

Arches National Park

1/2 Day 4x4 Backcountry Tour

Meeting Place: Adrift Adventures, 378 North Main St. Moab, Utah
Meeting Time: 7:00 AM or 12:45 PM
Age Limit: 4 years and up
Vehicle Type: Ford Excursion or Jeep Wrangler

Special Attractions:

- Alternative entrance and exit for Arches National Park.
- Hiking trail to Tower Arch.
- Only 4x4 trail completely within Arches National Park
- Eye of the Whale Arch

Tour Description:

Our experienced and knowledgeable guides will show you a part of Arches National Park seldom visited/seen by other visitors on their own. Our guides will show you how much of Arches' beauty is tucked away beyond the main paved roads. You'll witness breathtaking views while learning about the history, archeology, and geology of how the rock formations you will see were formed and about the 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 Arches 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 people. Jeeps are equipped with air conditioning for your touring pleasure.

Sample Itinerary:

Meet at our office located at 378 North Main Street in Moab, Utah, at your scheduled time. The tour will set out heading north on US 191 out of Moab until we reach the Arches National Park entrance. We will work our way through the park, back to the Devil's Garden where we will then take off on the backcountry dirt road, heading to Tower Arch. Along this route you will have spectacular views not only of the park but also the La Sal Mountains, Klondike Bluffs, and the Devil's Garden. There will be the opportunity to take a brief hike to see Tower Arch. As we continue, after the optional hike, we will take another route that will bring us to the Eye of the Whale Arch. Along this route there will also be views of Marching Men and Klondike Bluffs. After viewing the Eye of the Whale Arch, we will continue our journey south, taking another trail that will take us out of the park and back to US 191. After that we will reconnect with US 191 to bring us back to the Adrift Adventures office and the conclusion of your tour.

History:

The small settlement of Valley City, located along US 191 and Thompson Road, was abandoned by 1930. In 1908, the settlement was flooded by a burst reservoir, which is accessible from the top of the trail, and continued flooding caused the demise of the town.

The reservoir was an important watering point for cattle driven from Dugout Ranch in the south up to the railroad at Thompson. The town charged a fee per head of cattle – the Valley City Reservoir was the last watering point before the railroad, and often 2,000 to 3,000 head of cattle were driven along the stock route. Albert and Dubinky Anderson (of Dubinky Well fame), lived here for a while, and Valley City was reputed to be one of the sites of a bootleg liquor operation, for which Albert did jail time.

*Please note that this itinerary is subject to change or be cancelled completely due to: weather conditions, road conditions, time of year, number of scheduled guests, and any other unforeseen factors that may affect the trip in any way.