

Shafer Trail

Moab, [Utah](#) (Grand County)

Last Updated: 07/18/2019



Information	Nearby Trails
Status:	Open
Typically Open:	Year Round
Permit Information:	Permit Required - Click Here
Difficulty:	2-2 (EASY)
Length:	5.3 miles
Highest Elevation:	5853 feet
Duration:	About 45 minutes
Shape of Trail:	Connector
Best Direction to Travel:	N/A
Nearest Town:	Moab
Nearest Town w/ Services:	Moab
Official Road Name:	
Management Agency:	Canyonlands National Park

Showing 2 trails within 2 miles

- [Potash Road](#) (1.21 mi to TH)
- [White Rim](#) (1.24 mi to TH)

Highlights



Easy and iconic, the Shafer Trail is a must do when visiting Moab or the Canyonlands. The road was originally a cattle trail built by John Sog Shafer in 1917. Later in the 1940s and 1950s, it was constructed into a useable road for trucks hauling uranium ore from the benches below. Long gone are the remnants of the old mining days but the incredible and imposing rim walls still stand to remind you of just how grand planet Earth really is.

Route Information

Advanced Rating System 

Recommended Vehicle:

2WD Vehicle with High Clearance

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:

Simple dirt road with tight switchbacks. Passing options are at the switchbacks so keep your eyes open ahead for oncoming vehicles. As with all roads in the area, this trail can be extremely slippery in wet conditions.

Technical Rating: 2-2 (**EASY**)

Dirt and/or rocky road. Potential rocks and/or tree stumps less than 8" tall and/or vertical ledges less than 9" tall and/or near vertical ledges or waterfalls less than 12" inches. Good tire placement likely. Can be steep but with good traction.

[Read more about our rating system](#)

Description

An entrance fee for Canyonlands National Park is required which you can pay at the visitors center or [online](#). The guide described here is running the trail from top to bottom for the view, but it can be run in any direction.

The dirt road is relatively smooth with steep switchbacks and narrow in spots that either descends or rises 1,300' in 5 miles. Almost all of the switchbacks have a small area to pull over if you need to let someone pass. There are no guardrails so be sure to watch the road. The road will close quickly if there is rain so be sure to check the [current conditions](#).

This road can be combined with the White Rim or Potash Road to make for a full day or multi-day trip. While this road is suitable for any SUV, if you plan to combine it with White Rim, a higher clearance vehicle will be required.

This road could be very dangerous when wet and will typically be temporarily closed by the National Park Service during wet weather.

Waypoints