



Dinosaur Diamond Sample Itinerary

Day One - Grand Junction

After Breakfast – explore the Dinosaurs



Jump in the car for a short drive to Fruita and the Museum of Western Colorado, home to several large dinosaur skeletons, robotic dinosaurs, a simulated dinosaur quarry, fossils, and interactive exhibits. The Museum also houses a paleontology laboratory.

After Lunch - Head off to drive through the Colorado National Monument



Allow yourself two to three hours exploring the natural beauty of the 23,000 acre Monument, with 11 canyons. Begin at the West entrance from I-70 (Exit 19, Fruita), then stop at the Visitor Center. After the tour,

depart via the east entrance to Broadway, turning right toward downtown Grand Junction.

Early Evening – in Downtown Grand Junction

With the sun setting over the Colorado National Monument head into downtown Grand Junction along tree shaded Main Street, enjoy a comfortable walk, fine shopping and the hands-on exhibits of Art on the Corner. Before enjoying a show or dining before returning to your room for a much needed rest.



Day Two

After Breakfast travel the Grand Mesa Scenic Byway



Drive south on Highway 50 to Delta, then proceed through Delta to Highway 65 and the Grand Mesa, the largest flat-topped mountain in the world. Allow approximately 3 - 4 hours to drive the nationally designated Scenic Byway through this 10,000-foot high "Island in the Sky". Take your time, stopping at viewpoints along the way.

Approximately 150 miles, round trip.

Lunch on the Grand Mesa at the Lodge

Mid Afternoon / Early Evening - Relax in Grand Junction's Wine Country with a designated Driver in tow

Continue on Highway 65 to I-70 west to Exit 42. We suggest tours and tasting at any 3 of our 15 wineries; 12 of the wineries are located in the heart of the orchards and vineyards of the Palisade area. Allow 2 - 3 hours. Before heading back to the hotel for another much needed rest.



Day Three

After Breakfast – begin your drive to Vernal via Rangely & Dinosaur, Colorado



After checking out of your hotel, travel west on the I-70 until the Loma Turnoff, Continue to Rangely, Driving over Douglas pass - a mountain pass 8,240 feet above sea level. A scenic pullout offers you with views of the Grand Valley of the Colorado River 25 miles away, Colorado

National Monument 30 miles away, and even of the La Sal Mountains 70 miles away in Utah. Once over the pass you continue along Highway 139 to The Canyon Pintado Historic District a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been occupied by humans for as long as 11,000 years. One culture that left a visible mark was that of the Fremont Indians. A number of rock art panels may be seen and they have road signs, parking areas, and interpretive panels.



Lunch by the Lake in Rangely

Of course there are restaurants in Rangely but a much more enjoyable option is a picnic beside the waters of the Kenney reservoir & Taylor Draw Dam.



After Lunch visit the Rangely Museum with its old school house and the camp house used by miners during the areas Oil and Gas boom. A visit to the Raven A1 interpretive area west of town is also worth the visit as you make your way towards the Dinosaur before turning west on

Highway 40 to Vernal, UT. Stay overnight in Vernal.

Day Four

Head out to the Dinosaur National Monument.

We have noticed that a lot of people assume that the main experience at Dinosaur National Monument is to see the dinosaur bones at the Dinosaur Quarry. That makes sense given the park's name. Nothing, however, could be farther from the truth. Even though this is a National Monument, it contains 210,000 acres of some of the most rugged and beautiful mountain and canyon country in the West. You really should plan to spend a good day at Dinosaur National Monument. We guarantee you won't regret changing your plans



Day Five

Take a relaxed walk through 600 million years of Life



After a good nights sleep take a leisurely tour of the Utah Field House of Natural History which introduces visitors to more than 1.2 billion years of geologic history. Over 600 million years of life are preserved.

In addition to exhibits, the museum maintains a specimen collection for future displays, educational programs and research. Eighteen life-size replicas of prehistoric animals are exhibited in an outdoor setting, including a Tyrannosaurus rex and Utahraptor. Kids love being photographed with these prehistoric animals.

After Lunch - Enjoy more scenic vistas on the Flaming Gorge Scenic Byway

As one of the most aptly named landscapes in the country, Flaming Gorge provides vast scenic vistas that you won't be able to fit into your camera! These views may only live in your memory. Drive this scenic Byway and watch Flaming Gorge and the Uintas unfold from several different perspectives. Allow 4 hours to really experience this byway and visit the visitor center before returning to your room for a much needed rest.