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## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT: A 3-DAY ITINERARY

Two towering buttes stand out against the landscape, a broad expanse of red rock, juniper forests and high plateaus. Within the 228,784 acres 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.

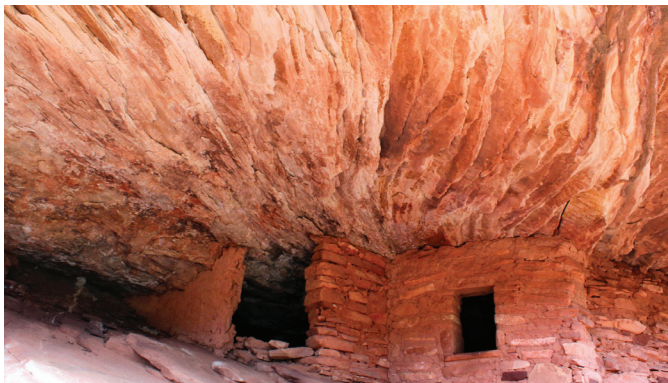
Bears Ears, within Utah's Canyon Country, is divided into two units: Indian Creek and Shash Jaa. Much of the area is remote, wild and rugged requiring preparation on the visitors' part. While there is currently no official visitor center, a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representative is available at Edge of the Cedars State Park in Blanding for questions. Other locations for visitor information include: Kane Gulch Ranger Station on Highway 261, Monticello Visitor Center and Blanding Visitor Center. Also, Friends of Cedar Mesa, 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 the northern unit of Bears Ears. 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 rock face.



#### Mule Canyon's House on Fire and Cave Tower

Hike approximately 1.5 miles to the famous House on Fire. This well-preserved ancestral 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, the remains of a few towers still stand.



#### Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum

The Puebloan lifestyle can still be seen throughout the 6.65-acre 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 Puebloan pottery in the Southwest.



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### PREHISTORIC VILLAGES AND CONTEMPORARY ART



#### Hovenweep National Monument

Explore six prehistoric villages constructed by the Ancestral Puebloan 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.



#### 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.



#### Shash Jaa Unit of Bears Ears

The Shash Jaa unit of Bears Ears National Monument 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 mesas, mountains and caves. 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 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.



#### 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 Valley of the Gods, drive a scenic 17-mile 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.

