

ITINERARY 1
7 DAYS

WINTER ROAD TRIPS

SOUTHERN UTAH



Mogul Ski World
SPECIALISING IN SNOW HOLIDAYS

LIFE
UTAH
ELEVATED®

**ACROSS A SNOW COVERED
DESERT.**

THE RED ROCK EXPANSE OF
SOUTHERN UTAH IS STUNNING IN
ALL SEASONS, BUT WINTER IS
UNIQUE. THE SNOW NESTLES ON
DESERT TOWERS AND LINGERS IN
THE SHADOWS OF THE CANYON
WALLS.

Basecamp: Moab

Your week-long winter road trip itinerary starts and finishes in Southern Utah’s outdoor recreation mecca, **Moab** - the jumping off point for many of the state’s must-see natural wonders, such as **Arches National Park, Canyonlands** and **Dead Horse Point**.

Despite its status as a major hub for outdoor recreation, Moab is also known for its wide open spaces, and its many nooks and crannies where one can escape the rest of the world.

DAY 1	Moab to Blanding, Comb Ridge Canyon Archeological Sites
DAY 2	Mule Canyon, Natural Bridges National Monument, and Junction Ruin in Cedar Mesa
DAY 3	The Burr Trail Road
DAY 4	Boulder to Fruita
DAY 5	Goblin Valley State Park
DAY 6	Goblin Valley and the San Rafael Swell Area
DAY 7	Return to Moab

DAY 1 - MOAB

DRIVING TIME: 3 HOURS

Moab to Blanding, Comb Ridge Canyon Archeological Sites

From Moab, head south on U.S. 191 toward Bluff. For the best introduction to this area, visit **Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum** in Blanding. It houses an extensive collection of Ancestral Puebloan pottery and relics from the area, and is the site of an old dwelling with a reconstructed kiva.

Head North on the Butler Wash Road. Along this route, several short trails lead to Ancestral Puebloan art, while other paths visit ancient dwellings like the Split Level site and Monarch Cave site.

STAY: Stone Lizard Lodge, Blanding



Ancient petroglyphs at Butler Wash Ruins

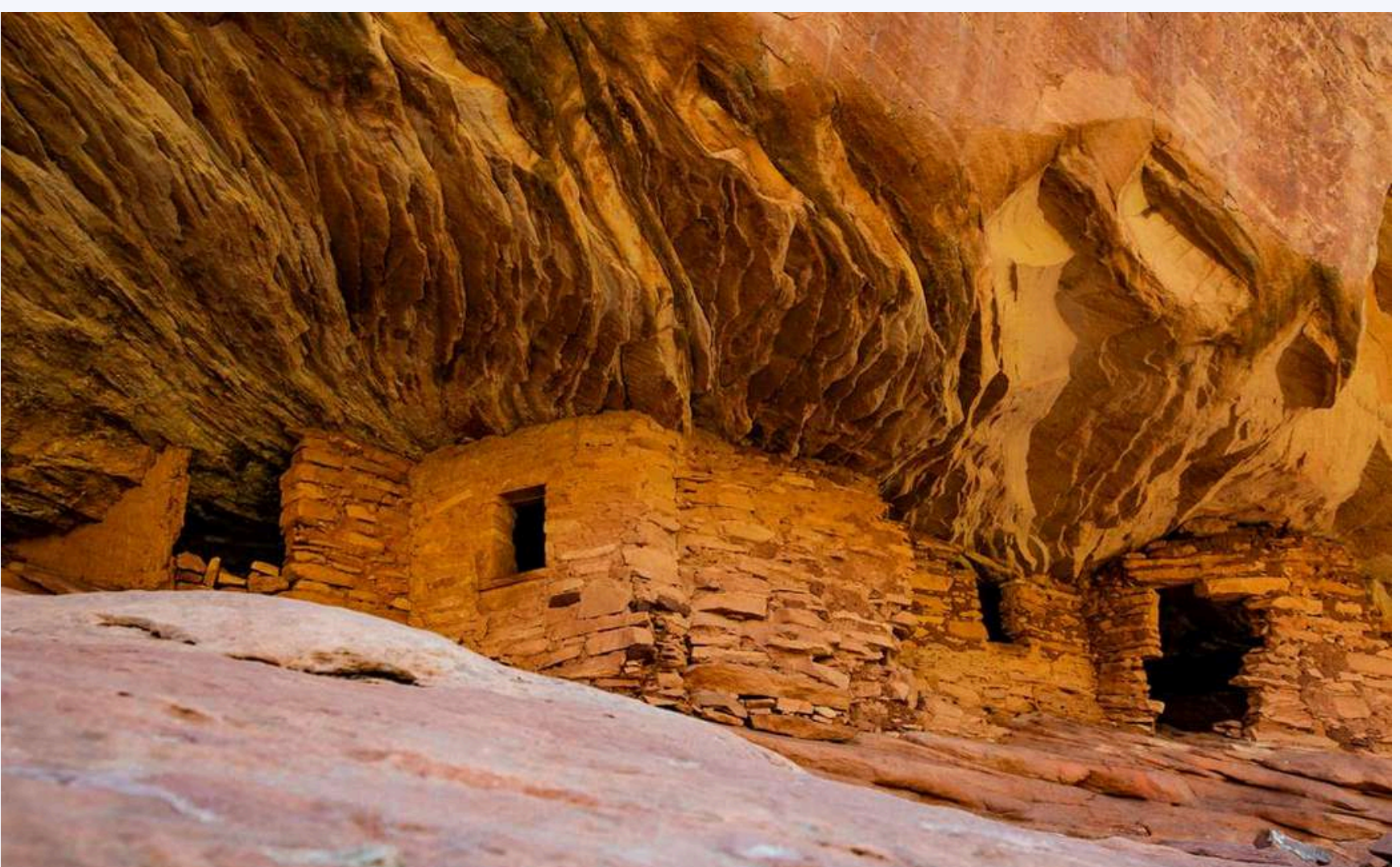
DAY 2 - BLANDING

DRIVING TIME: APPROX 5 HOURS

Mule Canyon, Natural Bridges National Monument, and Junction Ruin in Cedar Mesa

Day 2 is jam-packed with hiking and activities, as the area surrounding Blanding is rich in both natural and archaeological history. So stock up on snacks and supplies before hitting the road.

Your first stop is Mule Canyon, about 30 mins away, to visit the House on Fire. This famous archaeological site sits beneath flame-like striated sandstone, so arrive mid-morning to catch the light show.



House on Fire in Mule Canyon

Photo: Rosie Serago

DAY 2 - CONT.



Natural Bridges National Monument

Next, drive about 30 km west to Kane Gulch Ranger Station to hike **Junction Ruin**. This hike is a 13km round trip to a fascinating Ancestral Puebloan site that features pictographs and petroglyphs as well as other glimpses into the ancient way of life.

From the Kane Gulch Ranger Station, drive 30 km to **Natural Bridges National Monument**, which is truly spectacular in the winter months - three natural bridges span the snow-filled valleys and glisten under the low lying sun. **The Horse Collar** archaeological site overlook and **Owachomo Bridge** hike are great in winter. If trails are clear of snow, you can hike the entire park loop but we recommend packing poles and wearing microspikes in case of ice. Drive back to Blanding for the night.

STAY: Stone Lizard Lodge, Blanding

DAY 3 - BURR TRAIL

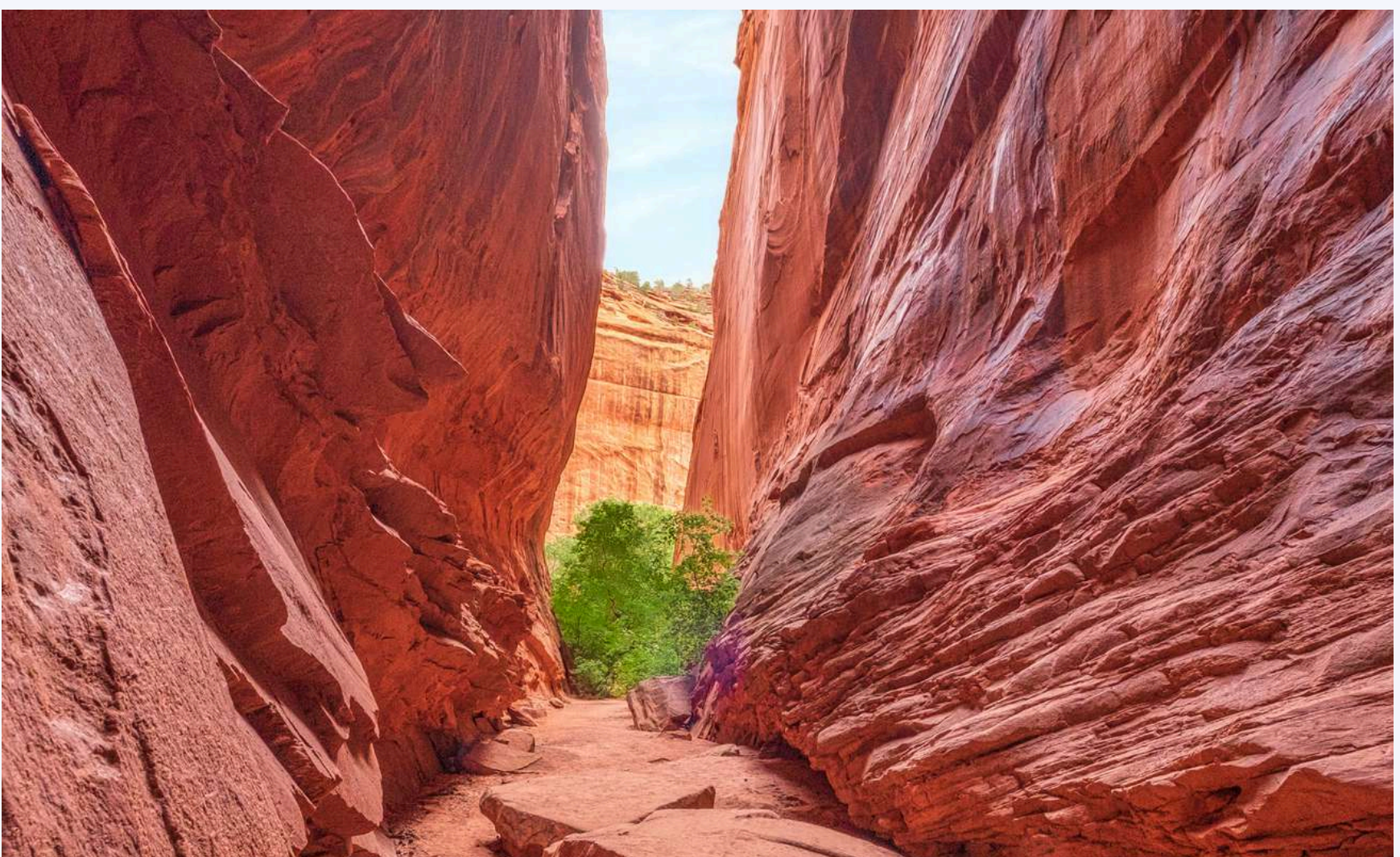
DRIVING TIME: 5 HOURS

The Burr Trail Road

Day three of your road trip will take you on one of the most stunning roads in Utah. Drive from Blanding to Bullfrog, then head northwest on the Burr Trail Road toward the small town of **Boulder**.

The Burr Trail, will take you over the Waterpocket Fold, an impressive bend in the earth's crust spanning more than 160 km. Trailheads line the road, offering everything from a quick leg-stretching walk to a challenging day hike. **Singing Canyon** (in Long Canyon) and Muley Twist Canyon (either Upper or Lower) are our top picks.

STAY: Spend the night taking in the magical winter landscapes from **Escalante Luxury Yurts**, about 20 minutes outside Boulder.



Singing Canyon

DAY 4 - FRUITA

DRIVING TIME: 2 HOURS

Escalante to Fruita

Head north towards **Torrey** on Scenic Byway 12. Continue along S.R 24 east into **Capitol Reef National Park**. Enjoy a scenic drive through the park, or choose from a variety of hikes. The 5km round-trip hike through **Cohab Canyon** offers sweeping views of **Fruita**. For those seeking more distance, connect Cohab Canyon with **Cassidy Arch** via the **Frying Pan Trail**.

STAY: Capitol Reef Resort offers breathtaking views and a range of unique accommodations from guestrooms and luxury cabins to Conestoga wagons and teepees. Once settled, head back to the park's **Sunset Point** to take in panoramic views as the last light of the day is cast upon the canyon walls.



Welcome to Capitol Reef

DAY 5 - VALLEY OF THE GOBLINS

DRIVING TIME: 1.5 HOURS

Goblin Valley State Park

Leave Capitol Reef and drive 77 km to **Goblin Valley State Park**. During winter, this park transforms into a wonderland of snow-capped hoodoos. During the day, explore the **Valley of the Gobblins**, a vast area prime for off-trail exploration. As you wander through the enchanting shapes of the goblins, be respectful of the fragile, ancient hoodoos.

STAY: Rental yurts sit amidst towering red and white sandstone, and the night sky provides endless wonder for bundled-up stargazers. Advance reservations are essential and can be made up to four months prior to travel.



Valley of the Gobblins

DAY 6 - SAN RAFAEL SWELL AREA

DRIVING TIME: 1 HOUR

Goblin Valley and the San Rafael Swell Area

Stay another night at your Goblin Valley yurt and explore the **San Rafael Swell** region. You'll drive just 10 minutes to reach the trailhead for the **Wild Horse Window Arch**. Hike just 1.5km, traversing slickrock, to reach the arch. This hike lacks shade, making it brutally hot during the summer, yet the perfect choice for a winter hike. Once you reach the arch, red pictographs line the cave walls as golden light beams through the cathedral-esque windows.



The Wedge Overlook in San Rafael Swell

Photo: Jay Dash

DAY 6 - MOAB

DRIVING TIME: 1.5 HOURS

Return to Moab

Breathe in the fresh air and bask in the stillness of the desert on your final morning. Listen for the songs of wintering birds and the pattering of lizards darting between the brush. When you're ready, drive about 1.5 hours to reach **Moab**.

With your winter road trip complete, you can make your way home, reflecting on the fascinating things you encountered in the desert. The ancient artwork, the curious hoodoos and the rust-coloured peaks draped in snow create a mysterious and beautiful environment - unlike any other place that you'll experience in winter.



Castle Valley

Photo: Emily Sierra

WE HOPE THIS LEAVES YOU
INSPIRED TO EXTEND YOUR UTAH
SNOW HOLIDAY WITH A ROAD TRIP,
TAKING IN THE UNIQUE NATURAL
BEAUTY AND HISTORY OF
SOUTHERN UTAH'S NATIONAL PARKS.

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