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PRESS RELEASE

Moab: Winter Activities

Moab, Utah has a little secret. Known for its beautiful scenery, proximity to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, and outdoor recreational opportunities, Moab has been the destination of choice for spring, summer and fall adventure. Few however, have experienced Moab's beauty as a scenic winter wonderland, an agreeable escape from more northerly winter climes and a great off-season bargain for meeting and conference planners.

Located within the Manti La Sal National Forest, 24 miles from Moab, the La Sal Mountains offer miles of trails and unlimited backcountry skiing terrain, as well as sledding, snowshoe and snowmobiling. The groomed trails pass by several meadows, some steep enough for telemarking, and lead to high terrain where experienced backcountry explorers and mountaineers can find long descents equal to any in Utah! Ski rentals are available in Moab, as is the La Sal Mountain Hut for those who desire winter camping with propane heat, lamps and cooktop. The hut accommodates ten people.

For those who prefer a little warmer atmosphere, Arches and Canyonlands National Parks are open year-round, with the Visitor Centers closed only on Christmas Day. With the crowds of the main season gone, the serenity of the parks unfold as you explore nature and take in the sparkling beauty. Generally mild winters lend to sunny winter-warm days that make hiking especially pleasurable. Match a park visit with a downtown hotel stay, one with adjacent meeting rooms or within walking distance of Moab's rentable meeting facilities.

Under a blanket of white or even a skiff of snow the views in the parks are magnificent, with the glistening white snow creating a stark contrast against the red rock. Rock formations that go unnoticed during the other seasons suddenly come to life in the winter snow. Photograph opportunities are spectacular due to the added dimensions brought out by the white of winter, where even a clump of sage brush is transformed into a picture of beauty.

Moonlight hikes in Arches National Park are spectacular in the winter, as the earlier sunsets make even long trails, an early out - early in adventure. A moonlit hike to Delicate Arch after a light snow is especially unique, with moonshine glistening on a blanket of white. Winter hikes require extra caution, as an occasional icy patch can be found on the trails.

Occasionally, inversions in the valley convert the vistas from the Island in the Sky District of Canyonlands into images of floating water lapping against the red rock buttes. With views of nearly 100 miles in any given direction, the deep sculptured canyons 1500 feet below are transformed into a vast ocean.

Winter is a wonderful adventure in Moab, from the outdoor winter recreation to the spectacular beauty of Mother Nature's wonders. For more information on discovering this secret side of Moab, contact the Moab Area Travel Council at 800-635-6622 or visit their website at www.discovermoab.com.