

# ESCALANTE PETRIFIED FOREST STATE PARK

## GUIDELINES

*Please observe these park regulations to ensure a safe and pleasant visit:*

**Fires** – Campfires may be built in specified areas. Most developed campsites provide camp stoves or charcoal facilities. Firewood is not generally available in state parks. Picnickers and campers should bring appropriate fuel.

**Pets** – Pets are allowed at Escalante, but should be on a maximum six-foot leash. Service dogs are the only animals admitted into park buildings. Pets are not allowed on developed beaches or in the lake. Please promptly clean up after pets.

**Plants and Animals** – All plants, animals, minerals and other natural features in state parks are protected. It is unlawful to remove, alter or destroy them.

**Firearms** – Possession or use of firearms, traps or other devices capable of launching a projectile that can immobilize, injure or kill a person or animal, or damage property is prohibited unless the weapon or device is 1) unloaded and packed away to prevent its use, 2) being used for legal pursuit of wildlife, or 3) being used by authorized enforcement officers in the performance of official duties. Please check hunting proclamations for legal use near state parks.

**Fireworks** – Unless authorized by the park manager, explosives, fireworks and firecrackers are prohibited.

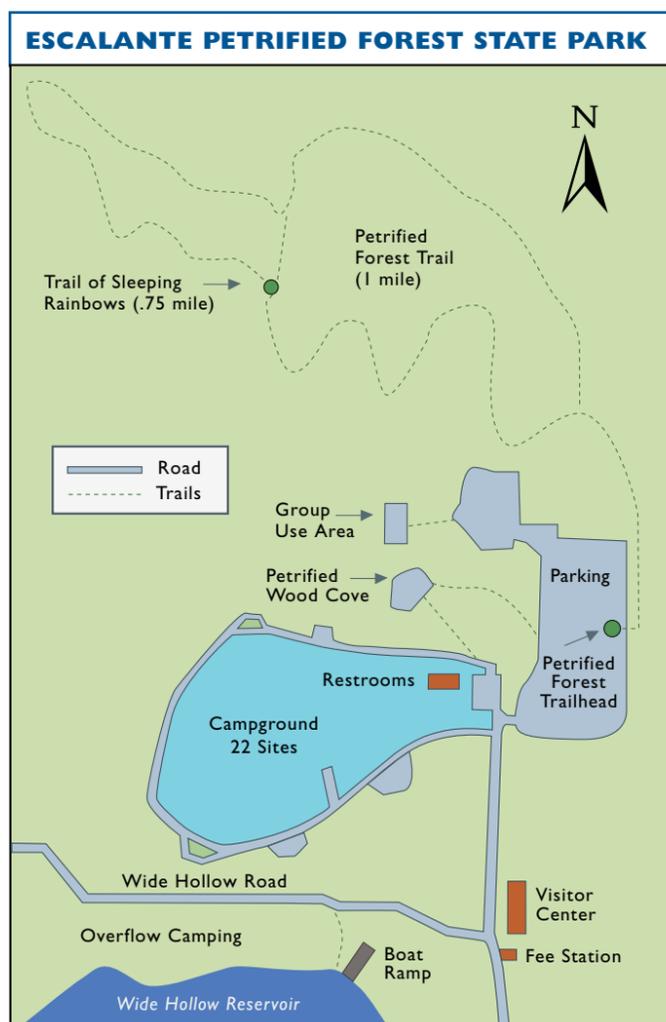
**Vandalism** – Please help keep our parks beautiful. It is unlawful to mutilate or deface any natural or constructed feature.

**Speed Limit** – Speed limit on state park roads is 15 mph unless otherwise posted. The campground speed limit is 5 mph.

**Wastewater** – It is unlawful to dump or drain wastewater from campers or trailers onto the ground. Utility sinks and sanitary disposal station are provided.

**Quiet Hours** – 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

**General Hours** – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Generators may run at two-hour on/off intervals.



## Address inquiries to:

Escalante Petrified Forest State Park  
710 North Reservoir Road  
Escalante, UT 84726-0350  
(435) 826-4466  
(800) 322-3770 Camping reservations

Utah State Parks and Recreation  
1594 West North Temple, Ste. 116  
PO Box 146001  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001  
(801) 538-7220  
(877) UT-PARKS (toll free)  
(801) 538-7458 (TTY)  
[www.stateparks.utah.gov](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov)

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Provide opportunities to improve the quality of life in Utah through parks, people and employees serving the public.

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**E**scalante Petrified Forest State Park is located in beautiful southern Utah, just 44 miles east of Bryce Canyon National Park. Hike along park nature trails through a petrified forest, camp along the shores of Wide Hollow Reservoir, or rent a canoe and paddle on its clear waters. View fossils, petrified wood, fossilized dinosaur bones, and artifacts left by ancient Fremont Indians who inhabited this area nearly 1,000 years ago.

## THINGS TO DO

**T**wo established trails wind through vast deposits of some of the most beautiful petrified wood found anywhere, with some pieces measuring nearly five feet wide! Please wear sturdy walking shoes and sunscreen, and carry plenty of drinking water.

**Petrified Forest Trail:** This one-mile loop is a moderate to strenuous hike, which climbs 200 feet to the top of the mesa behind the visitor center.



**Trail of Sleeping Rainbows:** This .75-mile extension off the one-mile Petrified Forest Trail has the highest concentrations of petrified wood, but it is very strenuous. Use extreme caution.

Please do not remove any petrified wood from the park – some say the wood is haunted and removing a piece brings the taker nothing but bad luck.

Wide Hollow Reservoir offers great fishing for rainbow trout, largemouth bass, and bluegill. Rent a canoe and life jacket, and paddle around the quiet waters. Take a swim or lounge on sunny shores, and watch for many species of bird and waterfowl.

Camp and picnic in a modern, 22-unit campground complete with tables, firepits, barbecue grills, culinary water, restrooms with hot showers, and sanitary disposal station.

## PLANTS AND ANIMALS

**E**xplore the desert environment, which is typical of the Upper Sonoran life zone. Trees are mostly pinyon and juniper with strands of cottonwoods along the lakeshore. Many species of wildflowers share the park with small rodents, lizards, waterfowl, birds, deer, and coyotes. Escalante Petrified Forest State Park is listed in the *Utah Wildlife Viewing Guide* as one of the few wetland bird viewing sites in southern Utah.



## PETRIFIED FOREST STEP BACK IN TIME

Climb to the 200-foot high mesa top, which was once the bottom of an ancient flood plain. Approximately 135 to 155 million years ago, trees up to 100 feet tall were uprooted and buried in mud during violent flooding.

Groundwater permeated the buried trees over millions of years. Because they were in an oxygen-free environment, the trees did not decay. Instead, through a complex process, silica solution in the groundwater replaced organic material in the tree, leaving the cell structure intact. Due to erosion, this fallen forest of petrified trees is now exposed.



**THE COLORS** - The beautiful and varied colors of petrified wood are caused by the presence of other minerals that enter the wood during the petrifying process. Iron oxides produce orange, red, and yellow, while manganese oxides create blues, blacks, and purples.



## PARK HISTORY

**E**scalante Petrified Forest State Park was established in 1963 with land purchased from the USDI Bureau of Land Management. Wide Hollow Reservoir was constructed in 1954, and its water is used by the town of Escalante for irrigation. Additional land was purchased in 1972 to include part of Wide Hollow Reservoir shoreline.

## SIGHTSEEING

**E**scalante and the surrounding area are veritable wonderlands of scenic beauty. Set up base camp at the park, and be within a few miles of the high-mountain lakes and forests of Boulder Mountain, remote canyons of the Escalante River, and slick rock desert country of the famous Hole-in-the-Rock crossing at Lake Powell.

## Reservations

Individual campsite reservations can be made a minimum of two days in advance of arrival date and up to 18 weeks in advance from park checkout date. Group-use reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance. Reservations are always recommended, and may be made by calling (800) 322-3770 or visiting [www.stateparks.utah.gov](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov).

## User Fees

Day-use and camping fees are charged. An additional fee is charged for reservations.