



Backcountry Hiking



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 *fewer 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. ***Backcountry camping is permitted only in designated backcountry sites.***

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 the Yovimpa or Rainbow Point trailhead may be used to access this loop.

The **Under-the-Rim Trail** is approximately 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.

In summer months, the Bryce Canyon Shuttle provides transportation to and from Sunrise, Sunset, Inspiration, and Bryce Points, but does *not* serve the southern end of the park. You must provide your own transportation to those locations. Please note that hitchhiking is not allowed in Bryce Canyon National Park.

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



We recommend that you carry at least one gallon of water per person per day into the backcountry. Water sources are intermittent and unreliable. Water in the backcountry 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:

Non-Seasonal (reliable)

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

Seasonal (unreliable)

Iron Spring (trail near campsite)
Sheep Creek (near campsite)
Swamp Canyon (in wash)
Yovimpa Spring (below Yovimpa Pass campsite)
Rainbow Point Picnic Area (sometimes available in summer months)

Backcountry Guidelines

Permits.....A Backcountry Permit is required for all over-night stays in the backcountry. Permits may be purchased at the visitor center from 8 p.m. until one hour before closing.

Water.....Carry plenty of water and check water availability with a ranger at the visitor center before you leave. Purify all water from backcountry sources.

Hygiene.....Wash dishes and bathe at least 100 feet (30 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 4 feet (1.5 m) away from the tree trunk.

Waste.....Dig “catholes” 6 to 8 inches (15 cm) deep at least 100 feet (30 m) away from water sources, trails and campsites to bury human waste. Pack out all trash and any left by others. Pack out toilet paper in zip-type 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.

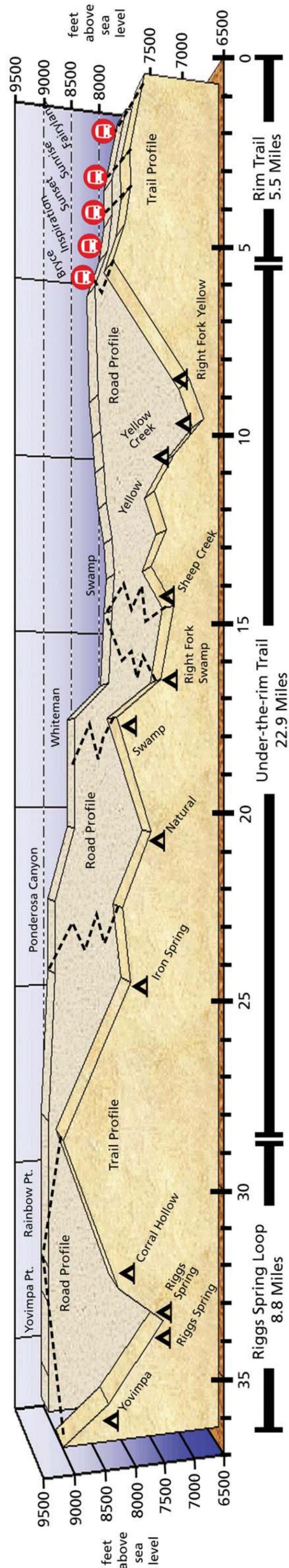
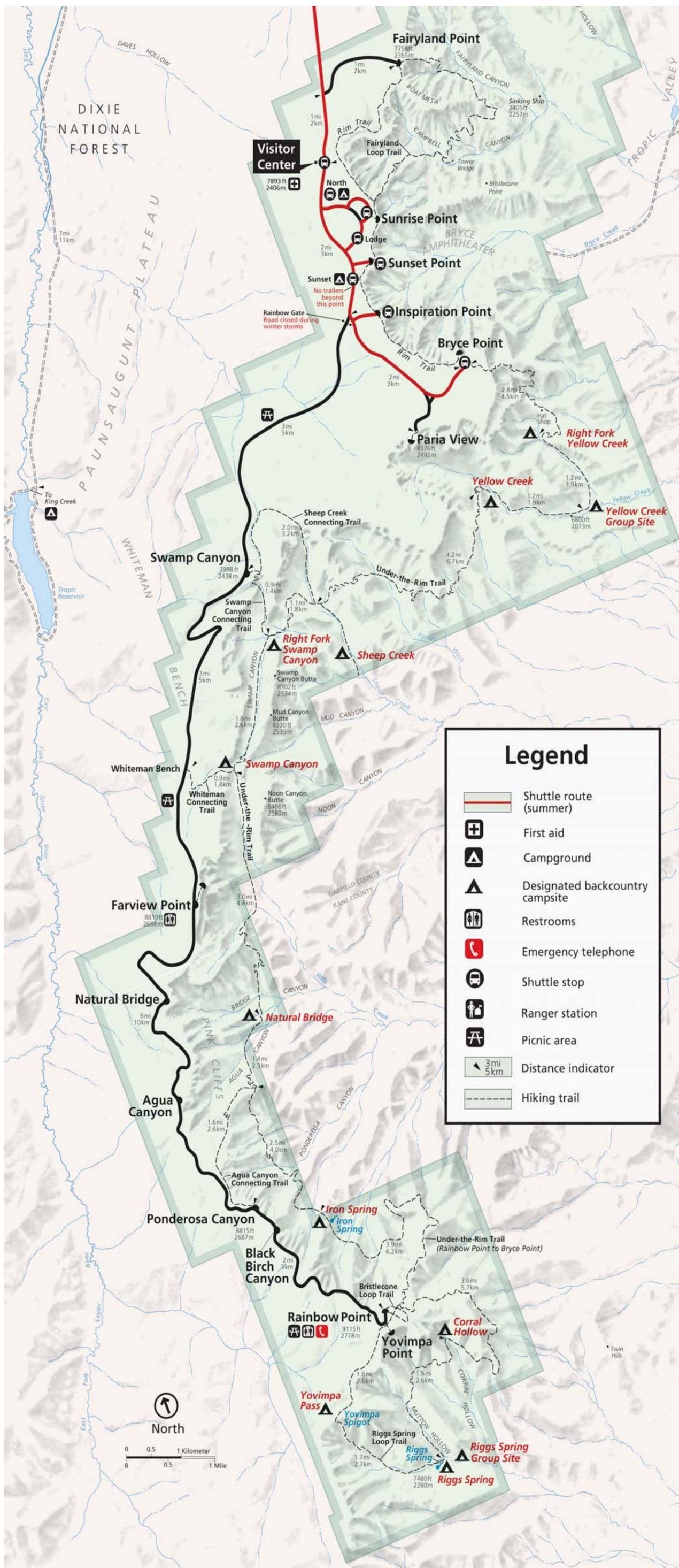
Camping...Camp only in designated sites as reserved on your backcountry permit. Leave no trace of your visit.

Groups.....Backcountry campsites are limited to 6 people per regular site, and 15 people per group site.

Fires.....NO OPEN FIRES are allowed in the backcountry. Camp stoves are permitted.

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





Legend

- Shuttle route (summer)
- First aid
- Campground
- Designated backcountry campsite
- Restrooms
- Emergency telephone
- Shuttle stop
- Ranger station
- Picnic area
- Distance indicator
- Hiking trail