

Hello everyone!

Just wanted to share the highlights of our March through April month long roundtrip to Southeast Utah with our 15 foot long Tab teardrop trailer. We have recently returned home and finally cleaned all the red, Utah dust from our van and Tab which is now washed, waxed and waiting for our real spring here in Cleveland. We had a pre-trip van check and avoided disaster by finding corroded wiring and no trailer brakes! Easy fix, but a good reason for a good mechanical check-up before extended travel. As luck would have it, we had snow just days before our departure which made for a cold packing experience:)



We took six days to travel to Moab, Utah by way of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico - a more southern routing to avoid winter weather. Our longest days were 400 miles which was plenty of towing - even with 2 of us taking turns. We drove at 62 mph on cruise control. This being our first long, trailer trip and still winter, we elected to stay in motels in transit rather than camp along the way. We highly recommend the Choice Motels app! We called ahead, inquired about parking, and they easily accommodated the Tab. We ran into more wind the further west we drove. We used the book "Next Exit" to find Love's Travel Stops - convenient for our frequent refuelings as our mileage was a sorry 11-12 mpg!

I 40 - Texas Flat, brown, windy!



Everything is bigger in Texas - even their wind farms.



We reached Moab where we camped at the full hook-up Moab Rim Campark. We no sooner arrived and the forecast changed for overnight weather down into the high 20s and low 30s and warming during the day. We were a little nervous. Even though our small trailer has heat and hot water, the plumbing is not designed to spend extended time in freezing weather. Everything turned out fine and our pipes remained thawed! We added a little bit of anti-freeze to the traps under the trailer and hoped for the best. The forecast called for snow until noon as we departed for Dead Horse Point State Park, only to have it start to snow and continued to snow as we approached the campground at 6,000 feet. We were glad to have that behind us!

Approach to Dead Horse Point State Park Campground

Made it!



Dead Horse Point State Park turned out to be our favorite stop and we think it is better than the Grand Canyon. The views, especially at sunrise, made everywhere else pale in comparison. We hiked directly from the campground. We deployed our trailer tent which remained tethered through some serious gusts. Arches National Park and Canyonland National Park - Island in the Sky district were nearby and we enjoyed our days there.

Dead Horse Point at sunrise. Beautiful and freezing!

The Tab and tent survived 35 mph wind gusts.



Arches National Park

Canyonlands National Park - Island in the Sky district



We discovered that Moab's biggest annual event - Jeep Week - was going on during our trip. Who knew?? The town goes from 8,000 to 100,000 people. Preferring a less crowded venue, we found a very nice Bureau of Land Management camp site south of Moab called Wind Whistle. What a find! It was located a short distance off the main road and it was practically all ours. The camp hosts from Oregon were lovely and we were close to some interesting sites like Needles Overlook. The beauty made up for the lack of amenities (no water, electric, or sewer) and we had a chance to use our solar for charging our battery.

Wind Whistle BLM Campground - Needles Overlook view below



The "Needles" are sharply eroded sandstone formations.

After camping on top of the canyons, we moved to the bottom! We stayed at Canyonlands Needles Outpost - a private campground right outside the Canyonlands Needles district entry. It was convenient to the park entry, and surrounded by beautiful, climbable, sandstone rock. There was no water or electric hook ups, so we filled our water tank and jugs before traveling here. They did have pay showers which helped conserve our trailer water. The Needles district was the best part of Canyonlands. We also stopped at Newspaper Rock to see petroglyphs, hiked on some slickrock and visited some ruins.

Moon over Needles Outpost Campground



On the road to Canyonlands Needles



Newspaper Rock



Next we traveled south to Blanding, Utah and stayed at the Blue Mountain RV Park. Our assigned site was right next to another Tab trailer - only the second one we had seen thus far. While in Blanding, we visited Hovenweep National Monument, Goosenecks State Park, Natural Bridges National Monument, Valley of the Gods and traveled the Moki Dugway - a road carved out of the mountain and used originally for mining. We also did some hiking in Mule Canyon where we saw some more ruins. We supported the local economy and purchased some beautiful Navaho hand woven rugs and a basket. Beautiful art work that is harder to come by as the newer generation is not learning this skill.

Hovenweep ruins

Goosenecks

Valley of the Gods

Moki Dugway



Our final Utah campsite was at Goblin Valley State Park. The road from Blanding up to Goblin was empty and scenic with limited towns and service stations. We brought along an extra 5 gallons of gas, just in case, but, we never needed it! There was a great rest area with trails called Hog Springs on Rt. 95 just past the Colorado River where we enjoyed our lunch. Goblin SP was a dramatic place surrounded by red rock and close to the actual goblins - mushroom shaped rocks that resemble... goblins. We took a day trip and hiked in Capitol Reef National Park and decided that is a place we would like to see again. Besides the goblins we enjoyed a slot canyon hike in Little Wild Horse Canyon and a great dinner just outside of Capital Reef.

Hog Spring Rest Area

Little Wild Horse Canyon



Goblin Valley State Park and the goblins - ?Bob Hope?

Not much wildlife to be seen except for small herds of mule deer and antelope. We frequently had the La Sal mountains in view and they are spectacular. This was the closest we ever got to the antelope. This guy was solo and crossed the road behind us.



Goblin put us in a great position to head north to I 70 for the long trek home. The roads were dry and free of snow going through the Colorado passes, but, wouldn't you know it, a spring Northeaster came in and our visibility through Kansas was limited. Then, of course, no sooner did we hit our home state of Ohio we had more snow!! Anyways, home safe and the Tab performed fabulously!

Enjoying our retirement.... John and Sharon