



In Search of Eldorado

Link to the Eldorado Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VczD1olutQ8>



Hello to Family & Friends

The good news is I didn't get kicked out of my camping spot overnight (the arrow above). More good news is the music playing pickup truck left about 10:15 p.m. Even more good news, the traffic slowed significantly throughout the night and I had no problem sleeping at all.

Blank Space

Day 26
Tuesday,
January 28th

Santa Rosa and San
Jacinto Mountains NM
To
Anzo-Borrega Desert
State Park

Weather
50's to 70's and Sunny

In Search of Eldorado

By Edgar Allan Poe

Gaily bedight,
A gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Had journeyed long,
Singing a song,
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o'er his heart a shadow—
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

'Over the Mountains
Of the Moon,
Down the Valley of the Shadow,
Ride, boldly ride,'
The shade replied,—
'If you seek for Eldorado!'



This is a look at the switchback road below and the Coachella valley in the distance.

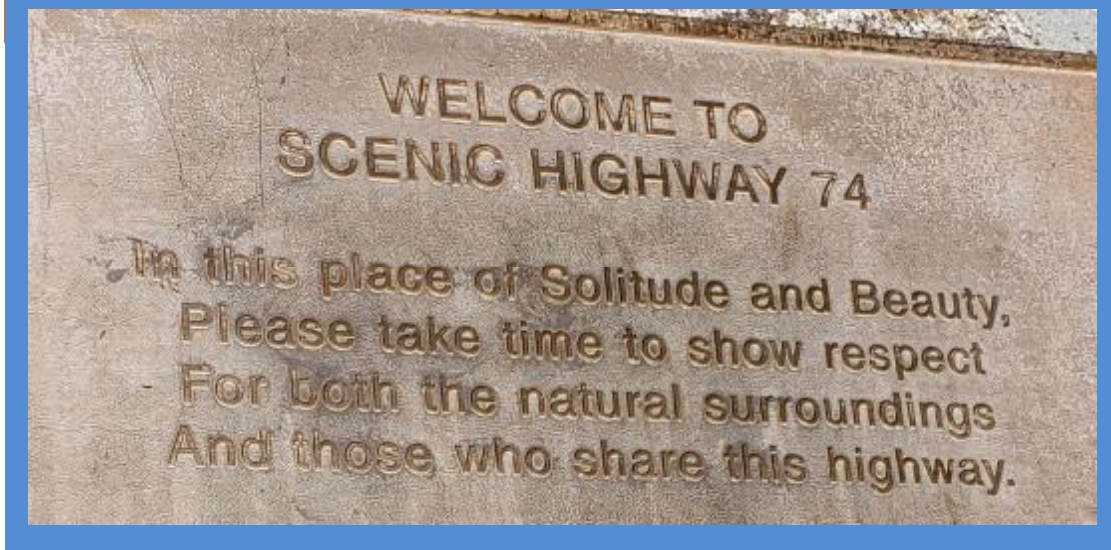
Remember back in Death Valley when I tried to re-create the view from Dante's View in the John Wayne movie? Well here goes another one. Anybody recall IT'S A MAD MAD MAD MAD WORLD from 1963, starring Spencer Tracy (saw his Palm Springs home Sunday) and many other actors? In the opening scene of the movie a man named Smiler Grogan is racing down this road and passing a van and some cars. Below is a screen shot by a person who spent years going to every location in the movie and trying to re-create each shot. Exactly why I'm not sure, he must be obsessed with the film. The inset is the actual screen shot.



Public
1 (1) (meaning Scene 1, 1st photo) The opening scene in the movie, IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD shows Smiler Grogan passing a van and cars. It was filmed from level 5 of the 7 Level Hill above Palm Desert on Hwy 74.



I think mine turned out pretty well, 57 years later





I guess some people didn't read the sign

There were still good views from this vista point. The arrow is the Salton Sea again



Below is a panoramic





I betcha they have a pretty nice view




Left - The sign in the back is for the San Bernardino National Forest. This is the end of the National Monument. The monster to the right is only about 3 inches long. First one that stopped in the open long enough to get a picture.



Lands of Mukat's People Welcome to Cahuilla Téewwenet Vista Point
 On behalf of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Cahuilla People... Take a short walk and learn from the Cahuilla Indians.

The rugged lands you see from Téewwenet (TEH-weh-net) were the traditional homeland of the Cahuilla (kuh-WEE-uh) Indians. Their culture is intimately connected to this landscape, a place where they have called home for millennia.



That looks like it would be a fun canyon to follow as far as you can.





Radio Carbon dating indicates that there were at least five lakes that filled the Salton Basin between about AD 80 and AD 1600. The lakes were more than 100 miles long, 35 miles wide and 300 feet deep.

This used to be a lake, remember Death Valley used to be a lake, and there were six more surrounding it? Where did all this water go? I just looked it up. Around 1600 the lake outlet became blocked and it only took 50 years for the water to evaporate. There are still Native American fish traps to be found along the valley where the shore once was.

This was a very neat and interesting little vista point. They had a paved trail, with plaques, ending at a large deck with more plaques and a recording of natives chanting. They also had a short, unpaved nature trail with some nice views of the valley and mountains. There was a couple ahead of me who were at the deck. I started down the unpaved trail as they pressed the button for the sound. It was quite a wow factor to be following that trail with the sound of native chanting in the background. Very cool.

I wasn't sure what I wanted to do at this point, so I decided to follow the Pines to Palms Scenic Highway as far as I wanted (which happened to be where it started down the mountain again), then turned around and took the turn for a California State Park. I stopped at the Idyllwild Nature Center for lunch, but they were closed (go figure), so I stayed in the parking lot and ate.



It was nice driving through trees again that were over 10 feet tall, nothing grows very high in the desert. I was now on the windward side of the San Jacinto Mountains; cooler, wetter and a lot greener.

I did see that a forest fire must have swept through this area, not sure when, but there was a long stretch of burned pine trees.



This is one of the places I have been looking forward to visiting. It sounds like a lot of hiking opportunities. Plus, part of the park is badlands, my favorite. This only makes sense since we are not too far from the Mecca Hills area where I hiked all of those slot canyons on Packer slaughter day.



Panoramic photos, as I drove another scenic road from the mountains to the desert plain below.



WHAT'S THIS? The visitor center door is open? I admit, I did check the hours ahead of time. I'm learning.

Is it just me? Or does this sound like a bunch of bull? I drive into the lot and there's a little machine kiosk selling day use permits. You must have a day use permit to use the park or the fine is \$71.50. I bypass it and enter the VC. A very nice VC. Talking to the ranger about hikes and I ask if there's a permit for multiple days. Nope, you must come back to the VC and but a permit every day. As I leave I buy a permit, \$10. The permit says it expires at 7 p.m. It's now 4 p.m. WHAT? How am I supposed to find a campsite and then come back and get a permit, then find the spot again in the dark? The park is 600,000 acres. I can drive 20 miles and not exit the park. After some driving, and then some cogitating, I pull over on some BLM land with about 50 other campers. I hop on the internet and find that the day use permit is only required if you are entering a day use area. I think the ranger should read the rules before handing out advice.



My free BLM site above.

Needless to say I was a little peeved as I drove 15 miles towards a campsite, then turned around and drove 5 miles back to where I am now. It's another 15 miles to my first hiking spots. I was planning on two or three days here. I guess I'll decide tomorrow if I want to stay or not.

It's also a disappointment that most of the prime views are at the end of off-road trails, which are the predominant theme in this park. You remember my thoughts on off-roaders from Mecca Hills.

Oh well, like I should complain right?

Until next time.....