

Wood gathering is prohibited. Why? Dead trees are an integral part of the park's resource. In the high desert, untold years are necessary to heal the wounds inflicted by man.

.4 mi
.6 km

Green River Overlook. Magnificently scenic and geologically revealing, the area before you is also of historic interest. Prehistoric man lived near the river and left much evidence of his use of the area. On July 17, 1869, Major John Wesley Powell floated down the Green River more than 2,000 feet below you.

Powell named many of the features that mark the landscape, recording his observations and experiences in a journal that is now available in book form. About 35 years later, Butch Cassidy, Sundance Kid, and others used the canyons to elude posses and hide stolen horses. Today, the river and its canyons continue to offer a challenge to those with the urge to explore or to temporarily escape to a "different world."

Road Junction to Upheaval Dome

1.0 mi
1.6 km

Indian granaries or food caches. A viewfinder at the roadside pulloff will help you locate two prehistoric mud and stone food storage bins about ¼ mile from the road. For your own safety and to help preserve these irreplaceable structures, please do not attempt to climb up to the ancient ruins.

3.4 mi
5.5 km

Whale Rock Trail. The enormous size of Upheaval Dome is best revealed at the end of a fifteen minute walk to the top of Whale Rock on this trail. From this viewpoint, the outermost extremities of Upheaval Dome, which is approximately three miles across, can be observed. A brochure is available from a dispenser at the beginning of the trail.

.9 mi
1.5 km

Upheaval Dome Picnic Area. Many visitors find this five-site picnic area an ideal rest stop for lunch before or after hiking the Upheaval Dome Trail which originates at this point.

Upheaval Dome Trail. A ten minute walk on this trail offers many scenic opportunities.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Shafer Trail is an alternate route returning to Moab that is longer, slower, and rougher, but an outstanding scenic drive. It is permissible to drive the route in a standard vehicle, but we advise using a four-wheel drive vehicle. Parts of the road are steep and rough. During and soon after rainfall, portions of the route are hazardous. About three miles of the narrow road winds up a steep cliff face. Persons fearful of heights and steep dropoffs may find this part of the road upsetting.

Regardless of the type of vehicle used, please contact a Park Ranger before driving the Shafer Trail. Road conditions vary greatly from time to time and up-to-date information will be important to you.

Dead Horse Point State Park. If you did not visit Dead Horse Point while en route to the Island in the Sky, we suggest you do so as you return toward Moab. The park offers magnificent views of the Colorado River 1,600 feet below and of the vast canyon country through which it flows. A visit is well worth the additional 14 miles of driving — round trip — via a paved road.

Camping and picnicking facilities are provided and the park has a visitor center with information services and excellent exhibits. An entrance fee is collected.

The White Rim Trail is a four-wheel drive trail around the Island on the White Rim formation about 1,000 feet below the mesa top. The route can be driven in one long day, but most visitors prefer a more leisurely trip. Camping out one or more nights permits you to devote more time to exploration of points of interest. The route is very rough and steep in places and there are a few areas of deep, soft sand. A four-wheel drive vehicle is required.

Before starting a trip around the White Rim, contact a Park Ranger for a back-country permit and information on the road.

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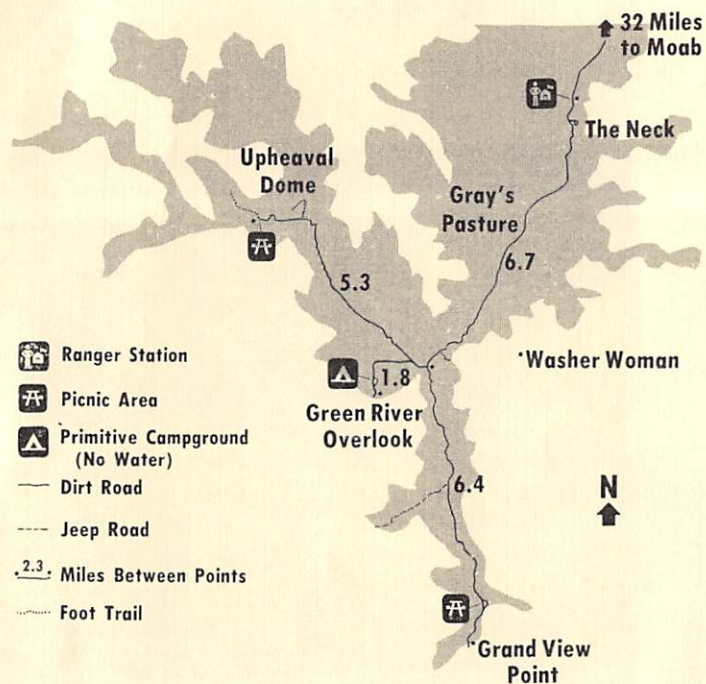
A Guide To

THE ISLAND IN THE SKY



Canyonlands National Park, Utah

ISLAND IN THE SKY



Welcome to Island in the Sky of Canyonlands National Park!

We hope your visit will be a safe and pleasant one. Depending upon your time and interests, you should plan to spend approximately four hours if you decide to view everything.

CAUTIONARY REMINDERS

1. There is no water available on the "Island," so be sure you have a supply adequate to your needs.
2. Check your gas gauge now. The nearest supply is in Moab, 32 miles away. If you drive to all points of interest on the Island and then return directly to Moab, you will have driven about 75 miles.
3. EXTREME CAUTION should be used while driving or hiking throughout the park. The terrain is hazardous and the overlooks are unfenced.

HAVE A NICE DAY!

The distance between points of interest (in miles and kilometers) is given in the left hand margin.

RANGER STATION TO ROAD JUNCTION

**.4 mi
.6 km** The Wayside Exhibit turnoff to your left leads you to a short foot trail. A 15 minute stroll will take you to four exhibits which explain local features. Take your camera — the scenery is great.

**.3 mi
.5 km** The Neck is a narrow strip of land that provides the only possible access for vehicles venturing onto the large mesa called the Island in the Sky. Early cowboys fenced The Neck to make the entire Island an inescapable pasture for their cattle.

**.1 mi
.2 km** Shafer Trail Viewpoint. An excellent view is offered of the twisting, turning road called the Shafer Trail, which winds its way down a 1,200 foot wall into Shafer Canyon. This road is not recommended for passenger cars.

Once an Indian trail descended here. In the early years of this century the Shafer brothers, local ranchers, widened and improved it into a cattle trail so that they could drive their cattle to winter range on the White Rim. During the uranium boom of the early fifties, the road you see now was constructed to provide a way in and out of the canyon for miners.

**2.3 mi
3.7 km** Gray's Pasture. Grazing cattle have modified the native vegetation in this meadow, reducing some plants and encouraging others to increase. Changes in the plant community stimulate alterations in the small animal population (insects, rodents, small birds, etc.), which in turn forces change upon the population of larger animals (foxes, coyotes, eagles, hawks, owls, etc.). The grazing here was a "hold-over" from the time before Canyonlands National Park was established. Grazing was discontinued in 1975, and this area is expected to make a long, slow return to a more natural condition.

**3.3 mi
5.3 km** Mesa Trail. A view through an arch into a canyon 1,200 feet below captures a beautiful segment of the canyon country. Another arch, the Washer Woman, is visible from this point, too. You will find this short foot trail a very rewarding part of your experience here on the Island.

A trail guide booklet that interprets the mesa environment is available at the trailhead.

Road Junction to Grand View Point

**2.6 mi
4.2 km** Murphy Point. If you are driving a four-wheel vehicle, you will find this 1¼ mile road to your liking. If not, it is an enjoyable hike, but don't forget to take a canteen of water.

At the Point is an excellent view westward across the Green River into the Maze District of the park.

**.7 mi
1.1 km** Colorado River Overlook. Short segments of the Colorado River are visible 2,000 feet below. Another of the many fine views of the canyon country.

**2.0 mi
3.2 km** Grandview Picnic Area is a favorite lunch stop for many visitors. This six-site picnic area is only 1.1 miles from Grandview Point.

**1.1 mi
1.8 km** Grandview Point. Until 1921, the upper portion of what we now call the Colorado River was called the Grand River. Many features along the Grand River were named in connection with the River: Grand Junction Colorado; Grand County, Utah; and Grandview Point. Although the river's name is changed, the other place names remain. In the case of Grandview Point, which offers a truly "grand view" of the vastness, splendor, and rugged beauty of this canyon country, the old name has new significance.

Road Junction to Green River Overlook

**1.4 mi
2.25 km** Willow Flat Campground. This centrally located twelve-site campground is provided for those visitors who wish to spend the night camping on the Island. Campers must provide their own water; there is none at the campground.