

Planning Your Visit

Hiking, backpacking, picnicking, wildlife viewing, and walking through the orchards are favorite activities at Capitol Reef National Park. Below are some suggested ways to spend your time for:

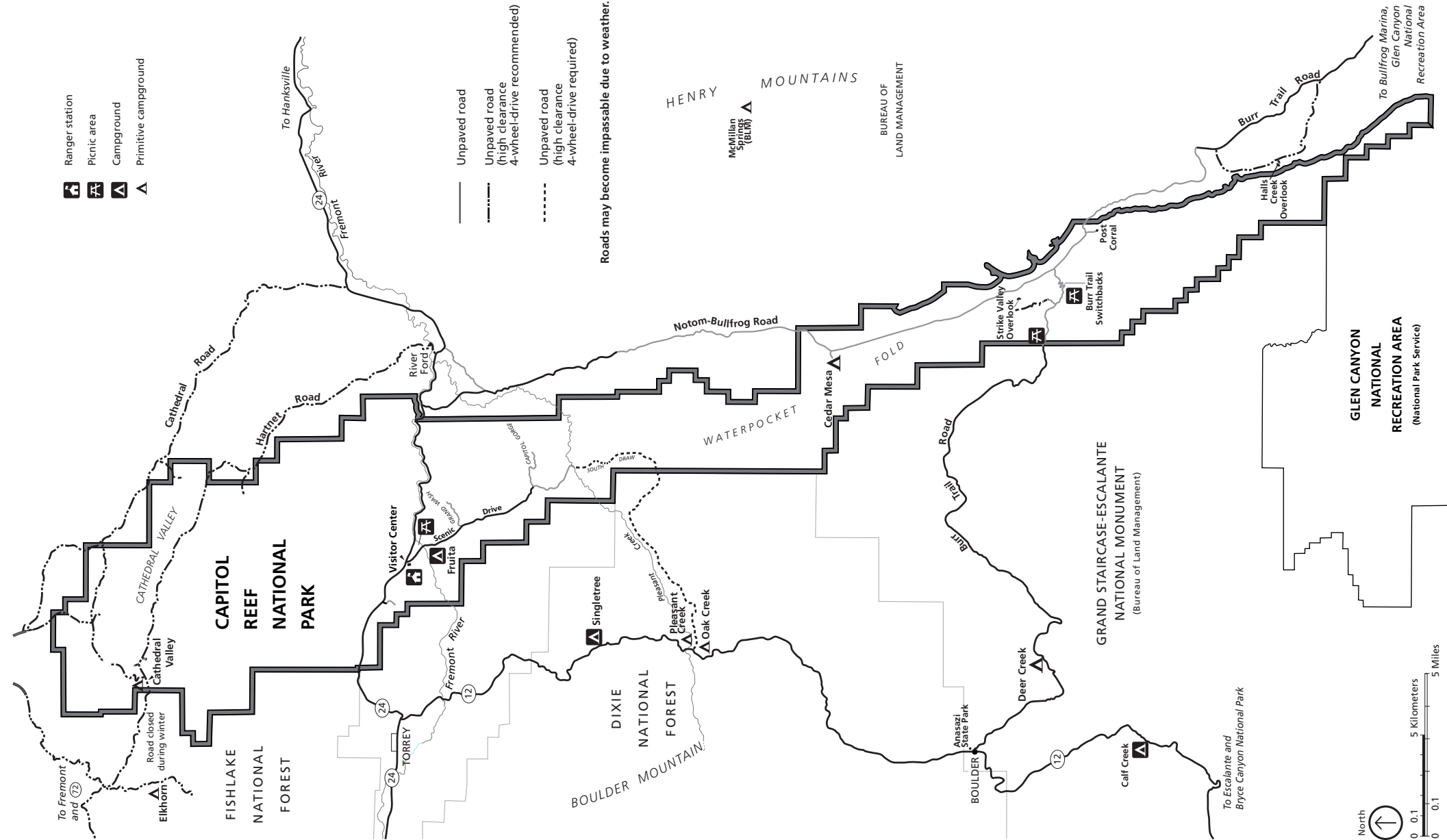
- An Hour or Two:**
- Stop at the visitor center and view the displays and orientation movie.
 - Pick some delicious fruit when in season.
 - Hike one of the shorter trails in the Fruita area.
- One Day:**
- Tour the Scenic Drive (approximately 90 minutes round trip).
 - Visit the petroglyphs, historic schoolhouse, or Behunin Cabin (along Highway 24), or the Historic Gifford House, nature center, or blacksmith shop (on the Scenic Drive).
 - Join a ranger-guided program.

- Several Days:**
- Combine day trip options.
 - Hike the shorter trails and routes along the Waterpocket District or Cathedral Valley Loops.
 - Experience solitude and quiet by backpacking into remote areas of the park. Check for current weather, road and trail conditions at the visitor center. A free permit is required for overnight backcountry use.

Additional Park Information

Capitol Reef National Park
 HC 70 Box 15
 Torrey UT 84775

435-425-3791
www.nps.gov/care



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Capitol Reef National Park
 HC 70 Box 15
 Torrey UT 84775
 Capitol Reef Natural History Association

Trip Planner



Geologist Clarence Dutton described this landscape as “A sublime panorama... the extreme of desolation, the blankest solitude, a superlative desert.” Capitol Reef National Park is in the heart of Utah’s canyon country between Canyonlands and Bryce Canyon National Parks along Utah Highway 24.

General Information

Capitol Reef became a national monument on August 2, 1937, conserving and protecting significant natural and cultural resources. The boundaries were later changed, and Capitol Reef became a national park in 1971. Today the park encompasses 241,904 acres (378 square miles).

The park features the geologic landforms of the Waterpocket Fold and Cathedral Valley. Archeological evidence of prehistoric Fremont culture and historical vestiges of a Mormon settlement are preserved. A range of habitats support diverse plant and animal communities.

Fees

A fee of \$5 per vehicle, good for seven days, is charged to tour the Scenic Drive. Individual entrance fees are \$3 per person (foot or bicycle travel). Children 16 and under are admitted free. Camping fees are separate.

A family of five enjoying the Scenic Drive.

America the Beautiful National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Passes are sold at the visitor center. The \$80 Annual Pass allows entry into federal fee areas for one year from the month of purchase.

Senior Passes are available to US citizens 62 years of age or older for a one-time charge of \$10. This pass provides the bearer free entry into federal fee areas and discounts on some use fees, such as camping.

A family of five enjoying the Scenic Drive.

Access Passes are free of charge to handicapped or disabled US citizens or residents and offer the same benefits as the Senior Pass.

Note that fees are subject to change.

Accessibility

The visitor center and all park restroom facilities are accessible. The 18-minute orientation movie is accessible and closed-captioned. The Fruita campground has five accessible sites. Amphitheater programs accommodate sensory and mobility impaired individuals. The petroglyphs along Utah Highway 24 and the Fremont River Trail also provide accessible use.

Visitor Center Operations

The park is open year-round and the visitor center is open daily, except for major winter holidays. Brochures, books, and maps are available for sale. Rangers answer questions and provide information about travel, trails, road conditions, and weather.

The visitor center is open year-round.

The visitor center offers an overview of park features with museum exhibits on geology, archeology, and history, as well as an 18-minute orientation movie.

Activities

The park offers a variety of **ranger-guided programs** from May to September at no charge. These include guided walks, talks, and evening programs at the outdoor campground amphitheater.

The Fruita Schoolhouse is a restored pioneer structure.

The **Fruita Schoolhouse** is a restored pioneer structure located 0.8 miles east of the visitor center on Highway 24. An audio wayside describes teaching in a one-room school. The schoolhouse is open seasonally; ask at the visitor center for specific times.

The blacksmith shop, located 1/2 mile south of the visitor center.

The **blacksmith shop**, located ½ mile south of the visitor center on the Scenic Drive, offers an audio wayside about life in a Mormon pioneer community.

A picnic area is located 1 mile south of the visitor center.

A **picnic area** is located 1 mile south of the visitor center on the Scenic Drive. There are tables, fire grills, rest rooms, drinking water and shade trees.

The Historic Gifford Homestead, 1 mile south of the visitor center.

The **Historic Gifford Homestead**, 1 mile south of the visitor center on the Scenic Drive, is typical of rural Utah farmhouses of the early 1900s. It is open seasonally, with handmade items and baked goods for sale.

Bicycles are restricted to maintained roads open to vehicular traffic.

Bicycles are restricted to maintained roads open to vehicular traffic. Recommended bicycle routes are identified and described in a handout available at the visitor center.

Fishing is permitted in the Fremont River (a warm-water fishery in the park) with a valid Utah fishing license.

Horseback riding is permitted on some trails.

Horseback riding is permitted on some trails. Check at the visitor center for details.

Especially for Kids

Interview a ranger, watch erosion in action, or get your feet wet watching water bugs! Ask at the visitor center for information about becoming a Junior Ranger or a Junior Geologist.

The Ripple Rock Nature Center, 3/4 mile from the visitor center.

The Ripple Rock Nature Center, ¾ mile from the visitor center on the Scenic Drive, is open seasonally. Ask at the visitor center for hours and activities.

Everyone gets into the act with a Family Fun Pack.

Everyone gets into the act with a Family Fun Pack. Take your pick of several activities and involve the whole family. Adults can borrow a fun pack free of charge at the visitor center and the nature center.

Hiking and Backpacking

There are over 140 miles of roads in and around the park and over 150 miles of trails and backcountry routes for the hiker and backpacker. Information and maps are available at the visitor center.

Many day hike trailheads are located along Utah Highway 24.

Many day hike trailheads are located along Utah Highway 24 and the Scenic Drive. Longer, more rug-ged hiking routes are established in the north and south districts of the park. Never underestimate the difficulties of hiking in a rugged area like Capitol Reef. Carry plenty of water and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. It is safest not to hike alone; but for those who do, effort should be made to inform another party of your plans. The elevation and desert climate make the area prone to temperature extremes and flash floods. Know what to expect and plan accordingly.

A free backcountry permit is required for all overnight stays outside an established campground.

A free backcountry permit is required for all overnight stays outside an established campground. Permits are available at Capitol Reef's visitor center, the Glen Canyon Bullfrog visitor center, Anasazi State Park in Boulder, and the multi-agency visitor center in Escalante. Water is scarce, especially in summer. Waterpockets, seeps, and springs are unreliable sources of water; carry all you need. One gallon per person per day is recommended for drinking in warm weather. Additional water is needed for cooking and washing. Filter, treat, or boil water from backcountry sources to kill parasitic organisms.

Camping

All campgrounds operate on a first-come first-served basis. Occupancy is limited to eight people per site.

The 71-site Fruita campground is the only developed campground in the park.

The 71-site Fruita campground is the only developed campground in the park offering picnic tables, rest-rooms, water, and a dump station. A \$10 nightly fee is charged. It is open year-round.

A group campsite is open seasonally and is always closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

A group campsite is open seasonally and is always closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Maximum group size at the group site is 40 people and 10 vehicles, with a maximum stay of five days. The fee is \$3 per person per night with a minimum fee of \$50. Only faxed (435-425-3026) or written reservation requests will be accepted beginning the first Monday of February for the calendar year.

Primitive campgrounds at Cathedral Valley (6 sites) and Cedar Mesa (5 sites) provide pit toilets, picnic tables, and fire grates.

Primitive campgrounds at Cathedral Valley (6 sites) and Cedar Mesa (5 sites) provide pit toilets, picnic tables, and fire grates. No fee is charged. Bring your own water and firewood.

Ground fires are not permitted within the park.

Ground fires are not permitted within the park. Use fire grates provided in the campgrounds and the picnic area or camp stoves.

From May through October, the Fruita campground fills by early afternoon.

From May through October, the Fruita campground fills by early afternoon, especially on weekends and holidays—please plan accordingly. Information about other camping options is available at the visitor center.

Orchards

Many orchards are located in the Fruita Historic District. Visitors may pick fruit in season. There is no charge for fruit that is consumed in the orchard, but a fee is charged for any fruit removed from the orchards. Harvest times vary considerably from year to year. Follow safety directions (including ladder safety) posted at the visitor center and in the orchards.

A listing of the range of flowering and fruiting times is available at the visitor center.

A listing of the range of flowering and fruiting times is available at the visitor center and on our website. Call the orchard hotline for updated information during the summer at 435-425-3791. Follow voicemail prompts; press one for general information, then five for the orchard hotline.

Safety Rules and Regulations

• Always carry plenty of water in warm weather—at least one gallon per person per day is recommended.

• All natural and cultural resources, and historic and archeological artifacts are protected by law.

• Do not disturb or feed any park wildlife.

• Use caution near cliff edges as rocks can be slippery or crumble under your weight.

• Visit http://weather.gov/saltlakecity when storms threaten. Avoid canyons and dry washes where flash floods may occur suddenly and unexpectedly. Avoid open and exposed areas prone to lightning.

• Do not litter. Pack out all trash. Aluminum and plastic recycling bins are located at the visitor center.

• All vehicles, including bicycles, must stay on maintained roadways.

No ground fires are permitted in the park.

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Weather

Month	Temp (F) Avg HI	Temp (F) Avg LO	Precip Avg IN	Snow Avg IN
January	38	18	0.52	6.1
February	45	24	0.38	1.8
March	55	31	0.64	2.7
April	63	39	0.52	0.7
May	74	48	0.64	0.1
June	85	57	0.37	0.0
July	90	63	0.95	0.0
August	87	62	1.19	0.0
September	79	54	0.83	0.0
October	66	42	0.76	0.6
November	50	29	0.61	2.1
December	40	20	0.27	2.3

Flash floods can occur at anytime of the year.

Flash floods can occur at anytime of the year, but are most common in late summer and early fall. Flooding can occur even under a clear sky as rainfall may drain a vast area many miles upstream. Your safety depends on your own good judgment, adequate preparation, and constant attention. Ask at the visitor center about potentially dangerous weather conditions.

Pets

Pets are allowed on leash in the developed areas of the park: along paved and dirt roadways, in the picnic area, and in campgrounds. They are not permitted on trails, in public buildings or in the backcountry. There are no kennels in the park and pets may not be left unattended in the campground or in vehicles. Kennel boarding may be found in the surrounding communi-ties. Consider your plans carefully before bringing your pet with you.

Firearms

Hunting is not allowed in any area of the park. Go to www.nps.gov/care/parkmgmt/firearmslaw.htm for detailed information about restrictions on the transportation and use of guns in national parks.

Nearby Services

A Medical Clinic is located in Bicknell, 19 miles west of the park on Utah Highway 24. The closest hospital is located in Richfield, 75 miles west of the park.

Groceries, camping supplies, gasoline, and lodging are not provided within the park. For a listing of area services and accommodations, contact:

Wayne County Travel Council PO Box 7 Teasdale UT 84773	Garfield County Office of Tourism PO Box 200 Panguitch UT 84759
800-858-7951 www.Capitolreef.travel	800-444-6689 www.brycecanyoncountry.com

Capitol Reef Natural History Association

Additional information about Capitol Reef and the Colorado Plateau can be obtained through the park’s non-profit cooperating association. The Capitol Reef Natural History Association operates the visitor center bookstore which carries maps, books, media, posters, and postcards. For a free publication list, contact:

Capitol Reef Natural History Association HC 70 Box 15 Torrey UT 84775	435-425-4106 http://www.capitolreefnha.org
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