

The beautiful Cedar Mesa sandstone monoliths, pinnacles and other geological features of this enchanting area are known as a Miniature Monument Valley. These sandstone sentinels were eroded by wind and water over eons of time.

As you drive this loop, you will see a number of monoliths which have been given local names. To facilitate identifying the named formations, the following guide has been keyed to the attached driving map. However, it may be more fun for you to name them yourself, depending on what you think they look like.



Geologic Reference: The statuesque sentinels in the Valley of the Gods, as well as other area features, are all sculpted from Cedar Mesa sandstone dating to the Permian age, 250 million years old. The 1200 foot thick sandstone was cemented by calcium carbonate interspersed with lenses of red siltstone and was deposited in huge sand dunes near the shores of an ancient sea. Erosion by water, wind and ice over millions of years chiseled rock formations into the unique shapes we see today.

Camping: There are several car camps along this route. However, no campfires are allowed.

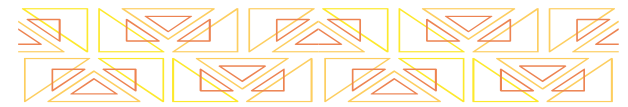


Moki Dugway: For a thrilling ride and breathtaking panoramic view, climb up the Moki Dugway. The Moki Dugway winds and climbs 1100 between the valley floor and the mesa top. Several view points allow a spectacular panorama of the Valley of the Gods and Monument Valley.

Filming: The Valley of the Gods and the Moki Dugway are very popular filming location because of its classic “western” look. Filming projects include still shots and moving film for commercial ads, major motion pictures, promotions for recreational events such as the Marlboro Adventure team and hot air balloon rides and even background shots for a Play Station™ game.



Navajo interpretation of Valley of the Gods rock formations: “Rock formations are places of power in which spirits reside, and the formations in Valley of the Gods are some of the most distinctive. These imposing monoliths are Navajo warriors frozen in stone, who can be appealed to for protection. They are guardians whose power and strength aid young servicemen going to war.” (From Sacred Land Sacred View by Dr. Robert S. McPherson, Brigham Young University.)



VALLEY OF THE GODS



The Valley of the Gods is administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Monticello Field Office, Monticello, Utah., 435-587-1500.

The 17 mile loop through the Valley of the Gods is a graded gravel and clay surface road (San Juan County Road #242), that has a few sharp turns, and crosses several washes. It is suitable for passenger cars when the road conditions are dry. However, road conditions vary throughout the year with regional weather conditions. Local inquiry should be made during and after periods of inclement weather.

This road can be accessed from either Utah Highway 261 (about 10 miles northeast of Mexican Hat, Utah, or U.S. Highway 163, about 15 miles west of the town of Bluff, Utah, and seven miles east of Mexican Hat, Utah). Driving time is approximately one to two hours.



WELCOME TO THE VALLEY OF THE GODS

Driving the Valley of the Gods Loop

East Entrance:

The 17 mile loop begins on US Highway 163 about 15 miles west of the village of Bluff, Utah or 7 miles east of Mexican Hat, Utah, and ends on Utah Highway 261 about 10 miles northeast of Mexican Hat, Utah and 26 miles south of Utah Highway 95 via the Moqui Dugway.

All mileages are approximate and measured from this bulletin board.

0.5 miles Scenic pull off where you can view the **SEVEN SAILORS** in their flat sailor caps, to the west (your left).

1.5 miles You can see the **SETTING HEN BUTTE** straight ahead.

5 miles **BATTLESHIP ROCK** is on the left (southwest).

5.7 miles If you stop at the side of the road and look in your rear view mirror, you can see **ROOSTER BUTTE**, the monolith visible to the south.

7 miles You begin to circle **CASTLE BUTTE** on your left: Are those "warriors" to your right, frozen in stone?

8 miles Complete the drive around Castle Butte.

15.5 miles **VALLEY OF THE GODS B&B/LEE's RANCH**: See history on brochure.

16 miles Reach Utah 261; Mexican Hat, Utah is to the left, Utah 95 and Natural Bridges National Monument are to the right.

Driving the Valley of the Gods Loop

West Entrance:

The 17 mile loop begins on Utah Highway 261 about 10 miles northeast of Mexican Hat, Utah, and 26 miles south of Utah Highway 95 via the Moqui Dugway, and ends on US Highway 163 about 15 miles west of the village of Bluff, Utah or 7 miles east of Mexican Hat, Utah.

All mileages are approximate and measured from this bulletin board.

On you left (north) Cedar Mesa rises 1100 feet above you.

Less than .5 miles **VALLEY OF THE GODS B&B/LEE'S RANCH**: See history on brochure.

2.5-3.5 miles The tall monolith to the left (north) is **BALANCED ROCK**

7.5-8.5 miles The tall monolith to the north is **CASTLE BUTTE**.

9-9.5 miles **ROOSTER BUTTE** becomes visible to the south and **BATTLESHIP ROCK** is on the right (southwest).

13.5 miles You will be passing **SETTING HEN BUTTE** on the right.

15 miles The **SEVEN SAILORS** with their flat sailor caps are on your right, to the west.

16 miles **CROSS LIME CREEK** to US Hwy. 163; Bluff is to the left, and Mexican Hat is to the right.

