

Lauren
PLUS 03



38.0877° N • 111.1355° W

CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

A wrinkle on the Earth

Capitol Reef National Park is Utah's quieter, smaller and lesser known of the epic mighty 5 National Parks. But that doesn't mean it's any less worth visiting than the other players in the game. Capitol Reef is the perfect choice for families and those looking for easier hikes.



EXPLORING THE CAPITOL REEF

Taken over by massive dome-shaped stone formations and treacherous terrain, "capitol reef" was once an impassible monocline to weary settlers. A rugged, 100-mile earth-wrinkle known as the Waterpocket Fold dominates the desert landscape. The reef is compromised of a linear progression of cliffs, canyons, domes, buttes, spires, and other geological formations

Capitol Reef has one major downside but it actually gives the park its best aspect: It is frustratingly difficult to get to, but that means far fewer people make the effort and you will have the place more or less to yourself!

I highly recommend taking Scenic Highway 12 through Escalante and on to Bryce Canyon when you are ready to leave Capitol Reef - there is no need to stay local. We drove from Salt Lake City to Capitol Reef and then to Bryce Canyon for the night. Highway 12 between Capitol Reef and Bryce Canyon National Park is one of the most incredible scenic highways. You need to leave no later than 3 hours before sunset if you want to reach Bryce Canyon in daylight. The drive is amazing, especially around Escalante.



OUR FAVORITE THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Hickman Bridge

The most popular hike! A MUST DO!

Cohab Canyon Trail

Simply amazing views

Fremont Petroglyphs

Don't forget to bring your binoculars

Capitol Gorge

Park and explore

Snap a shot at the iconic Fruita Barn

And make sure to pick some apples at the Fruita Orchard

Four-wheel through Cathedral Valley

HOW MANY DAYS WILL YOU NEED

I recommend a minimum of 2 days in order to explore Capitol Reef National Park.