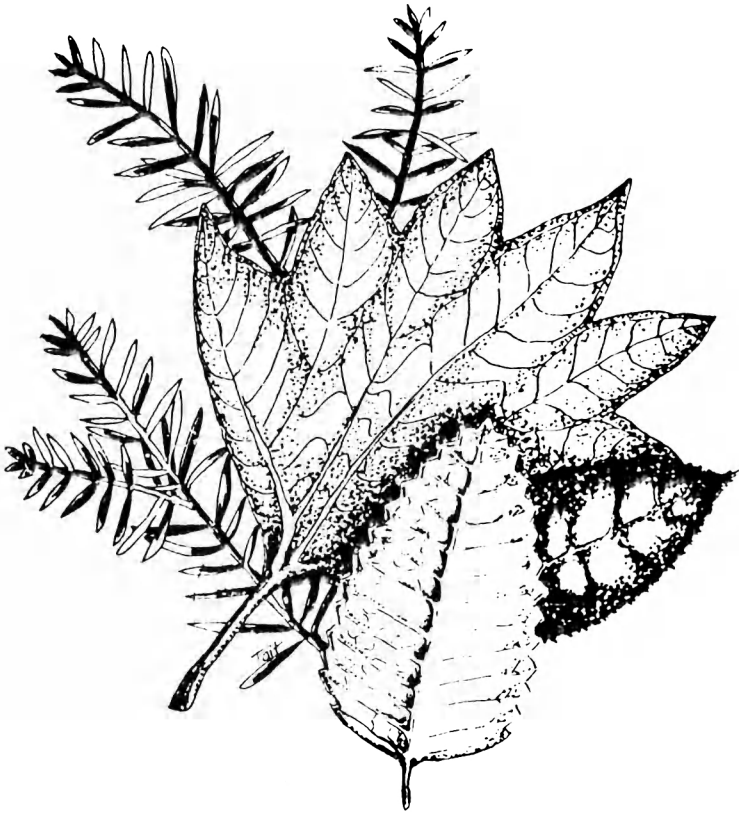


GUIDE TO HIKING TRAILS

JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT



SHEEP ROCK UNIT

PAINTED HILLS UNIT

Island in Time Trail

1/2 mile (Walking time - 1 hour.)

This easy trail departs from the Blue Basin parking area, three miles north of the Visitor Center, and leads to a scenic amphitheater carved out of the green John Day Formation. This volcanic ash, now turned to clay, yields a rich variety of vertebrate fossils. Displays along the trail show replicas of fossils as they occur in the rock. Do not climb on the fragile hills. Rattlesnakes are uncommon. Give them a wide berth.

Blue Basin Overlook Trail

2 miles (Walking time - 2 to 3 hours.)

A rewarding vista high above Blue Basin is the end point for this one-way trail. The trail begins at the Blue Basin parking area. Along the way, the John Day Formation is carved into fantastic "badlands" pinnacles and spires. To the north, the older, red ash deposits of the lower member of the formation are visible. These red hills are located on private land adjacent to the monument.

The trail is steep in places so allow plenty of time if you intend to walk all the way to the overlook. It is advisable to wear sturdy hiking shoes and carry water in the summer months. In wet weather the trail may be impassable.

Painted Cove Trail

1/4 mile (Walking time - 30 minutes.)

A map indicating the location of this trail is found on the bulletin board at the entrance to the Painted Hills Unit. This short walk offers a close-up view of the clay and cinder hills of the John Day Formation. An easy walkway leads into the heart of the brilliantly colored hills of Painted Cove. A trail guide is available at the beginning of the trail. Do not climb on the fragile hills.

Carroll Rim Trail

3/4 mile (Walking time - 1 1/2 hours.)

Carroll Rim trail head is located opposite the turnout leading to Painted Hills Overlook. This moderately strenuous trail leads to the top of Carroll Rim and offers a spectacular view of the Painted Hills and nearby Sutton Mountain. The weather-resistant rock forming the cliffs along this trail is John Day ignimbrite. Formed as a fiery cloud of volcanic ash, the ignimbrite solidified as the hot ash particles welded themselves together, resulting in the rimrock we see today.

CLARNO UNIT

Trail of the Fossils

1/4 mile (Walking time - 30 minutes.)

The trail head is at a small parking lot located 1/4 mile west of the Clarno picnic site on State Highway #218. Though somewhat steep in places, footing on the trail is good. Evidence of an ancient forest, in the form of numerous plant fossils, is locked in the mudstone along this trail. Markers locate places of special interest which are explained in a guide available at the trail head.

Clarno Arch Trail

1/4 mile (Walking time - 30 minutes.)

This trail leads from the small parking lot located 1/4 mile west of the Clarno picnic site. A short walk on this moderately strenuous trail will reveal petrified logs and leaf prints that are remnants of a subtropical forest that once flourished in this region. The Clarno Arch, an erosional feature, is found at the end of the trail.

Published courtesy of
the Pacific Northwest
National Parks and Forests Association