

Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 6:16 PM
Subject: Postcard

If you overlook its shortcomings, our place at the Abiquiu Inn is very nice. For instance, last night we ate at their café and had a strawberry salad with chipotle-honey dressing, Napoleon tamale cakes and a chocolate torte with crushed almond crust. Superb.



Today we hiked to Chimney Rock at Ghost Ranch just outside Abiquiu. So *what* that we did that last year, we liked it and we did it again.





We visited Abiquiu Dam and stumbled onto a picnic area (not literally, we weren't actually stumbling, more like it was unplanned and a surprise) along the Chama river, below the dam. A hundred violet-green swallows were eating bugs. They never stopped diving and soaring and swooping, sometimes within arm's length. We ate our roadside lunch and watched an incredible show.



So, Abiquiu this, Abiquiu that, didja ever wonder about Abiquiu? Like the town? We did. And we set out to find it.

First we found Abiquiu post office which is on route 84 and a stone's throw from our room. A sign at the post office pointed down the road, or up the road if elevation counts, and it said "Abiquiu". Cool. Up we went.

Suddenly we were off the pavement and on a narrow dirt track between adobe buildings. We came out onto a town square of sorts. A dirt town square.

One of the buildings that we passed on the narrow alley into town was the church. The building was in good shape but the paint was peeling off the cross in front and, unless you count 3 sparrows, there was not a soul in sight...



The three of us crept around the dirt square. There was Normando's Cantina and El Pinon...



But not a soul in sight. There was this house...



But not a soul in sight. There was this house too, and we went up to the door. Signs of life? Nope. Shut. Locked. Peeked in. There was not a soul inside.



Murray was getting a little nervous. Maybe Abiquiu was Spanish for Mind-Sucking Zombie or something. Murray scooted past the last house on the square and bugged out.



Traveler's recommendation: If you plan an Abiquiu vacation, avoid Abiquiu.

D&S