

Red Cliffs Recreation Area Visitor Guide



As part of the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, the Red Cliffs Recreation Area is managed to conserve, protect, and enhance the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources.

Despite its small size, the recreation area contains a surprising number of these resources. Dinosaurs roamed here, leaving their footprints now visible in the sandstone. Ancestral Puebloans lived here, making use of Quail and Leeds Creek. Mid-19th century pioneers farmed here, supplying the area's silver miners with food. To learn more about these and other resources, visit the public use sites within the recreation area.

Please stay on designated trails during your visit and protect your resources by acting responsibly and following all rules.



Hours of Operation

Campground
Year-round

Day Use
Year-round
Sunrise to Sunset

Fees

Campground
\$15 per night per site

Day Use
\$5 per vehicle

Passes

The America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass Series (Interagency Pass) is accepted here. There are six different types of passes in the series:

- Annual Pass
- Military Pass
- 4th Grade Pass
- Volunteer Pass
- Senior Pass
- Access Pass

All these passes allow free day use. Camping fees are discounted 50% with Senior and Access Passes.

Golden Access and Golden Age Passports were replaced by the Interagency Pass, but will continue to be honored according to the provisions of each pass.

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area

Contacts

Emergency:

911 - Life Threatening
(435) 634-5730 - Sheriff

Recreation Information:

Bureau of Land Management
St. George Field Office
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790
(435) 688-3200
www.blm.gov.sgfo



Activities

Camping—The campground offers 11 campsites. Sites 8 and 11 are accessible for visitors with disabilities. Sites 6, 7, and 10 have pull-through parking.

Picnicking—Inside the campground loop, under the shade of towering cottonwood trees, you'll find picnicking facilities for small groups.

Learning—Learn about the area's cultural and geologic resources by visiting the public use sites within the recreation area.

Hiking—The Red Reef Trail is extremely popular for its seasonal water component, but other trails in the area feature outstanding scenic qualities.

Horseback Riding—The White Reef Trailhead accommodates both large

and small horse trailers, making it an ideal place to start a ride. Equestrians enjoy the trails within the recreation area, but often continue east to the Silver Reef area or west on the Prospector Trail.

Mountain Biking—Ride the trails in the recreation area for shorter, moderately difficult rides, or venture west on the Prospector Trail. Almost nine miles (one way) in length, the Prospector Trail makes a good out and back ride and connects to the equally popular Church Rocks Trail for extended riding.

Interpretive Programs—Expert-led walks and talks may be offered throughout the year. Check the visitor contact station for details.

Safety Tips

Prepare and Share Trip Information—Plan your destinations, routes, itinerary, equipment, and other transportation needs. Tell someone exactly where you are going, with whom, and when you will return. If your plans change, let your contact know.

Don't Leave Home Without Them—Take the Ten Essentials on every trip to ensure your safety. Bring water (at least one gallon per person per day), food, navigation (detailed maps and compass), sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen), insulation (extra clothing), illumination, fire starter (matches or lighter), knife (or multi-tool), first aid kit, and emergency shelter.

Do Not Rely on Technology—Phones, GPS devices, and other technology may not work. Rugged terrain, weather, or low battery power can disrupt reception. As backup, carry a compass and detailed maps and know how to use them.

Watch For Weather—Weather conditions can change rapidly. Know the forecast before starting your trip. Washes, rivers, and narrow canyons are subject to flash floods; thunderstorms can produce dangerous lightning; sleet and snow can occur year-round in the mountains.

Proceed With Caution—The surrounding sandstone cliffs and canyons pose numerous hazards. Skills required range from sure-footedness to technical climbing. Loose rock, exposure, and difficult route finding will be encountered. Falling can cause serious injury and may be fatal.

Something Special

The recreation area is home to several special desert dwellers. One is the Shivwits milkvetch, an endemic plant species that is federally-listed as endangered. Another is the Mojave desert tortoise. Federally-listed as threatened, this tortoise spends the majority of its life underground. If you're lucky, you'll spot a Gila monster, whose size, beaded skin, and bold color patterns make it a standout among desert reptiles.

To protect all desert dwellers and their habitat, please stay on designated trails.

Your Fees at Work

Managing public lands requires a major financial investment. While most funds come from general tax revenues, people who use our nation's public lands for recreation derive a greater benefit from, and place a greater burden on, resources and facilities than the public at large. Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, the BLM collects fees at designated recreational sites. All the fees collected at the Red Cliffs Recreation Area are used to support the maintenance and enhancement of facilities and the provision of visitor services.

Recreation Area Regulations

Camping—Camp only in designated campsites. Each permit allows only two vehicles per campsite. Campsites are available on a first come, first served basis. Campsites cannot be saved. Occupancy limit is 14 days. Check out time is noon.

Quiet Hours—Quiet hours are 10 pm to 7 am. Generator hours are 9 am to 9 pm. Voices, audio devices, motorized equipment, or other noise producing devices shall not make unreasonable noise that disturbs others.

Public Property—Destruction of public property by defacing, damaging, removing, or altering archaeological sites, artifacts, fossils, vegetation, and wildlife, or any other act of vandalism, is prohibited.

Day Use—The picnic area closes at sunset.

Vehicles—Park only in designated parking areas with four wheels on pavement. Any vehicle that impedes traffic is subject to citation or towing. Parking in campsites for day use is prohibited. Overnight backcountry visitors not staying at a campsite must park at the White Reef Trailhead.

Pets—Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet and secured to a fixed object or under control of a person, or is otherwise physically restricted at all times.

Cleaning—Cleaning of fish, game, food, clothing, or household items at water faucets is prohibited.

Campfires—Campfires are permitted in designated fire rings only. Do not leave fire unattended. Extinguish fire completely before leaving. Firewood collecting is prohibited.

Weapons—Discharge or use of firearms or other weapons is prohibited.

Targetshooting—Targetshooting is prohibited.

Fireworks—Fireworks are prohibited.

Permits—A Special Recreation Permit is required for all commercial or competitive use, vending, and organized group activities or events.

Guiding Services—All commercial guides and outfitters must possess a Special Recreation Permit to conduct business on BLM-managed lands.

Did You Know?

For over 700 years, the Ancestral Puebloans intermittently occupied the Red Cliffs area. This location was ideal: water, arable land, large and small game; and the natural materials needed to craft habitation and storage rooms, stone tools, pottery, and clothing were all nearby.

The Ancestral Puebloan families were primarily sedentary farmers, cultivating small fields of crops along the floodplains of Quail Creek and Leeds Creek. It is likely that they also planted seeds in sandy areas away from the streams, where dry farming methods would be successful. Throughout the year, when native plant seeds, fruits, or nuts were ripe, small parties likely traveled some distances to collect them, and also to hunt large and small game, such as mule deer, bighorn sheep, rabbits, and hares.

For more information about the Ancestral Puebloans, visit the Red Cliffs Archaeological Site where you'll find interpretative signs and the remains of habitation and storage rooms.

Did You Also Know?

The small pioneering community of Harrisburg lies partially within the recreation area. In 1862 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints "called" the Adams family, among others, to settle in Harrisburg. The Orson Adams House is the most intact structure remaining today as it was the last home inhabited. In 2006, the Bureau of Land Management completed a rehabilitation of the home.

Orson and Susann Adams were living in Parowan, Utah, before they moved to Harrisburg in 1862 along with 41 others. They lived in this house from 1866 to 1892, raising two children and two grandchildren. They also raised sheep and cattle, and grew vegetables and fruit trees.

For more information about the home and its inhabitants, visit the Orson Adams House where you'll find interpretative signs and the rehabilitated structure.



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