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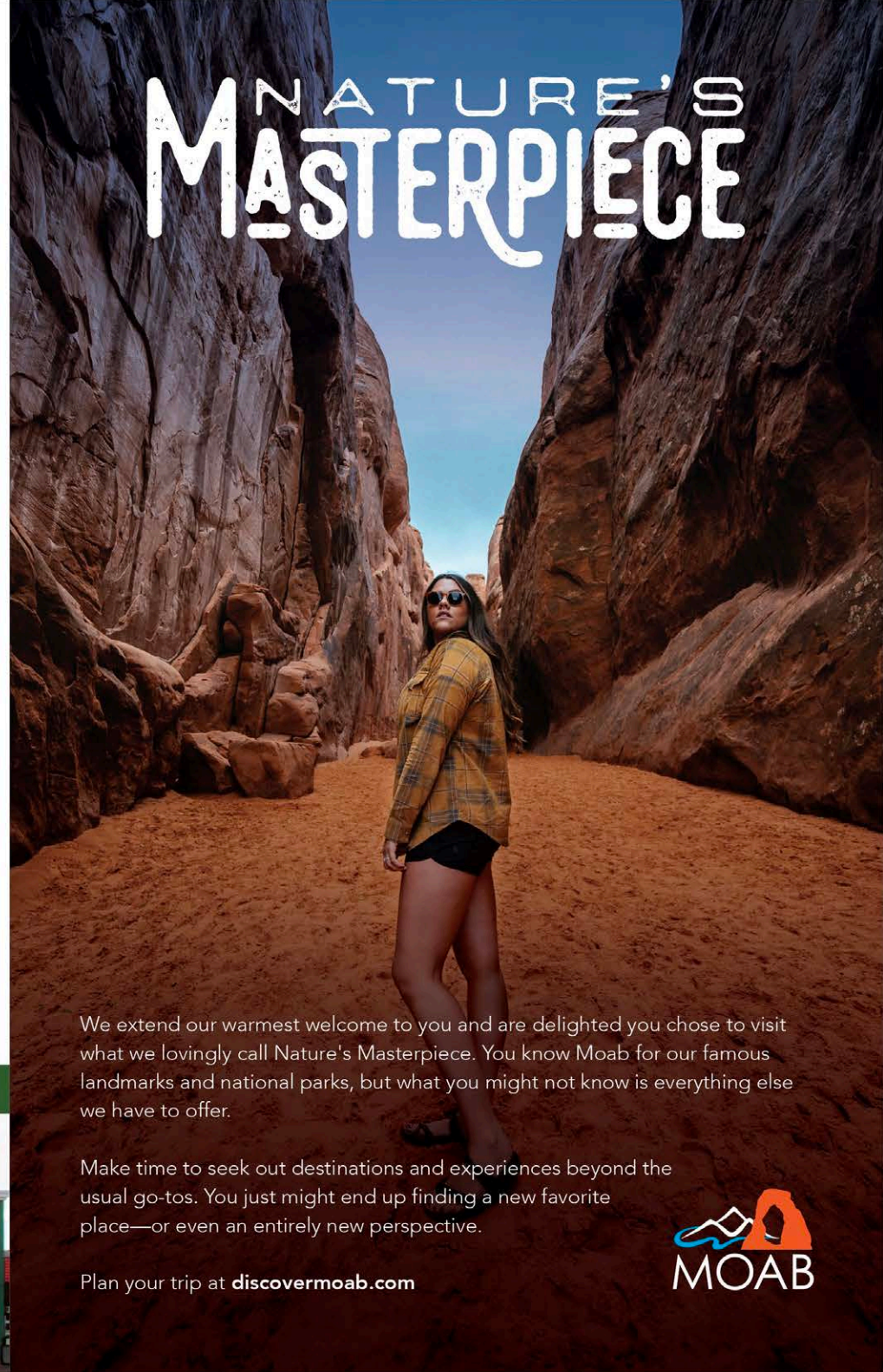
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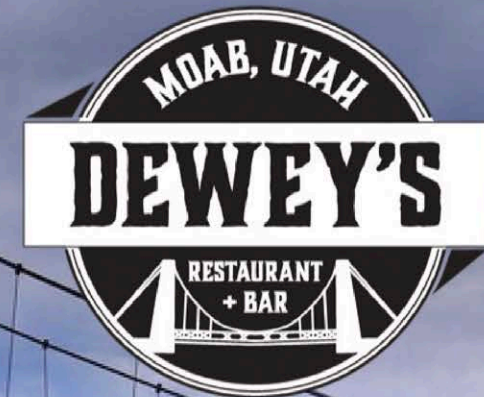
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This publication is dedicated to my Editor-in-Chief, Business Partner, and Awesome Mom, Helen Masterson.

A very special thank you to Sharon Kienzie and the entire crew at the Moab Information Center; everyone at Grand County Economic Development; The San Juan County Economic Development & Visitor Services; Karen Henker with the National Park Service; Andrea Brand with Sand Flats Recreation Area; Katie Stevens with the BLM Moab Field Office; and the crew at Grand County Trail Mix.



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pg 42 Richard Bowditch, pg 42 Moab to Monument Valley Film Commission, pg 48 & 49 National Park Service, pg 149 Emily Sierra, pg 153 Bob Wick, BLM San Juan County Visitor Services and Blanding Economic Development and Visitor Services

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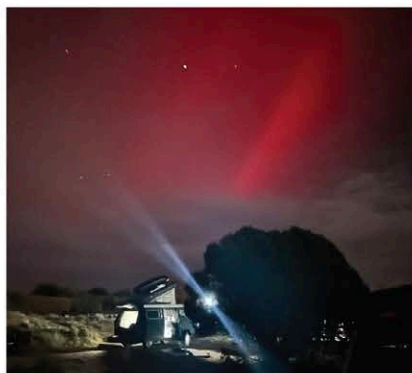


PUBLISHER'S NOTE

I often do this walk with a good friend and her dog. It's not uncommon for us to just stop and soak in the colors or marvel at the variations in the lines of the rocks. Each sunset is wonderful and different. It's not hard to just sit and stare.


When I walk alone with my dog, Sadie, it's a wonderful walking meditation. I take the time to be thankful for being able to have a job that combines so many of my passions. I'm grateful for the people I work with and the friends here in Utah.

However the walk happens, I am always a different person at the end than I was at the beginning. I am changed by the beauty, by my thoughts, and by the fresh air.



I had one of the most epic experiences last October while camping at Sand Flats. A massive solar flare created a huge northern lights storm. Who knew we would see the northern lights in Moab?! I was definitely a different person after that. What a fun bucket-list item checked off!

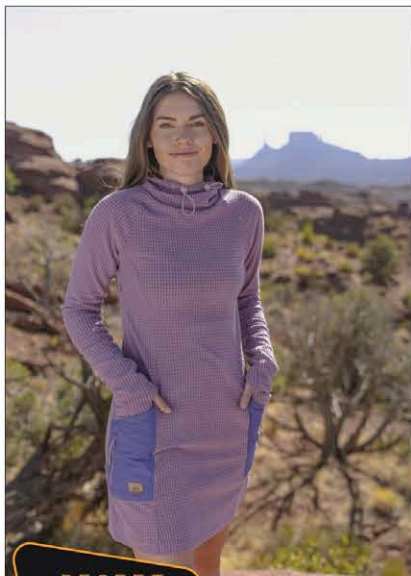
I am honored that you have this guide in your hands. I hope you read all of the tips and information and that they help with your trip.

I also hope that you enjoy all that is around you and that you leave a different person, bettered by some experience you had while here in this part of Utah. Thank you for visiting! 

When you visit Moab and southeast Utah, something happens. I don't believe you can spend time in this special place with all this amazing beauty and not feel something, feel a change of some sort.

I love to walk the practice loop on the Slickrock trail. I like to walk the same path and check for new tracks in the sand. My dog checks all the new sniffs.

The scenery is always amazing, yet since the sun is not in the same place each day, the light it casts is always different. The shadows play differently along the canyon walls. The clouds may lay a soft diffusion to the scene. There are an infinite amount of shades of colors that these factors create.



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HOW TO...

USE RECREATION.GOV

Recreation.gov is used for reserving most campsites and permits. You can also use this site to pay for national park and monument entrance fees. Some are now cashless. This makes a great option for paying. This website and accompanying mobile app are easy to use. It's best to have an account to make reservations. Find out more at **Recreation.gov**.

This website has more than 103,000 reservable sites all across the United States. Having an account with them and using the mobile app will make it easy to reserve sites in all the places the system is used. Some first-come, first-served locations also allow for payment through the app using the scan and pay option. The app needs cell service to work.

First, set up an account on their website with your information and credit card and get familiar with how it works. For popular reservations, being logged in and ready to go a few minutes before permits open will give you a better chance of success.

If you are able to secure a reservation, don't delay! Once you "book," you only have 15 minutes to complete the reservation. If you don't complete the reservation in that time, the reservation is released back into the system. Keep this in mind, and if you didn't succeed at first, try about 15 minutes later. Someone may not have completed their transaction in those 15 minutes.

PAY YOUR FEES

You may find a Fee Station with pay envelopes at some trailheads, campgrounds, or park entrances. They take cash or checks only. This is where having single dollar bills will come in handy. Some trail fees are only \$5.


Not paying fees is really bad form. Fees are important as they help fund visitor services, law enforcement, and other resources.

LOOK THE PART

We cannot express enough the importance of staying hydrated.

Drink water! Drink a gallon of water a day, especially when it's hot.

Do as the locals do: buy a water bottle that is at least 32oz and show your personality by covering it up with your favorite stickers. Carry your water bottle with you and remember to drink. Restaurants will happily fill it for you.

Only 5% of plastic water bottles are recycled, and the water in Moab tastes good. Carrying your own water bottle is smart. And, you will look cool. 

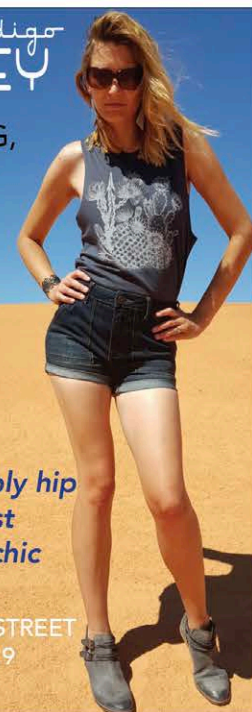


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ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

The largest concentration of natural sandstone arches in the world is in Arches National Park, along with a mind-blowing variety of balanced rocks, sandstone fins, and soaring pinnacles and spires.

VISITOR CENTER

The visitor center is located a short distance inside the park entrance. There is an orientation program in the auditorium. You can obtain permits, buy maps, or peruse the gift shop. Restrooms and drinking water are located outside the visitor center. There are no restaurants or hotels in the park.

SHARING THE PARK

Arches welcomes over a million visitors between March and October. The reservation system has made it easier to find parking, however in March or after 4pm, parking can be limited.

Park in designated areas only. Never park on vegetation or in a manner that blocks traffic. Parking for oversized vehicles is extremely limited.

Consider leaving large RVs or trailers outside the park.

ARCHES ENTRANCE LOCATED ON US HWY 191, FIVE MILES NORTH OF MOAB. OPEN YEAR-ROUND.

SCENIC DRIVE

The 18-mile road in the park starts at the visitor center and provides a good overview of this amazing park. Several sharp switchbacks begin your drive as the road winds through sculptured red rocks. Park Avenue is the first turnoff and a major vista point in Arches.

Next is a great view of the Three Gossips and Courthouse Towers. After Courthouse Towers, the road crosses a vast landscape with eroded pinnacles.

Then a turnoff leads to The Windows, the first major concentration of arches and spires. There is a parking lot and you can hike to the different arches.

The famous Delicate Arch is visible from a side road that leads to historic Wolfe Ranch. The hike to the arch is three miles round trip.

Fiery Furnace is next with good viewpoints from your vehicle. Beyond Fiery Furnace, the road continues past several large arches and ends at Devils Garden. There are numerous pullouts with interpretive signs.

📞 Visitor Information: **435-719-2299**

Please visit **NPS.gov/Arches** for updated information.

! A RESERVATION SYSTEM IS IN PLACE APRIL 1-OCTOBER 31, 2025

From April 1-July 6, and August 28-October 31, visitors arriving between 7am and 4pm will need to have a reservation for a certain arrival time in advance. Book your reservation up to six months before the date you want to visit the park at **Recreation.gov** or by calling **877-444-6777**. See page 34 for more tips.

Timed entry tickets will not be sold at the entrance station. Visit **Go.NPS.gov/ArchesTicket** for more information.

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

Pets are not allowed on any of the trails—EVER. Pets may accompany visitors in campgrounds, parking lots, and at pullouts but must always be leashed and restrained.

Bicycles are permitted on roads only. You may not ride your bike on trails or anywhere off a road.

RV drivers must keep in mind that the single two-lane road into and out of Arches is very narrow.

Off-highway vehicles (ATVs, UTVs, etc.) are not allowed in Arches.

Cell service in Arches is spotty and varies among carriers.

Climbing, scrambling, standing, walking, or rappelling off any named or unnamed arch with an opening greater than three feet is prohibited in the park.

No drones. The use of unmanned aircraft is prohibited in the park.

COMMERCIAL TOURS

Taking a commercial tour is an alternative to driving and no park reservations are needed. Please see page 68 for more details.

HIKING

There is a full spectrum of hiking trails ranging from short walks (.2 miles) on nature trails to more adventurous hikes of up to seven miles. Books are available at the visitor center.

CAMPING

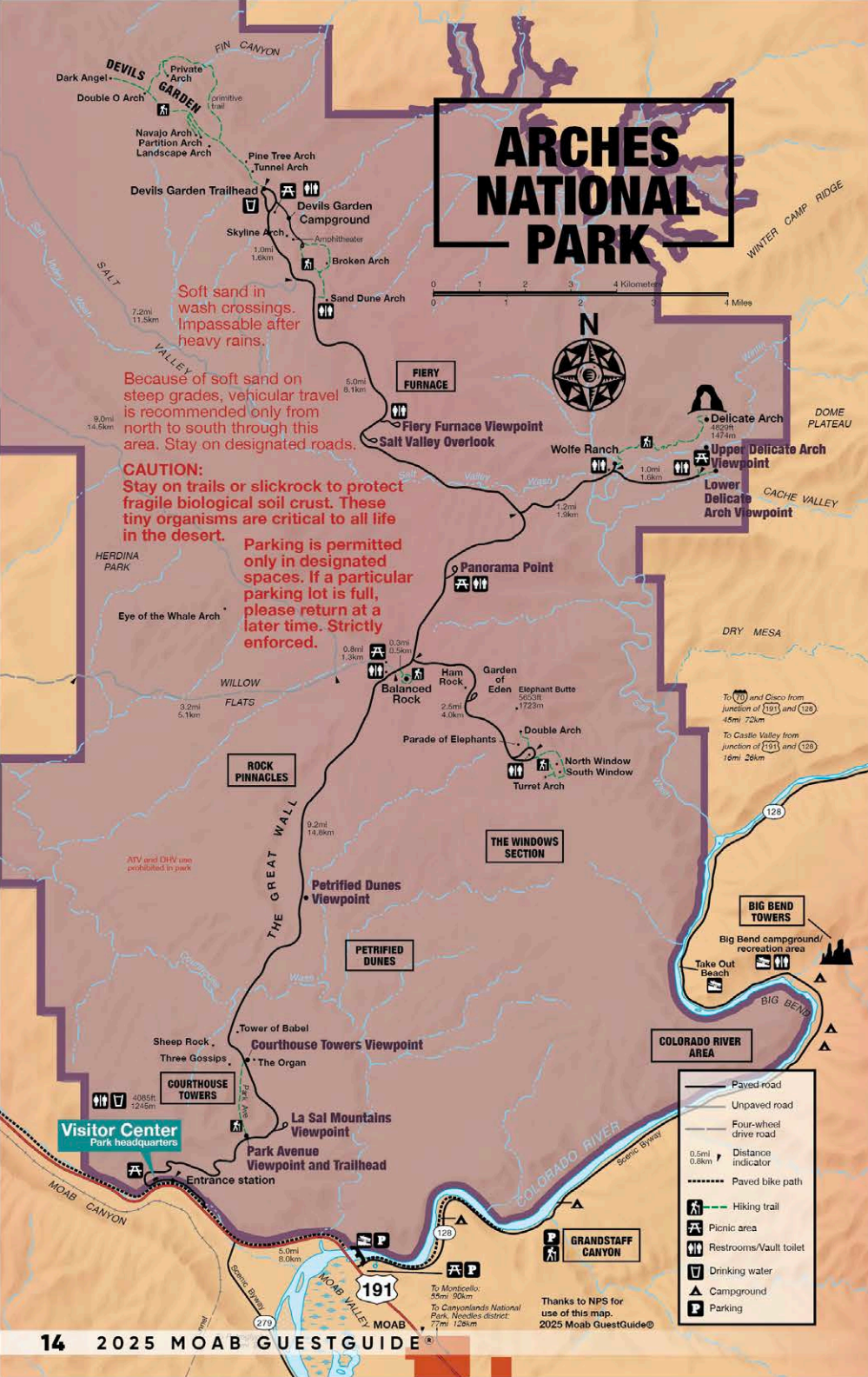
Arches has a 50-site campground among slickrock outcroppings at Devils Garden Campground, 18 miles from the park entrance.

You can reserve standard campsites up to six months in advance for stays March 1-Oct. 31. All sites are usually reserved months in advance. Between Nov. 1-Feb. 28, sites are first-come, first-served. Facilities include drinking water, picnic tables, grills, and both pit-style and flush toilets. Reserve at **Recreation.gov** or call **877-444-6777**.

INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY PARK

Arches is an International Dark-Sky Park, joining an already impressive list of parks in the region committed to preserving their naturally dark skies. These parks are great places to experience timeless, star-studded views. 🌌

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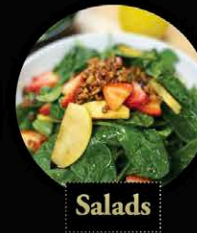
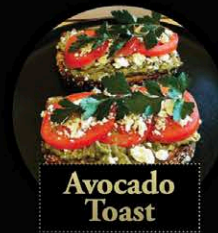
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CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

The Colorado River and the Green River flow together in the heart of Canyonlands, creating a rippled landscape with deep red-walled canyons, arches, buttes, spires, and innumerable other spectacular rock formations. Canyonlands is so large and so diverse that it is carved naturally into three distinctive districts: Island in the Sky, The Needles, and The Maze. While they adjoin each other, each area must be reached from different entry points. The travel time between each of the three districts is several hours.

VISITOR CENTERS

Canyonlands National Park is open year-round, 24 hours a day. Each district has its own visitor center; operating hours change with the seasons. Check the park's website for the most current information.

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

Travel to Canyonlands usually requires a car. Once in the park, each district offers paved, unpaved, or 4WD roads and hiking trails to see the area's attractions. Food, gas, lodging, and similar services are not available.

To truly appreciate this geologic fantasyland, allow four or five days to explore the three districts. Leave Moab with a full tank of gas or fully-charged EV, food, lots of water, a spare tire, and sun protection.

Canyon country is not a friend to cell phones, so don't rely on your phone's map to guide you in the park. Once you enter Canyonlands, cellular service diminishes greatly, especially in the canyons and away from the pavement.

Pets are not allowed on any trails or at any overlooks. Leashed and restrained pets may accompany visitors in the campgrounds or at pullouts along the paved scenic drives.

The use of unmanned aircrafts (drones) is prohibited.

ISLAND IN THE SKY

The wide, high plateau has commanding views of deep red-rock canyons in all directions. Travel 10 miles north of Moab on US Hwy 191 to Utah Hwy 313, then southwest 22 miles to the visitor center.

Island in the Sky has about 20 miles of paved road and some unpaved roads with several viewing points. It is the most accessible district and the easiest to visit in a short period of time.

THE NEEDLES

In the southeast region of the park, 76 miles south of Moab (about 90 minutes), is the heart of rock country, offering many opportunities for exploring. The Needles district has only eight miles of paved roads but more than 60 miles of interconnecting hiking trails and rugged 4WD roads.

THE MAZE

West of the rivers, this is the wildest and most remote section of the national park. This district of Canyonlands requires a 4WD vehicle, time, and self-sufficiency. The Hans Flat Ranger Station in The Maze is a three-hour drive west from Moab via Interstate 70. Visitors should check road conditions before making the trip.

There are no paved roads, amenities, food, gas, or charging units in The Maze.

BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS

Activities requiring a backcountry permit include backpacking, mountain biking, camping, horseback riding, river trips, and 4WD overnight and day use.

There are no restaurants or hotel accommodations in the park.

Visitor Information: **435-719-2313**

Please visit [NPS.gov/Canyonlands](https://www.nps.gov/Canyonlands) for updated information.

Permits (other than river) can be reserved at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Unreserved permits may be available at district visitor centers.

Day-use permits are required for all vehicles, including motorcycles and bicycles, on White Rim, Elephant Hill, Lavender Canyon, and Peekaboo/Horse Canyon roads.

For a river trip, visit the river permit page of the park's website.

The park website has helpful planning videos about all these activities.

CAMPING

Canyonlands has two campgrounds:

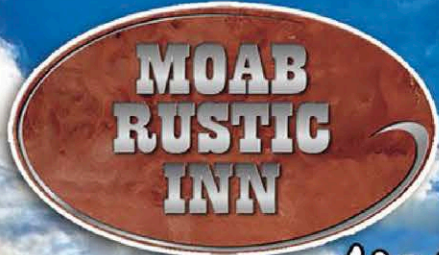
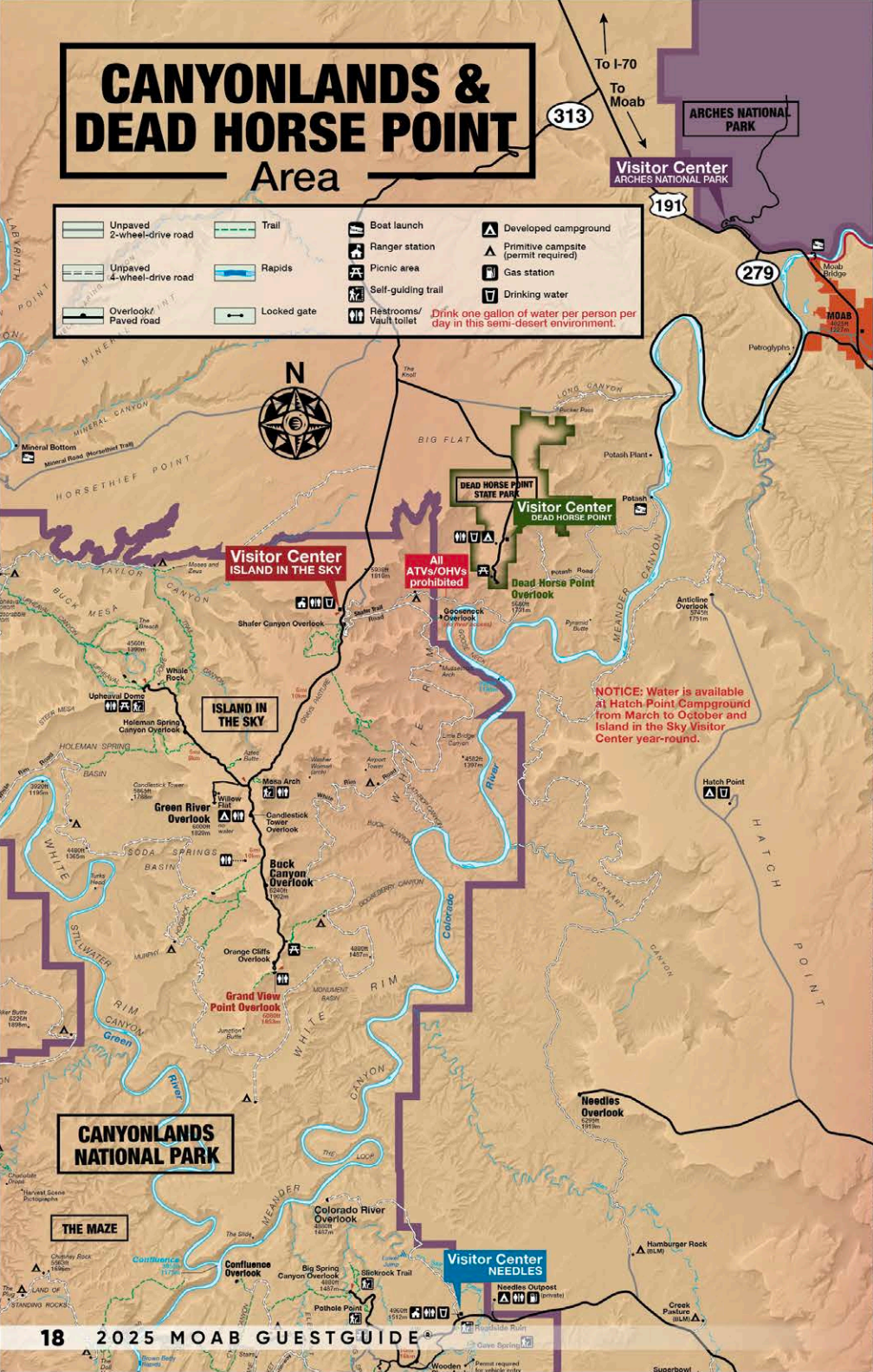
Willow Flat, in Island in the Sky, has 12 sites, picnic tables, fire grates, and vault toilets, but no water. \$15/night per site. First-come, first-served, year-round.

The Needles Campground, in The Needles, has 26 sites, picnic tables, fire grates, tent pads, flush toilets, and water available spring through fall. \$20/night per site. First-come, first-served in the summer. Reservations for spring or fall at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). 🏕️

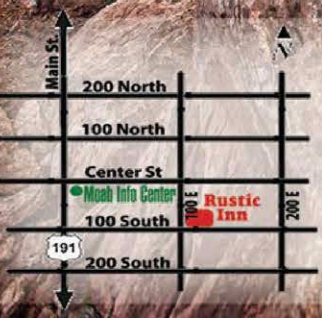
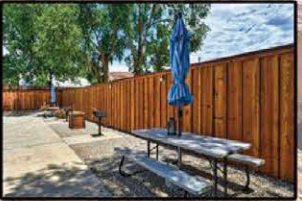
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CANYONLANDS & DEAD HORSE POINT Area

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DEAD HORSE POINT STATE PARK

435-259-2614 • StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/Dead-Horse

The road to Dead Horse Point State Park is 10 miles northwest of Moab on US Hwy 191, then 23 miles southwest on Utah Hwy 313.

Park hours: 6am-10pm, year-round. Visitor center hours: 9am-5pm (winter hours may vary), closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The park remains open during holidays.

The visitor center has wheelchair-accessible facilities, an information area, exhibits, restrooms, water, publications, and souvenirs. They also sell hot and cold beverages, ice, and snack foods.

ENTRANCE FEES

Day use is \$20 per vehicle for up to eight passengers, \$10 per motorcycle, \$10 for up to four pedestrians, or up to four cyclist biking into the park.

A Utah State Parks annual pass is available. All fees are subject to change.

Note: This is a Utah State Park. The National Parks Pass is not valid here nor does the entrance fee for this park allow you entrance to the nearby Canyonlands or Arches National Parks.

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

The park is at 5,900ft, which means weather is a bit more unpredictable, more windy, and definitely cooler than downtown Moab, so dress accordingly. The main overlook boasts breathtaking panoramic views of the Colorado River and its side canyons. The scenic Rim Trail towers 2,000ft directly above the Colorado River.

HIKING

There are two hiking-specific trails on which mountain biking is not allowed. Both trails leave from the visitor center and go to the Dead Horse Point overlook. Both are an easy walk: the East Rim Trail is 1.5 miles and the West Rim Trail is 2.5 miles, one way. Leashed dogs are allowed on hiking trails.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Intrepid Trail System is bisected by the main road and provides 16.6 miles of moderate to intermediate riding. The trails meander through varied terrain, including slickrock and sand; some pass through meadows and others along the edge of the plateau. Please see pages 100-101 for the trail map and brief trail descriptions.

Hiking is also allowed on mountain bike trails.

DARK SKY

Dead Horse Point was the first Utah State Park to achieve an International Dark-Sky Association certification and is a perfect place to stargaze. The high plateau offers unencumbered views and no light pollution.

Park staff routinely provide programs celebrating the night sky, from walks under the full moon to gazing through telescopes at objects millions of light years away.

Check their website for scheduled programs.

CAMPING

Yurts are available by reservation for overnight use year-round. Each yurt provides sleeping for six, electricity, cooling unit, propane fireplace, table and chairs, locking door, outdoor propane grill, and seating. Modern restrooms are nearby, but no showers. \$150/night.

The 21-site Kayenta Campground features electrical hookups, tent pads, sheltered tables, and charcoal grills. No showers. \$50/night per site.

The Wingate Campground is located just south of the Kayenta Campground. There are electrical hookups and flush toilets but no showers. \$40/night for tent sites, or \$50/night for sites with electricity.

All water must be trucked to the park, so there is limited drinking water. Please fill water tanks before arriving and buy firewood in Moab to bring.



For all reservations, call 800-322-3770 8am-5pm (MST), or visit ReserveAmerica.com. 🏠



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UTAH RAPTOR STATE PARK

StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/utahraptor

UTAH'S NEWEST STATE PARK!

Utahraptor State Park is opening in the spring of 2025.

The park is located roughly 15 miles northwest of Moab off US Hwy 191.

Park hours: 6am-10pm, year-round.
Visitor center hours: 9am-5pm, hours vary by season.

The visitor center will open with their grand opening scheduled for the spring of 2025. Check the website for details on their grand opening.

The visitor center has facilities for the disabled, an information area, exhibits, restrooms, water, publications, and souvenirs.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Utahraptor *ostrommaysorum* was discovered in the Dalton Wells Quarry and is one of the geologically oldest and largest known dromaeosaurids (or feathered) dinosaurs.
- This group of carnivorous dinosaurs had sharp, curved teeth, three-toed feet, and a large retractable sickle claw on its foot, specialized for cutting.
- Utahraptor was the inspiration for the Velociraptors in the film *Jurassic Park*; however, they were quite a bit bigger than Velociraptor.

ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance fees will apply accordingly. A Utah State Parks annual pass is available. All fees are subject to change.

Note: This is a Utah State Park. The National Parks Pass is not valid here nor does the entrance fee for this park allow you entrance to the nearby Canyonlands or Arches National Parks.

HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

In 2021, the Utah State Legislature created this new state park to protect important historical sites.

As a way to get young men working during the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps. **The Dalton Wells Civilian Conservation Corps Camp (CCC)** helped build the road into Arches and helped with erosion-control in Spanish Valley with the planting of trees and water levees.

The CCC camps were then turned into the **Moab Citizen Isolation Center** after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Take a few hours to walk the interpretive trail at the CCC camp and the Moab Citizen Isolation Center Historic site.

The visitor center will also have information and exhibits on the camp.

HOME TO MANY DINOSAURS

This area around Moab was home to many different dinosaurs. Utahraptor State Park is home to many dinosaur remains, including one of the largest dinosaur bone beds in North America.

There are several displays where you can learn which dinosaurs lived in the area and what bones and petrified logs you can find here.

SOVEREIGN TRAIL SYSTEM

One of the original trail areas in Moab with a network of approximately 50 miles of motorized single- and double-track trails is great to go explore.

There is a parking area where you can also access the Klono mountain bike and 4x4 area.

CAMPING

The park will have a full-service campground with 58 partial hookup sites with power and water, and modern restrooms with showers.

They will also have designated primitive campsites.

Book online at ReserveAmerica.com starting Spring of 2025.

PET FRIENDLY

Leashed pets are allowed in the campground, the Interpretive Trail, and on the Sovereign Trails. Always make sure to clean up after your pet and have plenty of water for them.

PERFECT BASE CAMP

Due to its location, this state park makes a great base camp for your Moab adventures. It's located close to Utah Hwy 313 leading to the many mountain bike trails in that area, Dead Horse Point State Park, Arches, and Canyonlands National Parks.

Take time to enjoy Utah's newest state park. 🐾



BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT



For better details, visit [BLM.gov/Programs/Recreation/Permits-and-Passes/Lotteries-and-Permit-Systems/Utah/CedarMesa](https://www.blm.gov/Programs/Recreation/Permits-and-Passes/Lotteries-and-Permit-Systems/Utah/CedarMesa).

There are no services outside of the towns surrounding the monument and facilities within the monument are limited. Travelers to the area need to be well prepared and experienced in backcountry-style travel. You can see the area by doing a driving loop. See our map on page 148 for this route.

Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, Ute, and other Tribes and Pueblos all have ancestral ties to the region. Additional care needs to be taken around the numerous cultural sites in the area. Travel and visit with respect.

[BLM.gov/Visit/Bears-Ears-National-Monument](https://www.blm.gov/Visit/Bears-Ears-National-Monument).

MUST STOPS

Before you visit this area, make sure to stop at the **Bears Ears Education Center** in Bluff. They are the best resource for the area. Open seasonally, 9am-4pm, Thurs-Mon. **435-672-2402**, [BearsEarsPartnership.org/Visit/Visitor-Info](https://www.BearsEarsPartnership.org/Visit/Visitor-Info).

Another resource is **Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum** in Blanding. Open year-round. 9am-5pm, March-Nov., and 9am-3pm Dec.-Feb. **435-678-2238**, [StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/Edge-of-the-Cedars](https://www.StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/Edge-of-the-Cedars). 🏠

Home to some of the most culturally and archaeologically rich lands in the United States, Bears Ears National Monument is a sacred, ancestral landscape for many of the region's Tribes and Pueblos. This desert landscape is also full of spectacular rivers, canyons, and mountains.

Abundant rock imagery, ancestral cliff dwellings, kivas, and countless other artifacts provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record.

Bears Ears is bordered by The Needles district of Canyonlands National Park to the north, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to the west, the San Juan River corridor to the south, and Utah Hwy 95 to the east.

The Indian Creek Corridor Scenic Byway, Utah Hwy 211, is the drive from US Hwy 191 to The Needles district (entrance fee is charged) and passes by Newspaper Rock. Monticello is the closest town to the northernmost portion of the monument while Bluff serves as the town nearest the southern portion.

Bears Ears is the first national monument ever created at the request of a coalition of Tribes, and designated to be collaboratively managed by federal agencies, including Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, and Tribes.

Some permits for day use may be obtained at the trailheads. Others need to be obtained by visiting [Recreation.gov](https://www.Recreation.gov) or at the Kane Gulch Ranger Station off Utah Hwy 261.

Visit with Respect

VIEW SITES FROM A DISTANCE

STAY ON DESIGNATED ROADS

CAMP & EAT AWAY FROM ARCHAEOLOGY

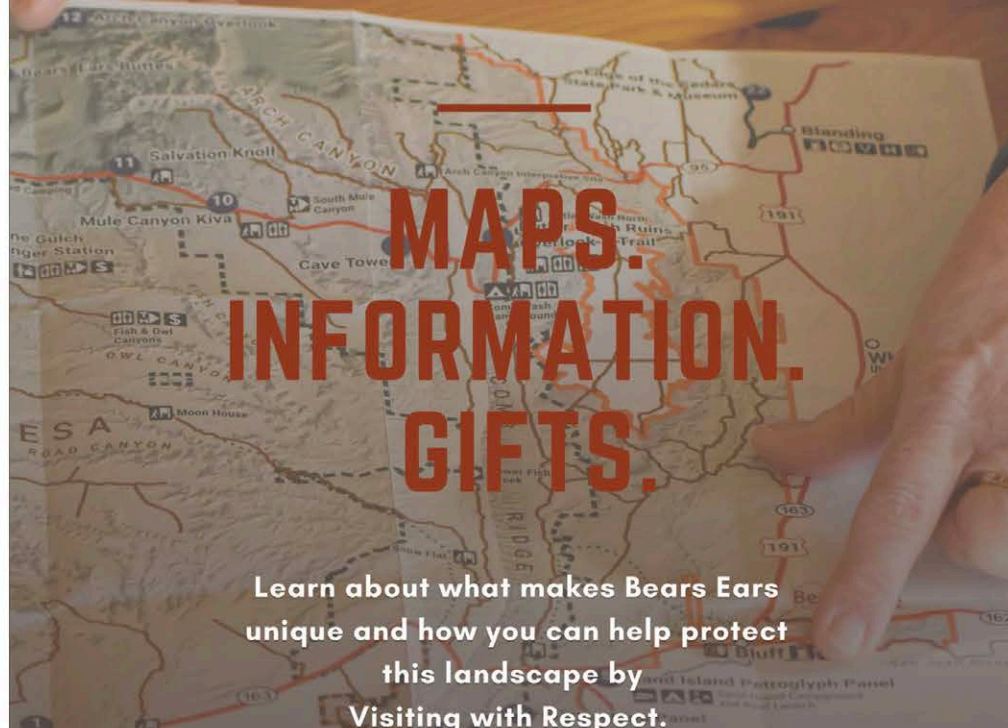
LEAVE CULTURAL BELONGINGS WHERE THEY ARE

Look for these **Visit With Respect** icons that represent guidelines about respectful visitation and how to reduce your impact on the landscape.

Bears Ears PARTNERSHIP

Bears Ears EDUCATION CENTER

567 W. MAIN STREET - BLUFF, UT (435) 672-2402



Learn about what makes Bears Ears unique and how you can help protect this landscape by **Visiting with Respect.**

VISITOR INFORMATION ONLINE:
[BEARSEARSPARTNERSHIP.ORG/VISIT/VISITOR-INFO](https://www.BearsEarsPartnership.org/Visit/Visitor-Info)

Restrooms, native plant garden, picnic area, educational exhibits, gift shop and more.

Operated by: **Bears Ears Partnership**



PARKS & MONUMENTS

GOOSENECKS STATE PARK

435-678-2238 • StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/GooseNecks

The Goosenecks of the San Juan River are a series of tight loops—or “goosenecks”—made by the river as it flows towards the Colorado River. Check out how the river has carved a gorge into the plateau.

This rare and amazing geologic formation is formed by the river traveling over six miles flowing in a deep canyon with a series of stepped cliffs and terraces.

At the gooseneck section of the San Juan River, it twists and turns while only advancing west one mile on its way to Lake Powell.

To get to the park, drive west from Bluff on US Hwy 163 for 20 miles, then turn north on Utah Hwy 261. You will then see the sign for Goosenecks State Park on Utah Hwy 316.

The paved road to the park will lead to an easily accessible viewpoint above the river, offering spectacular views of several huge river bends set against deep canyon cliffs and terraces.

This park is largely undeveloped. An observation shelter and vault toilets are available but no other amenities. No running water, so come well prepared.

Day-use fee: \$5 per vehicle.

Goosenecks and Edge of the Cedars State Parks are managed by the same people.

CAMPING

Primitive campsites with picnic tables are scattered back from the edge of the cliff. \$10/night, first-come, first-served. No reservations.

SAN JUAN COUNTY

MONUMENT VALLEY NAVAJO TRIBAL PARK

435-727-5870
NavajoNationParks.org

Located in southeast Utah and the northern part of Arizona lies the sandstone buttes of Monument Valley that are distinctly familiar thanks to Hollywood’s long love affair with this land. You will recognize the amazing buttes set against the dramatic desert landscape that have been used in many films, particularly the John Wayne/John Ford Western movies or more recently *Forrest Gump*, *Back to the Future III*, the 2013 *Lone Ranger* with Johnny Depp, and *Dark Winds*.

Set aside by the Navajo Tribal Council in 1958, the park covers almost 92,000 acres in northern Arizona and southern Utah and lies within the Navajo Nation reservation. The valley is accessible where it sits off US Hwy 163, just east of Goulding’s Lodge.


Many of the buttes can be seen right from US Hwy 163, but to really see the formations, drive the 17-mile dirt road which has eleven designated stops (allow two to four hours).



Many of the formations have been named by the Navajo for spiritual references, or by early settlers of the area.

Unlike a U.S. national park or monument, this park is managed by the Navajo Nation Parks & Recreation. Rules for use of this park are different than national parks. Please be very respectful. There are occupancy limits at all tribal park locations. Restrictions can change unexpectedly so call or check their website for updates.

The park has a visitor center, restaurant, campground, and gift shop. Various tours are available including horseback tours and vehicle tours, ranging from two to three hours, or all-day tours which also visit adjacent Mystery Valley. All tours are led by local Navajo guides and are a great way to learn about the history and culture of the area.

For your planning purposes, it is a three-hour drive from Moab to the visitor center. Bluff is only 54 miles away, making a great basecamp. 



NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT

435-692-1234 X616 • NPS.gov/NaBr
SEE WEBSITE FOR ENTRANCE FEES

The amazing force of water has cut three spectacular natural bridges in White Canyon at Natural Bridges National Monument, located 42 miles west of Blanding. The three natural bridges Kachina, Owachomo, and Sipapu are named in the Hopi language.

Visitors can view these natural bridges from overlooks along Bridge View Drive, a paved 9-mile loop road (leave trailers at the visitor center). Canyons and a touch of history with ancient Puebloan stone structures can also be seen. Short hikes lead down to each bridge. A longer 9.8-mile loop trail will take you past and/or under all three bridges.

The International Dark-Sky Association designated Natural Bridges as the world’s first International Dark-Sky Park. Make sure to take a ranger-led Dark-Sky Astronomy Program. Check their website for details. See page 146 for more information on hiking to the bridges.

CAMPING

There is a 13-site campground near the visitor center. It has no running water, but you can get some at the visitor center. Reservations can be made at Recreation.gov in advance or day-of using WiFi at the visitor center.

THE COLORADO RIVER



WATER BRINGS LIFE

The Colorado River and the use of its water has shaped the history of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming, which depend on it and its tributaries for life-giving water.

In these states, the Colorado River supplies water for 40 million people and has transformed desert land into five million acres of irrigated farmland. These seven states, plus Mexico, and 23 Native American tribes share water rights to the river under the Colorado River Pact of 1922.

More water is distributed from the Colorado River's 250,000-square-mile basin than from any other river basin in the world. Every drop of water in the river is fully allocated. The Colorado is easily the most depended on river of the southwestern United States.

BY THE NUMBERS

The river's 1,450-mile journey starts as a trickle of snowmelt high in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, then travels through mountain canyons and three major deserts.

The river passes through 11 different national monuments and parks including Rocky Mountain National Park (where it begins), Canyonlands National Park, and Grand Canyon National Park.

Agriculture uses approximately 80% of the water to irrigate 15% of the nation's farmland, and supplies 90% of vegetables in the winter to U.S. consumers.

The average width is 300ft across with an average depth of about 20ft.

The water passes through 33 reservoirs, 188 pumping plants, 345 diversion dams, 50 power plants, and 14,590 miles of canals.

The river supports a \$26 billion river-recreation industry. The Fisher Towers section of the Colorado is the most popular one-day river trip in Utah.

Then, the waters of Meander Canyon are calm before entering the famous "Cataract Canyon" known as the best whitewater rapids in the lower U.S.

As the only part of the river reachable by paved highways in Utah, the area around Moab and the Colorado River is one of the most beautiful in the United States.

To experience this unforgettable scenery, we recommend driving the Utah Scenic Byway 128 (see page 124).

DIVERSION OF THE RIVER

Not all states have water rights or water usage regulations.

However, water rights and diverting water for use, began in the late 1800s in Colorado.

What most folks don't realize is that one of the first major diversions of the Colorado River is the 16-mile-long Grand Ditch, right near the headwaters, in what is now Rocky Mountain National Park.

The Ditch is only one of the ways water from the Colorado River is diverted to the east side of the Continental Divide.

Currently, about half the water flowing down the South Platte River (in Denver

and flowing to Nebraska) actually comes from the Colorado River.

About half of the water supplied to Denver residents comes from the west side of the Continental Divide and the Colorado River.

Water from the Colorado River not only supports thousands of acres of crops in the west, but also on the eastern plains.

DRYING UP

The river's flow has shrunk by about 20% since the 1900s, mostly due to increased water use and climate change. Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States, in terms of water capacity, is now only 33% full.

Lake Powell, the second largest reservoir on the Colorado River, is only 37% full. Lake Powell has a shoreline larger than the entire Pacific coastline from Washington to California.

These are both huge lakes and these low levels affect who will have water use or get electricity from the dams. The low water also changes the recreational use and experience.

A GRAND NAME

The naming of one of the most famous and well-known rivers in the world has had quite a history in itself.




"Colorado" is Spanish for colored red. Spanish explorers named the river for the reddish color from the reddish hue of silt the river carries.

In 1861, the territory of Colorado then took on that same name and became the state of Colorado in 1876.

However, the Colorado River has only run through the state of Colorado since 1921.

The Grand River whose headwaters are near Grand Lake, Colorado, flows 350 miles from Grand Lake, through Grand Junction, and on into Moab down to the confluence with the Green River.

The river from the confluence with the Green River down has always been named the Colorado River.

In 1921, a very passionate lawmaker from Colorado fought hard in Congress to have the name of the Grand River changed to a more prestigious name of the Colorado River. He felt it was very important for this magnificent river to have the name of the state where the river begins, high up in the mountains. 

DID YOU KNOW?

- Moab is the largest town in Utah along the banks of the Colorado River. Yet, the Town of Moab does not take one drop of water for domestic use from the Colorado River. How is that true?
- The city's drinking water comes from the Glen Canyon Group aquifer, the thickest aquifer of the Dakota-Glen Canyon aquifer system. An aquifer is when a water-bearing rock readily transmits water to wells and springs. Moab's water comes from these natural spring-fed water sources.
- The water is then gravity-fed into well pump houses that are then transferred to the community. The water is tested regularly and is good to drink.
- Aquifers are recharged by rain and snowfall. So when the La Sals Mountains have a big snow year, or there is a rainy season, the aquifers fill up.



DESERT TIPS

WEATHER

This area is part of the Colorado Plateau, a high desert region that can experience wide temperature fluctuations—sometimes over 40°F in a single day!

Temperatures tend to be comfortable and mild during spring (April–May) and fall (mid–September–October), with daytime highs averaging 60–80°F and lows averaging 30–50°F.

Summer temperatures often exceed 100°F, making strenuous exercise difficult and sometimes dangerous. The middle of the day can be hot and dry, but the temperature can drop quickly when the sun sets. Winters are cold, with highs averaging 30–50°F and lows averaging 0–20°F.

Before heading out for the day, always check the weather forecast.

LIGHTNING

Thunderstorms are a necessary part of weather in the desert as the water is always welcome. With the heat of the desert air, thunderstorms and lightning can be a common afternoon occurrence (but are possible at any time of day).

Lightning can be very dangerous so check the weather forecast before you head outside. It's always best to start early for any outside activity. If you think there is lightning around, get to a lower elevation as quickly and safely as you can. Seek shelter in a building or hard-sided car.

Once the storm has cleared, still wait 30–45 minutes before resuming your activity. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from the storm.

Cool fact: The average length of a regular lightning strike is about 2–3 miles and carries nearly 100 million volts of electricity. Lightning has an average lifespan of 1–2 microseconds.

continued on page 32

TRAVELING IN NATURE

The high desert plateau that surrounds Moab is a breathtaking part of our country that demands respect; you must be self-reliant and have basic outdoor skills while exploring the desert. Be realistic about your physical abilities, know your limits, and use common sense.

Have the proper gear, enough water, a good map, and plenty of food.

Do your research before you hit the trail; be aware of mileage, elevation gain, signage (or lack thereof), terrain features, and the weather forecast.

Cell service is spotty in the desert, so never count on having reliable cell service while out and about.

While in the backcountry, conserve your battery by putting your phone in airplane mode and turn off the Bluetooth function, or just keep your phone off. Conserving battery power is extremely important. Texting and using social media really drain cell phones.

BUDDY SYSTEM

Don't go into the backcountry alone. Always tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return. If you become lost and need to be rescued, don't move from where you are or try to find your way back. This can make it difficult for search and rescue teams to find you. Stay put, make yourself visible, make noise to let people know where you are, and wait for help. Consider hiring a local guide to explore the desert backcountry safely.

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711 S. Main Street | Moab Utah 84532
www.MoabValleyInn.com | info@moabvalleyinn.com





DESERT TIPS

DESERT ALTITUDE

Moab is 4,025ft above sea level, with the nearby La Sal Mountains topping out at over 12,000ft above sea level. These higher altitudes may trigger mild altitude sickness in visitors, regardless of gender, age, or physical health. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat, and shortness of breath.

Resting and drinking plenty of water are the keys to treating mild symptoms. It's also a good idea to limit or avoid alcohol and caffeine for the first few days of your visit, as these can worsen symptoms.

Desert Thread

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www.desertthread.com

BEVERAGE OF CHOICE

Make it water, and lots of it! We cannot emphasize this enough—not having enough water can be a dangerous, even deadly, mistake. Heat stroke and heat exhaustion are very real threats and can affect anyone. Always carry water and either a portable filter or water purification tablets.

Plan on a gallon (yes, a gallon) of water per person, per day. Take small sips regularly; waiting to drink until you feel thirsty means you've waited too long and your body is already becoming dehydrated. An important tip is to begin hydrating the day before your activity. If you are not properly hydrated the day before, you'll start your day dehydrated, and you can't catch up in just one day.

Do not drink water from streams, potholes, or any other natural source without purifying it. Don't rely on natural sources for your water—bring your own water, and bring plenty of it!

KEEP THE CHARGE UP

When the body is dehydrated, it lacks water and essential electrolytes (sodium, potassium, and chloride) which reduces its ability to sweat. Many automatic processes in the body rely on a small electric current to function, and electrolytes provide this charge.

With all of the water you need to drink, make sure to replace electrolytes as well to keep the body in balance. There are drink supplements that can be added to water (avoid sugary drinks). Bananas, watermelons, and peanut butter are good food options.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing, and socks and shoes that are appropriate for your activity of choice (avoid cotton as it retains moisture).

CONTINUED

UPF (ultraviolet protection factor) fabrics come in short-sleeve and long-sleeve shirts, pants, and hats that incorporate up to UPF 50 factor protection.

Temperatures drop quickly at night, even in the warmest months, so carry a jacket if you plan on being outside after the sun goes down.

Having properly-fitting boots will help avoid blisters. Wet feet can also cause blisters. Bring an extra pair of non-cotton socks on hikes to prevent blisters due to sweaty or wet feet.

GO OUT PROTECTED

As always, practice safe sun. Apply sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of 25 or higher. Lube up at least 30 minutes before going out, and reapply liberally every two hours. You will sunburn much more easily than you'd expect because of the thinner atmosphere. Wear high-quality sunglasses! The ultraviolet radiation is 36 percent higher here than at sea level.

The sun and heat get all the blame for burned, dry, and cracked skin, but the wind is just as damaging. Use moisturizer, sunscreen, and lip balm with SPF. Men are seven times more likely than women to develop lip cancer, but lip balm with SPF cuts that chance by 50 percent.

PUT A LID ON IT

There's no denying it, summer is hot and the sun is relentless. Always wear a brimmed hat in the sun to shade your scalp, ears, and face. A bandana around your neck will help protect your skin. Using a wet bandana on your skin will offer cooling relief as the moisture evaporates.

ROAD-TRIP READY

Always keep your gas tank at least half full and your EV charged. Gas and charging stations can be few and far between in this area.



Carry snacks and have enough water in your car for everyone, including pets.

A headlamp or flashlight is always good to have for dark nights (and when you drop your keys under the seat).

THE HEAT'S ON

The desert is known for hot, dry temperatures. The heat can wreak havoc on our bodies. It's very important to do any activities during the cooler times of the day. Be careful and be aware of how you are feeling while outside. Heat-related illnesses can be very dangerous. ☹️

HEAT EXHAUSTION	OR	HEAT STROKE
FAINT OR DIZZY		THROBBING HEADACHE
EXCESSIVE SWEATING		NO SWEATING
COOL, PALE, CLAMMY SKIN		BODY TEMP ABOVE 103° RED, HOT DRY SKIN
NAUSEA OR VOMITING		NAUSEA OR VOMITING
RAPID, WEAK PULSE		RAPID, STRONG PULSE
MUSCLE CRAMPS		MAY LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GET TO A COOLER, AIR CONDITIONED PLACE DRINK WATER IF FULLY CONSCIOUS TAKE A COOL SHOWER OR USE COLD COMPRESS 		<p>CALL 911</p> <p>TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO COOL THE PERSON UNTIL HELP ARRIVES</p>

SacramentoReady.org @SacramentoOES



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

This means you will have to make your plans to visit Arches in advance, or go into the park before 7am or after 4pm. Another option is to take a guided trip with one of our outfitters.

During the reservation season, visitors arriving between 7am and 4pm will need to have a reservation for a certain arrival time in advance.

Book your reservation up to six months before the date you want to visit the park. Timed-entry tickets will not be sold at the entrance station.

Book reservations at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov), by using their mobile app (which acts similar to the website), or by calling **877-444-6777**.

A timed-entry ticket is \$2. You still need to pay the park entrance fee or have an annual or lifetime NPS pass.

ARCHES HAS A RESERVATION SYSTEM

In order to protect the park and create a better experience for guests, there is a pilot reservation system in place from April 1–July 6 and August 28–Oct. 31, 2025. (No reservations needed July 7–August 27.)

PHOTO TIPS: SEE THE LIGHT

• It's all about timing. When the sun is lower in the sky (sunrise and sunset), the light is warm and gentle on your subject. Mid-day light is brighter and will lend a harsher feeling to your images. Don't photograph into the sun. Instead, take your pictures of what the sun is illuminating. If you do shoot into the sun, put a person or object in the frame to capture "rim light" created by the sun around the object.

FIND YOUR FOCUS

• Experiment with depth of field. Usually, you will want to shoot with a narrow aperture (f/16 or f/18) and focus on the foreground to get the entire scene in sharp focus, or try a larger aperture (f/4 or f/5.6) to force the background out of focus. Use a large aperture, focus on a single wildflower, and the crisp flower will "pop" against a blurry background.

TIPS ON THE RESERVATION SYSTEM

Before your trip, set up an account on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

SEE PAGE 11 FOR ADDITIONAL TIPS ON THIS

Have your reservation pulled up on your phone, or printed copy ready for the gate attendant.

Additional tickets will be released at 7pm mountain standard time for the next day.

Any unreserved tickets remain available for same-day booking.

You cannot get a reservation at the entry gate or any visitor center. You can stop at the Moab Information Center and they will help navigate you through the process and can check availability.

Reservations are for a vehicle (15 passenger or less). A motorcycle is considered a vehicle. Bicyclists do not need a reservation.



RESERVATION SCHEDULE

You can make reservations **SIX MONTHS** in advance.

MONTH OF VISIT	RESERVATIONS OPEN
APRIL, MAY, & JUNE	JANUARY 2
JULY (JULY 1-6 ONLY)	FEBRUARY 1
AUGUST (AUGUST 28-31 ONLY)	MARCH 1
SEPTEMBER	APRIL 1
OCTOBER	MAY 1

Entry windows last ONE HOUR

If you have a **7am** reservation, you have to enter between **7am-7:59am**. If you don't, you will lose your reservation.

Once you are in the park, you can **stay as long as you like**.

If you have a reservation and enter the park during your entry window, **you are able to leave the park and re-enter at any time**.

There are no restaurants in the park, so **take plenty of food and water** for your entire group, including pets. Grab a to-go lunch from one of our restaurants.

continued on page 36

Sweet Cravings

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

UNDERSTANDING PERMITS

Moab is surrounded by national parks and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. Each governing body issues permits that regulate the type of activities that can take place on their land. Not only does this protect the wildlife, but it protects the land from overuse. Plus, permits have a silver lining: fewer people.

Outfitters may have permits for some areas, but not others, and some outfitters are the only ones with a certain permit. For instance, there are only three permits issued a day for rafting on the Colorado River through Westwater Canyon, which limits this area of the river to 75 users per day. Does your outfitter have a permit? And, if so, do they have a spot for you? These popular trips go quickly, so plan ahead.

Permits also apply to private trips. It's best to plan popular trips (Needles backpacking, White Rim camping, etc.) in advance and have some flexibility and understanding of the permit system.

UNDERSTANDING LIQUOR LAWS

Utah's alcohol laws are different than other states. Alcohol beverage service in a licensed restaurant requires that you order food with your drink. If you only want a drink and no food, head to a bar. The legal drinking age is 21.

Packaged liquor, wine, and beer "to go" are sold at state liquor stores.

The Moab state-owned liquor store is located at 55 West 200 South. Open 11am-7pm. Closed Sundays and holidays.

GET THE POOP SCOOP

Seriously, this is one topic we never thought we would need to add to our guidebook. However, more and more people are visiting the area, and human waste in the backcountry has become a real issue. So, here we go.

Whenever you can, take advantage of a toilet facility. When a developed toilet is not around, you must pack out solid waste in an approved waste bag. In order for this to be a sanitary activity, use a W.A.G. bag (Waste Alleviation and Gelling Bag).

These bags are double walled, spill proof, puncture proof, and zipper closed. They have crystals or gels to neutralize the dangerous pathogens in human waste. This all allows them to be disposed of into an approved WAG bag disposal bin.

Once you have used your bag (good up to four uses), you must dispose of it in a WAG-bag-only trash can. This is important because they are more heat resistant than regular trash cans. In the heat, these bags could explode, making this situation a lot worse.

The bags are small and tuck easily into your pack or in your car.

Watch a video on how to use one at [DiscoverMoab.com/Poop](https://www.discovermoab.com/poop).

Purchase them at one of our partners: **Arches National Park Bookstore**, **Canyonlands National Park Bookstore**, **Moab Information Center**, **GearHeads Outdoor Store**, and **Wild West Voyages**.

Disposal Locations in Moab:
(see also our Town Map pg 130-131)

- **Grand County Transit Hub & Lions Park** (Intersection of Hwys 191 and 128)
- **SE Utah Health Department** (575 Kane Creek Blvd)
- **Wastewater Reclamation Facility** (1070 West 400 North)
- **Moab Transfer Station** (2295 S US Hwy 191)

CONTINUED

MOAB AREA TRANSIT

The Moab Area Transit (MAT) pilot program is a fare-free, transit service in Moab. MAT provides more options for transportation in Moab and aims to help reduce downtown traffic using comfortable MAT-branded 13-passenger vans that are wheelchair accessible.

There are two options for MAT:

• **On-demand transit.** This service will provide door-to-door transportation to and from any location within the broader service area.

Service is offered daily March 16-Oct. 15 9am-9pm, and Oct. 16-March 15 9am-5pm.

You can download the Moab Area Transit app to request a ride, or call **833-628-3733**.

• **Main Street Fixed-route.** Leave your car at your hotel and take advantage of the fixed-route service for quick travel along Moab's Main Street. This route has regular stops between the Fairfield Inn north of town to the Utah State University Moab campus at Aggie Boulevard south of town. Vans run constantly during operating hours. Service is offered daily March 16-Oct. 15 9am-9pm. No service during the winter.



CAR RENTAL

If you flew to Moab, renting a car is easy. **Canyonlands Jeep and Car Rentals** offers compact, midsize, fullsize, minivans, and even full-size vans available for pick up right at the Canyonlands Regional Airport or at the Moab Adventure Center. Car rental fees start at \$69 per day and all reservations are guaranteed.

For your reservation, call **435-259-4413**, or visit [CanyonlandsJeep.com](https://www.CanyonlandsJeep.com).

ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATIONS

Moab has 10 level 2 charging stations at five locations throughout the community: Moab Springs Ranch, Adventure Inn, across from Swanny Park, and near the Center Street Gym.

If you are headed out to play a round of golf, the Moab Golf Course has a station as well. For more information visit [DiscoverMoab.com/MoabFirst](https://www.DiscoverMoab.com/MoabFirst).

continued on page 38

Moab Information Center
Your ultimate southeastern Utah resource

MOAB

INFORMATION CENTER

INFORMATION CENTER

Downtown Moab at the corner of Main & Center Streets

- Visitor Information
- Weather & Road Info
- Maps & Guide Books
- Local Business Info
- Interpretive Displays
- Gift Shop
- Public Restrooms
- Free copies of the Moab Outdoor Adventure Guide
- Free 4K Theater Film

DiscoverMoab.com



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND

All trash, including food scraps, empty cans, bottles, and any litter, especially used toilet paper, are ugly to see and dangerous to animals. If you bring it in, take it out! No exceptions.

Help keep our environment pristine for years to come by disposing of your litter properly. This includes toilet paper and dog poop.

Carry a portable waste or "WAG bag" for human waste and pack it out (see page 36).

Dedicate a nylon stuff sack as your trash bag. It's easy to wash and reuse. Or, use a small plastic bag for your trash and put that in a trash can at the end of your day.

If you come across litter while on the trail, please do us a favor and pack it out. Future visitors, wildlife, and locals will thank you!

DON'T BUST THE CRUST

In the desert, a dark crust of lichen, mosses, algae, and bacteria holds the soil in place. This dark crust is called biological soil crust (or biocrust) and looks remarkably like dirt, but it's actually a self-sustaining biological unit that is essential to the health of the desert ecosystem. Once stepped on, this fragile crust takes years to regrow.

Biocrust grows on barren ground and takes decades to become established, but just one second to be destroyed by careless footsteps.

Please bike, hike, and drive only on established trails and roads.

PLASTIC BAG BAN

In an effort to have a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly community, Moab now has a ban on single-use plastic bags.

Bring your reusable bags when shopping in any Moab store. If you don't have one, the grocery stores and most stores sell them - a practical souvenir!

The ban does not include pet waste bags. The Moab Barkery sells doggie bags that are made with an additive which helps them break down, unlike traditional plastic bags.

CONTINUED

IDEAS FOR GREEN TRAVELING

- 🌱 Sustainable travel is crucial and studies show that more and more people want to be more mindful and sustainable when traveling. Find something that is easy to implement, and then do it.
- 🌱 Being prepared, informed, and respectful while traveling will help increase everyone's experience.
- 🌱 Shop local, eat local, repeat.
- 🌱 This area has great restaurants and shops with local flare. If you are cooking in, our grocery stores have a good variety of products.
- 🌱 Minimize waste and avoid single-use plastic. Buy a water bottle and refill it and avoid buying bottled water.
- 🌱 Please recycle. Moab has a great recycling center (see page 112). If you are in an area that does not offer recycling, consider carrying it to a town or location that does.
- 🌱 Stay at eco-friendly accommodations. Carry your own shampoo to reduce the single-use ones hotels provide. Just swapping out your travel products for sustainable alternatives helps.



BE A GOOD TRAVELER

• People have been coming to this area for hundreds if not thousands of years. Respect the local history, artifacts, and culture of the area.

• Be mindful of your impact on the environment. Stay on established trails. Traveling during off-peak seasons offers less crowds as well. Drive slowly and "gear down in town."

• Consider giving back to our communities. If you ride the local trails, TrailMix would love a donation MoabTrailTeam.com.

Even if you never need them, Search and Rescue is a great place to donate Secure.Utah.gov/Rescue.

Buy some supplies for the local animal shelter or donate to the Humane Society of Moab at MoabPets.org or Underdog Animal Rescue and Rehab UnderDogRescueMoab.org. 🐾

THANK YOU FOR VISITING!

- Our town relies on tourism as a major factor to the economy. We plan and gear up for the busy season.
- However, there can be staffing issues as housing has been a struggle. Please be patient and flexible as businesses can be busy or unexpected situations can arise.
- We hope you enjoy your time here.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

DOGS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

Activities with pets are very limited within any national park. Dogs are prohibited in the backcountry and on any trail. They must be on a leash when outside of your car. They may be walked on the roads or in parking lots. They may accompany you in the campgrounds.

DOG-FRIENDLY PARKS & TRAILS

Bark Park is an off-leash dog park located on the southeast corner of 100 E 300 South. Please clean up after your dog and make sure your dog is well-mannered.

Dogs are allowed in Fisher Towers Recreation Area, and Dead Horse Point State Park has pet-friendly trails. A leash is recommended in the backcountry due to steep drops-offs.

Dogs may walk the Mill Creek Pathway on leash. No dogs allowed at Swanny Park; tickets will be issued.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The **Moab Information Center**, located at the corner of Main and Center Streets, is a great place to start your trip. The staff is friendly and highly-knowledgeable and can help plan your adventure with current weather, road, and trail conditions.

There are also interpretive displays and a large gift shop featuring guide books, maps, videos, postcards, free internet access, clean bathroom and water filling stations.



DOG SAFETY TIPS:

- The heat and dry air can really affect your dog. Take walks or hikes early in the morning or in the evening when the temps are cooler.
- If they wear a bandana, you can wet it to help keep them cool. However, a dry bandana on a hot day can hold heat against their body. This can be very dangerous for them.
- Either keep the bandana wet, or remove it.
- You can give them a broth, like chicken broth, to help hydrate them, however make sure it is a no sodium broth. Sodium is bad for dogs.
- To protect your dog's paws from the hot rocks and sand, get them a pair of dog booties. Booties can also protect their paws from thorns.
- Carrying some first-aid items like gauze and tape for cuts is a great idea.

DOG SAFETY

HOW HOT IS YOUR CAR?

OUTSIDE TEMP	INSIDE CAR
75°F	118°F
81°F	138°F
94°F	145°F

HEAT KILLS

The desert can be lethal for pets. Leaving a pet in a car is not only deadly for your furry friend, but it will get you a ticket. Car temperatures rise quickly in the sun, even on cool days. Cracking the window will not prevent your pet from dying of heat exhaustion. Always provide plenty of water during car trips.

KEEP THEM HYDRATED TOO!

Dogs need plenty of water, and you shouldn't plan on finding it while you hike. You need to carry water for them on hikes or road trips. A 60lb dog needs a gallon of water a day. Adjust this to the weight of your dog. If your pup becomes lethargic, they may be dehydrated.

PROTECT THEIR PAWS

The cement and rocks can get too hot for your dog's paws. Anything too hot for the back of your hand is way too hot for your dog's paws.

You should also check your dog's paws for signs of discomfort more often than you'd think. Moab Barkery sells booties that will help protect their paws.

PET ESSENTIALS

Moab has a mandatory leash law, so keep your dog on a leash. Most restaurants allow your well-mannered dog to join you on their patio.

Bring a copy of your pet's vaccines. Lodging properties may need proof of them. Keep pet essentials like a water bowl, extra food and water, ID tags, extra leash/collar, poop bags, and first-aid kit with you.



PET HEALTH TIPS

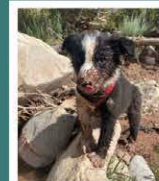
Dogs can be victims of heatstroke or heat exhaustion. Signs include rapid breathing, heavy panting, salivating, fatigue, muscle tremors, and staggering. If you see these signs, cool your dog down immediately with wet towels and get to a vet.

Dogs can also get sunburned. Talk to your vet about which sunscreen would be best for your pup.

GO WITH THE PROS

For all of your furry friend's needs, head to **Moab Barkery**, 435-259-8080, MoabBarkery.com. 🐾

Moab 
BARkery



QUALITY
food, supplies,
outdoor gear
and more...

TUES.-SAT. • 10AM-6PM
SUNDAY • 10AM-5PM

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SELF-SERVE DOG WASH BY APPOINTMENT

200 N 100 W
1 BLOCK OFF MAIN STREET

  **435.259.8080**
MOABBARKERY.COM

MAKING MOVIES



COURTESY OF 'WESTWORLD' (2016) HBO

The Moab area has been playing a role in movies since the late '40s when it became a popular location for Westerns. Utah has a rich history of more than 100 years of filmmaking.

37 percent of visitors to Utah come because they saw a movie or scene from a movie that showed iconic parts of the state.

You won't drive far without seeing something familiar—a beautiful scene used in a movie or commercial.

To date, more than 200 movies, TV shows, and countless commercials have been shot in the Moab to Monument Valley area.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The **Moab to Monument Valley Film Commission**, the longest running film commission in the world, has been helping Hollywood find the best locations and crew for more than 75 years.

- Moab locals have been hired as background talent and many local Utah and Moab crews have been hired as well. The community and businesses help with lodging, private land locations, construction, catering and various other necessities making it easy for the cast and crew to create something extraordinary.

- Visit FilmMoab.com for more info and for a list of all movies filmed in the area. Follow @filmmoab on Facebook and Instagram.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

The "Golden Age of the Western Movie" was 1940-1960.

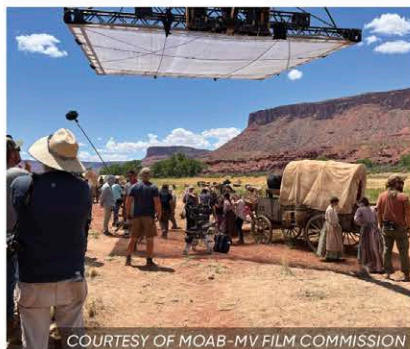
John Ford, Academy Award winner for *The Grapes of Wrath*, came to Moab and the Monument Valley area in 1949 to film *Wagonmaster*. He loved the area so much, he returned the next year to film *Rio Grande* with John Wayne.

John Wayne, considered the greatest Western actor of all time, was in 11 Westerns filmed in Utah.

MOVIE MUSEUM

The **Moab Museum of Film and Western Heritage** is located inside **Red Cliffs Lodge**, where John Ford, John Wayne, and Maureen O'Hara filmed the classic *Rio Grande*. The Museum houses memorabilia from the early films to the present.

The museum is free, self-guided, and open to the public daily. **435-259-2002**, RedCliffsLodge.com or MoabMFWH.com.



COURTESY OF MOAB-MV FILM COMMISSION

MOVIES AND THEIR LOCATIONS

Several scenes from *Thelma & Louise* were shot along the road in Arches Natl Park next to Courthouse Towers and the Three Gossips. "Thelma & Louise Point," often confused for the Grand Canyon, is just below Dead Horse Point, accessible by the Potash Road where the epic final scene took place.

The Double Arch in Arches Natl Park is used in the opening scene of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Other scenes were shot in the Moab area as well.

Tom Cruise rock climbs at Dead Horse Point State Park for the opening scene of *Mission Impossible II*. Cruise also appears in the opening of *Austin Powers in Goldmember* where Dead Horse Point, Fisher Towers, and Castle Valley are featured.

The Lone Ranger with Johnny Depp features Professor Valley and the La Sal Mountains quite a bit.

Much of the HBO series *Westworld* Season 1 was filmed around Moab, Dead Horse Point, and Fisher Valley.

Kevin Costner loves filming in Utah. His epic Western, *Horizon: An American Saga* was shot mostly on private property in the La Sal Mountains and along the Colorado River near Moab. You can clearly see Castleton Tower, Parriott Mesa, and Fisher Towers in the background.

Monument Valley cannot be left off this list. People often stop on Utah Hwy 163, the road leading into Monument Valley, to take a picture in the same spot where Tom Hanks stood in *Forrest Gump*.

The same road was used for scenes in *Back to the Future Part III*, *Doctor Who*, *Easy Rider*, and *Transformers: Age of Extinction*.

John Ford also shot many of his films in Monument Valley including *Stagecoach*, and *The Searchers* starring John Wayne.



DINOSAURS IN THE MOVIES

The founders of **The Dinosaur Museum**, in Blanding, were both accomplished paleontologists and sculptors. They had a connection to Hollywood and sculpted dinosaurs and other creatures for the motion picture industry. The museum houses the model of the Brontosaurus used in the original, classic *King Kong* movie. This is quite special as it is the only model from the movie still in the U.S.



The raptor displays were the first life-size models of the Montana raptor *Deinonychus* ever made and were on display at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Michael Crichton saw them and used them as his inspiration for his Velociraptors in his book *Jurassic Park*.

The museum features the largest collection of original dinosaur movie posters and dinosaur-related movie memorabilia in the world, from the earliest silent movies to the present.

The museum founders are known worldwide as talented museum artists. Their dinosaur sculpture work was done as exhibits commissioned for several museums around the world.

Don't miss seeing this museum!
435-678-3454, Dinosaur-Museum.org

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



When you look around Moab, it's easy to see the influence the art community has on the town.

In Moab, art comes in many forms, all of which contribute to the town's creative vibe and artsy scene.

MOAB FOLK FESTIVAL

The 23rd Annual **Moab Folk Festival** will be Nov. 7-9, 2025, at the Moab Center City Ballpark. The event will feature 10 nationally-recognized performing artists in the folk, Americana, roots and global music genres.

The Festival has intimate venues, a quality lineup and amazing red rock scenery. Beer, wine, food, and art vendors can also be found at the Center City Ballpark field venue.

The Festival also presents workshops that include interviews, demonstrations, singer-songwriter in the round, jam sessions, and special live performances.

For tickets, lineups, and more, visit MoabFolkFestival.com.

MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL

The award-winning festival is acclaimed for its distinctive programming, world-class artists and performances, and intimate concert experiences of chamber music, traditional, jazz, Latin, and music of living composers.

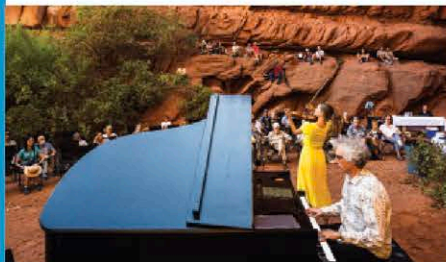
The concerts are held in a variety of indoor and outdoor venues in and around Moab, including the festival's signature events: Grotto Concerts on the banks of the Colorado River reached by jet boat, Music Hikes, and the new "float" concert. This is an incredible experience with the beautiful music bouncing off the canyon walls!

Aug. 27-Sept. 12, 2025. Check out their website for details. MoabMusicFest.org.

THE MOAB FREE CONCERT SERIES

The series features four family-friendly free concerts held on Fridays: June 27, July 11, and August 8, 6-9pm at Swanny City Park. Beer, wine, and food trucks available.

For more information, visit MoabFreeConcerts.com.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The Moab Music Festival is the only Festival in the U.S. to bring a Steinway grand piano down the Colorado River.
- The piano is loaded onto a motor boat and sent down the river to the grotto where the concert is held. It is then unloaded on the banks of the river where the sand becomes the stage.

FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK

Movie night in Swanny Park offers a range of movies from family-friendly to adult, with a wide variety of new titles and classics from every genre. Friday evenings in the summer. MoabCity.gov.

THE SHOPPING SCENE

Moab offers locally-owned stores that make it easy to find a little piece of Moab to take home with you.

Eagles Nest Chateau blends art and culture with beautiful decorative items created by skilled craftsman—both local and from around the world. The store offers crystals, rocks and gems you can buy individually or featured as art pieces. A perfect blend of one-of-a-kind items for existing collectors, and beginners looking for a special piece to build your collection around. Located on the corner of US Hwy 191 and Jackson St. **435-277-0658**.



The Find carries one-of-a-kind antique and vintage Native American jewelry from the early 1900s as well as modern Native American jewelry. Each piece has significant meaning and is a unique and beautiful piece of art.

They also carry unique collections of jewelry, bags, and apparel. Located at 23 N. Main St. **435-355-0889**, TheFindMoabUtah.com.

ARTS & AG MARKET

Stroll local businesses at this free, family-friendly outdoor market featuring artisan goods, produce, and live music. May 2, June 6, Sept. 5, and Oct. 3 at Swanny Park. MoabArts.org/Arts-and-ag.

continued on page 46

CELEBRATING
10 YEARS!

LARGE COLLECTION OF RARE NATIVE AMERICAN VINTAGE JEWELRY

THE FIND
MOAB - UTAH
EXTRAORDINARY GOODS

DISCOVER
UNIQUE BAGS, APPAREL,
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AND MORE!

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RIVER GUIDE
SHIRTS

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23 N. MAIN ST.
THEFINDMOABUTAH.COM

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CONT.



RED ROCK ARTS FESTIVAL

The festival includes workshops and events focused on various multi-media art subjects, and a Street Festival with live music, food, beverages, artisan vendors, an art show and competition, and other free, family-friendly activities. Moab Arts Center on 111 East 100 North. Sept. 26-28, 2025. RedRockArtsFestival.com.

MOAB'S ART WALK

Moab's Art Walk is a free, family-friendly celebration of artistry and community held on the first Friday in February, April, August, and November from 5-8pm.

Enjoy art displays, from traditional painting, pottery, and sculpture, to large-format landscape photography, mixed media, beadwork, and stonework. The various locations offer raffles, yummy food and drink, artist demonstrations, live music, and more as you stroll around town to each of the locations.

More information, including a map of participating Art Walk locations, monthly show details, and information about accessibility accommodations visit MoabArts.org.

THE TRAIL OF ART

You will see many forms of art on the bike paths around town. On the footbridge that crosses the Colorado River, there are four locally-made sculptures integrated with the bridge itself.

New this year are eleven new sculptures displayed along the art trail in Moab.

These are courtesy of the **Moab ArtTrails**, a nonprofit organization that works to have art placed permanently around Moab. Learn more at MoabArtTrails.org. 

MOAB ARTS

Moab Arts Center is a center for art classes and workshops, special events, and cultural offerings. It also houses a co-working space, and is available for facility rentals.

The Moab Arts Center also host events like ArtWalk, the Arts & AG Market, and Red Rock Arts Festival.

Join the Moab Arts Center for an exciting lineup of art classes taught by local artists and makers, with topics varying from landscape painting, to papermaking, mosaics, print-making, and more. Classes are ongoing, with dates scheduled regularly throughout the year.

Visit their website for more details. MoabArts.org.

MOAB ARTS FESTIVAL

Enjoy fine art, pottery, jewelry, wood work, sculpture, clothing, photography, and much more. This is a great one for the whole family with a kids' activities tent, live music, theatrical performances, and excellent eats. Located in Swanny City Park May 24-25, 2025. MoabArtsFestival.org.



WE HOST EVENTS *All Year Long!*

MONTHLY ART WALKS & CULTURAL FESTIVALS



MUSIC FESTIVALS & CONCERTS



FARMERS MARKETS



OUTDOOR RECREATION FESTIVALS & RACES



SEASONAL FESTIVITIES



For A Full List of Events

SEE THE CALENDAR LISTINGS ON PAGES 133-136





THINGS TO DO

THE MORMONS NAME MOAB

In April 1855, the Mormons sent 41 men to establish the Elk Mountain Mission and control the Colorado River crossing near Moab. The Mormon pioneers called the area "Moab," a name that appears frequently in the Bible to describe a dry, mountainous area east of the Dead Sea.

CROSSING THE RIVER

In 1882, Norman Taylor started piloting a 28-foot rowboat across the river, then called the Grand River. Two years later he built a 60-foot boat capable of carrying a horse- or ox-drawn wagon pulled across the river by cables and ropes.

URANIUM BOOM

In the 1950s, Charlie Steen had been digging unsuccessfully in the Moab area for two years. He broke his only drill bit bringing up a grayish-black core. Steen had discovered pitchblende, a highly concentrated uranium. The uranium boom brought scores of prospectors and miners to Moab.

TOURISM BEGINS

Moab's economy stalled until 1983 when two out-of-work uranium miners began selling a fat-tired, multi-geared bike called a "mountain bike." The bicycles were perfect for riding the Slickrock Trail, which was actually created in 1969 for and by motorcycle riders. Today, Moab's largest industry is tourism.

I-70 TRIVIA

I-70 is a major Interstate in the U.S. In 1992, when the road was rebuilt in the Glenwood Canyon in Colorado, the interstate was said to be complete.

This completion of I-70 made access to the Moab area much easier and the town really took off. Today, Moab is a popular destination for people from all over the world.

EXPLORE MORE

MOAB MUSEUM

Small Museum. Big Stories. This museum is a cultural and natural history museum dedicated to sharing the rich stories of Moab and greater Canyonlands region.

Explore the cultural and natural history of Utah's Canyon Country through a variety of exhibits, digital stories, engaging programs, and more.

Artifacts and compelling historical photographs introduce visitors to our ancient landscape, the Native people who inhabited this land and remain here today, and the Euro-Americans who explored and then settled southeastern Utah.

The museum opens a new exhibit in February—*U92: Moab's Uranium Legacy*. Audiences will be immersed in Moab's uranium boom, a time which sparked a "frenzy" that lured thousands to Moab and a subsequent boom of the town



that elevated Moab to the "richest town in America" for a short while.

The first phase, opening in February, highlights the Cold War-driven uranium boom, the people who lived it, and the vibrant yet challenged infrastructure that emerged.

The second phase, debuting in July 2025, draws on first-person accounts to explore the enduring environmental, health, and cultural impact—and future consequences.

Visit their website for information on public presentations, lectures, events, and family activities or stop in at 118 E. Center Street, 1.5 blocks East of Main Street. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 9am-5pm. **435-259-7985. MoabMuseum.org.**

HISTORY OF MOAB

The early history of the Moab area can be traced back 10,000 years and is visible in the area's many panels of ancient petroglyphs, pictographs, and ruins. However, it wasn't until 1880 that a permanent pioneer settlement was established.

DID YOU KNOW ?

• John "Doc" Williams, Moab's first doctor, rode his horse north to visit patients at ranches and other settlements starting in 1896. To avoid the sandy wagon road north of Moab, he found a route that took him through the sandstone fins and spires of what is now Arches National Park.

• Over the years, Williams worked to make the area a national park. On April 12, 1929, President Herbert Hoover signed a presidential proclamation reserving 1,920 acres in The Windows and 2,600 acres in the Devils Garden to create Arches National Monument. In 1971, Congress changed the status of Arches from a national monument to a national park.

• Today, "Doc" Williams is known as the father of Arches National Park for his commitment to the park's development.

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TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards 2024



KIDS LOVE MOAB

CANYONEERING

Kids love to explore and canyoneering is a great way for them to test their skills and gain confidence. Explore areas off-the-beaten-path and rappel down sandstone walls.

Explorers 10 and older can go on either half- or full-day trips. Check with each outfitter for any restrictions as they may vary.

Moab Adventure Center, 435-259-7019, MoabAdventureCenter.com or **NAVTEC Expeditions, 435-259-7983, Navtec.com, or Paddle Moab, 435-210-4665, PaddleMoab.com.**

TAKE THEM SWIMMING

Kids love to swim and the **Moab Recreation and Aquatic Center** has a wonderful pool for them to splash around in, plus a fabulous inflatable obstacle course. The course is over 50ft long and has several different obstacles to navigate. The facility also has a six-lane pool, one-meter and three-meter springboards, 18ft-high spiral water slide with numerous water features, and a shallow-water area.

The outdoor pool is open May through the end of September. There is an outdoor lap pool with adjoining current channel, a bubble pool, and a large leisure pool for the little ones. They have locker rooms with showers.

Daily aquatic or fitness rates for nonresidents: \$6 seniors 55+, \$12 adults, \$6 youth 4-17, \$1.50 children 3 and under. **435-259-8226, MoabRecreation.org.**

PONY UP

There are two places the entire family can saddle up and go for a guided horseback ride.

Moab Horses 435-259-8015, MoabHorses.com or **Red Cliffs Ranch 435-259-2002, RedCliffsLodge.com.**

Check with each outfitter for age restrictions and options.

continued on page 52



MOAB GIANTS DINOSAUR PARK:

Your Dinosaur Adventure starts here

- Walk Among Giants-100+ life-size dinosaurs and their tracks
- 5D PaleoAquarium- Thrilling and Chilling, Prehistoric Sea Creatures in 5D
- Interactive Tracks Museum
- 3D Theater
- Playground and Dig-sites for Kids
- Gift Shop



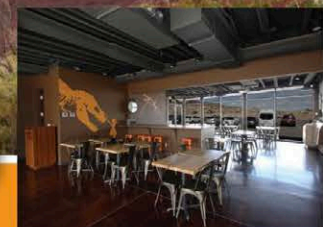
MOAB GIANTS CAFÉ:

A tasty menu for plant-eaters and meat-eaters alike!

Dine-in or Take-out

Burgers • Salads • Wraps • Sandwiches
Homemade Gelato • Coffee • And More

Convenient location between 2 national parks giving you more time to explore!



Located on Hwy 191 at the turnoff to Canyonlands

112 W, SR 313 Moab, UT | 435-355-0288

www.moabgiants.com | Check website for operation hours



FLOAT THEIR BOAT

Although it is called The Mighty Colorado, "The Daily" section of the river is calm and perfect for a family river trip.

Older kids can try stand up paddle boarding or share an inflatable kayak with their younger siblings. The calm waters of "The Daily" are the perfect setting to learn. Check for minimum age.

Ken's Lake, south of Moab, is another popular area for swimming or playing around on a paddle board or inflatable kayak.

Contact these companies for more information on rentals.

Paddle Moab, 435-210-4665, PaddleMoab.com, NAVTEC Expeditions, 435-259-7983, Navtec.com, or Wild West Voyages, 435-238-4257, WildWestVoyages.com.

HUMMER OF A RIDE

High Point Hummer & ATV offers guided Hummer tours with no minimum or maximum age requirement. Kids under two go free. The tours are designed with no large bumps that could jar little ones. You can be safe and have fun at the same time while spending two fun-filled hours cruising over rolling petrified sand-dune hills, climbing exciting obstacles, and even exploring prehistoric dinosaur tracks.

Their professional guides take you to Moab's famous Sand Flats Recreation Area and explain all of the beautiful features you will be seeing. Tours are a blast for the entire family.

For all the details contact **High Point Hummer & ATV/UTV Tours, 435-259-2972, HighPointHummer.com.**



KIDS LOVE MOAB

FAMILY-FRIENDLY HIKES

Arches National Park is a family-friendly park. The visitor center has interpretive exhibits and statues of animals, plus an orientation video that talks about the statues. There are several hikes good for most ages. The visitor center staff can offer suggestions.

Canyonlands National Park has several hikes that kids enjoy like Mesa Arch and Upheaval Dome.

Dead Horse State Park has a paved trail at the main overlook that follows the rim overlooking the Colorado River and surrounding area. This is one of the best views around and is easy to get to.

The practice loop of the Slickrock Trail in Sand Flats is a great place to let little ones explore. The sandstone rock grips easily and the potholes often have water in them. The trail is marked with white dashes. Watch for mountain bikers and biocrust. You can easily do an out-and-back adventure and not do the entire loop.

This is a fee area (7-day pass for \$10). Park at the Slickrock Trailhead.

Corona Arch is one of our favorite hikes in the area. You get an amazing view of the arch as you round the bend towards it and once you have reached the arch, you are literally under the 140ft-wide arch. This dog-friendly hike is an out-and-back with safety cables and a ladder to climb up one section. The trailhead is about 10 miles up the Potash Road (Utah Hwy 279) on the right across from the Gold Bar camping area.

Fisher Towers is located off Utah Scenic Byway 128. Turn right (south) at the sign, 21 miles from US Hwy 191. The hike has unbelievable views and is good for simply exploring. The 2.2 mile, out-and-back trail passes through an amazing array of rock formations from 4ft tall goblin-like formations to the 900ft Titan. This is a popular rock climbing area so watch for climbers.

FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTPRINTS

If your kids are into dinosaurs, then **Moab Giants Dinosaur Park** is the perfect place to take them and the entire family. Go explore and walk on the outdoor trail with more than 100 life-sized dinosaur models.

Stop by the Tracks Museum where indoor exhibits highlight stories about fossil footprints. Play with interactive technology, learn about early earth history at the 3D Theater, watch underwater monsters come to life at the 5D Prehistoric Aquarium, and uncover dinosaur bones at the Dig-it-Out-Site. There is an outdoor trail with life-sized dinosaurs! Perfect for creating memories with your family.

There is a café for snacks and lunch, as well as a gift shop.

435-355-0288, MoabGiants.com.

TEACH THEM

Let nature be the teacher. To help children learn about the importance of conservation and the protection of our valuable national parks, both Arches and Canyonlands National Parks offer **Junior Ranger programs** for kids ages 6-12. "Explore, Learn, and Protect" conveys the importance of protecting natural resources through fun and engaging activities.

When children complete activities in the Junior Ranger booklet, they receive a Junior Ranger badge and join in protecting our parks for future generations. Stop by the visitor centers for more information.

CONTINUED

LET THEM PLAY

The skate park at **Swanny City Park** is super popular among locals and visitors alike. There are plenty of banks and rails to keep your heart pounding. The park also has seven acres with a large playground, two barbecue grills, covered picnic tables, covered gazebo, public restrooms, drinking fountains, lots of wide-open green space, and big old shade trees. Sorry, no dogs allowed in this park.

Located next to Moab Recreation & Aquatic Center, 374 Park Ave.
435-259-7485, MoabCity.gov/161/Parks.

Anonymous Park, located at the end of the Mill Creek Parkway, next to 500 West, has dirt bike jumps and BMX racing. The course is free to ride.

The **Disc Golf Course** at Old City Park plays through a beautiful red rock setting with panoramic views of sandstone cliffs and big mountain peaks. The course is outfitted with 18 DISCatcher® PRO targets, signs at each tee mapping the hole, directional signs, and dirt tee pads. Dogs are allowed on leash on the course (but not in the park). Always pick up after them. There is no fee to use the course.

Traveling north on Spanish Trail Road, turn left onto Murphy Lane. Look for the park on the left.

Rotary Park, located at 680 S. Mill Creek Drive, is a wonderful place for a picnic in the shade. The park has big shade trees and a large grassy area.

The park also has xylophones of all sizes that are fun to test everyone's musical skills. They were designed by Richard Cooke with Freenotes and each size has a different sound.

The park is located next to Mill Creek and the Mill Creek Pathway. Look for hummingbirds or play in the creek. There are restrooms and covered tables. Dogs are allowed on leash. ♪

DAILY PASSES AVAILABLE!

MAKE A SPLASH!!!

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DINOSAUR TRACKS

MUST STOPS FOR DINO LOVERS

UTAHRAPTOR STATE PARK is a new state park named for a dinosaur that was found there. The Utahraptor was discovered in the Dalton Wells Quarry and is one of the geologically oldest and largest known feathered dinosaurs.

Utahraptor State Park is home to many dinosaur remains, including one of the largest dinosaur bone beds in North America.

There are several displays where you can learn which dinosaurs lived in the area and what bones and petrified logs are in the area.

The park is located roughly 15 miles northwest of Moab off US Hwy 191.

Park hours are 6am-10pm, year-round. StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/utahraptor.

MOAB GIANTS DINOSAUR PARK is the first of its kind in the world. This park is both science and adventure. They have unique expertise in the field of fossil footprints and knowledge of the region and why dinosaurs were so prevalent here. **Moab Giants** actively engages in research, education, and exhibits that teach but are also a scientific resource. The Tracks Museum is full of entertainment with interactive learning touch screens, games to play, and visually-stunning exhibits that not only fascinate, but educate. Exhibits with cutting-edge technology highlight stories about fossil footprints and their impact on dinosaur science and geology. You can see into their research labs, showcasing research activity in the community and region. The outdoor trail is half a mile long with more than 100 state-of-the-art, full-size reconstructions of dinosaurs and the tracks they made in the area.

Located at the intersection of US Hwy 191 and Utah Hwy 313. **435-355-0288**, MoabGiants.com.

MORE THAN ANYWHERE

The Colorado Plateau covers approximately 130,000 square miles including the southeastern half of Utah, and is a huge landform that's made up of flat land at a high elevation.

The exposed rock layers of the Colorado Plateau provide scientists with an open book of the earth's history, especially the layers of the Mesozoic Era when dinosaurs evolved and diversified (252 to 66 million years ago). During that time, this area was far from an arid climate, but a landscape that changed from forests to sand dunes to rivers and wetlands, and finally to tropical shallow seas teeming with prehistoric life.

Through erosion, the soil, sediment, and fossils from these periods were exposed in many areas of the Colorado Plateau, allowing scientists a glimpse back in time.

Thankfully, the area's current arid climate has preserved fossils in better condition than elsewhere in North America. The fossil beds tell dramatic stories of individual dinosaur lives and how they ended. Imagine an unlucky dinosaur wandering a little too far into a mud hole and struggling unsuccessfully to escape. It's no wonder that this part of Utah has the highest concentration of dinosaur tracks in the world.

Fossils are fragile, non-renewable, and protected by law. Please follow the laws that protect our fragile and precious resources.

Leave things exactly as you found them. Removing and/or selling dinosaur fossils and tracks from public lands is illegal.



THE DINOSAUR MUSEUM, located in Blanding, houses life-size dinosaur models (all made by the founders of the museum!), skeletons, fossilized dinosaur skin, eggs, footprints, sculptures of dinosaurs from the Four Corners region and throughout the world, and petrified trees that are more than 280 million years old.

The museum founders are known world-wide as talented museum artists. Their dinosaur sculpture work was commissioned for museums around the world such as The Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History; The Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences; The Chicago Field Museum; The Museum for Nature in Karlsruhe, Germany; The Natural History Museum of Vienna; Royal Tyrell Museum in Alberta, Canada; Royal Ontario Museum, Canada; and many others.

They have a 14ft-tall *Therizinosaurus*, a towering feathered dinosaur with a 20ft wingspan, that dominates the special exhibits room.

The founders of the museum also sculpted dinosaurs for the motion picture industry, so their sculptures of various dinosaurs are truly amazing. There is also an impressive collection of dinosaur movie posters from around the world.

This museum is a perfect stop for the entire family. Open mid-April through mid-October each year.

435-678-3454, Dinosaur-Museum.org.

TRACKS OF TIME

The Potash Road Dinosaur Tracks (also known as the Poison Spider Dinosaur Tracksite) is about six miles from US Hwy 191 along Utah Hwy 279. Two rock slabs contain the tracks of different meat-eating dinosaurs.

Copper Ridge Dinosaur Tracksite features tracks of a *Sauropod* and a *Theropod*.

The many different kinds and sizes of dinosaur tracks make Copper Ridge unique. The preservation of the tracks is incredible, and this site is well worth a visit. There are interpretive signs in the area, and parking is less than 100yds from the site. Drive north on US Hwy 191 for 23 miles and turn right about .75 miles past milepost 148 (look for the sign saying Klondike Bluffs). Follow the dirt road for one mile and stay to the left at the fork. The tracks are just over a mile from that point.

Dinosaur Stomping Grounds are near the Copper Ridge site and by the North Klondike mountain bike area. Follow the same driving directions to the Copper Ridge tracksite except take the right fork and continue about a half mile to the North Klondike Mountain Bike parking. Then, start on the pedestrian trail until it branches off from the mountain bike trail. Hike about two miles up the gradual hill following the rock cairns (piles of rocks used for marking the trail).

The Mill Canyon Dinosaur Bone Trail is just past the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite about a half mile. This short, unpaved trail offers visitors the chance to see real dinosaur bones embedded in the rocks along the trail. Signs have been placed along the way to help visitors recognize what they are seeing. This is a good trail for families with young children. The loop trail is easy and the dinosaur bones are near enough to the ground for children to see them up close.

MAP SALES

The **Moab Information Center** sells a pamphlet on tracks and places to see. 



THINGS TO DO

100 West portion of the parkway, and safely crosses Utah Hwy 191 at 600 North at a pedestrian stop light.

Class 1 e-bikes are now allowed on the paved pedestrian paths in town as well as the Moab Canyon and Colorado Riverway paths. E-bikes, please yield to all other users.

Moab Canyon Pathway loosely follows US Hwy 191 North past Arches National Park and climbs toward Utah Hwy 313 (to Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park).

The path begins in town at 500 West and heads north crossing under Utah Scenic Byway 128 and then over the river on an incredibly scenic bridge.

Stop in for a snack or lunch at Moab Giants at the intersection of US Hwy 191 and Utah Hwy 313 before heading back.

There is a pedestrian/bike entrance off of the pathway into Arches National Park. A connector trail takes you directly to the visitor center patio where you can pay your entrance fee at the classic metal box with envelopes (check or cash). No reservation needed when riding a bike into Arches.

Colorado Riverway Non-Motorized Path is a paved path that follows the Colorado River on Utah Scenic Byway 128, almost to the parking area of Porcupine Rim Trail. From the bridge, the trail follows the river and is 1.4 miles to Goose Island Campground. The path goes through the campground and continues another .6 miles.

Lions Park, at the junction of US Hwy 191 and Utah Scenic Byway 128, is at the intersection of the paved bike paths. It has ample vehicle parking, restrooms on both sides of the highway, and a picnic pavilion.

Note: These paths are great, non-technical ways to relax and take in the sights while riding, and are perfect for families and riders of all abilities. Stick to a bike path whenever you can. It is safer to ride on paths with no vehicles.

FUN FOR ALL

ELECTRIC BIKES

In the Moab area on BLM and Forest Service lands, e-bikes are not allowed on any trails designated for non-motorized use (except the paved bike paths). However, they are allowed on any trail designated for motorized use such as Slickrock, Sovereign, Hurrah Pass, and any 4x4 trail.

Dead Horse Point State Park allows them on their bike trails.

Check at the Moab Information Center before planning your e-bike ride.

GO WITH THE PROS

Rim Cyclery rents e-bikes, either great for cruising town or one designated for mountain bike riding. **435-259-5333**, RimCyclery.com.



MINI GOLF

Explore Moab's newest family-friendly adventure. **Birdies and Bogies** is a Moab-themed mini-golf course with features like arches and canyons to test even the best mini golfers. Enjoy traditional mini golf in the day and mix it up with glow golf at night.

Open Mon.-Sat. mid-April through October 10am-10pm.

Located north on US Hwy 191, just a half mile over the bridge and before Utah Hwy 279 (Potash Road). BirdiesNBogies.com.

continued on page 58

CRUISIN' ALONG

Moab is a great town to get around on a bike. Bike racks are placed on most of the sidewalks in front of businesses. Be safe and always lock your bike.

The **Mill Creek Parkway** is a nice paved path that runs through town and is accessible at many different points throughout Moab.

This is a popular path for dog walkers and young children learning to ride their bikes. So if you're riding your bike on the path, only slow riding please and yield to all pedestrians.

Benches situated on the banks of the creek provide a shady, quiet respite from the desert sun. The path is shady all the time.

The Mill Creek Parkway connects to the **Moab Canyon Pathway** from the

PHOTO TIPS:

POINT AND SHOOT

- Phone camera allows you to concentrate on being creative. Just point, say "We love Moab!" and click! With most phone cameras you can increase photo quality by touching the screen to focus on your subject.
- Phone cameras also can capture the night sky and even Northern Lights better than your eye as they are more sensitive to light allowing them to collect more than over a longer exposure. Having a little tripod will make your longer exposure pics that much better.

Collectable Baskets

Turquoise Gallery

ROCKS & GEMS

EAGLES NEST CHATEAU

1040 S Hwy 191 - Moab Utah 84532 435 277 0658



THINGS TO DO

BOAT TOURS

(These are the powerboat kind. See our river section for rafting and stand up paddle boarding ideas, pages 78-85.)

Take a ride on Moab's only New Zealand Style Jet Boat with **Moab Jett**. The smaller open-air boats offer a more intimate experience with stadium seating holding up to 10 passengers so each seat is exceptional.

The tours travel through majestic canyons rich in beauty and historic significance. All tours are scenic and informative, making lifetime memories for the whole family.

They offer action and adventure tours as well as scenic tours great for everyone. **435-259-5538**,

MoabJett.com.

NAVTEC Expeditions offers a half-day tour to explore the beauty and geology beneath 2,000ft canyon walls.

Traveling in a rigid hull inflatable boat (Zodiac), the guides will stop to show you Native American rock imagery and cruise around wonderful bends of the Colorado River. **435-259-7983**, **Navtec.com**.

GRAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Named one of the "Best Small Town Libraries in the U.S.," the **Grand County Public Library** offers computers for scanning, proctored tests, and media. The wireless network is free, but donations are welcome.

Restricted computers are available for research or schoolwork. Printers are available. A lovely, partially shaded outdoor courtyard has tables and chairs with WiFi access.

Monday-Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, closed Sundays and Federal holidays. 257 E Center Street, **435-259-1111**, **GrandCountyUtah.net/286/Library**.

FUN FOR ALL CONT.

SWIM/PLAY/WORKOUT

Swanny City Park, located downtown at 374 Park Ave, has seven acres with a large playground, two barbecue grills, covered picnic tables, covered gazebo, public restrooms, drinking fountains, lots of wide-open green space, and big, old shade trees.

No dogs are allowed in Swanny City Park (see page 40 for dog parks).

The **Moab Recreation & Aquatic Center** has an indoor six-lane pool, one-meter and three-meter springboards, shallow-water area, 18ft-high spiral water slide and numerous water features, and a 50ft-long obstacle course.

Water junkies can swim outdoors May through the end of September in an outdoor lap pool with adjoining current channel, a bubble pool, and large leisure pool for the little ones.



Relax poolside in a chaise lounge or under a canopy after your swim.

The fitness area has weight and cardio machines. There is a group exercise room and classes, and locker rooms. \$12 showers for campers. SilverSneakers-participating facility. Daily aquatic or fitness rates for nonresidents: \$6 seniors 55+, \$12 adults, \$6 youth 4-17, \$1.50 children three and under. **435-259-8226**, **MoabCity.gov**.

FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK

Grab a blanket and popcorn. Movies range from family-friendly to adult, with a wide variety of new titles and classics from every genre. Friday evenings in the summer at the Center Street Ballpark. For details and dates visit **MoabCity.gov**.

continued on page 60

ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

All of the national and state parks in southern Utah are International Dark-Sky Parks and offer ranger-led programs throughout the year.

We list each park in this book between pages 12-27. Check their websites for scheduled programs, as they change throughout the year.

Golf Moab

Moab Golf Club

Come experience 18 beautiful holes set amid the red rocks!

435-259-6488

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www.canyonlandsjeep.com

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MOAB ADVENTURE CENTER



RENT A VANDERHALL

Classic elegance meets turbo-charged performance. This American-made three-wheel vehicle blends the open-air thrills of a motorcycle with the stability of a car. Excellent on-road touring option for the national parks and open-road exploring.

This car is sporty and so much fun to drive. Rent one for a half day, full day, or 24 hours. Grab a picnic, take to the road, and discover your motoring soul.

High Point Hummer & ATV/UTV Tours, 435-259-2972, HighPointHummer.com.

THINGS TO DO

HYDRATION TIPS

Your body is made mostly of water, therefore staying hydrated keeps your body working properly.

Your skin is 64% water. Sunscreen helps protect your skin from harmful UV rays which dry your skin.

Your heart is 73% water. Staying hydrated will help your heart pump more efficiently and with less strain.

Your muscles are 79% water. When you are dehydrated, your blood has higher levels of waste which can make your muscles tired, tight, and tender.

FUN FOR ALL CONT.

UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE

Canyoneering is one of the defining activities in this part of Utah and allows you to check out remote areas of sheer walls, petrified dunes, domes, and vast canyons. There is nothing like sitting in a small canyon knowing you are the only ones around.

Canyoneering is the exploration of a canyon from point A to point B using a range of techniques such as rappelling, wading, swimming, scrambling, and in rare instances, waterfall navigation.

The local canyoneering guide services can find a trip suitable for you and your group's fitness level and enthusiasm for excitement.

Half-day, full-day, and custom trips are offered in various canyons from the Moab area and down toward Bluff. It just depends on the type of adventure you are seeking.



GO WITH THE PROS

Contact these companies for a variety of canyoneering trip options and locations.

Moab Adventure Center, 435-259-7019, MoabAdventureCenter.com or NAVTEC Expeditions, 435-259-7983, Navtec.com, or Paddle Moab, 435-210-4665, PaddleMoab.com.

GearHeads sells all sorts of outdoor gear, backpacks, and clothing to help prepare you for your adventure. **435-259-4327, MoabGear.com.**

continued on page 62

Birdies n Bogies
Mini Golf

ENJOY MINI GOLF IN THE DAY & GLOW GOLF AT NIGHT

THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN RELAX AND EXPLORE THE MOAB AREA SITES ALL IN ONE MINI GOLF COURSE!

OPEN
MAY-OCT.
MON.-SAT.
10AM-10PM

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1901 N. HWY 191 (NORTH OF COLORADO RIVER & HWY. 191)

HOLE N" THE ROCK

World famous **Hole N" The Rock**, located just 10 minutes south of Moab, is a fun stop for the entire family.

Take a guided tour of the 5,000sf home, carved in the mid-1900s out of Entrada sandstone, and rich in history and unique hand-made artifacts.

There are also a variety of shopping featuring gifts, souvenirs, and Native American pottery and jewelry. There is a general store with food and beverages.

Walk around the grounds to view the vintage neon signs, antique tools, creative sculptures, and more.

Visit the Hole N" The Rock feeding zoo featuring a white buffalo and Cooper the Camel. Feeding buckets for purchase at the General Store.

Car and bus parking, restrooms, and complimentary WiFi. Open throughout the year with limited winter hours.

435-686-2250, TheHoleInTheRock.com.

HOLE N" THE ROCK

5,000 SQUARE FOOT HISTORIC HOME

BUILT IN THE '30S

VARIETY OF SHOPPING FOR GIFTS/SOUVENIRS

15 MINUTES SOUTH OF MOAB

OPEN YEAR ROUND

FEEDING ZOO FEATURING A WHITE BUFFALO AND COOPER THE CAMEL

THEHOLEINTHEROCK.COM • 11037 S. HWY. 191, MOAB • 435-686-2250



THINGS TO DO

Since the balloon moves with the direction of the winds, the passengers feel absolutely no wind, except for brief periods. Each flight is different with 360 degree views.

Flights are one hour with highly experienced pilots who know the area and the history of ballooning.

Your adventure will conclude with the traditional balloonist toast.

GO WITH THE PROS

Canyonlands Ballooning, 435-655-1389, CanyonlandsBallooning.com or **Redrock Ballooning 801-707-4215, RedrockBallooning.com.**

MIX IT UP

Why choose one activity when you can do two in a day? Combo trips offer doing two sports in one day to maximize the fun.

Paddle Moab offers several guided combo trips that include lunch and all equipment needed.

Take a guided pedal/paddle trip. Start with a half day mountain bike ride on the Moab Brands. Then go whitewater rafting in a paddle raft on the Colorado River on an exciting stretch with class II/III rapids. Or try a canyon/paddle trip that includes exploring and rappelling off an amazing wall and hiking down to the river where the afternoon will be spent on a stand up paddle board.

Another optional trip is rock climbing on towering red sandstone cliffs (all levels welcome) and paddle boarding on the Colorado River in the afternoon.

If dangling off ropes isn't your style, try their hike/paddle combo. Hike up and over the Moab Rim to the Colorado River and paddle board in the afternoon sun. **435-210-4665, PaddleMoab.com.**

MOAB IN A POLARIS SLINGSHOT

Turn the open road into your greatest adventure yet with a Polaris Slingshot from **Epic 4x4 Adventures.**

These sleek, open-air vehicles combine the thrill of a motorcycle with the comfort of a car, making them perfect for exploring Moab's scenic byways, national parks, and the breathtaking La Sal Mountain overlooks.

Epic 4x4 Adventures adds its signature touch with meticulously maintained Slingshots and exceptional customer service. From winding mountain roads to iconic red rock vistas, every mile in a Slingshot is unforgettable.

Rent for just a couple of hours, a full day or an evening overnight ride to one of Moab's stunning sunset spots. Your ultimate Moab adventure begins in a Slingshot.

435-210-6700, Epic4X4Adventures.com.

HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES

An amazing way to see Moab and the way the light mixes with the beautiful landscape is from a hot air balloon.

Take a sunrise flight and see Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, Dead Horse Point, the Determination Towers, and the many canyons in the area.

The quiet of floating above the landscape hearing only the balloon's burner is an experience you will never forget.

continued on page 64

BRYAN HAILE PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS



HALF DAY/FULL DAY PRIVATE PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS OF THE MOAB AREA
COMMERCIALY INSURED WITH OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE MOAB AREA
SPECIALIZING IN LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION AND NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY



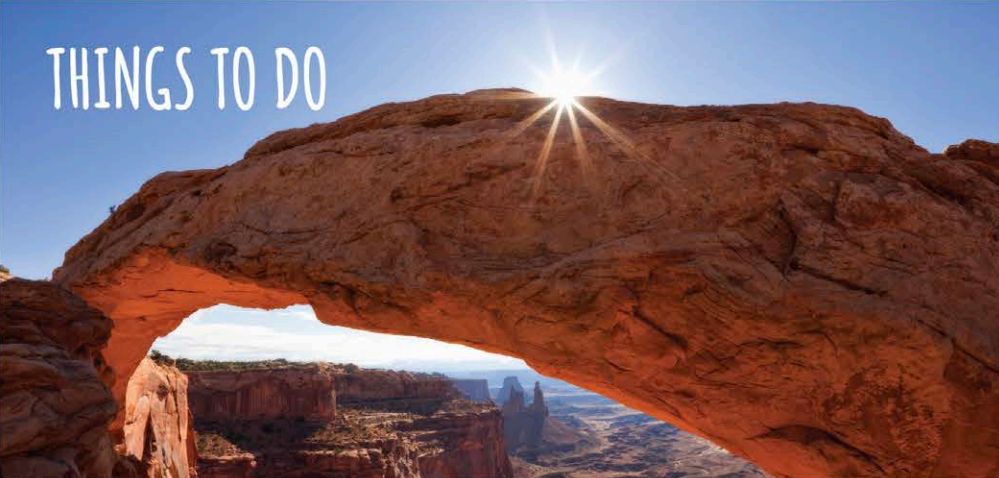
"MY WIFE AND I TOOK THE SUNSET/MILKY WAY PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR. OUR GUIDE BRYAN HAILE WAS SUPERB! HIS LOCAL KNOWLEDGE WAS OUTSTANDING AND DID A FANTASTIC JOB GETTING US TO THE RIGHT PLACES AT THE RIGHT TIME FOR SOME TRULY OUTSTANDING PHOTOS. A FUN WAY TO SPEND A FEW HOURS!" TIM D.



BRYANHAILEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

970-412-7464

THINGS TO DO



PICTURE PERFECT

eFotoGuide is a series of ebooks for sale providing the most comprehensive information available for photographing America's national parks and other scenic areas.

The ebooks are PDFs, accessible on all electronic platforms, including smartphones, tablets, and laptops. eFotoGuide.com.

LEARN FROM THE PHOTO PROS

Bret Edge leads private nature photography workshops throughout the Moab area.

He is passionate about helping photographers improve their skills and create dynamic images at iconic and off-the-beaten path Canyon Country locations. **602-571-4170, MoabPhotoWorkshops.com.**

Bryan Haile Photography Tours offers full- or half-day commercially insured private tours of Moab's most scenic areas. Landscape photography composition instruction for all skill levels.

Night photography and Milky Way photography instruction under Moab's darkest skies. **970-412-7464, BryanHailePhotography.com/moab-photo-tours.**

Colin D. Young leads small group landscape photography tours in the Moab area day and night during the spring and fall, plus multi-day workshops for a deeper dive into the area's red rock secrets.

He specializes in helping photographers capture the Milky Way in our internationally recognized dark-sky parks. **917-902-3063, RockLightPhotoTours.com.**

HORSE RIDES
MOAB HORSES AT HAUER RANCH
WHERE JOHN WAYNE RODE!

GROUP & PRIVATE • BEGINNERS WELCOME

See the Colorado River, Castle Rock, Fisher Towers, and splash across Onion Creek. Plus vistas from countless movies & commercials.

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FUN FOR ALL CONT.

FORE!

Located in historic Spanish Valley, **Moab Golf Club** is a picturesque course with dramatic views from every hole.

This is an 18-hole, par-72 course. From the back tees you'll play to 6,819yds with some challenging dogleg turns and mild elevations. The front nine has a couple of holes up against red rock cliffs.

This is a well-maintained municipal facility, usually not crowded, and offers a pro shop, lessons, rental clubs, snack bar, pull and motorized cart rentals, a driving range, and a grill open for breakfast and lunch.

Their prices are affordable, especially for this beautiful course. Denim is allowed.

Location is just a few minutes south of Moab at 2705 SE Bench Road. Reserve your tee time by calling **435-259-6488**, or online at MoabGolfCourse.com.



HYDRATION TIP

Eating water-rich foods will help with hydration as certain fruits and vegetables are high in water and nutrients. Watermelon, strawberries, cantaloupe, and peaches are good examples.

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Join us for the experience of a lifetime!

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THINGS TO DO

Beginners are welcome. Adults should accompany minors. Best to check for any specific policies.

Rides and length of rides change from season to season to take advantage of ideal temperatures.

DRESS THE PART

Riding attire of long pants and sturdy shoes (no sandals) is required. Bring a water bottle and a raincoat or warming layer if you plan to ride when the weather is a bit cooler.

The outfitters will provide saddle bags to store a few things. A ball cap is a good idea and can be worn under a helmet.

GO WITH THE PROS

Two ranches offer rides at all levels. Both are located along Utah Hwy 128, a Scenic Byway and beautiful drive with awe-inspiring curves and cliffs along the Colorado River.

Moab Horses at Hauer Ranch, located at mile marker 21 on Utah Hwy 128, is open year-round. They offer tours along a variety of trails in the broader Onion Creek/Fisher Towers area.

The herd at Hauer Ranch includes a variety of horse breeds from Missouri Fox Trotters to Quarter Horses, and even a few mules. They take youngsters ages 7 and up.

435-259-8015, MoabHorses.com.

Red Cliffs Ranch is located at mile marker 14 on Utah Hwy 128 at Red Cliffs Lodge. The Ranch offers rides March through November and uses a herd of gentle quarter horses.

Their tours explore a trail that winds its way high along a sandstone canyon, providing majestic views of the famous Castle Rock and the La Sal Mountains before returning along Castle Creek in the cool shade of creekside trees.

Rides are 90 minutes to three hours in the saddle. Custom rides available.

HORSE 'N AROUND

Red Cliffs Ranch will take young riders ages 10 and up accompanied by an adult. For adults, the weight limit is 220lbs.

Red Cliffs Ranch can also board your horse, hay included. **435-259-2002, RedCliffsLodge.com.**

BROUGHT YOUR OWN HORSE?

There are numerous riding options to explore. Be certain to bring certified weed-free hay if you plan to ride in a national park and water for your animal (as well as water for yourself), along with a good map; you can buy one at the Moab Information Center.


In order to help protect fragile desert resources, it is best to keep equines on existing paths. Horses may drink out of creeks and rivers, but are not allowed to be picketed for a lengthy duration within 200ft of shorelines. Pick up or scatter manure.



Stay alert around motorized users. Cell service is spotty in the area so be certain of the safety of yourself and your animal at all times.

Pack and saddle horses are allowed at any **BLM campground**. The Lone Mesa, Ken's Lake, and Upper Onion Creek Campgrounds are more suitable for horses and trailers. For more info on BLM land use, call **435-259-2100**.

All trails on **U.S. Forest Service land** are open to horse use. Camping with horses in developed campgrounds or at trailheads is not permitted.

For more information, call USFS Moab District Ranger Office at **435-259-7155**. 

For an authentic, old-fashioned Western experience, take in the red-rock desert from a horse and join a guided ride near Moab.

Professor Valley along the Colorado River has been home to historic cattle ranches, some of which are now guest resorts and outfitting establishments.

GIDDY UP!

Rides are weather dependent. Always confirm that rides are being offered when you plan to visit, and check cancellation policies. Plan on plenty of time to arrive before your ride. You also want time to say "hello" to your horse.

DID YOU KNOW?

• You can ride some of the same trails that John Wayne rode while he made his famous Western movies, and see the vistas that scores of other film stars have used in their big screen and television hits.

• John Ford shot movies such as *Wagon Master*, *Rio Grande*, and *Son of Chochise* where Red Cliffs Ranch is today.

• The area from Moab to Monument Valley is nicknamed "John Ford Country" because of the nearly a dozen Westerns he directed here.

• Stop by **The Moab Museum of Film and Western Heritage** located in Red Cliffs Lodge which houses memorabilia from the early films to the present.

Red Cliffs Ranch



Call for Specials:
435-355-0959

Horseback Riding



Morning Ride - 2 1/2 hours
Afternoon Ride - 1 1/2 hours
(times vary with the seasons)

- Ride trails made famous by John Wayne
- Trail along and across Castle Creek
- Ride gentle cowboy-trained quarter horses
- All-new tack and equipment
- Friendly, professional wranglers (riding attire required: long pants, no sandals)

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- Trip Advisor guest




Contact Red Cliffs Lodge for price and availability **435-259-2002 • 866-812-2002**

www.redcliffslodge.com
Mile 14 on Hwy. 128 • Moab, Utah 84532



NATIONAL PARK TOURS

There is a morning or sunset bus tour of Arches from **Moab Adventure Center** that is a perfect trip for all ages. **435-259-7019, MoabAdventureCenter.com.**

SEE THE BACKCOUNTRY

NAVTEC Expeditions tours Arches National Park on both the main road or on the less-crowded 4x4 roads.

They offer a broad scope of driving-only, combo 4x4/hiking tours, or multi-day camping trips in all three districts of Canyonlands.

Take a single- or three-day tour around the White Rim Trail. This tour offers amazing views down toward the area where both the Colorado and Green Rivers meet, and up the 1,000ft wall of Island in the Sky.

435-259-7983, Navtec.com.

PHOTO TOURS

Bret Edge leads private nature photography workshops throughout the national parks. Improve your skills and create dynamic images at iconic and off-the-beaten path canyon country locations. **602-571-4170, MoabPhotoWorkshops.com.**

Bryan Haile Photography Tours offers full- and half-day private tours of Moab's most scenic areas. Landscape photography composition instruction is provided for all skill levels. Plus, night photography and Milky Way photography instruction under Moab's darkest skies. **970-412-7464, BryanHailePhotography.com/moab-photo-tours.**

Colin D. Young leads small group landscape photography tours in Arches, Canyonlands, and beyond during the spring and fall. He specializes in helping photographers capture the Milky Way in our internationally recognized dark sky parks. **917-902-3063, RockLightPhotoTours.com.**

Taking a commercial tour offers alternative ways to visit the national parks. Hire a private guide or go in a group. You will also learn more interesting tidbits about the park having a knowledgeable guide.

With the reservation system for Arches, taking a guided tour will get you into the park without a reservation and will help keep congestion down.

RANGER-LED PROGRAMS

Rangers and volunteers in both Arches and Canyonlands may offer a variety of programs every day, spring through fall.

Programs include interactive programs, guided walks, evening programs, or special events like stargazing.

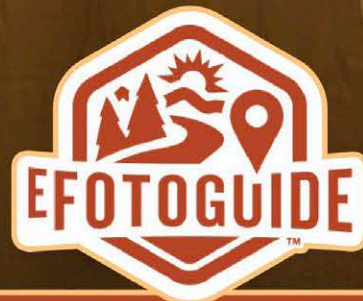
Program types, times, and locations vary throughout the year and may change due to weather or other factors. Check with the parks for details.

GO WITH THE PROS

Wild West Voyages offers private, customized tours in both Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Tours can be designed to emphasize hiking or general touring, according to your preference: morning, sunset, or full day.

All ages welcome. Tours include park fees and pick up/drop off at your downtown Moab lodging.

Combine with a Wild West Voyages river trip for the perfect day! **435-238-4257, WildWestVoyages.com.**



THE ULTIMATE GUIDES
TO PHOTOGRAPHING
THE NATIONAL PARKS



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THINGS TO DO

EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Utah law requires OHV operators of all ages to complete an OHV education course before operating on public lands.

This requirement will ensure operators will have awareness of the laws and rules and increase rider safety. This will also promote respect of the local communities affected by OHV operations and being respectful and sustainable on all OHV trails.

Find out more at OHV.Utah.gov.

You can also visit DiscoverMoab.com/ATV-Riding for more details.

WHERE TO RENT

Canyonlands Jeep Adventures rents four-door modified Jeep Wranglers. Since 2004 they have been renting Jeeps to get you into the backcountry. All rentals include their custom Trail Guide, a cooler of ice, and water. **435-259-4413, CanyonlandsJeepRentals.com.**

Epic 4x4 Adventures rents the Polaris RZR Pro R and the fully enclosed Polaris Xpedition with heat and A/C. Epic 4x4 Adventures is the trusted name in off-road adventure, offering unmatched service, expert guidance, and the region's only rider protection package with a capped maximum out-of-pocket expense, full medical coverage, and auto liability insurance.

Rentals are available for half-day or full-day adventures, combining excitement, safety, and unparalleled expertise. **435-210-6700, Epic4x4Adventures.com.**

High Point Hummer & ATV/UTV Tours offers current model/year side-by-side, RZR, and UTV rentals. Each of their rentals is maintained by certified technicians after every ride.

Vehicles are street legal, but they also loan trailers if you prefer one.

OFF-ROAD PLAY

If you can't pull a trailer, High Point can drop off and pick up any RZR/UTV.

They provide everything you need to safely enjoy a great day on the trail, including helmets and coolers with ice. **435-259-2972, HighPointHummer.com.**

Moab Bronco Rentals rents the all-new Ford Bronco equipped with the Sasquatch package perfect for Moab's off-road terrain. Two- or four-door models are available.

Whether you want to get off the road or visit one of the many national parks, the new Ford Bronco provides all you need to off-road or enjoy one of the many scenic byways in luxury.

Family-owned and operated, they offer hassle-free hotel and RV drop-offs and pick-ups. Airport pick-up and drop-off is available for an additional fee.

A trail guide with maps and step-by-step directions is provided as well as their favorite recommendations for trails in the area. **435-419-5222, MoabBroncos.com.**

NEVER GO WITHOUT

For complete details on trails and more, we recommend **FunTreks Guidebooks**. They are written by experts who know the trails and how to best experience them. Purchase one at local stores or at FunTreks.com.

TRAIL OPTIONS

These are just a few popular options. More options are listed in the **FunTreks** guidebook or at the Moab Information Center. You can also visit DiscoverMoab.com.

GEMINI BRIDGES ●-■

This 14-mile road with stunning views can be driven as an out-and-back, or as a loop including Utah Hwy 313. The road is between US Hwy 191 and Utah Hwy 313 and is 4WD (moderate clearing is fine) between Gemini Bridges and US Hwy 191.



You can access the twin arches called Gemini Bridges from Utah Hwy 313 without 4WD.

This road is a popular area that can also access many other trails both for 4-wheeling and mountain biking.

There is a parking lot and you can hike to the twin bridges that are on a rim of part of Bull Canyon. See map page 94.

CHICKEN CORNERS ●-■

This out-and-back route is a moderate 43-mile trail that takes about 3.5 hours to complete depending on if you also drive Hurrah Pass or not.

The route travels along the Colorado River just south of Moab. The trail follows a spectacular part of Kane Springs Canyon, climbs the Kane Creek anticline to Hurrah Pass, and then descends to benches above the Colorado River. The trail dead-ends at Chicken Corners about 400 feet above the river across from Dead Horse Point.

FINS AND THINGS ◆

This unbelievably fun trail is part of the Sands Flats Recreational Area (fees apply) and is a 9.4-mile, one-way trail. This trail is on pretty hazardous terrain so best for experienced drivers only. Get more details at SandFlats.org or the Moab Information Center. Trailer parking lots are located .8 miles before and 1.4 miles past the Sand Flats entrance station. See our map in the folded insert.

HUNDREDS OF MILES OF TRAILS

The Moab area has unforgettable beauty with unique and diverse trails. Many of the trails are old mining roads.

Whether you bring your own vehicle, rent one, or take a tour from one of our guide companies, adventure awaits!

Travel is limited to designated motorized routes only. Traveling off a designated route is not only illegal, you can damage the important biocrust.

Moab has a wide range of trails to explore from easy 2WD scenic tours to challenging 4WD drive trails that will have you questioning how the tires stick to the rock.

Always stay within your ability. Stop by the Moab Information Center for updated trail conditions.

Make sure you are prepared for your day out with plenty of water, food, and WAG bags.

See our **Desert Tips** pages 30-33.

KNOW THE RULES

There are hundreds of miles of old mining roads and 4x4 trails where you can explore with a Jeep, motorcycle, ATV, or UTV/RZR. Make sure you know the "rules of the road."

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) are not allowed in the national parks and require either a residential or non-residential permit to use in areas where they are permitted.

All OHV permits must now be bought online at Recreation.Utah.gov/Off-Highway-Vehicles/OHV-Registration-and-Permits/Non-Resident-OHV-Permits.



THINGS TO DO

HELL'S REVENGE ♦♦

This is a signature trail for Moab's 4-wheel community. Located in the Sand Flats Recreation Area (fees apply) the 6.5-mile round-trip trail is mostly slickrock with bits of sand and rock ledges. There are extreme areas that cannot be avoided. Get more details at SandFlats.org or the Moab Information Center.

Trailer parking lots are located .8 miles before the Sand Flats entrance station and at the trailhead.

See our map in the folded insert.

GO WITH THE PROS

See the area on a tour with an outfitter who knows the area and the trails. Guides have the skills to take you places you might not want to go on your own. Trips are offered year-round.

Epic 4x4 Adventures offers guided UTV tours for all experience levels. Drive a state-of-the-art UTV or ride along with an expert guide. Private tours let you customize your adventure.

Explore iconic trails like Hell's Revenge, Fins & Things, and Poison Spider, or try "The Works," a curated tour showcasing Moab's highlights.

With a focus on safety and professionalism, Epic 4x4 Adventures ensures every outing is memorable and stress-free. Tours include bottled water and hearty snacks. **435-210-6700, Epic4x4Adventures.com.**

High Point Hummer & ATV/UTV Tours specializes in guided side-by-side, Hummer, and UTV tours. Their Hummer tours feature visits to secluded canyons, hidden arches, prehistoric dinosaur tracks, and awe-inspiring panoramic overlooks of Arches National Park and the Colorado River.

They offer two- and four-hour tours as well as a beautiful sunset tour. No minimum or maximum age requirements, so bring the entire family.

OFF-ROAD PLAY CONT.

RZR and UTV tours allow you to drive your own machine, but have a guide show you the way. You can play in sand dunes and cruise over slickrock. Tours are 2.5 hours. **435-259-2972, HighPointHummer.com.**

NAVTEC Expeditions has a variety of 4x4 guided, custom, or group tours, in or out of the national parks, ranging from half-day to five-day adventures. Their tours are often combined with hiking and even rafting.

Backcountry tours are offered in Arches (they will take you to Doc Williams Point, named after a NAVTEC family member) and Canyonlands.

Horse Canyon, in The Needles district, is an archeological epicenter and an epic full-day tour.

Another full-day tour is to Horseshoe Canyon in The Maze district. The rock imagery is considered some of the finest in North America.



This tour involves a 7-mile hike, so ask for details.

Travel the White Rim and explore the many treasures this area has to offer. The tour stops for hikes beneath the White Rim with incredible views of the Colorado River.

NAVTEC offers multi-day trips on White Rim and Escalante slot canyons. They combine their 4x4 trips with rafting down Cataract Canyon. Charters are also available all over southeastern Utah. **435-259-7983, Navtec.com.**

THE SHAFER TRAIL ■ - ♦

This is a pretty amazing road with stunning views and switchbacks. The Shafer Trail is in the Island of the Sky district of Canyonlands and descends a 1,500ft massive sandstone cliff.

The original trail was made by Native Americans to get to the top of the mesa. Sheep herders then used it to move flocks for the winter. Later, trucks hauled uranium to market. Today, the trail is an unpaved backcountry road used by those seeking adventure.

The road for the Shafer Trail starts near the visitor center (entrance fee to the national park required).

You'll descend four miles down the switchbacks and you'll take a left where there is a gate and a pit toilet. This part of the route is 15 miles and comes out at the Potash Road. The road traverses below Dead Horse Point and has amazing views of the Colorado River.

Allow 2-3 hours or more. ATVs/UTVs are not allowed on this trail.

See map page 74.

POISON SPIDER ♦

This 16-mile trail is one of the most scenic in the area and on a mesa. This challenging trail is a lollipop with a long section leading to a loop that you don't want to miss the view from the rim. Most of this trail is on slickrock. There are some rock ledges and sandy washbottom. The 360 degree views from this trail are breathtaking with the town of Moab 1,000ft below.

BOOK YOUR BRONCO EXPERIENCE

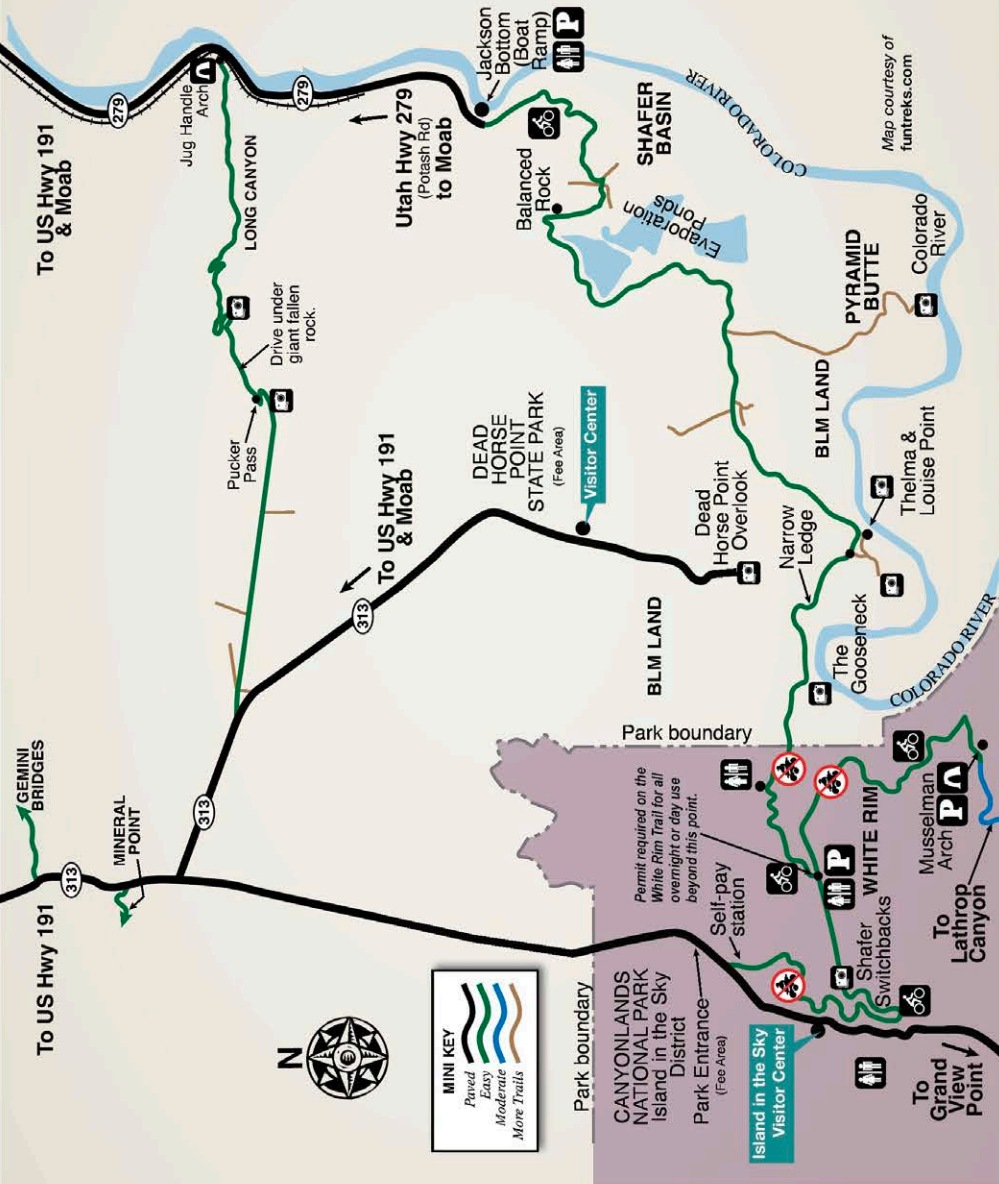
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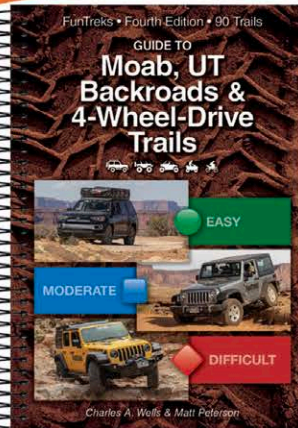
SHAFER TRAIL/LONG CANYON

Area Map



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THINGS TO DO THRILL SEEKERS



JUMP!

Skydiving has been a fixture on the list of things to do in Moab for more than 20 years.

Skydive Moab has safely completed more than 60,000 tandem skydives over Moab.

Moab offers the perfect climate and landscape for skydiving. You will never forget the amazing landscapes of this area from a bird's point of view.

When you jump out of the plane, you are in freefall and falling at up to

120mph for about 60 seconds. This is a freedom and experience that you simply cannot duplicate on the ground.

Just for comparison, pelicans dive at 40mph and hummingbirds fly 45mph in their courtship dives.

Once the parachute opens, you simply drift and are treated to a peaceful, serene five- to seven-minute canopy flight before landing.

Skydive Moab will set jumpers of all levels up for this incredible experience. Modern equipment and skilled instructors ensure that skydiving is a safe and fun adventure.

In a tandem jump, you're harnessed to a professional with thousands of jumps under their belt who controls every aspect of the experience.

As crazy as it sounds to jump out of a perfectly good plane, skydiving is far less dangerous that you would think due to advancements in equipment and training.

Nearly 500,000 Americans skydive each year, making upwards of three million jumps annually. World wide, there are about 3.1 million skydives each year.

For twenty years, Skydive Moab and their staff has been comprised of state- and world-record holders and are among the most experienced instructors in the industry!

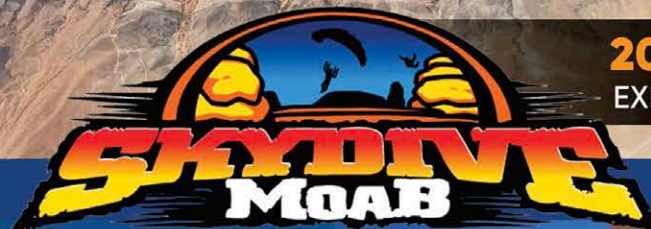
If you're ready to make the jump, **435-259-5867, SkydiveMoab.com.** 🏠

DID YOU KNOW?

- The first parachute jump ever recorded was by the inventor of the parachute, Anre-Jacques Garmerin. He jumped out of a hydrogen balloon in Paris in 1797.
- The first female to skydive was only 15 years old. Georgia "Tiny" Broadwick was 4'1" and jumped on June 21, 1913, in Los Angeles. She also was the first woman to parachute into water.
- The world's oldest skydiver at 101 years old was Bryson William Hayes from England.
- The most skydives completed in 24 hours is 640. Jay Stokes celebrated his birthday by doing this and raising money for charity.

THE MOST SCENIC SKYDIVING IN THE COUNTRY

WITH VIEWS OF ARCHES AND CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARKS



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THINGS TO DO WET & FUN



Is floating down the Colorado River on your must-do list? The adventure of whitewater and the rare beauty of desert canyons make the trip both exciting and spectacular.

As the only major Utah city located on the banks of the Colorado River, Moab specializes in river play. The Colorado is a majestic river with incomparable desert scenery.

The river offers rapids for the adrenaline junkie or a scenic float for those who wish to enjoy the tranquil beauty surrounding the river.

RESPECT THE RIVER

Even when the water looks calm, there is a strong undertow in the Colorado River. Beware. Never dive into the river, or any river, without checking what is below the surface.

Rocks and other debris can pull you under. Always wear a PFD (personal flotation device), and stay alert, even when swimming!

WHAT TO TAKE

Playing on the river means you will inevitably get wet. Wear lightweight synthetic fibers that cover a wide temperature range and dry quickly.

Wear footwear that will stay on and is designed for the river, such as Chacos or Tevas. Tennis shoes will do, but avoid flip flops that will likely be lost in the current.

Wear a snug-fitting hat with a wide brim, sunglasses with a strap, waterproof SPF 30+ sunscreen, and SPF lip balm.

Try wearing clothing made of UPF (ultraviolet protection fabric). Items available include short-sleeve and long-sleeve shirts, pants, and hats that incorporate up to UPF 50 factor protection. Wearing these fabrics drastically reduces the need to pile on sunscreen. The fabric is great around water as well.

Leave rings and other jewelry behind to avoid blisters or loss. Keep car keys, wallet, and other valuables in a zippered pocket, dry bag (or better yet, don't take them on the river at all). Don't forget a bandana, swimsuit, towel, sunglasses, and waterproof camera. Have a set of dry clothes in the car.

Always have a reusable water bottle, and start with it full. Outfitters often bring coolers of water for refills. Avoid bringing bottled water. Your empty plastic bottle is added trash in the boat. Everything should be attached to you or the raft in case you fall out or the boat turns over.

Outfitters are required to provide safety equipment such as flotation devices and first-aid kits, and some also supply waterproof bags for storing equipment, and watertight boxes for cameras, food, and non-alcoholic beverages. Check with the outfitter for specific information since requirements vary by trip and season.

RIVER SPORTS

REASONS TO GO RAFTING

- ✕ It's a great adrenaline rush and epic adventure. What a great way to "soak up" the glorious landscape.
- ✕ Rafting is an enjoyable way to spend a day with your friends or family. Swapping stories about running the rapids and big splashes always gets a good laugh.
- ✕ You will be able to develop your teamwork, especially in a paddle boat or tandem inflatable kayak. Working together is a must!
- ✕ Spending time in nature is a great way to unplug. There's no technology, internet, or cell service, so you can relax and unwind.

RIVER REGULATIONS AND ETHICS

- ✕ Carry out all trash, including food trash, ashes, and charcoal. Food scraps attract mice and insects.
- ✕ Urinate directly into the river. Pack out toilet paper and human waste—always!
- ✕ Carry and use a leak-proof portable toilet for human waste. If you don't have one, WAG bags are easy to carry and safe when closed (see page 36).
- ✕ Carry a first-aid kit, raft or paddle board repair kit, and air pump.
- ✕ ALWAYS wear a PFD (personal flotation device). Have a whistle attached to it to signal for help.
- ✕ When launching on or taking out from the river, be courteous to other users by occupying only one lane on the boat ramp and being efficient with your time. If you are leaving to retrieve your vehicle, move boats and gear to the side to allow others access to the ramp.
- ✕ The Moab BLM Field Office is a great resource for river and camping information. BLM.gov/office/moab-field-office. *continued on page 80*



Sheri Griffith
River Expeditions
Moab, Utah

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Class

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RAFTING IN MOAB

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RIVER RAFTING

The most popular place to play on the Colorado River in Moab is **"The Daily"** (some may refer to this as a Fisher Towers trip). This section is east of Moab and an excellent rafting trip for first-timers and families.

This 13-mile stretch features seven rapids mixed with calm-water sections, and follows Utah Scenic Byway 128 as it floats past iconic Fisher Towers and Castle Valley. Half- or full-day trips are offered. For the best value, go on an all-day trip as lunch is provided.

THINGS TO DO

If you are looking for more of a thrill, try **Westwater Canyon**. Named "The West's Best Short Whitewater Trip" by *National Geographic*, it is a 17-mile river stretch that contains 11 Class III to IV rapids, plus numerous less-challenging rapids.

Westwater begins near the Colorado/Utah border and runs through deep canyons surrounded by towering walls of black, gold, and red.

This is an exclusive day trip—only 25 people go on a trip, and usually only three companies can launch per day. This is because the BLM manages this stretch of river as a "wilderness study area" in order to protect the resources within it. Another great thing about Westwater is that rafters are very likely to see some birds, including great blue herons, bald eagles, and other raptors. There are also occasional river otter sightings. It's as popular as it is exclusive, so book early. This trip is well worth it.

Cataract Canyon is considered to be among the best whitewater rafting in the country and is at the top of all river runners' lists.

"Cat" is offered as a day trip or multi-day trip by **NAVTEC**, with their Zodiac-style boat. This is a big water experience. **435-259-7983, Navtec.com.**

MULTI-DAY TRIPS

If you want to really experience the pace of the river, consider a multi-day trip. You will need to do a bit of planning and make advanced reservations. Multi-day trips are offered on rafts, sea kayaks, or stand up paddle boards.

Trips out of this area include the calmer Labyrinth/Stillwater Canyons on the Green River, Westwater Canyon, 112 miles through Cataract Canyon, or on the San Juan River near Bluff.

Contact our outfitters (page 84-85) to see the various trips that they offer.

RIVER SPORTS CONT.

CANOEING & SEA KAYAKING

Sea kayaking on the calmer parts of the Colorado River is a beautiful way to see the sights. Novices and experienced paddlers alike can paddle in solo or tandem sea kayaks.

Most guided day trips are on the section of "The Daily" to the Moab bridge where the water is calm. During high water, trips also go from the Moab bridge to Gold Bar.

If you want to venture out on your own, rental boats are available. South of Moab, Meander Canyon is calm, beautiful, and a perfect place to go. Paddle down to Gold Bar (10 miles downriver from the Moab bridge) or to the Potash boat ramp (about 11 miles from Moab). This is the last boat ramp, so don't paddle beyond here unless you have arranged a jet boat shuttle to pick you up.



Paddle Moab will pick you up at the Potash boat ramp. **435-210-4665, PaddleMoab.com.**

Due to the strong current in the Colorado River, if you are canoeing, it is best to have experience.

NAVTEC offers kayak rentals and will know the water levels and conditions.

See page 85 for shuttle companies.

continued on page 82

DID YOU KNOW?

Rapid Classifications

Classification is a guide and can change due to water level.

- **Class I (beginner)**
Mostly calm, moving water with little current. Easy maneuvering.
- **Class II (beginner)**
Moving water with riffles and small waves. Some maneuvering possible.
- **Class III (intermediate)**
Bigger rapids with irregular waves. Maneuvering possible.
- **Class IV (advanced)**
Currents are more powerful and waves more turbulent.
- **Class V (expert)**
Expert and highly-experienced paddlers only. Long, difficult, and violent rapids.

PADDLE MOAB

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THINGS TO DO

The most popular tour is the signature two-hour Adventure Tour. In this wet and wild ride your adrenaline will flow with moves like the "Hamilton Spin," sliding turns, and rapids.

Then they slow it down to float, take in the beauty, and learn about the area. Splash jackets and beverages are provided.

For larger parties, they have three boats for a holding capacity of up to 30 people at a time. Look for their little blue boats. **435-259-5538, MoabJett.com.**

NAVTEC Expeditions offers a half-day tour to explore the beauty and geology beneath the 2,000ft canyon walls. Traveling in a rigid hull inflatable boat, the guides will stop for you to see Native American rock imagery and cruise around the Goose Neck of the Colorado River. **435-259-7983, Navtec.com.**

STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING

Stand up paddle boarding (SUP) is the fastest-growing water sport in the world. People everywhere are taking to lakes, rivers, and the ocean on paddle boards. This sport is easy to fall in love with and offers a great way to stay fit, get wet, and have fun.

POWERBOAT TOURS

If motoring along is more your speed, then a powerboat trip is for you. Some trips are fast and adrenaline pumping while others show you calmer parts of the river. And the best part? The boat does all the work!

Moab Jett offers Adventure (wet), Scenic (dry), and Custom Tours in Moab's only New Zealand Style Jet Boat. The boats are open air with stadium seating holding up to 10 passengers, so every seat is exceptional. All tours are scenic, informative, and fun for the whole family.

Scenic tours depart morning and evening for optimal lighting on the canyon walls. Relax as you travel through a maze of canyons. This tour is great for photography. The three-hour tour includes a short walk through a petrified forest.



RIVER SPORTS CONT.

The paddle boards used by most outfitters in Moab are fairly big and wide for more surface area which makes them more stable and easier to balance upon. Some boards are large enough to accommodate an adult with a small child.

Paddle boarding is a sport the entire family can enjoy. With the right instruction, you can paddle board down the Colorado River your first day.

If the river is too intimidating, then Ken's Lake, south of town, is a perfect place to go for a paddle. Wherever you go, always, always wear a PFD (personal flotation device)!

For a fun stand up day, **Moab Adventure Center** has guided trips. **435-259-7019, MoabAdventureCenter.com.**

Paddle Moab offers guided trips on the Colorado River. Choose from flatwater, slightly splashy, or rapids.



They also offer rentals and shuttles. **435-210-4665, PaddleMoab.com.**

Wild West Voyages offers guided stand up paddle or kayaking instructional tours on the Colorado River or at Ken's Lake. For a self-guided experience, Wild West Voyages rents paddle boards and offers a river shuttle if you need one. A special "Friendly Float" package deal includes a kayak or paddle board rental (including all the gear) and a ride to the Colorado River. **435-238-4257, WildWestVoyages.com.**

continued on page 84

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THINGS TO DO

NAVTEC Expeditions will take you on a one- or multi-day Cataract Canyon trip or a float on "The Daily" section of the Colorado.

They also offer Westwater trips and tours down Meander Canyon. They rent oar and paddle rafts, kayaks, and gear. **435-259-7983, Navtec.com.**

Paddle Moab offers guided stand up paddle boarding trips, paddle boat whitewater trips, inflatable kayak trips, and multi-day trips. They also offer SUP, kayak, and raft rentals. **435-210-4665, PaddleMoab.com.**

Sheri Griffith River Expeditions offers a variety of trips on the Colorado, Green, and Yampa Rivers for solo travelers, groups, or family trips. **435-259-8229, GriffithExp.com.**



WHO CAN FLOAT YOUR BOAT

Please check with each company for all of their trip options.

Moab Adventure Center's choices are half- or full-day rafting on the Colorado River, two- or four-day raft/camp adventures in Cataract Canyon, multi-day trips down Desolation/Grays Canyons, or paddle board tours on mellow water. **435-259-7019, MoabAdventureCenter.com.**

OAR VS PADDLE

Oar rafts are the classic method of rafting. Oar rafts are generally a bit bigger than paddle rafts and the oars are attached to a rigid frame connected to the raft.

A guide sits in the middle of the boat and has two long oars to control the raft.

A **paddle raft** is the ultimate way to participate as everyone has their own paddle and is an integral part of powering and maneuvering the raft. Teamwork is a must!

The guide sits at the rear of the boat to steer and give commands to the paddlers.

RIVER SPORTS CONT.

Wild West Voyages offers guided raft, kayak, and stand up paddle board trips on the Colorado River. Make new friends on a Shared Group Tour, or charter a Private Trip for just you and your traveling companions. Half-day, full-day, or overnight trips are available on this favorite, family-friendly "Moab Daily" section with mild-to-moderate whitewater, depending on seasonal flows. They also rent paddle boards, inflatable kayaks, and paddle rafts.

435-238-4257, WildWestVoyages.com.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

NAVTEC offers shuttle service to most put-ins. **435-259-7983, Navtec.com.**

Paddle Moab offers shuttles for "The Daily," Cataract Canyon, or Labyrinth Canyon. They will also pick you up at the Potash boat ramp if you want to float Meander Canyon. **435-210-4665, PaddleMoab.com.**



Wild West Voyages offers shuttles when renting gear from them. **435-238-4257, WildWestVoyages.com.**

SAN JUAN COUNTY

Ancient Wayves River and Hiking Adventures is a Navajo-owned company that offers single- or multi-day trips on the San Juan River. The guides are local with ancestral roots connected to this river. **505-239-8505, TourAncientWayves.com.**



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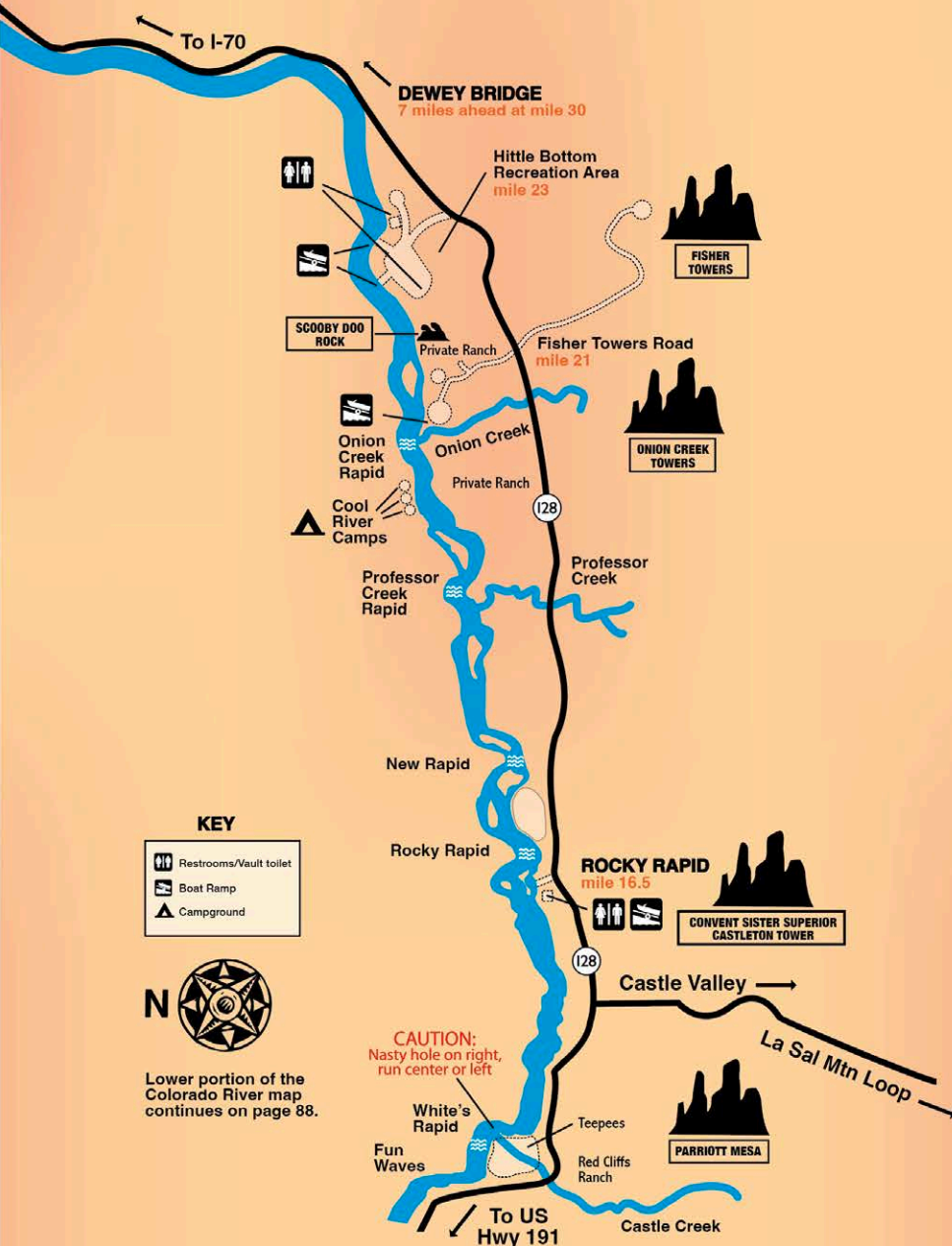

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COLORADO RIVER MAP

UPPER PORTION



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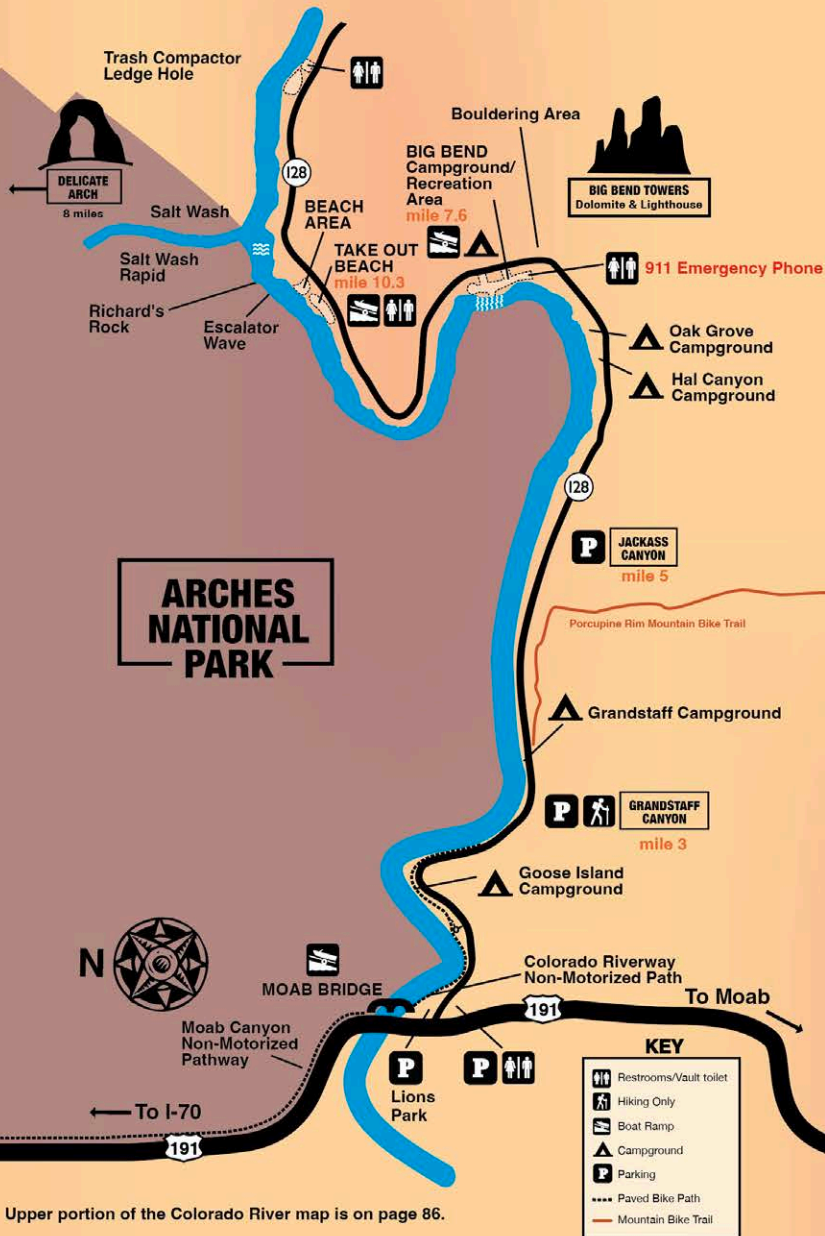


MOAB JETT
COLORADO RIVER JET BOAT TOURS

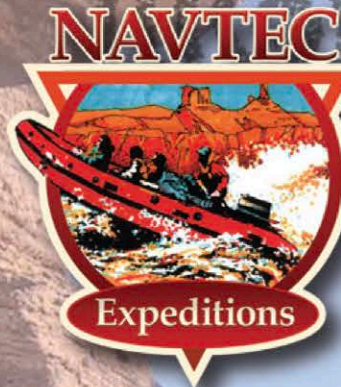
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COLORADO RIVER MAP

LOWER PORTION



Upper portion of the Colorado River map is on page 86.

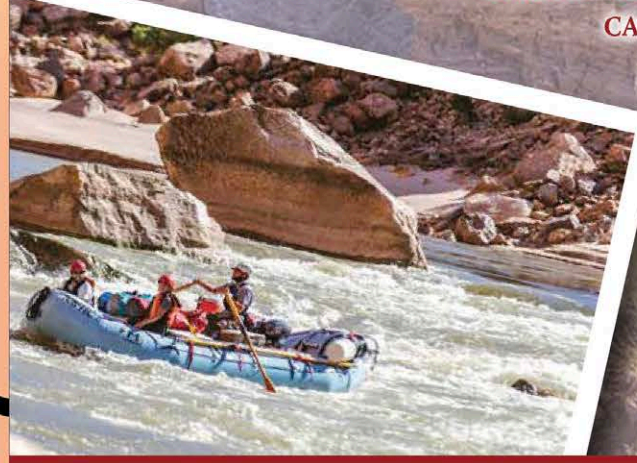


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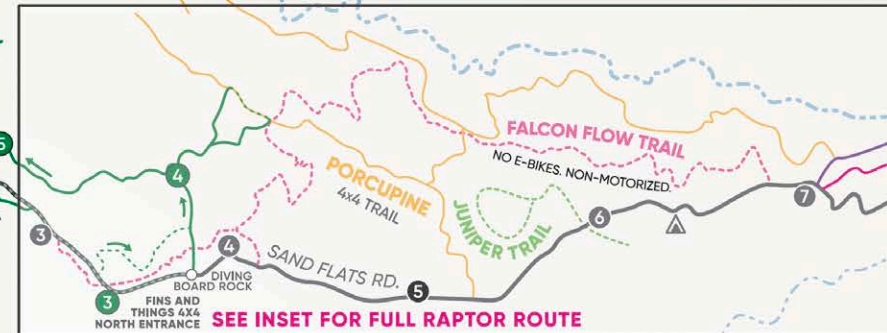
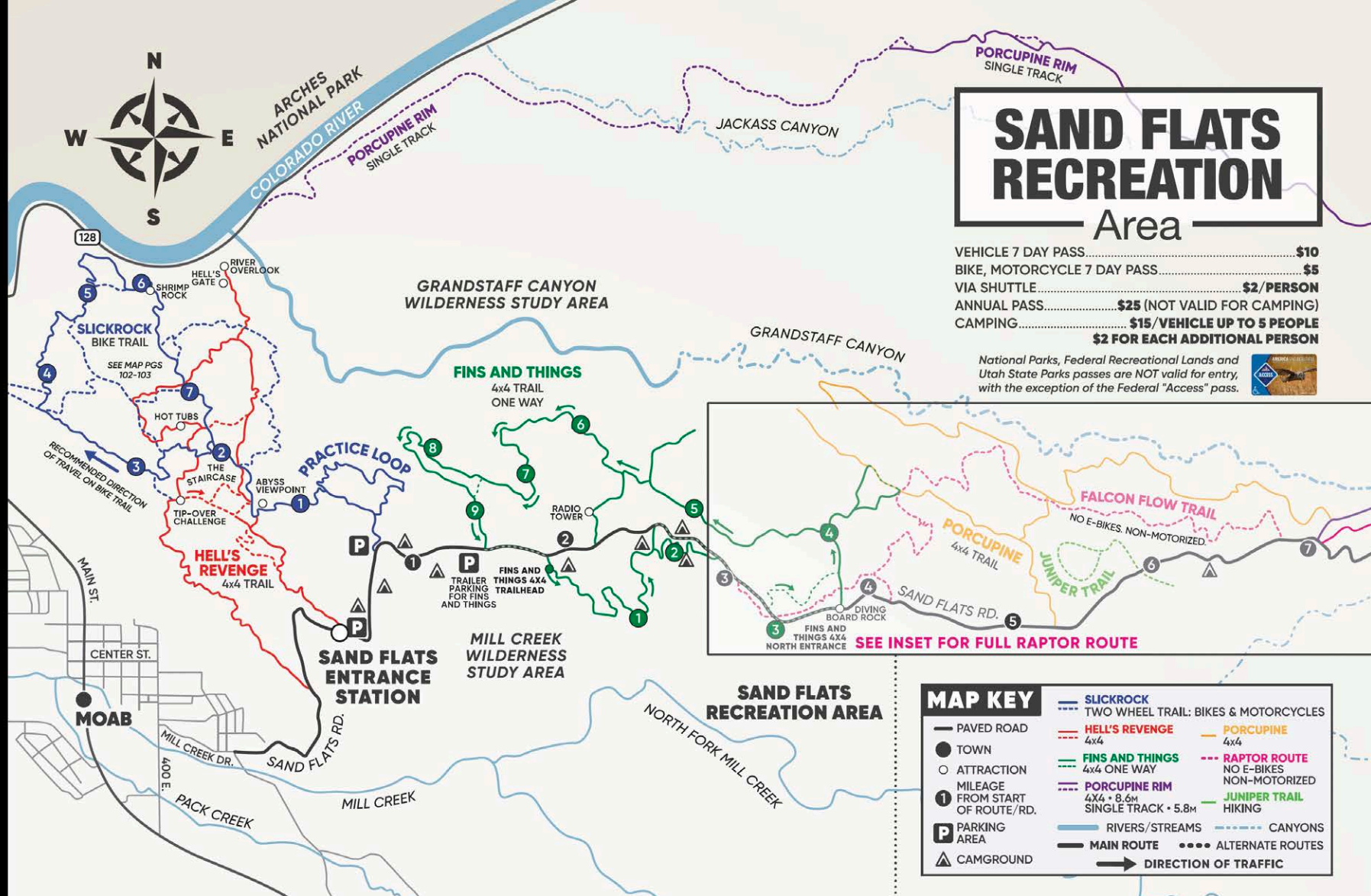


SAND FLATS RECREATION

Area

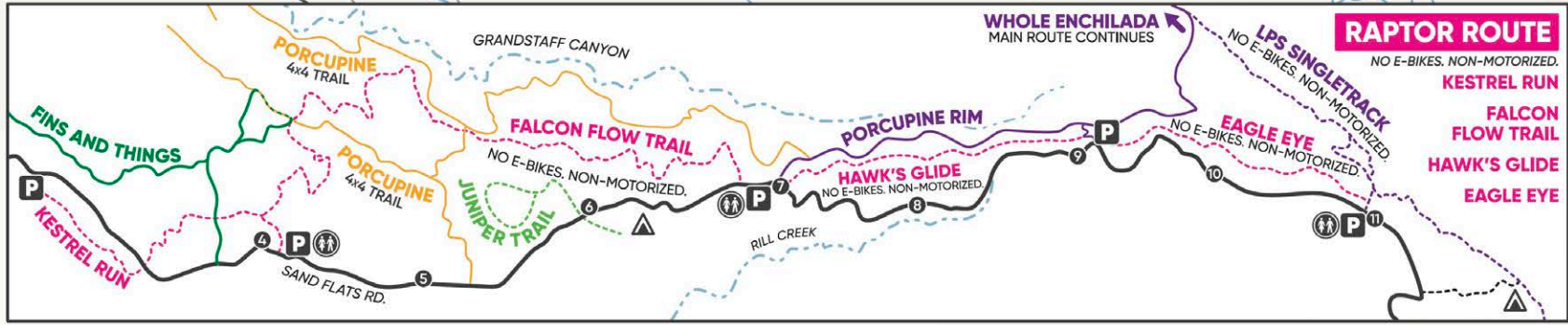
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CAMPING.....	\$15/VEHICLE UP TO 5 PEOPLE
	\$2 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON

National Parks, Federal Recreational Lands and Utah State Parks passes are NOT valid for entry, with the exception of the Federal "Access" pass.

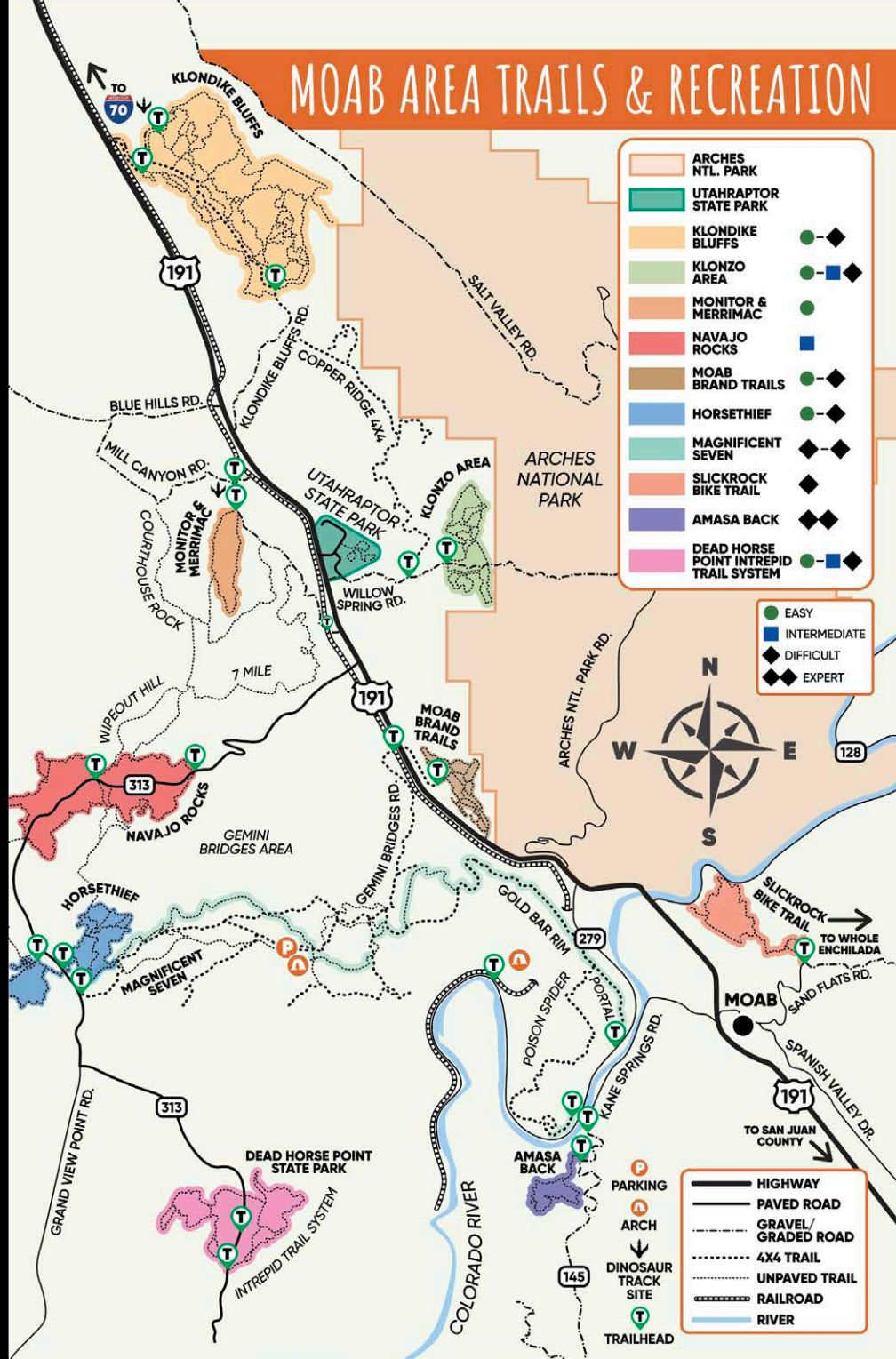


MAP KEY

— PAVED ROAD	— SLICKROCK	— TWO WHEEL TRAIL: BIKES & MOTORCYCLES
● TOWN	— HELL'S REVENGE	— PORCUPINE
○ ATTRACTION	— FINS AND THINGS	— RAPTOR ROUTE
① MILEAGE FROM START OF ROUTE/RD.	— PRACTICE LOOP	— JUNIPER TRAIL
P PARKING AREA	— PORCUPINE RIM	— HIKING
▲ CAMPGROUND	— SAND FLATS RD.	— RIVERS/STREAMS
	— GRANDSTAFF CANYON	— CANYONS
	— NORTH FORK MILL CREEK	— ALTERNATE ROUTES
		→ DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC



MOAB AREA TRAILS & RECREATION





THINGS TO DO

PAVED BIKE PATHS

Moab has two great paved bike paths that give you easy access to (or from) some popular trail areas: **Moab Canyon Pathway** along US Hwy 191 and **Colorado Riverway Non-Motorized Path**, a paved path that follows the Colorado River on Utah Scenic Byway 128, almost to the parking area of Porcupine Trail. If you are riding back to town from the Porcupine Rim trail, please ride the path rather than the road.

The Moab Canyon Pathway is perfect for riding to access the Moab Brands trails or to return to town after a Mag 7 shuttle. E-bikes are now allowed on all paved bike paths in the area (see page 57 for more details).

GO WITH THE PROS

For trail info, ride ideas, sales and service, go to **Rim Cyclery**. Their staff is very knowledgeable and helpful. **435-259-5333, RimCyclery.com**.

Paddle Moab does a combo tour starting with a half-day tour at the Moab Brands trails, then a half-day raft trip in paddle boats. **435-210-4665, PaddleMoab.com**.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

If you are mountain biking on a multi-use trail, you must yield to all other trail users. Stop. Get off your bike and step aside. **Don't ride off the trail.** Always alert other trail users. Pass on the left and say, "On your left." The uphill rider always has the right-of-way.

When you approach a muddy section, please get off your bike and walk through it. Riding around the muddy section erodes the land. You could also damage the biological soil crust that serves to prevent wind and water erosion.

When riding on a road, bicycles are legally classified as vehicles, so the same rules apply to both.

Moab has some of the best bike riding in the world, from beginner rides through scenic canyons to technical slickrock trails. This variety of terrain means there are great options for riders of all abilities.

BE SAFE AND BE PREPARED

There are bike lanes off the main road. Ride those to avoid the traffic on the Main Street (see map on pages 130-131).

Whatever mode of two-wheel transport you choose, be prepared for quickly changing weather conditions—rain deluges move in fast and with a fury. Carry a jacket, a pump and an extra tube, and have sufficient water and snacks as there are no services on many of the rides.

Always ride single file and respect other users. Cyclists must obey the same traffic laws as cars. Don't surprise anyone; use hand signals when turning.

ELECTRIC BIKES

E-bikes are allowed on the bike trails that are designated for motorized use such as Slickrock, Sovereign, and Hurrah Pass. Dead Horse Point allows Class 1 e-bikes on their bike trails. It's best to check at the Moab Information Center or with Rim Cyclery before planning your e-bike ride.

For more information, visit **DiscoverMoab.com/eBikes**.

Rim Cyclery rents both city and mountain style e-bikes. **435-259-5333, RimCyclery.com**.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

TRAIL AMBASSADORS

In addition to building sweet trails, educating users on responsible recreation is a huge part of the mission of Grand County Active Transportation & Trails (GCATT). The trail crew and ambassadors are both part of GCATT. These efforts can be seen at trailhead kiosks and through the **Trail Ambassador Program**.

Ambassadors provide valuable resources and information about camping, recreation, "Leave No Trace" and "TREAD Lightly!" principles in the area. Check them out during peak seasons on popular hiking, biking, climbing and OHV trails in the area.

This is an exciting resource to ensure that our fragile desert environment is being protected by recreators and visitors alike.



TRAIL CREWS AND MAPS

GCATT and the Grand County Trail Mix Committee work together with federal, state, and local governments to design, build, and maintain non-motorized trail systems within Grand County.

Each riding area has a map created by the Moab Trails Alliance (MTA) and Grand County Trail Mix. Buy the maps at local bike shops for around \$2, with proceeds helping to maintain the trails.

Lots of info can be found at trailheads including maps of the areas; however, be safe and carry a paper map.



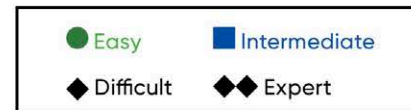
Do not rely solely on your cell phone to guide or save you! Phones run out of battery, and reception is limited in the Moab area. If you are using an app for your map, download it first and use offline. Always have a plan in case of an emergency.

If the trails are wet from rain or snow, protect the trails by waiting until they dry, or go ride one of the more rocky trails. Check **MoabTrailTeam.com** for more information and trail conditions.

TRAIL SYMBOLS

The trails are well signed, thanks to Grand County Trail Mix. They use symbols made popular by the downhill ski areas for the level of difficulty of the trails. Use them as a guide to help you decide the best ride for you.

Trails marked with the difficulty rating should be similar to other trails with the same rating. These ratings are not universal and may differ from those you have experienced in other riding areas.

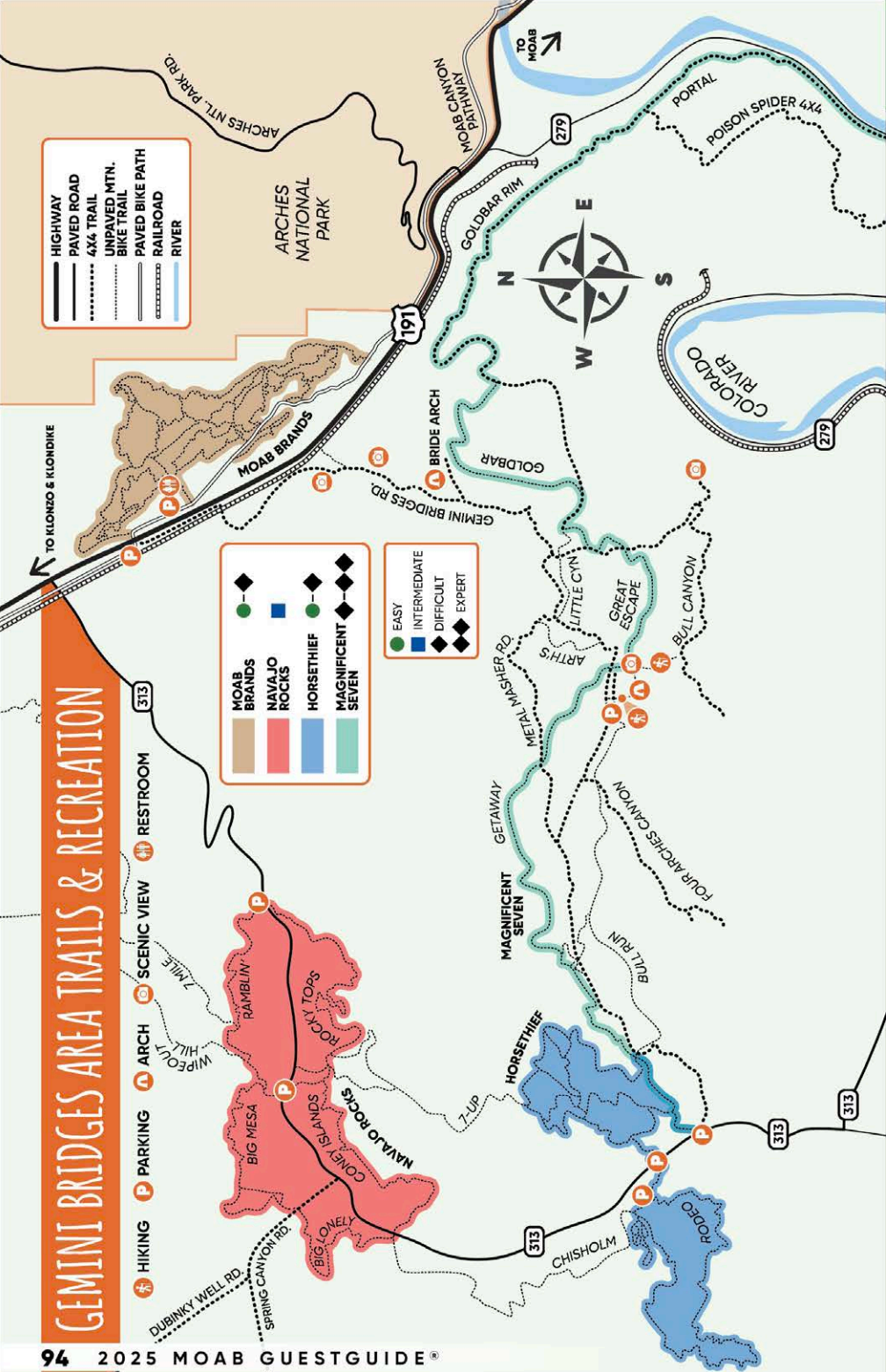


It's a good idea to start on an easier trail to get a feel for desert riding at Moab's 4,000ft and higher altitude.

We've listed some trail descriptions here by area, as best we could.

We added elevation gain and loss for some areas based on altitude change from one end of the trail to the other. Most trails here roll and up and down, therefore total elevation gain (↑), or loss (↓) will depend on the trail you ride and the direction. Use this info only as a guide.

continued on page 95



MTN BIKING CONT.

THE MAGNIFICENT 7 ◆◆◆

21 total miles/7 trails 3,331ft ↓ • 1,295ft ↑

Mag 7 in the Gemini Bridges area boasts 44 miles of trails that are dedicated solely to mountain biking.

Mag 7 is named for seven trails linked together (Portal being the 8th). This point-to-point ride has lots of downhill fun but no shortage of pedalling! You can end this ride on Gemini Bridges Road after Arth's/Little Canyon, or continue your epic day on the gnarly Gold Bar Rim and Portal Trail.

There are many ways to ride loops in this area so that you can ride from your car. Park at the Arth's Corner parking area and ride Great Escape to Little Canyon and then Arth's. Then ride Getaway to Bull Run back to your car. A shorter loop is simply Getaway to Bull Run.

Or, park in one of the two lots on the Gemini Bridges Road (near Utah Hwy 313) and ride down Bull Run and back up Getaway (see map on page 94).

NAVAJO ROCKS ■

18 total miles/8 trails, 1,350ft ↓ • 1330ft ↑

These trails are a combo of rock and sand, fun descents, and decent climbs perfect for the intermediate rider. The trails are on both sides of the highway. Located on Utah Hwy 313, two parking areas on the right (or north) are 5.25 miles and 7.33 miles from the intersection with US Hwy 191 (see map on page 94).

THE HORSETHIEF TRAILS ●◆

15 total miles/8 trails, 350ft ↓ • 900ft ↑

This trail system is great fun for the solid intermediate rider. The bonus is that they interconnect with the Mag 7 and Navajo Rocks trails, so your ride can go from casual intermediate to expert, and exertion level from low to extreme.



If your group has two cars, point-to-point rides are really fun.

These trails are located approximately 12 miles from the junction of US Hwy 191 and Utah Hwy 313 on the east and west side near the Horsethief Campground.

There are several parking lots off of US Hwy 191 near the campground and the Gemini Bridges Road (see map on page 94).

THE MOAB BRANDS/BAR M ●◆

31 total miles/17 trails, 600ft ↓ • 585ft ↑

This trail system is one of our favorites, and there is something for everyone in your group. This trail system has the least elevation gain/loss. These trails are a bunch of small loops that can be linked together, and all of the levels are conveniently located in one place.

All the trails are interesting to ride, and the trails' difficulty and experience can change by the direction you ride them. This area is close to town and has cell reception (not many other trails do).

Beginners should start with Rusty Spur Trail and Bar M Loop.

More advanced riders will want to ride North 40, Bar B, or Deadman's Ridge. Our favorite is Circle O. Access the Moab Brands by driving eight miles north on US Hwy 191 to the Bar M Trails exit on the right (east) side of the road.

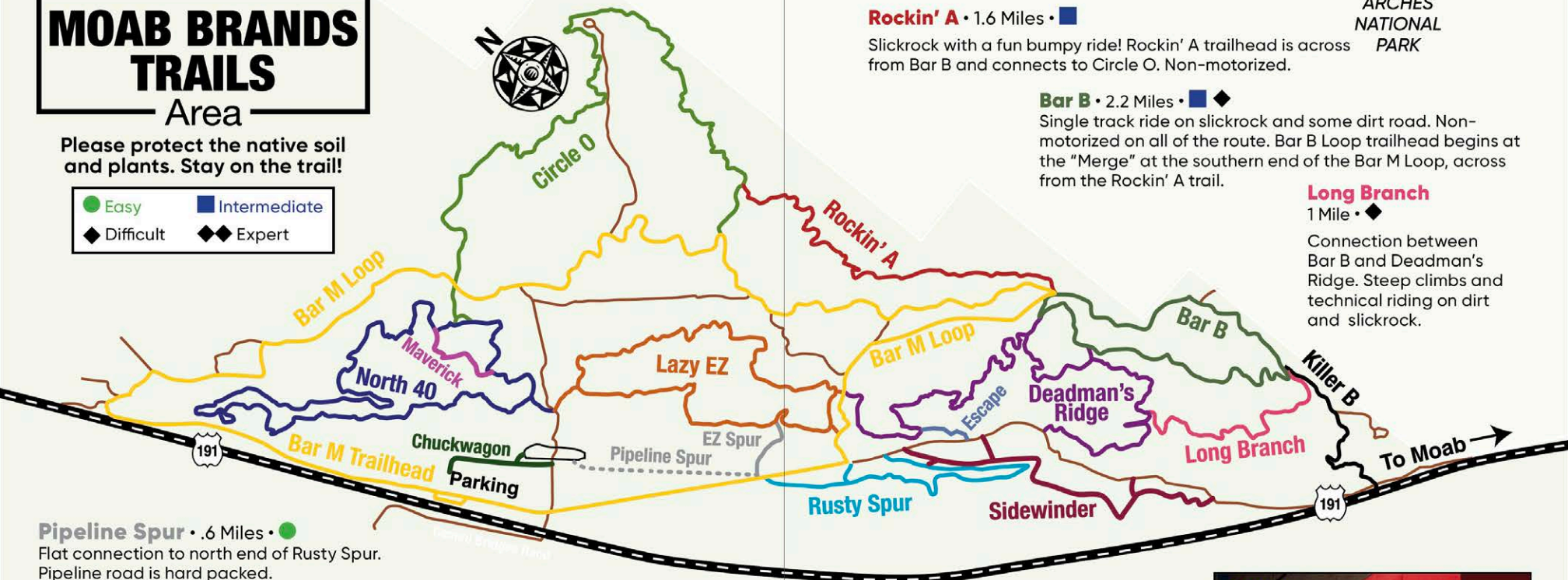
You may also access the Moab Brands by biking the paved Moab Canyon Pathway. There are several openings to access the Brands trails off the bike path (see map on pages 96-97).

continued on page 98

MOAB BRANDS TRAILS Area

Please protect the native soil and plants. Stay on the trail!

- Easy
- Intermediate
- ◆ Difficult
- ◆◆ Expert



Pipeline Spur • .6 Miles • ●
Flat connection to north end of Rusty Spur. Pipeline road is hard packed.

EZ Spur • .2 Miles • ●
Connects EZ trail and Rusty Spur. Good escape for beginners who feel EZ is too rough.

Bar M Loop • 7.9 Miles • ●■
A mellow family ride on a dirt road with rocky sections. Shared motorized. At the "Merge" turn left and head back north to complete the Bar M Loop. There you will encounter trailheads for Rockin' A and Bar B.

Lazy EZ • 2.8 Miles • ●■
Access to Bar M and Deadman's Ridge, mild climbs and curves.

North 40 • 4 Miles • ■
Over dirt and rocks. Connects to roads at north end of Bar M loop.

Circle O • 3.1 Miles • ■
Slickrock, with many dips and turns. Circle O connects to Rockin' A. Non-motorized.

Maverick • .4 Miles • ●■
An intermediate one-way gravity trail. Fast, curvy.

Chuckwagon • .4 Miles • ●
An easy ride to Bar M.

Special thanks to Grand County Trail Mix and Moab Travel Council



Rockin' A • 1.6 Miles • ■
Slickrock with a fun bumpy ride! Rockin' A trailhead is across from Bar B and connects to Circle O. Non-motorized.

Bar B • 2.2 Miles • ■◆
Single track ride on slickrock and some dirt road. Non-motorized on all of the route. Bar B Loop trailhead begins at the "Merge" at the southern end of the Bar M Loop, across from the Rockin' A trail.

Long Branch
1 Mile • ◆
Connection between Bar B and Deadman's Ridge. Steep climbs and technical riding on dirt and slickrock.

Escape • .2 Miles • ■
Allows an escape from Deadman's Ridge before the ascent. Leads to the paved path and one connector to Sidewinder.

Deadman's Ridge • 3.2 Miles • ◆
Over dirt and broken rock ridges. Spur connects to beginning of Bar B. Ends in a steep descent to paved path at Deadman's Curve.

Killer B • .7 Miles • ◆◆
Route from Bar B to the paved path. Descent of 500ft in .75 miles, 13% grade.

Rusty Spur • 1.5 Miles • ●
Access at three points off the Moab Canyon paved path. Gentle grades and great views at the south end of the loop of Deadman's Curve on the old highway grade (now the Moab Canyon Pathway).

Sidewinder • 1.5 Miles • ■
An intermediate downhill run from Rusty Spur to the paved path; ramps, side slopes, and ascents to get back on the pavement.

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THINGS TO DO

KLONDIKE BLUFFS AREA ● - ◆

53 total miles/22 trails, 1,407ft ↑ ↓

The Klondike Bluffs area has a really fun variety of trails to explore. These trails that can be ridden in either direction offering different challenges.

Beginners and lower-level intermediate riders will enjoy the moonscapes of Agate, Jasper, and Jurassic Trails.

Intermediate and more advanced riders should try Baby Steps, EKG, Mega Steps, Nome, Homer, and Alaska. Everyone loves the Dino-Flow Trail.

To access South Klondike Bluffs trailhead, drive 17.5 miles north on US Hwy 191 to the Klondike Bluffs Road, and then turn east at mile post 142. Drive three miles on the Klondike Bluffs dirt road to the trailhead.

To access the North Klondike Bluffs trailhead, drive 22.5 miles north on US Hwy 191. Turn east on North Klondike Bluffs Road and continue for 1.1 miles to the North Klondike Bluffs trailhead.

The Dinosaur Stomping Grounds tracksite trail starts at the MegaSteps trailhead, parking area off of the North Klondike Bluffs Road. See map on page 91 to see where these trail areas are in relation to Moab.

KLONZO AREA ● - ◆

20 total miles/22 trails, 540ft ↑ ↓

This is a really great area to ride with trails of flowing intermediate level with twists and turns.

The trailhead is on the Willow Springs Road approximately 12 miles north of Moab through the new Utahraptor State Park entrance. (The road has a sandy wash crossing so 4WD is highly recommended!) The trails feature different difficulty levels, are well marked, and the scenery is amazing.

The southern half of Klonzo includes many family-friendly trails, as well as some dinosaur tracks.



MTN BIKING CONT.

MINER'S LOOP ■ ◆

This 2-mile loop is located in the Klondike Bluffs area off the EKG trail.

The Trail Mix crew recently worked to widen this trail for adaptive bikes or hand cycles. By doing this, the downhill speed and flow was improved.

Climb up the east side of the loop to the site of old mining equipment. The high point of the loop is one of the highest in the area with incredible views. The descent is fast and technical down the west side.

MONITOR & MERRIMAC TRAIL ●

7.5 mile loop/2 trails, 920ft ↓ • 1,010ft ↑

This trail is a lollipop mix of graded road and slickrock, which is great for novice riders who want to enjoy riding less intimidating slickrock.

The trail starts out with sand and does a loop on slickrock around the

majestic rock buttes called Monitor and Merrimac, named for Civil War battle ships.

The trailhead is 16 miles north of Moab on US Hwy 191. Turn left on the Mill Canyon Road and park on the right.

You can stop and explore the historic Halfway Stage house and the fossil quarry at the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Trail (hiking only trail). *continued on page 101*

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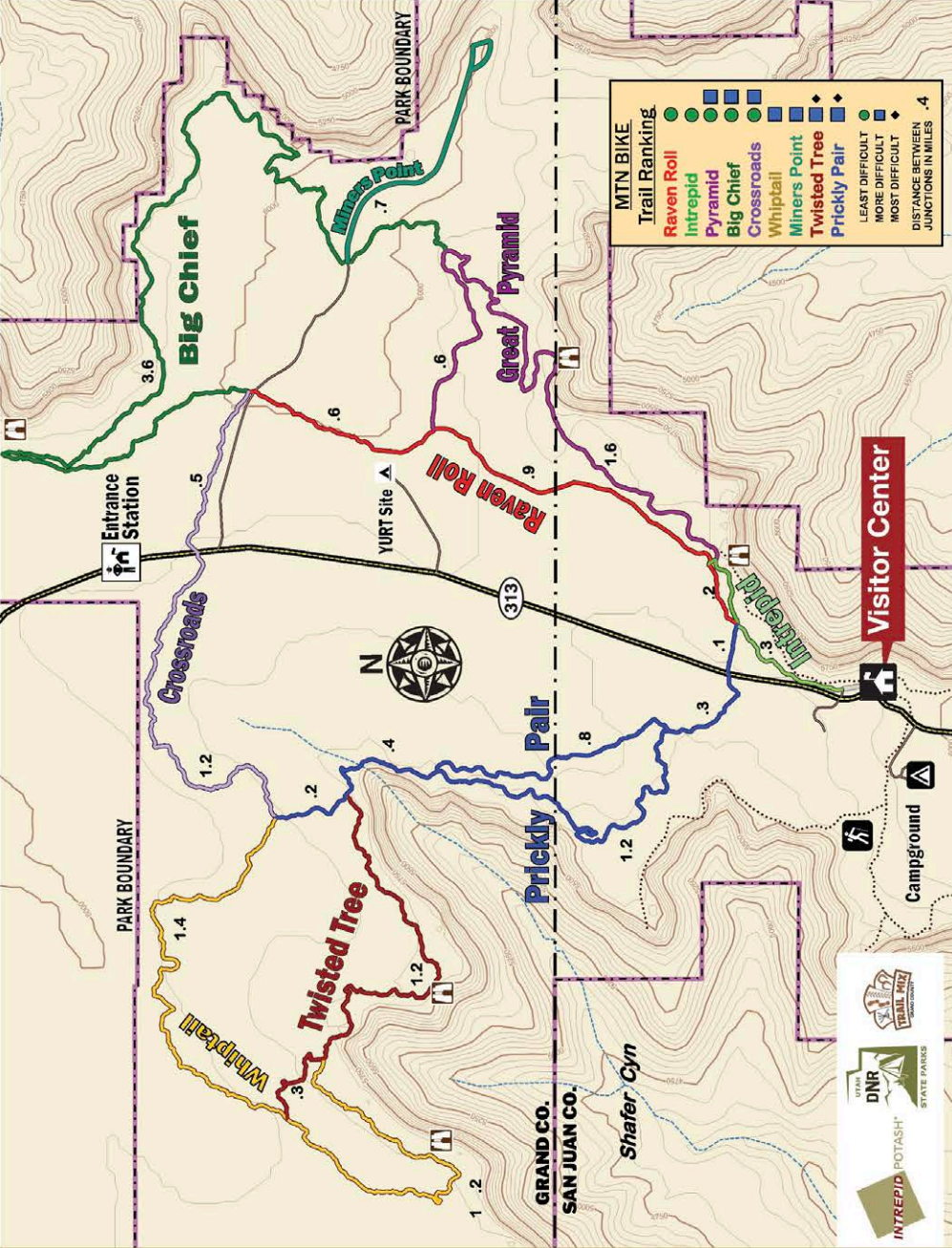
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DEAD HORSE POINT STATE PARK

Intrepid Trail System

MTN BIKING CONT.

INTREPID TRAIL SYSTEM ● - ■ ◆

16 total miles/2 trails, 644ft ↓ • 1,170ft ↑

Taking the drive out to **Dead Horse Point State Park** (fee required) will not disappoint you for a fun day of mountain bike riding. The non-motorized trails are good for hiking as well. All trails are open to e-bikes and are dog friendly.

The views never stop and the trails are great for most levels of riders. There are no big climbs on these trails, and the personality of a trail changes depending on the direction you ride it.

The trails are well marked and signed. Mileage and difficulty of each trail is listed below so you can determine how long of a ride you would like to do.

The visitor center has bathrooms, but no drinking water, so come with plenty of water (see map on page 100).

INTREPID ●
.5 miles

This trail connects the parking lot to the other trails. It's a great family ride with incredible views of the Colorado River Canyon.

RAVEN ROLL ● ■
1.7 miles

This is a flat, easy trail that connects with Big Chief or Great Pyramid. With few turns, the trail is a semi-sandy surface. This is a great place for new riders.

GREAT PYRAMID ● ■ ■
2.2 miles

This trail follows the rim and offers spectacular views of the Pyramid Butte, a 5,157ft mountain southeast of Dead Horse Point. The trail has a rocky surface and is more challenging than Intrepid. It will connect with Big Chief for a longer ride, or you can ride the flatter section to get to Raven Roll for a shorter loop.



WHIPTAIL ■ ■
2.6 miles

This intermediate trail has some mild climbs and descents. The trail drops in elevation from north to south.

BIG CHIEF ● ■ ■
3.6 miles

A fun trail to ride in either direction and connected by Raven Roll, which is a flat connector to the Intrepid trail, or Great Pyramid, which is a bit more technical. These three trails make a nice loop.

CROSSROADS ● ■ ■
1.7 miles

This trail connects the east side (easier trails) and the west side (more challenging trails). Riding it from east to west is a fun, slightly descending trail. You do have to cross the highway so be observant of cars; they have the right of way. Crossroads ends at the intersection of Whiptail and Prickly Pair.

TWISTED TREE ■ ■ ◆
1.5 miles

This is a fun, scenic, and mildly technical ride that follows the rim of Shafer Canyon. The trail is made up of slickrock (rough in some areas) with some benches, ledges, and some tight turns. The westernmost .3 miles of the trail serves as a cutoff that divides Whiptail in two, allowing for differing loop options. This cutoff is one of the most difficult sections of trail in the park.

PRICKLY PAIR ■ ■ ◆
2.2 miles

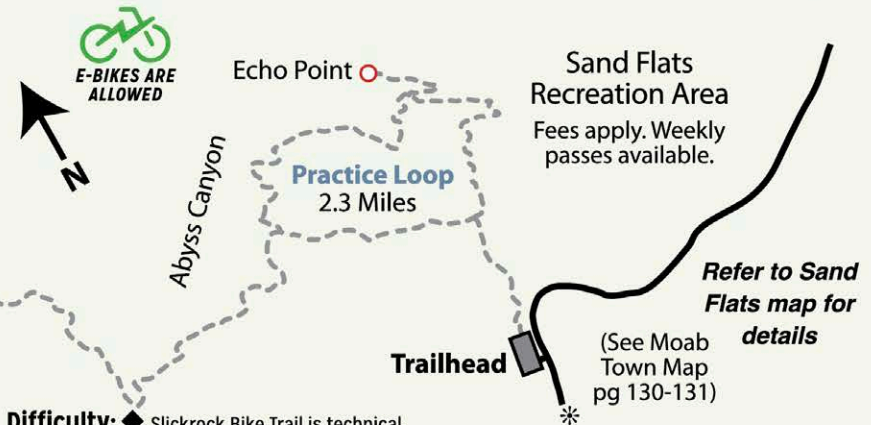
A pair of trails named for the cactus found along them. Prickly, the more difficult one, is 2.2 miles. Pair is 1.8 miles. Make sure you try them both, and in both directions, as they are quite fun. You have to cross back over Utah Hwy 313 to access Intrepid and the parking lot.

continued on page 105



WORLD-FAMOUS SLICKROCK Bike Trail

Slickrock Bike Trail is unlike anything you will ever experience and even the best riders are challenged. Don't let the short mileage fool you. This anaerobic ride will wear you out!



Difficulty: ◆ Slickrock Bike Trail is technical, challenging and very steep at points. The terrain consists of rugged and rolling sandstone with occasional sandy spots. Be prepared with plenty of water, food, and a repair kit.

The trail has no guardrails or fences and there's exposure, cliffs, and natural obstacles. The designated route is marked with white dashes painted on the rock surface.

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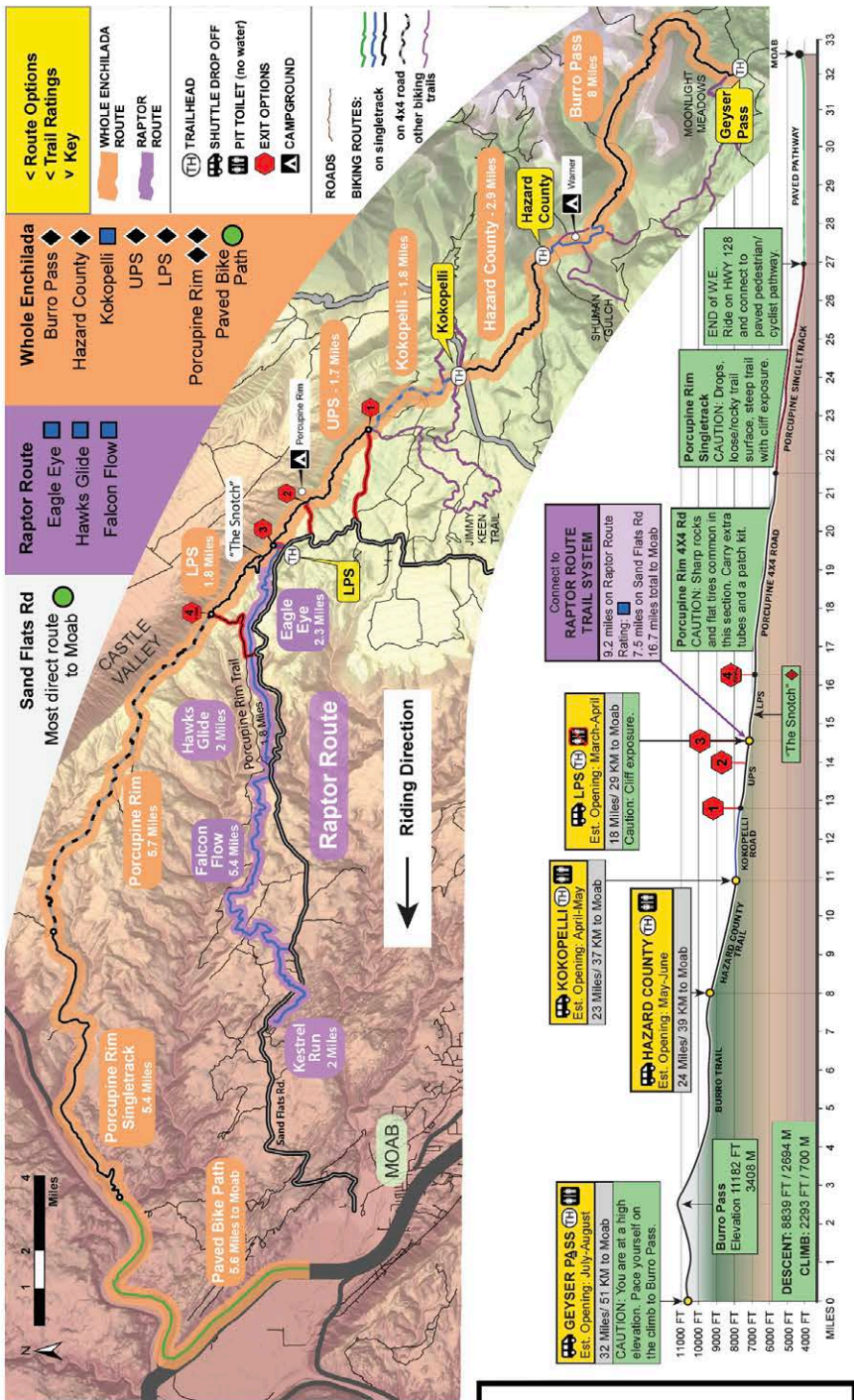
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THE WHOLE ENCHILADA
Area Map

MTN BIKING CONT.

RAPTOR ROUTE ■◆

11.6 total miles/4 trails, 5,732ft ↓ • 284ft ↑

Near the Whole Enchilada trail (see map page 104), and mostly parallel to the Sand Flats Road, these four trails make up the "Raptor Route." They are in the fee area in the Sand Flats Recreation Area (see the center foldout map).

Each trail can be ridden on their own or as part of the Whole Enchilada. If you don't want to ride LPS or Porcupine Rim trails, they are an easier option and you will end up on the Sand Flats Road instead of having to ride back to town on the River Road.

The Raptor Route is designed to be ridden downhill or east to west.

A great option to access these trails is to park along the Sand Flats Road, in a designated parking area, ride the road to the top of the trail you plan to ride, and then enjoy!

From the Falcon Flow parking lot to the top of Eagle Eye is a 6.7-mile shuttle. The shuttle to Hawk's Glide is 4.9 miles, and for Falcon Flow, a 2.6-mile shuttle. After Porcupine Rim trailhead, the Sand Flats road gets narrower and rougher. High clearance 2WD is recommended.

EAGLE EYE ■

2.2 miles

Start this trail at the LPS trail parking area 11 miles up the Sand Flats Road. This fun trail is fairly straight and the steepest of the three trails with a descent of 2,560ft.

HAWKS GLIDE ■◆

2 miles

This trail is similar to Eagle Eye in that it's pretty straight and flowy with a descent of 1,800ft. There is a parking lot at the end making it perfect to do both Eagle Eye and Hawks Glide together. There is a short but steep, technical, advanced section at the end of the trail to keep an eye out for. Thrilling to walk or ride!

FALCON FLOW ■

5.4 miles

The longest of the four trails with a descent of 1,000ft, this is a fun, flowy singletrack mixed with some challenges to keep you honest. The trail will cross over the Porcupine 4x4 Trail a few times and end just above the Fins & Things 4x4 trail start.

KESTREL RUN ■◆

2 miles

Kestrel is the newest addition to the Raptor Route and descends 372ft. This intermediate trail has some advanced moments. The trail starts off of Falcon Flow before the lower parking lot for Falcon Flow. The trail meanders through sand and slickrock before crossing Sand Flats Road. You'll soon encounter the Kestrel Fin, a technically challenging rock slab that brings you into a beautiful tight canyon to finish out the trail.

These trails are shown on our foldout map in the middle of the book.

JIMMY KEEN ■

7.4-10.9 miles, 815ft ↓ • 265ft ↑

Just off the Whole Enchilada trail, Jimmy Keen is a really fun trail to ride. The trail dips and turns through scrub oak and open meadows. The trail can be ridden as a loop (10.9 miles) or as an alternate to the road part of the Whole Enchilada (7.4 miles).

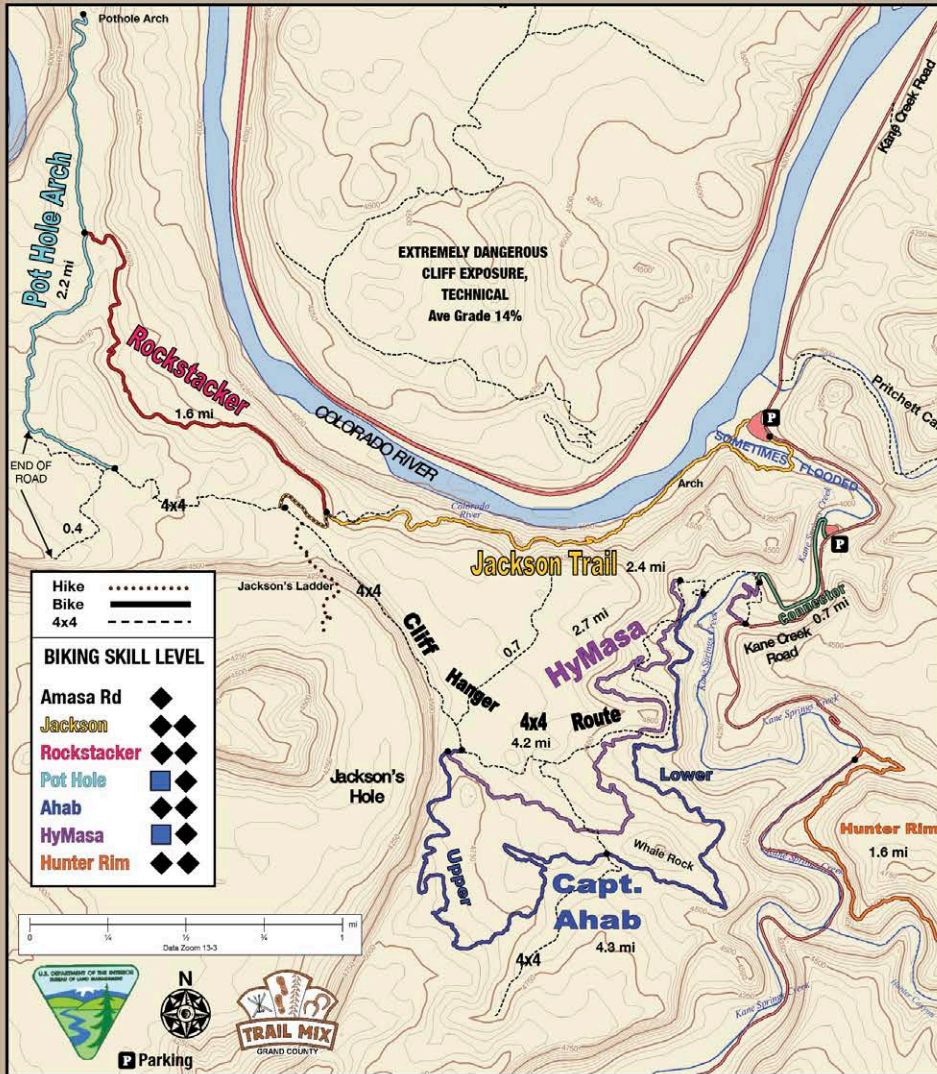
The trail starts just west of the parking lot at the summit of the La Sal Mountain Loop Road near the Mason Draw Campground. This trail is a good place to start the Whole Enchilada in the spring (see map page 104, or the center foldout map).



continued on page 107

AMASA BACK MTN BIKE & 4X4

Trail Map



MTN BIKING CONT.

SLICKROCK BIKE TRAIL ◆

9.5 mile loop, 600ft ↓ • 550ft ↑

This is Moab's most famous ride; however, it is an expert-level route!

The loop is constantly changing elevation mostly on Navajo Sandstone domes and fins. Plan on three or four hours to complete the trail.

Test your skills on the slightly easier but incredibly scenic 2.3-mile practice loop (see map on pages 102-103).

This trail is within the Sand Flats Recreation Area, so there is a fee to ride the trail.

THE MAGNIFICENT 7 ◆ - ◆◆

21 total miles/7 trails, 3,331ft ↓ • 1,295ft ↑

If you want to ride all of the Mag 7 (making it the double diamond status), then take a shuttle to the top and from Utah Hwy 313 ride Getaway to Bull Run to Great Escape to Little Canyon. Then exit onto the Gemini Bridges Road back to the parking lot near US Hwy 191. If you are not an expert rider, make sure to take the spur trail to the road before Goldbar.

The alternate route for expert riders is from Little Canyon; climb up Gold Bar Rim across the top to a gnarly descent down the Portal trail. Be careful on Portal as there are drop-offs that you don't want to ride off! (See map on page 94.)

Stop by Rim Cyclery for details.

THE AMASA BACK AREA ◆◆

14 total miles/5 trails, 5,032ft ↓ • 1,020ft ↑

This is a challenging and great area for experienced mountain bikers. The expert-level Captain Ahab Trail goes behind Whale Rock and has become an extremely popular route.

A climbing route to the top of Ahab called HyMasa, which is a bit easier than Amasa, traverses the benches that are above Amasa Back Road.



These trails complement Jackson, Rockstacker, and Pothole Arch trails.

The Amasa Back Connector Trail (that begins at the parking lot kiosk) is a .7 mile creekside trail allowing riders to access the rest of the trail network from the parking lot without having to ride on the road (see map page 106).

THE WHOLE ENCHILADA ◆ & PORCUPINE RIM TRAIL ◆

25 miles/6 trails, 7,795ft ↓ • 1,283ft ↑

This is one of the most epic rides in the world, and people come from all over to ride it. The entire ride is a combination of steep single track through trees, sandstone, and dirt. Expert riders take four to eight hours or more to complete it.

This journey starts at 10,500ft and climbs to Burro Pass at 11,216ft. By the time you are at the river road, Utah Scenic Byway 128, you have ridden from the high-alpine zone back to the red-rock desert.

If you don't want to tackle this entire ride, there are many starting points for this route depending on early season snow conditions up high in the mountains. The highest starting points don't open before July 1, due to snow. However, lower points open earlier. Stop by Rim Cyclery, 94 West 100 North, for a map and suggestions, or for a shuttle.

Before you get ready to bite off this epic journey, you need to be prepared. Epic means challenging, with little to no help possibly for hours. Make sure you have a good kit to fix what could break on your bike, plenty of water and food, a jacket, plenty of energy, and a well-charged phone (see map on page 104). 🏠



THINGS TO DO

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

**45 total miles out-and-back,
2,310ft ↑ • 2,300ft ↓**

This is an out-and-back ride from town. The 18 miles of riding in Arches is mostly rolling terrain, and a steady workout in both directions. Water is available at the visitor center and Devils Garden Campground (except in the winter).

Bicyclists have their own way to enter the park from the bike path instead of having to wait in line for the entrance booth. A connector trail takes you directly to the visitor center patio from the bike path where you can pay your entrance fee at the classic metal box with envelopes (check or cash). If you have a park pass, no need to stop, but make sure to carry it with you in case you need to show it to a ranger.

This park is very popular and has lots of traffic. The road has very little shoulder, and drivers aren't watching for cyclists, so be careful! Be comfortable hugging the white line. If possible, ride early spring or winter when traffic is lighter.

Arches has a timed-entry reservation system April 1-Oct. 31 (bicyclists do not need a reservation). This will spread out the amount of cars over the course of the day. Still, during the busy season, you may want to consider riding before 7am or after 4pm.

DEAD HORSE POINT STATE PARK

**60 total miles out-and-back,
2,395ft ↑ • 2,300ft ↓**

Start from Lions Park and ride the bike path over the Colorado River, past Arches and under the highway via a tunnel to Moab Giants. You can also start your ride from here.

The route begins the same as riding to Island in the Sky, but turn left about 14 miles into the ride (it's well signed). The ride has gradual climbing, is often windy, has no shade, but does have a nice wide shoulder the entire way.

ROAD BIKE RIDING

You can also start this ride and the ride to Canyonlands at any of the parking lots for Navajo Rocks, or Horsethief mountain bike trails (see map page 94).

The visitor center has some drinks, snacks, and restrooms.

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

**70 total miles out-and-back,
3,010ft ↑ • 3,000ft ↓**

Starting from the junction of US Hwy 191 and Utah Hwy 313 to Grand View Point, you begin with a gradual climb and a nice set of switchbacks; then it becomes more of a climb than you would think.

If headed to Grand View Point in Canyonlands, ride past the entrance gate across the open vistas before the road narrows and the shoulder lessens. If you don't want to bite off the full 70-mile ride, drive to the visitor center in Canyonlands and pedal to Grand View Point and back (26 miles round-trip). The ride to Upheaval Dome is an additional ten miles and well worth it.

You can also start this ride at any of the parking lots for Navajo Rocks, or Horsethief mountain bike trails.

Water and snacks are available for purchase at the visitor center.

LA SAL MOUNTAIN ROAD

**29 total miles out-and-back,
3,671ft ↑ • 16ft ↓**

This 62-mile loop ride is challenging and remote, and has a 12-mile section on the east side under construction. Avoid doing this ride in full in 2025.

Instead, drive to the Castle Valley and park off the main road. From here, ride about seven miles to the La Sal Mountain Road and turn right.

Then you have a beautiful seven mile climb with a few switchbacks to the summit. There is a pit toilet at the summit and incredible views.



GRAVEL BIKE OPTIONS

An increasing popular type of bike is a gravel bike. Gravel bikes look more like a traditional road bike (compared to a mountain bike) and are designed to be stable and agile. They ride faster than a mountain bike and are more durable than a road bike.

The wider tires, usually with a good amount of tread, helps give them traction on a variety of surfaces. Therefore this bike opens up the options for a nice ride off a crowded road.


As on any ride, have plenty of water and snacks, and the ability to fix a flat tire or minor technical issue on your bike.

The Moab and San Juan County areas have incredibly scenic dirt roads that are wonderful to explore and ride. Just pick one and enjoy.

A FEW OPTIONS

Head up Kane Creek Road to Hurrah Pass for a 29-mile ride. The pass is 14.7 miles from town.

The scenic Sand Flats Road (fee area) is a nice ride. You can ride for up to 18 miles (one way) uphill.

Another cool ride is the Mineral Bottom Road to the Green River. From Utah Hwy 313 to the river is about 12 miles. This takes you 1,500ft down to the river so those switchbacks mean business to get back out. If you like to climb, this is a good one. No permit needed as long as you don't ride into Canyonlands National Park. 

GET THE SKINNY

Skinny tire riders have great options in the Moab area. Make sure you have money or your pass and ID for park entrance fees. Carry plenty of water and food. Watch the weather. It could be sunny in Arches and rainy in the La Sals.

These ride suggestions are also good for e-bikes. E-bikes can now ride the paved bike paths (see page 57 for more information).

RIDE THE PATH

Riding the paved path to Arches, or to Utah Hwy 313 and on to Dead Horse Point or Canyonlands, is a beautiful ride and keeps you off the road. The path is a great spin and ride in itself.

The only location where the path crosses traffic is at the entrance road to Arches National Park. Bikes should be prepared to stop and yield to traffic.

The Moab Canyon Pathway begins in town at 500 West, or park and start at Lions Park, at the junction of US Hwy 191 and Utah Scenic Byway 128. The park has ample vehicle parking, restrooms on both sides of the highway, and a picnic pavilion. This is a great place to start your adventure.

POTASH ROAD, SCENIC BYWAY 279

**33.4 total miles out-and-back,
154ft ↑ • 226ft ↓**

This gorgeous ride meanders along the Colorado River and offers lots of amazing sights. The road is narrow with no real shoulder.

The hardest part of this ride is crossing the highway from the bike path. A much safer option is to drive and park at one of the info kiosks along the first few miles on the Potash Road.



The Moab area has more than 1,600 campsites of all varieties. Campers need to supply their own water and firewood. Buy local firewood to avoid spreading diseases and pests.

Make sure to camp only in designated sites and always leave your site cleaner than you found it.

SAND FLATS

Sand Flats Recreation Area, a unique area of rock fins, bowls, and domes, is a five-minute drive from downtown Moab. It is home to the famed Slickrock and Porcupine Rim Bike Trails, Hell's Revenge, and Fins and Things 4x4 Trails.

Grand County and the BLM manage Sand Flats with collected fees supporting all operations. The 140+ campsites are open year-round on a first-come, first-served basis. \$15/vehicle with up to 5 people. \$2/each additional person. Ten people and 2 vehicles maximum per site. Camp only in designated campsites! Bring drinking water and buy firewood locally.

Some campsites can accommodate RVs, but no hookups. **SandFlats.net**.

THE COLORADO RIVER (BLM)

The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** offers campgrounds next to the Colorado River as well as in other locations. They are all first-come, first-served and sites fill up quickly.

A fee of \$20/night is collected at each campground (check or cash only).

Tip: Remote off-grid kiosk is located at Big Bend and Hittle Bottom. It accepts electronic payment using a credit or debit card for all campsites along the river.

All campgrounds are equipped with picnic tables, fire rings, vault toilets, and trash receptacles.

THINGS TO DO

There are 12 campgrounds near the Colorado River on Utah Scenic Byway 128, as well as three campgrounds near the river on Utah Hwy 279.

Many of the campgrounds such as Goose Island, Big Bend, Hittle Bottom, Lower and Upper Onion Creek, Dewey Bridge, and Goldbar have reservable group sites (for 15 or more). Reservations can be made at **Recreation.gov**.

OTHER BLM CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

The **BLM** Moab Field Office maintains 26 additional campgrounds in the vicinity, on a first-come, first-served basis. These campgrounds are located in Sand Flats, Horsethief on Utah Hwy 313 (with a remote kiosk), and north of town off US Hwy 191.

The campground at Ken's Lake, south of town, is the only reservable BLM campground through **Recreation.gov**.

Campgrounds have picnic tables, vault toilets, metal fire rings, gravel roads, and trash receptacles. RV sites do not have hookups. Camping is restricted to campgrounds and designated sites.

Dispersed camping is allowed on other BLM land that is somewhat removed from Moab. You must abide by *Leave No Trace* ethics and remove your human waste in a portable toilet or commercial WAG bag. **DON'T** bury it!

Contact the **BLM** for more details. **435-259-2100, BLM.gov/Programs/Recreation/Recreation-Activities/Utah**.

NATIONAL FOREST

For an alpine camping experience, **Warner Lake Campground** offers 20 sites at an altitude of 9,400ft in the La Sals. Go fishing or hiking on the extensive trail system accessed from the trailhead at the campground. Signs offer information about the area.

No powerboats are allowed on Warner Lake. This site is about a 1.5-hour drive from Moab. \$20/night per site. Reserve at **435-259-7155** or **Recreation.gov**.

CAMPING

CAMPING ETIQUETTE

Everyone has a different idea of what a perfect night camping should be. The common denominator is that campers all want to be outside enjoying nature. Help protect the environment you are enjoying. Be a respectful camper.

Limit excessive noise and obey quiet hours. If you are listening to music, be respectful and keep the volume low. Keep your generator use to a minimum.

Remove all trash (this includes toilet paper and pet waste) and recycling, even if that means hauling it into town.

If you are camping on BLM land, or anywhere where there are no toilets, you must have a primitive toilet or WAG bags for human waste. Don't bury it. Grand County has an ordinance that all human waste must be properly disposed of (see page 36).

Keep your pets with you, under restraint, and always clean up after them.

When driving through a campground, drive slowly and use your low beams.

Make sure your campfire is out—really out! Do this by drowning it with water, stirring, and adding more water.

IDEAS FOR GREEN CAMPING

- 🌿 Avoid using single-use items. Bring reusable gear, plates and silverware, coffee mugs, and containers for leftovers.
- 🌿 Use large containers for water instead of buying bottled water. GearHeads has a free water filling station with wonderful tasting water. They sell all kinds and sizes of containers.
- 🌿 Dispose of all food scraps in the trash. Carry it out if there is not a trash bin near you. Food scraps, even really small ones, hurt the fragile desert environment, wildlife (including rodents), and will attract rodents and ants to your camp.
- 🌿 Don't throw away the green propane canisters. Recycle them. First, make sure they are empty and won't run your stove. Moab's recycling center will take them for \$1 each. Please recycle all items you can. If you are in an area that does not offer recycling, consider carrying items to a town or location that does.
- 🌿 Have fires in metal grates only. Campfires can damage soil and vegetation.
- 🌿 You can skip using toothpaste while camping. The act of a brushing alone is what cleans your teeth. Spitting it out onto the ground is harmful to plants and animals.



BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT

A night of camping often comes with sitting around a campfire. However, where you get your firewood can have long-term effects on the area. Wood from different areas can have invasive species in it. These species, whether it's a bug or a disease in the tree, can then be spread to this area.

Buy and burn firewood locally. Do your best to buy only what you'll need for your stay, and burn it all before you depart. Always build fires in a metal fire ring only. Gathering or cutting firewood is prohibited. Firewood is available at convenience stores in Moab.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT

Get a headlamp with a red-light feature. Insects are not as attracted to red light as they are white. Red light is also less blinding when you look at your fellow campers with your headlamp on. Our eyes adjust to the dark night better with red light than white light. 🌙



MOAB SHOWER FACILITIES

& RV DUMP STATIONS

Moab Rim RV Campark
1900 S US Hwy 191
435-259-5002
Showers: \$5
Dump: \$10

Moab RV
3310 Spanish Valley
435-259-1400
Showers: \$7
Dump: \$10

South Shell Station
2420 Spanish Trail Rd
435-259-3939
Propane for sale

Sun Outdoors Canyonlands Gateway
13701 N US Hwy 191
877-396-3630
Showers: \$10
Propane for sale

Sun Outdoors Arches Gateway
1773 N US Hwy 191
877-418-8535
Showers: \$8

Sun Outdoors Moab Downtown
555 S Main St
877-415-3991
Showers: \$6
Dump or Water: \$5
Propane for sale

Sun Outdoors North Moab
1415 N Main St
888-991-5329
Showers: \$8
Towel rental: \$7

Dowd Flats
2701 S US Hwy 191
435-231-0800
Showers: \$4+

Farm & City
850 S Main St
435-259-0169
Dump/Fill: \$5
Propane for sale

Lazy Lizard Hostel
1213 S US Hwy 191
435-259-6057
Showers: \$4

Moab Cyclery
391 S Main St
435-259-7423
Showers: \$8

Moab Maverick
985 S US Hwy 191
435-259-0775
Dump: Free

Moab Recreation & Aquatic Center
374 Park Ave
435-259-8226
Showers: \$12

Sun Outdoors Moab Downtown
555 S Main St
877-415-3991
Showers: \$6
Dump or Water: \$5
Propane for sale

Sun Outdoors Canyonlands Gateway
13701 N US Hwy 191
877-396-3630
Showers: \$10
Propane for sale

Sun Outdoors North Moab
1415 N Main St
888-991-5329
Showers: \$8
Towel rental: \$7

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Accepts: Aluminum cans, glass, and plastic bottles (#1 only), newspaper, cardboard, white or pastel office paper.

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MOAB'S AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

MONTH	HIGH	LOW
JAN-FEB	45°	20°
MARCH	61°	32°
APRIL-MAY	70°-79°	40°-49°
JUNE-AUG	95°-99°	60°-69°
SEPTEMBER	87°	51°
OCTOBER	73°	39°
NOV-DEC	50°	24°



YOU BETTER!

In the desert, everyone needs a gallon of water a day. Your pets need plenty of water as well. Make sure you fill up (preferably with refillable containers).

Head to GearHeads where you can fill up all of your containers for free. If you need containers, they have a large selection to choose from. Make sure to pay for new containers before you fill them. ♻️

HIKING

Please also read our **Know Before You Go** and **Desert Tips** articles **pages 30-39** for more really important tips.

BE PREPARED

No matter how short your hike is, always carry water! Also have a good backpack with food, a rain jacket, sunscreen, a whistle, headlamp, a map (the old-fashioned paper kind!), a compass, dry socks, and a first-aid kit. Maps are available at the Moab Information Center or state and national parks.

HYDRATION AND NUTRITION

Take water, at least a gallon a day per person. Yes, a gallon. The air is incredibly dry so it will dehydrate you quickly. A pack with a built-in hydration bladder is the optimal choice. Take plenty of snacks and food. Sports bars, dried fruit and nuts, or the trusty peanut butter and jelly sandwich, are popular choices. Coconut water is great to help with hydration and recovery after a big day.

DON'T GO IT ALONE

Do not hike or climb alone. Stay away from cliffs and watch your footing. Handholds on sandstone can be brittle.

MAKE IT KNOWN

Always tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. When you do get back, let them know. The Moab area has the highest rate of search-and-rescue operations in Utah.

DON'T RELY ON YOUR CELL

Cell service is spotty, at best, so don't rely on your phone to work. Popular topo and map apps will drain your phone's battery. If you are using an app as your only map, don't. When your phone dies, you will not know how to find your way back, or use your phone to call for help, if needed. Carry a printed map and know how to use it.



CHOOSE WISELY

Choose your hike, not only according to your fitness level, but also your comfort level. You will have more fun if you're within your limits. Many desert hikes require scrambling skills and can be terrifying if you have a fear of heights. Also, it's much easier to climb up something steep than to come down it, so don't put yourself in a bad position.

HAPPY FEET

If your feet are happy, the rest of your body will be happy. Sturdy footwear with traction is essential: hiking boots, beefy running shoes, or river shoes if your hike requires water crossings.

Wear a good pair of wicking socks, made of wool or a synthetic, not cotton. Carry an extra pair of socks.

FIRST AID

Have a basic first-aid kit in your pack. Visit any local outfitter store to find a kit that will suit your needs. Band-aids, athletic tape, and a bandana are good basics. Make sure to include a portable waste bag/WAG bag or two.

PET FRIENDLY

Pets are allowed on most trails (though not in any national park). All dogs must be kept under verbal restraint and not be a public nuisance nor chase or harass wildlife. A leash is required on all BLM trails. Be smart near exposed ledges. Always pick up after your dog and pack it out with you.

continued on page 114



THINGS TO DO

STAY ON THE TRAIL

Biological soil crust looks unremarkably like dirt, but it's actually a self-sustaining biological unit that is essential to the health of the desert ecosystem. Always stay on the trail to avoid damaging this vital part of the desert.

TRAIL MARKERS

The trail often disappears or becomes hard to see, so trail markers are built.

A *cairn* (Gaelic for rock mound) acts as your trail marker. Cairns are placed by those who built or maintain the trails. Follow the cairns and stay on the trail.

Don't add to any cairns or create your own. They can cause confusion and can even be dangerous.

A GOOD PACK

A backpack that contains the proper supplies is really important for your day of hiking. Invest the time to find a good pack that fits you and is comfortable.

The following list may seem big for a simple hike, but you never know. Don't skimp on being prepared.

ESSENTIALS TO HAVE WITH YOU

- Whistle (to get someone's attention in an emergency.)
- Headlamp/Extra Batteries
- Shelter/Trash Bag
- WAG Bags
- Sun Protection
- Knife/Repair Kit
- Physical Map
- First-Aid Kit
- Nutrition/Hydration (a gallon a day!)
- Extra Clothes, Light Jacket, Extra Socks
- Garmin or emergency device. The iPhone 14 (and later models) has emergency SOS capabilities that uses satellites instead of cell towers (have this set up before you head out).

HIKING CONT.

GEAR UP

GearHeads has all sorts of backpacks, water bottles, socks, clothing, and shoes. Fill up all your water containers for free. **435-259-4327, MoabGear.com.**

Walker Drug has all sorts of great hiking gear. **435-259-5959, WalkerDrug.com.**

GO WITH THE PROS

If this is your first time hiking in the desert, or you want to explore a new place, hire a guide for your group.

Not only will you be safe, but a local guide knows all the cool places to explore.

NAVTEC Expeditions offers 4x4/hiking tours, including Lavender and Davis Canyons in The Needles. **435-259-7983, Navtec.com.**



Wild West Voyages offers private half- and full-day guided hikes and van tours around the Moab area and in both Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Discover the desert's varied terrain, including open trail, narrow canyons, soaring arch vistas, desert landscapes, fascinating geology, dinosaur tracks, and ancient rock imagery. **435-238-4257, WildWestVoyages.com.**

SAN JUAN COUNTY

Ancient Wayves River and Hiking Adventures is the only indigenous-owned company providing hiking and backpacking tours in the landscapes sprawling from Bears Ears. **505-239-8505, TourAncientWayves.com.**

A wonderful way to see and experience this area is by taking a hike. There are all sorts of hikes to choose from. If you want to see Arches and didn't get a reservation, take a guided hike with one of our advertisers

Also read our Desert Tips pages 30-33. For trail suggestions see pages 116-117.

THE CALL OF NATURE

If nature calls while you are hiking or camping in a primitive area, you must have a WAG bag. This is the law! The desert is way too fragile to handle leaving or burying human waste. And, no one wants to find it! Human waste takes about a year to biodegrade. With more and more people visiting the area, the use of these bags is crucial.

Read all about them and where to dispose of them on page 36.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Always hike to the speed and comfort of the slowest hiker.
- Don't rely on your cell phone as reception is spotty. Keep your phone off or in airplane mode when not using it. Carry a small battery pack to charge your phone.
- If you are hurt or lost, never hesitate to call for help. In Grand County, you can call or text 911. In some cases, a text will go through when a call won't. When using your smart phone, the GPS in your phone transmits your current location, with accuracy of about 13ft. This helps dispatch locate you. Then stay put!

PET & BIKE FRIENDLY!

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Heated Pool • Downtown**

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MOAB HIKING CHART

DOG FRIENDLY
FEE AREA/
PERMIT

TRAIL/AREA NAME	LENGTH	HIGHLIGHTS	HOW TO GET THERE	DOG FRIENDLY	FEE AREA/ PERMIT
NEAR HWY 313					
Dead Horse Point State Park	8 MILES TOTAL	Hiking trails overlooking the Colorado River.	OFF UTAH HWY 313		\$
Dellenbaugh Tunnel (Arch)	3 MILES ROUND TRIP	An elongated arch on the rim of Spring Canyon.	OFF UTAH HWY 313		FREE
NEAR POTASH ROAD					
Corona Arch	1.5 MILES ONE WAY	A great sunset hike.	UTAH HWY 279 10 MILES IN		FREE
Jeep Arch	3.6 MILES LOOP	Beautiful high walls with views of a creek.	POTASH RD. JUST PAST CORONA		FREE
Longbow Arch	1.2 MILES TO ARCH	Prickly pear blooms in the spring. Arch high on the wall in the canyon.	POISON SPIDER PARKING AREA		FREE
Poison Spider Bench	1.25 MILES ONE WAY	Great views, with arch on rim to your right.	5.9 MILES ON POTASH ROAD TO POISON SPIDER PARKING LOT		FREE
Portal Overlook Trail	2 MILES TO OVERLOOK	Kayenta sandstone benches - be very careful, no safely fences! View of river, town, everything.	4.2 MILES, PARK AT JAYCEE PARK CAMPGROUND		FREE
NEAR HWY 128 (RIVER ROAD)					
Amphitheater Loop	2.8 MILES ROUND TRIP	View of Colorado River corridor.	ACROSS FROM HITTLE BOTTOM BOAT LAUNCH		FREE
Fisher Towers	2.2 MILES ONE WAY	Close up views of Fisher Towers & surrounding area.	21 MILES EAST ON HWY 128, TURN RIGHT AT SIGN		FREE
Grandstaff Canyon Trail	2 MILES TO BRIDGE	Beautiful stream along trail, ends at Morning Glory Bridge.	3 MILES EAST ON HWY 128 FROM HWY 191		FREE
Sylvester Trail	3.3 MILES ONE WAY	Great views of the Priest and Nuns, Castle Rock, Adobe Mesa, Professor Valley and Richardson Amphitheater.	128 EAST TO PROFESSOR VALLEY RANCH ROAD		FREE
NEAR SAND FLATS					
Juniper Trail	2 MILES ROUND TRIP	Lollipop-shaped trail that circles a mesa. Views all around!	6.3 MILES PAST THE ENTRANCE STATION ON THE NORTH (LEFT) SIDE		\$
NEAR KANE CREEK					
Hunter Canyon	2 MILES ONE WAY	Stream with pools and arch .5 miles in.	7.5 MILES ON KANE CREEK BLVD ON LEFT		FREE
Moab Rim Trail	1.4 MILES TO RIM	4WD trail to rim with overlook of town.	2.6 MILES ON KANE CREEK		FREE
SOUTH OF TOWN					
Hidden Valley Trail	2 MILES TO PASS	View of Behind the Rocks fins - try point-to-point hike on Moab Rim trail to CO River.	3 MILES SOUTH OF MOAB		FREE
Ken's Lake Trails	3 MILES TOTAL	Hike to Faux Falls, around the reservoir, or on the nature trail.	10 MILES SOUTH OF MOAB		FREE
CANYON RIMS RECREATION AREA					
Trough Springs Trail	2.5 MILES ONE WAY	Trail descends 1,100 feet into Kane Creek Canyon.	CANYON RIMS RECREATION AREA		FREE

SAN JUAN COUNTY HIKING CHART

DOG FRIENDLY
FEE AREA/
PERMIT

TRAIL/AREA NAME	LENGTH	HIGHLIGHTS	DOG FRIENDLY	FEE AREA/ PERMIT
CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK • THE NEEDLES DISTRICT				
Cave Spring	.6 MILES	Wide and short trail to an historic cowboy camp and rock art. Panoramic views.		\$
Pothole Point	.6 MILES	Family-friendly hike to view many potholes on slickrock.		\$
Slickrock Trail	2.4 MILES ROUND TRIP	A loop trail with three viewpoints and overlooks of Canyonlands.		\$
Chesler Park	5.4 MILES ROUND TRIP	Slickrock, benches leads to an overlook, seeing the Needles formations.		\$
Druid Arch	11 MILES ROUND TRIP	Rewarding scenic view.		\$
BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT / CEDAR MESA				
Natural Bridges Natl. Monument	.4-9.8 MILES OPTIONS	View all three bridges with options for distance.	UTAH HWY 95	\$
Butler Wash Interpretive Trail	.8 MILES ONE WAY	Archaeological site in South Fork of Mule Canyon.	UTAH HWY 95	FREE
Cave Towers	1.4 MILES	Total of seven towers along the rim of Mule Canyon. Perfect family hike.	UTAH HWY 95	FREE
House on Fire	3 MILES ROUND TRIP	Archaeological site in South Fork of Mule Canyon.	UTAH HWY 95	\$
Kane Gulch	8 MILES ROUND TRIP	Kane Gulch to Junction Ruin is a popular day hike that offers an excellent intro to Grand Gulch.	UTAH HWY 261	\$
Todie Canyon	4 MILES ROUND TRIP	This easily-navigated hike offers stunning scenery of serpentine canyons of Cedar Mesa.	UTAH HWY 261	\$
HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT				
Hovenweep Trails	.3-1.5 MILES	Archeological sites along rim of Little Ruin Canyon.	UTAH HWY 262	\$

TIPS FOR DOGS: Always have a water bowl, extra food and water, ID tags, extra leash/collar, poop bags, and first-aid kit with you. Dogs are not allowed in any canyon west of Hwy 261, but are allowed on the rim trails.



USE RUBBER-TIPPED POLES

A rubber tip prevents your hiking pole from scratching and scarring subtle rock images on the ground.



STAY ON ESTABLISHED TRAILS

Stay on existing trails and routes to protect the living biocrust. Once stepped on, this fragile crust takes years to regrow.



STAY ON DESIGNATED ROADS

Use existing roads that are approved for use by land managers. Driving off-road can damage fragile archaeology and ecosystems.



VISITING CULTURAL SITES

ROCK IMAGERY DEFINED

Pictographs and petroglyphs are abundant in the southwest desert region and are referred to as rock imagery.

Pictographs are figures that were painted on rock surfaces, usually with a stick brush or fingers. The “paint” consisted of minerals, ash, charcoal, crushed plants, or a mixture of these.

Petroglyphs are images that were chipped, ground, scratched, or pecked into rock surfaces. Oftentimes you will see both methods used concurrently. Petroglyphs have survived the ravages of time since they are engraved and not painted.

The rock imagery found in this entire region can be traced as far back as 3000 B.C. through the 19th century. Earliest drawings are classified as Desert Archaic, then Ancestral Puebloan, and the most recent are Navajo and Ute traditions. Absolute dating of rock imagery is challenging; relative dating is easier.

Many Indigenous Tribes and Pueblos use rock imagery to tell stories and share information. Archaeologists who have studied the local rock imagery suggest that it may represent religious practices, celestial occurrences, mythological events, migrations, hunting trips, resource locations, or travel routes.

DWELLINGS AND GRANARIES

This area has abundant rock imagery, dwellings, ceremonial sites, and granaries reflecting the historical and cultural significance to a variety of Indigenous peoples.

A **dwelling** is a collapsed structure with sherds of pottery and stone tools often left on the dusty grounds. You can often see handprints in the mud from when the structure was being built.

A **granary** is a storehouse or room for threshed grain or animal feed. Granaries are often built above the ground to keep the stored food safe from mice and other animals.

MOAB MUSEUM

Take a virtual time capsule to the turn of the first millennium, when ancient people lived throughout the American Southwest. Learn how these early inhabitants sustained themselves in a region with scarce sources of water and food – and how their stories are told on stone. MoabMuseum.org.

EDGE OF THE CEDARS STATE PARK MUSEUM

Visit the **Edge of the Cedars**, in Blanding, for a close-up view of some of the most remarkable prehistoric artifacts left in the Four Corners region by the Ancestral Pueblo people. The Museum exhibits intricate pottery and baskets spanning thousands of years, and features contemporary murals of San Juan County pictographs and petroglyphs. **435-678-2238**, StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/Edge-of-the-Cedars.

BEARS EARS EDUCATION CENTER

The **Bears Ears Education Center** teaches how to respectfully visit the cultural and natural spaces of Bears Ears Natural Monument, unquestionably one of the most extensive archaeological areas on Earth. The center offers information on camping and hiking along with maps and tips on how to help protect the fragile resources of the region by visiting with respect. **435-672-2402**, BearsEarsPartnership.org/Visit/Visitor-Info.

VISIT WITH RESPECT

Archaeological sites and artifacts are sacred to many Indigenous peoples and important to American history. By treading softly and leaving things as we find them, we show respect for those who came before us and those who will visit after us. It is illegal to collect artifacts from public lands, including cultural belongings, fossils, tracks, and even historic “trash.” Dwellings are considered ancestral spaces, and should be treated with respect as well.

Help preserve sacred and precious rock imagery panels. The imagery is extremely fragile, and once damaged, the site can never be repaired to its original condition. Evidence of vandalism exists: bullet impacts, names and dates incised on the rock surface, remains of latex molds, and chalk marks. Don’t add vandalism of any kind.

TIPS FOR VISITING SITES



VIEW SITES FROM A DISTANCE

Many Indigenous peoples consider this landscape sacred, and numerous tribal elders ask visitors to view sites from a distance. This small act honors Tribal beliefs and protects cultural resources from the destructive effects of visitation.



DON'T TOUCH ROCK IMAGERY OR MAKE YOUR OWN

Natural oils on your hands can destroy delicate rock imagery. Vandalism of petroglyphs and pictographs erases stories of early Indigenous peoples and destroys the experience for future visitors.



STEER CLEAR OF ANCESTRAL STRUCTURES

Structures are spiritually alive and still hold cultural significance to Tribal peoples. When recreating, visitors should refrain from leaning on walls, no matter how solid



they look and avoid touching, standing on, or climbing in structures as they can be easily damaged.



LEAVE CULTURAL BELONGINGS WHERE THEY ARE

Cultural belongings such as pottery pieces, flakes and stone tools, corn cobs, and textiles left by early Indigenous peoples are still sacred to Tribes and Pueblos. Ancestral items and historic artifacts help researchers learn about the past. It’s illegal to remove such items from public lands.



DOGS AND ARCHAEOLOGY DON'T MIX

To prevent erosion and degradation, dogs are not allowed in or near archeological sites. Always check beforehand if dogs are permitted in an area or region. Remember that many of these sites are culturally significant, so please make sure to leash pets, keep them away from cultural sites, and don’t let them dig.



CAMP AND EAT AWAY FROM ARCHAEOLOGY

Ancestral sites and structures are where Tribes and Pueblos believe their ancestors’ spirits still reside. Camping, fires, and food can damage cultural sites and spoil the view for other visitors. Remember to pack out all your waste, including food scraps and poop.



PACK OUT YOUR POOP

Human and pet waste threaten fragile ecosystems and drinking water for hikers and wildlife alike. Poop near cultural sites is disrespectful to the Tribes and Pueblos that revere this sacred cultural landscape. When facilities are not available, please pack out your waste. ♻️

REALLY DARK SKIES

The term astrotourism is becoming popular with more and more people wanting to experience the stars. Seeing a sky full of stars can create a sense of awe and introspection.

We are looking at a sky that for the most part hasn't changed. People dating back thousands of years looked to the same sky. Where the view on our planet has changed, the view to the stars has stayed the same. Only city lights limit what we see.

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

One of the best experiences of being in southeastern Utah are the stars at night with a dark and clear sky. Due to the drier desert air and the higher elevation, you will see more stars here just by looking up. This area has some of the best viewing opportunities in the U.S. No special equipment needed.

Today's light pollution makes it difficult to see the night sky to its fullest. Most people living east of the Mississippi River, and sadly one third of the human population, cannot see the Milky Way due to light pollution.

However, in this part of the world, seeing the stars come out at night is

as easy as walking outside and looking up. Some of the darkest skies in the contiguous 48 states are found in this part of Utah from Moab to Bluff.

DARK-SKY PARKS

Utah has the highest and finest concentration of International Dark-Sky Parks and communities in the world.

All the state and national parks in this part of Utah have received International Dark-Sky Park certifications, an honor reserved for the darkest of dark skies and the most stunning of starscapes.

To receive the gold tier status, the faintest stars can be seen to a certain reading in a certain boundary of the park. This means the sky is really dark.

In Dark-Sky Parks, viewers can see more than 15,000 stars. In an urban setting you can see about 500 on a clear night.

Natural Bridges National Monument was named the world's first International Dark-Sky Park. Dead Horse Point State Park is the first Utah state park to receive this honor.

All of the national parks and state parks in this area have programs dedicated to the dark skies, some perfect for children. Take advantage of their night sky programs and go stargazing.

DARK-SKY TOWNS

If you can't get into one of the parks at night, don't worry. The towns in this part of Utah don't have much

light pollution so the skies are wonderfully dark everywhere. The town of Moab has updated outdoor lighting standards for residences and businesses in order to encourage responsible lighting to keep the skies dark at night.

STARGAZING

Plan your stargazing around the moon. A walk under a full moon is pretty cool. Seeing a sky without the moon where the farthest of stars come out to shine is incredible.

Since it's dark out, have a headlamp with a red light instead of white. Insects are not attracted to red light, and your eyes will adjust better to the darkness, so you will be able to see what's around you.

PHOTO BY BRYAN HAILE

SPIRITUAL SKIES

The dark skies blanket us at night. The stars have stayed the same for millions of years yet have meant different things to the many who have looked to them.

We are familiar with the constellations and their Greek/Roman names such as Sagittarius, Orion, and The Milky Way.

For many Indigenous Tribes and Pueblos, the night sky is prevalent in traditions and way of life.

With no light pollution, their ancestors saw more stars than imaginable today. The stars were seen as friendly beings and tribes believed that laws by which they should live were written in the patterns of the stars.

The stars assist in rituals and markers for when to plant or move. The North Star, Náhookös Bikò in Navajo, was seen as cosmic stability since it never moved.

To certain Native Americans, the Milky Way is the path of their braves marching into heaven.

Southern Utah has fewer people and therefore less light pollution. Seeing the stars can simply draw you in for hours. Make plans to spend time with the stars and discover what you see in them.

PHOTO BY COLIN D. YOUNG

Custom day and night photo tours for small groups of photographers, plus in-depth workshops in the parks & beyond.

All tours and workshops include hands-on instruction to capture that epic shot you have always dreamed about.



ROCK LIGHT PHOTO WORKSHOPS | TOURS | PHOTOGRAPHY

RockLightPhotoTours.com
(917) 902-3063



Workshops led by Colin D. Young:

- Arches at Night: May 19-23 or May 28-Jun 1
- Rocky Mtn. Natl. Park at Night: Jun 25-29
- Bryce Canyon Magical Light: Sep 25-29



THINGS TO DO

THE LA SAL MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD

This is a classic mountain drive to the elevation of 10,147ft offering a cool relief from the desert's hot summers. It features spectacular scenery ranging from the lush forests of the La Sal Mountains to expansive views of the red-rock landscape below (open seasonally).

This road begins on US Hwy 191, six miles south of Moab. At Old Airport Road turn left off US Hwy 191 to begin the 62-mile loop (there is construction on a 12-mile stretch, side so expect delays).

After a swirling descent down the switchbacks, the views overlooking Castle Valley are stellar. Turn left on Utah Scenic Byway 128 to return to Moab.

TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS

An ancient trail to modern-day discovery, this 100-mile loop through the heart of San Juan County circles through the ancient Puebloan (Anasazi) country. The archaeological, cultural, and historic sites, and Natural Bridges National Monument, that are all packed in this area, are not to be missed.

The loop officially starts in Blanding. Make your first stop at the Edge of the Cedars Museum that houses thousands of exceptional ancient artifacts and a kiva you can climb into. Utah Hwy 95 will take you into the heart of the Bears Ears National Monument, by the Butler Wash and Mule Canyon dwellings, and then to Natural Bridges National Monument.

Take Utah Hwy 261 to the unforgettable Moki Dugway, Goosenecks State Park, to Valley of the Gods, and on to Utah Hwy 163 to continue to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park.

From Moab and Monticello to Bluff, the scenery on US Hwy 191 is outstanding.

For a side trip, take Utah Hwy 211 for 12 miles to Newspaper Rock, a large collection of 2,000-year-old petroglyphs.

THE POTASH ROAD, UTAH HWY 279

This 17-mile road is also known as the Potash-Lower Colorado River Scenic Byway. This road runs alongside the Colorado River and provides great views of the river, ancient rock imagery, and dinosaur tracks.

This byway begins four miles north of Moab, where Potash Road turns off of US Hwy 191. After about two miles, the road enters the deep gorge of the Colorado River, which is called The Portal, since the river is entering the deep canyon walls. The paved highway ends at the Intrepid Potash Mine where potash, a mineral often used as a fertilizer, is extracted.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER UTAH SCENIC BYWAY 128

Known as "The River Road," this spectacular route along the Colorado River gorge begins at the Colorado River Bridge on the north end of Moab. For the first 13 miles it parallels the Colorado River within a narrow section of the gorge, providing breathtaking views of the surrounding red sandstone cliffs.

After 24 miles, the highway passes a vantage point for one of the most magnificent views in the West, the red-rock spires of the Fisher Towers set against the peaks of the La Sal Mountains.

After leaving the valley, the road winds farther up the river gorge until arriving at the site of historic Dewey Bridge, which was destroyed in April 2008 by a brush fire. You can turn around or continue on to connect with I-70.

ROAD TRIPS


THE DINOSAUR DIAMOND

The Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway, a 512-mile-long national scenic byway, travels through several towns in this part of Utah, and is the best way to learn about dinosaurs.

Key attractions include active quarries where you can watch paleontologists uncover fossils embedded in stone, backcountry sites where you can view dinosaur fossils and footprints, and

museums which display fossils, replicas, and information about dinosaurs.

The top of the diamond is in Vernal, Utah with points going west to Price and east to Dinosaur National Monument and Fruita in Colorado.

Moab is the southern point of the diamond and has several sites to visit. If we think of this diamond as a kite, then the tail of the kite includes Monticello and south to Blanding where the **Dinosaur Museum** should not be missed. 





THINGS TO DO

biking, and horseback riding from late spring to mid-autumn.

The Forest Service has developed a new, non-motorized trail system that added 24 trails to 60 miles of existing trails and closed 3.5 miles of Deep Creek Trail for restoration. The improvements allow for large numbers of users while reducing the impact on forest resources.

The popular Whole Enchilada mountain bike ride starts high up in the La Sals on the Burro Pass trail.

For more information on any of the trails call the **Moab Ranger District, 435-259-7155**.

LA SAL MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD

One of the most-loved roads through the forest and also a Scenic Byway, the Loop Road leaves US Hwy 191 six miles southeast of Moab and climbs the west side of the La Sals. The views are pretty spectacular as this road works its way to the summit where you can look down on Moab and Spanish Valley.

The road then descends through Castle Valley meeting Utah Scenic Byway 128, which takes you back to Moab. The loop is 62 miles, topping out above 10,000ft.

The road is steep with narrow switchbacks and winds through thick aspen, fir forests, and scrub oak. The trip requires approximately three hours to drive. No large RVs or trailers.

Less than an hour's drive east from downtown Moab, the La Sal Mountain Range sits on the Utah/Colorado border and rises nearly 8,000ft above the Colorado Plateau.

The range was named Sierra La Sal, or "Salt Mountains," by a Spanish missionary and explorer who thought the snow-capped peaks were actually capped with salt rather than snow.

The La Sals are the second highest mountain range in Utah, and are part of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. From a distance, the mountains appear to be one long range; they are actually three clusters of peaks separated by mountain passes. The highest peak, Mount Peale, is 12,721ft.

A stark contrast to the surrounding desert, the mountains offer countless opportunities for hiking, fishing, and camping among alpine groves of aspen and pine. Snow is usually visible on the higher summits into spring.

HIT THE TRAIL

The **Manti-La Sal National Forest Recreation Area** provides scenic drives, camping, backcountry skiing, hunting, and snowmobiling. Numerous trails offer good hiking, mountain



THE LA SALS & ABAJOS

There is road construction for a 12-mile stretch on the east side from Old Airport Road to the intersection of Oohwah Road. Expect delays.

SUMMER IN THE LA SAL MOUNTAINS

The La Sals bring cooler temps and offer a refreshing respite from the desert heat. Narrow forest roads lead to high mountain passes and down into canyons, like Dark Canyon with its unique crystalline rock structures. Explore Mill Creek where Oowah Lake sits as a small jewel amid spruce trees. The diversity of the forest provides a wonderful place to see the changing fall colors.

WINTER IN THE LA SALS

Winter turns the La Sals into a playground that offers sledding, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, yurt camping, and a limited amount of snowmobiling. The Lower Utah Nordic Alliance and U.S. Forest Service groom seven miles of trails for classic and skate cross country skiing on the Gold Basin Trail (see pages 128-129 for more details).

THE ABAJO MOUNTAINS

Only 70 miles south of Moab, and out the backdoor of Monticello, the Abajo Mountains offer many summer recreational opportunities. The range is located in the Manti-La Sal National Forest with the highest point being Abajo Peak at 11,360ft.

Hart's Draw Road gives access to a spectacular overlook and several small fishing lakes.

The Abajo Loop Scenic Byway follows the same route as Hart's Draw Road but then turns south ending in Blanding. You can check this road's conditions at the visitor center in Monticello.

The drive is beautiful, but best for high-clearance vehicles. There are miles of trails great for exploring whether on horse, 4x4, hiking, or mountain biking.



There are several established campgrounds on both the Monticello and Blanding sides.

See page 157 for more info.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY


If you have an emergency in the national forest, call 911 and they will dispatch the nearest help. Cell service is not always available. You may need to travel to a higher point to get service.

Always check for fire bans (local visitor centers will know) in the mountains, which can change frequently depending on weather and drought conditions.

To check for fire bans or report a fire, call the **Moab Fire Dispatch Center, 435-259-1850**.

NEED MORE INFO?

Moab Ranger District:
Manti-La Sal National Forest
435-259-7155.

U.S. Forest Service
(Monticello area): 435-587-2041. 

DROWN THEM OUT!

- Knowing how to build and start a campfire is important. What's more impressive is knowing how to put a campfire out correctly so it's really out.
- Drown out a campfire with water until it's soup. Even more important—recognize when not to start a campfire at all. Illegal or unattended campfires are often the cause of wildfires.
- In the U.S., nearly 9 out of 10 wildfires are human-caused and can be avoided.
- Don't be the one to cause a fire.



THINGS TO DO

The landscape of the area takes on a magical winter quality showing off another side of Moab and the national and state parks.

Just like summer months, there is still plenty to do. Always go prepared. The weather can change pretty quickly.

A QUIETER TIME

Hiking is a great way to experience Moab, and the winter offers sensational views in Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and Dead Horse Point State Park, all of which are accessible year-round.

There is no reservation system in Arches in the winter and iconic and popular trails are less traveled. You can take your time to get the perfect photo and enjoy the quiet around you.

You'll need moisture-wicking socks and warm boots with thick tread or spikes (like Yaktrax) as the rock surfaces can be slick with snow or ice.

Hiking poles are another good idea to help with balance.

Always dress appropriately. Avoid wearing cotton as it retains moisture. That moisture stays against your skin and will make you cold. Have a warming layer like fleece, and a good coat. Light gloves and a fleece hat are a must.

People tend to drink less water when it's cold outside. Even in the winter, staying hydrated is really important. Always carry and drink plenty of water. Make sure to have light snacks as well.

EXPLORE THE LA SALS

The second steepest mountain range in Utah, the La Sals dominate the eastern skyline and is a winter playground offering sledding, snowshoeing, miles of groomed classic and skate skiing, snowmobiling, and yurt camping.

Begin your adventures at the Geysers Pass Winter Trailhead – you'll find a parking area, restrooms, and the perfect place to start your backcountry and Nordic adventures.

The Lower Utah Nordic Alliance and U.S. Forest Service groom around seven miles of cross country trails beginning at the winter trailhead. There are spur trails off the groomed route that may tempt you, so bring a topographic map or GPS to ensure you're able to find your way back to the trailhead.

One mile from the trailhead there's a junction. The right trail is Gold Basin Trail and leads to areas for backcountry and telemark skiing. The left trail leads 2.5 miles to Geysers Pass, climbing 1,000ft in elevation and features groomed loops and open meadows that follow the perimeter of the high peaks.

Avalanche danger is basically zero when sticking to the trails. Always be prepared, however.

The Grand County Road Department does an excellent job of keeping the road open to Geysers Pass Trailhead.

WINTER IN MOAB

THE ABAJO MOUNTAINS

The Abajos offer multi-trail use for snowmobilers, cross country skiers, snowshoers, backcountry skiers, and fat-tire bikers. Winter hut rentals are also available in the Buckboard Campground, 1.2 miles in on a groomed trail. Along the route there are various options for winter recreation.



WINTER CAMPING/GLAMPING

Dead Horse Point State Park's yurts are heated and open for winter camping. UtahStateParks.ReserveAmerica.com.

Sand Flats area camping is open all winter. Visit SandFlats.org for details.

Many **BLM campgrounds** are open all winter as well. Plan on packing in firewood (buy locally) and water.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

• Before heading into the backcountry, check conditions.

• **FOR THE LA SALS:**
Manti-La Sal Avalanche Center
UtahAvalancheCenter.org/Advisory/Moab or call 435-259-SNOW.

• **FOR THE ABAJOS:**
UtahAvalancheCenter.org/Forecast/Abajos.

• **WARNING:** Avalanches in the mountains can be deadly. Always be prepared.



YEAR ROUND

Some outfitters offer tours year-round. 4x4, off-road tours, and a guided hike can be very enjoyable during the cooler months with less crowds.

See why Moab has become more and more popular to visit during the winter months. Check with our outfitters for ideas.

RIDING THE TRAILS

The mountain bike trails in the area are open year-round. Riding trails when they are snowy or muddy can damage them. Check the most recent conditions before heading out at [Facebook.com/MoabTrailMix](https://www.facebook.com/MoabTrailMix).

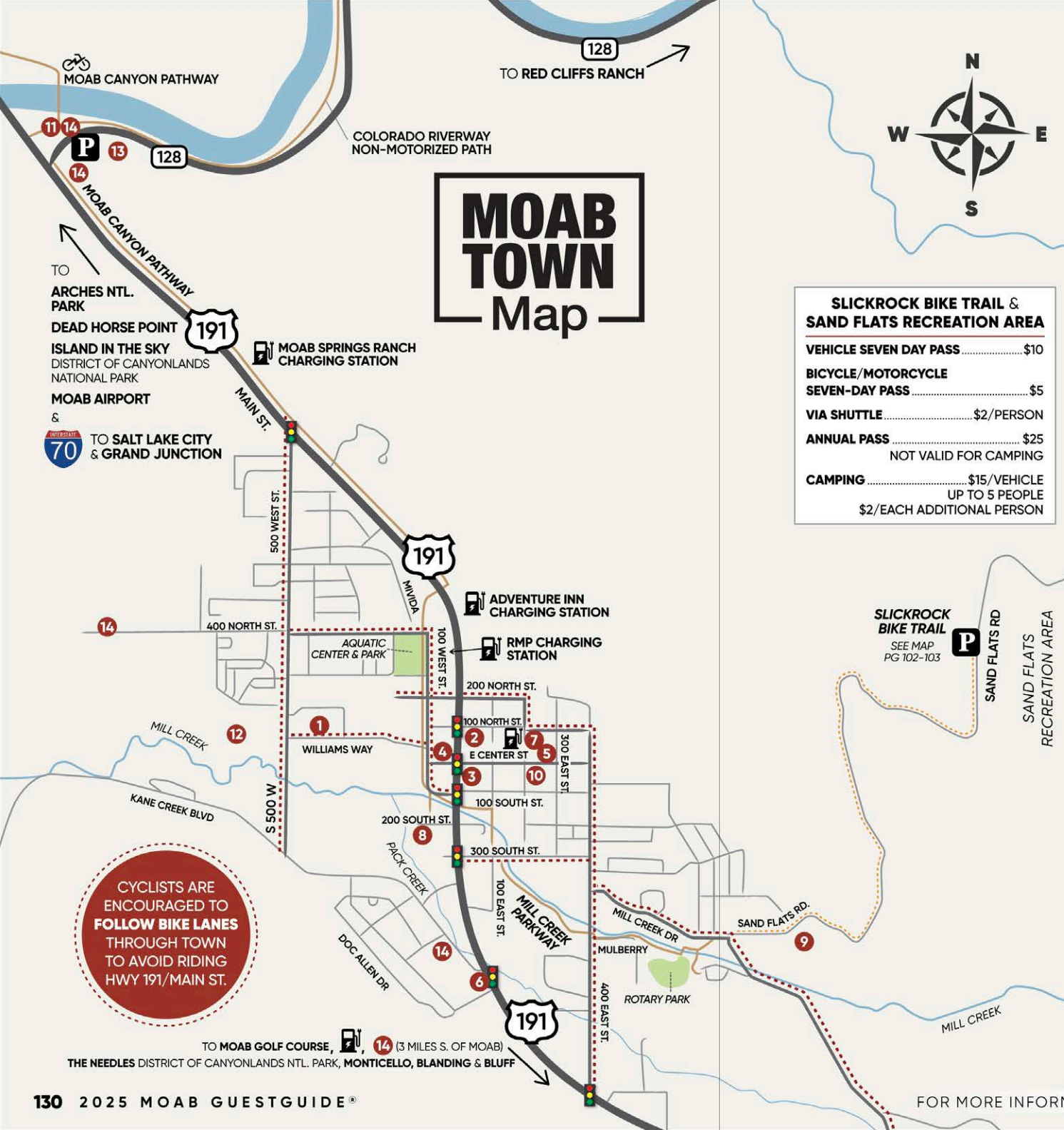
GET IN GEAR

Don't let a lack of gear keep you inside. Moab has plenty of outfitters where you can rent or buy everything you need to enjoy all the area has to offer.

GearHeads, rents snowshoes and has all sorts of needed items.
435-259-4327, MoabGear.com.

Rim Cyclery rents cross country skis.
435-259-5333, RimCyclery.com.

Walker Drug has all sorts of supplies.
435-259-5959, WalkerDrug.com.



MOAB TOWN Map



SLICKROCK BIKE TRAIL & SAND FLATS RECREATION AREA

VEHICLE SEVEN DAY PASS	\$10
BICYCLE/MOTORCYCLE SEVEN-DAY PASS	\$5
VIA SHUTTLE	\$2/PERSON
ANNUAL PASS	\$25
NOT VALID FOR CAMPING	
CAMPING	\$15/VEHICLE UP TO 5 PEOPLE \$2/EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON

MAP KEY

- 1** MOAB REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
- 2** POST OFFICE
- 3** MOAB INFORMATION CENTER (MIC)
- 4** PUBLIC PARKING LOT
- 5** LIBRARY
- 6** KANE CREEK INTERSECTION
- 7** POLICE STATION
- 8** STATE LIQUOR STORE
- 9** RECYCLE CENTER
- 10** MOAB MUSEUM
- 11** MOAB BOULDER PARK
- 12** BMX PARK
- 13** LIONS CLUB PARK
- 14** WAG BAG DISPOSAL BINS
- PAVED BIKE PATH
- BIKE LANES
- ROUTE TO SLICKROCK BIKE TRAIL
- PARKING LOT
- ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATION

BIKE PATH

The **Moab Canyon Pathway** creates a safer access to nearby Arches & Canyonlands Ntl. Parks as well as Dead Horse Point State Park.

The path begins at 500 W and U.S. Hwy 191 (at the stop light) then crosses the Colorado River on Utah Hwy 128, just north of Moab on a beautiful pedestrian/bike bridge. The path continues past Arches Ntl. Park for another eight miles, crossing under US Hwy 191 to the beginning of Utah Hwy 313. If you ride from town to this bike path, you must ride on the road and follow the same rules as if driving a car. Always ride single file on any road. Class 1 E-Bikes allowed on rec paths.

E-BIKES Welcome on all surface streets and within on-street bike lanes

CYCLISTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW BIKE LANES THROUGH TOWN TO AVOID RIDING HWY 191/MAIN ST.

TO MOAB GOLF COURSE, (3 MILES S. OF MOAB) THE NEEDLES DISTRICT OF CANYONLANDS NTL. PARK, MONTICELLO, BLANDING & BLUFF



YOUR WEDDING DAY

The backdrops are stunning and Mother Nature is there to help you throw the best party possible.

Plan and book early! Moab has exploded as a wedding destination. Plan on booking your venue, caterer, and photographer a year in advance.

VENUE IDEAS

Moab venues can offer something for everyone. Locations for your special day don't have to be limited. You can choose to stand under a wedding arch that is truly an arch. The national parks, including Arches, allow weddings, but with limitations, so you need to be very prepared and have a permit. The same rules apply for Canyonlands. Read up on all the regulations at [NPS.gov/Arch/PlanYourVisit/Weddings.htm](https://www.nps.gov/Arch/PlanYourVisit/Weddings.htm).

Weddings and elopement ceremonies at **Dead Horse Point State Park** are allowed via the special use permit process. Multiple site options for groups of various sizes are potentially available.

Go to StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/Dead-Horse/Weddings to get all the details and permits.

Consider a wedding on BLM land. Some of the locations are truly amazing! Contact the Moab Field Office at BLM.gov/Office/Moab-Field-Office.

The **Red Earth** venue is like renting your own private national park, surrounded by red-rock cliffs, native desert vegetation, big views, and endless recreation in the Moab area.

Located on 17 acres in the heart of Canyon Country, The Red Earth gives you the freedom to hold your event how you want without restricting group size, without restraints, and no lodging buyouts are necessary.

This venue is surrounded by open views, is 10 minutes from Moab, and a short drive to Arches, Canyonlands, Dead Horse Point, and more.

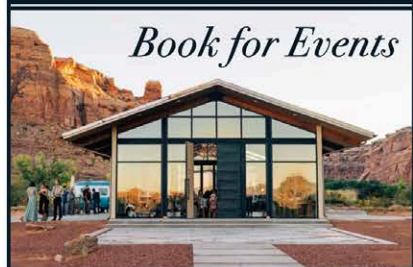
TheRedEarthVenue.com.

Moab is known for its amazing beauty and for attracting those with an active lifestyle. Weddings these days are beginning to veer away from the traditional, and are steering more toward shared passions and experiences. Unconventional weddings are quickly becoming the new norm, and Moab is the perfect destination for adventurous couples.

When couples think of having an outdoor wedding in Moab, they simply have to look around.

THE
**RED
EARTH**
VENUE

TheRedEarthVenue.com



Book for Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING EVENTS

MOAB'S ARTWALK • FIRST FRIDAYS FEBRUARY, APRIL, AUGUST, NOVEMBER
A free, family-friendly celebration of artistry and community. 5-8pm
MoabArts.org

ARTS & AG MARKETS • May 2, June 6, Sept. 5, and Oct. 3.
A free, family-friendly outdoor market.
[Swanny City Park • MoabArts.org](https://SwannyCityPark.com)

MOAB FREE CONCERT SERIES
Four family-friendly free concerts held on select Fridays June 27, July 11, and August 8, 6-9pm. Beer, wine, and food trucks available.
[Swanny City Park • MoabFreeConcerts.com](https://SwannyCityPark.com)

MARCH

7-9 • TRANSROCKIES MOAB RUN THE ROCKS
A three-day trail running race on the legendary singletrack of Moab, Utah! Choose between two stage race lengths: The Full Pint or The Half Pint.
MoabRunTheRocks.com

8-11 • MOAB SKINNY TIRE FESTIVAL
Road cycling tour through Arches National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, and along the Colorado River, benefits cancer research and survivorship programs.
SkinnyTireEvents.com

15 • CANYONLANDS HALF MARATHON & 5-MILE RUN
Food and awards, at the finish at Lions Park.
MadMooseEvents.com/Canyonlands-Half-Marathon

22 • BEHIND THE ROCKS ULTRA
Highlighting the Slickrock trails, Behind the Rocks Wilderness Area, and the La Sal Mountains.
MadMooseEvents.com/Behind-The-Rocks-Home

APRIL

STATE OF UTAH'S INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY MONTH
Celebrate Utah's third annual Dark Sky Month. Switch off the lights in the evening and marvel at the infinite grandeur of the night sky.
VisitUtah.com/Stars

5 • RUNNING UP FOR AIR
The Up For Air Series brings endurance athletes together to celebrate a shared passion for running, amplify informed dialogue about air quality issues, and support organizations that are working toward solutions.
Discovermoab.com/Event/Running-Up-For-Air

5-7 • TRANSROCKIES MOAB ROCKS MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE
Some of the region's best classic routes in a 3-day, fully-supported format.
Moab-Rocks.com

12 • AMASA TRAIL RACE
Trail runs of 15K and 25K.
MadMooseEvents.com/Amasa-Trail-Race

we are just getting started, turn the page!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL, CONT.

11-13 • TRAIL RUNNING FESTIVAL

A trail running festival weekend in the desert.
DesertRats.utmb.world • 303-249-1112

12-20 • EASTER JEEP SAFARI

Gathering of full-size 4x4 vehicles to run backcountry trails with guides and a trade show by major industry suppliers.
RR4W.com • 435-259-7625

22 • EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

A celebration of Earth Day, Dark Skies, and Arbor Day.
Moab Arts Building • MoabCity.gov

23-27 • CRUISE MOAB-TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 4X4

Guided trail runs, vendor showcase, Friday night dinner, and raffle.
CruiseMoab.com

25-27 • MOAB ROTARY CAR SHOW & ROD RUN

Beautiful vehicles set in a breathtaking location. Don't miss this fun and unique event. Bring the whole family! The car show presents beautiful antique, unique cars and trucks. You can see hundreds of different brands and styles of vehicles. Free admission for spectators.
Swanny Park • MoabCarShow.org

25-27 • CANYON RIMS ENDURANCE RIDES

This 3-day horseback ride is based out of the Hatch Mesa camp in the Canyon Rims Recreation Area. Participants ride out from camp each day across mesa tops and into canyons surrounded by the beautiful high-desert landscape of southeastern Utah. • *DiscoverMoab.com/Event/Canyon-Rims-Endurance-Rides*

26 • THELMA AND LOUISE HALF MARATHON, RELAY & 15K

15K, Half-Marathon, Marathon, and 50K.
MadMooseEvents.com/Thelma-And-Louise-Half-Marathon-Rel

MAY

3-4 • TRANS ROCKIES GRAN FONDO MOAB

Ride the La Sal Mountain Loop Road with 5,500ft of climbing over 60 miles.
MoabFondoFest.com

8-11 • RAPTORS ON THE ROCKS 4X4

A gathering of Raptor enthusiasts from all over the globe.
RaptorsOnTheRocks.com

17 • C10 RED ROCK RETREAT

A Classic GM Truck charity event for the City of Moab and the Grand County Search and Rescue Team event. • *C10Retreat.com*

19-23 & 28-JUNE 1 • ARCHES AT NIGHT MILKY WAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Spend four nights learning to photograph the Milky Way against a wide variety of fascinating rock formations, including the largest collection of natural arches in the world, led by photographer Colin D. Young of Rock Light Photo.
LightAndPhoto.com

24-25 • MOAB ARTS FESTIVAL

Various forms of art, kids' activities tent, live music, theatrical performances, and eats.
Swanny City Park • MoabArtsFestival.org

134 2025 MOAB GUESTGUIDE®

JUNE

12-14 • SAN JUAN STAMPEDE PRO RODEO

Bull, bronc and bareback riding, barrel racing, steer racing, and team, tie down and breakaway roping.
Monticello • SanJuanStampedeProRodeo.com

21 • BEARS EARS ULTRA

30K, 50K, and 50M. Scenic trail races hosted in Monticello, Utah.
MadMooseEvents.com/bears-ears-ultra

JULY

3-5 • GRAND COUNTY FAIR

Events and carnival games. Concessions, exhibits, movies under the stars, softball tournament, corn hole tournament, and on and on! Live music Saturday night. Parade on the morning of the 4th. Free admission.
Facebook.com/OldSpanishTrailArena

4 • INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

9-10pm. Experience a dazzling spectacle as fireworks light up the night sky above Moab! Launching from Lions Back at dusk, this incredible display can be enjoyed from anywhere in downtown Moab. Be prepared to be amazed as the fireworks dance to the beat of music from KCYN (97.1 FM).

4 • BLANDING 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

Parade, vendors, events, and fireworks.
Blanding.city/4th

SEPTEMBER

AUG 27-SEPT 12 • THE MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL

World-class musicians in stunning red-rock venues for a feast of chamber, jazz, Latin, traditional music concerts, and hikes including music.
MoabMusicFest.org

17-20 • SAN JUAN ATV SAFARI

An epic 3-day event that combines 16+ mapped and marked trails that offer a contrast riding red rock beauty and through dark timber peaking on a trail that towers to over 11,000ft. • *SanJuanATVSafari.com*

18-21 • SKYDIVE MOAB'S 21ST ANNUAL M.O.A.B. (MOTHER OF ALL BOOGIES)

Moab Airport • SkyDiveMoab.com • 435-259-JUMP (5867)

20-22 • SKINNY TIRE FALL FESTIVAL

This new event will ride three epic routes including the Bull Canyon Overlook route, a scenic ride along the Colorado River, and an epic climb up scenic Utah Hwy 313.
SkinnyTireEvents.com • 435-260-8889

26-28 • RED ROCK ARTS FESTIVAL

A free, family-friendly festival with activities, workshops and events focused on various multi-media art subjects, and a street festival with live music, food, beverages, artisan vendors, and a chalk competition.
Moab Arts Center • RedRockArtsFestival.com

TBD MID SEPT • SAN JUAN COUNTY FALL FESTIVAL

Family fun with games and food, free family entertainment including face painting and inflatables, a 3x3 basketball tournament, and cornhole tournament.
Blanding.city/FallFest

lots of fun events happening, turn the page!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT.

OCTOBER

3-5 • OUTERBIKE

Test ride all of the latest and greatest bikes and gear on Moab's world-class trails. Browse the latest innovations, pick a bike you'd like to try, and take it for a ride.

OuterBike.com

4 • ARCHES MARATHON, HALF MARATHON, 15K, AND 50K

A trail event that features beautiful scenery.

MadMooseEvents.com/Archeshalfmarathon

16-19 • BLUFF ARTS FESTIVAL

Workshops, film festival, artist market, storytelling, art walk and kids activities.

BluffArtsFestival.org

25 • CANYONLANDS ULTRA – 100M, 125K, 50M, MARATHON, HALF MARATHON, AND 15K

Starts and finishes at the Behind the Rocks Trail, along the border of the Behind the Rocks Wilderness Study Area.

MadMooseEvents.com/canyonlands-ultra

NOVEMBER

7-9 • MOAB FOLK FESTIVAL

Held at the Moab City Ballfield. For tickets, lineups, and more, check the website.

MoabFolkFestival.com

8 • BEARS EARS MARATHON

A fast point-to-point race with amazing views gradually dropping 1,700ft in 26.2 miles.

BearsEarsMarathon.com

23 • BLUFF DARK SKY FESTIVAL

BluffUtah.org

JANUARY 2026

16-18, 2026 • BLUFF BALLOON FESTIVAL

3 days of balloons taking to the skies in Bluff and Valley of the Gods. Glow-in, Artist Market, Navajo Taco Dinner, and more.

[Bluff • BluffUtah.org/BluffBalloonFestival](http://BluffBluffUtah.org/BluffBalloonFestival)

All events are subject to change.



« SCAN FOR CURRENT MOAB EVENT DETAILS



SCAN FOR CURRENT SAN JUAN CO. EVENT DETAILS »



SHOPPING CHART

BUSINESS	PHONE #	PG #	DESCRIPTION
MOAB			
Canyonlands Trading Post	435-259-8404	N/A	Trading Post offers Souvenirs from Magnets to Stickers to Apparel for Everyone.
Desert Thread	435-259-8404	32	Supplies and Fibers for Knitting, Crochet, Spinning and Felting
Desert Wild	435-355-0115	10	Outdoor Clothing and Gear, Shoes and Unique Gifts
Eagles Nest Chateau	435-277-0658	57	Rocks, Gems, Jewelry and One-of-a-Kind Pieces
The Find	435-355-0889	45	Vintage and Old Pawn Native American Jewelry, Apparel, Hats, Bags
GearHeads	435-259-4327	90	Large Selection of Camping, Hiking, Biking, Climbing Gear, Clothing and Footwear
Hole N' The Rock	435-686-2250	61	Three Unique Stores and Trading Post
Indigo Alley	435-355-0519	11	Clothing, Shoes, Jewelry and Gifts
Moab BARKery	435-259-8080	41	Pet Shop With All You Need for Dogs and Cats
Moab Giants	435-355-0288	51	Gift Shop with Dinosaur Toys, Books, Wearables and More
Rim Cyclery	435-259-5333	103	Bike Gear: Jerseys, T-Shirts, Stickers, Bike Shorts
Sweet Cravings Bakery + Bistro	435-259-8983	35	Homegoods, Souvenirs, Artisan Snacks and Puzzles
Walker Drug	435-259-5959	2	Old-Fashioned Variety Store
BLUFF			
Bluff Fort Historic Site	435-672-9995	155	Handmade Items, Baked Goods, and Ice Cream

LODGING CHART

BICYCLES IN ROOM
BREAKFAST INCLUDED
HOT TUB / SWIMMING POOL
KITCHENETTE
ACCESSIBLE
PET-FRIENDLY
RV / TRAILER PARKING

BUSINESS	PHONE #	WEBSITE	MOAB						
Big Horn Lodge	435-259-6171	MoabBigHorn.com	●	●			S	●	
Moab Rustic Inn	435-259-6177	MoabRusticInn.com	●	●	●		●	●	
Moab Valley Inn	435-259-4419	MoabValleyInn.com	●	●	●		S	●	
Quality Inn Slickrock Area	435-259-4655	MoabQualityInn.com		●	●		S	●	
Quality Suites	435-259-5252	ChoiceHotels.com		●	●			●	
Red Stone Inn	435-259-3500	MoabRedStone.com	●	●	●	●	●		
BLUFF									
La Posada Pintada	435-459-2274	LaPosadaPintada.com	●				S		

S SOME AVAILABILITY

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

- Landscape Arch (290ft), in Arches National Park, is the longest sandstone arch in the world and the 5th in the world.
- Morning Glory Bridge in Grandstaff Canyon is the 9th longest at 243ft. Morning Glory has the name of bridge but is technically an arch.
- According to the Utah Geological Survey, only 19 natural arches in the world have measured spans that exceed 200ft; the Colorado Plateau has eight of these, with five in Utah.
- Utah also has half a dozen or more arches with spans that exceed 150 feet, several dozen that exceed 100 feet, and probably several hundred with spans exceeding 50 feet. In fact, Utah has several times more large arches than any other state.
- Delicate Arch is the largest free-standing arch in Arches National Park with the light opening beneath the arch being 46ft high and 32ft wide.

DINING CHART

BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER
LIQUOR LICENSE
RESERVATIONS
CATERING/
SPECIAL EVENTS

BUSINESS	PHONE #	CUISINE	MOAB						
Bella's Desert Deli	435-355-0711	Sandwiches, Salads & Soups Take-Out Only		●				●	
Bonjour Bakery Cafe	435-355-0809	Euro-American Bakery/Cafe/Patisserie	●	●				●	
Dewey's Restaurant & Bar	435-259-2337	American		●	●	●		●	
El Tapatio	435-355-0411	Mexican		●	●	●			
Love Muffin Café	435-259-6833	American/Espresso	●	●				●	
Moab Giants Café	435-355-0288	American Café		●				●	
Red Rock Bakery & Café	435-259-5941	Coffee/From-Scratch Bakery	●	●				●	
Sweet Cravings Bakery + Bistro	435-259-8983	Grab+Go Breakfasts and Lunches	●	●				●	
Thai Bella	435-355-0555	Classic Contemporary Thai			●	●		●	
MONTICELLO									
Ja-Roen Thai Sushi	435-587-4000	Thai & Sushi	●	●	●		●	●	

ARCH OR NATURAL BRIDGE?

- For an arch to be considered an arch, it has to have an opening of at least three feet wide. Arches are formed by a combination of natural forces, such as water, ice, wind, and weathering and are usually high and exposed, as they are often the last remnants of rock cliffs and ridges.
- Natural bridges are rarer than arches and are formed by running water cutting through rock. Bridges tend to be in canyons, sometimes quite hidden.
- Bridges are considered to be a subtype of arch, both span a valley of erosion.

ADVENTURE CHART

GUIDED TRIPS
SALES/SERVICE
4X4 RENTALS/TOURS
BOAT RENTALS/TOURS
CAMPING/HIKING/PADDLEBOARDS/TOURS
MTN. BIKE OR E-BIKE RENTALS/TOURS
RIVER SHUTTLES
TRAILHEAD SHUTTLES
VEHICLE/AIR SHUTTLES
SKI/SNOWSHOE RENTALS*
*WINTER ONLY

BUSINESS	PHONE #	GUIDED TRIPS • RENTAL EQUIPMENT										
Ancient Wayves BLANDING	505-239-8505	●		●								
Bret Edge Photography	602-571-4170	●	GUIDED PHOTO TOURS									
Bryan Haile Photography	970-412-7464	●	GUIDED PHOTO TOURS									
Canyonlands Ballooning	435-655-1389	●	HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES									
Moab Adventure Center	435-259-7019	●	●	●	●	●	●					
Moab Horses	435-259-8015	●	HORSEBACK RIDING									
Moab Jett	435-259-5538	●	●									
NAVTEC Expeditions	435-259-7983	●	●	●	●			●		●		
Paddle Moab	435-210-4665	●	●	●	●			●	●			
Red Cliffs Ranch at Red Cliffs Lodge	435-259-2002	●	HORSEBACK RIDING									
Redrock Ballooning	801-707-4215	●	HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES									
Rock Light Photo Tours	917-902-3063	●	GUIDED PHOTO TOURS									
Sheri Griffith River Expeditions	435-259-8229	●		●								
Skydive Moab	435-259-5867	●	SKYDIVING									
Wild West Voyages	435-238-4257	●	●		●				●			
4X4 RENTALS • CAR RENTALS												
Canyonlands Jeep Adventures	435-259-4413	●	JEEP, CAR & VAN RENTALS									
Epic 4x4 Adventures	435-210-6700	●		●								
High Point Hummer & ATV/UTV	435-259-2972	●	●	●								
Moab Bronco Rentals	435-419-5222			●								
BIKE SHOPS • SPORTING GOODS												
GearHeads	435-259-4327		●			●					●	
Rim Cyclery	435-259-5333		●		●	●		●			●	

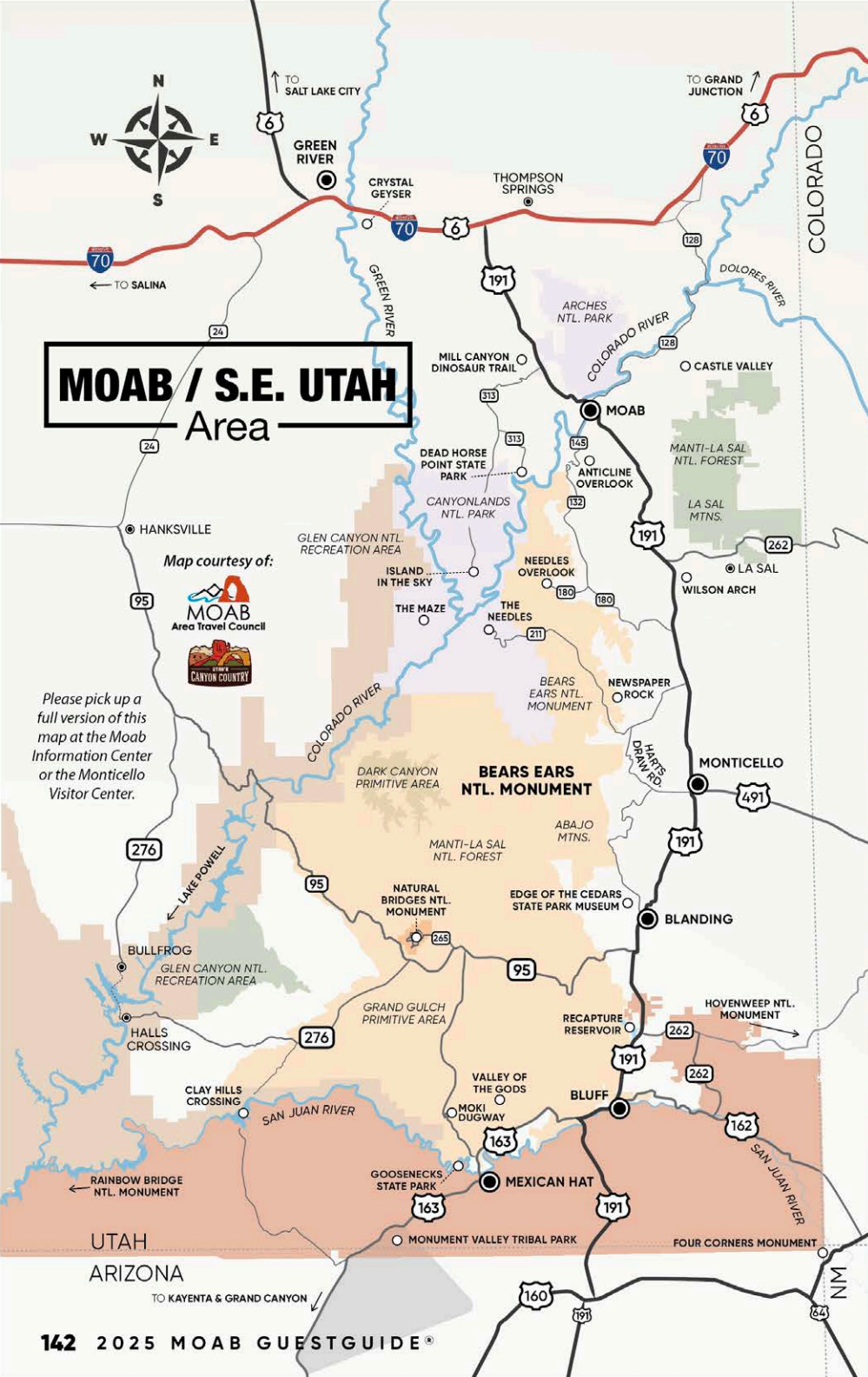
BUSINESS	PHONE #	DESCRIPTION
EDUCATION • MUSEUMS		
Bears Ears Education Center BLUFF	435-672-2402	EDUCATION CENTER
Bluff Fort Historic Site BLUFF	435-672-9995	OPEN AIR MUSEUM/GIFT SHOP
The Dinosaur Museum BLANDING	435-678-3454	MUSEUM (OPEN SEASONALLY)
Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum BLANDING	435-678-2238	MUSEUM & STATE PARK
Hole N' The Rock	435-686-2250	HISTORICAL MUSEUM/PETTING ZOO
Moab Giants	435-355-0288	DINOSAUR PARK & MUSEUM
Moab Museum	435-259-7985	MUSEUM
RECREATION		
Birdies & Bogies	N/A	MINI GOLF
Moab Golf Club	435-259-6488	18-HOLE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE
Hideout Golf Course	435-298-8120	18-HOLE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE
Moab Aquatic & Fitness Center	435-259-8226	POOLS WITH FEATURES, FITNESS CENTER & CLASSES

**THREE MILES. 1,000 FEET. 11% GRADE.
ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?**

UTAH'S CANYON COUNTRY

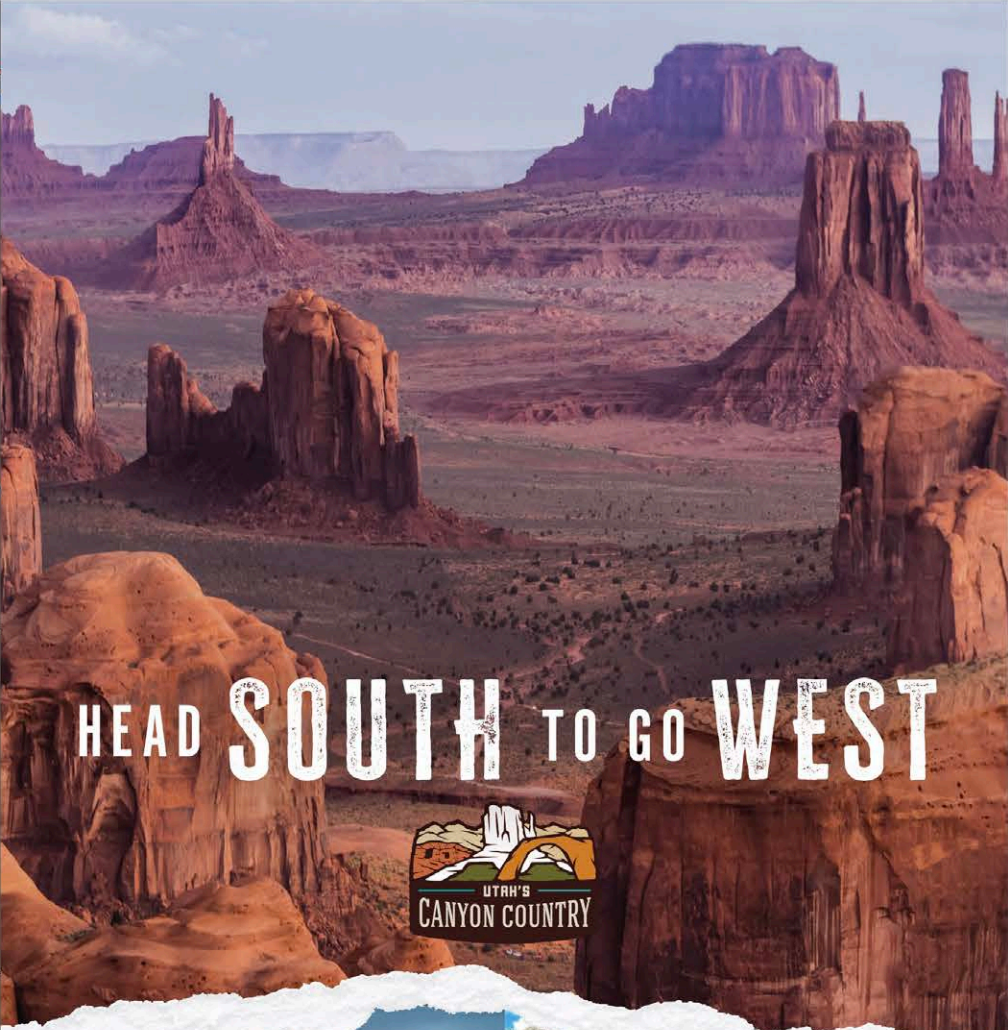
Moki Dugway

Learn more at UtahsCanyonCountry.com/gg



MOAB / S.E. UTAH
Area

Map courtesy of:
 MOAB Area Travel Council
 UTAH'S CANYON COUNTRY
 Please pick up a full version of this map at the Moab Information Center or the Monticello Visitor Center.



HEAD SOUTH TO GO WEST



Learn more at UtahsCanyonCountry.com/gg

WELCOME TO UTAH'S

CANYON COUNTRY



VISITING SAN JUAN COUNTY

This area of Utah creates a sense of slowing down and stepping into the sounds of silence, nights filled with dark skies and bright stars, and exploring a culturally rich area.

Heading south on US Hwy 191 takes you to San Juan County and the southeastern part of Utah. This part of Utah is packed with history, culture, dark skies, and quiet days.

Scenic drives will help you discover and see the amazing history and beauty this area has to offer.

Exploring Bears Ears, The Needles district of Canyonlands, the parks near Goosenecks State Park or driving the Trail of the Ancients is easy from the three towns in this area.

If you are exploring the Mighty Five National Parks of Utah, or on a road trip, make sure to plan time in this part of Utah.

Dig deeper into this area by visiting UtahsCanyonCountry.com.

IT'S SO QUIET!

The sound of silence in this region is so unique. Hiking along a ridge or in a canyon, the quiet allows us to recharge. Very few man-made sounds can be heard in this area.

Some may find the deep quiet a bit unnerving as few people have experienced a place completely free of man-made sounds. Road noise in the U.S. has tripled since 1970. Here, there are no major highways. Step into a world where silence is protected and enjoyed.

BEING A GOOD TRAVELER

When traveling in an area with so many artifacts and dwellings, being a good traveler is especially important. This area is very important to several Indigenous Tribes whose ancestors inhabited the area. Travel with respect and be as sustainable as you can.

Please read our section on Desert Tips on pages 30-33. Being prepared and doing some research before you head out will make for a safer adventure.

MONTICELLO

Monticello is the gateway to the Abajo Mountains. At an elevation of 7,000ft, Monticello is a wonderful place to visit when the summer months heat up.

The town was originally called North Montezuma and Hammond, but was renamed in honor of Thomas Jefferson's estate in 1888. The Italian word *monticello* means "city of views."

Located 60 miles south of Moab, 21 miles north of Blanding and 47 miles north of Bluff, Monticello is a perfect basecamp for adventures in the area.

The area offers all kinds of recreational opportunities with a golf course, fishing, rock climbing, camping, glamping, all various of lodging styles, along with restaurants, and family-owned shops with old-fashioned customer service.

The Monticello Visitor Center is a great source of information, current weather and road conditions, and maps to help you plan your adventure.

435-298-8119, MonticelloUtah.org.

BLANDING

Blanding sits near the intersection of US Hwy 191 and Utah Hwy 95 making it another central location for adventure filled with amazing night skies, history, and culture. This town is the closest to Bears Ears National Monument and Natural Bridges.

The town offers family-owned restaurants and lodging options and is home to two of the country's most amazing museums, Edge of the Cedars and the Dinosaur Museum (see pages 160-161 for details). Both of these museums are must stops!

Blanding was originally named Grayson, after the wife of a settler. A wealthy Easterner offered a thousand-volume library to any Utah town that would adopt his name. Two towns split the books and Grayson was renamed Blanding.

The **Blanding Visitor Center** has restrooms, electric car charging stations, and a small gift shop. **435-678-3662, VisitBlanding.com.**

BLUFF

Bluff, named for the towering sandstone bluffs near the town, has had residents since 650 A.D. and is loaded with history from Ancestral Puebloans, Ute, and Navajo people. Dwellings and rock imagery can be found all around this area dating back more than 2,000 years.

Bluff is also the site of an early Mormon settlement called Bluff Fort.

The Bluff Fort Historic Site is open daily and is free to visit. It features a large self-guided open-air museum, a visitor center with gift shop, clean restrooms, an outdoor kitchen that sells soft ice cream, drinks, and baked goods (made on site), and an area for a picnic.

435-672-9995, BluffFort.org.

Bluff sits on the northern shore of the San Juan River and is an active center for artists and writers. This cool little town has some of the best art stores around. You can even buy local art in some of the Bluff restaurants.

Tourism has become a strong component of the local economy. Guided trips down the San Juan River or in the Bears Ears National Monument are popular activities.





Bluff is also a great base to explore the canyons of Cedar Mesa and Grand Gulch. Bluff's proximity to Navajo Nation means that Navajo culture is prevalent throughout the town.

There are a few family-owned restaurants and a variety of lodging options.

For information regarding Bears Ears, make sure to stop first at the **Bears Ears Education Center** located on US Hwy 191 in Bluff. [↗](#)

EDGE OF THE CEDARS STATE PARK MUSEUM





WINTER HOURS
DEC-FEB
.....
9AM-3PM
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

SUMMER HOURS
MAR-NOV
.....
9AM-5PM
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

435-678-2238

STATEPARKS.UTAH.GOV/PARKS/EDGE-OF-THE-CEDARS

660 W 400 N, BLANDING



NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT

435-692-1234 X616 • NPS.gov/NaBr
SEE WEBSITE FOR ENTRANCE FEES

A visit to this monument should be on your list. Located just 42 miles from Blanding on Utah Hwy 95, or take Utah Hwy 261 up the Moki Dugway (see page 149), then 32 miles to Utah Hwy 95. Turn left and follow the signs.

There is a 9.8-mile loop road through the monument with scenic overlooks. For the best experience, take the short hikes down to each bridge. The 1.5-mile hike (round trip) to the first bridge is a really cool experience as the trail drops down 500ft to the base of the bridge named Sipapu. (In Hopi mythology, a sipapu is a gateway through which souls may pass to the spirit world.) This is the second largest natural bridge in the world and well worth the hike. There are sturdy metal stairs, wooden ladders (similar to what Ancestral Puebloans used), and a trail that winds its way down to the bridge. This really interesting trail makes getting to the first bridge a fun adventure.

The hike to Kachina Bridge is also 1.5 miles round trip. This bridge has petroglyphs at the base and is the widest in the park. It's hard to see this bridge from the overlook so the short hike is the best way to see it.

The trail to the third bridge, Owachomo, is only a half-mile long and on sturdy rock. The view under the bridge is stunning.

Trails connect each bridge making loops to two or all three bridges an option. The full loop is 9.8 miles, so go prepared.

MONUMENTS OF

This park is an International Dark-Sky Park. They offer ranger-led Dark-Sky Astronomy programs. Check the website for information.

CAMPING

There is a 13-site campground near the visitor center. It has no running water, but you can get some at the visitor center. Reservations can be made at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) in advance or day-of using WiFi at the visitor center.

HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT

970-562-4282 X5 • NPS.gov/Hove
SEE WEBSITE FOR ENTRANCE FEES

The monument consists of six separate prehistoric village sites. These landmarks are noted for their square, oval, circular, and D-shaped towers. Standing and tumbled piles of masonry and the remains of many pueblos, small cliff dwellings, and towers are scattered throughout the canyon.

Located along the border between southeast Utah and southwest Colorado, 49 miles from Bluff.

GPS will lead you astray getting there. There are numerous paved and dirt roads intersecting each other in this remote corner of Utah.

The Hovenweep Visitor Center is located 45 miles from both Blanding and Bluff. They can help with directions to the different trails.

Hovenweep is open year-round. Hours may vary so check their website. Trails are open sunrise to sunset.

CAMPING

There is a 31-site campground near the visitor center. Several of the sites are designated for RVs, but no hook-ups. Open year-round, \$20/night per site. Reservations can be made at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Leashed pets are allowed in the campground and on trails.

SAN JUAN COUNTY

BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

This area has been a special and important place for thousands of years and is home to some of the most culturally and archaeologically rich lands in the United States.

Navajo people believe the Bears Ears buttes to be a shrine that protects the Diné (Navajo) people.

Bears Ears is about 2,135 square miles of undeveloped, and often rugged terrain. This area does not have the same kind of infrastructure as other national parks or monuments. There is no main entrance gate or visitor center other than the Bears Ears Education Center in Bluff. You can drive the loop around the area to get an overall view of the beauty.

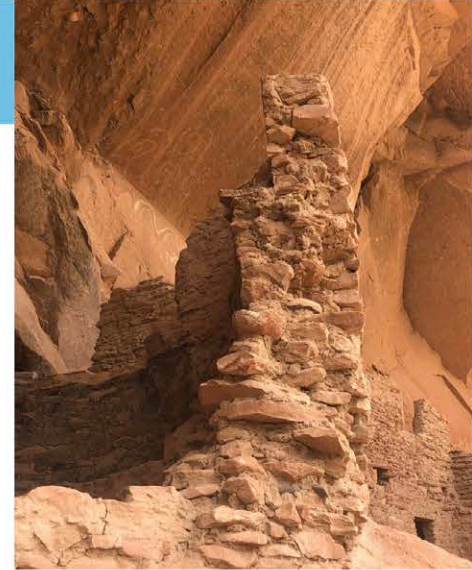
The best way to experience this area is by taking a hike.

Visiting this area with the utmost care and respect is essential so that the landscape's cultural and natural resources can be preserved for generations to come.

Any ancestral artifact you might see along a trail or next to a dwelling needs to be left alone. Best practice is to take only pictures.

There is a beautiful loop you can drive that circles part of the Bears Ears Monument. Mule Canyon and the North Fork of Mule Canyon are prevalent. The canyons cut into a terrace which is part of Grand Gulch Plateau, or Cedar Mesa.

There are many known Ancestral Puebloan dwelling sites, most of which are cliff dwellings. This drive offers you the opportunity to stop and see three different types of dwellings: Butler Wash Overlook, Cave Towers, and Mule Canyon Kiva.



After visiting these sites and continuing west, you will come to the intersection of Utah Hwys 95 and 261. If you continue on Utah Hwy 261, you will come to Natural Bridges National Monument.

Turn south on Utah Hwy 261 and the Kane Gulch Ranger Station will be on your left. The Moki Dugway and the turn to Mule Point are 20 miles away (see pages 149-150). Once down the Moki Dugway, you have the option to travel through Valley of the Gods, or continue on to Utah Hwy 163 toward Bluff and back to Blanding or your final destination.

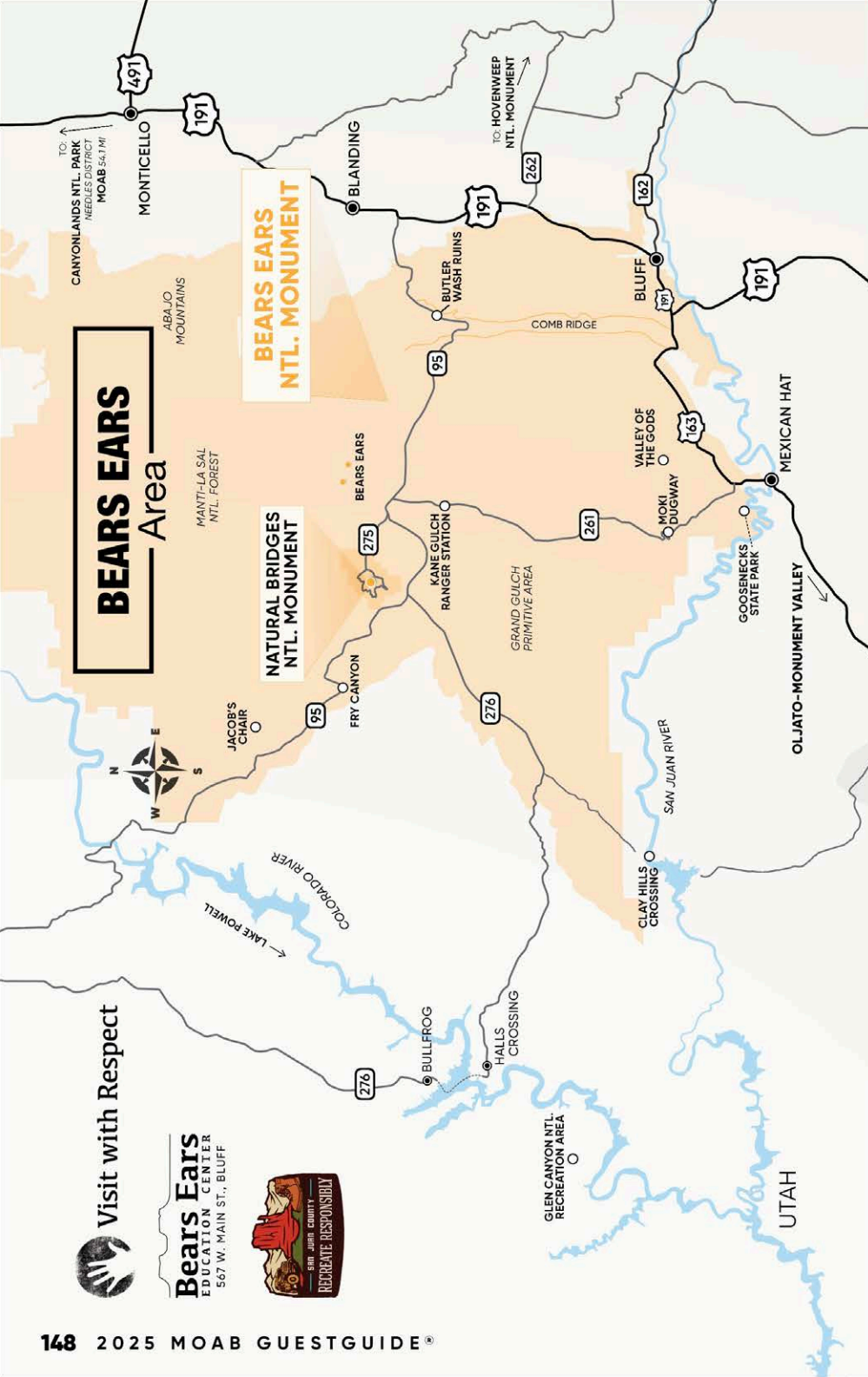
CAMPING

Dispersed camping is allowed within BLM-managed lands, including along Butler and Comb Wash roads. Driving off road to create new camping is prohibited. Don't camp inside archaeological areas.

Bring your own water, firewood, and pack out your trash and human waste.

There are several developed camping areas throughout Bears Ears National Monument. The Indian Creek region includes Indian Creek Falls, Hamburger Rock, Creek Pasture, and Superbowl.

[BearsEarsPartnership.org/camping](https://www.bears earspartnership.org/camping).



BEARS EARS Area

BEARS EARS NTL. MONUMENT

NATURAL BRIDGES NTL. MONUMENT

Visit with Respect

Bears Ears
EDUCATION CENTER
567 W. MAIN ST., BLUFF



SCENIC DRIVES

THE MOKI DUGWAY

The landscape in this area can go from a flat valley to a soaring mesa, and there is often the need to get from one end to another. So, a road of incredible magnitude needed to be built.

In the 1900s, there was a uranium mining boom and the Happy Jack mine on Cedar Mesa was very prosperous. A road was needed to get the uranium ore to a processing mill near Mexican Hat, Utah. In 1958, a mining company built the Moki Dugway.

"Moki" is a local term for the Ancestral Puebloan people who inhabited the Colorado Plateau hundreds of years ago. "Dugway" is a term used to describe a roadway carved from a hillside.

Unlike the similar Shafer Trail in Canyonlands that was a trail first used to move cattle from the mesa down to the valley floor and then turned into a road, the Moki Dugway was built to be a road and is literally carved from the face of the cliff, making this road more unique.

The Ancestral Puebloans didn't use this particular route, instead they had smaller trails for traveling up and down the mesa.

Utah Hwy 261 is a paved road that connects US Hwy 163 and Utah Hwy 95 (to Natural Bridges). The Moki Dugway is a 3-mile dirt stretch of Utah Hwy 261. The stretch, with 1,200ft elevation gain, and an 11% grade along the side of the cliffs, has dramatic switchbacks and even more dramatic views.

To the west, Monument Valley looms on the horizon, and the San Juan River shows off the stripes of different colored rocks known as "Navajo Tapestry."

At the base of the Moki Dugway lies Valley of the Gods. And at the top of the Moki Dugway is the dirt road to Muley Point, where you feel you are at the end of the Earth with incredible



views of Monument Valley and the Gooseheads of the San Juan River.

The Moki Dugway is safe and passable for passenger vehicles. It is well constructed, and well maintained. Due to this road having a steep grade, this is not a road to drive quickly on. There are no guard rails and only a few places to pull over to take in the view.

With all that surrounds it, and the adventure of simply driving it, this route is certainly one to take while you are out exploring the area.

continued on page 150



The Dinosaur Museum

Open from
APRIL 15 TO OCTOBER 31
9am to 5pm
Monday-Saturday

754 South 200 West
Blanding, Utah

435-678-3454

WWW.DINOSAUR-MUSEUM.ORG



SCENIC DRIVES

GOOSENECKS STATE PARK

This state park is definitely worth the stop. The park overlooks the meandering San Juan River, 1,000ft below, where it twists and turns while flowing a distance of more than six miles while advancing only one and a half miles west on its way to Lake Powell. The park is just south of Muley Point with amazing views.

CAMPING

Primitive campsites with picnic tables are scattered back from the edge of the cliff. \$10 per night, first-come, first-served. No water, so bring plenty. Vault toilets. StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/Goosenecks.

THE VALLEY OF THE GODS

The **Valley of the Gods** is a scenic sandstone valley near Mexican Hat and west of Bluff. It has similar rock formations to Monument Valley with tall, reddish-brown mesas, buttes, and towers. It can be toured via a 17-mile gravel road that winds around the formations. The road is unpaved and rather bumpy in parts but fine for 2WD, campers, and RVs; however, watch the weather. This road can get muddy and have washouts in big rain storms.

The western end joins Utah Hwy 261 shortly before its 1,200ft ascent up Cedar Mesa at Moki Dugway, while the eastern end starts along US Hwy 163 and heads north. The valley is public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and is part of Bears Ears National Monument. There are no entrance fees and no services.

To better understand this area and what you might see, a visit to the **Bears Ears Education Center** in Bluff is your best bet. They can help you with ideas for places to visit and how to do so with respect and care. BearsEarsPartnership.org/Visit/Visitor-Info.

MULEY POINT

Part of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and at the southern end of Cedar Mesa, Muley Point is its own unique experience.

You will feel like you are at the edge of the world when you get to Muley Point, looking down 2,400ft at the Goosenecks of the San Juan, Goosenecks State Park, Navajo Mountain, and Monument Valley.

The views never stop, the sunsets are incredible, and at night, the stars come out to shine!

Muley is a reference to a Muley cow, which is shy of horns. Muley Point is shy of vegetation.

Access Muley Point at the top of the Moki Dugway. The nine-mile road to Muley Point is very sandy and not advised to take in bad weather (check the forecast), pulling a trailer, or in a large RV.

There are no established trails. You can hike around and explore.

CAMPING

Camping at Muley Point is pretty incredible. The views here cannot compare as you are about 2,400ft above the San Juan River and can see for miles toward Monument Valley. Peace, solitude, and a sky full of stars await you. No facilities so make sure to have plenty of water and a toilet system or WAG bags.

CONTINUED

CAMPING

Backcountry-style camping is allowed along the 17-mile loop through Valley of the Gods. Along the road there are several car camping spots that can easily be identified. There are no markers or signs. Look for a good, flat spot off the road and park. No campfires are allowed. There are no restrooms so make sure to have a primitive toilet system or WAG bags with you.

MONUMENT VALLEY TRIBAL PARK

This majestic and inspiring landscape is one of the most photographed places on earth. The most famous are called "The Mittens," as the two towers resemble a pair of mittens.

Beautifully carved mesas, spires, and buttes surrounded by native trees and shrubs span 91,000 acres. The 17-mile scenic road starts at the Monument Valley Visitor Center and shows off a good portion of the park including the famous "Three Sisters." Traveling off of the main 17-mile road requires a permit.

The best way to experience this land, the local culture, and history is to take a guided tour. A variety of tours are offered through several tour companies.

Monument Valley is only 54 miles from Bluff making Bluff a great basecamp for this and many other adventures.

Entrance to the park is \$20/car. For more information, visit NavajoNationParks.org.

GO WITH THE PROS

To truly enjoy this area, join a guided tour by **Ancient Wayves River and Hiking Adventures**.

They are the only Indigenous-owned company in the Bears Ears area and offer a unique style of culture and educational tours. **505-239-8505**, TourAncientWayves.com.

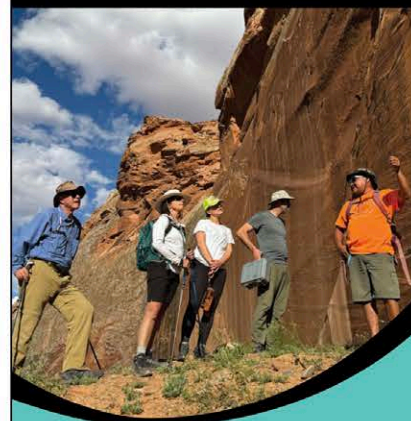
continued on page 152



EXPLORE ANCIENT INDIGENOUS LANDS WITH INDIGENOUS GUIDES

RIVER, BACKPACKING, HIKING & PHOTO TOURS

SAN JUAN RIVER BEARS EARS NTL. MONUMENT



505-239-8505
TOURANCIENTWAYVES.COM



SCENIC DRIVES CONT.

HARTS DRAW ROAD

Harts Draw is a paved road that travels across the northwestern part of the Abajo Mountains.

From Monticello turn west onto 200 South (at the visitor center). Stay left onto Abajo Road and follow signs for Forest Road 101. The road climbs through aspen and spruce and is very pretty, especially in the fall.

Once the road starts to descend, the views of the La Sal Mountains and the entire Canyonlands and Moab region are simply incredible.

There are options to stop and see Monticello and Foy Lakes and then the road descends to Utah Hwy 211. Turn left for Newspaper Rock and The Needles district, or right to get back to US Hwy 191.

KANE GULCH RANGER STATION

The **Kane Gulch Ranger Station** serves the Bears Ears National Monument and Cedar Mesa areas and is a great stop if you are in this area. A BLM permit is required for most day hiking and backpacking activities in these areas.

There is an amazing rock imagery exhibit that shows the archaeology and ancient cultures. Their interpretive displays include photographs and drawings of numerous prehistoric sites, primarily rock imagery, and archeologists at work.

There is a great gift shop where they sell water. They also have restrooms. Located on Utah Hwy 261 about four miles from Utah Hwy 95.

Open for permits and questions 8am-noon March 1-June 15 and Sept. 1-Oct. 31.

For lots of information, permits, and updates, visit BLM.gov/Programs/Recreation/Permits-and-Passes/Lotteries-and-Permit-Systems/Utah/CedarMesa.

NEEDLES OVERLOOK

Needles Overlook sits on a peninsula of rock 1,600ft above the southern part of Canyonlands National Park (this point is actually part of Canyon Rims Recreation Area, managed by the BLM). This point offers close to a 360-degree view of the area and is great for a sunset stop.

Since this point is so remote, you won't experience the crowds of Island in the Sky or Dead Horse Point, and the views are just as good! There is a path that will take you around the point where the view continues to get better.

Take US Hwy 191 to the Needles Overlook Road/Utah Hwy 133. The Overlook is another 23 miles and well worth the trip. The only amenities are picnic tables, informational signs, and pit toilets.

NEWSPAPER ROCK

Newspaper Rock State Historic Monument is part of Bears Ears National Monument and located on Utah Scenic Byway Hwy 211.

This rock panel is one of the largest known collections of petroglyphs in the country. These petroglyphs date to more than 2,000 years ago. Markings are from the Fremont, Ute, and Puebloan Native American tribes.

There are over 650 rock imagery designs including animals, human figures, and various symbols, some thought to be religious in nature.

Located 15 miles west of US Hwy 191 on Utah Hwy 211.



It's highly recommended you get your permits in advance at Recreation.gov.

The Needles district of Canyonlands National Park has some amazing hikes. Visit NPS.gov/Cany for more hikes and details (see pages 116-117 for our hiking chart with suggestions in the area).

GO WITH THE PROS

To truly enjoy this area, take a guided hike by **Ancient Wayves River and Hiking Adventures**. This indigenous-owned outfitter provides fun, guided adventures in the Bears Ears area with focus on culture sharing and native interpretation. 505-239-8505, TourAncientWayves.com. 

GO TAKE A HIKE!

This area has many incredible hiking destinations. Some hikes are easy and right off the road. Others take a bit more work and determination. All need to include respect for the area and any artifacts you may see along the way.

Please visit these areas with respect and practice *Leave No Trace* ethics while exploring. Cell phone reception is limited, so don't rely on mobile phone use. Have a paper map and know how to read it.

A BLM permit is required for most day hiking and backpacking activities in these areas. Some destinations require permits in advance and have quotas, while some you can simply get a day-use permit at the trailhead with no quotas. Some trailheads have a \$5 fee. Carry some dollar bills in your pack to have for the fee envelope.



VISITBLANDING
VISITBLANDING.COM

UTAH'S BACKCOUNTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT MOABGUESTGUIDE.COM 153



KIDS LOVE

After Cave Spring, the trail comes to two ladders that take you onto the slickrock where there are amazing views of the Needles Rock formations, the Abajos, and La Sals Mountains.

Pothole Point is a fun .6 mile hike, especially in early spring or late summer when the potholes are full of water. The water in potholes creates homes to fairy shrimp, beetle larvae, tadpoles, snails, and tadpole shrimp.

Water doesn't last long in the desert and when potholes are full, it's a great opportunity to see the lifecycle of these small organisms.

This hike is part of the Junior Ranger Program. Pick up a booklet at the Needles Visitor Center.

Natural Bridges has one of the best Junior Ranger booklets available. This small monument gets you up close and personal to three natural bridges (see pages 146 for more).

NATIONS OF THE FOUR CORNERS

Explore the diverse cultural history of the area with a visit to Nations of the Four Corners. This interpretive cultural area is made up of sites representing the different groups that contributed to the history of the area. Along a series of trails are structures from Ute, Navajo, Hispanic, and Pioneer cultures. There are also archaeological sites, Prayer Arch, and Nations Natural Bridge. In the center of this area is an observation tower offering spectacular views.

Located in Blanding at 461 West 500 South. **435-678-4000**.

KIDS LOVE DINOSAURS!

If your kiddo is into dinosaurs, **The Dinosaur Museum** is not to be missed. This hidden gem will amaze both kids and adults with life-sized, detailed replicas of many species of dinosaurs.

Read more on page 160.

435-678-3454, Dinosaur-Museum.org.

SAN JUAN COUNTY

SAND ISLAND PETROGLYPHS

The Sand Island panel is an impressive rock wall that stretches more than 100 yards. Located at the Sand Island campground and river launch, this panel is protected by a fence and is accessible by a short hike. The Anasazi markings are estimated to be 800-2,500 years old. There are handprints, horned animals, hunters, and a Kokopelli playing a flute. Be sure not to touch the panel.

MULE CANYON KIVA

This complex includes an excavated kiva and several surface structures. Located right off the road, making it an easy stop. Interpretive information gives a sense of the Ancestral Puebloans being in the area 700 years ago. There is a shaded area as well as vault toilets.

Located on the right on Utah Hwy 95 about 20 miles off Utah Hwy 191.

THE HISTORIC BLUFF FORT

The Fort has many ways for kids to explore and play as if they were a pioneer. There are two new life-sized model horses that are hitched to a wagon. Climb onto the wagon and pretend to "drive" the team. Kids can try their hand at roping a cow (life-size model) or gold panning.

There is a picture-style scavenger hunt for younger kids or a trivia hunt for older kids. Completing these hunts earns a free treat. There are games to play and each kid that visits the Fort is given a little bag with a few polished rocks. Plus, they have soft served ice cream in the summer!

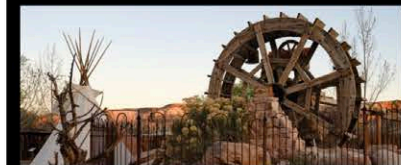
Admission is free and the volunteers are friendly and helpful.

Located at 550 Black Locust Ave in Bluff. **435-672-9995, BluffFort.org.**



BLUFF FORT HISTORIC SITE & VISITOR CENTER

HOLE IN THE ROCK PIONEERS



OPEN YEAR ROUND SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

SUMMER HOURS	WINTER HOURS
Mar. 15 – Oct. 31 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Nov. 1 – Mar. 14 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

*Closed Christmas, Easter & Thanksgiving
Gift Shop & Kitchen Closed on Sundays*



550 E. Black Locust, Bluff • 435-672-9995
BluffFort.org • BluffFort@gmail.com

KID-FRIENDLY HIKES

Needles District of Canyonlands has two great hikes for the entire family.

Cave Spring is a short .6 mile loop full of the history of Canyonlands. The trail will take you past an old cowboy camp with tables, dishes, and a cookstove still in place (remember not to touch).

A bit further you'll come to Cave Spring, one of the few year-round water sources in the area. Pictographs reveal stories of Ancestral Puebloans using this area as well.

HYDRATION TIPS FOR KIDS

Kids are more likely to become dehydrated than adults because they have a higher water content and metabolic rate.

Kids lose more water through their skin than adults and usually are more active than adults.

It's cool to drink water!

Get them their own reusable water bottle and let them put stickers on it. Add fruit slices to their water for flavor. Encourage them to drink water throughout the day. Tell them it's cool to drink water—because it is!



OUTDOOR FUN

There is a parking lot off S Main St, that the Drop In trail goes around. No restrooms. The Monticello Visitor Center is only a few blocks north and has restrooms.

FORE!

The **Hideout Golf Club**, located in Monticello, is one of Utah's premier and popular golf courses. This scenic and enjoyable course is not to be missed. This alpine course has rustic vegetation, dramatic elevation changes (making each hole a fun challenge), and amazing vistas. You might even have a deer or two watch you play.

This regulation 6,650 yard, 18-hole course offers a wide range of scenery and year-round play.

Located at 7,000ft, the days are a bit cooler making summer golf more pleasant.

The course has a driving range, practice greens, a 3-hole junior course, and clubhouse. 648 S Hideout Way. **435-298-8120, HideOutGolf.com.**

BIKE PACKING

Bikepacking is a combination of backpacking and bike-touring that involves carrying essential gear on a bike for an overnight or multi-day ride.

Bikepacking is similar to backpacking, but on a bike, and can cover more distance than hiking.

Your bike is set up with a packs to carry what you need, and wider tires allowing you to explore off-the-beaten-path destinations on a bike.

The best time to head out is late spring or fall when the when the high temperatures are cooler than in the height of summer.

A loop around Cedar Mesa and through Valley of the Gods is popular. Check with the Kane Gulch Ranger Station for conditions.

THE ABAJOS

The Abajo Mountains, also known as the Blue Mountains, offer many summer recreational opportunities, and provide a welcome relief from the desert heat. The range is located in the Manti-La Sal National Forest with the highest point being Abajo Peak at 11,360ft.

Harts Draw Road (paved) gives access to a spectacular overlook and several small fishing lakes. The Abajo Loop Scenic Byway (not paved, best to check conditions), follows the same route as Harts Draw Road but then turns south, ending in Blanding.

There are miles of scenic trails, which are great for exploring, whether on horse, 4x4, hiking, or mountain biking.

The Abajo mountain bike trails (great for hiking as well) offer both single track and double track through aspen, scrub oak, and open meadows.

Winter in the Abajos offers skiers a wealth of recreational opportunities



such as Nordic skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, winter hut rentals, fat biking, and snowmobiling.

CAMPING

There are four forest service campgrounds in the Abajo Mountains. Dalton Springs and Buckboard are both off of Harts Draw Road. Devils Canyon is just off US Hwy 191, 13 miles south of Monticello. Nizhoni is 12 miles north of Blanding on Forest Road 079 off Indian Creek Road.

The campgrounds are usually quiet and a bit higher in elevation so are cooler in the summer months. \$20/night.

All are reservable at **Recreation.gov** except Dalton Springs.

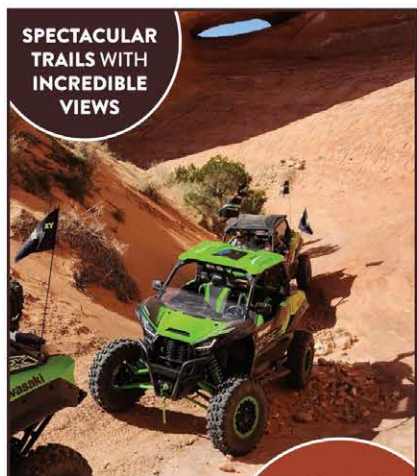
MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

The **Abajo Foothills Trail System** is a non-motorized trail system in Monticello. These mostly beginner and intermediate trails are perfect for a mountain bike ride, hike, walk, or winter snowshoe trek.

The 16 sections, totaling approximately 15 miles of trails, are primarily beginner with some intermediate sections. One riding option has you crossing US Hwy 191, so be careful.

The trails all connect allowing you to create a ride or hike that's as long or short as you would like.

SPECTACULAR TRAILS WITH INCREDIBLE VIEWS




SAN JUAN ATV SAFARI

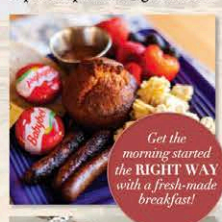
EPIC 3-DAY EVENT

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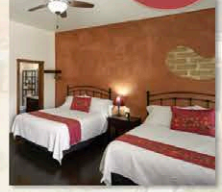
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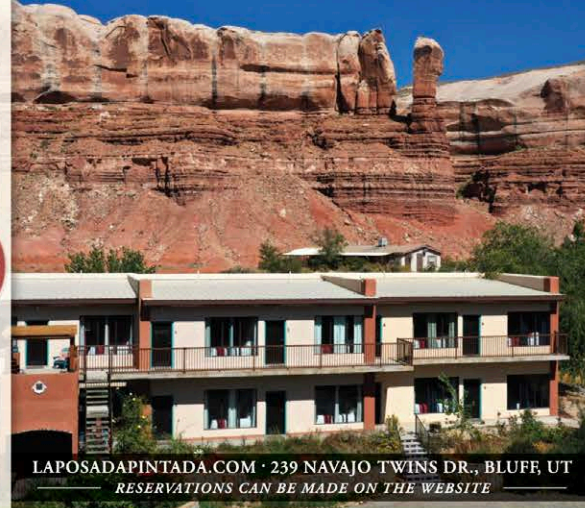


Get the morning started the RIGHT WAY with a fresh-made breakfast!



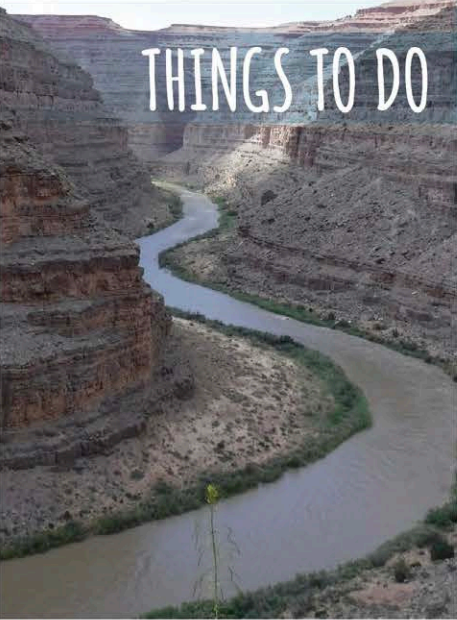
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Your Premier Lodging Experience of the Southwest
Between the Red Rocks of Monument Valley & the Parks of West



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RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ON THE WEBSITE

THINGS TO DO



WATER SPORTS

The river flows 360 miles through northwest New Mexico and southeast Utah before joining the Colorado River at Glen Canyon.

The river carved its way through ancient sandstone, creating spectacular red-rock canyons rich in scenery, archaeology, history, remarkable geographic features, and desert wildlife. Sandstone and limestone walls frame the narrow canyon as the river snakes through the countless goosenecks for which it is famous.

Scores of ancestral sites and petroglyphs line the canyon walls. The archeological record along the San Juan River between Bluff and Mexican Hat is unsurpassed. These places are delicate and require careful visitation.

TAKE A FLOAT

The best way to really see the vast amount of history and geology of this area is to float down this river. The rapids are smaller than what the Colorado River can throw at you, and there are more archeological sites such as petroglyph panels, dwellings, and Moki steps. This is a great trip for families with children. Seasoned rafters will also enjoy the fun nature of this river.

Trips can vary, depending on how much time you have to float. Trips start at Sand Island or Mexican Hat. The river flows through the famous Goosenecks, 56 miles to the Clay Hills boat ramp.

To float the San Juan, you must either obtain a permit for a self-guided trip, (visit Recreation.gov) or go on a guided trip with a local outfitter.

GO WITH THE PROS

Ancient Wayves River and Hiking Adventures is a Navajo-owned company that offers single- or multi-day trips on the San Juan River. The guides are local with ancestral roots connected to this river. **505-239-8505, TourAncientWayves.com.**

SAND ISLAND CAMPING

This campground is managed by the BLM and is located on the north bank of the San Juan River about 3 miles west of Bluff. Sites are first-come, first-served and self-register at the campground. \$15/night.

The 27-site campground is open year round, has drinking water (seasonal, March through October), vault toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, a day-use picnic area, and a boat launch for the San Juan River (permits required).

LAKE LIFE

Lloyd Lake is a reservoir located just 1.6 miles from Monticello.

The lake is very popular for paddle boarding, swimming, and fishing. The north side of the lake has a picnic area in the trees with picnic tables, grills, and fire pits. No camping allowed.



The 2.3-mile Lariat Trail is a great place to walk your dog. It has little traffic and beautiful views. There's a parking lot with restrooms for an easy outing.

Recapture Reservoir is 3.9 miles north of Blanding. This quiet little lake is good for small watercrafts and fishing. There are boat ramps on both the north and south sides of the lake, both accessible off Utah Hwy 191.

There is dispersed camping along the shore and some have fire pits but no facilities. No fees to use the lake, but you will need a fishing license if you plan to cast a line.

THE SAN JUAN RIVER

Originating in the San Juan Mountains in Colorado, the San Juan River is a major tributary of the Colorado River, providing the chief drainage for the Four Corners region.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The river is named for San Juan Bautista, Spanish for St. John the Baptist.
- The San Juan is often the only significant source of fresh water for many miles and is rich in cultural history and wildlife.
- It runs about 360 miles and drops about 10,000ft in elevation on its way into the Colorado River and then into Lake Powell.
- The river is one of the muddiest rivers in North America carrying an average of 25 million tons of silt and sediment each year.
- The Navajo live along the San Juan River having migrated to the area by the 1500s. The Navajo name for the river was Sq̄ Bitooh, "Old Age River" or "Old Man's River."

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Many Different Elevations
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Golfweek has rated The Hideout as the No. 1 Ranked Public Golf Course in Utah

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BLUFF FORT HISTORIC SITE

The first settlers of Bluff built their homes facing inward to form a fort-like protection. They had a school, a meeting house, and established a co-op trading post.

There is a replica of that co-op along with their cabins and other buildings at the Bluff Fort Visitor Center. The grounds include actual wagons and other artifacts from the Hole in the Rock journey. You can climb up on the wagon for a photo op.

Kids can try their hand at roping wooden cows, pan for gold, earn a treat by doing a scavenger hunt, or several other activities.

The visitor center and outdoor kitchen sell all types of homemade baked goods, soft ice cream, books, and other gifts. There is also an informative and fun presentation of the Hole in the Rock journey. The Fort offers brochures and their presentation videos in several foreign languages. **BluffFort.org, 435-672-9995.**

DINOSAUR MUSEUM

The Dinosaur Museum is one of the most unique and detailed museums in the country, and maybe the world. The creative museum is all because of two very talented artists and founders of the museum, Sylvia and her late husband, Stephen Czerkas.

The Dinosaur Museum has the complete history of the world of dinosaurs with some of the rarest artifacts in the paleo world.

THINGS TO DO

Many of the incredible and very detailed displays were hand-made by Stephen and Sylvia.

Both accomplished paleontologists and sculptors, they had a connection to Hollywood and sculpted dinosaurs and other creatures for the motion picture industry. The museum has the largest collection of dinosaur-related movie memorabilia in the world.

They have a new bronze sculpture of the Tarbosaurus. It is one of the last pieces sculpted by founder Stephen Czerkas. The sculpture is based on the mounted skeleton and displayed next to the skeleton. There is a monitor with time lapse footage of Stephen sculpting the Tarbosaurus.

Don't miss seeing this museum. **435-678-3454, Dinosaur-Museum.org.**

BEARS EARS EDUCATION CENTER

Bears Ears National Monument is unquestionably one of the most extensive archaeological areas on Earth. The sensitive cultural landscape here connects up to 14,000 years of human history. While visiting Bears Ears is simply astounding, we all need to do so with respect.

The Bears Ears Education Center (BEEC) in Bluff, is a community-powered space operated by local non-profit Bears Ears Partnership (formerly Friends of Cedar Mesa). The BEEC opened in 2016 to provide visitors with information, resources, and education to visit the cultural and natural spaces of Bears Ears National Monument respectfully.

The center offers information on camping and hiking along with maps and tips on how to help protect the fragile resources of the region.

Help spread their message with the hashtag #visitwithrespect.

They are open seasonally, 9am-4pm, Thursday-Monday. **435-672-2402, BearsEarsPartnership.org/Visit/Visitor-Info.**

EXPLORE MORE

EDGE OF THE CEDARS STATE PARK MUSEUM

Located in Blanding, this incredible museum houses thousands of ancient artifacts from cultures including Ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi), Navajo, and Utes. The museum is located at a prehistoric authentic Puebloan village occupied between approximately 750 A.D. and 1220 A.D., and houses one of the largest collections of pottery and baskets these ancient people left in the Four Corners region.



There is also an excavated and restored kiva (a partially subterranean ceremonial room within a pueblo), giving visitors a glimpse into the ancient lifestyle and architecture.

Throughout the museum, murals created by local Bluff artist, Joe Pachak, reproduce rock imagery panels of San Juan County. The Spirit Windows murals include some images that have been beneath the waters of Lake Powell. With water levels so low, some of the rock art may be showing again.

The park has archaeological exhibits, an interpretive nature trail, auditorium, and gift shop. Edge of the Cedars also has special exhibits, programming, and events throughout the year.

A stop at this museum will not disappoint anyone interested in ancient cultures. The gift shop offers books about the region's landscape and Native people, Native artwork, and information for visitors traveling to the Bears Ears National Monument.



The park is one mile from the main intersection in Blanding. The park is open year round: March-November 9am-5pm and December-February 9am-3pm. Closed on holidays. Admission is \$5, children 5 and under are free. Entrance is free with current Utah State Park Pass.

There is no food available to purchase in the park. No camping is available. This is a great place to enjoy the view.

435-678-2238, StateParks.Utah.gov/Parks/Edge-of-the-Cedars. 📍

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THINGS TO DO



OFF-ROAD



BE LEGAL

In Utah, OHVs and motorcycles must be registered as street legal or display a current OHV registration on BLM administered lands.

OHVs operating on USFS administered lands must also have a Forest Service approved spark arrestor if applicable. Other state laws for drivers and riders also apply.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Utah law requires OHV operators of all ages to complete an OHV education course before operating on public land.

This requirement will ensure operators will have awareness of the laws and rules and increase rider safety. This will also promote respect of the local communities affected by OHV operations and keep trails in good condition for future use.

Find out more at OHV.Utah.Gov.

MAPS

Find maps of OHV roads and trails at SanJuanCounty.org in the Public Lands Planning Department section. These geo-referenced PDF maps can be downloaded directly to a smart phone and accessed through a geo-referenced map reader app (like Avenza).

Always carry a physical map and/or electronic map. Cell service is non-existent in many parts of the county.

Maps and trail descriptions can also be found on the San Juan ATV Safari website. SanJuanATVSafari.com/trails.

ALWAYS BE PREPARED

No matter the length of the trip, always be prepared and self-reliant. Carry plenty of water (one gallon per person per day), extra food, and fuel. A first-aid kit and basic self-rescue gear (shovel, winch, tow straps) are recommended. A portable toilet or WAG bags are encouraged. Pack out all trash. ♻️

San Juan County offers some of the most spectacular scenery in Utah and the Four Corners area. There are more than 6,600 miles of trails to explore from mountains to deserts and canyons.

Temperatures in this part of the state tend to be a bit more mild and cooler than in the Moab, Arches, and Canyonlands areas. The trails also are more isolated, allowing the trail rider to experience the sights and sounds without crowds.

These roads and trails are gravel and natural surface and scattered throughout the county, offering a variety of riding experiences. All designated motorized trails are open to OHV/ATV, motorcycle, mountain bike and e-bike use. Some trails have width restrictions. If you are operating a larger machine, make sure you don't exceed these limits.

Permits are not required, with the exception of commercially-guided trips, organized groups, or events of a certain size. Check with the local BLM and/or USFS office well in advance if your trip falls into one of these categories.

Always follow *Leave No Trace* principles and be respectful of the land, other trail users, closed areas, and private lands.

Approximately 50 trails are identified as OHV/ATV trails and are marked with trail ratings from easy to difficult. Some of the trails have identified staging areas; otherwise parking alongside county roads is permitted.

DESERT TREASURES



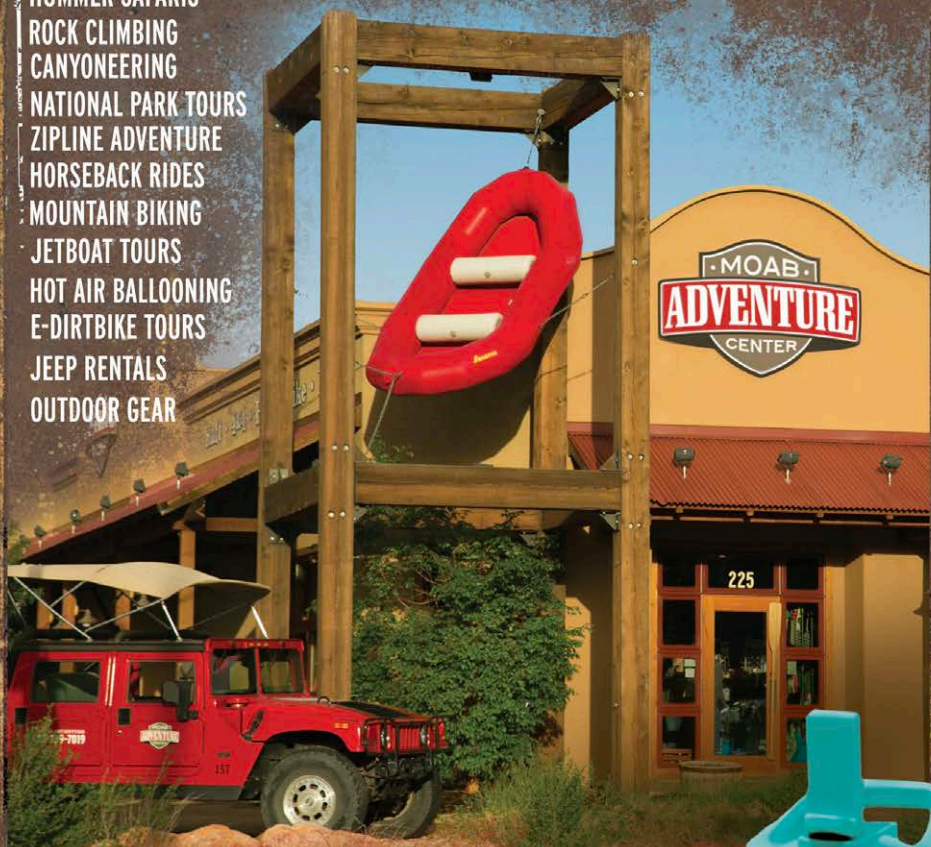
If you think Moab is just a place to recuperate between adrenaline rushes, think again. With a variety of museums, galleries and restaurants—plus arts and music festivals happening almost year-round—we're never short on inspiration.

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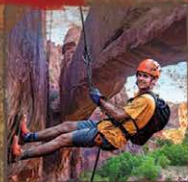


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