

## Self Tours – Rock Art Sight

### BRIEF OVERVIEW

Why did the Native Americans inscribe petroglyphs and paint pictographs on the sheer sandstone walls in so many places around Rangely and the West? Were they doodles, religious scripture, boundaries, events, hunting maps, memories, leaders, ghosts? No one knows for sure, but studying these mysterious messages from civilizations long past may trigger your imagination and give you a feel for history that you probably can't fully experience in any museum.

Rock art was applied to the stone in two ways:

- A **petroglyph** is a drawing that has been "pecked", or rubbed into the rock. The artist pecked an image by repeatedly tapping on the rock surface with another stone.
- A **pictograph** was painted onto the rock using pigments from animals, plants or minerals. In rare cases, one of the early artists would use both methods for a single image.

Principal rock art in the Rangely Area is located along two corridors:

- Canyon Pintado
- Dragon Road.

There is also several popular satellite locales easily visited from town.

#### ROCK ART IS VERY FRAGILE - DO NOT TOUCH IT.

\*\* Years of weathering and erosion have taken some toll, but far less than the damage from thousands of people touching the soft sand stone.

\*\* Your fingers leave oils, abrade the rock, and are the most significant factor in destroying petroglyphs and pictographs.

\*\* If you want to record rock art, photograph it (*cloudy days or indirect light is best*) or sketch it.

\*\* Do not trace or make rubbings, or put chalk on the rock.

\*\* Treat these places as fragile, irreplaceable museums.

\*\* You would not touch the art of great master...treat rock art with the same respect.

\*\* Ponder it, enjoy it.

\*\* Watch where you place your hands and feet - You may destroy an important page in the record of the past.

\*\* Don't be a thief of time.

PLEASE ... If you see someone in any way damaging the rock art, ask them to stop, or get a license plate number and report it to the authorities.

## DRAGON ROAD SITES

To get to the Dragon Road sites,

- ✚ Go on **White Avenue** from Rangely.
- ✚ When the paved road gives way to a dirt road, you are on **Dragon Road** - *It is a county maintained road. Still, it can be a bit bumpy, muddy when wet and dusty when dry, so take it slow.*
- ✚ Travel **southbound** on Dragon Road,
- ✚ The first site that you come upon is the SHIELD SITE #13, (approx **mile-post 5.6**) on the east (left) side of the road - *It is a good idea to walk the half-mile to the site unless you have a four wheel drive vehicle.*
- ✚ Walk **east** (approx **0.3 mile**)
- ✚ At the fork in the road.
- ✚ Take the **right** fork
- ✚ Walk another **0.2 miles**. *Of course. when you're walking you probably will have no idea when you've gone .2 miles, so just look for the cliff on the right side of the road.* - On it is a decorated shield figure located three feet from the ground.
- ✚ Unfortunately, you'll also see the result of vandalism - perhaps the worst of all the sites.
- ✚ Makes your blood boil, doesn't it? ... This is why many areas don't let on they have Rock Art

Back on Dragon Road,

- ✚ **Continue south** to the FREMONT RIDGE SITE #14 at **mile-post 9.7**.
- ✚ Turn **east** (left) onto a dirt road and go **1.3 miles**.
- ✚ When the road forks, go **left** (north) **0.6 miles** to the crest of a ridge.
- ✚ Travel **250 yards north** - the eye level panel will be located along the east face of the ridge.

Awaiting you is a petroglyph panel marked by soaring carrot-shaped figures.

- ✚ Turn **right** (west) **across a cattle guard** and go **0.15 miles** up the dirt road until you reach a well site.
- ✚ **Stay to the right** and travel another **0.15 miles** to the low cliff face that is directly before you.

CROOKS BRAND SITE #15 (approx **milepost 10.1**) is the next stop.- The rock art sight is a short walk to the north - is at eye level - showing the Ute's depiction of a Basque Shepherd, and an historical inscription.

Back on Dragon Road

- ✚ **Turn right** (west)
- ✚ **Walk 0.3 miles.**

The final site along Dragon Road is the CARROT MAN SITE (#16) at **milepost 11.6**.

Go **south** into the small gully

**Follow it** to the site, which will be located on the upper reach of the overhang.  
You can't miss it: enough people visit the site that a trail will lead you through the gully to the site.