SOUTHEASTERN UTAH IS EXPANSIVE.

It unfolds as you move across its slickrock landscapes. When you walk, you feel the sandstone layers beneath your feet. It is firm, yet fragile. If you were water, you would break it. If you were wind, you would disperse its eroded sediments as freely as the Colorado River glides through the country’s deep canyons.

When you drive, you flow over the plateaus like sinuous lines of topography. Memories start to collect at the foot of wild geology. Stories build from the journeys between them. Your journey starts now, on the heels of fellow travelers and in the footsteps of explorers and the land’s first cultures — now all but lost to time.

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK 

Discover a sun-scarred red rock wonderland of eroded sandstone fins, towers, ribs, gargantuan hoodoos, twisting canyons and of course, arches. Most visitors explore the 19-mile shuttle-free (seven observation points and 4.5 miles of trails). Deluxe shuttles and the Window section within the park, but skilled hikers may experience solitude in the Devils Garden Primitive Trail. The Muley area surrounds with hiking, climbing, rappelling, scenic driving and more. National parks open 24 hours. Make camping reservations months in advance.

Bears Ears National Monument

A pair of towering buttes stand against a breathtaking scenery. The two buttes are so distinctive that in both of the native languages of the region the term means Bear Island. Shash Jaa Unit, Kwaiakat Nukavachi, Ansh An Lashokdiwe, or in English, Bears Ears. Cliff dwellings of ancestral people are 1,500 years old. Read more about several trailheads. Start your trip at the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum in Blanding.

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Imagine a world of wave-carved canyons, towering mesas, prow-like cliffs and spires stretching across hundreds of square miles. Canyonlands has four separate districts. Most visitors opt for the accessible areas of Island in the Sky or White Rim, but various options are also available in remote districts.

Hike the slickrock and soft sands along the life-giving Calf Creek in the stark landscape of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The hike is nearly six miles, round trip, but relatively flat.

Goosenecks captures this dramatic scene from a perch at 1,000 feet. There’s no easy way down to the river. This is a very special spot appreciated for its height. Camping is limited and primitive.

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Escalante Canyons is the most pristine state of the monument, particularly for well-prepared hikers and canyoneers. Future waterfalls, rocks, riparian areas, secluded slickrock and canyon canyons make up the rugged landscape. You could consider it for a lifetime project to map meaningful trails! From Utah’s All-American Road, Spotted Bear Trail, Escalante-Brunkow, Calf Creek. Follow the road to the Rock Road. Always check conditions before and stop by the visitor center. Escalante-Brunkow becomes inaccessible after storms. Fee charged for the Calf Creek trail. Free overnight permits required for backcountry camping. All camping is primitive, no hook-ups.

Hovenweep National Monument

In a world of beautiful landforms of large and small, mark the ancient sites of Hovenweep’s six petroglyph villages. In the 13th-century, Ancestral Puebloans built villages on other structures, some skillfully balanced on canyon rims. Learn more with hiking and interpretation programs, then pause to appreciate the challenge of living in this rugged and remote landscape. Hours vary by season.

Joe’s Valley

Surrounding the route you ride dozens on the Wasatch Plateau and easy network with blossoming wildflowers, this secluded basin attracts people interested in mountain biking, hiking, backpacking and camping. On the east side of the landscape, where the escarpment water mounds by finding it way through the craggy rock-strata. From these people consider the challenging route-levelled locations. There is additional camping and camping at the New Joe’s site.

Monument Valley Navaajo Tribal Park

There’s not a bad view of Monument Valley. The iconic symbol of the American West and heart of the Navajo Nation will feel strangely familiar to fans of Hollywood and deeply spiritual to your non-Navajo guide mercedes through the park via the best way to experience the area. Self guide or the Wild West scenic tour runs by Goulding’s Lodge. Under blue skies, it’s also stunning at night. Please respect tribal practices.

Natural Bridges National Monument

You cannot miss the chiseled landscape of this remote monument from the highway. Something incredibly fragile. The amazing from this has entire open space national park by White Canyon. An 11-mile scenic drive has overlooks but the best viewing comes from hiking into the canyon. At night, the universe will shine. The view above the world’s best internationally certified Dark Sky Park. The monument is open 24 hours. Check visitor center for its operating hours and days during the off-season. Limited camp sites, no hook-ups.

San Rafael Swell & Wedge Overlook

You still in a geologic wonderland. Wind and water have games on this unique feature into a vast assembly of sandstone bluffs, canyons and plateaus. Little Grand Canyon” aptly describes the Wedge Overlook’s view from 1,800 above the surrounding San Rafael River. Drive down into the Bighorn Bluff Drive to experience all of petroglyphs, hiking, climbing, and rappelling. Drive through the backdoors, look around. Continue to the rugged backcountry to explore a variety of roads and trail canyons. Take a map, fast food, easy water and supplies. Improperly graded dirt roads may be impassable when wet.

Four Corners Monument

The unique Four Corners area represents more than just a connection point of Utah, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. Four Corners is a spiritual portal intoCanyon country they would begin off the beaten path. The expansive landscape in other geologic plains and flat areas will remain around the joints. Now the park is protected to maintain like co-generation. The park has got to know Utah’s famous symbols without a resolution.1,800 miles. The park is open 24 hours. Check visitor center for its operating hours and days during the off-season. Limited camp sites, no hook-ups.

MOUNTAIN CANON

"It seems as if the right words can only come out of the perfect space of a place you love. In canyon country they would begin with three colors: blue, terra-cotta, green. Sky, Stone, Life. Then some feather or petal or lizard’s back, the throat of a flower or ripple of sunlit river, would enter the script, and I would have to leap from these colors to uncountable thousands, all in some exquisite space of a place you love."

Some of our favorite movies have scenes filmed in the iconic Utah landscape. Go see for yourself! More info at film.utah.gov/filmed-in-utah