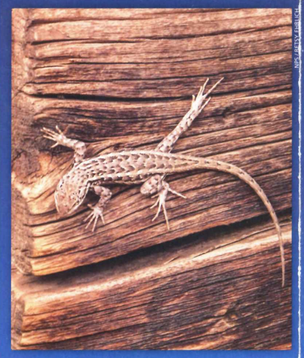
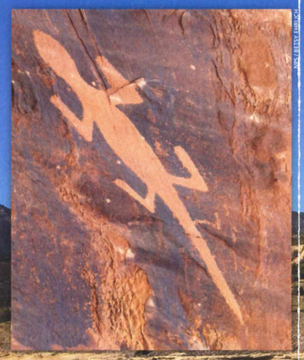
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Dinosaur National Monument
Colorado/Utah





HIDING PLACES A tiny lizard will soon vanish into a chink between rough-hewn logs. Cattle rustlers followed secret "outlaw trails" to disappear into hard-to-reach canyons, confounding lawmen who pursued them.

FREMONT PEOPLE carved petroglyphs into the "desert varnish" of cliffs. This six-foot lizard *(left)* dates from about 1,000 years ago.

ECHO PARK In the 1950s the Bureau of Reclamation proposed building a high dam downstream from here. It was part of a plan to develop the Upper Colorado River Basin.

FLOWING LIVING WILD

RIVERS AND CANYONS

Steamboat Rock marks the spectacular meeting place of the Green and Yampa rivers. As the rivers cut deep into the underlying rock layers, they exposed a dramatic geologic history of faults, folds, and uplifts. These events created the colorful array of living landscapes, soils, and water sources that you see today.

Rock layers preserve ancient plant and animal fossils from land and sea. Sandstone cliffs bear perplexing artworks that whisper of a more recent, human past. Falcons soar above waters where rare fish swim and bighorn sheep linger. Such riches led President Franklin Roosevelt, in 1938, to add over 200,000 acres of canyon country to the original 80 acres.

The Green is greatly increased by the Yampa . . .
and the waters waltz their way through the canyon,
making their own rippling, rushing, roaring music.

John Wesley Powell, 1869

FIND 23 LAYERS OF TIME AND FOSSILS as you float Dinosaur National Monument's rivers and walk its trails. Local geologic conditions support unique habitats. Two plant species here live nowhere else on Earth.

CENOZOIC
present–66 million years ago

SURFACE MATERIALS
BROWNS PARK FORMATION
BISHOP CONGLOMERATE
MANCOS SHALE
FRONTIER FORMATION
MOWRY SHALE
DAKOTA SANDSTONE
CEDAR MOUNTAIN FORMATION
Fossil Discovery Trail, Utah
Quarry Exhibit Hall, Utah >
MORRISON FORMATION
STUMP FORMATION
ENTRADA FORMATION
CARMEL FORMATION
NUGGET SANDSTONE
Cub Creek Petroglyphs, Utah >
CHINLE FORMATION
MOENKOPI FORMATION
Echo Park Road dugway, Colorado >

MESOZOIC
66–252 million years ago

PARK CITY FORMATION
Split Mountain boat ramp, Utah >
Steamboat Rock, Colorado >
(shown above left)
WEBER SANDSTONE
MORGAN FORMATION
Mitten Park Fault, Colorado
ROUND VALLEY LIMESTONE
DOUGHNUT FORMATION
HUMBUG FORMATION
MADISON LIMESTONE
LODORE FORMATION
Camarasaurus
Gates of Lodore, Colorado >
UINTA MOUNTAIN GROUP

PALEOZOIC
252–541 million years ago

PRECAMBRIAN
541 million–4.6 billion years ago

BACKGROUND PHOTO ABOVE—NPS / JACOB W. FRANK
DINOSAUR ILLUSTRATIONS—NPS / BOB WALTERS AND TESS KISSINGER
NPS / ADAPTED FROM EMMETT EVANOFF



ANCIENT REMAINS Sediments covered and preserved the leg bones *(left)* of a Diplodocus and an Apatosaurus within the Morrison Formation.



RARE FIND A fossilized skull *(left)* from the long-necked, long-tailed Jurassic dinosaur Camarasaurus that once roamed this area *(below right)*.

BURIED FOSSILIZED EXPOSED

ANCIENT LIFE

Dinosaur National Monument includes one of Earth's richest known dinosaur fossil beds. These remains are from the Jurassic period 150 million years ago. During a drought, many dinosaurs died near a river's edge. When rains returned, floodwaters carried the jumbled bones of over 500 dinosaurs, representing ten species, here.

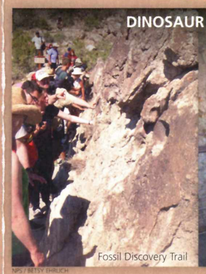
Ancient river sediments, now called Morrison sandstone, entombed the dinosaur bones. Minerals then saturated the bones (though some organic material survived) and cast them in stone. Erosion eventually exposed the fossils. In 1909 Earl Douglass, of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum, declared this site "the best-looking dinosaur prospect I have ever found."

Pterosaur
Diplodocus
Camptosaurus
Pterosaur
Allosaurus
Apatosaurus
Stegosaurus

Dinosaur

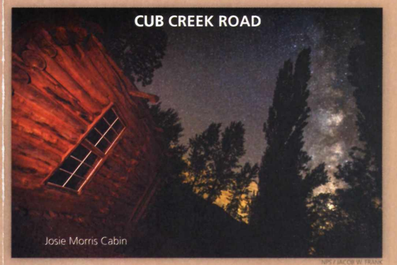
EXPLORE DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT
UTAH

DINOSAUR QUARRY

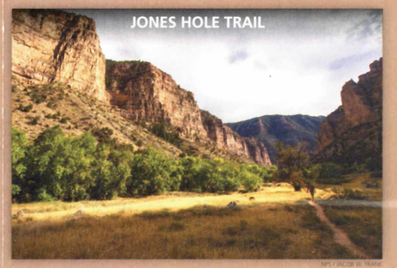

Fossil Discovery Trail


Quarry Exhibit Hall

CUB CREEK ROAD

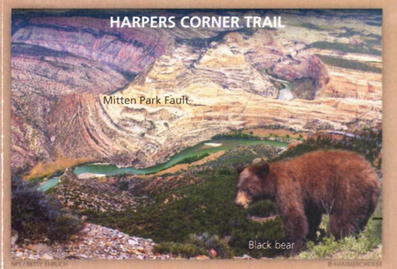

Josie Morris Cabin

JONES HOLE TRAIL

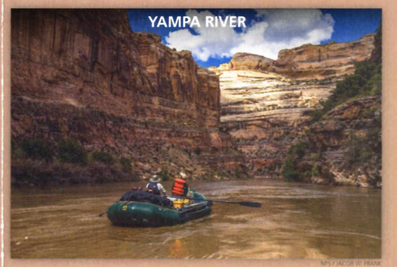


EXPLORE DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT
COLORADO

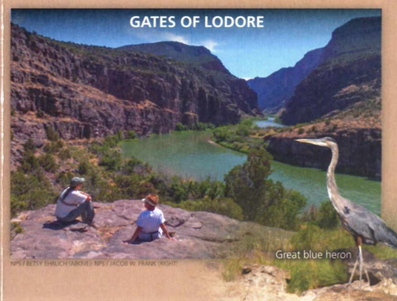
HARPERS CORNER TRAIL


Mitten Park Fault
Black bear

YAMPA RIVER



GATES OF LODORE


Great blue heron

VISITING DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

The park straddles the border of Utah and Colorado—a remote area on the edge of the Uinta Basin. Its riches include the namesake Jurassic fossils, multi-hued canyons, and two rivers. Over one billion years, geologic lifting, warping, and erosion created a surprising, varied landscape where many plant and animal species thrive and the remains of ancient life can be seen. The park includes benchlands of the Green and Yampa rivers, which carved the deep canyons that thrill rafters, hikers, and wildlife and scenery lovers.

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information go to a visitor center, ask a ranger, call, or check our website.

Wilderness Over 90 percent of the park is managed as wilderness, a gift to people today and to future generations. A formal designation by Congress as wilderness could protect forever the land's wild character, natural conditions, opportunities for solitude, and scientific, educational, and historical values. In wilderness people can sense being a part of the whole community of life on Earth.

UTAH

Quarry Visitor Center Open year-round, this is the main visitor center. Start here—whether you've come to see dinosaur fossils or to learn about other places to explore.

Quarry Exhibit Hall Marvel at the great wall of bones with over 1,500 fossils embedded in the rock. You can even touch some of the 149-million-year-old fossils. Rangers are on duty to answer questions.

Cub Creek and **Split Mountain** offer hiking trails, ancient petroglyphs and pictographs, and homesteader cabins.

COLORADO

Canyon Visitor Center Open seasonally, this visitor center, two miles east of Dinosaur, CO, is the gateway to the park's canyon country. It offers a film, bookstore, and information. ***This part of the monument has no dinosaur fossils.***

Harpers Corner Road winds 31 miles across sagebrush-covered plateaus to the brink of sheer-walled canyons. Several overlooks, some featuring trails, provide stunning views. Hike the two-mile roundtrip Harpers Corner Trail for a culminating experience. Echo Park and Yampa Bench roads are unpaved and require high-clearance vehicles. Roads may be impassable when wet—ask about current road conditions at a visitor center. Gas, food, lodging, and supplies are unavailable inside the park.

Deerlodge Park, on the monument's eastern end, is the launch point for river trips (permits required) on the naturally flowing Yampa River. Spend a night at the campground and hike the primitive trails in this far corner of the park.

Gates of Lodore at the park's northern tip is the starting place for river trips (permits required) on the Green River. In 1869 John Wesley Powell floated through this dark, foreboding canyon. A majestic view rewards you at the end of a short hike from the campground.

Safety and Regulations

Summer temperatures can exceed 100°F, with frequent afternoon thunderstorms. Carry and drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. • Do not disturb or remove natural, historic, or cultural features. • Do not feed, hunt, trap, or harass wildlife. • Pets must be leashed at all times. They are not allowed in public buildings, on most trails, on the river, or in the backcountry. Never leave pets in vehicles. • Firearms are subject to state law. For regulations check the website. • Off-road driving is illegal. ATVs and UTVs are not permitted on any park roads. • Camp only at designated sites. Permits are required for all overnight backcountry trips and all river trips.

Emergencies call 911

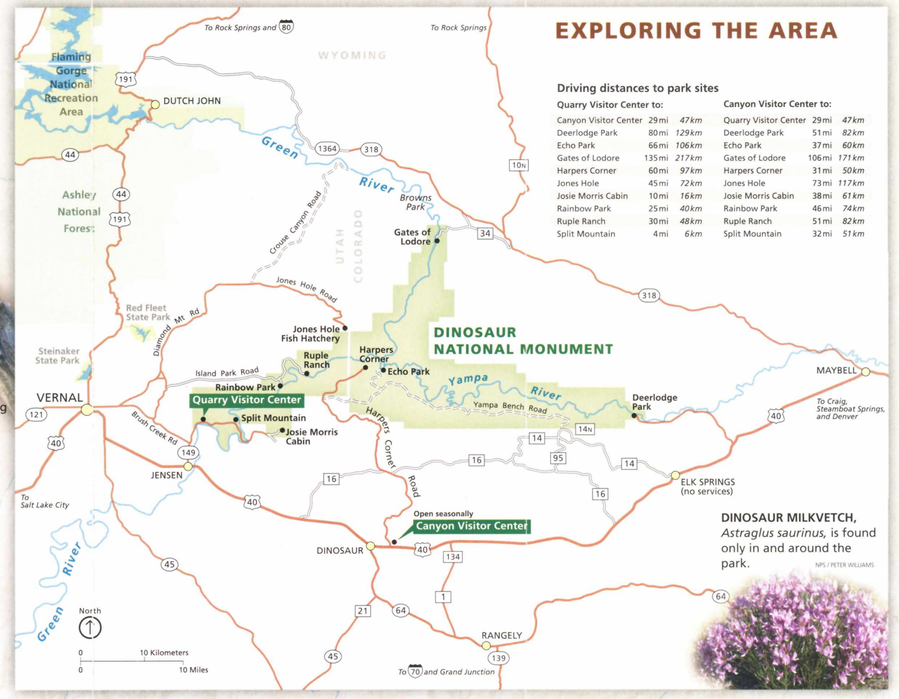


ALLOSAURUS SKULL with serrated teeth to tear the flesh of prey.
NPS



OSPREY make their home along the Green and Yampa rivers.
NPS / JACOB W. FRANK

EXPLORING THE AREA



Driving distances to park sites

Quarry Visitor Center to:			Canyon Visitor Center to:		
Canyon Visitor Center	29 mi	47 km	Quarry Visitor Center	29 mi	47 km
Deerlodge Park	80 mi	129 km	Deerlodge Park	51 mi	82 km
Echo Park	66 mi	106 km	Echo Park	37 mi	60 km
Gates of Lodore	135 mi	217 km	Gates of Lodore	106 mi	171 km
Harpers Corner	60 mi	97 km	Harpers Corner	31 mi	50 km
Jones Hole	45 mi	72 km	Jones Hole	73 mi	117 km
Josie Morris Cabin	10 mi	16 km	Josie Morris Cabin	38 mi	61 km
Rainbow Park	25 mi	40 km	Rainbow Park	46 mi	74 km
Ruple Ranch	30 mi	48 km	Ruple Ranch	51 mi	82 km
Split Mountain	4 mi	6 km	Split Mountain	32 mi	51 km

DINOSAUR MILKVETCH, *Astraglus saurinus,* is found only in and around the park.
NPS / PETER WILLIAMS



WHITE-TAILED PRAIRIE DOGS live only in four western states.
NPS / JACOB W. FRANK



BIGHORN SHEEP scale steep canyon walls to avoid predators.
NPS / JACOB W. FRANK



ENDANGERED FISH SPECIES swim in the Green and Yampa rivers: *(left to right)* Humpback chub, Colorado pikeminnow, Razorback sucker, and Bonytail chub.
FISH ILLUSTRATIONS—© JOSEPH R. TOMELLERI

More Information
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PO Box 128
Jensen, UT 84035
435-781-7700
www.nps.gov/dino

Dinosaur National Monument is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks visit www.nps.gov.

National Park Foundation
Join the park community.
www.nationalparks.org

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