

Take a scenic route to beautiful

# ARCH ROCK

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Not all who wander are lost.  
 It was 101 degrees in John Day on July 13 — a perfect afternoon for a family getaway in the woods for a hike.  
 Our destination: Arch Rock Trail in the Malheur National Forest.  
 We'd heard great things about this hike, the views and the rock formations, and we were not disappointed.  
 The drive to Arch Rock from John Day is 29 miles, a total of 58 miles round trip.  
 At .6 miles total, the hike is easy enough for children.  
 Our family enjoyed the natural trail that took us through a beautiful wooded area and past interesting rocky outcroppings where a couple chipmunks scurried for cover.  
 The temperature was a welcome 15 to 20 degrees cooler than the John Day Valley.  
 Three informational signs along the trail tell the pre-historic story of the area.  
 Volcanic materials that formed the rocky outcroppings would have contained varying amounts of mud, ash and rock.  
 The arch formed when materials in that area of the rock eroded, as they were more susceptible to the effects of weather.

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Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

ABOVE: This sign shows where to start on the path to Arch Rock.

TOP: A hiker stands atop Arch Rock in the Malheur National Forest.

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