

## Rattlesnake or bull snake

**Rattlesnake** (pictured on left): Triangular-shaped head, venomous, has rattle and will strike.

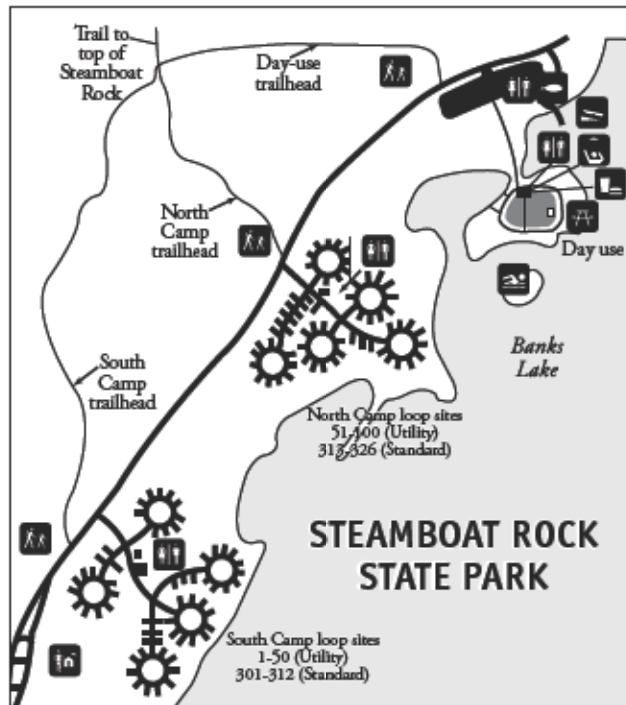
**Interesting fact:** Baby rattlesnakes tend to be more aggressive than the adults because they do not know what a threat is and what is not. Care should be taken around baby rattlesnakes, as they are poisonous.

**Bull snake** (pictured on right): Non-venomous, body and head have a continuous shape, no rattle.

**Interesting fact:** Bull snakes make a hissing sound and can be deceiving because they may act like a rattlesnake. Although not venomous, bull snakes may strike if provoked.



View of Steamboat Rock State Park from the Steamboat Rock trail.



### Steamboat Rock State Park

(509) 633-1304

Camping reservations:

Call (888) 226-7688 or (888) CAMPOUT,  
online [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)

Information Center: (360) 902-8844

### Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 42650

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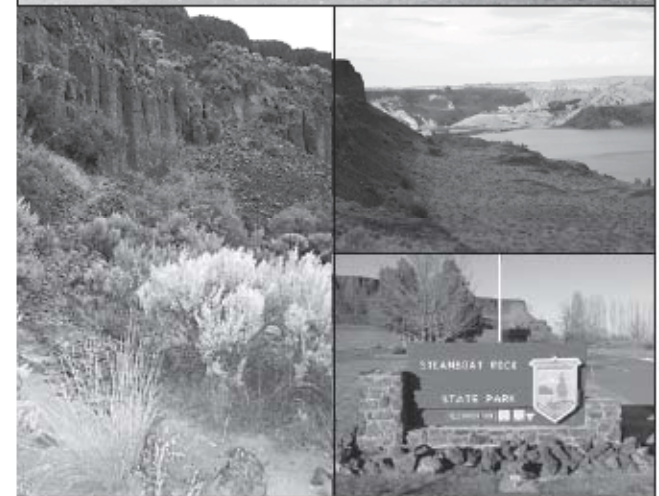
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Washington State Parks

# Steamboat Rock State Park

## Hiking in the Coulee Corridor

A guide to hiking Steamboat Rock  
and Northrup Canyon



## Steamboat Rock hike

The Steamboat Rock trail is open to all levels of hikers. The trail is accessible to mountain bikes from the trailheads to the base of Steamboat Rock. From the top of Steamboat Rock, it is possible to see almost the entire length of the coulee, from Grand Coulee in the north to Coulee City in the south. There are approximately 600 acres to explore on the top of Steamboat Rock.

Steamboat Rock was formed between 10 million and 15 million years ago as basalt flows covered most of Eastern Washington. Glaciers encroached on the area beginning approximately 100,000 years ago. The current shape of the rock was created during repeated flooding of the area from glacial Lake Missoula between 12,500 and 18,000 years ago. While the Grand Coulee runs mainly north to south, a smaller coulee runs east to west and divides the southern two-thirds of Steamboat Rock.

High point of Steamboat Rock – 2,270 feet

Elevation gain – 800 feet (from lake level)

Distance – 1 to 1.5 miles from trailheads to the top of the rock

Overnight camping and parking are prohibited along trails.

## Trailheads

1. Between contact station and south camp entrance
2. Across from north camp entrance
3. Across from day-use area

## Northrup Canyon hike

Northrup Canyon offers a fun-filled experience for all levels of hikers. On foot, mountain bike or horseback, follow the trail past the iron gate and through the basalt cliffs. Sights to see on your adventure include Northrup Creek, old homesteads, historical landmarks, wildlife and Northrup Lake at the end of the trail. The old stagecoach road is on the right as you head down the trail, approximately 100 to 150 yards past the gate.

The canyon was homesteaded by John Northrup in 1889. The piles of rusted cans date back to the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam and are considered historical and should be left untouched. Washington State Parks assumed the land as an addition to Steamboat Rock State Park in 1976.

### High points

Northrup Canyon – 2,300 feet

Northrup Lake – 2,135 feet

Northrup Homestead – 1,850 feet

Elevation gain – 800 feet (from lake level)

### Round-trip hikes

To homestead ranch – 3 miles

To Northrup Lake – 7 miles (left at homestead, look for hiker sign)

Overnight camping and parking are prohibited along trails.

### Directions to Northrup Canyon:

Travel on Highway 155. At mile marker 19, turn east on gravel road, and travel one-third mile to parking area at end of road.

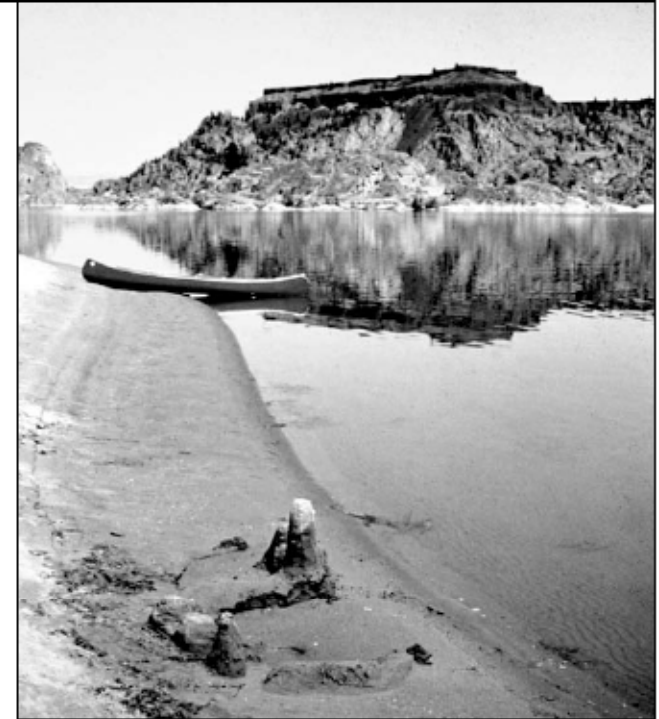
## Hiking for the day

*“Take only memories, leave nothing but footprints.”*

- Please respect the area’s cultural resources by not altering or defacing objects or structures.
- Be aware that historic structures may present a safety hazard. Please do not enter.
- Take drinking water along on your hike.
- Help prevent wildfires by not smoking.
- Beware of rattlesnakes.
- Do not throw rocks off of or from the top of the coulee walls.
- Respect the park and wildlife by not littering. Pack out all litter.
- For your pet’s safety, keep your pet on a leash and under physical control at all times.

## Wildlife

When hiking, remember that you are traveling through wildlife habitat. Please treat it with respect. If you have concerns about encountering snakes or other wildlife that may harm you, please contact park staff.



View of Castle Rock from Steamboat Rock State Park boat launch.

**Mammals:** Badger, mule deer, coyote, pygmy rabbit, Townsend’s ground squirrel, bear, white-tailed jackrabbit, sagebrush vole

**Fish:** Large/smallmouth bass, leopard dace, rainbow trout, carp, red side shiner, speckled dace, perch, crappie, kokanee, whitefish, bullhead/channel catfish, walleye, sunfish, burbot, shad, suckers, sturgeon

**Amphibians:** Great Basin spadefoot, northern leopard frog, tiger salamander

**Invertebrates:** Centipede, butterfly, cricket, grasshopper, scorpion, beetle

**Birds:** Canada goose, common goldeneye, common/red-breasted merganser, bald eagle, golden eagle, ring-necked pheasant, California quail, American coot, rock dove, horned lark, black-billed magpie, American crow/common raven, European starling, dark-eyed junco, red-winged/yellow-headed blackbird, gray-crowned rosy-finch, house sparrow, great-blue heron, Swainson’s hawk