

Goosenecks State Park is near the junction of Utah Hwy. 261 and US 163. The park is on Utah Hwy. 316, a 4 mile, paved, narrow road leading to an overlook of the Goosenecks of the San Juan River. The Goosenecks is one of the most striking examples of an *entrenched river meander* on the North American continent. The view takes in eons of geologic time. If you are planning on visiting Goosenecks State Park, please pick up a site specific brochure in a local visitor center.

Descending the Moki Dugway places you on what appears to be the lowest level of land. But you will discover at Goosenecks State Park that there is yet another 1,000 foot drop deep into the eroded landscape. From the park, the San Juan River's sinuous path is clearly visible as it has cut through multiple geologic layers. If you look closely, you may see river runners on the water far below the park area. Caution is advised near the edge of the cliff. The river is not accessible from the park.

All in all, a trip on the Moki Dugway is an experience to be remembered! Take plenty of film and give yourself enough time to enjoy the view!

Please remain on the roadway or in the overlook areas. If you stop to take photos, please pull your vehicle off the road in a safe location. There are several 'pull-out' areas along the Dugway. The overlook at the top affords a view of the entire area. If you leave your vehicle to find a good spot for a photo, do so with great care.

Make sure you travel with at least one gallon of water per day per person. If you are hiking, carry water, a wide brimmed hat, a long sleeve shirt, and sunscreen. If you are visiting in the fall or spring, be prepared for sudden storms. This is a beautiful land, but it can be harsh. Please exercise caution.



**Monument Valley - Lake Powell
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The MOKI DUGWAY!



The breathtaking Moki Dugway winds 1200 feet from top to bottom on 3 miles of graded gravel at an 11% grade. Most vehicles can travel the route safely. Caution is advised for motor homes or vehicles pulling trailers. A parking area near the top provides a stunning view of Valley of the Gods. The small ranch house visible in the valley is the Valley of the Gods B&B. Originally Lee's Ranch, it is the only home within the 360,000 acre Cedar Mesa Cultural and Recreational Management Area.

On the horizon to the east lies Sleeping Ute Mountain near Cortez, Colorado. To the southeast is the Shiprock near Shiprock, New Mexico. To the south the Carrizo Mountains straddle the New Mexico / Arizona border. Monument Valley is

southeast on the Utah / Arizona border.

To the east and below, from north to south, are the sandstone formations known as Pyramid Peak, Rooster Butte, the Southern Lady, and the Seven Sailors. Visible to the southeast is Sugarloaf. Wavy striations forming a pattern on a purple/grey hillside to the southeast are known as the Raplee Anticline. To the south, Alhambra Rock rises as a dark brown monolith. It is an 'igneous plug' or hard, volcanic material which was pushed up through the overlaying sandstone. The softer rock eroded, leaving the plug. Plugs like this are found throughout the Four Corners.

The Moki Dugway was built in the 1950s by Texas Zinc Minerals as a route for ore trucks hauling uranium and vanadium from Cedar Mesa at the top of the Dugway to the processing mill near Mexican Hat. As you drive the Dugway, think about the trucks, laden with raw ore, slowly navigating the roadway. You will not see ore trucks today, but you may encounter passenger vehicles slowly moving along the sinuous route. The roadway is as wide as most two lane, paved roads but it is without shoulders and appears to be much narrower.

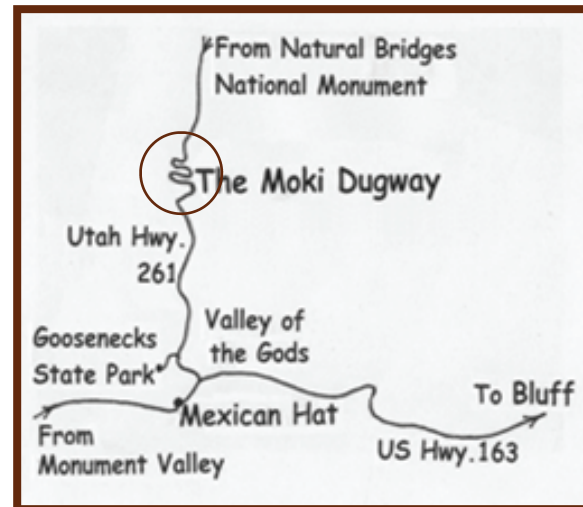
On the mesa top, near the end of the pavement, a native surface road leads

west five miles to Muley Point and a stunning overlook. The towers in Monument Valley are just visible on the horizon and John's Canyon is just below. Muley Point is a nice place for a tail-gate picnic as you take in the view. Exercise caution at the edge of the 1,200 foot cliff. The road to Muley Point has no base. If there are puddles or damp spots, drive around them. If the road is wet or damp from side to side, do not continue in your vehicle.

What is a 'Dugway'?

The Dictionary of the American West defines a dugway as, "*A road or trail going through a high land form which is dug out of or excavated into the land form to provide a path for transport.*" It is a means of traversing a steep hillside without sliding down the slope.

Deep ruts were cut into steep slopes into which the up-hill wheels of wagons would be placed. The wagons would then traverse the slope, hanging on by their up-hill wheels. David Lavender, in *One Man's West*, says, "The inside wheels of the wagons fitted into the deeply cut rut enough so the wagon didn't fall out -- maybe."



NEAR THE DUGWAY

Valley of the Gods lies below the Moki Dugway. The land and flora changes as you descend from scrub forest to desert. You can spend hours or days exploring among the sandstone formations in Valley of the Gods. As is usual in this stark land, morning and evening are the best times for photos. The valley is full of deep evening shadows and the morning sun shines directly on the valley and its towers. The 17 mile, native surface loop road skirts many of the formations and short hikes are necessary to reach others.