

### **Trip 5 – Episode #3: Water Shortage Everywhere**

The drive south from Valley of Fire State Park was not quite as colourful, but still interesting. And dry. Very, very, dry.



We drove past places that indicated the presence of water, but no water was evident.



Ironically, or perhaps sadly, the road we were driving on was called Northshore Road. I assume it used to be much closer to the northern shore of Lake Mead. But we wouldn't see that for some time.



Finally, we saw our first glimpse of Lake Mead. Even at this distance, you can see where the water level used to be – the whitish area on the far shore shows how high the water once was.



Of course, Lake Mead was never a natural lake. It's a reservoir, created by the Hoover Dam back in 1936. And since then, it's provided water to Nevada, Arizona and California. But there are serious problems, mostly having to do with too much water being taken out and not enough coming in, as the Colorado River shrinks. As of last year, Lake Mead apparently held 26.63% of full capacity.

We went to the Hoover Dam, which is an incredible structure – and extremely important to the millions of people who live in the three states.



This is the first time, ever, that security people have actually entered Charles and checked around. The security guy said that ever since 911 security has been heightened. In fact, it was because of 911 that this bridge which now spans the Colorado River, was built. Traffic used go across the top of the dam. Not anymore. Thanks to terrorists.





When you walk across the dam, you really get a sense of how low the water level is.



This deep trough beside the dam was built to capture overflow. Obviously not necessary these days.

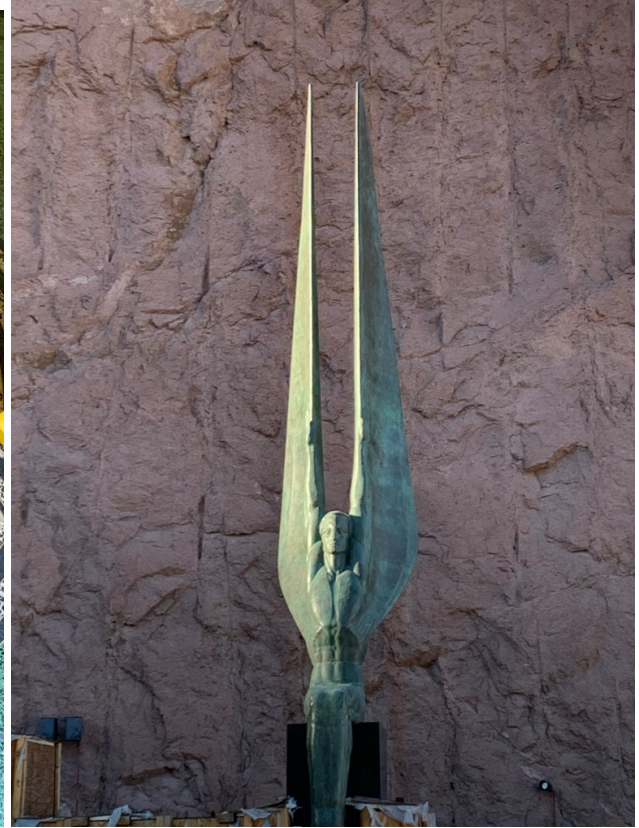


One fun thing is that when you walk across the dam, you go from Nevada to Arizona. You also change time zones.



It was interesting to see the art deco style, reminiscent of places like Rockefeller Center in New York City.





A huge, impressive structure. One can't help but wonder how much longer there will be any water to hold back.



We crossed that bridge into Arizona, and then continued driving south, along the Colorado River.



Eventually we arrived in Blythe, and checked into Hidden Beaches Campground, where we had stayed before.



It was right on the Colorado River, and very peaceful. So, we decided to stay for a few days. Of course, we couldn't help but notice that the water level here was lower than it was last year. But we enjoyed what was there.



It's a quirky little place. There was one neighbour who, knowing we were Canadian, told us he didn't really like Canadians because he'd been given a rough time when he was crossing the border. (He did look like a model for the Hell's Angels. I'm just sayin'.)

And then there was this sign...

Just kidding of course. I think.



We walked around the surrounding neighbourhood a couple of times, and it was a little quirky too.

This was all in the front yard of one place.



And we discovered two different neighbours who had created their own unusual mailboxes, emphasizing the fact that they live in a boating community.



Most of the time, we just enjoyed the view.

I should say views. Different kinds of beauty at different times of the day.







We figured we may as well enjoy the Colorado River while we still can.