

Planets to the Past

OHV

Mars-red badlands hiding dinosaur bones.

CAPITOL REEF COUNTRY TRAIL GUIDE



18 miles

DISTANCE

450 ft

ELEVATION GAIN

Easy

DIFFICULTY

3.5 hrs

EST. TIME

LOCATION

North River Road off Highway 24, near Hanksville.

TRAIL TYPE

Gravel and dirt path route.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

A journey from a barren, Mars-like landscape near the Mars Desert Research Station to areas rich with prehistoric fossils at the Burpee dinosaur dig site.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Leave No Trace; dogs allowed; no fees. Nearest services: Hanksville, Utah. Pack out everything you pack in. Flash floods can hit canyons fast from distant storms — check the forecast first.

COORDINATES

38.37194, -110.76889 (Staging area)

Coordinates are a navigation aid — conditions change, so always verify current road and trail status before you go.

SAFETY

Carry physical maps and first aid kits; notify someone of your route.

TRAIL TIP

Keep an eye out near the Burpee Dinosaur Dig Area — this stretch has real paleontological history.

