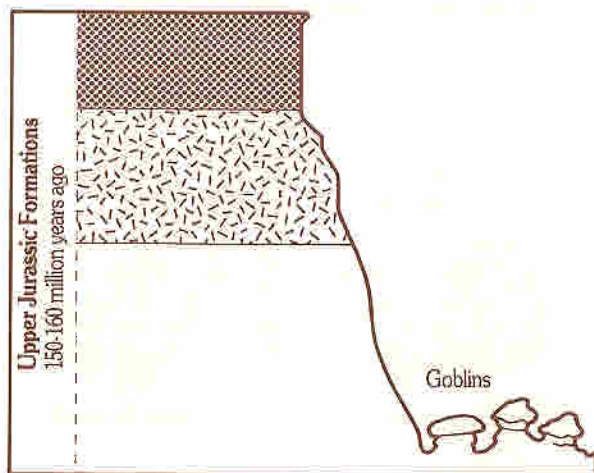





## Geology

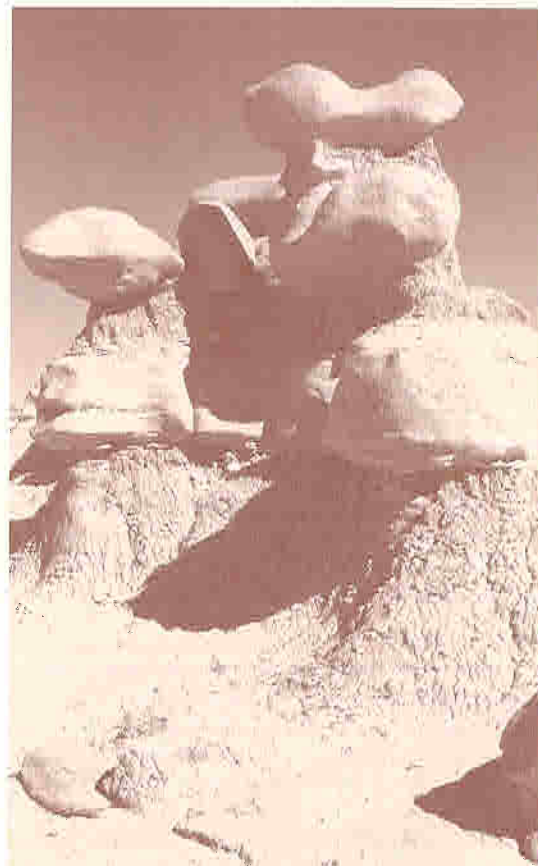
Goblin Valley State Park is a showcase of geologic history. Exposed cliffs reveal parallel layers of rock bared by erosion. Because of the uneven hardness of sandstone, some patches resist erosion much better than others. The softer material is removed by wind and water, leaving thousands of unique, geologic goblins. Water erosion and the smoothing action of windblown dust work together to shape the goblins.

Bedrock is exposed because of thin soil and lack of vegetation. When rain does fall, there are few plant roots and little soil to capture and hold the water which quickly disappears in muddy streams without penetrating the bedrock.

## Geological Cross Section



-  **Summerville**  
Chocolate-colored silty sandstone with gypsum veinlets. Even beds are distinctive.
-  **Curtis**  
Greenish-gray sandstone and siltstone-marine formation.
-  **Entrada**  
Red siltstone and fine sandstone in alternating beds. Forms cliffs and badlands with goblins.



## History

Secluded Goblin Valley was first discovered by cowboys searching for cattle. Then in the late 1920s, Arthur Chaffin, owner/operator of the Hite ferry, and two companions were searching for an alternative route between Green River and Cainsville. They came to a vantage point about a mile west of Goblin Valley and were awed by what they saw—five buttes and a valley of strange-shaped rock formations surrounded by a wall of eroded cliffs.

In 1949, Chaffin returned to the area he called Mushroom Valley. He spent several days exploring the mysterious valley and photographing its scores of intricately eroded creatures.

Publicity attracted visitors to the valley despite its remoteness. In 1954, it was proposed that Goblin Valley be protected from vandalism. The state of Utah later acquired the property and established Goblin Valley State Reserve. It was officially designated a state park on August 24, 1964.

## Energy from the Sun

Goblin Valley State Park gets its electricity from the sun's renewable energy. Photovoltaic (foe-toe-vol-tay-ik) cells convert sunlight directly to electricity for two ranger residences.

Photovoltaic (PV) cells face south at an angle to collect as much energy as possible. When sunlight strikes them, direct current electricity (DC) is created. It is stored in large, deep cycle batteries housed in an adjacent building. A power inverter changes DC electricity into alternating current (AC) electricity. The system stores enough power for three days of no sunlight.

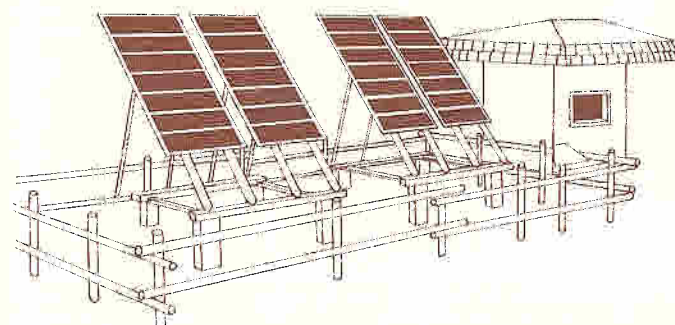
The 28 silicon PV cells at Goblin Valley form an arrangement called an array. Each one-foot by four-foot cell produces 48 watts of power. The total system produces 1.4 kw. It replaces a 15 kw diesel-powered generator.

PV systems are cost-effective in remote locations where power demand is small and where there are no electric transmission lines. Solar energy is a noiseless, pollution-free source of electricity.

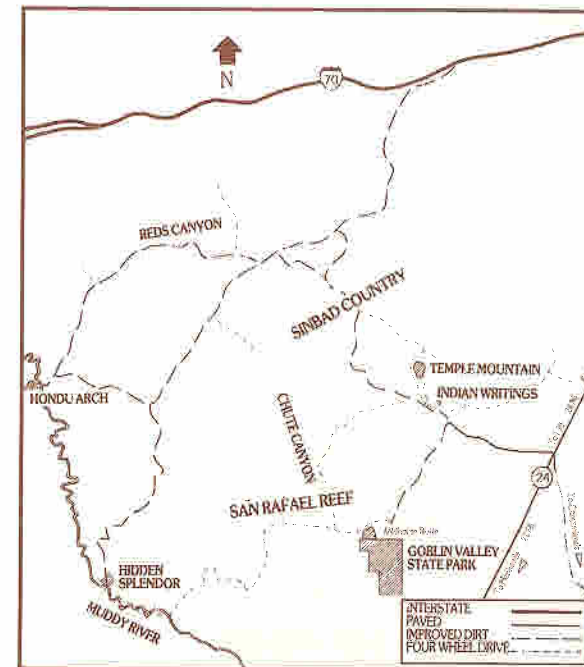
Culinary water for the park also is provided by energy from the sun. Solar panels collect energy to power a deep-well water pump. The pump supplies water to a 40,000 gallon storage tank that provides water for visitors and personnel. The solar panels are mounted on a movable rack that automatically follows the sun throughout the day to maximize the amount of water pumped.

The solar energy systems were installed by the Utah Energy Office in partnership with the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. They demonstrate how we can produce energy from renewable resources, and reduce fossil fuel consumption and related pollution.

For more information about solar technologies, call 1 (800) 662-3633 or (801) 538-5428.



Photovoltaic system in Goblin Valley



## Mileage from Goblin Valley

Chute Canyon	18 miles round trip
Temple Mountain	15 miles round trip
Reds Canyon—Hondu Arch	96 miles round trip
Hidden Splendor	102 miles round trip
Hidden Splendor via Reds Canyon	115 miles round trip

Canyonlands	
Roost Flat	44 miles one way
Ranger station	58 miles one way
Flint Trail	72 miles one way
Maze area	92 miles one way
U-95 via Maze area	112 miles one way

## Reservations

Reservations are available for group-use and individual campsites. Individual campsite reservations may be made a minimum of five days in advance of arrival date and up to 16 weeks in advance of park check-out date. Group-use reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance.

To make a reservation, call 322-3770 within Salt Lake City or toll-free 1 (800) 322-3770. Reservations are not required but are advised. Unreserved sites are available on a first-come, first served basis.



Address inquiries to:

Goblin Valley State Park  
PO Box 637  
Green River, UT 84525-0637  
(435) 564-3633  
1 (800) 322-3770 Camping Reservations


Utah State Parks and Recreation  
PO Box 146001  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001  
(801) 538-7220  
(801) 538-7458 (TTY)

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**Enhancing the Quality of Life through**  
**Parks, People and Programs**

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**UTAH**

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# Goblin Valley State Park

 STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Parks & Recreation

**G**oblin Valley is Utah's skull in the sky, parade of elephants, and dance of the dolls. Unique and enchanting rock sculptures carved by wind and water suggest mischievous goblins of folklore still about their secretive deeds. Add year-round solitude in a remote desert setting and you have the stuff dreams are made of. The antics of these chocolate goblins amid balanced rocks, spires, and pedestals is limited only by your imagination.

Goblin Valley State Park is located in Emery County between Green River and Hanksville. Follow Highway 24 to Temple Mountain Junction and proceed 12 miles southwest on a surfaced improved gravel road. Goblins of infinite design will greet you!

## Facilities

Facilities at the 3,654-acre park include a 21-unit campground, observation overlook, culinary water, modern rest rooms, hot water showers, and sanitary dump station. Each spacious campsite has a picnic table, paved parking pad, and barbecue grill.

## Activities

Explore fascinating places from your Goblin Valley camp. Nearby landmarks include the Henry Mountains, San Rafael Reef and Swell, Temple Mountain, Molly's Castle, Gilsen Buttes, and Wild Horse Butte. Numerous rocks and coves offer unlimited hiking opportunities. The area is a photographer's paradise, and off-highway vehicle enthusiasts will find hundreds of miles of dirt roads to explore. History buffs can discover traces of early Indians, prospectors, miners, and ranchers.

Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Monument, Green River State Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and Capitol Reef National Park are within a two-hour drive.

## Plants and Animals

Vegetation is limited to hardy desert species that can endure blowing sand and hot, dry surface conditions. You are likely to encounter Mormon tea (jointfir), wild onion, Russian thistle, Indian ricegrass, tumbleweed, shadscale, winterfat, larkspur, and various cacti. Nearby, at slightly higher elevations, are juniper and pinyon pine. Fremont cottonwood trees are plentiful along some streambeds.

Most animals in the area are nocturnal, venturing out only in the cooler evenings. Spotted skunks, porcupines, scorpions, chuckwalla lizards, kangaroo rats, kit foxes, coyotes, bobcats, jack rabbits, gophers, and badgers are found within and near the park.

