

Day Trip 12

Moonshine Arch

Moonshine Arch is one of the gemstones of recreating in Vernal. Located only 8 miles north of town. This massive arch is about 85 feet in length and about 40 feet above the ground. You can access the Arch by jeep, atv, or hiking.

Moonshine Arch makes a perfect frame for taking pictures of Steinaker Reservoir and scenery in the area. Behind the arch are caverns where you can sit in the shade, have a picnic, and explore.

Hike Information:

* Distance: 1.8 miles round trip

* Elevation Gain: 200 feet

* Rating: Easy to Moderate. Expect to hike in sand and along slick rock.

Tips: Bring plenty of water. This trail has no shade. Best hiked in morning, evening, spring, or fall.

There is a map located at the kiosk and porta potties at the parking lot area.



- 8.8 Turn right and follow the dirt road through a sagebrush channel.
- 9.0 Tour stays to the left.
- 9.1 At this point on the tour you have the option to park your vehicle and walk towards the trail. It is located directly north in the uphill direction. If you are driving a jeep or atv you are able to maneuver over a few technical spots and drive to the base of the arch.
- 9.6 Once you have made your way up the low ridge to the North and have turned the last corner, your breath will be taken away at the beautiful sandstone arch you will see. The tour ends here and returns to Vernal over the same route; however, upon reaching US 191 on the return trip, you can turn north (left) and take the Red Fleet, Flaming Gorge, or Red Cloud Loop tours.



DAY TRIPS

Beginning and ending in Vernal

- #1 - Diamond Mountain/Jones Hole Fish Hatchery
- #2 - Indian Petroglyphs/Dry Fork Canyon
- #3 - Red Cloud Loop Scenic Backway
(for higher clearance vehicles)
- #4 - Red Fleet & Steinaker State Parks
- #5 - Dinosaur National Monument
- #6 - Outlaw Country
Crouse Canyon, Brown's Park, Jarvie's Ranch
- #7 - Vernal Heritage Walking Tour
- #12 - Moonshine Arch

Beginning and ending in Manila

- #8 - Spirit Lake/Sheep Creek Canyon Scenic Backways
Flaming Gorge Country

Beginning and ending in Duchesne

- #9 - Indian Canyon Scenic Byway
- #10 - North Fork of the Duchesne River
- #11 - Rock Creek & Stillwater Dam



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Mileage

- 0.0** Leaves Vernal north on US 191 from center of town.
- 3.0** Looking north you can see the back side of Steinaker Dam, the first unit of the Central Utah Project.
- 4.1** Overlook of Steinaker Lake. This reservoir is the main feature of the Vernal Unit of the Central Utah Project, a part of the Colorado River Storage Project. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 38,000 acre feet. Permanent storage of 5,000 acre feet of water is maintained for fish and wildlife. The reservoir offers good bass and trout fishing, and is a favorite place for local boating and water-skiing enthusiasts. The State Park includes a swimming beach, boat ramp, picnic and camping facilities. The Uintah Water Conservancy District delivers water to Ashley Valley for irrigation and municipal use.
- The hillside running parallel to the highway here is the Morrison Formation where dinosaur bones and gastroliths, gizzard stones of dinosaurs, are found.
- 5.4** Flaming Gorge-Uintas Scenic Byway Site and Nature Trail interpreting the wildlife of Steinaker State Park.
- 5.7** Entrance road to Steinaker State Park (left). **DO NOT TURN HERE for Moonshine Arch Entrance - Keep traveling on US 191.**
- 7.1** Less than two mile past the entrance to Steinaker State Park, you will see a green Moonshine Arch road directional sign on the left hand side of the highway. Turn left onto this road which is also covered in gravel.
- 7.4** The gravel road crosses a small wash. About one-half mile from the highway turn left from the gravel onto a wide dirt road.
- 7.8** Tour veers left. To the right is where you can ride the Red Mountain OHV Trail. It is open to ATV's, Jeeps, Rock Crawlers, etc. The main trailhead is located at Doc's Beach.
- 8.3** At the Y in the road, stay left.
- 8.5** Here you will come upon a fence line followed by a gulch. If you are not driving a high clearance vehicle, park off to the side and you can hike the rest of the way (about 1 mile). Trail head parklot has plenty of room to park and has restrooms.
- 8.6** The trail has two options. Motorized vehicles follow the trail to the left. Hikers follow the trail to the right for the foot path.

(continued on back)

