



# Canyonlands



Pull-out hiking guide inside!

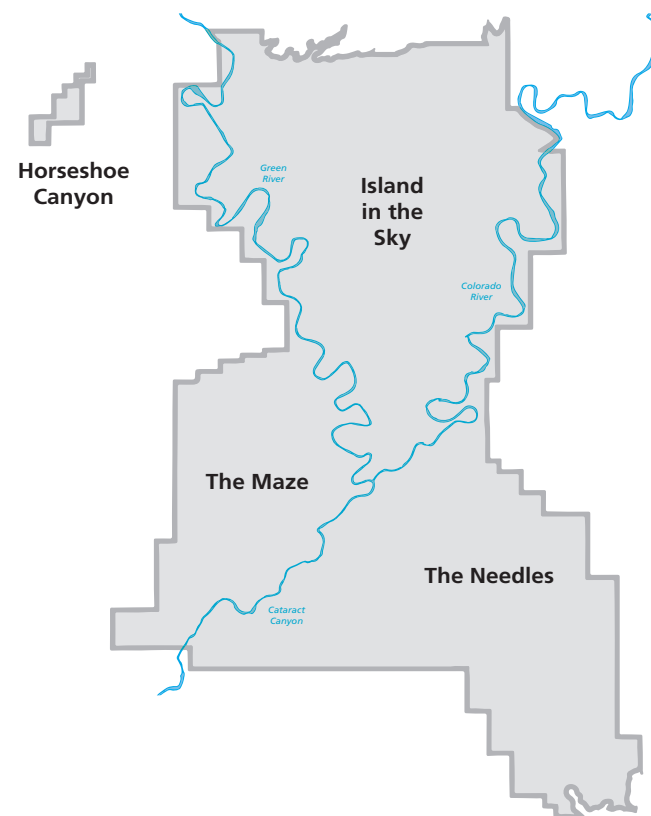
A visitor hikes through Chesler Park NPS / KRISTINA CARPENTER

## A Lifetime of Exploration Awaits

Canyonlands National Park preserves 337,598 acres of colorful canyons, mesas, buttes, fins, arches, and spires in the heart of southeast Utah’s high desert. Water and gravity have been the prime architects of this land, sculpting layers of rock into the rugged landscape we see today.

Canyonlands preserves that natural beauty and human history throughout its four districts, which are divided by the Green and Colorado rivers. **Island in the Sky** is closest to Moab and is the most visited district. **The Needles** is a farther drive, and is great for a day trip or backcountry hiking and backpacking. **The Maze** is the most remote and rugged district, requiring a four-wheel-drive, high-clearance vehicle, and more time. The Maze’s Horseshoe Canyon unit contains intriguing rock markings from tribal cultures. The **Rivers** separate the other three districts and offer world-class boating opportunities.

While the districts share a primitive desert atmosphere, each retains its own character and offers different opportunities for exploration and adventure. Though they appear close on a map, there are no roads in the park that directly link the districts. Traveling between them requires two to six hours by car. Check inside this visitor guide for the best way to plan your visit to Canyonlands.



## Welcome to Canyonlands.



**Drink water.** It’s easy to become dehydrated, even in cold temperatures. Drink at least 1 gallon (4 L) of water per day. You can get water year-round at The Needles and Island in the Sky visitor centers, and seasonally at The Needles Campground.



**Walk on hard surfaces, watch your step.** Stay on trails to protect fragile living soil crusts and plant and animal habitat, and to reduce your risk of getting lost or falling. Do not cross wood or rock at trail edges.



**The sun is intense, and shade is rare.** Avoid exertion during peak heat (>90°F / 32°C). Protect yourself with sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat.



**Do not rely on cell service at Canyonlands.** Much of the park is outside cell phone range. You may find service where the La Sal Mountains are visible, but availability will vary by provider.



**Keep off the arches.** It’s prohibited—and dangerous—to climb or walk on any arch in the park.



**Pets are not allowed on trails.** Activities with pets are limited in the park. See page 2 for details on where you can bring your pet.



**Respect nature.** Leave plants, rocks, and artifacts where you see them. Do not feed, chase, or disturb animals.



**Preserve natural darkness.** Using artificial light sources to illuminate features for photography at night is prohibited.



**Leave the rocks as you see them.** Carving, scratching, or chalking marks onto rocks is illegal and causes irreparable damage.



**Find your way.** Cairns (small rock piles) mark routes. Don’t build your own; they could mislead other hikers. If you get lost, stay where you are, and wait for rescue.



**Leave drones at home.** Launching, landing, or operating remotely piloted aircrafts (such as model airplanes, quadcopters, or drones) is prohibited.



**Do not use ATVs.** It’s prohibited to use any type of ATV or OHV. There are many roads outside the park where you can use ATVs and OHVs.





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### Canyonlands National Park

2282 Resource Blvd.  
Moab, UT 84532  
email [canyinfo@nps.gov](mailto:canyinfo@nps.gov)  
phone 435-719-2313  
website [nps.gov/cany](http://nps.gov/cany)

### Visitor Guide 2023, Volume 1

This Visitor Guide is published by Canyonlands Natural History Association, a nonprofit organization that assists the National Park Service in its educational, interpretive, and scientific programs. For more information, see page 8.

## The NPS App is Here.



Search "National Park Service" in the App Store to download and begin exploring.

## Find us online.



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youtube.com/CanyonlandsNPS

## Park Fees

We charge fees for park entrance, camping, and permits. Eighty percent of your fees collected at Canyonlands return to the park to address needs in maintenance, infrastructure, resource management, and visitor services. Fees are subject to change.

Entrance Fees	
Single vehicle (per vehicle)	\$30
Motorcycle (per vehicle)	\$25
Pedestrian/Bicycle (per person)	\$15
Interagency Annual Pass	\$80
Southeast Utah Parks Pass	\$55

Camping Fees (per night)	
Island in the Sky Campground Individual Sites	\$15
The Needles Campground Individual Sites	\$20
Needles Group Sites price depends on group size	\$70 to \$225

# General Information

## INFORMATION CENTERS

Canyonlands National Park operates visitor centers year-round at Island in the Sky and Hans Flat (The Maze), and spring through fall at The Needles. Hours vary with the season. Many neighboring communities have information centers with knowledgeable staff, brochures, and maps.

## WATER

Canyonlands is in the high desert, and it is easy to become dehydrated, even in cold temperatures. Plan on drinking at least 1 gallon (4 L) of water per day. You can get water year-round at The Needles and Island in the Sky visitor centers and seasonally at The Needles Campground.

## FOOD, GAS, LODGING

There is no food, gas, lodging, or other amenities at Canyonlands. Come prepared with adequate food, fuel, and water. These may be found in nearby towns—see next page.



The Needles Campground NPS / CHRIS WONDERLY

## CAMPING

Campgrounds at The Needles and Island in the Sky have toilets, picnic tables, and fire rings. The park has no hookups or dump stations. Maximum length is 28 feet in most sites. Individual sites at Island in the Sky are first-come, first-served. You can make reservations for group campsites and some individual sites at The Needles online at Recreation.gov, or you can call 877-444-6777 (toll free), 877-833-6777 (TTY), or +1 518-885-3639 (international). There are also many campgrounds outside the park.

## BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS AND RESERVATIONS

You must have a permit for all overnight trips in the backcountry. If you're taking a four-wheel-drive, motorcycle, mountain bike, or e-bike day trip, you must have a day-use permit on Lavender Canyon, Horse Canyon/Peekaboo, White Rim, and Elephant Hill roads. Find more information on page 9.

## EMERGENCY

If you have an emergency:

- Contact a park employee.
- Go to a visitor center. If the building is closed, use the emergency phone outside by the restroom.
- If service is available, dial 911 on your cell phone. However, there are many areas without cell coverage in Canyonlands.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

The closest medical services are in Moab and Monticello.

	Island in the Sky	The Needles	The Maze
Moab Regional Hospital Moab, UT	32 mi 51 km	75 mi 120 km	135 mi 217 km
San Juan Hospital Monticello, UT	87 mi 140 km	50 mi 80 km	188 mi 303 km



Ranger program at Grand View Point NPS

## RANGER PROGRAMS

Rangers typically offer evening programs and overlook talks April through October as staffing allows. Check the visitor centers or website for up to date schedules. Programs are subject to change.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Canyonlands experiences wide temperature fluctuations, sometimes over 40 degrees in a single day. Summer temperatures often exceed 100°F (37°C). Late summer monsoons bring violent storms, which may cause flash flood and severe lightning. Winters (November through March) are cold, with highs averaging 30° to 50°F (0° to 10°C), and lows averaging 0° to 20°F (-17° to -6°C).

## ACCESSIBILITY

At Island in the Sky and The Needles, people with mobility impairments can access visitor centers, toilets, and campgrounds. Grand View Point, Green River, and Buck Canyon overlooks (Island in the Sky) and Wooden Shoe Arch Overlook (The Needles) are wheelchair accessible. Other points of interest may be accessible with some assistance.

People with visual impairments can ask at a visitor center for large-print, braille, and audio described editions of the park brochure. Movies at visitor centers are captioned for people who are deaf or have hearing loss.

**Service animals**—Only dogs or horses trained to perform specific tasks for a person with a disability—are allowed on trails and in the backcountry. Emotional support (“therapy”) animals are not considered service animals by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## TRAVELING WITH PETS

Activities with pets are limited at Canyonlands. Pets must be on a leash at all times when outside a vehicle. *The desert can be deadly for pets left in cars.* You should not leave pets in the car when temperatures are above 65°F (18°C), even with the windows open.

You may have your pet with you:

- at developed campgrounds in Island in the Sky and The Needles
- along paved roads
- in your vehicle on the Potash/Shafer Canyon road between Moab and Island in the Sky.

You may not have your pet with you:

- on any hiking trails or overlooks, even if carried
- anywhere in the backcountry including rivers and roads, even if it's in your vehicle.
- inside visitor centers.



NPS / NEAL HERBERT

## Protect Your Park—Stay on Trails

This land is every bit as fragile as it is beautiful. If you step off the trail, you can easily injure the soil's living surface. When biological soil crust is damaged, it can take decades to recover.

Help protect park soils during your visit. Please walk on trails, rock, or in sandy washes (where water flows when it rains), and keep all vehicles and bikes on designated roads. Read more about soil crusts on page 9.

# Island in the Sky

435-259-4712 [go.nps.gov/isky](http://go.nps.gov/isky)

The Island in the Sky mesa rests on sheer sandstone cliffs over 1,000 feet above the surrounding terrain. Each overlook offers a different perspective on the park's spectacular landscape. If you have a short period of time, Island in the Sky is the easiest district to visit. Many pullouts along the paved scenic drive offer spectacular views. Hiking trails and four-wheel-drive roads access backcountry areas for day or overnight trips.

## DIRECTIONS

On US 191, drive 10 miles (16 km) north of Moab or 22 miles (35 km) south of Interstate 70 (Crescent Junction), then take UT 313 southwest for 22 miles (35 km). Driving time from Moab is roughly 40 minutes to the visitor center, or 60 minutes to Grand View Point.

## BASICS

- The visitor center is open year-round, with shortened hours in winter. You'll find exhibits, book and map sales, backcountry permits, general information, and park rangers on duty.
- Drinking water is available spring through fall outside visitor center and year-round inside.
- You can watch the 15-minute orientation movie *Wilderness of Rock* at the visitor center.
- There are toilets at the visitor center, campground, Grand View Point, Green River Overlook, Mesa Arch, Upheaval Dome, and White Rim Overlook. The visitor center toilets are wheelchair accessible.
- The campground has 12 sites, first-come, first-served. No water. No hookups. Nightly fee is \$15 per site.

## SCENIC DRIVE

You can tour the entire mesa top via the 34-mile roundtrip scenic drive. If you're looking for a written guide, you can purchase *The Road Guide to Canyonlands - Island in the Sky District* at the visitor center. You can also purchase or rent a self-guiding driving tour CD. Grand View Point, Green River Overlook, and Buck Canyon Overlook are accessible to wheelchairs. There are picnic areas at White Rim Overlook, Upheaval Dome, and the visitor center.



Mesa Arch NPS

## LEARN ABOUT THE PARK

We may offer ranger programs at various times, spring through fall. Check at the visitor center or campground for locations, times, and topics.

## FOR KIDS

Kids can ask for a junior ranger book at any visitor center. For hiking, kids enjoy visiting Mesa Arch and climbing the back of the whale at Whale Rock. Use caution as there are unfenced overlooks and steep drop-offs on both of these trails.

## WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR DAY

First, stop at the visitor center for current information on trails, roads, ranger programs, weather, or to watch the park movie.

**In 2 hours you can:** Drive to Grand View Point or Green River Overlook. Hike to Mesa Arch.

**In 4 hours you can:** Drive to Grand View Point, Green River Overlook, and Upheaval Dome. Hike the Grand View Point, Mesa Arch, and Upheaval Dome Overlook trails.

**In 8 hours you can:** Visit every overlook. Hike several mesa top trails or one of the more strenuous trails descending to the White Rim. Enjoy lunch on the trail, or picnic at White Rim Overlook or Upheaval Dome picnic areas.

**Sunrise and Sunset:** Visit Mesa Arch at dawn. Visit Green River Overlook or Grand View Point at dusk for incredible views of sunset over the canyons. Hike to the top of Aztec Butte or Whale Rock for a spectacular view of Island in the Sky and surrounding countryside.

# The Needles

435-259-4711 [go.nps.gov/theneedles](http://go.nps.gov/theneedles)

The Needles forms the southeast corner of Canyonlands and was named for the colorful spires of Cedar Mesa Sandstone that dominate the area. The district's extensive trail system provides many opportunities for long day hikes and overnight trips.

## DIRECTIONS

On US 191, drive 40 miles (60 km) south of Moab or 14 miles (22 km) north of Monticello, then take UT 211 roughly 35 miles (56 km) west. Highway 211 ends in The Needles, and is the only paved road leading in and out of the area.

## BASICS

- The visitor center is open daily, spring through fall. The visitor center is closed in winter. You'll find exhibits, book and map sales, general information, picnic area, and when park rangers on duty.
- Drinking water is available year-round at the visitor center and spring through fall at the campground.
- You can watch the 15-minute orientation movie, *Wilderness of Rock*, at the visitor center.
- There are restrooms with running water at the visitor center year-round, and spring through fall at the campground. There are toilets at Elephant Hill.
- The campground has 26 sites available, some sites are available for reservation, and other sites are first-come, first-served. No hookups. Nightly fee is \$20 per site.

## SCENIC DRIVE

The scenic drive continues 6.5 miles past the visitor center, ending at Big Spring Canyon Overlook. There are several pullouts for short hiking trails, viewpoints, and a picnic area. Graded gravel roads lead to Cave Spring and the Elephant Hill trailhead. Get some of the best views of The Needles on the graded Elephant Hill access road (about one mile from the pavement).

## LEARN ABOUT THE PARK

- Take a self-guiding trail at Cave Spring, Pothole Point, Roadside Ruin, and Slickrock.
- In spring and fall, rangers may present campfire programs nightly at the campground. Check at the visitor center for details.

## FOR KIDS

Kids can ask for a junior ranger book at any visitor center. The Cave Spring and Pothole Point trails are both popular hikes with kids.

## WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR DAY

First, stop at the visitor center for current information on trails, roads, ranger programs, weather, or to watch the park movie.

**In 2 hours you can:** Drive to Big Spring Canyon Overlook, and hike the Pothole Point trail along the way, enjoying

**In 4 hours you can:** Explore the scenic drive and graded dirt roads. Hike the Cave Spring, Pothole Point, and Roadside Ruin trails, or the longer Slickrock trail.

**In 8 hours you can:** After exploring the scenic drive, hike to Chesler Park Viewpoint or around the Big Spring-Wooden Shoe Canyon loop. Enjoy lunch on the trail.

**Sunrise and Sunset:** Sunrise is spectacular from the campground area, especially along the short trail between loops A and B. Visit Pothole Point or Wooden Shoe Arch Overlook to watch the glow of sunset wash over The Needles.



Chesler Park NPS / EMILY OGDEN



# The Maze

go.nps.gov/themaze

The Maze is remote, and all roads are unpaved. You'll need a four-wheel-drive vehicle, more time, and a greater degree of self-sufficiency to visit The Maze. Your trip may take anywhere from three days to a week or more.

## VISITOR SERVICES

Hans Flat Ranger Station is open daily year-round. It has a small sales area with books and maps. There are no services, food, gas, or potable water sources in The Maze. These are located in Hanksville, 68 miles (109 km), or Green River, 86 miles (138 km).

## BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL

Trails in The Maze are primitive. Many canyons look alike and are difficult to identify without a topographic map. You must have a permit for all overnight trips. Backpackers stay in at-large zones. Backcountry vehicle campers and mountain bikers stay in designated sites and must provide their own toilet systems.



NPS / NEAL HERBERT

## HORSESHOE CANYON

Horseshoe Canyon contains several intriguing pictograph panels, including "The Great Gallery," which features remarkable life-sized figures and intricate designs. To visit every panel, plan on a strenuous roundtrip hike of seven miles. A trip to Horseshoe Canyon usually requires a full day.

go.nps.gov/horseshoecanyon

## QUESTIONS?

For the most up-to-date information on road and trail conditions at The Maze, call Hans Flat Ranger Station 435-259-2652. (8 am - 4:30 pm)

# The Rivers

go.nps.gov/canyrivers

The Colorado and Green rivers wind through the heart of Canyonlands, cutting through layers of sandstone to form two deep canyons. The calm waters of these two rivers join at The Confluence. Below The Confluence, the combined rivers' flow spills down Cataract Canyon with remarkable speed and power, creating a world-class stretch of white water.



NPS / NEAL HERBERT

You can take a flatwater trip down either of the rivers as far as The Confluence or Spanish Bottom. There are no rapids above

The Confluence in the park, making it an ideal trip for canoes, sea kayaks, and other calm-water boats. Below Spanish Bottom, Cataract Canyon contains 14 miles of rapids ranging in difficulty from Class II to V. This is a hazardous and isolated section of the Colorado River, and you should not attempt it unless you're an experienced boater. There are no facilities or potable water sources along the rivers in Canyonlands. Your river trip must be self-sufficient, and you must carry a cleanable, reusable toilet system.

## PERMITS

You must have a permit for all overnight and one-day river trips in Canyonlands. Get your permit online at go.nps.gov/canybackcountry. We do not restrict launch dates. Maximum group size is 40 people, though to preserve the wilderness character of the river we recommend limiting your group size to 16. For more boating information, visit go.nps.gov/canyrivers.

# Backcountry Roads

go.nps.gov/canydriving

There are hundreds of miles of four-wheel-drive roads in Canyonlands, providing access to various campsites, trailheads, and viewpoints in the park's backcountry. These roads range in difficulty from intermediate to extremely technical. Research your route thoroughly before attempting. Check for current conditions at visitor centers.









## If you plan to enjoy the park's four-wheel-drive roads, please note:

- You must have a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle (low range) on the White Rim Road and all Needles and Maze backcountry roads. All-wheel-drive or two-wheel-drive vehicles are not allowed since they are not equipped to drive on rough slickrock, loose rocks, deep sand, and steep switchbacks.
- You must have a permit for all overnight trips in the backcountry, and for day-use trips on White Rim, Elephant Hill, Lavender Canyon, and Horse Canyon/Peekaboo roads. In spring and fall, demand for permits frequently exceeds the number available. If you plan to visit Canyonlands during peak season, especially to camp along the White Rim Road, you should make reservations well in advance.
- All vehicles must remain on established roads and be registered and operated by a licensed driver.
- ATVs, OHVs, and Utah State Type I / Type II vehicles are prohibited, even if registered. Motorcycles must be interstate highway legal.
- You may take your pets with you on the Potash/Shafter Trail road between Moab and Island in the Sky, but you may not have your pet on the White Rim Road or any other backcountry road.



NPS / KIRSTEN KEARSE

## Backcountry Roads

Island in the Sky		
White Rim Road	 	The White Rim Road loops around and below the Island in the Sky mesa top and provides views of the surrounding area. These 100-mile trips usually take two to three days by four-wheel-drive vehicle or three to four days by mountain bike. Overnight and day-use permits required.
The Needles		
Elephant Hill	 	One of the most technical four-wheel-drive roads in Utah. Steep grades, loose rock, stair-step drops, tight turns, and tricky backing. Past the hill, equally challenging roads lead to various features and BLM lands south of the park. No water at the campsites. There are vault toilets at all camping areas except New Bates Wilson. If you are camping at New Bates Wilson, you must bring your own toilet. When open, biological waste bags are available for purchase at visitor centers. Overnight and day-use permits required.
Colorado Overlook	 	Moderate road, can be sandy for mountain bikes. You can avoid the large rocks and stair-step drops in the last 1.5 miles by parking on the road and walking to the overlook. (Be sure to leave room for other vehicles to pass.) Outstanding views of the Colorado River canyon. Unprotected overlook; use caution. No vehicle camping.
Horse Canyon / Peekaboo		Frequently impassable due to quicksand. Roads travel along canyon bottoms where deep sand, deep water, and quicksand are common. Too sandy for mountain bikes. There are campsites at Peekaboo with prehistoric pictographs and petroglyphs nearby. You must have a portable toilet at Peekaboo campsite. You may not drive beyond Peekaboo in Salt Creek Canyon. Horse Canyon Road leads to several arches and Tower Ruin. We recommend traveling in pairs with winch capable, high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicles. Recovery costs are high. Overnight and day-use permits required.
Lavender Canyon		Road follows a canyon bottom where deep sand, deep water, and quicksand are common. Too sandy for mountain bikes. There are major creek crossings with steep banks. You can view many arches and archeological sites from the road. No vehicle camping inside the park. Overnight and day-use permits required.
The Maze		
Four-wheel-drive roads in The Maze are extremely difficult, present considerable risk of vehicle damage, and should not be attempted by inexperienced drivers. A high-clearance, low-range, four-wheel-drive vehicle is required for all Maze backcountry roads. (All-wheel-drive vehicles do not have the clearance or low gearing required.) Towing charges are very expensive; visitors in the backcountry with disabled vehicles can expect towing fees in excess of \$2,000. To plan your Maze trip, ask for The Maze backcountry handout in a visitor center or visit go.nps.gov/themaze.		





NPS / JACOB W. FRANK

The Needles offers over 60 miles of interconnecting trails, as challenging as they are rewarding. Many different itineraries are possible, but some of the more popular ones are listed below. Conditions are primitive. Most trails traverse a mixture of slickrock benches and sandy washes. Longer trails are especially rough and require negotiating steep passes with drop-offs, narrow spots, or ladders. Water in the backcountry is unreliable and scarce in some areas. Trails are marked with cairns (small rock piles). Do not disturb cairns or build new ones.

Although strong hikers can hike most trails in a day, many trails form loops with other trails for longer trips. Remember—help protect park soils during your visit. Please walk on trails, rock, or in sandy washes (where water flows when it rains).



Pothole Point NPS / NEAL HERBERT



On the trail to Chesler Park NPS

♿ - toilet at trailhead (no water)  
☑ - drinking water at trailhead (seasonal)

Trail	Distance (roundtrip)	Time	Description
<b>Short: entering, touching, or climbing on archeological sites is strictly prohibited. Please avoid stepping in potholes and on soil crust to help protect fragile communities.</b>			
Roadside Ruin	0.3 mi (0.5 km)	20 min	This short trail leads to a storage structure built by Indigenous people. Pick up an interpretive guide at the trailhead to learn how ancestral Puebloans used native plants. Entering, touching, or climbing on the structure is strictly prohibited. <i>Acknowledgement:</i> Today's Tribes would not call this place a "ruin." They say these areas are still living and that their ancestors in the spiritual world continue to use this place.
Cave Spring	0.6 mi (1 km)	45 min	This short loop leads to a historic cowboy camp, prehistoric pictographs, and a spring. Past the archeological sites, you will climb two ladders to complete the loop. Please do not enter or touch the springs or water, as it is considered a sacred place to many people past, present, and future. An interpretive guide is available at the trailhead to learn as you walk.
Pothole Point	0.6 mi (1 km)	45 min	Follow cairns across uneven rock, covered in dimpled pockets called potholes, to view the rock spires, called needles. Please do not walk in potholes, wet or dry. Pick up an interpretive guide at the trailhead to learn about these sensitive ecosystems.
Slickrock	2.4 mi (3.9 km)	1.5 hrs	This trail features expansive 360-degree views into Big Spring Canyon and Little Spring Canyon, with the La Sal and Abajo Mountains in the background. Grab an interpretive guide at trailhead to learn about the area's geology. Slickrock is a general term for any bare rock surface, and dominates much of the landscape in Canyonlands.
<b>Strenuous: bring water (1 L per person, per hour), snacks, sturdy footwear, headlamp, map, and be prepared for, sun, rain, heat, or cold. In winter, there may be snow or icy conditions; it is highly recommended to bring traction devices.</b>			
Chesler Park Viewpoint ♿	5.8 mi (9.3 km)	3 - 4 hrs	To hike this trail, begin at the Elephant Hill trailhead. The out-and-back route gains over 1,000 feet (305 m) in elevation, crosses Elephant Canyon, and leads to a scenic expanse of desert grasses and shrubs surrounded by rock spires. The trail can be rough, uneven, and requires walking and scrambling on rocky slopes.
Big Spring Canyon to Wooden Shoe Canyon ♿ ☑	7.5 mi (12 km)	3 - 4 hrs	Begin at the Needles Campground trailhead to hike this loop that connects two canyons. The hike crosses varied terrain and provides points of expansive views. The route between the canyons climbs steep grades that may require scrambling, are dangerous when wet, and may make people with a fear of heights uncomfortable.
Lost Canyon to Wooden Shoe Canyon ♿ ☑	8.7 mi (14 km)	4 - 6 hrs	This loop hike begins at the Needles Campground trailhead and can be hiked in either direction. There are sections of steep grade to climb between the two canyons. Riparian areas in both canyons attract birds and other wildlife. The route in Lost Canyon passes through dense vegetation and may be very wet with deep sand. One ladder must be climbed.
Big Spring Canyon to Elephant Canyon ♿ ☑	10.5 mi (16.9 km)	4 - 6 hrs	This loop begins at the Needles Campground trailhead and features extended hiking on slickrock benches and mesa tops overlooking canyons. Sections of the trail require hiking up steep and rocky grades, providing views of sheer cliff walls and other rock formations. You will have to climb two ladders in the pass between the canyons.
Chesler Park Loop / Joint Trail ♿	10.7 mi (17.2 km)	5 - 7 hrs	This challenging route gains over 1,700 feet (518 m) in elevation. During the hike you will descend and ascend in and out of canyons, scramble up and down rock, weave through narrow passages, and walk among rock spires, called Needles. Recommended direction is counter-clockwise.
Peekaboo ♿ ☑	10.8 mi (17.4 km)	5 - 6 hrs	This out-and-back trail begins at the Needles Campground trailhead and gains over 1,400 feet (427 m) in elevation. It crosses Wooden Shoe and Lost canyons on its way to Salt Creek Canyon. It passes along high slickrock benches with cliff edges, which may make people with a fear of heights uncomfortable. Steep grades and two ladders must be climbed. Prehistoric pictographs can be seen at the trail's end near Peekaboo camp.
Druid Arch ♿	10.8 mi (17.4 km)	5 - 7 hrs	This out-and-back trail gains over 1,500 feet (457 m) of elevation while traversing across hard rock surfaces and through soft sandy washes. To see the arch, one ladder must be climbed and one must scramble a steep section of loose and uneven rock.
Confluence Overlook	11 mi (17.7 km)	5 - 6 hrs	This out-and-back trail traverses sections of dry, open country along the northern edge of the geologic faults that shaped The Needles. Sections climb steep, rocky grades. Trail culminates at a cliff overlooking the junction of the Green and Colorado rivers. There is almost no shade on this trail and it is not recommended during the summer months.





Several short trails explore the Island in the Sky mesa top with minimal elevation change. Moderate trails involve elevation, such as climbing a sandstone feature or descending partway into a canyon. Long trails begin on the mesa top and descend via switchbacks to the White Rim, or beyond to one of the rivers. These are considered strenuous, with an elevation change of 1,000-2,000 feet (304-609 m). They require negotiating steep slopes of loose rock as well as sections of deep sand.

Trails are marked with cairns (small rock piles). Do not disturb existing cairns or build new ones. There are signs at trailheads and intersections. All trails leading below the mesa top are primitive and rough. There is no potable water along any of the hiking trails. You can get water at the visitor center spring through fall.



**Fort Bottom Ruin**  
NPS / RHODES SMARTT



**Aztec Butte**  
NPS / NEAL HERBERT


















**Grand View Point** NPS

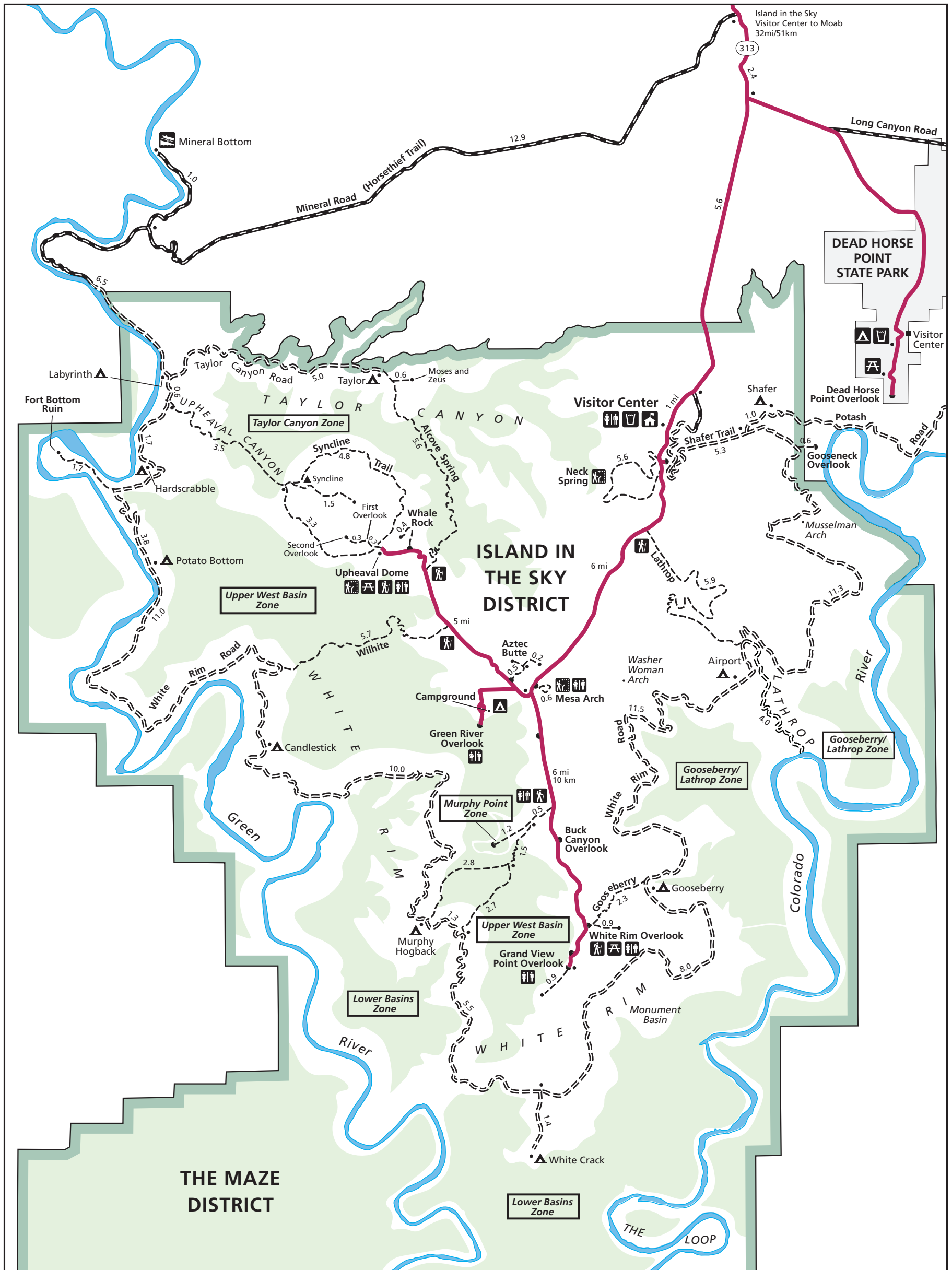
♿ Toilet at trailhead (no water)

Trail	Distance (roundtrip)	Time	Elevation Change	Description	
<b>Easy - Mesa Top</b>					
Mesa Arch	♿	0.6 mi (1 km)	30 min	56 ft (17 m)	A short hike leads to a cliff-edge arch. Mesa Arch is a classic sunrise spot, and has stunning views towards the La Sal Mountains any time of day.
White Rim Overlook	♿	1.8 mi (2.9 km)	1.5 hrs	159 ft (49 m)	Walk to an east-facing overlook for views of the Colorado River, Monument Basin, and La Sal Mountains. Best in late afternoon. <i>Very limited trailhead parking. Hikers may not park off pavement or in picnic area.</i>
Grand View Point	♿	1.8 mi (2.9 km)	1.5 hrs	73 ft (22 m)	A stunning out-and-back trail, this walk showcases spectacular panoramic views as it follows the canyon edge.
Murphy Point		3.4 mi (5.5 km)	2 hrs	142 ft (43 m)	This longer hike leads past a historic corral on the mesa top. The trail ends with panoramic views of Candlestick Tower, the Green River, and the White Rim Road.
<b>Moderate - Mesa Top</b>					
Upheaval Dome first overlook	♿	0.6 mi (1 km)	1 hr	115 ft (35 m)	A short but steep trail leads to a clear view into Upheaval Dome. Exhibits at the end of the trail discuss this unique geologic feature.
Upheaval Dome second overlook	♿	1.2 mi (1.9 km)	1.5 hrs	114 ft (35 m)	This trail splits off from the first overlook trail, following cairns to more views of Upheaval Dome and Upheaval Canyon.
Whale Rock		0.8 mi (1.3 km)	1 hr	141 ft (43 m)	This trail leads up the side of a sandstone dome, ending with broad views of the Island in the Sky. Be careful: steep drop-offs.
Aztec Butte		1.4 mi (2.3 km)	1.5 hrs	222 ft (68 m)	The trail follows a sandy wash, then splits. The eastern fork to your right ascends Aztec Butte for spectacular views. The western fork on the left climbs the smaller butte then drops below the rim to two ancestral Puebloan granaries. Both trails require scrambling up slickrock and ledges. <i>Entering, touching, or climbing on archeological sites is strictly prohibited. View structures from a distance to protect fragile walls.</i>
Neck Spring		5.6 mi (9 km)	3 - 4 hrs	418 ft (127 m)	A walk back in time, this loop trail passes historic ranching features and two springs where cowboys watered cattle. With minor elevation changes, this trail is a great way to see some varied plant life.
<b>Strenuous - Mesa Top to White Rim</b>					
Gooseberry	♿	4.6 mi (7.4 km)	4 - 6 hrs	1,529 ft (466 m)	Island in the Sky's steepest trail rapidly descends 1,400 feet (427 m) to the White Rim bench. Rough switchbacks cross sheer cliffs and scree slopes. Step carefully, and don't forget to look up to take in the view.
Syncline Loop	♿	8.1 mi (13 km)	5 - 7 hrs	1,516 ft (462 m)	This challenging trail follows the canyons around Upheaval Dome and requires navigating steep switchbacks, climbing and scrambling through boulder fields, and a 1,300-foot (396 m) elevation change. <b>Most park rescues occur on this trail.</b> Carry a map, extra gallons of water, and a flashlight. Hike this trail clockwise for more afternoon shade.
Murphy Loop	♿	10.8 mi (17.4 km)	5 - 7 hrs	1,448 ft (441 m)	A great full-day hike, this trail drops off the side of the mesa top for a 1,400-foot (427 m) elevation change. The trail offers vast views from the Murphy Hogback, then returns up a wash.
Alcove Spring		11.2 mi (18 km)	6 - 7 hrs	1,455 ft (444 m)	After descending 1,300 feet (396 m) past a large alcove, the trail meanders in a wide canyon to the base of the notable Moses and Zeus towers.
Wilhite		11.4 mi (18.3 km)	6 - 8 hrs	1,693 ft (516 m)	A primitive trail with steep switchbacks drops 1,600 feet (488 m) into a long, sandy wash. Follow the wash to the White Rim Road. No shade.
Lathrop to Canyon Rim		5 mi (8 km)	2 - 3 hrs	158 ft (48 m)	Trail crosses open grasslands, ending in spectacular views of Airport Tower & Colorado River.
to White Rim Road		11.8 mi (19 km)	5 - 7 hrs	1,721 ft (525 m)	Trail crosses open grassland, then drops 1,600 feet (488 m) into the canyon below. Enjoy views of the La Sal Mountains and fanciful sandstone knobs on this varied and challenging hike to the White Rim.
<b>Trails along the White Rim Road - These trails are not accessible from the Mesa Top.</b>					
Gooseneck Overlook		0.6 mi (1 km)	30 min	98 ft (30 m)	Along White Rim Road. This short walk ends abruptly at an overlook of a meandering gooseneck bend in the Colorado River. Note the rock layers distorted by salt pushing up from below.
Fort Bottom Ruin		3.4 mi (5.5 km)	2 hrs	418 ft (128 m)	Along White Rim Road. Exposed trail crosses a narrow mesa to a high point in a bend of the Green River. A tower structure marks the historic home of ancestral Puebloan people. <i>Entering, touching, or climbing on archeological sites is strictly prohibited. View structures from a distance to protect fragile walls.</i>
Moses and Zeus		1.3 mi (2 km)	1 hr	717 ft (219 m)	Along Taylor Canyon Road. Trail ascends 500 feet (152 m) to the base of prominent sandstone spires. No need to climb the technical routes on Moses and Zeus towers to enjoy stunning views of Taylor Canyon.

# Island in the Sky Hiking Map

- |   |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  Paved road/<br>Pull out       |  High-clearance,<br>4-wheel-drive road |  At-large<br>Backpacking Zone |  Boat Launch    |  Developed Campground        |  Drinking Water Available      |
|  Unpaved<br>2-wheel-drive road |  Hiking Trail                          | <b>Name</b> Name of<br>Backpacking Zone   |  Ranger Station |  Backcountry Vehicle Camp    |  Self-guiding Trail            |
|   |   |   |  Picnic Area    |  Designated Backpacking Site |  Backcountry Trailhead Parking |
|   |   |   |  |   |  Toilet                        |

NOTE: White shading within Canyonlands indicates areas with designated site camping only.

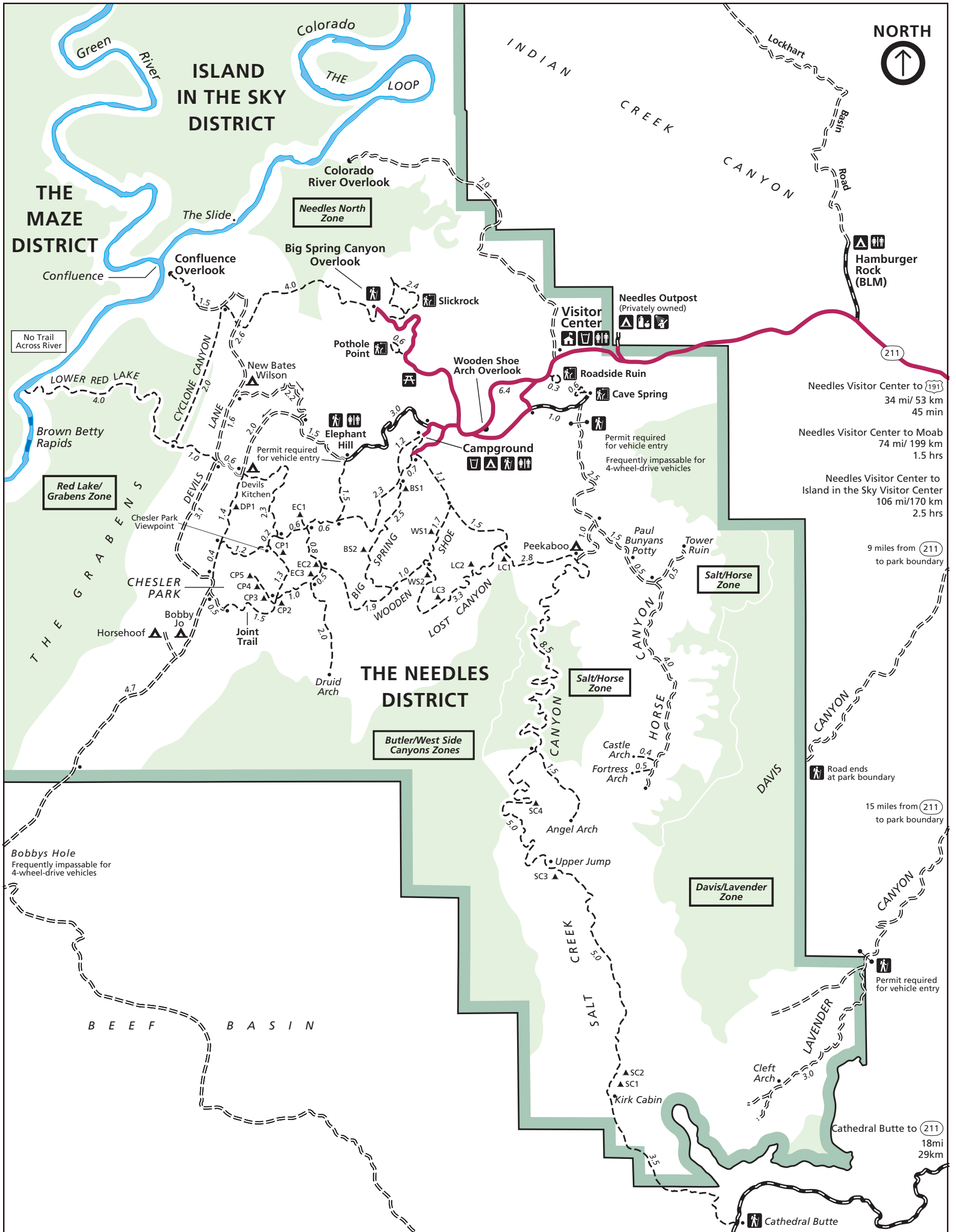




# The Needles Hiking Map

- |                               |                                       |                              |                             |                          |                               |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Overlook/<br>Paved road       | High-clearance,<br>4-wheel-drive road | Rapids                       | Ranger Station              | Developed Campground     | Self-guiding Trail            |
| Unpaved<br>2-wheel-drive road | Locked Gate                           | At-large<br>Backpacking Zone | Picnic Area                 | Backcountry Vehicle Camp | Backcountry Trailhead Parking |
| Hiking Trail                  | Name<br>Name of<br>Backpacking Zone   | Drinking Water               | Designated Backpacking Site | Toilet                   |                               |

NOTE: White shading within Canyonlands indicates areas with designated site camping only.





# Backcountry Permits

Much of Canyonlands is managed for its primitive character, so the park is a popular destination for backcountry travel. Hundreds of miles of rugged trails and roads wind through the park.

You need a permit for these activities:

- all overnight trips, including backpacking, four-wheel-drive camping, mountain bike or e-bike camping, and river trips;
- day trips using four-wheel drive, motorcycles, and mountain bikes or e-bikes on Elephant Hill, Peekaboo/Horse Canyon, and Lavender Canyon roads in The Needles, and the White Rim Road at Island in the Sky;
- day river trips and all packrafting trips on the river.

We recommend using a topographic map when planning your trip and while in the backcountry.

## LENGTH OF STAY

You can get an overnight permit for up to 14 consecutive nights. You may stay up to seven consecutive nights in any one backpacking site or zone (10 nights in The Maze zones). If you are using designated vehicle camps, you may stay a maximum of three consecutive nights at a site before having to relocate.

## GETTING A PERMIT

You can check permit availability and make reservations online at Recreation.gov. Before booking, watch your activity's video at go.nps.gov/canybackcountry.

White Rim trips and Needles backpacking trips in spring and fall fill up very quickly. You can get overnight permits up to four months in advance of each season. Get day-use permits the day before or day of your trip.

Campsites or permits not reserved in advance may be available first-come, first-served at park visitor centers and the Backcountry Permit Office in Moab (8 am to 4 pm).

## FEES

Fees and group size limits apply. View the details for your type of permit at go.nps.gov/canybackcountry.

## SITES AND ZONES

In order to protect park resources and prevent crowding, the backcountry of Canyonlands is divided into sites and zones, and access to each is limited. There are designated sites for vehicles and bicycles along all four-wheel-drive roads. There are also sites for backpackers along some hiking trails, mostly at The Needles. In remote areas where travel is limited to foot or boat, you will stay in at-large zones and may choose your own minimum-impact campsites.

## WATER

Water is a limiting factor for most backcountry trips in Canyonlands. Before beginning your trip, check at park visitor centers for reliable water sources. There are some springs scattered throughout the park, mostly in canyon bottoms, but there are also large areas such as The Grabens in The Needles, and the entire White Rim bench at Island in the Sky, where there is no water. Pack in water whenever possible. Some springs shown on maps may dry up during periods of drought. Plan on needing at least 1 gallon (4 L) per person per day.

## BEAR CANNISTERS

Campers in Salt Creek designated sites, the Salt/Horse Zone and Peekaboo, at The Needles need a hard-sided, park-approved bear canister March through November. All campers should secure food and trash from animals.

## PACK IT OUT

You must have a commercial human waste disposal bag or washable, reusable toilet system when camping at all designated backpacking campsites, any vehicle campsites without vault toilets nearby, and within 1/2 mile of the Green or Colorado rivers.



NPS / NEAL HERBERT

## QUESTIONS?

You can best reach the Backcountry Permit Office by email at canyres@nps.gov. We answer phones Monday-Friday and some weekends, 8 am to noon Mountain time, at 435-259-4351. If workload permits, we may answer phones until 4 pm.

# Living Soil Crusts of Canyonlands

In Canyonlands' high desert, the winding canyons, curving arches, and ancient dwellings draw the eye. But eyes turned downward will notice that most of this place is covered in bumpy, clumpy, blackened soil. This soil may just be more fascinating and more important than any other desert feature. This dirt is alive!

## WHAT IS BIOLOGICAL SOIL CRUST?

Biological soil crust is just what the name describes – a living soil that creates a crust over the landscape. Biological soil crust is found throughout the world, from the Colorado Plateau's high desert to the arctic. In many places, soil crust comprises over 70 percent of all living ground cover. The knobby, black crust here may include lichen, mosses, green algae, microfungi, and bacteria, but is dominated by cyanobacteria.

Cyanobacteria, also called green-blue algae, are one of our planet's oldest known life forms. Scientists think cyanobacteria were among the first organisms to colonize Earth's early land masses and played an important part in forming Earth's early soils. Extremely thick mats of cyanobacteria converted Earth's original carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere into one rich in oxygen and capable of sustaining life.

In biological soil crust, cyanobacteria are dormant when dry. When wet, they move

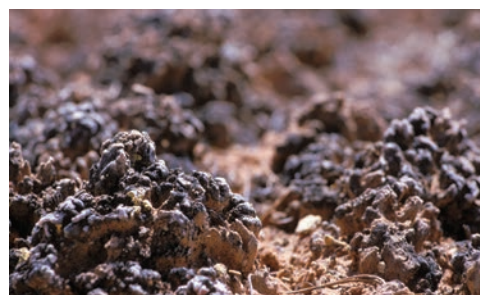
through the soil, leaving behind sticky fibers that form an intricate web. These fibers join sand and soil particles together, creating a thick layer of soil that's resistant to erosion. This layer acts like a sponge, absorbing and storing water. Over time, lichens, mosses, and other organisms grow onto the soil as well. Together, these organisms create a continuous living crust.

Not all soil crusts are knobby and black. Younger crusts are flat and brown and look like bare earth. The bumpy crusts—sometimes sprinkled with lighter lichen or moss—are mature. Some crusts can be thousands of years old.

## PROTECTOR OF THE DESERT

Biological soil crust has helped shape today's high desert. Soil crusts help control erosion by keeping soil stuck together. Sediment doesn't wash away in the rain or blow away in the wind. This is why the Colorado Plateau's high desert isn't covered in loose sandy dunes.

Soil crust also holds and retains water. Plant roots tap into this spongy crust to survive drier and hotter conditions. It also promotes plant life by taking nitrogen from the air and changing it to a kind of nitrogen plants need. Without these effects, animals, and even humans, would not be able to survive well in the desert.



Mature soil crusts are notable with black, knobby surfaces. Younger soil crusts may not be as obvious, looking like bare earth. Avoid crusts by hiking only on trails, bare rock, or in sandy washes.



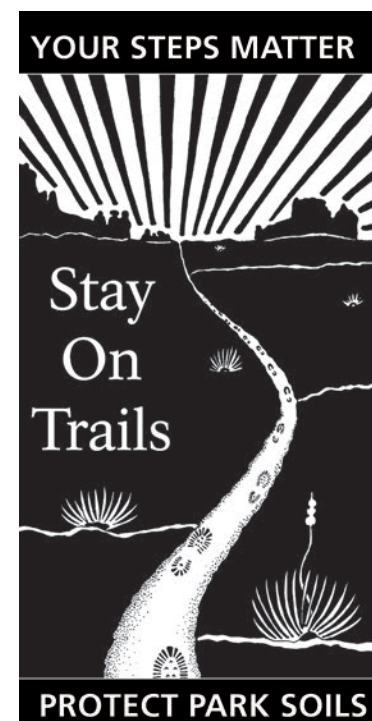
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## LOOK WHERE YOU STEP

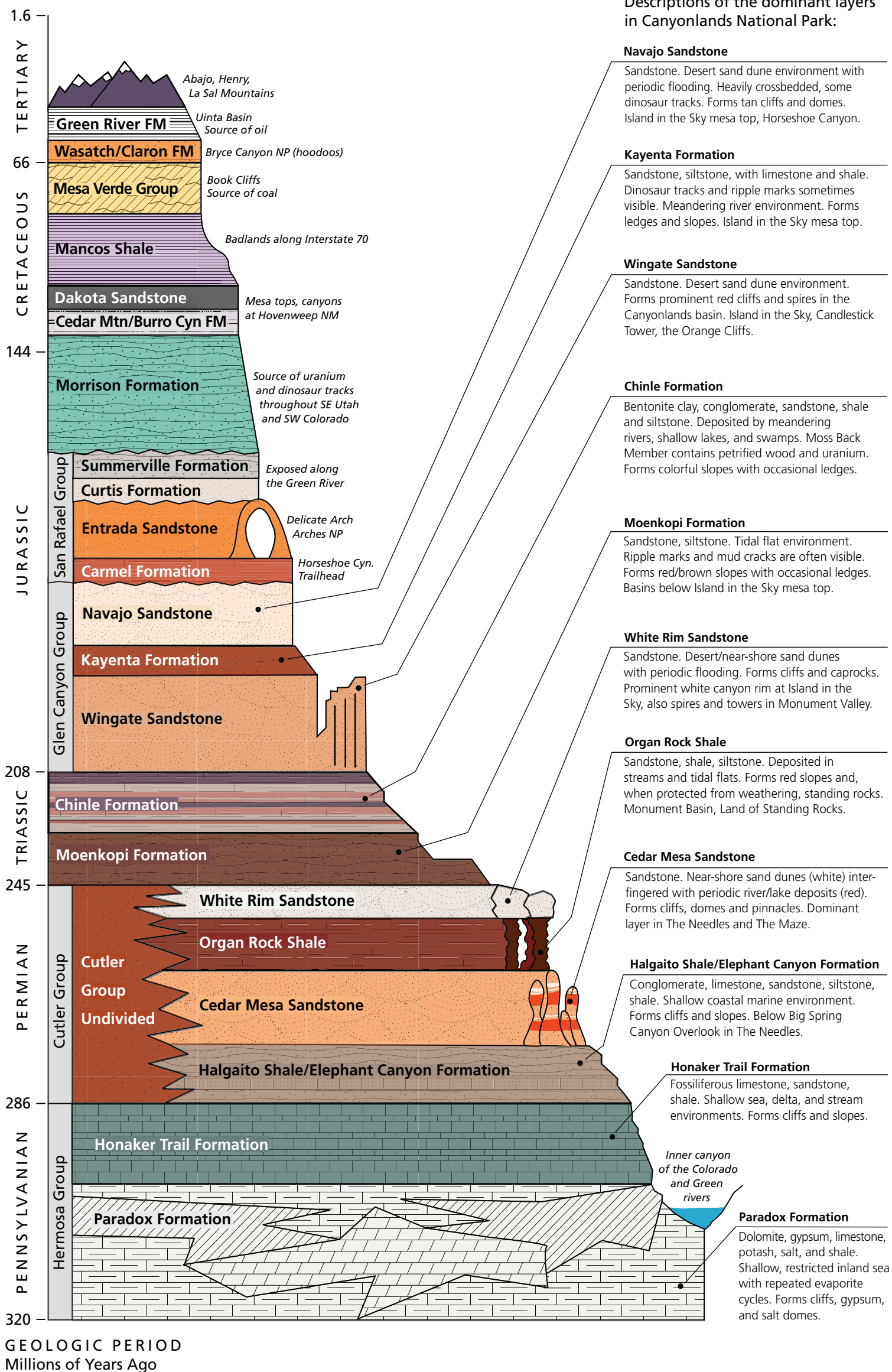
Unfortunately, humans can destroy soil crust and often do so without meaning to. Vehicle tracks, bicycles, and footprints are extremely harmful—even a single footprint can kill the soil crust immediately below. Continuous pressure can break up the crust. Then, rain or wind can scatter the pieces, replacing the soil with blowing sand where plants cannot grow.

Impacted areas may never fully recover. Under the best circumstances, a thin veneer of biological soil may return in five to seven years. Mature crusts can take 50 years to strengthen. Lichens and mosses may take hundreds of years to recover.

Help us protect this fragile, but crucial, life by remaining on designated roads, routes, and trails at all times. Where hiking trails are not established, hike in sandy washes or on bare rock.



# Canyonlands Geology



## Geology A Window in Time

Canyonlands National Park is a showcase of geology. You can see the remarkable effects of millions of years of erosion on a landscape of sedimentary rock.

### Deposition

Most of the rock found in Canyonlands today came from distant mountain ranges like the ancestral Rockies and even the Appalachians. For millions of years, water and wind broke down rock and carried it here, creating deposits that eventually became distinct layers of sedimentary rock.

Rivers laid down some layers, and wind brought some of the thickest layers, creating vast sand deserts or dune fields on the shores of an ancient sea.

Accumulating rock created a geologic layer cake, with most of the material hidden below the surface. But change was coming.

### Uplift

Many of the rocks exposed in Canyonlands were deposited near sea level. Today, the average elevation here is over 5,000 feet (1,666 m) above sea level—a significant uplift.

Canyonlands is part of the Colorado Plateau: an area that stands high above the surrounding country. About 20 million years ago, movement in the Earth's crust began altering the landscape of North America, building modern landforms like the Rocky Mountains, Nevada's Basin and Range, and the Colorado Plateau.

### Erosion

Today's landscape is one of erosion. As this area gradually rose, rivers that once deposited sediment on the lowlands began to remove it from the emerging plateau. The Green and Colorado rivers began carving into the geologic layer cake, exposing buried sediments and creating the canyons of Canyonlands.

Rivers aren't the only force of erosion. Summer thunderstorms bring heavy rains that scour the landscape. Some layers erode more easily than others. As rock dissolves away, layers of harder rock form exposed shelves, giving the canyon walls their stair-step appearance.

As the work of erosion continues, today's geologic displays will eventually disappear, making way for future wonders.



# Preserving the Past

Canyonlands was established not only for its scenic beauty, but also for its significant archeology. Archeological and historic sites offer inspiration and demonstrate how past people lived in such a seemingly harsh climate. They are part of the cultural heritage of America and are irreplaceable.

Canyonlands preserves evidence of people living, working, and traveling over thousands of years. This landscape holds significant cultural heritage for many Native Americans as well as explorers of European descent, and are irreplaceable.

Native Americans hold these landscapes as sacred. This place is still alive with the spirit and memory of those who came before, and Tribes use these places to pass on their traditions and practices to their descendents. Cultural sites located on federal lands are protected by federal law for the benefit of all.

## Here's how you can help:

- **Stay on designated trails or bare rock.** If you see an archeological site in the backcountry, enjoy it from a distance.
- **Leave artifacts in place.** When you pick up artifacts, information about the objects could be lost.
- **Keep away from structures.** Some have stood over 1,100 years and could be damaged by the slightest pressure.
- **Enjoy with your eyes.** Touching or making rubbings of rock markings damages fragile pigments and rock surfaces. Take pictures, or sketch what you see.
- **Promote discovery** by not sharing site locations or GPS coordinates of sites that you find.
- **Visit with respect.** Canyonlands is hallowed by people who hold these places as sacred. Help us conserve your heritage.



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NPS

Both archeological and historic sites are protected by law. Please visit with respect.

# Preserving the Night

Look up on a calm, cloudless night in Canyonlands National Park and you might see the Milky Way—a glowing arc of light created by millions of stars in our celestial neighborhood. It has shimmered above us since time immemorial, a shared heritage enjoyed by all humanity.

Since the electric light bulb was invented, however, dark skies have largely disappeared. Today, Canyonlands is one of few places darkness remains.

The International Dark Sky Association designated Canyonlands as an International

Dark Sky Park in August 2015. This designation not only requires the park to preserve this precious resource but also to draw attention to its fragility.

In *The Elegant Universe*, Dr. Brian Greene writes that a clear view of the night sky “allows anyone to soar in mind and imagination to the farthest reaches of an enormous universe in which we are but a speck. And there is nothing more exhilarating and humbling than that.” We hope that you take a moment to look up and be humbled and exhilarated by the night because it, like Canyonlands, is your heritage.

# ...And the Quiet

Shhhhh. . . do you hear that? The desert of Canyonlands is a naturally quiet place. With sparse vegetation and little water vapor in the air, sound waves disperse more quickly here than they do elsewhere.

Even so, the symphony of Canyonlands is not silent. The cry of a coyote, water trickling through cracks, the footfalls of a hiker—these and other sounds form the soundscape of Canyonlands.

Natural soundscapes—the unique combination of natural, cultural, and historic sounds of an area—are important for wildlife

and people. Wildlife depends on sound for hunting, avoiding predators, and finding mates; humans seek out naturally quiet places to reduce stress and find peace.

Help protect the natural quiet of Canyonlands by lowering your voice while hiking or at overlooks, not idling your vehicle or boat, and using headphones if you're listening to music. Wildlife and other people will appreciate their ability to hear the quiet symphony of the park.

# 2023 Night Sky Almanac

## Stargazing Tips

Look for a high viewpoint or a wide open area to see the most stars. Give your eyes 20-30 minutes to adjust to the darkness. Skies will be darkest when the moon is out of sight. Use a red flashlight to protect your night vision, or just cover a white flashlight with red fabric or cellophane. Check star charts and other stargazing tips at park visitor centers.

## Meteor Showers

(best viewing midnight to dawn)

- JANUARY 3-4** Quadrantids Meteor Shower
- APRIL 22-23** Lyrids Meteor Shower
- MAY 5-6** Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower
- AUGUST 12-13** Perseids Meteor Shower
- OCTOBER 8-9** Draconids Meteor Shower
- OCTOBER 21-22** Orionids Meteor Shower
- NOVEMBER 17-18** Leonids Meteor Shower
- DECEMBER 14-15** Geminids Meteor Shower
- DECEMBER 22-123** Ursids Meteor Shower

## Moon Phases

- JANUARY 6** Full Moon • **21** New Moon
- FEBRUARY 5** Full Moon • **20** New Moon
- MARCH 7** Full Moon • **21** New Moon
- APRIL 5** Full Moon • **19** New Moon
- MAY 5** Full Moon • **19** New Moon
- JUNE 3** Full Moon • **17** New Moon
- JULY 3** Full Moon • **17** New Moon
- AUGUST 1, 30** Full Moon • **16** New Moon
- SEPTEMBER 29** Full Moon • **14** New Moon
- OCTOBER 28** Full Moon • **14** New Moon
- NOVEMBER 27** Full Moon • **13** New Moon
- DECEMBER 26** Full Moon • **12** New Moon

## Other Dates

- MARCH 20** Spring Equinox
- JUNE 21** Summer Solstice
- SEPTEMBER 23** Autumnal Equinox
- OCTOBER 14** Annular Solar Eclipse
- DECEMBER 21** Winter Solstice

## Planets

**MERCURY** moves across the sky a lot during the year, making it difficult to find at times. However, it stays close to the sun so for best viewing look west at sunset or east at sunrise.

**VENUS** is one of the brightest objects in the night sky. Through June, it is best seen in the evening. After July, this planet will be visible in the eastern morning sky right before sunrise.

**MARS** can be seen in the evening early in the year, but is fainter in April, making it hard to see without binoculars or a telescope. In September it moves out of view and will be near impossible to see until next year.

**JUPITER** is hard to see until August, but once it appears our largest planet puts on a show. During this time it will appear in the early morning, however it will become more visible in the evening come the end of the year.

**SATURN**, following a similar path to Jupiter, is visible starting in July as a morning planet slowly becoming an evening planet by the end of the year. You can see the rings of Saturn with a small telescope or powerful binoculars.



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Canyonlands National Park is a proud member of the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative—a voluntary effort to link communities, Tribes, businesses, state and federal agencies, and citizens in a collaborative effort to celebrate the view of the cosmos, minimize the impact of outdoor lighting, and restore and preserve natural darkness on the Colorado Plateau.



# Your Fee Dollars at Work

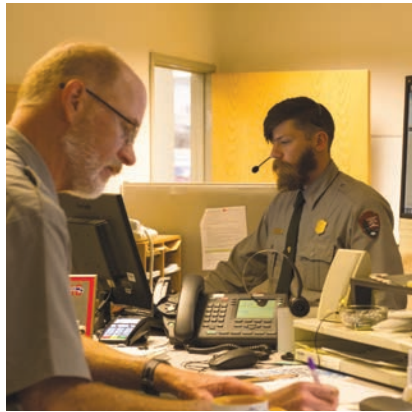
In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), which replaced the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. The law allows us to use 80 percent of fees collected at Canyonlands National Park for repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement to support visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety.

Your fees also support visitor information and education; visitor services staff; informational signs; habitat restoration for wildlife observation or photography; and law enforcement services related to public recreation.

Backcountry permit fees also support staffing the backcountry office, river patrols, and managing the backcountry reservation system.

## Your user fees funded these improvements at Canyonlands:

- Rehabilitating park trails
- Installing new toilets at Island in the Sky Visitor Center
- Improving backcountry roads
- Enhancing trailheads and pullouts
- Staff to assist with traffic and parking
- Removing invasive tamarisk along river bottoms



Your fee dollars supported (clockwise from top left) new toilets at Island in the Sky, trail work, removing invasive tamarisk along the rivers, and backcountry permit office staffing.

## Doing Our Part

People can carry invasive species into new places and cause harm without meaning to. Seeds can hide in dirt on your gear or have hooks that stick to shoes and clothing.

To help stop the spread of invasives:

- **Arrive with clean gear.**  
Clean everything before going to a natural area.
- **Stay on designated trails and roads.** Reduce your chance of picking up hitchhiking seeds.
- **Leave with clean gear.**  
Dispose of any seeds and dirt removed.
- **Buy it where you burn it.**  
Purchase and use only locally-sourced firewood.

For more information, visit [PlayCleanGo.org](http://PlayCleanGo.org).

## Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks

The Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks: Bates Wilson Legacy Fund provides direct support to Arches and Canyonlands national parks and Natural Bridges and Hovenweep national monuments in order to enhance existing projects in these spectacular areas, and to conserve the land and its cultural treasures for present and future generations to enjoy.

This mission honors the legendary work of Superintendent **Bates Wilson**, who came to Arches in 1949, inspiring and leading the effort that resulted in the establishment of Canyonlands National Park in 1964. He is regarded by many as the "Father of Canyonlands."

Bates Wilson firmly believed that:

- The **park visitor** must have a great experience;
- **Exploratory and educational** opportunities must abound;
- **Preservation** is our obligation to future generations; and
- **Youth** indeed are the future: Bates enhanced the lives of countless young people as they explored and learned to appreciate the parks with him.



## Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks

Please visit [www.foacp.org](http://www.foacp.org) to learn more and make your donation. Thank you!

## Canyonlands Natural History Association

Your purchase supports interpretation, education and research at Canyonlands National Park.

**Canyonlands Natural History Association (CNHA)** is the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management in southeast Utah. Since 1967, CNHA has donated over \$22 million to these federal partners.

CNHA offers a wide selection of merchandise featuring Canyonlands National Park and the surrounding canyon country area. You can shop online at [shop.cnha.org](http://shop.cnha.org)

### Canyonlands Natural History Association

435-259-6003

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

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