

Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway

The byway meanders over the eastern flank of the Uinta Mountains and through the Ashley National Forest and Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. View wildlife in their native habitats and experience the "real West" as passed down through western folklore of early explorers, homesteaders, mountainmen, outlaws and cowboys.



Length: 82 miles / 131.2 km

Time 2 hours (including
to backtracking on Highway

Allow: 44) to drive or a day to
enjoy the byway.

Local Information

Dinosaurland Travel Board

800-477-5558

435-789-6932

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees along the byway proper.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



A growing number of visitors continue to experience this byway and its surrounding corridor area by using bicycles, motorcycles, ATVs, and hiking trails. Although the byway can be biked from end to end, stretches exist that require careful and cautious travel. Hundreds of miles of designated trails are easily accessible from the byway for enjoying the backcountry. Several routes adjacent to the byway are suggested for touring. The byway is fortunate to intersect several loop routes that are part of the state-designated Scenic Backways Program. Where appropriate (regarding traveler safety and environmental impacts), these loops can provide hikers, campers, mountain bikers, motorcyclists, ATVers, and high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicles with recreational opportunities.

Camping



Camping is available in the Ashley National Forest.

Links to reserveUSA.com to make reservations at nearby National Forest campgrounds:

- Colton Guard Station Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Iron Springs Group Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Grizzly Ridge Yurt Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Limber Flag Yurt Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Lodgepole Ashley Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Skull Creek Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Firefighters Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Deer Run Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Cedar Springs Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Mustang Ridge Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Dutch John Draw Group Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Dripping Springs Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Hideout Canyon Boat-In Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Antelope Flat Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Lucerne Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Navajo Cliffs Campground (Ashley National Forest).
- Carter Military Trail Yurt Campground (Ashley National Forest).

There are 30 public campgrounds and picnic areas that feature more than 750 campsites, all of which are accessible from the byway. These facilities can handle both large groups and individual families.

Food



There are over 40 restaurants as well as several grocery stores and convenience stores along the byway.

Gasoline



RV and automotive services are available along this byway. Visitors will be able to find gas stations as well.

Information



Visitor centers are located at Red Canyon Overlook, Flaming Gorge Dam, Utah State Fieldhouse of Natural History, Dinosaur National Monument, and the Jensen Welcome Center. Other visitor information services are offered at Forest Service and BLM field offices.

Lodging



There are 17 motels with 600 total rooms, 2 lodges with 67 total rooms along the byway.

Phone



Public phones are available along this byway.

Restrooms



There are toilet facilities along this byway.

Retail



There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

The byway is a paved mountain highway in good condition with narrow, winding characteristics that provide dramatic, 360-degree scenic vistas to those who travel its length. The byway accommodates year-round traffic for motorized vehicles of all types, including cars, pickups, recreational vehicles, and larger commercial vehicles. The road has 12-foot wide lanes, with shoulder widths varying from 2 to 6 feet. The road also has numerous passing lanes, all of which meet safety standards for recreational traffic.

The byway rises from 5,050 feet to 8,428 feet above sea level, with a gently sloping divide that provides many places with sight distances adequate for passing slower vehicles. Although the roadway's ascent can be dramatic and winding (there are some 5-8 percent grades), improvements have been made to the numerous scenic turnouts, observation points, rest areas, visitor centers, and interpretive sites and trails available for exiting and safe viewing pleasure.

The highway route and all major attractions along the byway can adequately handle tour buses. Tour buses currently travel the byway en route to such sites as the Flaming Gorge Dam and Visitor Center, the Red Canyon Rim Visitor Center, the Utah Field House of Natural History and Dinosaur Gardens, the Dinosaur National Monument, and 18 other designated interpretive sites along the byway. Improvements to these 18 sites along the route will enhance safety while improving parking accommodations for tour buses and larger RVs.

During the winter, extra care and caution will lengthen the time it takes to drive from one end of the byway to the other. Since the public lands along the byway are managed under the Multiple Use Concept, visitors may have the opportunity to encounter a real western cattle drive along the roadway during the spring and fall transitional months.

Restrictions

Sections of the mountain highway are occasionally closed due to extreme snowfall during the winter.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Highways US-191 and UT-44 are open to traffic year-round and provide outstanding accessibility to the changing beauty and diverse recreational opportunities each new season bring to the byway.

High Season

Summer is the busiest time of year along this byway.

Map and Directions



Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

- From Vernal, drive north on US-191.

- At the junction of US-191 and SR-44, take either the right or the left route. Both are part of the byway.
- SR-44 will lead you to Manila where the byway ends.
- US-191 will take you past the community of Dutch John to the Utah/Wyoming border where the byway ends.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities


Denver, CO (330 miles / 531.08 km, 6 hours 5 minutes)

Start:  4600 Washington St.
N 39.780° W 104.979° [?]

- Take I-70 westbound toward Grand Junction.
- Turn onto US-40 W toward Empire/Granby.


Directions:

- Keep going north on US-40 toward Vernal, UT.
- The byway starts in downtown Vernal, at the intersection of US 191 and US 40.

Junction with byway:  Intersection of Main St & Vernal Ave, Vernal, UT
N 40.456° W 109.528° [?]




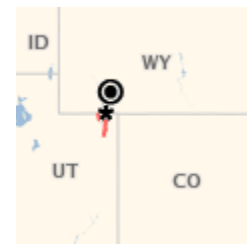
Rock Springs, WY (52 miles / 83.69 km, 1 hour)

Start:  Intersection of Foothill Blvd and US-191
Purple Sage, WY
N 41.558° W 109.311° [?]

Directions:

- Take US-191 south to the Utah border where the byway begins.

Junction with byway:  US-191 at the Wyoming/Utah Border
N 41.000° W 109.431° [?]



Salt Lake City, UT (168 miles / 270.37 km, 3 hours 5 minutes)

Start: ⊙ Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC)

N 40.771° W 111.987° [?]

Directions:

- Exit the airport onto I-80 eastbound.
- Take I-80 east just past Kimball Junction.
- Get on US-40 and go to Vernal where the byway begins.

Junction with byway:

* Intersection of Main St & Vernal Ave, Vernal, UT

N 40.456° W 109.528° [?]



Road Trip: Flaming Gorge Must See Tour

Departure: Vernal, Utah

Destination: Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Utah

Time to allow: 1 day

Set aside a day to drive the Flaming Gorge-Uintas Scenic Byway. Over the course of your day, you'll see life-sized dinosaurs, ancient artifacts, Flaming Gorge Dam, and more. Don't forget to pack a lunch and bring your camera.

Day 1

- **Start: Vernal**

Vernal is the largest community in the Flaming Gorge area, and it is also the starting point for your trip.



- **Stop 1: Utah Field House of Natural History**

From previous stop: 1 minute / 0.2 mi (0.3 km)

Directions: Go east on US-40/Main Street toward 100 East for 0.2 miles until you reach the Field House, located at 235 East Main Street.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Spend some time at the Utah Field House of Natural History and see exhibits of area animals, geology, paleontology, prehistory, and history. Here, you'll find 18 life-size replicas of prehistoric creatures in a garden setting.

- **Stop 2: Dinosaur National Monument**



From previous stop: 20 minutes / 17 mi (27.2 km)

Directions: Go southeast on US-40/Main Street, and follow to US-40 for 12.6 miles. Turn left onto UT-149 and go 4.2 miles until you end at Dinosaur National Monument.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Next, visit Dinosaur National Monument and see a 160-foot-long wall with over 1,600 dinosaur bones. The monument is home to the world's largest Jurassic period dinosaur quarry.

- **Stop 3: Flaming Gorge Dam and Visitor Center**



From previous stop: 1 hour 5 minutes / 58.4 mi (93.4 km)

Directions: Go southwest on UT-149 toward Brush Creek Road for 4.2 miles. Turn right onto US-40 and go 12.8 miles. Turn right onto Vernal Avenue/US-191 and continue to follow US-191 for 34.5 miles. US-191 becomes UT-191, but continue for 0.2 miles. Turn right onto US-191 and go 6.3 miles until you reach the Flaming Gorge Dam.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 30 minutes

For lunch, have a picnic here, then afterward, explore the visitor facilities. Before you leave, make sure that you go to the Visitor Center and take the guided tour through the dam.

- **End: Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area**



From previous stop: 40 minutes / 30 mi (48.0 km)

Directions: Go southwest on US-191 toward NF-610, following for 6.3 miles. Turn right onto UT-44 and go 23.3 miles until you reach the west entrance to Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

End your day at Flaming Gorge Recreation Area, where caves and ledges tell stories of the ancient history of this area. Take your time exploring, and remember to bring along a camera.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 105.6 miles / 169.0 km

Total Travel Time: 2 hours 6 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 4 hours 30 minutes