

January 16, 2007

Laura,

The one thing I missed most on the trip is a pillow. We have some old ones around the house, so I'll bring one of those.

You need a backpack that holds quite a lot. I carried my 3-liter Camelbak bladder in it plus rain gear, wading shoes and lunch. So it needs to be sturdy. One of the shoulder straps on mine ripped after a few days, but held on. I had bought it a few years ago for \$16. What I missed was straps to hold it to my body at the waist, so it wouldn't be swinging around while I was climbing. I was going to buy a new one, but I see that we can borrow one from ECO. That is what I will do.

What kind of wading shoes are you getting? I was going to get the Converse hightops.

The best flight I can find (for me) is Lansing to Salt Lake City for \$566.60, which is about \$130 more than I paid for the October trip. I'd depart Lansing at 9:02 am, arrive in SLC at 12:21 pm. The return trip leaves SLC at 3:08 pm and arrives in Lansing at 11:00 pm. Those times are great. It is a 5 hour drive (250 miles) from SLC to Boulder. It doesn't matter how late in the evening we arrive in Boulder. The motel I stayed in (Circle Cliffs) had 2 beds and cost about \$60.

We could fly to Las Vegas, which is 300 miles from Boulder, but the flights I looked at that worked out time-wise were more expensive. The other option is to fly to Grand Junction, Colorado, which is 230 miles from Boulder.

Rather than flying from Lansing, I could drive to South Haven on Friday, March 30, then we could fly together from South Bend or Chicago. I didn't find any suitable flights from Grand Rapids to SLC. What do you think?

Steve