



Hiking Trails



Overlooking the maze-like terrain along the Yampa River Canyon

Hiking is a great way to appreciate the monument’s intriguing history and rugged scenery. Elevations range from 5,000 feet at river level to over 8,000 feet. Before you begin any hike, be prepared for changing conditions in this desert environment. Most trails are exposed to full sun. In the summer, bring at least one liter of water per person for each hour hiking. Sturdy hiking shoes are recommended on all trails. For overnight or extended backpacking trips, stop by any monument visitor center for a free permit. Maps and trail guides are available for purchase. Pets are only allowed on two designated trails and are not allowed into the backcountry.

Quarry Visitor Center & Cub Creek Road (Utah)

Tilted layers of rock characterize this area of the monument. This is also the only area of the monument where you can see dinosaur fossils. While the dinosaur fossils

may be the most popular hiking destination, take time to discover Josie Morris’s cabin, secluded box canyons, and numerous petroglyphs and pictographs.

Trail Name	Trailhead	Distance (round trip)	Difficulty	Highlights
A. Fossil Discovery *	Quarry Visitor Center or Exhibit Hall	2.4 mi 3.2 km	moderate	tilted rock layers that expose a variety of geology and fossils, including dinosaur bones
B. Sound of Silence *	Stop 2 along Cub Creek Road	3.0 mi 4.8 km	moderate-difficult	interesting geology; joins Desert Voices Trail via a ¼ mile connector trail
C. Desert Voices **	Split Mountain Boat Ramp	1.5 mi 2.4 km	moderate	Split Mountain views and desert habitats; joins Sound of Silence Trail via a ¼ mile connector trail
D. River	Green River and Split Mountain Campgrounds	3.0 mi 4.8 km	easy-moderate	trail follows the Green River, connecting Green River and Split Mountain Campgrounds
E. Petroglyphs	Stop 14 along Cub Creek Road	0.2 mi 0.4 km	moderate (short but steep)	numerous petroglyphs, including several lizard figures
F. Box Canyon	End of Cub Creek Road	0.2 mi 0.4 km	easy	shady box canyon once used as a natural animal corral by Josie Morris
G. Hog Canyon	End of Cub Creek Road	1.5 mi 2.4 km	easy	scenic, partly shaded canyon with spring-fed creek. Watch out for poison ivy!

* = trail guide available
** = waysides along trail

Harpers Corner Road / Canyon Visitor Center Area (Colorado)

Harpers Corner Road is the gateway to Dinosaur National Monument's canyon county. The trails in this area offer a look into desert shrub communities and outstanding

views into the Uinta Basin and Green and Yampa River canyons. While most parks do not allow pets on trails or in the backcountry, pets on leash are allowed on two trails here.

Trail Name	Trailhead	Distance (round trip)	Difficulty	Highlights
H. Cold Desert	Canyon Visitor Center	0.5 mi 0.8 km	easy	short trail that introduces many common plants in the desert shrub community; pets on leash allowed
I. Plug Hat Butte **	Plug Hat pull-out along Harpers Corner Road	0.25 mi 0.4 km	easy	level paved trail through pinyon/juniper forest, affording excellent overlooks of a colorful landscape; pets on leash allowed
J. Ruple Point	Island Park Overlook along Harpers Corner Road	9.2 mi 14.8 km	moderate-difficult due to length and elevation (7,700')	rolling terrain of sagebrush and juniper with a view into Split Mountain Canyon
K. Harpers Corner *	End of Harpers Corner Road	2.0 mi 3.2 km	easy	views into Green and Yampa River canyons, Echo Park and the Mitten Park Fault

Other Areas

These areas of the monument are "off the beaten path," but the scenery rewards for the distance you have to drive to reach them.

In addition to these trails, Dinosaur has a vast backcountry for you to explore.

Trail Name	Trailhead	Distance	Difficulty	Highlights
L. Jones Hole (Utah)	Jones Hole Fish Hatchery	8.5 mi 13.6 km	moderate	shady hike along spring-fed Jones Hole Creek; panel of pictographs
M. Gates of Lodore * (Colorado)	Lodore Campground	0.2 mi 0.4 km	easy	scenic view of the entrance to Lodore Canyon
N. Bull Canyon (Colorado)	Yampa Bench Road	3.0 mi 4.8 km	difficult	steep hike from the Yampa Bench Road down to Harding Hole on the Yampa River

* = trail guide available
** = waysides along trail

Trail Locator Map

