

Trail Guide

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
Oregon

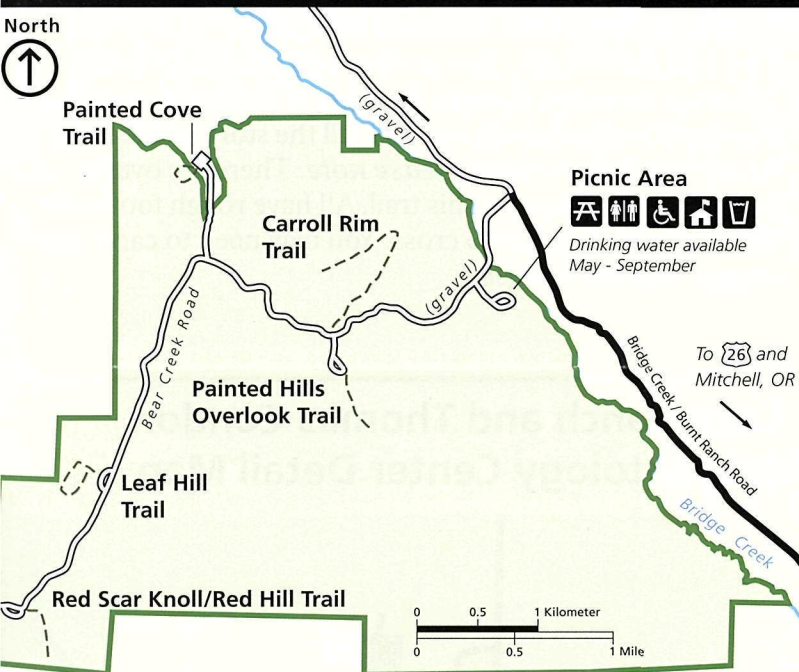


The colorful landscapes of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument showcase 40 million years of Oregon's ancient history. Evidence of fossilized plants and animals, ecological changes, and violent volcanic activity abound!

All distances on the trail guide are round trip. Trails are open year round but may be muddy or slippery when wet. At all trailheads, parking is available for cars, buses, and RVs. Please protect the natural features of the park by staying on the established trails. Pets are welcome but must be leashed and remain on trails. All fossils, historic structures, archaeological features, rocks, plants, and animals are protected by law and may not be collected or disturbed. Help preserve the park and let rangers know if you see anyone collecting fossils or other protected items.



Painted Hills Unit *37375 Bear Creek Road Mitchell, OR*



Carroll Rim Trail [1.6 mile / 2.6 km]
The trail climbs over 400 feet (120 m) of elevation to a panorama view of the Painted Hills.

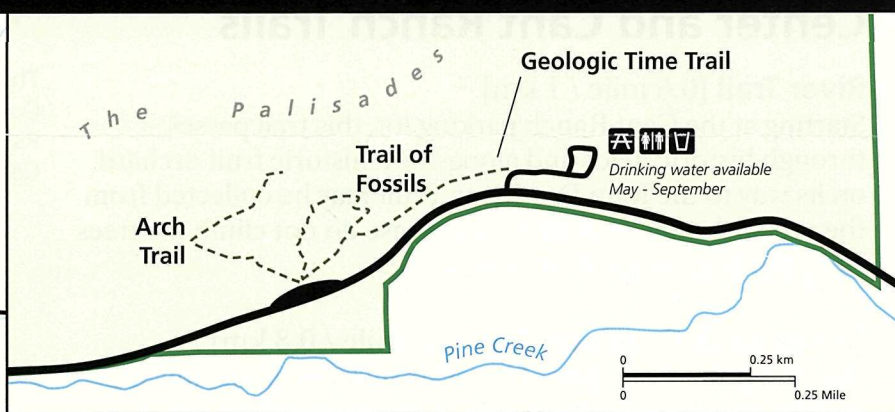
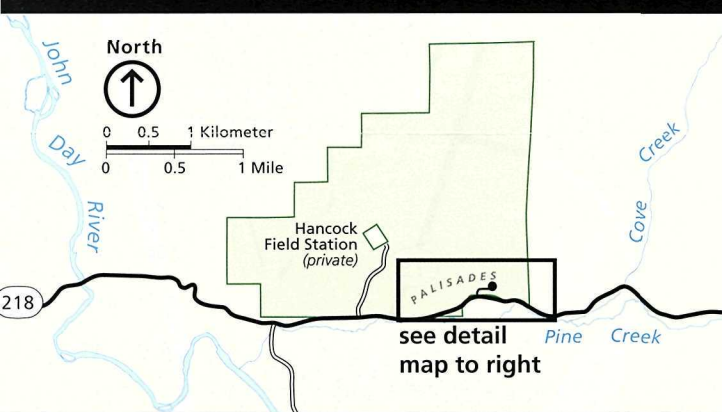
Painted Hills Overlook Trail [0.5 mile / 0.8 km]
This fairly level trail follows an old road and offers further distinctive views of the Painted Hills.

Painted Cove Trail [0.25 mile / 0.4 km]
The Painted Cove is an amazing color palette of vibrant rocks. A portion of this trail features a level boardwalk.

Leaf Hill Trail [0.25 mile / 0.4 km]
Leaf Hill has been extensively excavated and studied by paleontologists. Signs explain more of its history.

Red Scar Knoll Trail [0.25 mile / 0.4 km]
This mostly level trail leads to a hill of bright yellow and red clays; called Red Hill Trail on road signs.

Clarno Unit *State Route 218 Fossil, OR*

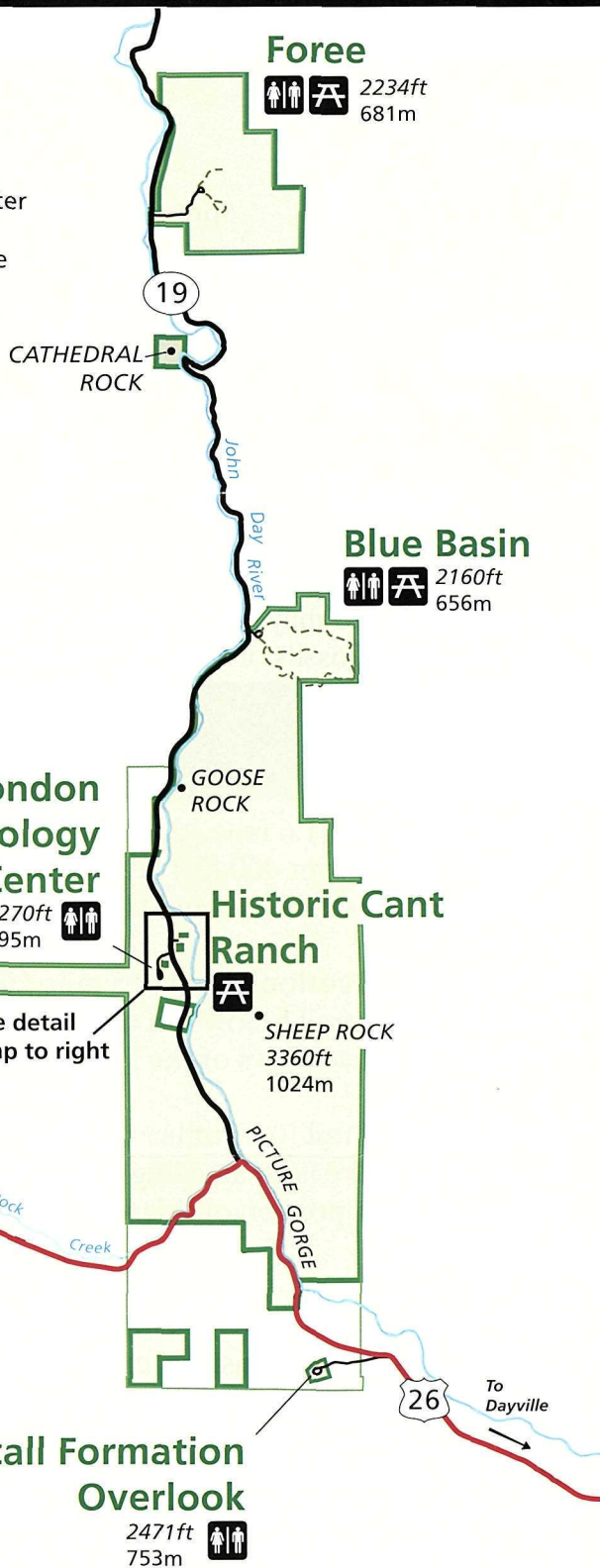
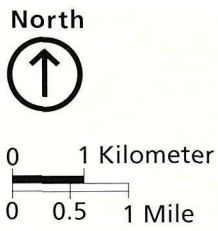


Trail of Fossils [0.25 mile / 0.4 km]
This is the best trail in the monument to see real fossils. Look for leaf imprints and pieces of wood within the boulders that have fallen from the cliffs.

Clarno Arch Trail [0.5 mile / 0.8 km]
This trail climbs almost 200 feet (60 m) in height to the base of the Palisades to a view of an arch above.

Geologic Time Trail [0.5 mile / 0.8 km]
Travel in time between the past and present on this path connecting the Trail of Fossils and the picnic area.

Sheep Rock Unit 32651 Highway 19 Kimberly, OR



Foree Trailhead

Flood of Fire Trail [0.5 mile / 0.8 km]

Mostly easy with several stair steps, this trail ends at a dramatic cliff face and a view of colorful geologic formations and fiery floods of basalt across the valley.

Story in Stone Trail [0.3 mile / 0.5 km]

Erosion has shaped several badland outcroppings that can be seen from this mostly level trail.

Blue Basin Trailhead

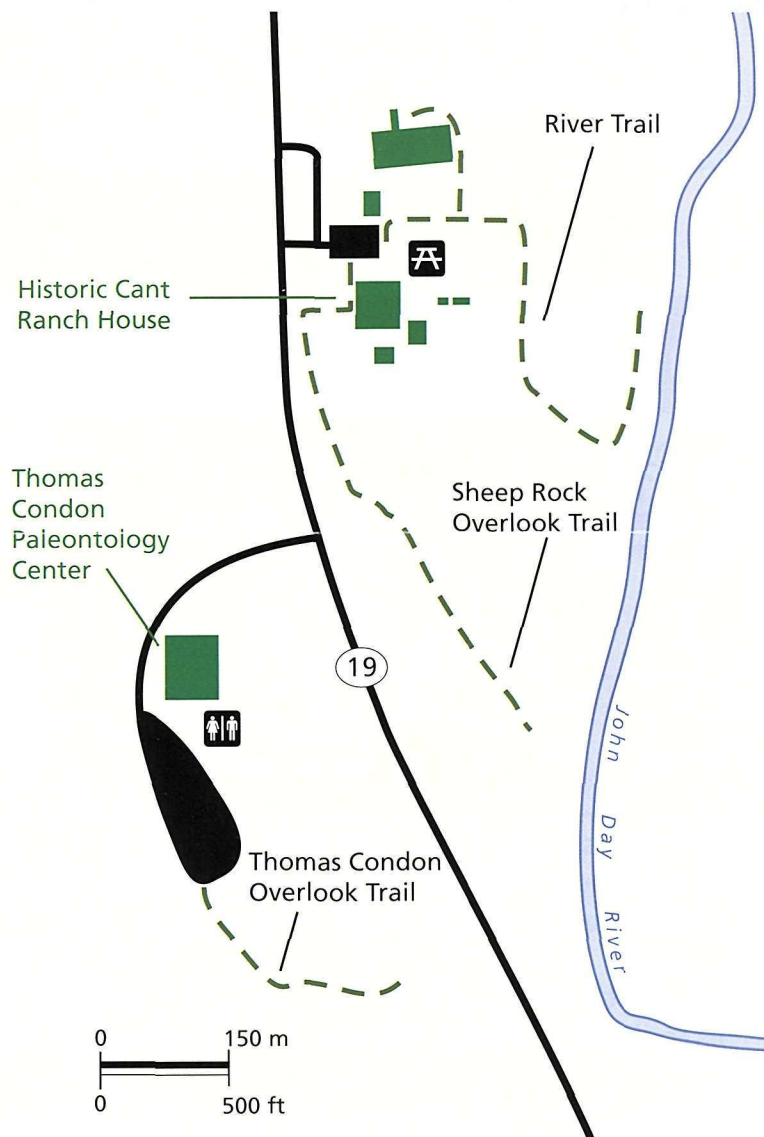
Blue Basin Overlook Trail [3.25 mile / 5.2 km]

Climbing 760 feet (230 m) in elevation to an overlook of Blue Basin, this trail provides breath-taking views down into steep canyons and grand vistas of the John Day River valley. Clay surfaces can be very slippery when wet.

Island in Time Trail [1.3 mile / 2.1 km]

This trail follows the canyon floor and ascends 200 feet (60 m) in elevation through blue-green badlands. Exhibits and fossil replicas along the trail tell the story of the fossil landscape. *Dog owners please note:* There are over a dozen metal bridges on this trail. All have rough footplates that many dogs refuse to cross. You may need to carry your dogs across the bridges.

Cant Ranch and Thomas Condon Paleontology Center Detail Map



Thomas Condon Paleontology Center and Cant Ranch Trails

River Trail [0.6 mile / 1 km]

Starting at the Cant Ranch parking lot, this trail passes through historic fields and alongside a historic fruit orchard on its way to the John Day River. Fruit may be collected from the orchard when in season, but please do not climb the trees since the branches are old and brittle.

Sheep Rock Overlook Trail [0.5 mile / 0.8 km]

Starting at the front gate of the historic Cant home, this trail ends at an overlook with a view of the river valley with Sheep Rock high above.

Thomas Condon Overlook Trail [0.25 mile / 0.4 km]

This trail starts at the far end of the Paleontology Center parking lot and ends at an overlook of the river valley.