



Guides to:

Monument Valley,

Mexican Hat,

Gossenecks State Park,

and the

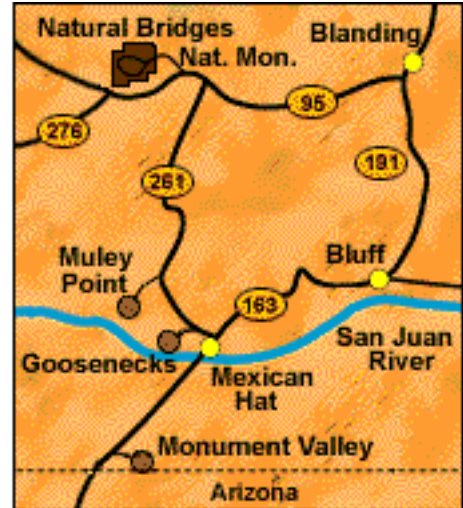
Muley Point Overlook



Monument Valley

Monument Valley is an area of free standing sandstone rock forms that rise majestically from the desert floor. Up to 1,000 feet tall, they create a truly magical desert landscape. The beauty of the area is a fact well documented by the numerous Western movies and television commercials for which Monument Valley has served as a backdrop. (So whether or not you were aware of it, you have very likely already seen Monument Valley.)

Monument Valley is located along the Utah/Arizona border towards the southeast corner of Utah. It is just east of Hwy. 163, about 22 miles southwest of Mexican Hat, Utah and 24 miles north of Kayenta, Arizona. To plan your route, select Utah Map or Southeastern Utah Map.



Presented below is information about:

- Exploring the Park
- Lodging/Dining
- Camping
- Other Information



A very bumpy 14 mile loop provides a decent view of the park. Unfortunately, private parties are not allowed to drive many roads in the area or to hike among the monuments. These areas are open to persons on guided tours only. (See below.)

You will get the most out of your experience by going early morning or late afternoon when the light is best and by taking the time to just gaze in silence. Plan to spend a few hours driving, observing and taking pictures. (The route is not recommended for low clearance vehicles or RV's longer than 24 feet and is not drivable when wet.)

Numerous tour operators offer jeep tours through the valley starting at \$15 for a 1-1/2 hour trip. Tour operators explain what you are seeing and are permitted to take back roads not open to the general public. You will find operators lined up in the parking lot in front of the visitor center. You can also contact them through the visitor center (435-727-3353).

Hiking and horseback tours are available from the following operators:

Fred's Adventure Tours	Box 308	435-739-4294
Gouldings Lodge & Tours	1000 Main; Box 360001	435-727-3232
Totem Pole Tours/Trail Rides	Box 306	800-345-8687



Except for a snack bar in the visitor center, there is no dining or lodging in Monument Valley. The closest establishment is in Goulding, about 4 miles west.

Firetree B&B	County Road 420; Box 417	435-727-3228	1 hogan	\$\$\$
Gouldings Lodge & Stage				
Coach Restaurant	1000 Main St.; Box 1	800-874-0902	62 rooms	\$\$\$

[Mexican Hat](#) (22 miles northeast) has a few lodging and dining establishments.



- Mitten View Campground is a somewhat rundown and unattractive campground located next to the visitor center. It is situated pretty much out in the open on the desert floor with little shade. 100 sites; drinking water; flush toilets; showers; elev. 4,500 feet; open year round; first-come, first-serve; \$10.
- An alternative is the private Goulding's KOA, located in Goulding (4 miles west). 62 sites; modern restrooms with showers; hookups; dump station; laundry; convenience store; open Apr. to mid Nov.; reservations: 435-727-3231 (ext. 425); \$24 for 2 persons/\$3 for each add'l

There are also private and public campgrounds in and near [Mexican Hat](#).



The visitor center is opened from 7:00-8:00 May-Sep. and 8:00-5:00 the rest of the year. The last admission to the park is 1/2 hour before the visitor center closes. There is an entrance fee of \$2.50. The land is part of the Navajo Indian Reservation and is managed by the tribe.

The best time to visit is in spring or fall when temperatures are moderate. Summers are blisteringly hot. The park is mostly deserted in winter.

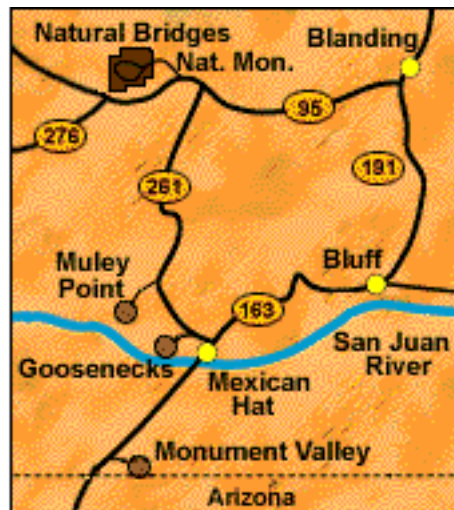
Contact the park at: Navajo Tribal Park, Box 360289, Monument Valley, UT 84536;
435-727-3353.



Mexican Hat

MEXICAN HAT is a tiny desert community of 50 or so people near the southeastern corner of Utah. It sits along the San Juan River among impressive rock formations. It serves mainly as a stopping off point for those traveling to Monument Valley (22 miles southwest) and Natural Bridges National Monument (44 miles north). Mexican Hat is also a convenient base for those exploring the [San Juan River](#). A few lesser attractions -- Goosenecks State Park and Muley Point Overlook -- are within 15 miles of town.

Mexican Hat is located on Hwy 163, 24 miles west of Bluff. It has a few small motels, a private campground, a few restaurants, service stations and some gift shops. Mexican Hat gets its name from a rock formation north of town that resembles an overturned sombrero.



Presented below is information on:

- Lodging
- Camping
- Other Information



LODGING

Burch's Motel	Hwy 163; Box 337	435-683-2221	40 rooms	\$\$
Canyonlands Motel	Hwy 163; Box 11	435-683-2230	10 rooms	\$
Mexican Hat Lodge	Hwy 163; Box 175	435-683-2222	11 rooms	\$\$-\$\$\$
San Juan Inn	Hwy 163; Box 276	800-447-2022	37 rooms	\$\$-\$\$\$
Valley of the Gods B&B	Valley of the Gods Rd.	970-749-1164	4 rooms	\$\$\$

The mailing address for each entity includes "Mexican Hat, UT 84531." (Pricing Code: \$ = under \$50; \$\$ = \$50-75; \$\$\$ = \$75-125)



CAMPING

Private Campgrounds

Burch's RV Park	Hwy 163; Box 337	435-683-2221	8 sites
Valle's Trailer Park	Hwy. 163	435-683-2226	

Public Campgrounds

- [Goosenecks State Park](#) is a undeveloped park with an outstanding view of gooseneck turns in the San Juan River 1,000 below. Camping is available in the park's desert terrain around the gravel parking area. 8 sites; vault toilets; no water; elev. 5,000'; open year round; no fee.
- [Muley Point](#) is a high peninsula providing vast panoramas of southern Utah. It does not have any designated camping areas, but travelers do camp informally among the desert vegetation near the point. There are no facilities other than a vault toilet.

There is also camping in Bluff (24 miles east) and at [Monument Valley](#) (22 miles southwest).



OTHER INFORMATION

Horseback Riding in Monument Valley and surrounding areas is offered by:

Burch's Cattle Company	Hwy 163; Box 337	435-683-2221
Ed Black Trail Rides		800-551-4039

Useful Addresses & Phone #'s

San Juan Cnty. Multi-Agency Visitor Center*	117 S. Main St. - Monticello	800-574-4386
Monument Valley Visitor Center	Box 289 - Monument Valley	435-727-3287
Natural Bridges National Monument	Box 1 - Lake Powell	435-692-1234

* Includes Travel Council, Nat. Park Service, Nat. For. Serv. & BLM

Helpful Publications

- **San Juan County Visitor Guide**

Travel council guide to the towns and sites in the southeastern corner of Utah. Provides very basic overviews of the Abajo Mountains, Blanding, Bluff, Canyonlands, Lake Powell, Mexican Hat, Monticello, Monument Valley, Natural Bridges Nat. Mon. and the San Juan River. Also contains lists of outfitters and lodging. To order call 800-574-4386. (70 pages; San Juan County Travel Council; published annually)

For a list of other publications about Utah, categorized by activity and destination, see Utah Publications.

Religious Services

Church of Latter Day Saints

Hwy 163

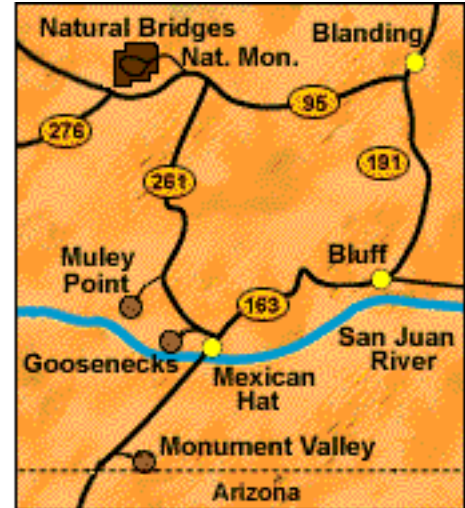
435-683-2247



Gooseheads State Park

GOOSEHEADS STATE PARK's claim to fame is a wonderful view of an incredible series of "goosehead" turns (or "entrenched meanders") in the San Juan River 1,000 feet below. You'll need a wide angle lens to get a picture. While the overlook is great, the park itself isn't. It sits on a desert mesa and consists of the overlook, some picnic tables and a gravel parking area. There is no entrance fee.

Tent camping is permitted in the park's desert terrain and there are 4 RV sites in the gravel parking area near the overlook. Vault toilets; elev. 5,000'; open year round; no fee.



The park is located 7 miles northwest of Mexican Hat at the end of Hwy 316. It is 3 miles west of Hwy 261.

For more information, contact:

- Gooseheads State Park
Box 788
Blanding, UT 84511
435-678-2238

- Utah State Parks and Recreation
1594 West North Temple
Suite 116; Box 146001
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
801-538-7220



Muley Point Overlook

Muley Point Overlook provides an absolutely outstanding view high over the desert landscape of southern Utah and northern Arizona. In the distance you can see the majestic sandstone forms of Monument Valley. Closer in are tremendously rugged and pristine canyons carved by the San Juan River and its tributaries.

Muley Point is located at the end of a dirt road 5 miles west of Hwy 261. The turn-off is 13 miles northwest of Mexican Hat and some 28 miles south of Natural Bridges National Monument.

There are no facilities at Muley Point (other than a vault toilet). People do, however, camp in the desert terrain near the point.

