



Journey through Utah's historic Nine Mile Canyon

Come explore the landscape of rock, discover the rock art of the ancient people, and travel the road used by the Utes, the military, the freighters, the ranchers, the outlaws and all manner of explorers both ancient and modern.



You'll travel approximately 22 miles before you reach the First Site, however, the drive through the back country byway is beautiful so sit back and enjoy the drive.



Prominently known as “The Largest Outdoor Art Gallery” in the world, Nine Mile Canyon is a 45 mile long red rock canyon that has been recognized for well over a century. Much of the canyon was created by American Indian ancestors who lived throughout the Southwest more than 700 years ago. There have been over 63 rock art sites located in the canyon, however, many of them sit on private property. Carbon County has taken the time to mark the ones that the public is allowed to visit. The paintings and carvings have brought the canyon walls alive and we hope you enjoy your visit! Take plenty of pictures and remember to TAG and BRAG using these hashtags: #9milecanyon #CarbonCorridor #ExploreTheCorridor #RecreateResponsibly #RespectAndProtect



Visiting Tips:

- Enjoy, but DO NOT DESTROY! Please do not touch any of the rock art sites with your hands as the oils in your skin can and will damage the site.
- Plan a full day to travel & explore
- Be safe, drive slow, pull off the road when visiting attractions
- Take plenty of gas, water, and food
- No services available between Wellington and Myton
- Be sure to download the interactive maps here before cell service is lost
- Take a camera, sunscreen, and binoculars
- Public lands are closed to ALL camping, except for at 9 Mile Ranch
- Day use picnic areas: Cottonwood Glen & Daddy Canyon sites provide restrooms, pavilions, and tables
- Please report vandalism to Carbon County Dispatch (435)637-0890



The first site is just that-the first major rock art site in the canyon. There are pictographs (paintings) and petroglyphs carved or pecked figures; Ute era figures, Fremont era figures and unfortunately, vandalism. Most bison figures located in Nine Mile Canyon and its side canyons were created by early Utes who used the canyon as a thoroughfare as they traveled from the Price area to the Uintah Basin





The Cottonwood Glen picnic site began life in the latter 1800s when the south side of the old cabin was built as part of a ranching homestead. The North side of the cabin was added sometime in the early 1900s. Carbon County now owns and manages the property.







(*PRIVATE PROPERTY)

This unique balanced rock is home to an interesting petroglyph panel, which has created controversy and conversation for years. The main figure has been referred to variously as “Balloon Man” and “The Juggler.” One Pueblo Indian culture expert suggested the figure may represent Spider Woman. Pueblo and Navajo beliefs indicate that Spider Woman taught them how to weave. The idea is Patterson-Rudolph’s and it may or may not be true.

This site is located on private property so please view from the road.



This petroglyph seems to reflect a story common to Pueblo and Navajo tribes. The stories relate how the Creator had created the world and was carefully taking the stars out of a bag to create the constellations. Coyote was watching and when the Creator turned his back, coyote ran up, took the bag and threw the remaining stars in the sky creating the milky way. This maybe a representation of the story but it does seem to fit the petroglyph.



Daddy Canyon is a great place to spend a little time. The site contains a trail that will lead you along the cliff faces that contain both Fremont and Ute era rock art, then will loop back to the road or parking area. A unique Fremont human pecked into the black desert varnish and a panel containing what may be a story of Ute Indians participating in a traditional Ute elk hunt. Ute warriors can be seen riding horses, each with a rider-less horse in tow, which would be used to pack out the elk meat following the hunt.





Straight across the road from the Carbon County Salt Shed, hidden away in a short side canyon is the fantastic petroglyph panel of owls. *located on private property If you find this special panel, please leave it better than you found it.



A trail leads visitors up the hill to the remains of a Fremont era pit house. A re-creation of an actual pit house from Nine Mile Canyon can be seen at the USU Eastern Prehistoric Museum in Price.



The largest buffalo petroglyph that is known in the canyon is located at the end of this trail across Cottonwood Canyon. You will have to cross the creek to get there. Take it slow and be safe. Also, look for the trail that leads north from this site where you can find other rock art panels including a pregnant buffalo, various other animals and human figures.

The Great Hunt panel is one of the most recognizable petroglyph panels. It has appeared in National Geographic magazine and has been used numerous times as an example of Fremont rock art. Scholars believe it might represent an actual bighorn sheep hunt and wildlife biologists believe it depicts a scene in late November or early December when herds meet for the fall mating season. It is the only time of year when the rams, ewes, and lambs are all together in the same place.



Carbon County Office of Tourism

751 E. 100 N., Suite 2600 Price, Utah
(435)636-3701

USU Eastern Prehistoric Museum

155 E. Main St., Price, Utah
(435)613-5752

9 Mile Ranch

9 Mile Rd., Wellington, Utah
(435)637-2572

Carbon County Recreation

451 S. Fairgrounds Rd. Price, Utah
(435)636-3702

BLM Field Office

125 S. 600 W., Price, Utah
(435)636-3600

Emergency numbers

Emergency 911

Carbon County Sheriff.....(435)636-3251

Wellington City Police.....(435)637-4830

Castlevew Hospital.....(435)637-4800

