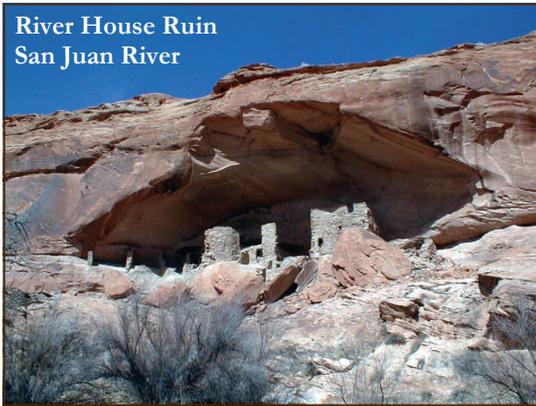


EXPLORING RUINS & ROCK ART

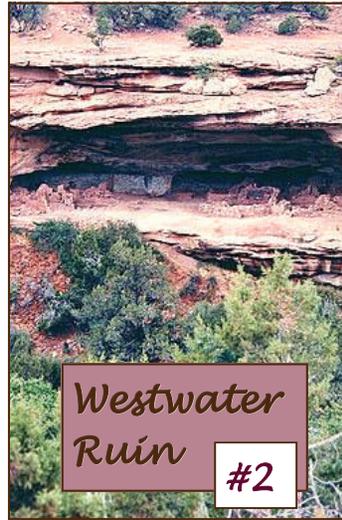
River House Ruin
San Juan River



A Self-Guided Tour of Ancestral Puebloan Sites in Utah's CANYON COUNTRY!

The ancestral Puebloans, or Anasazi, left intriguing traces of their lives in canyons and on mesa tops in south-east Utah. Their dwellings, rock art, pottery, and artifacts offer clues to their way of life. Start at the **Edge of the Cedars State Park & Museum** in Blanding. Learn of the people and how their villages were connected with Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, and other southwest sites. Go on to explore the sites in south-east Utah. No matter where you are in Canyon Country, you are only minutes from adventure!

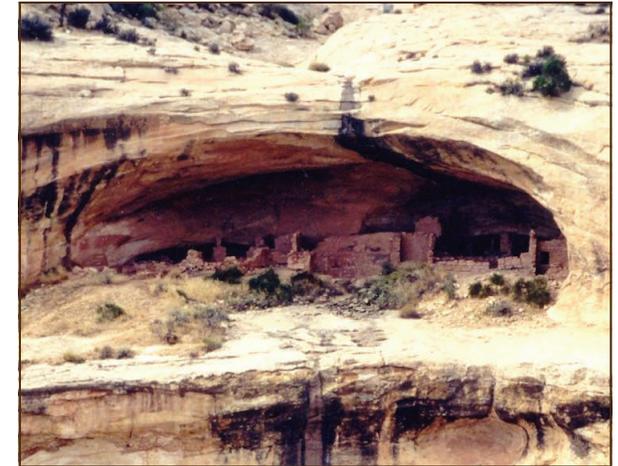
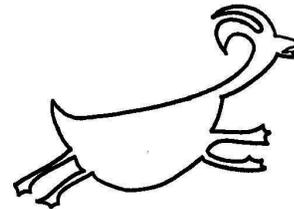
Edge of the Cedars
State Park & Museum



Westwater
Ruin #2

This small residence is easily reached with a highway vehicle. It is found in Westwater Canyon south of Blanding. The ruin consists of 13 ground-level rooms and 5 kivas. It was occupied between 750-1250 AD. Although the ruin has suffered at the hands of generations of folks interested in the ancient people of this area, it is still an interesting ruin and worth the visit. The Visitor Center in Blanding stocks information about the ancient people and their lifeway.

Follow US Highway 191 south of Blanding for 1 mile. Turn west onto County Road #232. Continue 2 miles to the overlook.



#3

Butler Wash Ruin

Butler Wash Ruin is a multi-room structure overlooking Butler Wash. An easy 1/2 mile trail crosses sand-stone and traverses desert 'gardens' leading to the overlook. The hike takes you away from the road and vehicle noise into the silence of the canyon broken only by raven call or wind. Sharp eyes can spot lizards sunning on the rocks along the trail and canyon swifts, small swallow-like birds, performing aerobatics along the cliffs.

Follow Utah Highway 95 west from Blanding (The Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway) 11 miles to the signed turn (Indian Ruins) into the parking area. The site is on the north side of the highway.

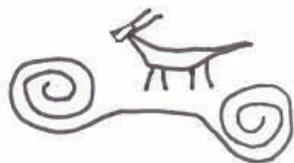


Arch Canyon Ruin

#4

Arch Canyon shelters remains of ancient dwellings and trails. The Arch Canyon ruin was once a multi-stored dwelling at the mouth of the canyon. The canyon is fed by a perennial stream which sustained the ancient community. Today it waters venerable cottonwood trees. Natural arches and other dwellings are scattered throughout the canyon system for the determined hiker to find.

Arch Canyon is 14 miles west of Blanding along Utah Highway 95 (The Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway). Turn north into Comb Wash (BLM sign "Arch Canyon"). Follow the road 2.5 miles to Arch Canyon which enters the wash from the west. The road is rough in spots and sandy in others. It is not recommended for highway vehicles.



#5

Mule Canyon Ruin

Found along Utah Highway 95, this ruin consists of a residence block, tower, and kiva. The kiva and tower have been stabilized. Mule Canyon Ruin is a classic ancestral Puebloan archaeological site offering a close-up, and convenient view into the past without the crowds associated with some of the more prominent Four Corners ruins. Interpretive signs explain the ruin and how it related to the greater network of ancient communities throughout this area. Parking and a handicapped accessible rest room are at the site. Paved walkways make the ruin itself accessible.

Follow Utah Highway 95 west from Blanding 20 miles to the signed turn to Mule Canyon Ruin on the north side of the road.



Natural Bridges National Monument

#6

The stunning natural bridges are only the beginning. Horsecollar Ruin presents a look at what out lying villages might have been like in the ancient culture. Named for the doorway shaped like a harness collar, Horse-collar Ruin can be viewed from an overlook. Other ruins and rock art can be reached by hiking trails. Excellent interpretation is provided. Follow Utah Hwy. 95 west of Blanding 30 miles to the signed turn into Natural Bridges National Monument.



Get the brochure!

Greenwater Spring Ruin

#7

This easily accessible outlier ruin is along Utah Hwy. 276. Let your imagination go and develop a life for this small community. Follow Utah Hwy. 95 west from Blanding 38 miles to the junction with Utah Hwy. 276. Turn south and travel 18 miles to the ruin on the north side of the road.



#8

San Juan River

River House, a 3 story, multi-room dwelling is found along the river between Bluff and Mexican Hat. Butler Wash, west of Bluff, shelters exquisite petroglyphs - some of best in the southwest! Wild River Expeditions in Bluff tours the San Juan with a focus on the natural and human history of the area.



Bluff Great House #10

This site offers a good introduction and provides information about life in the ancient southwest as well as at this site. There once was a 2-story pueblo, great kiva, and connection with prehistoric roads here. The site is easily accessible from the community of Bluff, where interpretive material is can also be found. The ruin overlooks Bluff along with the historic cemetery, also worth exploration.



Newspaper Rock Recreation Site

#12

One of the finest panels in the southwest, the oldest images are 2,000 years old, the most recent date to the beginning of the 20th century. Fremont, Puebloan, Navajo, and early Anglo cultures are represented On Utah Hwy. 211 east of Canyonlands National Park, Needles District.

Sand Island Petroglyph Panel

#9



This site is known for the many images of Kokopelli, the hump-backed flute player and ancient trader who may have visited this area with trade items from as far away as Mexico. The rock art covers the cliff face for about 50 yards with many different images.

Follow US Hwy. 191 three miles west of Bluff. The route is signed Sand Island. Turn east and follow the road to the bottom of the hill, turn right and park then walk along the cliff face.



Hovenweep National Monument

#11

One of the premier sites in the region, Hovenweep will captivate with ruins, rock art, and quiet canyons. Six sets of ruins are in the park, each offering its own unique glimpse of ancient life. Follow US Hwy. 191 south of Blanding 15 miles to the junction with Utah Hwy. 262. Turn east, follow 262 for 8 miles to the junction with County Rd. #414, & follow the signs.

Get the brochure!



#13

Canyonlands National Park



Known for its red rock canyons and the Colorado River, Canyonlands was also

home to small villages. Granaries, like that in the photo above, and pictographs like Peek-A-Boo below, are found in out of the way alcoves. Follow Utah Hwy. 211 from the junction with US 191 to its terminus in the park.



4 Wheel Drive necessary on some routes. Others passable with a highway vehicle. Permit may be required. Check at park visitor center.

Petroglyphs & Pictographs

The term 'rock art' refers to images rendered on natural, immovable rock surfaces such as cliff faces or cave walls. Images carved, incised, or pecked into the surface are *petroglyphs*. Images painted on the surface are called *pictographs*.



Petroglyph of a type found throughout the Four Corners region.



The Skier: A pictograph found in Grand Gulch Primitive Area

Site deterioration has become a problem due to increased vandalism and overuse of remote archaeological sites. When visiting rock art sites, remember not to touch the rock art. Oils from hands and fingers will cause the fragile images to deteriorate over time. Be good stewards of cultural resources and protect the past for the future.

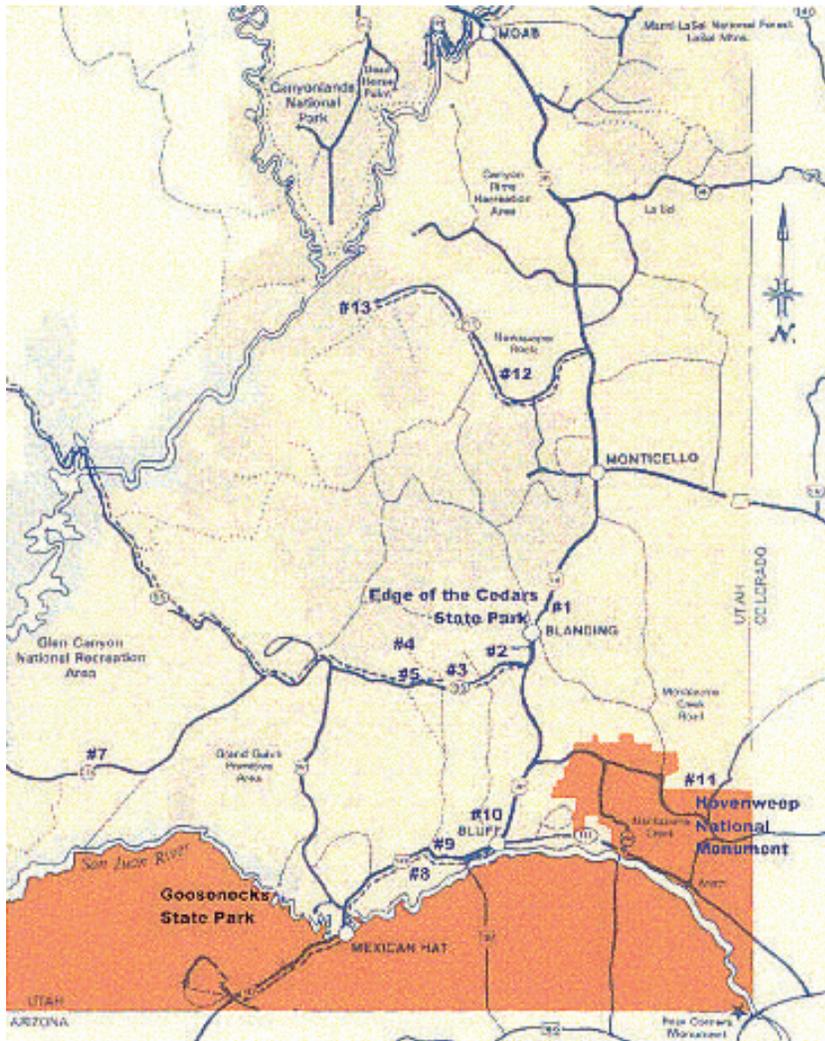


KEY TO RUINS & ROCK ART SITES

1. Edge of the Cedars State Park.
2. Westwater Ruin
3. Butler Wash Ruin
4. Arch Canyon Ruin
5. Mule Canyon Ruin
6. Natural Bridges National Monument
7. Green Water Spring
8. San Juan River
9. Sand Island Petroglyph Panel
10. Bluff Great House Ruin
11. Hovenweep National Monument
12. Newspaper Rock Recreation Site
13. Canyonlands National Park



We encourage visitors to treat archaeological sites with respect. Leave only footprints, take only photographs. Please leave sites as you find them, do not remove artifacts, or climb on ruin walls. Leave these treasures from the past for others to enjoy in the future.



This map gives you an overview of the area. Exploration to the ruins and rock art requires a detailed map. Utah state highway maps and backcountry maps are available at local visitor information stations.

