Northeastern Utah’s Dinosaur Land

undiscovered wonderland
Winter Recreation and Trail Guide
Winter brings changes to Northeastern Utah’s Dinosaurland. A blanket of quiet descends upon the land as the snow softens the hard edges of the landscape. Dramatic winter sunlight is bracketed by nights so clear and dark that the stars seem only inches away. Moose and elk wander down from the high country and tracks of big cats can be seen in the snow. There are miles of empty trails waiting to be discovered by skis, snowshoes and snowmobiles. At the end of the day there are great western towns to provide warmth and rest for the next day’s adventure.
1. RESERVATION RIDGE TRAIL: 44 miles roundtrip/unmarked, ungroomed trail
Climbing to an elevation of over 9,000’ and traveling westward along a rolling ridge to the head of Timber Canyon the route provides magnificent views of the High Uintas and Wasatch mountains. Due to curving roads and snowdrifts the canyon is not recommended. Snow and wind conditions are subject to rapid change.

2. BLIND STREAM TRAIL: 16 miles one-way/unmarked, ungroomed trail
Passing private land until the forest boundaries the route then climbs to 10,200’ where rolling hills and deep powder provide challenge. The route becomes steep and winding down to the Rock Creek trail head. Rock Creek to Hanna access can be ridden either direction.

3. HELL'S CANYON TRAIL: Out and back, 9 miles/unmarked, ungroomed trail
At 8,000’ the trail goes through Hell's Canyon before reaching Center Park, a large meadow area at 10,600’ that borders the High Uintas Wilderness Area. Snowmobiles are not permitted in Wilderness Area.

4. CHEPETA LAKE TRAIL: 24 miles one-way/unmarked, ungroomed trail
The trail follows Farm Creek Road #117 and is steep before becoming more gradual. At 13.5 miles the trail turns right at West Fork Road, #110 prior to Pole Creek Campground. The trail then climbs gradually to Chepeta Lake at an elevation of 10,560’.
5. MOSBY MOUNTAIN TRAIL: 20 miles roundtrip/unmarked, ungroomed trail
Trail follows Road #104 and climbs steeply before becoming more gradual as it passes through a lodgepole pine forest, sagebrush and open meadows, ending at Paradise Guard Station Campground at 10,000 feet. Snowmobilers must stay on road (See Travel Map!).

6. TAYLOR MOUNTAIN TRAIL: 9 miles to East Park Loop Trail junction/marked trail, periodically groomed Trail follows Taylor Mountain Road (Road #044) through Lodgepole pine and aspen forests. The 7,000’ high trail is steep at the beginning, but levels out. From Forest Service boundary – approximately 5 miles – snowmobilers must stay on road (See Travel Map!).

7. EAST PARK LOOP TRAIL: 35 miles roundtrip/periodically groomed and marked trail Trail follows East Park Road (Road #020) 21.5 miles past the turnoff to East Park Campground. It begins at 8,200’ and climbs gradually through forests to 9,350’ to Trout Creek Guard Station.

8. BROWNIE CANYON TRAIL: 20 miles/marked, periodically groomed trail Trail starts near Forest Service boundary in Dry Fork Canyon and follows Red Cloud Loop Road to tie in with Trout Creek Junction. Trail descends gradually from 9,350’ through sagebrush and meadows. The southern part of the trail contains steep, winding areas.

9. LEIDY PEAK TRAIL: 9 miles one-way/periodically groomed and marked trail Beginning at Trout Creek Guard Station at 9,350’ the trail follows road #043 through Lodgepole pine forests and meadows and climbs 11,000’ to Hacking Lake at the base of Leidy Peak.

10. ELK PARK/DON HATCH MEMORIAL SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM:
60 miles/marked and periodically groomed trail
The northeastern section of the trail goes through ponderosa pine forests with wide vistas of the north slope of the Uintas. The eastern side of the trail parallels U.S. 191, Utah 44 and Red Canyon Road. A spectacular view of Flaming Gorge Reservoir is available from the Red Canyon Overlook. The rest of the trail is through Lodgepole pine and aspen forests with occasional open parks and meadows. The northwestern portion of the trail, west of Deep Creek Road Utah 44 junction, is on gated forest roads and is used by cross-country skiers. This trail can be accessed from the East McKee Trailhead.

www.undiscoveredutah.com
Cross-country trails offer skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts an intimate view of wildlife in winter. Herds of wintering elk and lone Bull Moose are common throughout the area. Travel through quiet forests of Lodgepole pine and aspen. Catch your breath in quiet alpine meadows and lose it again standing at the edge of a dramatic canyon overlook. Miles of trails unlock a unique view of the winter landscape. For complete regulations, trail description, map and safety guide consult the Ashley National Forest Travel Maps or visit www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley.com

1. LITTLE BRUSH CREEK LOOP TRAIL: 3.5 mile loop/marked trail
Trail travels through open ground on the way to forests of Lodgepole pine and Douglas fir. The then trail climbs a sagebrush plateau dotted with aspens and pines. Gradual to moderate ascent and moderate descent for novice and intermediate skier. 8,250' - 8,500'

2. BASSETT SPRINGS LOOP TRAIL: 3.5 miles/marked trail
The trail starts at Range Study Trailhead then follows an old jeep trail through aspen, Lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and sagebrush openings. There is a spectacular view of Diamond Mountain from the top of the slope. Moderate to steep ascent and descent for intermediate to advanced skier. 8,300' - 8,800'

3. GRIZZLY RIDGE YURT TRAIL: 6 miles roundtrip/marked trail
Follows a jeep trail through Lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, aspen and sagebrush ending with a wonderful view of the Ashley Valley. Moderate to steep ascent for intermediate skier. 8,400' - 9,200'

4. CARIODY RIDGE YURT TRAIL: 6 miles roundtrip/marked trail
An enjoyable route that traverses aspen and sagebrush while descending into a small drainage. Excellent telemark turns can be found in the Douglas fir bowls as the trail ascends again before entering dense timber. Fantastic views of the Uintah Basin, Split Mountain and Western Colorado. Moderate to steep ascent for intermediate skier. 8,200' - 9,150'
5. OLD SKI TOW LOOP TRAIL: 2.5 mile loop/marked trail
The ascending trail winds through Lodgepole pine and aspen to a point near the top of the old Grizzly Ridge ski run. Trailhead is off U.S. Hwy 191. For intermediate skiers. 8,400' - 8,800'

6. SWETT RANCH LOOP TRAIL: 7 miles roundtrip/marked trail
The view from the trail includes Swett Ranch meadows, Little and Richards Mountain and Allen Creek. Elk and moose often frequent the area. For intermediate skiers. 6,720' - 7,400'

7. CANYON RIM TRAIL: 4-7 miles/marked trail
A mix of spectacular canyon views of Flaming Gorge and open stands of ponderosa pine. Can be combined with the Swett Ranch Loop for a strenuous 16-mile day. Mostly flat terrain for intermediate skiers. 7,200' - 7,450'

8. LAKE CREEK LOOP TRAIL: 3 miles/marked trail
Trail climbs towards the northern flanks of the High Uintas. After several small drainages the trail descends gradually through meadows to the trailhead. Gradual slopes through elk, deer and moose habitat for novice skiers. 7,600' - 7,800'

9. ELK PARK TRAIL: 5.5 miles/marked trail
Route winds in and out of open stands of ponderosa pine and aspen. Elk Park is a large open meadow with views of the north slope of the Uintas. An excellent flat track through elk and moose habitat for novice skiers. 7,820' - 8,020'

10. DOWD MOUNTAIN TRAIL: 11 miles/marked trail
This loop covers a long route to Dowd Mountain Overlook with outstanding views of Flaming Gorge, Red Canyon and the High Uintas. After climbing gradually through open country the last miles of the trail enter and descend a narrow canyon back to the trailhead. A strenuous route of varied, moderately difficult trails over flat and steep, rocky terrain for intermediate and advanced skiers. 7,560' - 7,980'

11. COLTON GUARD STATION TRAIL: 8.5 mile loop/marked trail
This trail winds through aspen groves and open landscapes. The trip from the trailhead to the Guard Station is fairlylevel with a descent of approximately 10% near the Guard Station. The trail is shared with snowmobilers.

12. BEAR CANYON BOOTLEG: 3 miles out and back/marked trail
From the Trailhead, the trail travels west, passing the Amphitheatre and soon after follows an old road. The ski route travels through Ponderosa Pine and at trails end offers views of Flaming Gorge Reservoir.
WILDLIFE VIEWING becomes easier in winter as elk gather in winter herds and lone bull moose stand out against the stark white background. Northeastern Utah is where the stars of the animal world take the stage. Bighorn sheep, elk, moose, river otters, bald eagles, are all easily seen. The more elusive cougar, coyote, fox and bobcat are seen in glimpses if at all, but they are here. While many animals can be seen along one of our scenic drives, the best way to get up close is to ski or snowshoe one of the many trails in Northeastern Utah’s’ Dinosaurland.

BROWNS PARK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: 50 miles northeast of Vernal, this 13,455-acre refuge lies along the Green River. Over 200 species of birds can be found on the refuge. It is also home to deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, river otter, moose, and bighorn sheep. A graveled, 11-mile road with interpretive exhibits provides opportunities to view and study wildlife and wildlife habitat. www.brownspark.fws.gov

FLAMING GORGE-UINTAS SCENIC BYWAY: Located along US Hwy. 191 and UT 44 between Vernal and Manila, UT. Offers drive-by viewing of pronghorn antelope, elk, mule deer, moose, bighorn sheep and wild horses. Nature trails and interpretive portals provide information and access. www.byways.org

DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT: Rocky Mountain sheep, mule deer, and many species of birds, including Sandhill cranes, are seen throughout Dinosaur National Monument. www.nps.gov/dino

PARIETTE WETLANDS: A complex of wetlands and marshes located near the Green River, 20 miles south of Fort Duchesne. The BLM’s largest waterfowl management area in Utah is home to more than 105 species of birds and mammals. Interpretive information and viewing facilities are located on site. www.utah.com/playgrounds/pariette_wetlands.htm

OURAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: 30 miles southwest of Vernal, the refuge provides food and cover for 14 species of nesting ducks. Over 200 species of birds have been documented at the refuge. Expect to see bald and golden eagles, as well as several species of hawks. Interpretive information and viewing facilities are located on site. For more information call 435.545.2522.
OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

WINTER HUNTING in Northeastern Utah's Dinosaurland is an experience not easily forgotten. Snow-covered meadows, sagebrush plateaus and thick forest of aspen and Lodgepole pine hide a rich diversity of game to challenge the most experienced hunter. The natural beauty competes of the attention of hunters tracking trophy elk, deer and moose. The area also holds a healthy population of predators like cougar and black bear. For complete regulations consult Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Proclamations www.wildlife.utah.gov/proclamations/.

Red Canyon Lodge
Flaming Gorge, UT • 435.889-3759
www.redcanyonlodge.com

Avalon Hunting Preserve
Randlett, UT
435.722.2009 • 435.823.6884

J/L Ranch Outfitters & Guides, Inc.
Whiterocks, UT • 435.353.4049
www.jlranch.com

LC Ranch
Altamont, UT • 435.454.3750
www.lcranch.com

Pleasant Valley Hunting Preserve
Myton, UT • 435.646.3194
www.hickenschickens.com

Rock Meadows Adventure, LLC
Bluebell, UT • 435.454.3176

U-Bar Wilderness Ranch
Park City, UT • 435.645.7256
www.rockymtnrec.com

Wild Mountain Outfitters
Roosevelt, UT • 435.722.2225
www.monsterbulls.com

Elite Outfitters
Vernal, UT • 435.789.0818
435.828.8009

Ute Tribe Outfitting
Ft. Duchesne, UT • 435.725.4817
435.725.4818

www.undiscoveredutah.com
Northeastern Utah’s

- Upper Stillwater Reservoir
- Spirit Lake
- Chepeta Lake
- Duchesne
- Roosevelt
FISHING doesn’t stop when winter comes. All three Utah State Parks: Steinaker, Red Fleet and Starvation, as well as Flaming Gorge Reservoir are favorite and productive ice fishing spots. The famous Green River is a blue-ribbon fishery every day of the year. Dry fly fishing is consistent throughout the winter with small Beatis and midges bringing up big fish. Both lake and river fishing require a different approach in the winter and the best way to explore new waters is to hire a local guide who can show you the best methods and techniques to land those winter fish.

FLY FISHING

Trout Creek Flies
Green River Outfitters
Dutch John, UT
800.835.4551 • 435.885.3355
www.fishgreenriver.com

Red Canyon Lodge
Flaming Gorge, UT • 435.889-3759
www.redcanyonlodge.com

Flaming Gorge Resort
Dutch John, UT • 435.889.3773
www.flaminggorgeresort.com

Old Moe
Dutch John, UT • 435.885.3342
www.oldmoeguideservice.com

Flaming Gorge
Recreations Services
Dutch John, UT
435.885.3191
www.fishthegreen.com

Western Rivers Flyfisher
Salt Lake City, UT • 801.521.6424
www.wrflyfisher.com

Green River Drifters, Inc
Steamboat Springs, CO
435.885.3300
www.greenriverdrifters.com

Trout Bum 2
Park City, UT
877.878.2862 435.658.1166
www.troutbum2.com

WINTER ICE FISHING

Steinaker Reservoir
Steinaker State Park
4335 North Highway 191
Vernal, Utah • 435.789.4432
www.stateparks.utah.gov

Starvation Reservoir
Starvation State Park
Duchesne, Utah • 435.738.2326
www.stateparks.utah.gov

Red Fleet Reservoir
Red Fleet State Park
8750 North Hwy. 191
Vernal, Utah • 435.789.4432
www.stateparks.utah.gov

Flaming Gorge Reservoir
Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area
Hwy. 191 Dutch John, Utah
435.789.1181
www.stateparks.utah.gov

Pelican Lake
25 miles SW of Vernal on UT 88
www.stateparks.utah.gov

www.undiscoveredutah.com
YURT & GUARD STATION RENTALS provide a one-of-a-kind lodging experience. Traditionally covered in hides, these cylindrical tents provide a roomy, warm and highly portable home in the harsh climate of the Siberian steppes. Modern yurts and rustic guard stations are available for rent throughout northeastern Utah’s Dinosaurland. Often quite far removed from any development, they allow for intimate interaction with the natural surroundings. Facilities are extremely limited and in winter many yurts are only accessible by snowmobile or non-motorized access.

NATIONAL RECREATION RESERVATION SYSTEM
www.ReserveUSA.com
877.444.6777
877.833.6777 TDD

Complete details available at
www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley/recreation/ashguardstationyurts.shtml

CARTER MILITARY TRAIL YURT
Winter warming yurt for snowmobilers.
Winter use Nov 1 - May 15
No electricity, water.
Vault toilet only.
1 double-size bunk beds sleep 4

GRIZZLY RIDGE YURT
Winter use Dec 1 - Apr 30
No electricity, water.
Vault toilet only.
2 bunk beds sleep 8
Non-motorized access only

LIMBER FLAG YURT
Winter use Dec 1 - Apr 30
No electricity, water.
Vault toilet only.
2 bunk beds sleep 8
Non-motorized access only

COLTON GUARD STATION
Winter use Mid-Sept - March
Sleeps 4
No electricity and water in winter
No indoor toilet
1 bunk bed, 1 sofa bed

TROUT CREEK GUARD STATION
Winter use Mid-Sept - March
No electricity and water in winter
No indoor toilet
2 bunk beds sleep 4

For more information:
Ashley National Forest
355 North Vernal Ave.
Vernal, UT 84078
435.789.1181
DINOSAURS AND MORE await you in Northeastern Utah's Dinosaurland. Vernal is a great place to see the dinosaurs that once roamed the land. The towns of Vernal, Roosevelt, Duchesne and Dutch John offer old west hospitality with all of the conveniences of modern life. It's all available from luxury lodges to family motels and old fashioned diners to fine dining. The area's towns are great places to begin your winter adventure. And when you can't feel your toes anymore there will always be a warm fire and a hot meal waiting for you.

UTAH FIELD HOUSE OF NATURAL HISTORY STATE PARK MUSEUM: Relive the age of dinosaurs at the new Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum. The new 22,000-square foot Utah Field House State Park Museum, which opened in June 2004, includes vivid murals, life-size replicas of dinosaurs and a new Dinosaur Garden. Curious visitors, both young and old, can do their own investigating with books, models, puzzles, and bones and chisels. 9 AM - 5 PM, seven days a week.

WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM: Featuring displays of Early Settlers, Fremont & Ute Indian artifacts, blacksmith display, barbershop, country store, 1890s/1900s ladies fashions, one room schoolroom, Gilsonite exhibit, old rifles, saddles, tack and leather, and much more. Picture galleries of “Uintah County Sheriff’s” 1880s to present & “Women of Courage” during the early 1880s/1900s. Outdoor museum of Horse-Drawn equipment. 9 AM - 5 PM Monday - Friday, 10 AM - 2 PM Saturday.

LODGING AND DINING: The charming small towns of Northeastern Utah's Dinosaurland offer a range of lodging and dining opportunities. If you just want a simple place to crash after a long day outdoors or a luxury mountain experience we have it all. From rustic to exquisite, you'll find excellent accommodations in the towns throughout Northeastern Utah's Dinosaurland.

There are a range of dining opportunities from comfortable old-fashioned diners to contemporary restaurants along one of our main streets. Scenic dining is available year-round at Red Canyon Lodge and Flaming Gorge Resort or for a quick bite before you get on your snowmobile there are plenty of quick service and fast food restaurants available throughout the area.

For more visitor information call 800.477.5558.
ICE SKATING & HOCKEY
The winter fun doesn’t end when you come inside. The Western Park Ice Rink in Vernal provides hours of fun for the whole family. The kids will have a great time watching Mom & Dad slip and slide over the ice, unless they are teenagers and then they’ll just be embarrassed. Skate rentals and concessions are available. So when you are not knee deep in powder in the back country – grab a hand and go skating.

Western Park Ice Rink
Western Park, 400 E. 200 S.,
Vernal, UT 84078 • 435.789.0708

Schedule Public Skating Days & Times:
Monday  6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday  7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Friday   1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
        6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday  2:00 – 4:45 p.m.
        7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Admission Prices:
Adult   $4.00
14 & under  $3.00
Skate rental $3.00
Skate Pass  $20.00
Good for 10 admissions or skate rental can not be used during Public Charter Time
THE HOLIDAYS COME ALIVE with the snow covered western landscape as the backdrop for our annual holiday events. Moonlit pines set in blankets of snow will get the family in the holiday spirit for Vernal's Community Holly Days and the lighting of the gardens. Experience the Christmas as it was in the 1880's at Jarvie Ranch's Winter Festival or warm the heart with giving at Vernal's Trees for Charity auction. Northeastern Utah's Dinosaurland brings the meaning of the holidays to life with a these special annual events that the entire family will enjoy.

COMMUNITY HOLLY DAYS IN VERNAL: This is the Basin’s best kick-off to the Christmas Holiday Season! A Free Family-Fun Event, Community Holly Days is filled with the spirit of the season. Community Holly Days also includes the annual lighting of the gardens. For a complete list of all the events taking place please check out www.communityhollydays.com.

JARVIE RANCH WINTER FESTIVAL: Jarvie Ranch in Brown’s Park is a National Historic Site operated by the Bureau of Land Management and was the site of a nineteenth-century trading post. Each December, the ranch takes on a special charm as volunteers and staff decorate the ranch and trading post in great detail as an historical recreation of Christmas in the 1880s. Tours, live entertainment, and refreshments. 435.885.3307 (Jarvie) 435.781.4400 (BLM)

TREES FOR CHARITY: One of the premier events of the winter holiday season. Fully decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, quilts, and specialty items are auctioned off for local charities on display at the Western Park Convention Center. Sponsored by the Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce, this must-see event is open Thanksgiving weekend FREE to the public.

ENCHANTED FOREST: Roosevelt Crossroads Senior Center. This wonderful family event has become a wintertime tradition. Beautifully decorated trees sponsored by families and businesses provide an atmosphere of true Christmas Spirit. Santa is always on hand to visit children and update the wish list. Fun, food and enchantment is waiting for you! For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 435-722-4598.

For more information regarding annual events, please contact us for a free copy of our travel guide or visit www.undiscoveredutah.com
DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT is a place frozen in time where you can walk where giants once tread. Locked in the geographic strata is one of the most important fossil deposits ever discovered. The area is rich in wildlife and rock art left by the ancient Fremont Culture. While the main exhibit wall of dinosaur fossils is closed, take time to explore the undiscovered aspects of Dinosaur National Monument.

- Fremont Culture rock art.
- Winter hiking to dramatic canyon vistas.
- Tour of Tilted Rocks on the Utah side, scenic auto tour.
- Clear night sky, perfect for stargazing.
- Visit historic homesteaders’ cabins.
- Discover dinosaur bone fragments and a variety of fossil evidence.
- See real and replica fossils at the Temporary Visitor Center.
- View northeastern Utah’s abundant wildlife as you explore seven different habitat zones. Bald Eagles and Sandhill cranes are commonly seen along the Green River below Split Mountain.

Temporary Visitor Center
Open year-round 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Jensen, Utah 435.781.7717
www.nps.gov/dino
Dinosaurland Travel Board  
55 East Main, Vernal, UT  
800.477.5558  
www.undiscoveredutah.com  
Hours: M - F 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Utah Welcome Center - Jensen  
Official Utah Information Center  
Hwy 40 Jensen  
435.789.4002  
Winter hours: 9 a.m to 5 p.m.

Duchesne County Visitor Center  
Located on Hwy 40 in Duchesne City  
435.738.2166  
Winter hours vary

Duchesne County Chamber of Commerce  
50 East 200 South, Roosevelt, UT  
435.722.4598  
Hours: M - F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
www.duchesne.net

Flaming Gorge Area Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 122, Manila, UT  
435.784.3154 or 435.784.3445  
Hours: M - F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
www.flaminggorgecountry.com

Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce  
134 West Main, Vernal, UT  
435.789.1352  
Hours: M - F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
www.vernalchamber.com

Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum  
496 East Main, Vernal, UT  
435.789.3799  
Hours: Every day 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
www.stateparks.utah.gov
Northeastern Utah’s DINOSAURLAND

DINOSAURLAND TRAVEL BOARD
55 East Main, Vernal, UT 84078
Phone: 800-477-5558
www.undiscoveredutah.com