May 2015 trips, the Apache Trail, Utah, and Europe – by Elly

Apache Trail
A friend from Cambodia visited Arizona so we took a day to drive around the Superstition Wilderness. We started from Apache Junction using the Apache Trail to the Roosevelt Lake and Dam, visited the Tonto NM, drove to Globe and visited Besh ba Gowah and the Arts Centre, and then came back via Miami and Superior and saw the new, very contested copper mine at Oak Flat.

The Apache Trail, or Route 88, goes from Apache Junction to Roosevelt Lake, basically following the damned up Salt River. It is among the natural treasures of Arizona and some pictures are shown below.

The Trail goes for 40 miles, partly on dirt road, with magnificent views. It ends at the Roosevelt Dam which was completed in 1911 and serves for flood control, water supply, and energy. In 1996, the dam was strengthened and raised, which is visible on the picture on the right.

Once the Apache Trail ended, we turned onto 188 East and visited the Tonto National Monument which has cliff dwellings that were occupied 700 years ago by what are now known as the Salado (Salt River) people. After the Tonto NM, we went to Globe and visited another archeological site, namely Besh ba Gowah, which was also inhabited by Salado people. The Apaches that came later gave the site its name.

Globe started as a mining town and has over 7000 inhabitants with a sizable Hispanic population and native Americans, mainly Apaches. Globe has a nice, sleepy main street and its former court house is now an arts center (with a bar still in it, where the judge would have his drinks hopefully after a case).
Other mining towns in that area are Claypool and Miami and the area from above looks like the picture on the left (taken from [here](#)). This mines are enormous. A new one is planned on Oak Flat by Resolution Copper Mine, a British-Australian cooperation. My own take on this is that it is crazy to let a non-American venture extract copper and ruin the environment: aquifer, tens of thousands of saguaros cacti, etc! Please read the articles on the Resolution Copper Mine [here](#) and [here](#).

Superior is also a mining town because, in the 19th century, there was gold, silver, and copper found in what is known as the Magma Mine. It has always been my favorite town to drive through because of its wonderfully diverse houses and the old Magma hotel in various states of (dis)repair. The town has served as the set for quite a few movies. The Apache Leap sits on the one side and Picket Post Mountain on the other. It must be very hard to grow up in this town though (as are Globe and the other towns we visited)! Apache Leap is where Apaches are said to have leapt to their deaths in the 1870s.
Utah

I have attended the Germandic Linguistics Annual Conference (GLAC) for 20 years. By the way, for this organization, only English up to 1500 counts as Germanic; Modern English is seen as too Latinized/Frenchified. This year, the meeting was in Provo, Utah, a beautiful place surrounded by impressive, snow-topped mountains that form the westernmost edge of the Rocky Mountains.

I had been in Provo before and of course love the colorful canyons of the southern part of the state. I had always wondered about the Flaming Gorge area so, the day before the conference, I rented a car and went to the northeastern part of the state. I went to Heber City, Duchesne, Roosevelt and Vernal before turning north to the Flaming Gorge Dam.

Although there are high mountains and lots of wooded areas in this part of the state, there is also high desert and water shortage. The Flaming Gorge Dam, built in the late 1950s, dams up the Green River before it joins the Colorado. It was built for water storage (Colorado River Storage Project) and some hydro-electric energy. Like all dams, it changed the ecology of the river and canyon system. It is the third largest reservoir (after Lake Mead and Lake Powell) and there have been proposals for a water pipeline from Flaming Gorge to Central Colorado to serve cities like Denver. For now, that proposal has been stopped (see story by Allen Best).
In addition to the attraction of the Flaming Gorge area, I had read about the oil and gas boom around Vernal and just wanted to see that first hand. The first sign is the numbers of trucks transporting oil to the refineries in Salt Lake City; I hadn’t quite expected that volume on the roads. Then, there are the new motels and pick-ups with oil men exploring the Uinta Basin.

David Gessner writes that the “vast, dry lands south of Vernal hold about half of the state’s active rigs and present a veritable smorgasbord of opportunities for energy extraction: shale aplenty, fracking for both oil and natural gas, and even the state’s very own poised-to-open tar sands. Uintah County has been Utah’s main oil producer for more than 70 years” (http://archive.onearth.org/article/how-vernal-utah-learned-to-love-big-oil). There are disturbing health issues but it is hard to resist big oil!

The Uinta [you-in-ta] basin is high desert (5000 feet) and the picture below shows what parts of it look like with all the development going on. I found http://utah-oil.com/, from which the picture is taken, helpful in presenting both sides in this debate on conservation versus oil development.

I also saw what looked like mining equipment on trucks but there is relatively little mining, just for phosphates.

The conference was good, interesting papers and lots of people to talk to. My own paper was about what happens to intransitive verbs in the history of English: I used to think the meaning of verbs
remained the same but that’s not true. Provo is home to Brigham Young University, which is a private university “owned and operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” ([http://aims.byu.edu](http://aims.byu.edu)). The organizers were thoughtful and held the conference off-campus because the campus is coffee/tea free and doing without caffeine presents a challenge to many conference goers. The hotel had coffee, tea, and a bar and we found a really neat place, right on Center Street, ABG’s Libation Emporium, with even a cigarette machine inside.

Also had dinner at the Black Sheep one night, which serves Navajo Taco and Posole, a hominy soup. All in all, a great trip!

**The Netherlands and Norway**
Before going to a workshop on Loss and Gain in Language Change in Kristiansand, Norway, I spent a few happy days visiting my family in (the South of) the Netherlands and didn’t do much in terms of sightseeing, just the below on the left which, as a child I saw quite often (because they hadn’t built a canal yet that blocked a walk to Drimmelen), but hadn’t seen in many years. On my trips to the Netherlands, I typically spend one night in Amsterdam because it is more convenient: transportation to the airport from the ‘outlying’ areas is not great. When in Amsterdam, I typically pick a hotel in a different neighborhood so I get to know that city a bit. This time I picked a Bed & Breakfast on the outskirts of the Red Light District. It was great, owned by an Egyptian and run by an Italian but it doesn’t have its own website because it is small. Warning: it has vertical staircases.
I then flew to Kristiansand, which is the fifth largest city in Norway (85,000 people or so) and is surrounded by water on three sides. Ferries come in regularly from Denmark as do cruise ships. The area has been inhabited since the last Ice Age (for instance, remains of a person were found that date 6500 BCE). The church at Oddernes was consecrated around 1014 CE and has a rune stone that I didn’t get to see. It is very close to the relatively new University of Adger, where our meetings were.

Kristiansand is in the Bible Belt of Norway and there are many active denominations. The Odderness church is home to the Evangelical Lutheran community but, just walking around Kristiansand, I spotted a Methodist church, the Catholic St Angars (apparently the only one in quite an area), and various others.

There is a lot of culture and nature in this part of Norway. For instance, the Sørlandets Kunstmuseum had an amazing piece by Tomás Saraceno who translated a (black widow) spider’s web into an art work. See me below in it; they allowed crawling under etc (and noone checking either). The Baneheia is a wonderful area with many walking trails and lakes.
Other interesting features are a McDonald’s in a former bank building, a Police Station with a prison on its top floors, and the remnants of a former leper’s colony.

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<th>McDonald’s, and a VERY busy one!</th>
<th>The prison</th>
<th>The colony</th>
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Thanks to Dagmar for telling me most of this and for suggesting to go to Høllen/Søgne and on a boat connecting various islands which was really great: blue skies and idyllic houses on islands.

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Politically, lots of things are happening. Kristiansand and Stavanger are the center of Norwegian oil and they are hurting because of the price of oil falling. The Aftenposten’s front page (20 May) said that the “Kinesere har planer om store oppkjøp i Norge” which means the Chinese are ready to buy up fishing, energy, and oil! A wonderful visit.