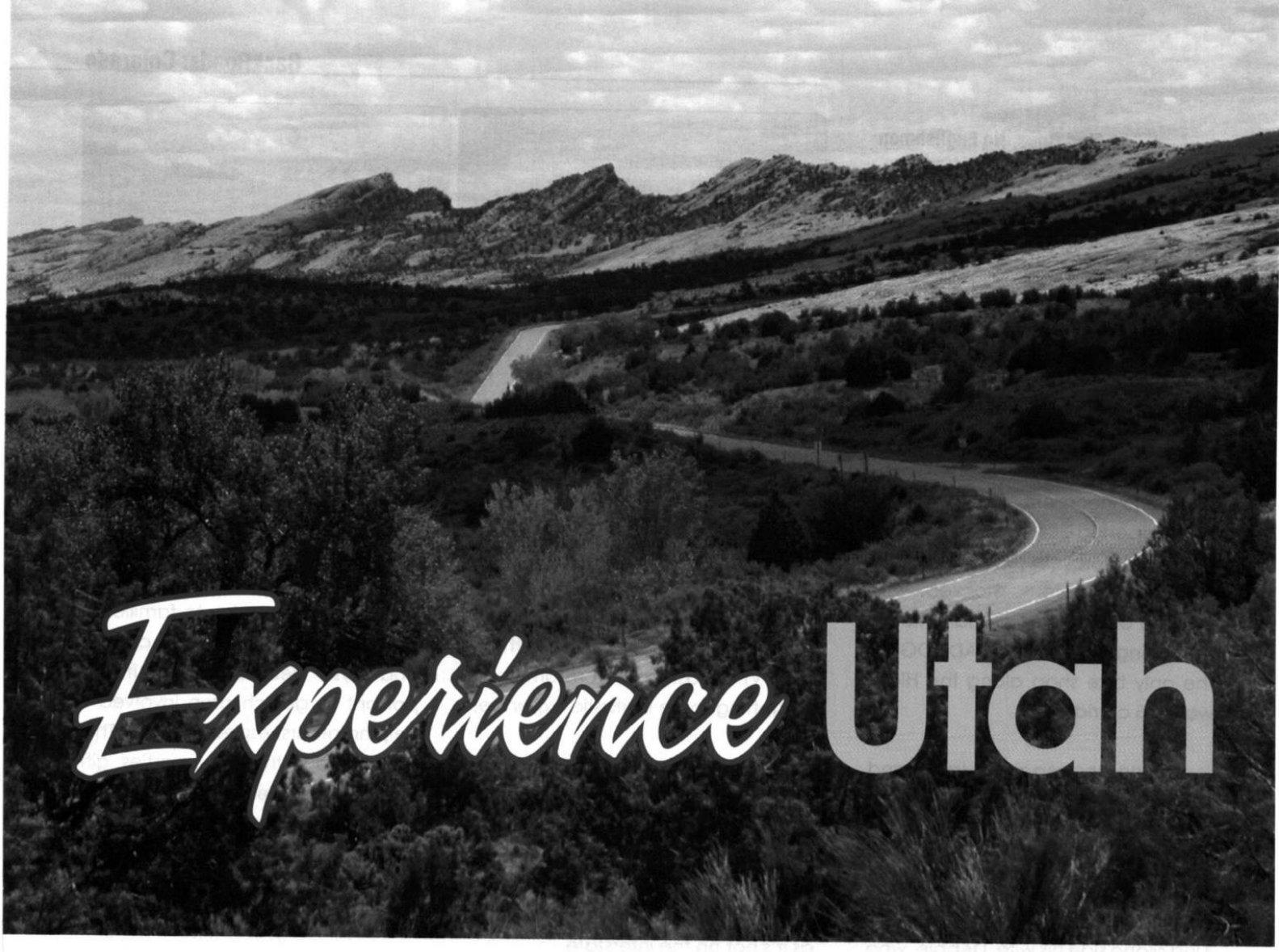


Experience Utah

Moab, the Ultimate Destination via Yellowstone National Park

by Tina L. Snyder

Photos by Leroy Snyder

"So little time, so many routes" may be echoing through your mind as you plan your itinerary to Moab from Yellowstone. Whether your travel plans take you through Montana, Idaho or Wyoming, there are many paths to Moab, including two fantastic routes from Yellowstone National Park and numerous scenic rides across the state of Utah. While impossible to describe them all, here are few of the favorite roads to Moab via Yellowstone and Northern Utah.

Lakes, rivers, mountains and curves are all prominent on this ride from the south entrance of Yellowstone National Park. Leave Yellowstone on SR 89, heading south through the Grand Teton National Park and along the shores of Jackson Lake until you get to Jackson Lake Junction. First choice of the day is whether to continue on SR 89, which winds along the Snake River past Grand Teton to Moran, and then take US 191 to Jackson. Or, you can take a right at Jackson Lake Junction on Teton Park Road, which will take you past Jenny Lake and give you a closer look at Grand Teton, before crossing the Snake River to reunite with US 191 twelve miles north of Jackson. At Hoback Junction, a few miles outside Jackson, you will go right on US 89 to Alpine Junction. Stay left on US 89 through the mountainous terrain of Alpine, Thayne and Afton to the Idaho Border and cruise along the shores of Bear Lake and into Utah, where just across the border you will hit a junction for US 89 and SR 30.

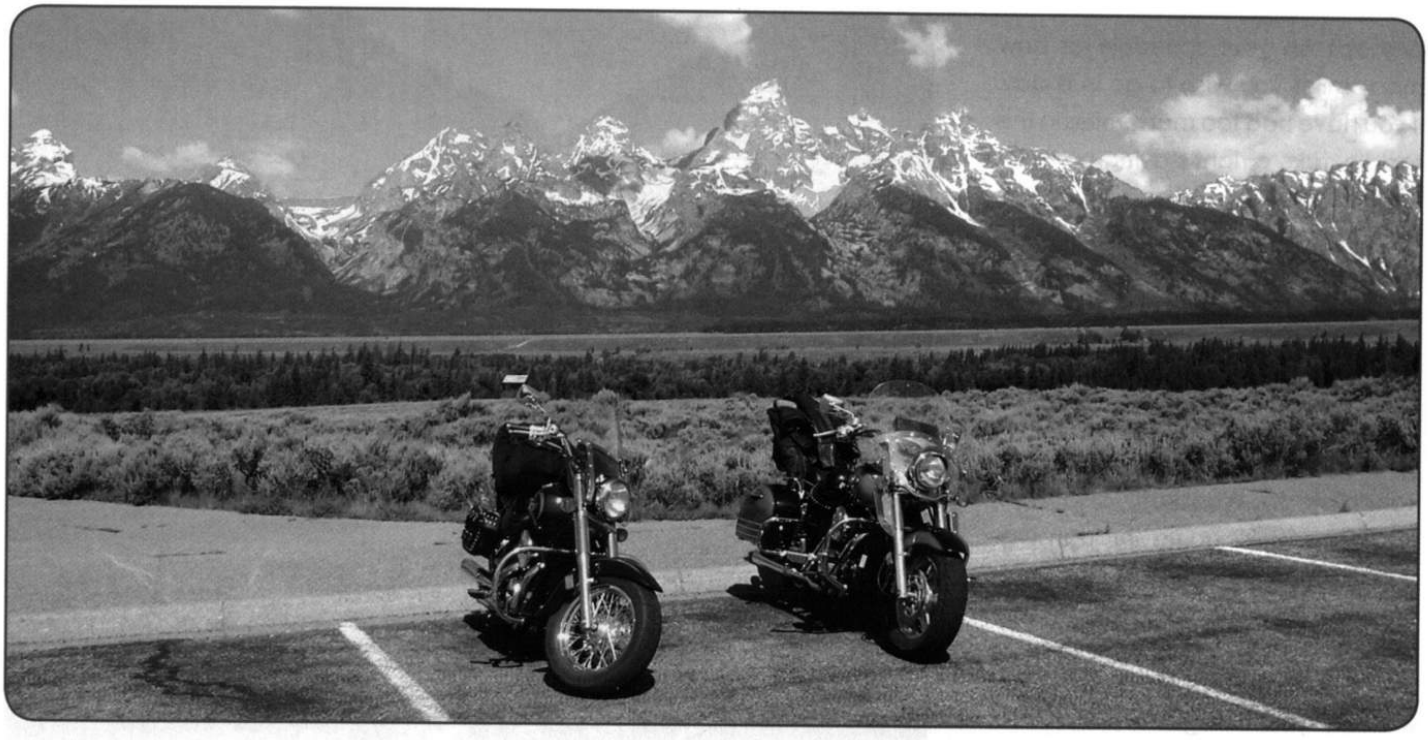
From this junction you will have many choices to make, depending

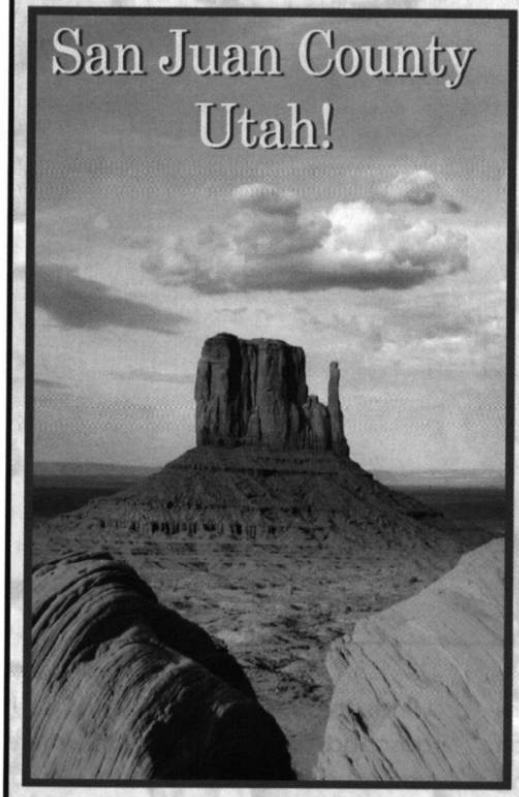
perhaps on your schedule or how many miles you wish to go in a day. If you have had too many miles in the saddle, take a right staying on US 89 through the scenic Logan Canyon, to Logan and on into Ogden. Not ready to call it a day? Then try out this alternate route. At the Junction, go straight ahead on SR 30, continuing along the shores of Bear Lake until you come to Sage Creek junction. Here, take a right on SR 16 through Randolph to Woodruff, and right again on SR 39 going through Ogden Canyon to the city of Ogden.

From Ogden, get on Interstate 15 South, to Interstate 84 East, which will take you along the Weber River, past Morgan and Devils Slide, a unique formation of two limestone layers about 40 feet high, 25 feet apart, and several hundred feet in length. Continue on I-84 as it takes you along the shores of Echo Reservoir, past Coalville and Wanship, to Silver Creek Junction, where you will exit the freeway on US 40 & 189, cruising by the Jordanelle Reservoir to Heber City. When US 40 & 189 split outside of Heber City, you have a choice. You can stay right on US 189 through Provo Canyon past the Bridal Veil Falls (a great place for stretching legs and photos), to Provo where you will take I-15 to Spanish Fork, and then US 6 & 89 through the sweeps and curves of Spanish Fork Canyon, over Soldier Summit and down the winding Price Canyon to Price, Utah.

Another variation is to choose US 40 at the split, where you will cruise past Strawberry Reservoir through Fruitland to Duchesne. From Duchesne, head south on the Indian Canyon Scenic Byway (US 191), which takes you across desert terrain along Indian Creek, before beginning a curve-filled ascent of the Ashley National Forest, peaking at Indian Creek Pass (9,100 ft). The Byway then winds through beautiful vistas as it descends into Price Canyon, where you reunite with US 6 just north of Price, Utah.

The second popular route is from South Yellowstone to Flaming Gorge





Ride through Monument Valley with the memory of John Wayne. Cruise 1,000 feet above the San Juan River at Goosenecks State Park. Explore the ruins and culture of the ancient ones at Edge of the Cedars State Park & Museum. Walk among unique tower ruins at Hovenweep National Monument. Delve deep in time at the Dinosaur Museum. Ride Rim View Drive to views of three of the largest natural stone bridges in the world at Natural Bridges National Monument.

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National Recreation Area and follows the first route until you get to Woodruff, Utah. At Woodruff, you stay on SR16 to the Utah/Wyoming border (SR 16 changes to SR 89) and into Evanston, Wyoming. Leave Evanston via I-80 to the Fort Bridger exit, then South on SR 414 through Mountain View, Lonetree and Mckinnon. As you cross the Utah border at Manila, SR 414 turns into SR 44 and brings you to US 191. Flaming Gorge Dam is well worth the 30 mile round trip (take a left on US 191), where you can stretch your legs, get some great photos and even take a tour inside the Dam. Return on US 191 to Vernal and continue southwest through Roosevelt to Duchesne where US 191 puts you on the Indian Canyon Scenic Byway described above.

Here are a few of the favorite routes from Salt Lake City.

From Salt Lake City, take I-15 south to the Moab/Price Exit, which will take you through Spanish Fork and onto US 6 through Spanish Fork Canyon. At the junction of US 6 & 89, hang a right on SR 89 through the ghost town of Thistle, where you will see tops of houses and remnants of buildings that were buried when the town was flooded during a huge landslide in 1983. From Fairview, take the Energy Loop Scenic Byway SR 31 to the junction of SR 31 & SR 264, where the Byway splits. A right on SR 31 puts you on the Huntington Canyon portion of the Scenic Byway and traverses through the Manti-La Sal National Forest, winding up Sealy Mountain over 10,000 feet above sea level to Huntington, then onto SR 20 to Price. A left onto SR 264 will put you on the Eccles Canyon portion with its multitude of curves as you wind through the Manti-La Sal mountains before changing to SR 96 before reaching the town of Scofield, and then follows along the shores of the Scofield Reservoir to US 6, just north of Price.

From Price take Highway 6 to Interstate I-70 to Green River where you will want to stop at Ray's tavern, a popular biker eatery, for one of their famous burgers. From Green River, go 20 miles east on I-70 to US 191 (Exit #182), where you are just 30 miles from beautiful Moab...your ultimate destination.

Moab Area Travel Council
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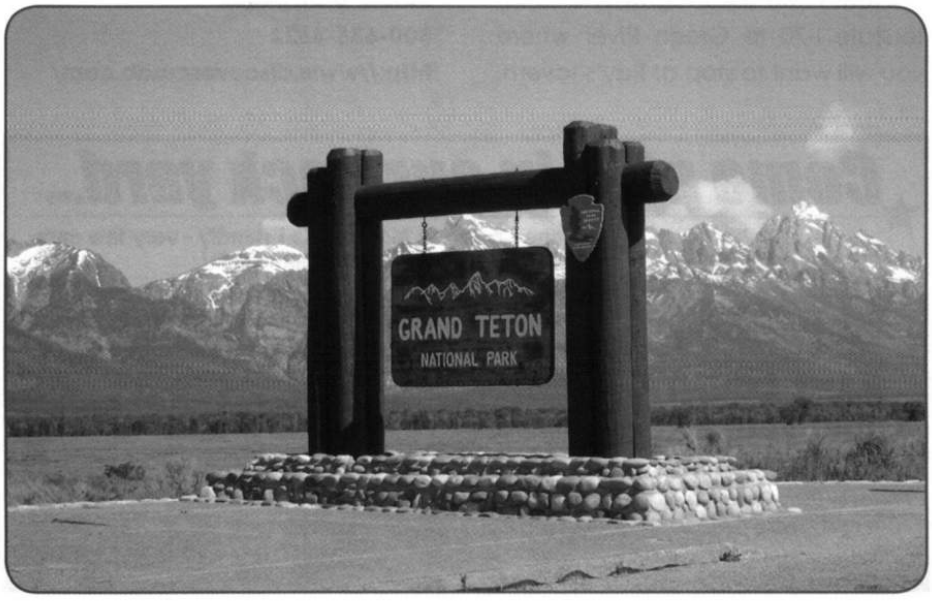
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