

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 6:29 PM
Subject: Postcard

Today is about Puye (poo-yay) luck. Puye luck is very good luck and it's acquired by touring the Puye cliff dwellings on the Santa Clara reservation in Espanola (the n has a ~ over it but somehow I can't do it) New Mexico. Not that we haven't had good luck on this trip. For example, last night we ate trout tacos, portabella enchiladas and did a déjà vu on the chocolate torte. But today we had *very* good luck.

It started like many days on vacation – we drank some strong coffee, walked out into the early morning to feel the warm sun mingle with the cool air, and headed for the Santa Clara pueblo.



At the bottom of the mesa there is a Santa Clara Visitor Center where you buy tickets. We bought two and drove on up.

Because we were the only visitors for the 9:00 tour, we got a private showing by our Santa Clara guide, Fauna. (We are terribly afraid she has a sister Flora but we were much too polite to ask).



Fauna is sweet. Unfortunately what she knew about the ruins could maybe fill a 3x5 index card. In a big font. We didn't care, it was the best ruin tour guide we ever had.



She pointed out the rock art above the cliff apartments. She thought this one looked like a monkey and couldn't remember what it really meant. And that's pretty much how it went. She pointed to the stuff we were supposed to look at.

This was the cliff.



This was broken pottery.



These were rocks outlining where there used to be apartments in front of caves.



And I took this one when she wasn't looking.



When we got to the bottom she told us her boss wanted to make her a cashier instead of a tour guide. She gave us a heartfelt hug and we left...

...to find the Santa Clara Casino (the day was *so* young). Sheila sat down in front of a Tarzan slot machine and in about 20 minutes had won \$585. Maybe it wasn't a monkey carved in the rock. Maybe it was Cheetah!*

We wish you all Puye luck.

D&S

*Cheetah was Tarzan's pet chimp. You probably have to be really old to get this one.