



Indian Springs Trace Fossil Locality

Colorado State Natural Area

What to Expect

The Indian Springs Trace Fossil Locality Natural Area contains trace fossils of animals that lived during the Ordovician Period, 450 million years ago. Twenty-five types of trace fossils from this site illustrate the behavior of creatures that lived in the mudflats of an ancient estuary, including jawless armor-plated fish, ancient horseshoe crabs, trilobites, and more. This site is the best location in North America to study trace fossils during this period, due to the excellent preservation and diversity of fossil types, giving visitors a glimpse into the world long ago. The site is also a designated National Natural Landmark.



Visitors at the trace fossil site

Know Before You Go

This state natural area is owned by Indian Springs Ranch, a private landowner. You must coordinate any visits or tours directly with them. Check out the [Indian Springs Ranch website](#) for more information. In addition to the natural area, Indian Springs Ranch operates a paid campground with a full suite of amenities. Other opportunities at the ranch include a two-hour guided tour of the trace fossil site, stargazing, wildlife viewing, hiking and mountain biking.



Landowner pointing to a fish feeding trace fossil

About the Natural Area

Location: Fremont County, 9 miles northeast of Cañon City

Landowner: [Indian Springs Ranch](#)

Size: 40 acres

Address: 3257 County Road 67
Penrose, CO 81240. [Google maps link to Indian Springs Ranch](#)



Close-up of trace fossils

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