

MAY 15 - ALIENS, JOSHUA TREE HWY, & INTO ARIZONA

Today is a travel day. We enjoyed our brief visit to the hamlet of Shoshone, CA but it is time to start making our way towards the Grand Canyon.

We left Shoshone (1,580') and almost immediately began climbing to the Ibex Pass at 2,072'.



The descent into Baker was equally interesting. It's just amazing the changes in the topography here in the desert!



At Baker, we turned onto the I-15 along with all the other traffic going to Las Vegas.

Turning off at our exit we were flabbergasted to see what appeared to be a solar farm. I just had to stop and take a couple of pictures. Turns out it is the largest solar thermal power plant in the world! It was eerie - awe inspiring, almost out of this world. It made me think of the 5 note music sequence in the 1977 movie "Close Encounters."



Our route took us on the aptly named Joshua Tree Highway. We just had to stop and check these out.



Each of those leaves ends in a very sharp spike - not to be messed with!

There's still lots of cacti almost ready to bloom in the desert.

A short while later we descended into Laughlin, NV. How can you tell it's Nevada?! Pictures taken from Bullhead City, AZ across the Colorado River from Laughlin.



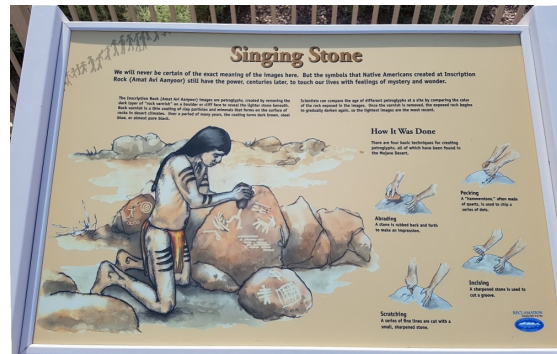
No....that's a casino built in the shape of a paddlewheeler!

We drove by Davis Camp, a city park, that looked interesting so we pulled in for the night. A very nice site right on the river.



On our evening walk, we came across these petroglyphs. Very interesting.





Tomorrow we head further east. We're going to start the day in Kingman, AZ and drive the historic Route 66 for a while.

See you then.