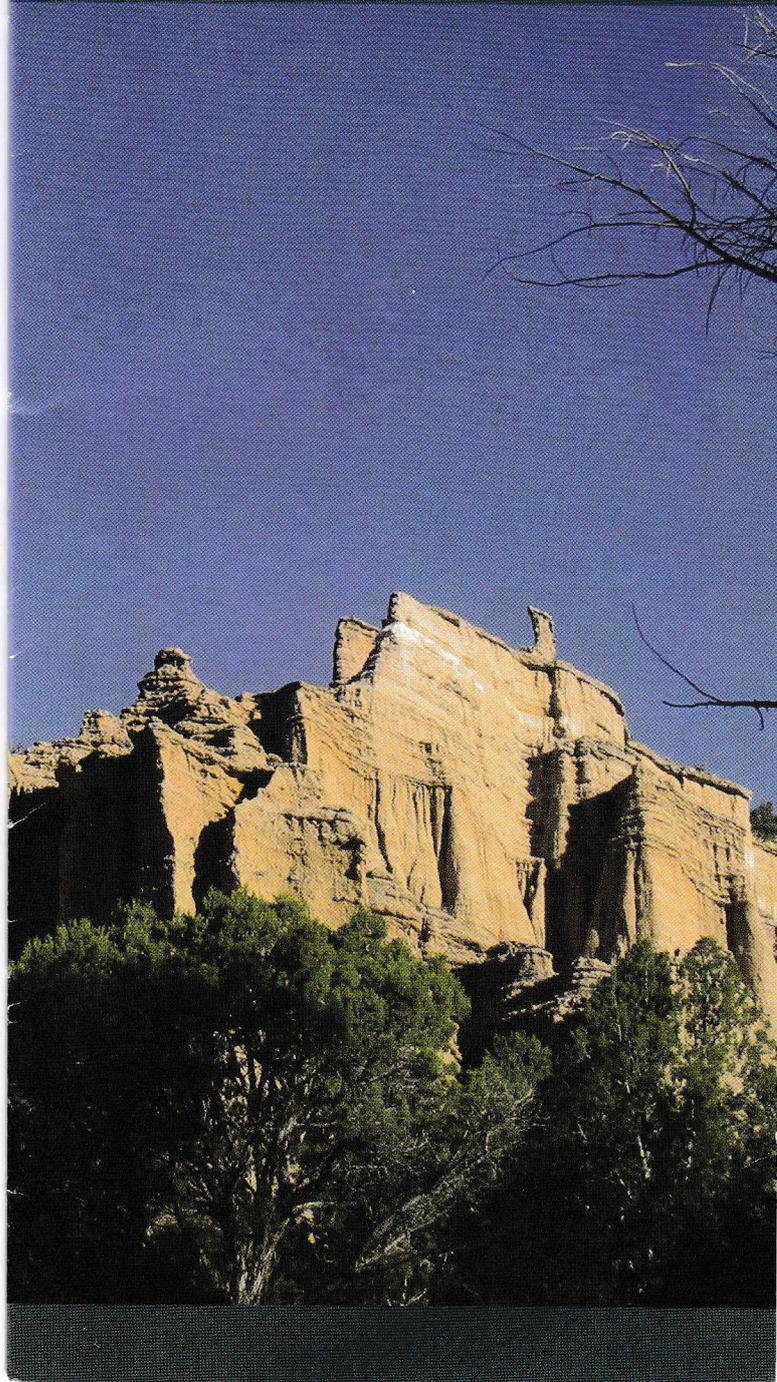


Utah State Parks

# FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK AND MUSEUM

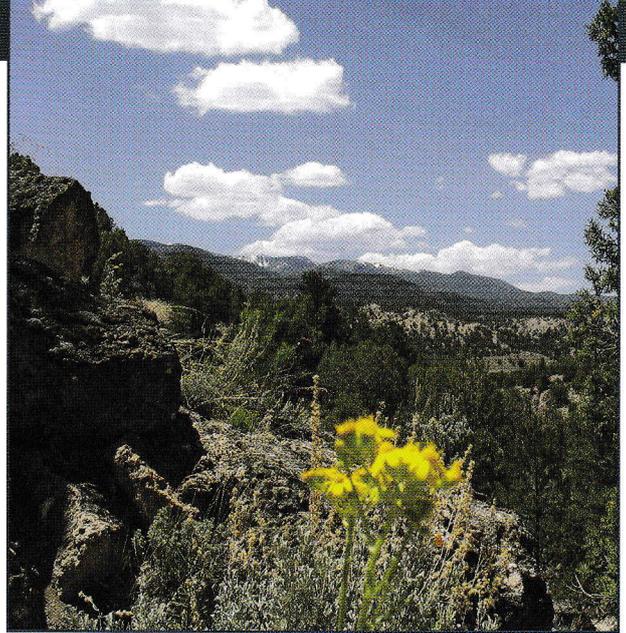


**F**or hundreds of years, the valleys along what is now Interstate 70 near Sevier, Utah were home to a large community of Fremont Indians. Their rock art is still visible in the canyons of Fremont Indian State Park. A film, artifacts, hands-on activities, rock art tours, and exhibits reveal the lives of these Fremont Indians. More than a museum, Fremont Indian State Park also offers camping and access to the Paiute ATV Trail.

### HISTORY

While there is no evidence that Paiute Indians ever lived in Clear Creek Canyon, they traveled seasonally through the canyon since about A.D. 1400. They used the canyon and its tributaries for hunting, and gathering seeds and pinenuts. The trail through Clear Creek Canyon was the only route between hunting areas on different sides of the Pahvant and Tusher mountain ranges. A number of the rock art panels within the park are attributed to the Paiute, and have inspired park signs and trail guides.

The Paiute trail through Clear Creek Canyon was later used by others. In his explorations, Jedediah Smith came through the canyon in 1826. The trail was improved into a wagon road in 1872. A toll of 25 cents per wagon was charged to use the road for the next 25 years. In 1877, the first year-round homesteaders, John Smiley Lott and his two wives, settled in the canyon. A school was built for the Lott grandchildren in 1895. In the 1890s, gold was discovered at Kimberly, making Clear Creek Canyon an important route to the railroad at Sevier. During the 20th century, farming was marginal at best and most families had employment out of the canyon. Construction of I-70 in the 1980s caused most of the canyon's inhabitants to leave. Fremont Indian State Park and Museum was opened in 1987.



### THE MUSEUM

At the visitor center, a short film describes the Fremont people and how the village at Five Finger Ridge was discovered during construction of Interstate 70. Thousands of artifacts excavated from the village are on permanent display. Special programs enhance museum collections, and include rock art tours, atlatl competitions and demonstrations, pottery-making workshops, and art exhibits featuring works of local artists. The museum store carries high quality books, maps, and Native American-themed crafts.

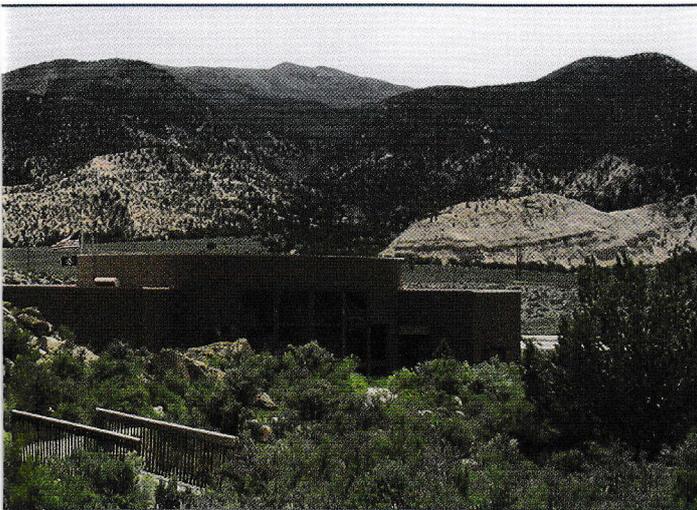


## THE PEOPLE

The Fremont Indians were agriculturalists who lived from about A.D. 400 to 1300 in north and central Utah and adjacent parts of Colorado, Idaho, and Nevada. The Fremont who lived in Clear Creek Canyon are thought to have come from hunters and gatherers who previously lived in this location, and were also influenced by the Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) who introduced corn and pottery – making year-round settlements possible.

Resources in Clear Creek Canyon, with its ample water and marshes, resulted in different subsistence needs than in other Fremont areas. Eating of cattails, marsh fish, and birds meant they did not have to grow as much corn, gather as many seeds, or hunt as many deer to survive. In their spare time they made jewelry and items used for trade, and created numerous rock art panels. We do not know if creation of the panels was a leisure activity or if they were emotionally or spiritually compelled to craft them. Social organization (probably through uniting extended families) was needed to build pithouses, mine obsidian, and gather necessary food.

The name Fremont comes from Native American sites near Capitol Reef National Park, discovered in 1928 along the Fremont River (named after John C. Fremont). These sites contained artifacts and structure types that



were consistently distinguishable from Anasazi sites. It is doubtful that all bands were known by one name or that one language was spoken by all of the people now classified as Fremont.

## GEOLOGY

The canyon is filled with remarkable geologic features such as columnar joints, bubble caves in the volcanic tuff, hoodoos, and cliffs rising hundreds of feet from the ground. Take time to learn about these fascinating formations.



## PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Clear Creek Canyon is home to many animal species such as deer, cottontail rabbits, squirrels, and raptors. Among the more elusive animals living in the area are mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, ringtails, and foxes. Though rarely seen, beaver are plentiful as evidenced by the many fallen trees and dams. Beware of rattlesnakes, which are frequently sighted in summer months.

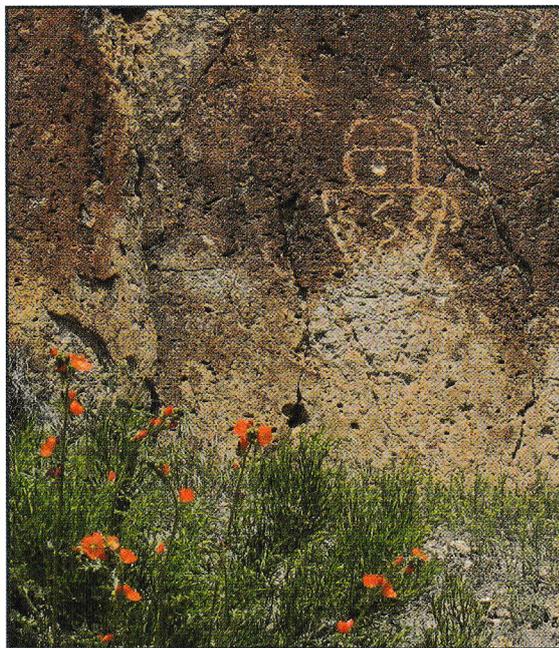
Among the pinion, juniper, scrub oak, and cottonwood trees, visitors will find rabbit brush, sagebrush, and squaw brush.

## HIKING

Numerous trails lead visitors to hundreds of rock art panels, viewpoints, and geologic wonders located throughout Clear Creek Canyon. Petroglyphs, pictographs, pictoglyphs, columnar jointing, hoodoos, and bubble caves are all easily accessible. Pick up a trail guide at the visitor center, then hike any number of trails, which range from one-quarter mile to five miles in length. Hiking trails are for non-motorized use only.

## PAIUTE ATV TRAIL

The most impressive ATV trail system in the world runs right through the middle of Fremont Indian State Park. Trailheads and parking are located within the park. The Sergeant Mountain Trailhead features parking, picnic tables, shade, water, a fire pit, and an informational kiosk. Maps are available in the visitor center and camping is restricted to the Castle Rock Campground.



## MORE RECREATION

There is so much to do - fishing opportunities abound in Clear Creek, mountain biking and hiking are popular along the Marysvale Canyon Trail, and the ghost town of Kimberly is nearby. Visit Cove Fort, Big Rock Candy Mountain, and Piute and Otter Creek state parks.

## CASTLE ROCK CAMPGROUND

Located in a quiet canyon surrounded by towering geologic formations, Castle Rock Campground provides 31 campsites each with a picnic table, fire pit, and barbecue grill. Joe Lott Creek flows year-round nourishing thousands of trees that provide shade to campers. Culinary water is available near all campsites and modern restrooms are open April to September. Off-highway vehicles are allowed in the campground, which offers direct access to the Piute ATV Trail.

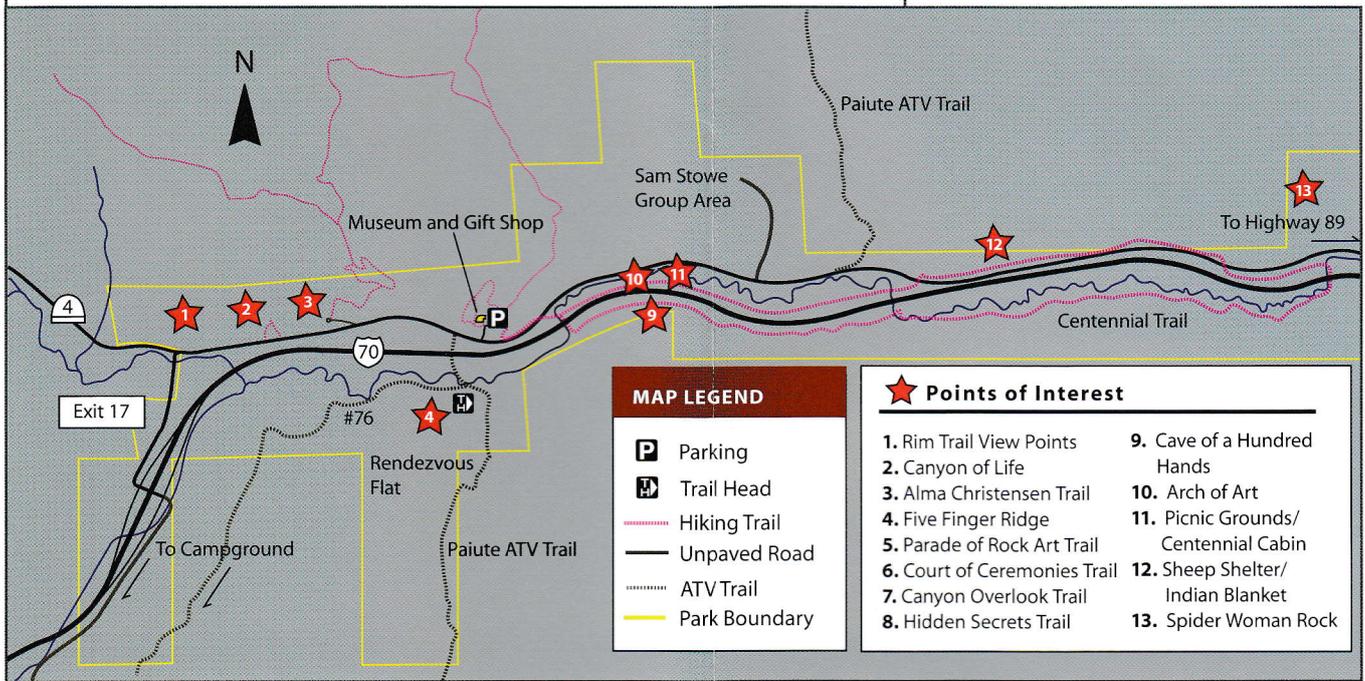
## SAM STOWE GROUP-USE AREA

Secluded from the rest of the park, the Sam Stowe Area is open to groups of up to 100 or more people. Numerous tent sites are available and seven RV sites provide full hook-ups. Two pavilions offer lights, electricity, barbecue grills, modern restrooms, and showers. Visitors may also enjoy a basketball and volleyball court, amphitheater, archery range, and horseshoe pits. Hiking trails, petroglyphs, and fishing access are also nearby. Sam Stowe Group-Use Area offers direct access to the Paiute ATV Trail.

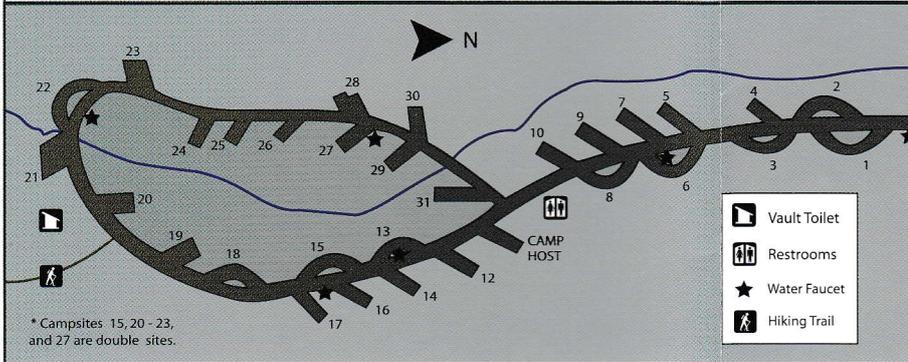
## CENTENNIAL PICNIC GROUNDS

Located on a historic homestead site on the banks of Clear Creek, this day-use area offers picnic tables, fire rings, water, shade, and primitive restrooms. Group day-use is allowed by permit only; no overnight use. The parking lot is accessible to OHVs.

# FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK



## Castle Rock Campground



## Area Map

