



Dakota Hogback

Colorado State Natural Area

What to Expect

The Dakota Hogback Natural Area encompasses a prominent ridge spanning several miles along the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The “hogback” is composed of Dakota Sandstone highly resistant to erosion, preserving a snapshot into the past. The ridge contains several high quality exposures of dinosaur tracks and bones, as well as several other plant and trace fossils best viewed at Dinosaur Ridge. The Dakota Hogback also serves as an important flyway for migrating raptors. Volunteers at the site have recorded the highest tally of migrating ferruginous hawks in the world



Dakota hogback and foothills



Dinosaur tracks at Dino Ridge

About the Natural Area

Location: Jefferson County, 2 miles north of Morrison

Landowner: Jefferson County Open Space

Size: 2168 acres

Address: Dakota Ridge Trail, Golden, CO 80401.

[Google maps link to the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center.](#)

Know Before You Go

The site is best explored on the Dakota Ridge Trail, which provides spectacular views of the hogback. Terrain may be narrow and steep. Visitors should stay on-trail and keep dogs on leash. You can access this trail and several exhibits from the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center. Before arriving, be sure to visit the [Dinosaur Ridge website](#) to explore the online educational portal that will excite the dinosaur enthusiast in everyone. If visiting during spring or fall, bring your binoculars to view the many raptors that use this area as a migratory flyway!



Dinosaur Ridge exhibit

For more information about the Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) visit [CNAP's website.](#)