

# Features Along Scenic Byway 12



This Route Guide follows Scenic Byway 12 from west to east. Each of the features (scenic attractions) is numbered to make it easy to follow. Towns are included in the travel sequence. See the map on pages 6 and 7 for locations of the numbered attractions.

If you are traveling westward on Scenic Byway 12, please follow the Route Guide in reverse.

Stop at any Highway 12 visitor center or local business for additional information on the area, weather and backway road conditions, activities, or events.

 Summer activities

 Winter activities

## PANGUITCH

Travelers heading south on U.S. 89 en route to Highway 12 will drive through the city of Panguitch, the county seat of Garfield County. Panguitch, meaning “big fish” in the Paiute Indian language, was settled in 1864. It is now the largest city in the county and has the only hospital in the Highway 12 area. Automotive repairs and other services are available including public and private campgrounds. A visitor center is located on U.S. 89 near the fairgrounds on the north end of town. Check for local events and activities.

From the junction in the center of Panguitch, Scenic Byway 143 travels west and climbs through the Dixie National Forest, passing Panguitch Lake, Cedar Breaks National Monument and Brian Head on its way to Interstate 15.

Travelers en route to Scenic Byway 12 will continue south from Panguitch on U.S. 89 for seven miles to the Highway 12 turnoff.

## HATCH

Visitors heading north on U.S. 89 en route to Highway 12 will drive through the small town of Hatch, which was settled in the 1870s by the Hatch family. Services are available year round, and public and private campgrounds are in the area. A visitor center is located on U.S. 89 at the south end of town. Mammoth Creek Fish Hatchery is a ten-minute drive south of Hatch.

Scenic Byway 12 travelers will drive north on U.S. 89 following the Sevier River for eight miles to the Highway 12 turnoff.

## 1 Red Canyon

From the Native Americans who traveled the canyons, to people like J.W. Humphry who constructed the tunnels, Red Canyon on the Dixie National Forest has fascinated people for centuries. Unique vermilion-

colored rock formations and stands of Ponderosa pines make the canyon exceptionally scenic. Take time to discover all that Red Canyon has to offer.

The first stop when touring Highway 12 is the Scenic Byway Information Kiosk located at the mouth of Red Canyon. This information pavilion provides an overview of the entire byway and highlights significant features.


The Red Canyon Visitor Center, open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, has information on hiking, camping, picnicking and sight-seeing. A U.S. Forest Service campground is across the road from the visitor center.


For a closer look at the unique scenery, Red Canyon features an extensive and well-maintained trail system that provides something for everyone. The Birds Eye Trail is a moderate .8 mile hike offering spectacular close-up views of the red rock formations. The 3-mile Losee Canyon Trail provides a more rugged look at some of the Red Canyon area “crown jewels”. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is allowed on the Casto Canyon Trail. Please check with the visitor center for trail use.

The Red Canyon Trailhead Kiosk, located a short drive east of the visitor center, accesses five different trails which are open to hiking, biking and horses. Less-traveled trails provide a chance to get away from the crowds and see areas saturated with geologic treasures.

Trails in Red Canyon are open year round. When snow-covered, some of the trails are perfect for touring on cross country skis or snowshoes.

Services are available at the junction of Highways 12 and 89, in the nearby towns of Panguitch and Hatch on U.S. 89, and 15 minutes east on Highway 12.

 Hike, bike, camp, picnic, sight-see, watch wildlife, photography, horseback riding, trail rides, OHVs

 Cross country ski, snowshoe, hike, picnic, bike, sight-see, photography, watch wildlife  
Public and private campgrounds are available.


## 2 Tropic Reservoir / East Fork of the Sevier River

From Red Canyon, Highway 12 climbs to the top of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. The area offers spectacular wildlife viewing and several roads just off Highway 12 are designated “watchable wildlife viewing areas.” Among these are the East Fork of the Sevier Scenic Backway, and Dixie National Forest roads 111, 117, 194 and 091. Expect to see mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, prairie dogs, rabbits and several species of birds. The *Utah Wildlife Viewing Guide*, available at any of the byway’s visitor centers, is a helpful book for locating and identifying the animals.

In addition to wildlife watching, scenic areas adjacent to Highway 12 offer other activities like photography, fishing, camping, hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. One of these areas is the East Fork of the Sevier accessible by its scenic backway which heads south from Highway 12 and follows a broad valley accented with Ponderosa pines and red rock outcrops. Numerous Forest Service roads in the area provide excellent opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, and 4-wheel driving.

The highlight of the East Fork of the Sevier Scenic Backway is Tropic Reservoir, located seven miles south of Highway 12. The lake is popular for fishing and picnicking, and King Creek Campground on the west shore includes a group area. The Great Western Trail is accessible from the scenic backway with hiking opportunities that range from easy to moderate. Snowmobilers will discover excellent groomed and marked trails in the East Fork area. Services are available along Highway 12 and in the Bryce Canyon area.

 Hike, mountain bike, camp, fish, view wildlife, 4-wheel drive, OHV, picnic, photography

 Cross country ski, snowmobile, view wildlife  
Public and private campgrounds are available.

