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Reflecting The Spirit of Nature

NATURE - LANDSCAPES - WILDLIFE

November 1, 2023 Newsletter - No. 143

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SHIPROCK (ROCK FORMATION), NEW MEXICO

(Click On Image To Enlarge)

Shiprock Sunset, New Mexico

In the extreme northwest corner of New Mexico, often referred to as the “Four Corners” (where New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado meet), lies an amazing rock formation named Shiprock. It’s about 10 miles southwest of the

town of Shiprock, so named for the peak. Shiprock in this Newsletter is referring to the rock formation, not the town.

Shiprock lies on the high-desert plains of the Navajo Nation. With a peak of 1,583 feet (an elevation of 7,177 feet), it's the most prominent landmark in northwestern New Mexico and can be seen for 50 miles from any direction. Shiprock was designated a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service in 1975.

Governed by the Navajo Nation, Shiprock plays a significant role in Navajo religion, myths and tradition. The Navajo name for this peak is Tsé Bit'a'í , meaning "rock with wings" or "winged rock" and refers to the legend of the great bird that brought the Navajo from the north to their present lands. As Shiprock is sacred to the Navajos, hiking or climbing on the rock, or its surroundings, is strictly prohibited. The actual name Shiprock is the name given by Anglo settlers, because it resembled an enormous 19th-century clipper ship. This rock formation is the erosional remnant of the throat of a volcano that erupted approx. 30 million years ago.

Shiprock truly is an amazing sight standing alone in the high desert plains of the Navajo Nation. While photographing, the wind must have been blowing at almost 40 MPH. I could hardly keep my tripod steady. I shot with a high ISO and shutter speed to stop movement of all the foliage in the foreground. The sunset was terrific and added to the surreality of this magnificent rock; you might say I "lucked out" during my one-night visit to Shiprock. It being sacred to the Navajos made it even more special to me, and I was happy I took the time to visit this part of New Mexico.

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Thanks for letting me share my photography with you.

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