



# TRAIL & SAFETY GUIDE

## THE BEST TRAILS!

SAFETY TIPS AND  
DESERT ETIQUETTE

SCENIC DRIVES

ROCK ART

WHAT TO SEE

WHERE TO EAT

HISTORY OF MOAB





# PLEASE READ

Thank you for renting from Canyonlands Jeep Adventures. The following information is for your safety and protection while touring the backcountry of Moab's fabulous canyon country. Please take a moment to review the following safety instructions and recommended trail routes outlined in this booklet.

## **4 Wheeling Is Fun When You Follow A Few Simple Guidelines**

**Always wear a seat belt.** Jeeps are not designed for high speeds on the open road. Please stay within the recommended speeds set by the state of Utah. You can be pulled over and given a ticket for not wearing a seat belt.

**Stay on designated trails.** Most of the recommended trails are designed for moderate 4-wheeling. Canyonlands Jeeps are not recommended or built for any trails of a difficult nature (4+ or greater in difficulty). Anything more than a 4+ rating requires special suspension and modifications, which Canyonlands Jeep Adventures does not provide.

**When in doubt, back out!** If you are traveling on a trail or trying to maneuver around something that you are not comfortable with, don't do it. Remember, any damage done to the Jeep is the responsibility of the renter.

**PROHIBITED TRAILS:** The following trails are prohibited due to the nature and difficulty of the trail. Inexperienced drivers can cause harm to themselves and the Jeep while on these trails: **Moab Rim, Behind the Rocks, Golden Spike, Behind the Rocks, Pritchett Canyon, Poison Spider, Hell's Revenge, Hey Joe Canyon, Metal Masher, Steel Bender, Gold Bar Rim, Cliffhanger and Kane Creek Canyon, Top of The World, Strike Ravine, Porcupine Rim, Rose Garden, Potato Salad Hill, Area BFE, Rusty Nail and any other "extreme" or off-designated road trails. Be safe. Respect all OHV rules and regulations.**

## **SHIFTING PROCEDURE**

### **2H to 4H or 4h to 2H**

Shifting between 2H and 4H can be made with the vehicle stopped or in motion. If the vehicle is in motion, shifts can be made up to 30 mph. With the vehicle in motion, the transfer case will engage/disengage faster if you momentarily release the accelerator pedal after completing the shift. Apply a constant force when shifting the transfer case lever.

### **4H to 4L or 4L to 4H**

With the vehicle rolling at 2 to 3 mph (3 to 5 km/h), shift an automatic transmission into Neutral (N). While the vehicle is coasting at 2 to 3 mph (3 to 5 km/h), shift the transfer case lever firmly to the desired position. Do not pause with the transfer case in N (Neutral).

Note: Shifting into or out of 4L is possible with the vehicle completely stopped, however, difficulty may occur due to the mating teeth not being properly aligned.

Several attempts may be required for clutch teeth alignment and shift completion to occur. The preferred method is with the vehicle rolling at 2 to 3 mph (3 to 5 km/h). Avoid attempting to engage or disengage 4L with the vehicle moving faster than 2 to 3 mph (3 to 5 km/h).

**PLEASE NOTE: The "low tire pressure" warning light will be on as we air the tires down for trail use and comfort. Please note oversized tires change the calibration of the odometer and speedometer. Thanks!**

### **Canyonlands Jeep Contact Information**

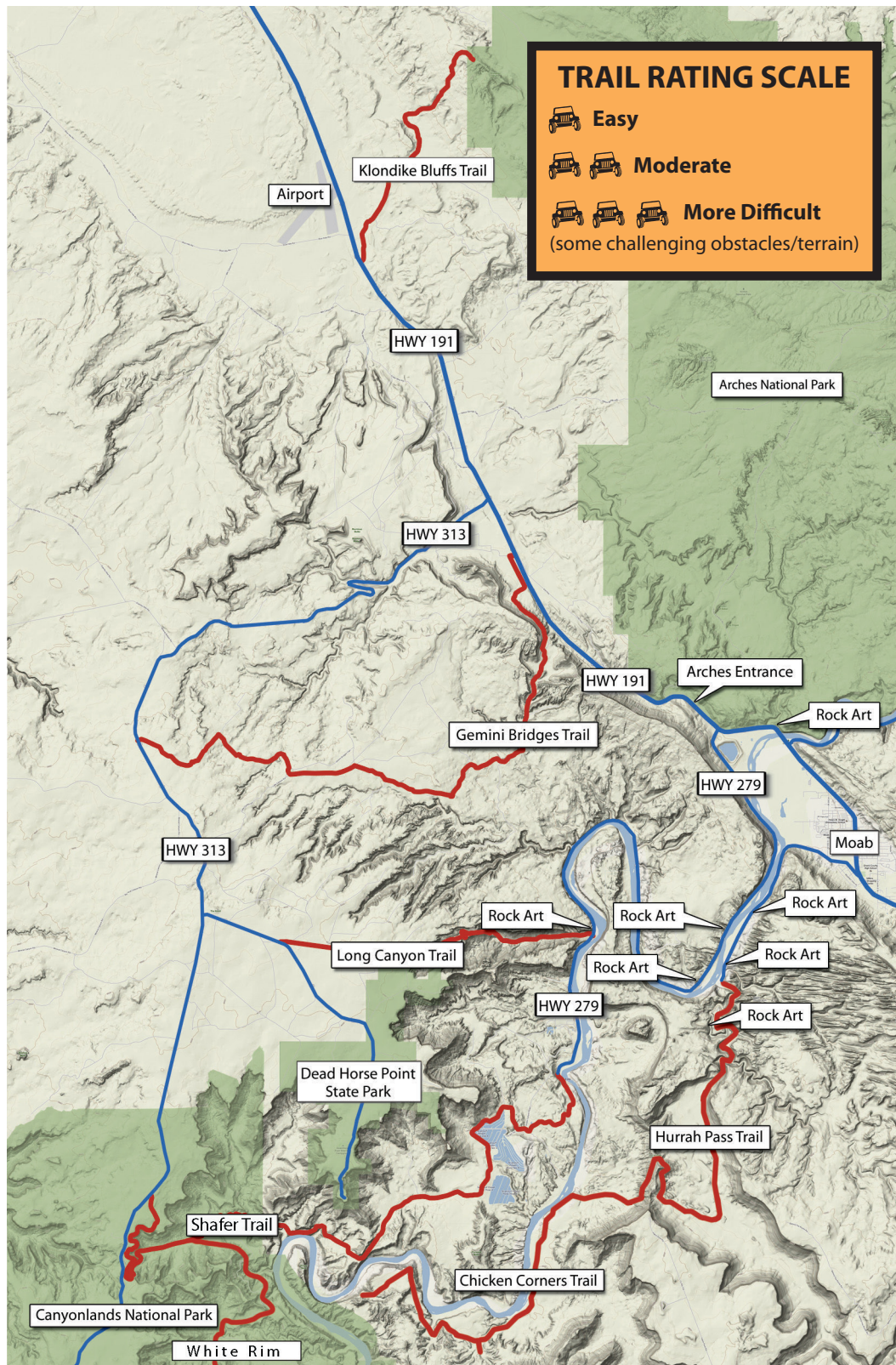
Local - 435-259-4413

Toll Free - 866-592-5337

If you have a medical emergency please call - 911 (this will connect you with local dispatch for emergency services)



# REGIONAL MAP





# SAFETY TIPS AND DESERT ETIQUETTE

**New Drivers:** If you are new to off-roading, start with an easier trail. Practice basics such as how and when to use low and high range 4 wheel drive, how to place your tires on rocks rather than straddle them and learn to be environmentally responsible.

**Travel with another vehicle:** Your chances of getting stranded in the back-country are greatly reduced with two vehicles. Extra maps can help if you decide to take a spur road off the main trail.

**Weather and Conditions:** The weather can change fast in the desert. A storm cloud miles away can cause flash flooding in the area you are in. Nature can be an awesome force in Moab causing huge temperature changes, rock slides and flash flooding. Use common sense.

**Keep hands, arms and legs inside the moving vehicle:** Many trails are narrow. Branches, brush and rock overhangs may come very close to your vehicle and can scrape or hurt a wayward limb, etc.

**Cliff Edges:** Watch children and be extremely careful at cliff edges. There are few guardrails in Moab. The consequences are swift and final. Remember, with sandstone, it is much easier to climb up than back down. Search and Rescue stays busy with people who go up and can't come back down.

**Lightning:** In a storm, stay away from lone trees, cliff edges and high points. Stay low to the ground or in your vehicle. Lightning can strike from a cloud far away when the sky is clear overhead.

**Water, Water, Water, Water:** Did we mention bringing water? At least a gallon a day per person. Running out of water can be a fatal mistake out here. Stick a five gallon container in your vehicle. Better to have it and not need it than the other way around.

**Mines and other structures:** Be careful around old mine buildings. Don't let children play in these structures. Also remember, a lot of these old mines can be radioactive.

**Dehydration:** As your body sweats to cool itself, it dehydrates. You may be drinking water, but not enough. Eating may make you nauseous. Symptoms include dry mouth, dizziness, headaches, shortness of breath and irritation. Drink more than you think you need even if you don't feel thirsty.

**Did we mention water?** We can never stress it enough. Got water? Good, then go have fun!

**Tread lightly when traveling.** Drive and ride-only on roads and trails where such travel is allowed; hike only on established trails, on rock, or in washes. Camp at designated sites or, where allowed, at previously-used sites. Avoid placing tents on top of vegetation and use a camp stove instead of making a campfire. Unless signs indicate otherwise, leave gates open or closed as you find them.

## TREAD LIGHTLY

### Tips for Responsible Four Wheeling

- Stay on designated routes.
- Know your vehicle's limitations. When in doubt re-track.
- Be considerate of others on the road and trails.
- Yield the right-of-way to those passing you or traveling uphill.
- Yield to mountain bikers, hikers, and horses.
- Keep noise and dust down.
- Check the weather forecast.
- Buckle up! Seat belts are mandatory.
- Don't mix driving with alcohol and/or drugs.
- Understand your vehicle's controls and how to operate them.

[www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org)



## CRYPTOBIOTIC SOIL

The “black dirt,” or crust that can be seen covering the desert is actually a complex of slowly-growing cyanobacteria, algae, mosses and lichens that bind the soil together, retain scarce water, and provide a usable source of nitrogen for desert plants. Your tracks do matter, for once plants or soil crust are damaged, they may not recover in your lifetime.



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# ROCK ART



Chris Conrad photo

The Moab area has numerous examples of Indian rock art to enjoy. This page briefly discusses some types, dates, the artists and their cultures and how to take care of these irreplaceable sites. Directions are included to a number of sites which allow you to sample some of the easily accessible ancient rock art in the Moab area. All sites are accessible with a passenger car and a short walk!

## **What is Indian Rock Art?**

There are two types of rock art: petroglyphs (motifs that are pecked, ground, incised, abraded, or scratched on the rock surface) and pictographs (paintings or drawings in one or more colors using mineral pigments and plant dyes on the rock surface). Although many images may have originally been executed as a combination of both techniques, most now appear only as petroglyphs because the paint material has faded or washed away over many years. On closer examination you might be able to see a painted design accompanying the pecked image. Examples of both types of rock art are found along the sites described in this guide. Each site is unique. The patterns and motifs may be similar, but are never quite the same. Styles vary from place to place, and from people to people.

## **The People**

Rock art was produced by a number of prehistoric and historic peoples over thousands of years. Their histories in the area are very complex. A big game hunting people, known as Paleo-Indians, are considered to be the first human users in the

area. Their game included now extinct Pleistocene fauna such as mammoths and mastodons. A later culture, called Archaic, probably used central base camps during their seasonal round of activities based on harvesting wild plants and animals. They did not build permanent habitation structures, but lived in caves and in small brush shelters built in the open.

The Anasazi, whose culture centered south of Moab in the Four Corners area, concentrated much of their subsistence efforts on the cultivation of corn, beans and squash. These sedentary people also harvested a wide variety of wild resources such as pinion nuts, grasses, bighorn sheep and deer. The Fremont, who were contemporary with the Anasazi people, also grew corn, and were apparently more dependent on hunting and gathering wild resources than were the Anasazi. Their territory was mainly north of the Colorado River, but overlapped with the Anasazi at Moab.


Both cultures had a complex social structure, and were highly adaptive to the extremes of the environment. The Anasazi and Fremont are classified by scientists as "Formative" cultures.

The most recent inhabitants, the Utes, have been in southeast Utah since the 1200's. They were a very mobile hunting and gathering people who moved in from the Great Basin. They used the bow and arrow, made baskets and brownware pottery, and lived in brush wickiups and tipis. The Notah (Ute people) lived freely throughout western Colorado and eastern Utah until about 1880, when they were forced onto reservations.

## **Dating the Rock Art**

Although it is difficult to establish an exact age of rock art, some dating clues are easily identified. For example, whenever a horse and rider is depicted, we know the date to be after A.D. 1540 when the Spaniards reintroduced the horse to the New World. The presence of bows and arrows





is presumed to indicate a date after A.D. 500, the generally accepted time period for their appearance in this region. For purposes of this guide, time periods are broken into generalized categories relating to the people believed to have made them.

### **Sites**

If you have trouble locating the rock art once you are near the site, don't be discouraged. Remember: check your mileages. You will develop a sense of which types of rocks and surfaces are appropriate areas to look for petroglyphs and pictographs. Petroglyphs are commonly found on the black or brown surface (called desert varnish) of rock cliffs. The straight, smooth, red sandstone found in the Navajo and Wingate formations is a good area to look for pictographs. As you spot one image, look carefully around the adjoining surface areas. Often there are numerous images at any given site. The main panel might have one or more sub-panels nearby. Some of the images may be very faint, having faded or eroded through the years. You will sometimes see one layer of images constructed on top of another.

### **Protection**

Rock art sites on federal lands are nationally protected areas. The art is extremely fragile. Once damaged, the site can never be repaired to its original condition. Please avoid even touching the rock surface. Surprising as it may seem, the oils in a single handprint can chemically affect the rock surface. Take care so that others may marvel at these fragile and beautiful remains of the past. You will see evidence of vandalism such as bullet impacts, names and dates incised on the rock surface, remains of latex molds and chalk marks. Do not attempt to remove any form of vandalism, including signatures, dates and names. Site repair requires technical expertise and can be made more difficult by the good intentions of those without highly developed skills.

### **Kane Creek Blvd. Rock Art Site**

At the corner of Main and Kane Creek Drive (McDonald's is on the southwest corner) turn west and proceed .8 miles to the intersection of Kane Creek Drive and 500 West. Stay left and continue along Kane Creek Drive approximately 2.3 miles to the mouth of Moon Flower Canyon. Along the rock cliff just beyond the canyon, you will see a rock art panel dating from the Archaic to Formative Periods. The site is behind the tall protective fence. There is a Barrier Canyon Style figure (a large triangular shape with headdress), desert bighorn sheep and a number of abstract elements. The panel is from ground level to a height of about twelve feet and extending approximately 100 feet. You will see a blue residue left from an illegal latex mold on one of the bighorn sheep motifs. This entire panel is one of the most vandalized rock art sites in the Moab area.

Continue another 1.2 miles to another rock art panel. A huge rock surface covered with desert varnish faces the river from the cliff side of the road. Here, you can see bighorn sheep, snakes, human forms, and a trail, possibly indicating a route from the river up Kane Springs Canyon. Again, you will notice some vandalism. (If you miss this site, it may be seen more easily on the return trip.)

### **Birthing Scene**

Continue on Kane Creek Drive past the cattle guard, where the road turns from pavement to graded gravel road. After traveling 1.7 miles from the previous site, or a total of 5.3 miles from the intersection of Kane Creek Drive and 500 West, you will see two small pullouts suitable for single vehicles. If you are traveling with a large group, continue up the hill where more parking space is available and walk back to the site.

*continued on next page*



# ROCK ART

Approximately 75 feet west and down the slope from the road, is a large boulder with rock art on all four sides. Figures and designs range from the Formative



Chris Conrad photo

to the historic Ute period. The well known “birthing scene” is found on the left-hand corner of the east side of the boulder (facing the road). Notice the feet-first presentation of the baby. Look for various animal forms, such as a centipede and a horse, bear paws and a snake, as well as triangular anthropomorphic (human) figures and a sandal trackway.

## **Courthouse Wash Rock Art**

Drive north from Moab on Highway 191 and cross the Colorado River Bridge. Proceed .5 miles to a parking area on the right side of the road. Walk back across the small bridge that crosses Courthouse Wash on the graveled foot path. At the east end of the bridge, face the 11:00 position and look up at the cliffs. Walk uphill to the base of those cliffs and look for an extremely faint rock art panel. The panel consists of a large pictograph and petroglyph panel along with associated petroglyphs on the rock slabs at its base. The panel is approximately 19 feet high by 52 feet long. The site, located in Arches National Park, was heavily vandalized in 1980, but conservation work has helped preserve and stabilize the site.

You will see large painted ghost-like illustrations typical of the Barrier Canyon Style Archaic figures on the red-orange surface. The numerous figures include human forms, bighorn sheep, shields, scorpion-like illustrations, possible dogs, a long beaked bird and abstract elements. You can see evidence of painted multi-colored figures superimposed on other pictographs. On the desert varnish surface you will see human and animal-like

figures as well as abstract forms. This site is on the National Register of Historic Places because of its representation of a Barrier Canyon Style rock art panel.

## **Utah Scenic Byway 279 Rock Art Sites**

From Highway 191 take Utah Scenic Byway 279 south for 5 miles where you will find an “Indian Writing” interpretive road sign and pull out adjacent to the river. Caution: watch for highway traffic. Looking 25 to 30 feet up the rock wall on the cliff side of the road you will see petroglyphs from the Formative Period. Look for the line of “paper doll cutouts” and horned anthropomorphs holding shields and abstract images, as well as a wide variety of other animal and abstract images. The panel extends along the road 125 feet.

The round holes carved into the sandstone underneath the left side of the petroglyph panel once held the roof poles of a structure which was excavated by archaeologists prior to road construction. The structure and the rock art panel were easily accessible before the talus slope was cleared away to make room for the road. Continue south 200 yards to the next “Indian Writing” sign. You will find the large bear with a hunter at the bear’s nose and another over its back. At an interpretive pullout ~0.75 miles further along the Utah Scenic Byway 279, you can see Indian rock art and dinosaur tracks. On the north side of the road two spotting tubes indicate the location of three toed allosaurus tracks in the Navajo/Kayenta sandstone interface. Binoculars are needed to view the petroglyphs located to the left of the tracks at the base of the cliff. Approximately 7.5 miles farther along Highway 279 is Jug Handle Arch (near the mouth of Long Canyon). Proceed to Jug Handle parking area via a dirt road that travels east from the highway. The rock art is located above the parking area to the north.

re-printed courtesy of the Moab Area Travel Council



# MOAB AREA SCENIC DRIVES

## **Arches National Park:**

There is a great visitor center located in the park that can provide you with maps to the different highlights of the park. There are over 2,000 arches found in the Arches National Park, which include the famous Delicate Arch, Landscape Arch and Balanced Rock. There is a fantastic guided hike through Fiery Furnace. You will need a reservation for this hike as the park limits it to 75 people per day in the Fiery Furnace. The visitor center also has maps for the various 4x4 trails located within the park. The paved

round trip road in the park can take 3 hours or all day, if you were to park your vehicle and take some of the side hikes. We definitely recommend you take plenty of water and photos.



Chris Conrad photo

## **La Sal Mountain Loop Road:**

Starting south of town at the gravel pit you will follow the signs to the La Sal Mountains. This 70 mile loop will take you up into the breathtaking heights of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Mount Peale is the 2nd highest peak in the state of Utah, reaching an elevation of 13,000 feet above sea level.

There are lakes and camping areas marked and maintained by the Forest Service. If you have time, take the side road to Oowah Lake or Warner Lake. Either place would be a great stop for a picnic lunch. Just be sure to stay on the marked

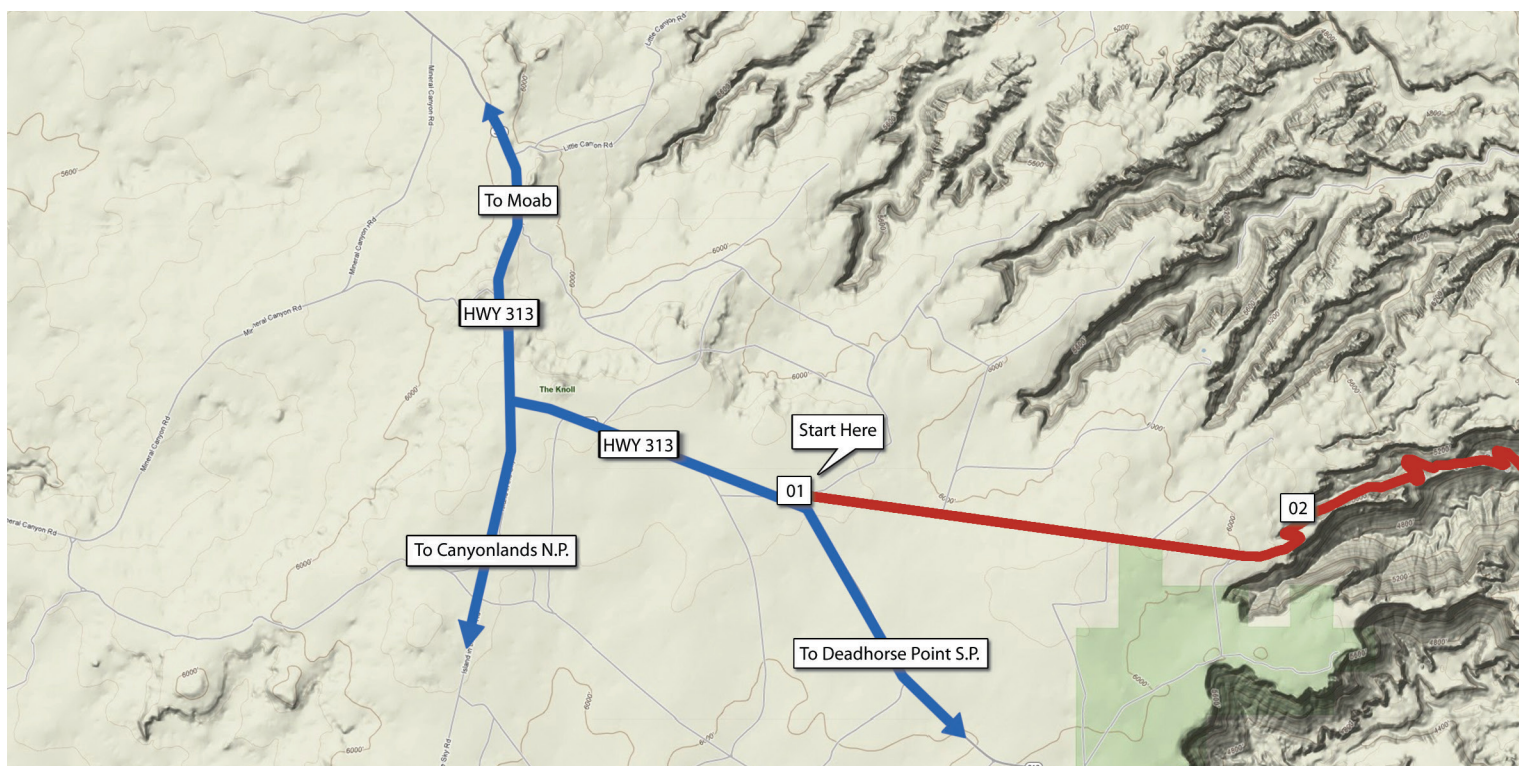
trail roads as you could venture off easily and it may be difficult to find your way back. After following the Loop Road around the mountain range you will descend into Castle Valley. Castle Valley is a quaint community located about 20 miles from Moab up the river road, highway 128. You will then come into town via Hwy 128. The River Road is one of the most beautiful in the area. You will definitely want pictures of this trip.



Chris Conrad photo



# LONG CANYON



**Location:** Southwest of Moab between hwy. 313 and 279 (along the river). North of Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park. This trail is described downhill, assuming you are returning to Moab from Canyonlands National Park or Dead Horse Point. The trail starts from hwy. 313 at a point 1.6 miles east of the intersection where the road to Canyonlands National Park departs south from 313.

**Difficulty:** Easy. A wide gravel road except through Pucker Pass where it is narrow and steep. Route-finding easy.

**Features:** Incredibly scenic views from top to bottom.

**Time & Distance:** 7.5 miles from hwy. 313 to 279. Allow 1 hour.

**Trail Description:** Reset your odometer as you turn off 313. (01). Follow a wide gravel road east, ignoring all side roads. After about 3 miles the road curves left and starts downhill. At 3.3 miles (02), after a tight switchback, the road narrows

significantly as you drop steeply through Pucker Pass. This section is usually quite easy when dry. You pass under a giant fallen rock at 3.5 miles. After this point, the road widens and is very easy all the way to hwy. 279 at 7.5 miles (03). Don't let the fantastic views distract the driver. As you

near hwy. 279, look for Jug Handle Arch on the left.

**Return Trip:** A left turn on hwy. 279 takes you back to hwy. 191, where a right turn takes you back to Moab. Look for petroglyph panels on hwy. 279.







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# GEMINI BRIDGES



**Location:** North of Moab on highway 191 for about 10 miles from our location. Look for the Gemini Bridges sign on the highway. Turn left in to the parking area. This turn is 1.3 miles south of highway 313. Highway 313 is the paved road into Dead Horse Point and Canyonlands National Park, Island in the Sky.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. The trail begins on a high, two-lane shelf road. Although easy, use extra caution when wet. Parts of the trail are rocky or sandy but suitable for a stock, high-clearance vehicle with skid plates. The last 100 yards or so from the bridges are fenced off for parking and you will walk down to the Gemini Bridges. Features: This is one of the most popular trails in Moab. The east side approach has dramatic views of the La Sal Mountains and Arches National Park. The Gemini Bridges are really two large arches, side by side and several hundred feet high. Very dramatic! Don't let children play in this area by themselves.

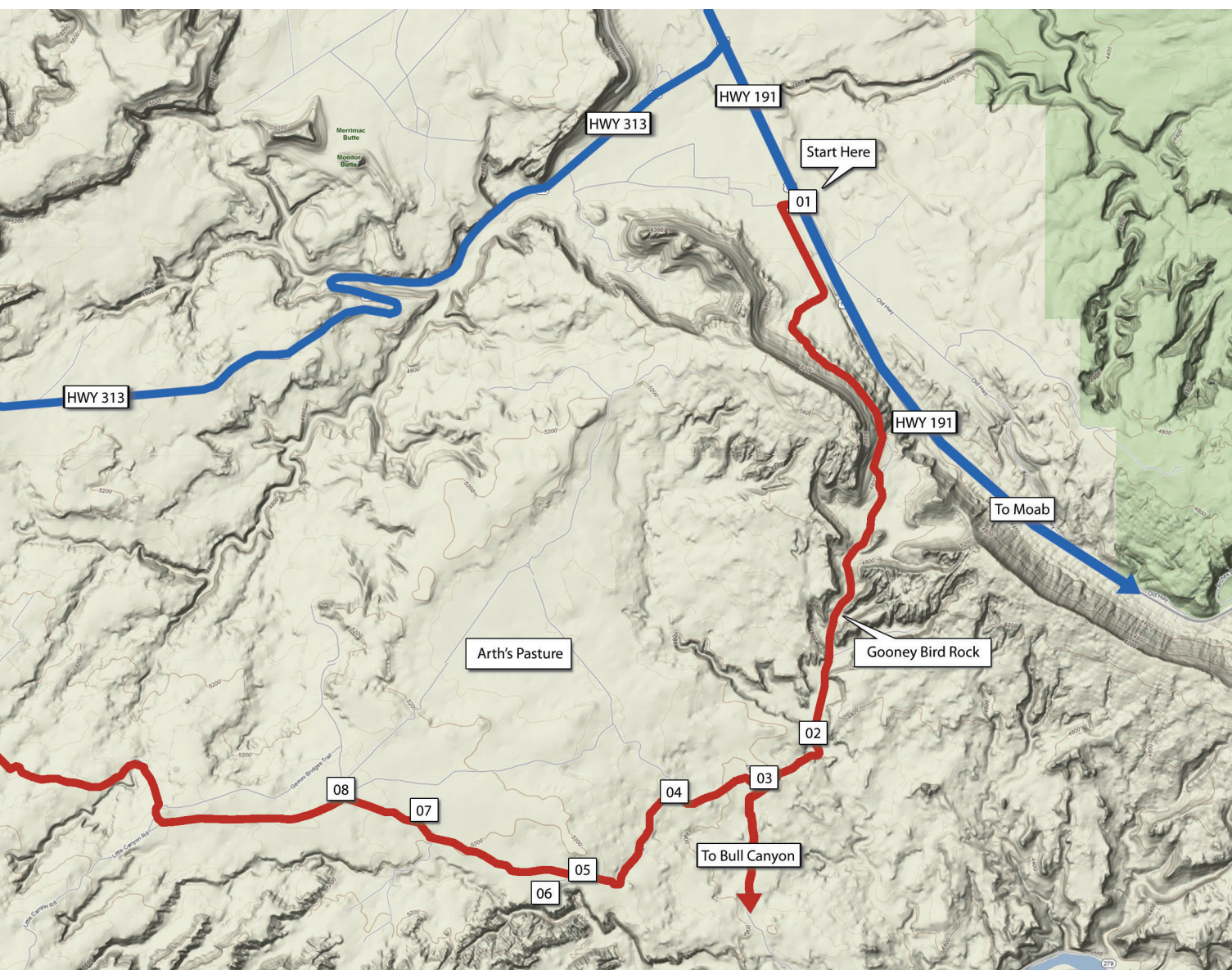
**Time & Distance:** It is 7.7 miles to Gemini Bridges from the east side (near Highway 191) or 5.6 miles from the west side (starting at Highway 313), a total of 13.3 miles. Allow about 3 hours for the whole trip, plus your return time.

**Trail Description:** Reset your odometer when you turn off highway 191 (01). Pass through the parking area, cross a set of railroad tracks and bear left following a wide dirt road which parallels highway 191. Soon the road turns west and starts to climb. At the high point along this ledge road, don't be distracted by the outstanding view. Pay close attention to traffic which can be heavy at certain times of the year. This road accesses many trails in the area and is extremely popular. Continue south as the road descends and swings a little right through a wide valley. After passing Gooney Bird Rock, spur roads head in various directions, but the main road is well traveled. At 4.7 miles (02), turn right at a T and climb a steep



hill. Turn right at 5.1 miles and again at 5.3 miles (03) as a sign indicates Bull Canyon Trail to the left. Bull Canyon takes you down to the bottom of the bridges. Make an important left turn at 6.1 miles (04). Soon you begin crossing slickrock marked with painted dashed lines. At 7.0 bear right as a lesser road goes left. At 7.3 bear left (05). A larger road comes in from the right at 7.5. You will exit on this road later. It is required that you park where the fenced area is and walk the 100 yards or





so to the Gemini Bridges. Be very careful exploring on and around the bridges as it is a long way down!

**Return trip:** You may return the way you came or head back to town with a right turn on the paved highway 313. Our favorite way is to turn left and drive about 9 miles to Canyonlands National Park. After exploring the park drive down the Shafer Switchbacks and Shafer trail to the Potash road and follow the paved scenic byway 279 for about

17 miles and reconnect with highway 191. On the scenic byway 279 keep your eyes open for wildlife, dinosaur tracks, Indian writings and a lot of rock climbers.





# SHAFER TRAIL

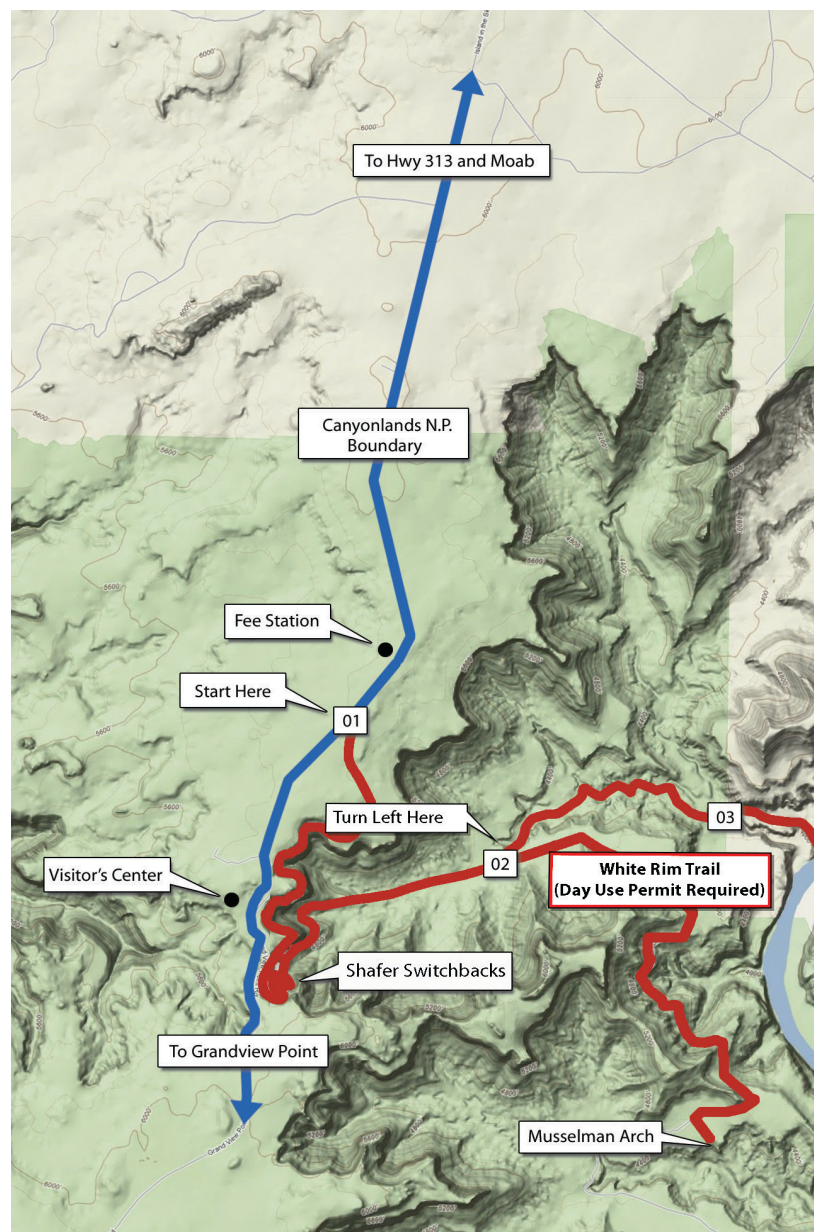
**Location:** Drive North of Moab on Highway 191 about 11 miles, turn left on highway 313 to Dead Horse Point State Park and Canyonlands National Park. The trail starts off to the left just after entering the Island in the Sky district of Canyonlands National Park. There is a sign to show the starting point. The park will require a fee or your national park pass.

**Difficulty:** Easy. A well maintained road suitable for stock high-clearance four-wheel drive vehicles. Possible muddy or icy conditions exist during wet times of the year and the switchbacks are subject to closure at the National Park's discretion. A brief, narrow shelf road crosses high above the Colorado River. Route finding is easy. Summers are hot and dry so carry at least one gallon of drinking water per person.

**Features:** This trail makes a 1,500 foot descent on a series of switchbacks in just over a mile. Bighorn Sheep can be seen at different times of the year. Once on the trail, you will be treated to incredible views of the Colorado River and the La Sal Mountains in the background.

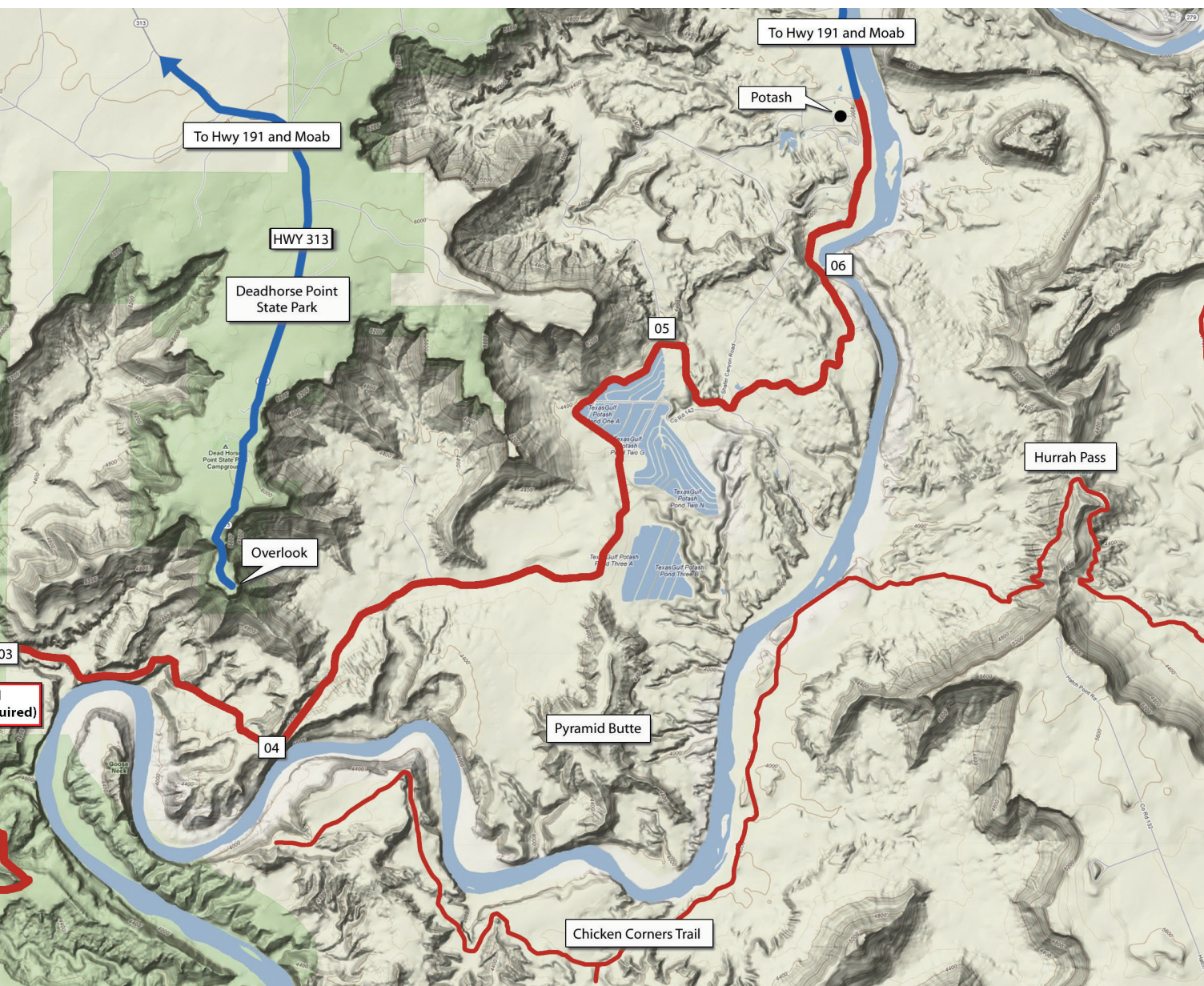
**Time & Distance:** From the start of the trail to the beginning of the pavement on byway 279 is 18.2 miles. Allow about 2.5 hours on the trail and an additional 30 to 45 minutes on 279 back to highway 191.

**Trail Description:** Reset your odometer where the trail starts (01). Start in 4 wheel low and use a low gear so you aren't riding your brakes all the way down the steep switchbacks. If you encounter a vehicle coming towards you, whoever gets to the widest spot first waits for the other driver to pass. At 4.3 miles you will go through a gate and come to an intersection that goes straight or makes a left turn (02). Left returns to Moab. If time allows, stay straight on the White Rim Trail and travel to Musselman Arch, approximately 30 to 45 minutes each way. At 6.1 miles you will come across the last restroom facility until town.



Cross the national park boundary (03) and continue down Shafer Canyon and out on to a dramatic shelf road above the Gooseneck of the Colorado River. At 9.1 miles you can see an awning on the left rim. That is Dead Horse Point State Park. Directly south of the awning is Fossil Point (04). This is where the car jumped off the cliff in the final scene of *Thelma and Louise*. The main road will swing left and you will pass through a fence.





Stay on the main road as spurs depart along the way. At 12.6 miles you will have the first glimpse of the Potash plant evaporation ponds. Continue straight as a lesser road goes right to an overlook east of Pyramid Butte. Follow a chainlink fence around the large blue evaporation ponds of the potash plant. Then bear right as a private road goes left (05). Watch for vehicles crossing from the plant. Continue straight at the stop sign. The

road will gradually descend to the river. At 18.9 miles you will pass the Potash boat ramp (06) and be back on the paved road. You can take your vehicle out of 4 wheel drive at this point.

**Return Trip:** Once you are on Scenic Byway 279 you will have approximately 17 miles of paved road before intersecting with Highway 191. This road is very scenic and well marked with Indian petroglyphs, hiking trails and arches.



# WHITE RIM TRAIL



**Location:** The White Rim Trail (permit required) is a 92 mile dirt road loop that covers a vast amount of territory generally west and southwest of Moab, with the majority of the trail inside Canyonlands National Park. Drive north of Moab on Highway 191 about 11 miles, turn left on highway 313 toward Dead Horse Point State Park and Canyonlands National Park. The trail starts off to the left just after entering Canyonlands National Park. There is a sign to show the starting point. Canyonlands National Park entrance requires a fee or a National Parks Pass. A separate day pass is required for driving the White Rim Trail (currently no fee for day passes although overnight permits require a fee). Day passes are available online 24 hours in advance of travel. Day passes are limited to 50 passes per day.

**Difficulty:** Moderate with a few difficult spots. Be sure to check conditions with the Canyonlands National Park before travel. The White Rim Trail is a somewhat maintained road suitable for stock high-clearance four-wheel drive vehicles. Possible muddy or icy conditions exist during wet times of the year and the switchbacks are subject to closure at the National Park's discretion. A brief, narrow shelf road crosses high above the Colorado and Green Rivers. Route finding is easy. Summers are hot and dry so carry at least one gallon of drinking water per person.

**Features:** The trail makes a 1,500 foot descent on a series of switchbacks in just over a mile. Bighorn Sheep can be seen at different times of the year. Once on the trail, you will be treated to incredible views of the Colorado River, La Sal Mountains, and, on the west side, the Green River. Exiting from Mineral Bottom (along the Green River) takes visitors through another set of incredible switchbacks back up to the canyon rim. The White Rim Trail is popular with cyclists too, so keep an eye out for users on bikes.

**Time & Distance:** The dirt road is about 92

miles long and travel is slow. Generally it can be completed in a day although some visitors opt to camp along the way, taking two days to complete the trail (additional overnight permit/fee required). Allow 8-12 hours on the trail and an additional 30 minutes on Hwy 313 and 191 back to Moab.

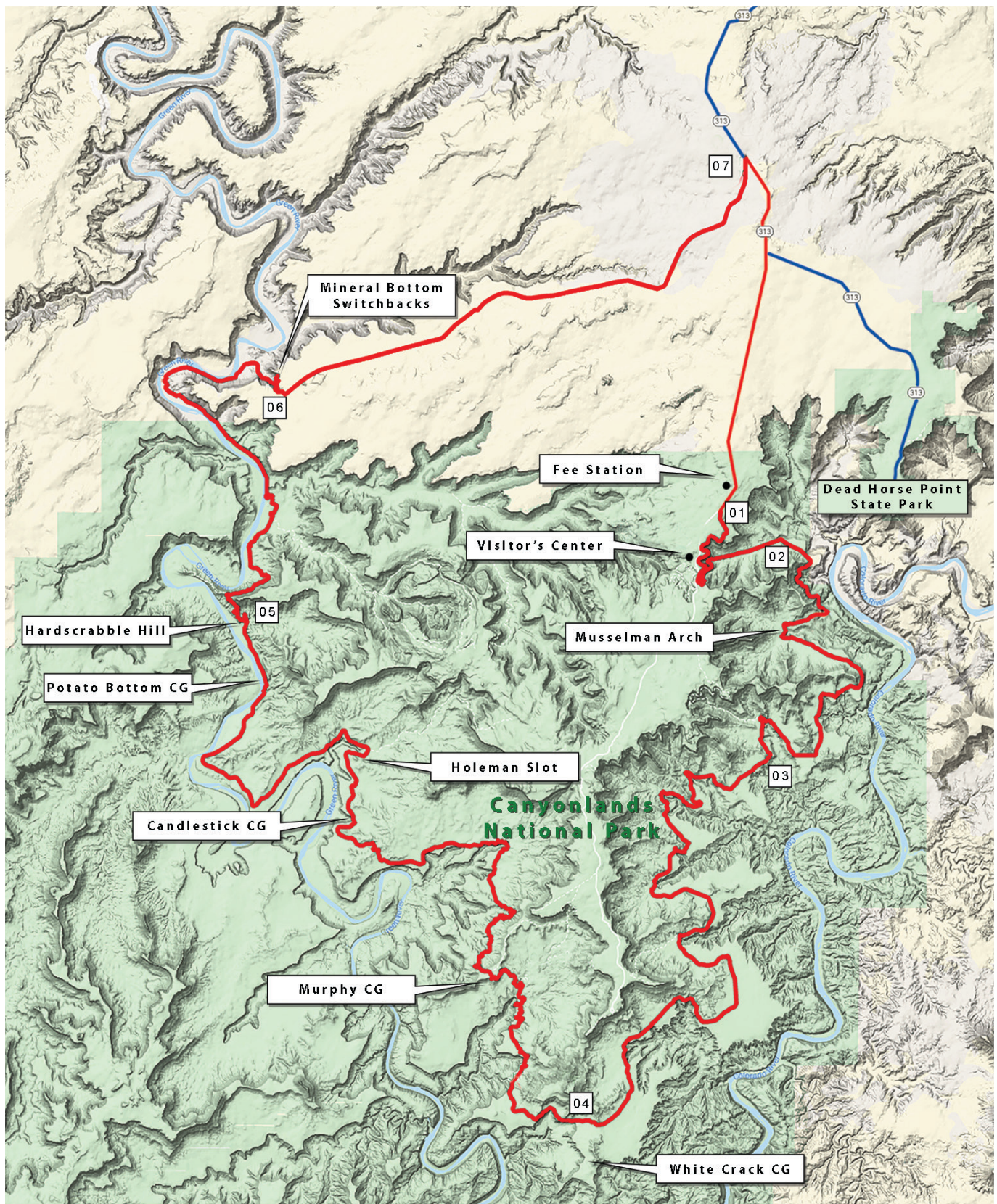
**Trail Description:** Reset your odometer where the trail starts (01). Start in 4 wheel low and use a low gear so you aren't riding your brakes all the way down the steep switchbacks. If you encounter a vehicle coming towards you, whoever gets to the widest spot first waits for the other driver to pass. At 5.3 miles (02) stay straight on the White Rim Trail and travel southeast toward Muselman Arch. At 17 miles (03) the Lathrop Canyon trail offers access to the Colorado River. The Lathrop Canyon trail is rugged and often washed out. At mile 36.6 (04) White Crack Campground is about a ¼ mile to the south. There are great views in every direction. This marks the southernmost point of the White Rim Trail, and from here we turn back to the north and travel with the Green River back toward Mineral Bottom. At 65.9 (05) is Hardscrabble Hill – one of the more technical challenges on the White Rim Trail. It can be washed out or impassable in bad weather – so be sure to check conditions with the National Park Service before travelling. At mile 77.5 (06) we turn east and up the Mineral Bottom Switchbacks. At the top of the switchbacks the road is wide and well-maintained for an easy 15 miles back to the pavement of Hwy. 313.

**Return Trip:** Turn north (left) onto Hwy. 313 and follow it back to 191, then head south toward town.



*Deafening silence reigns as twilight fills the sky*







# KLONDIKE BLUFFS

**Location:** Northwest of Moab between hwy. 191 and the north end of Arches National Park. Drive 14 miles north of Moab on Hwy. 191. Turn right into parking lot. There is a Klondike Bluff road sign on the hwy.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Most of the trail is easy when dry, but has several rocky sections. Some experience is recommended. Parts of the trail become muddy and slippery when wet. Some sections are difficult to find. White dashes mark part of the trail for mountain bikers, but the trail is primarily the same for four-wheel-drives. Use the markings when they are there, but don't count on them.

**Features:** This trail goes through varied terrain and climbs to a high point overlooking Arches National Park and Klondike Bluffs. A short hike is necessary to see the bluffs because the trail ends at the park boundary. There are relics of an old copper mine near the end of the trail. Watch for fossils of dinosaur footprints (circled by rocks) in the slickrock sections.

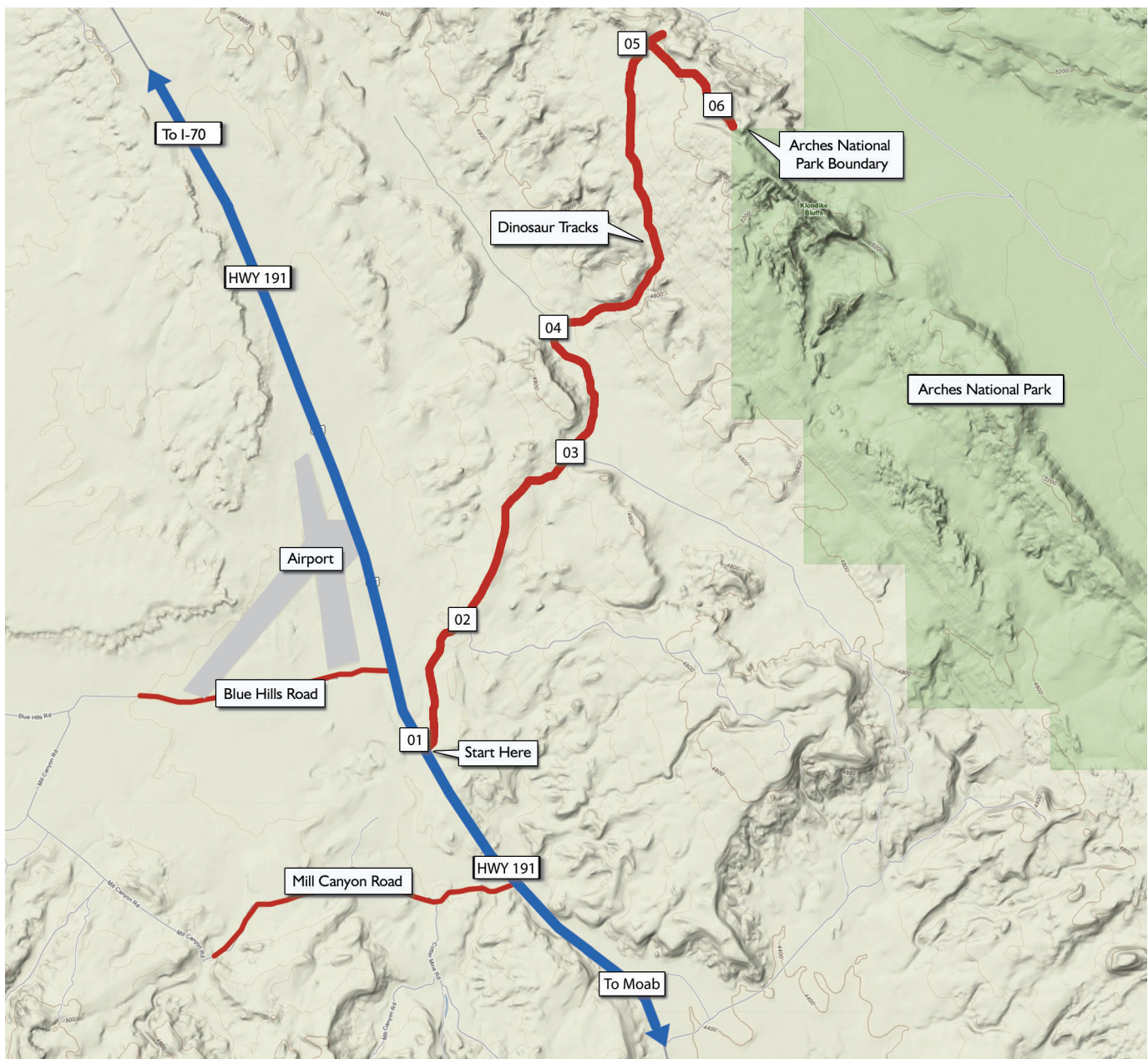
**Time & Distance:** One-way trip is about 7 miles and takes 1.5 to 2 hours. Add more time for any hiking that you do and the return trip.

**Trail Description:** Reset odometer when you reach Klondike Bluffs parking lot (01). Go straight at 1.1 miles as a faint road goes right (02). At 2.6 miles bear left on a lesser road (03). At mile 3.2 follow the road left, away from a creek bed. Bear right at a T intersection at 3.7 miles (04). A right turn at 3.9 miles takes you up through a narrow rocky canyon. You will soon find it necessary to shift into low range. You may need a spotter to get through the larger rocks. The first large bit of slickrock is encountered at 4.4 miles. Watch for a nice dinosaur print on the left. Don't drive over the footprints! The trail primarily goes up the left side of this first rock slab. Follow the flattest places between the boulders. Watch for logs, rock cairns and the painted white dashes to help

guide you. Stay on the left side of the slab. You must cross a deep crack at 5.1 miles. Seek the shallowest spot to cross. At 5.2 miles bear more right as the trail heads in a northwesterly direction. You should begin climbing slightly uphill over a wide rock slab defined by short trees on each side. At 5.6 cross over to the adjacent rock slab on the right and continue to climb. At 5.8 the trail begins to alternate between dirt and rock. If you lose the trail, get out of your vehicle and scout ahead on foot for cairns or tire marks. The road will become more defined as you swing north. A lesser road goes left at 6.2 miles. At 6.3 (05) bear right in a southeast direction toward the Klondike Bluffs. The next fork is reached at 6.5 miles-turn left. You reach the end of the trail at about 6.9 miles (06). An old copper mine is on the right. There's a place to turn around and park at the mine. The trail actually goes up the hill a little farther but soon narrows to a hiking path before reaching the Arches boundary. There is no good place to turn around if you continue.

**Return Trip:** Return the way you came or take an alternate route over a ridge to Salt Valley Road. To do this, go back to the rocky switchback that you passed at 6.3 (05) miles and turn right at a T intersection followed by an immediate right at another T at 0.3. Bear right at 0.4 past a collapsed building before beginning a steep descent through a narrow section. Several spots are tippy, so take your time. It soon flattens out. Bear right across a sandy two-track road before reaching Salt Valley Road at 1.2 miles. A left turn on Salt Valley Road takes you northwest towards Crescent Junction. A right on Salt Valley Road connects to the main paved road inside Arches National Park. You will pay an entrance fee when you leave the park.





## GEOLOGY NOTE:

The Klondike Bluffs, on the western edge of Arches National Park, are comprised of the arch forming, Slick Rock Member of Entrada Sandstone, and a harder cap rock layer called the Moab Tongue. Entrada Sandstone was formed by beach sands and inland dunes some 140 million years ago.





# FINS N' THINGS



**Location:** Just east of Moab lies the world famous Slickrock Bike trail. While Jeeps aren't allowed on the bike trail, there's plenty of slickrock available for everyone. Fins N' Things is just up the road from the bike trail and is full of sandstone fins and hills that will satisfy even seasoned rock crawlers. It's close to town and easily accessible. Fins N' Things is in a fee area and fees are collected at a fee-station booth about halfway to the trail on Sand Flats Road.

**Difficulty:** Difficult. Lots of steep slickrock climbs and descents. Some significant ledges. Fins N' Things is well-defined and well-signed with both fiberglass trail markers and painted stripes on the sandstone but most of the trail is one-way traffic only – so know where you are, obey all signs, and travel in the designated direction. Off-trail abuse

is getting worse in this area – please stay on the trail and tread lightly!

**Features:** Fins N' Things has lots of steep sandstone domes and fun, twisting, sandy stretches. There are several steep hills to climb and a few large ledges - use extreme caution.

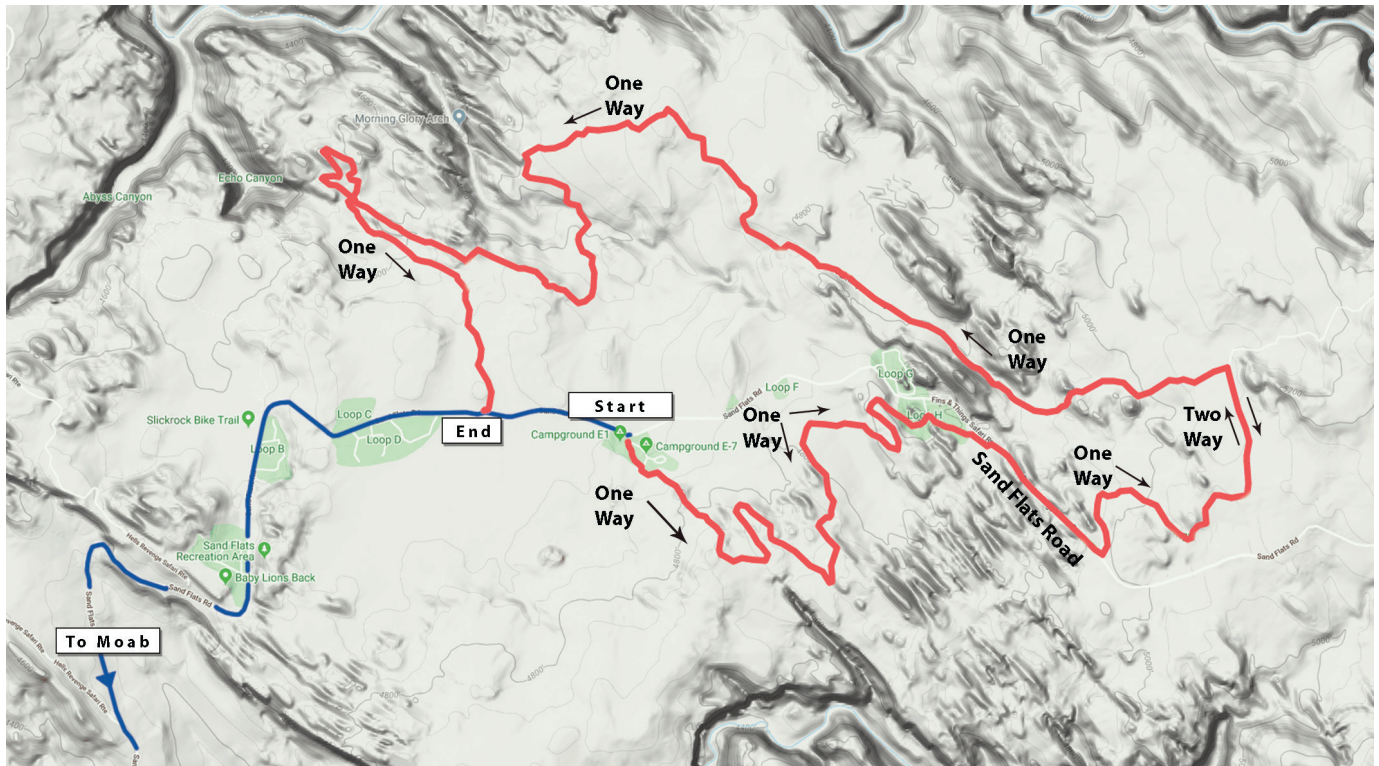
**Time & Distance:** The south loop of Fins N' Things is 2.7 miles and the north loop is 6.3 miles. Loops can be done individually or together. Loops are one-way – so make sure you're going the right direction. Both loops can usually be completed in 3-5 hours. Please note the south loop is open during daylight hours only.

**Trail Description:** Head east along 300 S, turn right at 400 E and then make a quick left on Mill Creek Drive. Continue straight onto Sand Flats Road past the cemetery. At 1.7 miles stop at the fee station and enter Sand Flats Recreation Area. Continue along Sand Flats Road another 2 miles to Campground E and then to site E6 where the south loop begins. Follow the signs, stay on the trail, and be safe.

**Return Trip:** Exit the trail and turn right (west) back on to Sand Flats Road for an easy trip back to town.









# HURRAH PASS

**Location:** Southwest of Moab, west of Kane Creek Road. Go south on Main Street in Moab and turn right at the McDonald's Restaurant onto Kane Creek Road west. Bear left at the first fork and head south along the Colorado River. The pavement ends at 4.7 miles where the road swings left away from the river.

**Difficulty:** Easy. A wide gravel road most of the way. Closer to the pass, it narrows somewhat and becomes rockier with mild, tippy spots. Several water crossings on Kane Creek Road are usually shallow, but they can be very deep and unsafe to cross in the spring or after heavy rain. Features: The drive takes you through some spectacular scenery. Stop along the way to see ancient petroglyphs on a large boulder next to the road.

**Time & Distance:** Hurrah Pass is 9.7 miles from the end of the pavement of Kane Creek Road. Allow 2 or 3 hours for the round trip.

**Trail Description:** Reset your odometer where the pavement ends (01). Continue on a wide gravel road cut across high canyon walls. At 1.3 miles look for Indian writings on a large boulder. Walk up close, but please don't touch. Bear right after crossing of Kane Creek at 6.3 miles. At mile 6.6 Kane Creek Canyon Trail goes left. Kane Creek Canyon is on our prohibited list so be sure to swing right and begin a gradual climb. At 8.9 miles a lesser road on the right goes to a small overlook. The pass is reached at 9.7 miles (03). Beyond the pass starts a more difficult descent to Chicken Corners and Lockhart Basin Trails.

**Return Trip:** Make it an all-day ride by continuing on to Chicken Corners or just turn around and go back the way you came.

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4 South Main

#### Moab Brewery

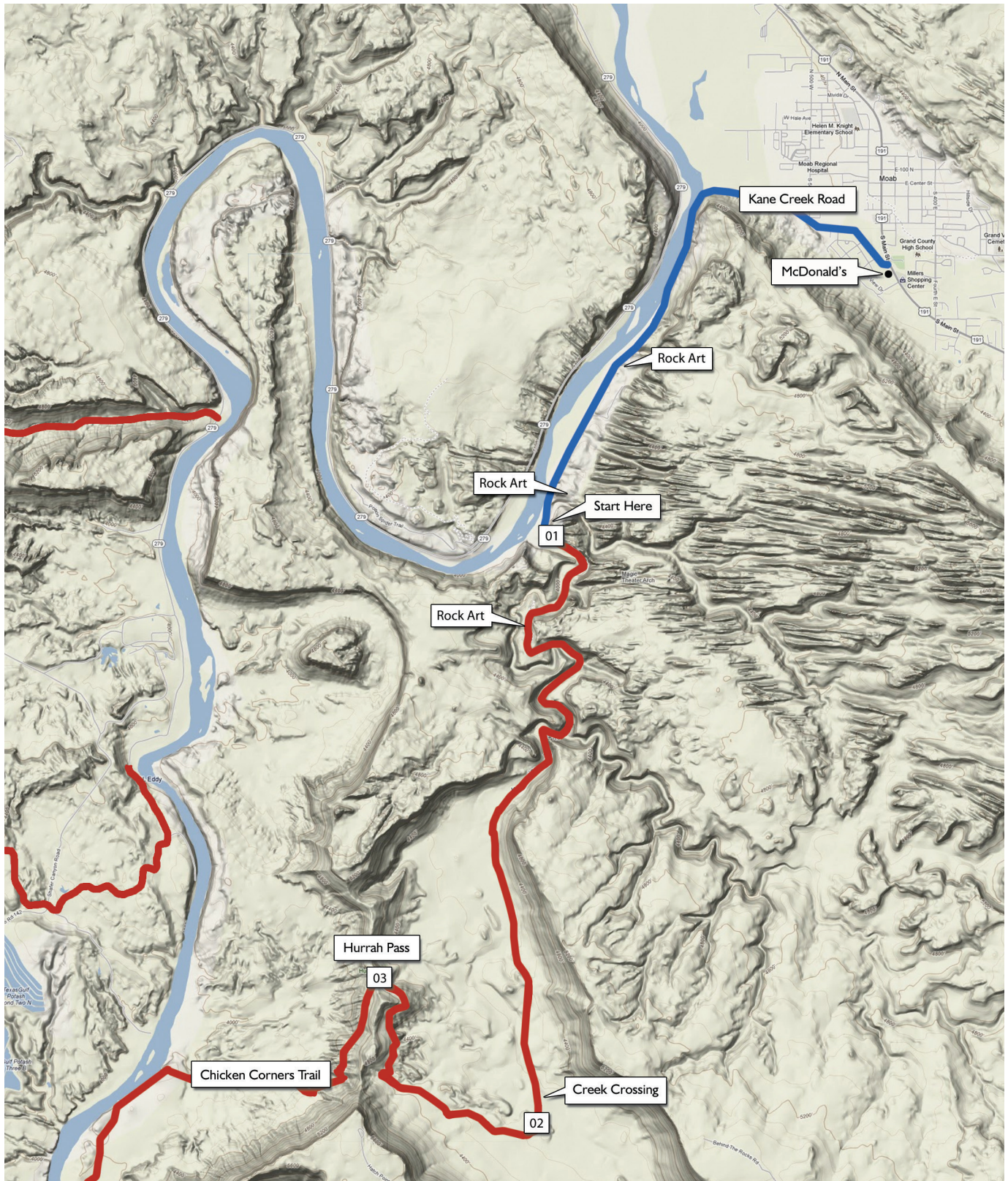
686 South Main

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\*offers box lunches for the trail







# CHICKEN CORNERS



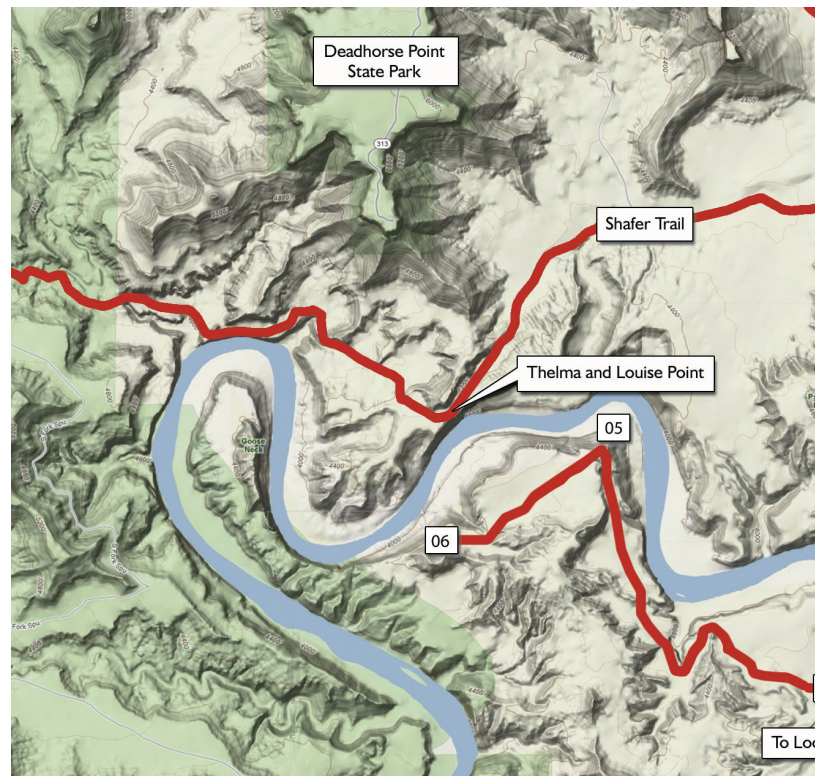
**Location:** Southwest of Moab and Kane Creek Road. South of Dead Horse Point State Park and the Colorado River. Follow trail description for Hurrah Pass to reach the start of this trail.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Just a few rough spots on this predominantly easy trail. At one point, you're forced near the edge of a high cliff above the Colorado River. This spot is intimidating, but easy. Suitable for stock, high-clearance vehicles under normal conditions. Water crossings along Kane Creek can be deep in early spring or after heavy rains. Hot in summer so bring plenty of water.

**Features:** Descend from Hurrah Pass on the more remote west side to the scenic Colorado River gorge. See Dead Horse State Park and Pyramid Butte across the river. Please stay on the trail at all times. There is a lot of off-trail damage in this area and continued abuse could result in the area being closed.

**Time & Distance:** It's 11.5 from the top of Hurrah Pass to the end of the trail. Allow about 4 hours for the round trip plus an additional hour to reach Hurrah Pass.

**Trail Description:** Reset your odometer at Hurrah Pass (01). Start down the west side on a rocky, winding ledge road. At 2.5 miles (02) bear left uphill where lesser Jackson Hole Trail goes right. Trail conditions worsen as you drop into a dry wash. Negotiate a rocky challenge at 2.8, then bear sharply right uphill. The road flattens out as you head southwest. This is open range so watch for cattle on road. Bear right following a sign to Lockhart Basin. The road gets rocky again and narrows to a single lane as it winds closer to the river in places. You'll pass through a barbed wire gate (close it after passing through) before reaching a key fork at 6.8 miles (04). A sign should indicate Lockhart Basin left. Sometimes the sign is knocked down or removed by vandals. Bear right, climbing out of a dry, rocky wash. From here the trail is well defined as it crosses a broad, flat area



with several easy rocky sections. Gradually a high wall on the left forces you closer to a cliff edge overlooking the river. The narrowest point at 10.0 miles (05) is the drivable Chicken Corner. It is easy, but may be intimidating to some. The road continues another 1.5 miles where it comes to an abrupt end at a remote overlook (06). Dead Horse Point Overlook is directly north across the river. (Note: The final scene from the movie Thelma & Louise was shot across the river near here.)

**Return Trip:** Return the way you came. Bring plenty of water and a picnic!







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# ONION CREEK AND FISHER TOWERS



**Location:** Northeast of Moab, southeast of hwy. 128. From hwy. 191 north of Moab, turn right before the Colorado River onto hwy. 128 along the river. Drive 20.2 miles northeast on hwy. 128. Look for the Onion Creek sign along the highway. After you turn, you'll see a small sign for Onion Creek. To go to Fisher Towers, stay on hwy. 128 another 0.8 miles and turn right after the Fisher Towers sign.

**Difficulty:** Easy. Onion Creek Road is a well-maintained road, but can get washed out along its creek crossings. The creek is usually only a few inches deep, but can be deeper following heavy rains. The upper section can be slippery and dangerous when wet. The road to Fisher Towers is suitable for passenger cars. Route finding is extremely easy on both roads.

**Features:** Onion Creek Road is a relaxing drive through a beautiful deep-cut canyon. The red rock is in the Cutler formation and is a twisted hoodoo affair in dark red. Fisher Towers is a popular tourist destination with spectacular red rock towers. Part of the last Austin Powers movie was filmed in this area, as well as the City Slicker movies.

**Time & Distance:** Onion Creek Road as described here is about 10 miles one way. Fisher Towers is about 2 miles one way. Allow 2 hours round-trip driving time for Onion Creek and about 30 minutes for Fisher Towers. With stops and hikes and picnics, you can easily spend a full day in the area.

**Trail Description:** Reset your odometer as you turn right off Hwy. 128 onto Onion Creek Road (01). You'll pass a parking area before the first creek crossing within the first mile. Many more creek crossings follow. This is open range so watch for cattle on the road. Cross a small bridge at 3.6 miles. Prior to having the bridge, the road actually followed the narrow creek under the bridge! Your nose will tell you when you pass by Stinking Spring, a sulphur-based natural spring. Soon a sign indicates you are leaving the Colorado River Recreation Area. You'll begin to climb out of the canyon on a winding road. Be careful here if the road is wet. Continue as far as you are comfortable going as this road turns into Fisher Valley Road. Make sure you leave all gates as you find them, since this is cattle country. At 9.4 miles Cottonwood Canyon Trail goes left (02). This is part of the Kokopelli Bike Trail.

**Return Trip:** To stay on easy terrain, turn around and head back to hwy. 128. From there, turn right to visit Fisher Towers.







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# THOMPSON CANYON, POLAR MESA

**Location:** From Highway 191 north of Moab, drive 20.2 miles northeast on Highway 128 along the Colorado River. Turn right on Onion Creek Road. Follow Trail map and description for Onion Creek/Fisher Towers. Follow Onion Creek Road and continue uphill after canyon. Pass through a gate and stay to your right. Rose Garden Hill is to the left and is prohibited in our jeeps.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. When dry, most of the trail is easy except for a few moderately steep, rocky sections. The road is sometimes impassable in early spring. Snow can linger at higher elevations and the trail can become muddy once it melts. Under ideal conditions this trail is suitable for high clearance 4wd vehicles with low range gearing. Route finding is easy. If you choose to go out to Polar Mesa be aware that it will add an additional 2 hours to your trip and the area has many mine hazards, including deep pits, loose debris, weak structures and radon gas. Be very careful in this area. Also, some of the mining areas may have reopened so some of the roads and accessibility could change.

**Features:** This trail provides relief from Moab's hot summer temperatures as it climbs over 8,000 feet into the La Sal Mountains. You can expect the temperature to be almost 20 degrees cooler than in the valley. This trail is also part of the Kokopelli Bike Trail so watch for mountain bikers.

**Time & Distance:** Trip described here is just less than 28 miles. Allow 4 to 5 hours plus travel time.

**Trail Description:** Reset Odometer where Rose Garden Hill goes left from Onion Creek Road at 9.6 miles (01). Follow the wider road as it curves right. You will briefly enter Fisher Valley Ranch before making a left turn at 0.9 miles (02). Follow the signs to Beaver Mesa. Climb a steep hill to the top of a ridge. At 1.3 miles you will go thru a gate (be sure to leave the gate as you found it). Make sure you are in 4 wheel low range when descending the other side so you won't have to

ride your brakes the whole time. Stay left at 2.7 miles (03) where the road goes right to Hideout Campground. Continue straight at next road which exits the campground. Road continues over varied terrain then climbs steeply at 5.3 miles. At 8.0 miles (04) bear right for views along rim of Hideout Canyon. (Left is shorter rougher.). At 9.5 miles you reach a high, shaded area where the snow lingers in early spring. This area can be very muddy. Enter Manti-La Sal National Forest at 10.3 miles where the road becomes F.S. 605. To reach Polar Mesa, turn left at a T intersection 12.1 miles (05). This will add another hour or so to your trip. To continue on to Thompson Canyon turn right on a better road. A small bridge marks an interesting and easy-to-miss feature. Stop before the bridge, get out of your vehicle and look below the bridge to the left. You might mistake the flowing water as a small creek, but this is actually a man-made ditch built to collect water flowing down the sides of the valley. You will see several of these ditches through the area. They were dug by hand decades ago and serve as an important water source for the residents in the valleys below. A left turn goes to Gateway Colorado (06), stay right to return to Moab. The map and trail description for Gateway is also in this booklet.

**Return Trip:** Head west on an improving Castleton Gateway Road. After 2 miles, you will circle along the edge of Bull Canyon with broad views of Fisher Valley, where you started. The road soon becomes paved. Go by Fisher Mesa Trailhead on right at 2.7 miles (07). (This road has several impressive overlooks, but the drive is long and rough.) The paved road forks at 7.8 miles (08). Left returns to Moab in 35 miles via the La Sal Mountain Loop Road. Right passes through scenic Castle Valley and connects to Highway 128, where a left turn takes you back to Moab. This is about a 30 mile trip.







# GEYSER PASS

**Location:** East of Moab in the La Sal Mountains. Head south on hwy. 191 from Moab. About 7.1 miles south of town turn left, following signs for the La Sal Mountain Loop Road at mile post 118. Pass by a gravel operation and turn right on Spanish Valley Drive. Stay on this paved road as it eventually turns north and becomes the La Sal Mountain Loop road marked as county road 126. The turn for Geyser Pass is about 21 miles from Moab. Watch for a well-marked wide gravel road on the right. Don't go too far; there is another turn farther that takes you to Oowah Lake. **Difficulty:** Easy. The west side of the pass is a wide, smooth gravel road suitable for most passenger cars when dry. The east side is narrower and rockier, but suitable for any stock jeep. Roads are well marked and route finding is easy. **Features:** A relaxing and beautiful drive through the La Sal Mountains. Hike or mountain bike in the area or just have a picnic. Panoramic views of Spanish Valley and beyond to Canyonlands National Park from the west side and Mt. Peale from the east side. Mt. Peale is the highest peak in the La Sal Mountains with an elevation of almost 13,000 feet.

**Time & Distance:** From La Sal Mountain Loop Road to hwy. 46 is 25.1 miles as described here. Allow about 2 hours one way. With transit time to and from the trail, this drive could easily fill an afternoon or morning.

**Trail Description:** West to East. Reset your odometer as you turn off La Sal Mountain Loop Road (01). Follow a wide gravel road as it begins a gradual climb toward Geyser Pass. There's a hiking and biking trail at 2.9 miles with a small place to park and a great view. A much larger parking area with modern vault toilets is reached at 4.5 miles (02). Bear left at 5.5 as Gold Basin goes right. The forest thickens as views become less frequent. By the time you reach Geyser Pass at 7.8 miles (03), there are no views at all. Bear right

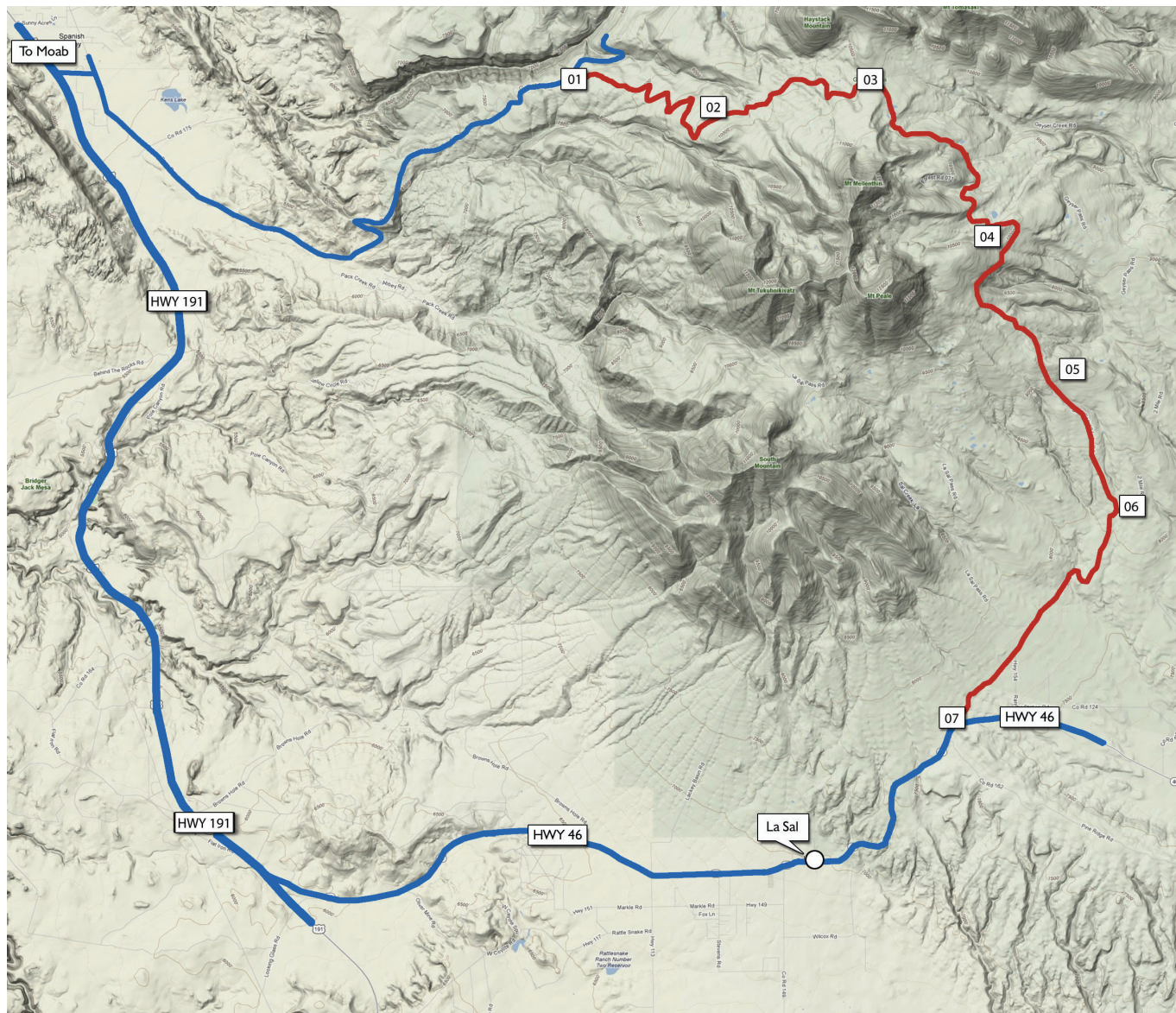


Mount Peale Chris Conrad photo

at the pass. At 8.4 miles bear right again as a spur goes left to Blue Lake. At 11.9 bear left as a lesser road goes right. Bear right at 13.2. At 13.3 (04) you intersect with Dark Canyon Lake Road F.S. 129. Bear right; the lake is left. Continue straight at 16.7 (05) as an equal size road joins on the right. Turn right when you reach F.S. 208 at 20.6 miles (06). At 23.2 miles La Sal Pass goes right. You can return to Moab this way, but be aware that the west side descent is rated moderate. It is rockier and narrower than Geyser Pass Road. At one point, you must traverse a shelf road across a loose talus rock slope. At 23.6 miles a road goes left to Paradox Co. Bear right staying on F.S. 208 to reach hwy. 46 at 25.1 miles (07).

**Return Trip:** To reach Moab, turn right on hwy. 46. When it intersects with hwy 191, turn right again and head back to Moab, approximately 24 miles.





## THE LA SAL MOUNTAINS

The La Sal Mountains (Salt Mountains) were named by Spanish Explorers in the late 18th century for their appearance of being covered with salt when snowcapped. Rising to nearly 13,000 feet, they are the second highest mountain range in Utah. Mt. Peale is the highest summit at 12,721 above sea level.

Geologically speaking, the La Sal Mountains are a *laccolithic intrusion* of igneous rock that has

been injected between two layers of sedimentary rock. Pressure forced the overlying strata upward, creating a dome or mushroom-like form with a generally planar base. Eventually, this uplifted, overlying strata eroded away, leaving the core mound of igneous rock exposed in the form of a rugged mountains range.

This is in sharp contrast to the rocky mountain ranges formed through *plate tectonics*. Laccoliths can be seen throughout the Colorado Plateau.



# DOME PLATEAU

**Location:** From Moab head east along Highway 128 for 30 miles along the Colorado River. Just across the Colorado River turn left on a gravel road at mile marker 30 (01). Note the first part of the trail crosses private property - please be respectful. Follow the road west and then south to a spectacular overlook. The return loop routes visitors to the north past La Boca Arch and east past some old mining structures before returning to Highway 128 for the drive back into town.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. When dry, most of the trail is easy except for a few steep, rocky sections. The road is sometimes impassable in early spring. There are some rocky ledges that require some caution. The last descent before the Colorado River Overlook can be challenging. There are lots of old mining roads in the area, so having a map is very helpful. Please stay on the trail at all times.

**Features:** This trail is relatively easy other than a few difficult sections and the challenging route-finding due to all the old mining roads in the area. It provides one of the greatest scenic overlooks in the area with incredible views of Professor Valley, Castle Valley, and the La Sal Mountains. La Boca Arch is a quick stop and fun little area to explore. Caves Spring is a shallow cave with a small spring at the back. You'll notice plenty of visitors scratch their names on the rock at the cave – please refrain and practice your best Leave No Trace etiquette. The mining cabins are interesting but be aware they are in disrepair and the mines in the area are poorly secured and very dangerous. Cave-ins are common in old mines and they may harbor deadly gasses. For your safety – stay out of any old mines.

**Time & Distance:** Trip described here is about 30 miles of dirt road. Note that it's about 30 miles of paved road away from town, so it's about 90 miles total and can easily take over 6 hours. Best to pack a lunch.

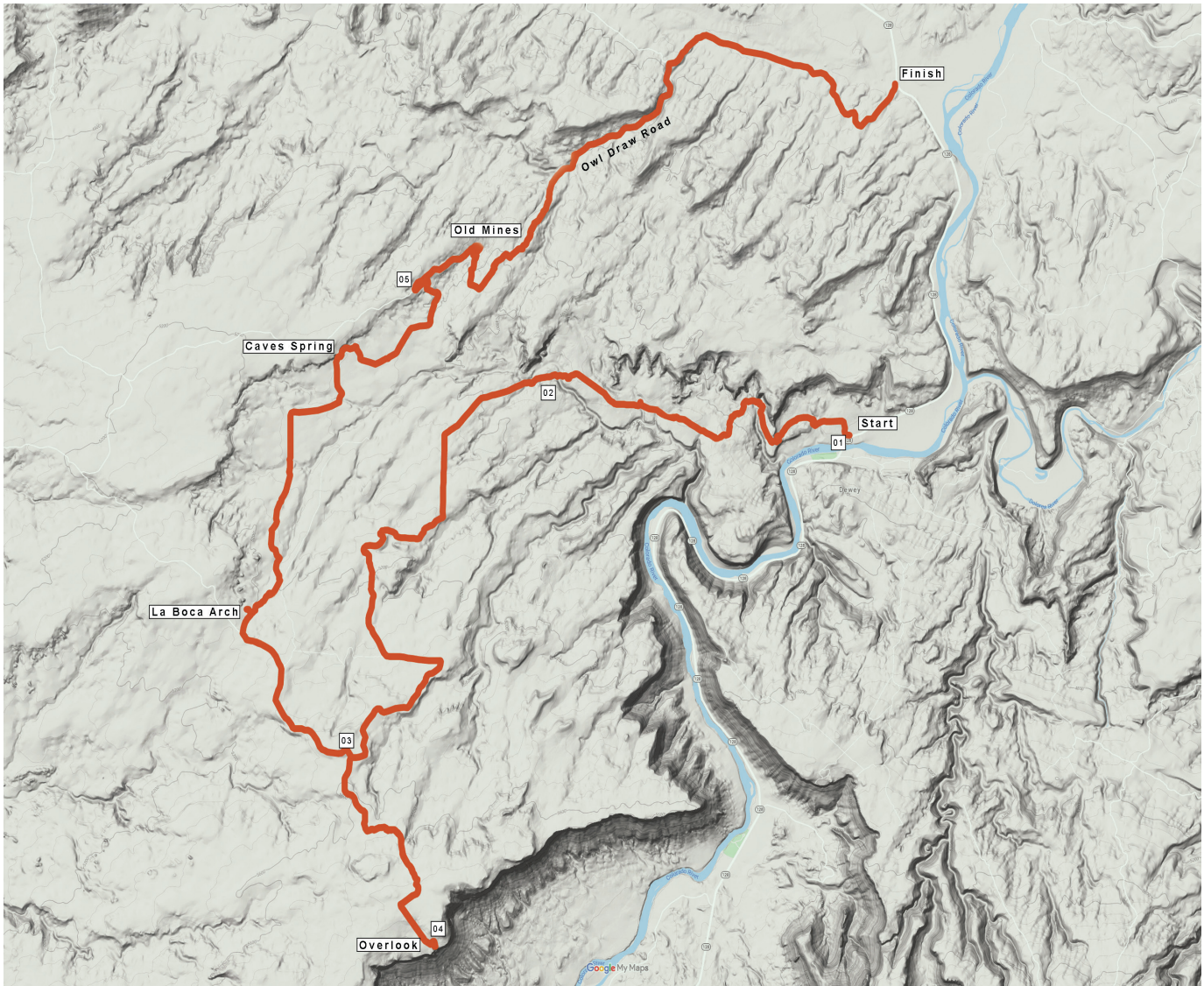
**Trail Description:** Reset odometer just as you

leave the pavement (01). Head west along the trail roughly 4 miles where you descend into Yellow Jacket Canyon (02). Use caution on the steep rock ledges here. Continue west and south another 4 miles until a left turn (03) takes you almost due south toward the Colorado River Overlook (04). This is a great view and a perfect spot to stop for some lunch. Return north along the same road only stay left (03) to access the northern exit route past La Boca Arch and the old mining cabins (05). After the mining cabins, the road becomes gradually easier until it meets the pavement of Highway 128 again.

**Return trip:** Turn right onto Highway 128 and head southwest again, back past Castle Valley and into Moab.









# ARCHES NATIONAL PARK



**Location:** 4 miles north of Moab.

Arches National Park is right on the doorstep of Moab. It's close, easy to access, and it's awesome. At just under 77,000 acres it's the 42nd largest national park in the U.S. and it hosts over 1.5 million visitors every year. Arches National Park is home to over 2000 natural stone arches – many of which are accessible via short hikes just off the main paved road.

Sure, most folks that visit Arches National Park like to stay on the paved road (18 miles out and back for a 36 mile round trip), but they visit yearly for a good reason – Arches is a vast, rocky earthscape that's absolutely breathtaking. The rambling short hikes are easy and fun and, yes, rocks and arches are around every corner. The unusual stone formations and short, simple hikes like Balanced Rock and Park Avenue, will help eager kids burn off energy. The straightforward short loop hike in the Windows Section gets visitors up close to some of the best arches and rock formations in the park.

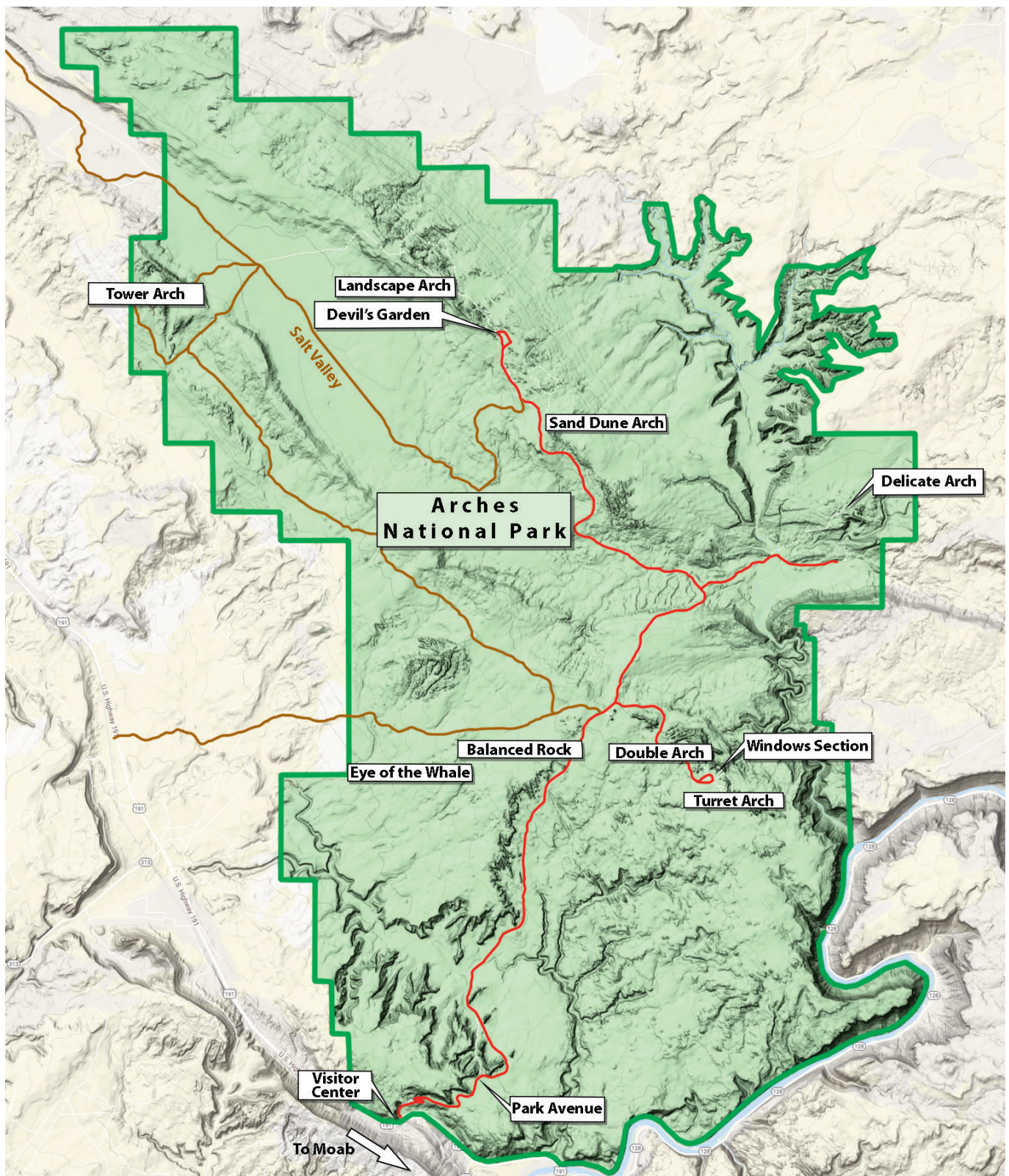
For more adventurous visitors there are longer hikes like Delicate Arch (3 miles - take plenty of water) and Landscape Arch (2 miles) that showcase some of the most famous arches in the park. If you visit in summer, it's always good advice to go early in the morning or later in the evening – both to beat the heat and the crowds. For those looking to escape the crowds there are a few miles of dirt road in the park that will get you away from crowds almost immediately. The Salt Valley road is an easy one-way dirt road that takes visitors from the north end of the park to back to the south. None of the unpaved roads in the park are terribly difficult but be sure to check with the visitor's center for current conditions – often after summer thundershowers some of the washes are uncrossable.

**Time & Distance:** From Moab just head north. The paved road is about 18 miles out and back.



## 4x4 MOAB







# HISTORY OF MOAB

A number of theories about how Moab got its name float around book stores and coffee shops. The most accepted is the biblical derivation. In the Bible, the name Moab occurs frequently referring to a dry, mountainous area east of the Dead Sea and southeast of Jerusalem. This etiology seems to fit in both its geographical relationship to Salt Lake City (and the Great Salt Lake) and the geologic characteristics of the area. Another less accepted derivation of the name is that "Moab" comes from a Paiute word meaning "mosquito water." Mosquitoes were abundant near the Colorado River.

Moab town was platted in 1884. By 1890 Grand County was created by the Utah Legislature and on December 20, 1902, Moab became incorporated as a town. Mining has historically been the major local economic activity. Vanadium was first identified in 1912 near Cisco. By 1920, the southeastern Utah area had produced up to 2.4 million dollars in uranium; however, this was only the first of a boom/bust cycle for uranium mining. Potash and manganese mining have also played a role in the mining industry in Moab, along with oil and natural gas. By the end of World War II, the area was also getting a small amount of attention in the media as a tourist destination and a fair amount of use from the film industry, but the real economic boom was still to come. In the early 1950s, fueled by the Cold War, the uranium industry exploded. Charlie Steen, a down-on-his-luck prospector, made a dramatic uranium strike south of town and Moab became the center of activity for uranium mining. By 1964, however, the demand for uranium had decreased. The largest mine closed and the mill laid off hundreds of workers. Beginning in the 1970s, the community began seeing tourism as the only salvation for Moab's economy. I-70 was completed between Floy Wash and Crescent Junction making access to this part of the country easier. In 1975 there

were 313,000 visitors to Arches National Park. In spite of the promise of an economic safety net on the horizon, Moab saw a 15 percent unemployment rate in 1984 as local mining companies continued to cut back. At the same time, Moab's population decreased by 23 percent. By the end of the decade, tourism was viewed as the future of Moab and a whole-hearted effort was made to promote Moab as a tourist destination. Today, resource extractive industries such as oil exploration may continue to boost the local economy, but Moab is predominantly a tourist based economy. It is estimated that over a million people visit Moab each year.

Moab is located on the Colorado River nestled in a linear valley lined with precipitous red rock cliffs. The town is an oasis surrounded by an extremely rugged and beautiful terrain, with predominantly desert features. Moab has an elevation of about 4,000 feet above sea level and covers an approximate 4-square mile area. The city is approximately eight miles away from Arches National Park and 32 miles away from the Islands in the Sky entrance to Canyonlands National Park, making it a major tourist destination. Moab is surrounded by major faults which are geologically young.

The desert is a land of extreme and Moab's temperature range attests to that. Temperatures have been reported as high as 114 degrees Fahrenheit and as low as -20 degrees F. In spite of the intense heat which visits Moab each summer, the climate is generally categorized as "temperate." The frost-free period in Moab averages 184 days per year. Rainfall averages only eight inches per year with October being the wettest month followed by March, July and April. During the summer, Moab is prone to sudden brief, violent thunderstorms that often result in flash floods. Plant life in Moab is typical of that in a high or sub-desert (primarily Upper Sonoran) life zone and includes sagebrush,



rabbitbrush, saltbush, serviceberry, mountain mahogany, and other desert natives at the lower elevations. Juniper and pinion pine occur with desert shrubs until about 7,500 feet elevation where a mountain ecosystem of aspen, spruce, and fir takes over.

Re-printed courtesy of Moab Area Travel Council



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## **#canyonlandsjeep**



# ABOUT US



Canyonlands Jeep Adventures was founded by Jason Taylor and Steve Lawry in 2004. They were both working as 4x4 guides and loved meeting people and sharing backcountry adventures. Over breakfast at the Moab Diner they compared notes about the lack of quality 4x4 rental companies in Moab. They wanted to offer high quality off-road rentals to visitors so they could experience the incredible Moab trails on their own. Canyonlands Jeep Adventures was born. After 14 years running Canyonlands Jeep Adventures day to day, Steve retired and Jason took over in the Fall of 2018. Canyonlands Jeep has grown from an original fleet of 8 Jeeps to one of the largest Jeep fleets in the U.S. - with 20 Jeeps and 40 vehicles total. We've expanded and now have a location at Canyonlands Field Airport to better serve those flying into Moab. Jason is committed to continuing the Canyonlands Jeep Adventure legacy with the same goals the company had in 2004 - to provide great vehicles and the best customer service in the industry. Stay safe out there!



## 4x4 MOAB





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