



Backcountry Camping



Backcountry camping at Dinosaur National Monument requires a free permit, which can be obtained at any ranger station or visitor center. Mid-May through mid-September, camping in the inner river canyons is restricted to river rafting groups with permits. All of the Cub Creek area and all of the Jones Hole Creek area, except the established sites at Ely Creek, are closed to camping. The two sites at Ely Creek are by reservation only. To make a reservation for Ely Creek backcountry campsites, call 435-781-7700.

General Information

Since backcountry routes are not marked in the monument, using a topographic map is recommended. Maps can be purchased at either visitor center.

The following regulations apply to all backcountry camping:

- Group size is limited to 8
- Pets are not allowed in the backcountry
- Everything packed in must be carried out (including organic material, such as apple cores and orange peels)
- Bury human waste; pack out toilet paper
- Campsites must be:
 - one mile away from a developed area
 - at least $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from roads or cultural sites
 - at least 300 feet from a water source

Carry at least one gallon of water per person per day. Water is scarce in many areas of the monument. Untreated water should be filtered, chemically disinfected, or boiled three to five minutes.

Campfires are permitted in the backcountry except at the Ely Creek campsites. Collect only down and dead wood. Never leave a fire unattended and ensure the fire is out before leaving a campsite. Always use caution with fire in the backcountry, especially when the fire danger is high to extreme. The monument may restrict backcountry campfires. Please check about fire conditions before traveling into the backcountry.

Leave No Trace

The Leave No Trace Principles of outdoor ethics form the framework of Leave No Trace's message:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns, or flagging.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 300 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

In Popular Areas

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

In Pristine Areas

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.
- Dispose of waste properly.

Pack It In, Pack It Out

- Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 300 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cold ashes.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

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