

THE COMPLETE MOAB VAN LIFE GUIDE

Your go-to resource for red rock adventures.



GEOTREK
—
VAN CONVERSION COMPANY

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If you've spent any time in the van life community, you've heard of Moab. It's the place that shows up in everyone's photo feeds—those impossibly red sandstone arches glowing at sunset, vans parked under star-filled skies with canyon walls in the background, dusty trails leading to views that don't seem real.

Moab is the red rock capital of the Southwest. Two national parks. World-class mountain biking. Some of the best stargazing in the country. And endless dispersed camping where you can wake up surrounded by ancient rock formations and silence that stretches for miles.

At Geotrek, trips to Moab are what we live for. It's the kind of destination that reminds you why you chose van life in the first place.

But here's the thing: when you're heading into the desert for days (or weeks) of off-grid camping, you need a van that can handle it. All-weather comfort for those 30-degree mornings and 80-degree afternoons. AWD for washboard roads and muddy conditions after rain. A heating system that works when you're watching sunrise at Mesa Arch before dawn. Space to cook outside when the evening light turns everything golden.

These are the adventures that shape every Geotrek build.

This guide is everything we've learned about making Moab work for van life, from the best dispersed camping spots to the hikes you can't miss to where to reset when you need showers and WiFi.

Let's get you to red rock country.

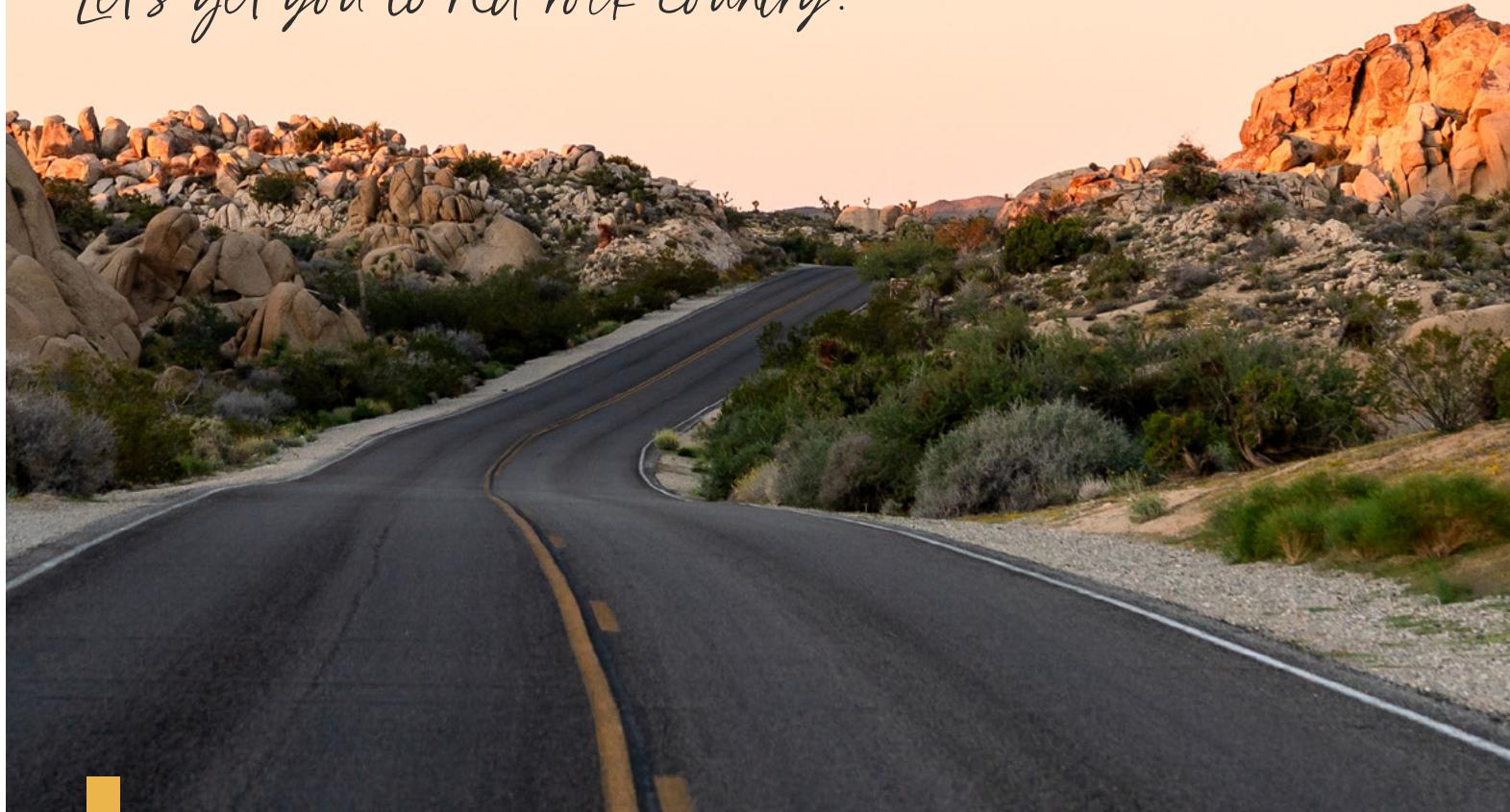


Table of Contents

- 4 When to Visit
- 5 The National Parks
- 7 Dead Horse Point
- 8 Where to Camp
- 11 Hiking Beyond the Parks
- 12 Mountain Biking
- 13 Food & Coffee
- 14 The Practical Stuff
- 16 Sample Itineraries



When to Visit

Moab works almost year-round, but spring and fall are when this place really shines.



Spring (March-May) brings wildflowers and perfect hiking temps. Expect 50-75°F days and chilly 30-50°F mornings. You'll be grateful for a van with a good heater. Crowds pick up during spring break and Easter.



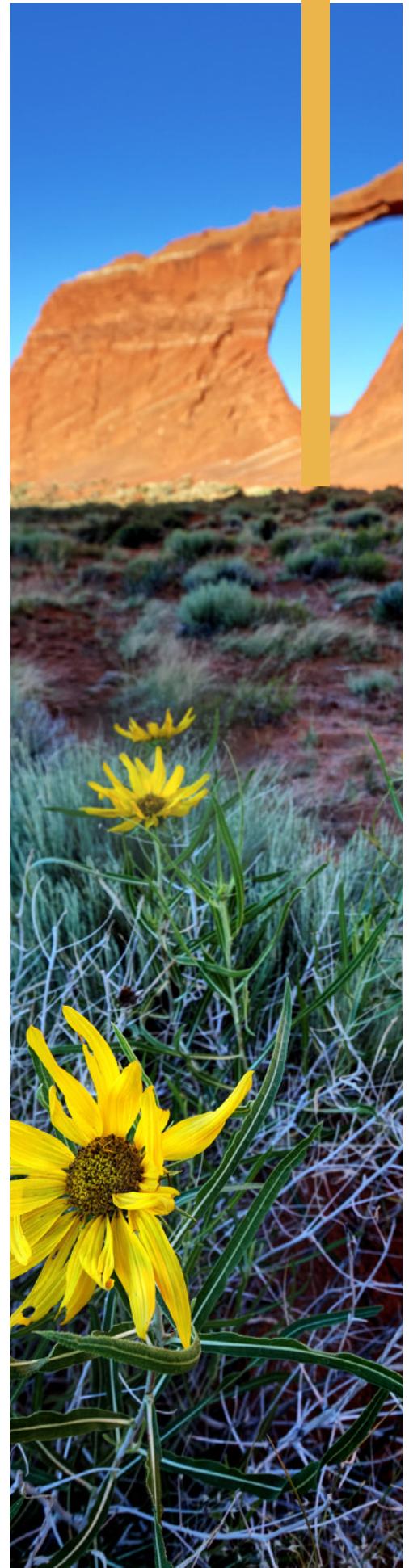
Fall (September-November) might be even better. Ideal temperatures, fewer people than spring, and those golden evening light shows. Days hit 55-80°F, nights drop to 35-55°F. Perfect weather for sleeping with the windows open.



Summer (June-August) gets HOT - 90-105°F hot. But if you can handle the heat (and have air conditioning), you'll have the place more to yourself. Plan hikes for sunrise and sunset.



Winter (December-February) is for serious solitude seekers. Days are mild (40-55°F) but nights drop to 15-30°F. You'll need solid insulation and heat, but the photography light is incredible and crowds are minimal.



The National Parks

Arches National Park

You can't talk about Moab without starting here. Arches National Park is home to more than 2,000 natural sandstone arches, each glowing a different shade of orange and red as the sun moves across the sky.

Entry: \$30 per vehicle (7 days) or America the Beautiful Pass

Timed entry required: April-October, 6 AM-5 PM (book at recreation.gov up to 3 months ahead)

Best sunrise spots: Delicate Arch, Mesa Arch (actually in Canyonlands)

Best sunset spots: Delicate Arch, Garden of Eden, Balanced Rock area

Must-do: Hike to Delicate Arch (3 miles roundtrip) for that iconic photo.

Don't miss: The Windows Section and Double Arch. Both short, scenic hikes with massive payoffs.

Pro tip: Go early. The park fills up fast, and the sunrise here is unreal.

Parking notes: Delicate Arch lot fills by 8 AM in peak season. Devil's Garden fills by 9 AM. Arrive before 7 AM or after 4 PM.

Top Hikes

Delicate Arch Trail

- 3 mi roundtrip
- Moderate to strenuous
- 2-3 hours
- Best time: Sunset
- Ages 8+
- No pets
- 480 ft elevation gain
- Exposed trail. Bring 2+ liters of water per person
- Steep slickrock section at the end

Landscape Arch (Devil's Garden)

- 1.6 mi roundtrip
- Easy
- 1 hour
- Best time: Morning or late afternoon
- All ages
- No pets
- Can extend to 7+ mile loop for more arches

Double Arch

- 0.5 mi roundtrip
- Easy
- 30 minutes
- Best time: Morning (fewer crowds)
- All ages
- No pets
- Quick, impressive, great for families

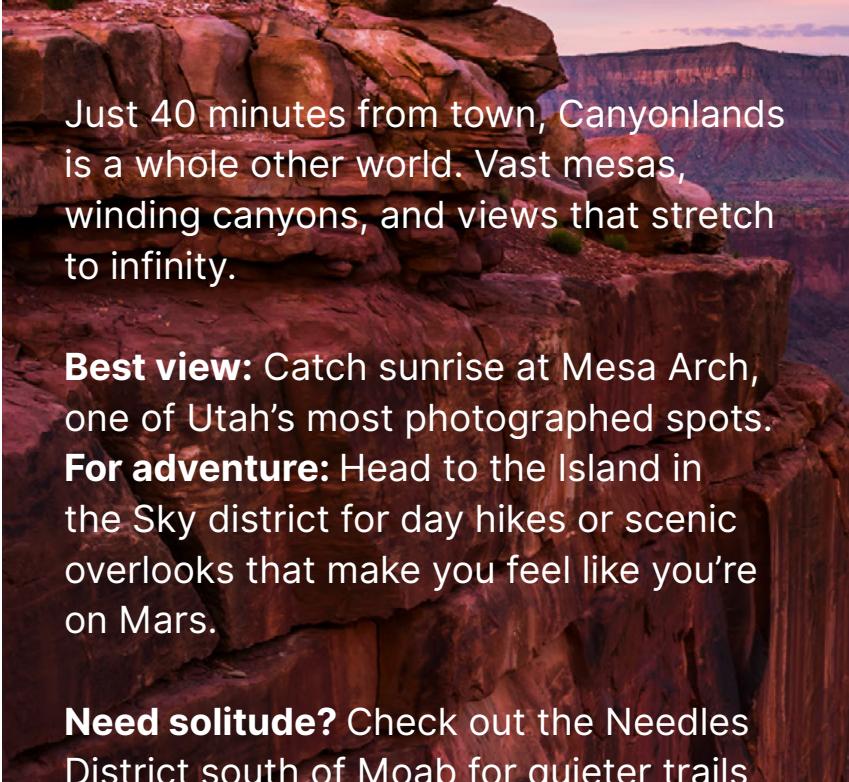
The Windows Section

- 1 mi loop
- Easy to moderate
- 1 hour
- Best time: Morning or late afternoon
- Ages 5+
- No pets
- Multiple arches on one short loop

Park Avenue Trail

- 2 mi one-way (or 4 mi roundtrip)
- Easy
- 1-2 hours
- Best time: Morning
- Ages 6+
- No pets
- Can shuttle vehicle to bottom or turn around halfway

Canyonlands National Park



Just 40 minutes from town, Canyonlands is a whole other world. Vast mesas, winding canyons, and views that stretch to infinity.

Best view: Catch sunrise at Mesa Arch, one of Utah's most photographed spots.

For adventure: Head to the Island in the Sky district for day hikes or scenic overlooks that make you feel like you're on Mars.

Need solitude? Check out the Needles District south of Moab for quieter trails and incredible rock formations.

Entry: \$30 per vehicle (7 days) or America the Beautiful Pass

Districts: Island in the Sky (40 min from Moab), The Needles (90 min south), The Maze (remote, 4WD only)

Best sunrise: Mesa Arch (arrive 45+ min early for parking), Green River Overlook

Best sunset: Grand View Point, Shafer Canyon Overlook

Top Spots - The Needles: Best for solitude and unique rock formations. Popular hikes include Chesler Park Loop (11 miles) and Cave Spring Trail (0.6 miles). 90 minutes from Moab, much less crowded.

Top Spots - Island in the Sky:

Mesa Arch

- 0.5 mi roundtrip
- Easy
- 30 minutes
- Best time: Sunrise (sun rises through the arch!)
- All ages
- No pets
- THE sunrise spot. Parking lot tiny, arrive well before dawn in peak season

Grand View Point

- 2 mi roundtrip
- Easy
- 1 hour
- Best time: Sunset or late afternoon
- All ages
- No pets
- Overlook at end of park road, stunning 360° views

Upheaval Dome

- 1.8 mi roundtrip to first overlook
- Moderate
- 1.5 hours
- Best time: Morning or afternoon
- Ages 6+
- No pets
- Mysterious crater formation, debated origin

White Rim Overlook Trail

- 1.8 mi roundtrip
- Moderate
- 1.5 hours
- Best time: Late afternoon
- Ages 8+
- No pets
- Less crowded, beautiful views of White Rim Road below

Dead Horse Point National Park



A smaller park with some of the most jaw-dropping views anywhere. The Dead Horse Point Overlook is unbeatable for sunset. The colors of the cliffs and Colorado River below light up in gold and crimson.

There are short hikes, picnic spots, and even a few van-friendly campgrounds with electric hookups.

Camping:

- 21 sites with electric hookups (\$35/night)
- Accommodates vans/RVs up to 50 ft
- Modern restrooms, dump station
- Reserve at reserve.utah.gov

Top Spots - Island in the Sky:

Dead Horse Point Overlook

- Distance: 100 yards from parking
- Difficulty: Easy (paved walkway)
- Time: 30 minutes - 2 hours
- Best time: Sunset!
- All ages
- Pets OK (on leash)
- 2,000 ft drop to Colorado River below—views rival Grand Canyon

Rim Trail

- Distance: 3.2 mi one-way (can do sections)
- Difficulty: Easy to moderate
- Time: 2-3 hours for full trail
- Best time: Morning or late afternoon
- Ages 6+ for sections
- Pets OK (on leash)
- Multiple overlook points, connects to main overlook

Entry: \$20 per vehicle (day use) or \$35 (camping)

Hours: 6 AM - 10 PM

Best time: Sunset at the main overlook (seriously, don't miss it)

Where to Camp

One of the best parts about Moab van life? Tons of dispersed camping just outside of town.

Klondike Bluff Road

Our go-to: Just 15 minutes north of Moab on US-191.

- Washboard road, but totally worth it
- Epic night skies and red rock bluffs
- Great middle ground between Arches, Canyonlands, and downtown
- Rarely full. You can roll in late and still find a spot

The Details:

- 20+ established sites along ~3 mile dirt/gravel road
- 2WD accessible in dry conditions
- No amenities (pack in/pack out)
- Cell service: Spotty Verizon, limited AT&T
- 20 min to Arches, 40 min to Canyonlands, 20 min to downtown

Van Notes:

Plenty of room to turn around. Most sites have space for vehicles with rooftop platforms to extend awnings. Level sites available.



Other Dispersed Options

Willow Springs Road

- 20 min north of Moab
- Graded dirt, 2WD accessible
- 15+ sites
- Quieter than Klondike
- 15 min to Arches



Highway 128 (Colorado River Scenic Byway)

- Along Colorado River north of Moab
- Multiple pull-offs along 30+ miles
- River access, scenic
- Very limited cell service
- Some sites tight (scout during daylight)



Gemini Bridges Road

- Between Moab and Arches
- Rough dirt road, high clearance recommended
- Mountain biking access
- Low crowds
- Better for AWD/4WD

General dispersed camping rules

- Stay on existing roads and established sites
- No camping within 1/4 mile of water
- 14-day limit
- Pack out ALL trash
- Leave no trace

If You're Craving Comfort

Field Station Moab

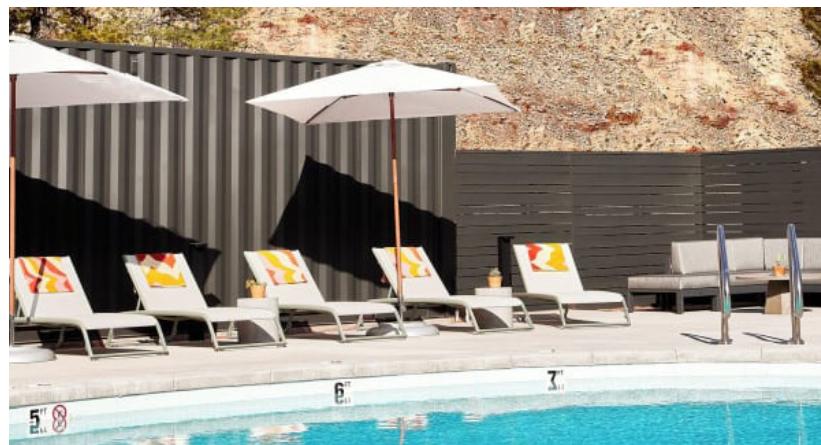
After days off-grid, Field Station hits the spot.

- Outdoor pool, hot tub, and coffee shop
- Retail area, coworking lounge, and clean showers
- Van camping in the parking lot with power hookups—a perfect “reset” night

The Details:

- Location: Downtown Moab (307 W Center St)
- Cost: \$65-\$75/night
- 30-amp electric hookups
- WiFi in coworking lounge
- Walking distance to restaurants
- Reserve at fieldstationmoab.com

Van notes: Parking lot camping (not scenic but extremely convenient), great for laundry days and remote work



Sun Outdoors Moab Downtown

- Location: 1773 N US-191
- Cost: \$70-90/night
- Full hookups (water, electric, sewer)
- Pool, showers, laundry
- Pet-friendly
- RV park setting, paved sites



Hiking Beyond the Parks

Corona Arch Trail

One of the best free hikes near Moab.
No park entry needed, and it's less crowded than Arches.

The Details:

Location: Off Potash Road (UT-279), 25 min from Moab
Distance: 3 mi roundtrip
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: 2-3 hours

Best time: Morning or late afternoon
Ages: 8+ (short ladder section)
Pets: OK (on leash)
Elevation gain: 440 ft



Fisher Towers Trail

Stunning red rock towers and dramatic formations.
Worth the drive.

The Details:

Location: UT-128, 45 min from Moab
Distance: 4.4 mi roundtrip
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: 2-3 hours

Best time: Sunrise or sunset
Ages: 10+
Pets: OK (on leash)
Elevation gain: 670 ft

Negro Bill Canyon Trail

Leads to Morning Glory Natural Bridge. Creek crossings mean you might get wet feet.

The Details:

Location: UT-128, 15 min from Moab
Distance: 4 mi roundtrip
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate
Time: 2-3 hours

Best time: Morning (shaded canyon)
Ages: 6+ (short ladder section)
Pets: OK (on leash)
Elevation gain: 330 ft



Mountain Biking

Slickrock Trail – The legendary ride that started it all.

- 10.5 mi loop (plus 2.3 mi practice loop)
- Advanced
- 2-4 hours
- Best time: Morning or late afternoon
- World-famous, steep slickrock climbs
- Not for beginners



Bar-M Loop Trail – Near Arches, perfect for sunrise spins with unreal views.

- 7.5 mi loop
- Intermediate
- 1-2 hrs
- Sunrise (stunning views, cooler temps)
- Less technical than Slickrock



Porcupine Rim

- 14.6 mi (shuttle required)
- Advanced
- 3-5 hours
- Best time: Morning or late afternoon
- Epic descent

Bike rentals & shuttles:

- Chile Pepper Bike Shop
- Poison Spider Bicycles
- Rim Cyclery

Food & Coffee

Fuel Up Between Adventures

Breakfast

Doughbird

Doughbird –

Legendary donuts and killer breakfast sandwiches. Arrive early (sells out).
\$5-12



Eklectica –

Healthy options, smoothies, coffee.
\$10-15

Lunch



Quesadilla Mobila (Food Truck Park) –

Don't miss this for a quick, delicious lunch. \$8-12



Milt's Stop & Eat –

A Moab classic since 1954. Burgers & shakes. \$10-15



Moab Brewery –

Pub fare, local beers.
\$12-18

Dinner



Sunset Grill –

Elevated dining with views overlooking the town.
Reservations recommended.
\$25-40



Pasta Jay's –

Italian comfort food.
\$15-25



Desert Bistro –

Upscale Southwestern.
\$30-45



Fiesta Mexicana –

Great downtown option for comfort food and margaritas.
\$12-20

Coffee



Moab Coffee Roasters –

Local roaster, multiple locations, great coffee

FieldStation

Field Station Moab –

Coffee shop with workspace, convenient for van campers

Groceries

If you're cooking in your van, stock up at City Market (best selection, downtown) or the Moonflower Community Cooperative (local goods, great produce, bulk items).

Van cooking note: Cooking outside when the red rocks catch the morning or evening light is one of Moab's simple pleasures. A van's outdoor table setup makes meals memorable.

Staying Connected

Cell Service:

- Town: Reliable all carriers
- Dispersed camping: Spotty (Verizon best, AT&T/T-Mobile limited)
- National parks: Limited to none inside parks

Work-friendly spots with WiFi:

- Lions Park – Perfect for remote work, great cell signal, public bathrooms, easy trail access
- Field Station Moab (coworking lounge)
- Moab Coffee Roasters
- Local coffee shops



The Practical Stuff

Showers, Laundry & Logistics

Even adventurers need a reset day.

Showers:

- Lazy Lizard Hostel (\$7)
- Sun Outdoors Moab Downtown (day use available)
- Field Station Moab (for guests)

Laundry:

- Moab Laundry Express LLC (clean, modern, easy)
- City Market (coin laundry)

Dump Stations:

- Dead Horse Point State Park (for campers)
- Sun Outdoors Moab Downtown (\$10 for non-guests)
- City Market (free for customers)

Water Refill:

- City parks with spigots (Lions Park)
- Gas stations (ask first)

Propane:

- Several gas stations in town
- U-Haul location

Van-Specific Tips

Road Conditions: Most main dispersed camping roads are suitable for 2WD vans in dry conditions. Washboard roads are common (drive slowly). Check weather before heading out. Dirt roads become impassable when wet. Ground clearance of 8"+ opens up more camping options.

Temperature Management:

- **Cold mornings (spring/fall):** Desert mornings drop to 30-40°F even when days are warm. A van's heater is essential for those pre-dawn wake-ups.
- **Hot days (summer):** Air conditioning or fans are critical. Plan activities for early morning/evening.
- **Cooking outside:** Evening temps in spring/fall are perfect for outdoor cooking. Wind can be strong (secure lightweight items).

Parking:

- Downtown Moab has limited tight parking. Park on outskirts and walk if needed
- National park lots sized for RVs (vans fit easily)
- Dispersed camping sites vary (scout during daylight if possible)

Solar & Power: Excellent sun exposure year-round (great for solar panels). Dispersed camping means relying on your power system. Field Station offers electric hookups for recharge days.

Water Management: Dry climate means you'll use more water than expected. Bring extra capacity if boondocking multiple days. Plan refill stops in Moab.

Pet Considerations: Pets not allowed on national park trails (except Dead Horse Point). Hot ground in summer is dangerous for paws. Plenty of pet-friendly dispersed camping and BLM land. Shade essential in van when leaving pets briefly.



Sample Itineraries

3-Day Weekend

Day 1: Arrive Moab, groceries at City Market, set up at Klondike Bluff, sunset at Dead Horse Point, camp dinner under stars.

Day 2: Sunrise at Mesa Arch (Canyonlands), breakfast at van, Windows Section hike (Arches), lunch in Moab (Quesadilla Mobila), Delicate Arch for sunset, dinner in town (Pasta Jay's), return to camp.

Day 3: Sunrise from camp, Devil's Garden/Landscape Arch (Arches), lunch at van, drive home or extend.

5-Day Adventure

Day 1: Arrive, groceries, set up Klondike Bluff, sunset Dead Horse Point.

Day 2: Sunrise Mesa Arch, breakfast at van, explore Island in the Sky (Grand View Point, Upheaval Dome), lunch at van, work from Lions Park, dinner in town (Sunset Grill).

Day 3: Sleep in, breakfast at Doughbird, Windows Section & Double Arch, lunch at van, Delicate Arch sunset hike, dinner (Fiesta Mexicana).

Day 4: Sunrise from camp, Corona Arch hike, reset day at Field Station Moab (showers, laundry, work from coffee shop, pool/hot tub), dinner in town.

Day 5: Sleep in, Devil's Garden (Arches), lunch at The Garage, drive home or continue.

7-Day Deep Dive

Follow 5-day itinerary, then add:

Day 6: Mountain biking (Bar-M or Slickrock), Fisher Towers hike, explore Highway 128 scenic drive, camp along Colorado River

Day 7: Needles District day trip OR relaxed town day (shopping, coffee, meals out), final sunset at favorite spot

Can't-Miss Moments

Here's how to make your Moab stay unforgettable:

- **Sunrise:** Mesa Arch at Canyonlands
- **Sunset:** Dead Horse Point Overlook
- **Midday:** Hike to Delicate Arch or Double Arch
- **Chill spot:** Lions Park in Moab
- **Night:** Stargazing from Klondike Bluff



Final Thoughts

Moab has a rhythm all its own. Early mornings, dusty trails, campfire sunsets, and the Milky Way stretching across the sky. It's the ultimate desert escape, where every day ends in color and every night begins under a canopy of stars.

Whether you're parked along Klondike Bluff Road or sipping coffee at Field Station, Moab offers everything van lifers love: open landscapes, endless adventure, and a welcoming community on the road.

What to Pack:

- 2+ liters water per person per hike
- Sunscreen (desert sun is intense)
- Layers (30-40°F temperature swings between day/night)
- Hat and sunglasses
- Headlamp (for sunrise hikes)
- Electrolytes (dry climate = dehydration)

Leave No Trace: Pack out all trash, use existing fire rings only, don't create new campsites, keep noise down, respect private property. So pack your gear, fuel up, and point your van toward red rock country. Moab is waiting.

Ready for Your Moab Adventure?

The difference between a good trip and an unforgettable one often comes down to your setup. At Geotrek, we build vans specifically for destinations like Moab—places where you need real capability, not just good looks.

What Makes a Geotrek Van Perfect for Moab

Moab isn't gentle on vehicles. Scorching days, freezing mornings, and miles of washboard roads test every system you've got. Geotrek vans are built for that kind of terrain and temperature swing.

All-weather comfort

From 30°F desert mornings to triple-digit summer heat, Geotrek vans are designed to keep you comfortable year-round. Every model includes efficient heating, while the Flatiron adds built-in air conditioning for those blazing Moab afternoons.

AWD capability

Both the Flatiron and Bear Peak are built on the AWD 144" Mercedes Sprinter chassis, giving you control and stability when the roads turn muddy or rough after a storm.

Off-grid power

Days of dispersed camping are easy with serious battery capacity. Bear Peak includes a 5 kWh lithium system, while Flatiron steps it up to 10 kWh for extended off-grid stays.

Thoughtful design

The details matter when you're living out of your van. Both models include the Happy Hour Table for outdoor cooking, smart garage storage for bikes and gear, and rooftop platforms for those epic canyon views.

Quality insulation

Bamboo interiors aren't just beautiful, they naturally regulate humidity, helping you stay comfortable in Moab's dry desert climate while keeping the van cooler during the day and warmer at night.



Whichever model you choose, every Geotrek is built to handle real adventure—the kind that starts before sunrise and ends under a sky full of stars.

We're not just selling vans, we're equipping you for the adventures that matter. Whether you're chasing sunrise at Mesa Arch or spending a week exploring every corner of Moab, a Geotrek van is built to handle it.

[Explore Available Vans](#)

[Build Your Custom Geotrek](#)

About Geotrek

Geotrek Vans builds premium camper vans for people who actually use them, not just park them. Based in Boulder, Colorado, we're surrounded by the kind of terrain our vans are built for: mountain passes, desert roads, and everything in between.

Each Geotrek van is designed with purpose:

- **Premium craftsmanship** and durable materials that hold up to real adventure
- **Flexible layouts** that adapt to how you travel
- **All-season capability** for comfort from the desert to the mountains
- **Thoughtful, minimalist design** that puts function first

Our 2025 lineup includes the **Flatiron** and **Bear Peak**, both built to take you farther — with smart storage, off-grid power, and the comfort to stay out there longer.

The Geotrek community is made up of photographers, remote professionals, weekend explorers, and full-time travelers. People who believe van life should be capable, comfortable, and built to last.

Discover more destination guides, owner stories, and upcoming events at geotrekvans.com.



Whether you're choosing one of our dialed 2025 models or looking for something custom, we can help you get there.



Start Your Adventure

No dealerships. No fluff. Just the good stuff.

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