

San Juan Happenings

San Juan County: Where Adventure Meets Ancient Wonder

by Utah’s Canyon Country

In the heart of Utah’s Canyon Country lies San Juan County—a land so vast and varied that it could easily be mistaken for an entire state. At nearly 8,000 square miles, this sprawling county is roughly the size of Massachusetts, yet its remote wilderness areas and hidden canyons offer the kind of solitude that’s becoming increasingly rare in our modern world.

From the iconic red buttes of Monument Valley to the pristine dark skies above Natural Bridges, San Juan County serves as a living museum where every mesa, canyon,



Monument Valley — Allison Yamamoto-Sparks



Monument Valley — Jay Dash Photography

and petroglyph panel tells a story spanning millennia. This is where the ancient and the adventurous converge, creating experiences that resonate long after you’ve returned home.

Bridges National Monument, the world’s first International Dark Sky Park, provides unparalleled stargazing beneath some of the darkest skies in the continental United States.

For those seeking to walk in the footsteps of ancient peoples, the county’s numerous archaeological sites offer profound connections to the past. From the accessible petroglyphs along the San Juan River to remote cliff dwellings tucked into canyon walls, these sites preserve the stories of Ancestral Pueblo and Fremont cultures that called this rugged landscape home for thousands of years.

The county’s crown jewel may be Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, recently named the #3 place to visit in the New York Times’ prestigious travel list. Here, towering sandstone formations rise like cathedrals from the desert floor, their shadows shifting throughout the day to create an ever-changing landscape that has captivated filmmakers, photographers, and travelers for generations. Guided tours led by Navajo storytellers offer deeper insights into the spiritual significance of these formations, connecting visitors to traditions that stretch back centuries.

Beyond Monument Valley, San Juan County reveals layer upon layer of natural and cultural treasures. The Needles district of Canyonlands National Park offers world-class hiking and four-wheel drive adventures through a maze of colorful spires and hidden arches. Natural



Natural Bridges National Monument — Jay Dash Photography

The county’s communities—from Bluff’s historic charm to Mexican Hat’s river access—serve as gateways to adventure while honoring the rich cultural heritage that makes this region unique. Whether you’re rafting the San Juan River, exploring backcountry trails, or simply watching the sun set over the desert, San Juan County invites you to slow down and discover what it truly means to be part of something larger than yourself.

In San Juan County, every journey becomes a pilgrimage, every visit a revelation.



HOUSE ON FIRE

Experience the awe-inspiring beauty and diverse landscapes of Utah’s Canyon Country in San Juan County, where adventure and preservation go hand in hand. Remember to #ExploreSustainably when roaming paths less crowded.

UtahsCanyonCountry.com/happenings





BLUFF ARTS FESTIVAL
ARTIST LED WORKSHOPS
October 17-19, 2025
ALL DAY AND TWO DAY WORKSHOPS:
Friday, October 17th and Saturday, October 18th 10am-4pm
Creative Tufa Casting
taught by sliversmith Jonah Hill

Saturday, October 18th, 10am-4pm
Nizhóní Navajo Weaving
taught by Navajo weaver Arlene Benally

HALF DAY WORKSHOPS:

FRIDAY, October 17th

Morning	Afternoon
Salve Making 101 taught by lavender farmer Katie Terrell Ramos of Mesa Verde Lavender	Intro to Figure Drawing taught by artist Anthony Lot
Make your own nature journal and take it for a walk! co-taught by author Robin Patten and artist Kate Aitchison	Plein Aire Oil Pastels of Bluff taught by artist Russell Kahn

SATURDAY, October 18th

Morning	Afternoon
Faux Raku Gourd Oil Lamps taught by artist Janice Reich	Exploring Color, Layering & Texture through Monoprinting taught by artist Julia Klema
Gelatin Plate Printing from Natural Materials taught by artist Mary Arnold	Vintage Rolls Royce Restoration Basics taught by Alan Gerecke
Lost City Beading taught by artist Diane Benn	Blue Corn Bonanza taught by chef Thomasena Benally

SUNDAY, October 19th

Morning
Eco Printing on Silk taught by artist Roy Kady
Block Printing an Exquisite Corpse taught by artist Brian Whitney
Fun Beasts Dry Felting taught by artist Georgiana Simpson

Scan this QR code to learn more and REGISTER or visit bluffartsfestival.org/workshops





Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum

Park Hours
(Mar-Nov): Open 7 Days a Week - **9am-5pm**
(Dec-Feb): Open 7 Days a Week - **9am-3pm**
Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve/Day
New Year’s Eve/Day

660 West, 400 North, in Blanding, Utah.
For more information please call the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum at (435) 678-2238

Follow us on  stateparks.utah.gov/parks/edge-of-the-cedars