



U.S. Department of the
Interior
Bureau of Land Management

FISHER TOWERS RECREATION SITE

The Fisher Towers are one of the most outstanding scenic features of Utah's Colorado Riverway. These rock pinnacles soar above a maze of red and purple hued canyons. Visitors to the Fisher Towers Recreation Site will be rewarded with a sweeping view of the towers, Castle Rock, the cliff enclosed Richardson Amphitheater, and the Colorado River. The Bureau of Land Management administers the Fisher Towers Recreation Site, a small campground and trailhead, located at the base of the towers. Fisher Towers Recreation Site is northeast of Moab at the end of a 2.2 mile long graded dirt access road. The road to Fisher Towers begins near highway mile marker 21 along Utah Scenic Byway 128. Facilities at the recreation site include a vault toilet, fire grills, and picnic tables. There is no drinking water.

GEOLOGY

The Fisher Towers are composed of the Organ Rock Tongue of the Cutler geologic formation capped by rock of the Moenkopi formation. The Towers are isolated remnants of a 225 million year old floodplain deposit of the Uncompahgre highland, which was located in western Colorado. When the Colorado Plateau was uplifted, salt deposits underlying this region buckled, warped, and collapsed. Subsequent erosion caused the formation of valleys and cliff escarpments.

ROCK CLIMBING

The highest tower, the 900 foot Titan, was first climbed in 1962 by three men from Colorado. Their ascent was described in "We Climbed Utah's Skyscraper Rock" published in the November 1962 issue of National Geographic Magazine. Although the crumbly texture of the towers offers less than ideal conditions, rock climbing is now relatively common in this area as a result of recent developments in climbing techniques and equipment.

FISHER TOWERS HIKING TRAIL

The hiking trail along the base of the towers offers excellent views of these carved piles of hardened mud and adjacent canyon systems. The trail is 2.2 miles long and it takes most people three to four hours to make a leisurely round trip. While there are numerous stopping points with striking views, an outstanding view of the area may be obtained by hiking out halfway along the trail to the base of the Titan.

There is no water along the trail so come prepared. In the summer, a gallon of water per day per person is recommended. Sturdy walking shoes or light boots are also a good idea. Be careful if you are walking the trail during or after a rainstorm. Erosive forces are still at work and falling rocks are a hazard. The trail skirts unfenced drop-offs. Parents should watch children carefully and caution them about the danger of falling.

While camping or walking the trail, listen to the scrub jays and the ravens. Notice a juniper tree growing out of a crack in the rock. Try to get a close view of a lizard. These living components of the environment are as much a part of the "scenery" as the Fisher Towers.

LOW IMPACT RECREATION USE

The desert is a fragile environment. Deserts may seem more resilient than forest areas, but that is not true. Due to the scarcity of water, vegetation, and organic soils, these arid lands are particularly susceptible to physical damage from recreational use.

- You can help maintain the scenic beauty of this area by restricting foot travel to the campground area and hiking trail. The route of the Fisher Towers Hiking Trail is marked by cairns (small rock piles) where it crosses areas where the path of the trail is not obvious. If you find yourself scrambling down ledges, retrace your route until you locate the trail.
- Avoid cutting switchbacks on the trail. This leads to erosion.
- The Fisher Towers Hiking Trail is closed to motorized use and mountain bike travel. Please respect the rights of individuals who prefer primitive recreation experiences. For information about the hundreds of miles of routes available for mountain bike, motorcycle, all terrain vehicle, and 4 wheel drive use, please visit the Moab Information Center or call the Bureau's office in Moab.

FILM HISTORY

Fisher Towers and the country along the Colorado River may look familiar. They have served as a scenic back drop for numerous motion pictures, videos, and commercials. The Western style films Wagon Master, Against A Crooked Sky, The Comancheros, and Rio Conchos all featured views of Fisher Towers. One scene with Richard Boone in Against A Crooked Sky was filmed next to the Fisher

Towers Recreation Site parking area. The "24" post at the parking area is a stop along the route of the self guided Moab Area Movie Locations Auto Tour. From the '24' movie tour post, located adjacent to the Fisher Towers access road .9 miles from highway 128, one can view the hillside across the small side drainage where the crew of the Comancheros constructed an elaborate Spanish style hacienda. The movie concluded with a fiery attack upon a covered wagon near the hacienda.

MOTION PICTURES FILMED NEAR FISHER TOWERS

- 1949 Wagon Master
- 1950 Rio Grande
- 1951 Battle at Apache Pass
- 1952 Son of Cochise
- 1953 Border River
- 1953 Siege of Red River
- 1954 Canyon Crossroads
- 1954 Smoke Signal
- 1956 Fort Dobbs
- 1958 Warlock
- 1959 Ten Who Dared
- 1960 Gold of Seven Saints
- 1961 Comancheros
- 1963 The Greatest Story Ever Told
- 1963 Cheyenne Autumn
- 1964 Rio Conchos
- 1965 Canyonlands U.S.A.
- 1967 Blue
- 1967 Fade In
- 1971 Seeta, the Mountain Lion
- 1975 Against a Crooked Sky
- 1984 Choke Canyon
- 1992 Knights
- 1992 This Boy's Life
- 1995 The Sunchaser
- 1996 Breakdown Mile
- 1999 Nurse Betty

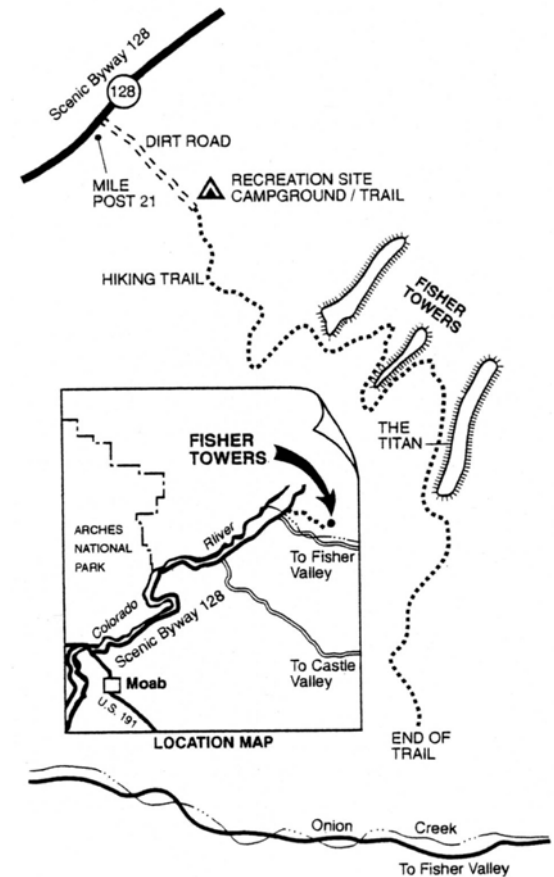
For more information about movie history and locations, obtain a copy of the Moab Area Movie Locations Auto Tour brochure published by the Moab Area Travel Council. The brochure is available from the Moab Information Center located at Main and Center Street, and from:

Moab Area Travel Council
P.O. Box 550
Moab, Utah 84532

(435) 259-8825
(800) 635-6622

www.discovermoab.com

FISHER TOWERS AREA MAP



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