



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah

# Backcountry Information



## HIKING AT BRYCE

Bryce Canyon is best known for its hoodoos—intricately-carved rock spires left standing by erosion. Hoodoos are best experienced from our **day-hiking trails**, which offer an up-close and intimate look at these beautiful and bizarre rock formations. Day hiking trails are relatively short, moderately difficult, and very popular.

In contrast, Bryce Canyon's **backcountry trails** offer forests and meadows, stunning views of distant cliffs, solitude, *but few hoodoos*. If you've come to hike among the hoodoos, be sure to take a day hike. Check your **Hoodoo** newspaper for day hiking information. *No overnight camping is permitted on day hiking trails.*

## BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS

The **Riggs Spring Loop** is an 8.8-mile (14.2 km) loop which begins and ends at the Rainbow/Yovimpa Point parking lot. Either Yovimpa Point or Rainbow Point trailhead may be used to access this loop.

The **Under-the-Rim Trail** is 22.9 miles (36.9 km) from Bryce Point to Rainbow Point. Three connecting trails intersect the Under-the-Rim Trail at Swamp Canyon, Whiteman Bench and Agua Canyon trailheads. The Green Line Shuttle provides transportation to/from backcountry trailheads in summer months. Inquire at the visitor center.

The Under-the-Rim Trail may be broken into sections as follows:

trail sections	distance (one-way)	elevation change
Bryce Point to Swamp Canyon T.H. (Steep descent past the Hat Shop.)	11.6 mi / 18.7 km	1294 ft / 394 m
Swamp Canyon T.H. to Whiteman T.H. (Hike through plant communities.)	3.6 mi / 5.8 km	848 ft / 259 m
Whiteman T.H. to Agua Canyon T.H. (Interesting geology and good birding.)	7.0 mi / 11.3 km	1460 ft / 445 m
Agua Canyon T.H. to Rainbow Point (Hike across hogbacks; good views.)	7.9 mi / 12.7 km	1365 ft / 416 m

T.H. = Trailhead

## WATER IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

Due to our arid climate, we recommend that each person carry at least one liter of water for every two hours of hiking. Water sources are intermittent and unreliable. Water obtained from backcountry sources must be purified by boiling (10 minutes), filtering, or iodine treatment.



Please check at the visitor center for the most current information on water availability. You **MAY** find water at the following areas:

### Frequently Available

Yellow Creek (near campsites)  
Riggs Spring (inside log fence area)



### Infrequently Available

Iron Spring (trail near campsite)  
Sheep Creek (near campsite)  
Swamp Canyon (in wash)  
Yovimpa Spring (below Yovimpa Pass campsite)

**Note:** *In summer months, potable water is available at Rainbow Point Picnic Area in years with adequate precipitation.*

## BACKCOUNTRY GUIDELINES

**PERMITS**.....A Backcountry Permit is required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. Permits cost \$5.00 and may be purchased at the visitor center from 8 a.m. until two hours before sunset.

**WATER**.....Carry plenty of water and check water availability with a ranger at the visitor center before you leave.



**HYGIENE**.....Wash dishes and bathe at least 200 feet (60 m) from water sources, trails and campsites. Collect and bag food scraps and pack out as trash.

**WILDLIFE**....Protect wildlife by hanging all food from a tree branch 10 feet (3 m) high and 10 feet (3 m) away from the tree trunk.

**WASTE**.....Dig "catholes" 6 to 8 inches (15 cm) deep at least 200 feet (60 m) away from water sources and trails to bury human waste. Pack out all trash and any left by others. Pack out toilet paper in zip lock bags.

**SAFETY**.....Carry a good map, compass, extra clothing, rain gear, food, hat and sunscreen. Check weather forecast.

**TRAVEL**.....Prevent unnecessary and unsightly erosion—stay on designated trails.

**CAMPING**....Camp only in designated sites as reserved on your backcountry permit. Leave no trace of your visit.



**Immediately report emergencies and resource violations to a ranger or call 911.**



