



Travel and Recreation Guide

Guide to Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

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Introduction

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument encompasses a vast area of multi-hued cliffs, twisting canyons, expansive plateaus and all manner of buttes, pinnacles and mesas. It is untamed land filled with terrifically difficult terrain. It features some terrific scenic drives, good hiking, challenging off-road 4wd exploring and plenty of photo opportunities.

The monument comprises three areas. The Grand Staircase area starts from edge of the pink cliffs of Bryce Canyon National Park and descends successive steps of gray, white, vermilion and chocolate cliffs to the Cockscomb Ridge, a striking 20 mile long ridge of rock thrust up from the earth. The large Kaiparowits Plateau, a broad mesa carved through with narrow canyons, occupies the center of the monument. To the east is the Escalante Canyon area, though which runs the Escalante River and the canyons created by it and its tributaries.

You can explore the monument from many small towns around its border, including [Kanab](#), Tropic, [Escalante](#), Boulder and [Page, AZ](#). You will find lodging and dining options in these towns as well as guide services for hiking, biking, horseback riding, etc

Hiking

The 1.7 million acres of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument offers an unlimited number of hiking opportunities, from easy marked day hikes to extremely challenging backpacking in the monument's vast wilderness.

Provided below are descriptions of some the more popular hiking routes and areas. The Guides/Outfitters section below lists outfitters who lead guided hiking trips in the area.



TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Escalante Canyons Area

The canyons carved by the Escalante River and its tributaries offers some great hiking opportunities. The following hikes are all in the area of the town of Escalante on the eastern side of the monument.

	<u>Difficulty</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Elev. Change</u>	<u>Time</u>
Lower Calf Creek Falls	Moderate	5.5 mi. roundtrip	_____ ft.	3 hrs.

This sandy maintained trail climbs from the Calf Creek campground off Hwy. 12 to the base of pretty, 125-foot high Calf Creek Falls. There is \$2 per vehicle day use fee.

Escalante Natural Bridge Easy 4 mi. roundtrip _____ ft. 2-3 hrs.

This hike follows the Escalante River upstream to a small natural bridge (Escalante Natural Bridge). You'll need to make numerous river crossings, usually 6-15 inches deep. The trailhead is at the Hwy 12 bridge over the Escalante River about 15 miles east of the town of Escalante.

Phipps Wash Easy+ [4] mi. roundtrip _____ ft. 2-3 hrs.

This hike also begins at the Hwy 12 bridge, but follows the Escalante River downstream. The trail wanders in and out of the river to Phipps Wash, which comes in from the west side. In a north side drainage a bit up the Phipps Wash is Maverick Natural Bridge. Further up the wash in a south side drainage you can scramble to Phipps Arch.

Narrows, Peekaboo and Spooky Gulches Moderate ---- _____ ft. 1 day

These three canyons off Dry Fork Wash can provide a nice day of hiking. To reach the trailhead, drive 26 miles south on the Hole-in-the-Rock road, turn left at the sign to Dry Fork and then keep left on that road to a parking area. The route descends from the parking area to Dry Fork Wash. Immediately to your left is the Narrows, an easy canyon to explore. Further downstream on the left is Peekaboo Gulch. It requires some climbing and scrambling skills. Another 1/2 mile downstream is Spooky Canyon, which contains a terrifically narrow slot canyon.

Escalante River Gorge Moderate 15 mi. oneway _____ ft. 2 days

This attractive route starts just east of Escalante and follows the Escalante River to the Hwy 12 bridge. You'll frequently need wade in ankle-to-knee deep water. Side trips are possible up Death Hollow and Sand Creek canyons. (Arrange a shuttle back on Hwy 12 to Escalante.)

The Boulder Mail Trail Moderate+ 16 mi. oneway _____ ft. 2 days

This route takes you from Boulder to Escalante past great views and expanses of slickrock. It is only sporadically marked with carins, so you'll need some good trail finding skills. En route you'll cross Sand Creek and Death Hollow canyons. The trailhead is at the Boulder airstrip off Hells Backbone Road. This trail was historically used to deliver mail and goods between the two towns. (You'll want to arrange a shuttle back to Boulder.)

The Gulch / Escalante River Difficult 27 mi. oneway _____ ft. 3-4 days

This hike starts on the Burr Road, follows the Gulch south to the Escalante River, and then up the Escalante River to the Hwy 12 bridge. Along the way you'll need to do some difficult scrambling (or climb up and around on the west side of the canyon), some difficult fighting through brush thickets, and some deep wading. Its beautiful though.

Escalante River / Harris Wash Difficult 37 mi. oneway _____ ft. 4-5 days

This route follows the Escalante River downstream from the Hwy 12 bridge to the Harris Wash trailhead off the Hole-in-the-Rock road. Along the way are numerous side canyons to explore, including Boulder Creek, The Gulch, Horse Canyon and Silver Falls. Hiking through knee-deep water and brush thickets is required.

Kaiparowits Plateau

The Kaiparowits Plateau is a broad mesa sliced through with narrow canyons. It is as remote an area as your going to find in the lower 48 states. Hiking here is for the adventurous and prepared. We hope to shortly have coverage of this area, but for now you'll need to rely on the helpful staff of the BLM. Addresses and contact numbers can be found in the Practicalities section.

Grand Staircase Area

The Grand Staircase area encompasses the striking colorful cliffs that step down from Bryce Canyon National Park. The hikes described below can be accessed from the Kanab and/or Bryce Canyon areas.

Lick Wash Easy 6 mi. roundtrip flat 3 hrs.

Lick Wash is an easy hike up a relatively flat canyon. To get to the trailhead, take Johnson Canyon Road north from Hwy 89 to Skutumpah Road. Take it east 14 miles to Lick Wash and park at the canyon mouth.

Starlight Arch Moderate [5 mi. roundtrip] _____ ft. 3 hrs.

[[Starlight Arch is about [2.5 miles] from the Paria Movie Set, which is about 4 miles north of Hwy 89 on Paria Road. There is no defined trail to the arch, but you can reach it by heading up along the Paria River and then following a wash southeast.]]

Willis Creek Moderate ____ mi. out/back _____ ft. 2 days

Willis Creek wash runs northwest from Skutumpah Road towards Bryce Canyon This narrow wash through slickrock can make for an interesting multi-day hike. There is no established trailhead, but you can park along the south side of the creek at Skutumpah Road about 25 miles northwest of the junction of Johnson Canyon and Skutumpah roads.

Cottonwood Creek Easy ____ mi. roundtrip _____ ft. 1-2 hrs.

This hike takes you through a small slot canyon parallel to Cottonwood Canyon Road. Start your hike along the west side of the road about three miles south of Grosvenor Arch.

Hackberry Canyon

Moderate

1-3 days

Hackberry Canyon runs for 14 miles parallel to, and to the west of, Cottonwood Canyon Road. The mouth of Hackberry Canyon is about 15 miles north of Hwy. 89. There is no established trail, just follow the drainage as it climbs and narrows. Some scrambling is required. You can spend anywhere from 1-3 days exploring.

Mountain Biking

Described below are several mountain biking routes in the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument you might consider. (All the routes described are double-track.) The **Guides/Outfitters** section below lists outfitters in the area who lead mountain biking trips (and /or rent bikes).



TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Escalante Canyons Area

	<u>Skill/Endurance</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Elev. Gain</u>	<u>Time</u>
Cedar Wash Loop	Easy/ Intermediate	20 mi. loop	fairly flat	3-4 hrs.

From Escalante ride east on Hwy 12 to the Hole-in-the-Rock Road. Take it south to signed Cedar Wash Road. It will return you to town. Along the way are views of the Straight Cliffs and some short hiking opportunities to Cedar Wash Arch and Covered Wagon Natural Bridge.

Alvey Wash Loop	Easy/ Intermediate	32 mi. loop	600 ft.	1/2 day
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This route takes you through the upper canyons of the Kaiparowits Plateau near the town of Escalante. The route follows the Smokey Mountain Scenic Backway south through Alvey Wash and returns north to Hwy 12 along Pet Hollow Road.

Wolverine Canyon Road	Easy/ Intermediate	43 mi. loop	fairly flat	1 day
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This route follows Wolverine Canyon Road, which starts at mile 19 of the Burr Trail and rejoins it 29 miles later. A 14 mile return on the Burr Trail completes your loop. You'll enjoy great views of the Circle Cliffs and pass the Wolverine Petrified Wood Area.

Egypt Trailhead	Easy/ Intermediate	20 mi. out/back	300 ft.	3-4 hrs.
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This route climbs along a dirt road from the Hole-in-the-Rock road to the Egypt Trailhead. It affords some wonderful views of the Escalante River canyons. The trailhead is on the Hole-in-the-Rock road 16.5 miles south of Hwy 12.

Fiftymile Bench	Intermediate/ Strenuous	27 mi. loop	500 ft.	1/2 day
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The trailhead is on the Hole-in-the-Rock Road 34.2 miles south of Hwy 12. The route ascends Willow Tank slide west to Fiftymile Bench. It proceeds south along the bench above the Straight Cliffs providing nice panoramas of the Escalante River canyons and Henry Mountains. The route descends Sooner Slide back to the Hole-in-the-Rock Road on which you head north to complete the loop.

Big Water / Glen Canyon Area

Near the town of Big Water on Hwy 89 at the southern border of the monument are a few rides to consider.

Nipple Loop	Intermediate/ Strenuous	[42 mi. loop]	_____ ft.	1 day
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This route heads north from Big Water and climbs Nipple Creek Wash to Nipple Butte (14 miles). From Nipple Butte a loop is made by heading down Tibbet Canyon to Smoky Mountain Road and returning to Big Water. The route has some steep climbs and is impassable when wet.

Smokey Hollow Loop	Easy/ Strenuous	63 mi. out/back	_____ ft.	1 day
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This route heads east from Big Water on Smokey Mountain Road (a.k.a. Warm Creek Road). At the 16 mile mark take Smokey Hollow Road north to where it rejoins Smokey Mountain Road and return to Big Water on Smokey Mountain Road. Along the way is great canyon scenery and good views of Lake Powell.

Grand Staircase Area (Western portion of the Monument)

Grosvenor Arch	Easy/ Intermediate	44 mi. semi-loop	_____ ft.	1 day
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The route follows Cottonwood Canyon Road from Kodachrome Basin State Park east to Grosvenor Arch (13 miles). A loop can be made from Grosvenor Arch by heading south and east 6 miles to Long Flat; heading south 2.5 miles along Long Flat; turn west and go 4 miles to Blue Wash Spring; return to Grosvenor Arch by heading north 6 miles.

Johnson Canyon / Skutumpah Roads	Easy/ Intermediate	---	---	---
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Guides / Outfitters

Presented below is information about guides and outfitters for the following activities:

- Hiking / Backpacking
- 4wd Adventuring
- Mountain Biking
- Fishing



HIKING

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| • Backroads | Berkeley, CA | 510-527-1889 |
| • Cloud Canyon Wilderness Exp. | Santa Barbara, CA | 805-969-0982 |
| • Earth Treks | Thorndike, Maine | 207-589-4311 |
| • Escalante Canyon Outfitters | 842 W. Hwy. 12 - Boulder | 435-335-7311 |
| • Sierra Club Outings | San Francisco, CA | |
| • Woodswomen | Minneapolis, MN | 612-822-3809 |



MOUNTAIN BIKE OUTFITTERS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| • Escape the City Streets | Las Vegas, NV | 702-596-2953 |
| • Western Spirit Cycling | 478 Mill Creek Dr. - Moab | 435-259-8732 |



4WD OUTFITTERS



[Hondoo Rivers And Trails](#)

90 E. Main; Box 98 - Torrey

800-332-2696

"Outfitter to wilderness enthusiasts in Utah's Canyon Country on horseback or 4wd vehicle"



[Red Rock & Llamas](#)

Box 1304 - Boulder, UT 84716

435-559-7325

"Llama trips, jeep trips and specialty tours"

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| • Lake Powell Jeep Tours | PO Box 1144; Page, AZ | |
| • Tag-A-Long Expeditions | 425 N. Main St. - Moab, | 800-453-3292 |



[Boulder Mountain Fly Fishing](#)

Box 1403 - Boulder

435-335-7306

"Guided fly fishing trips to great streams, lakes and beaver ponds on Boulder Mtn."



[J.F. Parker Flyfishing](#)

Box 32 - Cannonville

435-679-8664

"Southern Utah, Boulder Mountain, and Bryce Canyon Area Flyfishing Specialists!"

Scenic Drives

Several great scenic drives cross the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Your options are described below.

Burr Trail Road Scenic Backway

The Burr Trail is a **great** scenic backway. It starts in the town of Boulder, crosses through the northeasternmost portion of the Grand Staircase and then climbs up and over the waterpocket fold of Capitol Reef National Park. Past the waterpocket fold it joins Notum Road and continues south to Bull Frog Marina on Lake Powell. The best section is the 25 miles from Boulder to the Notum Road. Here the route passes through some fantastic narrow canyons and then climbs through rugged and beautiful red rock to the top of the reef. At the summit are good vistas of southeastern Utah and the Henry Mountains. The route descends over tortuous switchbacks down the other side of the reef.

It is hard-surfaced for 31 miles until it reaches Capitol Reef National Park. It then turns to graded dirt, with rocky and sandy stretches. The dirt portion is not recommended when wet. It'll take about 1-1/2 hours to reach Notum Road and another few hours to Lake Powell.

Highway 12 Scenic Byway

Highway 12 is one of the best scenic byways in the state. It begins at Hwy 24 near Torrey and runs south and west for 122 miles to Hwy. 89 south of Panguitch. The early section of the route climbs up the side of the heavily forested Boulder Mountains with some nice views east over Capitol Reef and the Henry Mountains. Past the town of Boulder, the route enters the Grand Staircase and passes through very rugged and often spectacular red rock scenery as it heads west towards Bryce Canyon National Park. Areas before Bryce Canyon are very scenic (as, of course, is the main scenic route through Bryce Canyon) but the route becomes relatively ordinary west of Bryce Canyon.

The entire route is paved and opened year round. Plan on spending about 3-1/2 hours with some stops.

Hole-in-the-Rock Scenic Backway

The Hole-in-the-Rock Road runs through rugged areas of the the Grand Staircase before ending at Lake Powell. The "Hole-in-the-Rock" refers to the narrow opening in a cliff through which Mormon pioneers lowered their wagon train to cross the Colorado River in 1879 (which was later dammed to form Lake Powell). The road generally parallels the route these extremely hardy pioneers took. Along the route is Devil's Garden (interesting rock formations) and Dance Hall Rock (natural red rock amphitheater). At the end are nice panoramas over Lake Powell.

The route is graded dirt and is a 115 mile roundtrip. It can be done in a passenger car, though the last 5 miles require high clearance. Plan to spend about 6 hours driving it.

Smokey Mountain Scenic Backway

From Escalante, this route climbs switchbacks 1,200 feet up Smokey Mountain before winding through the exceptionally rugged desert landscape of the Kaiparowits Plateau. Along the route are some good views over Lake Powell and up to Bryce Canyon National Park. The route ends at Hwy 89 at Big Water near Lake Powell.

The route is graded dirt and 78 miles long oneway. Sections of it require a high clearance vehicle, and drivers must take care at intersections not to get sidetracked. Plan on spending about 4-5 hrs. It is impassable when wet.

Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Backway

Cottonwood Canyon Road connects Hwy 12 from near Bryce Canyon to Hwy 89 towards Lake Powell. It starts in the town of Cannonville, goes past Kodachrome Basin State Park and then runs through Cottonwood Canyon along the interesting Cockscomb Ridge. Along the way is a turn-off for Grosvenor Arch, a rare double arch.

The route is 46 miles long oneway, and is graded dirt and gravel. It is impassable when wet. Plan on spending a few hours.

Johnson Canyon & Skutumpah Road

This route runs through the Grand Staircase area from near Kodachrome Basin State Park to Hwy 89 near Kanab. It features some pretty canyons and views of the colorful cliffs in the area.

The route is 46 miles oneway. It is paved in portions, but mostly graded dirt. The dirt portions are difficult to impossible to traverse when wet. Plan on spending a few hours.

Lodging

There is no lodging in the Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument itself, but there are numerous good options in the small towns near the park. Your options are listed below.

Tropic is a small town on Hwy 12 some 8 miles east of Bryce Canyon. (Zip Code: 84776)

Bryce Country Cabins	320 Hwy. 12; Box 141	435-679-8643	7 rooms
Bryce Pioneer Village	80 South Hwy. 12	800-222-0381	18 cabins
Bryce Point	61 N. 400 West; Box 96	435-679-8629	5 rooms
Bryce Valley Inn	200 North Hwy. 12; Box A	800-442-1890	65 rooms
Canyon Livery	660 W. 50 South; Box 24	888-889-8910	5 rooms
Cowboy Dreams	80 S. 100 East; Box 57	435-679-8734	2 rooms
Doug's Place Country Inn	141 North Hwy 12; Box 157	800-99D-OUGS	28 rooms
Fox's Bryce Trails	1001 W. Bryce Way; Box 87	435-679-8700	5 rooms
Francisco's Farm B&B	51 Francisco Ln.; Box 3	800-642-4136	3 rooms
Stepping Stone Inn	21 South Hwy 12; Box 112	435-679-8796	4 rooms
Under the Rim Inn	21 North Hwy 12; Box 100	435-679-8502	6 rooms

Cannonville is an even smaller town on Hwy 12 some 13 miles east of Bryce Canyon. (Zip Code: 84718)

Fletcher's Canyon Country	95 N. Redrock Dr.	435-679-8570	2 rooms	
Galloping Tortoise	250 North Hwy 12	435-679-8664	2 rooms	\$45-95
Grand Staircase Inn	105 N. Kodachrome Dr.	800-679-8401	26 rooms	

Escalante is a small town on Hwy 12 on the monument's northern border.

Circle D Motel	475 W. Main St.	435-826-4297	29 rooms	\$-\$\$
Escalante Outfitters & Bunkhouse	310 W. Main St.	435-826-4266	7 cabins	
Escalante's Grand Staircase B&B	280 W. Main St.	435-826-4890	2 rooms	
La Luz B&B	Box 326	435-826-4720	1 room	
Moqui Motel & Campground	480 West Main St.	435-826-4210	10 rooms	\$
Padre Motel	20 E. Main St.	435-826-4276	12 rooms	\$30-65
Prospector Inn	380 W. Main St.	435-826-4653	51 rooms	\$-\$\$
Quiet Falls Motel	75 S. 100 West	435-826-4250		\$
Rainbow Country B&B	585 E. 300 South	800-252-UTAH	4 rooms	\$\$
Silver Sage Lodge Spa	75 S. 100 West	800-863-7525	18 room	

Boulder is a small town along Hwy 12 about 29 miles northeast of Escalante.

Boulder Mountain Lodge	Hwy 12 at Burr Trail	800-556-3446	20 rooms	\$\$\$
Boulder Mountain Ranch	Hell's Backbone Rd.	435-335-7480	5 cabins	\$\$\$
Boulder Pines B&B Inn	330 E. Boulder Pines	435-335-7375	4 rooms	\$
Circle Cliffs Motel	246 S. Main St.	435-335-7353	3 rooms	\$
Eaglestar Ranch (B&B)	Box 1456	435-335-7450	4 rooms	
Pole's Place	465 N. Hwy 12	800-730-7422	12 rooms	\$

Torrey is a small town at the intersection of Hwys 12 and 24, about 36 miles north of Boulder and 11 miles west of Capitol Reef National Park.

Austin's Chuck Wagon Motel	12 W. Main St.	800-863-3288	21 rooms	\$-\$\$\$
Best Western Capitol Reef	2600 East Hwy. 24	800-528-1234	50 rooms	\$\$-\$\$\$
Boulder View Inn	385 W. Main St.	800-444-3980	12 rooms	\$\$
Capitol Reef Inn	360 W. Main St.	435-425-3271	10 rooms	\$
Days Inn of Torrey	Jct. Of Hwys 12 & 24	800-DAYS INN		\$-\$\$\$
Rim Rock Rustic Inn	Hwy 24; Box 264	800-243-0786		\$\$
Skyridge Bed & Breakfast Inn	950 East Hwy. 24	435-425-3222	6 rooms	\$\$\$
Wonderland Inn	Jct. Hwys. 12 & 24	800-458-0216	50 rooms	\$\$-

Teasdale is a small town 5 miles west of Torrey.



Cockscomb Inn 97 S. State St.; Box 18 800-530-1038 3 rms/ 1 cabin \$55-100
 "A wonderfully cozy, quiet home in a ranching community close to Capitol Reef"



Lodge at Red River Ranch 2990 W Hwy 24; Box 69 800-205-6343 15 rooms \$95-150
 "Included in Travel & Leisure's 'Best American Lodges'"



Muley Twist Inn B&B 125 S. State St.; Box 117 435-425-3640 5 rooms \$70-90
 "... a place you'll come back to" 435-425-3641 (fax)



Pine Shadows 195 W. 125 South; Box 25 800-708-1223 6 cabins \$65
 "Within the shadows of coral Navajo sandstone bluffs, Pine Shadows offers an ideal retreat."

Cactus Hill Ranch Motel 830 S. 1000 East; Box 36 800-507-2624 5 rooms \$\$-

Glendale is a very small town on Hwy 89 about 8 miles west of the monument. (Zip Code = 84729)

Eagle's Nest B&B	500 W. Lydia's Cyn. Rd.	800-293-6378		\$\$\$
Oak Knoll Country Cottages	Lydia's Canyon/Hwy 89	800-266-7660		\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$+
Smith Hotel	300 N. Main St.; Box 106	435-648-2156		\$\$
The Homeplace	200 S. Main St.; Box 41	435-648-2194		\$\$

Orderville is a very small town 4 miles south of Glendale on Hwy 89. (Zip Code = 84758)

Hummingbird B&B	102 Frost Ln.; Box 25	435-648-2415	\$\$
Parkway Motel	74 E. State St.; Box 92	435-648-2380	\$
Starlite Motel	Hwy 89; Box 58	435-648-2060	\$-\$
Best Western Thunderbird	Jct. Hwy 9 & 89; Box 36	435-648-2203	\$\$-\$\$\$
Coral Canyons Ranch	Hwy 89/Hwy 9; Box 50	800-469-3789	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Golden Hills Motel	125 E. State St.; Box 34	435-648-2268	\$-\$
Mt. Carmel Motel/RV Park	Box 5501	435-648-2323	\$\$
Sugar Knoll B&B	Highway 89; Box 46	435-648-2335	\$\$

Mt Carmel Jct. is a very small town located at the intersection of Hwys. 9 and 89, 5 miles south of Orderville and about 12 miles east of Zion National Park's eastern entrance. (Zip Code = 84755)

Best Western Thunderbird	Jct. Hwy 9 & 89; Box 36	435-648-2203	\$\$-\$\$\$
Coral Canyons Ranch	Hwy 89/Hwy 9; Box 50	800-469-3789	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Golden Hills Motel	125 E. State St.; Box 34	435-648-2268	\$-\$
Mt. Carmel Motel/RV Park	Box 5501	435-648-2323	\$\$
Sugar Knoll B&B	Highway 89; Box 46	435-648-2335	\$\$

Kanab is a good sized town on Hwy 89, about 10 miles southwest of the Grand Staircase, in the middle of the route from Zion National Park to Lake Powell. It has dozens of lodging options. See [Kanab-Lodging](#) for details.

Big Water is along Hwy 89, 10 miles north of Wahweap Marina on Lake Powell. (Zip Code = 84758)

Highway Host Motel	S. Hwy 89 - Big Water	800-748-5034	40 rooms	\$\$
Warm Creek Motel	S. Hwy. 89 - Big Water	800-748-5065	39 rooms	\$\$

Pricing Code: \$ = under \$50; \$\$ = \$50-75; \$\$\$ = \$75-125; \$\$\$\$ = \$125+

Dining

[information to come]

Campgrounds / RV Parks

Presented below is information about camping at developed campgrounds and RV Parks in and near Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument. Information on primitive camping within the monument is provided in the **Primitive Camping** section below.



PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS

In the Monument

- Calf Creek is a pretty BLM campground located a few miles from pretty Calf Creek Falls. It is just off Hwy 12 about 17 miles east of Escalante. 13 sites; drinking water; vault toilets; elev. 5,400 ft.; open Apr-Nov; first-come, first-serve; \$7.
- Deer Creek is a BLM campground located along the beautiful Burr Trail about 6 miles east of Boulder. [4 sites; drinking water; vault toilets; elev. ___ ft.; open ____; first-come, first-serve; \$____.]

Near the Monument

- The Escalante Petrified Forest State Park has the states largest accessible concentration of petrified wood. It is located a few miles west of Escalante. The campground is set a bit out in the open near a reservoir. 21 sites; modern restrooms w/ flush toilets & showers; elev. 5,800 ft.; open year round; reservations: 800-322-3770; \$12.
- Kodachrome Basin State Park is located along the northern edge of the monument near Hwy 12. It has an attractive well-maintained campground set in a natural amphitheater among desert vegetation. 24 sites; modern restrooms w/flush toilets & showers; disposal station; elev. 5,800 ft.; open year round, but water is shut off in winter; reservations: 800-322-3770 ; \$12.

There are also numerous Forest Service Campgrounds on Boulder Mountain (Aquarius Plateau) north of Escalante. See Boulder Mountain-Camping for information on those.



PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

In Escalante

Broken Bow Campground
Moqui Motel & Campground

495 W. Main St.
480 W. Main St.; Box 534

888-241-8785
435-826-4210

28 sites
10 sites

Along Hwy. 89 east of the Grand Staircase

Bauer's Canyon Ranch RV Park	Glendale	435-648-2564	20 sites
Bryce/Zion KOA	5 mi N on Hwy 89 - Glendale	435-648-2490	60 sites
Tortoise & Hare Tr. Ct.	1 mi N on Hwy 89 - Orderville	435-648-2312	15 sites
Mt. Carmel Motel & Trailer Park	Box 5501 - Mt. Carmel	435-648-2323	
East Zion Trailer Park	Jct Hwys 9 & 89 - Mt. Carmel	435-648-2326	20 sites
Mt. Carmel Trailer Park	1 mi N on Hwy 89 - Mt. Carmel	435-648-2323	15 sites
Coleman's Exxon & RV Park	355 E. 300 South - Kanab	435-644-2922	13 sites
Crazy Horse Campark	625 E. 300 South - Kanab	435-644-2782	74 sites
Hitch'n Post RV Park	196 E. 300 South - Kanab	435-644-2681	50 sites
Kanab RV Corral	483 S. 100 East - Kanab	888-818-5330	__ sites

Along Hwy. 89 south of the Grand Staircase

Paria Outpost / Outfitters	Marker 22 on Hwy 89	520-691-1047	__ sites
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Primitive Camping

Presented below is information about primitive campsites in the Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument.

Along Hwy. 12

- [Henrieville Creek](#) -- This site sits along Henrieville Creek among scattered pinyon pine and juniper on the north side of Hwy 12. The Gray Cliffs are the backdrop. Take the dirt road immediately east of the Henrieville Creek Bridge on the north side of Hwy 12 between mile markers 37 and 38. Follow the left forks for 300 yards and you'll see several open spots.
- [Radio Relay Knob](#) -- This camping area sits between two knobs with good views of the Straight Cliffs and close to good views of the Escalante River canyons. It is about 9 miles east of Escalante. The sites are located in a large flat area between two radio relay antennas on the south side of Hwy 12. Take the dirt access road to the antennas just east of mile marker 68.
- [Little Spencer Flat](#) -- This site is near a corral amidst scattered pinyon pine and juniper about 10 miles east of Escalante. Old Sheffield Road is a well used dirt road that intersects Hwy 12 from the south midway between mile marker 70 and 71. Take it exactly 1.2 miles to the second spur road on the left. Follow it for several hundred yards to an area near the corral.

- [New Home Bench](#) -- This site is an open area 7-8 miles southwest of Boulder with views of Boulder and Henry mountains. The turn-off is a steep dirt road on the east side of Hwy 12; .25 miles west of mile marker 83. This site accommodates large vehicles.

Along the Hole-in-the-Rock Road

- [Hole-in-the-Rock Junction](#) -- Located among scattered pinyon pine and juniper, this a convenient camping area at the beginning of the Hole-in-the-Rock road. To get there, be aware that there are two turnoffs from Hwy 12 onto the Hole-in-the-Rock road. From the westernmost turn-off, drive .2 miles and take the dirt road that forks to the right. Then take the immediate left fork. There are several sites to accommodate large vehicles.
- [Straight Cliffs Overlook](#) -- This small camping area sits on a ridge overlooking the Straight Cliffs to the west and the Aquarius Plateau to the north. Drive 2.2 miles from Hwy 12 and turn right onto a two-track dirt road heading southwest. Take it .2 miles to an area with some pinyon pine and juniper.
- [Harris Wash](#) -- This site is on a sandy bench next to a sandstone wall along Harris Wash Road. Clearly marked Harris Wash road is 10.4 miles south of Hwy. 12. Drive east 5.5 miles, taking the left fork at the Y-junction 3.5 miles in. The site is past the coral on the south side of the road up a slight incline.
- [Twenty Mile Wash Line Camp](#) -- The site is at an old line camp with surrounding hills. Drive 14.1 miles south from Hwy 12 . A short way past the road to Collet Top you'll cross the wash and a cattle guard; turn east onto a side road and follow the right fork up around the south side of a hill. At the crest of the hill is the site (and a historic marker post).
- [Box Canyon / Ring Tank](#) -- This site is in a box canyon area amidst slick rock domes. Nearby is a ring tank and watering trough. Drive 22.4 south from Hwy 12 (.9 miles south of Reference Marker 35) to a rutted side road. Take a sharp left turn heading east and follow it .5 miles. Camp in the open flat area away from the ring tank.
- [Willow Tank](#) -- The site is an open area close to the road near a stock tank, corral and line cabin. Drive 33.3 miles south from Hwy 12 and head east to Willow Tank (the turn-off is marked).
- [Dance Hall Rock](#) -- Camping is available for a few groups at Dance Hall Rock, a natural red rock amphitheater. The road to the site is 36.5 south of Hwy 12 on the east side of the road. (The turn-off is marked with a BLM interpretive sign.)
- [Forty Mile Spring](#) -- This site is near a ring tank, which is an historic site from pioneer days. The signed road to Forty Mile Spring is 37.1 miles south of Hwy 12 (.3 miles south of Reference Marker 60). Take it east .9 miles, take the left fork and proceed another .3 miles down into a canyon area and to the ring tank farthest in.

Along the Burr Trail Road

- [Durfey Mesa](#) -- This is an open area near pinyon and ponderosa pines (and a road materials storage site). It is 5.2 miles east of Hwy 12 and 1 mile past Deer Creek Campground on the south side of the road.
- [Steep Creek Bench](#) -- There are several sites along an old 1/2-mile section of the Burr Trail road. Drive 7.6 miles east of Hwy 12 (1.3 miles east of Deer Creek Campground) and turn north onto a dirt road. Camp at one of several spots on the north side of this road. (The road rejoins the Burr Road pavement through a deep sandy area).
- [Horse Canyon](#) -- Located in the Circle Cliffs area are several smaller sites among pinyon pine and juniper. Drive 19.5 miles east of Hwy 12 (1.4 miles past the Wolverine Loop Road) to a rutted, difficult dirt road. Take it north .4 miles and choose one of the short spur roads to the campsites. (No turnarounds for large vehicles.)
- [Stud Horse Peaks](#) -- Camping is in an open area with views of the Circle Cliffs. Drive 28 miles east of Hwy 12 (exactly .4 miles east of Reference Marker 45). Head south on the dirt road 100 yards to an open area (or keep going to an old mining camp).

In the Western Portion of the Monument

- [Skutumpah Road Overlook](#) -- Camping is available at an overlook pull-out along Skutumpah Road. The pull-out is a little south of Bull Valley Gorge on the east side of the road about halfway between Kodachrome Basin Road and Johnson Canyon Road.
- [Rock Springs Bench](#) -- This camping area is on an open flat along Cottonwood Canyon Road. The area is 1 mile east of the turn off to Kodachrome Basin on the south side of the road.
- [Pump Canyon Springs](#) -- This camping area is along Cottonwood Creek just off Cottonwood Canyon Road. It is 8 miles south of the turn-off to Grosvenor Arch on a loop dirt road on the west side of Cottonwood Canyon Road.
- [Kitchen Canyon](#) -- This site is an old gravel pit that has become revegetated. The site is one mile north on Kitchen Canyon Road, which intersects Hwy 89 at mile marker 37 between Kanab and the Paria Movie Set.

Transportation

The Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument is a sprawling area encompassing 1.7 million acres in southern Utah. Its western edge is about 275 miles south of Salt Lake City and 200 miles northeast of Las Vegas. It lies generally between Lake Powell, Capitol Reef National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park.



GETTING THERE

By Car or RV

To help plan your route, see one of the maps at the back of this document.

By Plane / Train / Bus

Service is available to Cedar City and St. George along I-15. They are about 50-70 miles west of the Grand Staircase. Air Nevada Airlines (800-634-6377) offers flights from Las Vegas to Bryce Canyon airport as long as at least four people are flying. Bryce Air Service (435-834-5208) at the Bryce airstrip rents cars and vans.

Travel Tips

- Traveling through the monument is almost all on dirt roads, some of which can be quite rough. So when judging travel times, you'll want to take account of the difficulty, not just the distance.
- Many of the dirt roads in the monument become impassable when wet. You'll want to inquire locally about weather conditions before setting out.
- The monument's terrain is difficult and isolated. Always carry plenty of water and be equipped for emergencies.

Van Tours

The following businesses offer van tours in the monument. Some combine the trips with guided hiking trips.

Dixie College Elderhostel
Grand Circle Adventure

Rainbow Country Tours

225 S. 700 East - St. George
Box 2053 - Page, AZ

Box 333 - Escalante

435-826-4557

Weather

The Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument is mostly desert with rainfall averaging under 10" a year. Temperatures vary widely depending on altitude, but generally the best times to visit are April to June and September to October. During these periods temperatures are more moderate and rainfall minimal. Unfortunately, gnats and deerflies are often bothersome in May and June.

Summer months are hot with temperatures frequently reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit at lower elevations. Average highs are in the 90's; average lows are in the 60's. As is the case in all desert environments, temperatures drop quickly once the sun sets. July and August experience thunderstorms that tend to quickly come and go. The rainy season can last into September.

In Winter, temperatures range from 15 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit with snow common at the higher elevations.

Practicalities

Entrance to the Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument is free. You are free to explore the monument all year long, 24 hours a day. Information centers are located around the periphery of the monument. In addition to detailed up-to-date information, these centers also sell books and maps.

- Escalante Interagency Visitor Center
755 West Main
Escalante, UT 84726
7:30 AM to 5:30 PM, daily
435-826-5499
- Paria Contact Station
Highway 89, 44 mi. east of Kanab
Hours vary
- Kanab Resource Area Office
318 North 100 East
Kanab, UT 84741
7:45 am to 4:30 pm, M - F
435-644-2672
- Anasazi State Park
425 Highway 12
Boulder, UT 84716
9:00 am to 5:00 pm, daily;
(8:00 am to 6:00 pm in summer)
435-335-7308

Free permits for overnight visits are available at each of these information centers, or you can simply fill out a permit at the various trailhead register boxes throughout the monument. For large group trips, special permits are required from the BLM.

Nearby Attractions

- [Bryce Canyon National Park](#) is home to a series of spectacularly colorful and intricate rock forms carved by erosion from the edge of the Pausaugunt Plateau. An easy scenic drive runs along the top of the plateau to wonderful lookouts over the park. Numerous hiking trails run along the rim and down among the rock forms.
- [Boulder Mountain](#) is pretty forested range with a peak of over 11,000 feet. It offers some excellent, secluded fly fishing, good hiking and a few scenic drives.
- [Capitol Reef National Park](#) consists of a 100 mile long ridge of marvelously colored and wildly-varied red-, orange-, tan-, cream- rock. Some of the most outstanding features of the park and its best short hikes can be accessed from Hwy 24 and the park's short scenic drive. The more adventurous can backpack or 4wd to exceedingly rugged and remote areas of the park.
- [Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park](#) features 2,000 acres of sand dunes created from pinkish sand blown from surrounding cliffs. You can explore the dunes on foot, or by dune buggy, ATV or motorcycle.
- [Escalante](#) is a small, sleepy ranching town along scenic Highway 12. To the north is the alpine wilderness of Boulder Mountain, in all other directions lie the miles and miles of rugged, pristine red rock desert of the Grand Staircase.
- [Kanab](#) is a small town strategically located on Hwy. 89 between Zion National Park, the grand Staircase, Lake Powell and the north rim of the Grand Canyon. It is primarily a traveler's stop with lots of motels and a selection of casual places to eat.
- [Kodachrome Basin State Park](#) is a small, attractive park surrounded by colorful cliffs. Its most distinctive feature is unique rock pillars that rise up to 170 feet above the ground. Several short hiking trails wind through the park.
- [Lake Powell](#) is a vast body of clear blue water beautifully contained within tall orange-red cliff walls. Thousands of snaking finger canyons run from the main canyon and beg exploration. Houseboating, power boating, water skiing and fishing are all popular, as is camping along its nearly 2,000 miles of shoreline.



- ★ [Zion National Park](#) is Utah's most popular park. The massive cliff walls of granite that tower above the canyon floor are truly inspiring. Great day hikes and good backpacking opportunities are numerous. Easy scenic drives take you to the best views.

