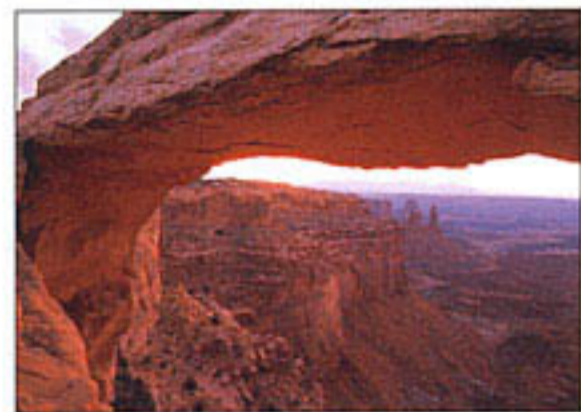
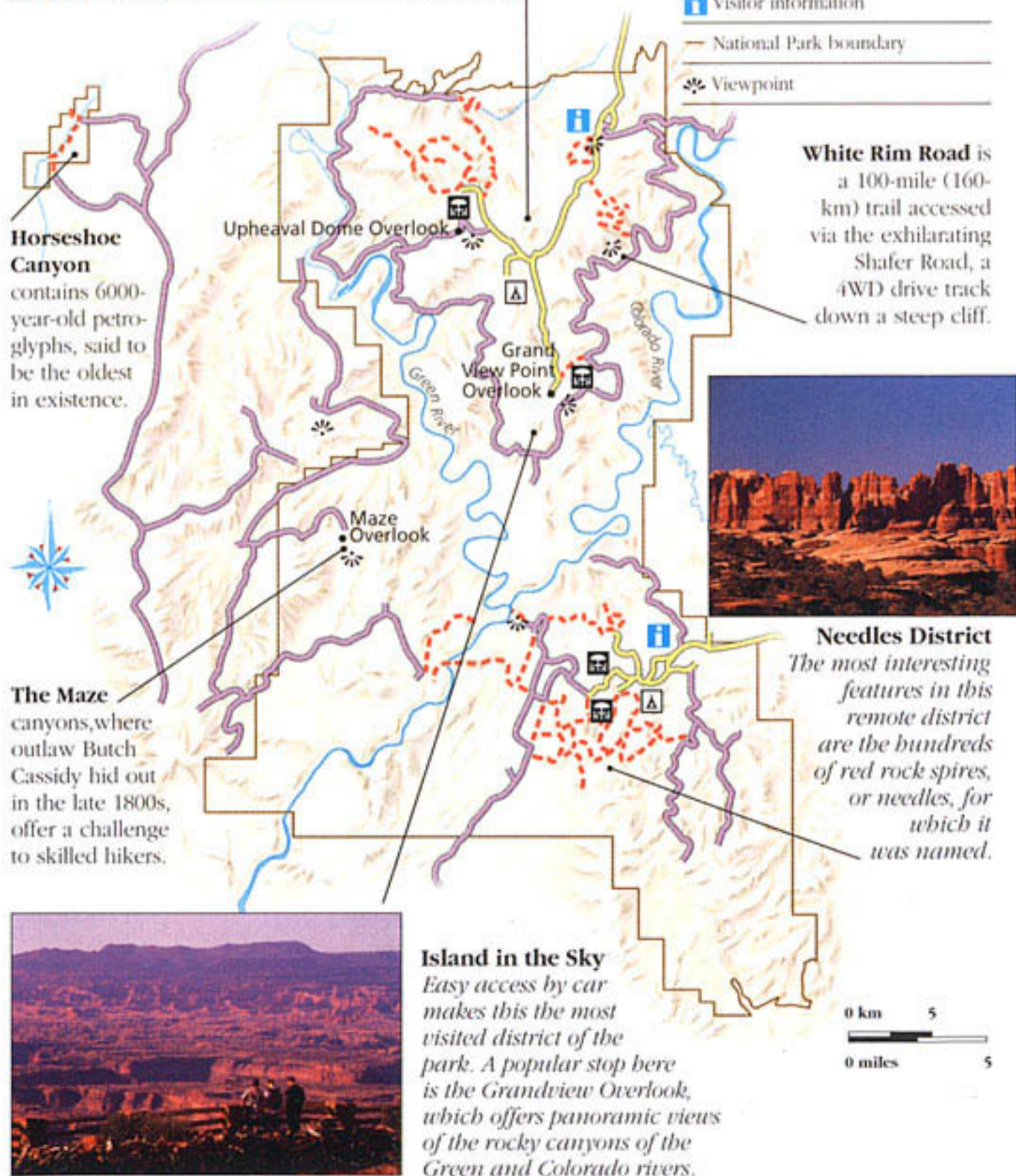


## Canyonlands National Park ③

MILLIONS OF YEARS ago, the Colorado and Green Rivers cut winding paths deep into rock, creating a labyrinth of rocky canyons that form the heart of this stunning wilderness. At its center, the rivers' confluence divides the park's 527 sq miles (1,365 sq km) into three districts: the Needles, the Maze, and the grassy plateau of the Island in the Sky. Established as a national park in 1964, Canyonlands is growing in popularity. Most wilderness travel, whether on foot or by vehicle, requires a permit.



**Mesa Arch**  
An easy and rewarding 500-yard (0.5-km) trail leads to Mesa Arch, a long, low curve of stone that perfectly frames the snow capped La Sal Mountains in the distance.



**Horseshoe Canyon**  
contains 6000-year-old petroglyphs, said to be the oldest in existence.

**The Maze**  
canyons, where outlaw Butch Cassidy hid out in the late 1800s, offer a challenge to skilled hikers.



**Island in the Sky**  
Easy access by car makes this the most visited district of the park. A popular stop here is the Grandview Overlook, which offers panoramic views of the rocky canyons of the Green and Colorado rivers.

**White Rim Road** is a 100-mile (160-km) trail accessed via the exhilarating Shafer Road, a 4WD drive track down a steep cliff.



**Needles District**  
The most interesting features in this remote district are the hundreds of red rock spires, or needles, for which it was named.

### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

**Road map C2.** **H** Canyonlands National Park, 2282 South West Resource Blvd., Moab (435) 259-7164. **W** [www.nps.gov/cany](http://www.nps.gov/cany)  
**☐** Visitor center: 8am–4:30pm (longer during Spring and Fall) daily; **☉** Thanksgiving, Dec 25, Jan 1. **♿** **♻** **♻** **♻** **♻**

### KEY

- Highway
- 4WD only
- - - Hiking route
- Δ** Campground/RV
- ♻** Picnic area
- i** Visitor information
- National Park boundary
- ☉** Viewpoint

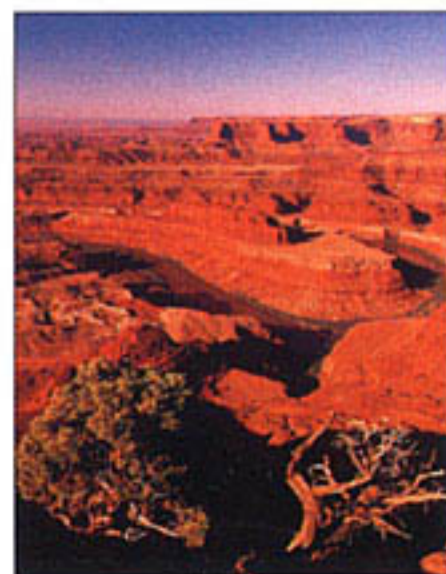


The deep crevices of the canyons in the wide valley around Green River

## Dead Horse Point State Park ④

**Road map C1.** **H** State Route 313 (435) 259-2614. **☐** Apr–Oct: 8am–6pm daily; Nov–Mar: 8am–5pm daily. **♿** **♻**

THE HIGH MESA of Dead Horse Point lies just outside the entry to the Island in the Sky of Canyonlands National Park. Unforgettable views of the Colorado River and the maze of deep canyons are a highpoint here. Legend has it that this park owes its name to the fact that it was once used as a natural corral for wild mustangs. A group of horses not chosen for taming were once left in this dry site, eventually dying of thirst



View of the dramatic cliffs of Dead Horse Point State Park

within sight of the Colorado River far below. The park also features several short hiking trails that follow the cliff edge, offering variations on the truly amazing view. The drama of this place has not been lost on Hollywood (see pp.30–31). Famous as the spot where Thelma and Louise drove off the edge in the 1991 film of the same name, more recently these cliffs were scaled by Tom Cruise at the start of the 2000 movie *Mission Impossible: 2*.

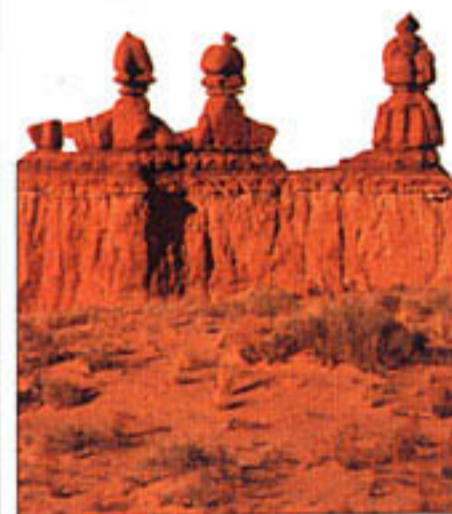
## Green River ⑤

**Road map C1.** **Δ** 1,000. **H** 855 E. Main St (435) 564-3526. **☐** daily.

LOCATED IN A broad, bowl-shaped valley, the town grew around a ford of the wild Green River in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Primarily a service town, it is also a launching spot for those braving the challenging white-water that lies downstream of the Green and Colorado Rivers. John Wesley Powell (see pp.42–3) began his intrepid exploration of the Colorado River and Grand Canyon from here in 1871. Green River has the **John Wesley Powell River History Museum**, with 20,000 sq ft (1,860 sq m) of displays tracing the history of the area's exploration.

## John Wesley Powell River History Museum

855 E. Main St. **☎** (435) 564-3427. **☐** Apr–Oct: 8am–8pm daily; Nov–Mar: 9am–5pm daily. **☉** public hols. **♿** **♻**



Eroded rock formations of Goblin Valley State Park

## Goblin Valley State Park ⑥

**Road map C1.** **☎** (435) 564-3633. **☐** 24 hrs daily. **♿** **♻**

THE "GOBLINS" of Goblin Valley State Park are, in fact, a group of mushroom-shaped rocks or hoodoos, intricately carved by erosion. Visitors are free to wander among these rocks, which stand up to about 10 ft (3 m) in height. Two paved, and several unpaved, trails lead down to the valley floor.