

Sent:

Friday, September 19, 2008 4:35 AM

Subject:

Postcard

Off to Devil's Garden in Arches NP. We had already stopped at the visitors center last night so we just zoomed on in. There was construction in the park and it was posted at 25, but Murray was frisky and we probably went a little faster.

The road in is, well, scenic.



When we got to the trailhead there were maybe ten cars in the lot. The air was cool and crisp and it was a perfect day to hike the only trail we'd never done here. Devil's Garden is mostly "fins", long narrow humps that you usually go around but occasionally go over.

In front of us:



Behind us:



Near us:



Around us:



I guess we need to show you an Arch. "Private Arch" is on a side trail from the DG trail, which is itself a side trail, so it actually was private. We refueled here.



We'll also show you an arch that used to be an arch but now it isn't. On August 4th Wall Arch collapsed – natural causes, not Al Qaeda – and these are the two ends. Lots of rubble in the ravine below.



It was a beautiful hike on a beautiful day. But the bottom of the trail was loading up with tourists in flip-flops; the parking lot was full and vehicles were parked on both sides of the road as far as you could see. Cars were circling like Christmas at the mall so we zoomed out of there. There was construction in the park and it was posted at 25, but Murray was frisky and we probably went a little faster. Well, maybe a lot faster.

Talking to a park ranger is always a worthwhile experience. It is especially rewarding when they personally seek you out. This particular ranger actually drove after us and signaled he wanted to talk, so we pulled over, although I guess at this point I didn't really think he wanted to talk about rock formations. "Hi, is that a Murano?", he asked. "Yes", I said (*nifty reply*). "Well, my wife rented one and said it's really a sweet car, is this a rental?", says the ranger. Says I: "No, we own it and we really think it's a sweet car and it's the best car we ever had and it's really nice" (*I was so articulate*). "I bet you don't even realize how fast you're going in it", he says. I say: "It has a continuously variable transmission and you can't even feel it shift and it's really quiet and I was looking at the scenery and gosh I didn't know it was a 25 speed limit here" (*sheer eloquence*). "Sir please stay at 35. And you'll want to

know there's another ranger right up ahead . Have a nice
day <pause> Nice car!"

Murray! Murray! Murray!

D&S