



2015

Fall in the West

Capitol Reef National Park contains part of the Waterpocket Fold, a long up-thrust of rock that runs through Utah. The park was given its name because its white domes and cliffs of Navajo Sandstone reminded people of the United States Capitol building. This photo was taken at The Tanks, a collection of pockets that have eroded into the sandstone that hold quite a bit of rain water. (10/3/2014, Capitol Gorge Trail, Capitol Reef National Park, UT)



Double Arch

The sandstone in Arches National Park lends itself to the creation of arches, and over 2000 arches have been recorded there. The largest of the two arches in Double Arch has a span of 148 feet and a height of 104 feet. Film buffs will also recognize that Double Arch appears near the cave where the golden cross of Coronado was discovered in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

(10/6/2014, Arches National Park, UT)

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28			New Year's Day 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	Martin Luther King Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Sunset at Devil's Garden

The clouds around monsoon season lend themselves to some very nice sunsets. This one near the Devil's Garden Campground was especially striking.
 (10/7/2014, Broken Arch Loop Trail, Arches National Park, UT)

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day 14
15	Presidents' Day 16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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Eroded Sandstone

The layers of sandstone in Arches National Park create fascinating textures and patterns, including the circular ones on the sandstone here.

(10/6/2014, Delicate Arch Trail, Arches National Park, UT)

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Savings starts 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18	19	Spring (3:45 pm PDT) 20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



Shafer Trail

The Shafer Trail is a popular route in the Island in the Sky district of Canyonlands National Park, leading between the White Rim and the main park plateau. It was originally built in 1917 by ranchers as a way to run their cattle in and out of the canyon, and was enlarged in the 1950s to handle vehicles. Its switchbacks climb 700 feet in 0.8 miles, and it is not a route for anyone afraid of cliffs or heights (there are no guard rails), but the view is spectacular.

(10/11/2014, Island in the Sky, Canyonlands National Park, UT)

April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
			1	2	3	4
Easter Sunday						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Tax Day			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Marching Men

Getting to the Tower Arch Trail requires patience while driving down a very washboard dirt road, followed by a trail whose start is closer to a rock scramble than a trail. But once there you will find few people and great scenery.
(10/10/2014, Tower Arch Trail, Arches National Park, UT)

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mother's Day						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	Memorial Day					
31	25	26	27	28	29	30



Delicate Arch

Delicate Arch is the icon of Arches National Park. If you like people, hike to Delicate Arch for sunset. You get to experience the reds at sunset with 100 or so other photographers, and then enjoy the night hike over the sandstone back to the parking lot.

(10/6/2014, Arches National Park, UT)

June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Father's Day Summer (9:38 am PDT)	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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Grand Mesa

Grand Mesa is advertised to be the largest flat-topped mountain in the world, rising 6000 feet above the surrounding valleys to its 11,000 foot top. The most popular way to get to it is to take the Grand Mesa Scenic Byway, but that can be extended into a loop that drops you into the scenic farming valley on the west side of the mesa (where this view is located) and continuing on to the Colorado National Monument.

(10/19/2014, Colorado Highway 65 between Cedaredge and Delta, CO)

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					Independence Day
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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Squaw Butte

This section of Canyonlands National Park contains great examples of both white sandstone (foreground) and red sandstone (the butte).

(10/9/2014, Wooden Shoe Arch Overlook, The Needles district, Canyonlands National Park, UT)

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24					
30	31	25	26	27	28	29



Dead Horse Point

Canyonlands is divided into 4 districts: the Island in the Sky (a plateau looking down), the Needles (in valleys looking up at the spires), the Maze (a remote section with almost no improved roads), and the rivers themselves (the Green and the Colorado). Many kayakers, canoers, and rafters will spend 1-2 weeks traveling down one of the rivers. The view here is of Dead Horse Point (a state park), viewed from near The Gooseneck.

(10/14/2014, Colorado River near the Island in the Sky district of Canyonlands National Park, UT)

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
	Labor Day	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	Fall (1:20 am PDT)	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Fisher Mesa

Most of this day was overcast with some light showers and only brief glimpses of sun. But just before sundown a couple of holes opened up in the west to give that wonderful late-sun glow on Utah's red rocks.
 (10/12/2014, Utah Highway 128 east of Moab, UT)

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Halloween
						31



Sierra Yellow

The west doesn't have the collection of fall reds that the east coast has, but it does get some very nice yellows in the fall, particularly in the Eastern Sierra.

(10/22/2014, June Lake Loop, Inyo National Forest, CA)

November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daylight Savings ends 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	Veterans Day 11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	Thanksgiving 26	27	28
29	30				October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



South Tufa Sunset

Mono Lake is a unique place with lots of bird life as well as interesting landscapes. The best known location for the unusual tufa towers is at South Tufa, and if the clouds cooperate, you can be treated to both great sunrises and sunsets from there.

(10/21/2014, South Tufa, Mono Lake, CA)

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	Winter (8:48 pm PST)	22	23	24	Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31		



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Utah is known for the deep red color of its rocks at sunset, and the Fisher Towers are an excellent example of this.
(10/12/2014, Utah Highway 128 east of Moab, UT)