Utah State Parks
Dead Horse Point State Park

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.

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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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

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 miles; 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 miles; easy to moderate

Big Horn Overlook Trail — Spur trail leading to large desert potholes and a grand overlook. 1.25 miles; 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
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 500 million years of Earth’s geologic history. While standing on the canyon rim, 8,000 feet of geologic strata is visible looking from the peak of the 2,000-foot high La Sal Mountains to the rim basin. These rock layers were deposited over the eons by oceans, fresh water and sand, 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 Cretaceous. 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 1,450 miles) sculping ancient rock into this spectacular panorama.

Geological Sketch

Plants and Animals

Because the park receives only 10 inches of rain per year, desert wildlife has adapted to live in this arid environment. Plants have leaves that are small, and loss of water leaves less water loss through evaporation. Some plants have waxy coatings on their leaves, which helps reduce water loss. Other plants get their moisture from deep down in the desert, where moisture is available for them to sprout and grow. Animals often must travel many miles to find water or wait several weeks for rains to improve their living conditions. Many desert animals have oversized ears that radiate heat away from their bodies to keep them cooler. Some animals get water from the food they eat. Some animals get water from the food they eat and can go for weeks without a drink of water. Others have hollowed 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 that home and do not disrupt their temerous 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.

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.
- All plants, animals, minerals and natural features are protected by law. It is unlawful to mutilate or deface any natural or constructed feature or structure. Please help keep the park beautiful.
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- Pets – The Dead Horse Point State Park is open year-round. But, pets are not allowed in the park on established trails. Bicycling is permitted on the Intrepid Trail System.
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Facilities and Services

- Accent - Opens year-round with facilities for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, water, picnic areas, fire rings, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities. Information area, exhibits, restrooms, and services for visitors with disabilities.