

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 Scenic Byway 12 visitor center or local business for additional information on the area, weather, backway road conditions, activities, and events.

*Indicates that site is part of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

1 Dixie National Forest / Red Canyon



Vermilion-colored rock formations and stands of ponderosa pine greet you as you enter Red Canyon. While many visitors think they are already in Bryce Canyon National Park, Red Canyon is actually a part of the Dixie National Forest, which stretches from the Nevada border to Capitol Reef National Park.

At the first parking area along Scenic Byway 12, you can access the Thunder Mountain Trail and the 5.5 mile paved bike trail. The Red Canyon Bicycle Trail parallels Scenic Byway 12, allowing hikers and bicyclists to experience the sights and sounds of Red Canyon.

The Red Canyon Visitor Center has information on sightseeing, picnicking, and other recreational activities in the national forest. A Forest Service campground is located one-half mile east of the visitor center. The visitor center and campground are open from late April to early October, weather dependent.

For a close-up look at the fantastic hoodoos and spires, try one—or several—of the trails in Red Canyon. The mile-long Pink Ledges loop takes you behind the visitor center to spectacular views of Red Canyon and the Sevier River valley. Arches Trail is a beautiful short (.7 mile) hike that starts at the bottom of Losee Canyon and reveals 15 different arches. Mountain bikers will love the challenging eight-mile Thunder Mountain Trail. Hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders can explore the 78-mile Grand View Trail that is accessed from the Thunder Mountain Trail Head. OHV use is allowed on the Casto Canyon Trail. Please check with the visitor center for trail use. Trails in Red Canyon are open year-round.

Services are available at the junction of Scenic Bway 12 and US 89, in the nearby towns of Panguitch and Hatch on US 89, and 15 minutes east on Scenic Byway 12.

2 Tropic Reservoir / East Fork of the Sevier River



From Red Canyon, Scenic Byway 12 climbs to the top of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. The area offers spectacular wildlife viewing and several roads just off Scenic Byway 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, prairie dogs, rabbits and numerous species of birds.

In addition to wildlife watching, scenic areas adjacent to Scenic Byway 12 offer other activities like photography, fishing, camping, hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. The East Fork of the Sevier Scenic Backway heads south from Scenic Byway 12 and follows a broad valley accented with ponderosa pine and red rock outcrops. Numerous Forest Service roads in the area provide excellent opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, 4-wheel driving and ATVs.

The highlight of the East Fork of the Sevier Scenic Backway is Tropic Reservoir, located seven miles south of Scenic Byway 12. The lake is popular for fishing and picnicking. King Creek Campground is located on the west side of the reservoir and includes a group area. There are numerous trails for hiking, mountain biking, ATVs, and horseback riding, and snowmobilers will discover excellent groomed and marked trails in the East Fork area.

Mill Creek and Crawford Pass trail heads can be accessed from the East Fork of the Sevier Scenic Backway, and connect with Red Canyon.

Services, and public and private campgrounds are available along Scenic Byway 12 and in the Bryce Canyon area.

PANGUITCH



Travelers heading south on US 89 en route to Scenic Byway 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 Scenic Byway 12 area. Automotive repairs and other services are available including public and private campgrounds. Garfield County Travel Council office is located in Panguitch. 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 US 89 for seven miles to the Scenic Byway 12 turnoff.

HATCH



Visitors heading north on US 89 en route to Scenic Byway 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.

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



Olinde Reynolds Drawing