

**Dinosaur National Monument** takes its name from a remarkable deposit of fossil bones in the southwestern corner of the area. Fossilized bones of crocodiles, turtles, and 10 species of dinosaurs have been brought to view by excavating river sediment in the 150-million-year-old Morrison Formation.

Most of the Monument land lies northeast of the quarry where more than just fossils await your discovery. The Green and Yampa Rivers are master tools of erosion in a rugged canyon wilderness, providing majestic views along the Journey Through Time auto route. Some of the best examples of Fremont Culture petroglyphs are easily accessible along the Tour of the Tilted Rocks auto route. Historic home sites provide a glimpse into the rugged lifestyle of those who settled in this area.

Dinosaur National Monument is an area of rich history: paleontological, exploration, Native American, outlaw, and natural history that marks it as one of America's last inaccessible regions—a romantic place where the Old West stayed young.

#### **Mileage**

0 Leave Vernal east on Highway 40 from Vernal Ave. and Main intersection.

12.0 About a mile south of the highway is Stewart's Waterfowl Refuge, Utah Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources.

12.4 Entering Jensen.

13.4 Junction—turn left on U149 to Dinosaur National Monument. At this intersection, you will find a State Welcome Center and rest stop.

15.7 Split Mountain Gorge can be seen on the right—this is where the Green River emerges from the canyon area into the Ashley Valley.

millions of years ago. You can see the folded and faulted Moenkopi and Park City formations far below this level. They are younger and belong above the Weber Formation upon which you stand.

85.2 Junction—tour continues straight ahead on paved road (right to Echo Park Campground and Picnic Area). If you take the side trip to Echo Park, it's advisable to check road conditions and weather (unimproved road).

85.8 Turn left to Scenic Overlook—gives a scenic view of Island park on the Green River far below.

87.4 Iron Springs Bench Overlook—gives a breathtaking look at Steamboat Rock, the Yampa River, the canyon and its joining with the Green River and Echo Park.

90.9 Utah-Colorado state line.

91.0 Echo Park Overlook—spectacular view of Echo Park immediately below with the canyons of the Yampa River beyond. The colorful rock formations are well worth viewing.

92.3 End of road; however, the trail takes you to Harper's Corner (a must!). This affords a view of the Yampa and the Green River where they come together at Steamboat Rock, and you can also see the canyons running both directions of the Green River. Very spectacular, a sight to behold, out of this world!

161.5 End of tour. Total travel time: 4 1/2 hours.

Fossil Area visit: 1 hour. Harper's Corner Trail: 1 hour.

Picnic lunch: 1 hour. Total: 7 1/2 hours.

### **Day Trips**

#### **Beginning and ending in Vernal**

- #1 - Diamond Mountain/Jones Hole Fish Hatchery
- #2 - Indian Petroglyphs/Dry Fork Canyon
- #3 - Red Cloud Loop Scenic Backway (for higher clearance vehicles)
- #4 - Red Fleet & Steinaker State Parks
- #5 - Dinosaur National Monument
- #6 - Outlaw Country-Crouse Canyon, Brown's Park, Jarvie's Ranch
- #7 - Vernal Heritage Walking Tour

#### **Beginning and ending in Manila**

- #8 - Spirit Lake/Sheep Creek Canyon Scenic Backways -

Flaming Gorge Country

#### **Beginning and ending in Duchesne**

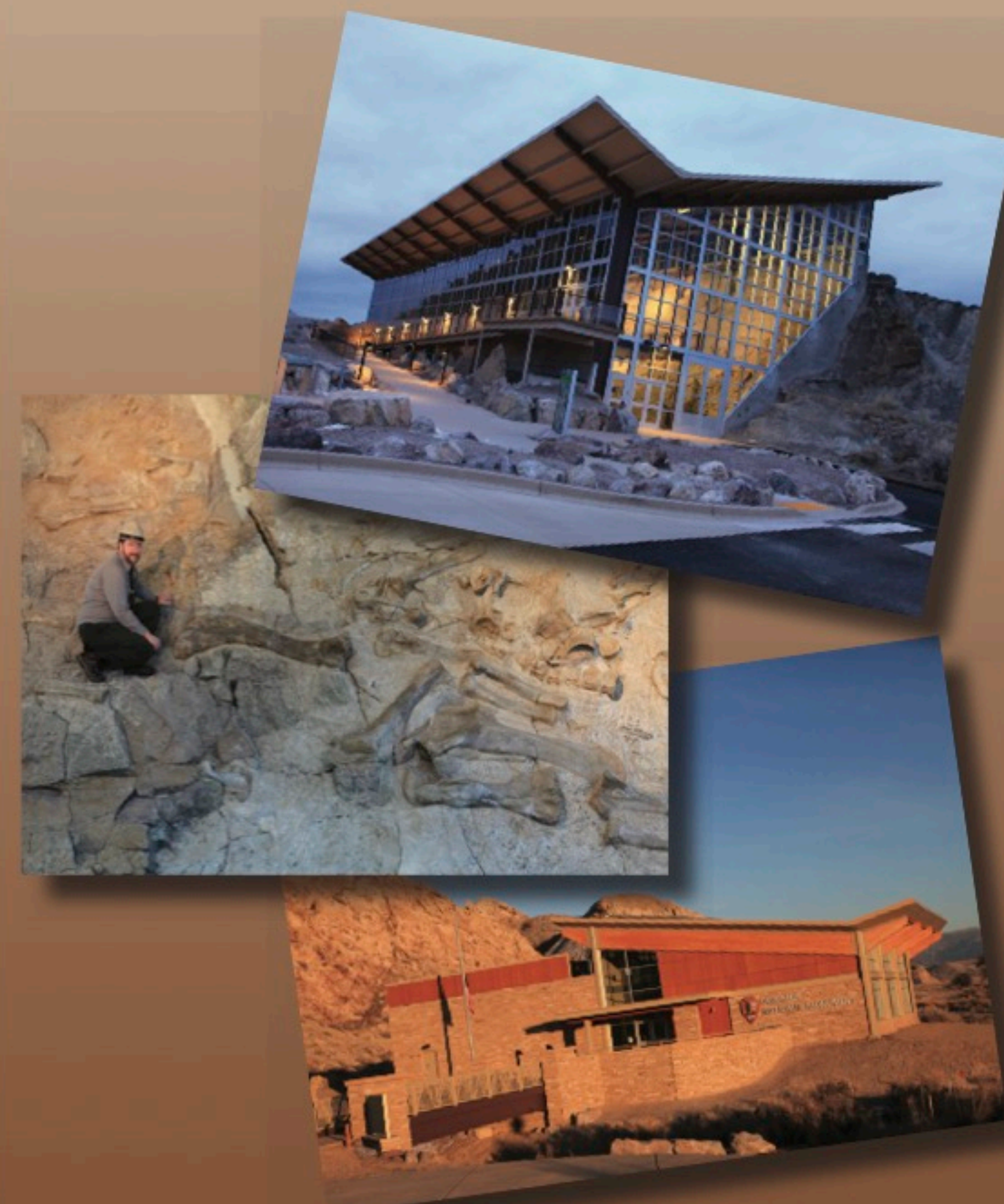
- #9 - Indian Canyon Scenic Byway
- #10 - North Fork of the Duchesne River
- #11 - Rock Creek & Stillwater Dam



## **Day Trip 5**

# **Dinosaur National Monument**

**(Quarry/Harpers Corner)**



**Visit Dinosaurland  
One-Day Self-Guided Tour**

Utah County Travel & Tourism  
1-800-477-5558 - [www.dinoland.com](http://www.dinoland.com)