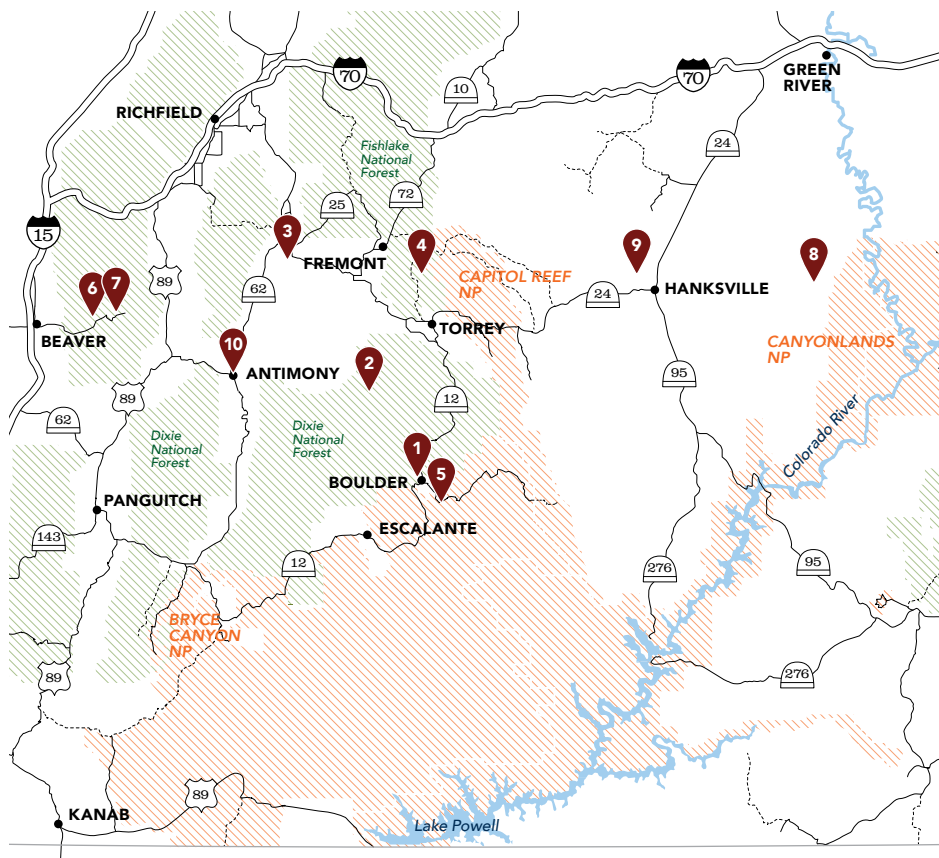


AWESOME ALTERNATIVES

TO

UTAH'S NATIONAL PARKS

CAPITOL REEF



The closest national park to Salt Lake City, Capitol Reef, sits near the northeastern terminus of Utah's All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12 on an equally scenic drive, the Capitol Reef Scenic Byway (state Route 24). Explore the adventure-rich Boulder Mountain "Highlands" region on the nearby Aquarius Plateau, or the remote beauty of the region's "East Desert," home to the rugged and wild Henry Mountains to the south and Goblin Valley State Park to the north. A base camp in Boulder, Torrey or other welcoming outposts of S.R. 24 access the best of this unforgettable land.

WINTER FAVORITES

1 ANASAZI STATE PARK

The park's museum houses a life-sized replica dwelling and displays artifacts recovered from an Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) village on site. This village was likely occupied from A.D. 1050 to 1200. Exhibits of the Ancient Pueblo culture show how the people lived.

stateparks.utah.gov/parks/anasazi/

2 BOULDER MOUNTAIN

At 11,313 feet and covered with more than 50,000 acres of forest, Boulder Mountain is a great place to venture into the back country on cross country skis and snowshoes to enjoy the scenic solitude of this majestic mountain plateau. Keep in mind that roads leading onto Boulder Mountain will be less accessible during winter months so pick your starting point based on best weather related access points.

3 FISHLAKE SCENIC BYWAY

This scenic byway spans mountains and meadows of the Fishlake National Forest to two of the most scenic and popular fishing spots in the state. Deer and elk are a common sight among the trees, and moose were recently reintroduced to the area. At Fish Lake, a variety of waterfowl and birds are established, including golden and bald eagles. The fishing is excellent at Fish Lake, Johnson Reservoir and the Fremont River. Resorts, day-use areas and campgrounds are located all along this route. Look for an unusual rock monument, found along the west end of S.R. 25, built over a period of 40 years by local shearpherders.

visitutah.com/byways

4 THOUSAND LAKE MOUNTAIN ROAD

A 35-mile scenic backway that begins in Fremont and loops through the Cathedral Valley section of Capitol Reef National Park. The road climbs steep cliffs and towering rock formations, leading to stunning panoramic vistas. A high-clearance vehicle is recommended for the two hour drive.

5 THE BURR TRAIL AND CAPITOL REEF COUNTRY SCENIC BYWAY ❄️

The Burr Trail takes the adventurous traveler into some of Utah's most beautiful and extraordinary country. Views of the Henry Mountains and the colorfully contorted Waterpocket Fold of Capitol Reef as well as Circle Cliffs and Long Canyon all await the traveler who wishes to drive this interesting back road. Numerous hikes and side trips are available for those with the time, inclination, wayfinding ability and plentiful supplies. The roads which connects Bullfrog and Boulder, and which passes through the painted rock country of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Capitol Reef National Park and Grand the Staircase-Escalante region are collectively known as the Notom-Bullfrog Road and Burr Trail. Of course, visitors to the area can still see some of the stunning geology of Capitol Reef by driving S.R. 24, the Capitol Reef Scenic Byway, right through the heart of the national park.

visitutah.com/capitol-reef-drives

6 TUSHAR MOUNTAINS ❄️

The Tushar Mountains remain blessedly uncrowded any time of year and the scenery is pure edge of the world type stuff. Eagle Point offers guide and outfitting services as well as shuttles to some of its best snowshoeing terrain. Check with the resort for service availability.

visitutah.com/articles/explore-the-tushars-on-snowshoe

7 EAGLE POINT RESORT ❄️

The Tushar Mountains-area near Beaver is quiet and serene country. Fans of Eagle Point Resort say it feels like having your own private resort. Or, as Eagle Point puts it, "your second home. Offering 40 runs and side country, the resort is a throwback and home to a group of friendly locals who know that its terrain hides stashes of untrammled powder days after a storm. Check the resort website for opening dates:

eaglepointresort.com

8 HORSESHOE CANYON

Horseshoe Canyon is a remote section near Canyonlands National Park where visitors can see some of the best-preserved pictographs and petroglyphs in the U.S. The highlight of the ancient rock art is the "Great Gallery," a 200-foot long by 15-foot high panel featuring 20 life-size human figures. The art dates back as far as 7000-9000 B.C., created by the Desert Archaic culture.

capitolreef.org/horseshoe-canyon.html

9 MARS DESERT RESEARCH STATION (MDRS)

Located in the San Rafael Swell near Hanksville, the MDRS is the second of four simulated Mars habitats in the world, built and managed by the Mars Society. The area was chosen for field study research because of the terrain's noticeable similarities to Mars. Astronauts and research crews spend two weeks at a time living in the two-story, eight-meter cylindrical "Habitat," also known as the Hab. Groups can interact with the crew at the Musk Observatory, which is equipped with a Celestron 14-inch CGE1400 telescope. MDRS is about a 20-minute drive from the junction of Highways 95 and 24 in Hanksville.

capitolreef.org/mars.html

10 OTTER CREEK STATE PARK

This quiet getaway is a great destination for ATV riders, boaters and birders. Access three ATV trails, including Paiute, directly from the park. Lure a record catch from Otter Creek Reservoir, a prime Utah fishery. Many bird species travel through the park on their journey along the Pacific Migratory Bird Flyway. An excellent camping alternative for those unable to camp at the nearby national parks.

stateparks.utah.gov/parks/otter-creek

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