



Utah: Arches & Canyonland Adventure

April 18 - 23, 2021



Trip Summary

Welcome to your weeklong adventure through Southeastern Utah's legendary Canyonlands. Explore the amazing Colorado River by raft. Pedal between burnt-orange sheer-walled canyons and enormous uniquely-shaped sandstone towers on a road snaking through Castle Valley. Hike by ancient petroglyphs, a glimpse into the rituals and beliefs of the Fremont, Anasazi, Navajo and Anglo communities of thousands of years past. At the end of the day, eat a hearty dinner before retiring to the comfort of your home for the week, the Hoodoo Moab Hilton, located in the heart of Moab!

The toughest part is going home.SM



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Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Grand Junction Arrival | Colorado River

Grand Junction Arrival: Welcome to Colorado! Your guides will pick you up in the morning from your pre-trip hotel.

Transfer Time: 1 Hour

Colorado River Westwater Canyon Raft: This Colorado River trip is designed for adventure seekers and canyon lovers, perfect for those looking for great rapids on a remote stretch of river. The serene Westwater Canyon starts off as a place of serene solitude surrounded by red sandstone spires. As the river cascades into the narrow Black Granite Gorge, the river meets opposition from the canyon walls, creating the fast and furious rapids that give Westwater Canyon its reputation! You'll enjoy this thrilling ride as your guide navigates the group by oarboat. Enjoy a nice break during your rafting day trip with a picnic on a beach.

Accommodation: *Hoodoo Moab Hilton (L,D)*

Day 2: Canyonlands National Park

Transfer Time: 1 Hour

Canyonlands National Park: A unique national park located near Moab, this site offers four districts to explore: Island in the Sky, The Maze, The Needles, and The Rivers. The Green and Colorado Rivers wind their way through this many-layered national park. Within the park's hundreds of thousands of acres, feast your eyes on the rock formations and natural architecture including arches, buttes, mesas, and of course canyons.

Grandview Point to Shaffer Overlook Bike Ride: Mount up at Grand View Point and ride for six miles along the sweeping, panoramic views to our first stop, Mesa Arch, for a short half-mile loop hike. Mesa Arch provides a close-up experience, where you can walk near the arch that lies atop a cliff edge, peering out at a spectacular landscape. Continue north by bike along the Island in the Sky route.

Dinosaur Museum to Colorado River Bike Ride: Catch a ride in the van to the "top of the hill" and then ride an exhilarating 10 miles to the Colorado River. This paved River Road trail will lead you among sandstone walls and intense gorges alongside the rushing river.

Accommodation: *Hoodoo Moab Hilton (B,L,D)*

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Day 3: Arches National Park

Arches National Park: Be awed over the beauty of this park that guarantees sights of just what you might expect: Arches. Over 2,000 impossibly natural arches grace the landscape of this place that boasts rich textures, rocky layers and swirling colors. Peer through the arches like a window or a picture frame, and watch the blue sky collide with the deep reds, oranges, and purples of the land.

Delicate Arch Hike: This adventure will lead us to an absolutely jaw-dropping landscape – be prepared to be wowed by even more amazing scenery and geology. A beautiful yet more challenging 3-mile round trip journey, this activity offers many stunning views, but none as amazing as the view of the iconic Delicate Arch that will greet you at the end of your hike. Trek along winding slickrock before coming upon the arch that stands miraculously on its own at the edge of a rock outcropping.

Devil's Garden Hike: Feast your eyes on spectacular desert views while hiking to three different arches, including Landscape Arch. This arch stretches almost 300 feet wide, earning its right to be called the longest arch in North America. Awe over the wildly thin design of this arch. Explore more of the fiery reds and breathtaking blues of the hidden gems of Arches National Park. Hike Tapestry Arch to Sand Dune via Broken Arch. Admire the beauty of the natural, monolithic sculptures for this 1.5-mile hike.

Transfer Time: 1 Hour

Accommodation: *Hoodoo Moab Hilton (B,L,D)*



Day 4: Moab

Potash Road Bike Ride: Bike Potash Road along the Colorado River with frequent stops to decipher what the ancients were trying to communicate through countless petroglyphs. Find artful images of humans, figures, and weapons in the rock. While you're cycling back through time, take a good hard look at the dinosaur tracks you'll find on this bicycling adventure.

Slickrock Hummer Tour: Jump in a Hummer and have your professional driver lead you on an exploration of the amazing slickrock of Moab on this adrenaline-inducing adventure. Spend two hours on four wheels traversing miles of rocky terrain as you weave in and out of rock canyons and climb up unbelievable sandstone hills. Be sure to snap some photos at a spectacular overlook of the Colorado River, Arches National Park, and the La Sal Mountains.

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Night On Your Own: Enjoy a night on your own this evening for dinner. Your guides will give you restaurant options to choose from in the area and will provide ideas on things to do on your own time. Alternatively, feel free to just relax tonight after a wonderful activity-filled day!

Accommodation: *Hoodoo Moab Hilton (B,L)*



Day 5: Canyonlands National Park

Transfer Time: 2 Hours

Chesler Park Hike: Prepare to be immersed in a beautiful desert scene in the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. Beginning at the Elephant Hill Trailhead, hike a total of six miles on rolling terrain, passing through fascinating desert country scenery with an elevation gain of over 1,100 feet. You'll eventually arrive at the monolithic red rock towers of the Chesler Park Viewpoint. Along the way, we'll find a shady spot to enjoy a delicious trailside lunch.

Transfer Time: 2 Hours

Accommodation: *Hoodoo Moab Hilton (B,L,D)*



Day 6: Grandstaff Trail Hike | Grand Junction Departure

Grandstaff Trail Hike: On the Grandstaff Trail, you'll hike up a deep sandstone canyon along a perennial creek with lush vegetation, and end at a large, unusual bridge. The Morning Glory Bridge as it's known stretches 243 feet from one end to the other, and is eroded out of one of the rock fins abundant in the area. This 4.3-mile hike is fairly easy and involves mostly walking with a little bit of scrambling.

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Transfer Time: 2 Hours

Grand Junction Departure: Your guides will shuttle you back to Grand Junction to get ready for your departure home.

Accommodation: (B,L)

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*



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Distinctive Accommodation

Hoodoo Moab Hilton - 5 night(s)

Located a block from Main Street in Moab, this hotel is within walking distance of many local restaurants and souvenir shops. This hotel will serve as our base camp for exploration of Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, and Dead Horse Point State Park. Your room blends upscale amenities with Western flair. Enjoy hotel amenities like the heated, outdoor pool, fitness center, full-service day spa, and more.





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Activities Featured on This Trip



Biking: Most bike rides on this trip are considered easy to moderate (10 to 20 miles, flat and/or rolling terrain). If a more difficult bike ride is included on this itinerary, more specific details will be included in the day's activity description within the detailed itinerary. Bike rides are van supported, meaning that there will be checkpoints along the way in which you can access the van/guide if needed or can end your ride early. There will also be one guide accompanying the group by bike.

Hiking: Most hikes on this adventure are considered easy to moderate (2 to 4 miles with up to 400 feet of elevation gain). Oftentimes, we'll do several shorter hikes over the course of one day. If a more difficult hike is listed on this itinerary, its mileage and elevation gain will be listed in the day's activity description within the detailed itinerary.

Jeep/Hummer Tour: Access spectacular backcountry by way of custom Hummer or Jeep (dependent on tour location). Your vehicle will be driven by a professional guide who will show off what your vehicle can do by navigating thrilling canyons and/or climbing up and down unbelievable hills.

Whitewater Rafting: Rafting trips are led by a professional rafting guide trained in swiftwater rescue. Most of our raft trips feature paddle rafts, which are small rubber rafts in which everyone paddles and is expected to help propel and steer the raft. You'll encounter class II-III rapids on most rivers we raft. Gear like personal flotation devices and helmets are provided and required. Wetsuits are available for use when the water or air temperature is low. Instruction provided and no experience is necessary.

What's Included?

Included in Trip Price:

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths
- All meals as listed in itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners
- Any necessary equipment - all safe and well-maintained
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service
- Access to a guest portal with trip planner materials
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities, and national park entrance and permit fees

Not Included in Trip Price:

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities
- One dinner during the trip
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities
- All types of travel insurance
- Personal expenses