

Trail Descriptions

Intrepid Trail System

Intrepid Loop — The Intrepid Loop is a short trail great for families and novice riders. The trail features very little elevation gain and rocky terrain. *1.1 miles; easy-moderate*

Great Pyramid Loop — The Great Pyramid Loop is a moderate length trail with mixed terrain. This trail is great for riders with average riding ability or those with less time. Average riding time is 1 hour. *4.2 miles; moderate*

Big Chief Loop — The Big Chief Loop is the longest of our trails. This loop features riding on mixed terrain with an average riding time of 2 hours. *9 miles; moderate*

**Dogs are not allowed on any Intrepid Trail System loops.*

Hiking-Only Trails (All distances are one way)

Nature Trail — Paved interpretive walking trail with marked plants and geological features. Find an informational brochure at the trailhead or at the visitor center. *0.25 mile; easy*

East Rim Trail — Hiking trail with continuous canyon views leading to or from Dead Horse Point. A short spur to Basin Overlook (*0.25 mi*) adds to the hike and takes you to a view of Chimney Rock and Pyramid Butte. *1.5 mile; easy to moderate*

West Rim Trail — Hike through a pinyon juniper forest to or from Dead Horse Point. Spurs to Meander Overlook (*0.1 mi*), Shafer Canyon (*0.25 mi*) and Rim Overlook (*0.25 mi*) add to the hike by taking you closer to the canyon rim. *2.5 mile; easy to moderate*

Big Horn Overlook Trail — Spur trail leading to large desert potholes and a grand overlook. *1.25 mile; easy to moderate*

Colorado Overlook Trail — Hike along the rim past desert potholes to a distant overlook of the Colorado River. *0.5 mile; easy*

Your park fees provide for the care, protection and enhancement of this park.

Park Location:

The park is located nine miles north of Moab on US 191 and 23 miles south on SR 313 at the end of the highway.

Operating Hours:

The park is open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round. Visitor Center is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Address Inquiries To:

Dead Horse Point State Park
P.O. Box 609
Moab, UT 84532-0609
(435) 259-2614

or

Utah State Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 146001
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001
(801) 538-7220
stateparks.utah.gov

For Reservations Call:

(800) 322-3770

Utah State Parks Mission:

To enhance the quality of life by preserving and providing natural, cultural and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

Scan the QR code below with your mobile device to visit the park website, stateparks.utah.gov/parks/dead-horse



Information contained in this brochure was accurate at the time of printing. Policies, facilities, fees, hours and regulations, etc., change as mandated. For updated information please contact the park.

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Dead Horse Point State Park



Utah State Parks

STATE PARK

DEAD HORSE POINT

Towering 2,000 feet above the Colorado River, Dead Horse Point State Park provides a breathtaking panorama of Canyonlands’ sculptured pinnacles and buttes. To visit, travel nine miles north of Moab on US 191, turn west on SR 313, then travel 23 miles to the park. The visitor center, campground and viewpoints make the park comfortable and informative as well as spectacular.

The Legend of Dead Horse Point

According to one legend, the point was once used as a corral for wild mustangs roaming the mesa. Cowboys rounded up these horses, herded them across the narrow neck of land and onto the point. The neck, which is only 30 yards wide, was then fenced off with branches and brush, creating a natural corral surrounded by precipitous cliffs. Cowboys then chose the horses they wanted and for reasons unknown, left the other horses corralled on the waterless point where they died of thirst within view of the Colorado River, 2,000 feet below.

Activities

Exhibits at the visitor center include informational displays about canyon country geology, local plants and animals, prehistoric cultures and park history. A self-guided nature walk around the visitor center educates visitors about plants, animals, geology and the park environment.

Rangers present interpretive programs at the park from April through October. A Junior Ranger program is offered for young visitors who want to learn more about the park and earn a Junior Ranger badge.

Eight miles of hiking trails in the park include two joining trails around the rim and several spurs



to beautiful viewpoints. Ride nine miles of moderate mountain biking and enjoy spectacular views on the Intrepid Trail System.

Coordinates to find the park geocaches are available online and at the visitor center.

Plants and Animals

Because the park receives only 10 inches of precipitation a year, vegetation and wildlife have adapted to live in this arid desert environment. Plants have reduced the size of their leaves, as smaller leaves lose less water through evaporation. Some plants have a waxy coating on their leaves, which helps reduce water loss. Other plants go through a dormant phase during dry spells, and some seeds lie dormant in dry soil for years until there is enough moisture for them to sprout and grow.

Animals often must travel many miles to find water or wait several weeks for rain, and have developed special adaptations to drought and heat. Most desert animals rest in the shade or in their burrows during the heat of the day. They venture out in cooler morning and evening hours to hunt and forage for food. Some animals get water from the food they eat and can go for weeks without a drink of water. Others have oversized ears that radiate heat away from their bodies to keep them cooler.

Desert animals have only a slight edge on the harsh environment in which they live. Chasing or harassing them uses up precious reserves they cannot afford to lose. Please respect their home and do not disrupt their tenuous struggle for existence.

Biological soil crust and potholes are unique ecosystems found at Dead Horse Point. They are very fragile and should not be disturbed.

Geological Sketch

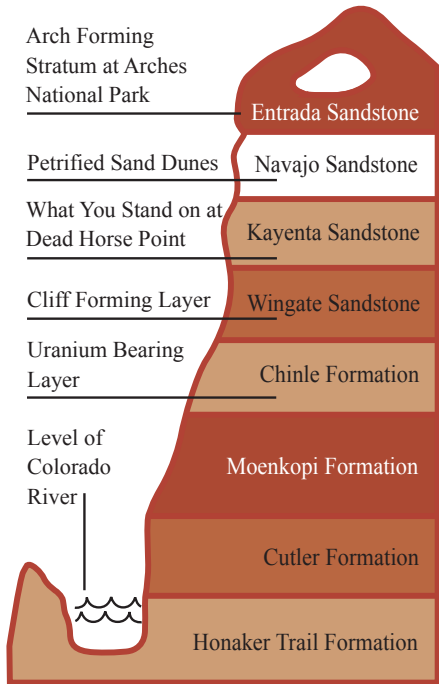
Dead Horse Point is situated atop a high plateau at an elevation of about 6,000 feet above sea level. From the Point, layers of geologic time may be viewed, revealing 300 million years of the Earth’s geologic history. While standing on the canyon rim, 8,000 feet of geologic strata is visible looking from the peaks of the 12,000-foot high La Sal Mountains to the river below. These rock layers were deposited over the eons by oceans, fresh water and wind, as well as isolated volcanic events.

Sediments at the 4,000-foot river level were deposited during the Pennsylvanian period, 300 million years ago. The La Sal Mountains are composed of igneous rocks from an ancient laccolith that formed during the Tertiary period. Uplifting caused by tectonic plate movement elevated the entire Colorado Plateau by more than one mile. The Colorado River was born during this regional uplift, and has been carving down through the sediments ever since. Erosion continues today as the river winds from the Continental Divide high in the Colorado Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean at the Sea of Cortez (a distance of 1,400 miles!) sculpting ancient rock layers into this spectacular panorama.



Safety Tips

- ♦ Most overlooks are not fenced. Please use extreme caution!
- ♦ Lightning danger is severe on exposed canyon rims. Seek shelter in a building or vehicle during thunderstorms.
- ♦ Stay on established trails. Follow signs and rock cairns (piles of rocks).
- ♦ Please do not throw rocks or objects off the cliffs.
- ♦ Drink plenty of water – one gallon per person per day in summer.
- ♦ Wear a hat, sunscreen and sturdy shoes while hiking.



Park Guidelines

Please observe the following park regulations to ensure everyone’s visit is pleasant.

Bicycling – Mountain biking is permitted on established public roads and in parking areas. Single-track mountain biking is available on the Intrepid Trail System. Bicycles are not allowed on hiking trails.

Camping – Camp only in designated areas. Each camping permit covers one vehicle and any attached recreational equipment. Up to eight people are allowed in a campsite. There is an extra fee for additional vehicles or camping equipment. Tents must fit on tent pads.

Fires – Fire grills are for charcoal fires only. Wood fires, ground fires and gathering firewood are prohibited.

Fireworks – Fireworks of any kind are prohibited.

Parking – Park only in designated areas.

Pets – Pets are allowed at Dead Horse Point State Park, but must be on a maximum six-foot leash. Service animals are the only animals admitted in park buildings. For safety and courtesy, please keep pets under control and clean up after them. No pets on the Intrepid Trail System.

Plants and animals – All plants, animals, minerals and other natural features in state parks are protected. It is unlawful to remove, alter, or destroy them.

Trails - Hiking trails are for foot traffic only. Please stay on established trails. Bicycling is permitted on the Intrepid Trail System and established roads. Motorized vehicles must remain on established roads.

Vandalism - It is unlawful to mutilate or deface any natural or constructed feature or structure. Please help keep the park beautiful.

Wastewater – It is unlawful to dump or drain water from campers or trailers onto the ground. A sanitary disposal station is provided for registered campers.

Quiet hours – 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.



Facilities and Services

Visitor center – Open year-round with facilities for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, water, publications, souvenirs, art gallery and a paved, self-guided nature trail. Pony Espresso Coffee Shop open March through October.

Day-use facilities – Shade pavilion at Dead Horse Point and accessible viewpoints for visitors with disabilities. Picnic areas, restrooms and water.

Kayenta Campground – 21 campsites with electricity, tent pad, sheltered table and charcoal grill at each site. Modern restrooms, dishwashing and sewage disposal stations. One campsite is wheelchair accessible (available by reservation). Recreational vehicles should fill water tanks before coming to park. All water is trucked from Moab – please conserve! No showers. Campground may be full, so reservations are recommended. Open year-round.

Group site – Available by reservation only for groups up to 30 people. Modern restrooms, tent pads, pavilion with picnic tables and charcoal grill. No electricity. Open year-round.

Other services – Gas, food, lodging, commercial tours and medical care are available in Moab, 32 miles away. Additional camping may be available at Arches and Canyonlands national parks, Bureau of Land Management areas and commercial campgrounds in Moab.