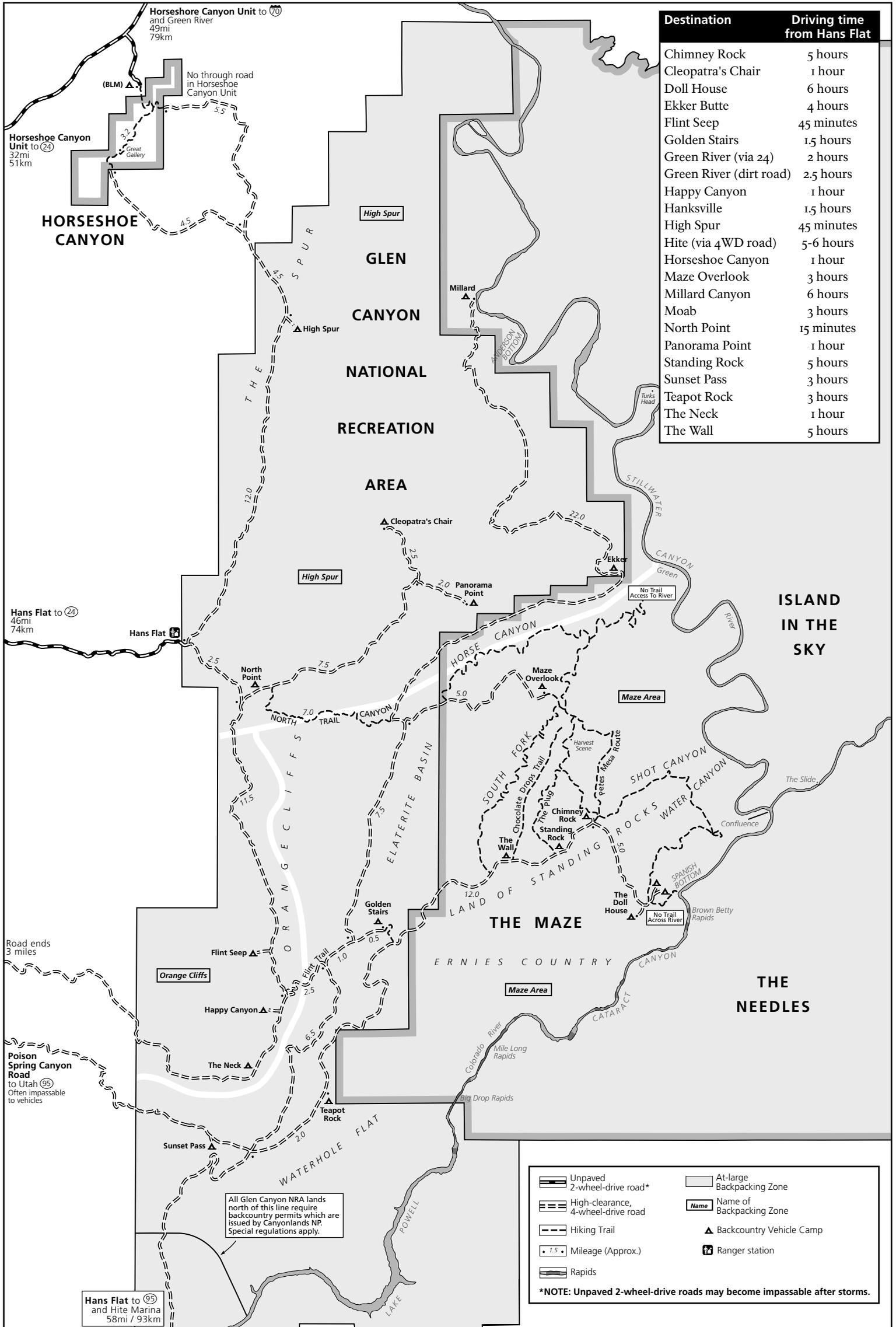




Maze District and Orange Cliffs Unit



Introduction

The Maze is the least accessible and least visited district of Canyonlands. Due to the district's remoteness and the difficulty of roads and trails, travel to the Maze requires more time, as well as a greater degree of self-sufficiency. Rarely do visitors spend less than three days in the Maze, and the area can easily absorb a week-long trip.

The Orange Cliffs Unit of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area shares Canyonlands' western boundary and is administered under the same backcountry management plan and

reservation system. Regulations are the same for the Maze and Orange Cliffs, though they differ in the rest of Glen Canyon.

The Hans Flat Ranger Station is two hours from Green River, Utah. From I-70, take Utah Highway 24 south for 24 miles. A left hand turn just beyond the Goblin Valley turnoff will take you along a two-wheel-drive dirt road 46 miles (76 km) southeast to the ranger station. In addition, a four-wheel-drive route leads north from Utah Highway 95 near Hite. The station is open from 8 to 4:30 p.m. daily.

For More Information

Canyonlands National Park
Maze District
2282 S. West Resource Blvd.
Moab, UT 84532
(435)259-2652
www.nps.gov/cany/maze

Hiking Trails

Trails in the Maze are primitive and lead into canyons and to various viewpoints. Due to the nature and depth of Maze canyons, access to them is difficult. The Maze Overlook Trail and other routes in the district require basic climbing maneuvers in order to negotiate sections of steep slickrock and pour-offs. A 25-foot length of rope is often essential for raising or lowering packs in difficult spots. Many routes may make hikers with a fear of heights uncomfortable. Routes into the canyons are cairned from mesa top to canyon bottom, but routes through washes are often unmarked. Many of the canyons look alike and are difficult to identify without a topographic map.

Most routes begin at trailheads along four-wheel-drive roads. Visitors with two-wheel-drive vehicles may park at the North Point Road junction, approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the Hans Flat Ranger Station, and hike to the Maze Overlook via North Trail Canyon. Depending on the vehicle, visitors may also be able to negotiate the 14 mile road to park at the top of the Flint Trail switchbacks, then hike to the Land of Standing Rocks.



All overnight trips require a permit, which may be reserved in advance. Backpackers stay in at-large zones. There are several reliable springs in the canyons of the Maze. Inquire at the Hans Flat Ranger Station for more information.

Backcountry Reservations

Canyonlands National Park
Reservation Office
2282 S. West Resource Blvd.
Moab, UT 84532
Phone: (435)259-4351
Fax: (435)259-4285
www.nps.gov/cany/reserve.htm

Four-Wheel-Drive Roads

Four-wheel-drive roads in the Maze are extremely difficult, present considerable risk of vehicle damage, and should not be attempted by inexperienced drivers. A high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle is **required** for all Maze backcountry roads. ATVs are not permitted. The most commonly used road in the Maze is the Flint Trail, which traverses slopes of clay that are extremely slippery when wet. The Flint Trail is often closed during winter.

The road between Teapot Rock camp and the Land of Standing Rocks is the worst in the Maze. Four-wheel drivers should be prepared to make basic road or vehicle repairs and should carry the following items: at least one full-size spare tire, extra gas, extra water, a shovel, a high-lift jack and, from October to April, chains for all four tires.



All overnight trips require a permit, which may be reserved in advance. Backcountry vehicle campers and mountain bike groups stay in designated sites and **must** provide their own toilet systems. The vehicle sites do not have picnic tables.

Protect Your Park

- Pets are not allowed on hiking trails or on four-wheel-drive roads, even in a vehicle.
- Do not enter, alter, damage or deface archeological sites. Do not collect artifacts.
- All vehicles and bicycles must stay on designated roads.
- ATVs are not permitted.
- Protect cryptobiotic soil crusts by staying on trails and roads.
- Permits are required for all overnight backcountry trips.
- Wood fires are prohibited.

Protect Yourself

- Drink at least one gallon of water each day.
- Always carry a topo map, adequate clothing, and a flashlight.
- Remain in one place if you become lost or separated from a group.
- Flash floods can occur without warning. Never cross a canyon that is flooding.
- During a lightning storm avoid lone trees, cliff edges, and high ridges. Return to your vehicle if possible.
- Be careful near cliff edges, especially when rock surfaces are wet or icy.