

*Journey through
Utah's historic
Nine Mile Canyon
and explore the
landscape of rock,
discover the rock
art of ancient people,
and travel the road
used by the Utes,
the military, the
freighters, and
ranchers, and
all manner
of explorers,
both ancient
and modern.*



Exploring Nine Mile Canyon



**70 MILES OF
UTAH'S HISTORIC
BACKCOUNTRY
BYWAY**



Nine Mile Canyon is 70 miles long, not nine. There are several stories about how the canyon got its name. Perhaps the most accurate took place when John Wesley Powell was exploring Utah in 1869. The expedition's cartographer used a nine mile transect for mapping and the Canyon retained that name. Plan a full day's travel to explore the many sites of Nine Mile Canyon. Most of the trip will be on dirt and gravel roads that may be impassible in inclement weather. The road is narrow, steep in places, and has many blind curves. Be safe, drive slowly, and pull off the road completely when stopping to visit attractions. There are no services available between Wellington and Myton. Be prepared, be self sufficient. A full tank of gas, plenty of water and five good tires are a must. Pack a picnic and throw in some sun screen and insect repellent. Having a pair of binoculars and a camera will help you make the most of the experience. A trip through Nine Mile is a journey through an outdoor museum. You will see prehistoric art work, structures, and artifacts spanning 8,000 years. Touching artwork or climbing on structures is inappropriate here, just like in any other fine museum.

THE PEOPLE OF THE ROCK ART Successions of people and cultures have lived in Nine Mile Canyon for at least 8,000 years. In Nine Mile Canyon, like no place else, a legacy of rock art from these prehistoric cultures is preserved. You will see examples of the artwork of ancient tribes and most recently, the Utes. By far, the most prolific rock artists were members of what archaeologists call the Fremont Culture.



Approximately 55 million years ago, the rock you see in Nine Mile Canyon formed from lake sediments. When the area was uplifted, Nine Mile Creek began cutting the canyon you see today. The sediments of the lake bottom formed massive sand-stones and shales. A happy geologic accident makes this sandstone an ideal canvas for the prehistoric rock artist. It forms large, smooth, protected faces. It is soft enough for the prehistoric artist to peck out a design, yet resilient enough to resist the images eroding away.



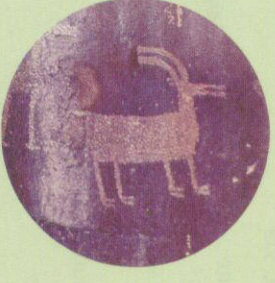
THE BEST CANYON VISITORS...

- Enjoy, but do not destroy, our heritage,
- Show reverence for Native American artifacts, structures, and artwork,
- Respect land, water, and natural resources,
- Honor the work and privacy of private land owners,
- Report inappropriate behavior to the proper authorities,
- Pack out their trash.

....and that's why they are the best!

FINDING YOUR WAY

A day spent in Nine Mile Canyon is largely a day of exploration and discovery. At the end of the day, you may worry that you have not seen it all. Don't let that bother you. People who have spent lives and careers in the Canyon know they have not seen it all either. To help you navigate, there is a mile post system set up in the Canyon. Mile Post 0 is at the junction in Wellington. Mile Post 69 is near the junction with US Highway 40, near Myton. Mile posts correspond to the locations shown on the map in this brochure. They are located every mile from Minnie Maud Creek to the top of Smith's Well. "5-mile" markers cover the remainder of the Byway.



CAMPING, PICNICKING AND VEHICLE USE

Public lands in Nine Mile Canyon are closed to camping. The Nine Mile Ranch provides the only campground in the canyon. They can be reached at (435) 637-2572 and on the web at www.ninemilecanyon.com.

Carbon County maintains a day use picnic area at Cottonwood Glen. This site has toilets, a pavilion and tables. Public toilets are also located at Daddy Canyon, near the mouth of Dry Canyon. Neither of these sites has drinking water.

Be aware you may encounter wildlife and livestock on the road. Do your part to control dust - drive slowly. Vehicles are only allowed on designated roads. Cross country travel, including driving in wash bottoms is prohibited.



FUNDED IN PART BY:

- THE NINE MILE CANYON COALITION
- CARBON COUNTY TRAVEL BUREAU
1-800-842-0789
- DUCHESNE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & WELCOME CENTER 1-435-722-4598
- DINOSAUR TRAVEL BOARD
1-800-477-5558

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

- CASTLE COUNTRY REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTER
1-800-817-9949
- NINE MILE CANYON COALITION
www.ninemilecanyoncoalition.org



Nine Mile Canyon

Discover prehistoric artwork, structures and artifacts spanning 8,000 years along the 70 mile canyon.

THE ROAD The Canyon is a natural conduit through the Book Cliffs between the Price River drainage and the Uintah Basin. For thousands of years, people traveled through the canyon. In 1886, a primitive, seldom used trail became a Federal Highway. The US 9th Cavalry, a regiment of African Americans, built the road and telegraph line to service the military post at Fort Duchesne. Reminders of the Army in the Canyon today are the distinctive iron telegraph poles. To see what the road was really like and the construction done by the 9th Cavalry, hike the foot trail between Gate Canyon and Wells Draw. This is an original road segment that is undisturbed by subsequent construction and maintenance.

Military protection for the Uintah Basin also banished the Utes to a greatly reduced reservation. 1905 opened the gateway to homesteading. The people and materials needed to build modern civilization came from Price to the Uintah Basin.

Among the settlers and freighters came the first modern vandals, destroying artifacts left undisturbed for 900 years since the Fremont. Although ranchers still use the road for commerce, it is largely the domain of travelers who have decided to slow their pace and take the road less traveled. You are the most recent players in the 8,000 year continuum of people and the land in Nine Mile Canyon. Don't let anyone say this place was better before you came.

