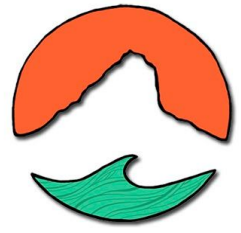


Moterra Campervans

Desert Southwest

Insiders Guide





Welcome | Take The Wheel

Welcome to your adventure through the Desert Southwest! You've arrived at a world of towering, twisting red rocks, sheer soaring canyon walls, and wide sweeping desert views! There is no doubt that this awe-inspiring region is best explored in a campervan. With the freedom that comes from driving your 19-foot home on wheels (about as long as a Ford F150), you are able to bypass the expensive hotels and tourist traps, spending more time in the wild landscapes you came to explore!

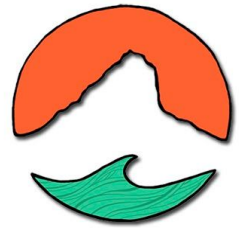
This free guide will give you the building blocks necessary to start planning your dream Desert Southwest campervan adventure, including insider recommendations for where to camp, places to eat, scenic drives and must-see hikes and activities. As long-time locals to this area, we are passionate about the natural spectacles of this region and want you to have the same life-changing experience we did when we visited this area for the first time.

In addition to the suggestions in this guide, we recognize that it can still be daunting to plan and book a trip that makes the most of your time within the massive desert landscape. That's why we also offer a variety of [itinerary packages](#), which take the hassle and risk out of doing it all yourself. These itineraries are designed to give you the best taste of all parks outlined in this guide, while allowing you to explore at your own pace! **Click [here](#) for more information and to request a proposal.** However you choose to travel with us, we sincerely hope you have an unforgettable experience in our favorite corner of the US!



Happy Exploring,

The Moterra Team



Las Vegas | Bright Desert Lights

One of the cities providing unmatched access to the desert southwest is [Las Vegas, NV](#). Las Vegas is of course known for many things besides outdoor adventure, but as a starting point for a desert escape, there are few cities like it. Whether you arrive by car or plane, your senses are likely to be overwhelmed... but not to worry, the calm open spaces and sweet clean desert air is a short drive away!

If you haven't spent any time in Las Vegas, here are a few tips on where to stay and eat. The city can feel abundant with options, but here are a few general and specific suggestions to help make the most of your time in the big city.

Recommended Restaurants & Cafes

General Las Vegas Restaurant Tips:

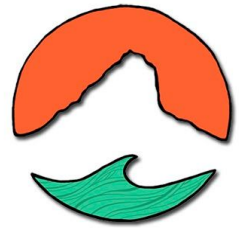
- Your hotel likely has a buffet/restaurant/cafe attached. While this may not be the best food you'll have during your trip, it will be the easiest to get to. **Parking around Las Vegas is always tough**, so sometimes the closest thing is the best thing.
- Dining options in this city range from fast-food to casual to upscale. In other words, you'll be able to find anything and everything you're hungry for. If you're hoping for a fine dining experience, there are a [world of options](#). However, we've stuck to suggestions that are a bit more casual and local to Las Vegas for the purpose of this guide!

[Honey Salt](#) About 20 minutes from the strip is the small community of Summerlin, NV, and this charming restaurant. If Las Vegas doesn't inspire a farm-to-table ambience, let Honey Salt change that for you. You'll find excellent food without the fancy price tag and feel right at home here for lunch or dinner with its home-made taste and feel!

[Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar](#) - Tucked just off the strip and out of the chaos of downtown, this is a great spot to grab a bite, especially if you're staying near the strip or the airport. They serve American-style food with fair prices, even offering an upscale TV Dinner menu if you'd like to grab-n-go for lunch or dinner. Staying true to their name, Lazy Dog is one of the few restaurants that is dog friendly if your pup is onboard for your Moterra adventure!

[Lotus of Siam](#) Another local favorite that's just off the strip (behind Sahara Casino). This Thai food favorite is a bit more upscale, but the quality of the food far outweighs the price. After one meal, you'll be coming back to Las Vegas just to eat here again! Don't be fooled by the stripmall setting, this hidden gem is some of the best Thai food in the city, on or off the strip.

COFFEE: What would a roadtrip be without multiple stops to refuel your caffeine tank? Note, there are a ton of great options in this category, but we narrowed it down to our three favorites:



Sunrise Coffee House (*our sit and sip option*) Our first pick has it all. Delicious, hand-crafted food, excellent coffee options and friendly baristas, and of course, easy parking for parking your home on wheels. Sunrise is a staple for anyone wanting excellent coffee with a range of healthy food options and a lovely patio to boot!

Mothership Coffee (*our grab and go option*) This spot is just a little storefront with not much area to sit and hang, but their coffee is fantastic and well-crafted by knowledgeable baristas. The bonus for this location is that it sits next door to a **Trader Joe's** so you can grab your groceries before you hit the road!

Vesta Coffee Roasters (*our coffee snob pick*) Let's face it, some people want the high-end, perfect roast, long pour over, single origin experience (we sure do!). If you're like us, Vesta is your spot. We call this the most refined cup of coffee in all of Las Vegas.

Recommended Grocers

General Las Vegas Grocery Tips:

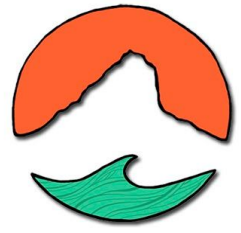
Name a grocery store and it's here. Keen to a certain brand or style of grocery experience? Vegas has it. The places we list below are simply easy to get to, and places that are sure to have nearly everything you're looking for.

Trader Joe's: This location is right next to Mothership Coffee as mentioned above.

Smith's Food & Drug: This location is on the way out of town to get you on your way!

Don't want to spend the first few hours of your vacation in the grocery store stocking up the van? Let us do it for you!. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about our add-on options for your trip or send us an email at info@gomoterra.com!





Salt Lake City | Friendly Mountain City

If you're looking for a centrally located city with a small town vibe and amazing access to both mountainous and desert terrain, look no further than [Salt Lake City](#). With hundreds of miles of trails for hiking and biking within 15 minutes of downtown and access to five ski resorts within 30 minutes, Salt Lake City is an adventurer's paradise. There are so many escapes to be had within minutes from the city, but just a few hours outside the city are some of the most incredible national parks of the west.

You may have some time before and after your vacation in Salt Lake City, so here are some things to check out during your time there.

Recommended Restaurants & Cafes

[Finn's Cafe](#) A local favorite for breakfast or brunch! Norwegian-inspired menu has all the brunch classics in a cozy space in the Sugarhouse neighborhood with outdoor patio seating available.

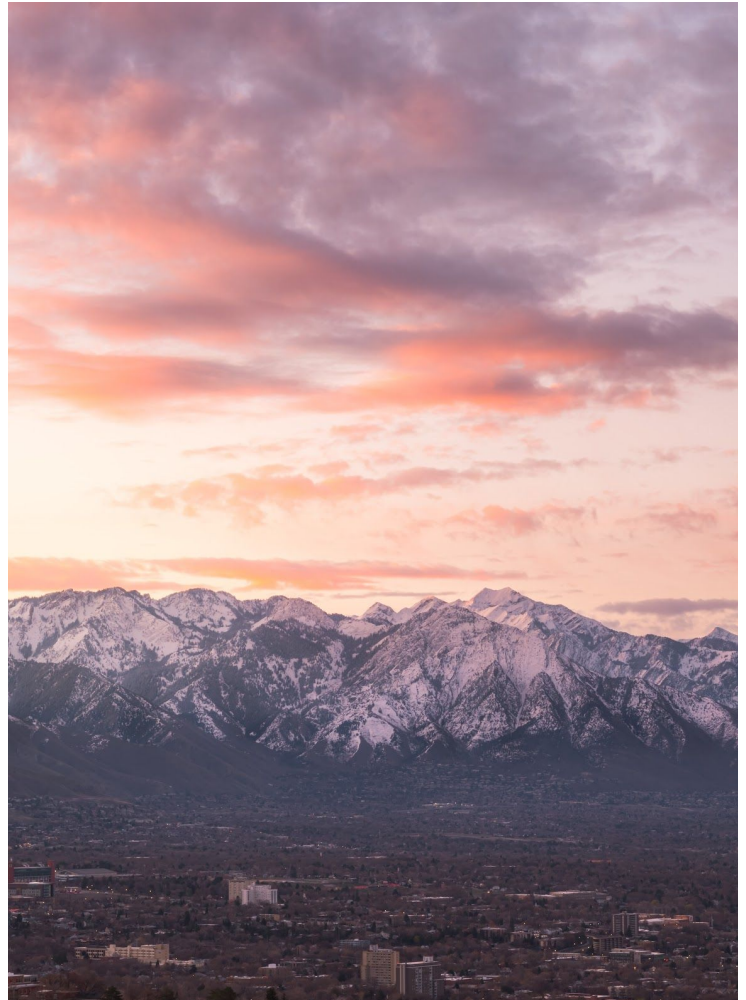
[East Liberty Tap House](#) One of the best burgers in town can be found at this cozy location. Right in the heart of the 9th and 9th neighborhood, you can enjoy simple and delicious food with an equally delicious beer menu. Then, stroll the neighborhood afterwards for a sweet treat or some shopping for locally-made goods.

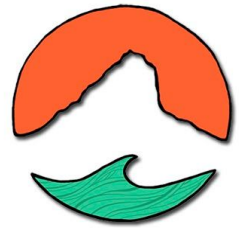
[Tulie Bakery](#) For excellent coffee and even better pastries, head straight to Tulie. Seriously, we're drooling just thinking about their baked goods. They have two locations, but the one in the 15th and 15th neighborhood is the favorite. Their pastries are massive, perfectly flakey and outdo themselves with their sandwich and toast menu, too!

Recommended Grocers

You'll have many grocery options available to you, all with easy parking options. A couple of our favorites are:

[Trader Joe's](#): Close to downtown and walking distance to shops if you need other supplies.





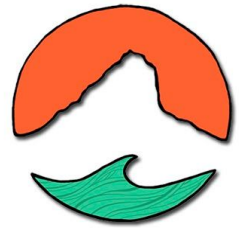
[Smith's Food & Drug](#): This location is on the way out of town and right next door to an [REI](#) should you need any last minute camping supplies!

Bryce Canyon National Park

[Park Map](#) | [6 Night Itinerary](#) |



Most frequently visited to marvel at the unique hoodoo rock formations, Bryce Canyon is best experienced from a campervan. Our spring season begins in May, transitions to summer quickly in June and back to fall in late September. Peak summer days can be hot, but made less so by the elevation of the park (over 9,000ft). Though spring and fall remain the best times to visit. Bryce Canyon offers miles of hikeable trails, not to mention numerous activities outside the park boundaries, so your adventuring during any season is only a van ride away!



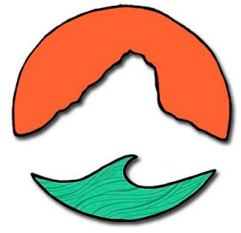
Camping in Bryce

The options for camping at Bryce are straightforward, but more options are available depending on if you're flexible to stay outside the park entrance.

Ruby's Inn & Campground: This campground sits right at the entrance to the park. It boasts many campsites and has full facilities including showers and restrooms. You are in the same area as the general store, so you can easily walk over to pick up anything you may have forgotten for cooking or hiking. This is probably the best place to find an open site last minute, though it's always better to book online ahead of time, just to be safe.

North or Sunset Campgrounds: Located next to each other and inside of the park, only steps from most hiking trails, these are great campgrounds to spend the night at. These are a bit more rustic -- there is water available, but no hookups or amenities besides pit toilets. Due to their proximity to the park lodge and hiking trails, they typically get booked quickly, so if you want to stay inside the park, we recommend making reservations early!





Hikes in Bryce

Wall Street & Queens Garden Loop: Full transparency, this is one of the most well-known hikes in Bryce, but for good reason. In this short but sweet hike you are transported from the forested rim of the amphitheatre to the whimsical world of twisting rock towers. You'll hike down into the valley and back up through a narrow channel of red rock walls with towering hoodoos on either side. At 3.2 miles, you're unlikely to find solitude but you will find an unforgettable experience that's worth every step.

Tower Bridge Trail: This hike takes you a little deeper into the park and connects you to many more trails if you're looking for a longer day. This 3.5 mile trail is named for one of the hoodoo formations that resembles the Tower Bridge in London, but many more "familiar" looking rock formations await you if you use this trail as a jumping off point to get to other trailheads.

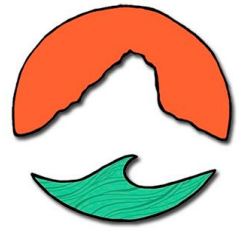
Golden Wall Trail: This hidden gem is actually part of the Red Canyon area outside of Bryce. This 4.5 mile trail is an excellent introduction or one last glimpse, depending on when you drive through here, into the park and all its glory. It's a moderately strenuous hike that takes along ridgelines and through flowey single track trail that will keep you reaching for your camera at every turn.



Activities in Bryce

Horseback Riding: You're in the wild west, why not jump on a horse and explore the sage covered hills?! There are a couple different operators in the Bryce Canyon area that lead fantastic tours on some horse-only trails in Bryce Canyon National Park and the surrounding area. We recommend two different companies for riding in and outside the park:

- [Ruby's Inn Horseback Riding](#)
- [Canyon Rides](#)



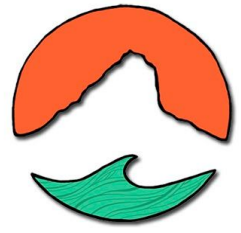
ATV Adventures: Sometimes it's more fun to take the driving adventure off-road! Try an ATV adventure that takes you around the most scenic areas around Bryce Canyon. You can take a guided tour or just rent an ATV and grab a trail map and go! We recommend the following companies for this excursion:

- [Ruby's Guided ATV Tours](#)
- [Bryce Canyon ATV Adventures](#)

Star Gazing & Astronomy Programs: Bryce Canyon is an International Dark Sky Area. It's ranked as one of the best places to see stars with almost zero light pollution. How cool is that?! While great apps can help you navigate the skies, there are also programs by the National Park Service to point out prominent star clusters you may only be able to see in Bryce.

- [Park Service Astronomy Programs](#)





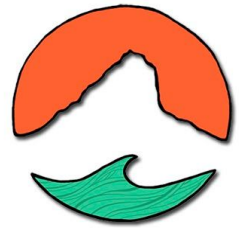
Zion National Park

[Park Map](#) | [6 Night Itinerary](#) |



When you travel to a national park, you typically think of a vast landscape with prominent features like mountains or lakes or great swaths of open space. Not here. Zion is unique in that you are literally inside a canyon the entire time you're in the park.

When you enter the park, it's quite a wide gap from canyon wall to canyon wall. As you take the mandatory park shuttle deeper into the park, you'll notice these walls getting closer and closer, coming within 20 feet of each other! This is most prominent as you continue past the end of the road along the Virgin River and into the infamous "Narrows" hike in the park. The canyon walls vary in height as you travel along them, up to 2,000 feet tall, making you realize just how incredible Mother Nature really is. Zion Canyon is the most prominent feature of the park -- the views from any angle, above or below, are unlike anything you've ever seen.



Camping in Zion

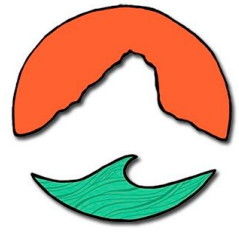
There are a few options for camping in and around the Zion and Springdale area. All of them have options for reserving and most have a few first come, first serve spots in case you just happen to drop in spontaneously (though you'll want to drop in early to get them).

Watchman Campground: This is one of the largest and most popular campgrounds at Zion. Watchman is in Springdale, just outside the park and has numerous sites available. You'll want to book this one early if you can. Full amenities here and walking distance to restaurants in Springdale.

South Campground: This is a more primitive campground located literally on the edge of the park boundary and right on the Virgin River. It is a little closer to the park entrance than Watchman, but with fewer facilities. It is recommended to book ahead of time if you are hoping to stay here.

Lava Point Campground: This campground is a primitive campground on the northside of Zion National Park. You'll find less crowds here, but also fewer spots. This is a first come, first serve campground only with limited facilities. It's about an hour from the park entrance, but with dramatically different views and a completely different feel, as you'll be camping in a forest with views out over Zion!





Hikes in Zion

Angels Landing: One of the two most iconic hikes in Zion National Park. In fact, some people travel to Zion *specifically* to do this hike. You'll climb up this 4 mile hike to the top of a rock tower that looks out over the Zion Canyon valley. The last half mile of this hike makes it one of the more dangerous but also thrilling hikes in the country. Guarded only by chains on either side, you'll walk along a narrow stretch of rock up to a perch that for years seemed only possible to reach if you were an angel descending to this landing spot. It's a spectacular hike even if you only go part way up! Note, this hike is not recommended for those with a strong fear of heights.

The Narrows: This is the second of the most iconic hikes in Zion. When you reach the trailhead of this hike, you'll already notice that the canyon walls have seemingly surrounded you, but a much "narrower" experience awaits. This hike *requires* hiking in the mostly calf-deep Virgin River and can be 8-12 miles long or shorter even if you only want to dip your toe in the water. It's an out-n-back hike that at around the 4 mile mark reaches a point in the canyon where the walls are only around 20 feet apart and you'll experience the light filtering past the canyon walls and dancing off the river below like nowhere else in the park.

Observation Point: This is a less-traveled hike in Zion that may provide the best views of Zion Canyon in the whole park! There are some strenuous sections along this 7 mile hike, but you are rewarded almost the entire way with views of the valley until you reach the end of the hike where you'll actually be *looking down* on Angels Landing. If you're up for a solid day on the trail, this is the one for you.

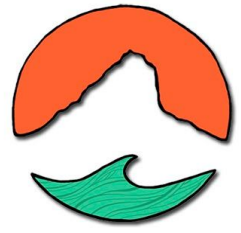
Activities in Zion

Canyoneering: In and around Zion are some of the most amazing slot canyons in all of Utah. There are many different options and some that require more advanced equipment. For those, we recommend going through a quality guiding service like [Zion Adventures](#). They not only create an incredible and safe canyoneering experience, but they have permits to some slot canyons that no other company can access!

Rock Climbing: With all the canyon walls all around you, there are abundant opportunities to try out rock climbing! Southern Utah is well-known in the rock climbing world for its excellent routes, and Zion's walls are no exception. There are multiple long and short routes to climb within the park boundaries and you will likely see fellow climbers inching their way up, high above you! If you have experience and equipment, simply check out [this website](#) for popular routes. Otherwise, we recommend using [Zion Rock Guides](#) to safely get you up and down on the world-class rock!

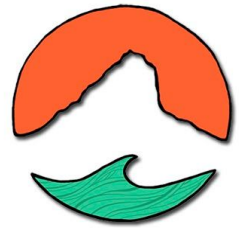
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Horseback Riding: If hiking isn't your thing, try experiencing Zion by horseback! If taking in the views on four hooves is an experience you'd love to try, check out [Canyon Trail Rides](#) for full or half-day adventures!





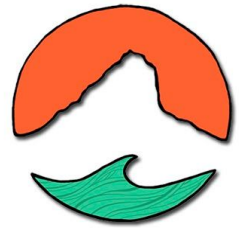
Arches National Park

[Park Map](#) | [6 Night Itinerary](#) |



Meet Arches National Park, a landscape similar to what we believe Mars probably looks like. A landscape full of natural and unique sandstone arches, unlike anywhere else in the world. Arches National Park has more than 2,000 natural sandstone arches within its borders, the largest density of such formations in the world. As you explore the park, you'll find spectacular views of beautiful sandstone formations all around you. However, don't be fooled by the hot sun and miles of rock surrounding you, Arches is a delicate ecosystem! The same forces that eroded the amazing arches around you depend on the proper climate conditions to maintain these formations and create new ones in the future.

No matter whether you enjoy this park by foot or car, standing in the shadow of these mighty yet delicate formations will leave you in awe and wonder at the beauty of the world.



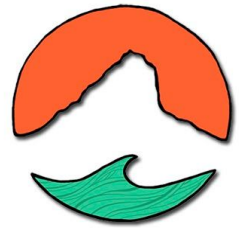
Camping in Arches

There are a few options for camping in and around the Arches and Moab area. All of them are bookable and most reserve a few first come, first serve spots in case you just happen to drop by for a campsite (though you'll want to arrive early if you plan to camp "stand by").

Devils Garden Campground: You'll find this campground at the end of the scenic drive through Arches! It's also a great starting point for many popular hikes in the park. This campground takes reservations and has limited amenities.

Moab Valley RV Resort & Campground: This is located in Moab, UT, outside the entrance to the park. It's about a 20 minute drive to get into the park from here, but this reservation-based campground has all the amenities and comforts you could want including showers, a pool, and easy access to town.





Hikes in Arches

Delicate Arch: This 3.1 mile hike is ranked as moderate and known as one of the most popular in the park. This iconic arch is the one you'll recognize from many Utah license plates and State of Utah promotional commercials. The hike takes you up to an overlook where the arch sits. Go in the morning if you can to beat the heat, and to avoid the crowds.

Devils Garden Trail: This hike has it all! It's 7.8 miles and rated as hard. You'll have the chance to see seven arches, including Delicate Arch, one of the longest natural arch spans in the world! There is some climbing along this route, but much of the difficulty comes from being completely exposed. This is a great morning hike to start right from the Devils Garden campground!

Park Avenue Trail: This 2 mile, short but sweet hike takes you down into yet another iconic canyon within Arches. You'll have incredible views of the red rock fins and towers that make up the "Courthouse Towers" formations throughout the entire hike. This is right off the main park road, but often people stop to take photos and don't hike the 2 mile round trip to discover all the amazing views this hike offers. This trail actually links up further down the Main Park Road if you want to hike point-to-point and have someone shuttle the car a couple miles down the road for you.

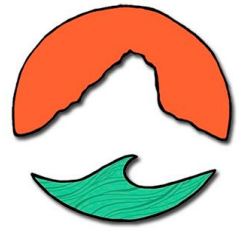
Activities in Arches

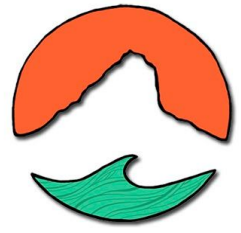
Canyoneering: Want to continue exploring canyons? You're in luck! Inside the park there are a few park-managed routes, though they do require permits for access. Outside the park there are a number of great companies, such as [Adrift Adventures](#) that can provide all equipment and guide you through an epic canyon adventure.

Photography: Photography is a full-on activity in Arches! There are guided tours with [Rock Light Photo Tours](#) from half day up to three days. In Arches there are some of the most dramatic landscapes during both the day and nighttime. Some incredibly beautiful star-filled nights with an arch silhouette create a landscape you won't be able to photograph anywhere else!

Biking: While there are routes to ride on both gravel and road bikes, mountain biking is by far the most popular discipline around Moab! With routes available for beginners and experts, we recommend taking a bike out on the trails in this area. Check out [Moab Cyclery](#) to rent a bike for the day and get recommendations for great rides nearby and current trail conditions.

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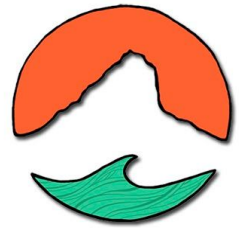
Canyonlands National Park

[Park Map](#) | [6 Night Itinerary](#) |



We refer to Canyonlands as a “carved” landscape, shaped by the Green and Colorado Rivers that trisect the park and divide it into three distinct districts. The Maze district is the most remote, but for adventurous travelers it affords isolated and challenging backpacking and off-roading experiences where one can explore some of the most untouched land in the US. We recommend checking out the Needles district, and then spending most of your time in the Island in the Sky district. The hiking options in these districts are far more accessible and activity options far more diverse.

Wherever you travel in Canyonlands, you’ll be surrounded by the awe-inspiring artist of erosion and the power of time on such a massive red rock landscape.



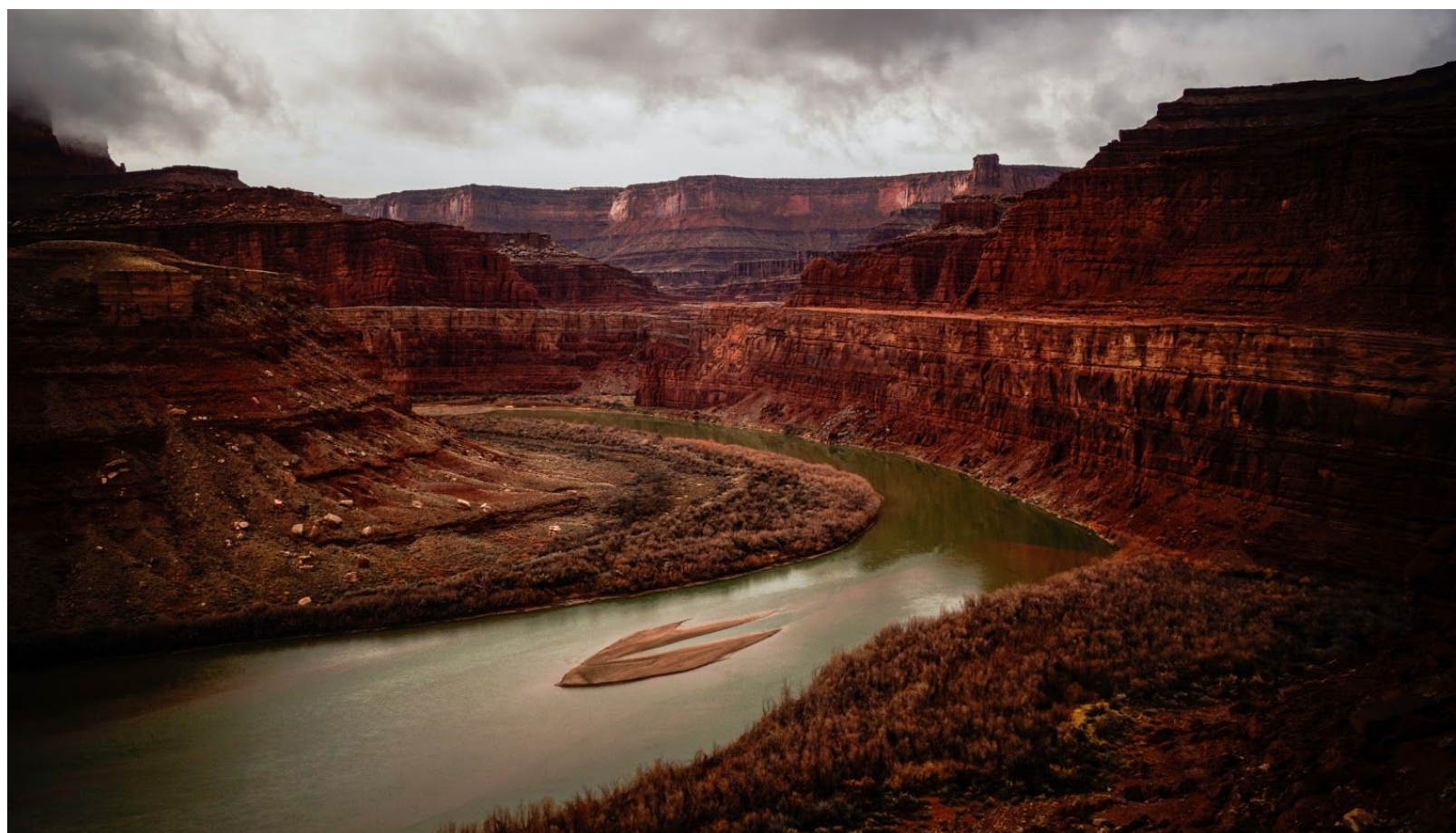
Camping in Canyonlands

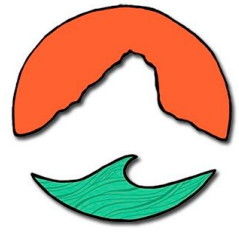
There are a few options for camping in and around the Canyonlands and Moab area. All of them are bookable and most reserve a few first come, first serve spots in case you just happen to drop in (though you'll want to drop in early to get them).

Willow Flat Campground: This is a smaller, but bookable campground in the Island in the Sky district. It's semi-primitive with pit toilets, but not many other amenities except incredible views! If you don't book in advance, this is one you'll definitely need to arrive early to if you're hoping to snag a spot! *Located in Island in the Sky district.*

Kayenta Campground: This bookable campground is actually in Dead Horse Point State Park, just on the border of Canyonlands National Park. This is a larger campsite with some amenities and great access to both Moab, Dead Horse Point (which also has some great hiking) and of course, Canyonlands. *Located in Island in the Sky district.*

The Needles District Campground: This is a medium-sized bookable campground with great access to hiking and adventures in the southern area of Canyonlands. This is a **very** popular campground because of the lack of established campgrounds in this district, so book early! *Located in The Needles district*





Hikes in Canyonlands

Chesler Park Viewpoint: This 5.4 mile moderate hike offers classic Needles District geological formations the entire way. The trail travels through “toadstool” style rock formations with some towering high overhead, and others just above ground level. These formations look as though they were just dropped there from the sky. This trail can also be linked to many others for a longer loop if you’re eager for a longer day.

Rim Loop Trail: This 5-mile moderate loop allows for a really nice overview of Dead Horse Point State Park. You’ll be walking along the rim of the Colorado River, looking over sweeping views of the massive carved canyon that the river has created over eons of years. It really is some of the most spectacular views of the Moab area!

Grand View Point Trail: This shorter 2 mile, easy trail offers incredible views of the Canyonlands area. This is a fantastic introduction to the Island in the Sky district and *the* trail to hike when you get to this area.

Aztec Butte Trail: This trail takes you to the historic granaries used by Native Americans centuries ago. You’ll also get incredible views of the canyons, but at 1.7 miles and easy hiking, you can do this hike quickly and in combination with other hikes in Canyonlands.

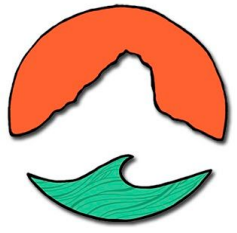
Activities in Canyonlands

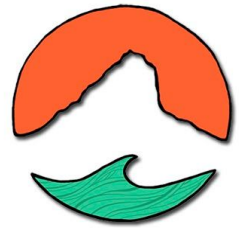
4-Wheel Driving: Whether you drive on your own or book a guided tour with [Adrift Adventures](#), off-road driving in Canyonlands is unforgettable. There is the beautiful rolling [White Rim Road](#) and the steep switchbacks of the [Shafer Canyon Road](#). Both afford views tough to get without a 4-wheel drive vehicle, but both worth a half day adventure!

Whitewater Rafting: Cataract Canyon is a popular rafting section in the heart of Canyonlands. It’s a wild stretch of the Colorado River in the Spring, and a more mellow stretch of river in the Summer months. You’ll want to plan four days to raft here, as with many rafting drifts, the difficulty of getting into any canyon makes most rafting adventures at least 2 days long! However, if you can plan this time into your vacation, you’ll be treated to world class whitewater and the ability to check ‘rafting the Colorado River’ off your bucket list!

Biking: While there are routes to ride on both gravel and road bikes, mountain biking is by far the most popular discipline around Moab! With routes available for beginners and experts, we recommend taking a bike out on the trails in this area. Check out [Moab Cyclery](#) to rent a bike for the day and get recommendations for great rides nearby and current trail conditions.

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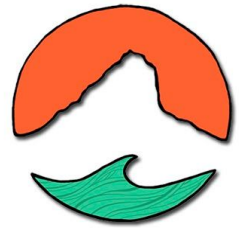
Capitol Reef National Park

[Park Map](#) | [Southwest Itinerary](#) |



Welcome to Capitol Reef National Park! You've arrived at one of the more unique national parks in the country and one that is far less visited than many of the parks in this area. The park's defining feature, the Waterpocket Fold is a massive ribbon of rock thrust up from the earth running the length of the park and beyond. This defining feature was not only home to Fremont Native Americans, but separated the wild and barren desert from access to civilization.

Capitol Reef also includes Cathedral Valley, an area in the northwest of the park that is much flatter, aside from cathedral-like sandstone monoliths that were left standing after millenia of erosion around them. You'll be amazed by the way they rise up out of the flat desert to hundreds of feet above you!



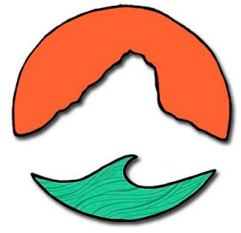
Camping in Capitol Reef

Most of the land around the border of Capitol Reef is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which means camping on this designated land is free! There are many established pullouts that you can pull into and set up camp. However if this “off-grid” camping isn’t for you, there are plenty of established campgrounds nearby.

Fruita Campground: This campground is located right next to the visitor center for Capitol Reef, along the Scenic Drive. It’s a full amenities campground with a large number of bookable sites. It’s a great place to camp to be able to start your hike in the morning or not have to travel far at the end of the day. It fills up fast, so book early!

Sandcreek RV Park: Located right in Torrey, UT, this “mom & pop” campground and RV park has everything you need! It’s a cute little campground with a limited number of spots, but offers full amenities including free WIFI, bookable cabins, hot showers and rustic charm.





Hikes in Capitol Reef

Grand Wash Trail: This 5 mile, easy hike can be an out-n-back, point-to-point or a jumping off point to a longer hike! Whatever you choose, you'll be surrounded by incredible canyon walls as you walk directly through the Waterpocket Fold geological feature that defines Capitol Reef.

Butch Cassidy Arch Trail: This 6 mile, moderate hike can be combined with the Grand Wash Trail hike for a longer day, but even at the basic length, this is a trail not to be missed. You'll immediately climb above the canyon with sweeping views of the park below you. The trail culminates in a suspected hideout of Butch Cassidy: underneath a massive natural arch!

Hickman's Bridge Trail: Named for Joseph Hickman, a school principal in Torrey, UT and early proponent of designating the Capitol Reef area as a national park, this 2 mile, moderate hike is a great way to start or end your time in the park. It's a perfect spot to take in sunrise or sunset views as you hike to, and then underneath this massive natural arch.

Activities in Arches

Canyoneering: There are so many canyoneering adventures in and around Capitol Reef, it can be hard to pick where to go! Let [Redrock Adventure Guides](#) choose for you! You're sure to have an excellent day of exploring no matter what skill level you are with their experienced guides leading the way!

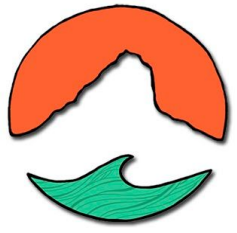
Road Tours: Like many of the parks, there are parts of Capitol Reef that require a vehicle to get to. One of the most iconic drives is following the original route (and only route until 1962) through the Waterpocket Fold. This route, typically called the Burr Trail, travels along Notom-Bullfrog Road and up the [Burr Switchbacks](#). It's an off-road, but semi-graded route that will leave you breathless as you navigate through vast expanses and over a massive uplift in the earth.

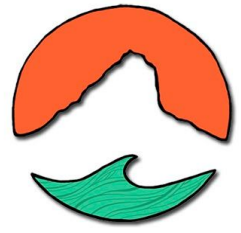
You can also travel into [Cathedral Valley](#), in the northwest area of Capitol Reef. The landscape is a dramatic change from the lush Fremont River valley area. It's a remote and rugged region dotted by massive monoliths rising out of the earth. Here you'll see an unique and dramatic landscape and likely to find solitude as it is not a frequently visited part of the park.

ADVENTURE SPORTS

There are many alternatives to foot or car travel in Capitol Reef as well! Seeing the park via horseback or bicycle are very popular options. You can also spend your days climbing, rappelling, and canyoneering in many areas of the park!

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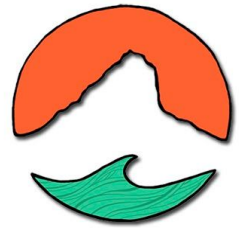


Grand Canyon National Park

[Park Map](#) | [Southwest Itinerary](#)



This is the Grand Canyon -- the biggest of them all. The depth and expanse of this 18-mile wide, 1-mile deep canyon is unfathomable until you see it with your own eyes. Standing on the edge, you'll feel the wind sweep up from the depths and wash over you with thousands of years of history and the continuous flow of water through rock. Here, you have the opportunity to explore the full experience of being surrounded by the red canyon walls and ribbons of geological color.



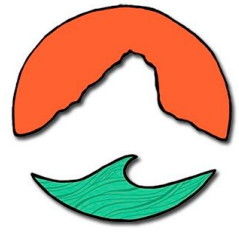
Camping in Grand Canyon

Among the many options near Grand Canyon National Park are two large campgrounds right near the rim. You will find options just outside the park, but if you can get a spot at these locations, you can't go wrong with your adventure into the Grand Canyon.

Grand Canyon Camper Village: Located about 15 minutes from the rim of the Grand Canyon, this campground is seated right in the heart of Camper Village. The 'village' has all the amenities you could possibly need and are all within a short walk from your campsite. Definitely book in advance if you'd like to stay here! It's a popular place!

Mather Campground: This campground is just steps to all the popular trails inside of the park. There are far less facilities available at this campground, but still a few options available and GC Camper Village is only a short drive away if need be. If you want a campground where you can easily wake up and watch the sunrise (or sunset) over the canyon, this is the place! This campground requires advanced reservations.





Hikes in Grand Canyon

Grand Canyon Rim Trail: This 5.3 mile is a nice out-n-back introduction to the Grand Canyon as it is rated as an easy hike. It's a mostly paved walk along the rim of the Grand Canyon, offering views of a few different angles and a great one to admire during sunrise or sunset.

South Kaibab Trail to Skeleton Point: This 6 mile, hard hike is a quintessential hike into the Grand Canyon. It's an out-n-back hike that you can extend all the way to the bottom of the canyon for a long day out (around 12 miles round trip). Skeleton Point offers dramatic views of the Colorado River below and allows you to truly embrace the feeling of being surrounded by the canyon.

Bright Angel Trail to Plateau Point: For a longer hike, try this 12 mile, hard option. This is another mainstay of Grand Canyon hiking options and also has the option to extend or shorten the mileage due to it being an out-n-back hike. As with all hikes in this region, start this early in the morning to avoid the heat and carry plenty of water!

Activities in Grand Canyon

Grand Canyon Mule Rides: Want to experience the Grand Canyon without all that pesky hiking? Try a world-famous Canyon Mule Ride with [Grand Canyon Lodge Mule Rides](#). You can choose a partial day ride or travel all the way down to the bottom with a stay at Phantom Ranch. Mule rides have been a staple of the Grand Canyon from the inception of it becoming a national park. Mules are more sure-footed than horses and are perfectly adapted for hiking in the heat and creating a unique experience.

Whitewater Rafting: Rafting the Colorado River, through a section of the Grand Canyon, is a bucket list item few have checked off. All rafting trips are overnight trips starting at a minimum of 3-days due to the difficulty of getting in and out of the canyon. However, that usually includes a helicopter ride! Fun! There are a few great companies with options that start from either the South Rim or Las Vegas and have multiple trip options available. Check out [Arizona River Runners](#) or [Western River Expeditions](#) for a once in a lifetime experience!

Biking: You can rent a road bike and bike along the [Hermit Road](#) (closed to cars in the summer). This road travels for 25 miles along the Grand Canyon Rim offering views you can only get by bike! You can also bike a shorter distance along Greenway Trail to the South Kaibab Trailhead, and then ride along Yaki Point Road to Yaki Point. Rent a bike from [Bright Angel Bicycles](#) and head out on your own two-wheeled adventure!

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