



## 2-DAY TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS ITINERARY

### DAY 1: MONUMENT VALLEY TO BLUFF

Distance: 77 miles / 2.5 hours driving time

#### Monument Valley

Start your day in Monument Valley by taking in the sunrise, then schedule a tour with one of the many tour companies in the valley. Tours highlight the Navajo culture and history of the area, as well as Monument Valley's many appearances in films, particularly the John Wayne/John Ford Western movies. Finish off your visit with a stop at the local gift shops, vendor village, or vendor booths for handmade jewelry and artwork.

[www.navajonationparks.org/htm/monumentvalley.html](http://www.navajonationparks.org/htm/monumentvalley.html)

#### Goosenecks State Park

This breathtaking overlook on the San Juan River highlights the largest entrenched river meander in North America. From the overlook visitors can see where the river twists and turns through the 'goosenecks' as it flows toward Lake Powell, traveling over 6 miles while advancing west just 1 mile. [www.stateparks.utah.gov/park/goosenecks-state-park](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov/park/goosenecks-state-park)



#### Valley of the Gods

Often described as a 'miniature' version of Monument Valley, Valley of the Gods is arguably, equally spectacular. What Valley of the Gods may lack when it comes to the size and volume of its free standing monoliths, spires, and fins, it makes up for with solitude. It would be a rare occurrence to pass through Monument Valley without seeing another visitor, but at Valley of the Gods, you're likely to have the whole place to yourself to explore and enjoy!

[www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ut/monticello\\_fo/recreation/recreation\\_brochures0.Par.95131.File.dat/VoGbrochure.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ut/monticello_fo/recreation/recreation_brochures0.Par.95131.File.dat/VoGbrochure.pdf)

#### Sand Island Petroglyphs

View this easily-accessible rock art panel with images ranging from 800 to 2,500 years old. Images represented on the panel include Kokopelli, the humpbacked flute player of ancient Pueblo mythology. Picnic areas, camp sites, and a boat ramp are also provided at Sand Island.

[www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/cultural/archaeology/places\\_to\\_visit/sand\\_island.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/cultural/archaeology/places_to_visit/sand_island.html)

#### Historic Town of Bluff

Your visit to Bluff is not complete without a stop at the Bluff Fort—a free museum & visitor center with replica cabins and buildings telling the story of the Mormon pioneers who settled there in 1880. Be sure to check out the Co-op store for area information, gifts & souvenirs, and delicious, homemade baked goods and soft-serve ice cream! [hlf.org/](http://hlf.org/)

Take a self-guided tour through the Bluff Historic District. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Bluff Historic District is made up of 20 stops including historic homes, the Bluff Fort, St. Christopher's Episcopal Mission, and the town cemetery among others. [bluffutah.org/bluff-history-tour/](http://bluffutah.org/bluff-history-tour/)



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### DAY 2: BLUFF TO NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Distance: 134 miles / 3.25 hours

#### Hovenweep Nat'l Monument

Built between A.D. 1200 and 1300, Hovenweep was once home to over 2,500 people. Explore the variety of unique structures at the six prehistoric villages that make up Hovenweep National Monument. Hikes from the Visitor Center range from a 300-yard, paved walk to the Stronghold House, to a 1.5-mile, loop trail that takes visitors past structures in and along Little Ruin Canyon such as Hovenweep Castle, Square Tower, Hovenweep House, and Twin Towers. Ranger-led Dark Sky Astronomy Programs are offered spring through fall, weather permitting. Call ahead for details (Allow 1-3 hours depending on length of hikes). [www.nps.gov/hove/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hove/index.htm)

#### Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum

This world-class museum is a hidden gem in the Four Corners region. As a federal, archeological repository, the museum is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Ancestral Puebloan artifacts in the Four Corners region. It's also home of Edge of the Cedars Pueblo, a one-thousand year-old Puebloan village site, which is located behind the museum. The park hosts special exhibits, lectures, and programs throughout the year. [stateparks.utah.gov/park/edge-of-thecedars-state-park-museum](http://stateparks.utah.gov/park/edge-of-thecedars-state-park-museum)



#### Butler Wash Cliff Dwellings

A spectacular cliff dwelling located on the east side of Comb Ridge, which was built and occupied by the Ancestral Puebloans around 1200 A.D. While parts of the site have been stabilized and reconstructed, most of it is still how it was found in the 1800s. The site includes habitation, storage, and ceremonial structures, including four kivas. The trail to the overlook is 1 mile round trip and takes approximately .5 hrs. [www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/cultural/archaeology/places\\_to\\_visit/butler\\_wash.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/cultural/archaeology/places_to_visit/butler_wash.html)

#### Comb Ridge

This serrated sandstone ridge is a geologic monocline that begins in the Blue Mountains to the north and ends near Kayenta, Arizona 80 miles to the south. Unpaved roads lead to scenic areas, archaeological sites, and primitive camping areas. <http://bluffutah.org/comb-ridge/>

#### Mule Canyon Ruin

Mule Canyon is another Ancestral Puebloan ruin, located along Hwy 95. This site includes above ground and underground dwellings including a kiva and a tower which have been stabilized. [http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/cultural/archaeology/places\\_to\\_visit/mule\\_canyon.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/cultural/archaeology/places_to_visit/mule_canyon.html)

#### Natural Bridges Nat'l Monument

Natural Bridges National Monument was declared Utah's first National Monument in 1908. At Natural Bridges, visitors can view three natural bridges (Kachina, Owachomo, and Sippapu) from overlooks along Bridge View Drive, a paved 9-mile loop road, or by short hikes from each trail head. For those who are looking for a longer hike, a 8.6-mile loop trail will take you past and/or under all three bridges. Ranger-led Dark Sky Astronomy Programs are offered spring through fall. Call ahead for details. <http://www.nps.gov/nabr/index.htm>



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