

(Top): View from Boulder Mountain of the Waterpocket Fold and the Henry Mountains. (Bottom, left to right): Drivers along Scenic Byway 12 may encounter occasional cattle drives. Ripgut fence in Boulder. Blazing orange aspen stands on Boulder Mountain.

18 Boulder Mountain



Driving north from Boulder, Scenic Byway 12 twists through the Dixie National Forest and across Boulder Mountain. This section of road between Boulder and Torrey was paved as recently as 1985. Part of the Aquarius Plateau, Boulder Mountain exceeds an elevation of 11,000 feet, and is the highest timbered plateau in North America.

Breathtaking vistas can be seen from the pullouts including views of the Henry Mountains, Navajo Mountain, Fiftymile Mountain, the Waterpocket Fold, Circle Cliffs, and sights more than 100 miles away.

Boulder Mountain is a recreation area for all outdoorsmen. This “Land of a Thousand Lakes” is a fisherman’s dream with many secluded mountain lakes and streams producing large rainbow and brook trout.

Mule deer, elk, wild turkey and other wildlife can be found in the tall stands of timber and open meadows. Hunting on Boulder Mountain is a popular sport for many people. Access to the top of Boulder Mountain is rugged, often requiring 4-wheel drive, pack trips, ATVs or hiking.

The Great Western Trail (GWT) is a scenic corridor that crosses the United States and links Canada with Mexico. Reaching its highest point in Utah atop Boulder Mountain, the GWT offers hikers a rugged look at one of America’s last frontiers. There are five access points to the GWT along Scenic Byway 12 with four located on Boulder Mountain. They are Sunflower Flat Road, Pleasant Creek Road, Deer Creek Road and the North Slope Road.

Historic Wildcat Ranger Station, located along Scenic Byway 12, has area information and restrooms. It is open Memorial weekend to October.

Dixie National Forest maintains several campgrounds on Boulder Mountain along the byway. Campers can find RV and tent camping at Oak Creek, Upper and Lower Pleasant Creek, Single Tree and Lower Bowns Campgrounds. Services are available in Boulder on Scenic Byway 12, and in Torrey on Highway 24.

GROVER



Seven miles from the end of Scenic Byway 12 is an isolated farming community called Grover. The community is made up of ranches and summer homes. North on Scenic Byway 12 is the junction accessing Teasdale. A scenic drive leads to this small community, located south of Highway 24 between Torrey and Bicknell.

Public campgrounds are available along Scenic Byway 12 on Boulder Mountain and in Capitol Reef National Park. Private campgrounds and services are available in Torrey.

TORREY



At its eastern end, Scenic Byway 12 comes to an end where it intersects Highway 24. Services are available in the town of Torrey, located a mile west on Highway 24. Torrey is called the “Gateway to Capitol Reef National Park.” The town was settled in the 1880s and named Torrey with the opening of a post office in 1898.

A Wayne County Travel Council/Forest Service Information Center is located at the junction of Scenic Byway 12 and Highway 24. Private campgrounds and lodging are located in Torrey. Public campgrounds are available along Scenic Byway 12 and in Capitol Reef National Park.

19 Capitol Reef National Park

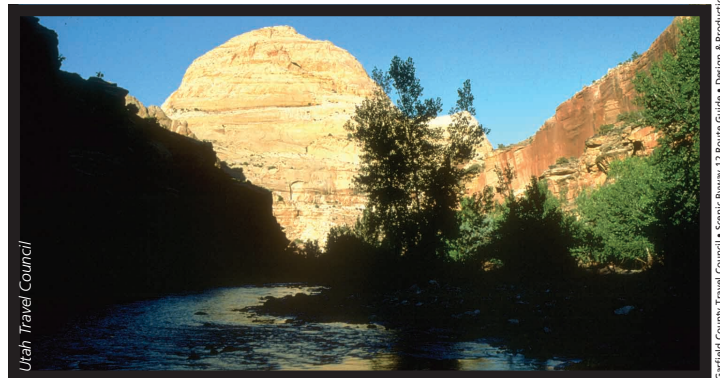


Capitol Reef National Park is located nine miles east of the Scenic Byway 12 and Highway 24 junction. The park is open year-round.

Named Capitol Reef by early pioneers because the huge domed formations reminded them of the nation’s capitol, the park offers a brilliant array of colored cliffs, domes, canyons, and arches. The Waterpocket Fold, an impressive buckling in the Earth’s crust, stretches for 100 miles.

The park has pioneer features including historic orchards, the old Fruita Schoolhouse, and other pioneer structures. Take the park’s scenic drive and marvel at the slickrock scenery that has made it famous. Along the scenic drive, trails lead to overlooks, canyons, arches and slickrock wilderness.

Capitol Reef’s Fruita Campground, as well as two primitive backcountry campgrounds are open all year. A free permit is required for all backpacking and overnight horse trips. Services are available in Torrey. Canyonlands National Park is located east of Capitol Reef, via Highways 24 and 95.



Capitol Dome at Capitol Reef National Park and the Fremont River.