

Activities

Goblin Valley State Park allows visitors to explore and meander among the goblins. Four established hiking trails offer unique and spectacular views of the landscape.

The Goblin Valleys—The main attraction in the park. Three square miles filled with thousands of hoodoos, this area is open to free-wander hiking. While there are no designated trails, be mindful not to climb on the more fragile hoodoos or disturb any cryptobiotic soil or plants.

Carmel Canyon—A 1.5-mile moderately strenuous loop leading from the parking area to the desert floor. Along the way, visitors see Goblin Valley from different perspectives. Optional hike to Molly's Castle Overlook.

Curtis Bench—A fairly easy 2.1-mile out-and-back trail that follows the Curtis formation. The trail offers a unique overview of Goblin Valley as well as spectacular views of the Henry Mountains.

Entrada Canyon—An adventuresome, moderately strenuous 1.3-mile one-way trail from the campground to the goblins and back. The trail follows a natural drainage that lends itself to those who enjoy discovering what is around the next corner.

Goblin's Lair—A moderately strenuous, 3-mile out-and-back trail that leads hikers behind the Goblin Valleys for a scramble down into a cave. This hike descends to the desert floor and offers breathtaking views of Molly's Castle and the Gilson Buttes. Exposed, sandy, and requires basic bouldering skills to climb into the Lair.

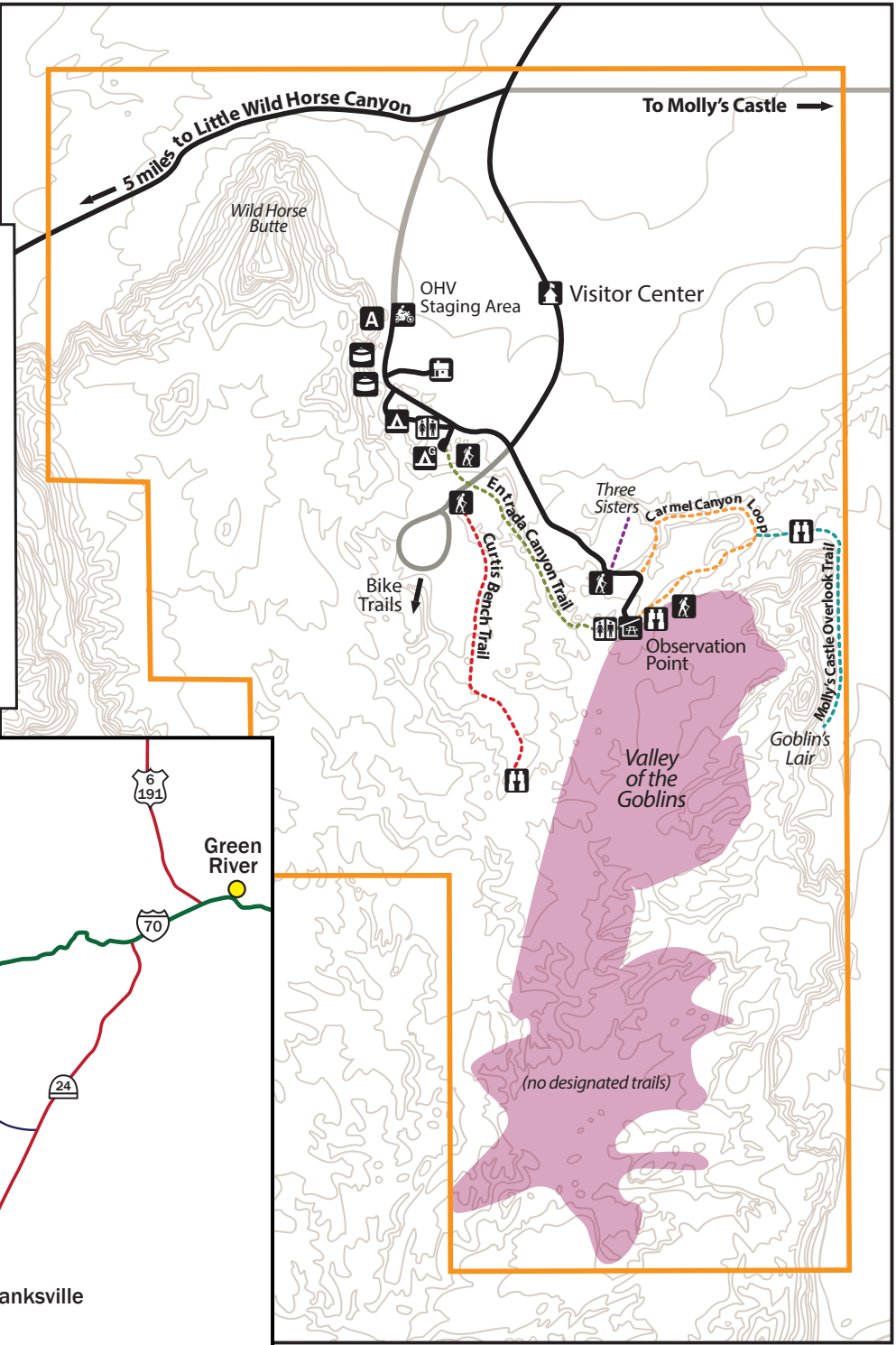
Safety Tips

- Lightning danger is severe in exposed locations. Seek shelter in a building or vehicle during thunderstorms.
- Drink plenty of water—one gallon per person per day in summer.
- Goblin Valley is a remote, rugged area. Use caution while hiking.

GOBLIN VALLEY STATE PARK

Map Legend

- Entrance Station/Visitor Center
- Restrooms
- Covered Picnic Area
- Viewpoint
- Hiking Trailhead
- Viewpoint
- Yurt
- Campground
- Group Campground
- Amphitheater
- Ranger Residence
- Hiking Trail
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road



Goblin Valley State Park

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

Park Location:
The park is located 50 miles southwest of Green River off State Highway 24.

Operating Hours:
The park is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round.

Address Inquiries To:
Goblin Valley State Park
PO Box 637
Green River, UT 84525
(435) 275-4584
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.

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Utah State Parks

STATE PARK

GOBLIN VALLEY

From deposits laid 170 million years ago by a vast inland sea, Goblin Valley State Park was sculpted by forces of nature. Today, thousands of otherworldly stone gnomes inhabit the valley, evidence of this land's unique geologic legacy. These uniquely shaped goblins lure visitors to join them in their desert playground.

“What a privilege it is to frolic with goblins under the beguiling light of a billion stars.”

—Justina Parsons-Bernstein



Dark Sky

Goblin Valley has one of the darkest night skies on earth. Virtually free of any light pollution from populated areas, Goblin Valley State Park is a certified Dark Sky Park and offers unparalleled views of the Milky Way. A variety of ranger-led events, including moonlit hikes and telescope tours, are conducted every month to aid your enjoyment of this unique resource.

Geology

Goblin Valley is at the southern end of the San Rafael Swell, a massive anticline that was uplifted about 40–70 million years ago. The goblins, known scientifically as **hoodoos**, were formed through the gradual erosion of Entrada sandstone, which was deposited about 170 million years ago when the area was a tidal flat situated next to an ancient sea.

As sand washed in with the tides, the surrounding area eroded into the sea, depositing silt and clay. These components layered to form **interbedded sandstone**.

Nature sculpts the goblins' unearthly shapes from the interbedded sandstone through a process called **spheroidal weathering**. Because the siltstone and shale layers are softer than the more resistant sandstone layers, they dissolve more quickly. As vertical cracks appear, the sandstone's sharp corners are smoothed by chemical decomposition and erosion, forming the rounded caps and curves of these otherworldly formations.

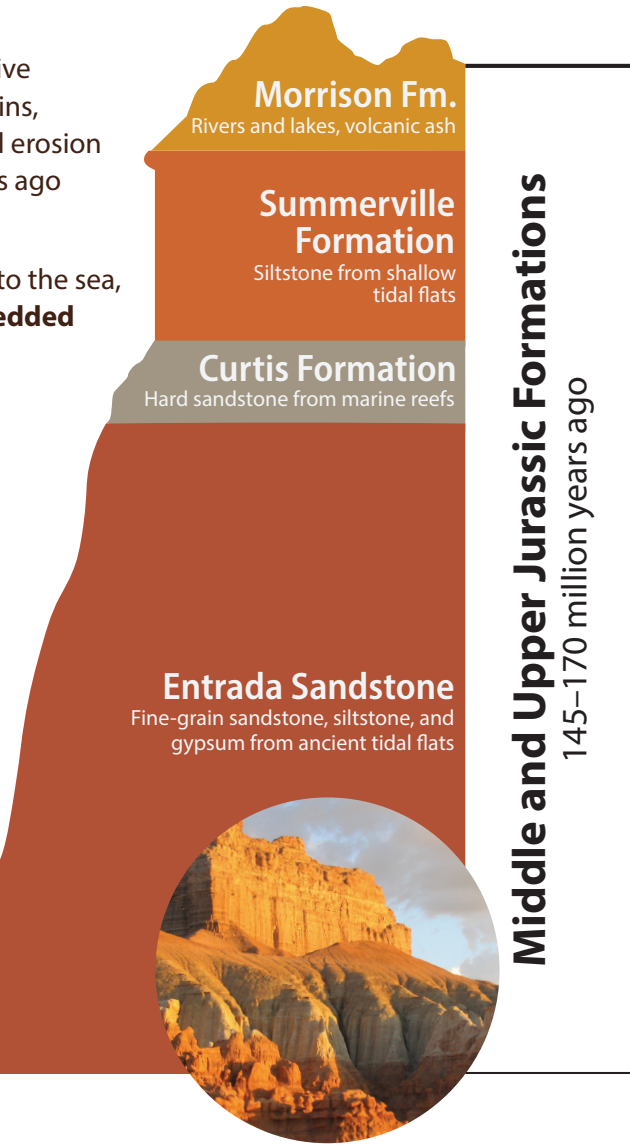
The red cliffs beyond the valley are going through this same process and will gradually expand the goblin landscape over the next few million years. Note how the younger, lighter-colored Curtis Formation caps the Entrada sandstone.



Plants and Animals

Vegetation is limited to hardy desert species, which can endure blowing sand and hot, dry conditions. Plants have adapted by reducing the size of their leaves and producing waxy coatings, so that they lose less water through transpiration. Visitors will likely encounter Mormon tea (*Ephedra*), tumbleweeds (Russian thistle), Indian ricegrass, and various cacti. Nearby, at slightly higher elevations, are juniper and pinyon pine.

Jackrabbits, scorpions, kangaroo rats, pronghorn, kit foxes, rattlesnakes, and coyotes are found within and near the park. Most animals in the area are nocturnal, venturing out only in the cooler evenings to hunt and forage for food.



Camping

Goblin Valley State Park features a 24-site campground, group site, and two yurts with centrally located restroom and shower facilities. Day-use and camping fees are charged.

Reservations

Reservations are available for group-use and individual campsites. Individual campsite reservations may be made two days to 16 weeks in advance of park departure date. Group-use reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance. To make a reservation, please visit our website, or call 801-322-3770. Reservations are not required but advised. Unreserved sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Weather

The desert is a land of extremes. Summer temperatures can reach over 100 °F, while low humidity allows evenings cool off rapidly. Afternoon thundershowers in late summer provide a refreshing breeze, but also bring danger of lightning strikes and flash flooding in nearby slot canyons. In the winter, nighttime temperatures drop below freezing, and the valley sees occasional snow.

Spring and autumn are the best times to visit Goblin Valley. Brilliantly clear skies offer spectacular views. Days are often sunny and warm, nights clear and cool. However, it's good to be prepared for abrupt changes, including strong winds, rain, and even hail.



Park Guidelines

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

Camping—Camp only in designated areas. Each permit covers one vehicle and any attached recreational equipment. An extra fee is charged for additional vehicles. Up to eight people are allowed in a campsite.

Fires—Campfires are permitted in campground fire rings only. Most developed campsites provide camp stoves or grills. Firewood is available for sale at the visitor center.

Pets—Pets are allowed in Utah State Parks, but must be on a maximum six-foot leash and under control at all times. Please clean up promptly after your pets.

Bicycles—Bicycling is permitted on established public roads and in parking areas. Bicycles are not allowed on hiking trails, in the Valley of the Goblins, or off paved areas within the campground. For a map of the Wild Horse Mountain Biking Trail System, see our website or inquire at the visitor center.

Plants and animals—All plants, animals, minerals, and other natural features in Utah State Parks are protected. It is unlawful to remove, alter, or destroy them. Goblin Valley's formations are fragile. Please treat them with care.

Fireworks—Unless authorized by the park manager, fireworks and firecrackers are prohibited.

Vandalism—It is unlawful to mutilate or deface any natural or constructed feature or structure. Please help keep our parks beautiful.

Wastewater—It is unlawful to dump or to 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.
Generator hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.