



VIVA EL PASO

... A VISIT TO OUR BELOVED SUNCITY

"Where is the next newsletter? Where are you?" That is what we read in one or the other e-mail we got for Easter. March is almost gone ---> we are already eight months on the road! Eight months on the road - unbelievable. Years of dreams about that became reality: not a minute we regret it so far! Not a minute! Our RV is our home in the truest sense. Never before have we had such a deep and emotional connection to our 4 walls! Our own houses in Germany never had a name or something. When we return after hours of absence to our "fat big rig", I have found myself caressing this 14-meter motorhome tenderly over the mirrors. Fascinating! Shure, I was a bit lazy about writing lately. Now I have to report on the last 4 weeks. Shame! So where were we?



Those who travel via Interstate 10 west will know this "tit-mountain" and the sparse vegetation seen left and right: West Texas has you back! A few more hours and we are in El Paso. Although thanks to the different time zone we'll win a hour, we still rest for the night in Van Horn. We want to get slowly used to the desert, the dust and the 10% humidity!

I ♥ EL PASO



What brings us to El Paso? This question did not arise for 40 years, because my employer provided only this city on the Rio Grande as an opportunity to visit the US for me. Hawaii, San Diego and Norfolk are for the Navy - real Air Defence Guys like me belong to El Paso. Here I spent almost 20 years of my life, my first son was born here and my first dentures are manufactured here. That's connecting! In addition to the annual inspection of both our vehicles at trusted workshops, we planned on visiting some friends. Here offspring was announced, others were celebrating an anniversary, here I needed technical assistance and over there some good advice. And we need to stock up some German food like "Hela Ketchup", Weissbier and peanut puffs. Above all, we wanted to spend a few hours with good old friends. And luckily we have a lot of them. So every day, every afternoon, every evening: booked!





F.R.I.E.N.D.S





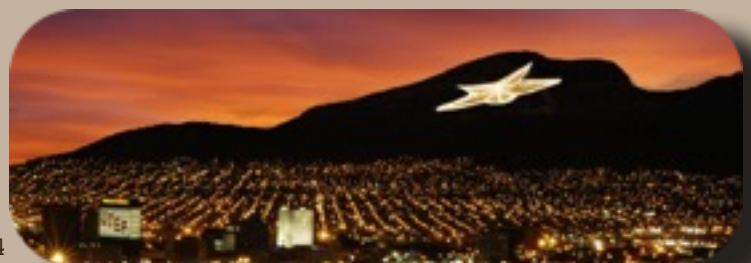
The desire for a delicious "Huevos Rancheros" or "Mexican Omelette" at La Malinche Restaurant ==> A visit here was at the top of my "bucket list", because nowhere else it taste like here.



My old friend Heinz took care of us and found a space in the Northeast District: water, electricity, sewage and WiFi. Everything was taken care of. With a bottle of fine champagne we were welcomed! A true friend! Thank you!

What you need to know: El Paso unfortunately has no decent campground. Two areas are located close to the highway, a "RV resort" is so bad, that even a WALMART parking lot would be better and prettier. Yes, and the only acceptable Campground for us belongs to the military. Unfortunately, we are not eligible anymore! Only active German soldiers can use American military facilities. Too bad, but quite understandable. And thanks to good friends: no problem at all.

El Paso





*Freunde
gibt es überall*



These two lovely people there were very serious with us. Weeks before our visit to El Paso, they had to accept packages from Amazon & Co., procure the annual needs of a camping family with German Coffee Beans, do all tailoring needs for us and took care of Noah, when we did not have time for our four-legged friend. How great to have such friends! Thank you so much!



14 days El Paso - just too short. Unfortunately we could not see some of our long time friends. We were surprised, how full our daily program was! Well, we will definitely come back to the Suncity.

Thanks to Ingo and my moving company for the last 40 years, I could stow some unused stuff in our storage and got some things out, we think we need in the next month!



When you are traveling mostly alone the last seven months, you are tired after 14 days visiting friends. To much food - to much party. So Beate and I were looking forward ==> little peace and quiet. In addition, Alaska calls! And 6000 miles (9500 km) still to come.

So adios friends - bye bye El Paso - we'll be back - no question! Our next destination: Arizona.



Yes To
TEXAS



F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Well, we had just crossed the city limits of El Paso westward, as we received a text message. Acquaintances from South Dakota (where we were in September last year) wished us a good journey. Over Facebook we stayed in contact with them. They told us, that they stayed in Deming, on a nice campground only 10 miles off the highway. Deming, just under 2 hours from El Paso away, was never a truly desired destination for Beate and me. It resembles being rather a giant gas station off Interstate 10. Instead we prefer the nearby state parks. But should we simply drive past these guys without stopping short? No - that was not an option. So next right exit, 6 miles dirt road and we ended up in a relatively green oasis in the middle of the Chihuahua desert. At once, our decision was firmly - desert or not - we will stay a few days! Arizona has to wait.



Oh how beautiful, when travel plan are written in Jell-O!



Our living and dining room. Given absolute peace and nocturnal darkness. That's our life!



Instead of “ a few days”==> we stayed 10 days. There was so much to experience in an area, that we had previously called our neighborhood. But as so often in life: The close things are often far away!. But when you find people who help you in opening your eyes So we became great friends with Lee-Anne and Larry, who are two sweet humorous and wonderful people. They are traveling for years the US and gave us quite a lot of tips. In addition, we had great food together and a glass or two of wine and beer! So, we had a lot of fun and a great time with them. They were here with a fellow musician couple. Together we discovered the nightlife of Deming! What fun: great music, or cowboy poetry. We would never have found those events. Thanks to Lee-Anne and Larry we found a nice addition to our trip.



We discovered a lot of things in the desert: native rock paintings, the ruins of a long-abandoned US military base or we were hiking in deep channels and canyons, water had cut through the debris cone of the nearby mountains. We are fascinated by the desert, because the desert lives! There are sooooo many exciting things to see, feel and taste!



Why Americans celebrate the first terrorist attack on the US?



100 years ago, a bandit called Pancho Villa from Mexico attacked the small border town of Columbus and the military stationed there. 19 dead civilians and soldiers were lost. The attack itself: no success. Today it is believed, the German Empire was behind this 90 minute attack to bring the United States into a war with Mexico and keep them out of Europe. History shows: no success. Interestingly, this “battle” and the subsequent punitive expedition into Mexico was the first time in American history that armored vehicles, aircrafts and involving tactics were used. Years later these troops were using this “training” successfully in WW 1! Commander at that time was General Pershing. And this General had a young lieutenant under his command: George S. Patton. The subsequent General was notorious in WW2. Why am I telling all this? Firstly because history can be so fascinating - partly because no one really suspected something in such a deserted dwelling on the border with Mexico!





Besides new things we also did well familiar stuff. Very obvious, the "City of Rocks" State Park, which draws us since 1980 under its spell.



OFF TO ARIZONA



Between Tucson and Phoenix, there is not only a very important shop for us (IKEA market for crispbread, cucumber, cheese and candles) but also a National Park, that we never visited: the Casa Grande National Monument.



Once again, we found so much beauty around us, that we need almost a week to cross the Valley of the Sun. The Apache Trail and the Tonto National Monument are just so special that we will visit this area again!

But the blooming desert was the
real highlight.

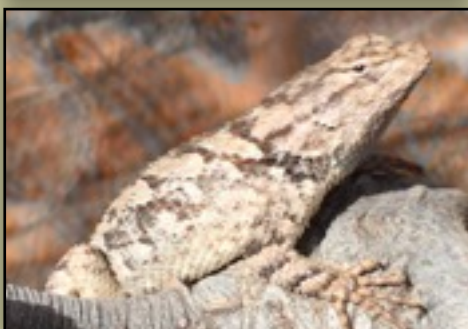
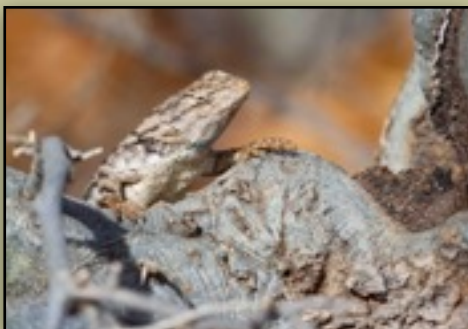


The desert is alive



Next, we visited Detlef and his wife Jeannie. We stayed at there guest room because Phoenix has no camping space under US \$ 75! And our State Park spot was not released until three days later, as spring break and a NASCAR race had taken all the spaces for months. So we parked in front of the house and enjoyed Detlef great friendship incl. pool! They live in a beautiful residential area. Can we imagine to live like that in the near future? Well, we always played with this Idea. But not an issue right know: Alaska and the other 28 states, Canada, Mexico ... are waiting for us. Fact is: you can't live more beautiful and pleasant for your money. They have done everything right. Great!

By the way: houses in El Paso are much much more expensive!





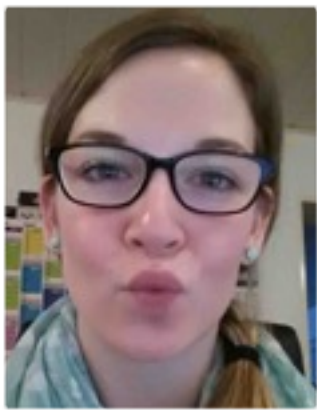
After another 4 days north of Phoenix on Lake Pleasant and visiting the Montezuma Castle National Monument, we went for a beach holiday to the Colorado River. The area, also known as Arizonas Riviera, offers crystal clear water, fine gravel or sand beaches, palm trees, 80°F in March and has a bridge of London, the London Bridge. In addition, Spring Break - and since I always wanted to go

We stayed here Easter. I will tell you about it in the next Newsletter!





LOST AND FOUND: WAS SONST UNS SO BESCHÄFTIGTE



A kiss from my beloved daughter in law over Skype and the old men is happy!! Love you so much Anna!

We will stay in paradise!

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[Facebook](#)

Whatsapp

[skype](#)

So, that would be it for today.

We are now 240 days on the road!

Until next time all the best

Your 3 Gefeke's

