

Detourer rerouted

Written by Tim Black

Saturday, 02 August 2008 02:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 12 August 2008 20:27

Today was pretty hot! Maybe over 100. The Mojave Desert lived up to its reputation in that regard. But it wasn't unbearable, and to my amazement, it wasn't all that frightening. It looks a lot like where I grew up in Eastern Washington. I guess I was hoping for giant cacti, sand dunes, and palm trees. There were some rusty trucks (like Mater in [Cars](#)) and strange desert plants (yucca and Joshua trees), though, which was good.



We visited the ghost town of Calico, CA, which is in the Mojave Desert.



Before looking at the tourist brochure we found at the hotel, I had imagined the ghost town would be a set of utterly abandoned rickety buildings, with no tourists besides ourselves.



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Armed and dangerous



| YEAR | CALICO | POP. |
|------|--------|------|
| 1881 | 40 | 200 |
| 1887 | 1200 | 5000 |
| 1890 | 800 | 3500 |
| 1951 | 10 | 1100 |
| 1981 | 15 | 3000 |
| 2081 | ? | ? |

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with the right of way to the left and the pavement for both directions the shoulder was never

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Welcome to Arizona!

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Not much mess on this road



Close to Needles



Needle Mountain Rd. Close to the end of the detour. The detour is to the right of the road. The detour is to the right of the road. The detour is to the right of the road.