

Canyonlands

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

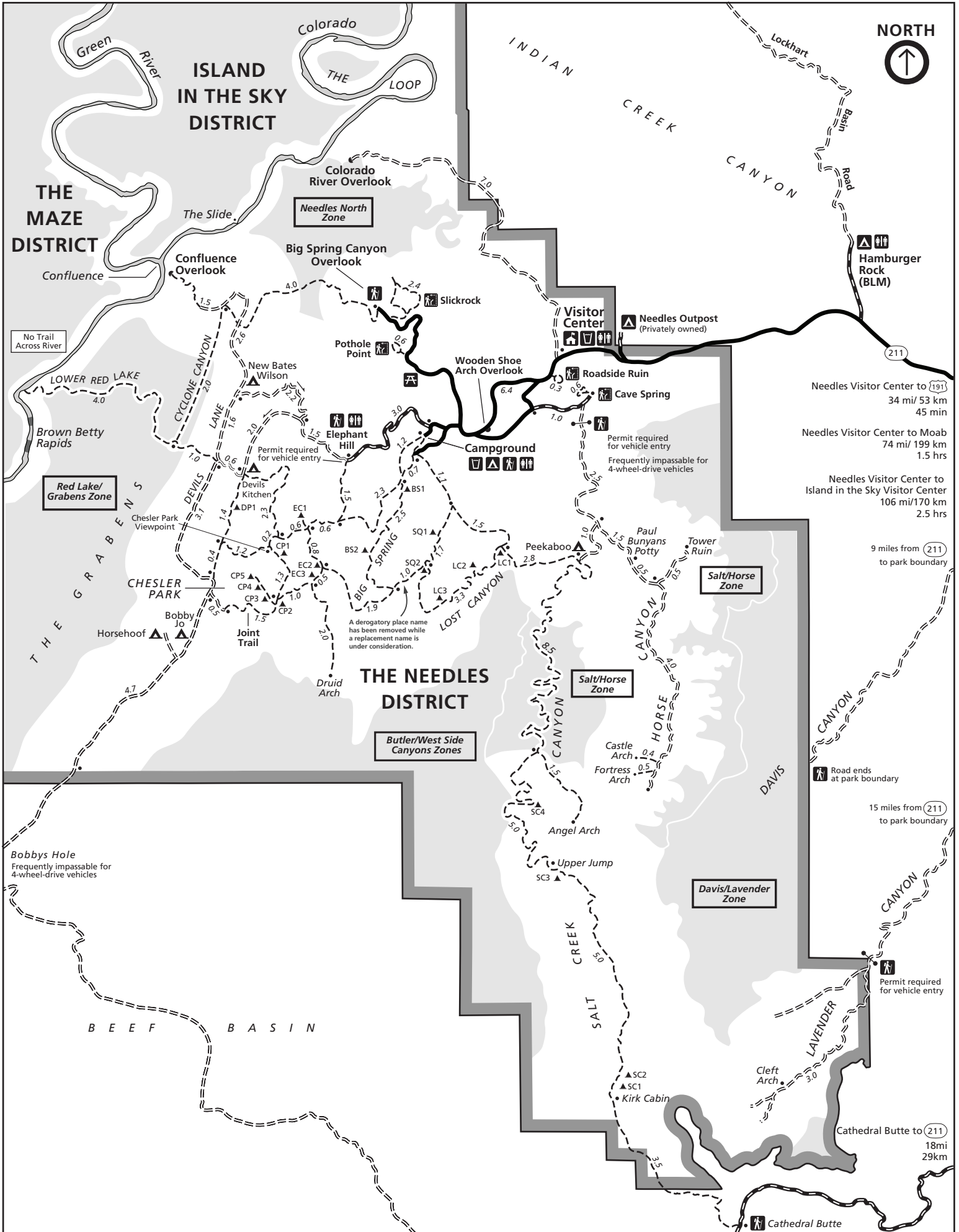


Canyonlands National Park

Needles District Trails and Roads

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Overlook/
Paved road | High-clearance,
4-wheel-drive road | Rapids | Ranger Station | Developed Campground | Self-guiding Trail |
| Unpaved
2-wheel-drive road | Locked Gate | At-large
Backpacking Zone | Picnic Area | Backcountry Vehicle Camp | Backcountry Trailhead Parking |
| | Hiking Trail | Name
Name of
Backpacking Zone | Drinking Water | Designated Backpacking Site | Toilet |

NOTE: White shading within Canyonlands indicates areas with designated site camping only.



Hiking Trails

Note: A derogatory place name listed below has been altered while a replacement name is under consideration.

SHORT HIKES

Short on time? Four short, self-guiding interpretive trails highlight various aspects of the area's cultural and natural history. Trail guides are available in the visitor center and at trailheads for a nominal fee.

Roadside Ruin

0.3 mi/0.5 km, 20 minutes
Easy trail. Leads to an ancestral Puebloan granary.

Cave Spring

0.6 mi/1 km, 45 minutes
Two ladders. Leads to historic cowboy camp and prehistoric pictographs.

Pothole Point

0.6 mi/1 km, 45 minutes
Uneven surface. Leads to pothole communities, views of the Needles.

Slickrock Trail

2.4 mi/3.9 km, 1.5 hours
Uneven surface. Several viewpoints and sometimes bighorn sheep.

Four-Wheel-Drive Roads

Backcountry Permits

Backcountry Permit Office
2282 Resource Blvd.
Moab, UT 84532
canyres@nps.gov
(435) 259-4351
go.nps.gov/canybackcountry

For More Information

Canyonlands National Park
2282 SW Resource Blvd.
Moab, UT 84532
(435) 719-2313
www.nps.gov/cany
Social Media @CanyonlandsNPS

Over 60 miles of interconnecting trails present hikers with spectacular canyon scenery. Some of the more common routes are described below. Trails traverse a mixture of slickrock benches and sandy washes, and some may require negotiating steep, rocky passes with drop-offs, narrow areas, and ladders. Water sources are unreliable; carry all that you will need. Trails are marked with cairns (small rock piles) and signs at intersections.

ELEPHANT HILL TRAILHEAD

Chesler Park Viewpoint

5.8 mi/9.3 km, 3-4 hrs round trip
This popular trail leads across to a pass overlooking a scenic expanse of desert grasses and shrubs surrounded by sandstone spires.

Chesler Park Loop / Joint Trail

10.7 mi/17.2 km, 5-7 hrs round trip
This loop travels beyond the viewpoint described above, providing great views of the Needles. The southern portion, called the Joint Trail, winds through deep, narrow fractures in the rock. A short segment follows the four-wheel-drive road.

Druid Arch

10.8 mi/17.4 km, 5-7 hrs round trip
This trail offers one of the most spectacular views in the Needles. It follows the first part of the Chesler Park trail, then branches off to travel along the bottom of Elephant Canyon through deep sand and loose rock. The last 0.25 mile at the upper end is steep with one ladder and some scrambling.

BIG SPRING CANYON TRAILHEAD

Confluence Overlook

11 mi/17.7 km, 5-6 hrs round trip
Unlike other Needles hikes, this trail traverses open country along the northern edge of the geologic faults that shaped the Needles. Trail ends at a cliff overlooking the junction of the Green and Colorado rivers 1,000 feet below.

CAMPGROUND LOOP "A" TRAILHEAD

Big Spring Canyon to Sq___ Canyon

7.5 mi/12 km, 3-4 hrs round trip
A great introduction to the landscape of the Needles, connecting two canyons for a loop across varied terrain. The route between the canyons climbs steep grades that are dangerous when wet. Not for those with a fear of heights.

Big Spring Canyon to Elephant Canyon

10.5 mi/16.9 km, 4-6 hrs round trip
This loop features extended hiking on slickrock benches and mesa tops overlooking canyons. Excellent views of sheer cliff walls and other rock formations. Two ladders must be climbed in the pass between the canyons.

Sq___ Canyon to Lost Canyon

8.7 mi/14 km, 4-6 hrs round trip
Another wonderful loop hike with some difficult sections climbing between the two canyons. Riparian areas in both canyons attract birds and other wildlife. Route in Lost Canyon passes through dense vegetation and may be very wet. One ladder must be climbed.

Peekaboo

10.8 mi/17.4 km, 5-6 hrs round trip
Trail crosses both Squaw and Lost canyons on the way to Salt Creek Canyon, passing high slickrock benches with views. Steep slopes and nearby cliff edges make this route challenging. Two ladders must be climbed. Prehistoric rock markings may be seen at the end of the trail near Peekaboo camp.

Over 50 miles of challenging backcountry roads access campsites, trailheads, and park attractions. All vehicles and bikes must remain on designated roads. All of these roads require high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicles. Drive carefully: the risk of vehicle damage is great and towing expenses typically exceed \$1,000.

Elephant Hill

One of the most technical four-wheel-drive roads in Utah, Elephant Hill presents drivers with steep grades, loose rock, stair-step drops, tight turns and backing. Over the hill, equally challenging roads lead to various campsites and trailheads, and BLM land to the south. Challenging mountain biking.

Colorado Overlook

Moderate road, good for mountain bikes. Visitor may avoid large rocks and stair-step drops in the last 1.5 miles by parking on the road (leave room for others) and walking to the overlook. Outstanding views of the Colorado River Canyon. Unprotected overlook; use caution. No vehicle camping.

Horse Canyon / Peekaboo

Permit required for day and overnight use. Roads travel along canyon bottoms where deep sand, water, and quicksand are common. Too sandy for mountain bikes. At Peekaboo, vehicle campsites are available and prehistoric rock markings may be seen. Horse Canyon road leads to several arches and Tower Ruin.

Lavender Canyon

Permit required for day use. Road follows a canyon bottom where deep sand, water, and quicksand are common. Too sandy for mountain bikes. There are two major creek crossings with steep banks. Arches and ancestral Puebloan granaries may be viewed from the road. No vehicle camping in the park.



Protect Your Park

- Pets are not allowed on hiking trails or on four-wheel-drive roads, even in a vehicle.
- Do not enter, alter, damage or deface archeological sites. Do not collect artifacts.
- Vehicles and bikes must stay on roads.
- ATVs and OHVs are not permitted.
- Protect biological soil crust by staying on trails and roads.
- Permits are required for all overnight backcountry trips.



Protect Yourself

- Drink at least one gallon of water each day.
- Always carry a topo map, adequate clothing, and a flashlight.
- Remain in one place if you become lost or separated from a group.
- Never cross a canyon that is flooding.
- During lightning storms, avoid lone trees, cliff edges and high ridges. Return to your vehicle if possible.
- Be careful near cliff edges, especially when rock surfaces are wet or icy.