**Utah State Parks**

**Dead Horse Point State Park**

Your park fees provide for the care, protection and enhancement of this park.

**Park Location:**
The park is located nine miles north of Moab on US 191 and 23 miles south on SR 313 at the end of the highway.

**Operating Hours:**
The park is open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round. Visitor Center is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

**Address Inquiries To:**
Dead Horse Point State Park
P.O. Box 609
Moab, UT 84532-0609
(435) 259-2614

or
Utah State Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 146001
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001
(801) 538-7220
stateparks.utah.gov

For Reservations Call:
(800) 322-3770

**Utah State Parks Mission:**
To enhance the quality of life by preserving and providing natural, cultural and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

Information contained in this brochure was accurate at the time of printing. Policies, facilities, fees, hours and regulations, etc., change as mandated. For updated information please contact the park.

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**Trail Descriptions**

**Intrepid Trail System**
17 miles of singletrack mountain biking trails of intermediate difficulty. Hiking also permitted. Details and maps available at the visitor center.

*Dogs are not allowed on any Intrepid Trail System loops.

**Hiking-Only Trails** (All distances are one way)

**Nature Trail** — Paved interpretive walking trail. 0.25 mi; easy

**East Rim Trail** — Hiking trail with continuous canyon views leading to or from Dead Horse Point. A short spur to Basin Overlook (0.25 mi) adds to the hike and takes you to a view of Chimney Rock and Pyramid Butte. 1.5 mi; easy to moderate

**West Rim Trail** — Hike through a pinyon juniper forest to or from Dead Horse Point. Spur to Meander Overlook (0.2 mi), Shaler Canyon (0.25 mi) and Rim Overlook (0.25 mi) add to the hike by taking you closer to the canyon rim. 2.5 mi; easy to moderate

**Big Horn Overlook Trail** — Spur trail leading to large desert potholes and a grand overlook. 1.25 mi; easy to moderate

**Colorado Overlook Trail** — Hike along the rim past desert potholes to a distant overlook of the Colorado River. 0.5 mi; easy

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**Map Legend**
- Entrance Station
- Overlook
- Plastic Area
- Campground
- Truck
- Paved Trail
- Mountain Bike Trail Skill Level
  - Easiest
  - Most Difficult
  - More Difficult

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Mountain Bike Trail Skill Level
- Easy
- Mess Difficult
- Most Difficult

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STATE PARK

Dead Horse Point is situated atop a high plateau at an elevation of about 6,000 feet above sea level. From the Point, layers of geologic formations, sculpted by the Colorado River, 2,000 feet below, offer a spectacular panorama of Colorado Plateau ecosystems found at Dead Horse Point. They are very fragile and should not be disturbed.

Geological Sketch

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Activities

Beaches at the visitor center include informative displays about canyon country geology, local plants and animals, prehistoric cultures and park history. A self-guided nature walk around the rim and several spurs to beautiful viewpoints. Ride 57 miles of moderate mountain bike trails and enjoy spectacular views on the Intrepid Trail System. Coordinates to find the park geocaches are available online and at the visitor center.

Plants and Animals

Because the park receives only 10 inches of precipitation, plants have adapted to dry desert conditions. Some smaller leaves lose less water through evaporation. Some plants have a wax coating on their leaves, which helps reduce water loss. Other plants go through a dormant phase during dry spells, and some seeds lie dormant in the soil for years until there is enough moisture for them to sprout and grow. Animals often must travel many miles to find water, or wait several weeks for rain. Some can recognize special adaptations to drought and heat. Most desert plants go to sleep in the shadier parts of the park during the heat of the day. They venture out in cooler morning and evening hours to hunt and forage for food. Some animals get water from the food they eat and can go for weeks without a drink of water. Others have ways of drinking water that reduce heat flow from their bodies to keep them cool. Desert animals use the last eight to ten hours in the sun in a fast metabolism which in the environment in which they live. Chasing or harassing them uses up precious reserves they cannot afford to lose. Please respect their home and do not disrupt their temuous struggle for existence. Biological soil crust and potholes are unique environments under the desert sun. Plants have a waxy coating on their leaves, which helps reduce water loss. Some plants go through a dormant phase during dry spells, and some seeds lie dormant in the soil for years until there is enough moisture for them to sprout and grow. Animals often must travel many miles to find water, or wait several weeks for rain. Some can recognize special adaptations to drought and heat. Most desert plants go to sleep in the shadier parts of the park during the heat of the day. They venture out in cooler morning and evening hours to hunt and forage for food. 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