Park News

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arches Visitor Guide

The official newspaper
of Arches National Park

2011, No. 1

One Million Visitors a Year… and Counting

BY KAREN HENKER

LITTLE FANFARE MARKED THE OCCASION OF Arches' millionth visitor of 2010. The entrance booth staff cheered and gave the lucky woman a souvenir book and t-shirt, and then she drove into the park. Minus the free stuff, that's about the same way the 9th and 999th visitors began their visits, as well as number 1,000,001. The timeless desert landscapes and smiles from park staff haven't changed much over the years of increasing visitation. Neither have the size of the parking lots.

Overflow parking at Devils Garden

Thanks to the wide circulation of iconic images like Delicate Arch, Arches now attracts visitors from all over the world. Despite this diversity, many visitors have the same three or four stops on their "must do" itineraries, such as Balanced Rock, Devils Garden, Delicate Arch and The Windows. Parking lots at these popular destinations frequently overflow with cars. It's not uncommon for hundreds of people to crowd around Delicate Arch to watch sunset.

This busy season isn't just a summer phenomenon, either. Thanks to a warm, dry climate, the "high season" at Arches lasts for an astounding eight months (March through October). The following holidays are especially busy: Easter week (usually in April), Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Labor Day (first Monday in September), and Utah Education Association break (four days in October).

Arches is currently evaluating the use of a limited, voluntary shuttle system to help reduce congestion during the busy season. You can read more about this proposal on the park website. In the meantime, there are ways every visitor can help.

YOUR CHOICES MATTER

As numbers continue to rise, each visitor's actions are increasingly influential. Some steps you can take to reduce the crowding and help make the park more enjoyable for everyone are:

- Relax and enjoy your visit. If you visit during high season, accept that the park will be busy and allow yourself extra time to reach your destinations. There is plenty of scenery for all to share and the rocks aren't going anywhere – at least, not on a human time-scale.
- Choose to visit the park outside of the holidays listed above. Winter is a great time to visit, when light snowfalls accent the red-rock vistas.
- Start early. Sunrise is always less busy than sunset. Try entering the park before 8 a.m. – though you may still encounter groups of intrepid photographers at some spots. If you do visit during peak hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), expect a line of cars at the entrance booth and increased traffic throughout the park.
- Consider carpooling. If you are traveling in a group with more than one vehicle, leave one back at the hotel or at the visitor center parking lot.
- Oversize parking is very limited, so drivers of large RVs or vehicles pulling trailers are encouraged to leave these rigs outside the park.
- Let someone else take the wheel. Local taxi and van services can shuttle you to and from the park. A list of companies is available at *www.discovermoab.com*.

TOURING BY BIKE

Riding a bike might sound like a great way to reduce road congestion; however, there is no dedicated bike lane along the scenic drive. High traffic volume, including large RVs, makes for

story continues on page 3…

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arches National Park
PO Box 907
Moab, UT 84532

Hours of Operation

Arches is open every day of the year, 24 hours a day. The *visitor center* is open daily (except December 25th) during the following hours:

Mid-March through October
7:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

November through mid-March
8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

www.facebook.com/ArchesNationalPark

www.twitter.com/ArchesNPS

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arches Visitor Guide

Published By
Canyonlands Natural History Association, a not-for-profit organization that assists the National Park Service in its educational, interpretive and scientific programs. For more information, see the back page.

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Moab, UT 84532

Phone
(435) 719-2299 (voice)

Email
archinfo@nps.gov

Websites
www.nps.gov/arch
www.facebook.com/ArchesNationalPark
www.twitter.com/ArchesNPS

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

RANGER-GUIDED ACTIVITIES

Evening Programs are offered most nights per week, spring through fall, at the Devils Garden Campground Amphitheater. Check at the visitor center for time and topic.

Guided Walks are offered most days per week, spring through fall, at various locations in the park. Routes follow easy or moderate trails up to 1 mile in length. Check at the visitor center for times and locations.

Fiery Furnace Walks are offered daily, spring through fall. These three hour hikes wind through terrain that requires scrambling up and through narrow cracks and along narrow ledges above drop-offs. Children under five are not permitted. Reservations may be made at *www.recreation.gov* and must be made more than four days before the date of the hike. Walks are limited to 25 people and often fill in advance. Reservation holders should check in at the visitor center at least one hour before their hike.

Park staff are available during visitor center hours or at locations throughout the park to provide orientation information and assistance.

FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE ROUTES

Arches has a limited number of four-wheel drive roads, including the Willow Springs Road that goes west from Balanced Rock to Highway 191. Please check at the visitor center for current road conditions. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has many popular 4WD routes offering a wide-range of difficulty.

General Information

CAMPING

Devils Garden Campground has 50 sites and is located 18 miles from the park entrance. The campground fills daily between March and October. Tables and fire rings are provided in each site. Water and flush toilets are available in several locations.

Camping fees are $20 per site per night. Wood gathering and ground fires are prohibited. Wood may be purchased from campground hosts March through October. Two group tent sites are available for eleven people or more: Juniper Basin (up to 55 people) and Canyon Wren (up to 35 people). The group camping fee is $3 per person per night, with a $33 per night minimum. No recreational vehicles or trailers are permitted in group sites.

RESERVATIONS

All campsites at Devils Garden may be reserved between March 1st and October 31st. Reservations must be made at least four days and no more than 180 days in advance.

To make a reservation online, visit *www.recreation.gov*. To make a reservation by phone, call (877)444-6777 (Toll Free), (877)833-6777 (TDD) or (518)885-3639 (International).

ACCESSIBILITY

Not all park facilities meet mandated standards, but we're working toward increased accessibility. Visitors with mobility impairments can access:

Visitor Center
Ramp and reserved parking.

Restrooms
Throughout the park including the visitor center and Devils Garden.

Campsite
Devils Garden site #4H.

Park Avenue Viewpoint
Paved path with slight slope near end.

Delicate Arch Viewpoint
Hard surface, level.

Balanced Rock Viewpoint
Paved surface, level.

Wolfe Ranch Cabin/Rock Art Panel
Hard surface, level.

BACKPACKING

Arches is a relatively small park, with very few areas far enough from roads to qualify as "backcountry." Outside the developed visitor area there are no designated trails, campsites, or reliable water sources. If you'd like to backpack, consider nearby places like Canyonlands National Park that offer more extensive backcountry opportunities. To backpack at Arches, you must obtain a backcountry permit at the visitor center.

Biking along the scenic drive

SHARE THE ROAD

Park roads are narrow and winding. Do not stop in the roadway—save sightseeing for designated viewpoints. Watch for pedestrians and bicycles. Ensure a minimum distance of three feet (one meter) when passing.

Bikes are permitted only on roads, not on hiking trails or off-road. Ride single file, and be attentive to passing cars and recreational vehicles that may not be aware of cyclists. On the paved road, there are no road shoulders or bike lanes. Many dirt roads are sandy, washboarded or gravel. The Willow Springs road offers an enjoyable two to three-hour ride. Most popular biking trails in the Moab area are on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land outside of the park.

CLIMBING & CANYONEERING

Most technical climbing and canyoneering routes require advanced skills. Please plan accordingly and be prepared for self rescue. It is your responsibility to know and follow all current climbing and canyoneering regulations and closures. Climbing of any type is not permitted on certain prominent features and arches. Slacklining/Highlining is also prohibited. All individuals should access routes by using designated trails, slickrock or sandy washes to protect soil crusts. Canyonlands Natural History Association carries several books with route information.

TRAVELING WITH PETS

Activities with pets are limited at Arches. Pets are not allowed on hiking trails, at overlooks or anywhere in the backcountry. Pets may accompany visitors in the developed campground, and may be walked in the park along paved roads. Pets must be leashed at all times when outside a vehicle. For your pets' safety, do not leave them in vehicles when outside temperatures are above 65F as they can die of heat exhaustion. There are three kennels with boarding services in Moab:

Karen's Canine Campground
2781 S. Roberts Rd.
(435) 259-7922

Moab Veterinary Clinic
4575 Spanish Valley Drive
(435) 259-8710

Desert Doggie Daycare
4890 Sunny Acres Lane
(435) 259-4841

Nearby, there are vast public lands that offer great hiking and do allow pets on trails. We recommend you keep your pet on a leash, even on public lands, to avoid uncomfortable encounters with wildlife and prevent resource damage.

EMERGENCY!

Any number of emergencies can occur while you are visiting the park: hiking accidents, medical emergencies or perhaps you have locked your keys in your vehicle. If you have an emergency:

- **Contact a park employee**. Many park rangers are trained emergency medical technicians. Law enforcement rangers can investigate vehicle accidents, handle other police matters, as well as take reports of lost hikers, fires, or other emergencies.
- **Go to the visitor center**: If the building is closed, use the pay phones in front of the building to dial 911 (no coin is needed).
- **Dial 911 on your cellular phone**: You will reach the Grand County Sheriff's Office, who will contact a ranger in the park.

Sunset at Delicate Arch.

Where does my money go?

IN 2004, CONGRESS PASSED THE FEDERAL LANDS Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), which replaced the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. Authorized through December 2014, the law allows retention of 80% of fees collected at a site to remain there for repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access and health and safety. It also includes interpretation, visitor information, visitor service, visitor needs assessments, and signs; habitat restoration directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation, wildlife observation or photography; and law enforcement related to public use and recreation.

ENTRANCE FEES

The entrance fees at Arches National Park are $10 per vehicle for a seven-day pass, and $5 for bicyclists, those walking, or on motorcycles. The following special passes are now available:

Interagency Annual Pass ($80)
Previously the Golden Eagle/National Park Pass
Good for twelve months; available to anyone. Free entrance to Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges and National Park Service areas that charge entrance fees. Covers use of Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Forest Service sites that charge Standard Entrance Fees.

Interagency Senior Pass ($10)
Previously the Golden Age Pass
Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens sixty-two years of age and older; entrance to all federal fee areas plus 50 percent discount on some camping, activity fees, and other special user fees. Previously-issued Golden Age Passes will be honored forever by all agencies.

Interagency Access Pass (Free)
Previously the Golden Access Pass
Lifetime pass for permanently disabled U.S. citizens; entrance to all federal fee areas plus 50 percent discount on some camping, activity fees, and other special user fees. Previously-issued Golden Access Passes will be honored forever by all agencies.

Pass for local areas: Arches, Canyonlands, Hovenweep and Natural Bridges ($25)
Good for twelve months; available to anyone; entrance to these four areas only.

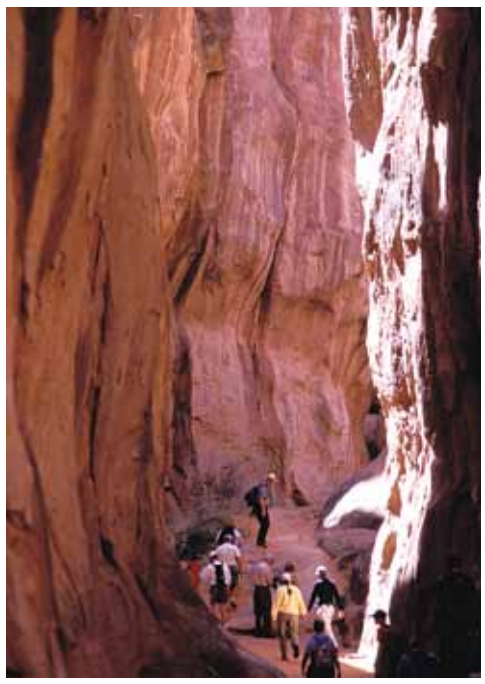
This new revenue funded the following improvements at Arches:

- Rehabilitating park trails
- Upgrading roadside restrooms
- Rehabilitating the Devils Garden picnic area
- Enhancing trailheads and scenic pullouts

ACTIVITY FEES

Fees charged for the popular ranger-guided Fiery Furnace walks will go directly to supporting the program. The cost is $10 for adults; $5 for children five to twelve years old and Senior Pass/Golden Age card holders.

Trails in the Windows Section (above left) and the Devils Garden Picnic Area (above right) are just two locations which have received needed attention in recent years.



The fee visitors pay for Fiery Furnace Walks directly supports this program.

Hey Kids — This One's For You!

Do you want to explore Arches and help protect the park? Then become a Junior Ranger! Becoming a Junior Ranger is a serious and important task, but it's lots of fun too. Ask at the visitor center how you can get involved. Options include completing a booklet or checking-out a Red Rock Explorer Pack. It's that simple! You'll earn a badge and certificate, and join the ranks of the many Junior Rangers who help protect this special place.

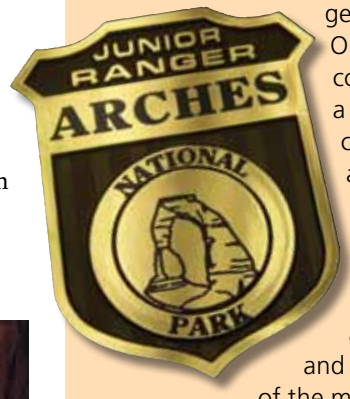


Photo Suggestions

Take home great photos of your Arches experience. Below are some tips for where you might capture that magic moment at both sunrise and sunset.

Early Morning	Late Afternoon
Moab Fault	Park Avenue
The Three Gossips	Courthouse Towers
Sheep Rock	Petrified Dunes
The Great Wall	Balanced Rock
Turret Arch	The Garden of Eden
The Spectacles	The Windows
Double Arch	Delicate Arch
Cache Valley	Fiery Furnace
Wolfe Ranch	Skyline Arch
Landscape Arch	Fins in Devils Garden
Double O Arch	Tower Arch
Delicate Arch Viewpoint	

Courthouse Towers

One Million Visitors, continued...

a challenging ride. The road shoulder is very narrow and often disappears without warning. Many drivers are looking for photo opportunities – not bicycles. Cyclists in the park should be experienced riders and exercise great caution.

The steepest and narrowest section of roadway is the set of switchbacks above the visitor center. Riders who want to avoid this climb are encouraged to park and ride from an overlook turnout, thus leaving the parking spaces at popular trailheads for visitors to those destinations. Or, consider a relaxed ride along the bike path connecting the gateway community of Moab with the entrance to Arches, and which continues up Highway 191 to Highway 313 toward Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park.

A NOTE ABOUT PARKING

Parking lots at Arches are kept small to better preserve the landscapes visitors come to see. This means parking is limited at all destinations. Acceptable parking places include individually marked stalls and parking "lanes" along fences, or existing wide spots along the roads. Never park on vegetation or in a manner that blocks traffic, and please don't hold up the flow of cars by waiting for a parking spot. If there isn't room at your chosen destination, consider moving to another spot and coming back later.

Choose your parking spot wisely: illegally parked cars may be cited.

Most people embark on vacations hoping to escape the stresses of daily life, but traveling itself can be a very stressful experience. Visitors to Arches during the busy season might encounter jostling crowds, intense heat, and unexpected delays – all of which can make tempers flare. Thankfully, these same visitors will also encounter breath-taking scenery, warm and welcoming park staff, and opportunities to help preserve these timeless landscapes for the enjoyment of others for years to come.

Be Safe

Each year, park rangers respond to dozens of search or rescue incidents in the park, many of which involve heat exhaustion and/or dehydration or improper footwear. Always carry (and drink) water! Even the shortest stroll will make you thirsty on a 100°F (38°C) day. One gallon (4 liters) per person per day is recommended for longer hikes. Water is available **only** at the visitor center and at Devils Garden.

- Wear sturdy shoes with enough tread to give you good traction. Do not hike in smooth-soled shoes or boots. Some trails cover uneven terrain and follow rock ledges.
- Protect your skin with a hat, long-sleeved shirt, and sunscreen. There is little shade in the desert. The sun is intense year round and can easily burn your skin, especially in the summer.
- Slickrock invites adventure. When you climb or scramble, be sure you can retrace your steps, and remember that it is often easier to go up than down.
- Sudden thunderstorms with deadly lightning occur here. The distance of lightning can be calculated by counting the time interval between a lightning flash and the subsequent thunderclap. Sound travels about a mile in five seconds, so if the interval is fifteen seconds (or three miles) or less, you should seek shelter immediately. One of the safest places to be during a thunderstorm is in your vehicle with the windows completely closed. If you are unable to reach your vehicle, go to a low-lying area. Stay away from open areas, high spots or tall objects (such as Delicate Arch), and solitary trees. If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end (signs that a charge is building up), crouch down and place both feet together firmly on the ground.

Hiking Etiquette

- Stay on established trails and/or solid rock: follow the rock cairns. Help protect the fragile biological soil crust and other vegetation in our desert environment.
- Leave no trace: move like a shadow, and please carry out garbage, even if it isn't yours.
- Pets and bicycles are **not** permitted on hiking trails.

Hiking Trails

Balanced Rock

EASY TRAILS

Balanced Rock ♿
Start: Balanced Rock parking area
Length: 0.3 mile (0.5 km) round trip
Time: 15 to 30 minutes
A loop trail at the base of a fragile, picturesque rock formation.

The Windows
Start: Windows parking area
Length: 1 mile (1.6 km) round trip
Time: 30 to 60 minutes
A gentle climb up a gravel loop trail leads to three massive arches (North and South Windows and Turret Arch). An alternate return, slightly longer, is by way of the primitive loop around the back of the two Windows. The primitive loop trail starts at the South Window viewpoint.

Double Arch
Start: Double Arch parking area
Length: 0.5 mile (0.8 km) round trip
Time: 15 to 30 minutes
A relatively flat, sandy trail leads to the base of two giant arch spans which are joined at one end.

Delicate Arch Viewpoint ♿
Start: Delicate Arch Viewpoint Trailhead
Length: 100 yards (91 meters) round trip
Time: 10 to 15 minutes
In addition to the short accessible trail, another (moderately strenuous) hiking trail climbs 0.5 mile (0.8 km) toward Delicate Arch and ends at the rim of a steep canyon that separates the viewpoint from the arch. This is not the popular trail to Delicate Arch, which starts at the Wolfe Ranch parking area.

Sand Dune Arch
Start: Sand Dune Arch parking area
Length: 0.3 mile (0.5 km) round trip
Time: 15 to 30 minutes
Trail leads through deep sand to a secluded arch among sandstone fins. **Do not climb or jump off the arch.**

Broken Arch
Start: Sand Dune Arch parking area or Devils Garden campground across from campsite #40
Length: 1.3 miles (2.1 km) round trip; 2 miles (3.2 km) including the loop
Time: 30 to 60 minutes
From the Sand Dune Arch parking area, the trail crosses a large meadow to the arch and continues to the campground. Trail leads through fins with sand dunes and slickrock.

Skyline Arch
Start: Skyline Arch parking area
Length: 0.4 mile (0.6 km) round trip
Time: 10 to 20 minutes
A short hike on a flat, well-defined trail. On a cold November night in 1940, a large chunk fell out of the arch, instantly doubling the size of its opening.

Landscape Arch
Start: Devils Garden trailhead
Length: 1.6 miles (2.6 km) round trip
Time: 30 to 60 minutes
A relatively flat, gravel-surfaced trail (usually heavily populated with hikers) leads to a spectacular ribbon of rock, whose span is more than a football field in length. Short side trips to Tunnel and Pine Tree Arches. Trail guide available at trailhead.

Courthouse Wash Rock Art Panel
Starting Point: Lower Courthouse Wash parking area (Highway 191, on the right 0.5 miles north of the Colorado River)
Length: 1 mile (1.6 km) round trip
Time: 30 to 45 minutes
A short walk south across the Courthouse Wash bridge and a brief climb leads to a prehistoric rock art panel (at the base of the cliffs, facing west).

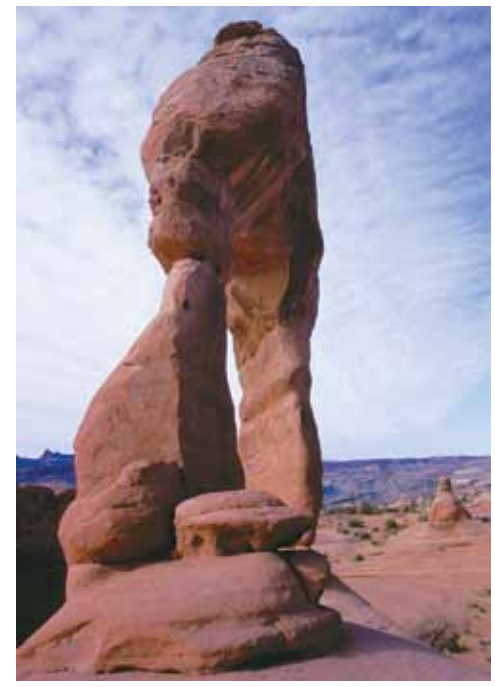
MODERATE TRAILS

Park Avenue
Start: Park Avenue parking area
End: Courthouse Towers parking area
Length: 1 mile (1.6 km) one way
Time: 30 to 60 minutes
Elevation change: 320 feet (98 meters)
From Park Avenue parking area, the trail descends steeply into a spectacular canyon and continues down the wash to Courthouse Towers. If you have a shuttle driver, you can begin at one point and be picked up at the other. For round-trip hiking, retrace your steps along the trail rather than walk along the park road.

Rock cairn

STRENUOUS TRAILS

Tower Arch
Start: Klondike Bluffs parking area, via the Salt Valley road
Length: 3.4 miles (5.5 km) round trip
Time: 2 to 3 hours
The trail climbs a steep, short rock wall, cuts across a valley and then meanders through sandstone fins and sand dunes. An alternate, shorter trail (0.3 mile [0.5 km] one way), begins at the end of the four-wheel-drive road on the west side of Tower Arch. This unpaved road washes out quickly in rainstorms; check road conditions before heading out.



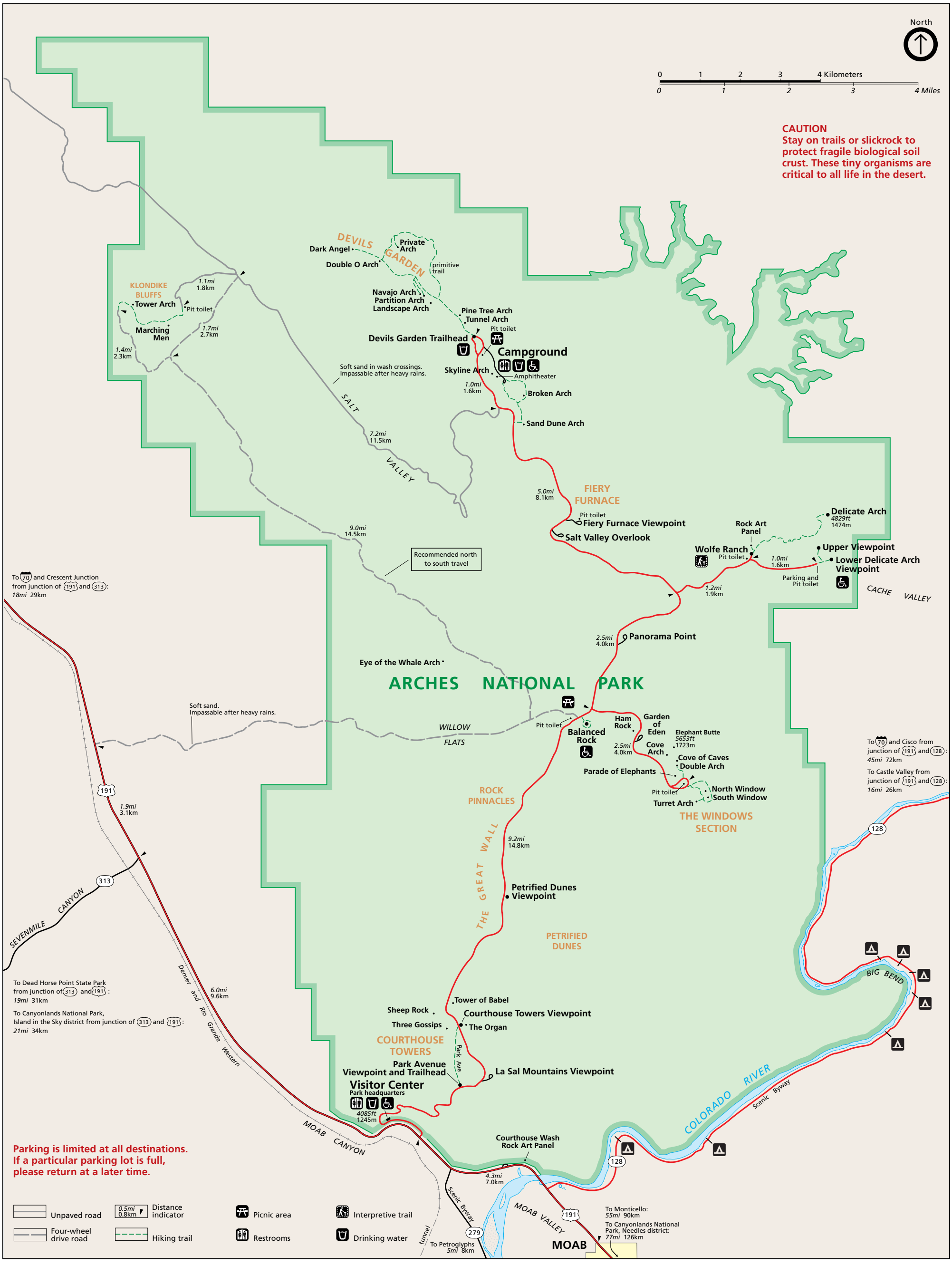
Delicate Arch

Delicate Arch
Start: Wolfe Ranch parking area
Length: 3 miles (4.8 km) round trip
Time: 2 to 3 hours
Elevation change: 480 feet (146 m)
Take at least 2 quarts (2 liters) of water per person. Open slickrock with some exposure to heights and no shade. The first half-mile is a well-defined trail. Upon reaching the slickrock, follow the rock cairns. The trail climbs steadily and levels out toward the top of this rock face. Just before you get to Delicate Arch, the trail traverses a rock ledge for about 200 yards (183 m).

Double O Arch
Start: Devils Garden Trailhead
Length: 4.2 miles (6.8 km) round trip
Time: 2 to 3 hours
Beyond Landscape Arch, the trail becomes more challenging as it climbs over sandstone slabs; footing is rocky; there are narrow ledges with exposure to heights. Spur trails lead to Partition and Navajo Arches. Dark Angel is one-half mile (0.8 km) farther. Trail guide available at trailhead.

Devils Garden (includes primitive loop)
Start: Devils Garden Trailhead
Length: 7.2 miles (11.6 km) round trip, including all spur trails to points of interest
Time: 3 to 5 hours
Longest of the maintained trails in the park, Devils Garden Trail leads to eight awe-inspiring arches. Expect narrow ledges with rocky surface hiking and scrambling on slickrock. ***Not recommended when rock is wet or snowy***. Trail guide available at trailhead.

Fiery Furnace (Fee Area)
The Fiery Furnace is a mazelike labyrinth of narrow sandstone canyons. **To enter the Fiery Furnace, visitors must accompany a ranger-guided hike (see page 2) or obtain a hiking permit at the visitor center.** There is no trail, so visitors are encouraged to accompany a ranger — both for their own safety and to reduce impacts on the area.


North
0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers
0 1 2 3 4 Miles
CAUTION
Stay on trails or slickrock to protect fragile biological soil crust. These tiny organisms are critical to all life in the desert.
DEVILS GARDEN
Dark Angel
Private Arch
Double O Arch
primitive trail
Navajo Arch
Partition Arch
Landscape Arch
Pine Tree Arch
Tunnel Arch
Pit toilet
Devils Garden Trailhead
Campground
Skyline Arch
Amphitheater
1.0mi 1.6km
Broken Arch
Sand Dune Arch
KLONDIKE BLUFFS
Tower Arch
Pit toilet
Marching Men
1.1mi 1.8km
1.7mi 2.7km
1.4mi 2.3km
Soft sand in wash crossings. Impassable after heavy rains.
SALT VALLEY
7.2mi 11.5km
5.0mi 8.1km
FIERY FURNACE
Pit toilet
Fiery Furnace Viewpoint
Salt Valley Overlook
9.0mi 14.5km
Recommended north to south travel
Rock Art Panel
Delicate Arch
4829ft 1474m
Wolfe Ranch
Pit toilet
1.0mi 1.6km
Upper Viewpoint
Lower Delicate Arch Viewpoint
Parking and Pit toilet
1.2mi 1.9km
CACHE VALLEY
To 70 and Crescent Junction from junction of 191 and 313: 18mi 29km
2.5mi 4.0km
Panorama Point
Eye of the Whale Arch
ARCHES NATIONAL PARK
Soft sand. Impassable after heavy rains.
WILLOW FLATS
Pit toilet
Balanced Rock
Ham Rock
Garden of Eden
Elephant Butte 5653ft 1723m
2.5mi 4.0km
Cove Arch
Cove of Caves
Double Arch
Parade of Elephants
Pit toilet
North Window
South Window
Turret Arch
THE WINDOWS SECTION
To 70 and Cisco from junction of 191 and 128: 45mi 72km
To Castle Valley from junction of 191 and 128: 16mi 26km
128
191
1.9mi 3.1km
ROCK PINNACLES
THE GREAT WALL
9.2mi 14.8km
313
Petrified Dunes Viewpoint
PETRIFIED DUNES
SEVENMILE CANYON
BIG BEND
To Dead Horse Point State Park from junction of 313 and 191: 19mi 31km
To Canyonlands National Park, Island in the Sky district from junction of 313 and 191: 21mi 34km
Denver and Rio Grande Western
6.0mi 9.6km
Tower of Babel
Sheep Rock
Courthouse Towers Viewpoint
Three Gossips
The Organ
COURTHOUSE TOWERS
Park Ave
Park Avenue Viewpoint and Trailhead
La Sal Mountains Viewpoint
Visitor Center
Park headquarters
4085ft 1245m
COLORADO RIVER
Scenic Byway
MOAB CANYON
Courthouse Wash Rock Art Panel
128
4.3mi 7.0km
Scenic Byway
MOAB VALLEY
191
To Monticello: 55mi 90km
To Canyonlands National Park, Needles district: 77mi 126km
tunnel
279
To Petroglyphs 5mi 8km
MOAB
Parking is limited at all destinations. If a particular parking lot is full, please return at a later time.
Unpaved road
Four-wheel drive road
0.5mi 0.8km Distance indicator
Hiking trail
Picnic area
Restrooms
Interpretive trail
Drinking water

Sighting Sheep

Your best chance to catch a glimpse of bighorn sheep in Arches is the first three miles of the park road. Slow down and find a pull off and watch for them. Another option is to travel the southeastern boundary of the park by driving north along Highway 128 from its junction with Highway 191. Take along a pair of binoculars to look for sheep across the river.

Remember that "Looking for sheep is an exercise in patience," according to nature essayist Peter Steinhart, and "it's usually rhymed with disappointment."

Knowing desert bighorn sheep have a safe place here at Arches National Park and efforts are ongoing to help them survive might help satisfy those who wait in vain.

But, give it a try—persevere in bighorn fashion—this may be your lucky day!

Reduce your Impact

Drinking plenty of water keeps you safe in the desert and provides an opportunity to help protect the national parks and the planet. Consider refilling a bottle using the taps provided in the park and local community rather than purchasing a pre-packaged bottle of water.

Reusable water bottles may be purchased at the Canyonlands Natural History Association sales outlet in the visitor center.

Where to Recycle
Aluminum cans and plastic bottles can be recycled throughout the park, including the visitor center and campground. Clear and brown glass, tin cans, plastics, corrugated cardboard and aluminum can be dropped off at the Canyonlands Community Recycling Center on the way to the Slickrock Bike Trail in Moab.

Hope on Hooves

BY MATT SMITH

SHORTLY AFTER ENTERING ARCHES NATIONAL Park, a large yellow sign with the image of a bighorn sheep alerts us that for the "next three miles" we might encounter them crossing the road. Seeing sheep in Arches is a treat that only a few visitors experience each year, however. Desert bighorns (Ovis canadensis nelsoni) historically ranged in large numbers throughout most of the Colorado Plateau. Today, only a few remain. Life for desert bighorns is tough and they face many challenges that have pushed them close to extinction. The sheep in Arches National Park provide hope that their resilience, combined with our help, will keep them here for many generations to come.

A bighorn ram near the Arches Visitor Center

Sheer cliffs, rugged slopes and deep canyons are where bighorns prefer to live, but the rough terrain can work against them, too. Imagine the challenges they face while attempting to outmaneuver a mountain lion or seek a mate. Male sheep, known as rams, commonly travel over 100 miles to find an ewe through an environment where there is very little water, forage, or shelter from predators.

In spite of the harsh conditions, sheep thrived here for thousands of years. Westward expansion in the mid-1800's brought thousands of settlers and new challenges for bighorns. Unregulated hunting, a loss of good habitat, and deadly diseases transmitted by domestic sheep reduced the once abundant herds. Sheep disappeared completely in some areas, including Arches National Park, by the early 1900's. In the mid-1980's, a partnership between the state of Utah and the National Park Service reintroduced 25 sheep to Arches from nearby Canyonlands National Park.

The current Arches herd is only around 50 animals. Management and study of the sheep here in Arches will continue in the hope that the bighorns will endure, prosper among their human neighbors, and once again become a stable part of the Arches ecosystem.

Marks on the Land - Links to the Past

BY DEBORAH EHR

EVERY PERSON WHO PASSES through this land makes a mark, leaves a track, or stakes a claim. These marks create a link to the past and allow modern explorers to imagine how the area's 12,000 years of human history has influenced the present.

Esther and Ferol Stanley, part of John Wesley Wolfe's extended family, at Wolfe's Ranch

Groups of Native Americans have traveled through and lived in this area for over 10,000 years. They left behind flakes of chert, which are remnants from stone tool-making. They inscribed on rock walls, creating pictographs (paintings on the rock) and petroglyphs (carvings in the rock). Early ancestral Puebloans wore sandals with raised patterns that left marks on the ground while later groups painted their ceramic pots with elaborate decorations. All of these marks may have helped to link families with the others that would follow. Their stories and culture live on through their descendents.

In 1765, Juan Maria Antonio de Rivera and his company left their mark by becoming the first Euro-Americans to cross the Colorado River at what later became Moab. The efforts of these Spanish explorers led to the lucrative trade route that later became the "Old Spanish Trail". Nicknamed the longest, crookedest, most ornery pack trail in the history of the United States, this part of Utah was one of the few places to get around impassable canyons. Only sections of the full 1,121 mile trail can be retraced, but part of it is believed to pass through Arches National Park just north of the Visitor Center.

In the 1850's, waves of settlers from the east began adding their mark. Ranchers tamed the harsh landscape to raise cattle and sheep. John Wesley Wolfe was one such homesteader who set down roots in the future park. His family joined him from Ohio in 1906, and they built a new cabin with a wooden floor, complete with fine china ordered from the Sears Catalog.

Later, others arrived seeking mineral riches, especially valuable uranium. While the inhospitable desert took its claim on many of the prospectors, some struck it rich. Roads, mine shafts, and tailings are the marks they left behind. Other miners found different value in the landscape, like Alexander Ringhoffer who helped create Arches National Monument in 1929.

Today, travelers occasionally leave a different kind of mark. Artifacts that tell the stories of the past are disappearing. Rock art and historic signatures are defaced by new marks, like graffiti. Pieces of the past are lost. Fortunately, national parks are places where this priceless history is preserved and protected.

For hundreds of years, humans have left their indelible mark on this area. Now, humans take the stage as preservers. The National Park Service protects these places and shares their stories so that each of us can make a connection to our past. How will your mark shape the future of this landscape?

Make your mark a positive one. National parks protect the irreplaceable evidence of the past.

Be a caretaker:
- Preserve your heritage. Do not enter, alter, or deface historical sites. Leave artifacts undisturbed. (It is illegal to remove them.)

Explore Arches' past:
- See rock art near the Delicate Arch trailhead and lower Courthouse Wash.
- Ask for information about the Old Spanish Trail at the Visitor Center.
- Visit the Wolfe family's cabin near the Delicate Arch trailhead

Nature's Art

BY ALICIA LAFEVER

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK IS A VIBRANT, LIVING museum where works of art are displayed, preserved and protected. Some of the displays you might find include tapestries, mosaics and jewels. As you travel through the museum, see what catches your eye.

Look closely at the towers of rock in the park and you will discover the beautiful "tapestries" that adorn these walls. Like tapestries in museums, nature's tapestries document historical events. Surprisingly, the thread that holds much of the park's tapestry together is iron. The red "thread" visible in the rock layers is due to "rusting" or oxidizing of iron. Whitish to yellowish-tan threads are the result of an accumulation of organic acids dissolving the iron and bleaching the rock. Ribbons of turquoise-colored threads run through the tapestry at Wolfe Ranch. This unique blue-green layer was created when volcanic ash settled into a large alkaline lake - an environment with little oxygen. Time can change the design and the story.

The night sky at Delicate Arch

Look from the walls down to the floor, and enjoy the covering of "mosaic tiles" in the form of biological soil crusts on the museum's foundation. These living crusts are composed of cyanobacteria, lichens, mosses, microfungi, bacteria and green algae. When they are young, crusts can be invisible to the naked eye, but after time and frost heaving have been at work and new organisms join in, they appear dark and bumpy and have an antiqued appearance, reflective of their mature age up to 600 years old.

The "tiles" of this mosaic are attractive when viewed individually, but the real beauty lies in the "big picture" they create. Working together, these biological soil crusts stick to grains of sand and literally hold the ground in place. They also absorb water and increase the nutrients that plants need to survive. Intact biological soil crusts provide a strong foundation for the whole park's ecosystem. This work of art is fragile. Mind the "velvet ropes" and stay on the path.

At night, the overhead lighting is turned off and the vault is opened. The prized jewels are displayed in the sky in the form of planets, stars and the Milky Way. It is a constant struggle to keep these valuables in Arches' gallery because they are so fragile. Each decision the park and the local community makes about outdoor lighting affects their future. It's a big responsibility for each and every one of us to ensure that these jewels remain for all to see.

These are only a few of the awe-inspiring displays in Arches National Park. The park is a perfect gallery to house nature's amazing works of art. Long after your visit to the park, you can know that the treasures you enjoyed are safeguarded - a lasting legacy for future generations.

Preserving Dark Skies

National parks preserve some of the darkest skies in the country. To find the darkest parks and document the widespread affects of light pollution, the National Park Service created the Night Sky Team. This team completes light surveys to identify areas parks can minimize their contribution to the light pollution problem.

In the survey of Arches, and neighboring National Park Service areas like Canyonlands, Natural Bridges and Hovenweep, several light impacts were identified. In 2010, the park began replacing exterior light fixtures and bulbs to reduce energy consumption and preserve the night sky. To discover more about how national parks are protecting the night sky visit: http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/lightscapes/.

What's in a Name?

Arches National Park contains the largest concentration of natural stone arches in the world – more than 2,500 at last count. Yet what is an arch? Is it the same as a bridge? How about a window? If you've asked these questions, you're in good company.

To qualify as an official stone "arch," a hole must have an opening at least three feet (1m) long in any one direction. There is no requirement for width, though; quite a lot of the arches in the park are so skinny you have to place your cheek up against the rock in order to see any light through them.

A natural bridge is formed by running water and spans either a present or former waterway. Very few natural bridges exist at Arches, but Natural Bridges National Monument just two hours south (112 miles) has three tremendous examples of this feature. All of them are visible from their paved scenic road or by hiking trail.

Is a window a special kind of arch? Not really. "Window" is just a descriptive term that is often given to rock openings high on a rock wall or fin. Some arches are called windows if they "frame" a particularly good view of the landscape beyond.

Arch, bridge, window...or hoodoo, spire, tower...these are all descriptive names given to sandstone features visible in the park and elsewhere in the southwest. Whatever you call them, shapes in the rock possess great power to capture the human imagination. What names might your imagination suggest?

A Shining Example

BY MATT SMITH

"In any land what is more glorious than sunlight! Even here in the desert, where it falls fierce and hot as a rain of meteors, it is the one supreme beauty to which all things pay allegiance."

Late 19th century author John C. Van Dyke

VISITORS TYPICALLY DESCRIBE THEIR DEVILS GARDEN CAMPGROUND experiences as "amazing," "tremendous," "spectacular" and "incredible." Fifty campsites are nestled among distinct sandstone formations and desert vegetation—trademarks of Arches National Park. Encounters with wildlife, night skies flooded with stars and quiet campfire gatherings are among the everyday experiences that make the campground such a special place. Not long ago, in order to keep the place powered-up, the droning of diesel generators were a part of the camping experience, too. Consequently, our mission to preserve "unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system" was being affected. What a quandary!

Before 1995, more than $20,000.00 and lots of staff time each year were required to provide power for three campground comfort stations, two camp host residences, the amphitheatre, and a very deep (1,160 feet) water well. The intrusion on tranquility created by the generators was understandably a real concern for park visitors and the NPS, too. Equally disturbing was engine exhaust, a byproduct of generators running 24 hours each day.

In 1995 the NPS, in partnership with the state of Utah, installed a photovoltaic/diesel hybrid electrical generating system for our campground. What's photovoltaic technology? Simply stated, it harvests clean energy from the sun—electricity! Designed to store electricity in batteries, the new power source reduced generator run-time to just four hours each day. Noise was reduced, air quality improved, and the yearly cost of providing power at the campground was slashed by more than half. But that's not the end of the story!

Solar panels cover the roof of a comfort station at the Devils Garden Campground.

Remember the Park Service Mission? It reminds us that as stewards of America's most special places our duties are never ending. We've taken advantage of new technologies to enhance our system, adding a solar powered water pump for that deep well. It's very efficient, and provides visitors with plenty of water.

Currently, 95 percent of the campground electrical needs are captured from the sun, operating costs are minimal, and required maintenance is minor. Soon our generators will be just a novelty—only necessary for emergency use.

Thanks to a productive partnership, wise decisions, effective management and implementation of research and technology, the constant whirring of diesel engines and their exhaust is almost eliminated from the Arches camping experience. So breathe deep and enjoy the serenity!

Time flies! Use it well

HAVE A LIMITED TIME TO EXPLORE ARCHES? HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS to help you make the most of your visit, even if it is brief.

IF YOU LIKE TO HIKE

Time allocations are based on an average hiking speed of two miles per hour, and include time to drive to the trailheads. (Time spent marveling and contemplating the majestic wonders and sights varies greatly and is not included here.) Add time to take in the scenery from roadside pullouts between destinations.

In 2 hours, you can do one of these 4 routes:

- Hike the Windows loop trail and get an up-close view of the North and South Windows and Turret Arch. Then take the short trail between parking areas and hike up to Double Arch. Drive back to Balanced Rock and take the loop trail around its base. Consider its precarious position as you walk beneath it.
- Take the Delicate Arch Trail from Wolfe Ranch up the sloping slickrock to stand under the best known arch in the world. (During hot months, do this hike early or late in the day.)
- Hike between the tall sandstone fins in the Devils Garden to see Landscape Arch, perhaps the world's longest. How long will this thin span resist the forces of gravity?
- Walk to Sand Dune Arch, across the grassy field and onward to Broken Arch. Continue around the loop, through the end of the campground, and return. Enjoy the vista toward the distant Book Cliffs, Tapestry Arch and the sandstone fins.

In half a day, take one of these three hikes:

- Hike the entire Devils Garden Trail, all the way out to the spire called Dark Angel. When you return, take the primitive loop.
- Take the moderately strenuous ranger-guided hike through the the Fiery Furnace. Make a reservation online at least four days in advance (see page 2).
- If you don't mind driving the rough and often "washboard" road to the remote island of rock known as Klondike Bluffs, hike the primitive trail to Tower Arch.

If you have a *whole day* or more, combine the above hikes to fill the time you have.

IF YOU LIKE TO TOUR BY CAR

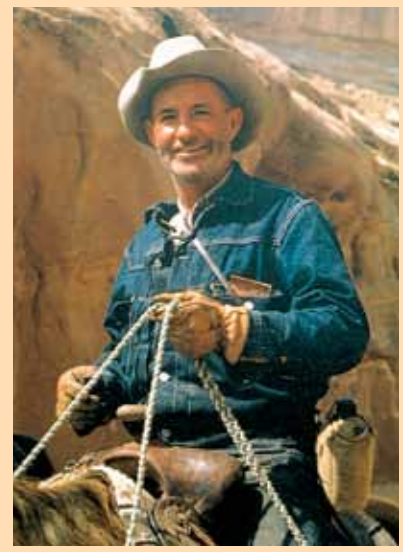
If you have 1½ hours:

- Drive to the Windows Section and see some of the park's largest arches. (Add one-half hour to stroll beneath either North Window or Double Arch.)
- Drive to the Delicate Arch Viewpoint and see the world's most famous arch, a mile distant. Stop at Wolfe Ranch on your way back and imagine what it would have been like to homestead this relatively barren area in the late 1800s.

If you have 3 hours:
Do both drives listed above (or you can do one drive, spending ten minutes at each viewpoint along the way).

If you have 4½ hours:
You can drive all of the paved park roads, spending ten minutes at each viewpoint, and take quick drives to the Windows Section, Wolfe Ranch, and Delicate Arch Viewpoint.

Can't decide?
Well, forget the schedule and stay another day!



Friends of Arches and the Canyonlands Parks

The Friends of Arches and the Canyonlands Parks: Bates Wilson Legacy Fund provides direct support to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and to Natural Bridges and Hovenweep National Monuments in order to enhance existing projects in these spectacular areas to conserve the land and its cultural treasures for present and future generations to enjoy.

This mission honors the legendary work of Superintendent Bates Wilson. Bates came to Arches in 1949, inspiring and leading the effort that resulted in Canyonlands National Park being established in 1964. He is regarded by many as the "Father of Canyonlands."

Bates Wilson firmly believed that:

- The **park visitor** must have a great experience;
- **Exploratory and educational** opportunities must abound;
- **Preservation** is our obligation to future generations;
- **Youth** indeed are the future: Bates enhanced the lives of countless young people as they explored and learned to appreciate the parks with him.

Go to www.bateswilson.org to learn more or mail a check made out to *Friends of Arches and the Canyonlands Parks/CNHA* to:

Friends of Arches and the Canyonlands Parks
c/o CNHA
PO Box 1680
Moab, Utah 84532.

Thanks!

How do I get to Arches National Park?

Arches National Park is located in southeast Utah.

- 5 miles north of Moab
- 110 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado
- 236 miles south of Salt Lake City, Utah
- 360 miles southwest of Denver, Colorado
- 350 miles north of Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim

Commercial airlines serve Grand Junction, Moab and Salt Lake City.

Nationwide bus service is available to Green River, Utah (50 miles from Moab) and Grand Junction.

For additional information on transportation arrangements, contact:

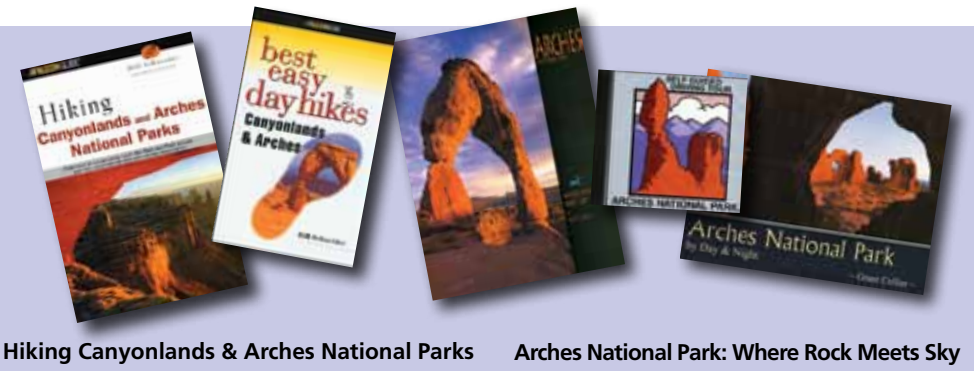
Grand County Travel Council
P.O. Box 550
Moab, UT 84532
(800) 635-MOAB
www.discovermoab.com

Weather Information

	Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit)						**Precipitation** (inches)	
	Average High	Average Low	Max High	Max Low	Days above 100	Days below 32	Average	% of Annual
January	44	22	63	-1	0	28	0.6	7
February	52	28	73	9	0	22	0.7	8
March	64	35	87	13	0	10	0.8	9
April	71	42	93	25	0	3	0.8	9
May	82	51	105	33	1	0	0.8	9
June	93	60	110	43	6	0	0.5	5
July	100	67	116	51	16	0	0.7	8
August	97	66	109	44	12	0	0.8	9
September	88	55	105	36	1	0	0.9	10
October	74	42	106	23	0	2	1.0	13
November	56	30	79	12	0	18	0.6	7
December	45	23	69	5	0	26	0.4	5

CANYONLANDS NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (CNHA) sells hundreds of items about Arches National Park and the rest of Utah's canyon country. Visit their outlets in the Arches Visitor Center and the Moab Information Center (at the corner of Center & Main in Moab). *Your purchase supports Arches National Park!*

CNHA
3015 S. Highway 191
Moab, Utah 84532
(800)840-8978 (toll free)
(453)259-6003
www.cnha.org
www.facebook.com/moabcnha



Hiking Canyonlands & Arches National Parks
A comprehensive guide to the trails and back-country roads in these parks. $16.95

Best Easy Day Hikes: Arches & Canyonlands
A pocket-sized trail guide with descriptions and maps of 21 short hikes. $9.95

Arches National Park: Where Rock Meets Sky
A beautiful book at a great price. $12.95

Arches Self Guided Driving Tour (CD)
Great audio commentary as you drive. $10.00

Arches National Park by Day & Night
Stunning photographs from all seasons. $12.95