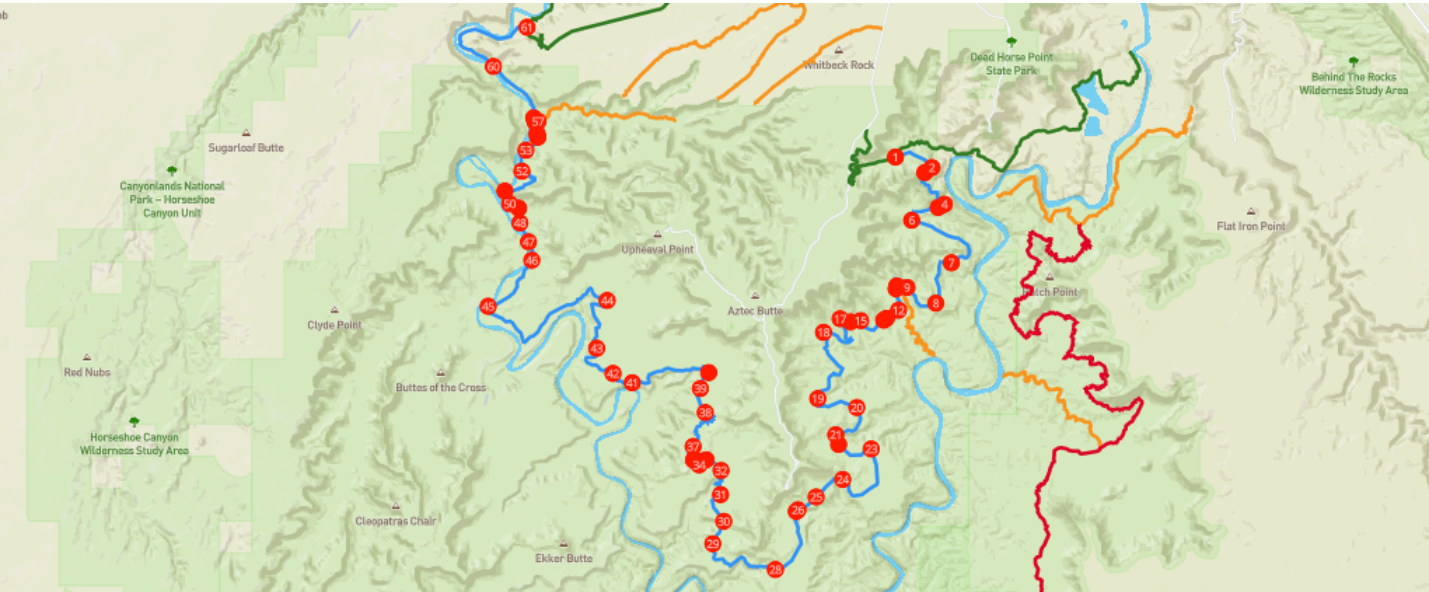


White Rim

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

Last Updated: 08/17/2020



Information	Nearby Trails
Status:	Open
Typically Open:	Year Round
Permit Information:	Permit Required - Click Here
Difficulty:	3-3 (MODERATE)
Length:	71.85 miles
Highest Elevation:	5278 feet
Duration:	About 10 hours
Shape of Trail:	Straight Through
Best Direction to Travel:	South
Nearest Town:	Moab
Nearest Town w/ Services:	Moab
Official Road Name:	White Rim Trail
Management Agency:	Canyonlands National Park


Showing 13 trails within 2 miles


[Potash Road](#) (0.00 mi to TH)


[Shafer Trail](#) (0.01 mi to TH)


[Chicken Corners](#) (3.36 mi to TH)

[Rough Canyon](#) (3.90 mi to TH)


[Lathrop Canyon](#)  (4.01 mi to TH)


[Lockhart Basin](#)  (4.79 mi to TH)

[Taylor Canyon Rim](#)  (5.12 mi to TH)


[Big Draw Trail](#)  (5.54 mi to TH)

[Mineral Bottom Road](#) (6.13 mi to TH)

[Long Canyon](#)  (6.14 mi to TH)

[Taylor Canyon](#)  (6.90 mi to TH)

[Lockhart Canyon](#) (7.53 mi to TH)

[Mineral Canyon Road](#)  (9.74 mi to TH)

Highlights



The White Rim Trail is the premier multi-day trail in Moab, Utah. The entire route encompasses over 90 miles of off-road driving. On the White Rim, you'll get to experience the beautiful scenery of the Island in the Sky district of Canyonlands National Park first hand while tackling the challenging terrain. The trail gets its name from the layer of white sandstone on which it sits. White Rim sandstone is considerably harder than the red Moenkopi Formation sandstone above or the Organ Rock Shale below. The differential erosion creates some of the very unique geological features along the trail.

The trail was first created during the 1950s with the intent of mining uranium needed for the production of nuclear weapons for the Cold War. Though uranium was present, the mines produced little compared to others in the region. Thus they were abandoned. But the road remains.

White Rim has something for everyone. Besides enticing driving, the trail offers numerous hikes, an abundance of stunning views, and many campsites with absolute solitude. Traveling along White Rim gives a whole new appreciation of Canyonlands and a perspective of the park that can't be attained anywhere else.

Route Information

Advanced Rating System 

Recommended Vehicle:

Lightly Modified 4X4 (Small Lift and Larger Tires)

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:

White Rim Trail is not particularly technical. The trail has small rocky stretches with mild climbs and descents. But don't be fooled by its low rating. The journey is long and isolated and will be far more stressful to the driver than the vehicle. Additionally, the trail may be impassable due to rain, snow, and increased water levels at Upheaval Bottom. Always check the [Island in the Sky Visitor Center](#) for current conditions before heading out.

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 route is mostly dirt and sand, with a few small rocky stretches scattered throughout. Notable obstacles include a steep and rocky climb at Murphy Hogback at Waypoint 33, the Hardscrabble switchbacks at Waypoint 49, and the water crossing of Upheaval Bottom at Waypoint 55. You will also come across several blind turns and ascents, as well as plenty of cliffside driving. Expect many climbs and descents, as White Rim's elevation ranges from 3,941 feet to 5,278 feet, with an overall ascent of 3,036 feet and descent of 3,645 feet. This is a straight-through trail, and the only points of entry are [Shafer Trail](#), [Potash Road](#), and [Mineral Bottom Road](#). For all reasons mentioned, White Rim should only be attempted by SUVs with high clearance, aggressive tires, low range, and either extended range fuel tanks or jerry cans. Locking differentials would also be highly recommended, but not required. Additional recovery gear should also be considered mandatory on this trail. Be sure to check in with the Ranger Station, as a permit is