

Hiking Trails

The Needles

	Distance	Loop	Oneway	Roundtrip Hiking Time	Difficulty
Frontcountry Trails					
Roadside Ruin	.3mi/5km	■		30 min	easy, hard surface
Pothole Point	.6mi/1 km	■		45 min	easy, slickrock
Cave Spring	.6mi/1 km	■		45 min	easy, slickrock, two ladders
Slickrock Foot Trail	2.4mi/4km	■		2-3 hours	moderate, slickrock, little shade
Squaw Flat Trailhead					
Big Spring - Elephant Canyon	10.8mi/17km	■		4-6 hours	strenuous, exposed, two ladders
Big Spring - Squaw Canyon	7.5mi/12km	■		3-4 hours	moderate, steep slickrock
Squaw - Lost Canyon	7.6mi/12km	■		4-6 hours	moderate, one ladder
Peekaboo	5mi/8km		■	5 hours	strenuous, exposed, two ladders
Elephant Hill Trailhead					
Chesler Park	2.9mi/5km		■	3-4 hours	moderate, loose rock, slickrock
Elephant - Druid Arch	5.4mi/9km		■	4-6 hours	moderate, sandy wash, ladder
Lower Red Lake	9.4mi/15km		■	overnight	strenuous, 1400ft elevation change
Big Spring Trailhead					
Confluence Overlook	5.5mi/9km		■	4-6 hours	moderate, little shade, one ladder
Backcountry Trailheads					
Chesler Park Loop	4.9mi/8km	■		3-4 hours	moderate, varied terrain
Joint Trail	.5mi/.8km		■	45 min	moderate, narrow
Devil's Kitchen Loop	5.1mi/8km	■		3-4 hours	moderate, varied terrain
Upper Salt Creek	13mi/21km		■	overnight	moderate/strenuous
Angel Arch	.5mi/.8km		■	30 min	easy, hard surface
Castle Arch	.4mi/.6km		■	30 min	easy, primitive trail
Fortress Arch	.5mi/.8km		■	45 min	moderate, primitive trail
Confluence Overlook	.5mi/.8km		■	45 min	easy, slickrock

Trails

Trails are marked with cairns (small rock piles) with a sign at each trailhead and trail intersection. All backcountry trails are primitive and rough. Water can be found in some canyons, but is rarely available in others. All water should be purified before drinking. Spring and fall are the best times for hiking.

Pets

Pets are welcome in frontcountry areas as long as they are on a leash six feet or less in length. Frontcountry areas include all paved roads, two-wheel drive dirt roads and the Squaw Flat Campground. Dogs can be taken into the backcountry only in four-wheel drive vehicles, and must stay with the vehicle. They are not allowed on hiking trails.

Cryptobiotic Soil Crusts

An important feature of the Colorado Plateau is the black, knobby surface commonly seen growing on the red sand. Cryptobiotic soil crusts hold moisture, prevent erosion and contribute nitrogen and carbon to the desert environment. It is easily broken and crushed by footsteps and bike tracks. Please do not walk on cryptobiotic crusts.

Backcountry Permits

All overnight stays except those at Squaw Flat Campground require a backcountry permit. Permits may be obtained in person at the Visitor Center. Visitors camping with their vehicles must stay in designated sites. Backpackers may camp in areas that meet minimum impact guidelines.

Desert Precautions

Heat, intense sunlight, low humidity, and high elevation require humans to adapt to the desert. It may mean more than the difference between being comfortable or uncomfortable; it may mean your survival.

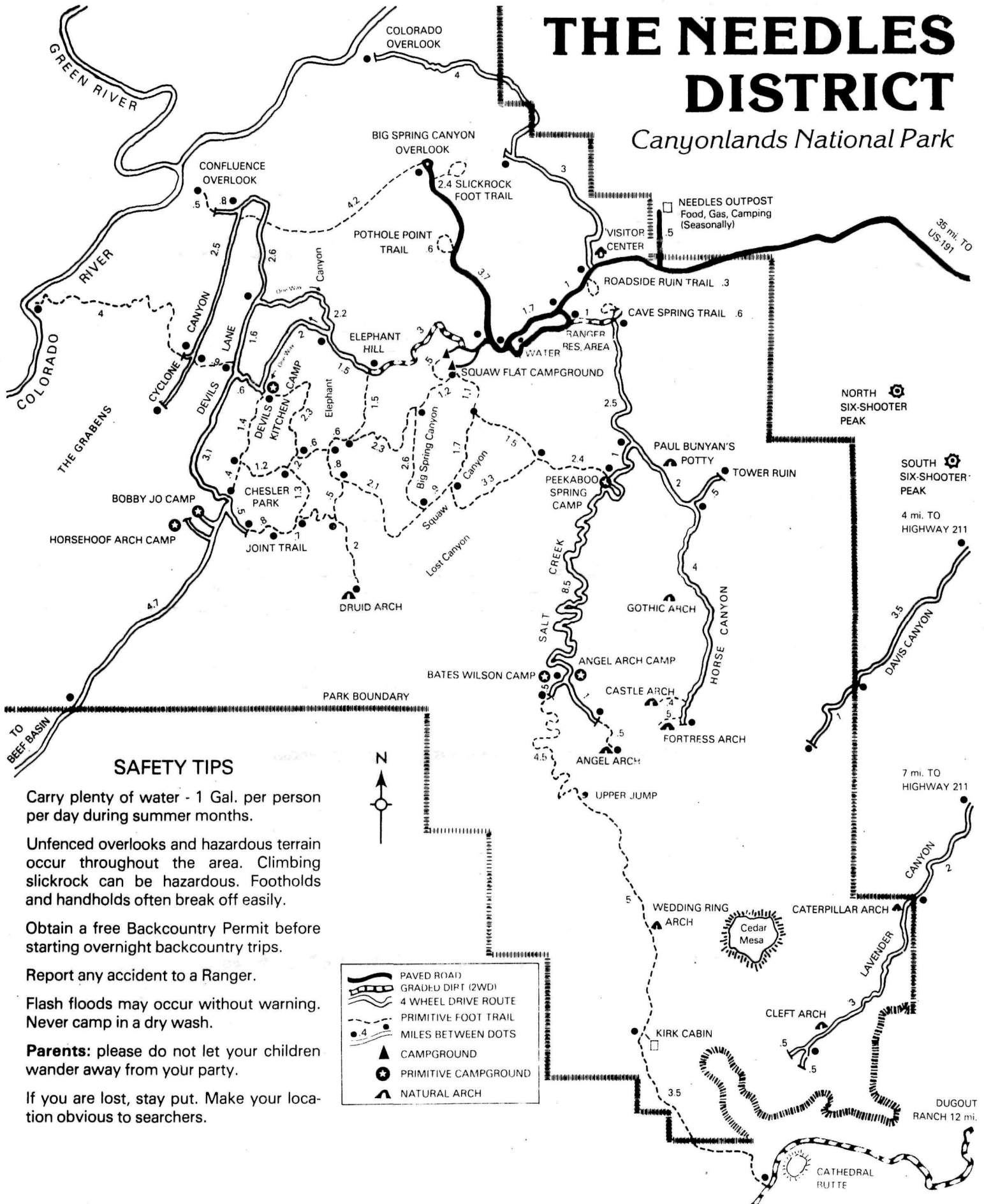
- Drink one gallon of water per person each day.
- Avoid overexposure to intense sun.
- Save strenuous activity for mornings or evenings.

- During lightning storms, avoid lone trees, cliff edges and high ridges. Return to your vehicle if possible. Protect yourself by crouching low to the ground.
- Remember, climbing up slickrock is easier than climbing down.
- Be careful near cliff edges.
- Flash floods can occur without warning. Never camp in a dry wash or try to drive across a wash in flood.
- If you become lost or separated from your group, stay where you are. Await rescue.



THE NEEDLES DISTRICT

Canyonlands National Park



SAFETY TIPS

Carry plenty of water - 1 Gal. per person per day during summer months.

Unfenced overlooks and hazardous terrain occur throughout the area. Climbing slickrock can be hazardous. Footholds and handholds often break off easily.

Obtain a free Backcountry Permit before starting overnight backcountry trips.

Report any accident to a Ranger.

Flash floods may occur without warning. Never camp in a dry wash.

Parents: please do not let your children wander away from your party.

If you are lost, stay put. Make your location obvious to searchers.

	PAVED ROAD
	GRADED DIRT (2WD)
	4 WHEEL DRIVE ROUTE
	PRIMITIVE FOOT TRAIL
	MILES BETWEEN DOTS
	CAMPGROUND
	PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND
	NATURAL ARCH