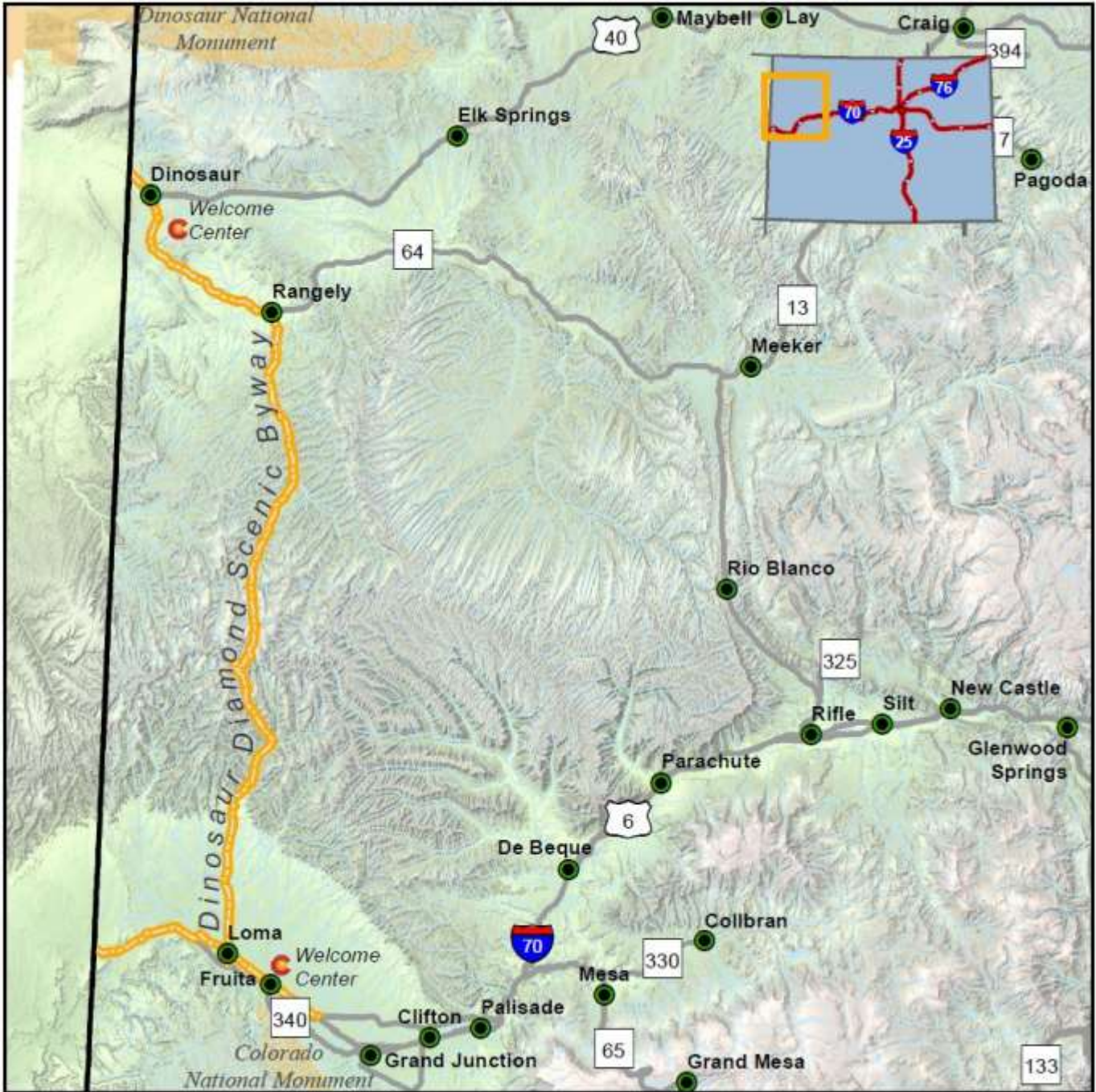




Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway

Love dinosaurs? Ancient history? Rugged western culture, great wildlife viewing? Surrounded by scenic beauty? Over 480 miles on the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway takes you through the region of the United States with the highest concentration of dinosaur fossils found anywhere in the world. Each of the four corners of the diamond shaped route is anchored by a world-class museum featuring dinosaur bones, fossils and lore. In between, there are trackways, quarries, and hillsides where dinosaurs walked the earth millions of years ago. Yet, Dinosaur Diamond is not just about dinosaurs. There are three more stories – and astounding scenic views. The ancient Native Americans tribes that lived here millenniums ago left behind enough rock art that you can travel the entire route of the Byway to marvel at these locations. Pioneers settled the area in the late 1800s, in towns that are now carefully preserved. Some of America's most dramatic natural wonders such as Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park for starters, add especially dramatic irreplaceable natural beauty to the experience.



Native America Rock Art Experience



Driving the Byway

It is very rare that an ancient culture leaves a whole pictorial record behind. One appears in ancient Egypt, another in the Middle East. Lesser known is the record left by the Fremont culture on thousands of rock art sites, petroglyphs carved into the rock surface and pictographs painted on the rock. Traveling the entire Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway, in Utah called the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway, is a fascinating journey, especially if Native American rock art, surrounded by spectacular scenery, is of interest. Your journey to over 15 premier locations begins in Grand Junction at the Museum of the West, before heading to Sego Canyon and Arches National Park. From there, you'll be traveling to Moab, where some rock art sites are sprinkled right in town. Later the world's longest art gallery, Nine Mile Canyon, 46 miles of magnificent native rock art awaits. Rounding the top of the Diamond at Vernal, you'll visit Dinosaur National Monument, explore Canyon Pintado and the Colorado National Monument before heading back to Grand Junction.

Day One



Grand Junction

Even though Colorado's famous mountain, Kit Carson, John Fremont and John Gunnison all passed through the Grand Valley in the 1840s and 1850s, Grand Junction was not settled until 1881. After the Ute tribes moved to Utah, pioneers began settling the Ute lands and George Crawford who had founded three towns in Kansas and nearby Delta, selected the town location. First called Ute and then West Denver, Grand Junction was settled on for its location at the confluence of the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers. After the first saloon was opened, literary societies, churches, lodges and music began to flourish as the town began to be polished. Like so many other frontier towns, a land rush increased the population threefold.

Day One

Historic Walking Tour of Grand Junction with Art on the Corner and Art Galleries



Take a walk through historic downtown Grand Junction (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) where 23 historic structures are intermingled with a diverse and eclectic display of over 100 outdoor sculptures placed along Main Street and throughout the downtown area. The showcase began in 1984, as one of the nation's first sidewalk sculpture exhibits. Today, the styles and media of both temporary and permanent pieces varies widely, from abstract stone to realistic bronze. While you meander, stop into any one of Grand Junction's 12 art galleries.

Tour starts at 119 Pitkin Avenue, Allow 2 hours

Museum of the West



Thousands of years of history in Western Colorado is revealed at the Museum of the West, one of the magnificent collection of Western Colorado Museums, known for their high-quality exhibits. You can "ride" in a stagecoach, "fly" on a 1958 Cessna, marvel at ancient Anasazi pottery, venture into a uranium mine, follow a timeline of Western history and more. The Lloyd Files Research Library holds a wealth of historical, genealogical and natural history materials. Freemont and Ute rock art here introduces you to this unique art form.

462 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-242-0971 Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM Allow 2
hours, \$7 per person

Grand Junction Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Castle Creek Manor **638 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81506 970-241-9105**

Castle Creek is not a historic property, it's just a wonderful one. In the most luxurious suites in the Grand Valley, all rooms have comfortable king-sized beds, fireplaces, private bathrooms with a two-person jetted tub, fridge, microwave, Wifi, and more. You can also relax on the large redwood deck with great views. A full country breakfast is served daily.



Bin 707 Foodbar 225 North Fifth Street Grand Junction, CO 81506 970-243-4543

Diners consider this one of the best, or the best dinner restaurant in Grand Junction, noting food is locavore, innovative, and very good. The restaurant attracts a cool crowd, with interesting folks from a number of different places.

Day Two

Colorado National Monument



Best known for its grand Western landscape, Colorado National Monument displays colorful sheer-walled canyons, fascinating rock sculptures, purple-gray Book Cliffs, and a huge flat-topped mountain called Grand Mesa. The White Rocks Rock Art Site, depicting ancient family life is reached the Gold Star Canyon trailhead. The 23-mile Rim Rock Drive is one of the most spectacular drives in America. Red rock canyons, crisp blue skies, and verdant green juniper splash fantastic views along the way. The road is challenging, narrow, and steep and caution should be used on tight corners and hills.

1750 Rim Rock Drive, Fruita, CO 81521 970-858-2800
Open 24/7, Visitor Center 8AM-6PM. Allow 2 hours, \$25 per vehicle

Rock Art at McDonald Creek



Experience some of Colorado's most stunning rock art that appears just as it was when the ancient peoples lived here, preserved at the McGinnis Canyon National Conservation Area. Look under rock overhangs, on cliffs, and other natural places to discover the images that ancient cultures left behind.

Rabbit Valley Exit from I-70, 970-244-3000 A 4x4 vehicle is recommended. McDonald Trailhead 2815 H Road

Sego Canyon



Even though the Fremont people lived in Sego Canyon 600-1250 A.D. they were not the area's earliest people. Fremont Rock art peacefully coexists with rock art created in 7,000 B.C. and 2,000 B.C., when the area was occupied by the most ancient ancestral people. Examples of art from the different periods are relatively accessible from the canyon entrance.

21 Sego Cyn Road #104, Thompson Springs, CO 84540

Day Two



Arches National Park

Amidst the astounding rock arches of Arches National Park, the highest concentration of these astounding natural phenomenon in the world, you'll discover petroglyphs at Wolfe Ranch which depicts riders on horseback created in the period when horses were being introduced into America by the Spanish. The rock art at Courthouse Wash dates from the archaic Native Americans similar to the time period of the earliest art in Sego Canyon. Painted in the Barrier Canyon style, the rock art was later enhanced by later civilizations. One panel that was vandalized and restored revealed layer upon layer of pictographs painted over the millenniums. It must have been a way to update the news.

US Highway 191 to Arches Scenic Drive, Moab, UT 84532, 435-719-2299

Day Three



Moab

Archeology suggests that Moab was the home of the Ancestral Puebloans as long as 10,000 years ago, with the present town sitting on the ruins of an 11th century pueblo farming community. The Utes came next, then in 1855, Mormon settlers, were forced to abandon a settlement. A permanent town was established in the 1870s. Today, you'll find a great collection of restaurants, microbreweries, shops and galleries, as well a very diverse cuisine from regional southwestern to world-class gourmet. Check out the southwestern arts and jewelry in the downtown shops. Grand Junction to Moab—113 miles.

Moab Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Castle Valley Bed and Breakfast 424 Amber Land, Moab, UT 84532 435-259-6012

Nestled in breathtaking scenery, at this wonderful bed and breakfast, you can indulge in delicious, homemade breakfasts and pastries; relax and unwind in beautiful, spacious, American West-inspired guest rooms; explore with a child's delight the nearby trails and National Parks; and take advantage of 5 acres of carefully tended lawns, orchards and fields – all the elbow room your heart needs to take in vistas of such grandeur.



Desert Bistro

36 South Highway 100 West
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-9756

Enjoy casually upscale gourmet southwestern cuisine, served in a relaxed atmosphere, with attentive service.

Day Three

Museum of Moab



Designed to interpret the human presence throughout geologic time in the area, the Museum of Moab City is where geology, paleontology and archeology collections join pioneer and mining exhibits. It has been completely remodeled to reveal the timeline of life as it has unfolded in the area.

118 East Center Street, Moab, UT 84532 435-259-7985
Monday– Saturday 10AM-4PM, All 2 hours, \$5 per person

Moab Rock Art Sites on the Moab Rock Art Tour



Enjoy the entire Moab Rock Art Tour (pdf included with the detailed itinerary). The Birthing Scene is a large boulder with rock art on all four sides, with figures and designs ranging from the formative to the historic Ute period. The birthing scene faces the road. The Kane Creek Boulevard Rock Art is located at the mouth of Moon Flower Canyon, on a rock cliff dating from the archaic to formative period of Native American settlements in the area. The Golf Course Rock Art Site is approximately 4 miles from the corner of Main and Center in downtown Moab. Designs appear in a panel nearly 90 feet wide and 30 feet high.

Tour begins on Highway 191 South in Moab

Day Three

Nine Mile Canyon



Imagine driving through an art gallery that is miles, not blocks long. 46 miles to be exact, where drawings, paintings and carvings emerge as a panorama of visual delight. The “World’s Longest Art Gallery” the crowning glory of rock art in southeastern Utah, is Nine Mile Canyon, a Bureau of Land Management Back Country Byway tucked between the curves of Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway. Within this visual textbook of life in the many cultures that have occupied the area, most of the rock art panels were left by the Fremont culture, who lived in the canyon 1,000 years ago. In fact, there is speculation that the Great Hunt Panel illustrates a real battle. In total, there are 10,000 individual images, spread out in over 1,000 archeological sites. Before you leave Wellington, be sure to make sure your gas tank is full and bring along any snacks or beverages you want to enjoy. As you travel, leave no trace, never touch the art or add anything. Don’t disturb the rocks or rub chalk over any of the images. These are millenniums old irreplaceable cultural resources. Enjoy your journey through this one of a kind art experience.

US Highway 191 and Nine Mile Canyon Road. From Wellington, UT head northeast along Soldier Creek Road. 435-636-3600

Nine Mile Canyon Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Nine Mile Ranch **Nine Mile Canyon Road, 435-637-2572**

To experience Nine Mile Canyon up close and personal, stay at Nine Mile Ranch, a loving restoration of the ancestral home built by the grandparents of the current generation. Each of the cabins, original to the canyon, were retrieved and restored.



Tangerine Eatery 700 East Main Street Price, UT 84501 435-637-2020

The Tangerine story began with the quest to bring a new, exciting and healthier place to eat in Price, Utah, by a father and son duo who spent a lot of time developing the concept. They say the road was not an easy road to travel, but it was made possible with all the help from the experts in the industry and the dear members of our community, and we both would like to thank every one of you who helped us turn this dream into reality.

Day Four



Vernal

Known as the Bench, the Vernal area was described as a large barren cactus flat inhabited with horned toads, scorpions, mice and snakes when the David Johnston family who arrived in 1878. After Colorado's Meeker Massacre a fort was built for settlers building cabins on the land. The fort became Ashley Center, but when residents applied for a post office, the U.S. Postal Department assigned the name Vernal because Ashley was already taken.

Day Three

Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway



If there's time while you are in Vernal, take a side trip on the Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway, which gets its name from the cliffs of blazing red rock of the Flaming Gorge, looming above the Green River. Along the way expect to see wildlife surrounded by scenic beauty. 12 interpretive panels reveal the story of the Byway along the way.

US Highway 191 between Vernal and Manila

Uintah County Heritage Museum



Experts at the Uintah County Heritage Museum believe that Native American rock art in the area are much more than random doodles. The images reflect aesthetic, magical, religious, historical, and astronomical elements as the artists attempted to explore their understanding of daily life and depict what they experienced. Visit here to learn more about the ancient rock art and the culture that surrounded it.

153 East Highway 100 North, Vernal, UT 84078
435-789-6276 Monday-Saturday 9AM-6PM, Allow 1 hour,
Free

Day Three

Dinosaur National Monument Fremont Indian Petroglyphs



Even though Dinosaur National Monument is most famous for dinosaur remains, the monument is also filled with both petroglyphs and pictographs created by the Fremont people. The “classic Vernal style” is characterized by humanlike figures, animal-like figures, and abstract designs. Science has not yet revealed why they were created. Most of the rock art locations are accessible from the Quarry Visitor Center entrance 7 miles north of Jensen, UT off Highway 149.

11625 East 1500 South, Jensen, UT 435-781-7700 7 Days, 9AM-5PM, Allow 3 hours

Canyon Pintado



On the way back to Grand Junction, hundreds of archeological sites from the Fremont culture appear in Canyon Pintado or “Painted Canyon,” a 17 mile stretch of US Highway 139 managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Seven of the premier locations: Waving Hands Site, Kokopelli Site, White Birds Site, Cow Canyon Site, East Four Mile Draw, Hoodoo Site and Lookout Point, are available to view.

48016 Colorado 139, Rangely, CO 81648
