

# YOUR ADVENTURE GUIDE



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## Hiking and Backpacking

### Chesler Park/Joint Loop Trail Needles District of Canyonlands National Park

55 minutes from Monticello  
Adventure takes 3-7 hours

A shorter hike of 5.8 miles (9.3 km) leads to a viewpoint at the edge of Chesler Park. A longer 10.7 mile (17.2 km) loop extends. A longer 10.4-mile (16.74 km) loop extends the hike and is considered a favorite by many as they traverse over sandstone, through canyons and across a big, grassy field surrounded by the tall Needles rock formations. The loop connects to the Joint Trail where visitors have to squeeze through shoulder-width cracks in giant boulders. With all the changes in scenery, there's never a dull moment on this hike.



### Loop Trail Natural Bridges National Monument

45 minutes from Blanding  
Adventure takes 5-6 hours

The 9.8-mile (15.77 km) hike in Natural Bridges National Monument leads you under each of the three bridges in the park. As the world's largest natural stone bridge, Sipapu Bridge is tall enough to rise above our nation's capitol building in Washington D.C. The bridges can also be viewed from overlooks. The monument's isolation from urban communities makes its night skies breathtaking as you adventure on your hike. As the world's first International Dark Sky Park, this area is perfect for stargazing. From late spring through early fall, visitors can attend regularly scheduled, ranger-led night sky programs.



### House on Fire Hike Bears Ears National Monument

42 miles (67.59 km) from Blanding (26 minutes)  
Adventure takes 1-3 hours

House on Fire is the first archaeological site you arrive at in the South Fork of Mule Canyon. To capture the picturesque flames above the structure, it's best to do this hike in the morning when the light reflects off the opposite wall of the canyon. Hiking past the House on Fire, multiple other sites can be seen. Some are easily hiked to and others can be seen from the trail as they are nestled high in the canyon walls. The trailhead for this hike is located on County Road 263 just off Hwy 95.



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## Scenic Drives and Spots

### Moki Dugway

This route connects UT-95 and US-163  
14 minutes from Mexican Hat  
Adventure takes 1 hour

Constructed in the 1950s to transport uranium, the Moki Dugway is an unpaved, 3-mile (4.83 km) section of Hwy 261 comprised of switchbacks carved into the face of the cliff edge. The road, which can be treacherous in rain or snow, winds 1,200 feet (365.76 m) from Cedar Mesa to the valley floor near Valley of the Gods. Not for the faint of heart (or those with a fear of heights), this route provides breathtaking views of some of Utah's most beautiful landscapes, such as Monument Valley and Valley of the Gods.



### Goosenecks State Park

11 minutes from Mexican Hat  
Adventure takes 1 hour

The San Juan River twists and turns through sinuous 'goosenecks' as it flows toward Lake Powell traveling over 6 miles (9.66 km), while it advances only 1 mile (1.61 km) to the west. The Great Goosenecks of the San Juan River is the largest entrenched river meander in North America. Within the 1,000 feet (304.8 m) between the park and the river, 300 million years of geology is revealed in the layers exposed by erosion.



### Valley of the Gods

10-15 minutes from Mexican Hat, depending on the entrance  
Adventure takes 2 hours

Often referred to as a 'miniature Monument Valley,' Valley of the Gods is home to stunning free-standing monoliths, delicate spires of sandstone, and long rock fins. Visitors can drive the 17-mile (27.36 km) loop through the valley, stopping along the way for short hikes, or to find a remote, dispersed camping site. A night spent under the stars in Valley of the Gods is sure to top anyone's list as one of the most beautiful, peaceful, and remote camping spots you'll ever experience.



### Arch Canyon Overlook- Cedar Mesa/Bears Ears National Monument

Halfway between Blanding and Natural Bridges National Monument, Mile marker 102  
Adventure takes 2-3 hours

Book a guide on a clear day to visit Arch Canyon Overlook via Jeep, ATV or Hiking tour. Your guide will take you to view huge monoliths and several Ancestral Pueblo sites and cliff dwellings. As you stand 1,000 feet (304.8 m) above the canyon base, you can see the red rock walls, greenery, wildlife and arches. There is very rough road, and if you are not going with a guide, high clearance and 4WD are recommended.



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## Unique Guided Experiences

### San Juan River Trip with Wild Expeditions

Adventure takes 6-7 hours

A float trip on the San Juan River in southeast Utah provides boaters with access to spectacular canyons rich in scenery, archaeology, history, remarkable geographic features and desert wildlife. Book a trip with Wild Expeditions and sit back and enjoy the scenery and Class II & III rapids while the guide expertly navigates the river. Enjoy several stops at archaeological sites such as River House and the Butler Petroglyph Panel.



### Monument Valley Tour & Overnight Hogan Experience with Simpson's Trailhandler Tours

The best way to see Monument Valley, one of the most photographed places on Earth, is in person on a guided tour with Simpson's Trailhandler Tours. Guides will take visitors to private hidden gems while teaching them about Navajo history and culture in the area. Enjoy this overnight, all-inclusive camping experience in an authentic Hogan in Monument Valley that includes Navajo food, entertainment and multiple tours of Monument Valley.



### Blues to Bears Bike-packing trip with Roam Industry

This guided, 3-day/2-night bike-packing trip takes visitors to one of the more remote mountain ranges in the Southwest — the Abajos (or the Blue Mountains). Bike through fir-timbered peaks and drop into a sandstone, red rock desert. This trip traverses through the newly established Bears Ears National Monument.

### #RecreateResponsibly in Utah's Canyon Country



Utah's Canyon Country is home to many, wonderful destinations and experiences. From wide-open spaces to historic neighborhoods, please remember to #RecreateResponsibly. When you visit, follow Leave No Trace and Visit With Respect principles so everyone can have the opportunity for years to come to visit these amazing sights.

- **Plan ahead** and prepare for your adventures
- **Stay** on designated trails
- **Leave** artifacts where you spot them
- **Do not enter** any archaeological structures
- **Do not eat near sites** and pack out what you pack in
- **Properly** dispose of human and pet waste
- **Leave** historic sites and rock art untouched
- **Respect and be aware** of wildlife
- **Keep** dogs on leashes at all times