

Slept in a little later, as the shade of the trees, combined with the fact that the campsite is nestled within a canyon, light took a little longer to develop. Walked the 0.4mi trail down to the visitors center, and lo and behold, it was the very same ranger that had yesterday recommended that I overnight at Chiricahua. Well, her and another ranger. I learned about the hikers shuttle that runs from the visitor center (and also from the campground) at 8:30 every morning; and discussed the nature of the day trails at Chiricahua. I think a five, or six day extended visit will allow us (me and whoever comes along) to do the couple of full-day-long strenuous hikes, interspersed with some more leisurely partial day strolls on flatter land. Five days will be more intense, six days more leisurely. At least two of the days are a total plan in advance, pack a lunch sort of thing.

From Chiricahua, I followed the rangers recommendation to stop at the coffee house at the first left after crossing the train tracks. I meant to make a note of the name, and didn't; it's something like the goldmine or claimjumper... Anyhow, their wifi was a good solid high speed connection, the coffee (which was actually an Americano) highly drinkable, and the sticky bun, well, on a scale of 1-10 for sticky buns, it came in at a solid 6. But then, this wasn't the sticky bun that the rangers were talking about; those sticky buns were already sold out by the time I got there.

Of note, this coffeehouse serves beverages, and sweets. End of statement.

Once I'd finished uploading yesterday's log PDF from Fort Bowie, piddled a little on Facebook, it was beyond time to hit the road. Ultimately crossing the continental divide, I found myself in Deming New Mexico. Filled the Enterprise with fuel, filled myself with great homestyle New Mexico Mexican food, and filled my wallet from the ATM; ready for anything, back to the road for the remaining 30± minute drive to City of Rocks State Park. Which is certainly aptly named; I look forward to learning a bit more about this geological anomaly, but this is a collection of most interesting rock formations sticking up out of the desert plain, with a campground surrounding it. Let Chanterelle climb a tree for a little while, and watched a peaceful blood orange red sunset.

Time for an early night, and tomorrow an early rise, to hit the road into El Paso to visit Chamizal National Monument, and find another place to sleep another night on this meander to Austin.

Woke around 1AM, Chanterelle and I sat in the navigators chair and watched some of the Geminid meteor shower. Several were extremely bright, and from our narrow perspective it seemed to be quite the show. Neither of us were really willing to don spacesuits to brave the freezing winds for a better view of the celestial show though.

This morning we found "The Bean" in Las Cruces utilizing "Free WiFi" app on my now failing iPhone.