



FIVE YEARS ON 420 SQUARE FEET AND 78.000 MILES LATER



Little America, WY 2016



Red Canyon, UT 2017

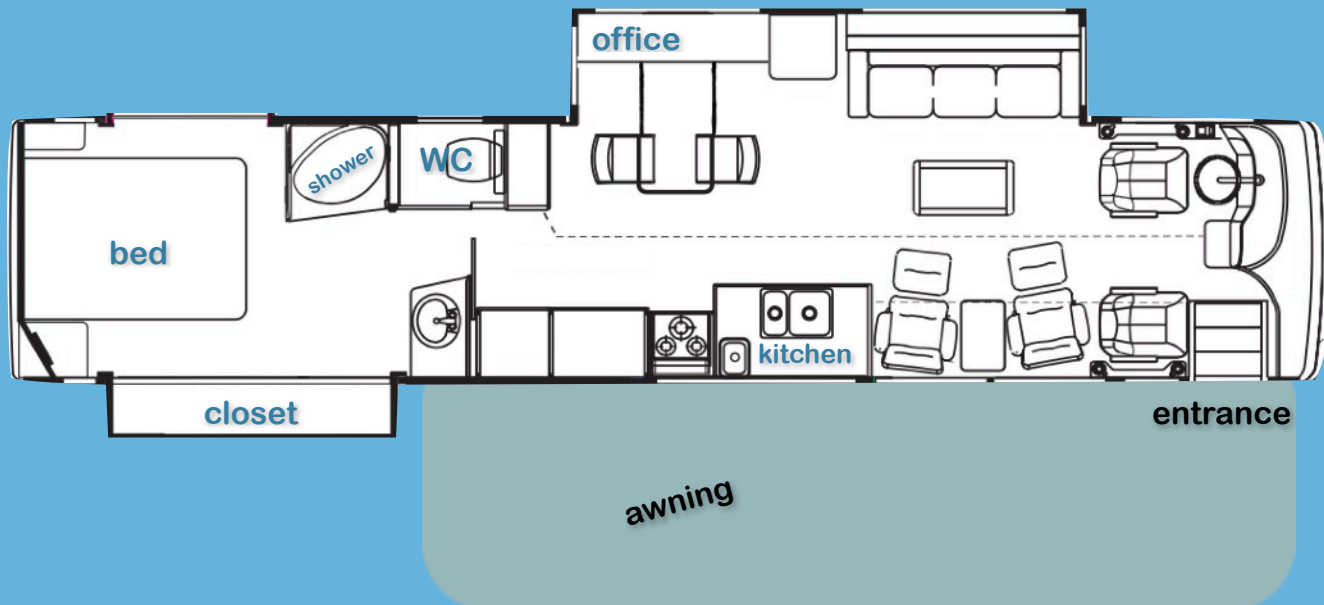


Flaming Gorge, UT 2020



Alaska 2016

Our "White Berta" has been our home for more than 5 years now. It is part of our wonderful life and the cozy roof of our heads wherever we are. Whether in a luxury resort or in the middle of the Utah desert - we love this 15 year old lady!



2005 ALFA SeeYa Gold

total weight	44.320 lbs
length	40 feet
engine	400 HP 8.9I CUMMINS diesel
tanks	150 gal diesel, 38 gal propane, 115 gal sewer 103 gal fresh water
generator	7500 W 110V GENERAC
hot water	propane, diesel or 110V
A/C	110 V
heater	propane, diesel or 110 V
solar	2 x 300 Watt



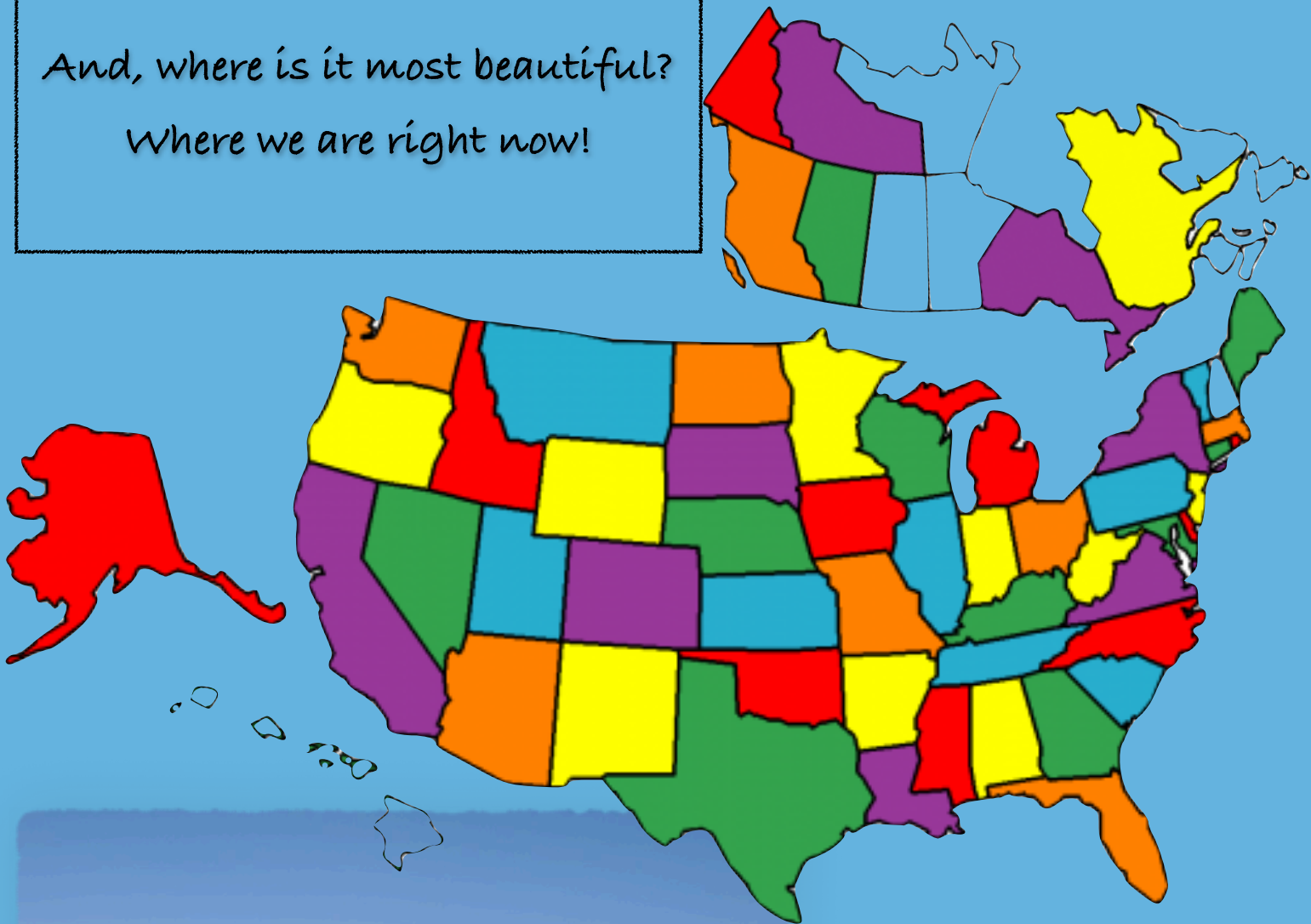
MILES ARE JUST DISTANCES
Kilometer sind nur Entfernungen

In these 5 years we were allowed to visit 49 states in the USA and 6 provinces of Canada. We enjoyed Hawaii without our Berta in 2011. Who would have thought that? We explored some areas more, others less intensively. Some states are waiting for another visit - we've checked others.

And, where is it most beautiful?
Where we are right now!



our first day July 31st 2015



Monument Valley, AZ 2015



Berta offers everything we need for life. The equipment is luxurious for European camper standards. For American full-time nomads only standard. There are even camping resorts in which we are reluctant to be seen or in which we are not even allowed to enter: too old, too small.... But we couldn't be on any of the campsites in Europe we know. In addition, the German TÜV engineer would suffer a heart attack (he is doing the Safety Inspection) and the thirst of our diesel would quickly put us in our place in Germany. No, Berta is only something for this continent. Berta and we feel at home here.

During the day we mostly live outside of Berta, as we try to always be in an area with temperatures of at least 70° F: T-shirt, flip-flops and shorts on more than 300 days a year is our goal. We have furniture for outside, a kitchen, grill and outside lighting on board. The huge awning provides the necessary sun protection or shelters us from some rain.

With two cell phone contracts and an unlimited volume of data, we not only have close contact with our family in Germany, but also access to live Bundesliga (German Soccer games), NETFLIX, AMAZON and hundreds of American TV channels. ZOOM connects us virtually in addition with friends and family.

Wherever we are: we are not alone, always well informed and certainly not bored!



back on tour

After spending this summer in Custer, South Dakota, we've been back on the road since the beginning of October. This fall we explored Wyoming a little more, revisited our favorite landscapes in Utah and are now wintering with our close friends Susan and Dale in Yuma Arizona.

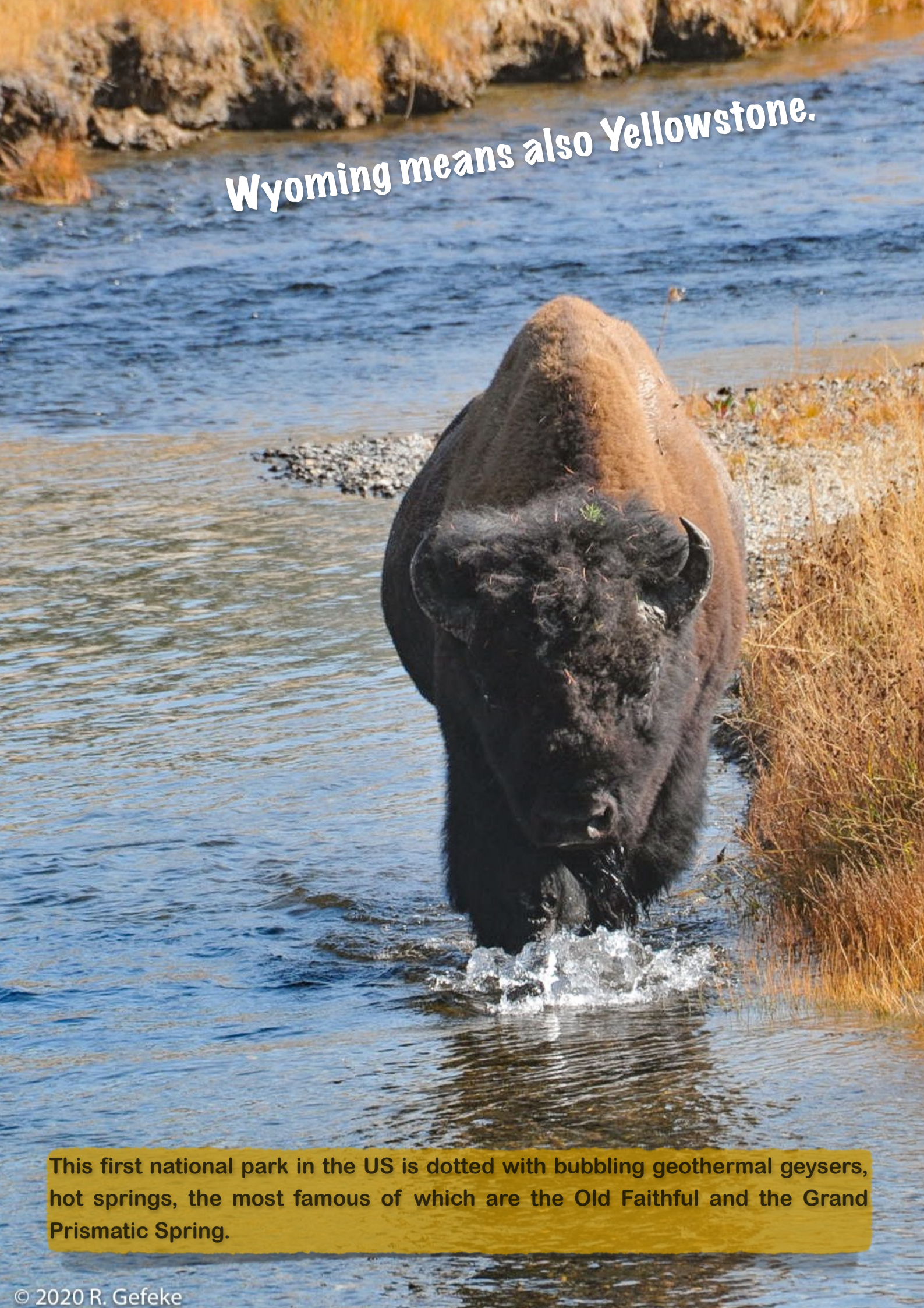


An outpost of rugged beauty, Wyoming is the most sparsely populated state in the United States. Such wide open spaces mean that ranching is a big part of the local culture. Nowhere have we seen so many horses and cowboys as here. There is also untouched nature, an infinitely wide sky and an extraordinary number of historical places, as more than 150 years ago almost all settlers who moved west, stopped here and thus contested the land of the Indians living here. That in turn drew the military on the scene. There are numerous battlefields in Wyoming on which one side and the other have been defeated. The most famous slaughter took place here on the Bozeman Trail, 10 years before the legendary Battle of Little Big Horn.

And it is precisely here that we looked around for a few days, not only visiting battlefields and old US Army forts, but also visiting museums that are worth seeing. Most of them deal with the history of Native Americans (Indians).



The world-famous Brinton Museum is located in the middle of the country and houses an important collection of historical and modern art as well as objects from Indian tribes, who once lived here in Wyoming. Unique insights into a nearly exterminated culture.

A photograph of a bison wading in a river. The bison is facing the camera, with its head and shoulders above water. It has a large, dark brown head with small horns and a lighter brown, humped back. The water is blue and rippled. The background shows a rocky riverbank with some dry grass. The text "Wyoming means also Yellowstone." is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, slanted upwards from left to right, across the top of the image.

Wyoming means also Yellowstone.

This first national park in the US is dotted with bubbling geothermal geysers, hot springs, the most famous of which are the Old Faithful and the Grand Prismatic Spring.



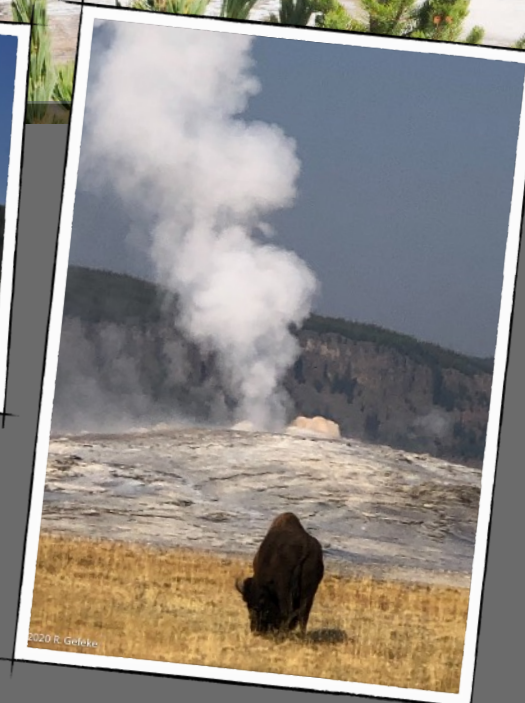
Everywhere there is steam and smoke, here and there water shoots out of the earth accompanied by a pungent smell of sulfur that even follows us into the motorhome. In between grazing bison. This landscape, as life-threatening as it is in parts, pulls us back again under its spell.

In 2003 we had a short visit with the children. This year we spent a full week and hiked a lot more then back in 03. This hiking opens up much more unique insights than the views from a car or the viewing platforms. And the best: The weather god meant it well to us again and spoiled us with fantastic conditions! However, we could not park directly in the park, as most of the campgrounds were already closed for the season. And the few that were still open had been booked out for weeks by Covid refugees. That is why we set off every day from Cody, the summer residence of the famous Buffalo Bill.

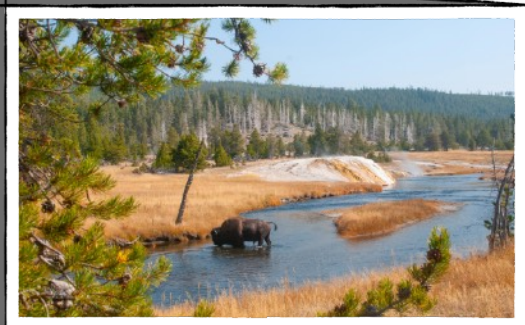
Grand Prismatic Spring



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When fear and hatred paralyze the mind

A sad chapter in American history is remembered at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center named after Heart Mountain, north of Cody. Here was one of ten concentration camps used for interning US citizens of Japanese descent. Almost 14,000 people who were expelled from the exclusion zone on the west coast during the Second World War, were interned here alone. They also lost all property. The camp was also the site of the largest resistance movement in American history, reflecting the resistance of the trapped people who lost their civil liberties during the war due to fear and prejudice against them. At the same time, some of the internees were serving in the military and receiving many awards and honors for serving this Country. Two of them even received the highest military award, the Medal of Honor.



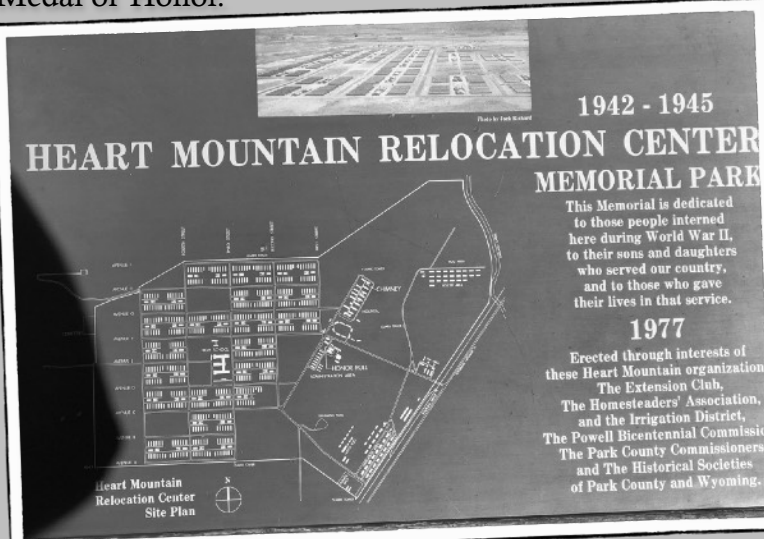
INTERMENT CAMP OR CONCENTRATION CAMP?

People commonly called Heart Mountain a "concentration camp" when it was open. That made sense, because a concentration camp is a place where members of a racial, ethnic, or political group are confined without charges or trials. Today calling Heart Mountain a concentration camp jars people, because the term has come to refer to the Nazi death camps.

Heart Mountain was not a death camp, but it was also not an "internment camp." Internment is a lawful process for detaining enemy aliens. We were not detained under the law, and the majority of us were U.S. citizens.

In truth, the English language may have no exact term for this place where we were unjustly imprisoned because of our ancestry.

SPECIAL CONVENTION EDITION CODY LODGE 1941, A. P. O. E.
The Cody Enterprise
10,000 JAPS TO BE INTERNED HERE
Four Hundred Elks Expected

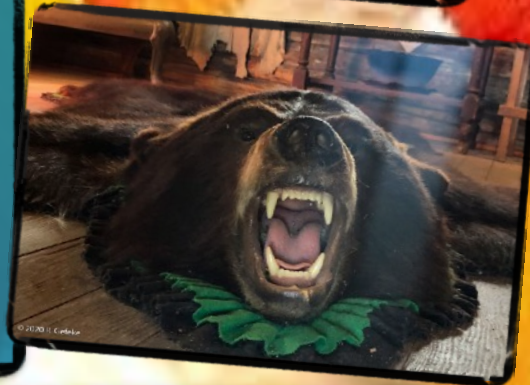


In Cody, a small town east of Yellowstone National Park, everything revolves around Buffalo Bill. A really impressive museum tells his story, his work here in Wyoming and his countless trips around the globe. The museum also houses one of the most important weapon collections in the USA.





We continued south and stopped in a small but very nice town called Lander. The place offers travelers a free parking space for three days. You can't say no to that. We are also impressed by what the area has to offer. Visits to museums and walks filled our next three days. Insights into a bygone era or walks through Wyoming's Golden October: Landers will be in our memory and need to be visited again!





old mines

South Pass City is one of the most famous ghost towns in Wyoming, as well as one of the most authentic early settlements in the American West. Founded in 1867, this gold mining town peaked shortly after a valuable find in the Carissa Mine in 1868. The city is also the birthplace of women's suffrage, as the Wyoming Territory became the first government in the world, to guarantee women the right to vote in 1869. The South Pass City Justice of the Peace was soon the first woman in the nation to hold a public office. The city, with many carefully restored original buildings, operates as a state historic site.



also the Saloon was closed



the Carissa mine undergoes renovations and was unfortunately closed

More and more we prefer free city parks on our trips. Not only because we save a lot of money (regular campsite costs \$ 30-50 per night), but because we get so much more to see of the villages and towns we visit. Sometimes only one night is free, sometimes a donation is asked for. The places are always clean, safe and mostly centrally located.

However, our great passion is still camping in the open: alone in the wilderness, without electricity, water or sewage connection. Here it is called “boondocking”. As already described, the southwest of the USA in particular is full of state lands where you can camp for free. The Internet, good friends tips or visitor centers will give you sufficient assistance in finding suitable places, because our Berta does not fit in everywhere and cannot be moved on every gravel road. She is just not an all-terrain vehicle! If we have found interesting points, we still drive ahead with our JEEP to check the condition of the road and the parking space: is the place already occupied, what does the road look like, is everything level, what is the exit like if it should rain ??? With time you get an eye for what you can do or better not do. Sometimes, however, you are also blind, arrogant, forget you're good intentions: then you end in front of huge potholes, or dusty slopes. Resulting in spending too much time cleaning Berta

It's still an exciting adventure and you never stop learning!



But if you've done everything right, you'll be rewarded with just an indescribable backdrop. Here we are alone on a wide flat shoreline of the Green River in the Flaming Gorge (Burning Gorge), Utah.







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Hidden Splendor Airstrip

The San Rafael Swell of the early 1950's saw intense uranium mining activity from Tomsich Butte to Temple Mountain. The Hidden Splendor uranium mine was one of the most famous in Utah at the time. A contemporary of the world famous MiVada mine near Moab, it was started by Vernon Pick in 1952 and originally named the Delta mine. He extracted a million dollars of ore before selling the mine to Floyd Odum for 9 million dollars and a converted PBV "Catalina" flying boat.

This Landing Strip was built during those years and has been used by aviators since that time. Floyd's wife, Jackie Cochran, was the first woman to break the sound barrier, and a close friend of Amelia Earhart and Chuck Yeager. She holds more speed and altitude records than any other American. Floyd was an international financier and sat on the board of many prestigious research foundations. He helped develop the Atlas missile program, which launched the Mercury astronauts, and he and Jackie counted as their close friends many famous people. These included Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and Kennedy.

Caution!! For your safety and the safety of air operations:

1. Look and listen for airplanes before crossing or working on the airstrip.
2. Do not approach aircraft unless the engine and propeller are completely stopped.
3. Please help keep the airstrip clear of obstructions. Placing obstructions on or vandalizing the runway is a serious offense and will be investigated by Federal aviation and local law enforcement authorities.





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Marie, 16 years young, has been coming since 06 to Utah from Oregon with her whole family.

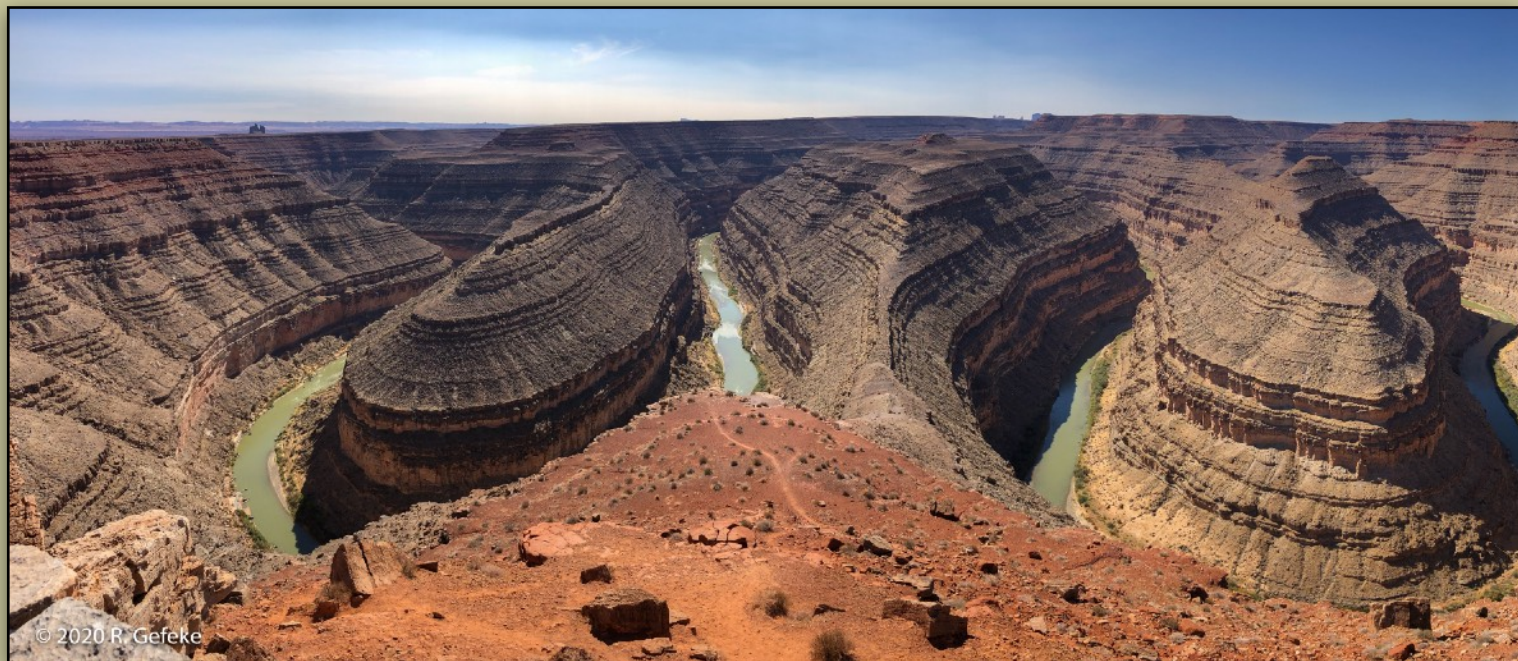


Swingarm City is an El Dorado for all those who find flat streets or inclines of 10% far too boring. The black dunes made of lava sand offer slopes of up to an incredible 80° and attract young and old from all parts of the world (this year only from the USA, of course). The youngest drivers we met were just 6 years old!



On of the last stops on our way to winter quarters is the area around Monument Valley. Unfortunately, the Navajo Indians have closed their entire reservation to tourists, so that we can only enjoy this special landscape from a distance. It's good that there are plenty of other natural wonders here. The Valley of the Gods, the crazy meandering San Juan River at Gooseneck State Park or the Forest Gump viewpoint make up for us more than once. Utah is simply our most favorite area. Unfortunately too cold in winter and far too hot in summer. Otherwise we could put down roots here.





Our view at Gooseneck State Park is unique. We stand right on the edge and enjoy every moment and every meal 1000 feet above the San Juan River, which has been eating its way into the earth's crust for a few million years.



© 2020 R. Gefeke

The high volume of traffic that morning or Noah's cheekiness prevents the repetition of a motive that showed Beate and me in the same place five years ago.



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2015



**Grandchild
Lillien**



**We hope so firmly that we can finally
take this sweetie in our arms again
next year!**





Yes, and last but not least, we once again met with Jeanie and Detlef in Surprise, AZ. Until recently, Google Maps even showed our Berta in front of Detlef's house: we have been guests here too often in recent years. And once again we were able to enjoy the hospitality of these two lovely people, their pool and the abundance of European sausage and fish products from the Asia shop in the neighboring district of Suncity. As always: a wonderful gourmet week. Star chef Detlef knew how to spoil us with great dishes, while Beate "hit back" with various baked goods. A great week. Thank you!







We are now back in winter quarters in Yuma for 3 weeks. Susan and Dale have become real family members. Together with these two we will ride out the winter and Corona! So that there is no boredom in the block: the property is constantly being beautified, we are going on hikes together or cooking whatever it takes. Or just do NOTHING !
A Covid Odor And Taste Test (COATT) with red wine several times a day is mandatory!



Visits to Mexico round off the cultural program here in the southwest of the USA.

Now we are waiting here very calmly and watch the Corona situation in the states. We feel very good because the problem is clearly taken seriously in our place (80% are seniors 70+). We have a small, very clear circle of friends, we don't go to concerts or restaurants and we keep our purchases to an absolute minimum. So we hope to survive the time unscathed by March. And then? El Paso, Oklahoma, Nebraska and then South Dakota for the summer. But let's see what the future has in store for us in this deeply divided country. We are heading into very stormy times, no matter how the election ends here. This country, so loved by us, has unfortunately lost its common sense at the moment!

But we are positively optimistic and only surround ourselves with people with an equally positive attitude towards life. Fear, hatred and darkness will find no place in us.



As long as we can fall into our feathers at 9 p.m. and say:
"That was another beautiful day!" we did everything right.
So far we've been telling ourselves that every day!
We wish you continued health and joie de vivre.

Be the **rainbow** in life
of your fellow friends!



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(915) 667 - 0501 or (915) 667 - 0595

[Facebook](#)

Whatsapp

So that's it for today. We are now 1911
days on the road! That's 5 years, 2
months and 23 days !!!!!!!

Your 3 Gefeke's

