

Moab Area Hiking Trails



**Moab Area Travel Council
Internet Brochure Series**
Available from:
discovermoab.com

INTRODUCTION

There are many who consider the best method of exploring the Moab/Green River area to be on foot. The region is filled with opportunities for hiking ranging from brief nature walks to full-scale backpacking expeditions in solitary backcountry.

The day-hikes described on this page are all located within a one-half hour drive of Moab. The closest trailhead to town is about 2 miles from downtown, while the farthest away is 23 miles. All of the trails are suitable for half-day outings. The Hidden Valley and Moab Rim Trails can be combined for a longer one-way hike. Hiking times described represent the number of hours needed to complete a leisurely round trip hike.

Essential Equipment Checklist:

- Drinking water, at least 1 quart per person (adequate for the short, part-day hikes described on this page)
- Food
- Tennis or running shoes with rubbery soles (adequate for short slickrock and stream hikes)
- Hiking shorts, T-shirt, and wind shirt
- Sun hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Route map or trail guide

- First-aid kit
- Insect repellent
- Day pack

Cool season hikes add:

- Long pants
- Sweater and gloves
- Earband
- Coat and/or gear

CORONA ARCH TRAIL

Highlights: Corona Arch (140 by 105 foot opening) and adjacent Bow Tie Arch; also views of the Colorado River and a large slickrock canyon.

Length: 1.5 miles to Corona Arch; allow 2 hours round trip.

Trailhead: On Utah Scenic Byway 279, 10 miles west of the Utah 279/U.S. 191 junction.

From the parking lot on the north side of the highway follow the trail up to the visitor register box near the railroad; please register. Cross the railroad track and follow an old road bed up through a gap in the rim. From the gap, follow the cairns up the wash for about 100 yards where the trail swings to the left.

Follow the trail and cairns over a low sandy pass and then down towards the base of a large cliffs. Continue along the base of the cliff to the first safety cable and around to the second cable where steps have been cut into the slickrock. Corona Arch is visible from this point. From the top of the second cable climb up over a short ledge and follow the cairns up to the top of the large bench. From this point, it is an easy walk along the broad slickrock bench to the base of Corona Arch.

FISHER TOWERS TRAIL

Highlights: Close up views of the Fisher Towers and Onion Creek area. Distant views include the Colorado River, Castle Valley, Fisher Mesa, and the Book Cliffs.

Length: 2.2 miles one-way to ridge at trail's end; allow 4 hours round trip.

Trailhead: Off Utah Scenic Byway 128. At 21 miles east of the Utah 128/US 191 junction, turn right and go 2.2 miles on an improved dirt road to a parking lot.

From the parking lot (please sign in at register box), the trail goes down a short set of steps and then runs to the left out onto a small slickrock-covered ridge. Follow the ridge away from the main cliffs until just after it narrows and then go left down into the ravine through a small cut on the left side of the ridge. From the bottom of the ravine the trail, heads steeply up and then begins to wind directly beneath the Fisher Towers. After swinging around the largest tower, The Titan, the trail ascends and ends on a ridge with a panoramic view.

The Fisher Towers are composed of Moenkopi and Cutler sandstones, and have eroded into many fantastical shapes. Climbers occasionally scale these mudstone towers (be cautious of hiking directly below a climber!).

Note: This trail has a western exposure and can be exceptionally hot on summer afternoons. Mountain bikes are not allowed on this trail.

HIDDEN VALLEY TRAIL

Highlights: Good views of the Moab Valley and Behind the Rocks. Trail connects with the southern end of the Moab Rim four-wheel drive trail.

Length: 2 miles to pass at north end of Hidden Valley; allow 3 hours round trip.

Trail	Max Elevation	Elevation Gain	Length (one-way)
Portal Overlook	4,940	980	2.0 Miles
Corona Arch	4,400	440	1.5 Miles
Fisher Towers Trail	5,300	670	2.2 Miles
Negro Bill Canyon	4,300	330	2.0 Miles
Moab Rim	4,900	940	3.0 Miles
Hidden Valley	5,270	680	2.0 Miles
Hunter Canyon	4,320	240	2.0 Miles

Trailhead: Drive 3 miles south from Moab on U.S. 191 and turn right onto Angel Rock Road. After two blocks, turn right onto Rimrock Road and drive to parking area.

From the parking area, follow the trail up to the base of the Moab Rim and then ascend a series of steep switchbacks. At the top of the switchbacks, the trail heads north and enters Hidden Valley - a broad shelf between the top of the Moab Rim and Spanish Valley. Follow the trail to a low rise that separates the two halves of Hidden Valley and continue along through the northern section to a point where the trail swings to the left and goes over a low pass. At the pass, the hiker will be rewarded with a view of the large sandstone fins of the Behind the Rocks area. The trail continues down the west side of the pass for about 1/3 mile where it meets the Moab Rim four-wheel-drive trail. The hike may be extended to the Colorado River by following the Moab Rim four-wheel-drive trail to its starting point.

NOTE: During the late afternoon, in the summer, this trail is largely in the shade of higher cliffs.

MOAB RIM TRAIL

Good views of the Colorado River, the Moab Valley, and the sandstone fins of the Behind the Rocks area.

Length: 3 miles to connection with Hidden Valley Trail.

Trailhead: On Kane Creek Boulevard, 2.6 miles northwest of its intersection with U.S. Highway 191 in Moab (.1 mile beyond the first cattle-guard).

From the parking area, follow the 4-wheel-drive vehicle route up the slickrock ramps of Kayenta sandstone. After about 1.4 miles, the route reaches a viewpoint of the Moab Valley. Follow the vehicle route south and then down through a slickrock area located between two large domes of Navajo sandstone. At the base of the slickrock area, the route continues along a wash bottom and then up a large sand hill (several routes up). From the top of the

sand hill, the route branches twice to the left. The first spur on the left leads to a viewpoint high above Spanish Valley. The second spur route ends after 200 yards at another view point. Ahead to the south, the view is dominated by a long ridge of massive sandstone fins. From the second spur, the main route drops down into a wash and then climbs in an easterly direction to its terminus just below the pass to Hidden Valley.

NEGRO BILL CANYON

Perennial clear stream in scenic canyon and Morning Glory Natural Bridge, which is 243 feet long and the sixth-longest natural rock span in the United States.

Length: 2 miles to Morning Glory Bridge; allow 4 hours round trip.

Trailhead: On Utah Scenic Byway 128, three miles east of junction with U.S. 191.

From the parking area next to Utah 128, follow the trail that starts on the left side of the stream. Keep going upstream for about 1.5 miles. Morning Glory Natural Bridge is located at the end of the second side canyon on the right. Follow the trail to where it crosses the stream at the mouth of the side canyon. Cross the stream, then follow the trail up a steep slope into the side canyon. Morning Glory Bridge is located at the end of the trail about 0.5 miles up the canyon from the stream. Do not touch the poison ivy that grows below the pool under the bridge! Poison ivy plants have shiny leaves with serrated edges in dusters of three.

PORTAL OVERLOOK TRAIL

Panoramic views of the Moab Valley, the La Sal Mountains, the Colorado River, and the south portal.

Length: 2.0 miles to Portal Overlook; allow 3 hours round trip

Trailhead: At JayCee Park Recreation Site on Utah Scenic Byway 279, 4.2 miles west of the Utah 279/U.S. 191 junction.

From JayCee Park, follow the hiking trail up the Colorado towards the river "portal". From the trailside visitor register box, the trail begins its climb to the viewpoint. After several switchbacks, the trail follows a cairned route up "ramps" of Kayenta sandstone to the overlook. Be cautious around the overlook as there are no safety fences. This trail is frequently used by mountain bikers riding down from the mesa top.

Note: During late afternoons in the summer, this trail is largely in the shade of higher cliffs.

HUNTER CANYON

Highlights: Free-flowing stream during spring months with cottonwood trees and pools. A large arch is located high on the right-hand side of the canyon about a half mile from the trailhead.

Length: 2 miles one-way; allow 4 hours round trip.

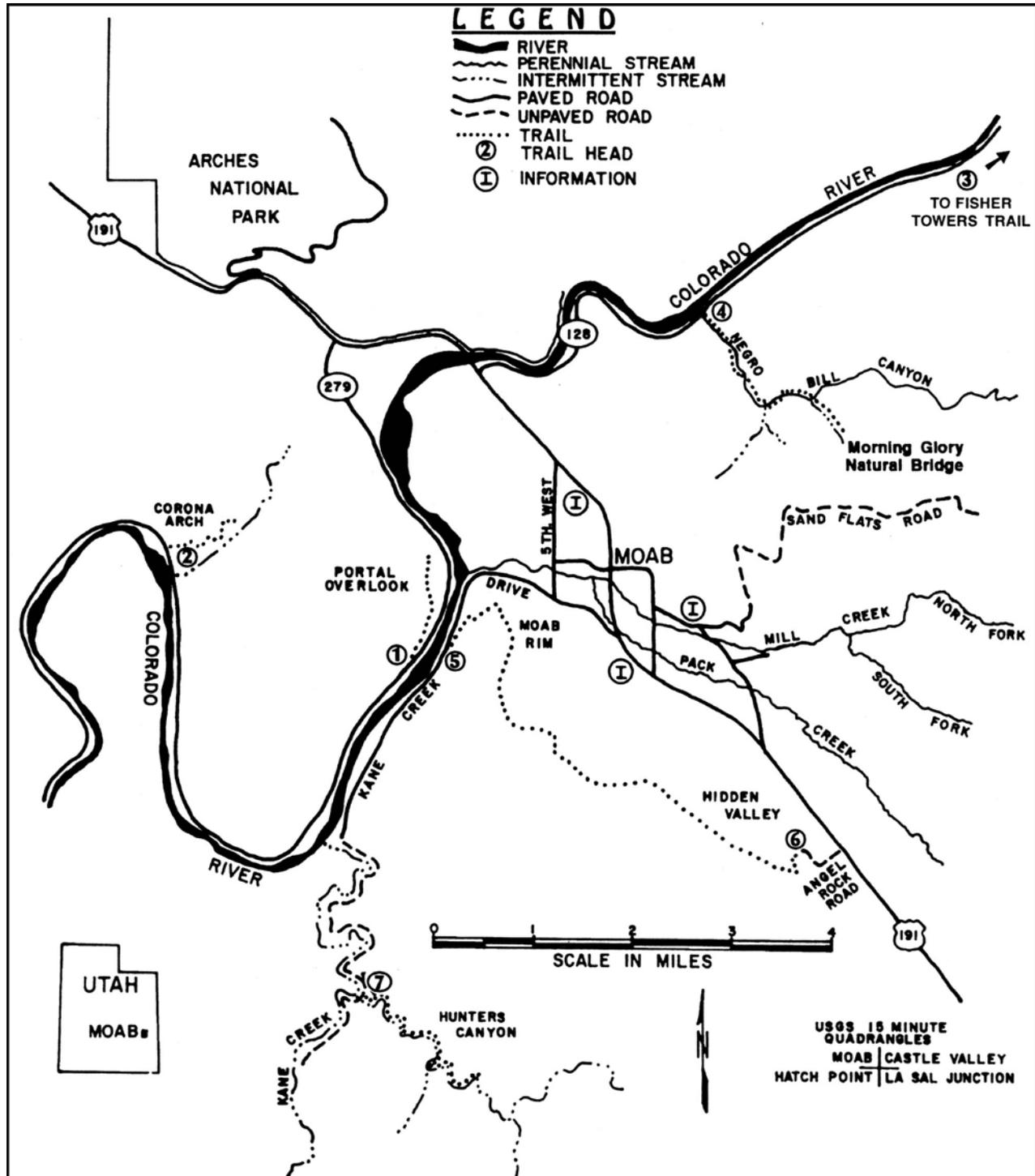
Trailhead: On Kane Creek Canyon Road 7.5 miles west of its intersection with U.S. 191 (Canyon is on the left, one mile beyond the switchbacks).

From the parking area at the mouth of the canyon, follow the hiker-established path about two miles up the canyon until the route gets blocked by brush.

Moab Information Center
Main & Center St, Moab

Moab Visitor Information
(800) 635-6622
(435) 259-8825

discovermoab.com



Canyon Country Minimum Impact Practices

1. Tread Lightly when traveling and leave no trace of your camping. Drive and ride only on roads and trails where such travel is allowed; hike only on established trails, on rock, or in washes. Camp at designated sites or, where allowed, at previously used sites. Avoid placing tents on top of vegetation and use a camp stove instead of making a campfire. Unless signs indicate otherwise, leave gates open or closed as you find them.
2. Help keep Canyon Country clean. Pack out your trash and recycle it, clean up after less thoughtful visitors, and dispose of human waste properly.
3. Protect and conserve scarce desert water sources. Camp at least 300 feet from isolated water sources to allow for wildlife access. Where possible, carry your own drinking water. Leave potholes undisturbed and wash well away from pools and springs.
4. Allow space for wildlife. When encountering wildlife, maintain your distance and remain quiet. Teach children not to chase or pickup animals. Keep pets under control.
5. Leave historic sites, Native American rock art, ruins and artifacts untouched for the future. Admire rock art from a distance and never touch it. Stay out of ruins, leave artifacts in place, and report violations.