



Dawn in Arches National Park © Dave Koch

Moab, Utah

DATES

September 29th- October 3rd, 2024

PRICE

Double Occupancy: \$4,870

Single Occupancy: \$5,670

There are certain places on this planet that hold magic. On this journey, you'll be exploring one of them. The Colorado Plateau evokes mystery and lore. Here you'll find looming snow-capped mountains and red rock formations that astound. Extremes of color and heat. Ancient cultures. Cowboys and outlaws. Sacred ground. From the Ancestral Puebloans to Native American Tribes like the Ute and Diné, to the ranchers who first ran cattle here—the legacy of people in this region is rich and diverse. Today more than one million people call this region home, and millions more arrive each year as tourists and recreators.

But this is also a place in peril. Increasing pressures from climate change and competing human uses are threatening these lands, waters and people who rely on them. That's why The Nature Conservancy's work here is urgent. As long-time neighbors and partners here in San Juan County, TNC is eager to show you some of the region's most exciting conservation progress. From a cutting-edge fish nursery on the Colorado River and sustainable grazing partnerships

at the Dugout Ranch to the climate and restoration advances being made at the Canyonlands Research Center, you'll see how ingenuity and collaboration are delivering hope for vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

In the span of just a few days, you'll find yourself immersed in the Moab region's most iconic wonders, and you'll also experience places most visitors never get to see. Whether you are drinking in the sunrise at Arches National Park, stargazing under some of the nation's darkest skies or contemplating the scope and meaning of Indigenous rock art, you'll be guided by local experts who will help you make the most of every outing.

The projects and sites you'll visit during this trip are excellent examples of how TNC works in Utah. For nearly 40 years, we've joined partners statewide to protect more than 1 million acres of public and private land and improve flows on key rivers. Behind each place you visit, there is a story of nature and humans thriving together. That synergy drives TNC's mission, and we hope you'll take it with you after you return home.



Canyonlands National Park © Ted Wood



Star trails near Moab © Christian Paul

BE SURE TO BRING YOUR CAMERA!

The contrast between the red cliffs and the Colorado River make for an incredible sight. From your room-with-a-view at Red Cliffs Lodge, you will be able to wake up to these spectacular views as you sip your morning coffee on the patio, or take a leisurely walk along the river bank.

VISIT DUGOUT RANCH

Get a behind-the-scenes tour of an iconic and historic ranch. Protected by TNC and the Redd family, the Dugout Ranch is now home to the Canyonlands Research Center--a collaborative that attracts top climate and dryland scientists from around the world.

EVENING STARGAZING

An official Dark Sky Park, the night skies in Arches National Park and surrounding public lands allow for incredible stargazing. Joined by a private guide, spend a magical evening watching the cosmos come alive.

Your trip supports the local communities you're traveling in and The Nature Conservancy's efforts locally and globally. This trip has been planned specifically by The Nature Conservancy's team of scientific experts and travel liaisons to immerse you in the work the Conservancy is doing on the ground that has global consequences.

TNC TRAVEL VALUES

KEY ACCESS:

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll witness how you are helping save them.

IMPACT:

See how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference. You will see the wild places and the communities you are impacting.

KNOWLEDGE:

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

INSPIRATION:

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

GLOBALLY MINDED:

Elevate your understanding of our work by seeing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

TRAVELER EXPECTATIONS & CODE OF CONDUCT:

Please read [TNC's Traveler Expectations](#), our guide for ensuring that we treat each other with respect, fairness and integrity beyond reproach during travel in accordance with [TNC's Code of Conduct](#). Following the Code is an expectation and responsibility for everyone in the larger TNC community, including our staff, partners, vendors and supporters. To that end, when registering for a TNC trip, you are agreeing to uphold the Code.



THE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

WATER CONSERVATION

The Nature Conservancy has protected more than a million acres in Utah including the Scott and Norma Matheson Wetlands Preserve. Located in the Moab Valley along the banks of the Colorado River, it is an oasis in the desert and the largest intact wetlands on the Colorado in Utah — a stark contrast to the surrounding red rock cliffs and dry desert. A lush haven for a range of birds and wildlife, this preserve is also the site of an innovative project to restore a threatened native Colorado fish. Stroll along the boardwalk and take an opportunity to eavesdrop on nesting birds and other wildlife.

LAND CONSERVATION

Located in the heart of the Colorado Plateau, the 350,000-acre Dugout Ranch is interspersed along the biologically rich canyon bottoms of Indian and North Cottonwood Creeks. This landscape supports desert bighorn sheep, Mexican spotted owl, and globally rare wildflower species. Ancestral Puebloan rock art and dwellings can also be found throughout the Dugout Ranch Canyonlands project area, the most well-known being Newspaper Rock. In acquiring Dugout Ranch, The Nature Conservancy has saved one of the West's iconic working ranches from development.

CLIMATE SCIENCE RESEARCH

Explore the Canyonlands Research Center (CRC), a collaborative effort among The Nature Conservancy, universities, and public agencies to make key advances in climate science and sustainable land use. Today, the CRC is an acclaimed outdoor laboratory attracting scientists from throughout the country and around the globe. As pressures on the lands and waters of the Colorado Plateau mount, the CRC is helping to bridge the gap between science and land use and providing new ideas to help people make responsible decisions for our arid lands.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 — Sunday, September 29th | Arrive in Moab by the afternoon. Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed by your Iconic Trip Leader and Nature Conservancy hosts and transferred to your lodging at Red Cliffs Lodge. Take time to settle into your comfortable cabin, explore the on-site Moab Museum of Film and Western Heritage, or walk along the river before enjoying a cocktail reception followed by dinner.

OVERNIGHT AT RED CLIFFS LODGE

DAY 2 — Monday, September 30th | Begin the day with a visit to the Scott and Norma Matheson Wetlands Preserve, where you will enjoy an overview of The Nature Conservancy's work in Utah with TNC's Preserve Manager, Linda Whitham. After, we will take in the sights and sounds on a tour of the wetlands before starting an easy hike to discuss and the important conservation work taking place on-site. You'll have an opportunity to visit a fish nursery and see first-hand how TNC is blending science and engineering to reintroduce the endangered razorback sucker.

After our time at the preserve, we'll leave to have lunch along the Colorado River, before having downtime at the lodge.

In the early evening, with a view of the Colorado River, we will gather with TNC Staff to discuss one of the hardest working rivers in the West, and what TNC is doing to protect this critical resource. Dinner as a group will follow.

OVERNIGHT AT RED CLIFFS LODGE

DAY 3 — Tuesday, October 1st | Rise early for a trip to Arches National Park where you'll discover a landscape of contrasting colors, landforms and textures unlike any other in the world. The park has over 2,000 natural stone arches, in addition to hundreds of soaring pinnacles, massive fins and giant balanced rocks. Along with TNC staff and a local naturalist, we will wind our way through the park, stopping to hike, take photos, and learn about these fractured rock layers were formed millions of years prior.

As a group, we will enjoy a picnic lunch in the landscape, before additional time to explore.

You'll return to the lodge for dinner on-site. Afterwards, we will drive into the night's sky for an evening of stargazing with a private guide.

OVERNIGHT AT RED CLIFFS LODGE

LODGING



Red Cliffs Lodge

Located on the banks of the mighty Colorado River is the secluded Red Cliffs Lodge. Surrounded by colorful 2000-foot cliffs on a sprawling 200-acre property, it is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the views after a long day of hiking and exploring Moab's impressive landscape. Photos provided by Red Cliffs Lodge.



ITINERARY

DAY 4 — Wednesday, October 2nd | Depart towards the Needles District this morning, stopping at Newspaper Rock State Historic Monument, home to one of the largest collections of petroglyphs in the country. Continue to Dugout Ranch and the Canyonlands Research Center, where you'll learn about conservation efforts from local experts. Founded in 2010, the CRC is promoting a sustainable future on the Colorado Plateau for people and nature through research, inspiration and evidence-based solutions. With CRC Program Manager, Kristin Redd, tour the headquarters, hike through the riparian restoration area, and hear more about the lab work and research being conducted on-site.

After lunch, we'll take a short hike and visit Needles Outpost, before heading back to the lodge. Our farm-fresh farewell dinner will be held at River Grill, located on the banks of the Colorado River.

OVERNIGHT AT RED CLIFFS LODGE

DAY 5 — Thursday, October 3rd | After breakfast, join an optional hike — Fisher Towers Trail is a Moab favorite, with incredible red rock spires, pinnacles, and views. Late morning, transfer to Canyonlands Field Airport for your departure flight.



Colorado River

40+ million people depend upon the Colorado River for drinking water. Learn more about TNC's important work and partnerships in and around the Colorado River Basin.



Arches National Park

Only 30 minutes from Red Cliffs Lodge, Arches National Park contains the world's largest population of natural sandstone arches. Joined by a local naturalist, see how many of these arches you can spot as we make our way through the park!

PRICE DETAIL

Double Occupancy: \$4,870
Single Occupancy: \$5,670

Price is based on a minimum of 12. Trip size not to exceed 14 travelers.

Price **includes** all lodging, domestic transportation, activities, tips, meals, TNC expert staff and local guides. Price does **not include** your roundtrip flight to Moab, Utah.

PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is representative of your trip, and like all natural history excursions, activities are subject to modification based on weather and unforeseen events. We will do our best to keep you informed on any necessary changes.