

Dead Horse Point State Park



Utah State Parks

The Legend of Dead Horse Point

According to one legend, the point was once used as a corral for wild mustangs roaming the mesa. Cowboys rounded up these horses and herded them across the narrow neck of land onto the point. The neck, which is only 30 yards wide, was then fenced off with branches and brush, creating a natural corral surrounded by precipitous cliffs. The cowboys then chose the horses they wanted and, for reasons unknown, left the other horses corralled on the waterless point, where they died of thirst within view of the Colorado River 2,000 feet below.





Plants and Animals

Because the park receives only 10 inches of precipitation a year, vegetation and wildlife have adapted to live in this arid desert environment.

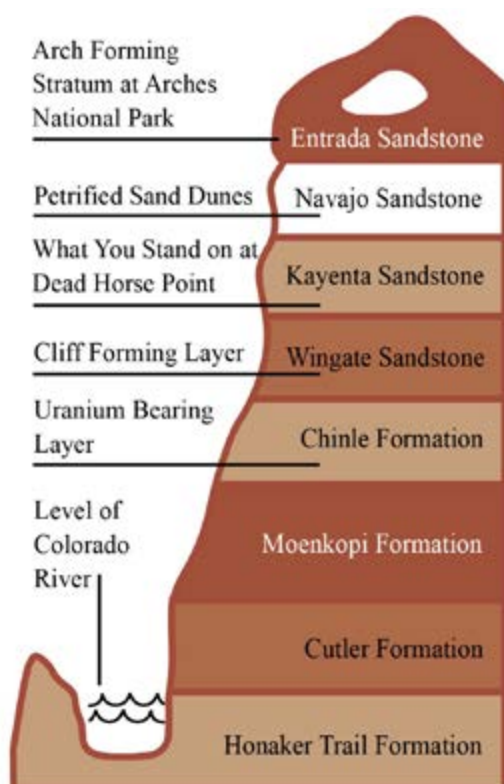
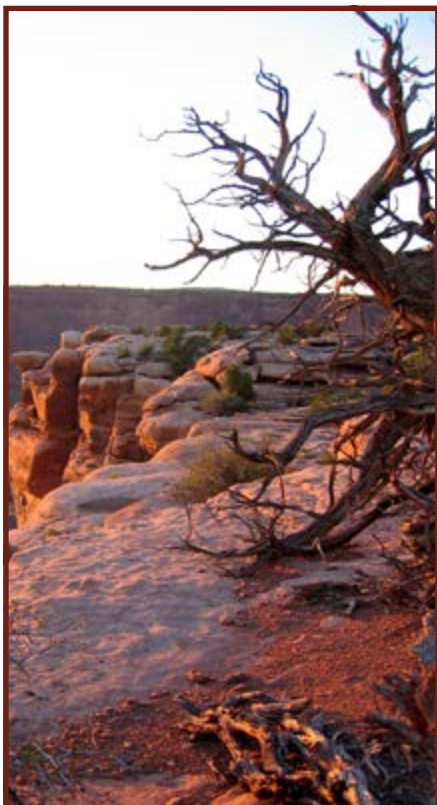
Plants have developed ways of minimizing water loss, maximizing water gain, and even going dormant during droughts. For their seeds to take root, plants rely on cryptobiotic soil crusts, which took hundreds of years to develop. Animals are often active during cooler periods of the day while resting in the shade or burrows through the middle of the day. Some animals get their water needs from the food they eat, while others will travel many miles or wait several weeks for rain.

Desert ecosystems survive in a delicate balance. Please respect wildlife and plants encountered during your visit and stay on marked trails to reduce your impact.

Geology

Millions of years of geologic activity created the spectacular views from Dead Horse Point. Deposition of sediments by ancient oceans, freshwater lakes, streams, and wind-blown sand dunes created the rock layers of canyon country. Volcanic activity formed the high mountains that rise like cool, blue islands out of the hot, dry desert.

Ten million years of erosion sculpted this land of canyons, mesas and buttes. The Colorado River has carved its path deep into the ancient rock layers on its journey to the sea.



Safety Tips

- Most overlooks are not fenced. Please use extreme caution!
- Lightning danger is severe on exposed canyon rims. Seek shelter in a building or vehicle during thunderstorms.
- Stay on established trails. Follow signs and rock cairns (stacks of rocks).
- Please do not throw rocks or objects off the cliffs.
- Drink plenty of water—one gallon per person per day in summer.
- Wear a hat, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes while hiking.
- Do not leave people or pets in vehicles. Sunlight will heat up a vehicle's interior to dangerous levels. Cracking windows and leaving water is not enough to ensure safety.
- Gas, food, and medical care is available in Moab, 32 miles away. Come prepared and be safe to prevent lengthy emergencies.

Park Guidelines

Please observe the following park regulations to ensure everyone's visit is pleasant.

Bicycling – Bicycles and e-bikes are permitted on established public roads and in parking areas. Single-track mountain biking is available on the Intrepid Trail System. Bikes are not allowed on hiking trails.

Camping – Camp only in designated areas. Each camping permit covers one vehicle and any attached recreational equipment. Up to eight people are allowed in a campsite. There is an extra fee for additional vehicles or camping equipment. Tents must fit on tent pads or on the pavement in the campsite.

Fires – Fires are permitted in fire rings only. Gathering firewood is prohibited. Firewood is available for purchase. Charcoal may be used in grills.

Fireworks – Fireworks of any kind are prohibited.

Parking – Park only in designated areas.

Pets – Pets are allowed at Dead Horse

Point State Park, but must be on a maximum six-foot leash. For safety and courtesy, please keep pets under control and clean up after them. Pets are not allowed on the Intrepid Trail System.

Plants and animals – All plants, animals, minerals, and other natural features in state parks are protected. It is unlawful to remove, alter, or destroy them.

Trails – Hiking trails are for foot traffic only. Please stay on established trails. Bicycling is permitted on the Intrepid Trail System and established roads. Motorized vehicles must remain on established roads.

Vandalism – It is unlawful to damage or deface any natural or constructed feature or structure. Please help keep the park beautiful.

Wastewater – It is unlawful to dump or drain water from campers or trailers onto the ground. A sanitary disposal station is provided for registered campers.

Quiet hours – 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

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 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for day-use year-round. The visitor center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, 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 of Utahns and visitors by preserving and providing natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
for the latest park updates.**

Facebook @DeadHorsePointStatePark

Instagram @DeadHorsePoint

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.