

Native American Petroglyphs and Dry Fork Canyon

Along 200-foot-high “Navajo Formation” sandstone cliffs are these world renowned Native American petroglyphs. Located about 10 miles north of Vernal. These petroglyphs are considered to be of the Classic Vernal Style Rock Art, characterized by elaborately decorated anthropomorphic figures. Dating back to 1 to 1200 A.D. to the then flourishing Fremont Culture.

Nowhere else can you see more petroglyphs in one area and that are so easily accessible than at McConkie Ranch. There are two petroglyph trails to explore, the Upper Main Panel and The Three Kings Trail. These trails take you up close and personal to view figures up to 9 feet tall. The Upper Panel is a one mile round trip trail with a short steep section. The Three Kings Trail is about 1.5 miles round trip and takes you along the south side of the pond through a field where the panel is located high upon the cliff. Binoculars are recommended for this hike.

Depending on how far you want to hike and see the tours can take 1-8 hours. The McConkie Ranch is privately owned and operated by -V- Enterprises which consists of the descendants of Sadie and Virtus McConkie. The public is welcome during daylight hours. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Visitors are asked to obey all signs, not damage the sites, and not to touch the petroglyphs with their hands. The oils on your skin will damage the fragile artwork.

The parking lot for the petroglyphs and the historic sites mentioned above is located 3/4 of a mile off the main canyon road.

Mileage

- 0.0 Leave Vernal north at 500 West and Main--Highway U-121
- 2.5 Maeser Town.
- 3.5 Turn north (right) to Dry Fork Canyon (3500 West).
- 6.8 “Remember the Maine.” Stop here at turnout where you can see this 75-year-old, hand-painted American flag and “Remember the Maine” high on the vertical sandstone cliff. The original “Remember the Maine” painting was done in 1898 in memory of the many Americans who were injured or died in the American battleship, *The Maine*, in the Havana Harbor. Learn more about the flags at www.dinosaurlandchannel.com
- 10.0 Native American Petroglyphs-turn right into McConkie Ranch. Follow directions to parking area. The sandstone cliffs here are literally covered with artwork done by Native Americans of an earlier period. This is a concentration of some of the best and most easily accessible Native American art to be found anywhere.
To continue your exploration of Dry Fork Canyon:
- 12.0 Junction-tour turns right (left to Deep Creek).
- 13.0 Dry Fork Village-the location of one of the early settlements in Ashley Valley (no markers).
- 16.0 Lower Dry Fork Canyon-beautiful, shaded picnic sites for your use along this route for several miles before you begin the climb to higher elevation. This tour returns to Vernal from here. However, if you wish to continue into the “High Uinta Mountains,” see Red Cloud Loop Tour #3. End of tour milepost

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



Day Trip 2

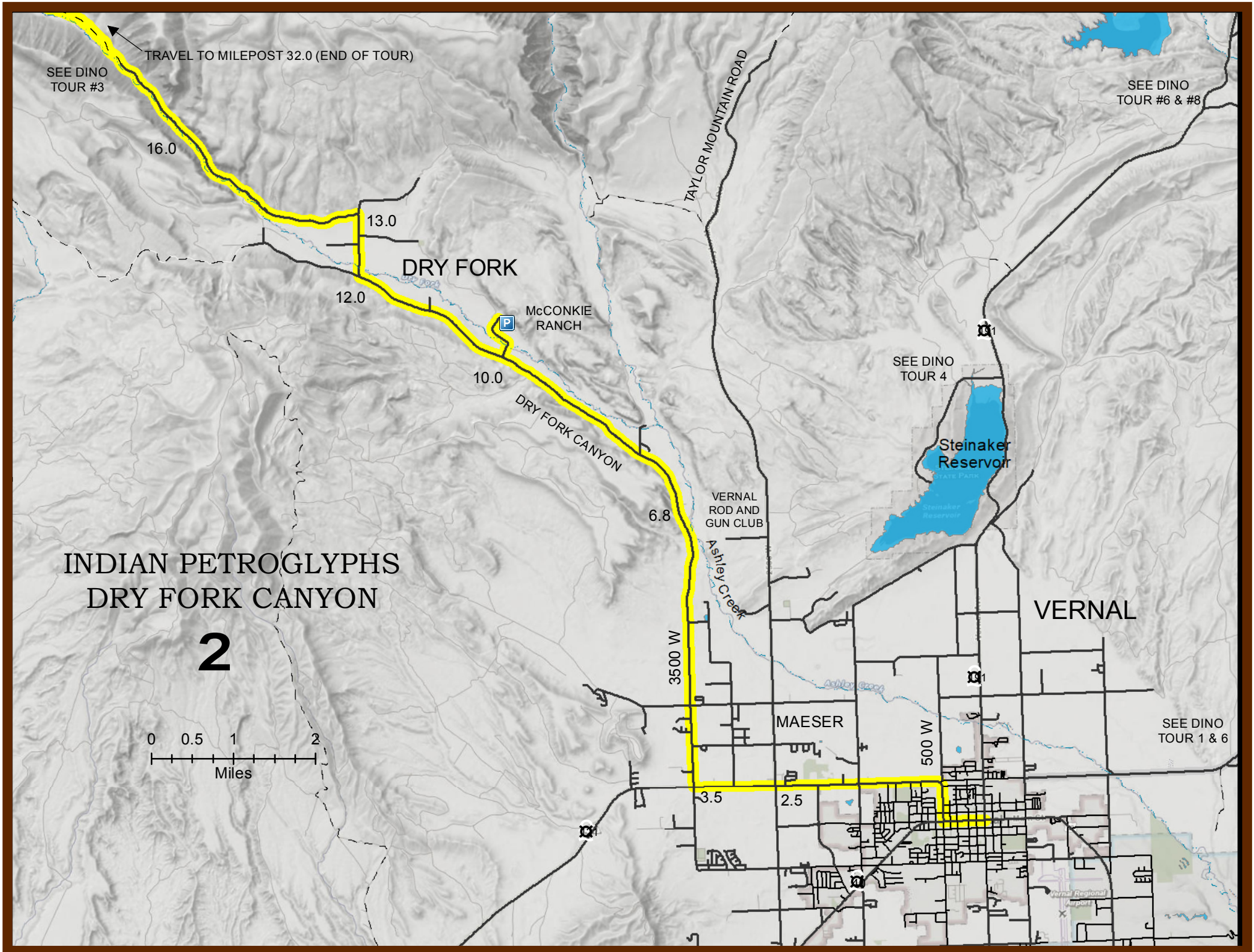
Indian Petroglyphs Dry Fork Canyon



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INDIAN PETROGLYPHS
DRY FORK CANYON

2



TRAVEL TO MILEPOST 32.0 (END OF TOUR)

SEE DINO
TOUR #3

SEE DINO
TOUR #6 & #8

DRY FORK

McCONKIE
RANCH

SEE DINO
TOUR 4

Steinaker
Reservoir

VERNAL
ROD AND
GUN CLUB

VERNAL

MAESER

SEE DINO
TOUR 1 & 6