

ENERGY LOOP



AT A GLANCE: ENERGY LOOP: HUNTINGTON & ECCLES CANYONS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

START: Price, Huntington or Fairview

NUMBER OF DAYS: 2-4

DISTANCE: 138 miles

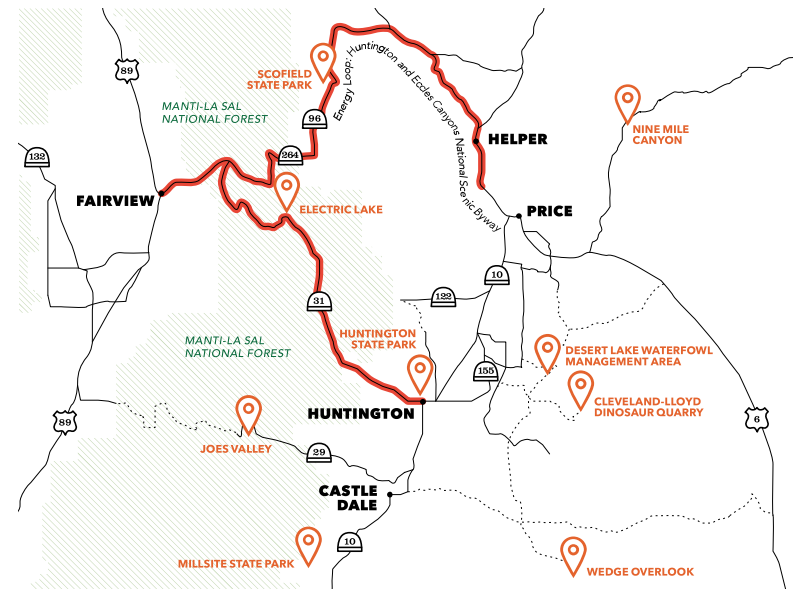
SCENIC BYWAYS:

The Energy Loop: Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway (S.R. 96, 264, 31, U.S. 6)



Dip into the rich pioneer heritage of the National Mormon Heritage Area or follow in their adventurous footsteps and head straight for the hills. The Energy Loop: Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway (S.R. 96, 264, 31, U.S. 6) carries you over the Wasatch Plateau, capturing Utah's high-alpine experience with 360 degree views including Mount Nebo to the north and the San Rafael Swell to the east. During the fall, contrasting fields of yellow aspens and deep green conifers line the path.

On the other side of the Wasatch Plateau, cool off in sparkling reservoirs then step back in time to explore the ancient landscapes and inhabitants of Utah's Castle Country. You'll see an active dinosaur quarry and an outdoor art museum stretching for miles into one of Utah's wildest places. The Energy Loop will take you through the heart of Utah, a potpourri of outdoor adventure, landscapes and heritage that samples the best lesser-known terrain in Utah.



Left: Huntington Reservoir | Jim Urquhart

If coming from the Wasatch Front, head south on I-15 and at Spanish Fork take Exit 257 B-A to U.S. 6, then turn south on U.S. 89. From Fairview, you'll begin the quick ascent up the Wasatch Plateau on S.R. 31, part of the Energy Loop: Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway. The byway is the only paved road across the Wasatch Plateau, which marks the transition from the famous Colorado Plateau (home to The Mighty 5th national parks) to the Great Basin.

On the east side of the plateau, you'll explore spurs along S.R. 10 or scenic backways to the unexpected depth and size of the Little Grand Canyon. Then, make the extended detour up the beautifully paved Nine Mile Canyon to drive and hike among the indigenous rock art of the world's largest outdoor art gallery. Finish up with stops in Price and Helper, or complete The Energy Loop by returning to Fairview on S.R. 96.

DON'T MISS

Fairview City

The Gateway to Skyline Drive, the 75-mile Wasatch Plateau 4x4 road is also a gateway to the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area.

Huntington-Castle Dale

These base camps access Huntington State Park, Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Museum, bouldering at Joes Valley Reservoir and scenic backways through the San Rafael Swell.

Price-Helper

Check out the USU Eastern Prehistoric Museum, the Western Mining and Railroad Museum and Nine Mile Canyon (from Wellington).

Wedge Overlook

The Wedge Overlook provides views of a deep sandstone canyon carved by the San Rafael River known as "The Little Grand Canyon."

Desert Lake Waterfowl Management Area

A great place for bird watching. Desert Lake is an important stop for migrating waterfowl.

Skyline Drive

Skyline Drive (accessed from S.R. 31) is the backbone of the Wasatch Plateau, the dividing line between the Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau, and showcases amazing mountain vistas. South Skyline Drive requires high clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles; north Skyline Drive is suitable for passenger cars.

Huntington Reservoir and Mammoth Discovery Site of 8-8-88

Mud surrounding a 10,000-year-old mammoth acted as a refrigerator, preserving the 90 percent complete skeleton until construction of the high-elevation dam unearthed it on August 8, 1988.

Arapeen Trail System

More than 350 miles of ATV trails. When combined with forest roads, there are more than 1,000 miles available to ATV enthusiasts.

Huntington State Park

A tranquil base camp with leisurely hikes, a beach, grassy campgrounds and great fishing. Partial and limited full hookups available.

Scofield State Park

Camp, boat and fish at this summer and winter recreation destination situated high in the Manti-La Sal Mountains. Large campgrounds include two reservable teepees. The nearby town of Scofield hosts the annual Pleasant Valley Days celebration on or around July 4.



San Rafael Swell | Dean Krakel



Horseback riding Candland Mountain



Snowkiting along Skyline Drive | Jeremiah Watt

DON'T MISS

Electric Lake

A large, high-elevation reservoir along Skyline Drive with good populations of Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Tie Fork Rest Area and Interpretive Site

More than a rest stop, this stop on S.R. 6 commemorates the great railroads that moved coal and other goods through the canyons of eastern Utah. Railroad ties were made from trees cut in Tie Fork Canyon.

Stuart Guard Station Interpretive Site and Visitor Center

This former Forest Service Guard Station on S.R. 31 features stories of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the origins of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Open weekends and holidays.

Non-motorized Trails

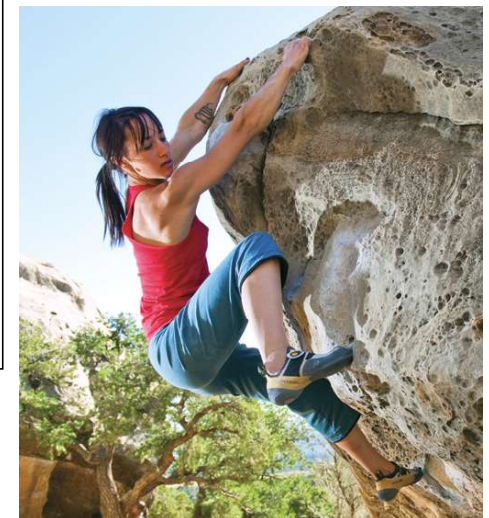
Explore the Left Fork of Huntington National Recreation Trail and Fish Creek National Recreation Trail on foot, bike or horseback. The Candland Mountain Trailhead off S.R. 31 is a 5.6-mile connector to Mill Canyon, Flood Canyon and Left Fork of Huntington.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Visitor Services Sanpete County | (435) 839-0457
- Visitor Services Emery County | (435) 381-2600
- Visitor Services Carbon County | (435) 636-3701
- Manti-La Sal National Forest Office
(435) 637-2817 | 599 West Price River Drive, Price, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Manti-La Sal National Forest at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)



Learn more about Huntington and Eccles canyons at [visitutah.com/wasatch-plateau](https://www.visitutah.com/wasatch-plateau)



Joes Valley | Caroline Treadway

