



**Freedom's Road Newsletter**  
Written by Freddy Freedom

### Moab Land of Arches



With Bryce Canyon etched deep in my memory, I headed out for Moab and the "Arches". My plan was to ride Utah Route 12 north, picking up Route 24 in Torrey. Run 24 north to I-70 east, jumpin' off at Crescent Junction, then scootin' south on US 191 to Moab and Arches National Park. The ride across 12 was absolutely amazing; through Tropic, Cannonville, Henrieville, across Table Cliff Plateau and skirting Escalante

Petrified Forest headin' towards Boulder. 'Bout the time I figured I had seen all and conquered all that the, All American Highway as Utah Rout 12 has been designated had to throw at me, I was blindsided by Hogback! Hogback is a twisted, switchbacking; winding section of 12 near Boulder, where the speed limit drops to 15, the sides of the road drop straight down for hundreds of feet and the road is so narrow that cars have no room for error as they pass! 15, you bet and what a view! Talk about humbling and puttin' things in prospective; God sure raised the bar when he created that part of the country! Awesome! Ohhh... yea, this is a "Must Ride Road"!



Moab is a cool little town with an interesting western history. Several movies were shot there, The Comancheros, Cheyenne Autumn, The Greatest Story Ever Told (Yea buddy, God is a movie set designer too), parts of Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, Thelma and Louise, City

Slickers II, The Legend of Curly's Gold, and Mission Impossible II. For all its Hollywood



notoriety, Moab remains a small laid back old western town. There's a small bike shop, Lone Rider, several good campgrounds and motels in and around town. If you are lookin' for a little off the beaten path place to visit with lots of cool things to do, or just to chill, then Moab is where you're gonna wanna go. I stayed at Moab Valley RV Resort, really a sweet set up only about a ¼ mile off the Colorado River and a mile or so from Arches National Park.



Arches National Park is truly a unique place all its own. Even pictures can't reflect the delicate details or the feeling you get when you first see the graceful spans. They are truly magnificent!

Typical of all the National Parks, "Arches" has a well laid out, well maintained main road with a couple paved off shoots that take you to the main points of interest. Unlike most National Parks tho, there are several "two tracks" that criss-cross the

park. They're not recommended for road bikes but there are several places in town to rent four wheel drives. There are even guided tours that can be had.

With over 2,000 arches scattered over 119 square miles there are lots of arches that aren't on the main drag. So for those that dare, there are several foot trail staging points at many of the points of interest stops. Some of these foot trails are several miles long but take you closer to some of the famous arches such as Delicate Arch (three miles) and Devil's Garden (five miles). Along the way you'll pass by many of the less famous arches but still very cool in their own right.



I ventured out on one of these foot trails to the Delicate Arch Viewpoint (100 yards) - thank God for binoculars! The desert is hot in the summer, so take plenty of water and wear a hat if you decide to try out your adventurous pioneer wild-side and strike out on one of those trails!



There's really a lot to see and do around Moab and the Arches. The riding and scenery is awesome! There's river rafting, horse back tours, areas set aside for four wheelers, hiking, kayaking and just plain exploring. My suggestion would be to plan at least three days, but you could easily spend several more. One final "Must Do" is the combination buffet style Cowboy Dinner and Canyonlands By Night Sound and Light

Show River Cruise offered by the Old Mission Store just across the river from the Moab Valley RV Resort. I gotta tell ya; this is the only way to end your stay at the Arches. The Canyonlands By Night Sound and Light Show River Cruise is about 2-hours and what a cool show it is! I give this combo cowboy dinner and moonlight cruise *5-Stars*, that's for positive.



Both time and Mother Nature have and are taking a toll on the arches. Since 1970, forty-three arches have fallen down. One of the latest to fall was Wall Arch, located along the Devils Garden Trail, sometime during the night on August 4, 2008. It was 71 feet high and over 33 feet wide and was the 12<sup>th</sup> biggest arch in the park. So hey, I'm here to tell ya, like some of us old bikers, they ain't gonna last forever. So if you wanna see 'em, you better pack 'er up and get goin', time's-a-wastin'!

Hope to see ya on the road. Upright that is!  
Have a question or comment? [hywayrebel@gmail.com](mailto:hywayrebel@gmail.com)

## **Hogs In Ministry**

*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:13*