

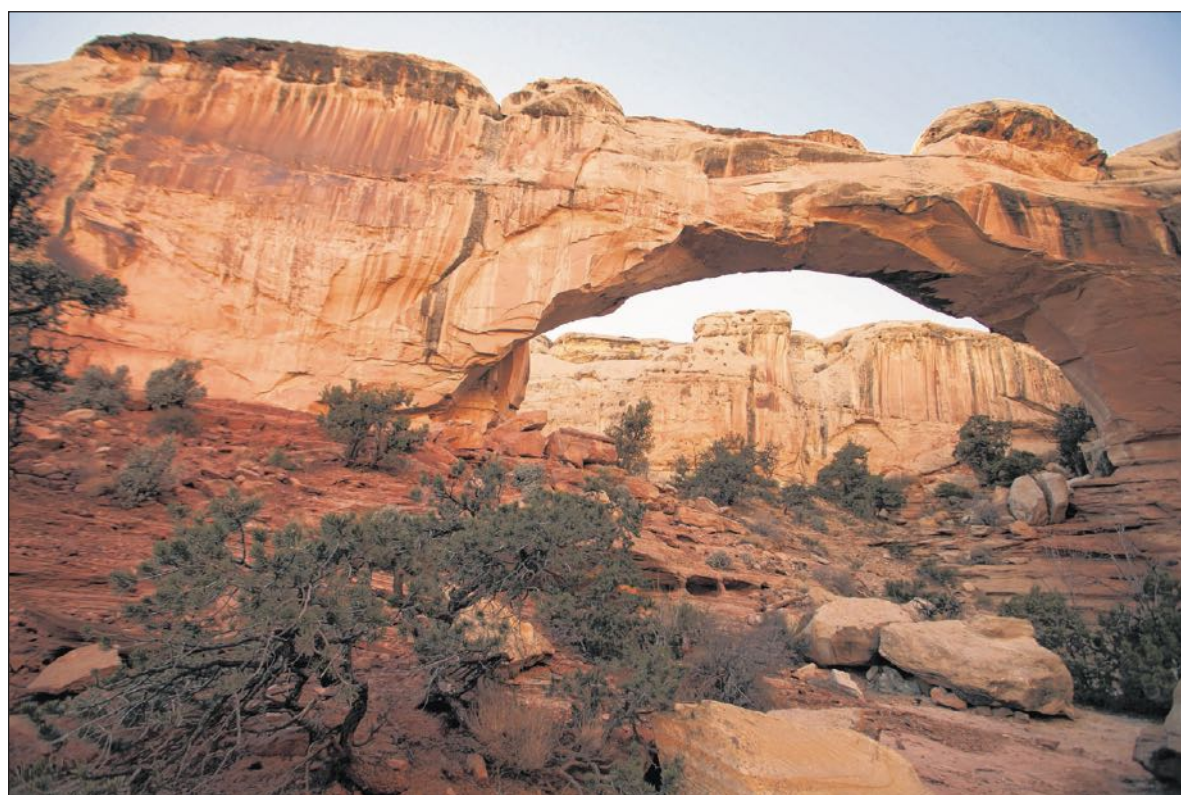


A wild horse grazes at Monument Valley, which straddles Arizona and Southern Utah. Visitors may drive through the park — long a popular site for film making — on a 17-mile dirt road.

# Spectacular Southern Utah



A colorful landscape of seemingly endless mesas, canyons and buttes makes Canyonlands National Park a popular recreational destination.



Hiking trails lead to natural arches in Capitol Reef National Park in Southern Utah. There are over 20 in the park.

**STORY AND PHOTOS**  
**BY ELIZABETH NIDA OBERT**  
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**Y**ou could get lost for months exploring Southern Utah. So many national parks, so little time.

My husband and I didn't get lost during our November excursion, but we did explore.

Canyonlands National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Monument Valley, Natural Bridges National Monument

and Glen Canyon were on our list and did not disappoint. We drove. We hiked. We took photographs.

And we reflected, embracing the nature and solitude that surrounded. Superlatives fail to articulate the natural geologic splendor of the region.

There wasn't enough time to hit Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park — this time — (we'd already crossed Arches National Park off our list a couple years ago) so someday we will return.



Superlatives fail to articulate the natural geologic splendor of Southern Utah.



Autumn foliage decorates the landscape at Canyonlands National Park.

**About the writer:** Elizabeth Nida Obert is a Post-Bulletin senior staff photographer.

**Getting there:** Flew Delta into Salt Lake City and drove south through the gorgeous terrain.

**Where you stayed:** We traveled in November, which is off-season. So hotel vacancies were easy to come by. The Desert Rose in Bluff was particularly appealing and included quality on-site dining.

**Where to eat:** Twisted Sistas Cafe in Moab, which is the hub for several parks.

**Your travel tip:** Depending on your threshold for adventure, either avoid or pursue the Moki Dugway (Utah State Highway 261), a narrow and steep switchback along a mesa that serves as a shortcut between Mexican Hat and Natural Bridges National Monument.

**More information:** [tinyurl.com/yccurz6u](http://tinyurl.com/yccurz6u).



Dramatic skies accompany a setting sun in Island in the Sky, the most accessible district in the vast Canyonlands National Park.