

Quick Trips or Extended Excursions

For more information, write or call:

Utah's Canyonlands

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Utah's Canyonlands

SEE & DO GUIDE



19. Natural Bridges National Monument *

Hundreds of tons of rock span deep canyons, forming the largest natural bridges in the world. Paved loop road to bridge overlooks with hiking trails to each bridge. Campground & visitors center.

ALLOW 4 HOURS — 47 MILES SW

20. Hovenweep National Monument *

Includes six groups of ancient Pueblo ruins reached by roads suitable for passenger cars. Campground, picnic facilities, ranger station.

ALLOW 4 HOURS — 45 MILES SE

21. Grand Gulch Primitive Area*

No vehicles. Hiking or horses only in this beautiful but rugged canyon with its walls lined with ancient pueblo dwellings.

ALLOW AT LEAST 2 HOURS TO HEAD OF TRAIL — 50 MILES SW

22. Lake Powell *

1,800 miles of shoreline and sheer rock cliffs surround this 186-mile long lake, formed behind Glen Canyon Dam. Ferry and services are available at **Halls Crossing**; services at **Hite**.

ALLOW 3-4 HOURS — 90 MILES SW

23. Rainbow Bridge National Monument

Rising to 309 feet, Rainbow Bridge is large enough to span the Nation's Capitol Building. The world's largest natural bridge is easily reached by boat from Hall's Crossing or by trail from Navajo Mountain Trading Post. ALLOW 8 HOURS BY BOAT FROM HALL'S CROSSING. 14 MILES VIA NAVAJO MOUNTAIN (TRADING POST, HIKING OR HORSEBACK.

NEAR BLUFF ...

24. St. Christopher's Mission to the Navajo

Architecturally designed chapel in Navajo motif.

ALLOW 1 HOUR — 2 MILES E

25. Swinging Bridge

Swinging footbridge across the San Juan River. Scenic connecting link to Navajo Reservation and Anasazi Ruins — 2½ MILES E

26. Pioneer Cemetery

Overlooking Bluff, San Juan County's first town.

27. Sand Island

BLM campground on the banks of the San Juan River. Raft launching point for river trips. Anasazi Petroglyph panel — 3 MILES W

NEAR MEXICAN HAT ...

Named for the nearby hat shaped rock, this community is the entrance to the Navajo Indian Reservation and Monument Valley.

28. Gooseneck's State Park

An incredible series of switchbacks, cut by the San Juan River which may be seen from an observation point.

ALLOW 1 HOUR — 8 MILES N

29. Valley of the Gods

These unique formations jut hundreds of feet into the air to form a giant fairyland. 17-mile graded loop road. (15 MILES S OF BLUFF) ALLOW 2 HOURS — 10 MILES N

30. Muley Point

Overlooking the switchbacks of the San Juan River, Highway 261.

ALLOW 2 HOURS — APPROX. 10 MILES NW — PAVED/ GRADED

NEAR MONUMENT VALLEY ... NAVAJO RESERVATION

31. Monument Valley Park Headquarters

Entrance to Monument Valley interior, Museum and visitors center. Campground. Dirt roads. Recommend 4-wheel drive tours from Mexican Hat, Gouldings, Tribal Park Museum, or Bluff. Location of the great western movies and many TV commercials.

ABOUT 2 MILES WEST OF U.S. 163 NEAR UTAH-ARIZONA LINE

32. Gouldings Trading Post

This trading post and motel are nestled at the foot of towering red rock cliffs. Tours, groceries, motel, gas.

ABOUT 2 MILES WEST OF U.S. 163 NEAR UTAH-ARIZONA LINE

*These areas can be reached from an alternate route—Highway 261 from Mexican Hat.

There's As Much To Do As To See

NEAR MOAB...

1. Arches National Park

The greatest concentration of natural stone arches in the world. Many of the more than 90 arches can be seen from paved roads, others by a short hike over well marked paths. ALLOW AT LEAST 2 HOURS FOR DRIVING MORE TIME FOR HIKING—4 MILES NW

2. Dead Horse Point State Park

Overlook and visitor's center, rest rooms, camping, picnicking. Look down 2,000 feet to the Colorado River. ALLOW 4 HOURS — 34 MILES NW — PAVED ROAD

3. Canyonlands National Park, North Entrance

Nearly a half-million acres of incredible rugged terrain. Key points can be seen from overlooks off of paved or improved roads. Guides and equipment are available for one-day or longer land or air excursions into more remote areas. Camping, picnicking, hiking.

ALLOW AT LEAST 5 HOURS — UPHEAVAL DOME — 38 MILES NW — 32 MILES PAVED; GRANDVIEW POINT — 44 MILES NW — 32 MILES PAVED

4. Castle Valley

Many movies and commercials have featured the unique topography of this area. The Priest and the Nuns or Castle Rock formations can be seen from the road.

ALLOW 3 HOURS — 18 MILES NW — PAVED ROAD

5. Scenic Mt. Loop Drive

A scenic drive into the cool green of the Manti-LaSal National Forest. Go through Castle Valley and across the mountains returning at the upper end of Moab Valley.

ALLOW 4 HOURS — TOTAL DISTANCE, 70 MILES — 69 PAVED

6. Fisher Towers

Dazzling red rock towers on the Colorado River. BLM picnic area and hiking trail.

ALLOW 3 HOURS — 24 MILES NE — 1 MILE GRADED ROAD

7. Petroglyph Drive

See and feel petroglyphs along the roadside. This trip goes along the south side of the Colorado River. Hurrah Pass, a fine overlook point, is about 15 miles from Moab via graded road. Road beyond is 4 wheel drive.

ALLOW 3 HOURS — 1 MILE W

8. Manti-LaSal National Forest

Cool mountain green with lakes nestled in the pines contrasts the surrounding vast stretches of red cliffs, canyons and monoliths.

ALLOW 4 HOURS — OOWAH LAKE 23 MILES SE — 2 MILES OF DIRT ROAD; WARNER LAKE 25 MILES SE — 4 MILES OF DIRT ROAD

9. Looking Glass Rock

An easy to reach natural wonder resembling a looking glass.

ALLOW 1½ HOURS — 25 MILES SE ON HIGHWAY 191 AND A SHORT GRADED ROAD

10. BLM Slick Rock Bike Trail

Marked route for dirt bikes through wonderful Red Rock Country.

ALLOW 4 HOURS — 7 MILES EAST ON SAND FLATS ROAD — GRAVEL

11. Wilson Arch

Wilson provides an up-close look at a beautiful natural arch.

ALLOW 1 HOUR - 26 MILES SE ON HIGHWAY 191

12. Award Winning Scenic Highway, The Potash Road

While driving along this scenic route you'll see petroglyphs and arches along the Colorado River gorge.

ALLOW 2 HOURS — 3 MILES NORTH — 32 MILES ROUND TRIP

NEAR MONTICELLO...

13. Canyon Rim Recreation Area

This BLM Recreation area has two campgrounds, Hatch Point and Windwhistle, with water, picnic tables, grills and toilets. Also two magnificent views of the Canyonlands.

Needles Overlook

A 1500 ft. drop overlooking the needles area of Canyonlands National Park. Marked trail, interpretive signs, and picnic tables.

ALLOW 3 HOURS—40 MILES NW

Anticline Overlook

A 1500 to 2000 ft. drop overlooking an anticline formation, the Colorado River, and potash plant. Spectacular view. ALLOW 3 OR 4 HOURS FOR BOTH OVERLOOKS — 52 MILES NW

14. Newspaper Rock State Historical Monument

See huge stone walls covered with ancient petroglyphs. There is a primitive campground with toilets, picnic tables and grills, hiking trail. No water.

ALLOW 2 HOURS — 23 MILES NW

15. Canyonlands National Park, South Entrance

Nearly a half-million acres of incredibly rugged terrain. Key points can be seen from overlooks off of paved or improved roads into park ranger station. Guides and equipment are available from nearby communities for one-day or longer land or air excursions into more remote areas. Maps for hiking and 4-wheel drive trails available at ranger station.

ALLOW AT LEAST 2½ HOURS TO RANGER STATION AND SQUAW SPRINGS CAMPGROUND AREA—47 MILES NW

Needles Outpost

At entrance of Needles District Canyonlands National Park (Services available).

Angel Arch

13 MILES OR CHESLER PARK 9 MILES IN 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES OR HIKING

16. Montezuma Creek, Aneth Area

On Highway 262, this area presents a panorama of contrasting civilizations. Modern oil wells rub shoulders with ancient Anasazi culture and Navajo tribal people living on the reservation which surrounds the community.

NEAR BLANDING...

17. West Water Indian Ruins

Swing bridge across canyon and a natural stone bridge. Picnic tables.

ALLOW 1 HOUR — 4 MILES SW

Edge of the Cedars Museum

The museum offers the visitor the opportunity to examine ancient ruins under current excavation. Also, there is an excellent display of Indian artifacts, living history films and other displays of the Indian's past and present. Starting point for the Trails of the Ancients.

18. Recapture Lake

A clear-water lake 1½ miles long, 120 feet deep on 191/666, 4 miles north of Blanding. Fishing, swimming.

Map and Activity Listing

The below legends, notes and the 32 numbered locations listed inside this guide are keyed to the map at the right.

**National Parks/Monuments**

**Utah State Parks/Monuments**

**Points of Interest or Overlooks**

**Historical Sites**

**Camping Sites**

**Boating**

**4-Wheel-Drive Trails**

**Airstrips**

PAVED ROAD

GRADED ROAD

4-WHEEL ROAD

Historical Sites Note

Both ancient and modern man have had their hands in the development and settlement of the Canyonlands region. The Anasazi Indians — the Pre-Colombian ancestors of the Hopi and Pueblo, lived here sometime between 700-1300 A.D. Excavations have revealed their ways of life — kivas, pottery, granaries, towers, cliff dwellings, pictographs and petroglyphs. Modern man ventured here in the 1800's. Major John Wesley Powell made his Colorado River expedition in 1869. In 1880 the San Juan Mission was established by the LDS Church to improve relations with the Indians. As late as 1923 there was threat of an Indian uprising in Blanding. Such colorful history, combined with the wonders of nature provides the visitor with educational as well as recreational pleasure.

Grand Circle of the SW

Utah's Canyonlands is a major attraction and a part of what has become known as the "Grand Circle Tour of the Southwest". In only 900 miles you can visit 20% of all U.S. National Parks located in Utah, Arizona, and Colorado — linked together by paved highways, excellent lodging, cordial community hospitality. Self-guided tour literature is available at the Canyonlands offices listed herein.

Camping Sites

The following sites listed north to south are designated as non-commercial camping areas. Most have toilet facilities and water. They are maintained and patrolled by either state or federal personnel.

Devils Garden
Dead Horse Point
Green River Overlook
Hatch Point Campground
Pack Creek
Squaw Flats
Newspaper Rock
Buckboard
Dalton Springs

Devils Canyon
Natural Bridges
Square Tower
Glen Canyon
Warrior Lake
Lake Oowah
Sand Island
Wind Whistle

Boating

The mighty Colorado, Green and San Juan Rivers flow through the heart of Canyonlands into Lake Powell. The upper segment of the rivers offer exciting "white water" float trip thrills, while downstream the placid waters feature boating, fishing, water skiing and spectacular scenery. Sightseeing cruises and guided tours can be arranged at Moab, Bluff, Mexican Hat, Hite and Hall's Crossing. Or, you can launch your own boat.

Airplane Facilities and Tours

Currently, Moab, Monticello and Blanding have daily commuter air service to Salt Lake City. These same lighted airstrips can accommodate twin and single engine private aircraft. Tours of the Canyonlands region can be arranged. Small aircraft may utilize airstrips at Bluff, Mexican Hat and Monument Valley.

4-Wheel-Drive

A few of the four-wheel-drive trails are noted on the map for those wishing to see areas otherwise inaccessible. Professional guide service is available in Moab, Monticello, Blanding, Bluff, Mexican Hat and Monument Valley.

Recreational Guidelines

Out of respect to the delicate ecological nature of the area and in accordance with federal lands, laws and common sense, the following guidelines should be observed by visitors in Canyonlands:

1. Keep campfires under control and completely out before leaving area.
2. Have sufficient clothing, shelter, food and first aid when camping in remote areas for any length of time.
3. Carry out your own trash.
4. Only drive vehicles on authorized roads or trails.
5. Do not deface, destroy or take artifacts from parks or points of interest.
6. Check with visitor center personnel of Indian Reservations before entering or taking photographs of Indians.

