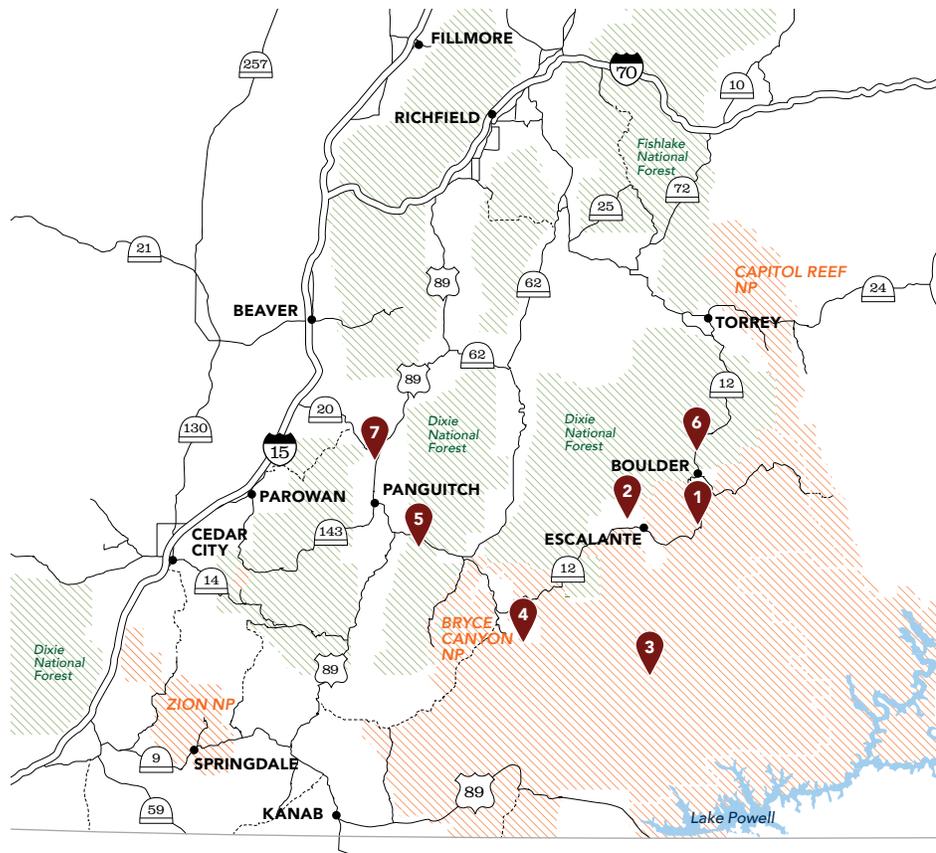


AWESOME ALTERNATIVES

TO

UTAH'S NATIONAL PARKS

BRYCE CANYON



Though Bryce Canyon is Utah's smallest national park, it is not for a lack of stunning scenery, outdoor adventure and backcountry. Bryce Canyon is 35,000 acres amid millions of acres of incredible public lands wrapped up in the Grand Staircase–Escalante region and Dixie National Forest. The scenic byways themselves make this region of Utah a bucket-list destination, but the landscape also equally caters to hikers, mountain bikers, OHV enthusiasts, anglers, plein air artists and picnickers.

WINTER FAVORITES

1 CALF CREEK RECREATION AREA

A premier stop along Scenic Byway 12, Calf Creek Recreation Area is a desert oasis including a 13-site campground, a day-use picnic area and trailhead. The campground provides small sites nestled along Calf Creek on a first-come, first-served basis. Lower Calf Creek Falls Trail is a 6-mile, moderately strenuous round-trip hike to a stunning 126-foot waterfall.

visitutah.com/calf-creek

2 ESCALANTE PETRIFIED FOREST STATE PARK

Escalante State Park has nature trails through the remnants of a petrified forest, where hikers can view fossils, petrified wood, fossilized dinosaur bones and artifacts left by ancient Fremont Indians who inhabited this area nearly 1,000 years ago. Nearby Wide Hollow Reservoir provides bird watching opportunities.

visitutah.com/petrified-forest

3 GRAND STAIRCASE–ESCALANTE REGION

This area is vast and rugged, yet easily accessible. Divided into three regions: Canyons of the Escalante, Grand Staircase and the Kaiparowits Plateau, scenic and recreational opportunities abound. The All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12 carves a spectacular route through the edge of the monument between Boulder and Bryce (with access to the popular slot canyons of

the Hole-in-the-Rock Road) while U.S. 89 between Kanab and Big Water provides easy access to additional graded dirt roads that crisscross the area. Always check conditions and carry maps and plenty of supplies. When open, orient yourself at visitor centers in Kanab, Escalante, Cannonville or Big Water.

visitutah.com/grand-staircase-escalante

4 KODACHROME BASIN STATE PARK

Kodachrome Basin is a spectacle of massive sandstone chimneys and pillars, ranging in height from six to 170 feet, which change from gray and white to shades of red depending on the light and shadows of the day. The park offers camping in solitude and desert beauty immediately adjacent to the Grand Staircase–Escalante region with several hiking, biking and equestrian trails.

visitutah.com/kodachrome

5 RED CANYON

Twelve miles outside of Bryce Canyon National Park on Scenic Byway 12, Red Canyon beckons with a similar red rock landscape. Red Canyon is part of the Dixie National Forest, and follows Scenic Byway 12 for about four miles. The hoodoos can be explored on short hikes along many of the trails that run throughout the canyon, or along the paved, five-mile Red Canyon bike path.

brycecanyoncountry.com/red-canyon.html

6 SCENIC BYWAY 12: ALL-AMERICAN ROAD

Passing through some of the most spectacular scenery and natural wonders seen along any rural route in the nation, this exceptional 124-mile route negotiates an isolated landscape of canyons, plateaus and valleys ranging from 4,000 to 9,000 feet above sea level. You'll encounter archaeological, cultural, historical, natural, recreational and scenic qualities while driving this exhilarating byway. Perhaps its most famous stretch, the Hogsback, is a feat of human engineering that tiptoes a narrow ridge over the slickrock cliffs of the Grand Staircase-Escalante region. Inquire locally for current conditions regarding the Boulder Mountain stretch of this drive, which reaches high elevations.

visitutah.com/byways

7 UTAH'S PATCHWORK PARKWAY NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

This national scenic byway climbs past the colorful Vermillion Cliffs through Parowan Canyon, rises to forested heights of 10,000 feet, then drops down to Panguitch. It is fondly referred to as the Patchwork Parkway because of a significant historic event, where early pioneers saved themselves from starvation by using quilts to cross the deep winter snows of the plateau. Places of interest include Brian Head Peak, Panguitch Lake, Markagunt Plateau forests and the town of Panguitch — listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

utahspatchworkparkway.com

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