

A wide-angle landscape photograph of Canyonlands National Park. The foreground is dominated by several tall, jagged red rock spires and a large, flat-topped mesa. The middle ground shows a vast, layered canyon with various shades of red, orange, and tan. In the background, a range of blue mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear, light blue sky. The overall scene is bright and clear, highlighting the unique geological features of the park.

Island in the Sky

Canyonlands
National Park



The Island in the Sky mesa rests on sheer sandstone cliffs over 1,000 feet above the surrounding terrain. Every overlook offers a different perspective on the park's spectacular landscape. The Island is the easiest district to visit in a short period of time, offering many pullouts with spectacular views along the paved scenic drive. Hiking trails and four-wheel-drive roads access backcountry areas for day or overnight trips.

Directions to Island in the Sky

To reach the Island, take U.S. Highway 191 to Utah Highway 313 (10 mi north of Moab, or 22 mi south of I-70) and then drive southwest 22 mi. Driving time to the visitor center from Moab is roughly 40 minutes, or an hour to Grand View Point.

Visitor Services

- » Visitor center is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily (except some winter holidays), with extended hours spring through fall. Exhibits, publications, Discovery Packs and information are available.
- » Bottled water is sold at the visitor center. Water is not available elsewhere; bring all that you will need.
- » Overlook talks and guided walks are led by rangers spring through fall.

- » Willow Flat Campground is open year-round on a
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and water are not available. Maximum group size
is ten people. Sites are \$10/night.

Short Trails

Several short trails exist along the scenic drive at the Island. These include Grand View Point, Mesa Arch, Aztec Butte, Whale Rock and Upheaval Dome (overlook). Each trail highlights some aspect of the park's natural or cultural history. Guides are available at trailheads and in the visitor center.

Long Trails

Island backcountry trails generally begin on the mesa top and descend via switchbacks to the White Rim bench. A few trails continue down to one of the rivers. Most are considered strenuous, with an elevation change of 1,000-2,000 feet, and require negotiating steep slopes of loose rock as well as sections of deep sand. The most popular long trails are described below.

Backpacking

The Island is a challenging place to backpack. A permit is required for all overnight trips. Backpackers must camp at-large unless traveling along the Syncline Trail.



