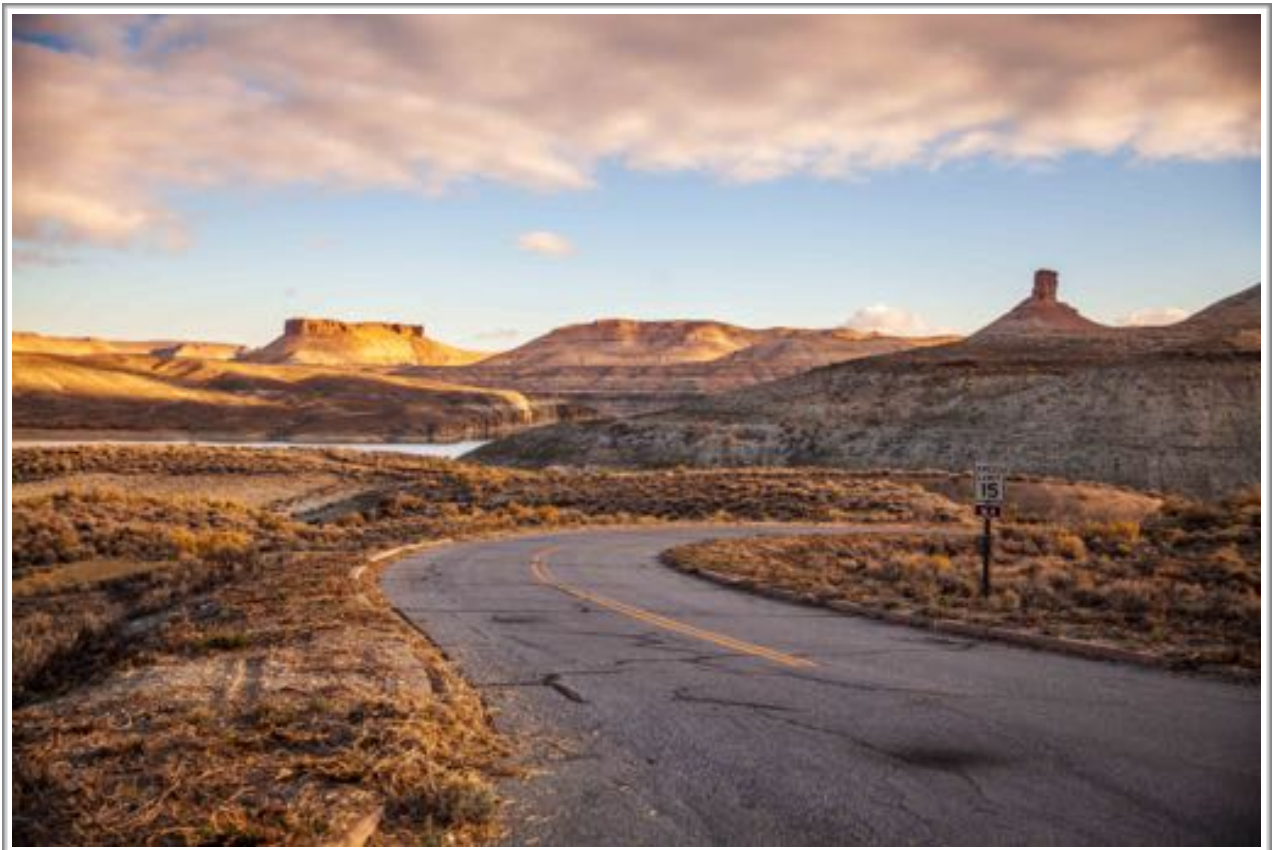


# Flaming Gorge-Green River Basin All-American Road

*Follow the Stunning Red Sandstone Cliffs*



6 Days/5 Nights

Gateway City: Rock Springs, Wyoming



One spring day in 1869, John Wesley Powell and his crew jumped into small wooden boats in Green River, Wyoming and began a three month adventure that would lead them on a daring exploration of the Green and Colorado Rivers. As they worked their way downstream, Powell saw the sun reflecting off the red sandstone cliffs and named the area Flaming Gorge. And what a sight it must have been! With towering canyon walls, glistening sapphire waters, and snow-capped mountains peeking out from the distance, the Powell Expedition must have been in constant awe of such powerful scenery. The Flaming Gorge Scenic Byway, a 160-mile route that circumnavigates the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, passes through quaint mountain communities and lush forests as it parallels the first half of Powell's original odyssey. But Powell's story is not the only tale this Byway has to tell. The area's rich paleontological ground has produced an exceptional collection of dinosaur fossils, petroglyphs, and artifacts discovered along the route suggest that Fremont Indians hunted game near Flaming Gorge for centuries. To drive this Byway is to travel through the ages, from the stunning rock formations created by millennia of erosion to dramatic vistas of valleys and the Gorge itself. Enter a land where there is more wildlife than people, and champion trout fishing a daily occurrence. With world-class recreation, abundant wildlife, storied history, and scenic splendor, your drive along the Flaming Gorge Scenic Byway is sure to deliver spectacular landscapes at every turn.



### **Touring the Byway**

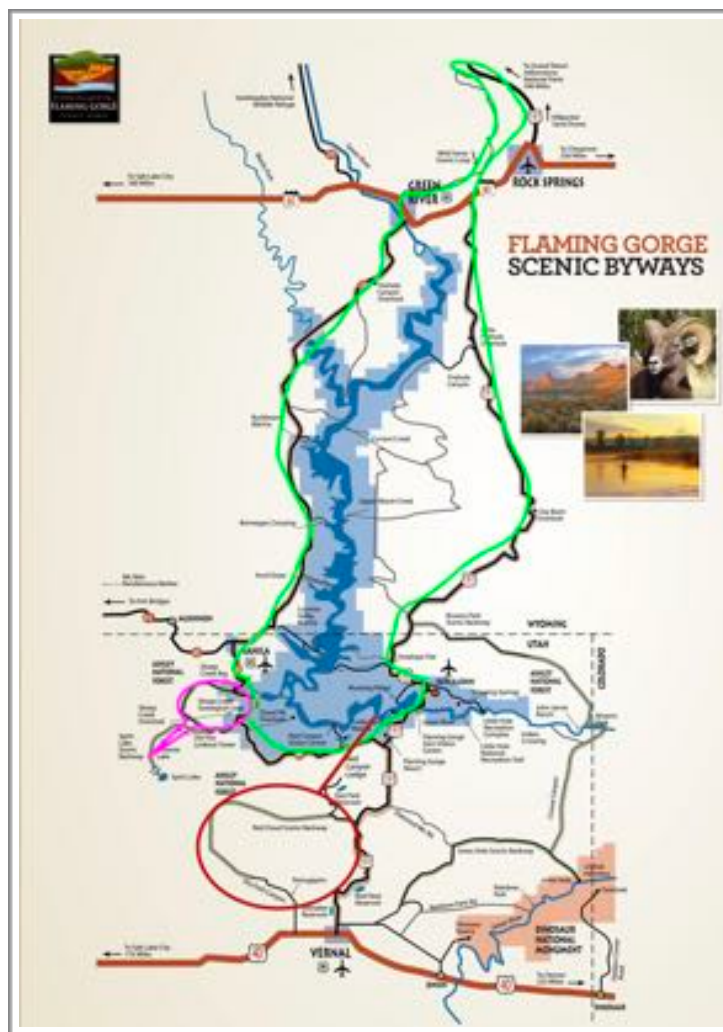
We recommend starting your journey in Rock Springs, a former stopping point for early pioneers and the outlaw gangs who roamed the West. Discover what life was like “in the old days” at the Rock Spring Historical Museum, get a breath of fresh high desert air in Bunning Park, and see one of the largest collections of dinosaur skeletons in the area at Western Wyoming Community College. Spend your first evening relaxing in the pool at a comfortable hotel.

On Day Two, you’ll travel to Green River, the launch site of John Wesley Powell’s Geographic Expedition. Learn of the town’s mining history at the Green River Visitor Center and Sweetwater County Historical Museum, and walk in Powell’s footsteps at the Expedition Island National Historic Landmark before retiring for the night. Begin your drive along the Flaming Gorge Scenic Byway on Day Three as you cross into Utah and make your way to Manilla, a quiet community with breathtaking views of the Ashley National Forest. Follow the signs for the Sheep Creek Scenic Byway, a bonus byway and a 13-mile loop that winds through sandstone cliffs and twisted rock formations.

But don’t put the camera away just yet! As you continue your drive on the Flaming Gorge Scenic Byway, visit the Red Canyon Visitor Center for picture-perfect

overlooks of the Flaming Gorge and the crystalline river that flows through it. Your accommodations for the evening are in handcrafted log cabins located in a beautiful forest setting. Stop for a quiet hike at Steinaker State Park on Day Four, then travel to Vernal, a paleontological paradise where you can learn all about dinosaurs at the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum.

The views continue on Day Five as you explore Red Fleet State Park’s “Little Lake Powell,” the sheltered cove of Cedar Springs Marina, and the Flaming Gorge Dam that towers 502 feet above the Green River. On Day Six, make your way back to Rock Springs to complete your loop on the Flaming Gorge Scenic Byway. Be sure to stop at Firehouse Canyon for one last stunning view of Flaming Gorge. From there, we wish you a safe passage if you’re continuing your journey on another Wyoming Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



## DAY ONE



### **Rock Springs**

Named for a former spring that babbled throughout the town, this city, steeped in Western history was a popular stopping point for both early pioneers on their way to a better life and the outlaw gangs who roamed the lands in search of the tired travelers they could rob and swindle. Famous bank robber Butch Cassidy cut his teeth in Rock Springs while he worked as a butcher, the job that gave him his nickname, “Butch.” A center for Wyoming’s booming coal industry, people moved from all over the world in the late 1800’s to work in the Union Pacific coal mines that surrounded Rock Springs. Many of the mines closed by the mid 1900’s, but the town remains a vibrant, multi-cultural oasis in the high desert.

### **Rock Springs Historical Museum**

Located in the original 1894 sandstone Rock Springs City Hall, the museum’s building remains the only example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in southwest Wyoming. Discover what it was like to live in Rock Springs “in the old days” at this delightful historical museum that showcases the people and industries that developed Rock Springs from a dusty coal town into the thriving community it is today. Exhibits include artifacts, photographs, and displays on coal mining, the Union Pacific Railroad, and famous outlaws Butch Cassidy and Calamity Jane. A research library, bookstore, and gift shop are also available.

201 B St, Rock Springs, WY 82901, 307-362-3138 M-Sa 10AM-5PM.

## **Bunning Park**

A popular and leafy city park with a playground, gazebo, and picnic tables. The perfect spot to rest during a busy day of sightseeing or enjoy a concert at 7PM Wednesday evenings June 1-Aug 17.

J Street &, Evans Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901 Daily 7AM-9PM.

## **Western Wyoming Community College**

This local community college features an impressive collection of artifacts and exhibits on display, including nearly 125 different mounted wildlife species in the Wildlife Museum, a Foucault pendulum that rotates in a 360-degree circle every 24 hours in the Solarium, an Art Gallery and Natural History museum with rotating displays, 9-ton concrete replicas of Easter Island moai statues that line the college's walking paths, and 5 life-sized dinosaur skeletons, including a Stegosaurus, Triceratops, giant Plesiosaur, and a mighty T-rex.

2500 College Dr, Rock Springs, WY 82901, 307-382-1600. Hours may vary.





### **Destination Accommodations**

**Homewood Suites**, 60 Winston Drive, Rock Springs, WY 82901, 307-382-0764 Spacious suites and free hot breakfast.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Cowboy Crepes & Cafe** 1977 Dewar Drive G, Rock Springs, WY 82901, 307-362-6299 Breakfast, brunch, and lunch options in a casual and family-friendly setting.

**Broadway Burger Station** 628 Broadway Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901, 307-362-5858 A fun and entertaining 50's-style diner serving burgers and shakes, and a kid's menu.

**Bitter Creek Brewing** 604 Broadway Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901, 307-362-4782 Pizzas, pastas, and salads alongside an extensive list of in-house speciality microbrews.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Sidekicks Books and Wine Bar** 507 Broadway Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901, 307-389-9727 Books, wine, appetizers and desserts.

**Mack and Company Boutique**, 623 Pilot Butte Avenue, Rock Springs, WY 82901, 37-371-0384, Locally owned artisan boutique.

## DAY TWO



### **Green River**

When the Union Pacific Railroad reached Green River in 1868, railroad officials were stunned to discover that over 2000 residents already lived there. The following year, John Wesley Powell launched his Powell Geographic Expedition from the town, which would later complete the first recorded passage of Europeans through the entirety of the Grand Canyon. Today, Green River is a hot spot for year-round recreational fun, with rugged scenery and abundant outdoor adventure opportunities like river rafting, kayaking, wildlife watching, and world-class fishing.

### **Green River Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center**

Displays provide information on Green River's mining history as well as the ecological diversity found throughout greater southwest Wyoming, while staff are available to answer questions, provide suggestions, and direct you to local dining and recreational activities.

1155 West Flaming Gorge Way, Green River, WY 82935, 307-875-5711 M-F  
8:30AM-5:30PM.



### **Sweetwater County Historical Museum**

Housed in the restored 1931 post office building, the rich cultural heritage of southwestern Wyoming is on display at this charming local museum where you can hear the story of Sweetwater County from its early beginnings as an ancient lake to its present as a major center for the mining industry.

3 East Flaming Gorge Way, Green River, WY 82935, 307-872-6435 T-Sa  
9AM-5PM.

### **Expedition Island National Historic Landmark**

The place where Powell launched the Powell Geographic Expedition to complete a scientific and cartographic assessment of much of the Green and Colorado Rivers. Now a nature area, waterfowl and other birds nest in the tall grasses and bushes that grow throughout the habitat. A paved walking path provides 360-degree views of the Green River and the stunning mountain landscape.

475 South Second East Street, Green River, WY 82935.





**Destination Accommodations**

**Hampton Inn and Suites** 1055 Wild Horse Canyon Road, Green River, WY 82935, 307-875-5300 Comfortable rooms with WiFi and hot breakfast.

**Destination Distinctive Dining**

**The Hitching Post** 580 E Flaming Gorge Way, Green River, WY 82935, 307-875-2246 Family-friendly restaurant and saloon serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and homemade pie.

**Penny's Diner** 1170 W Flaming Gorge Way, Green River, WY 82935, 307-875-3500 A classic 1950's-style diner serving standard American cuisine including homemade milkshakes and malts.

**Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Twisted Timber Apparel** 560 East Flaming Gorge Way, Green River, WY 82935, 307-212-0755 Outdoor clothing and accessories.

**Red White Buffalo**, 68 North First E Street, Green River, WY 82935, 307-875-4585 One of a kind items and Made in Wyoming.

## DAY THREE

### **Manila**

Discover this quiet community at the border of Wyoming and Utah where the valley opens before you and the evening skies fill with more stars than you ever thought possible. Named in 1898 to commemorate the American naval victory at the Battle of Manila Bay, you'll find breathtaking views of the Ashley National Forest to the south and scenic desert formations that fade into the northern horizon. Visitors have been coming to this area for decades in search of outdoor adventure, including incredible wildlife viewing, mountain hiking, and some of the best fishing in the West.

### **Sheep Creek Scenic Byway**

Enjoy a bonus Byway on the Sheep Creek Scenic Byway, a 13-mile loop that winds through the dramatic geologic formations of the Sheep Creek National Geologic Area. As you drive through twisted rock formations, keep your eyes peeled for the Rocky Montanan bighorn sheep that live amongst the sandstone cliffs, as well as birds and other wildlife. Scenic overlooks include Tower Rock and Sheep Creek Overlook, and the Palisades Park Group Picnic Site is located approximately 5.7 miles along the Byway.

Drive begins 5.9 miles south of Manila on UT-44, Allow 1 hour.



### **Red Canyon Visitor Center**

Perched high above the rocky cliffs of Flaming Gorge, the Visitor Center provides stunning views of the canyons and river below. A fully accessible trail offers access to several panoramic viewpoints, including picture-perfect Canyon Rim Overlook, Red Canyon Overlook, and Edge of the Rim View Point. Hiking and mountain biking trails are also nearby.

1475 Red Canyon Road, Dutch John, UT 84023, 435-889-3713 June-August Daily 10AM-5PM.

### **Swett Ranch Historical Homestead**

In 1909, 16-year old Oscar Swett and his wife moved to a one-room cabin on an isolated, high-country ranch to begin a lifetime of homesteading. Just over 50 years later, his ranch had expanded to include 18 buildings on nearly 400 acres, operated almost exclusively by horse- and person-power. The location, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places is a testament to the self-sufficiency and ingenuity of Utah pioneers, where visitors can take a tour and discover what it took to make a living so removed from civilization.

Located 1.3 miles north on FS 158, June-August Th-M 9AM-5PM.





### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**Red Canyon Lodge** 2450 Red Canyon Road, Dutch John, UT 84023, 435-889-3759

Handcrafted log cabins in a beautiful forest setting offer the chance to relax, and onsite recreational activities include horseback riding, boating, mountain biking, private lake fishing, and hiking. An onsite restaurant is open for lunch and dinner, with panoramic views of beautiful East Greens Lake.

## DAY FOUR

### **Steinaker State Park**

This quiet state park showcases the 825-acre Steinaker Reservoir, formed by a canal from the diversion dam on Ashley Creek several miles to the west.

Exceptional outdoor activities available to visitors include fishing, bird watching, water skiing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and swimming, and a sandy beach with vault restrooms and picnic tables is available.

8750 North Highway 191, Vernal, UT 8407, 800-322-3770 Summer: Daily 6AM-10PM, Winter: Daily 8AM-10PM.

### **Vernal**

One of the few towns in Utah not settled by Mormon pioneers, Vernal was originally set aside in 1861 by President Lincoln as the Uintah Indian Reservation. Captain Pardon Dodds later built a cabin in 1868 and word spread that the land was in fact habitable. Today, Vernal is a gateway to outdoor adventure and dinosaur discovery, due to the many dinosaur fossils found and studied in the area.



### **Uintah County Regional History Center**

Discover the local history of Vernal and the surrounding Uintah County at this quaint center dedicated to collecting and preserving artifacts of the Uinta Basin Region. Items in the collection include photographs, newspapers, local yearbooks, biographies, oral histories, history books, and cemetery records.

152 East Utah 100 North, Vernal, UT 84078, 435-789-6276 M-F 8AM-5PM.

### **Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum**

Travel back in time at this interactive museum that reveals eastern Utah's geologic past and natural history. Through hands-on exhibits and activities, visitors can learn all about dinosaurs, dig for fossils, and participate in paleontology field programs. Exhibits include fossils, artistic representations of life forms, examples of ancient and recent Native American life in the Uintas, a dinosaur garden with 17 full-size replicas of prehistoric animals, and rocks over 600 million years old.

496 East Main Street, Vernal, UT 84078, 435-789-3799 M-Sa 9AM-5PM.





**Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**Stone Hollow Bed and Breakfast**, 1010 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT 84078, 435-487-1008 Daily breakfast, hot tub, WiFi

**Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Dinosaur Brew Haus** 550 East Main Street, Vernal, UT 84078, 435-781-0717 Family-friendly restaurant serving burgers, sandwiches, and local beers on tap.

**Swain Brothers** 29 South Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT 84078, 435-781-8700 Offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner in a casual and comfortable setting.

**Destination Distinctive Retail**

**The Country Bear** 61 East Main Street, Vernal, UT 84078, 435-781-6105 Local gift shop with home decor and a large selection of seasonal and holiday items.



## DAY FIVE

### **Red Fleet State Park**

Perched on the southern slopes of the Uinta Mountains at 5,500 feet, this quiet park offers fishing, hiking, swimming, biking, and more in a gorgeous sandstone cliff setting. The calm, green waters of the Red Fleet Reservoir are often called “Little Lake Powell” and are perfect for boating, fishing, and other water sports. A 1.5-mile hiking trail, rated hard, lets you get up close and personal with dozens of 200 million year old dinosaur tracks from three-toed, bipedal giants. Picnic grounds are also available.

8750 North Highway 191, Vernal, UT 84078, 435-789-6614 Winter: Daily, 8AM-5PM, Summer: Daily, 6AM-10PM.

### **Wildlife Through the Ages**

Discover a series of byway pull outs along US-191 that tell the story of the area’s geologic history through multiple interpretive panels. Geologic roadside marker signs also label the different rock layers exposed by erosion as you climb over three thousand feet in elevation over the course of this brief drive.

### **Dutch John**

This tiny town was platted in 1957 by the United States Bureau of Reclamation to house thousands of Flaming Gorge Dam construction workers, but didn’t officially incorporate into a town until 2016. The city now serves as a gateway to the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, and has ample access to hiking trails, boat launches, and fishing spots along the Green River.

### **Cedar Springs Marina**

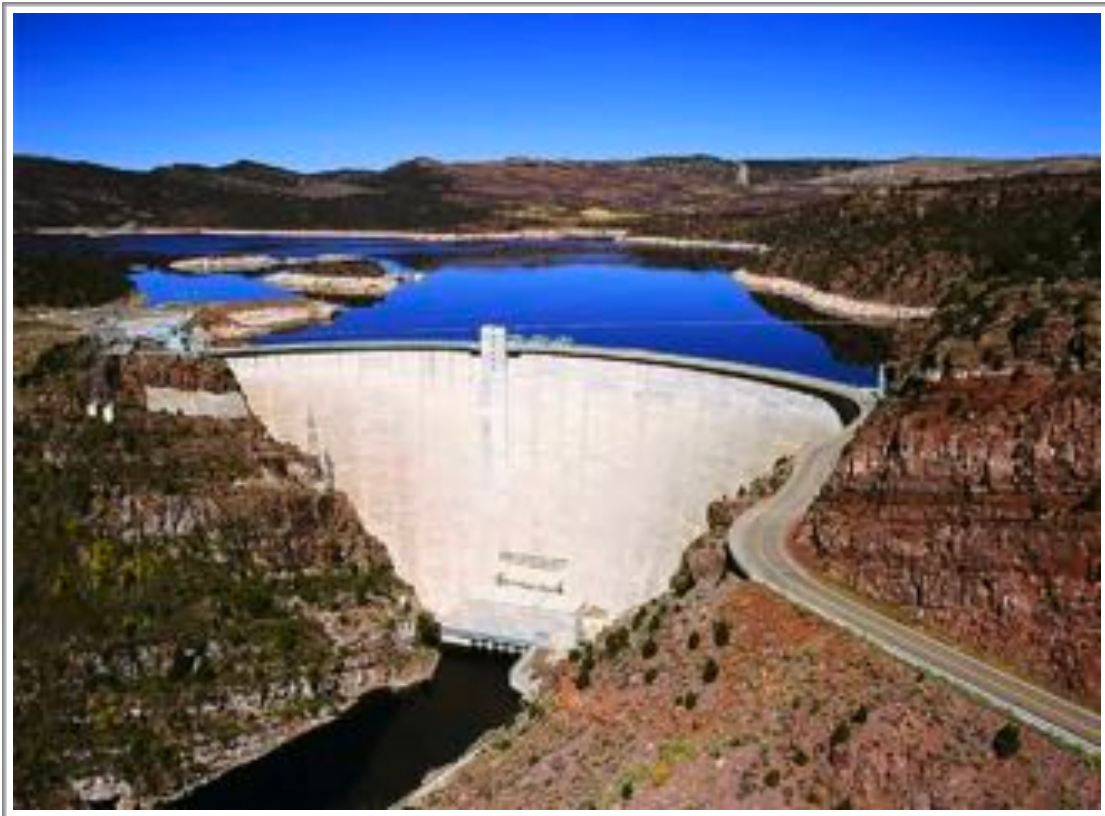
Discover crystal clear waters, world class fishing, exciting wildlife, and one of nature’s most beautiful landscapes as you explore this sheltered cove during your perfect day on Lake Flaming Gorge. The Marina offers full-service slip rental for private boats, and boat rentals and guided fishing and canyon lake tours for those who are visiting from out of town. A restaurant serving light bites and drinks is also open on site during the summer season.

2675 North Cedar Springs Road, Dutch John, UT 84023, 435-889-3795

## **Flaming Gorge Dam Visitor Center**

Towering 502 feet above the Green River, the Flaming Gorge Dam, built to provide water storage and hydroelectric power to the area, created the 91-mile long Flaming Gorge Reservoir. An easy stroll to the edge of the dam provides fantastic riverside views, and exhibits at the Visitor Center include a 3D model of the dam, films that tell the history of Flaming Gorge.

Flaming Gorge Dam, 5995 Flaming Gorge Visitor Center, Dutch John, UT 84023, 435-885-3135 April 15-Oct 15 Daily 9AM-5PM.



## **Little Hole Recreation Area**

This scenic park provides access to boat ramps, fishing sites, the Little Hole National Recreational Trail, a 14-mile out and back moderately rated trail that winds through the bottom of Red Canyon along the north shore of the Green River. A sign near the river describes the spot where John Wesley Powell and his team camped during their historic Green River expedition. Restrooms and shaded picnic areas are also located throughout the park.



**Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**Dutch John Resort** 1050 South Boulevard, Dutch John, UT 84023, 435-848-8000 Luxury cabins with free Wi-Fi, full size kitchens, a private patio and backyard, and propane grills.

**Destination Distinctive Dining**

Green River Grill & Steakhouse Family-friendly gathering place serving year-round breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with boxed meals to-go for your day exploring the Flaming Gorge area.

## DAY SIX

### **Antelope Flat Portal and Overlook**

A scenic pull-out for expansive views of the Antelope Flat Campground and the colorful sandstone cliffs of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Interpretive signs tell the story of the area's geologic history, describe the variety of wildlife found along the byway, and provide other interesting facts.

Approximately 4.7 miles north of Dutch John on US-191.

### **Little Firehole Canyon**

Descend nearly a thousand feet in just over 16 miles and become intimately acquainted with the multicolored parks and valleys formed by erosion in the Green River Valley.

Approximately 47 miles north of Dutch John on US-191.

