

# White Rim Trail – Canyonlands National Park

## Full Day 4x4 Backcountry Tour

**Meeting Place:** Adrift Adventures, 378 North Main St. Moab, Utah  
**Meeting Time:** 6:45 AM to depart at 7:00 AM  
**Age Limit:** 4 years and up  
**Vehicle Type:** Jeep Wrangler

### Special Attractions:

- Access to hiking trails.
- Wide variety of scenery and rock formations.

### Tour Description:

Our experienced and knowledgeable guides will show you a part of Canyonlands National Park seldom visited/seen by other visitors on their own. Our guides will show you how much of Canyonlands' beauty is tucked away beyond the main paved roads. You'll witness breathtaking views while learning about the ancient history of people who inhabited the area over 1000 years ago. There are ample photo opportunities, so be sure to bring your camera. Be amazed by the mazes of side washes and canyons formed after thousands of years of erosion. Witness the natural marvels hidden from the roads, when you experience Canyonlands National Park via a 4x4 tour.

### Vehicle Type:

We run our guided backcountry tours in our recent model Jeep Wranglers, which will comfortably seat 4 passengers, plus our experienced guide.

### Sample Itinerary:

Meet at our office located at 378 North Main Street in Moab, Utah. The tour will set out heading north from Moab to connect with Utah 313. This paved and well maintained road will take us to Canyonlands National Parks Island in the Sky district. From the entrance into the national park we will descend from the mesa using the famous Shafer Trail. At the bottom of the canyon the Shafer Trail connects with the White Rim Trail. Once on the White Trim Trail you will get to view such sights as the Goose Neck, Musselman Arch, and Lathrop Canyon. During the day there will be ample opportunities for short hikes to better explore this canyon riddled backcountry. These hikes are optional, and if you opt to participate they will allow you to explore hidden passages and secret canyons, otherwise missed by visitors to the national park. Somewhere along the route we will stop for a wonderful lunch break, where your guide will set up lunch for your enjoyment. After lunch we will continue on our sightseeing journey of Canyonlands National Park and the White Rim Trail as we make our way back out of the park via the route that brought us in. We will then continue back on Utah 313 and back to the office in Moab, concluding your tour.

### History:

The White Rim came together as a trail using the network of uranium roads that were created during the boom times of the 1950s. It gained its name from the white sandstone rim that most of the trail follows.

Evidence of the region's earliest human inhabitants can be seen at Fort Bottom, accessed via a short hiking trail from the 4x4 road. Moki Fort at the end of the hiking trail is an Anasazi rock structure dating back almost a millennium when the Anasazi farmed alongside the Colorado River.

Most of the later history of the trail relates to the ranchers and uranium miners, who pushed their way into the region and left their impressions of the territory in some of the names they gave to features along the trail. Hardscrabble Hill was the original rough, steep cow trail that wound its way down to Hardscrabble Bottom. The narrow shelf road is referred to as “Walker Cut,” after Mark Walker who apparently blasted or cut the cow trail around the edge of the hill just after the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He also built a small cabin at Fort Bottom, often called “Outlaw Cabin,” possibly because of the horse-thieving that happened in the region. (Just above Taylor Canyon is Horsethief Point.)

Musselman Arch, 3 miles into the trail, was named after Ross A. Musselman, who operated a rock shop and tour business in Moab. He also developed the Pack Creek Ranch, now a country inn, located 5 miles south of Moab. The arch was named by National Geographical Society writer Jack Breed in recognition of Musselman, who had assisted Breed in his research on the region.

Murphy Hogback was named after Otho, Jack, and Tom Murphy, the stockmen who built a trail over the ridge in the 1910s to facilitate the movement of cattle down to the White Rim.

The Murphy’s also named White Crack, where the present-day national park campsite is situated. Tom Murphy spotted a narrow “white crack” in the white sandstone, and in the 1910s the Murphy’s blasted a rough cow trail through the gap, opening up access to grazing areas in the south. In the 1950s it was widened with a bulldozer to work uranium mines down below. This trail is now closed to vehicle use.

Howard Lathrop, a sheepman from Colorado, built a trail from the canyon rim to the Colorado River in the 1940s. Today’s trail was cut through in the early 1950s to gain river access in order to supply water for the uranium mine higher up in Lathrop Canyon, above the White Rim Trail. Today, the river access is used by river operators as a pickup point.

**Included:**

- ✓ Experienced, knowledgeable guide service
- ✓ Ice water, lemonade, snacks
- ✓ Lunch
- ✓ Parking available at the Adrift Adventures office
- ✓ Pick-up from your motel or campground, if needed (24 hr. notice)
- ✓ National Park Tour via Four Wheel Drive Vehicle

**Not Included:**

- Park Entrance Fee
- Guide Gratuities
- Car Seat – required for children 8 years and younger or under 57 inches, Utah State Law
- Trip Insurance

**What to bring:**

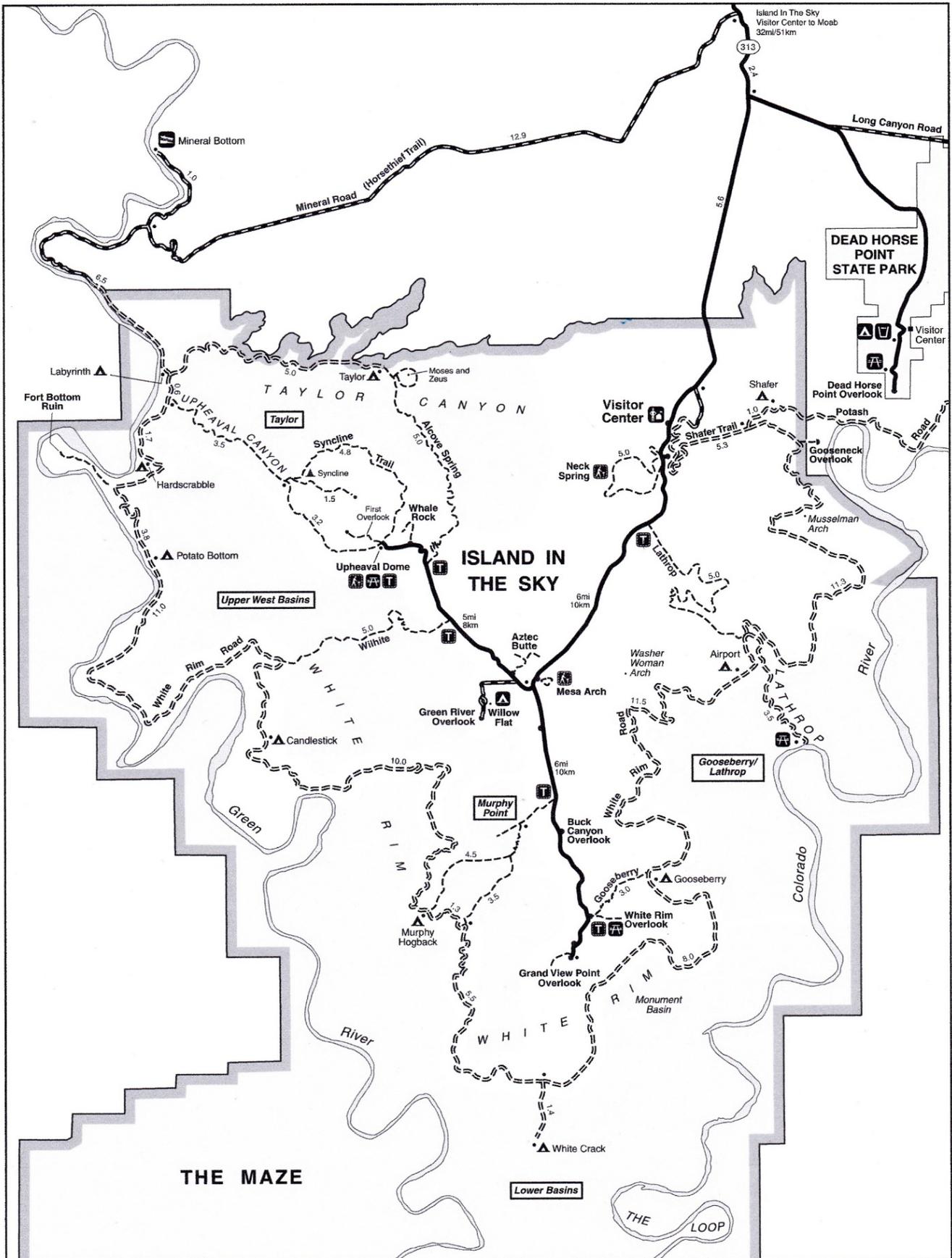
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, visor/hat – sun protection is very important!
- Water bottle – for your convenience
- Sturdy foot wear – for hiking
- Day Pack – comes in handy if you have one but not necessary
- Camcorders and cameras – bring at your own risk

**To Be Aware Of:**

- To make sure that these locations are still available for future generations to enjoy please follow the Adrift Adventures motto of “See it as it is...Leave it as it was.”

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Paved road/<br>Pull out       | High-clearance,<br>4-wheel-drive road | At-large<br>Backpacking Zone        | Boat launch    | Developed Campground        | Water available               |
| Unpaved<br>2-wheel-drive road | Hiking Trail                          | Name<br>Name of<br>Backpacking Zone | Ranger station | Backcountry Vehicle Camp    | Self-guiding trail            |
|                               |                                       |                                     | Picnic area    | Designated Backpacking Site | Backcountry Trailhead Parking |

NOTE: White shading within Canyonlands National Park indicates areas with designated site camping only.



- Do not touch, climb on, remove, or disturb, in any way, any of the Ancestral Puebloan ruins, pictographs, or petroglyphs that you may encounter on your adventure. Treat them just as you would treat an exhibit in a museum, because that is exactly what they are!
- Our desert ecosystem is very fragile, so when on one of our adventures be sure to stay on the marked trails, slickrock, or sandy wash bottoms. Even one carelessly placed footprint can we a scar on the landscape that can take many years to disappear.
- **The Jeep Wranglers we use have four passenger seats, and the guides/drivers have all guests rotate seats throughout the trip. This makes it so that one person isn't stuck in the same seat for the entire trip. So if you have motion sickness, vertigo, etc. this might not be the best trip for you as we do not allow any guests to "reserve" a specific seat. Out of all fairness to all our guests we are letting everyone know that everyone will be rotating seats throughout the adventure.**
- **Due to these tours being "backcountry" tours, which means the tour will be going off the paved roads and are elevated to have the clearance to do these off road trails.**
- "Pack it in, pack it out." Be sure to pick up any trash that you may drop, we want to leave the area as pristine, if not more so, than the way we found it.

### **Cancellation Policy**

Since you are reserving space for which we have a limited number of seats, our non-refundable policy applies in every instance. We highly recommend that you purchase Travel Insurance to protect your vacation investment.

The number of people that you book for is the number of people that you will be charged for, unless you call and change that number before the 48 hour cancellation period. ***Groups please be extra aware of this and call our office the day before to reconfirm your numbers; as we will charge you for the number we have listed if you show up with less and we were not informed in advance.***

Adrift Adventures is not responsible for any cancellations or modifications of tours due to river levels, weather condition, road hazards, vehicle breakdowns, or other unforeseen conditions that may hinder the ability for the tour to take place as scheduled. We reserve the right to cancel or modify any trip due to circumstances beyond our control. In such cases, we cannot be responsible for paying any expenses you may have incurred other than to refund monies due to you for the tour price. For these reasons we highly recommend you take out trip insurance.