

Gooseheads State Park



Utah State Parks

Goosenecks State Park

On the edge of a deep canyon above the sinuous river meander known as a gooseneck, this small park affords impressive views of one of the most striking examples of an entrenched river meander on the North American continent. The San Juan River twists and turns through the meander, flowing a distance of over six miles while advancing one and a half miles west on its way to Lake Powell. Gaze at the results of 300 million years of geological activity, where the San Juan River winds and carves its way through the desert 1,000 feet below.

At Goosenecks, the views extend for miles. Alhambra Rock is the dark volcanic intrusion that looms on the horizon, beyond Mexican Hat. The buttes and spires of Monument Valley lie to the southwest.



History

Millions of years ago, this landscape was relatively flat, with a river gently winding its way across the terrain. Then, a period of uplift on the Colorado Plateau transformed the region. As the land rose, the river's flow accelerated while maintaining its meandering path. Over time, the river carved deeply into the earth, creating the stunning entrenched meanders that now define Goosenecks State Park. Sculpted by the forces of water, wind, frost, and gravity, this viewpoint is a true marvel of nature. The area was officially designated as a state park in 1962, inviting the public to witness its beauty.

Things To Do

Goosenecks State Park offers a variety of activities, including sightseeing, photography, stargazing, and hiking on the nearby Honaker Trail. The park is pet-friendly, making it a great place to bring your pets for an outdoor adventure. Visitors can also enjoy picnicking and camping in this scenic location. However, please note that there are no hiking or bike trails within the park, and bicycles are

only permitted on public roads. Be aware that the park can be intensely hot during the summer months, and there is no natural shade.



Amenities

The conditions are primitive, so please bring your own firewood and water. The only available services are vault toilets.

Reservations

All sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are not accepted.

Fees

Day-Use Fee: \$5.00 per car, accommodating up to 8 people.

Bus Tour Groups: \$2.00 per person.

Camping Fee: \$10.00 per night per campsite. If a ranger is not on duty, please use the self-serve envelopes to pay at the fee tube.

Camping is available in 8 designated sites along the rim, each equipped with a fire ring and picnic table. Please note that conditions are primitive, so you will need to bring your own firewood and water. The only services provided are vault toilets.



Park Guidelines

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

Fires – Campfires may be built in specified areas. Most developed campsites provide fire pits or grills. Collecting and gathering firewood within the park is prohibited.

Pets – Pets are allowed but should be on a maximum six-foot leash. Service dogs are the only animals admitted into park buildings. Please clean up after pets.

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

Firearms – The use of firearms, traps, or other devices capable of launching a projectile that can immobilize, injure, or kill a person or animal is prohibited.

Fireworks – Explosives, fireworks and firecrackers are prohibited unless authorized by the park manager.

Vandalism & Littering – Please help keep our parks beautiful. It is unlawful to leave trash, mutilate or deface any natural or constructed feature.

Speed Limit – Speed limit on state park roads is 15 mph unless otherwise posted.

Wastewater – It is unlawful to dump or drain wastewater from campers or trailers onto the ground. Utility sinks and a sanitary disposal station are provided.

Trails – There are no hiking or bike trails within the Park. Bikes are permitted on public roads only. Goosenecks State Park can be intensely hot during the summer months, and there is no shade.

Permits – A Special Use Permit is required for all special events and commercial or professional filming and photography.

Accidents – Please report accidents or suspicious activities to a ranger.

Park Hours – 24-hours, year-round.

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

Park Location:

Located in SE Utah along US 163, about 25 miles west of the town of Bluff.
Approximately 349 miles southeast of Salt Lake City

Operating Hours (Subject to change)

The park is open 24 hours a day year-round

Address Inquiries To:

Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum

660 W 400 N Blanding, UT 84511

435-678-2238

Fax:

435-678-3348

or

Utah State Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 146001

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001

(801) 538-7220, (877) UT-PARKS

stateparks.utah.gov

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.