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Subject:

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 7:28 AM
Postcard 19

This, to state the obvious, is an igneous intrusion.



It's also known as Devil's Tower. In about 1860 it got its name from some U.S. Colonel on a cartographic expedition. You can check it out: everything in America that didn't already have an enduring Indian name was named by the highest ranking army guy on a mapping trip.

We took the long way around it, a 3 mile dirt trail, leaving 99% of the other tourists on the short paved path. The air was cool, the sun was warm. The wet summer had left verdant meadows in the fire recovery zones, and once we gained some distance on the parking lot we heard only grasshoppers, happy birds and the crunch of our feet. Flowers were purple and yellow and white, butterflies were orange and blue. And the birds hid from us because they knew we had cameras.





Inevitably we returned to the start with the tour buses, families whose schools don't start until September, and the bikers who are killing time waiting for Sturgis. Time to leave. So we did. Ate lunch at a picnic area, stopped at the village...



... and continued on to Billings, Montana

In Billings we had seared halibut, harissa sautéed calamari and Caesar salad. Walker's Grille. Go there.

D&S