



Petrified Dunes

Trail Access: Petrified Dunes Trailhead
Allowable Uses: Hike
Distance: 1.2 miles (round trip)
Difficulty: Moderate
Hiking Time: 40 minutes (mapped route)



Trail Description

From the Petrified Dunes/Butterfly parking lot, follow the trail west. Keep left at the first junction and head towards the sandstone mounds—these are the Petrified Dunes. Stay on-trail while approaching the dunes. Upon reaching the sandstone, you will notice iron domes with arrows on them. Following these arrows leads hikers from the north to south ends of the dunes, passing through the peak of the dunes on the way. Near the third dome, a side trail originating at the Upper Galoot parking lot joins the main route from the left (east). Continuing, the trail crests the high point and descends a steep slope towards the last iron dome on the southern end of the dunes. From here, a sandy portion of trail brings hikers to the intersection with the Red Sands and Hidden Pinyon Overlook trails. Continuing straight (south) leads up a short rise and ends at an overlook featuring views of towering sandstone cliffs.

Special Features

The iron domes show the mapped and most direct route across the dunes; however, once on the dunes, you are free to explore anywhere on the sandstone surface. As you explore, you may find small, round rocks at the peak of the Petrified Dunes and at the overlook point—these are conglomerates of iron and other sediments known as moqui marbles.

Seasonal rainfall can fill many of the depressions and potholes along the dunes. Fairy shrimp and tadpoles may be found in these fleeting water features.

Safety and Considerations

This trail features steep slopes, uneven surfaces, and minimal shade. Wear appropriate footwear and bring water.

Park Rules

- All visitors are required to stay on mapped trails.
- Dogs must be leashed. Scoop and dispose all waste.
- Day use hours are 6am-10pm.
- Pack out all litter.