

Welcome!

Snow Canyon’s rolling petrified dunes, red and white sandstone cliffs, and stark-black lava flows make a stunning landscape. Scramble across slick rock, run over sand dunes, descend into lava tubes, and enjoy well-maintained trails. Climbers, hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and nature lovers will all find something to enjoy.

Watch for wildlife, like roadrunners and kit foxes, that wander across the sand dunes. Peregrine falcons and white-throated swifts soar and dive from the cliffs. Tortoises and Gila monsters venture out from their deep burrows.

Snow Canyon is an amazing outdoor classroom and playground. Trail signs can introduce you to the Colorado Plateau, Mojave and Great Basin Deserts that meet at Snow Canyon and the diverse geology, habitat, and wildlife, like the federally protected desert tortoise and Red Cliffs Desert Reserve.

Let us guide you to your next adventure!

Recreate in Designated Areas

- Hike** – Mapped trails.
- Scrambling Areas** – Galoot Hill, Petrified Dunes, and Whiterocks area.
- Technical Climb** – More than 170 designated sport routes.
- Canyoneer** – Online permits required for Arch Canyon and Island in the Sky traverse.
- Bike** – West Canyon Road, the Whiptail Trail, and all Paradise Canyon trails.
- Equestrian** – Ask for a map of designated horse trails.
- Camp** – In designated campground.
- Seasonal Closures** – Some park areas are closed seasonally. Please obey all posted closures.

Visitor Center

If you are looking for more information, please stop by the visitor center to view exhibits, pick up informational handouts and talk with staff about how you can make your visit more special.

For Your Safety

- Water** – Each person in your group should carry and drink a minimum of 1-liter of water per hour.
- Heat** – Avoid hiking between 11a.m. and 6p.m. when temperatures are over 95 (F).
- Cell Service** – Cell phone service is unreliable. If you become lost, stay in one location and wait for help.
- Hike Together** – It can be unsafe to hike alone. Take a friend or family member along, or tell someone of your plans.
- Stay on Trails** – Stay to marked, designated trails; pay attention to your surroundings and frequently refer to your map.
- Scrambling and Climbing Safety** – Scrambling and rock climbing are dangerous and permitted in designated areas only. Each year inexperienced visitors are seriously injured climbing on steep, loose, rock. Know the scrambling areas and only attempt technical climbs with proper equipment and training.
- Be Prepared** – Wear a hat, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes. Bring your trail map, water, snacks, first aid kit, flashlight and safety whistle.

Image courtesy of Don Hite

Your park fees provide for the care, protection and enhancement of this park.

Park Location:

The park is located eight miles north of St. George on State Route 18.

Operating Hours:

The park is open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round. No holiday closures.

Address Inquiries To:

Snow Canyon State Park
1002 Snow Canyon Dr.
Ivins, UT 84738
(435) 628-2255
snowcanyon@utah.gov
or
Utah State Parks
P.O. Box 146001
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001
(801) 538-7220
stateparks.utah.gov

For Campground Reservations:

Phone: (800) 322-3770
Online: utahstateparks.reserveamerica.com

Utah State Parks Mission:

To enhance the quality of life by preserving and providing natural, cultural and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.



Visit Us Online:
stateparks.utah.gov/snow-canyon



Follow Us On Instagram:
[snowcanyonstatepark](https://www.instagram.com/snowcanyonstatepark)

Information contained in this brochure was accurate at the time of printing. Policies, facilities, fees, hours and regulations, etc., change as mandated. For updated information, please contact the park.

Drive Slow Watch for Tortoises



Every year hundreds of animals are hit and killed on the park roadway—including threatened Mojave desert tortoises. So relax, enjoy the drive, and keep your eyes on the road.

When to Move a Tortoise

It is unlawful to harass or collect tortoises but if you see one crossing the road and can safely move it out of harm’s way, please follow these steps:

1. Stop your car in a safe place.
2. Slowly approach the tortoise, noting the direction of travel.
3. Pick it up using both hands and hold it in its normal walking position, level to the ground.
4. Carefully carry it across the road in the same direction, taking it at least 50 feet from the roadway.

Image courtesy of Don Hite.



Updated 09/2026

Snow Canyon State Park



🕒 One-Hour Visit

Only one hour to visit? Soak in the desert scenery and contrasting colors of ancient rock formations with a drive through the park.

Overlook: Stop at the Snow Canyon Scenic Overlook off Highway 18 for sweeping vistas.

Followed by a short hike: Petrified Dunes, Tortoise Walk, or Jenny’s Canyon.



Petrified Dunes



Tortoise Walk



Jenny’s Canyon

Jenny’s Canyon image courtesy of Don Hite.

🕒 Half-Day Hike

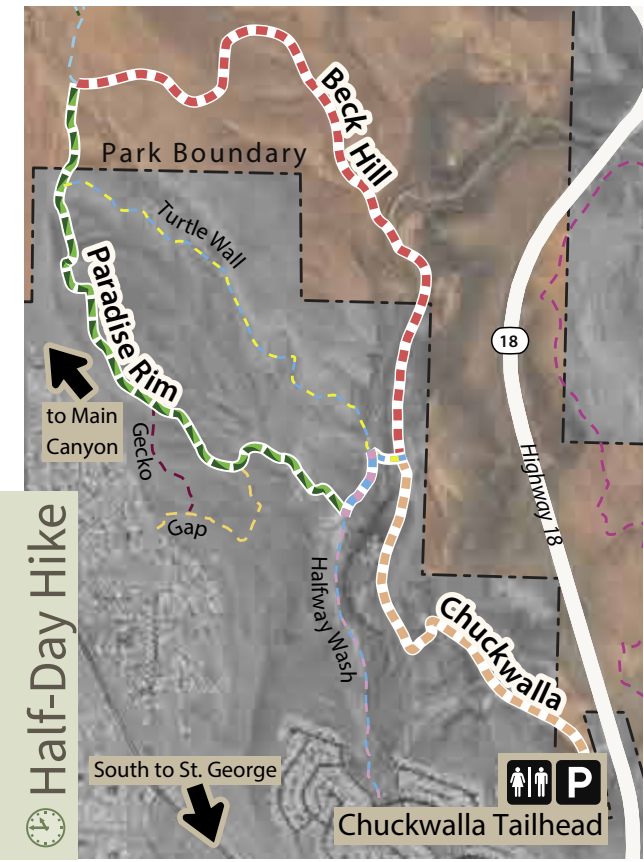
Paradise Canyon Loop

Trailhead: Chuckwalla Trailhead.

Route: Chuckwalla to Beck Hill to Paradise Rim, then Halfway Wash back to Chuckwalla.

Details: 4.7 miles. Moderate. Multiple use route.

Highlights: Observe technical climbers along Chuckwalla Wall. Take in long views from Beck Hill including basalt capped cliffs that were once valley bottoms. Enjoy amazing panoramas of St. George and Ivins from the craggy rim. Excellent opportunities for springtime wildlife and wildflower viewing.



Half-Day Hike

🕒 Half-Day Exploration

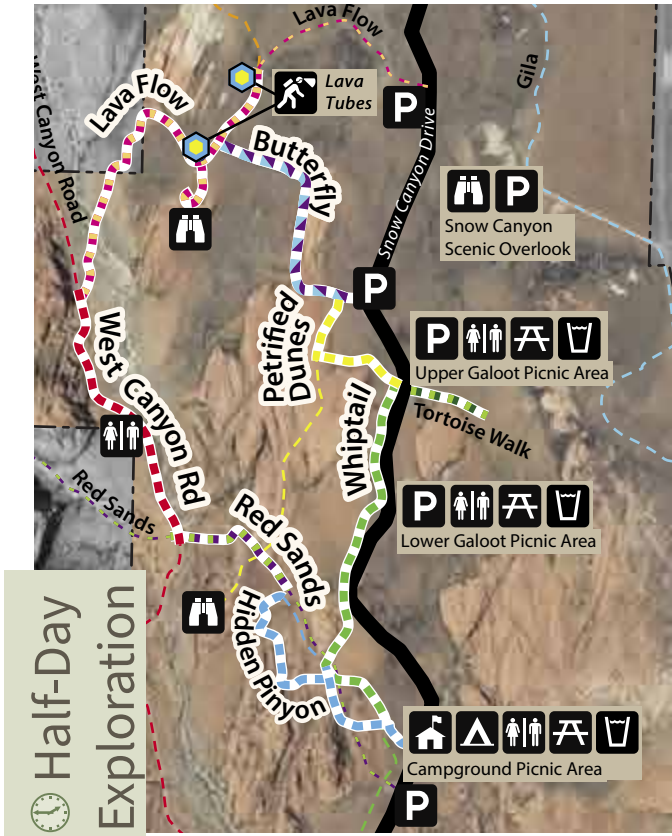
Main Canyon Loop

Trailhead: Hidden Pinyon Trailhead.

Route: Hidden Pinyon to Whiptail to scramble over the Petrified Dunes to Butterfly to Lava Flow (bring a flashlight to explore inside the lava tubes), to West Canyon Road to Red Sands to Hidden Pinyon.

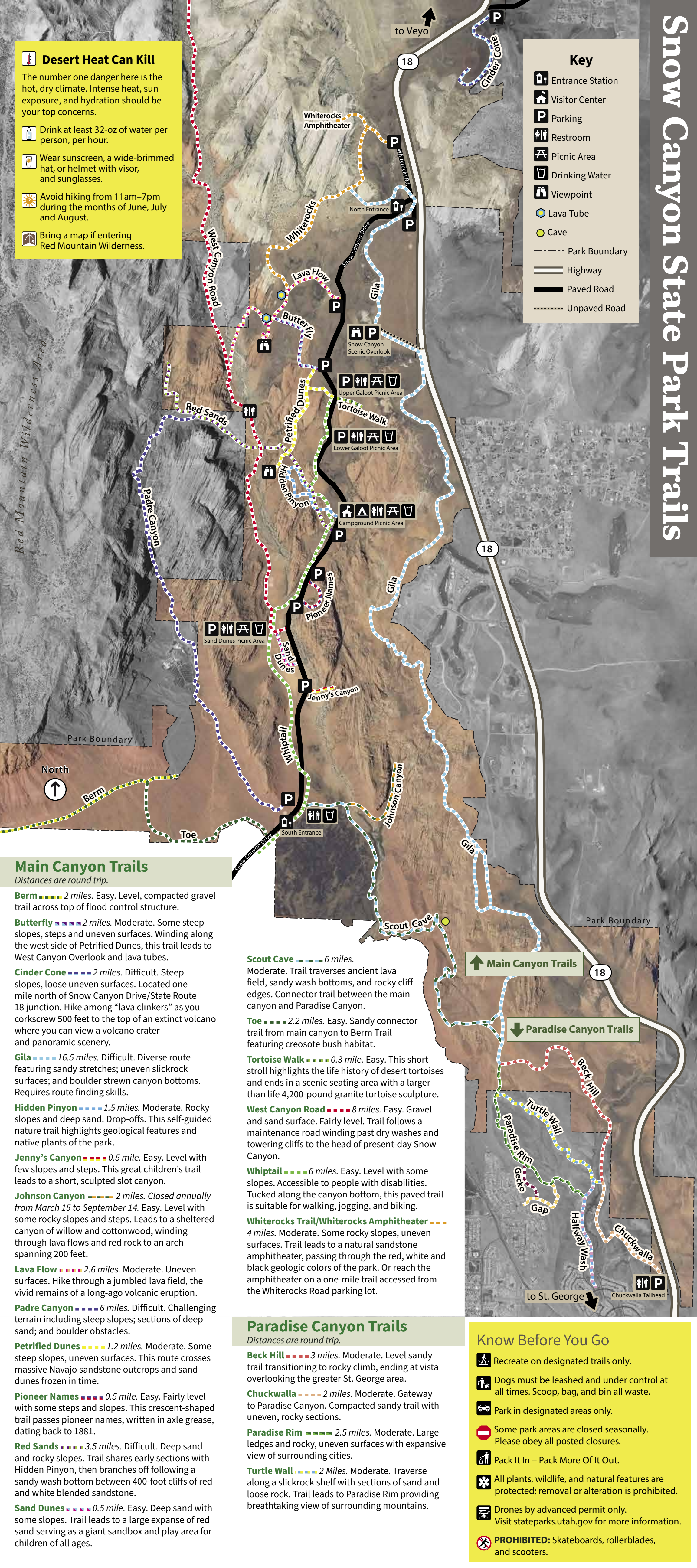
Details: 4 miles of trail plus Petrified Dunes scrambling and lava tube exploration. Moderate. Hiking only route.

Highlights: The best of the best in Snow Canyon. Slick rock, lava tubes, contrasting red and white sands, winding rock passages, and chances to view raptors, reptiles, and other canyon wildlife.



Half-Day Exploration

Snow Canyon State Park Trails



Desert Heat Can Kill

The number one danger here is the hot, dry climate. Intense heat, sun exposure, and hydration should be your top concerns.

- Drink at least 32-oz of water per person, per hour.
- Wear sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat, or helmet with visor, and sunglasses.
- Avoid hiking from 11am–7pm during the months of June, July and August.
- Bring a map if entering Red Mountain Wilderness.

Key

- Entrance Station
- Visitor Center
- Parking
- Restroom
- Picnic Area
- Drinking Water
- Viewpoint
- Lava Tube
- Cave
- Park Boundary
- Highway
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road

Main Canyon Trails

Distances are round trip.

Berm 2 miles. Easy. Level, compacted gravel trail across top of flood control structure.

Butterfly 2 miles. Moderate. Some steep slopes, steps and uneven surfaces. Winding along the west side of Petrified Dunes, this trail leads to West Canyon Overlook and lava tubes.

Cinder Cone 2 miles. Difficult. Steep slopes, loose uneven surfaces. Located one mile north of Snow Canyon Drive/State Route 18 junction. Hike among “lava clinkers” as you corkscrew 500 feet to the top of an extinct volcano where you can view a volcano crater and panoramic scenery.

Gila 16.5 miles. Difficult. Diverse route featuring sandy stretches; uneven slickrock surfaces; and boulder strewn canyon bottoms. Requires route finding skills.

Hidden Pinyon 1.5 miles. Moderate. Rocky slopes and deep sand. Drop-offs. This self-guided nature trail highlights geological features and native plants of the park.

Jenny’s Canyon 0.5 mile. Easy. Level with few slopes and steps. This great children’s trail leads to a short, sculpted slot canyon.

Johnson Canyon 2 miles. Closed annually from March 15 to September 14. Easy. Level with some rocky slopes and steps. Leads to a sheltered canyon of willow and cottonwood, winding through lava flows and red rock to an arch spanning 200 feet.

Lava Flow 2.6 miles. Moderate. Uneven surfaces. Hike through a jumbled lava field, the vivid remains of a long-ago volcanic eruption.

Padre Canyon 6 miles. Difficult. Challenging terrain including steep slopes; sections of deep sand; and boulder obstacles.

Petrified Dunes 1.2 miles. Moderate. Some steep slopes, uneven surfaces. This route crosses massive Navajo sandstone outcrops and sand dunes frozen in time.

Pioneer Names 0.5 mile. Easy. Fairly level with some steps and slopes. This crescent-shaped trail passes pioneer names, written in axle grease, dating back to 1881.

Red Sands 3.5 miles. Difficult. Deep sand and rocky slopes. Trail shares early sections with Hidden Pinyon, then branches off following a sandy wash bottom between 400-foot cliffs of red and white blended sandstone.

Sand Dunes 0.5 mile. Easy. Deep sand with some slopes. Trail leads to a large expanse of red sand serving as a giant sandbox and play area for children of all ages.

Scout Cave 6 miles.

Moderate. Trail traverses ancient lava field, sandy wash bottoms, and rocky cliff edges. Connector trail between the main canyon and Paradise Canyon.

Toe 2.2 miles. Easy. Sandy connector trail from main canyon to Berm Trail featuring creosote bush habitat.

Tortoise Walk 0.3 mile. Easy. This short stroll highlights the life history of desert tortoises and ends in a scenic seating area with a larger than life 4,200-pound granite tortoise sculpture.

West Canyon Road 8 miles. Easy. Gravel and sand surface. Fairly level. Trail follows a maintenance road winding past dry washes and towering cliffs to the head of present-day Snow Canyon.

Whiptail 6 miles. Easy. Level with some slopes. Accessible to people with disabilities. Tucked along the canyon bottom, this paved trail is suitable for walking, jogging, and biking.

Whiterocks Trail/Whiterocks Amphitheater 4 miles. Moderate. Some rocky slopes, uneven surfaces. Trail leads to a natural sandstone amphitheater, passing through the red, white and black geologic colors of the park. Or reach the amphitheater on a one-mile trail accessed from the Whiterocks Road parking lot.

Paradise Canyon Trails

Distances are round trip.

Beck Hill 3 miles. Moderate. Level sandy trail transitioning to rocky climb, ending at vista overlooking the greater St. George area.

Chuckwalla 2 miles. Moderate. Gateway to Paradise Canyon. Compacted sandy trail with uneven, rocky sections.

Paradise Rim 2.5 miles. Moderate. Large ledges and rocky, uneven surfaces with expansive view of surrounding cities.

Turtle Wall 2 Miles. Moderate. Traverse along a slickrock shelf with sections of sand and loose rock. Trail leads to Paradise Rim providing breathtaking view of surrounding mountains.

Know Before You Go

- Recreate on designated trails only.
- Dogs must be leashed and under control at all times. Scoop, bag, and bin all waste.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Some park areas are closed seasonally. Please obey all posted closures.
- Pack It In – Pack More Of It Out.
- All plants, wildlife, and natural features are protected; removal or alteration is prohibited.
- Drones by advanced permit only. Visit stateparks.utah.gov for more information.
- PROHIBITED:** Skateboards, rollerblades, and scooters.