



## Adventure abounds at nature museum

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At long last I sat to relax and take five minutes to just look around. My meandering led me to an inviting place to sit and ponder the adventure of my outing. There were so many great encounters I came upon during my nonstop day of exploration. All were like little National Geographic moments. Sitting, an unusual, shiny rock caught my attention. Glistening and gleaming, it sparkled little glints of light. Not from around here, I thought. It was a curious and beautiful specimen, something that looked like a mineral from a mining operation. Next to it was yet another marvelous sample of another rock. Surely a prize a rock hound would love. I don't collect such rocks, myself.

It was so peaceful and I was enjoying the ambiance of the day. Hospitably comforting, it was. Suddenly, something moved! It startled me at first, then I saw there was nothing to worry about. It was a harmless California king snake and he had just slithered out from under a log not farther than a few feet from me. A handsome snake, it was long, slender and deeply colored in ivory white and chocolate brown. One of nature's masterpieces in motion, I thought. It didn't seem bothered at all by me.

Looking near it, I was surprised to see a chuckwalla sitting on a rock right next to the snake. I hadn't noticed it before. His camouflage had hid him just like nature intended. It worked!

I remained there quietly for a short while until it was time to continue on. I stood up and walked around the corner and took a moment to read some of the gift cards I was attracted to. The display case below was filled with interesting jewelry and the gift shop was jammed with delightful things.

I sure do like the Hi Desert Nature Museum. It is always such an adventure!

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