



# In Search of Eldorado

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



## Hello to Family & Friends

Here we are at Disneyland with a picture of the Mad Hatter Spinning Tea Cup ride. This was after we rode, I just wanted a picture of the lanterns over the ride.

We took a Hop On Hop Off bus tour on Thursday, through Hollywood, Beverly Hills where we hopped off and walked Rodeo Drive, down to Santa Monica where we hopped off and walked the famous Santa Monica Pier then back to Hollywood. We couldn't go to the Chinese Theatre because the premier of a new series was showing and they had it blocked off for the celebrities (most we never heard of) to walk the red carpet.

A short stroll to Kali's request for dinner, an In & Out Burger. The place was packed, why I'm not sure, the food was only so-so.

Friday was Disneyland, Saturday was Disney's California Adventure. We could have spent another day, maybe two, to really explore both parks, but we were able to see and do almost everything each of us wanted to.

Way too much food and sweets. It's a good thing we did a lot of walking to work it off.

Sunday Erin went to Universal Studios while Kali, Morgan and I found an interesting hike in the Topanga State Park to Santa Ynez Falls. We did find a little water trickling down the rocks.

Days 66, 67 & 68

March 8th, 9th & 10th

Here

and

There

Weather

Nice

## In Search of Eldorado

By Edgar Allen 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!'

The interesting part started at the falls where a rope was tied and we had to climb up, then climb some more via footholds, almost like going up a chimney, and then scrambling another hundred feet or so to the top of the canyon. It was a beautiful view. The strange part is that up on top we ran into another hiker and stopped to chat for awhile. Turns out he is Conor Charles, a movie producer (not sure if anyone saw last summer's blockbuster hit *Angel Has Fallen* with Gerard Butler and Morgan Freeman) among many film industry titles. He told us about his latest project which is riding and filming the trains of America. Of course this piqued my interest. He spent three months riding and filming and plans to spend more time with the western half of the U.S. He was interested in our travels and was very friendly and chatty (look him up on IMDB if you're interested). Who would think that to meet a real movie producer you would have to hike to and climb a waterfall near Hollywood.



On the way to drop Erin off we took a detour to a view of the Hollywood Sign.







After a little driving tour and dinner we arrived back at the RV park as the Disneyland Fireworks were going off. Most of you know I love fireworks (just wait til this 4<sup>th</sup> of July). Erin & Kali grabbed a seat and enjoyed the end of the show. You can just see the tops of their heads over the backs of the chairs.



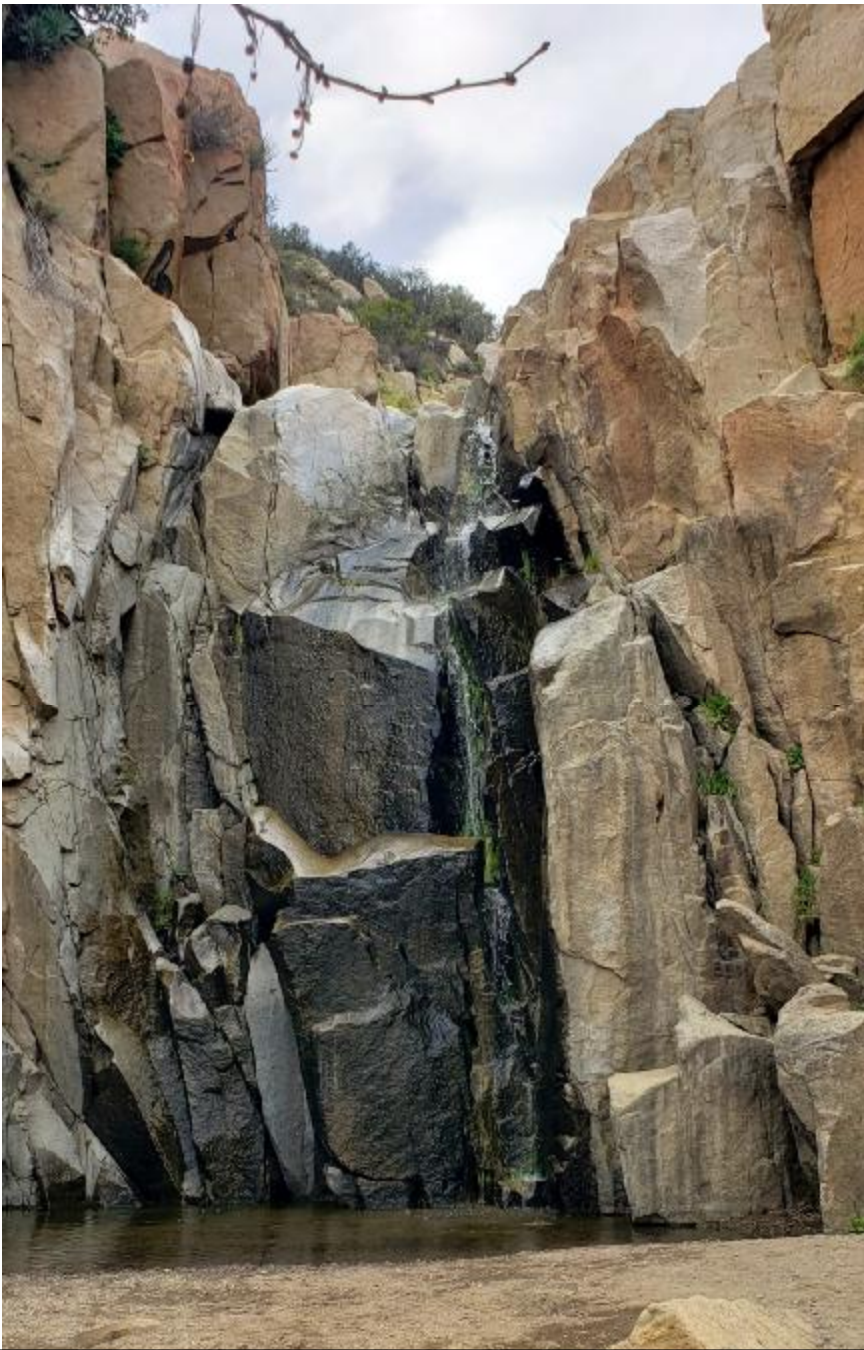
Once back inside the RV we played a Disney Codewords game I bought at that really cool store in Julian, California. Things may have gotten a little intense but I think we all enjoyed it and laughed a lot.

Monday morning we ate a family breakfast of bacon, sausage and chocolate chip pancakes. Yum!

Then it was time to pack up and head to the John Wayne Airport (I don't suppose any of you girls took a picture of the John Wayne statue in the terminal?). On the way Erin asked what the best and worst parts of the trip were for each of us. My worst was right then; having to take them to the airport and say goodbye. These five days were like the climax of the entire trip, everything from now on will be anti-climactic. I really enjoyed it.

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I had no plan on what to do next so I found a spot to pull over and cogitate; Kali's suggestion of Yosemite? Things around So Cal I might have missed? Off to Arizona and hit a couple National Monuments before meeting the boys for golf? Checking the forecast for Yosemite I found 55 degrees today, but cold and snow starting tomorrow, plus a much longer drive to Phoenix – No; More So Cal? I've had enough of the big city for now; So off to Phoenix I go, but I took a roundabout up a scenic road with enough traffic to make me feel like I was back on the 405.

Left is Ortega Falls, a short hike I stopped to take along the way. There was a little, very little, more water than the Santa Ynez Falls, but not much. There are three separate falls here and when the water is really flowing I bet it would be spectacular. This is just the upper falls.

Below is a panoramic shot of Lake Elsinore, California.





Imagine my surprise to find a Culver's in Arizona. Then again, maybe it shouldn't be such a surprise to find a Culver's in Surprise, Arizona. I know, bad joke. For those of you not from Wisconsin, Culver's is a home grown Wisconsin staple for custard. Naturally I had to stop and have a concrete.



This should be my first of four National Monuments near Phoenix over the next few days. Agua Fria is undeveloped, meaning no visitor center, no plaques, no paved roads, no maps, no help if needed.



But it is BLM land which means I can camp pretty much anywhere and not have any neighbors, like the spot above. Ahhh, back to nature.

The RV's in the main parking lot just off the freeway must have thought I was crazy heading down this road, especially with a full night of rain forecast. But it's mostly gravel, some pot holes, and I avoid an extra mile hike to get to the trailhead tomorrow and a mile back up.

Although, the muddy trail may be interesting.

I have another buddy to visit out here from my horseback rides as well as the guys from Wisconsin for golf, baseball and NCAA basketball. Bring it on!

Until next time.....