

**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2011 9:49 PM  
**Subject:** Postcard

Started the day at Salmon Ruins. Not like the fish, like this: Sol-mun Ruins. There, that's better.

Salmon Ruins are a couple of miles from our Best Western in Bloomfield, NM. What a coincidence. Salmon Ruins are privately held and have been since the 1800's. The nicest thing we can say about them is: "Nice gift shop!"

The self-guided tour begins with fake stuff. Like fake teepees and fake pit houses and fake hogans and this fake sweat lodge.



The fake stuff is to distract you from the weed-infested, poorly maintained and poorly documented ruins. We will show you the absolute best parts.



Salmon Rabbit.



Salmon Lizard



Two Salmon bugs about to fight to the death on a blanket flower. The visit was not without drama.

We left via the gift shop and minus part of our Tarzan money. It could be that Puye luck has an expiration date.

Leaving Salmon Ruins we drove north to Aztec Ruins, run by the National Park Service. They (the ruins) are partially reconstructed. We like 'em.



And they let you go in the rooms, even though we are much bigger than the proto-American hobbits for whom they were originally designed.



The great kiva is completely reconstructed and has piped in Twilight Zone music. It has become a favorite place for aliens to beam up test subjects.



We headed for our next stop, Chimney Rock – the one in Colorado – via the Navajo Dam, making this the best dam vacation ever. Navajo Dam (nothing to do with the tribe, just a marketing name) stops up the Piedra River and makes Navajo Lake. It was important for the New Mexicans who wanted to boat but had to go to other states to find water.



Makes the boat manufacturers, road builders, dam builders, hoteliers and Exxon very happy.

Chimney Rock was closed. Chimney Rock reopens for the season on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We went to JJ's in Pagosa for lunch and had wraps with Portobello, Gorgonzola, spinach and balsamic vinaigrette while we watched the San Juan river roll by. And froze our tootsies off because they were too dam cheap to run the furnace.

Now we're in La Junta. Just ate at Jodie's which is at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Santa Fe if you ever need a good meal here. And after 10 years of eating at Boss Hogg's, we know what we're saying.



Tomorrow, the long road home.

D&S