

Melanie's Upcoming Events:

The Hayduke Trail (HDT). This is an 820+ mile hike starting in Arches National Park in Utah, extending through many National Parks in Utah and Arizona and ending in Zion National Park in Utah.

Yeti (my husband) and I have already spent years planning this trip. We have tons of map info thanks to Yeti's technical expertise: GPS tracks, paper maps and Avenza maps (all geo-referenced). I also have a Garmin InReach Mini 2 for safety. I've read numerous journals from past hikers and the original guide book several times. We've also watched some great hiker videos about the Hayduke. Even though I always think I have all the equipment I need, I always end up buying new stuff. This year, I will use my Zpacks Arc Haul pack, which is bigger than my Arc Blast and can hold more water. I'll take Yeti's Aeon Notch Li tent.

My partner in crime is Dave Greenwood, another long-distance hiker. Yeti is our re-supply trail angel. He'll meet us at road crossings and various points with water, food, and to give us rides to town.

There are so many challenges for this hike: desert terrain, slot canyons, cold more than heat, snow, steep climbs and descents with exposure, hitching across the Colorado River - and the dreaded Nankoweap Trail. I hiked this trail over 25 years ago and hoped never to repeat the experience. It has some hairy, steep, and exposed sections where the trail is not very wide with a death-defying drop on one side. But, hey I was less experienced then. The 2020 fire in the Grand Canyon in the area where we do a final bushwhack down the north side from Muav Saddle may make this section even more difficult (it's known to be one of the toughest of the trail if not the toughest). I'm a bit nervous but cannot wait to do this hike. It has been on my to do list for some time.

To follow this trip go to Melanie's Trail Journal at:

<http://www.trailjournals.com/Lemstar2023/>