



To reach the South (Rainbow Lodge) Trailhead from Page, AZ:

Driving Instructions

- At the intersection of Hwy 98 and Coppermine Rd (Big Lake Trading Post), take Hwy 98 East 51.1 miles to the Inscription House Trading Post turnoff (Indian Rd 16).
- Take Indian Rd 16 25.1 miles on pavement and 5.4 miles on dirt to the Navajo Mountain Trading Post fork - bear left and drive 4.6 miles to another fork.
- At the fork, which has a Pinon pine post with IL license plate nailed to it, bear right, drive 0.7 miles to the Navajo Mountain water tank filling area - keep going straight - the track no longer resembles a road and you will need to engage your 4WD. From here it is 1.4 miles to the ruins of the Rainbow Lodge and the Rainbow Bridge Trailhead.

Trail Description

The following information has been compiled from an archival NPS trail guide and hikes completed in October, 2003 and May, 2004. Mileages are from the archival trail guide and are approximate, based upon flat map miles and not trail miles. Hiking times will vary, but the October hike was completed in 7 ½ hours while the May hike was completed in 9 hours. Hiking times from the 9-hour hike are included. It is recommended, however, that this hike be considered an over-night hike.

This trail, beginning at the Rainbow Lodge ruins, is not maintained, and is the steeper, rougher trail of the two. The trail is marked mainly with stone cairns and

iron pipe mile-posts. Water is not available for the first 8 miles of this hike. There are route signs at Redbud Canyon and Redbud Pass.

Mile	Time (hr:min)	Trail Notes
0.5	--	Rainbow Lodge Ruins – trail begins at a rock cairn beyond cabin sites - elevation 6300 feet. Trail follows southwest side of Navajo Mountain – goes into and out of 3 canyons – several side trails, with main trail keeping to the right. No water – pinon, juniper cover.
2	1:10	Horse Canyon , second of three to be crossed
3	2:45	Mile-post
	3:20	High Camp - no water
	3:30	Mile-post
5	3:35	Yabut Pass ("Sunset Pass" inscribed in rock) – spectacular view into Cliff Canyon – 1600 foot drop in first 2 miles.
	4:15	Mile-post
7	4:45	Cliff Canyon – elevation 4800 feet
	4:55	Mile-post

- 5:30 Mile-post
- 8 5:35 **First Water Campsite** – pit toilet and garbage pit are full. Usually water here – some shade, good bedding, no firewood.
- 9 6:05 You have followed the stream to this junction with **Redbud Canyon** – Cliff Canyon turns slightly left. Confusing confluence of canyons; if you don't find the cairns, navigate toward a very large arch-shaped alcove high on a canyon wall ahead. Redbud Pass is marked by a rock cairn on the right and route sign.
- 6:30 Mile-post
- 9.4 6:40 **Redbud Pass** blasted by Wetherill/Bernheimer in 1922 and named by them – see inscriptions. Trail improvements by NPS, May 1957.
- 10 **Redbud Creek** comes in from your right, you tend left.
- 10.9 Intersection with the North (Navajo Mountain Trading Post) Trail – **Bridge Creek**, continue downstream.
- 7:15 Mile=post
- 7:30 **Second Water Campsite** – shade, usually water here.

- 12.7 9:00 Gate – please close.
- 12.8 9:05 **Echo Camp** – spring at campsite – nearest campsite to **Rainbow Bridge National Monument**.
- 13 9:15 **Rainbow Bridge** – please avoid re-vegetation areas.
- 14.3 **Rainbow Bridge Docks**, toilets but no running water, accessible by boat only.

Trail Notes compiled by Kirk W. Robinson, Summer 2004