



DINOSAUR TRIPS

2024 ADVENTURES

UTAH & COLORADO

May 2024





RED ROCKS & RAPTORS

A Dinosaur Trips Adventure Across Utah & Colorado

8 Days / 7 Nights

May 13 - May 20, 2024



Welcome to a paleontological odyssey that transcends the ordinary, taking us far beyond the confines of typical Colorado and Utah travel experiences as we explore eons into the prehistoric past as we embark on Dinosaur Trips' Red Rocks & Raptors adventure, traversing the stunning landscapes of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Denver, Colorado.

We've got an expert leader on this journey who's about to take us on an epic ride through time, uncovering the mysteries of Utah and Colorado's prehistoric past. Dr. Brian Curtice, expert paleontologist and the founder of Fossil Crates, isn't your run-of-the-mill paleontologist. Oh no, he's the kind of guy who turns a stroll through prehistory into a full-blown adventure. With a compelling charisma that rivals the dinosaurs he studies, Dr. Curtice is not just our paleo expert for this adventure; he's a storyteller and a thrill-seeker, who brings these prehistoric creatures to life with his captivating passion for the world of fossils.

Our escapade begins in Salt Lake City, where we'll kick off the adventure with a fossilized welcome dinner and tales of Jurassic dreams. Get ready to explore the Mountain America Museum of Ancient Life, a treasure trove of 60 complete dinosaur skeletons and hands-on exhibits, with exclusive behind-the-scenes access led by our paleo expert. The journey continues with encounters at Antelope Island, a private tour of Brigham Young University Museum of Paleontology, and an exploration of the Natural History Museum of Utah and Utah Geological Survey. As we traverse the Dinosaur Diamond Highway and visit Dinosaur National Monument, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, and the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, each day unfolds with breathtaking scenery, captivating museum visits, and a ride on the legendary Pikes Peak Cog Railway. Our expedition culminates with a farewell dinner in Denver, leaving you with indelible memories of Mesozoic exploits and the echoes of prehistoric wonders.

May 13: Day 1 - Salt Lake City

Get ready for an epic journey into the prehistoric wonders of our planet. Today's the day you touch down in gorgeous **Salt Lake City**.

Once you've landed, your Dinosaur Trips guide will be there to whisk you away to your hotel, where you can kick back and take a breather before diving headfirst into the world of dinosaurs.

After a bit of downtime to recharge, we're gathering for a group welcome dinner that promises to be as fossilized as it is fantastic. Swap tales of your own Jurassic Park dreams and get to know your fellow travellers. This isn't your average welcome feast – it's a prelude to the adventure of a lifetime.

So, savour the anticipation, soak in the atmosphere, and get ready to unearth the mysteries of the past. This is Dinosaur Trips, where every moment is a step back in time. Enjoy your evening, my friends, because tomorrow, the real prehistoric magic begins!

May 14: Day 2 - Mountain America Museum of Ancient Life



You'll start the morning rendezvousing with your guide for a day that'll make your inner paleontologist jump for joy.

First stop – the **Mountain America Museum of Ancient Life** at Thanksgiving Point. Brace yourselves for a dino-packed extravaganza featuring a jaw-dropping 60 complete dinosaur skeletons. That's right, 60! We're talking one of the planet's grandest displays of mounted dinosaurs, coupled with over 50 hands-on

exhibits, including the mind-bending Erosion Table and the thrilling Quarry Dig. And guess what? You're not just witnessing the spectacle; we've scored special behind-the-scenes access for an exclusive private tour. We'll even roll up our sleeves and spend some quality time in the prep lab, because at Dinosaur Trips, we believe in getting up close and personal with the past.

Once we've soaked in the wonders of the prehistoric past, the evening is yours to roam and explore the charms of Salt Lake City. So go on, wander the streets, and let the echoes of the past guide your night.

May 15: Day 3 - Great Salt Lake & Antelope Island, Brigham Young University



This morning you'll gear up for another day of exploration as we dive deep into the natural wonders and ancient secrets of the Great Salt Lake. You'll be picked up from the hotel for a journey that promises not only stunning landscapes but also encounters with the wild denizens of **Antelope Island**.

Embark on our Great Salt Lake & Antelope Island Tour, where every turn unveils a spectacle of nature. Keep your eyes peeled for the 500-strong buffalo herd, graceful antelope, deer, wily coyotes, and a symphony of migrating birds that call this island home. Our adventure includes a one-mile trek at **Buffalo Point** in Bridger Bay, where the whispers of history intertwine with the beauty of the present. Immerse yourself in tales of yore at the historic Fielding Garr Ranch, adding a touch of nostalgia to our journey.

After lunch, we're whisking you off to the **Brigham Young University Museum of Paleontology** for a private tour that'll leave you awestruck. Behold one of the world's largest dinosaur collections, a treasure trove of Earth's ancient life and environments. Let the stories of the past unfold as you explore their extensive collections, because at Dinosaur Trips, we believe in turning every page of the book of time.

And now, the evening is all yours for some personal time. Whether you crave a quiet moment of reflection or a lively exploration of Salt Lake City's offerings, the choice is yours. So go ahead, bask in the afterglow of today's adventures, for tomorrow holds even more secrets waiting to be uncovered.

May 16: Day 4 - Natural History Museum of Utah & Utah Geological Survey



Today's journey takes us into the heart of Utah's rich natural history, and trust me, a ride you won't soon forget. So, lace up your boots and get ready to explore the wonders that await.

This morning, get ready for captivating exhibits of the **Natural History Museum of Utah**. With the entire morning at your disposal, let the museum's world-renowned collection, housing a staggering 1.6 million

objects, be your guide. Wander through the Past Worlds Exhibit, a mesmerizing sequence of time-captured snapshots spanning hundreds of millions of years. Witness the ebb and flow of Utah's ancient environments and the evolution of life forms in a spectacle that nearly transcends the boundaries of time.

Come afternoon, our adventure continues at the **Utah Geological Survey**, a haven for dinosaur enthusiasts. Brace yourselves for what could very well be the most spectacular dinosaur fossil assemblage in the state. Picture this: the Utahraptor Megablock Fossil Project, a colossal nine-ton block of sandstone extracted from the Stikes Quarry in southeastern Utah. This treasure trove contains thousands of bones belonging to baby to adult Utahraptor dinosaurs, a pair of iguanodont dinosaurs, and possibly other prehistoric species. It's a paleontological tableau frozen in time, where these creatures, caught in a quicksand-like trap, offer glimpses into their lives and struggles. And here's the kicker – this megablock is a work in progress, with ongoing efforts to reassemble the skeletons into a majestic pack of Utahraptor dinosaurs, soon to find their home at the Natural History Museum of Utah.

As the day winds down, the evening is yours to relish. Reflect on the marvels you've witnessed, share stories with fellow explorers, or simply bask in the glow of your own paleontological journey.

May 17: Day 5 - Dinosaur Diamond Highway & Dinosaur National Monument

Today marks the beginning of another thrilling chapter in our paleontological escapade. Rise and shine, as your guide awaits you in the lobby for a captivating journey down the **Dinosaur Diamond Highway**. This 486-mile stretch of scenic wonder and historical marvels winds its way through the fossil-rich **Uinta Basin** of both Utah and Colorado.

Our first pitstop? The town of **Vernal**, where a towering 40-foot pink dinosaur named Dinah extends a prehistoric welcome. Join us for a delightful lunch at the King Tut and Dinosaur Café, setting the stage for our venture into the legendary **Dinosaur National Monument**. Our pitstop at the Morrison Formation is a step back in time, showcasing small fossil fragments and substantial dinosaur bones exactly as Earl Douglass discovered them in 1909, preserved in their natural state.

But the adventure doesn't end there. After our encounter with ancient relics, we'll carve out some time to explore the wonders housed within the **Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum**.

As the day unfolds, Vernal awaits with its dino-centric charm, providing you with free time to roam and relish in the essence of this city built for dinosaur enthusiasts.

May 18: Day 6 - Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park



Now begins our journey into the breathtaking landscapes of Colorado. Our first stop is the charming **Glenwood Springs**, where adventure awaits at the **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park**. Ascend to new heights with a Gondola ride to America's sole mountain-top theme park, or delve beneath the surface on two enthralling cave tours. One of these,

King's Row, stands as a premier show cave in the nation, offering an underground spectacle like no other.

As the afternoon sun paints the sky, we'll weave our way through the majesty of the **Rocky Mountains** en route to Denver. Revel in panoramic views of the **White River National Forest** and traverse the scenic expanse, passing through iconic ski towns such as **Vail** and **Breckenridge**.

Upon reaching the vibrant city of Denver, our next chapter unfolds at the **Denver Museum of Nature and Science**. Embark on an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour, peeling back the layers of scientific discovery. The remainder of the day is yours to wander through the exhibits and unearth the treasures within this haven of knowledge, before retiring to your evening lodging.

Tonight promises not just rest, but reflection on the day's adventures, as we prepare for another day of uncovering the mysteries of the past.

May 19: Day 7 - Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center



Today we embark on a journey through time and towering peaks. Rise and shine because we're heading south to Colorado Springs, where the prehistoric wonders of the **Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center** await us. Get ready for an insider's tour of the museum and the fossil-prepping labs, plus a sneak peek into the fascinating world of cast making.

After a satisfying lunch, we're cranking up the spirit of American adventure. Brace yourselves for a ride on the legendary **Pikes Peak Cog Railway**, a 9-mile ascent to the majestic 14,115-foot summit. Feel the rumble as we traverse **Ruxton Creek in Englemann Canyon**, pass by the enchanting **Minnehaha Falls**, cruise through Deer Park, and roll along the Mountain View siding for that first awe-inspiring glimpse of the summit. This is not just a train ride; it's a visual feast of breathtaking scenery and a chance to encounter wildlife in its natural habitat.

As the sun begins its descent, we'll make our way back to Denver, where we'll cap off our paleontological escapade with a farewell dinner. Relish the flavours, the camaraderie, and the memories of an incredible expedition experience. Cheers to the fossils, the heights, and the good company along the way.

May 20: Day 8- Denver International Airport

As our prehistoric adventure through the wild landscapes of Utah and Colorado comes to a close, it's time to bid farewell to the ancient realms of dinosaurs and embark on your own personal journey back home. Our final stop on this fossil-fueled odyssey is Denver International Airport, where you'll part ways with your fellow time-travellers and carry the echoes of our Mesozoic exploits with you.

As we navigate the modern corridors of the airport, remember the mesmerizing tales of colossal creatures that once roamed these very grounds. The echoes of the prehistoric past still linger in the air, blending seamlessly with the hustle and bustle of contemporary travel.

So, here at the crossroads of antiquity and modernity, let the spirit of our dinosaur expedition linger in your thoughts. Whether you're boarding a flight or hitting the open road, carry the echoes of Utah's red-rock canyons and Colorado's fossil-rich landscapes with you. Just like those ancient beasts left their mark on the Earth, we hope this journey has left an indelible impression on your travelogue.

As you bid adieu to your Dinosaur Trips guide and fellow adventurers, remember that the adventure doesn't truly end here. The bones of the past are now etched into your memories, and the spirit of exploration will continue to guide you, no matter where your path leads.

Safe travels, fellow paleo-travellers, this has been Dinosaur Trips' - *Red Rocks & Raptors* - an adventure across Utah & Colorado.

**itinerary subject to change, with notice to all guests*



Rate for 8-Day / 7-Night

Exclusive small group trip, number of participants : 6-10 guests total

Dinosaur Trips exclusive *Red Rocks & Raptors* program – **USD\$6,499 + taxes**

**All rates based on double-occupancy*

Includes:

- Services of a Dinosaur Trip directors and expert paleontologist guides
- Comfortable transportation
- 7 nights' hotel accommodations
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners
- Great Salt Lake & Antelope Island Tour
- Glenwood Caverns Gondola Ticket and Cave Tour
- Pikes Peak Cog Railway
- All museum and attraction entrance fees
- Park entrance fees
- Gratuities for included meals

Does not include:

- Flights to and from trip start and end points (Salt Lake City, Denver)
- Gratuities for guides and experts

**IT'S BEEN 66 MILLION YEARS.
WHY WAIT ANY LONGER?**

