



Moab Area Movie Locations Auto Tours

Discovermoab.com Internet Brochure Series
Moab Area Travel Council

The Moab area has been a filming location since 1949. Enjoy this guide as a glimpse of Moab's movie past as you tour some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. All movie locations are accessible with a two-wheel drive vehicle. Locations are marked with numbered posts except for locations at Dead Horse Point State Park and Canyonlands and Arches National Parks. Movie locations on private lands are included with the landowner's permission. Please respect the land and location sites by staying on existing roads.

| MOVIE LOCATIONS FEATURED IN THIS GUIDE | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Movie | Description | Map ID |
| 1949 Wagon Master - Argosy Pictures Director: John Ford Starring: <i>Ben Johnson, Joanne Dru, Harry Carey, Jr., Ward Bond.</i> | The story of the Hole-in-the-Rock pioneers who hire Johnson and Carey as wagonmasters to lead them to the San Juan River country | 2-F, 2-G, 2-I, 2-J, 2-K |
| 1950 Rio Grande - Republic Directors: John Ford & Merian C. Cooper Starring: <i>John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, Ben Johnson, Harry Carey, Jr.</i> | Reunion of a family 15 years after the Civil War. Ridding the Fort from Indian threats involves fighting with Indians and recovery of cavalry children from a Mexican Pueblo. | 2-B, 2-C, 2-L |
| 1953 Taza, Son of Cochise - Universal International Starring: <i>Rock Hudson, Barbara Rush</i> | | 3-E |
| 1958 Warlock - 20th Century Fox Starring: <i>Richard Widmark, Henry Fonda, Anthony Quinn, Dorothy Malone, Dolores Michaels</i> | The city of Warlock is terrorized by a group of cowboys. Fonda is hired as Marshal and Widmark is appointed deputy sheriff. | 1-E |
| 1959 Ten Who Dared - Walt Disney Productions Starring: <i>Brian Keith, John Beal, James Drury, Ben Johnson</i> | Major John Wesley Powell's story of his first trip down the Colorado River from Green River, WY, to what is now Lake Mead. | 1-D, 1-E, 2-A, 2-B, 2-D, 3-A |
| 1961 The Comancheros - 20th Century Fox Starring: <i>John Wayne, Stuart Whitman, Ina Balin</i> | Whitman circumstantially becomes a Texas Ranger as Wayne's prisoner. To prevent weapons from being sold to the Comanches, Wayne pretends to be a supplier whose hideout holds surprises and romance for the heroes. | 2-I |
| 1963 Cheyenne Autumn - Warner Brothers Director: John Ford Starring: <i>Richard Widmark, Carroll Baker, Ricardo Montalban, Sal Mineo, Dolores del Rio, Karl Maiden, James Stewart, Edward G. Robinson</i> | The Cheyenne Nation escapes from its desolate Indian reservation (Monument Valley) and travels to its homeland 1500 miles away while pursued by the cavalry led by Widmark. | 2-B, 3-A |
| 1963 The Greatest Story Ever Told -George Stevens Prod. Starring: <i>Max von Sydow, Ed Wynn, Shelley Winters, Telly Savalas</i> | | 1-F |
| 1964 Rio Conchos - 20th Century Fox Starring: <i>Richard Boone, Jim Brown, Stuart Whitman, Tony Franciosa, Edmond O'Brien</i> | Whitman, as an Army Captain, and Jim Brown, as a Sergeant, pair with Boone (former Confederate Major) and Franciosa (a Mexican trader). They enter Mexico with a wagonload of gunpowder as bait to recover Army rifles before they fall into the hands of Apaches. | 2-B, 2-J, 3-C |

| MOVIE LOCATIONS FEATURED IN THIS GUIDE | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Movie | Description | Map ID |
| 1967 Blue - Paramount <i>Starring: Ricardo Montalban, Joanne Pettite</i> | | 2-K, 2-L, 4-A |
| 1975 Against a Crooked Sky - Doty-Dayton Productions <i>Starring: Richard Boone, Stewart Peterson, Henry Wilcoxon</i> | Peterson and Boone search for Peterson's sister, who was kidnapped by Indians. Wilcoxon, an old Indian living with the Cheyenne, leads them to Crooked Sky, where Peterson races against the sun in a traditional warrior trial. | 1-B, 1-E, 2-J, 3-B, 3-D |
| 1982 Space Hunter – Columbia <i>Starring: Peter Strauss, Molly Ringwald</i> | | 1-C |
| 1984 Choke Canyon - Brouwersgract Inv. <i>Starring: Steven Collins, Janet Julian, Bo Svenson</i> | Physicist Collins, trying to harness energy as a comet flies over Choke Canyon, is interrupted when the location is selected for illegal disposal of nuclear waste. | 1-A, 2-H, 2-J, 2-K |
| 1988 Sundown - Vestron /Sundown Productions <i>Starring: John Ireland, David Carradine</i> | A horror story laced with comedy and seasoned with the "Old West. | 2-G |
| 1988 Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade - Lucas Films <i>Starring: Harrison Ford, River Phoenix, Sean Connery.</i> | The Suspense and adventure that is characteristic of Indiana Jones in a movie that establishes Moab as "Indy's" birthplace. | 3-A, 3-D |
| 1990 Thelma & Louise - Ridley Scott film <i>Starring: Susan Sarandon, Geena Davis, Harvey Keitel</i> | A humorous and uplifting story of two women who ultimately re-route the course set for them by society, thereby changing the direction of their own destiny. | 3-F, 4-B, 1-G |
| 1992-93 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knights • Slaughter of the Innocents • Lightning Jack • Geronimo • City Slickers II | | 2-J, 2-K, 2-L, 2-D |

MOVIE LOCATION TOUR #1 - State Highway 313 - Dead Horse Point - Island In The Sky

Note: Milepost numbers are in descending order from the US 191 junction to Dead Horse Point.

| ID | Location | Description |
|------------|--|--|
| 1-A | SEVENMILE CAVE - .5 mile past milepost 21 | Choke Canyon: On your right, on the east-facing slope, is the location of the cave where Collins and Svenson fight. |
| 1-B | THE KNOLL - .8 miles past milepost 9. | Against a Crooked Sky: To your right was the Cheyenne Indian camp where Boone and Peterson meet Wilcoxon. |
| 1-C | POTASH PONDS OVERLOOK - Dead Horse Point Visitor Center. | Space Hunter: The shallow ponds and rock formations give the impression of aimless wandering as the main characters head away from their space vehicle. |
| 1-D | DEAD HORSE POINT: THE NECK - .5 mile past milepost 1. | Ten Who Dared: Powell's brother, Walter, and Bradley have a fight which allows them to settle their differences and resume the river trip. |

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| 1-E | DEAD HORSE POINT - the end of the road. | Warlock: Henry Fonda uses this site for target practice. Ten Who Dared: A pond was made at the east end of what is now the parking area. Three deserters from Powell's party encounter a group or Piutes at this site. Against A Crooked Sky: West of the parking area are the totem pole and sacrificial rock sites at Crooked Sky. |
| 1-F | GREEN RIVER OVERLOOK - Canyonlands National Park - Island in the Sky. | Greatest Story Ever Told: Facing the Green River, the rock to the left of the fence is where Max von Sydow delivered the "Sermon on the Mount." |
| 1-G | SHAFER TRAIL UNDER DEAD HORSE POINT | Thelma & Louise: A dozen police cars are in hot pursuit of Thelma and Louise as the final dramatic scene is played out. |

MOVIE LOCATION TOUR #2 - Utah Scenic Byway 128 - Colorado Riverway

| ID | Location | Description |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 2-A | BLM TAKE-OUT -.2 mile past milepost 10. | Ten Who Dared: On your left is a road constructed for access to the river. This was one of several beach locations between Dewey and Moab. Across U-128 is a large rock where Brian Keith encounters a rattlesnake. |
| 2-B | WHITE'S RANCH - milepost 14. Private property -please do not go beyond outer fence. | Rio Grande: The buildings at White's Ranch were used in this movie. The set included a fort on the location of the present fences and ranch entry. A wooden bridge spanned Castle Creek below which the Indians camped. Ten Who Dared: Some of the camping and resting scenes during Powell's trip were filmed on the beach at the ranch. In White's Rapids, a boat is smashed into the rocks as a result of a fight over whiskey. Rio Conchos: Location of "Presidio" which consists of a cantina and ferry crossing. Boone instigates a fight in the cantina to create a diversion to allow a wagon with gunpowder to be ferried across the river without being noticed. Also at this site the captain tests the river (supposedly 100 miles upriver from Presidio), to determine if the wagon can betaken across at this location. Cheyenne Autumn: The chicken coop was modified to use as a telegraph office. The building straight ahead was a trading post. Castle Creek was the site of several creek crossings by the Cheyenne and cavalry, including the Cheyennes' return "home." |
| 2-C | IDA GULCH GRAVEL SITE - milepost 16. | This river crossing was used for several western movies, including Rio Grande, where cavalry, Indians, and covered wagons used the shallow area by the island. Livestock swam across a little further upstream. |
| 2-D | IDA GULCH RAPID -.5 mile beyond milepost 16, turn left after crossing white bridge and drive .4 mile. | Ten Who Dared: Small rapids used for the movie. Powell meets Jacob Hamblin. Movie cameras were placed on the west side of river to film scenic background. |
| 2-E 2-F | | Sites 2-E and 2-F are on private land and no longer accessible. Please continue to 2-G. |
| 2-G | HITTLE BOTTOM - .3 mile beyond milepost 23. | Wagon Master: Watering hole after trekking through the desert. Sundown: A gas station was constructed here as part of the town of Purgatory, a laid-back Arizona town whose inhabitants just happen to be vampires. |
| 2-H | DEWEY BRIDGE - milepost 30. | Choke Canyon: In a chase scene a biplane is flown under the old Dewey Bridge. |

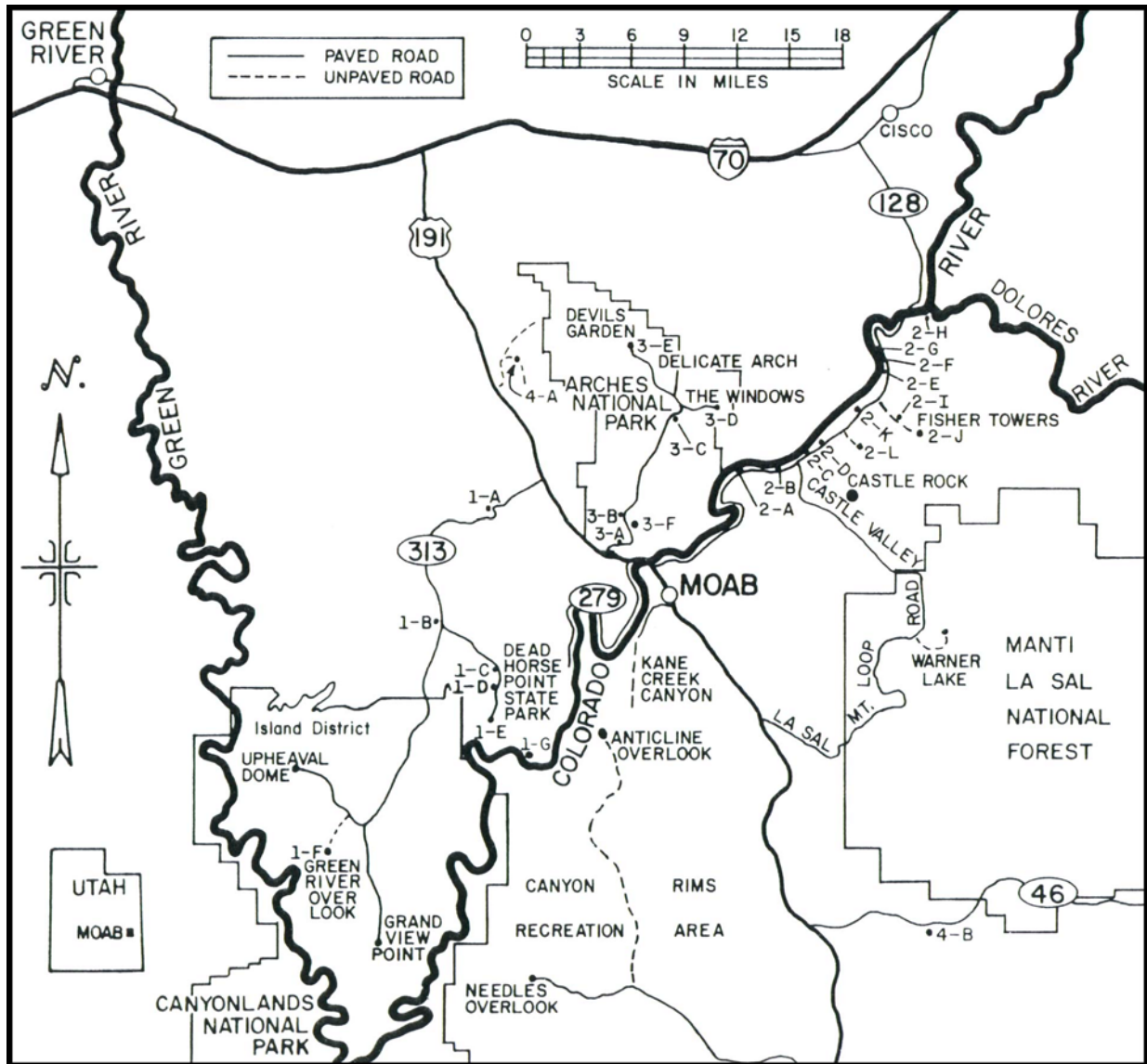
| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 2-I | COMMANCHEROS' HIDEOUT - retrace route from Dewey bridge and turn on Fisher Towers Road - milepost 21; drive east .9 mile. | The Comancheros: The included a major pueblo and Spanish-style casa from which Ina Bal in and her father rule the Comancheros. Wagon Master: To the right of the Comancheros location, a wagon is rolled as the Mormons make the Hole-in-the-Rock crossing. |
| 2-J | FISHER TOWERS TRAILHEAD | Wagon Master: Landmark for Wagon Master "looks like cathedral in Santa Fe." Meeting with Navajos, who invite wagon party into their camp. Against A Crooked Sky: Beyond the towers, Boone, Peterson and Wilcoxon start their trip to find Crooked Sky. Rio Conchos: Site of Boone's burned house, at the beginning of the movie, is in the drainage below the visitor's register box. Choke Canyon: Collins rides a horse by the towers at sunset as he escapes the corporation hired guns. |
| 2-K | ONION CREEK -.8 mile below milepost 21. | Wagon Master: Scenes of covered wagons were filmed along the ridges south of here. OPTIONAL SPUR - Continue 3 miles into the Onion Creek narrows (4-wheel drive recommended). Choke Canyon: This is Choke Canyon. Most of the scenes shot here were night pursuits of the protagonists. Rio Grande: 25 cavalry come down the canyon at night to rescue the children at pueblo. |
| 2-L | PUEBLO - turn right before crossing highway bridge at milepost 19 and follow dirt road .5 mile. | Rio Grande: Site of Indian pueblo with church from which the cavalry children are rescued at the end of the movie. |

MOVIE LOCATION TOUR #3 - Arches National Park

| ID | Location | Description |
|-----|-------------------|---|
| 3-A | SOUTH PARK AVENUE | Ten Who Dared: Major Powell hikes by himself to study unique geology. He slips on the rock ledges on the east side and is rescued by his brother and the rest of the team. Cheyenne Autumn: Scenes of Cheyenne exodus in the flat area south of the park road. Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade: Indiana is seen traveling with his boy scout companions in the opening scenes of the movie. |
| 3-B | NORTH PARK AVENUE | Against a Crooked Sky: Below the trailhead on the flat rocks is the location of the hogan camp of the Indians who kidnapped Peterson's sister. In the background is the narrow crack in the rocks which was the entrance to Crooked Sky. |
| 3-C | BALANCED ROCK | Rio Conchos: Camping scene with Balanced Rock in the background. |
| 3-D | THE WINDOWS | Against A Crooked Sky: This area and Dead Horse Point are Crooked Sky. Peterson starts his run from the Windows area. Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade: River Phoenix as the young Indiana Jones. |
| 3-E | DEVILS GARDEN | Taza Son of Cochise: The U.S. cavalry advanced into the fin area and was ambushed by the Indians. |
| 3-F | COURTHOUSE TOWERS | Thelma & Louse: Stopped by a police officer, while driving their '66 T-bird convertible, Thelma and Louise manage to take the officer's gun and lock him in his patrol car trunk. |

Other Locations

| ID | Location | Description |
|-----|--|---|
| 4-A | KLONDIKE BLUFF AREA OFF US 191 - OPTIONAL SPUR: Go north from the junction of U-313 and US 191 and continue 5.5 miles. Turn right onto a dirt road . PLEASE CLOSE GATE. After 2.6 miles fork right and continue 1.0 mile. | Blue Mexican Village: The location for the set construction was chosen for the green-colored foothills which were reminiscent of Old Mexico. |
| 4-B | LA SAL MOUNTAINS FROM TOWN OF LA SAL | Thelma & Louise: This was the opening vista for the movie and the location for some of the chase scenes. |



Acknowledgements: This brochure would not have been possible without the help of George E. White, co-founder of the Moab Film Commission and facilitator for filming in Moab for the past 40 years. Thanks to Winifred Minor for contributing the artwork and to Scott Cockayne, Royce Henningson and Kyle Bailey for the donation of "Made in Moab" movie rentals.

Published by the Moab Area Travel Council in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Grand Resource Area; and Dead Horse Point State Park.