

**DAY
TRIPS**
For Days



HIKING ITINERARY

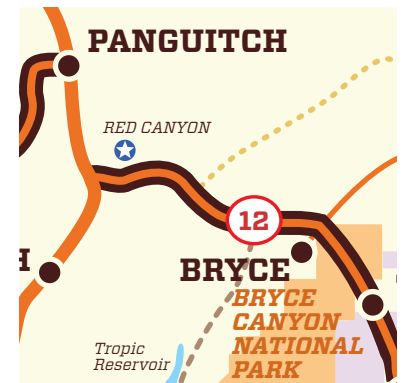
Fill your days with back-country hiking excursions while staying in historic communities, and enjoying cultural experiences. With Bryce Canyon County's diverse landscape and vast number of state and national parks, recreation areas, monuments and more, you will have the opportunity to hike through diverse sceneries.



RED CANYON

Located along Scenic Byway 12—and just 9 miles from Bryce Canyon National Park—Red Canyon will enchant you with its shimmering, red sandstone rocks, which congregate in abundance throughout the silent oasis of southern Utah. Red Canyon is nestled in Dixie National Forest’s 2 million acre, 170-mile-long valley range that sweeps along the red rock hoodoos before wandering up to the lush woodlands of the Cedar Mountain forest.

Perhaps the most famous view of Red Canyon can be seen from the ridge teetering off a series of steep switchbacks that accumulate on the 7-mile Thunder Mountain Trail. Boasting some of the most spectacular red rock formations in all of Utah, Thunder Mountain Trail goes along tree-covered washes to the pink and white limestone cliffs of the Claron Formation, passing across a thin spine of trail where cliffs drop off on both sides. From the top of the trail, you have amazing views of the distinguished red cliffs below. Combine Thunder Mountain with Red Canyon Bicycle Trail, Grandview Trail and Coyote Hollow Road to make a great 15-mile round trip adventure. Thunder Mountain Trail is open to bikers, hikers and horseback riders and can be experienced in a loop. However, many visitors prefer to take two vehicles, leaving one at the top and one at the bottom of the trail to make for a one-way trip.



Things to see

Red Canyon Visitor Center (open seasonally), Casto Canyon Trail, Losee Canyon and Arches Trail

Places to stay

Hatch | Junction US-89 and SR-12 | Panguitch



BRYCE CANYON - NAVAJO LOOP

The most popular trail in Bryce Canyon is Navajo Loop Trail, which spans 1.3 miles round trip. The hike begins at the rim and goes down 800 feet through the narrow walls of Bryce. Navajo Loop Trail intersects Queens Garden (1.8 miles round trip) and Peekaboo Loop (5.5 miles round trip), providing the opportunity to add onto the scenic adventure.

Other hiking favorites include the Rim Trail, which is roughly 4.7 miles one way. The trail begins at the rim of Fairyland Point, passes the Bryce Canyon Lodge and ends at Bryce Point. During the summer months, it is recommended that you take the shuttle service to do this one-way hike.

For a more strenuous hike with some amazing hoodoos and spires, take the 8.3-mile round trip Fairyland Loop Trail. This hike drops 900 feet into the bottom of the canyon, circling many iconic rock formations like Boat Mesa, Tower Bridge and China Wall.

Bear in mind that there are many other hikes and viewpoints in Bryce, like Mossy Cave and Natural Bridge Viewpoint. If you are into backcountry hiking, there are plenty of options for that as well. Remember, Bryce is open year round with groomed trails for snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Having a blanket of snow on orange hoodoos enhances the grandeur of the area.

Things to see

Visitor's Center at Bryce Canyon, Schedule a tour with a ranger or sign up for a night sky activity.



DAYS

2-3

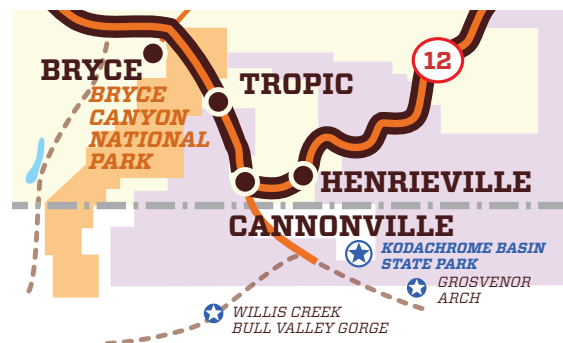
Places to stay

Hatch | Panguitch | Junction US-89 and SR-12 | Bryce Canyon City | Tropic



SLOT CANYONS

Set up basecamp in one of the nearby hotels or transfer to a different hotel closer to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Willis Creek and Bull Valley Gorge slot canyons are the first two iconic trails, formed by the pressure of water rushing through rock, making the canyon significantly deeper than it is wide. Bull Valley Gorge can be an easy hike in and back, or you can make it a little longer by exploring deeper. The second slot canyon that can be connected to Bull Valley Gorge is Willis Creek, which can be reached by Sheep Creek, a separate, more family-friendly hike. Before hiking these slot canyons, make sure you check in at the visitor center in Cannonville for up-to-date canyon information and directions. If there has been a lot of rain in the area it may be wise to choose a different activity.



Other options near these two magnificent slot canyons are Kodachrome Basin State Park and Grosvenor Arch. The state park hosts 67 monolithic stone spires known as sedimentary pipes. The Panorama Trail can be completed as a 3 or 6 mile loop and is an easy to moderate hike. This trail is one of the most popular hikes in the park, winding its way through some of the most fascinating geological scenery. Various other trails and horseback rides are also available in the park.

After experiencing the majestic colors of Kodachrome Basin State Park, head down the dirt road to Grosvenor Arch—two towering sandstone arches 150ft/45m above the ground. This hike is great for cooling down after an amazing day of hiking and allows you to walk right up to the double arch.

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Things to see

Cannonville Visitor Center

Places to stay

Bryce Canyon City | Tropic | Cannonville



ESCALANTE CANYONS

Along the Hole-in-the-Rock Road, you can find a vast range of different hiking trails. In the towns of Escalante and Boulder there are many guides and outfitters to choose from to experience the stunning and diverse canyons. Dry Fork Trailhead accesses both Spooky and Peek-a-Boo slot canyons, two of the most popular canyons in the area. Before arriving, take a short side trip to Devils Garden. Hike around the unique hoodoos and enjoy Metate Arch. If you are looking for more of a backcountry experience, try canyoneering in the Egypt Slots or head to Coyote Gulch, where you traverse ankle-deep water. In addition, check out the Escalante River—another great opportunity to cool off and see some unique scenery

Things to see

Devils Garden, Calf Creek, Box-Death Hollow and Coyote Gulch

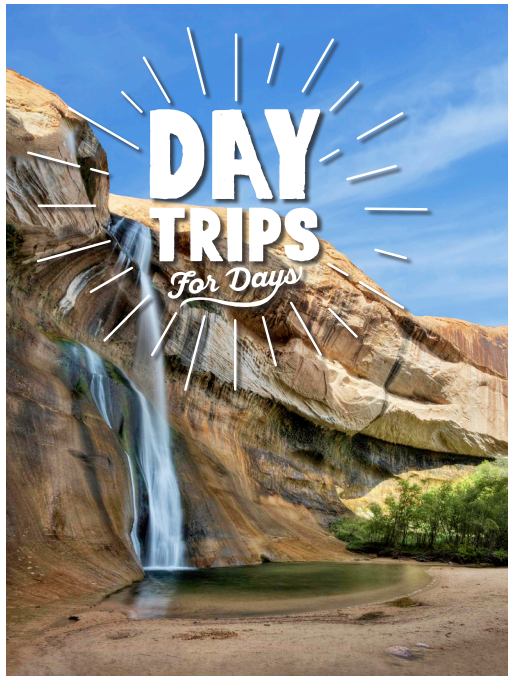
Places to stay

Escalante | Boulder



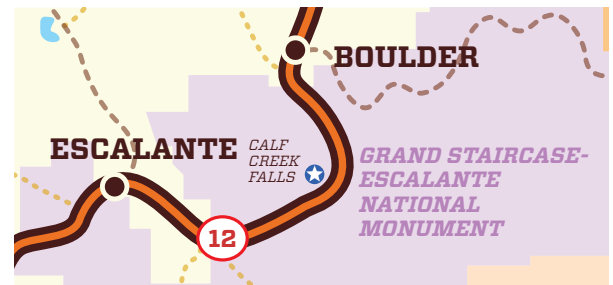
DAYS

5-6



LOWER/UPPER CALF CREEK FALLS

Lower Calf Creek Falls is located in the vast canyons of Utah's desert landscapes, a lush fountainhead of aged monolith rocks. The Calf Creek Falls trailhead is located off Utah's All-American Road Scenic Byway 12 and is a 6-mile round trip hike to the Lower Falls. The hike is moderate. Watch for petroglyph art on the canyon walls before taking a dip in the pool that lies 130 feet below the falls.



Upper Calf Creek Falls is a less crowded adventure. This short, 2-mile round trip hike offers sweeping views of the Pink Cliffs and the Kaiparowits Plateau. The sandy trail splits with one option to go to the head of the falls and the other to a small pool at the foot of the falls. Be cautious as this trail is steep and requires some rock scrambling. The trailhead can be found on the north side of the road between mile markers 80 and 81 along Scenic Byway 12. Take the turnoff and drive one-tenth of a mile down a rough and rocky road, where you will find a parking area at the rim of Calf Creek Canyon.

After completing this hike, stop for some incredible food in either the town of Escalante or Boulder—both have a variety of options, including farm to table dining.

Directions

Calf Creek Falls has a trailhead near the nearby campground on Highway 12, only 11 miles south of Boulder and 15 miles east of Escalante. You can follow almost the entire route of the trail along the highway before reaching the bluff on the east side of the canyon.

Things to see

Devils Garden, Calf Creek, Anasazi Museum State Park, the Hogback and Dixie National Forest

Places to stay

Escalante | Boulder