

Plants and Animals

While wild horses no longer roam the mesa top, Dead Horse Point is home to a variety of wildlife and vegetation. From the microorganisms in the soil and our desert potholes to our much larger mammals and trees you are sure to see life in the desert during your visit to Dead Horse Point. With limited rain each year the plants and animals have learned to adapt. Many of the plants have learned to maximize water gain, while other will go dormant in times of drought. With the help of biological soil crusts the plants are able to take root in the ground. This soil is living and can take hundreds of years to develop. The animals in the park have learned other ways to adapt. Many will wait until the cooler temperatures of nighttime to hunt and forage for food. Others will travel for miles from one water source to the next. Survival in the desert is a delicate balance so please be respectfully of the plants and animals you encounter on your visit.



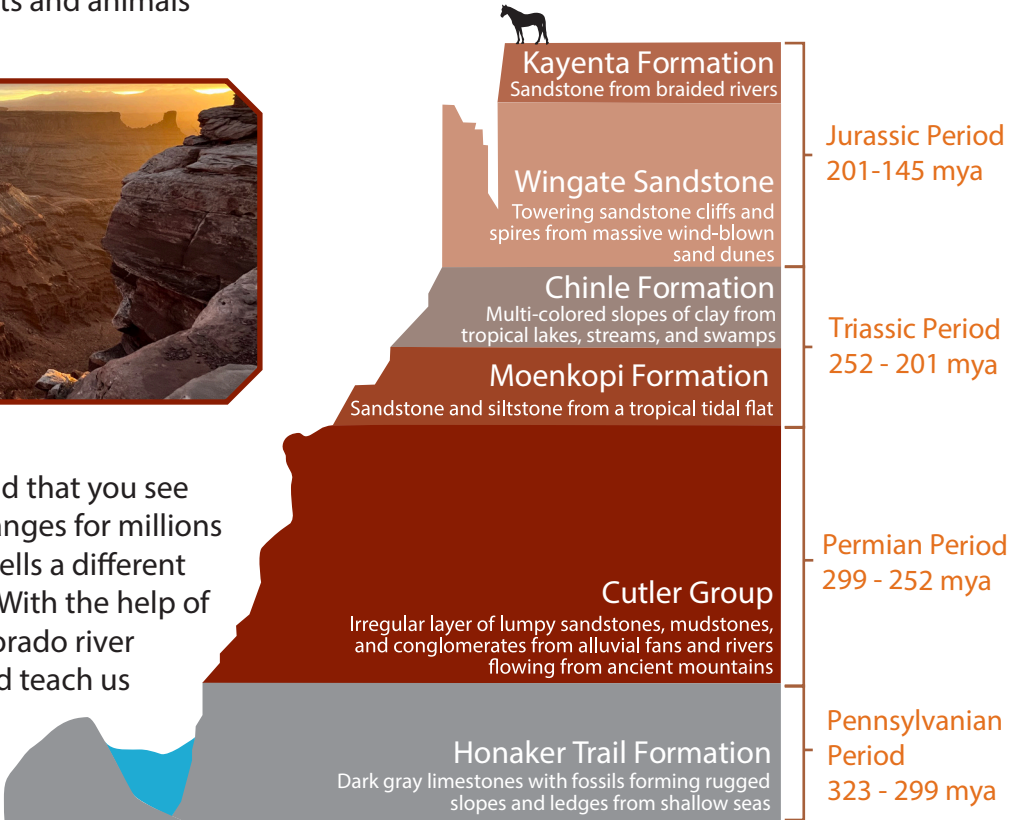
Geology

This sedimentary rock wonderland that you see here has been going through changes for millions of years. Each rock layer you see tells a different story of what this land use to be. With the help of erosion and the ever-cutting Colorado river these layers continue to show and teach us what life use to look like in this ever changing part of the Colorado Plateau.



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 on to 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.



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

Park Entrance Fee:

Is required at all times. It can be purchased in advance at <https://parkspass.utah.gov>



For Reservations call or go online:

(800) 322-3770 or [reserveamerica.com](https://reserveamerica.com)



Operating Hours:

The park is open from 6 am to 10 pm for day-use year-round. The visitor center is open 9 am to 5 pm daily. Visitor Center hours may vary in winter.

Park Established in 1959

Address Inquiries to:

Dead Horse Point State Park  
PO Box 609  
Moab, UT 84532  
(435) 259-2614  
or  
Utah State Parks and Recreation  
PO Box 146001  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114  
(801) 538-7220

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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Last Updated 2025

Dead Horse Point State Park



# DEAD HORSE POINT STATE PARK

## Park Guidelines

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

**Drones:** Are only allowed November through February. A permit is required.

**Camping:** Camp only in designated areas. Quiet hours are 10pm to 7am.

**Fires:** Only allowed in fire rings. The gathering of firewood is prohibited.

**Fireworks:** Of any kind are not allowed inside the park.

**Parking:** Only in designated areas.

**Pets:** Must be on a leash. Please pick up after your pets.

## Safety Tips

- Most overlooks are not fenced; use extreme caution along cliff edges!
- Seek shelter in a building or vehicle during thunderstorms.
- Stay on established trails. Follow signs and rock cairns (stacks of rocks).
- DO NOT throw rocks or objects off the cliffs.
- Drink plenty of water. One gallon per person per day is recommended.
- Do not leave people or pets in vehicles.
- In an emergency dial 911.
- The nearest medical, gas, showers, and food are 32 miles away, so please plan accordingly.

## Mountain Bike Trails

● Easy    ■ Moderate    ◆ Difficult

- 1 **Intrepid:** 0.5 mi. ●
- 2 **Raven Roll:** 1.7 mi. ●
- 3 **Big Chief:** 3.6 mi. ■
- 4 **Great Pyramid:** 2.2 mi. ●■
- 5 **Crossroads:** 1.7 mi. ■●
- 6 **Whiptail:** 2.6 mi. ■
- 7 **Twisted Tree:** 1.5 mi. ■◆
- 8 **Prickly Pair:** 3 mi. ■◆

**Hiking:** All trails are easy to moderate

**Nature Trail:** 0.25 mi. one way  
Paved interpretive walking trail with views of the La Sal Mountains and the Potash Ponds.

**A: East Rim Trail:** 1.5 mi. one way  
Trail walks you along the east rim of the canyon where you will have continuous views of the canyon below. The trail leads to or from the Dead Horse Point Overlook.

**B: West Rim Trail:** 3 mi. one way  
Hike through a pinyon juniper forest to or from Dead Horse Point Overlook with spurs that take you to views of the western rim and canyon below. Combine with the East rim for a nice 5 mile loop.

**C: Bighorn Overlook Trail:** 1.25 mi. one way  
Spur trail off of the West Rim Trail leading to large desert potholes and a grand overlook.

**D: Desert View Overlook Trail:** 0.5 mi. one way  
Hike along the rim past desert potholes to a distant look of the Colorado River.

**E: Dead Horse Point Loop:** 1.25 mi. round trip  
Starting from the Dead Horse Point Overlook walk along the East or West rim crossing over at the neck for a nice 360° view of the canyons below.

**F: Hi-Ho Hi-Ho Trail:** 0.8 mi. one way  
This trail is a connector trail that connects you from the mountain bike parking lot to the eastern trail system.

**G: Kayenta Cliffs Connector:** 0.4 mi. one way  
This short moderate trail connects Upper Dark Horse trail to the Lower Dark Horse trail.

**Multi-use trails:** While bikers are allowed on these trails they are not maintained for bikers.

- 9 **Miners Point:** 0.7 mi. one way
- 10 **Upper Dark Horse:** 0.5 mi. one way
- 11 **Lower Dark Horse:** 1.2 mi. one way
- Midpoint: 0.1 mi. one way
- 12 **Cable Line:** 1.3 mi. one way
- Potash Point: 0.1 mi. one way

