

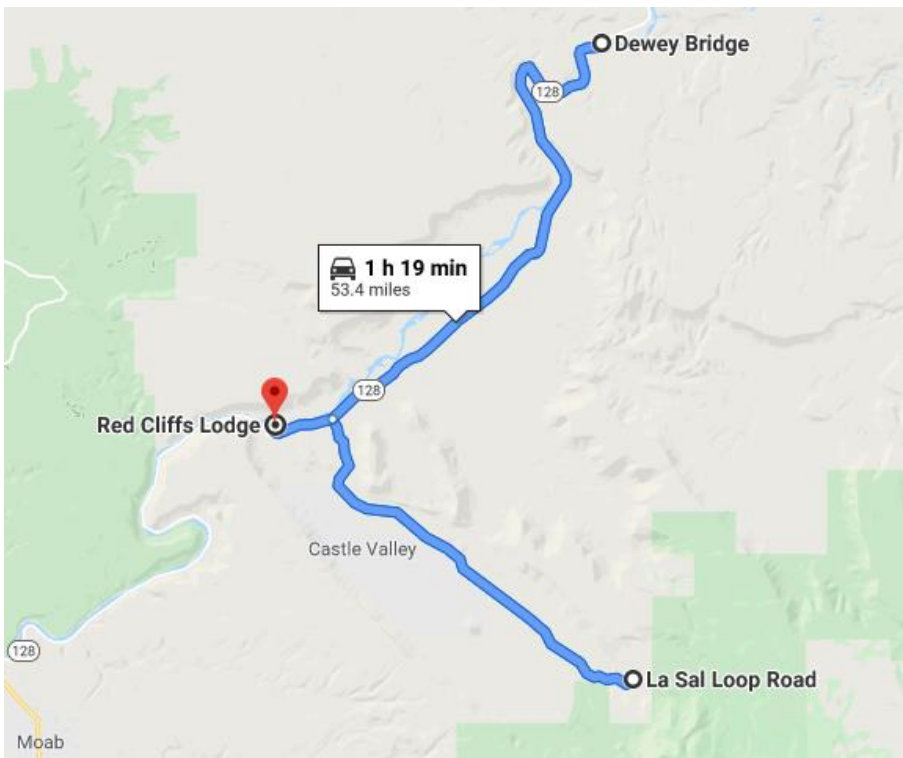
Castle Valley and Dewey Bridge Drive



This drive starts by driving through Castle Valley with views of rock spires called Castleton Tower and The Rectory, and a volcano chimney called Round Mountain. The journey then continues back down Castle Valley, and then to visit Dewey Bridge (or what is left of it).

Drive time from Red Cliffs Lodge to end of this drive is approximately 2 hours, leaving plenty of time to relax at Red Cliffs Lodge or to drive into Moab for shopping, lunch, or other activities.

1. The drive begins at Red Cliffs Lodge – set trip meter to “0”
2. Leaving Red Cliffs Lodge, turn left onto SR128
3. At trip meter mile 1.4 turn right onto Castle Valley Road / La Sal Mountain Loop Road
4. At trip meter mile 11.9 (where the turn-off is to La Sal Mountain Road), turn around and retrace the road back to SR 128. Views from this direction are even more spectacular than on the way up.
5. At approx. trip meter mile 24 turn right onto SR 128 (north).
6. Drive 14.3 miles to Dewey Bridge site.
7. Return to Red Cliffs Lodge by returning 15.7 miles south on SR 128.



About Castle Valley

Castle Valley is a quiet oasis located 20 miles north of the busy town of Moab. This is where you find some of the most breathtaking scenery in Utah. Castle Valley sits in the shadow of Castle Rock Peak or Castleton Tower, as the locals call it. This castle like turret shares the horizon with the La Sal Mountains, red rock towers, and the Colorado River. This 400-ft sandstone tower which rests on a 1,000 ft cone of looser rock, and rises high above Castle Valley. Hiking to the base of the tower is possible but only experienced rock climbers should hike and climb any part of the tower or its base.

Round Mountain is a small 6,185 ft summit mountain and is an extinct bysmalith, or igneous volcanic plug, that rises 700 feet above the middle of the valley floor. Precipitation runoff from the mountain drains into Castle Creek which is a tributary of the Colorado River.



About Dewey Bridge

The Dewey Bridge, built in 1916, originally carried SR-128 across the Colorado River. The bridge featured an all wood deck measuring 502 feet long, 10.2 feet wide from support to support and 8 feet wide from rail to rail. The bridge also consisted of two metal towers, a run of seven cables on each side of the bridge deck, and cable anchors. On the day of its completion, it was the second-longest suspension bridge west of the Mississippi River. The longest was the Cameron Suspension Bridge, also built by the Midland Bridge Company, who used the same base plans for both bridges. The Dewey Bridge remained the longest suspension bridge in Utah until it was destroyed by fire in 2008.

After being replaced for automobile use, the Dewey Bridge was used by the Kokopelli trail, a bicycle trail, and a pedestrian trail. The east approach to the bridge features an abandoned gas station and the ghost town of Dewey. The west approach has been converted to a rest area and park. On April 6, 2008, a seven-year-old boy accidentally started a fire in a nearby campground while playing with matches. The fire moved up the riverbank and destroyed the bridge's wooden deck and rails.

Though the Colorado River runs for over 400 miles in Utah, there are only three sites with bridges to cross it. One is the Dewey Bridge site where SR-128 traverses the waterway over a new bridge; the other two are an unnamed bridge that carries US-191 in Moab (built in 1911, replaced in 1955 and again in 2010) and the Hite Crossing Bridge (built in 1966) used by SR-95.

