

Lathrop Canyon



ALL ACCESS TRAIL

Moab, [Utah](#) (San Juan County)

Last Updated: 08/28/2020



Information	Nearby Trails	
Status:	Open	Showing 1 trail within 2 miles
Typically Open:	Year Round	White Rim (0.03 mi to TH)
Permit Information:	Permit Required - Click Here	
Difficulty:	3-3 (MODERATE)	
Length:	3.91 miles	
Highest Elevation:	4337 feet	
Duration:	About 45 minutes	
Shape of Trail:	Out & Back	
Best Direction to Travel:	N/A	
Nearest Town:	Moab	
Nearest Town w/ Services:	Moab	
Official Road Name:	Lathrop Canyon Road	
Management Agency:	Canyonlands National Park	

Highlights



Lathrop Canyon is one of the few trails that branches off of the [White Rim Trail](#). The drive through the canyon is quite fun, and it ends at the only point in Canyonlands where you can drive up to the Colorado River. The canyon, as well as the nearby hiking trail, are named after Howard Lathrop, who in 1939 was given a winter allotment by the US Grazing Service for his sheep. In 1953, the trail was used by uranium prospectors to obtain water from the Colorado River for their mining operations. Lathrop Canyon is a great addition to your day in Canyonlands, especially if it's hot and you want to cool off in the river or under some shady trees.

Route Information

Advanced Rating System 

Recommended Vehicle:

Stock SUV with High Clearance and 4 Low

Concerns:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ None | ✓ Short Wheelbase Only | ✓ Impassable When Wet |
| ✓ No Full Size | ✓ Narrow Shelf Road | ✓ Deep Sand |
| ✓ Body Damage | ✓ Mild Off Camber | ✓ Mud |
| ✓ Width | ✓ Moderate Off Camber | ✓ Pinstriping |
| ✓ Height | ✓ Extreme Off Camber | ✓ High Water Crossings |

Summary:

The trail begins with a few rough spots along a tight switchback and there are some sandy stretches to follow.

Technical Rating: 3-3 (**MODERATE**)

Typically, more rock or undulated road surface. Potential rocks and/or tree stumps less than 12" tall and/or vertical ledges less than 12" tall and/or near vertical ledges or waterfalls less than 24" inches. Tire placement becomes more difficult. Can be steep.

[Read more about our rating system](#)

Description

The path through Lathrop Canyon begins with an immediate drop through a rocky switchback. Afterward, the route travels through many twists and turns, and over several sandy washes. At the end is a grassy area, which holds a picnic area and access to the Colorado River. This is an out-and-back trail that travels nearly 4 miles and takes about 45 minutes each way. The trailhead is at 4,400 feet in elevation and the trail descends approximately 500 feet. Lathrop Canyon can be completed by any SUV or truck with high clearance and low range, though full-sized vehicles may have a hard time with the initial switchback.

The switchback at the trailhead is rough, has a tight turn, and may be difficult for full-sized vehicles. If there is rainfall, the washes could become flooded and impassable. During winter, all vehicles should carry chains.

Waypoints

1. Trailhead (0 mi)