

40 FINALISTS FROM OUR CROSS-COUNTRY SEARCH



# AMERICA'S FAVORITE Small Towns

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Display until 8/31/2026

# Moab

UTAH

## FOUNDED:

First in 1855, then resettled in 1877

**POPULATION:** 5,242

## CLOSEST MAJOR AIRPORT:

Canyonlands (CNY), 18 miles north; Grand Junction (GJT), 114 miles northeast

## ONE GREAT MEAL:

In an 1885 courthouse, now painted pink, the Jailhouse Cafe serves breakfast daily and weekday dinners (don't miss the San Francisco Cioppino!).

## ONE GREAT STAY:

ULUM Moab has taken glamping to another level of luxury, so much so it earned a Michelin Key recognition. It continues to up its game with a massage cave as well as therapeutic outdoor dipping pools.

Delicate Arch,  
Arches National Park



**W**ith a prime location on the Colorado Plateau right along the

Colorado River, Moab is the access point to some of the country's most Instagram-friendly parks, all just a half hour from the city's downtown. The belle of the ball is Arches National Park, with more than 2,000 natural sandstone arches within its 76,518 acres, the largest concentration in the world. (And this year, no reservations are required to visit!) Just as stunning is Utah's biggest national park, Canyonlands, a funhouse of buttes, spires, and canyon, all the hard work of the Colorado and Green Rivers eroding the area through time. Despite its state park-level status, Dead Horse Point is one of

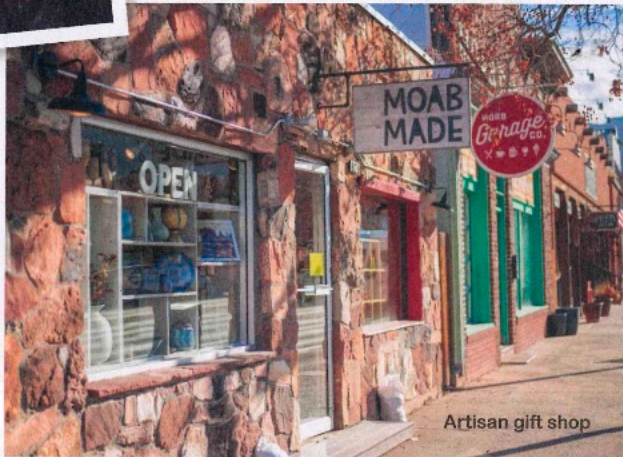


Moab offers a free concert series, left; Moab Folk Festival, above

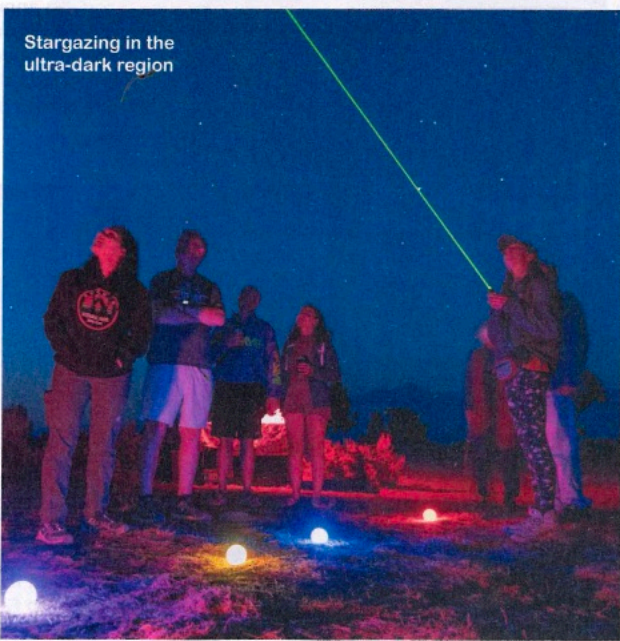
the world's most photographed vistas, with the most surreal viewpoints from its Island in the Sky region.

But last year, another park was added. Making its official debut in May 2025, Utahraptor State Park is home to one of the largest dinosaur bone beds, with more than 5,500 bones representing at least 10 species—and it's believed there are still thousands more. Beyond the bones, the park offers hiking, mountain biking, and off-roading. It also documents a dark chapter in American history, when the Dalton Wells Civilian Conservation Corp here was one of the internment sites for incarcerated Japanese Americans during World War II—a history that the park's exhibits don't shy away from telling.

Moab is constantly reinventing and adding to its offerings. A new Mud Springs Trail System opens in Spanish Valley this fall, while Stargazing Moab will lead visitors on its first season of dark-sky tours, and Desert Highlights will kick off a new canyoneering route called Mail Slot with four 165-foot rappels. Thrill-seekers won't want to miss out on Moab Swingers, which takes them on a rope swing ... off a 500-foot cliff. •



Artisan gift shop



Stargazing in the ultra-dark region