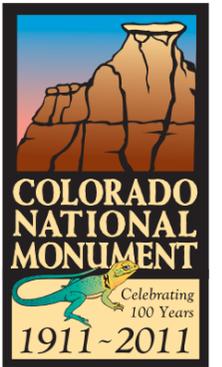




Visitor Guide



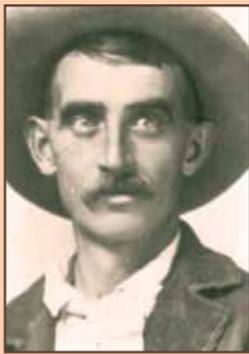
Colorado National Monument 1911 ~ 2011 Celebrating 100 Years



Colorado National Monument has begun the countdown to our 100th anniversary. The Monument's Centennial will be commemorated and celebrated throughout 2011, with a wide range of public events, special exhibits, seminars, community contests, and other Centennial related activities. For more information, please see page 4 or visit: www.nps.gov/colm.

One Man's Vision:

John Otto's Enduring Legacy Continues 100 Years Later



"There is nothing little about Colorado National Monument. I am sure we will get it to the front someday and all the people of the country will be talking about it, and the travelers of the world will want to come to see it, and none of them will be disappointed."

- John Otto 1911, first park custodian

John Otto, Colorado National Monument's first custodian, arrived in Western Colorado to work on the Fruita pipeline. When he saw the rugged redrock canyons south of Grand Junction, it was love at first sight. In 1907 he wrote "I came here last year and

found these canyons, and they feel like the heart of the world to me. I'm going to stay and build trails and promote this place, because it should be a national park."

It was largely through Otto's efforts that this place was set aside as the 2nd national monument in Colorado and the 25th unit of the National Park System. He spearheaded fundraising campaigns, collected signatures for petitions, penned newspaper editorials, and wrote letters to Washington politicians in support of national recognition for the ancient canyons and towering monoliths of his adopted home. His enthusiasm was contagious and many others joined him in his efforts. Finally on May 24, 1911, President Taft signed the proclamation that established Colorado National Monument.

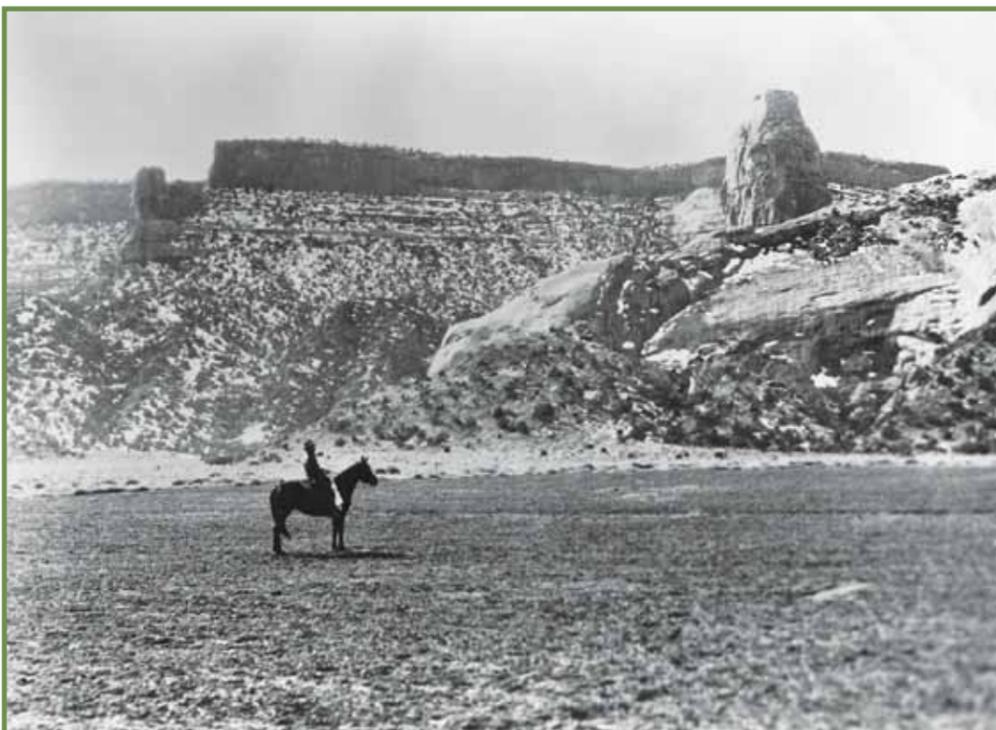
But as we celebrate Otto's achievements this year, bear in mind that Otto did not "discover" Colorado National Monument. Humans

have inhabited this area for 10,000 years. The first human visitors did not come here for recreation, but for food and shelter. They had a deep understanding of the plants, the birds, the rocks, and the animals. They were in awe of this place as it was their key to physical survival. They unearthed its secrets to find water and to locate food.

Today we come here for nourishment too - not for food, but for inspiration, knowledge, memories, and for spiritual renewal.

Over the past 100 years, since Colorado National Monument was established, millions of people, following in the footsteps of the earliest visitors, have traveled here to take in the breathtaking scenery and have left with lifelong memories.

May your visit here be a remarkable experience, and may your spirit be refreshed.



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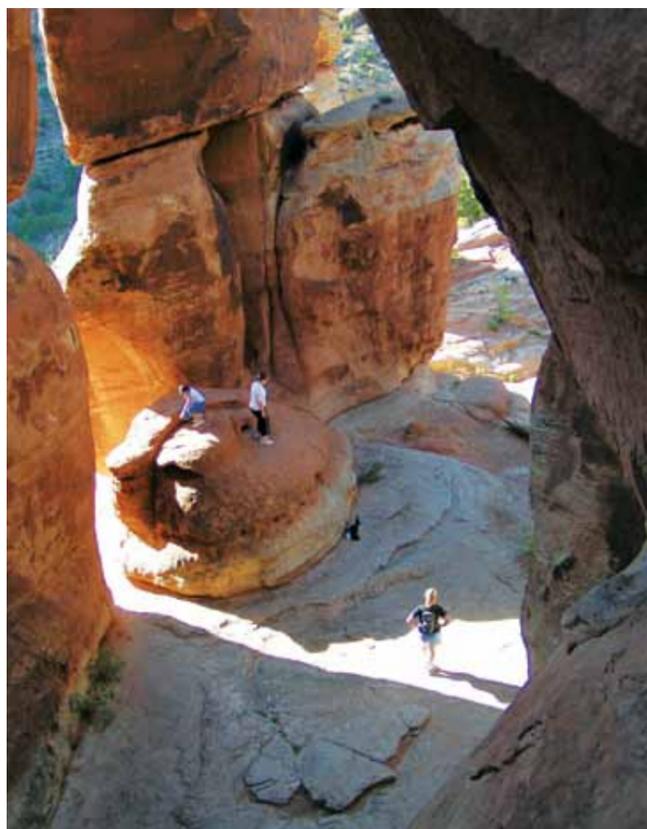
Welcome! Plan Your Visit...

Photo © R.A. Kurtzman



Monument Canyon

Monument Canyon



Devils Kitchen above, Otto's Trail below



For current info and event schedules:
www.nps.gov/colm

Visitor Center

For information, orientation, maps, books, and free handouts, the visitor center is a good place to start your adventure.

From there, you can explore the exhibit room, access three trailheads, and enjoy scenic views. Don't miss the 12 minute geology and introductory videos — both shown upon request.

The Colorado National Monument Association store sells a variety of educational and interpretive items as well as monument-related gifts such as T-shirts and hats. The visitor center is open every day, except December 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the winter and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the summer. Set aside 45 minutes for this stop.

Picnicking

There are three picnic areas: (1) adjacent to the visitor center, (2) near Saddlehorn Campground, and (3) at the Devils Kitchen Picnic Area. All have tables, water, and restrooms. The visitor center and Devils Kitchen Picnic Areas have shade shelters.

Camping

Saddlehorn Campground, located near the visitor center, has 80 first come, first served sites. Open year round.

- The self-registration kiosk is located at the campground entrance.
- The camping fee is in addition to the monument entrance fee; the fee is \$20.00 per night with two cars, three tents, and a seven person per site limit.
- Recreational vehicles have a length limit of 40 feet.
- Restrooms have flush toilets and potable water.
- Sites include a picnic table and charcoal-only grill.

- No electric hookups, showers, or wood campfires.
- Two accessible sites are available.

Ranger Programs

Guided walks and porch talks are offered daily during the summer. Topics include geology, wildlife, ecology, and history. Program schedules are posted at the visitor center, the campground, and on the website: www.nps.gov/colm

Accessibility



- Accessible Picnic Areas:
The visitor center and Devils Kitchen Picnic Areas
- Accessible restrooms:
The visitor center, Saddlehorn Campground, and Devils Kitchen Picnic Area.
- Accessible overlooks:
Independence Monument View, Cold Shivers Point and Book Cliffs View.

Additional information is on the website: www.nps.gov/colm

Pets

Pets are allowed only in parking lots or in the campground. They must be on a leash at all times. Pets are not permitted on trails or in the visitor center. Ask us for a map of pet-friendly areas. Warning! Do not leave pets in vehicles during hot summer temperatures.

Backcountry Camping

A backcountry permit is required. Obtain the free permit at the visitor center. NO water exists in the backcountry! Potable water is available at the visitor center.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located at the visitor center, campground, Saddlehorn Picnic Area and Devils Kitchen Picnic Area.

Hiking Safety Tips



Colorado National Monument contains rugged and remote landscapes:

- Always be prepared by carrying a map, compass, extra water, food, first aid kit, and extra clothing.
- Be sure you tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Cell phone service is not reliable.

- Watch your step and your children at overlooks, along canyon rims, and by steep drop-offs.
- Carry a sufficient amount of water for this hot desert climate. Use sunscreen. Wear sturdy footwear and a hat.
- Biting gnats can be a problem from May to August. Bring insect repellent.
- Watch where you put your feet and hands. You share the land with rattlesnakes and scorpions.
- From April through July, seasonal pools may exist in the canyon bottoms. Please do not enter these pools. Sunscreens and lotions pollute these ephemeral waters that are important to wildlife.
- Avoid ridge tops and open ground during lightning storms.

Colorado National Monument *Visitor Guide* is published by the Colorado National Monument Association.

Photo credits: Seth Anderson, Sally Bellacqua, Colorado Historical Society, Walt Fite, R.A. Kurtzman, Paul Meyer, and NPS

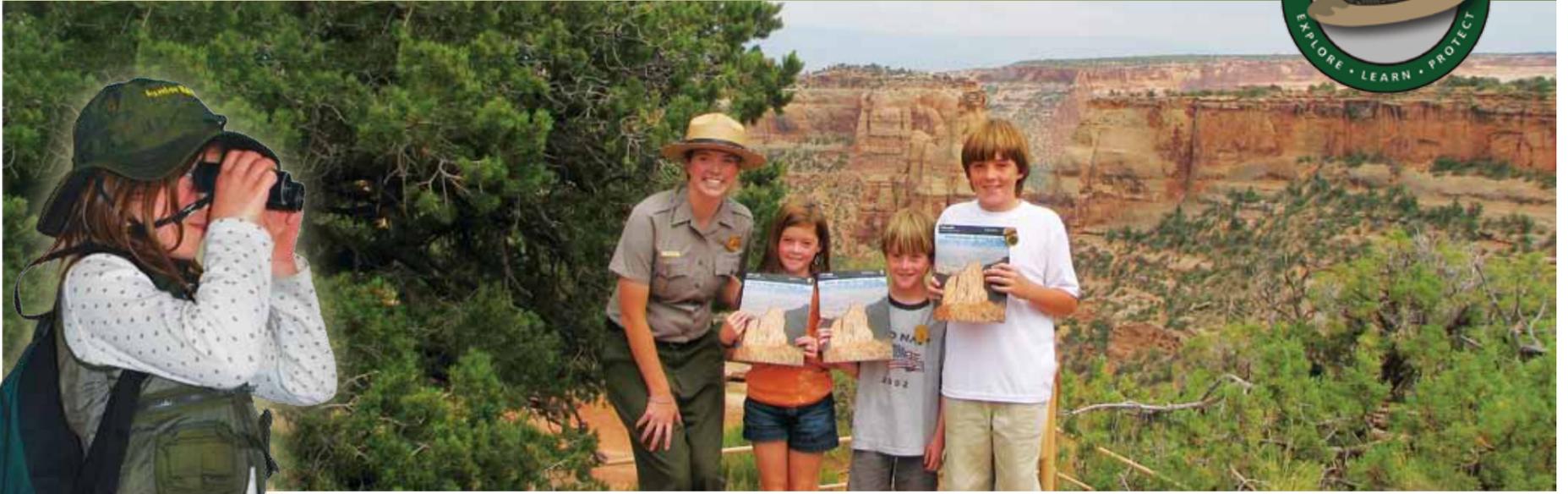
Contributors: NPS and CNMA staff
Designer: Amy Nuernberg

The CNMA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that uses proceeds from its store to support interpretive and educational programs at the Colorado National Monument. PH 970-858-3617, ext. 360; www.coloradonma.org

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Become a Junior Ranger!



Hey kids! Head up to the visitor center and ask for a free Junior Ranger activity booklet. How about a hike to explore the incredible red rock canyons and monoliths or to learn about our amazing animals, plants, and rocks? There are three wonderful hikes right outside the visitor center, and the Junior Ranger activity booklet has plenty of great ways to investigate this beautiful red rock country.

While at the visitor center, you can borrow the Junior Ranger explorer backpack (available for four-hour loans). The pack is full of tools like binoculars, magnifying glasses, and field guides to help sharpen your observation skills. It's a great kit to use on your hike as you work toward earning your Junior Ranger badge.

The Junior Ranger program is designed for children ages 5 to 12, but any age can become a Junior Ranger! Once you've completed the booklet, take it to the visitor center to receive your official Junior Ranger badge and certificate.

What Can Kids Do Here?

- * Explore with the Junior Ranger backpack.
- * Look a desert bighorn sheep in the eye.
- * Look for animal tracks or scat.
- * Spot a lizard doing push-ups.
- * Take your parents camping.
- * Attend a ranger program.
- * Become a Junior Ranger.
- * Ask a ranger a question.
- * Watch a video.
- * Take a hike.



You and your family can borrow this Official Junior Ranger backpack at the visitor center and start your exploration! Available for a four-hour loan, and it's free!



Historic Crossword Puzzle

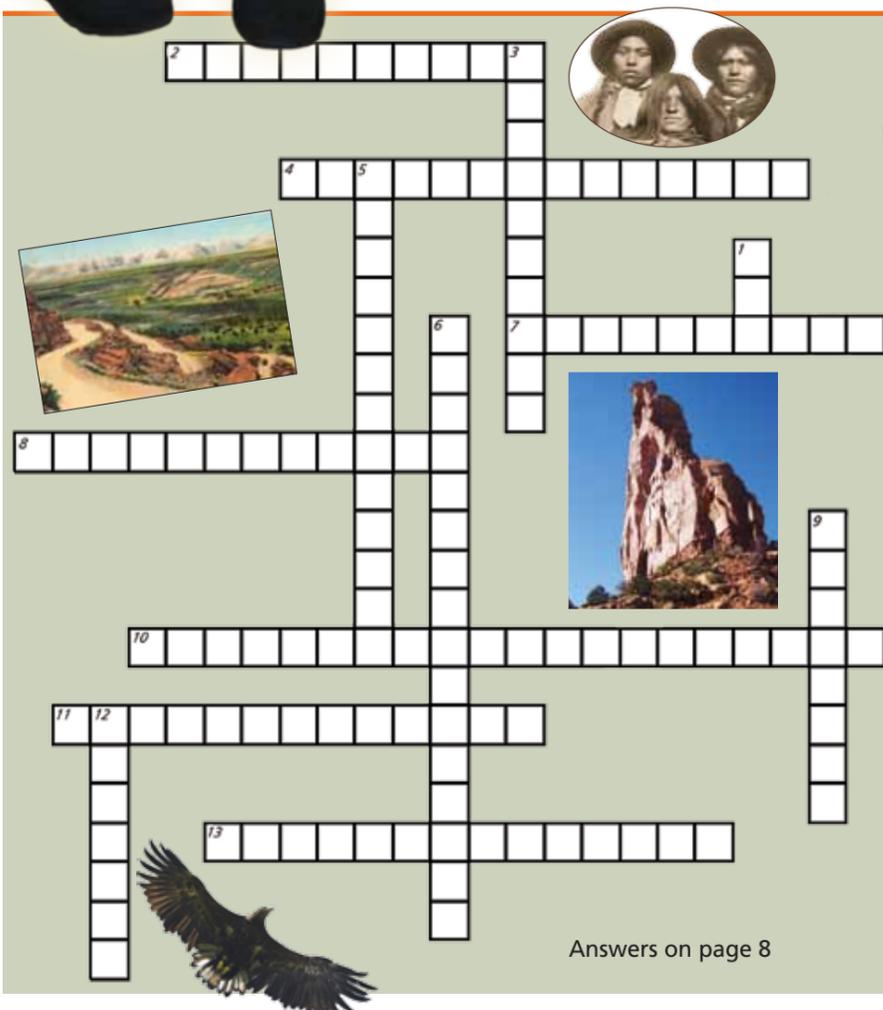
Across

2. American Indians who once lived in this area.
4. Four mile trail on the east side of the Monument that served as a toll road for ranchers bringing their cattle to Grand Junction
7. This Act created the National Park Service in 1916.
8. The Monument's 23 mile road opened in 1950.
10. John Otto climbed this large monolith in 1911 to fly the American flag on Independence Day.
11. This historic "snakelike" road built between 1912-1921 was often called the "crookedest road in the world."
13. John Otto collected _____ to bring a herd of buffalo into the park.

Down

1. A program that gave young men jobs during the Great Depression.
3. The campground and picnic area are named after this unique rock formation.
5. This picnic area on the east side of the park was built in 1941.
6. Fierce birds of prey that returned to the Monument in the 1980s.
9. First custodian of Colorado National Monument.
12. Colorado National Monument protects extraordinary examples of _____.

Answers on page 8



Bicycle Safety

- Bicycles are permitted ONLY on Rim Rock Drive and in Saddlehorn Campground.
- Bicycles are prohibited on trails.
- Bicyclists are required to obey all traffic laws including speed limits, passing zones, and stop signs.
- Ride single file at all times.
- Do not pass vehicles in the tunnels.

Lights required for tunnels: Bicycles (or cyclists) are required to be equipped with a white light that is visible at least 500 feet from the front and a red light that can be seen at least 200 feet from the rear.

- Caution! East side cyclists may encounter large trucks for the first four miles.

Rocky Road Ahead

Rim Rock Drive is built through areas of unstable geologic rock formations. As a result, rocks and boulders may break loose and fall onto the road, posing a hazard to people and vehicles. Use the following guidelines for your safety:

- Pay close attention to the slopes above you and to all traffic signs.
- Be on the lookout for rocks in the road.
- Do not attempt to move rocks or boulders. If rocks block the road, call a park ranger at 970-858-3617 x360.



2011 Centennial Events

Colorado National Monument has begun the countdown to our 100th anniversary. The Monument's Centennial will be commemorated throughout 2011 with a wide range of public events, special exhibits, seminars, community contests, and other Centennial-related activities.

March – June

Centennial History and Nature Lecture Series

Many local experts present a variety of topics including geology, Ute culture, photography and current research. Information: www.nps.gov/colm

April – June

Centennial Art Exhibition: "The Exhibit of the Century" at Mesa County Building, 544 Rood Ave., Grand Junction, 81501.

April 16 – 24

National Park Fee Free Week

For more information about National Park Week go to www.nps.gov/colm

May 21

100th Anniversary Ceremony

11:00 am, visitor center
A day of Centennial events to mark the date Colorado National Monument was established. Planned events include keynote speakers, live music, and refreshments. Reception to follow.

June – August

Daily Ranger Walks and Talks

For details call the visitor center at 970-858-3617 ext. 360, or visit: www.nps.gov/colm

June 21

First Day of Summer, Fee Free Day!

July 4

Freedom Flies High 4th of July Celebration, 10:30 am

Colorado National Monument celebrates the Centennial and 4th of July in grand style with rock climbers scaling Independence Monument accompanied by patriotic music resonating throughout the canyons. Ice cream social to follow.

July 16

Gate to Gate Guided Ranger Bus Tour, 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

Information: Grand Junction City Parks and Recreation website: www.gjcity.org/citydeptwebpages/ParksRecreation/ParksRecreation.htm

August 28

Walk Through Time & Centennial "Tour of the Valley" Community Hospital Cycling Event

8:00 am -12:00 pm, The public is invited to walk, stroll, jog, or bicycle along Rim Rock Drive without motorized traffic. Canine friends welcome - on a leash and stay on paved areas at all times. Information: www.yourcommunityhospital.com

September 23

Monumental Classic Car Tour across Rim Rock Drive

8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saddlehorn Picnic Area
Beautifully restored vintage autos will tour Rim Rock Drive in partnership with the 10th Annual Fuoco Motor Company Downtown Car Show. Cars

through the decades will be on display all day to celebrate an era.

September 24

National Public Lands Day and Fee Free Day!

Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities. Information: www.nps.gov/colm

September 24

Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra Concert of the Century

Presenting a photo-choreography show with music played by the orchestra at Grand Junction High School Auditorium. The concert will feature an original piece by well known composer, Eric Ewazen, written especially for the Monument's Centennial. Information: www.nps.gov/colm

October 1

Music on the Monument Centennial Band Concert 5:00 pm

The Centennial Band performs under towering walls of red sandstone in Devils Kitchen Picnic Area as visitors relax and enjoy an awe-inspiring setting.

October 8

John Otto Day

Historic hikes, Chautauquan presentations by John Stansfield, and

much more. Information: www.nps.gov/colm

November 11 – 13

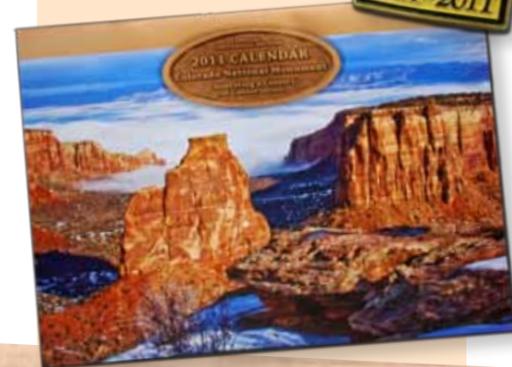
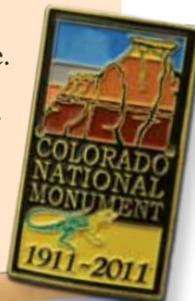
Veterans Day and Fee Free weekend!

December 10 - 11

Holiday Open House at the Visitor Center. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Commemorative Centennial Keepsakes

Take home a treasure or delight a child in your life. See back page to view select items at our Visitor Center Store or browse our online store at: www.coloradonma.org

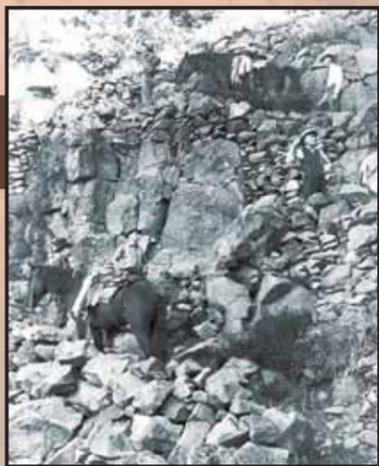


For the most current information: www.nps.gov/colm

Timeline

1907

John Otto begins trail building and promoting canyons.



1911

Colorado National Monument established. John Otto, first ranger, climbs to the top of Independence Monument to fly the American flag for Independence Day.



1921

Serpents Trail completed.

1931 ~ 1933

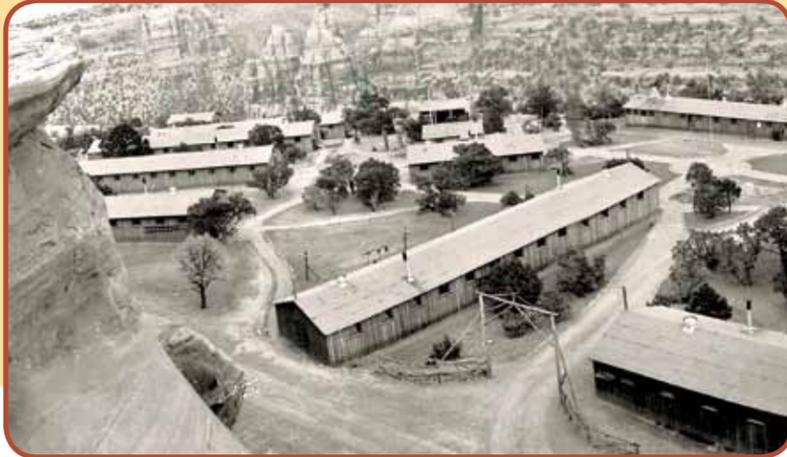
Road construction begins.





▲ Men working at Cold Shivers Point on east Rim Rock Drive. Most of the work on the road was done by hand.

▶ Camp NM-2-C at Saddlehorn (near present day visitor center).



CCC's Legacy

Blood, Sweat & Teamwork

Too bad Leroy Lewis isn't around to help celebrate the 100th birthday of Colorado National Monument. He'd have loved to share the limelight with other old-timers who remembered what it was like to bust their tails on the Monument's road-building crew.

Leroy died last year at 98, but not before he took the time to reminisce.

He grew up on a ranch near Hotchkiss in the early 20th Century, a skinny kid whose work ethic made him succeed beyond his wildest dreams. Of course, he knew plenty of others with the same story.

It began like a fairy tale, "Once upon a time, millions of rawboned young men without any prospects or grub in their bellies ended up shoveling dirt for the Civilian Conservation Corps..."

But their CCC story was real, he said in 2008. Leroy was 96 and had the clearest blue eyes, and a boyish laugh that lit up the small study in his home.

"It had a helluva impact on my life," Lewis remembered. "It was hot and hard."

The Great Depression hit his family hard as it did millions of other Americans. He decided to leave the ranch in order to help his destitute parents survive.

So in 1933, Leroy enrolled in the CCC. He was provided with food and clothing (WW I uniforms) and assigned to a camp at the Monument. A road project was underway because there was no Rim Rock Drive back then, and the local business community knew a Monument road would boost tourism.

CCC enrollees earned \$25 a month. They were allowed to keep \$5 and sent the rest home to their families. Leroy said they bunked together, ate "a big meat and potatoes diet," played sports, studied math and went dancing with young women from nearby communities on weekends.

Labor for the historic Rim Rock Drive construction project drew heavily from the CCC, Works Project Administration and Public Works Administration, all part of then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal created to help Americans dig themselves out of the Depression, and to fortify America's public lands.

Within a regimented setting of long barracks and military discipline, Leroy sharpened new skills – even hammering away on a typewriter as a clerk when he wasn't smashing rocks with a pickaxe on the road project.

The mission to build a 23-mile road up and over the Monument took many years and also human lives with it. With hundreds of young men exploding dynamite on the edge of 400-foot-high canyons, this ambitious enterprise carried inherent risks.

This massive workforce of sinew and muscle worked year-round, pulverizing untold tons of Entrada sandstone. How? By drilling 12-foot-deep holes in rock, tamping them with dynamite and blasting a safe route along the canyon rims to make way for motorists and cyclists of the future.

On a chilly December day in 1933, a gigantic rockslide killed nine laborers, called Local Experienced Men. They were charged with mentoring young CCCers like Leroy. He recalled the tragedy vividly.

"Lots of broken bones," he said. "And lots of blood."

Today's 23-mile ribbon of smooth blacktop stretches from the east entrance of the monument near Grand Junction to the west entrance near Fruita. Most of Rim Rock Drive was completed when World War II began and the CCC was disbanded. The National Park Service finished the job in 1950.

Sixty-one years later, Rim Rock Drive offers spellbinding vistas to more than half a million visitors annually. As for the road-builders, their legacy endures even today.

The CCC changed the lives of untold numbers of young men like Leroy Lewis. He enjoyed an illustrious career in the Army, and was awarded the Bronze Medal for valor in World War II, and the Oak Leaf cluster for valor in the Korean Conflict.

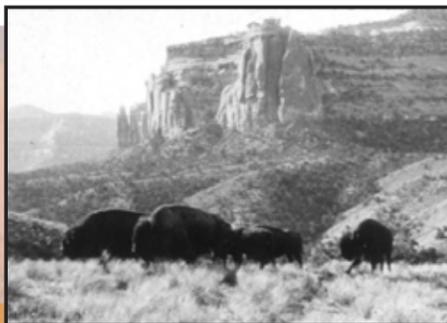
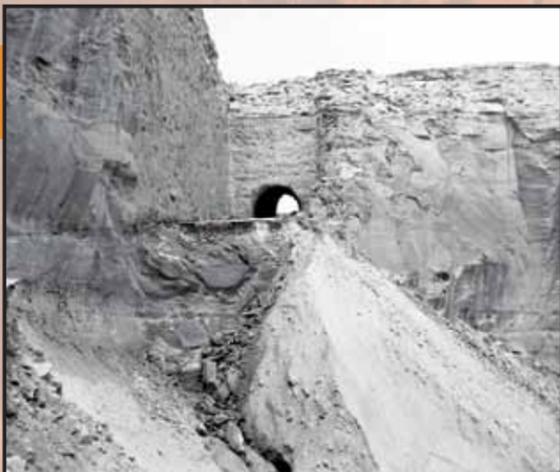
Two years before his death, Leroy stated, "In these times, I think they should bring the CCC back. It's what we need."



1963
Visitor Center opened.

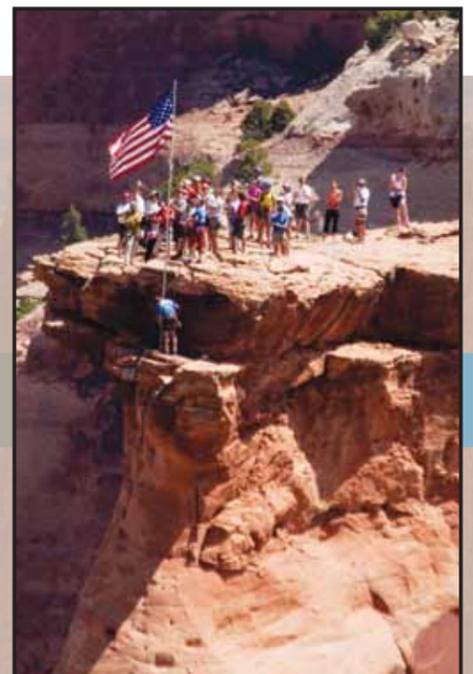
1968

Big flood in Fruita Canyon wiped out road between tunnels on West hill.



1983

Bison removal from monument. Herd transferred to Badlands National Park and Southern Ute Reservation.



2011

Monument celebrates its 100th Anniversary.



Looking for Lizards

"Is that real? It's so brightly colored; it could be a child's toy."

These are some of the thoughts visitors have when they first encounter the Collared Lizard with its yellow head and turquoise to greenish body, here at the monument. Not only are they the brightest, they are also the largest lizard in this area, growing up to 14 inches long - including their tail.

Often seen basking on boulders in the sun, these lizards may look as if they are posing for a photograph, but they could be waiting to ambush prey.

Collared lizards are ferocious predators, feeding mainly on insects, but they also use their powerful jaws to kill and eat other lizards! **Capable of running on their hind legs, collared lizards can sprint over 10 feet per second.**

The Collared Lizard emerges in late March or April and remains active throughout the summer. Mid-day is the best time to look for it. Good places to spot collared lizards are near Devils Kitchen Picnic Area and in No Thoroughfare Canyon. Keep your distance, they can bite!



YOUR FEE DOLLARS AT WORK

The National Park Service's Fee Demonstration Program has provided funds for new exhibits in the visitor center. The exhibits will be ready in 2011 for the park's Centennial celebration.

Additional fee money will fund:

- 21 wayside panels along Rim Rock Drive
- the restoration of C-Loop campground restroom
- 10 trailhead orientation panels

Congress established the Fee Program in 1997 to assist parks to fund local projects that improve visitor facilities and better protect park resources.

User Fee

Improves this park

2010 Discoveries of Ancient Fossils

Turtles, and Dinosaurs, and Lizards, *Oh my!*

Colorado National Monument is celebrating its 100 year anniversary this year, but a series of recent fossil discoveries remind us just how old this place really is.

The Late Jurassic Morrison Formation, a sedimentary sequence of rock layers found in the western United States, is known for its treasure trove of dinosaur fossils. Last year, three different fossils – a sandstone slab with rare turtle tracks, a three-toed dinosaur track, and a set of ancient lizard tracks were uncovered at Colorado National Monument, all in the Morrison Formation.

The sandstone slab containing several sets of turtle tracks is estimated at 150 million years old. The tracks were first discovered in 2005 and were recovered last September. The "turtle trackway" is on temporary display at the visitor center.

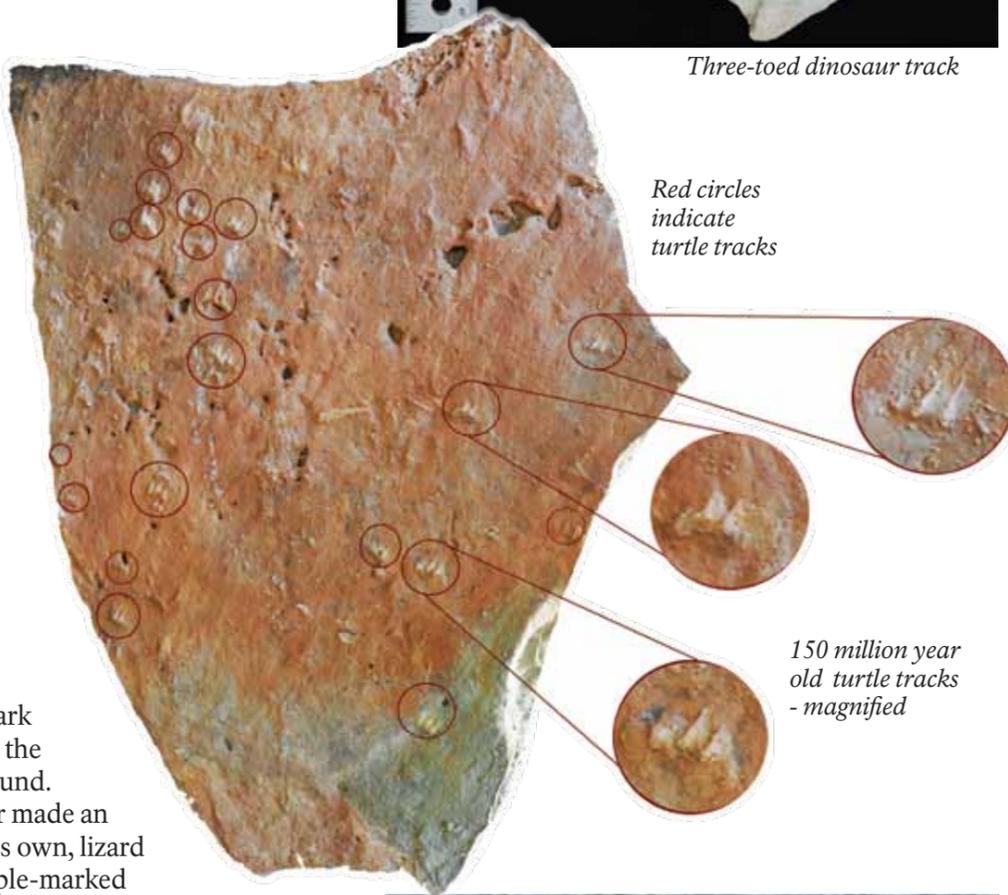
The three-toed dinosaur track was discovered by an employee last September. It is yet to be determined whether the track was left by a plant or meat-eating dinosaur.

Later that fall, Dr. John Foster, paleontologist with the Museum of Western Colorado, visited the park to study the area where the three-toed track was found. While exploring, Foster made an exciting discovery of his own, lizard tracks on a piece of ripple-marked sandstone. This trackway is the first of its kind in the Morrison Formation. Stay tuned for further findings regarding this rare and unique discovery!

Paleontologist Dr. John Foster examines the lizard tracks and trail drag marks embedded in an ancient slab of sandstone (enlarged detail far right).



Three-toed dinosaur track



Red circles indicate turtle tracks

150 million year old turtle tracks - magnified



DON'T BUST THE CRUST!

Have you noticed the bumpy, knobby, and sometimes dark soil along the trails? That's biological soil crust. Just as coral reefs are formed over time by many small organisms living together, soil crust is formed the same way. Moss, lichen, green algae, cyanobacteria (sigh-AN-oh bacteria), and microfungi all work together to hold sand grains in place and create an environment where seeds can grow.

Biological soil crust is extremely slow growing. A footprint can erase decades of growth. You can help protect the crust by staying on established trails.





Ranger Picks



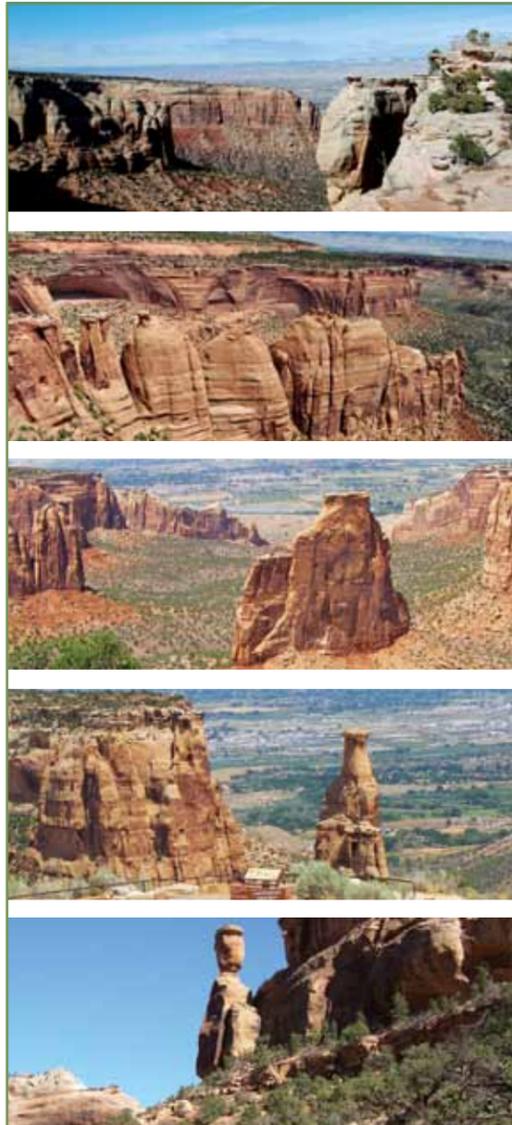
Rim Rock Drive Delivers Spectacular Vistas

One of the grandest scenic drives in the American West, the 23-mile Rim Rock Drive offers redrock canyons, crisp blue skies, and green junipers for motorists and bicyclists to enjoy.

This road is inseparable from the identity of the monument. The drive provides access to Saddlehorn Visitor Center and campground, 19 signed overlooks, and 14 hiking trails. **Allow at least one hour driving time, plus additional time for walking, photography, or stopping at pullouts.**

Please use caution as you drive the road and watch for wildlife, fallen rocks, and other hazards. Obey posted speed limits and be careful on the narrow shoulders. Watch for bicyclists. "Share the road."

For a more in-depth introduction to the amazing scenery along the park road, please stop by the visitor center where *A Guide to the Rim Rock Drive* can be purchased from the visitor center store.



OVERLOOK DESCRIPTION	MILES FROM EAST GATE	MILES FROM WEST GATE
1. Cold Shivers Point: an accessible paved path leads to an impressive view into Columbus Canyon 	3.4	19.1
2. Artists Point: offers views of the Coke Ovens and other rock formations from the parking area or a short trail to a fenced overlook 	13.7	8.7
3. Grand View: short trail leads to an impressive view of Independence Monument, a spectacular free standing rock formation. History enthusiasts may be interested in the nearby Half Tunnel exhibit 	16.4	6
4. Independence Monument View: an accessible viewpoint of Independence Monument from a dramatic angle 	16.9	5.5
5. Balanced Rock View: a great place to photograph a rock balancing in mid-air 	21	1.6

Bicycling - Two Options



Bicycling along Rim Rock Drive

Rim Rock Drive offers sweeping vistas, plenty of fresh air, and varied grades. It has challenged many of the world's strongest riders, but yields to the most casual of recreational bicyclists.

Visitor Center to Artists Point

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate **Distance:** 8.6 miles (round trip)

Elevation gain: minimal, less than 500 feet

Turn left (south) from the visitor center parking lot onto Rim Rock Drive. Travel along the rim of Monument Canyon for 4.3 miles to Artists Point. The ride offers incredible views of some of the park's most dramatic rock formations.

The Grand Loop

Difficulty: Difficult **Distance:** 40 miles

Elevation gain: 1,950 feet

Park outside the west (Fruita) entrance to the park and ascend 1,000 feet over four miles of switchbacks. Continue along the top of Rim Rock Drive for 19 miles before descending switchbacks to the east (Grand Junction) entrance to the park. Once outside the entrance station, continue 3.5 miles to the end of Monument Road. Take a left at the stoplight onto Broadway (Highway 340); it's 13.5 miles back to the west gate.

Hiking Favorites

Monument Canyon Trail

Difficulty: Moderate

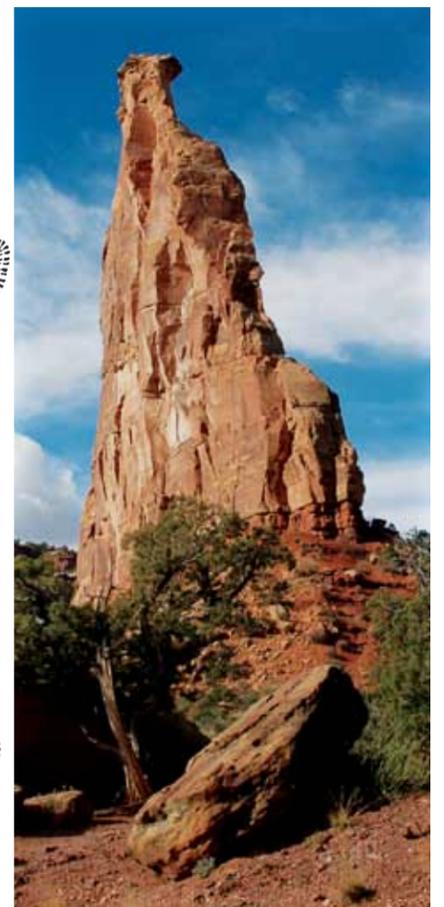
Distance: A one-way hike of 6 miles

Elevation: 6,140 to 4,700 feet

Upper Trailhead: From the visitor center, turn left onto Rim Rock Drive and proceed 3.8 miles to the trailhead on the left.

Lower Trailhead: From the west entrance, proceed east on Colorado Highway 340. After 2.1 miles turn right just beyond mile marker #5 onto a dirt road that appears to be a driveway. Continue straight 0.1 mile to the parking lot.

Monument Canyon offers a scenic and memorable day hike though a geological wonderland full of colorful, sheer-walled canyons and towering rock formations, including Independence Monument. Carved over millions of years from a solid wall that separated Monument and Wedding Canyons, Independence Monument is now the largest free-standing rock formation in the park, rising 450 feet from the canyon floor. Great opportunities for photography and wildlife viewing will reward you on this hike in the heart of red rock country.



Hike around Independence Monument

Otto's Trail

Difficulty: Easy

Distance: A one-way hike of 0.5 miles to the overlook

Trailhead: From the visitor center, turn left on Rim Rock Drive and proceed 1.0 mile to the trailhead parking on the left. For a short stroll with dramatic views of the monument's famous monoliths – Pipe Organ, Kissing Couple, and

Independence Monument – hike Otto's Trail. The trail travels through pinyon-juniper woodlands to an overlook with breathtaking vistas of Wedding and Monument Canyons. In spring and summer, a variety of flowers and blooming cacti can be enjoyed along the trail.



SAVE with a CNMA ANNUAL PASS



Visit the Colorado National Monument as much as you like during 2011 for \$25 with an Annual Pass. Get yours today at the entrance stations.

Area Info

Bureau of Land Management
2815 Horizon Dr. Grand Junction, CO 81506
(970) 244-3000 www.co.blm.gov

Colorado National Monument
Fruita, CO 81521
(970) 858-3617 www.nps.gov/colm

Colorado State Parks
361 32 Road Clifton, CO 81520
(970) 434-6862 www.parks.state.co.us

Colorado Welcome Center
340 Hwy 340 Fruita, CO 81521
(970) 858-9335
www.colorado.com/fruitawelcomecenter.aspx

Fruita Chamber of Commerce
432 East Aspen Ave.
Fruita, CO 81521 www.fruitachamber.org

Grand Junction Visitor & Convention Bureau
740 Horizon Dr. Grand Junction, CO 81506
800-962-2547 www.visitgrandjunction.com

US Forest Service
2777 Crossroads Blvd.
Grand Junction, CO 81506
(970) 242-8211 www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug

Arches National Park:
113 miles www.nps.gov/arch

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park: 86.8 miles www.nps.gov/blca

Canyonlands National Park:
159 miles www.nps.gov/cany

Dinosaur National Monument:
147 miles www.nps.gov/dino

Weather & Climate

The wide variety of terrain, elevation, and precipitation patterns in Colorado National Monument results in a fairly diverse climate. With elevations ranging from 4,500 feet to over 7,000 feet, the monument's weather represents desert, semi-desert, and upland climates. Spring temperatures are generally mild with daytime highs in the mid-60s. During the summer months, temperatures range between the mid-80s and 90s and often reach 100+ degrees in the inner canyons.

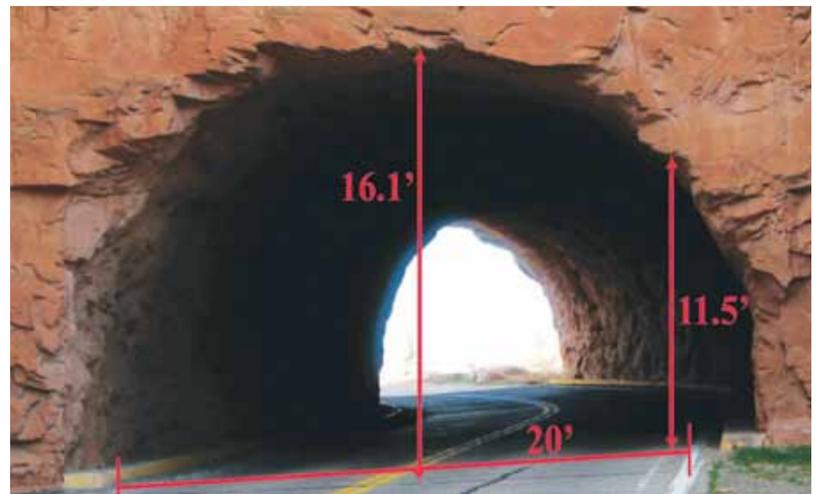
Winter temperatures are generally mild, from 20 to 45°, lows occasionally dropping to zero. Winter is a great time to experience inversion layers of fog when monoliths peek above the fog. Annual precipitation averages 11 inches. August – October is usually the wettest period, but there is often a peak in March too.

Climate Information

	Average High Temperature		Average Low Temperature		Average Precipitation	
	F	C	F	C	IN	CM
January	36.8	2.7	16.6	-8.6	0.6	1.5
February	45.8	7.7	23.6	-4.7	0.5	1.3
March	56.5	13.6	32.0	0	1.0	2.5
April	65.4	18.5	38.7	3.7	0.9	2.3
May	75.7	24.2	47.7	8.7	1.0	2.5
June	88.1	31.2	57.0	13.9	0.4	1.0
July	93.2	34	63.6	17.6	0.7	1.8
August	90.4	32.4	62.2	16.8	0.8	2.0
September	81.0	27.2	53.0	11.7	0.9	2.3
October	67.3	19.6	40.9	4.9	1.0	2.5
November	50.3	10.2	28.2	-2.1	0.7	1.8
December	39.1	10.2	18.9	-7.3	0.5	1.3

Tunnel Safety

Rim Rock Drive has three tunnels that were blasted and shaped in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). You will pass through two short, curved tunnels on the west side and one long, straight tunnel on the east side. It is your responsibility to know the height and length of your vehicle.



TUNNEL SAFETY

- All vehicles proceed with extreme caution.
- Lights required.
- Watch out for bicyclists.
- Do not pass bicyclists or vehicles.
- Be on guard for large vehicles and RVs.
- No pedestrians in or around the tunnels.

TUNNEL CLEARANCES

- Lower west tunnel: 16' 1" high at center line; 11' 5" - 2 ft. from curb; 236 ft. in length
- Upper west tunnel: 16' 1" high at center line; 11' 5" - 2 ft. from curb; 182 ft. in length
- East tunnel: 16' 2" high at center line; 11' 5" - 2 ft. from curb; 530 ft. in length

JOIN! SUPPORT! ENJOY!

Stay in touch with the Colorado National Monument



Become a member of Colorado National Monument Association (CNMA) and enjoy benefits today while you support the Monument tomorrow. As we celebrate our Centennial, help us provide programs and services to our visitors and local youth through your membership fees.

Annual Membership Fees:
Individual \$25
Family \$35
Friend of the Monument \$100

As a Member, you receive:

- 15% discount at the CNMA store and online
- Reciprocal discounts at participating associations
- Monthly E-newsletter
- Advance notice of special events

To Join: www.coloradonma.org
Or call (970) 858-3617, ext. 308

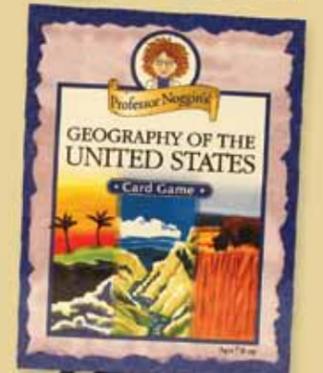
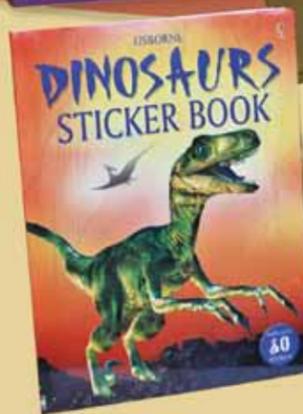
Thank you for supporting the Monument!

Answers to Historic Crossword Puzzle

From page 3

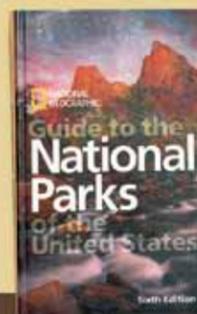
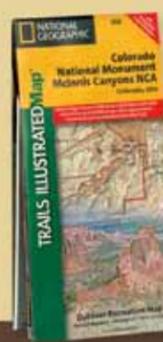
1. CCC
2. Ute Indians
3. Saddlehorn
4. Old Gordon Trail
5. Devils Kitchen
6. Peregrine Falcons
7. Organic Act
8. Rim Rock Drive
9. John Otto
10. Independence Monument
11. Serpents Trail
12. Erosion
13. Buffalo nickels

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- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
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| <i>kids' clothing</i> | <i>t-shirts</i> | <i>visors</i> |
| <i>CDs & DVDs</i> | <i>hats</i> | <i>games</i> |
| <i>Centennial items</i> | <i>toys</i> | <i>calendars</i> |
| <i>cuddly animals</i> | <i>totes</i> | <i>& more</i> |



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