

Scenic Backways

As you travel Highway 12 Scenic Byway, take time to explore the designated scenic backways. A backway is a paved or dirt road that reaches less traveled, but breathtaking areas. **Check with the nearest visitor center or any local business for road and weather conditions. Be sure to have plenty of gasoline, food and water as there are usually no facilities along these beautiful corridors.**

Some of the Scenic Backways are gateways to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Stop at the Interagency Office in Escalante for information and topographic maps of the area. When driving in the back country, please stay on the roads to avoid damaging the environment.

***Indicates the road is inside the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**



A East Fork of the Sevier Scenic Backway

Double and single lane gravel road / passenger cars / fair weather only

Excellent wildlife viewing opportunities for seeing pronghorn antelope, deer, prairie dogs and elk can be found. Features: East Fork of the Sevier River, Tropic Reservoir, Great Western Trail, Dixie National Forest and King Creek Campground. Distance 17 miles one way (1-1/2 hours).



Cottonwood Canyon Road Scenic Backway

B Cottonwood Canyon Road Scenic Backway*

Graded dry-weather road. Do not travel this route if storms are threatening.

A photographer's dream. Features: Kodachrome Basin State Park (camping and picnicking facilities), Grosvenor Arch, Cockscomb, Paria River and views of Bryce Canyon

National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Table Cliffs Plateau. Paved to Kodachrome State Park, dirt after. Distance 49 miles (2 hours).

C Griffin Top Scenic Backway

Narrow single lane dirt and gravel road (closed in winter) / passenger cars

This 32-mile gravel road crosses the Table Cliffs Plateau on the Dixie National Forest. Features: secluded lakes, excellent wildlife viewing, and vistas from the high plateau. The road is wonderful for snowmobiling in the winter. Distance 32 miles (1 hour).

D Smokey Mountain Scenic Backway*

Dirt and gravel / impassable in bad weather / high clearance vehicles

This rugged corridor between Highway 12 and Highway 89 requires a high clearance vehicle. Spectacular views of Fifty Mile Mountain, Powell Point, desert slickrock and Lake Powell can be seen while traveling this backway. Distance 78 miles (5 hours).

E Posey Lake Scenic Backway

Single lane dirt and gravel road (closed in winter)

Camping, fishing, hiking, hunting and mountain biking opportunities abound on the road through the Dixie National Forest. This backway provides access to Posey Lake and Posey Lake Campground with beautiful scenery and wildlife viewing opportunities. The backway starts in Escalante and ends on Highway 24 at Bicknell. Distance 40 miles (1 hour).

F Hole-in-the-Rock Scenic Backway*

Gravel and graded dirt road / passenger cars in good weather; 4-wheel drive recommended.

Step back in time and travel the route that Mormon pioneers took on their historic journey to the San Juan country. Access is provided to Devil's Rock Garden, Dance Hall Rock, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Hole-in-the-Rock and several desert hiking trailheads. Last five miles requires a high clearance vehicle. Distance 56 miles one way (6 hours round trip).

G Burr Trail Scenic Backway*

Hard surfaced, graded dirt and gravel road / passenger car in good weather; 4-wheel drive recommended.

Beautiful scenery can be found around every turn! Features access to Deer Creek Recreation Site, Long Canyon, Capitol Reef National Park, Lake Powell and Bullfrog Marina. Impassable when wet. Distance 66 miles (4-1/2 hours).

H Hell's Backbone Road

Gravel and dirt road (closed in winter) / high clearance vehicles recommended

Although this is not a designated scenic backway, Hell's Backbone is one of the most dramatic roads in the world. The road makes a loop connecting Escalante with Highway 12, three miles west of Boulder. From the Posey Lake Scenic Backway, Hell's Backbone heads east, passes Blue Spruce Campground and circles the Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area. Hell's Backbone Bridge is an engineering feat. Distance 44 miles (1-1/2 hours).



Grosvenor Arch

I Notom Road Scenic Backway

Dry weather road (open all year) / high clearance vehicles recommended

Notom Road parallels the Waterpocket Fold of Capitol Reef National Park. It skirts the eastern section of Capitol Reef between Hwy 24 and the Burr Trail. Views of the Henry Mountains and Capitol Reef are among the highlights. Impassable when wet. Distance 29 miles (2 hours).

J Bull Mountain Road Scenic Backway

Single lane dry weather road / high clearance vehicles required

Vistas of the Colorado Plateau can be seen along the Bull Mountain Road. It climbs from the desert floor to 10,500 feet as it crosses the Henry Mountains. Splendid scenery includes beautiful canyons, red cliffs, forests and mountains. Impassable in winter and when wet. Distance 68 miles (6 to 7 hours).

Area Code is 435. For Information Contact Utah is on Mountain Time.

Dixie National Forest

Forest Supervisor's Office 865-3200
82 N 100 E, PO Box 0627, Cedar City, UT 84721-0627
Powell Ranger District 676-8815
225 E Center St, PO Box 80, Panguitch, UT 84759
Escalante Ranger District 826-5499
755 W Main St, PO Box 246, Escalante, UT 84726
Teasdale Ranger District 425-3702
138 E Main St, PO Box 99, Teasdale, UT 84773

Bureau of Land Management

Escalante Resource Area 826-5499
(Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument)
755 W Main St, PO Box 225, Escalante, UT 84726

National Park Service

Bryce Canyon National Park 834-5322
Bryce Canyon, Utah 84717
Capitol Reef National Park 425-3791
HC-70, Box 15, Torrey, UT 84775-9602
Glen Canyon Nat'l Rec Area 826-4315
Escalante Ranger Station
755 W Main St, PO Box 511, Escalante, UT 84726
Grand Staircase-Escalante Nat'l Mon .. 826-5499
755 W Main St, PO Box 225, Escalante, UT 84726

Escalante Interagency Office

USFS, BLM and NPS 826-5499
755 W Main St, PO Box 246, Escalante, UT 84726

Utah State Parks

Kodachrome Basin State Park 679-8562
PO Box 238, Cannonville, UT 84718-0238
Escalante Petrified Forest State Park 826-4466
PO Box 350, Escalante, UT 84726-0350
Anasazi Indian Village State Park 335-7308-
PO Box 1329, Boulder, UT 84716-1329

Travel Council

Garfield County Travel Council ... 1-800-444-6689
PO Box 200, Panguitch, UT 84759

Visitor Centers

- **Panguitch** 805 N Main (US 89)
- **Hatch** S Main (US 89)
- **Red Canyon** (USFS) Hwy 12, Red Canyon
- **Bryce Canyon National Park**
- **Tropic** Hwy 12
- **Escalante**
Interagency Office 755 W Main (Hwy 12)
Garfield County E Main St, downtown (Hwy 12)
- **Boulder** Jct Burr Trail & Hwy 12
- **Torrey** Jct Hwy 12 & 24
- **Capitol Reef National Park**

