



Fossil Discovery Trail

Dinosaur National Monument

APPROX. ROUND TRIP

2.4 miles

APPROX. GAIN

200 ft

DIFFICULTY

Moderate

BEST FOR

Dinosaur fans, geology and school-age kids

TRAIL STORY

Bones left where dinosaurs fell

Tilted rock layers beside the trail preserve several fossil areas. At the Morrison Formation stop, families can see dinosaur bones still embedded in the rock, much as paleontologist Earl Douglass found fossils here in 1909.

LOOK FOR - SIGHTINGS ARE NEVER GUARANTEED

- ☐ A tilted rock layer
- ☐ A fossil fragment in the rock
- ☐ A trail sign naming a geologic formation
- ☐ Ripple marks or another ancient-water clue
- ☐ A desert plant surviving without shade
- ☐ The Quarry Exhibit Hall in the distance

THREE TRAIL MISSIONS

- 1 Put three rock layers in order from oldest-looking to youngest-looking.
- 2 Find one clue that water once shaped this dry place.
- 3 Sketch a fossil without touching or tracing it.

MAP IT!

Draw the visitor center, the trail, three fossil stops and the Quarry Exhibit Hall.

Add a legend: start, water, rest stop, viewpoint and turnaround.

LIVE TRAIL PAGE



Scan for current trail details and trailhead directions.

KIND HIKER CODE

- Stay on the signed trail.
- Give wildlife plenty of room.
- Leave plants, rocks and water alone.
- Pack out every snack scrap.

THIS TRAIL'S SMART RULE

Leave every fossil and rock exactly where it is. Stay on the trail and turn back if wet rock becomes slippery.

GROWN-UP CHECK

Weather, access, parking and closures can change.