

HORSECOLLAR RUIN OVERLOOK ---- NATURE TRAIL



This Horsecollar Ruin Overlook Nature Walk brochure is designed so that the visitor can become familiar with the more common plants found in Natural Bridges National Monument. The Horsecollar Ruin Overlook Trail contains a wide variety of species for your inspection. **THIS CAN BE A CHALLENGING LEARNING EXPERIENCE. BY USING THE DRAWINGS TO THE LEFT, SEE IF YOU CAN LOCATE THE PLANTS PICTURED.** (Note that in many cases the entire plant is not drawn.)

The trail begins near the wayside exhibit sign and continues to the Horsecollar Ruin viewpoint on the canyon's edge.

This brochure is for your information and use. When you have completed your walk, please return it to the Visitor Center, or recycle.

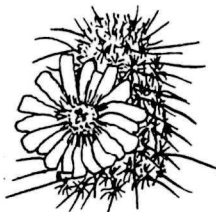


1 Rabbitbrush The broad green rabbitbrush is very conspicuous, especially in the fall of the year. It is usually found in disturbed areas near roadsides and parking areas. Flowers are quite small, and appear in thick bunches or "brushes." Each of these flower clusters consists of up to a dozen tubular flowers. Heads are clustered loosely together into groups. This shrub reaches a height of 3 to 5 feet, and gives off a heavy aromatic scent. Hopi Indians used the stripped bark for basket making. Foliage is eaten by browsing animals and rabbits.

(Chrysothamnus nauseosus)



2 Narrowleaf yucca A small yucca whose habitat ranges in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and westward into parts of Nevada, this species is usually stemless, but sometimes has short stems that lie on the ground. Fruits are eaten raw, roasted or dried for winter consumption. Known for very narrow leaves. (*Yucca angustissima*)



3 Hedgehog cactus A widely distributed cactus known as a cereus (Latin for wax candle). There are many hedgehog cactuses, the local species being found in the Rocky Mountains and parts of the Southwest and West Texas. Also known as the claret cup cactus. Occurs in wide spreading mounds. Flowers are scarlet-orange and are a magnificent sight during the blooming season in late April-May. (*Echinocereus triglochlidatus*)



4 Prickly pear cactus Sometimes called grizzly bear cactus, this needle-covered species grows very low to the ground and is usually not over two cactus pads high. Bright yellow blooms in May make this plant quite noticeable in the slickrock country. The cactuses are said to be desert resistant; that is, they store water in their stems (pads), insulate themselves with spines (as well as for protection), and send out long shallow roots in order to capture water from even the slightest rainfall. (*Opuntia erinacea*) Sometimes blooms red.



5 Dwarf mountain mahogany The leaves of this shrub are quite small and distinct, tightly resolute, and sometimes curled edge-on to the rays of the sun. This plant is black in appearance and intricately branched. The plant is sometimes up to two meters tall. The wood is very heavy, hard and dense, and small yellowish flowers appear in profusion in early spring. Deer and elk use it as a browse plant. (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*)



6 Big leaf yucca Yuccas are pollinated by a moth. Since the moths cannot reproduce without yuccas (eggs are laid during pollination and the larvae feed upon the seeds) this is a good example of interdependence. There are many types of big leaf yuccas, the two found in this area being the banana yucca (*Yucca baccata*). Yuccas used to be and still are in some places a staple food source. Indians ate the ripe, fleshy fruit either fresh or cooked. If unripe fruit was used, it was first roasted, ground, and then pressed into cakes and dried in the sun.



7 Pinyon pine There are several short needle pines known as pinyons which occur all over the southwest and western areas of the United States. The species found here is known as the *Pinus edulis* or two-needle pinyon. Because of its delicious edible nuts (seeds) pinyons have served as a food source for hundreds of years. Closely tied with the pinyon tree is the pinyon jay, a bird which gathers and buries the nuts. Some of the nuts are forgotten by the bird, and a portion of these eventually sprout. Thus the pinyon jay provides an important means by which the pinyon pine is reproduced.



8 Mormon tea Known also as Brigham tea and joint-fir, this hardy shrub can be found growing from 3,000 up to 7,000 feet throughout the Southwest. The green ephedra (*Ephedra viridis*) seen here has bright green, finely furrowed, jointed stems. Clusters of stems resemble upside-down brooms. The plant is not called joint-fir for nothing, as ephedras are first cousins of the pines and junipers with which it grows. Navajos brewed the tops into a drink for use as a cough medicine. Others roasted the seeds, ate them whole, or ground them into a meal for various uses.



9 Utah Juniper *Juniperus osteosperma* is a member of the cypress family. It is the most predominant tree in the Southwest, along with the pinyon. It usually grows no more than 15 feet high and 12 inches in diameter, however, many specimens reach as much as three feet in diameter, attesting to their age, which is measured in hundreds of years. The Hopi Indians used the Utah Juniper for medicine and ceremonial purposes and they used its berries to make beads. The Navajos still use the wood for hogans, firewood and fenceposts. The shredded bark was used for bedding or mats.



10 Utah serviceberry Sometimes called by other names: shadberry, shadbush, shadblow, or Juneberry, it is a very large shrub in early spring when densely covered in small white blossoms. Sometimes reaching a height of 15 feet, its leaves are alderlike and have teeth only above the middle of the leaf. In earlier days the berries were a favorite food of many Indian tribes who ate them fresh or dried them for later use. The slender, straight branches were used by the White Mountain Apaches to form the uprights of their large carrying baskets. A concentrated food for long journeys was made by early explorers who used the serviceberry with a mixture of jerky or buffalo meat and melted fat. (*Amelanchier utahensis*)



11 Greenleaf manzanita Manzanitas have twisted mahogany red stems. They sometimes glisten in the sun as if freshly varnished. Leaves are thick, nearly oval, bright green, and usually stand vertical to the ground with edges to the sun, thus retarding evaporation. Flowers are waxy, urn-shaped and dense, and hang in groups. They are of a pinkish color. The

Indians used the fruits either raw, cooked or dried. It is reported that the unripe fruits can be made in delicious jellies. (*Arctostaphylos patula*)



12 Singleleaf ash The range of this shrubby tree includes Arizona, northwest New Mexico, southwest Colorado, and the southern Utah canyons and hillsides, roughly the same area as the Colorado Plateau. It is not like other ashes which have 3 to 7 leaflets per leaf. With only a single roughly round leaf, this ash seems to be of little importance to wildlife; however a number of birds and animals eat the seeds. The flowers are made up of sepals only and are pale green in color. (*Fraxinus anomala*)



13 Birchleaf Mountain mahogany Sometimes mistaken for Utah serviceberry, this shrub sometimes grows up to eight feet, but is normally only four or five feet in height. It is also called hard tack, ironwood, or sweetbrush. Leaves are dark green and smooth with veins prominent on their undersides. Blooms are what defines the difference with serviceberry, as this mountain mahogany species has no petals, but modified calyx lobes that look like petals. (*Cercocarpus montanus*).



14 Fremont barberry Sharp hollylike leaves identify this shrub right away. It resembles holly, but its smaller leaves enable it to survive in high desert areas. Also called Fremont hollygrape, berbero, and palo amarillo (yellow wood). *Mahonia fremontii* was named after General John Charles Fremont (1813-90) who led two expeditions to California, and became the first botanical collector in the Sierra Nevada. Many species of barberry are used for foundation plantings.



15 Horsecollar Ruins Overlook Far down in the canyon on a shelf above the streambed is an Anasazi "town." Horsecollar was named after the shape of the two openings in the round building to the right, which resemble upside-down horsecollars. These structures were used for storage. Just to the left of these buildings is a kiva, a ceremonial and meeting room. The ancient Indians lived in this area until about 1300 AD. The ruins may be reached by trail from Sipapu Bridge, or upstream from Kachina Bridge.

**THIS CONCLUDES YOUR NATURE WALK. WE
HOPE YOU HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT HIGH
DESERT SHRUBS AND TREES.**

**NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT
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