

La Sal Mountain Loop / Optional Wilson Arch and Hole-N-The Rock Drive



The journey 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 up the mountain on an exciting, fairly steep and twisty La Sal Mountain Loop road. This is where the journey begins for drivers that enjoy twisties. Although there aren't many places to pull over, we will stop at two overlooks. The journey continues back down via a challenging descent to Spanish Valley Road and Hwy 191. Then options to return to Moab and Red Cliffs Lodge, or continue on to Wilson Arch and/or Hole N the Rock.

Drive time from Red Cliffs Lodge to end of official drive (including optional Wilson Arch and Hole-N-The Rock) is approximately 3 hours, plus 1 hour to drive back through Moab and return to Red Cliffs Lodge (4 hours Total).

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 turn right onto La Sal Mountain Road
5. At trip meter mile 16.5 is Pinhook Battleground turn off. Point of interest only, see description next page. (dirt road, 2 miles?)
6. **At trip meter 17.9 stop at overlook (Castle Valley view)** (pit toilet bathroom available)
7. Pit toilets also available at odometer mile 24.5 & 25.2
8. **At trip meter mile 30.6 stop at overlook (Moab valley view)**
9. At trip meter 37 turn left onto Old Airport road
10. **At trip meter 37.5 choose from the following options:**
 - a. Turn right onto Hwy 191 – heading back into Moab. Feel free to stop in Moab to stroll, shop, and/or eat. It is approximately another 45 minutes from this point back through Moab and to Red Cliffs Lodge.
 - b. Turn Left onto Hwy 191, going 18 miles to Wilson Arch. We will spend approximately 20-30 minutes at Wilson Arch for photos. Then back on Hwy 191 going 10 miles back towards Moab to Hole-N-The Rock. This officially ends the driver led drive. Everyone can spend as much time as they want at Hole-N-The Rock and return to Moab/Red Cliffs Lodge at their own pace.
 - c. Turn Left onto Hwy 191, going 7.6 miles to Hole-N-The Rock. Spend as much time as you want at Hole-N-The Rock and return to Moab/Red Cliffs Lodge at your own pace.

At this juncture choose option a. (back to Moab/Red Cliffs Lodge), b. (adding Wilson Arch and Hole in the Rock), or c. (adding Hole in the Rock). Drive leader will remain leading Option b. extended drive to Wilson Arch and then back to Hole-N-The Rock.

A map of southern Utah showing a scenic route. The route starts at Red Cliffs Lodge, goes south through Castle Valley, Moab, Spanish Valley, and Wilson Arch, ending at Hole 'N' The Rock. The route is marked with a blue line. A callout box indicates a travel time of 1 h 37 min for 60.9 miles. The map also shows the Colorado River, Highway 191, Highway 128, and Highway 46. Mountain peaks like Mt. Waas, Mt. Peale, and South Mountain are marked with green pins. The area is characterized by green hills and valleys.

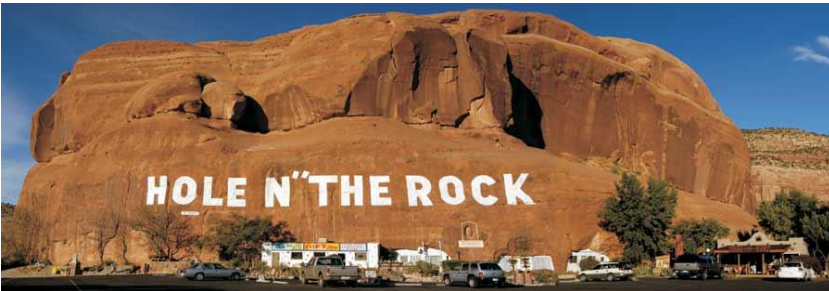
Wilson Arch



Wilson Arch, the large Entrada Sandstone arch is accessed by an easy scramble up red dirt trail to underneath a large arch with great views. It has a span of 91 feet and a height of 46 feet. Wilson Arch was named after Joe Wilson, a local pioneer who had a cabin nearby in Dry Valley. If you don't have the time or energy to hike to the arch, the view from the parking area is pretty spectacular—the sandstone structure frames the blue, Utah sky in picture-perfect fashion.

But if you are interested in trekking up the hill, you will be rewarded handsomely. The elliptical-shaped arch is a great spot for a scenic perch to take in the fins and formations of the incredible landscape.

Hole N The Rock



Hole N" The Rock, a most unique 5,000 square foot home, carved out of a huge rock in Utah's Canyonlands Country includes an unusual gift shop and trading post. On the property are:

- Guided tours of the world-famous Hole N" the Rock House (\$6.50 fee)
- Exotic zoo featuring zebra, bison, camel and many more (\$4.25 fee)
- Collection of metal/art sculptures
- Antique tools, vintage neon signs, mining equipment and unusual time era pieces
- Hole N" the Rock Store: One of a kind souvenirs, t-shirts and memorabilia
- The Trading Post: locally made Native American pottery, jewelry, dream catchers and unique gifts for everyone
- The General Store: ice cream, drinks, memorabilia, signs, etc.

Historical Information La Sal Mountain Loop Road / Pinhook Battleground: (End of Pinhook Battleground Road)

The Pinhook Battleground site in Castle Valley is the location of the largest and most tragic, Indian-White confrontation in terms of number killed, in Southeastern Utah. The area had been initially settled in 1855 by a group of Mormon missionaries. The missionaries built the Elk Mountain Mission Fort near the crossing of the Colorado River at present-day Moab, but were forced to leave within a few weeks after an Indian attack killed three of their number.

The Pinhook Battle took place June 15, 1881, in the mountains above present-day Moab more than a quarter of a century after the Elk Mountain Mission was abandoned. Thirteen white men and between seven and eighteen Indians were killed. In 1940 Grand County erected a concrete monument at the site of the common grave in Pinhook Valley where the remains of eight of the thirteen white men killed were buried. Many place names in this region are derived from the names of the participants in this battle. The region continues to contain descendants of many of those involved. The entire area remains unoccupied, undeveloped and under the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service. It has remained basically the same since the June 1881 incident.