

Fremont Indian State Park and Museum



FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK AND MUSEUM

One thousand years ago, the valleys along Utah were home to the largest community of Fremont Indians ever discovered. Their rock art and structures are still visible in the canyons of Fremont Indian State Park. A film, artifacts, hands-on activities, rock art tours, and exhibits reveal the lives of the Fremont Indians. More than a museum, Fremont Indian State Park also offers camping and access to the Paiute ATV Trail.

HISTORY

While there is no evidence that Paiute Indians ever lived in Clear Creek Canyon, they traveled seasonally through the canyon since about A.D. 1400. They used the canyon and its pinnettes for hunting and gathering seeds and plants. The trail through Clear Creek Canyon was the only route between hunting areas on different sides of the Parviant and Tusher mountain ranges. A number of the rock art panels within the park are attributed to the Paiute and have inspired park signs and trail guides.

The Paiute Trail through Clear Creek Canyon was later used by others. In his explorations, Jedediah Smith came through the canyon in 1826. The trail was improved into a wagon road in 1872. A toll of 25 cents per wagon was charged to use the road for the next 25 years. In 1877, the first year-round homesteaders, John Smiley Lott and his two wives settled in the canyon. A school was built for the Lott grandchildren in 1895. In the 1890s, gold was discovered at Kimberly, making Clear Creek Canyon an important route to the railroad at Sevier. During the 20th century, farming was marginal at best and most families had employment out of the canyon. Construction of I-70 in the 1980s caused most of the canyon's inhabitants to leave. Fremont Indian State Park and Museum opened in 1987.

THE PEOPLE

The Fremont Indians were agriculturalists who lived from about A.D. 400 to 1300 in north and central Utah and adjacent parts of Colorado, Idaho and Nevada. The Fremont who lived in Clear Creek Canyon are thought to have come from hunters and gatherers who previously lived in this location, and were also influenced by the Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) who introduced corn and pottery, making year-round settlements possible.

Resources in Clear Creek Canyon, with its ample water and marshes, resulted in different subsistence needs than in other Fremont areas. Eating of cattails, marsh fish, and birds meant they did not have to grow as much corn, gather as many seeds, or hunt as many deer to survive. In their spare time they made jewelry and items used for trade, and created numerous rock art panels. We do not know if creation of the panels was a leisure activity or if they were emotionally or spiritually compelled to craft them. Social organization (probably through uniting extended families) was needed to build pithouses, mine obsidian and gather necessary food.

The name Fremont comes from American Indian sites near Capitol Reef National Park, discovered in 1928 along the Fremont River (named after John C. Fremont). These sites contained artifacts and structure types that were consistently distinguishable from Anasazi sites. It is doubtful that all bands were known by one name or that one language was spoken by all people now classified as Fremont.



GEOLOGY

The canyon is filled with remarkable geologic features such as columnar joints, bubble caves in the volcanic tuff, hoodoos and cliffs rising hundreds of feet from the ground. Take time to learn about these fascinating formations.



At the visitor center, a short film describes the Fremont people and how the village at Five Finger Ridge was discovered during construction of Interstate 70. Thousands of artifacts excavated from the village are on permanent display. Special programs enhance museum collections and include rock art tours, art competitions, pottery-making workshops, and art exhibits featuring work of local artists. The museum store carries high quality books, maps and American Indian themed crafts and jewelry.

THE MUSEUM



PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Clear Creek Canyon is home to many animal species such as deer, cottontail rabbits, squirrels and raptors. Among the more elusive animals living in the area are mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, ringtails and foxes. Though rarely seen, beaver are plentiful as evidenced by the many fallen trees and dams. Beware of rattlesnakes, which are sighted frequently in summer months. Among the pinyon, juniper, scrub oak and cottonwood trees, visitors will find rabbit brush, sagebrush and squaw brush.



HIKING

Numerous trails lead visitors to hundreds of rock art panels, viewpoints, and geologic wonders located throughout Clear Creek Canyon. Petroglyphs, pictographs, pictographs, columnar jointing, hoodoos, and bubble caves are all easily accessible. Trail information is available at the visitor center. Trails range from one-quarter mile to five miles in length. Hiking trails are for non-motorized use only.

PAIUTE ATV TRAIL

The most impressive ATV trail system in the Indian State Park. Trailheads and parking are located within the park. The Sergeant Mountain Trailhead features parking, picnic tables, shade, water, a fire pit, and an informational kiosk. Maps are available in the visitor center and camping is restricted to Castle Rock Campground.

PERMITS:

A Special Use Permit is required for all special events, concessions and commercial or professional filming and photography.

USE FEES:

Day-use and camping fees are charged year-round. Additional fees are charged for group events and reservations.

SAFETY:

RATTLESNAKES: Rattlesnakes are passive and prefer to be left alone. They rattle to alert their presence and avoid confrontation. When encountering a rattlesnake, give it space and move along slowly.

HEAT:

Carry plenty of water, wear a hat and use sunscreen.

HIKING:

Never hike alone. Stay on designated trails. Rock climbing is prohibited. A permit is required to hike the Rim Trail.

CREEKS AND STREAMS:

During springtime when winter snows are melting or after a heavy rainstorm, Clear Creek becomes dangerous. Keep a safe distance and always make sure children are supervised.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

The visitor center is open every day except Thanksgiving, December 25 and January 1. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and extended summer hours (May 15 to September 15) are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sundays in winter.

DIRECTIONS:

The visitor center is conveniently located along Interstate 70 at exit 17. The park is 21 miles south of Richfield and 17 miles east of Cove Fort (junction of I-70 and I-15).

Utah State Parks mission...

To enhance the quality of life by preserving and providing natural, cultural and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

Your park fees provide for care, protection and enhancement of this park.

Utah State Parks and Recreation

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Address inquiries to:

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(435) 527-4735 (fax)

Scan the QR code at right with your mobile device to visit our park website.



Information contained in this brochure was accurate at time of printing. Trails, facilities, hours and regulations, etc. change as mandated. For updated information, please contact the park.

AND MUSEUM

FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK

CASTLE ROCK CAMPGROUND

Located in a quiet canyon surrounded by towering geologic formations, Castle Rock Campground provides 31 campsites each with a picnic table, fire pit and barbecue grill. A small stream flows year-round nourishing thousands of trees that provide shade to campers. Culinary water is available near all campsites and modern restrooms are open April to September. Off-highway vehicles are allowed in the campground, which offers direct access to the Paiute ATV Trail.

SAM STOWE GROUP-USE AREA

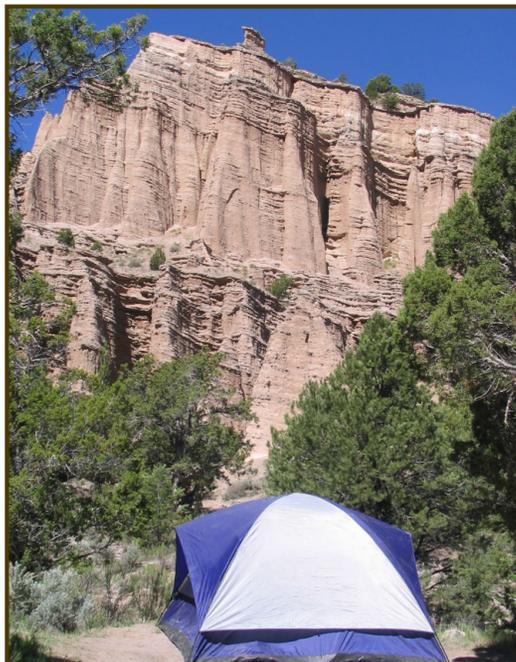
Secluded from the rest of the park, the Sam Stowe Area is open to groups of up to 100 people. Numerous tent sites are available and seven RV sites provide full hook-ups. Two pavilions offer lights, electricity, barbecue grills, modern restrooms and showers. Visitors may also enjoy volleyball court, amphitheater, archery range and horseshoe pits. Hiking trails, petroglyphs and fishing access are also nearby. Sam Stowe Group-Use Area offers direct access to the Paiute ATV Trail.

CENTENNIAL PICNIC GROUND

Located on a historic homestead site on the banks of Clear Creek, this reservable area offers picnic tables, fire rings, water, shade and primitive restrooms. Group day-use is allowed by permit only; no overnight use. The parking lot is accessible to OHVs.

RESERVATIONS

Reservations are always recommended. Individual campsite reservations must be made at least two days in advance of arrival date, but can be made up to 16 weeks in advance from park check-out date. Group-use reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance. To make a reservation, call 801 322-3770 within Salt Lake City or toll-free 800 322-3770 or visit stateparks.utah.gov. Because Castle Rock Campground is part of the U.S. Forest Service, Golden Age and Golden Access passports are honored there, but not at the museum, which is managed by Utah State Parks and Recreation.



PARK GUIDELINES

Please observe the following park regulations to ensure everyone's visit is pleasant.

ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURES: All historic, prehistoric and natural features at Fremont Indian State Park and Museum are protected. Do not touch rock art or pick up any objects you may find lying on the ground. Remain on designated trails at all times.

CAMPING: Camp only in designated areas. Each camping permit covers one vehicle and any attached recreational equipment. An extra fee is charged for additional vehicles. Up to eight people are allowed in a campsite, or 16 in a double site.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES: Riding off-highway vehicles is permitted on Clear Creek Canyon Road and the Paiute ATV Trail. The Castle Rock Campground, Sam Stowe Group-Use Area, Centennial Picnic Ground, and visitor center are all accessible by OHVs. Obey all state regulations and posted signs.

FIRES: Campfires may be built in specified areas only. Gathering firewood in the park or campground is not permitted. Campers are encouraged to bring their own fuel.

PETS: Pets are permitted in outdoor areas, but must be kept on a maximum six-foot leash. Service animals

are the only animals admitted in park buildings. For safety and courtesy, please keep pets under control and clean up after them.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS: All plants, animals, minerals and other natural features in state parks are protected. It is unlawful to remove, alter or destroy them.

VANDALISM: Please help keep our parks beautiful. It is unlawful to mutilate or deface any natural or constructed feature or structure.

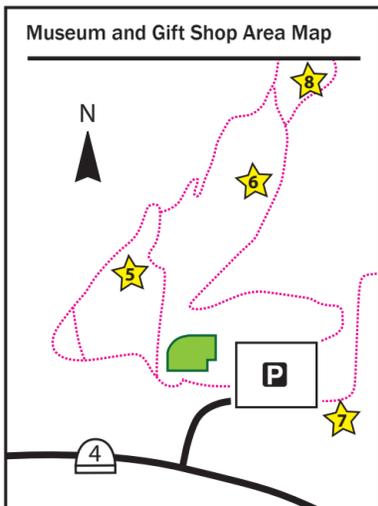
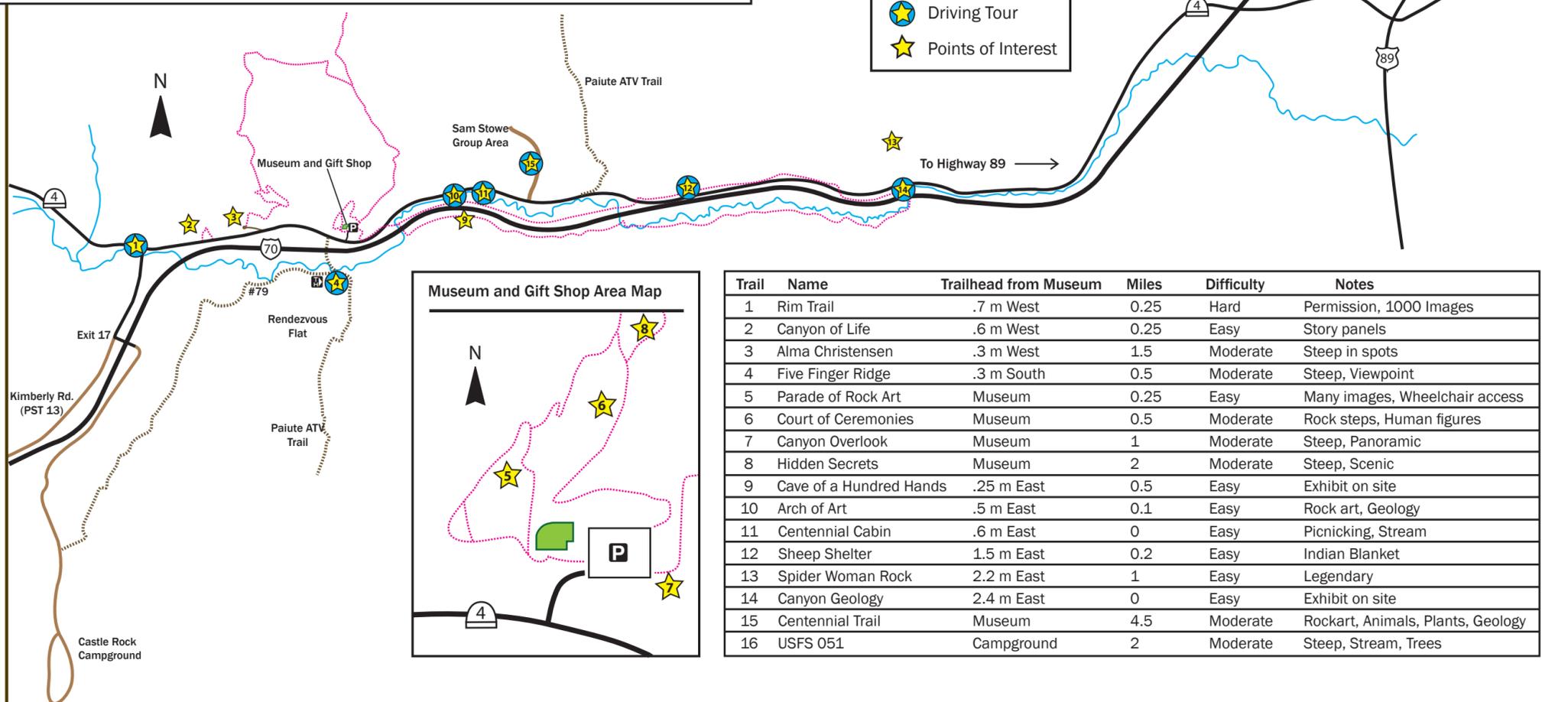
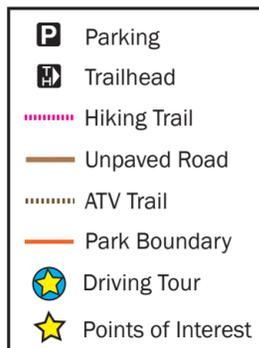
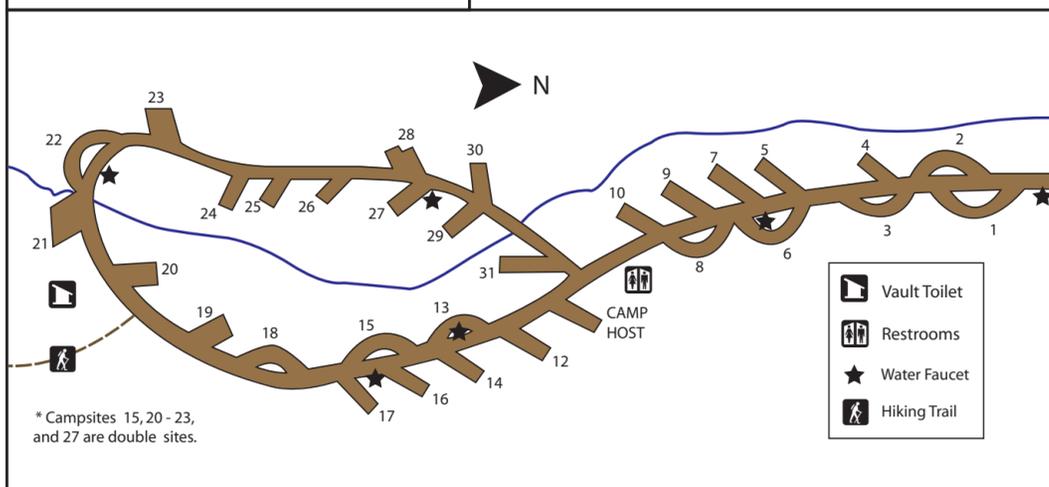
FIREARMS: Use of firearms, traps or other devices capable of launching a projectile that can immobilize, injure or kill a person or animal or damage property is prohibited. Hunting is prohibited within park boundaries. At all archery range use is by permit only.

FIREWORKS: Explosives, fireworks or firecrackers are prohibited at Fremont Indian State Park and Museum.

WASTEWATER: It is unlawful to dump or drain wastewater from campers or trailers onto the ground or into lakes and streams.

QUIET HOURS: 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

CASTLE ROCK CAMPGROUND



Trail	Name	Trailhead from Museum	Miles	Difficulty	Notes
1	Rim Trail	.7 m West	0.25	Hard	Permission, 1000 Images
2	Canyon of Life	.6 m West	0.25	Easy	Story panels
3	Alma Christensen	.3 m West	1.5	Moderate	Steep in spots
4	Five Finger Ridge	.3 m South	0.5	Moderate	Steep, Viewpoint
5	Parade of Rock Art	Museum	0.25	Easy	Many images, Wheelchair access
6	Court of Ceremonies	Museum	0.5	Moderate	Rock steps, Human figures
7	Canyon Overlook	Museum	1	Moderate	Steep, Panoramic
8	Hidden Secrets	Museum	2	Moderate	Steep, Scenic
9	Cave of a Hundred Hands	.25 m East	0.5	Easy	Exhibit on site
10	Arch of Art	.5 m East	0.1	Easy	Rock art, Geology
11	Centennial Cabin	.6 m East	0	Easy	Picnicking, Stream
12	Sheep Shelter	1.5 m East	0.2	Easy	Indian Blanket
13	Spider Woman Rock	2.2 m East	1	Easy	Legendary
14	Canyon Geology	2.4 m East	0	Easy	Exhibit on site
15	Centennial Trail	Museum	4.5	Moderate	Rockart, Animals, Plants, Geology
16	USFS 051	Campground	2	Moderate	Steep, Stream, Trees