

BEARS EARS GUIDE



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A Beginner's Guide to Bears Ears National Monument:

Two towering buttes stand out against the landscape, a broad expanse of red rock, juniper forests and high plateaus. Within the 1.35 million acres (5,463.26 square km) of Bears Ears National Monument, visitors can learn about the cultural, historic and prehistoric legacies through cultural resources including ancient cliff dwellings, granaries and kivas as well as artifacts such as ancient tools and pottery. Petroglyphs and pictographs are also found in abundance within the monument.

Much of Bears Ears National Monument, within Utah's Canyon Country, is remote, wild and rugged, requiring preparation on the visitors' part. While there is currently no official visitor center for Bears Ears National Monument, visitor information is available at Kane Gulch Ranger Station on Highway 261, Monticello Visitor Center and Blanding Visitor Center. Also, Bears Ears Partnership, a nonprofit entity, has opened the Bears Ears Education Center in Bluff as an informational source on Bears Ears and how to visit fragile archaeological sites respectfully and without leaving a trace.



Introduction to Bears Ears Indian Creek Corridor Scenic Byway

Drive the Indian Creek Corridor and admire the scenery of the monument area. Open year-round, climbing is prominent in Bears Ears National Monument. Newspaper Rock is located along this drive and is a wonderful picnic stop while looking at one of the biggest petroglyph collections in the country on a 200-square foot (60.96 m) rock face.



Mule Canyon's House on Fire and Cave Tower

Hike approximately 1.5 miles (2.41 km) to the famous House on Fire. This well-preserved archaeological site consists of five granaries built into Cedar Mesa sandstone. The overhang forms the ceiling with a unique streaked pattern that resembles flames and can be a perfect photographic moment at around 10-11 a.m. Cave Tower is located down a small spur road off UT-95. The short dirt road ends and becomes a parking area. After walking 100 yards (91.44 m), the remains of a few towers still stand.



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Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum

The Puebloan lifestyle can still be seen throughout the 6.65-acre (26,911.6 square meters) Edge of the Cedars State Park property. Behind the museum is a 1,000-year-old restored kiva excavated by archeologists. Climb down the replica ladder into the dwelling that was used for religious rituals. Within the museum is the largest collection of Ancestral Pueblo pottery in the Southwest.



Twin Rocks Trading Post

A small shop located in Navajo Country, Twin Rocks Trading Post is a popular stop for visitors traveling through the area. Art and culture lovers should put this on their list in order to see handcrafted Native American and Southwest art like Navajo jewelry, rugs, baskets and more. If you get hungry, the Twin Rock Cafe is next door



Prehistoric Villages and Contemporary Art

Hovenweep National Monument

Explore six prehistoric villages constructed by the Ancestral Pueblo people. Marvel at the variety of structures including multi-story towers, square, circular and D-shaped dwellings. A visitor center is located on site. This area is particularly stunning at night because of its isolation from modern cities.



Cedar Mesa/Grand Gulch Area

The Cedar Mesa/Grand Gulch Area encompasses fascinating, red rock geological features. Along with the legacy of previous Native American residents, the greatest modern interest is remnants of incredible cliff dwellings. These dwellings were built with stone and adobe mortar into the sides of canyon walls and alcoves. Many are in remarkably good condition, even after hundreds of years of vacancy and were once used for protection and storage.



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Goosenecks, Gods and Bridges

Goosenecks State Park

Look down to the San Juan River 1,000 feet (304.8 m) below. Millions of years ago, the land here was flat, but now the river meanders, cutting into the stone and providing this powerful landscape. A meandering 6 miles of river weaves back and forth over a stretch of land that's only 1.5 miles (2.41 km).



Valley of the Gods

Take this backcountry adventure through freestanding Cedar Mesa sandstone monoliths, delicate spires and long rock fins in an area sometimes referred to as the miniature Monument Valley. To explore the Valley of the Gods, drive a scenic 17-mile (27.36 km) loop. This drive is an easy way to see beautiful and natural sights.



Natural Bridges National Monument

Within Natural Bridges National Monument, three bridges have stood the test of time to be the center of each travelers' journey. Hiking trails give close access to the Kachina, Owachomo and Sipapu bridges to showcase a uniqueness that world-wide visitors come to witness.



#RecreateResponsibly in Utah's Canyon Country



Utah's Canyon Country is home to many, wonderful destinations and experiences. From wide-open spaces to historic neighborhoods, please remember to #RecreateResponsibly. When you visit, follow Leave No Trace and Visit With Respect principles so everyone can have the opportunity for years to come to visit these amazing sights.

- **Plan ahead** and prepare for your adventures
- **Stay** on designated trails
- **Leave** artifacts where you spot them
- **Do not enter** any archaeological structures
- **Do not eat near sites** and pack out what you pack in
- **Properly** dispose of human and pet waste
- **Leave** historic sites and rock art untouched
- **Respect and be aware** of wildlife
- **Keep** dogs on leashes at all times