

# Responsible Recreation on Canyonlands' Four-Wheel-Drive Roads



Driving off road is prohibited.

Canyonlands National Park's backcountry preserves incomparable opportunities to experience remote wildness, solitude, and self-reliance. The backcountry is significant as one of the last large, relatively undisturbed areas of the Colorado Plateau. It is your responsibility to protect these unique qualities.

## Stay on the Road

Travel responsibly on designated roads only. Plan ahead before you pass. Use an existing turn-out, dry wash bottom, or solid rock surface to pass other vehicles, motorcycles, and bikes. Back up to an appropriate spot if necessary.

Do not ride or drive off the road. Visit roadside attractions by foot only. Biological soil crust and desert vegetation is very fragile. When hiking, always walk on marked trails, solid rock, or in sandy washes.

Drive or ride over, not around obstacles such as rocky areas and mud. Straddle ruts, gullies and washouts even if they are wider than your vehicle. These roads require low-range four-wheel-drive vehicles. If the road is muddy, consider turning around. Don't turn around on narrow roads, steep terrain, or unstable ground. Back up until you find a safe place to turn around.

Stop frequently and scout ahead on foot. To help with traction, balance your load and lower tire pressure. Know where the differential or the lowest point on your vehicle is. This will help in negotiating terrain and prevent vehicle damage resulting in oil and fluid spills on the trail.

Comply with all signs and respect barriers.

## Be Prepared

Educate yourself before your trip by obtaining travel maps and knowing how to operate and repair your equipment safely. Know your skill and fitness level, as well as the mechanical condition and capabilities of your vehicle or bike. Buckle up—seat belts are mandatory.

Check the weather and get road condition updates before heading out. Make a realistic plan and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans.

Plan for the unexpected. Carry extra food, water and clothing. Vehicles should carry tire chains and a shovel, especially in winter. Watch your time, your fuel and your energy. Be prepared with tools, supplies, spare tires, and a spill kit for trailside repairs. We strongly recommend vehicles travel in pairs with winch capabilities, especially on Lavender Canyon and Peekaboo/Horse Canyon roads. Motorcycles and mountain bikers should travel with two to three people.



**Vehicles, bicycles, and motorcycles all use backcountry roads.**

### **Respect Others on the Road**

Yield the right of way to those traveling uphill. Vehicles and motorcycles yield to mountain bikers, hikers and horses. Pass bicyclists at slow speeds, or stop and let them pass you. Bicyclists should pass other vehicles slowly. Observe the speed limit to keep noise and dust down. Be prepared—do not rely on other visitors to rescue you.

### **Do Your Part**

You can leave the park better than you found it. Carry a trash bag in your vehicle and pick up litter, even if it's not yours. Make sure all trash and food is secure within your vehicle. Ravens and other animals are attracted to food and trash and will spread it.

Allow others to enjoy backcountry solitude unique to the park. Excessive noise takes away from everyone's experience. Protect the park's natural quiet by not playing music, revving your engine, or driving a poorly tuned vehicle.

Do not disturb or feed wildlife. When observing wildlife, maintain your distance and remain quiet. Bighorn sheep are particularly sensitive to loud vehicles and human presence. Teach children not to chase or pick up animals.

Before and after your trip, wash your vehicle or bike to reduce the spread of invasive species. Use park-provided toilets for solid human waste or remove it in toilet systems. Never burn or bury toilet paper—always pack it out.



**Enjoy cultural and historic sites from a distance.**

The archeological record in Canyonlands spans thousands of years. Many historic sites have endured the harsh desert climate for centuries or even millennia, but they are easily damaged.

View historic sites from a distance. Ancient walls are very fragile. Never enter structures or human-made enclosures. Your movements may damage foundations or other structural elements.

Leave things as they are. Tribes consider these cultural sites vital to their families and communities. The presence and exact location of scattered artifacts are of great scientific value. Do not collect artifacts; allow future visitors the joy of discovery.

Enjoy rock art with your eyes only. Do not touch pictographs and petroglyphs as the oils in human skin will destroy them. Never spoil archeological sites or natural features with graffiti or other markings. Promote discovery by not geotagging photos or sharing locations or GPS coordinates of sites you find.