

# SAND ISLAND PETROGLYPH PANEL

Discover Historic Rock Imagery with Your Family

A photograph of a man and a young girl looking at petroglyphs on a rock panel. The man is wearing a yellow cap and sunglasses, and the girl is wearing a yellow shirt. They are both pointing at the rock panel. The rock panel is covered in petroglyphs, including a large circular design. A green text box is overlaid on the image.

FAMILY DISCOVERY PACK

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# Sand Island Petroglyph Panel



Photo: Sheep Images on the Sand Island Petroglyph Panel. Sheep images are thought to symbolize migration or travel.

**NOTE: Sand Island is in Bears Ears National Monument. This guide pertains to the Lower Sand Island Petroglyph Panel.**

Step into a Time Machine!  
The Sand Island Petroglyph Panel just outside Bluff is like a vast, outdoor recording of history which lives on this beautiful panel wall. Your family can view these images created by early Indigenous people. Each symbol and carving has a meaning, connecting us to the lives, beliefs, and traditions of those who came before us.

Recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, the carvings date from 300 to 3,000 years ago. The panel spans over 100 yards, indicating its monumental significance to early Indigenous people. Archeologists believe these were public panels meant to be seen by all and suggests the area was once a gathering place beside the San Juan River.

# Getting There



Anyone can visit the Sand Island Petroglyph Panel.

**Hours:** Open year round

**Fees:** None

**Facilities:** Nearby, you'll find a boat launch and campgrounds with picnic areas and primitive restrooms.



**Directions:** Head west on Highway 191 south for 4 miles and turn left at the sign for Sand Island. At the bottom of the hill, you will see another sign noting the Sand Island Petroglyph to the right. After turning right, drive 0.2 miles to the parking near a chain link fence. Walk up a short path to view the panel more closely.





# Visit with Respect™

## Please Visit With Respect

The panel is of important cultural significance to Indigenous Tribes. Honor past generations and future generations by Visiting With Respect. Visiting With Respect are best practice principles when visiting Bears Ears National Monument.



Guide Children  
Through Sites



Don't Touch  
Rock Imagery  
or Make Your  
Own



Camp and Eat  
Away From  
Archeology



Dogs and  
Archeology  
Don't Mix



Stay on  
Designated  
Roads



Stay On  
Established  
Trails

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To learn more about Visit with Respect principles, click [here](#).

# CAN YOU FIND THESE IMAGES?



## GLEN CANYON LINEAR

Figures found on the far-left side of the panel. These are considered among the oldest on the panel and are from the Archaic period.



## BIGHORN SHEEP PLAYING A FLUTE

The curved horns on this sheep indicate it is a Bighorn Sheep which are found along the San Juan River.



## SAN JUAN ANTHROPOMORPH

Anthropomorph means having human characteristics. This figure with the splayed hands, rectangular body, and headdress is specific to this area and is known as a San Juan Anthropomorph.



## TWIN HEADS AND TWIN LOBES

Some believe these Twin Heads and Twin Lobe images may relate to other 'twin' formations found near Bluff, such as the Navajo Twin Rocks and the twin alcoves on the bluffs on the eastern side of the San Juan River.

# CAN YOU FIND THESE IMAGES?



## THE SPEARS

The Spears images could possibly signify warfare, hunting, status, or ceremonial use.



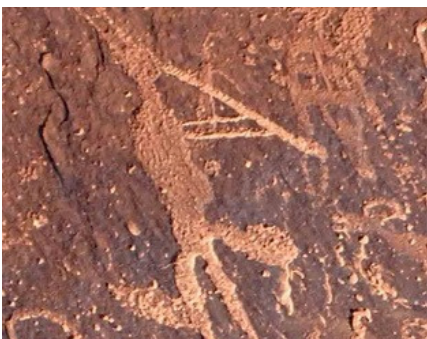
## FIGURE WITH A HEADDRESS

Headdresses could possibly signify a spiritual leader, a deity, a warrior, or a scene from an important ritual.



## MAN ON HORSEBACK

Men on horseback images are from a later period. Historians believe horses were not in the area until the 16th or 17th centuries.



## KOKOPELLI (Parental Discretion Advised)

Kokopelli, believed to be a symbol of fertility, is often depicted as a flute-playing wandering minstrel who brings luck and prosperity to all who listen. Can you spot all 5 Kokopelli figures on this panel?