



Hiking Trails



Exploring the Yampa River Canyon


Hiking is a great way to experience the monument's intriguing history and rugged scenery. Before you begin any hike, be prepared for changing conditions in the 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. Elevations vary across Dinosaur National Monument, ranging from 4,700 feet at river level near the Quarry Visitor Center to over 8,000 feet.


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 allowed only on designated pet friendly trails and are not allowed in the backcountry.

Quarry Visitor Center & Cub Creek Road (Utah)

Tilted layers of rock characterize this area of the monument. This is also the best place to see dinosaur fossils. While the Fossil Discovery Trail is the most popular

hike for good reason, several other trails allow you 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 3.9 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	3.2 mi 5.1 km	moderate-difficult	interesting geology; joins Desert Voices Trail via a 0.3 mile connector trail
C. Desert Voices	Split Mountain Boat Ramp	1.7 mi 2.7 km	moderate	Split Mountain views and desert habitats; joins Sound of Silence Trail via a 0.3 mile connector trail
D. River 	Green River & Split Mountain Campgrounds	3.0 mi 4.8 km	easy-moderate	trail follows the Green River, connecting Green River and Split Mountain Campgrounds
E. Lizard Petroglyphs	Stop 14 along Cub Creek Road	0.34 mi 0.55 km	moderate (short but steep)	numerous petroglyphs, including several lizard figures
F. Box Canyon	End of Cub Creek Road	0.25 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!

 = leashed pets permitted

* = trail guide available

Canyon Visitor Center & Harpers Corner Road (Colorado)

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

views into the Uinta Basin and Green and Yampa river canyons. Pets on a leash are allowed only on designated trails.

Trail Name	Trailhead	Distance (round trip)	Difficulty	Highlights
H. 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; additional short trails are available in the picnic area; pets on leash allowed
I. 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 that ends with a dramatic view into Split Mountain Canyon
J. Harpers Corner *	End of Harpers Corner Road	2.0 mi 3.2 km	easy - moderate	views into Green and Yampa river canyons, Echo Park, and of the Mitten Park Fault

Other Areas

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

In addition to these trails, Dinosaur has a vast backcountry to explore. Off-trail hiking is permitted in most areas of the monument. Always follow Leave No Trace principles.

Trail Name	Trailhead	Distance (round trip)	Difficulty	Highlights
K. Confluence	End of the Echo Park Road	1.25 mi 2.0 km	easy	short walk to the confluence of the Yampa and Green rivers
L. Mitten Park	Walk-in sites at Echo Park Campground	3.0 mi 4.8 km	moderate	follows cliffs above the Green River to dramatic views of Mitten Park Fault
M. Gates of Lodore * (Colorado)	Lodore Campground	1.0 mi 1.6 km	easy	scenic view of the entrance to the Canyon of Lodore
N. Bull Canyon (Colorado)	Yampa Bench Road	3.0 mi 4.8 km	difficult	steep hike from the Yampa Bench Road to Harding Hole on the Yampa River
O. 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



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Trail Locator Map

