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 sedimentary rock into the rugged landscape seen today.

The park is divided into four districts by the Green and Colorado rivers: the Island in the Sky, the Maze, the Needles, and the rivers themselves. While the districts share a primitive desert atmosphere, each retains its own character and offers different opportunities for exploration and the study of natural and cultural history.

The Island in the Sky is the most accessible district, offering expansive views from many overlooks along the paved scenic drive, several hikes of varying length and a popular four-wheel-drive road. The Needles District offers more of a backcountry experience, requiring some hiking or four-wheel driving to see the area’s attractions. The Maze is a remote district requiring considerably more time and self-reliance to visit. Northwest of the Maze, the Horseshoe Canyon Unit is a day-use area with stunning Native American rock art panels.

River trips offer another way to experience the park and usually involve two or more days of boating.

There are no roads within the park that directly link the four districts. Though they may appear close on a map, traveling between them requires two to six hours by car as there are few places to cross the Colorado and Green rivers. Most people find it impractical to visit more than one or two districts in a single trip.

The high desert climate of Canyonlands is characterized by very hot summers, mild weather in the spring and fall, and cold winters. Light snowfalls occur in winter, making many of the unpaved roads and even some hiking trails impassable. Spring weather is very unpredictable, with a significant amount of the year’s precipitation falling in March and April. Violent thunderstorms arrive in July and August, sometimes causing impressive flash floods.

Most visits to Canyonlands involve primitive camping in sites along the trails, roads and rivers found here. Campgrounds and popular backcountry areas often fill every night from mid-March to Memorial Day and from Labor Day through mid-October. If you are planning to camp during these seasons, be prepared with a backup plan in case there is nothing available. Backcountry permits and group campsites may be reserved in advance, but regular sites in the campgrounds are first-come, first-served.

Planning Your Visit

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Canyons are filled with many camping opportunities. There are developed campgrounds in both the Needles and Island in the Sky districts. These campgrounds are located along the scenic drives and feature toilets, picnic tables and fire rings. Sites are first-come, first-served. Maximum RV length is 28 feet (in most sites). Campers interested in backcountry camping, there are possibilities in every district. Information on backcountry trips is provided on the district pages and on page 4.

Outside the park, Dead Horse Point State Park is located on Utah Highway 313 near the Island in the Sky. Reservations may be made from 3 to 120 days in advance by calling Utah State Parks at (800) 322-3770.

Private campgrounds are located in nearby towns and just outside the Needles District. Contact county travel offices for details (see chart below).

Camping is also possible on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land outside the park. Some restrictions apply. Contact the nearest BLM office for more information.

FEES
Fees are charged for park entrance, camping and backcountry permits. Eighty percent of the fees collected at the national parks and 20% of the fees collected at national forests are transferred to the park to address priority needs in maintenance, infrastructure, resource management and visitor services. The following fees are in effect for Canyons:
- Entrance: $20/vehicle, $10/individual
- Interagency Annual Pass: $80
- Local Annual Passport: $40
- Developed Campgrounds:
  - Willow Flats (Needles): $15/night
  - Willow Flat (Island in the Sky): $10/night
  - Group Site Permits: see page 4

Entrance fee waivers are available for bonafide educational groups when the purpose of a visit relates directly to park resources. Submit requests to: National Park Service, Education For Ever Waivers, 2282 SW Resource Blvd., Moab, UT 84532, Fax: (435) 719-2300.

RESERVATIONS
Canyonlands accepts reservations for overnight backcountry trips including backpacking, four-wheel-drive and river camping. Group camp sites in the Needles District (11 or more people required), and day use permits for Horse Canyon/Peekaboo and Lavender canyons may also be reserved. Reservations are not accepted for individual sites at Squaw and Willow Flat campgrounds. A reservation form is printed on the back page.

FOOD, LODGING & OTHER SERVICES
Food, lodging and other amenities are not available in Canyonlands National Park. These may be found in nearby towns such as Moab and Monticello. Contact area travel councils (see below) for more information.

INFORMATION CENTERS
Canyonlands maintains visitor centers in each district. Outside the park, Blanding (on Highway 191), Moab (at the center of Corner and Main Streets) and Monticello (in the Frontier Museum, corner of Highway 191 and 200 South) have information centers with knowledgeable staff, brochures and maps.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS
Evening programs, guided walks and overlook talks are offered April through October. Schedules are posted at visitor centers and campgrounds.

TRANSPORTATION
Commercial airlines serve Grand Junction, CO and Salt Lake City. A small commuter airline serves Moab. Bus service is available to Green River (fifty miles from Moab) and Crescent Junction (thirty miles away). Taxi and shuttle services are available from both Salt Lake City and Grand Junction to Moab and other destinations in the area. Contact local travel offices for more information (see Phone and Internet Directory below). There is no public transportation to or within Canyonlands. Hitchhiking is not allowed in national parks. A list of commercial tour operators is available on our website.

If you have half a day
Driving to Canyonlands requires at least an hour from nearby towns, so even a brief visit (with little time outside the car) takes almost half a day. The Island in the Sky accommodates these quick trips, with lots of overlooks and short hiking trails. Campers interested in backcountry camping, there are possibilities in every district. Information on backcountry trips is provided on the district pages and on page 4.

Outside the park, Dead Horse Point State Park is located on Utah Highway 313 near the Island in the Sky. Reservations may be made from 3 to 120 days in advance by calling Utah State Parks at (800) 322-3770.

Private campgrounds are located in nearby towns and just outside the Needles District. Contact county travel offices for details (see chart below).

Camping is also possible on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land outside the park. Some restrictions apply. Contact the nearest BLM office for more information.

If you have a full day
With a full day to spare, visitors can choose between the Island in the Sky or Needles districts. Spending a day in either area allows time for in-depth exploration by foot, bike or four-wheel-drive vehicle. Horsethoe Canyon is another popular destination for day trips, though the trailhead is two hours by car from Moab.

If you have several days
A visit of several days allows people to experience more fully the wonders of Canyonlands. Multi-day trips include mountain biking the White Rim Road, backpacking in the Needles, four-wheel-driving in the Maze, and boating the Colorado and Green Rivers. Visitors to the Maze and the rivers typically include at least three nights.

If you have a week
Week-long backcountry trips are possible in every district. Most private rivers enter through Cataract Canyon require a week. Visitors can also use the Square and Willow Flat campgrounds as base camps for day trips throughout the Needles and Island in the Sky.

In addition to the ideas mentioned above, commercial outfitters offer a variety of guided excursions to Canyonlands. Trips vary in length from one day to a week or more. See the sidebar on page 7 for more information.

### General Information

**CAMPING**
Canyonlands offers many camping opportunities. There are developed campgrounds in both the Needles and Island in the Sky districts. These campgrounds are located along the scenic drives and feature toilets, picnic tables and fire rings. Sites are first-come, first-served. Maximum RV length is 28 feet (in most sites). Campers interested in backcountry camping, there are possibilities in every district. Information on backcountry trips is provided on the district pages and on page 4.

**WEATHER**
Canyonlands experiences wide temperature fluctuations, sometimes over 40 degrees in a single day. The temperate (and most popular) seasons are spring (April through May) and fall (mid-September through October), when daytime highs average 60 to 80 F and nighttime lows average 30 to 50 F. Summer temperatures often exceed 100 F, making strenuous exercise difficult. Late summer monsoon season brings violent storm cells which often cause flash floods. Winters (November through March) are cold, with highs averaging 30 to 50 F, and lows averaging 0 to 20 F.

**ACCESSIBILITY**
At the Island in the Sky, visitors with mobility impairments can access the visitor center and restrooms, Buck Canyon Overlook, Green River Overlook and Grand View Point Overlook. In the Needles, the visitor center, restrooms, Squaw Flat Campground and Wooden Shoe Overlook are wheelchair accessible. Other points of interest are accessible with some assistance.

**Phone & Internet Directory**

### Canyonlands National Park

**General Information**

(435) 719-2313
http://www.nps.gov/cany

**Backcountry Reservations**

Island in the Sky
(435) 259-4531
http://www.nps.gov/cany/tour/backcountry.htm

Needles District
(435) 259-4712
http://www.nps.gov/cany/tour/backcountry.htm

Maze District
(435) 259-2632
http://www.nps.gov/cany/tour/backcountry.htm

**Bureau of Land Management**

Moab Area
(435) 259-2100
http://www.blm.gov/mob

Manti Area
(435) 587-2141
http://www.blm.gov/mob

Horse Area
(435) 542-3463
http://www.blm.gov/mob

**Local Travel Information**

Moab, Green River
(800) 635-6622
http://www.discovermoab.com

Blanding, Monticello
(800) 574-4386
http://www.southwestutah.com

**Bookstore**

Canyonlands National History Association
(800) 840-8978
http://www.cicha.org

**River Flows**

U.S. Geological Survey
(801) 539-1311
http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis

**Weather Forecast**

U.S. Weather Service
(801) 524-5133
http://www.navo.noaa.gov

**Phone Mailing Address**

Canyonlands National Park
2282 SW Resource Blvd.
Moab, UT 84532

**Email**
canyinfo@nps.gov

**Website**
www.nps.gov/cany

**Cover Photo**
Hiking the Spanish Bottom Trail, Maze District

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

### Your First Visit to Canyonlands

No idea where to go? Here are some thoughts on planning your first visit to Canyonlands.

**If you have half a day**
Driving to Canyonlands requires at least an hour from nearby towns, so even a brief visit (with little time outside the car) takes almost half a day. The Island in the Sky accommodates these quick trips, with lots of overlooks and several short (2 miles or less) trails that provide a great introduction to the park. Adventurous drivers can return to Moab via the Shafer Trail (high-clearance recommended).

**If you have a full day**
With a full day to spare, visitors can choose between the Island in the Sky or Needles districts. Spending a day in either area allows time for in-depth exploration by foot, bike or four-wheel-drive vehicle. Horsethoe Canyon is another popular destination for day trips, though the trailhead is two hours by car from Moab.

2 Canyonlands Trip Planner
**Canyonlands Hiking Trails**

Many different trip itineraries are possible in each district. Some of the most popular trails for backpacking and day hiking are listed here.

**The Island in the Sky**

Lathrop Canyon
Length: 22mi/35km round-trip to Colorado River Start: Lathrop Trailhead
After crossing grasslands on the mesa top, this trail winds along the canyon rim then descends steep switchbacks to a boulder-strewn wash that leads to the White Rim Road. Hikers can follow the spur road down into Lathrop Canyon. Three at-large permits are available for camping below the White Rim Road.

Murphy Loop
Length: 1mi/1.7km round-trip Start: Murphy Point Trailhead
A few miles of hiking on the mesa top leads to a steep descent down a cliff face to a bench where the trail divides. One fork continues along Murphy Hogback, a slim mesa with great views of the White Rim Formation and the surrounding canyons. At Murphy camp, hikers follow the White Rim Road south for about a mile, then follow a rock-strewn wash back up onto the hogback. At-large backpacking only. No water.

Syndale Loop
Length: 8mi/13km round-trip Start: Upheaval Dome Trailhead
This strenuous trail follows the washes on either side of Upheaval Dome, forming a loop that provides access inside the crater and to the Green River. Total elevation change is roughly 1,300 feet. Trail climbs some steep, exposed grades. Twenty one-day permits are available for camping below the White Rim Road. At-large backpacking only. No water.

**The Needles**

Chesler Park Loop / Joint Trail
Length: 1mi/1.8km round-trip Start: Elephant Hill Trailhead
This trail offers one of the most spectacular views in the Needles. It follows the Chesler Park access road to the White Rim Road. For most backpack trips, a four-wheel-drive support vehicle to carry water and equipment is highly recommended. Toilets are provided at each campsite. Guidebooks for the White Rim are available through the bookstore (see back page).

The Maze
North Trail Canyon
Length: 12mi/19km to Maze Overlook Start: North Trailhead
This trail is the primary access to the Maze for visitors without a four-wheel-drive vehicle. The trail drops 1,000 feet as it descends from the Orange Cliffs mesa to Elatierte Basin. Until it reaches the main wash of North Trail Canyon, the route traverses steep, rocky terrain and is difficult to follow. At-large backpacking only.

South Trail Canyon
Length: 4mi/6.5km to Maze Overlook Start: South Trailhead
This trail is the alternate access to the Maze for visitors without a four-wheel-drive vehicle. The trail drops 1,000 feet as it descends from the Orange Cliffs mesa to Elatierte Basin. Until it reaches the main wash of North Trail Canyon, the route traverses steep, rocky terrain and is difficult to follow. At-large backpacking only.

The Needles
Chesler Park Loop / Joint Trail
Length: 1mi/1.8km round-trip Start: Elephant Hill Trailhead
This trail offers one of the most spectacular views in the Needles. It follows the Chesler Park access road to the White Rim Road. For most backpack trips, a four-wheel-drive support vehicle to carry water and equipment is highly recommended. Toilets are provided at each campsite. Guidebooks for the White Rim are available through the bookstore (see back page).

**Rock Climbing Regulations**

Permits are not required for technical rock climbing or canyoneering unless the trip requires an overnight stay in the backcountry. Climbers are encouraged to check at district visitor centers before beginning a climb.

Canyoneering (cross-country travel involving the occasional use of climbing equipment) may occur in areas closed to rock climbing, but must occur at least 300 feet away from cultural sites.

Technical rock climbing is prohibited in the Salt Creek Archeological District in the Needles, Horsehoe Canyon, into any archeological site, or on any arche or natural bridge in Canyonlands National Park or the Orange Cliffs Unit of Glen Canyon NRA named on a U.S.G.S map, with the exception of Woshner Woman Arch at the Island. The intentional removal of objects or plants from rock is prohibited. The physical alteration of rock faces by chiseling, glue reinforcement of existing holds, and gluing of new holds is prohibited. The use of motorized power drills is prohibited. All climbing shall be free or clean climbing with the following exceptions:

- No new climbing hardware may be left in a fixed location; however, if a hardware item is unsafe, it may be replaced.
- Protection may not be placed with the use of a hammer except to replace existing belay/tappel anchors and bolts on existing routes, or for emergency self-rescue.
- If an existing software item (slings, etc.) is unsafe, it may be replaced (software that is left in place must match the rock surface in color).

**Big Spring to Square Canyon**

Length: 7.5 mi/12km round-trip Start: Square Flat Loop “A” Trailhead
A great introduction to the landscape of the Needles, this two canyon loop for a loop across varied terrain. The route between the canyon's steep west and many people with a fear of heights uncomfortable. Two backpacking sites in each canyon. Water available seasonally.

Lower Red Lake Canyon
Length: 18.8 mi/30 km round-trip Start: Elephant Hill Trailhead
The hike from Elephant Hill to the Colorado River is very strenuous, with an elevation change of 1,400 feet. There is little shade along the way as the trail climbs in and out of the Grabens and then descends the steep talus slope of Lower Red Lake Canyon toward the river. This trail is recommended as a multi-day hike. At-large camping only. No water before reaching the river.

Salt Creek Canyon
Length: 22.5mi/34km one-way Start: Peekaboo or Cathedral Butte
The trail follows the main drainage of the canyon past cottonwood groves, through thick brush, and around an old four-wheel-drive road. The trail is often obscured by dense vegetation. Many archeological sites and arches can be seen. Four designated campsites in upper section. Lower section (along the old road) is at-large camping only. Water is usually available.
Exploring the canyons of the Maze (top) and the Colorado River

Making a Reservation

A reservation form is included on the back page of this newspaper. Reservation requests must be submitted by mail or fax. To process a request, we need the following information:

Trip Leader Name, address, email and phone numbers for the individual making the reservation. Include estimated group size and number of vehicles/boats separate permit). Day use permits are not required for visitors camping combined on one permit providing group size limits are not exceeded. Many group size limits apply (see chart below).

OBTAINING A PERMIT

Permits are issued seven days a week at district visitor centers to reservation holders and, on a space-available basis, to walk-ins. Walk-in permits are only available the day before or the day of a trip. Permits are issued up to one hour before the close of business each day. River permits are issued from the Reservation Office in Moab, which is open Monday through Friday.

RESERVATIONS

• Reservations are not required, however, reservations are recommended for White Rim trips, Neighbors backpacking trips during spring and fall, and frontcountry group sites throughout the year. Campsites not reserved in advance are available on a first-come, first-served basis at visitor centers.
• Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance of a trip.
• The earliest date to apply for a reservation varies by activity. See chart below for specific dates.
• Reservations must be made by mail or fax.
• Reservation holders must pick up their permit at the district visitor center where their trip originates. A reservation confirmation is not a permit.

SITES & 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. Designated sites exist along all four-wheel-drive roads for use by four-wheel-drive/mountain bike groups. There are also designated backpacking campsites along some heavily traveled hiking trails, mostly in the Needles District. In remote areas where travel is limited to foot or horses, visitors stay in at-large zones and may choose their own campsites.

WATER

Water is a limiting factor for most backcountry trips in Canyonlands. There are springs scattered throughout the park, most in canyon bottoms. There are also large areas such as the Grabens in the Needles, and the entire White Rim bench at the Island, where there are no reliable water sources. Obtaining drinking water from either the Green or Colorado rivers is difficult as the water is very salty and hard to purify. Hikers are encouraged to pack water whenever possible. Some springs shown on maps may dry up during periods of drought. Water source locations and current conditions are available at district visitor centers. Plan on needing at least a gallon per person per day.

IMPORTANT REGULATIONS

• Pets are not allowed in the backcountry, even in a vehicle. Pets may accompany visitors in the campgrounds, and may be walked along paved roads. Pets must be leashed whenever outside a vehicle.
• Wood fires are not allowed in the backcountry, except along the river corridors where visitors must use a firepan and pack out all unburned debris.
• Overnight visitors to the Maze District and the rivers (excluding backpackers) must bring their own toilet systems. These must allow for the sanitary removal of human waste from the backcountry. Toilets may be purchased or rented in nearby towns.

MINIMUM IMPACT CAMPING

All backcountry travelers should be mindful of their impact on the land and follow “Leave No Trace” principles. More information is available at district visitor centers and on the Web at www.lnt.org.

WATCH YOUR STEP

Biological soil crust is a critical component of the high desert ecosystem and is the most common groundcover in Canyonlands and the surrounding area. Crusts are easily damaged by careless hikers, bikers and drivers. Always walk on marked trails or on other durable surfaces such as rock or in sandy washes. Keep bikes, horses and vehicles on designated roads at all times. Help us keep our public lands healthy!

QUESTIONS?

Reservation Office staff are available by phone to answer questions and assist with trip planning Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Mountain Time), at (435) 259-4551. When workload permits, phones may be answered until 4:00 p.m.

Activity (Fee) Group Size Limit (per permit) Earliest Date to Apply

For trips during 2009

For trips during 2010


River Trips Flat Water: $120 Cathedral Canyon: $130 January 1, 2009


4 Canyonlands Trip Planner
Part of the Peekaboo rock art panel in Salt Creek Spires of Cedar Mesa Sandstone

The Maze

THE MAZE IS THE LEAST ACCESSIBLE DISTRICT OF CANYONLANDS. DUE TO THE district’s remoteness and the difficulty of roads and trails, travel to the Maze requires more time, as well as a greater degree of self-sufficiency. Rarely do visitors spend less than three days in the Maze, and the area can easily absorb a week-long trip.

The Orange Cliffs Unit of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area shares Canyonslands National Park’s western boundary and is administered under the same backcountry management plan and reservation system. The information here applies to both the Orange Cliffs Unit and the Maze District of Canyonslands.

LOCATION

The Hans Flat Ranger Station is two and one-half hours from Green River, Utah. From I-70, take Utah Highway 24 south for 24 miles. A left hand turn just beyond the turnoff to Goblin Valley State Park will take you along a two-wheel-drive dirt road 46 miles (76 km) south-east to the ranger station. In addition, a four-wheel-drive route leads north from Utah Highway 95 near Hite. All two-wheel-drive roads may require four-wheel-drive vehicles or become impassible when it snows or rains heavily.

VISITOR SERVICES

The Hans Flat Ranger Station is open year-round from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is a small sales area with books and maps. There are no amenities like food or gas, no entrance fees and no potable water sources in the Maze District.

HIKING & BACKPACKING

Trails in the Maze can be primitive and lead into canyons and to various viewpoints. Due to the nature and depth of Maze canyons, access to them is limited. Routes into the canyons are carved from mesa top to canyon bottom, but routes through washes are often unmarked. Many are of the same look-alike and are difficult to identify without a topographic map. The Maze Overlook Trail and other routes in the district require basic climbing maneuvers in order to negotiate sections of steep slickrock and four-offs. A 2.5-foot length of rope is often essential for raising or lowering packs in difficult spots. Many routes may make hikers with a fear of heights uncomfortable. Most trailheads start from four-wheel-drive roads. Visitors with two-wheel-drive vehicles may park at the North Point Road junction, approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the Hans Flat Ranger Station, and hike 12 miles to the Maze Overlook. Depending on the vehicle, hikers may also be able to negotiate the 14 mile road to park at the top of the Flint Trail switchbacks.

Backcountry vehicle campers and mountain bikers stay in designated sites and must provide their own toilet systems. The vehicle sites do not have picnic tables.

PACK & SADDLE STOCK REGULATIONS

Pack and saddle stock are allowed on all backcountry roads and in Horshorse Canyon. Permits are required for both day and overnight trips. Horses, mules and burros are the only animals permitted. Other domestic animals are prohibited in the backcountry. Stock must be fed palletized feed for 48 hours in advance of and during a trip in order to prevent the spread of exotic plant species. Animals may not be left unattended and must be staked at least 300 feet away from water sources and away from vegetation where possible. Grazing is not allowed.

Day Use

Day use permits are unlimited and free, except in Horse Canyon/Peekaboo and Labrador Canyon. In the Needles, where use is limited to seven animals per day and a $5 fee is charged. In other areas of the park, including Horshorse Canyon, individual groups may not exceed ten animals and ten people. Contact the reservation office or district ranger stations to obtain day use permits.

Overnight Use

Overnight trips must stay at designated vehicle camps. Permits ($30 fee) are available at district ranger stations and may be reserved in advance (see page 4). All manure and feed must be packed out from the campsites. The group size limit for overnight use is seven people and ten horses for the Needles and Island in the Sky, and five people and eight horses for the Maze and Orange Cliffs.

The Needles

THE NEEDLES DISTRICT FORMS THE SOUTHEAST corner of Canyonslands 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. Foot trails and four-wheel-drive roads lead to such features as Tower Rainbow, Confluence Overlook, Elephant Hill, the Joint Trail, and Chesler Park.

LOCATION

On U.S. Highway 191, drive 40 miles (60 km) south of Moab or 14 miles (22 km) south of Monticello, then take Utah Highway 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 district.

VISITOR SERVICES

Visitor center is open year-round from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except some winter holidays), with extended hours March through October. Exhibits, information and publications are available. Interpretive programs are offered from March through October with evening programs presented most nights in the Squaw Flat Campground. Check at the visitor center or on bulletin boards for subjects and times. Other programs are offered throughout the season. Squaw Flat Campground is open year-round on a first-come, first-served basis. There are 26 sites with drinking water and flush toilets. Maximum RV length is 28 feet. Camping fees are charged year-round.

• Visitor center is open year-round from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except some winter holidays), with extended hours March through October. Exhibits, information and publications are available. Interpretive programs are offered from March through October with evening programs presented most nights in the Squaw Flat Campground. Check at the visitor center or on bulletin boards for subjects and times. Other programs are offered throughout the season. Squaw Flat Campground is open year-round on a first-come, first-served basis. There are 26 sites with drinking water and flush toilets. Maximum RV length is 28 feet. Camping fees are charged year-round.

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SHORT HIKES

There are four short, self-guided trails along the scenic drive. These trails are mostly level except for Cave Spring which has two ladders. Each trail highlights different aspects of the park’s natural and cultural history. Trail guides are available at the visitor center and at the trailheads.

LONG HIKES

The Needles District 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 on page 3.

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).

Although most trails can be hiked in a day by strong hikers, many form loops and may be combined with other trails for longer trips. Net elevation change is generally several hundred feet or less, except for the Lower Red Lake Trail which drops 1,400 feet to the Colorado River. A detailed trail guide may be purchased from the bookstore (page 8).

BACKPACKING

The Needles is the most popular back- packing destination in the park. Most trailheads are accessible by two-wheel-drive vehicles, and water may be found in many of the canyons east of Chesler Park. Overnight trips require a permit which can be reserved in advance (see page 4). Designated campites (one group per site) have been established along most trails. Campsites group at-large in areas without sites or trails. Status of water sources is available at the visitor center.

FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE ROADS

Over 50 miles of challenging backcountry roads access campsites, trailheads, as well as natural and cultural features. All of these roads require high-clearance, four-wheel- drive vehicles. Inexperienced drivers are discouraged from attempting these roads as the risk of vehicle damage is great and towing expenses typically exceed $1,000.

Popular four-wheel-drive roads include Elephant Hill, Colorado Overlook Road, Horse Canyon and Lavender Canyon. The roads in Horse and Lavender canyons tend to be too sandy for mountain bikes. All vehicles and bikes must remain on designated roads. Motorbikes and vehicles must be street legal and operated by a licensed driver. ATVs are not permitted. Roads may close intermittently due to poor driving conditions or weather. Overnight trips require a permit which can be reserved in advance (page 4). Permits are also required for day use in Horse and Lavender canyons.
THE RIVERS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages the riverways upstream of the park boundary on both rivers. Permits are required for boating the Green River between Green River State Park and Mineral Bottom (Labyrinth Canyon). There is no charge for Labyrinth permits. If a reservation form is submitted for boating the Green River within Canyonlands and your launch location is in Labyrinth Canyon, the required interagency permit will be included. Permits are not required for the Colorado between Moab and the park.

LAUNCH/TAKEOUT INFORMATION

The most common river launch ramps are outside the park boundaries at Ruby Ranch or on Mineral Bottom on the Green, and Potash or the Moab dock on the Colorado. Great River State Park and Ruby Ranch both charge a small fee for launches. Call Ruby Ranch at (435) 650-3193, or Green River State Park at (435) 564-3633 for more information. See chart for mileage.

There is no vehicle access to the rivers near the Confluence or Cat- aract Canyon. Groups wishing to avoid the white water must travel upstream. Unless groups have their own motors or a lot of time to paddle, upstream travel is via jet boat shuttle back to Potash. This service is available for a fee from two licensed operators: Tag-a-Long Expeditions, (435) 259-8946, and Tex’s Riverways, (435) 259-5101. Flat water trips should make their upstream travel arrangements before contacting the park for a permit (shuttles are limited, while there is currently no limit to the number of flat water permits). The National Park Service does not operate a shuttle service.

The takeout for Cataract Canyon trips is Hite Marina on Lake Powell, which is roughly 38 miles from the last rapid. Conditions on Lake Powell have changed significantly in recent years due to drought. Visit www.nps.gov/canyonriver/lakepowell.htm to learn more.

CAMPING

There are no designated campsites along the rivers in Canyonlands. During periods of high water, camps can be difficult to find, especially for large groups. Other times, sandbars can be plentiful and make ideal camps. In Cataract Canyon, there is a voluntary campsitesign-up register for groups traveling below the Confluence.

FISHING

Fishing is not a popular activity in Canyonlands. The muddy waters of the Green and Colorado rivers contain mostly carp, catfish, sand shiners, red shiners and fathead minnows. Visitors must have a valid Utah State fishing license and must comply with all state fishing regulations. Small populations of endangered native fish exist in the park, including Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback and bonnethead catfish. Due to resource development, competition with non-native species and other factors, native populations have declined and are struggling to survive in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Visitors should become familiar with the above fish and the proper techniques for releasing them unharmed.

LAUNCH LOCATION

Launched from the west rim trailhead on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. A vault toilet is provided but there is no water.

Canyonlands Trip Planner 7

Horseshoe Canyon

HORSESHOE CANYON WAS ADDED TO Canyonlands National Park in 1971. Its intriguing rock art is considered to be some of the best known in North America. The Great Gallery, the best known and most spectacular panel in Horseshoe Canyon, includes well-preserved, life-sized figures with intricate designs. Other highlights include spring wildflowers, sandstone walls and mature cottonwood groves.

LOCATION

Horseshoe Canyon is 32 miles east of Utah Highway 24 via a two-wheel-drive, graded dirt road. There is also a graded dirt road to the canyon from the town of Green River. Areas two-wheel-drive roads may become four-wheel-drive or even impassable when it snows or rains heavily.

CAMPING & HIKING

At Horseshoe Canyon, visitors may camp at the west rim trailhead on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. A vault toilet is provided but there is no water.

The hike to the Great Gallery is 7 miles round trip from the park boundary, descending 750 feet and requiring about six hours. The canyon is limited to day use within the park boundary. Group size is limited to 20 people. Pets are prohibited.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Horseshoe Canyon is one of the more popular destinations for horseback riding in Canyonlands. See opposite page for regulations.

INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

Rangers lead guided hikes in Horseshoe Canyon when staff are available. Contact the Horseshoe Canyon office at (435) 259-2652 for current schedules. Special walks for educational or other large groups may also be planned by contacting Hans Flat. Walks usually depart the west rim parking lot at 9 a.m.

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agencies’ efforts will continue to expand.

demands escalating and agency funding for research. With visitor-use ranger naturalists, exhibits, new facilities in schools, equipment and supplies for programs in various ways, including Bookstore sales are our primary source after a rigorous review process managed by stations. All sales items have been approved visitor centers and other agency contact for sale, in our bookstore outlets in park appreciation of public lands by providing Our goal is to enhance each visitor's oversee more than 7.5 million acres of federal land in southeast Utah.

Our goal is to enhance each visitor’s appreciation of public lands by providing quality educational materials, both free and for sale, in our bookstore outlets in park visitor centers and other agency contact stations. All sales items have been approved after a rigorous review process managed by CNHA and the agencies.

Bookstore sales are our primary source of income, and support the agencies’ programs in various ways, including seminars, outdoor education programs for area schools, equipment and supplies for ranger naturalists, exhibits, new facilities and funding for research. With visitor-use demands escalating and agency funding declining, CNHA’s role in assisting the agencies’ efforts will continue to expand.

BECOME A MEMBER

CNHA members enjoy many benefits, including a 15% discount on purchases of $1 or more. For more information, please call us or visit our Website.

CALL US
(800) 840-8978
(435) 259-6001

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Mile-by-mile guide to the geology, ecology and history of this popular 184/200 route at the Island in the Sky District of Canyonlands. Maps, illustrations. 62 pp. $9.50

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CNHA carries all the 7.5 minute topographic maps for southeast Utah (visit www.cnha.org for a complete list). Maps can be shipped folded or rolled (tube $2 extra). $7.00

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Canyonlands Reservation Form

Trip Leader Information
Name: Address:
City: State: Zip Code:
Day Phone: Evening Phone:
Email:
Number of people:

Trip Type
Backpacking ($15)
4WD/Mtn Bike Camping ($30)
4WD Day Use in the Needles ($15)
Frontcountry Group Campsite ($15)
Flat water ($20)
Upriver shuttle by:

First choice(s)
Location
Alternate choice(s)
Location

Will you accept other campsites? Yes No
Will you accept other dates? Yes No

Payment (non-refundable)
Check or money order Visa/MasterCard/Discover

Credit Card #: Expiration Date (m/y):

Signature:

Mail or fax your request no less than two weeks in advance to:
National Park Service
Reservation Office
2282 S. West Resource Blvd.
Moab, UT 84532-3298

Fax: (435) 259-4285

Blocks 1 though 4 must be completed!

CNHA offers a 15% discount to residents of the Block of interest as seen from the road as well as facts on geology, flora and fauna, the cultural history of the park. Approx 1 hour. $10.00

Canyonlands. A stop-by-stop guide to the 36.5-mile round trip tour of the Island in the Sky District of Canyonlands. Learn about the geology, human and natural history. Map, illustrations. 29 pp. $3.95

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