

Dinosaur Remains in Colorado

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO
303.370.6000, www.dmns.org
Hours: Daily 9am to 5pm, closed Dec. 25

One of the premier natural history museums in the country, this institution was founded at the turn of the century to house the collection of Colorado naturalist Edwin Carter. In the Prehistoric Journey exhibit, visitors can see dinosaur fossils such as *Stegosaurus stenops* (the state fossil), a small-headed, armor-plated vegetarian that roamed the state 150 million years ago. Enormous remains of the Nebraska mammoth and long-jawed mastodon also are on display.

University of Colorado Museum

15th & Broadway, Boulder, CO
303.492.6892, cumuseum.colorado.edu
Hours: Mon–Fri 9am to 5pm, Sat 9am to 4pm, Sun 10am to 4pm, closed on all university holidays

The paleontology collection features a wide variety of vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant fossils, including approximately 95,000 catalogued specimens representing approximately 600,000 objects from more than 5,600 localities in 44 states and 77 countries. The collection includes 583 fossil holotypes. It is primarily focused on the Paleogene fossil record of the Rocky Mountain region, and is one of the best Tertiary fossil collections from the Western Interior of North America with exceptional coverage for the Paleocene, Eocene, Oligocene, and Miocene epochs.

Dinosaur Ridge

16381 W. Alameda Parkway, Morrison, CO
303.697.DINO, www.dinoridge.org
Hours: Nov–Apr: Mon–Sat 9am to 4pm, Sun 12pm to 4pm; May–Oct: Mon–Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 10am to 5pm

Dinosaur Ridge is a geologically famous natural landmark, located along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, near Morrison, Colorado. This location features historically famous Jurassic dinosaur bones, such as *Stegosaurus* and *Apatosaurus*, discovered in 1877, and Cretaceous dinosaur footprints, attributed to ornithomimid and theropod dinosaurs. A guidebook is available for use on self-guided tours. Guided tours can be arranged through the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge. The Friends of Dinosaur Ridge web site also provides excellent links to other sites providing a wealth of information on dinosaurs in Colorado and beyond, at www.dinoridge.org/links.html.

Geologic Point of Interest

Along I-70 west of Denver next to the Morrison interchange
Hours: daily

This beautiful and interesting road cut exposed several rock formations, including several containing dinosaur fossils (not labeled or identified). Geological interpretive signs mark formations on the north side of the road cut.

Morrison Natural History Museum

501 Colorado Highway 8, Morrison, CO
303.697.1873, Fax: 303.697.8752, <http://www.mnhm.org>
Hours: Daily, 10am to 4pm; closed on major holidays

Opened in 1990, this Museum tells the story of Morrison's dinosaur discoveries on nearby Dinosaur Ridge, and the plants and animals that share this area today. Here you will see—and touch—real dinosaur bones, and even help chip rock away from them at the *Return of the Native* exhibit. You will get acquainted with some of *Colorado's Forgotten Natives* too, when you visit with the Museum's live reptile and amphibian friends.

Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum and Golden Clay Pits

Colorado School of Mines (CSM) campus, General Research Laboratory (GRL) bldg., 1310 Maple St., Golden, CO
303.273.3815, www.mines.edu/Geology_Museum

Hours: by appointment only

Admission: free

An outdoor geologic trail features seven outcrops with fossilized dinosaur tracks, logs, and leaves. The museum displays mineral, fossil, gemstone, meteorite, and historic mining artifacts. It also houses one of Colorado's two Goodwill moon rocks from the Apollo 17 mission.

Parfet Prehistoric Preserve

South of 19th St., Golden, CO

303.697.3466, <http://www.dinoridge.org/tritrail.html>

Hours: 7 days a week, sunrise to sunset

Admission: free

The Triceratops Trail is a 1/2 mile self-guided hiking trail, which leads you on a walk through 68 million years of Colorado's pre-history. Along the Triceratops Trail, you will see footprints and other impressions left by dinosaurs, birds, mammals, plants and even insects! In addition, you will also see how the landscape of this area has changed from a swampy habitat during the Age of Dinosaurs to a clay mine during the mid 1900s to a world-class golf course today (www.fossiltrace.com). Parking is available in the lot on the south-east corner of the intersection of 6th Ave. and 19th St. (just before the Stevinson Golden Ford dealership). From the parking area, you must follow the concrete bike path that parallels 6th Ave. for approximately 1/4 mile before reaching the trailhead for the Triceratops Trail. Walk towards 6th Ave. until you encounter the bike path, then turn left (south) and follow the path through the wooded area. You'll see the trailhead for the Triceratops Trail on your left as you climb the hill from the wooded area.

Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center

612 Royal George Blvd., Canon City, CO

719.269.9036, <http://ccpl.lib.co.us/RGRM&HC.htm>

Hours: Wed–Sat 10am to 4pm

The museum currently exhibits a portion of the collections from Canon City's Dinosaur Depot Museum, which closed in March 2013 (see www.dinosaurdepot.com for further information).

Garden Park Roadside Markers

County Highway 9, approximately 8 miles north of Canon City, CO

www.co.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo/paleontology.html

Hours: daily

One marker notes the site of one of the first dinosaur quarries in Colorado (the Marsh Quarry), and a second marks the site of a *Haplocanthosaurus* discovery (the Cleveland Museum Quarry). For additional information contact the Bureau of Land Management's Royal Gorge field office at 719.269.8500.

Dry Mesa Quarry

On the Uncompahgre National Forest about 30 miles southwest of Delta, CO

970.874.6600, www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5180675

Hours: check with the USDA Forest Service in Delta for information about visiting the quarry

Located on the Uncompahgre National Forest, Dry Mesa Dinosaur Quarry is one of the most famous dinosaur localities in the world. Seventeen different genera of dinosaurs have been discovered at this site since 1971, as well as a number of other fossils, including pterosaurs, birds, crocodiles, fishes and mammals.

Dinosaur National Monument

4545 E. Highway 40, Dinosaur, CO
970.374.3000, 435.781.7700, www.nps.gov/dino/index.htm

Hours: *Headquarters Visitor Center*: Open 8am to 6pm on weekends during the summer; closed on holidays.
Quarry Visitor Center: 9am to 5pm every day except major holidays.
Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Quarry is open from 9am to 6pm.

Dinosaur National Monument encompasses 210,000 acres that stretches across the Utah and Colorado border. Fossilized bones of *Allosaurus* and other species of prehistoric creatures have been revealed in a single sandstone cliff, one of the world's largest concentrations of fossilized dinosaur bones. Visitors can view more than 2,300 fossilized bones and related exhibits about the quarry face in the visitor center near Jensen, UT.

Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway

P. O. Box 425, Fruita, CO
info@dinosaurdiamond.org, <http://dinosaurdiamond.net>

Hours: daily

Dinosaur Diamond is named for the rough diamond shape of this dinosaur-rich area, from Delta and Fruita to Rangely in western Colorado, and Vernal to Price to Moab in eastern Utah. The Byway offers a unique opportunity for the public to visit archaeological and fossil sites in their natural settings and to learn more through museum visits. The Byway follows federal and state highways in both states including Interstate Highway 70, State Highways 139 and 64, and US Highway 40 in western Colorado.

Dinosaur Journey Museum

550 Jurassic Court, Fruita, CO
970.858.7282, <https://museumofwesternco.com/visit/dinosaurjourney/>

Hours: Mon–Sat, 10am to 4pm; Sun, 12pm to 4pm (Oct–Apr); daily 9am to 5 pm (May–Sept); closed holidays

Dinosaur Journey Museum is operated by the Museum of Western Colorado. The museum features the latest exhibits and information about dinosaur excavations and realistic robotic dinosaurs such as *Dilophosaurus*, “Utah raptor”, and *T. rex*. There is also a working paleontology laboratory in which fossils removed from local quarries are prepared for scientific study and exhibit.

Dinosaur Hill Interpretive Trail

On State Highway 340 about 1½ miles south of Fruita, CO, Exit No. 19 on I.70.
970.858.7282, <http://gofruita.com/dinosaurs.html>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

The Dinosaur Hill Interpretive Trail is a mile-long trail with ten points of interest that takes about 45 minutes to one hour to walk. An interpretive brochure is available to guide you along the trail and quarry. The paleontological history made here includes discoveries of the world's largest known dinosaur, a *Brachiosaurus*, in 1900 and other dinosaurs such as *Allosaurus*. Open year-round, weather permitting.

Fruita Paleontological Locality Trail

Off Kings View Road, southwest of Fruita, CO
970.244.3000, www.visitgrandjunction.com/fruita-paleontological-area

Hours: sunrise to sunset

This loop trail contains a number of interpretive signs describing the landscape of the area 150 million years ago and the animals that lived there. The quarries in the area have produced one of the best faunas of Jurassic mammals and lizards in the world.

Riggs Hill Interpretive Trail

Intersection of Meadows Way & S. Broadway, Grand Junction, CO; take State Highway 340 west from Grand Junction to South Broadway

970.858-7282, www.gjihikes.com/2009/11/riggs-hill.html

Hours: sunrise to sunset

The Riggs Quarry is the site of the world's first *Brachiosaurus altithorax* discovery. In 1937 Lee Edward Holt uncovered the partial skeletons of *Stegosaurus*, *Allosaurus*, and possibly another *Brachiosaurus*. A three-quarter mile trail has been cooperatively constructed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Museum of Western Colorado, assisted by many local volunteers; allow about thirty to forty minutes to see the eight points of interest along the trail. For additional information call the Bureau of Land Management office at 970.244.3000.

Rabbit Valley Trail Through Time & Mygatt Moore Quarry

Just north of I-70 at Rabbit Valley exit #2, 26 miles west of Grand Junction, CO

970.244.3000, www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/mcnca/recreation/Hiking/Trail_Through_Time.html

Hours: daily

The Trail Through Time includes a dinosaur quarry (active May – Aug) and interpretive trail. The trail is a 1½ mile loop which takes about 1½ hours to complete; it is administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Museum of Western Colorado. The quarry site appears to have been an ancient watering hole 140 million years ago. It was visited by thousands of dinosaurs over thousands of years. The list of dinosaurs found at Trail Through Time is quite extensive: *Apatosaurus*, *Diplodocus*, *Brachiosaurus*, *Camarasaurus*, *Ceratosaurus*, *Allosaurus*, and *Nodosaurus*. During the warmer months you might find paleontologists at work in the quarry. The best time for visiting the Trail Through Time is spring or fall, as summer temperatures can reach 100°+ with biting gnats, and wet winters can cause the trail to be slippery. Pets and smoking are discouraged on the trail.