



Coming in towards Denver International Airport

# Midwest Tour 2024



We had ordered a larger rental with room for our baggage in the trunk. We got this giant SUV Chevrolet Suburban.



Snow-covered Rocky Mountains were visible for miles across the flat Colorado plains



Midwest US Tour 2024





Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area

After 2 nights in Nebraska, we crossed the Missouri River over to the state of Iowa, and now Tommy has also visited all 50 states of the US. Congratulations Tommy !! We stayed one night in Sioux City, visited the city museum and Sergeant Floyd Monument



Thirteen-lined ground squirrel

After one night in Colorado, and one in Wyoming, we came to Nebraska and visited Oliver Reservoir, Ogallala with its Western town and Petrified Wood Galleri and Gothenburg with its population of 3574.



Ogallala, Nebraska



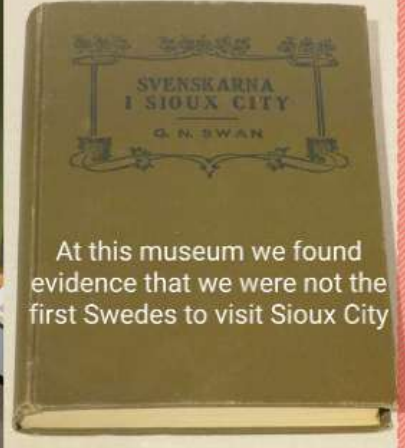
Sioux City, Iowa



Sergeant Floyd Monument



Main Street, Gothenburg, Nebraska



At this museum we found evidence that we were not the first Swedes to visit Sioux City





And now, it was time to again cross the Missouri River this time to South Dakota. The Tourist bureau there suggested we visit Riverside Park in Yankton



In Mitchell, South Dakota we visited the Corn Palace and Lake Mitchell



After one night in South Dakota,  
we were back in Nebraska

We saw many very long trains stretching as far as  
you could see.



Alliance, Nebraska's answer to Britain's Stonehenge = Carhenge  
- with stacks of cars instead of blocks of stone



Two Nebraska Monuments  
we visited:  
Chimney Rock  
and Scotts Bluff - two  
landmarks the pioneers  
used to guide them across  
this giant continent



Longhorn cattle







Red-headed woodpecker



Killdeer Plover



Western Kingbird



Juvenile Starling



Eastern Kingbird



Anise Swallowtail

Two more nights in Nebraska and one in Wyoming followed by two nights in Colorado to visit the Rocky Mountains



Many roads were still closed due to snow and ice but we saw numerous animals in the valley greenery.



Wild turkeys





Bull moose



Ring-necked duck



Stellar's Jay



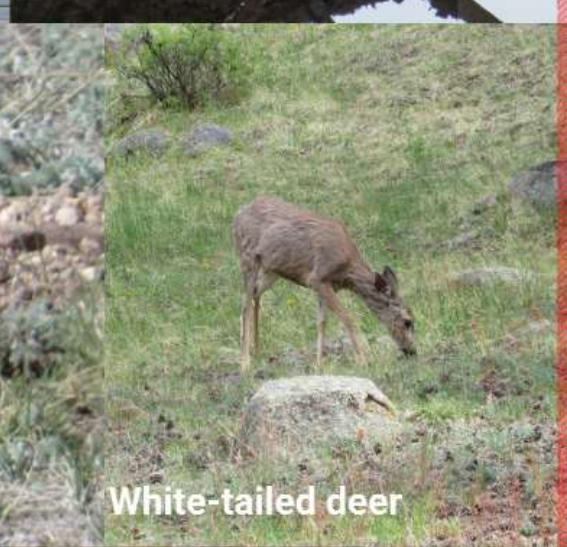
Mule deer



Elk



Wyoming ground squirrel



White-tailed deer



Big Horn Sheep



White-tailed Antelope squirrel

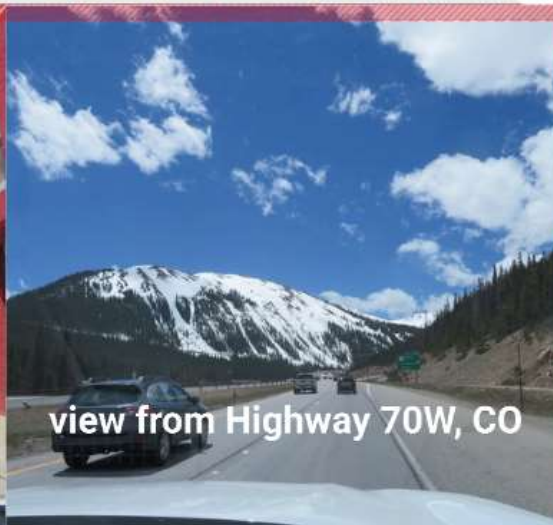


Colorado chipmunk





Black Hawk, CO



view from Highway 70W, CO



Rock formations along highways 6W & 70W, CO



Cold Shivers Point



Ute Canyon





After 4 nights in Colorado,  
we crossed the border to Utah



We chose Hwy 128  
along the Colorado River  
to Moab for the  
beautiful scenery



almost 13,000 feet high La Sal Mountains can be seen from afar





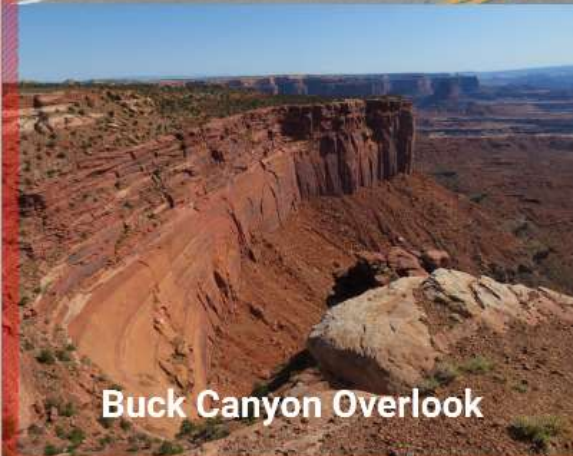
Buck Canyon Overlook



Whale Rock



Green River



Buck Canyon Overlook



Grandview Point

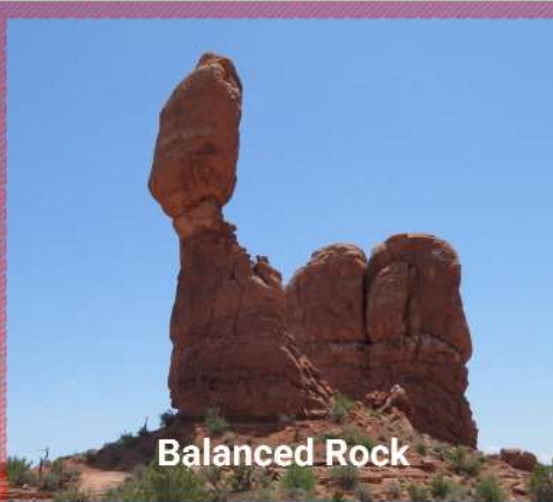




Arches  
National Park  
Utah



South Window Arch



Balanced Rock



Delicate Arch



Turret Arch



Turret Arch



Three kings Rock







US 70 W - Reef View Area, UT



Eagle Canyon View Area, UT



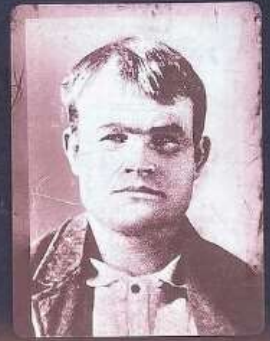
Black Dragon View Area, UT



view from US Highway 70W

# Butch Cassidy Childhood Home

Robert Leroy Parker, A.K.A. Butch Cassidy, lived here with his family from 1880 to around 1884.



He was 14 when his family moved here and about 18 when he left. Research about Parker's life here is ongoing. Information uncovered so far shows he was a fun big brother, loved dancing and racing horses, liked to read, was a hard worker and was kind to animals.

Eventually, there will be permanent signs at this site to provide information about Butch's life as a teenager and his later life as a miner, ranch hand, adventurer and outlaw.

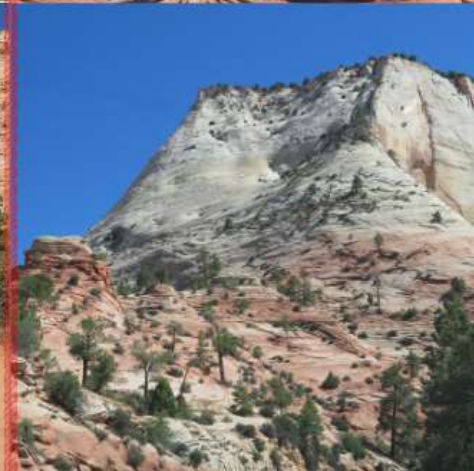




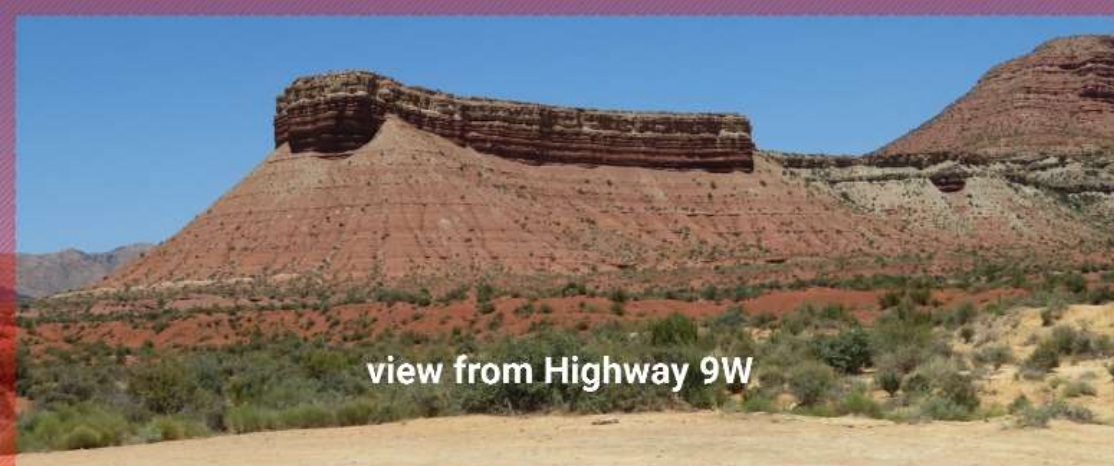




# Zion National Park Utah



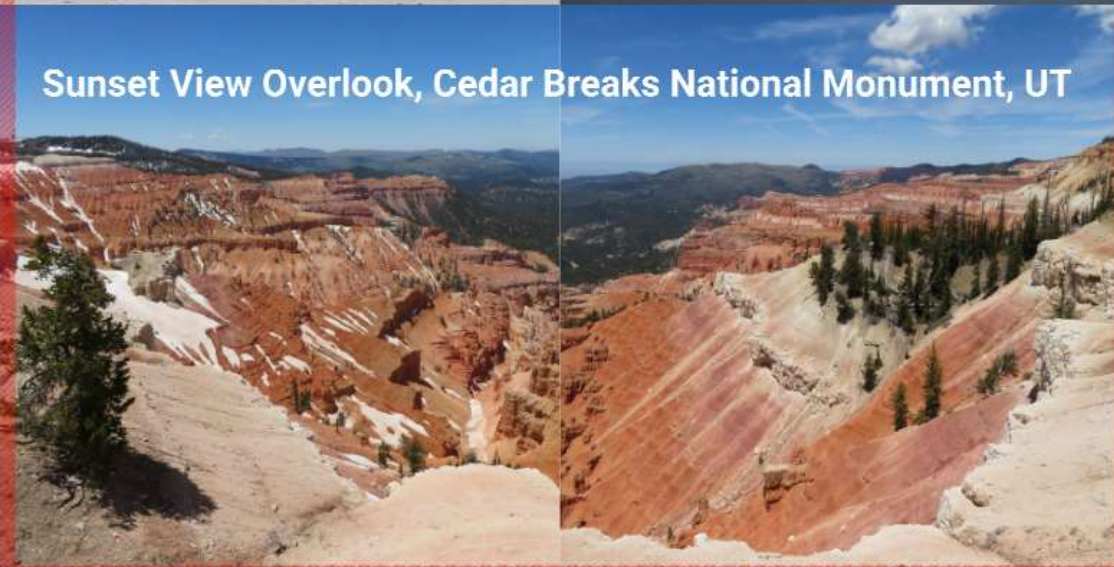




view from Highway 9W



School house built in 1896 in Fruita, CO was used as a church meeting house and community center.



Sunset View Overlook, Cedar Breaks National Monument, UT



White-tailed deer

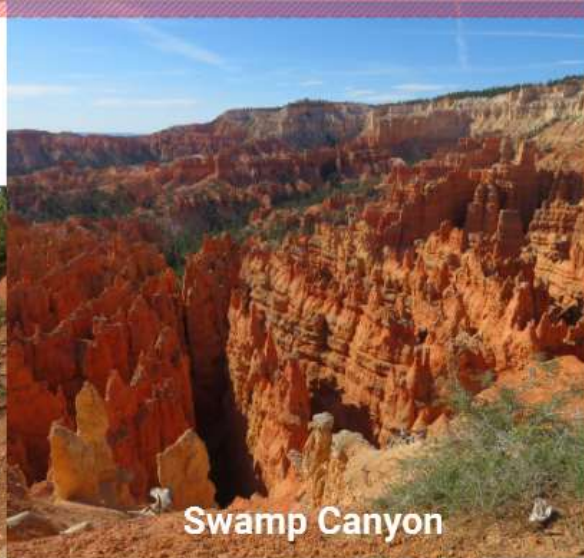




# Bryce Canyon National Park, UT



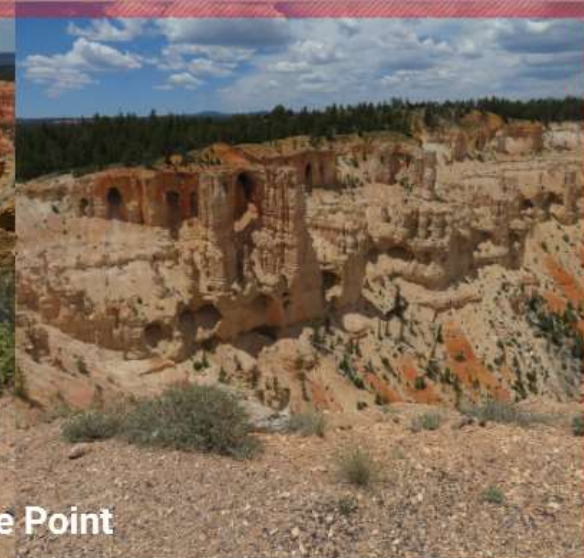
Natural Bridge



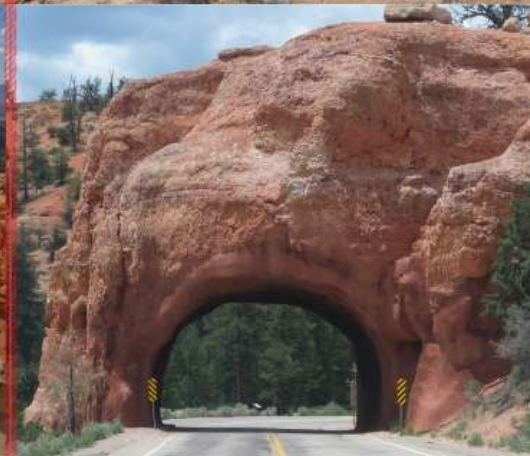
Swamp Canyon



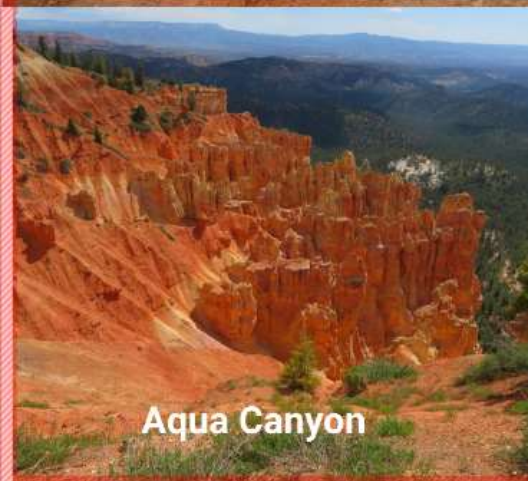
Bryce Point



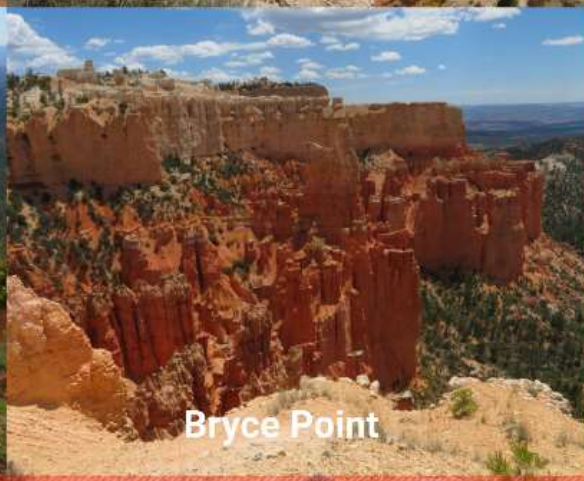
Bryce Point



Black Birch Canyon



Aqua Canyon



Bryce Point



White-spotted Pine Sawyer  
(*Monoctonus scutellatus*)





Escalante National Monument, UT



views from hwy 24 E

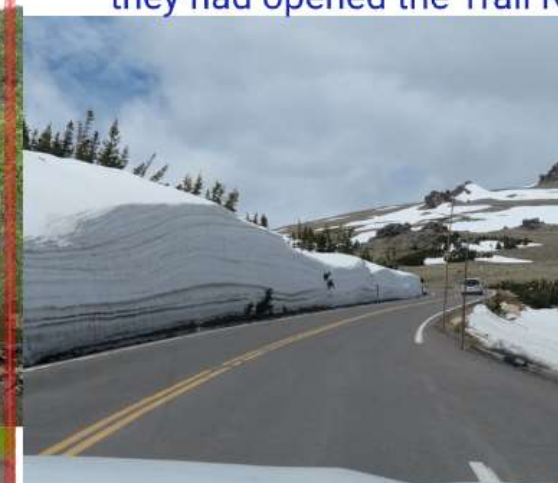






Winter landscape along Highway 6E, Loveland

When we returned to the Rocky Mountains they had opened the Trail Ridge Road for through traffic.



Yellow Swallowtail + Two-tailed Swallowtail + Pale Swallowtail



Yellow warbler





The winding road climbed up to an elevation of 11,796 ft.

The air was thin and the temperature was 40 degrees F. We saw no animals up here, though, since they kept to the valleys where we saw them the first time.



After nearly one month in the Midwest, we had visited six different states (CO, NE, IA, SD, WY and UT) of which our visit to Iowa gave Tommy his 50th state, so now he, too, has visited all 50.

The highlights of this trip were of course all the national parks and national monuments we visited such as Rocky Mountains NP, Scotts Bluff NM, Colorado NM, Canyonlands NP, Arches NP, Zion NP, Cedar Breaks NM, Bryce NP, Escalante NM, Capital Reef NP and much more along the way; concentrating mainly on nature and animal sightings, of course, which we most often prefer over city visits.

By purchasing this Senior Annual Pass for \$20, the entrance fees to all of US national parks and national monuments were included.



We enjoyed mostly beautiful weather every day but did experience temperatures from a 33 degree snow storm in the Rocky's to 100 degree sunshine in Utah.

Our photos do not give justice to all the fantastic views we experienced but these are a small selection of the near 2 500 photos we brought home.