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## BUCKET-LIST ITINERARY: THE TOP TEN THINGS TO DO IN UTAH'S CANYON COUNTRY



### 1. Needles Overlook

Sitting on a rock cliff 1,600 feet above the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park, Needles Overlook offers nearly 360-degree views of the park below. The views are just as spectacular as Island in the Sky and Dead Horse Point State Park but without the crowds. In fact, it's likely that you'll have the whole place to yourself! (No entrance fee)



### 3. Newspaper Rock in the Indian Creek Unit of Bears Ears National Monument

Located in the Indian Creek Unit of Bears Ears National Monument, this large petroglyph panel has carvings dating back more than 1,500 years. The 200-square foot Wingate sandstone panel is covered with more than 650 symbols representing nearly 2,000 years of human history. This panel is easily accessible from the parking area and requires only a short walk to view.



### 2. Needles District of Canyonlands National Park

The Needles District of Canyonlands National Park is named for an area of tall, slender sandstone towers, which harbors miles of interconnecting trails and stunning scenery. Needles Campground, Wooden Shoe Arch Overlook, Cave Spring, Roadside Ruin and Big Spring Canyon Overlook are all found on paved park roads. Short walks, day hikes and longer backpacking opportunities abound.



### 4. Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum

This world-class museum is a hidden gem in the Four Corners Region. As a federal, archeological repository, the museum is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Ancestral Puebloan artifacts in the Four Corners Region. It's also home of Edge of the Cedars Pueblo, a one-thousand-year-old Puebloan village site, which is located behind the museum. The park hosts special exhibits, lectures and programs throughout the year.



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### 5. Hovenweep National Monument

Built between A.D. 1200 and 1300, Hovenweep was once home to over 2,500 people. Explore the variety of unique structures at the six prehistoric villages that make up Hovenweep National Monument. Hikes from the Visitor Center range from a 300-yard paved walk to the Stronghold House, to a 1.5-mile loop trail that takes visitors past structures in and along Little Ruin Canyon such as Hovenweep Castle, Square Tower, Hovenweep House and Twin Towers. Ranger-led Dark Sky Astronomy Programs are offered spring through fall, weather permitting. Call ahead for details.



### 7. Monument Valley Tour with Goulding's Lodge

Start your day in Monument Valley by taking in the sunrise, then schedule a tour with Goulding's Lodge, one of the many tour companies in the valley. Tours highlight the Navajo culture and history of the area, as well as Monument Valley's many appearances in films, particularly the John Wayne/John Ford Western movies. Finish off your visit with a stop at the local gift shops, vendor village or vendor booths for handmade jewelry and artwork.



### 6. Forrest Gump Hill

Monument Valley is not only one of the most photographed places on Earth but has been the backdrop for many Hollywood films. Stop at Forrest Gump Point on Highway 163 between Monument Valley and Mexican Hat where Forrest ended his cross-country run in the movie. It only takes a few minutes to take your own picture and create a memory.



### 8. Goosenecks State Park

This breathtaking overlook on the San Juan River highlights the largest entrenched river meander in North America. From the overlook, visitors can see where the river twists and turns through the 'goosenecks' as it flows toward Lake Powell, traveling over 6 miles while advancing west just 1 mile.

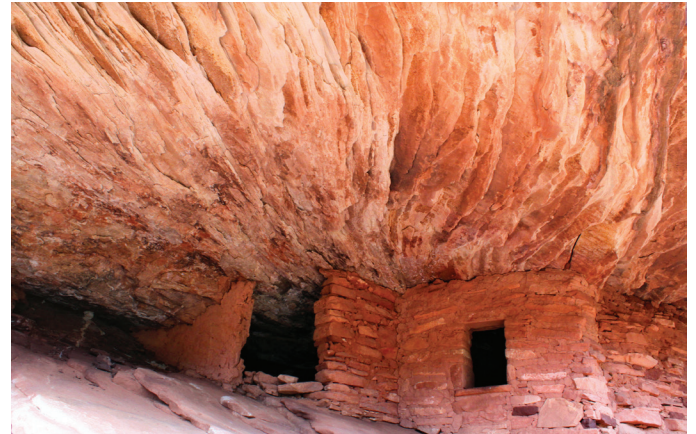


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### 9. Natural Bridges National Monument

Natural Bridges National Monument was designated Utah's first National Monument in 1908. At Natural Bridges, visitors can view three natural bridges (Kachina, Owachomo, and Sipapu) from overlooks along Bridge View Drive, a paved 9-mile loop road, or by short hikes from each trailhead. For those who are looking for a longer hike, an 8.6-mile loop trail will take you past and/or under all three bridges. Ranger-led Dark Sky Astronomy Programs are offered spring through fall. Call ahead for details.



### 10. House on Fire Ruin in the Shash Jáa Unit of Bears Ears National Monument

House on Fire Ruin is the first archaeological site located along the trail in the South Fork of Mule Canyon. To capture the picturesque flames above the house, it's best to do this hike in the late morning when the light reflects off the opposite wall of the canyon. Continuing past House on Fire, several additional archaeological sites can be seen. Some are easily accessible and others can be viewed from the trail as they are nestled high in the canyon walls. The trailhead for this hike is located on County Road 263 near mile marker 102.