think that I've had enough elevation I would start to adjust but I don't think so. For somebody who lives at sea level this is really high and one really huffs and puffs.

This time had similarities to the first insofar as the weather was next to perfect at the start despite some wind but then after our picnic the clouds started forming, the sky got gray, and Nola pushed us to hurry off the crest before lightning started. We were just entering the forest when the hail started. It stung. It got cold. My fingers got numb. A pit-stop was next to impossible with numb fingers. You've probably heard the term "knickers in a twist"? Yep.

I skipped dinner though I didn't skip eating.

Pictures:



High up to find the lake(s). While the group hopped over one fast flowing stream with mud on either side, I reverted to a lower lake rather than risk falling. I'd been there before and could see the final destination.



My room at The Palace Hotel has been my room at least three times now. The Mexican dinner was a first in Salida, out on the highway, but fish tacos would not be my last. I was only able to eat two of these.



Hiking to the upper edge of the world. There's hikers in that first picture, and a chunk of granite on top of the post.



Our picnic spot on top of Monarch Crest would be about the last of the day's sunny skies as soon it clouded over, and just as quick came the stinging hail. The other two times I've been on Monarch Crest it also hailed on us. I'm sure there were more flowers that needed pictures but my fingers became numb with cold and I couldn't operate them.



Day 5 and 6 - Thursday and Friday.

From the itinerary: Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve - Distance: 6 mi - Difficulty: 4 - Today we're off on a road trip of sorts to fascinating Great Sand Dunes National Park. There we will learn first-hand the meaning of two steps up, one step back (and often the reverse, sad to say) as we climb nearly 750' to one of the tallest of the ever-shifting dunes. After emptying the sand from our shoes, socks, pockets, etc. and enjoying a picnic lunch, we'll ascend the Overlook Trail for more views of the dunes, followed by a visit to the park's Visitor Center. A very full day! End

The real story: we got up a couple of reasonably easy dunes if you can call getting up a dune easy but the storms were coming so we didn't have very much exercise. My iPhone pedometer showed 3 miles. If you've never been in a sandstorm, you need to see it to believe it. The sand sticks to you. Even after dumping a pile of sand from my shoes at the curb of the hotel I found it everywhere even the next morning.

A surprise and very different world. Some web facts:

The tallest dunes in North America. 30 square mile of dunes. Surge Flow is a rare phenomenon in Medano Creek that flows along the east side of the Dune-field. In early summer the Medano Creek is at peak flow from the snowmelt coming down from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Because the whole creek bottom is sand, the water carves lots of grooves into the sand and little sand dams are built up. When the flow of the water knocks down these dams it creates a sudden rush of water. This is called surge flow and the "waves" can be up 18" high when the flow is highest. By late August the creek is very low.

This was all new to me. Pic of the creek at sunset from the web. We'd once lived near to other sand dunes that I thought were expansive but nothing like this. <https://www.nps.gov/whsa/index.htm>. White Sands in NM where we lived early 70s.

From the itinerary: Arkansas River Trails - Distance: 6 mi - Difficulty: 2 -
For our final day in the Salida area we stay even closer to home as we hike part of the local Arkansas River Trail system directly above town, specifically the North Backbone, Lil' Rattler, and Frontside trail. Although this is one of our favorite running routes, we promise to stay with the group lest we miss our final lunch together prior to our return to Denver. End.

We ended at a favorite restaurant called The Boathouse where I started my marathon eating extravaganza of tacos and in particular fish tacos.

Dana drove from Colorado Springs to join us for Thursday dinner and the last day hike. She drove me back to Colorado Springs and through Garden of the Gods which is near her home. She had kindly invited me to stay at her house but the Marriott was such a good deal, including food, it made more sense. I'd stayed here a few other times.

We had numerous eve plans which could have been the concert at my hotel or the art walk in old Colorado Town, or an ice-skating exhibition. One was canceled and the others didn't seem logical in the stormy weather. We both admitted to being tired anyway.

Hike Attendees - It was a very special week not only for the good hiking but also for the very unique and impressive women. I was struck by the good works being done by the attorney who volunteers to assist immigrants. Or by the very sharp young-looking gal who holds an important and high-ranking political position that she well deserves. And the guides who have such an impact on people's lives by convincing them to do more than they ever thought their body could manage. Or the mama who volunteers to help old folks and also in a library. And the medical director who works for women's needs. It left me with a lot of wonder about what the hell am I doing with my full-time decadent travels.

But if I can find a spot to be kind to myself it is with almost wonder that my body is holding up. Though I didn't like doing hikes that I did in prior years because they were more difficult now, in most cases I did make it and with no hurt. That on very limited sleep which appeared to be the same for most of us. We don't know why we didn't sleep much unless it is the elevation.

Pictures include:

A poster from the Great Sands visitor center.

A look back at the mountains and the visitor center.

The piñon forest on the next day hike along perfectly easy and delightful trails. Wish I had a picture of the hummingbirds.

Looking down on Salida.

My fish tacos.

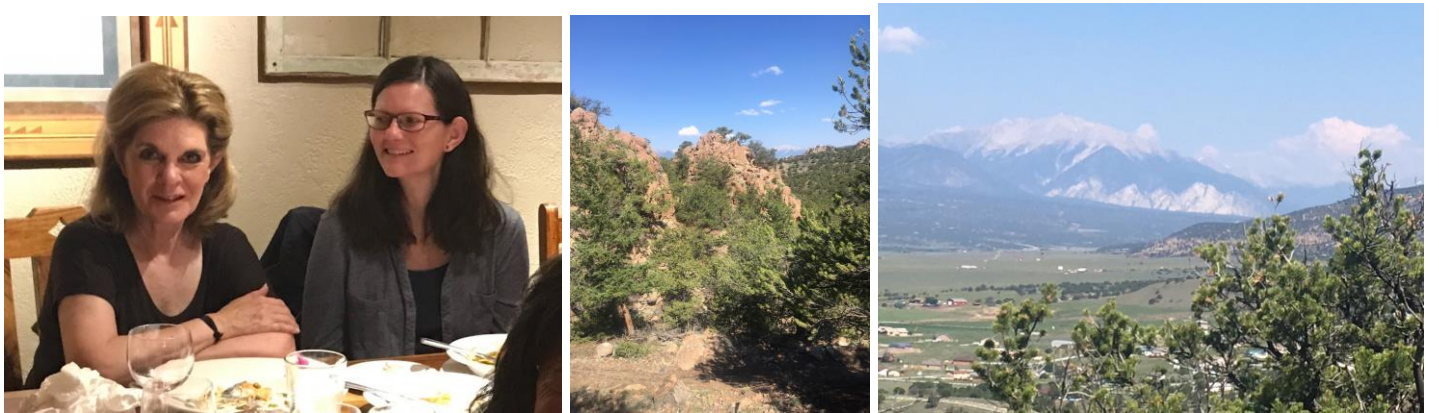
The river just outside the Boathouse and our hotel.

Garden of the Gods.

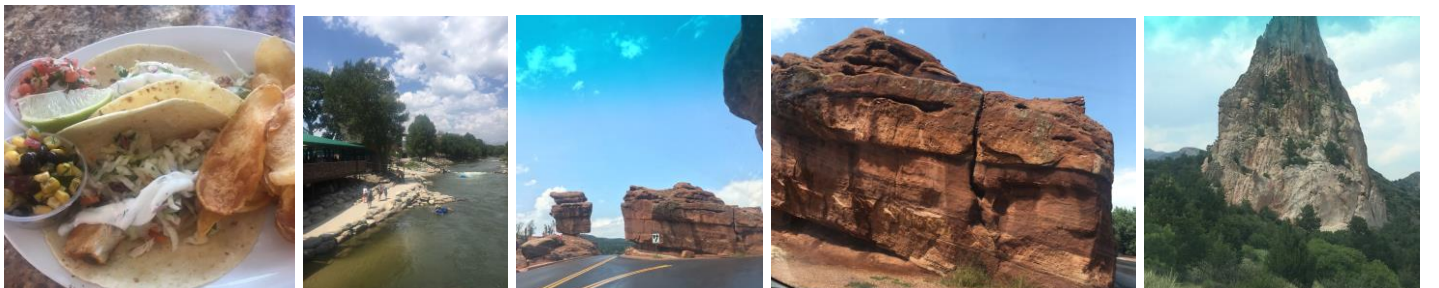
A cropped dinner picture showing Dana and me.



See Sarah heading over the rim? See Sarah disappearing? She got down and then up to the other side but didn't get back until after the storm hit. They were wet and covered with sand. The last hill? There are little ant sized people on it and I'm sure they didn't get back before getting sand-blasted.



Dana and I at dinner, before the next day's hike up the hill out our hotel.



Fish Tacos at The Boathouse is always a favorite and I've surely never missed them and even had them back to back. The Boathouse sits on the edge of the river. Later Dana would drive us through Garden of the Gods, on our way to my hotel for the next four nights.

Day 7 and 8 - Saturday and Sunday.

The hotel has a full breakfast and lots for dinner in the concierge lounge and I took full advantage. You will soon see and understand why I felt like Saturday started with decent abs which abs quickly turned to flab. It wasn't the fault of the concierge lounge.

From the itinerary: 10:00am - Colorado Springs downtown walking tour. Core Culture Walking Tours | Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs starting at Wild Goose Meeting House. Topics include public art, regional history, and special "wild card" tours that illuminate the unexpected side of Downtown through cuisine, murals, photography, architecture, and more. It included a free coffee from Wild Goose. Core Culture tours are in conjunction with the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and the Wild Goose Meeting House. End.

We stayed for a tour of the Pioneer Museum in the old court house building.

Then we were off for another kind of touring. Call it a marathon extravaganza of tacos? Dana had researched the best tacos in town and many were traveling food trucks, some located and some inexplicably not despite their website notices. One excellent food truck was totally unexpected.

We had been betting on how many tacos we could eat in a day. I have had other trips where I bragged about having four taco dinners in a week. Today I managed five tacos in a day -- or seven tacos in two days. Dana was almost the same number but Dave gave out early.

Then, if you can imagine, we went onto Sunday morning tea at the beautiful Glen Eyrie Castle nestled among the dramatic red rocks. See how versatile we can be? We even changed out of our hiking clothes.

Glen Eyrie castle - https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glen_Eyrie

I couldn't choose which tea so the wait-staff helped. Bourbon street vanilla, a South African red bush tea from Madagascar with vanilla and almonds giving a sweet wonderful exotic jazzy depth (I'm not making this up) and Indian spiced chai with the flavors of autumn "that will make your mouth come alive".

Pictures include:

Colorado has the most interesting cars with many artsy and many much older than we can allow in New Jersey.

Downtown still has a club with the upper floor exclusively for men.

The opera house might be historical but it is nothing like I've seen before yet cute artwork on the side.

I stayed in the Antler Hotel when it was a Hilton and I was there for a marathon.

The ex-courthouse is now the pioneer museum. It is certainly worthy of a visit.

Then we started our taco eating marathon. A bus, a truck, a trailer, and a drive up/carry out.

Tacos were Saturday. Nothing could be more extreme than our Sunday morning British tea in Glen Eyrie castle.

After the castle tour we met Nola back at Dana's home before heading out to the art museum, followed by a walk downtown and a lengthy stay in the Old Richards book shop. Dave and Dana cooked dinner for us and Nola brought a number of goodies from Trader Joe's.

I've been asked and I should have explained that Dave and Dana are my marathon and hiking friends from New Jersey who moved to Colorado Springs about four years ago. Coincidentally Dana's family is in Kansas City. Dave's family remains in New Jersey.

Now it is good night to all. We all go hiking early tomorrow.



After the walking tour and visit to the Pioneer Museum, we headed out to find all the Taco Trucks we could manage. It was five tacos for me that afternoon. The first stop was a converted bus and might have been the best food of the day were it not affected by the 30-minute wait. A group of young baseball kids managed to get in front of us.



The next food truck was inexplicably missing but next door was the least-expensive and probably the best value and kindest service. Then to the piece de' resistance – taco egg rolls of pork belly!



I needed a walk around town before trying another taco stop. The clouds were coming in. Next up was a taco-express drive up and maybe our least favorite but as a fifth taco, was it any surprise?



Just to show you that we can diversify we went from Mexican Tacos one afternoon to British Tea the next morning. Glen Eyrie Castle is worth another trip.



Lovely and a bit frou-frou. A timer for the tea. The root beer was a favorite though the shrimp in a leechie nut was quite unique.



Four desserts called for a walk around the beautiful green grounds with a multitude of Garden-of-Gods type rocks.

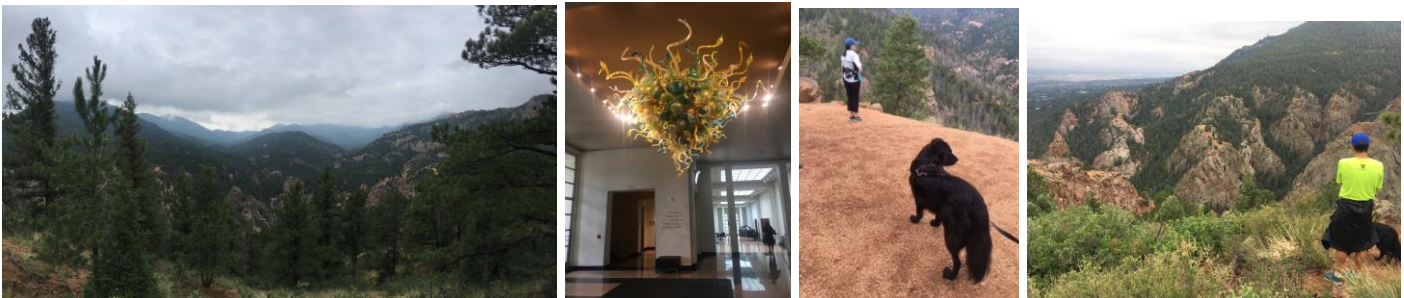


Calm collected Glen Eyrie, following crazy Taco Crash, causing Nola to find this t-shirt "After This – We're Getting Tacos"!

Last days of the trip.



Into the Art Museum and we all enjoy Days of the Dead art. Back to Dave and Dana's home where C.C. has his own toy-box and generally carries around a toy. They fixed dinner and the next day guided Nola and me on a hike which included C.C. of course.



We watched a very long two stage of Zip Lining in the Broadmoor Hotel hills. I wasn't sure if Nola was serious about wanting to try Zip Lining but after they looked up the price at near \$300, their enthusiasm cooled.

Dave's description when I asked clarification of our destination(s): That area of Colorado Springs is North Cheyenne Canon. The first hike was up Mt Cutler, overlooking Seven Falls (owned by Broadmoor) and the Broadmoor Zip Line course... both of which are in South Cheyenne Canon. Then we went to Helen Hunt Falls. Then Amy's Donuts & La Casita.



All that hiking called for a stop at the local “Voodoo Donuts” type shop where some indulged and some took home a box of six donuts!



My last day took us by car to Denver and a day at the Wings over Denver Air Museum, as much because they had a Leonardo de Vinci exhibit. It included surprisingly good art work by a local who only uses colored pencils and it included films and explanation of Da Vinci and Michelangelo’s relationship. In between – no tacos – but a German bratwurst full of chili, onions and mustard.



The Denver Airport is noted for the tents or sails, and it should be noted for the Westin Hotel that sits at the edge. It’s a new transportation hub and quite the sight. It could be a boat, or a “W” but I’m told by employees that it was intended to be the wings of a pilot or airline attendant. And what did I have for dinner but two more tacos, my 8th and 9th. See my airline travel companion? He wasn’t always in his seat.

If you want to see more, try <http://wingsmuseum.org/museum/>

If you want to see more of the Salida and Mt Princeton hike, see www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com under 2015 trips.

What's up next? If you're reading this about the time it was written, you'll know what it means when I say my next trip starts at a hotel on Las Ramblas in Barcelona. I was with Steve and Nola in Rome when the bigger terrorist attack hit Paris, so off I went almost immediately to Paris as a show of support. Here I go to Spain in about 10 days.

Itinerary

Sat Jul 29 – Day 1

6:35pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#1740
8:59pm Arrive Denver DEN

Host Hotel La Quinta
6801 Tower Road, Aurora, CO 80249 Tel: 303 371 0888

Sun Jul 30 – Day 2 of trip and Day 1 of hike

9:00am Start hike

From www.ParksPlusHiking.com - Since the idea for Parks Plus first blossomed, we knew we would want to share the wonders of our home in Salida, Colorado, and the mountains that surround it. With “This is Our Colorado”, that dream has been fulfilled as we hike in the stunning (and challenging) Sawatch Mountains, including a signature hike along the continental divide. To soothe our bodies along the way we stay (and soak) at fabulous Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort. We also spend time in the heart of vibrant and picturesque Salida at the historic Palace Hotel. We love our home and think you will too on this women only tour.

Midland Trail - Distance: 5 mi - Difficulty: 3

Hotel Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort – 1st of 2 nights
[15870 County Road 162, Nathrop, CO 81236](http://15870CountyRoad162.com) Tele: 719 395 2447
www.mtprinceton.com

After departing Denver, we will make our way south and west across Kenosha and Red Hill Pass to historic Fairplay, where we'll stop for lunch. We'll then stretch our legs on a portion of the Midland Trail, a former railroad grade and now popular outdoor recreation destination. Luxury awaits us as we proceed to our hot springs haven for a two-night stay.

Mon Jul 31 – Day 3 of trip and Day 2 of hike

Colorado Trail/Browns Creek Falls Trails - Distance: 11 mi - Difficulty: 5

Hotel Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort – 2nd of 2 nights

After breakfast, we hit the trail in earnest, climbing the famed Colorado Trail to views of 14,196' Mt. Princeton. Following an equally challenging descent, we make our way past the foot of 14,245' Mt. Antero to a lovely waterfall along Browns Creek. Numerous soaking options and perhaps even a massage greet our return to Mt. Princeton followed by dinner and the spectacular star-filled sky—if you can stay awake that long.

Tue Aug 1 – Day 4 of trip and Day 3 of hike

Ptarmigan Lake/Ptarmigan Pass - Distance: 8 mi - Difficulty: 4

Hotel Palace Hotel – 1st of 3 nights
204 N. F. Street, Salida, CO 80201 Tele: 719 207 4175
www.salidapalacehotel.com

Having acclimated to the altitude, we head up towards 12,000' Cottonwood Pass, stopping just short of the summit for our hike to Ptarmigan Lake. The lake makes a great lunch and turnaround point; views of 14,199' Mt. Yale will wow us at our sub-alpine destination. Not quite enough? Motivated

hikers may wish to continue on (and up!) to Ptarmigan Pass before returning to the trailhead. However far you hike, we're headed home to Salida for the night.

Wed Aug 2 – Day 5 of trip and Day 4 of hike

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve - Distance: 6 mi - Difficulty: 4

Hotel Palace Hotel – 2nd of 3 nights

Today we're off on a road trip of sorts to fascinating Great Sand Dunes National Park. There we will learn first-hand the meaning of two steps up, one step back (and often the reverse, sad to say) as we climb nearly 750' to one of the tallest of the ever-shifting dunes. After emptying the sand from our shoes, socks, pockets, etc. and enjoying a picnic lunch, we'll ascend the Overlook Trail for more views of the dunes, followed by a visit to the park's Visitor Center. A very full day!

Thu Aug 3 – Day 6 of trip and Day 5 of hike

Monarch Crest - Distance: 14 mi - Difficulty: 5

Hotel Palace Hotel – 3rd of 3 nights

Several times over the course of our season, our travels take us near or even across the continental divide. Today, however, we hike along the divide on the famed Monarch Crest Trail. From the crest, we'll scan the trail's edge for tiny alpine wildflowers and expand our view outward to include several "fourteeners" in the nearby Sawatch Range and down towards Monarch Pass at 11,312'.

Fri Aug 4 – Day 7 of trip and Day 6 of hike

Arkansas River Trails - Distance: 6 mi - Difficulty: 2

For our final day in the Salida area we stay even closer to home as we hike part of the local Arkansas River Trail system directly above town, specifically the North Backbone, Lil' Rattler, and Frontside trail. Although this is one of our favorite running routes, we promise to stay with the group lest we miss our final lunch together prior to our return to Denver.

6:00pm End of hike in Denver in Denver

Transport: Dana is hiking with us on Friday, she will drive us back to Colorado Springs and loan her 3rd car. We are probably done after lunch at The Boathouse in Salida. About 100 miles or 2 hours from Salida to Colorado Springs.

Hotel Marriott Colorado Springs - 4 nights
5580 Tech Center Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919 Tele: (719) 260-1800

Sat Aug 5 – Day 8 of trip

10:00am Colorado Springs downtown walking tour – 1 hour – tickets in file

[Core Culture Walking Tours | Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs](#)

Core Culture's hour-long guided walking tours are held monthly at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month, starting at Wild Goose Meeting House (401 N. Tejon Street). Topics include public art, regional history, and special "wild card" tours that illuminate the unexpected side of Downtown through cuisine, murals, photography, architecture, and more.

Pre-registration is advised. All paid tickets include a free coffee beverage from Wild Goose, and ticket holders are encouraged to arrive by 9:30 a.m. to order their beverage before the tour.

Core Culture tours are presented by Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs in conjunction with the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and the Wild Goose Meeting House.

Other tourist ideas include:

Penrose @ Broadmore and Broadmore,

Food tour

Hike(s)

Exhibit of Rembrandt etchings at the Pueblo Art Museum;

Air Force Academy Chapel – soon to be closed for 4 years renovation

New exhibit at the Colorado Springs art museum.

<https://www.csindy.com/coloradosprings/impressive-collection-of-international-masterpieces-to-be-shown-at-the-fine-arts-center/Content?oid=6046688>

A local magazine did an article about the Top Taco places in Colorado Springs & called it 'On the Taco Trail'. It might be fun to 'follow' the trail & check out a few of the taco places in town.

<https://springsmag.com/taco-trail-top-tacos-colorado-springs/>

Sun Aug 6 – Day 9 of trip

10:45am Arrive at Glen Eyrie Castle - <http://gleneyrie.org/tours/castle-tour/> for

11:00am Tea for 2 – ticket in file

Nola arrives in the afternoon

Mon Aug 7 – Day 10 of trip

Hike

Tue Aug 8 – Day 11 of trip

Wings over the Rockies Museum in Denver - Da Vinci Machines Exhibition.

Dave & Dana want to go so would drive on Tuesday, have lunch and then drop Diana at airport hotel

<http://wingsmuseum.org/>

Hotel The Westin Denver Intl Airport – 1 night

8300 Peña Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80249 Tele: (303) 317-1800

Wed Aug 9 – Day 12 of trip

12:35pm Depart Denver DEN via UA#749

6:21pm Arrive Newark EWR

Hike Participants

Nola cell 303 249 8432

Megan B from Calgary

Annie I from Seattle area

Cheryl S from San Luis Obispo

Dana – on Thursday eve

Sarah from Chicago

Marie from Alexandria