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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



tibchris

Adventurous Moab: Guided Trips

Canyonlands National Park, Moab, Angels Camp, 3 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: So you wanna get adventurous. Go mountain biking on the famous slickrock of Moab. Raft whitewater down the Colorado River whooping and hollering. Hike to a remote spot tucked deep in Canyonlands National Park and gaze upon ancient rock art. Ride a horse through the red desert rocks like you're John Wayne. Dangle from ropes somewhere near Arches National Park as you gracefully rappel into a deep, gorgeous slot canyon. Problem is, you don't actually know how to do any of that stuff. Solution? Hire a guide! Wilderness guides are fun-loving and well-trained people who love the outdoors and really enjoy taking people (dudes, if you will) out with them into their natural playground. Teaching, leading, and doing their best to keep you safe while you're having fun is their *raison d'être*. These excellent companies all offer trips near Moab. Some trips and companies cater to families; some to couples. Some offer women-only excursions, some require a degree of experience on your end, and some are open to total novices who walk through their doors. Sift through these great outfitters, find the one that matches your interests and will take you where you want to go, and then sign up for the adventure of a lifetime.

photo courtesy of UltraRob

Itinerary Overview

Day 1 - Canyonlands National Park

DAY NOTE: It's time to get wet! These companies want to take you out on the river. Rafts, kayaks, canoes, jet boats. Whatever floats your, ah, boat, they've got it. Anything from a three-hour cruise to multi-day trips, these companies have you covered. Come on in, the water's great.



Don Hatch River Running Expeditions

Original river running company since 1926. Great service

Day 2

DAY NOTE: There's nowhere in the world quite like Utah for mountain biking. And Moab is considered the mecca at which all dedicated bikers must bow at least once in their lives. Pedaling over slickrock is a quintessential Moab experience, and these touring companies have it dialed. You can choose from road bikes to mountain bikes, novice to expert, gentle family trips to hardcore butt-kickers.

Day 3 - Moab, Angels Camp

DAY NOTE: Rock climbing! Canyoneering! Horseback riding! Cool multi-adventure tours! These companies put together a smorgasbord of adventures and serve up a complementary menu of activities. Discover the call of the wild and follow your guide to a day – or week – of exploring the national parks and Moab totally off road.



Canyonlands By Night

Water, Land & Air Tours of the Moab Area



Red River Adventures

River Rafting, Rock Climbing, Canyoneering



Moab Adventure Center / Red Rock Outfitters

Plan, furnish, and play on your Moab adventure



OARS Canyonlands Inc

Rafting, kayaking, horseback riding, hiking. All ages.

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contact:

tel: (435) 789-4316

<http://www.donhatchrivertrips.com/index.php>

location:

PO Box 1150

Vernal UT 84078

Don Hatch River Running Expeditions

DESCRIPTION: Since 1929, Don Hatch River expeditions has been introducing people to the excitement-filled world of whitewater rafting. Their illustrious heritage means experienced guides, a high level of guest service and a commitment to helping people love the Utah National Parks as much as they do. Let them worry about the details while you soak up the scenery, the thrills and the fun. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Don Hatch River Running Expeditions

Day 2

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contact:
tel: (435) 259-5261
<http://www.canyonlandsbynight.com>

1 Canyonlands By Night

DESCRIPTION: Enjoy a water, land or air tour of the Moab area from a family owned business in operations since 1963. Try a dinner and boat cruise, or an exciting trip on a hummer tour. No matter what you choice, there's always something fun and knowledgeable on our trips. Visit our website for package deals and discounts at www.canyonlandsbynight.com © Mallory B



contact:
tel: (435) 259-4046
<http://www.redriveradventures.com>

2 Red River Adventures

DESCRIPTION: Red River Adventures has planned day trips and multi-day treks since 2003, working with their guests to plan the perfect outdoor adventure. Overnight trips include a western-style dinner and breakfast, snacks, beverages, and sleeping gear. Fall asleep under the stars after an exciting day on the river. Horseback trail rides are also available, and those who'd rather guide themselves can rent inflatable rafts. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: (435) 259-9941
fax: 435-259-8110
<http://www.moabadventurecenter.com/>

3 Moab Adventure Center / Red Rock Outfitters

DESCRIPTION: Mountain biking, rock climbing and Hummer tours, oh my! The Moab Adventure Center and Red Rock Outfitters are sister companies dedicated to giving you the best Moab Adventure you can have. Guided rafting trips down the Colorado River can be as exciting as you want them to be, from beginner half-day trips to six day river and ranch vacations. Horseback riding, scenic flights, and jet boat tours have something for every person on your trip. Don't worry if you forgot your supplies, Red Rock Outfitters can sell you everything you need for your trip - you can even shop online before you leave. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of the Moab Adventure Center

location:
225 South Main Street
Mab UT 84532

contact:

tel: (209) 736-4677

<http://www.oars.com/utah/>

location:

PO Box 67

Angels Camp CA 95222

OARS Canyonlands Inc

DESCRIPTION: O.A.R.S. (Outdoor Adventure River Specialists) knows what it's doing. With over 40 years of experience in the outdoor adventure business, you could say they have rafting, kayaking, horseback riding and hiking down to a science...but that doesn't make it sound fun enough. And fun is certainly what they dish up. They welcome travelers of all ages and levels of experience to take part in their guided tours; professional and experienced guides will make sure their guests are safe, well fed and having a blast. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of O.A.R.S.

Canyonlands National Park Snapshot

Local Info

If you're looking for an opportunity to discover the mystical quality of the American West, then Canyonlands National Park is an ideal place to get lost in history, time, and the natural wonders of the earth.

Carved out by the Colorado and Green Rivers, this rugged landscape is located just south of Moab, Utah, and beckons tourist visits by the thousands every year. In part, the sheer diversity of the landscape is enough to keep you snapping photos. Add to this the ability to engage in hiking, climbing, camping, horseback riding, and even four-wheel drive excursions, and you've got yourself a packed schedule.

Mighty plateaus and breathtaking vistas are tied together in the park's five main regions. The Needles District offers sites like Elephant Park, Chesler Park, and Confluence Overlook, where sandstone spires pop up from around the landscape, offering color and majestic beauty that is typical of Canyonlands. Or, for evidence of some of America's earliest rock art, head over to Horseshoe Canyon where The Great Gallery highlights life-size human-like figures with intricate details painted by ancient inhabitants of the region.

4x4 routes – ranging from extremely difficult and technical to moderate – span the wilderness around Canyonlands. The 100-mile long White Rim Road offers expansive views of the Island Mesa from your 4x4 vehicle. The exposed sections of the Shafer Trail, Lathrop Canyon Road, Murphy's Hogback, Hardscrabble Hill, and the Mineral Bottom switchbacks make the White Rim loop an exciting route by vehicle and a challenging bike ride as well.

Unique opportunities for exploration are divided among the main regions of the park, though all bear similar qualities in terms of natural wonder. Between the Maze, The Needles, and The Island in the Sky, you'll be amazed by the power of time and natural forces that have created such a fascinating landscape. With multiple outdoor excursions arranged daily, you'll find options that suit people of all ages and with varying physical needs.

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History

From the 1880s to 1975, local ranchers used much of Canyonlands for winter pasture, constructing trails to move their stock across the rugged terrain. In the 1950s the growth of America's nuclear arms program created a high demand for uranium. To encourage prospectors, the Atomic Energy Commission offered monetary incentives and built almost 1,000 miles of road in southeast Utah. In Canyonlands, these roads include the popular White Rim Road at the Island in the Sky. Though the region produced substantial amounts of uranium, miners discovered very little in what is now Canyonlands. However, the newly created roads led to other discoveries. For the first time, much of Canyonlands could be seen from a car. Tourism slowly increased as more people learned about the area's geologic wonders. By opening canyon county to travel, the miners blazed the trail for the creation of a National Park.

In the 1950s and early 1960s, Arches National Monument Superintendent Bates Wilson advocated the creation of a National Park in what is now Canyonlands. On September 12, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Public Law 88-590 establishing Canyonlands National Park. Initially consisting of 257,640 acres, Congress expanded Canyonlands to its present size of 337,598 acres in 1971.

©

Hotel Insights

Although there are no hotels inside of the park, Canyonlands is a short distance from Moab, with lodging options that will fit just about any tourists' needs. From hostels to chain motels to classier hotels to utterly luxurious resorts, chances are you'll find a great place to lay your head at night in Moab.

For those interested in nestling down inside the park, Canyonlands has two main campgrounds. Squaw Flat Campground is in the Needles district, and features tent and RV sites. There are bathrooms, picnic tables, fire grates, tent pads, and water available all year. Willow Flat Campground is in the Island in the Sky district. Slightly smaller, these sites are also available year

round for RVs and tents. There are tables, fire grills, and vault toilets available.

©

Restaurants Insights

Unless you bring your own food, Moab is your best option when looking for good eats at Canyonlands! Located 30 miles east of the Park's Island in the Sky district, Moab offers plenty of dining options for even the most discriminating palates. Eat pizza at Zax, grab a burger at Buck's Grill House, enjoy fine local cuisine at the Desert Bistro. Mexican, Asian, morning coffee, evening pastries – if any of those float your boat, you'll find them in Moab. It's quite likely you'll be staying in Moab during your Canyonlands visit, unless you camp at the Park's only lodging in their campgrounds, so you'll have easy access to the area's restaurants.

Other restaurants near Canyonlands National Park, located in the nearby towns of Monticello and Blanding, stick to the tried-and-true formula of Southern Utah – local ingredients, prepared simply, but with a bit of Southwestern flair.

BBQ lovers are at home at the Line Camp Steakhouse, with its variety of smoked-meat-centric options to fill their bellies. Considered one of Canyonland's "Best Kept Secrets," this Monticello establishment serves quality cuts or meat cooked perfectly, with chicken, salmon, and lobster for those not as steak-inclined.

Combining Italian and American food with a Santa Fe influence, Lamplight Restaurant in Monticello serves big portions and value with a healthy serving of creativity as well. Where else can you order Herb Roasted Duck Confit served alongside the largest (and yummiest) milkshake the area has to offer?

Be aware of Utah's alcohol laws when dining out – not every establishment has a full liquor license, so beer and wine might be your only options if you desire a stiff drink.

NOTES ON UTAH'S LIQUOR LAWS

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Canyonlands National Park Snapshot continued

your drinks will most likely have a lower alcohol content than what you are used to back home.

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Spirited beverages are strictly portion-measured in Utah. Beer sold in supermarkets and convenience stores are a maximum of 4.0% alcohol. For those cocktail enthusiasts out there, be aware that mixed drinks in Utah are limited to 1.5 oz of base spirit per drink, with the option of adding another 1.25 oz of "secondary alcoholic flavoring". Wine is limited to 5 oz per glass.

A 'tavern' is any venue where the sales of beer exceed the sales of food. Beer is sold from 10 AM – 1 AM and can be purchased without food, sold both on draft and in bottles/cans. For those looking to take some beer back to your hotel, most taverns will sell you bottled/canned beer to take home.

Regarding the infamous "private clubs" laws, forcing patrons to take out a membership to imbibe at a full liquor service club, as of July 1st 2009, this law will no longer be in effect. In an effort to supplement Utah's booming tourist industry, the state legislature has struck down the strange-to-outsiders law.

For more information on Utah's liquor laws, please visit http://abc.utah.gov/Liquor_Laws/liquor_laws_affecting_visitors.html

© NileGuide

Nightlife Insights

There isn't much to do after dark near Canyonlands, but for those with a whole evening to spare, you might get to experience one of the most fascinating tours of Canyonlands you're likely to find. Canyonlands by Night, a dinner/boat tour/musical revue, will fill your belly, widen your eyes, and teach you a bit about the fantastic environment around you. Beer and wine are available during the dinner portion on the shore.

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Things to Do Insights

Hiking is the most popular Canyonlands activity, and it's easy to see why. With three outstanding areas (Island in the Sky, the Needles district, and the Maze district), there are seemingly endless trails, canyons, and scenic overlooks to explore. Some trails are perfect for a short walk with children, while others should only be attempted by experienced backcountry travelers with topographical maps and appropriate gear; it is famous as one of the most remote backpacking destinations in the United States. Whatever your skill level, Canyonlands is sure to impress with its natural beauty.

Looking for adventure on wheels? 4WD is hugely popular in Canyonlands, and there are multiple trails/roads for the 4WD aficionado. Elephant Hill road is one of the most challenging and technical in Utah, complete with loose rocks and gravel, stair steps, tight turns and backing. The Colorado Overlook is slightly tamer, but ends in a fantastic overlook. There is also a multitude of mountain biking trails in Canyonlands National Park. Because of its popularity with 4WD, most roads in Canyonlands can also be used by mountain bikes (with the exception of Horse Canyon Road).

River rafting is another way visitors can get their adrenaline-fix; all rafters must have permits, and for those unfamiliar with the Colorado, Green, and Virgin Rivers, a guided tour with a company is advised. Adrift Adventures, Holiday Expeditions, and Don Hatch River Expeditions both offer years of experience, knowledgeable guides and a guaranteed good time. Many of the outfitters also offer biking, hiking, and climbing guided tours – perfect for a first-time visit to Utah's National Parks.

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Travel Tips

By car

Travel to Canyonlands generally requires a car. Once in the park, each district offers different opportunities for exploration. The Island in the Sky is the most accessible district and the easiest to visit in a short period of time. All other destinations require

Canyonlands National Park Snapshot continued

some boating, hiking or four-wheel driving to see the area's attractions.

By air

Daily air tours to Canyonlands National Park in a Cessna aircraft are provided from the Canyonlands Field Airport. The aircraft seats about 7 people (including the pilot). The flights take you over all of the most scenic parts of Canyonlands including the Maze District, Island in the Sky, Dead Horse Point, the Colorado River and more. Typically flights last about 1-2 hours. Helicopter flights are also available as a tour-by-air option.

Flight Operators:

Moab Adventure Center, 225 S. Main St., Moab, UT 84532, Ph:(888) 622-4097
Arches & Classic Helicopter Services, 2251 S. Hwy 191, Moab, UT 84532 (435) 259-4637

Canyonlands by Night & Day, 1861 N Hwy 191, Moab, UT 84532 (800) 394-9978
Red Cliffs Lodge Trails, Highway 128 – Mile 14, Moab, UT 84532, (866) 812-2002

©

Fun Facts

1. Interesting fact: Canyonlands is largely covered by cryptobiotic crust, a living soil, comprised of algae, lichens, and bacteria.
2. Fun fact: Cataract Canyon is a popular rapids section of the Colorado River. The highest recorded flow was in 1984 at 114,900 cfs, or cubic feet per second.
3. Daring fact: The first known successful rafting of Cataract Canyon was by the 1869 John Wesley Powell expedition.
4. Scientific fact: Cataract Canyon may be one of the world's most actively filling canyons. Scientists discovered 260 feet of sediment below the water's surface.
5. Interesting fact: Naturally-occurring small depressions in sandstone called "potholes" collect water, which is a vital resource in this extremely dry climate.
6. Weird fact: Nineteenth century cowboys corralled wild horses onto today's Dead Horse Point State Park. Supposedly, one herd left on the point died of thirst.
7. Outlaw fact: The Robbers Roost hideout of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch gang is near

the Maze district. This remote area was one of the last mapped sections of the lower United States.

8. Weird fact: In 2003, adventurer Aron Ralston became trapped alone in a slot canyon near the Maze district. He cut off his own arm to save his life.

9. Eerie fact: Nearby Moab's popular breakfast spot the Jailhouse Café used to be an actual jail. In the late 1800s the building was the area's first county courthouse, complete with jail cells.

10. Local pinyon pines produce delicious pine nuts, which can only be harvested every three to seven years.

11. Pictographs (ancient paintings on sandstone, called rock art) in the Horseshoe Canyon area show human habitation from as long as 4,000 years ago.

12. In December 2008, activist Tim DeChristopher attempted to save pristine public areas near Canyonlands from oil and gas drilling leases.

© NileGuide

Moab Snapshot

Local Info

Moab is a town in the Utah's Canyon Country and a gateway to the nearby Arches National Park and other attractions in Canyon Country.

Moab is a unique Western community situated in the red rock country of Southeastern Utah on the Colorado River. Arches National Park is only six miles from downtown and Canyonlands National Park is 32 miles from Moab. The city is surrounded by public lands which are used not only for grazing, drilling, and forestry but for recreation such as mountain biking, hiking, rafting, rock climbing, and cross-country skiing. Because the area is rich in these recreational opportunities, Moab has become the hub of tourist activity and services.

© Wikitravel

History

The Biblical name Moab refers to an area of land located on the Eastern side of the Jordan River. Some historians believe the city in Utah came to use that name because of William Pierce, the first postmaster, who believed that the biblical Moab and this part of Utah were both "the far country." However, others believe the name has Paiute origins, referring to the word "moapa," meaning mosquito. Some of the settlers to the area attempted to change the city's name because in the Christian Bible, Moabites are demeaned as incestuous and idolatrous. One petition in 1890 had 59 signatures and requested a name change to Vina. Another effort attempted to change the name to Uvadalua.

During the 1800s the area around what is now Moab served as the Colorado River crossing along the Old Spanish Trail. Mormon settlers attempted to establish a trading fort at the river crossing called "Elk Mountain Mission" in 1855 to trade with travelers attempting to ford the river. Later that year and after repeated Indian attacks, the fort was abandoned. A new round of settlers established a permanent settlement in 1878. Moab was incorporated as a town on December 20, 1902.

In 1883 the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad main line was constructed across eastern Utah. The rail line did

not pass through Moab, instead passing through the towns of Thompson Springs and Cisco, forty miles to the north. Later, other places to cross the Colorado were constructed, such as Lee's Ferry, Navajo Bridge, and Boulder Dam. These changes shifted the trade routes away from Moab. Moab farmers and merchants had to adapt from trading with passing travelers to shipping their goods to distant markets. Soon Moab's origins as one of the few natural crossings of the Colorado River were forgotten. Nevertheless, the U.S. military deemed the bridge over the Colorado River at Moab important enough to place it under guard as late as World War II.

Moab's economy was originally based on agriculture, but gradually shifted to mining. Uranium and vanadium were discovered in the area in the 1910s and 1920s. Potash and manganese came next and then oil and gas were discovered. In the 1950s Moab became the uranium capital of the world after geologist Charles Steen found a rich deposit of uranium ore south of the city.

The city population grew nearly 500% over the next few years, bringing the population to near 6,000 people. The explosion in population led to a great deal of construction of both homes and schools. Charles Steen donated a great deal of money and land to create new houses and churches for the people of Moab.

With the winding down of the Cold War Moab's uranium boom was over. Many people left the city in high numbers. By the early 1980s many homes stood empty and nearly all of the uranium mines had closed.

In 1949 the famed Western movie director John Ford was talked into using the area for the movie *Wagon Master*. Ford had been using the area in Monument Valley around Mexican Hat, Utah, south of Moab, since he filmed *Stagecoach* there 10 years earlier in 1939. A local Moab rancher went, found Ford, and persuaded him to come take a look at Moab. There have been numerous movies filmed in the area ever since, using the beauty of Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park as backdrops. Since the 1970s tourism has played an increasing role in the local economy. Partly due to the John Ford movies, the area has become a favorite for photographers, rafters, hikers, rock climbers, and most

recently mountain bikers. Moab is also an increasingly popular destination for four-wheelers as well as for BASE jumpers, who are allowed to practice their sport.

In recent years Moab has seen a surge of second home owners. The mild winters and enjoyable summers have attracted many to build throughout the area. Controversy has arisen over these new temporary citizens and their homes, which remain unoccupied through most of the year. Many citizens in Moab are concerned that Moab may soon become like Vail or Aspen in Colorado.

Sunset magazine's March 2009 issue listed Moab as one of the 20 best small towns in the west.

©

Hotel Insights

For those touring Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, Moab represents the biggest and best town for lodging choices. With everything from resorts to bed and breakfasts to campsites, visitors to Arches, Canyonlands and Moab's famous mountain biking trails can all be found in this bustling western town.

Hotels, inns, and budget motels make up the bulk of Moab's lodging options. Most feature pools and hot tubs, and many have bike storage and work stations. Serious mountain bikers should check out the Dreamkeeper Inn (if you're looking for a quiet stay), The Red Stone Inn (bikes can sleep in the rooms with you), or the Gonzo Inn (higher priced, but a more upscale and unique lodging experience).

Campgrounds, many with both RV hookups and tent sites, also pepper Moab. Moab Valley Resort is a catch-all of lodging options, offering everything from tent sites to cabins. Whether they're carrying their belongings in a pack on their back or in an RV, travelers appreciate their many useful facilities. The Archview Resort and Canyonlands campground are also excellent choices.

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Restaurants Insights

Restaurants in Moab tend to center around hearty, local food. While choices range from

Moab Snapshot continued

take-out to fine dining, most of your culinary options focus on simple, well-prepared food with a semi-Southwest style. Basic menus include a great deal of steak and chicken while more adventurous locations such as Buck's Grill House and the Center Café venture into game territory, with Elk and Rabbit featured in their entrees.

Due to the influx of tourists during biking and hiking season, you may find some prices to be surprising. Unlike other areas of southern Utah, it is possible to find fine dining in Moab, and the prices of these restaurants reflect that. Sunset Grill, Buck's Grill House, Desert Bistro, and the Center Café all provide exciting and well prepared food in a more formal(for Utah, of course) setting. All four of the above mentioned establishments are a perfect venue for that special night out while visiting Moab, and you will not be disappointed with their ambiance or their exciting menus.

For those looking for something less expensive but just as satisfying, local Brew Pubs are the way to go. Moab Brewery and Eddie McStiff's are local and tourist favorites, featuring an extensive list of beer and wine, as well as filling and comforting fare such as Burgers with Blue Cheese and Jalapeno Beer Fries. These places fill fast at the end of the day, with thirsty and hungry patrons enjoying the relaxed and festive atmospheres.

Breakfast is crucial before a big trip to the National Parks, and Moab doesn't disappoint when it comes to the meal to start off your day. Fresh juice smoothies at the Peace Tree Juice Café or the BFG(Flaky Biscuit, Two Eggs, and Gravy) at Breakfast at Tiffany's will give you the fuel you need to make it to your packed lunch in the park.

Be aware of Utah's alcohol laws when dining out – not every establishment has a full liquor license, so beer and wine seem to be par for the course.

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Nightlife Insights

Moab is home to two wonderful brew pubs(Moab Brewery and Eddie McStiff's), both of which seem to dictate the nightlife in this small town. Do not come to Southern Utah expecting rowdy nightclubs and all night parties(this is Utah, after all) but it is possible to have a fun night out after

returning from your jaunt to the nearby national parks. A variety of different establishments have much to offer to a night-friendly visitor, including live music, microbreweries, and extensive wine lists.

As mentioned above, the Moab Brewery and Eddie McStiff's go above and beyond in providing your microbrew needs. The Brewpub movement is relatively new to Utah, with local establishments following the lead of Wasatch Brew Pub in Park City, established in 1986. Moab Brewery has great happy hour specials on its handcrafted stouts, ales, and steamers, and serves as Moab's only microbrewery. Eddie McStiff's serves a wide variety of regional Utah beer, as well as wine and spirits.

For those looking for a little live music, head over to Woody's Tavern, home to one of the best live music venues in Southern Utah; be sure to arrive at an early time in order to secure a stool. Those interested in watching the game will find a home at The Rio Sports Bar and Grill, and perhaps partake in a foosball game(or seven).

NOTES ON UTAH'S LIQUOR LAWS

It has been mentioned in this section before: if you want to drink in Utah, make sure you understand the intricacies of Utah liquor laws, as they may determine whether you can have a bottle of beer or glass of wine during dinner. In response to tourist demand, some of these laws are currently changing, so be sure to check in with the establishment you're visiting before you embark.

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Things to Do Insights

As outdoor pursuits go, Moab is best known for its mountain biking. The Slickrock bike trail, as well as the Gemini Bridges Trail and the Hurrah Pass Trail, all showcase some of Utah's best scenery. Riders wheel past arches, canyons, rivers and sandstone rock formations. Cyclists have access to a variety of trails, from shorties for beginners and children, to longer, challenging routes. Some trails vary between pavement and dirt, but road bikes are not appropriate for the majority of the trails.

Hiking and backpacking is how most tourists spend their time in Moab. Although not a park itself, Moab is known as the "Gateway to Arches National Park," which is a short distance away. Nearby recreation areas also include Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park. Hikes vary from short(Delicate Rock and Balanced Rock trails) to long(Tower Arch and Double O Arch trails).

For those who prefer four wheels to two, Moab has several gorgeous scenic drives. Especially notable are stretches of the Colorado River Scenic Byway. There are also jeep rentals and enough 4WD off-roading areas to keep an adrenaline junkie happy for days.

Moab Snapshot continued

For visitors who are tired of the desert, a rafting trip down the Colorado River is in order. Try a guided tour with Colorado River and Trail Expeditions, or with Tex's River Waterways (offering guided river trips since 1958).

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Travel Tips

Moab is off I-70--way off! From this most commonly used access point, head south on US Route 191 and you'll enter Moab in about 20 minutes. Along the way, you'll pass the entrances to both Canyonlands National Park and Arches National Park. Just the drive itself can cause ooh-ing and aah-ing.

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Fun Facts

1. Interesting fact: The name Moab comes from an ancient Biblical kingdom.

2. Weird fact: Moab is not named after a Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb. The "Mother of All Bombs" is a 21,000-pound explosive.

3. Eerie fact: Popular breakfast spot the Jailhouse Café used to be an actual jail. In the late 1800s the building was the area's first county courthouse.

4. Fun fact: In 1991, Nike released their Nike Air Mowabb hybrid running/hiking shoe. Schwinn produces the Moab Mountain Bike.

5. Random fact: Humans have occupied Moab for a long time: two nearby petroglyphs (images pecked into a rock wall by ancient people) depict what might be a woolly mammoth.

6. Historical fact: Moab hosted a uranium boom in the 1950s after prospector Charlie Steen hit it big.

7. Cool historical fact: Moab is near The Old Spanish Trail. Its 1,000-mile length was heavily used for centuries as a Santa Fe-Los Angeles trade route.

8. Fun outdoor fact: Moab is a mountain biking mecca. Its Slickrock Bike Trail is one of the most technically challenging ones in the world.

9. Weird fact: Dead Horse Point State Park borders Canyonlands National Park. Nineteenth century cowboys corralled wild horses onto the point, which created a natural barrier to escape. Supposedly a herd was left on the point and died of thirst.

10. Outlaw fact: Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch gang got into many robberies and shootouts with Moab's lawmen. Their Robbers Roost hideout was in a wild maze of canyons east of town.

11. Daring fact: The famous Colorado River was first successfully rafted by explorer John Wesley Powell in 1869.

12. Silly name fact: Delicate Arch in Arches National Park has been nicknamed Cowboy Chaps, Old Maid's Bloomers, and License Plate Arch.

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