



Glen Canyon National Recreation Area  
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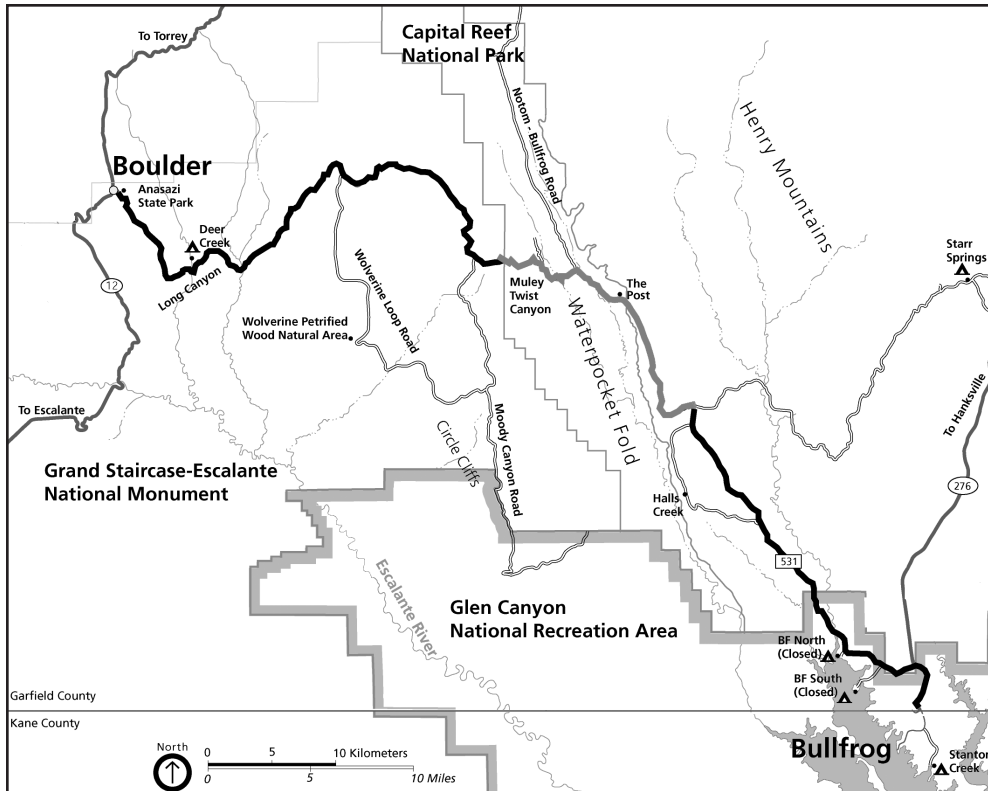
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area  
Rainbow Bridge National Monument

## Exploring the Burr Trail

The Burr Trail takes the adventurous traveler into some of Utah's most beautiful and extraordinary country. Views of the Henry Mountains, the colorfully contorted Waterpocket Fold, the red Circle Cliffs, and the high walls of Long Canyon all await the traveler who wishes to drive to this interesting back road. Numerous hikes and side trips are available for those with the time and inclination.



# Map of the Burr Trail and Surrounding Area



Boundary with Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

## 56.8 10.6 The Gulch

The Burr Trail leaves Long Canyon here at its confluence with its sister gorge, The Gulch, and climbs up onto the lower slopes of Boulder Mountain.

## 60.7 6.7 Deer Creek Campground

## 61.2 6.2 Sandstone Sand Dunes

Sand dunes, created millions of years ago by wind-blown sand, were covered over by other layers of sand and pressed into stone. Gradually, these dunes were again exposed as the overlying sandstone was eroded away, creating the appearance of hardened, petrified dunes. Today, the light-colored Navajo sandstone, rounded into domes and hills, resembles the sand dunes from long ago.

## 67.4 0.0 Junction with Utah State Rt. 12

The Burr Trail ends (or begins) here at Boulder, Utah, on Utah State Rt. 12. 32 miles (51.5 km) south is the town of Escalante; 40 miles (25 km) north over Boulder Mountain is the town of Torrey.



## **36.2 31.2 Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Boundary**

To the east is a panoramic view of the jagged, brilliantly colored west side of the Waterpocket Fold. All five peaks of the Henry Mountains can be seen from this viewpoint, and far in the distance are the red mesas and buttes of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Surrounding this area are the Circle Cliffs, named by John Wesley Powell. The great oval arena within the uplifted circle of cliffs eroded from the center, exposing the red sandstone cliffs which enclose it.

## **37.9 29.5 Wolverine Loop Road**

This 28 mile (45 km) loop road leads to a beautiful but remote and rugged area near Wolverine Canyon. (It rejoins the Burr Trail near Long Canyon, 11 miles (17.7 km) west.) Many side roads lead from the Wolverine Loop Road and the road is not well marked. 4-wheel drive vehicles may access some of these side roads; others are accessible only by foot or horseback.

The Wolverine Loop Road leads to a Petrified Wood area. Petrified logs of large size are visible. Collection of petrified wood is not allowed on National Park Service lands but may be permissible on Bureau of Land Management lands. Check with Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument at 435-826-5499 for regulations and information.

## **42.6 24.8 Road to the Lampstand**

This road leads 5 miles (8 km) one way to the Lampstand, an unusually shaped butte.

## **43.1 24.3 This road also leads to the Lampstand (5 miles, 8 km)**

## **50.1 17.3 Entrance to Long Canyon**

Here, the road enters Long Canyon, and it will follow this colorful canyon for the next 7 miles (11 km). The lighter, golden sandstone crowning the red cliff is known as the Diadem.

## **55.0 12.4 Long Canyon**

This narrow canyon is enclosed by sheer walls of Wingate sandstone which tower hundreds of feet above the road. The sandstone has fractured and eroded, forming alcoves. Some of the dark red sandstone has been leached by water to a whitish shade, and black desert varnish stains the vertical walls.

# **The Burr Trail**

John Atlantic Burr was born in 1846 aboard the SS Brooklyn somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean. He and his family lived in Salt Lake City, then later moved south and established the town of Burrville, Utah in 1876.

John Burr soon developed a trail to move cattle back and forth between winter and summer ranges and to market. This cattle trail through the rough, nearly impassable country around the Waterpocket Fold, Burr Canyon, and Muley Twist Canyon came to be known as the Burr Trail.

The Burr Trail connects Bullfrog and Boulder, passes through the painted rock country of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Capitol Reef National Park, and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is known as the Burr Trail.

**Please Note:** Although in dry weather the Burr Trail is easily accessible to passenger cars, wet weather may make the road impassable even for 4-wheel drive vehicles. Check with rangers or local officials for weather and road conditions. Recreational Vehicles are not recommended.

### **Some tips for a safe and enjoyable trip:**

- Pack out everything you pack in. Carry out all trash and food scraps. Avoid feeding wildlife; human food is harmful to wild animals.
- Always take plenty of drinking water with you. One gallon per person per day is recommended. You should also eat something to balance out the electrolyte loss.
- This is flash flood country. Even on a clear day, it may have stormed upstream and a flood is on its way. Never enter washes or narrow canyons when it is raining or threatening to rain.
- Check with a ranger or other official for road and weather conditions before you start.
- Leave your trip itinerary with someone so you can be located in case of car trouble or other mishap.
- Leave the scenery as it is. Do not write or carve on rocks, do not disturb plants or wildlife. Take only pictures, leave no trace.

## Mile by Mile Guide to the Burr Trail

This mile by mile guide will help to point out junctions, trailheads, side roads, and scenic views, as well as provide some interesting information about the geology, plants, and human history of the area.

**Please Note:** Mileages indicated in this booklet do not allow for side trips. Your odometer may not register exactly the same mileage listed here. Metric distances have only been provided for side roads and hikes. Please keep this in mind as you look for roads, trails, and scenic features.

Miles from Bullfrog	Miles from Boulder
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<b>0.0</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>Here, the Burr Trail Joins Utah Highway 276</b>
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To the south, Highway 276 continues to Bullfrog. From Bullfrog, one can take the Charles Hall Ferry across Bullfrog Bay (part of Lake Powell) to Halls Crossing, if it is operational. Check before you come with Utah Department of Transportation at 435-684-3088. To the north, Highway 276 intersects Highway 95 northwest of Hite.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>This Side Road Leads to Bullfrog South Primitive Camping Area. (Currently closed)</b>
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<b>3.6</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>This Road Leads to Bullfrog Bay North Primitive Camping Area. (Currently closed)</b>
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<b>4.8</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>Parking for Pedestal Alley Trailhead</b>
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This 3-mile (4.8km) round-trip hike leads to some interesting pedestal rocks. The trail is marked by cairns (small rock piles), and there is no shade. Spring and fall are the best seasons for this hike. Take sufficient water and wear a hat when hiking this trail.



Pedestal Alley

<b>33.4</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>Wash Crossing</b>
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This crossing can be difficult or impossible if the wash is wet.

<b>34.0</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>Junction With Road to Upper Muley Twist Canyon</b>
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Here is a view of the west side of Peek-a-Boo Arch. The first half mile of this side road is passable for passenger cars, then the road enters Upper Muley Twist Canyon and is recommended only for 4-wheel drive vehicles. There is an unusual double arch on the west wall of the canyon 2.3 miles (3.7 km) from the junction with the Burr Trail.

The road ends in a parking area 2.9 miles (4.7 km) from the junction. A marked trail leads to Strike Valley Overlook, which presents a magnificent view of Halls Creek Valley.

A hiking trail leads 6.5 miles (10.5 km) farther into Upper Muley Twist Canyon, past several unnamed arches.

<b>35.7</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>Picnic Area</b>
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Please be sure to carry out all trash and garbage.

<b>36.0</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>Piñon/Juniper Forest</b>
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Here, at an elevation of 6,000 ft (1829 m), is what's referred to as a "cold desert zone" which has different plants and animals than lower-elevation desert ecosystems. This zone is characterized by such plants as sumac, sagebrush, blackbrush, piñon pine and juniper and animals such as bobcat, mountain lion, deer and bighorn sheep.

Both of these trees were utilized by Indians and early settlers. The piñon produces tasty, nut-like seeds which can be roasted, ground, or eaten raw. The juniper



Juniper-piñon forest

cones (which look like berries) are edible and are used as flavoring in gin. Although not related to the true cedars of the Mediterranean, the fragrant wood of the juniper was often used for "cedar" shakes, boxes, and chests. Today these trees are protected, and vital to the habitat of the area. Do not remove them.

**30.9 36.5 Peek-a-Boo Arch**

This arch is visible on the skyline to the northwest. Some say this arch rather resembles an unblinking eye in the horned head of a giant lizard stretched out along the sandstone slope of the Waterpocket Fold.

**31.6 35.8 Bottom of the Switchbacks in Burr Canyon**

Here, in Burr Canyon, the Navajo sandstone has been completely eroded away, leaving a huge notch in the Waterpocket Fold. The Burr Trail switchbacks steeply up through the canyon.

Originally, only the swtichbacks were named the Burr Trail, a route used by cattlemen in the late 19th century to move cattle back and forth between winter and summer ranges. Today, the entire road from Bullfrog to Boulder is known as the Burr Trail.

**32.9 34.5 Top of Switchbacks**

The scenic view to the east is superb. Just to the west is a picnic area and the trailhead to Lower Muley Twist Canyon. Muley Twist Canyon was so named because it is so narrow and twisty that it would twist a mule to get through it!

A hiker starting at this point may hike just a section of the canyon, returning to the car or hike the entire 12 miles to Halls Creek. From Halls Creek, it is another 5 miles (8 km) to The Post. (It is an additional 4.5 miles (7.2 km) from The Post to Lower Muley Twist Canyon trailhead.)



Switchbacks

**5.1 62.3 Bullfrog Creek Crossing**

When Lake Powell is at full pool, water can extend up the wash as far as the road! After a rain, the wash can be wet and muddy. Use caution when entering this wash if the streambed is wet.

**7.9 59.5 Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Boundary**

This area between Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Capitol Reef National Park is a section of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. To the north is an excellent view of Clay Canyon.

**9.6 57.8 View of Navajo Mountain**

To the southwest is the rounded form of Navajo Mountain. Known geologically as a laccolith, this mountain was formed by igneous magma (molten rock) which pushed up under the already existing sedimentary layers. To the west it the Waterpocket Fold, a colorful eroded fold of rock layers nearly 100 miles (162 km) long but only a few miles wide. To the south, Upper Bullfrog Bay and Upper Halls Creek Bay can be seen.

**12.4 55.0 View of the Henry Mountains**

Like Navajo Mountain, the Henry Mountains are also laccoliths, formed when magma pushed overlying sedimentary rock up into a dome. Much of the sedimentary rock has since eroded away, exposing much of the igneous rock underneath. Five distinct peaks make up the Henry Mountains. They are:

Mt. Ellen	11,615 ft (3540 m) elevation
Mt. Pennell	11,371 ft (3466 m) elevation
Mt. Hillers	10,723 ft (3268 m) elevation
Mt. Ellsworth	8,235 ft (2510 m) elevation
Mt. Holmes	7,930 ft (2417 m) elevation

The Henry Mountains were among the last mountain ranges in the continental United States to be named. When Major John Wesley Powell saw them in 1869, during his exploration of the Green and Colorado Rivers, the Henry Mountains did not appear on any official map. Powell first called the mountains the "Unknown Mountains," but he later named them for Professor Joseph Henry, who was Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute at that time.



Mt Ellsworth & Mt Holmes



## 18.8 48.6 Halls Creek Overlook

Halls Creek Overlook road branches off to the west. It is 3 miles (5 km) to the overlook. The road is rough and may not always be passable for passenger cars. When it is wet, the road is impassable for all types of vehicles.

The overlook provides a superb view of the Waterpocket Fold. Clearly visible is Brimhall Natural Bridge, an unusual double arch, named for Dr. Dean Brimhall, an authority on prehistoric Indian rock art in Utah's rugged canyon country. A rough 2.5 mile (4 km) trail descends the cliffs and leads across the valley floor and into the canyon to Brimhall Bridge, but the trail is difficult to hike and involves wading. It should be attempted by experienced hikers only!

To the south is Red Slide, a huge red mud and rock flow. A few thousand years ago, during the most recent glacial period, this rubble poured down from the Circle Cliffs and through a break in the Waterpocket Fold, blocking the valley floor and briefly creating a small lake.

## 19.7 47.7 Junction with Starr Springs Road

Starr Springs is 21 miles (33.8 km) to the east, on the east side of the Henry Mountains. There is a BLM campground at Starr Springs, and from there the road connects in approximately 5 miles (8 km) with UT Hwy 276. A 4WD vehicle is needed to take this road.

## 27.5 39.9 Capitol Reef National Park Boundary

Here is a distant view of the Waterpocket Fold, a 100-mile (161 km) long bend in the earth's crust, extending from Thousand Lake Mountain to the north to Lake Powell to the south. At about the time that the Rocky Mountains were being uplifted - 60 to 70 million years ago - the layers of sedimentary rock here were warped and bent into a spine of rock several miles wide. Weathering and erosion have exposed the various colorful layers and carved the Navajo sandstone into cliffs, canyons, caves, alcoves, and basins or "pockets" which collect and hold drainage water. John Wesley Powell named this remarkable geologic feature the "Waterpocket Fold".

The formation to the north is composed of Bentonite clay. When wet, this clay can make the road impassable.



Waterpocket Fold

## 28.5 38.9 The Post

This was once the site of a roundup corral and a cabin, but now it is merely a point of reference.

To the south is a spur road leading to a parking area and a corral. A 6.5 mile (10.5 km) one way trail from the parking area leads to Lower Muley Twist Canyon. Within a few miles of the parking area are some of the largest waterpockets found in the Waterpocket Fold.

## 29.0 38.4 Surprise Canyon Trailhead

Surprise Canyon is a short, narrow gorge which can be hiked in just a few hours roundtrip.

## 30.8 36.6 Junction with the Notom Road

The road to the north parallels the Waterpocket Fold, accesses several canyons and washes which offer good hiking possibilities, passes through the town of Notom, and meets Hwy 24 just east of Capitol Reef National Park.