



Travel and Recreation Guide

Guide to Moab

Part I

Part I: Recreation / Attractions

Hiking, River Running, Attractions, etc.

Part II: Practical Travel Information

Lodging, Dining, Transportation, etc.

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Introduction

MOAB is an active, popular town (pop. 4,200) in the heart of the beautiful red rock canyon country of southeastern Utah. It plays host to the thousands who visit southeastern Utah to take advantage of the area's great recreational opportunities. From Moab, one can conveniently hike in Arches and Canyonlands national parks, mountain bike on the famous Moab Slickrock Trail, whitewater raft the Colorado River, tackle the thousands of miles of rugged canyon roads in four-wheel drive vehicles or horseback ride amidst the alpine beauty of the La Sal Mountains.



Moab is located 30 miles south of I-70 on Hwy. 191 near Arches and Canyonlands national parks. You will find numerous dining and lodging options, plenty of outfitters eager to supply equipment, guides and information, and all other services a traveler might normally need.

Mountain Biking

Moab is the desert mountain biking capitol of the country. The Moab Slickrock Trail at the outskirts of town is world famous while the numerous other trails through the surrounding red rock canyon country offer great riding opportunities for all skill levels.



TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

	<u>Skill/Endurance</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Elev. Gain</u>	<u>Time</u>
Bartlett Wash	Intermediate/ Intermediate	4-6 mi. out-and-back	380', but lots of ups and downs	2-3 hours

Bartlett Wash is a freeform trail of rolling slickrock. Unlike the Moab Slickrock Trail, there are no painted lines to follow, just your instincts as you improvise a route through bowls, around pockets and up and down some steep slopes. The trailhead is located on a dirt road off Hwy. 191, about 15 miles northwest of Moab.

Monitor and Merrimac	Easy/Easy	13.2 mile loop	_____ feet	1/2 day
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The Monitor and Merrimac Trail traverses 4wd roads, a wash bottom and slickrock past the exceptional Determination Towers monoliths and the large Monitor and Merrimac buttes. Near the end of the route is the trailhead to the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Hiking Trail and its fossilized dinosaur tracks and bones. The Monitor and Merrimac trailhead is located on a dirt road off Hwy. 191, 15 miles northwest of Moab.

Gemini Bridges Easy/Easy 13.5 mile one-way mostly downhill 1/2 day

The Gemini Bridges Trail follows a dirt road, slickrock and wash bottom through pretty wooded sections and nice red rock scenery. The route is almost all downhill except for a moderately difficult climb near the end. Along the way are good views of the Behind the Rocks area, Arches National Park and Gemini Bridges, a pair of impressive natural arches. The trailhead is located off Hwy. 313, 22 miles west of Moab. At the end of the trail, you can shuttle back to the trailhead or ride 8 miles downhill along Hwy. 191 back to Moab.

Jughandle Loop Easy+/Strenuous 38 mile loop 2,100 feet 1 day

Jughandle Loop starts at the Jughandle Arch parking area on Hwy. 279 along the Colorado River. The route meanders into Canyonlands National Park on Potash Road and then climbs Shafer Trail 4wd Road and a terrific series of switchbacks (1,200' climb) to the park's main scenic drive (Hwy. 313). The finish is a great 4 mile long descent through Long Canyon back to Hwy. 279. The route has 9 miles of paved road and 29 miles of dirt roads.

Poison Spider Mesa Advanced/Intermediate 13.5 mile loop 1,050 feet 1/2 day

Poison Spider Mesa Trail follows a jeep road up and across Poison Spider Mesa providing nice vistas over the Colorado River to the Behind the Rocks area and Moab Valley. The route across the mesa involves sections of open slickrock requiring some very good trail finding skills. At mile 6 is the accurately named Little Arch. The descent from the mesa back to the Colorado River canyon floor involves an extremely challenging descent by way of the single track Portal Trail. It has claimed one life and should not be taken lightly. Less advanced bikers might want to turn around at Little Arch, creating a 12 mile out and back trip. The trailhead is located along Hwy. 279, 6 miles south of Hwy. 191.

Slickrock Bike Trail Advanced/Strenuous 9.5 mile loop 900 feet 2-4 hours

The Slickrock Bike Trail is a fantastic 9-1/2 mile loop over slickrock that is both technically demanding and strenuous. The route is wonderfully situated between the Colorado River and Moab Valley with terrific views of the La Sal Mountains and views of some large arches in Arches National Park across the river. The trail follows hilly, and often terrifically steep, slickrock and is marked with painted white dashes. Novices should try the 2.2 mile practice loop before tackling the main trail. The trailhead is located on Sand Flats Road a few miles east of Moab.

Amasa Back Intermediate/Intermediate 15 mile out/back (including spurs) 1,100 feet 1/2 day

The Amasa Back Trail follows a packed dirt road through Kane Creek Canyon for 1.2 miles then crosses the river and follows a 4wd road up and across Amasa Back -- a mesa defined by a gooseneck turn in the Colorado River. At mile 3.2 is a 1/2 mile spur to the right to a great view of the Colorado River canyon and Poison Spider mesa. To reach the trail's end on the western rim of the mesa requires some route finding skills over broken slickrock. Your reward is another nice view over a different area of the Colorado River canyon. The trailhead is located at the end of the paved portion of Kane Creek Road, 5 miles southwest of Moab.

Hurrah Pass	Easy/ Intermediate+	19.5 mile out/back	1,300 feet	1/2 day
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Hurrah Pass Trail follows a graded dirt road through pretty Kane Creek Canyon before ascending a snaking 4wd road 3 miles to Hurrah Pass and its nice views of the Colorado River corridor. The trailhead is the same as that for the Amasa Back Trail.

Three Lakes	Advanced/ Strenuous	14 mile loop	3,700 feet	1/2 day
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Three Lakes Trail is a figure-8 loop of mostly primitive and often elusive single track through forests of aspen and fir in the [La Sal Mountains](#). Along the route are 3 pretty alpine lakes and nice views of the surrounding desert red rock canyon country. You will encounter one calf-deep river crossing, higher in early summer. The route is rideable June to October, though its often wet in early summer.

Burro Pass	Advanced/ Strenuous	8 mile loop	3,600 feet	1/2 day
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The Burro Pass Trail follows a 4wd forest route and single track trail (half and half) through the pretty mountain scenery of the [La Sal Mountains](#). The route passes two nice mountain lakes and, like the Three Lakes Trail, provides nice views over the surrounding canyon country.

White Rim Road	Moderate/ Strenuous	110 mile loop	3,000 feet	2-5 days
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The White Rim Road is a 4wd road that circles most of the Island in the Sky District of [Canyonlands National Park](#). Combining it with Shafer Trail Road, the Mineral Road and the park's main scenic drive creates a 110 mile loop that is the preeminent multi-day bike route in the area. You will travel through an endless series of red rock canyon geological wonders and past nice views over the canyons carved by the Green and Colorado Rivers. Most bikers do the trip with a support vehicle, though well conditioned riders can tackle it unsupported. Camping is restricted to designated sites and a permit is required. (Contact the park at 435-259-7164 well in advance of trip.) The route involves a difficult 1,200' climb on either Shafer Trail Road or Mineral Road, depending on the direction you travel.

Confluence Overlook	Intermediate/ Intermediate	15 mile combo out/back and loop	800 feet	1/2 day
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The Confluence Overlook Trail follows 4wd roads past the wonderful spires and other rock formations of the [Needles District of Canyonlands](#) to a great view over the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers. You'll need to get off your bike and hike 1/2 mile to reach the overlook, so bring a lock.

Note: In summer, it can become blisteringly hot on the red rock trails, so plan accordingly. Try to start early in the morning and bring plenty of water.



MOUNTAIN BIKE OUTFITTERS

The following companies lead guided tours and/or rent bikes. Some also provide shuttle services, and all are good sources of information about riding in the area.

Featured Outfitter



Holiday Expeditions

544 E. 3900 S. - Salt Lake

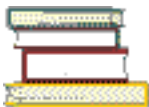
800-624-6323

"We have been providing trips to the most spectacular landscapes on earth for 30+ years."

Other Outfitters

Arches/Classic Helicopter Serv.	2251 S. Hwy. 191; Box 296	435-259-4637
Desert Highlights	208 E. 200 South; Box 1342	800-747-1342
Dreamrides	600 N. Main; Box 1137	435-259-6419
Kaibab Mountain Bike Tours	391 S. Main St.; Box 339	800-451-1133
Nichols Expeditions	497 N. Main St.	800-648-8488
Poison Spider Bicycles	497 N. Main St.	800-635-1792
Rim Tours	1233 South Hwy. 191	800-626-7335
The Chile Pepper Bike Shop	702 S. Main St.	888-677-4688
Western Spirit Cycling	478 Mill Creek Dr.	800-845-2453

The mailing address for each includes "Moab, UT 84532."



HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS

To supplement the foregoing information, see [Moab-Publications](#) (online) for a list of books and maps covering mountain biking (and other activities) in and near Moab.

River Running

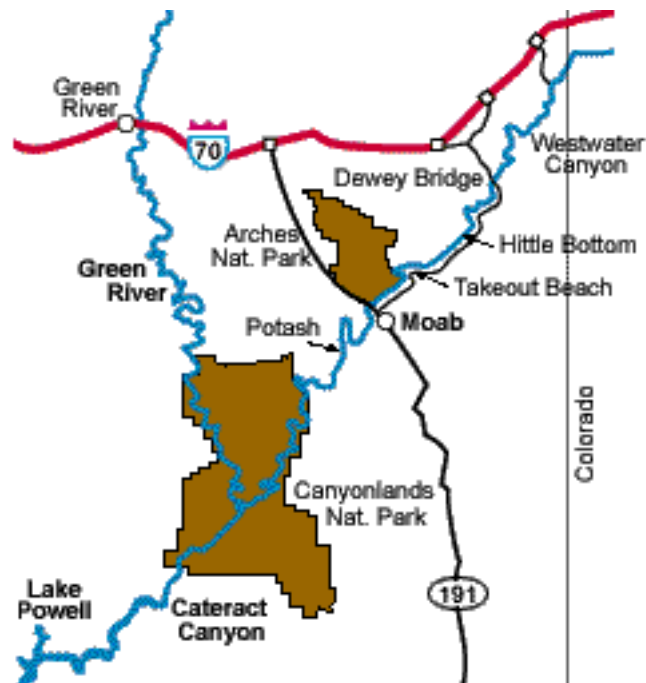
The Colorado River provides excellent opportunities for rafters, kayakers, canoers and boaters as it winds through high red canyon walls near Moab and through Canyonlands National Park. You can charge through wild whitewater in renowned Cataract Canyon, enjoy a peaceful float trip, or do some of each. Single and multi- day trips with or without guides can be arranged through numerous outfitters in Moab.



RIVER DESCRIPTIONS

Westwater Canyon (17 miles)

Westwater Canyon contains some fine whitewater sections through the oldest exposed rock in Utah. The unique black rock forms a 200 foot tall inner canyon, above which tower the more common red sandstone canyon walls. The river here contains numerous Class 1 and 2 rapids and 10 Class 3 and 4 rapids. (See [Whitewater Ratings](#) for explanation of "classes.") Highest flows are in June. You can arrange multi-day trips with several outfitters or, if you're experienced, obtain permits well in advance from BLM Grand Resource Area office (435-259-6111) to go it unguided.



Hittle Bottom to Takeout Beach (13 Miles)

This segment, nicknamed the "Colorado River Daily," is an easy whitewater section. It is the most popular section of the river. For most of the year, the 6 rapids in this section are Class I and II and can be handled by reasonably competent rafters, canoeists and kayakers without a guide. During spring run-off (mid-May to mid-June), however, the rapids grow to Class III (and occasionally Class IV) and should only be attempted by experienced parties. There are places to pull off, relax and enjoy a picnic lunch along the way. Camping is permitted, but only at designated campsites (marked with a wooden stake).

Takeout Beach to Hwy. 191 (10 Miles)

The river through this segment winds lazily through attractive high canyon walls with the La Sal Mountains to the east and Arches National Park to the west. There is one Class 2 or 3 rapid (depending on season) near the beginning. Again, there are pull-off spots and camping at designated campsites. Expect the trip to take roughly 4 hours in canoe and 5 hours in a raft, depending on river flow and paddling pace.

Hwy. 191 to Potash (17 miles)

This section of the river is similar to the previous segment, but it is less popular so you'll likely have the river more to yourself. Scenery continues to be impressive high canyon walls. [The shoreline over this stretch, however, tends to be less sandy and provides fewer opportunities to de-boat, so your picnicking and camping options are limited. This trip can be shortened to 10 miles by taking out at Gold Bar. (See [Colorado River Map](#).)

Potash to Confluence (47 miles)

Past Potash the river leaves the highway, meanders past Dead Horse Point State Park 2,000 feet above and enters Canyonlands National Park. The high canyon walls continue to provide a marvelous backdrop but you'll experience more solitude being away from the highway and further from Moab. Trips on this segment generally require an overnight stay or two and, once you get into Canyonlands, free permits are required to do so. Call 435-259-7164 for details.

About 1-1/2 miles above the confluence of the Colorado and Green rivers there is one moderate rapid, the Slide, which can get as high as Class 3 in spring. The less experienced may want to portage around it. There is no road out from the confluence, so those in non-motorized craft must arrange for a jet boat pickup. Contact either Tag-A-Long Expeditions or Tex's Riverways (listed below). If you want a shorter trip, you can arrange for a 4wd pickup at Lathrop Canyon (20 miles).

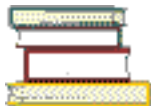
Cataract Canyon (18 miles)

Located deep within the remote, rugged scenic splendor of Canyonlands National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is Cataract Canyon. Cataract Canyon contains some of the best whitewater in the country, especially during spring run-off (mid-May to mid-June). The so-called "graveyard of the Colorado" has 26 substantial rapids from Class 3 to 4+. Private groups or individuals must be experienced and have proper equipment to obtain a permit to run the river here. Call the Canyonlands info number at 435-259-7164 far in advance of planned trip. Most people though leave it up to the numerous outfitters in Moab to arrange and guide their trip. Most trips here are multi-day and begin with the slow water sections described above, but you can arrange to be driven by jet boat to the confluence and get right into the wild stuff.



OTHER INFORMATION

Camping along the river (outside Canyonlands) is permitted only at designated sites. You'll find these sights marked with wooden stakes. Camping within Canyonlands is allowed anywhere, though a permit must be obtained in advance. Call 435-259-7164 for detailed recorded information. Fires at all campsites must be contained within a fire pan (i.e. any metal container that can hold a fire). All waste, including ashes, partially burned wood, food scraps and solid human waste, must be carried out. (You'll want to carry a commercial porta-potty.)



HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS

For more detailed information on exploring the Colorado River (and other rivers in Utah), see [Moab-Publications](#) (online) for a list of books and maps.

The following outfitters rent equipment and/or lead guided trips on the Colorado. Select any name that is highlighted for detailed information on services provided, rates, etc.

Featured River Outfitters

Adventure Bound

2392 H Road - Grand Jct., CO

800-423-4668



Hatch River Expeditions

55 E. Main St. - Vernal

800-342-8243

"Over 70 years experience offering the finest whitewater excursions"



Holiday Expeditions

544 E. 3900 S. - Salt Lake

800-624-6323

"We have been providing trips to the most spectacular landscapes on earth for 30+ years."



O.A.R.S.

543 N. Main St.

800-346-6277

"Join us for the journey..."

Other River Outfitters

Adrift Adventures	378 N. Main St.; Box 577	800-874-4483
Canyon Voyages	690 S. Main St.; Box 416	800-733-6007
Canyonlands Field Institute	1320 S. Hwy. 191; Box 68	800-860-5262
Colorado River & Trail Expeditions	5058 S. 300 West; Salt Lake City	800-253-7328
Desert Highlights	208 E. 200 South #1; Box 1342	800-747-1342
Moki Mac River Expeditions	6006 S. 1300 East; Box 71242	800-284-7280
Navtec Expeditions	321 N. Main St.; Box 1267	800-833-1278
Nichols Expeditions	497 N. Main St.	800-648-8488
Red River Canoe Company	702 S. Main St.	800-753-8216
Sheri Griffith Expeditions	2231 S. Hwy. 191; Box 1324	800-332-2439
Tag Along Expeditions	452 N. Main St.	800-453-3292
Tex's Riverways	691 N. 500 West; Box 67	435-259-5101
The Moab Rafting Company	Box 801	800-746-6622
Western River Expeditions	1371 N. Hwy. 191	800-453-7450
World Wide River Expeditions	625 N. Riverside Dr.	800-231-2769

Hiking

The red rock canyon country surrounding Moab offers dozens of good hiking opportunities.



TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

	<u>Difficulty</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Elev. Gain</u>	<u>Time</u>
Portal Overlook	Moderate	4 mile out/back	980 feet	2-1/2 to 3 hrs.

The Portal Overlook Trail climbs switchbacks through cliffs near the Colorado River and then traverses slickrock ramps to a nice lookout over the Moab Valley and Colorado River. The route is mostly shaded in late afternoons during the summer. The trailhead is located at the Jay Cee Park on Hwy 279, 4 miles south of Hwy 191.

Corona Arch	Moderate	3 miles out/back	440 feet	1-1/2 to 2 hrs.
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The Corona Arch Trail climbs out of the Colorado River canyon to the 140' by 105' Corona Arch and nearby Bow Tie Arch, a pothole type arch 30 feet in diameter. The trail follows an old 4wd road bed and then traverses slickrock to the arches. The signed trailhead is located on Hwy 279 10 miles south of Hwy 191.

Mill Creek Canyon	Easy	1.6 miles out/back	50 feet	1 hour
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The Mill Creek Canyon Trail follows the Mill Creek upstream through a scenic canyon to a small waterfall. The trail requires a few shallow stream crossings and at high water periods some wading. The trailhead is located at the end of Power House Lane on the southeastern outskirts of Moab.

Negro Bill Canyon	Moderate	4 miles out/back	330 feet	3 -1/2 hours
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The Negro Bill Canyon Trail climbs a slickrock canyon along a stream to the base of Morning Glory Natural Bridge. Its 243 foot span makes it the sixth largest natural bridge in the country. (Be careful of the plants with shiny leaves in clusters of three with serrated edges near the pool under the bridge -- they are poison ivy.) The trailhead is located off Hwy 128, 3 miles northeast of Hwy 191.

Behind the Rocks	Moderate to Advanced			1/2 to 1 day
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Behind the Rocks is a wonderful area of massive sandstone fins -- 100-500 feet tall, 50-200 feet thick and up to 1/2 mile long. There are no established trails within the area, you just choose your own route through the maze of narrow corridors created by the fins, an often fascinating experience. It is very easy to get lost, however, so you'll need a compass and some skill. (Remember that the fins are all oriented east to west.) The area is currently under consideration for wilderness designation and you will find plenty of solitude here. Access is gained from the Moab Rim Road, Hidden Valley Trail or Pritchett Canyon Trail. (See below).

Moab Rim Road Moderate 3 miles oneway 940 feet 1-1/2 to 2 hrs.

The Moab Rim Road is a primitive and difficult 4wd road along [broken] slickrock. Along the route are good views of the Colorado River, Moab Valley and the Behind the Rocks area. It connects to the Hidden Valley Trail described below. The trailhead is located on Kane Creek Road, 2.5 miles southwest of downtown Moab.

Hidden Valley Moderate 4 miles oneway 680 feet 2-1/2 to 3 hrs.

Hidden Valley Trail ascends steep switchbacks to Hidden Valley, a broad [slickrock] shelf between the Moab Rim and Spanish Valley. The trail gives nice views of the Behind the Rocks area and Moab Valley. It shares a termination point with the Moab Rim Road. [To get to the trailhead, drive south on Hwy 191 3 miles from Moab. Turn right onto Angel Rock Road (Milepost 122) and proceed two blocks to Rimrock Lane. Turn right and drive 500 yards to a parking area.]

Pritchett Canyon Moderate 9 miles out/back _____ 4 hours

Pritchett Canyon Trail is a very difficult 4wd road up canyon to Pritchett Arch. Along the way is good canyon scenery and nice views of the Behind the Rocks area, as well as looks at some smaller arches. The trailhead is located 4.8 miles down Kane Creek Road, just before the road turns up canyon as a dirt road. A private landowner charges users a small fee for access.

Hunters Canyon Moderate 6 miles out/back 240 feet 3-1/2 hours

Hunters Canyon Trail follows a path along a canyon bottom beneath cottonwoods and through some heavy plant growth. In spring Hunters Creek flows freely creating pleasant pools along the route. About 1/2 mile in on the right side is good-sized Hunters Arch. The trail ends where heavy brush blocks the route. To get to the trailhead, drive 3 miles up the dirt road through Kane Creek Canyon.

Note: See [Arches](#) or [Canyonlands](#) for information on the great hiking opportunities in those national parks.



The following outfitters will arrange and lead hiking trips.

Featured Outfitter



Utah Touring and Hiking

801-334-8681

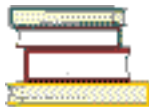
Guided Hiking / backpacking Trips

"Explore Utah from mountain peaks to desert plateaus, forest paths to sandstone canyons."

Other Outfitters

Arches & Classic Helicopter Serv.	2251 S. Hwy. 191; Box 296	435-259-4637
Canyonlands Field Institute	1320 S. Hwy. 191; Box 68	800-860-5262
Desert Highlights	208 E. 200 South; Box 1342	800-747-1342
Dreamrides	600 N. Main St.; Box 1137	435-259-6419
Moab Adventure Outfitters	550 N. Main St.	435-259-2725
Moki Treks	320 Castle Valley Dr.	435-259-4859
Navtec Expeditions	321 N. Main St.; Box 1267	800-833-1278
Nichols Expeditions	497 N. Main St.	800-648-8488
Tag Along Expeditions	452 N. Main St.	800-453-3292

The mailing address for each outfitter includes "Moab, UT 84532."



HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS

For more details on these trails and information about other hiking opportunities in the area, see [Moab-Publications](#) (online) for a list of books and maps covering hiking (and other activities) in and near Moab.

Off-Road Driving

There are thousands of miles of backcountry jeep trails through the red rock canyons in the Moab area. Some will challenge your driving skill (and test your courage) while others are merely scenic.



TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Monitor and Merrimac

Easy

13.2 mile loop

2 hours

The Monitor and Merrimac Trail traverses red rock country past the impressive Determination Towers monoliths and the large Monitor and Merrimac buttes. Near the end of the route is the trailhead to the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Hiking Trail and its fossilized dinosaur tracks and bones. The route begins off Hwy. 191, 15 miles northwest of Moab.

Gemini Bridges

Easy

14 miles one-way

2 hours

The Gemini Bridges Trail is an easy route through pretty wooded sections and red rock formations with good views of the Behind the Rocks area and Arches National Park. At about the midway point are the Gemini Bridges, a pair of impressive natural arches. To get your heart pumping a bit, you can make a frightening and hazardous drive [across the spans of the two arches]. The route begins off Hwy. 313, 22 miles south of Hwy. 191.

Jughandle Arch

Easy+

38 mile loop

3 hours

Jughandle Arch Loop starts at the Jughandle Arch off Hwy. 279 along the Colorado River. It winds into Canyonlands National Park on Shafer Trail Road and up a terrific series of switchbacks (1,200' climb) to the park's main scenic drive (Hwy. 313). Your return includes a nice descent through Long Canyon. The route has 9 miles of paved road and 29 miles of 4wd roads.

Poison Spider Mesa

Moderate

16 mile semi-loop

3 to 3-1/2 hours

Poison Spider Mesa Trail climbs switchbacks up and across Poison Spider mesa providing very attractive views over the Colorado River of the Behind the Rocks area and Moab Valley. The route across the mesa involves sections of open slickrock requiring some trail finding skills. A few short spurs to the right give the best views. The small loop that begins at mile 5.6 should be driven counterclockwise to avoid having to ascend a sandy hill. At mile 6 is the accurately named Little Arch. The route begins along Hwy. 279, 6 miles south of Hwy. 191.

Moab Rim Road

Difficult

6.5 miles out/back

2 hours

The Moab Rim Road is a primitive and difficult trail up some very steep slickrock and past harrowing drop-offs. You'll need some good route finding skills. Often your only clues are black tire marks from previous drivers. The route affords nice views of the Colorado River, Moab Valley and the Behind the Rocks area. There are also some good Indian petroglyphs near the end of the trail. Your route begins off Kane Creek Road 2.5 miles southwest of downtown Moab.

Pritchett Canyon

Difficult

9 miles out/back

1-1/2 to 2 hours

Pritchett Canyon Trail is a very difficult 4wd road that runs up canyon to Pritchett Arch. Along the way is good canyon scenery and nice views of the Behind the Rocks area, as well as looks at some smaller arches. The route starts 4.8 miles down Kane Creek Road, just before the road turns up Kane Creek Canyon as a dirt road. A private landowner charges a toll of \$2 per vehicle for use.

Chicken Corners

Easy

43 miles out/back

3-5 hours

Chicken Corners Trail travels through pretty Kane Creek Canyon, crosses Kane Creek (which should not be attempted in high water), climbs to Hurrah Pass and then descends to benches above the Colorado River. Chicken Corners refers to a tight spot between rocks and a fall off near the Colorado River where guides let "chicken" passengers get out and walk. This is a very easy 4wd route, of interest for the scenery rather than challenging driving. Your route begins at the mouth of Kane Creek Canyon where Kane Creek Road turns to dirt (5 miles from Moab).

4wd Routes in Canyonlands and Arches

Canyonlands offers some of the best 4wd opportunities in Utah, if not the country. Within Needles is famous Elephant Hill as well as numerous other routes. Maze Districts offers the tortuous Flint Trail and miles and miles of other routes. The wonderful White Rim Road circles the Island in the Sky District. For details, see [Needles-4wd/Biking](#), [Exploring the Maze](#), or [Island in the Sky-Backcountry](#).

The opportunities in Arches are much more limited. For a description see [Arches-Recreation](#).

Other Recreation



HORSEBACK RIDING

Several outfitters in the Moab area provide guided trail rides by the hour and overnight pack trips. Rides are available into Arches National Park, the La Sal Mountains and surrounding canyon country. One outfitter, Adrift Adventures, provides an interesting day long trip combining a horseback ride into Arches and a rafting trip down the Colorado River.

Adrift Adventures	378 N. Main St.; Box 577	800-874-4483
Arches & Classic Helicopter Serv.	2251 S. Hwy. 191; Box 296	435-259-4637
Canyon Trail Rides	Hwy. 191 at 313; Box 1406	800-813-6622
Colorado River & Trail Expeditions	5058 S. 300 West (Salt Lake)	800-253-7328
Cowboy Trails	2231 S. Hwy. 191; Box 104	435-259-8053
Desert Highlights	208 E. 200 South; Box 1342	800-747-1342
Nichols Expeditions	497 N. Main St.	800-648-8488
Pack Creek Ranch	La Sal Mtn. Loop; Box 1270	435-259-5505

Select any highlighted name for helpful information provided by that outfitter.



ROCK CLIMBING

There are many excellent rock climbing opportunities on cliffs and canyon walls near Moab and in Arches and Canyonlands national parks. The following outfitter provides lessons and lead climbs for all skill levels:

Moab Adventure Outfitters

550 N. Main St.

435-259-2725



The following business(es) offer photo tours in the Moab area as well as throughout the red rock deserts of southern Utah.

[Canyonlight Photo & Scenic Tours](#)

Box 1170 - Moab

435-259-2231

"We offer individualized year round photography and 4wd scenic tours in canyon country"



Moab has one public golf course - a striking swatch of green surrounded by red rock. To get there, take Hwy. 191 south about five miles from the center of Moab to Spanish Trail Road. Turn left and head east two miles to Murphy Lane. Turn right and head south 1/4 mile. The course is at the end of the road.

			<u>Rating/Slope</u>
The Moab Golf Course	2705 E. Bench Road	435-259-6488	72.2/125



There are public tennis courts at the Grand County Middle School at 217 East Center St.



Unfortunately, the powerful current of the Colorado River near Moab makes it a somewhat dangerous (and tiring) place to swim. That leaves the motel pools and the Moab Swim Center. The Moab Swim Center is an outdoor public swimming pool, open daily for lap swimming 12:15 to 1:15 and open swimming 1:30 to 5:30 and, except on Sunday, 6:30 to 9:00. Small admission fee. 181 West 400 North; 435-259-8226.

You can also cool off at the Butch Cassidy King World Water Park. N. Hwy. 191; 435-259-2837.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

There are miles of ungroomed trails and 4wd roads to tackle in the La Sal Mountains east of Moab. Also, Arches National Park occasionally gets enough snow for skiing. Its red rock formations dusted with powder are striking. The following outfitters rent equipment and or lead tours.

Dreamrides	600 N. Main St.; Box 1137	435-259-6419	tours
Pack Creek Ranch	La Sal Mtn. Loop; Box 1270	435-259-5505	rentals
Rim Cyclery	94 W. 100 North	435-259-5333	rentals
Tag Along Expeditions	452 N. Main St.	800-453-3292	tours

Scenic Drives

In addition to the routes described below, the drives through [Arches](#) and [Canyonlands](#) National Parks are exceptional.

Colorado Scenic Byway (Hwy 128)

The Colorado Scenic Byway (Hwy 128) begins at Hwy 191 just north of Moab on the eastern edge of the Colorado River. It follows the river northeast for roughly 30 miles. Along the way are pleasant views of the swift moving Colorado as it carves its way through tall red rock cliffs. In the background are the impressive snow capped La Sal Mountains. There are a few picnic areas along the route.

Potash Scenic Byway (Hwy. 279)

Potash Scenic Byway (Hwy. 279) begins at Hwy 191 about 3 miles northwest of Moab and a short distance past the Colorado River. It follows the Colorado southeast for about 16 miles, ending at the Moab Salt Plant. The byway runs between high cliff walls on the west and the Colorado River on the east. Along the way are Indian petroglyphs, a few groups of which are signed, and some dinosaur tracks (Mile 6.2). Jug Handle Arch, which derives its name from the fact it is only 3 feet wide but 46 feet high, is visible near the end of the road (Mile 13.6). The route also passes a few good hiking trails. See the Hiking section.

La Sal Mountain Scenic Route

The La Sal Mountain Scenic Route is a loop that starts about 6 miles south of Moab off of Hwy 191, climbs steeply into the mountains over narrow switchbacks and some gravel sections and then descends through Castle Valley where it joins the Colorado Scenic Byway -- Hwy 128. (See above.) Taking Hwy. 128 southwest brings you back to Hwy 191 a few miles north of Moab. The entire loop is about 60 miles. The route through the La Sals passes pleasant alpine meadows and timberland, campgrounds and picnic areas, and offers good panoramas of the desert canyon country below. It is often a welcome respite from the heat and baked red sandstone of most of the surrounding canyon country. You can spend anywhere from a few hours to most of the day to complete the loop. (The steep ascent and narrow switchbacks makes this a difficult route for cars with trailers and RV's.)

Needles and Anticline Overlooks

The Needles and Anticline Overlooks provide fantastic views of the canyon country in and near Canyonlands National Park. A marked gravel road off Hwy 191 about 32 miles south of Moab leads to both. Though the drive itself isn't exceptional, the overlooks are. The Needles Overlook provides a good though distant view of the Needles section of the park. The Anticline Overlook provides a great panorama of Canyonlands and the La Sal Mountains.

Squaw Flat Scenic Byway (Hwy 211)

The Squaw Flat Scenic Byway (Hwy 211) begins at Hwy 191 about 40 miles south of Moab, and runs west into the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. Along the way is nice red rock scenery, good views south of the [Abajo Mountains](#) and wonderful [Newspaper Rock](#) -- a cliff wall densely covered with Indian petroglyphs. There are picnic areas at Newspaper Rock and within the Needles District.

Other Things To Do

Moab is mostly a mecca for the active recreationalist, but it does offer a few other diversions.

Museums and Such

Dan O'Laurie Museum

The Dan O'Laurie Museum is devoted to the history of the Moab area, with exhibits on Indian artifacts, early explorers and pioneers, rocks, minerals and dinosaur bones. An art gallery featuring the work of local artists resides upstairs. It is open Monday through Saturday. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. [118 East Center](#); 435-259-7985.

Hole 'N the Rock

Hole 'N the Rock is a sandstone monolith 15 miles south of Moab in which Albert and Gladys Christensen have carved out a 14 room, 5,000 square foot home. Intriguing, if a bit touristy, their accomplishment is open for tours daily for \$2.75 adult / \$1.75 children. Hwy. 191, 15 miles south of Moab; 435-686-2250.

Tours

Movie Locations Tour

Numerous movies have taken advantage of the red canyon scenery surrounding Moab for shoots, including The Comancheros (1961- John Wayne), Indian Jones and the Last Crusade (1988 -- Harrison Ford), and Thelma and Louise (1990 -- Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon). A list of the shooting locations of these and nearly 20 other films are contained in a pamphlet available at the Moab Visitor Center.

Moab Historic Sites Walking Tour

This self-guided tour takes one to numerous structures built near the end of the last century as well as more recent buildings. The walking tour brochure is available at the Dan O'Laurie Museum (118 East Center) and the Moab Visitor Center.

Scenic Flights

Small plane scenic flights and helicopter rides over Canyonlands and Arches national parks, Lake Powell and other areas are available from several outfitters.

Arches & Classic Helicopter Services	2251 S. Hwy. 191; Box 296	435-259-4637
Desert Highlights	208 E. 200 South #1; Box 1342	800-747-1342
Redtail Aviation	Canyonlands Airport; Box 515	800-842-9251
Slickrock Air Guides	2231 South Hwy. 191; Box 901	800-332-2439

The mailing address for each includes "Moab, UT 84532."

Evening Activities

Canyonlands by Night

Canyonlands by Night offers an interesting and popular way to experience the Colorado River and canyon walls that rise above it. Departing as the sun begins to set, guided boats carry passengers upstream along Arches' eastern edge about 7 miles. Along the way, a guide points out interesting canyon features. When darkness comes, the boats head back down the river. A truck drives along the adjacent highway with powerful lights that illuminate the canyon walls in a fascinating manner. A narrative covering geology, Indian myths and the history of the area together with light music accompany the light show. Tours depart at around 8:00 pm nightly from May to September. The cost is \$22 for adults, \$12 for children 6-12, and \$0 for kids under 6. Reservations are recommended. 435-259-5261 or 800-394-9978.

Arches and Canyonlands Evening Programs

In an amphitheater beneath Skyline Arch in Arches National Park each evening, park rangers present various nature and wildlife programs. Similar programs are offered about three times a week at the Squaw Flat Campground in the Needles District of Canyonlands and next to the visitor center at Dead Horse Point State Park. Programs are normally offered from April to October. For program information, contact the Moab Information Center (435-259-8825).

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