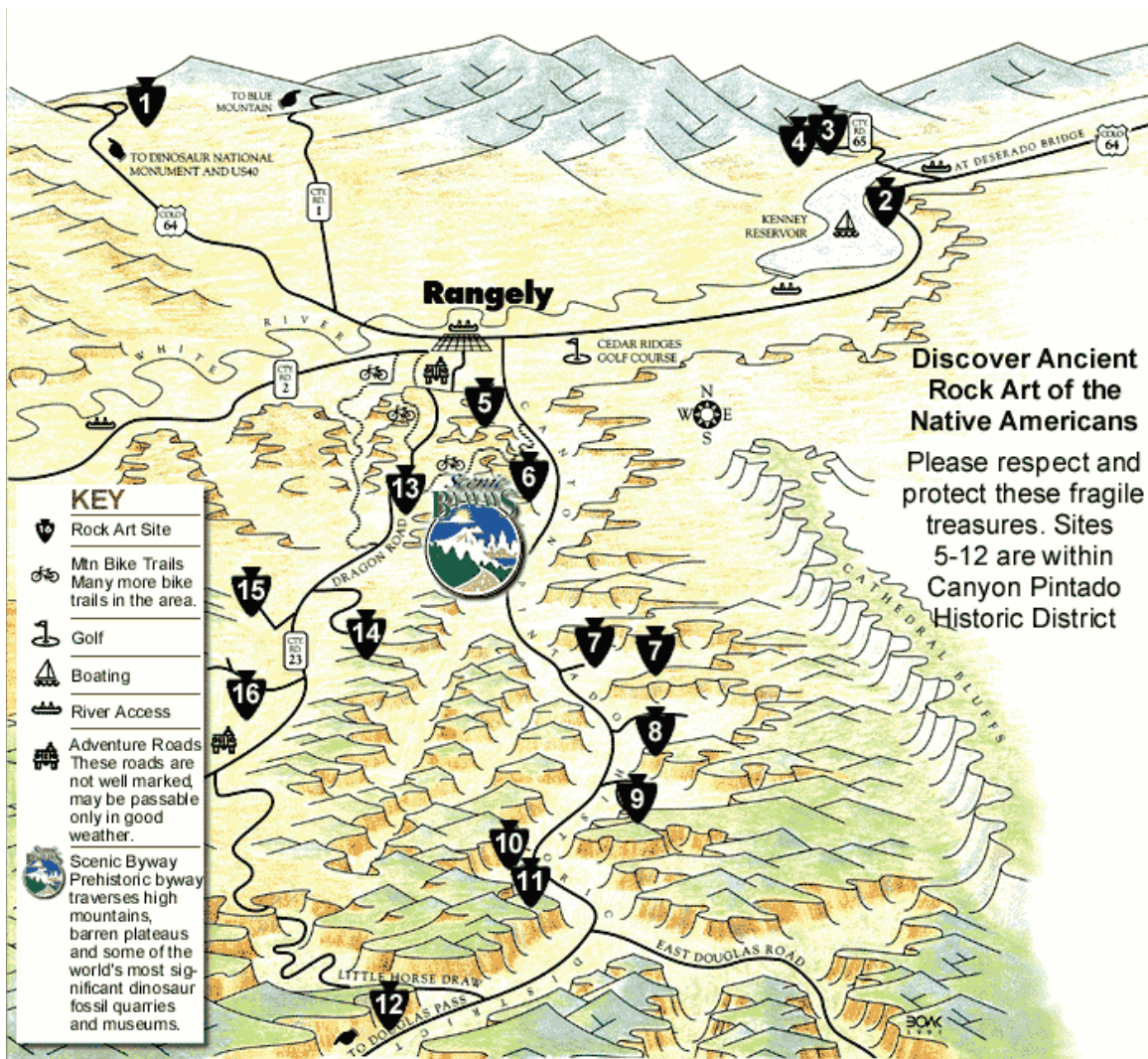


'Canyon Pintado' Rock Art Area Map & Tour



#1 - Mellen Hill Site ... mile post 7.3

Park in the turn-out. You are on the south side of a small canyon with the Mellen Hill Caves on the north side. Walk on the ridge opposite the caves until you can see a path crossing the draw. Some agility is required to visit the three caves. Panels are generally found on the ledges at each side of cave entrances. The small overhand at the very top of the canyon and the big cave right next to it have the most art. The triangular bodied figures with the fancy headgear are Fremont but Ute art is also represented here.

#2 - Reservoir Site ... mile post 26.9

Turn through the gate and take the first left fork and travel back south along the reservoir for .4 miles. You are now above the draw that has panels including anthropomorphic figures, two spirals, and problematics. The panels are on the south face of the draw and about 200 yards west of the highway.

#3 - Ute Horse Site ... mile post 2.9

Traveling on County Road 65 you will be heading towards the Deserado Coal Mine. There is a Ute panel of horses and tepees to be found on the cliff face, about a 250 yard walk. You will also find grooves used by Native Americans to sharpen their bone awls and needles at this site.

#4 - Keely's Homestead Site ... mile post 4.7

An old homestead site is just by the roadway. A few timbers and part of the foundation remain but evidence of Walter Keely's life is scattered throughout the area. His hand-dug cistern is located on top of the low ridge about 100 yards north of the homestead, and the lone fenced grave is directly across the road.

#5 - Camel Ridge Site ... mile post 70.5

Pull off the road on the right. The panels are about 250 yards away on the north-facing cliffs just above the road and consist of a camel-like figure, anthropomorphic shapes and abstracts. Carved tracks are located at waist level on the east-facing cliff.

#6 - Lookout Point Site ... mile post 67.6

This may have been a watchtower and is located on the ridgeline north of the pullout. A sharp eye will see the wall on the cliff-top. There are many of these along the valley within viewing distance of each other. They may have served as part of an early warning system. The walk to the site is not difficult and provides an excellent vantage point to survey the valley. You will also see Ute pole support holes drilled into the caprock.

#7 - East Four mile Site ... mile post 61.3

The large draw opens to the east. It has a great number of panels and a pioneer line shack. Cross the draw to reach the panels along the northern cliffs. Panels scattered along this ledge are principally Fremont. Petrified logs are embedded in the overhang and the presence of corn stalks indicate farming occurred. Pioneer cabin ruins are about 300 yards further east along the main draw and another 400 yards along the path is a stunning Fremont panel that faces in the direction you are traveling.

#8 - State Bridge Site ... mile post 59.7

Within sight of the highway, a small ridge south of the dirt road is capped by cliffs. It is on the west and south faces of this cliff that you will find the rock art. Probably Fremont, they include deer trails, and anthropomorphic figures.

#9 - Cow Canyon Site ... mile post 57.8

Philadelphia Draw opens to the east of Highway 139. Turn in here and go .2 miles. Turn right (south) and go .8 miles. You will cross two cattle guards. Immediately after the second cattle guard you turn up (east) a small draw. Drive .1 mile past this turn and park. The panels are about 90 yards to your left, facing the road. Look closely to find the hidden art.

#10 - White Birds Site ... mile post 56.5

Approximately 100 yards above the highway on the west side you will see a painted panel. White bird figures will probably catch your eye but there is much more to this panel and while it is a steep climb you will be rewarded. It is much more impressive up close.

#11 - Canyon Pintado Site ... mile post 56.0

This is a principal Canyon Pintado site. The rock art adorns the cliff face just across the road. This is the site that is described in the journals of the Escalante Expedition of 1776. Of particular interest is the figure of Kokopelli, the hump-back flute player of Anasazi mythology. His presence indicates a tie with the more civilized cultures of the four corners area whose relics can be seen near Mesa Verde.

#12 - Waving Hands Site ... mile post 53.5

Look to the right of the road at the dark red figure that waves to you from the cliff face. He has some company so pull over and join the crowd. There are several small painted Fremont characters on the rock and just around the corner to the south is an overhang that has Ute figures, horses, arrows and outlined hands.

#13 - Shield Site ... mile post 5.6

Turn east and go .3 miles. Where the road forks, go right (southwest) through the gate and bear left for .2 miles. Remember to close the gate behind you. The figure will be on the cliff just to the right of the road. It is a decorated shield figure .3 feet high.

#14 - Fremont Ridge Site ... mile post 9.7

Turn onto the dirt road at the top of a slight hill. You will be heading east. Go 1.3 miles. The road will fork. Go left .6 miles to the crest of a ridge. Follow the east face of the ridge, north for 250 yards to this eye-level panel. It is a Fremont petroglyph panel marked by soaring carrot-shaped figures.

#15 - Crooks Brand Site ... mile post 10.1

This turnoff is to the west. Go .15 miles and turn right just before the well site. Then go up toward the low cliff face ahead of you .15 miles. Here you will find incised horses, with the brand of General Crook. The Ute depiction of a white man (top hat & great coat), and some pin-up art left by a Basque Shepherd, as well as a historic inscription (probable lamentation of some lost cowboys).

#16 - Carrot Man Site ... mile post 11.6

This is the Moon Canyon site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and Moon Canyon turns off to the west. Go .3 miles, pull off the road and park. Just to the left (south) of the road is a small gully. Walk down the gully until you see the painted figures on the roof of the overhang. The B.L.M. has a descriptive sign. There is both pecked and painted art at this locale with soaring "carrot-men" the most stunning feature.