



Under-the-Rim Trail near Rainbow Point

## Overview

Bryce Canyon is best known for its hoodoos—intricately-carved rock spires left standing by erosion. Hoodoos are best experienced along our day hiking trails, which offer an up-close and intimate look at these beautiful and bizarre rock formations. Day hiking trails are relatively short, moderately difficult, and very popular. If this is your very first visit to the park, you might consider frontcountry camping combined with day hiking. Check your newspaper Visitor Guide for day hiking information.

By comparison, Bryce Canyon's backcountry trails offer forests and meadows, stunning views of distant cliffs, solitude, but fewer hoodoos. Backcountry trails are not as maintained or clearly signed as the park's frontcountry trails, and those planning a backcountry trip should have strong wayfinding skills.

**Backcountry camping is permitted only in designated backcountry campsites and all overnight backcountry stays require a permit.**

## Backcountry Trails

Always check the Current Conditions page online at [go.nps.gov/BryceConditions](https://www.nps.gov/BryceConditions) for the latest on trail closures and alerts.

### Riggs Spring Loop

**Length: 8.6 miles (13.9 km)**  
**Elevation Gain: 2,200 feet (671 m)**

This loop begins and ends at Yovimpa Point. There are three campsites and one group site along this trail. Typically this loop is hiked in a counter-clockwise direction with a single overnight.

Some backcountry hikers will combine this loop with additional nights along the Under-the-Rim Trail.

### Under-the-Rim Trail

**Length: 22.9 miles (36.9 km)**  
**Elevation Gain: 5,500 feet (1676 m)**

This one-way trail connects Rainbow Point in the south to Bryce Point in the north. There are six campsites and one group site along its length. Three connecting trails intersect the Under-the-Rim Trail at Agua Canyon, Whiteman Bench, and Swamp Canyon trailheads. Typically the trail is hiked south-to-north (Rainbow to Bryce) with two overnights.

## Permits



Scan this QR code to visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.Recreation.gov) and start the permit reservation process.

Permits for peak season trips occurring March through November are available online up to three months in advance, as well as on a walk-in basis at the Visitor Center. Scan the QR code at left to reserve a permit.

Permits for winter trips occurring December through February are walk-in only, issued up to 48 hours in advance.

Reservation link also online at [go.nps.gov/BryceBackcountry](https://www.go.nps.gov/BryceBackcountry)

**Cost is \$10/permit + \$5/person to obtain a permit. Credit cards and cash accepted.**

Permit pick-up and walk-in permits are available at the Visitor Center from 8 a.m. until one hour before the Visitor Center closes. Online permits must be picked up by 2 p.m. MT on the day of your trip or reservation will be cancelled.

Overnight stays are limited to a maximum of 14 nights.

## Backcountry Use Limits and Guidelines



Scan this QR code or visit [go.nps.gov/NPSWilderness](https://www.go.nps.gov/NPSWilderness) to learn more about Wilderness Areas and how to visit ethically.

The majority of Bryce Canyon National Park's backcountry areas are managed as wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. Practice the seven Leave No Trace principles to minimize your impact and have the best possible wilderness experience. Learn about these principles and wilderness areas at the QR code at left or by visiting [go.nps.gov/NPSWilderness](https://www.go.nps.gov/NPSWilderness)

**Groups and Group Sites:** Backcountry campsites are limited to 6 people per regular site, and 15 people per group site.

**Fires:** No open fires are allowed in the backcountry. Only camp stoves are permitted.

**Hygiene and Trash:** Use biodegradable soaps and wash dishes at least 200 feet (61 m) from water sources and campsites. Collect and bag any food scraps and pack out as trash. Thank you for packing out other trash you may find.

**Human Waste:** Dig "catholes" 6 to 8 inches (15 cm) deep at least 200 feet (60 m) away from water, trails and campsites to bury human waste. Pack out all toilet paper in bags.

**Safety:** Let someone know your plans. Check the weather forecast prior to departure. Carry a detailed topographic map, compass, extra clothing, food and water, rain gear, hat and sunscreen. Search and Rescue responses are often longer in wilderness areas.

**Social Trails and Cairns:** Prevent unnecessary and unsightly erosion by staying on designated trails. Report misleading or unnecessary cairns to a backcountry ranger upon return or via e-mail to [brca\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:brca_information@nps.gov)

**Camping:** Camp only in designated sites as reserved on your backcountry permit.

**Cell Phones:** Assume you will not have service along the trail.

## Food Preparation, Storage, and Wildlife



Scan this QR code or visit [go.nps.gov/BearSafety](https://www.go.nps.gov/BearSafety) to learn more about staying safe around bears.

Use of bear-resistant food canisters on overnight backcountry hikes is required. Bear-resistant canisters are available for loan, free of charge at the Visitor Center. All bear canisters must be inspected before your permit will be issued. Visit [go.nps.gov/BryceBackcountry](https://www.go.nps.gov/BryceBackcountry) for a list of approved canisters.

Each backcountry site has a dedicated food preparation site in close proximity. Please use these sites rather than your campsite for food preparation, eating, and canister storage.

Store all food, deodorants, toothpaste, or anything else with an odor in the canister.

While Bryce Canyon is home to many wildlife species including mountain lions, coyotes, rattlesnakes, and black bears, rodents are perhaps the species of greatest concern for backcountry campers.

Following proper storage techniques for food and other scented items is your responsibility, and will help ensure that wildlife does not disturb your campsite or become habituated to humans.

Feeding or harassing wildlife in the park is a violation of federal law 36 CFR 2.2(a)2. **Please report all bear and mountain lion sightings to the Visitor Center front desk.**

## Water in the Backcountry

Please check at the Visitor Center for the most current information on water availability.

We recommend you carry at least one gallon (4 liters) of water per person per day into the backcountry. Water sources are intermittent and unreliable. **Water from backcountry sources must be purified by boiling (10 minutes), filtering, or iodine treatment.**

**You may find water at the following locations:**

- Yovimpa Spring (below Yovimpa Pass campsite)
- Riggs Spring (inside log fence area)
- Iron Spring (trail near campsite)
- Sheep Creek (below Whiteman Connecting Trail)
- Yellow Creek

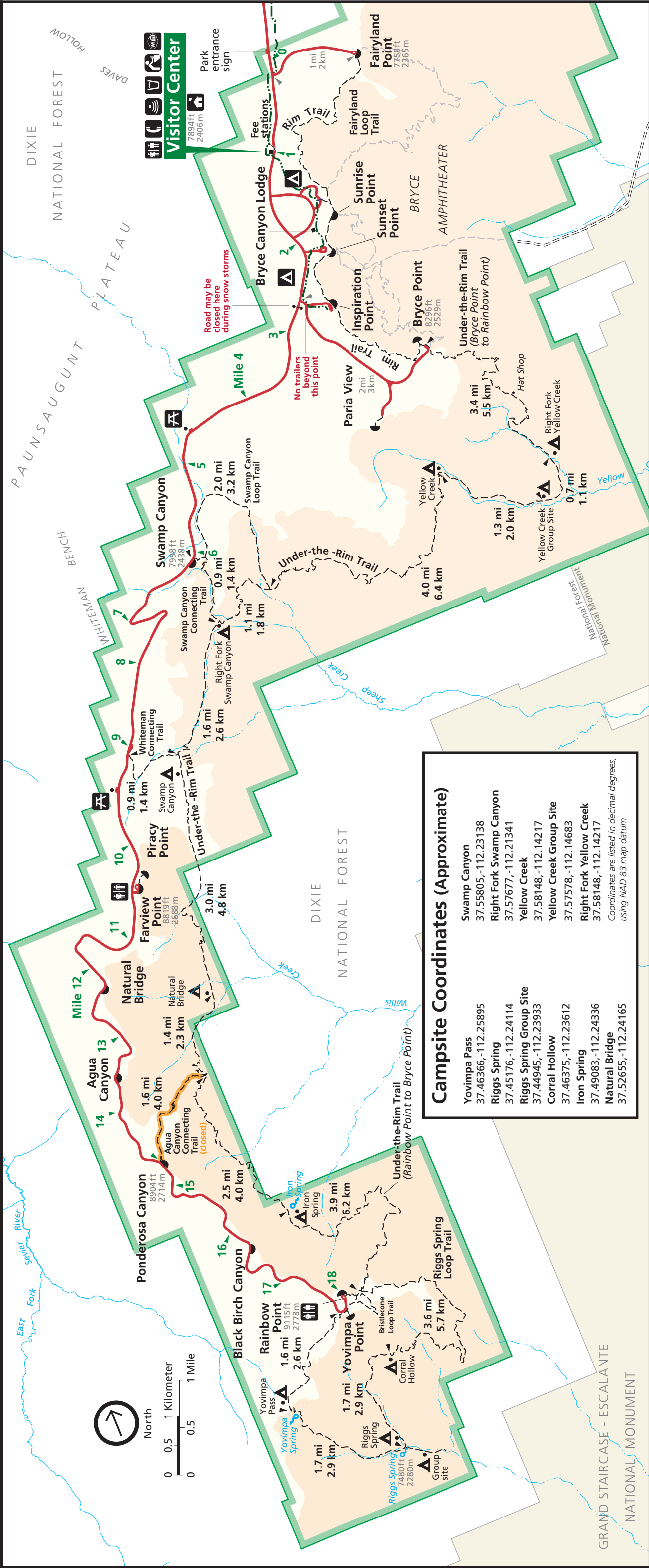
## Transportation

April through October, the Bryce Canyon shuttle provides free transportation only as far south as Bryce Point. The park does not provide transportation to any viewpoints further south. Approved private shuttle services can be found by visiting

[go.nps.gov/BryceCommercialServices](https://www.go.nps.gov/BryceCommercialServices). Private vehicles can be parked at trailheads, however those utilizing Bryce Point are encouraged to park at the Visitor Center Additional Parking lot and use the shuttle during shuttle season.

# Bryce Canyon Backcountry Trails

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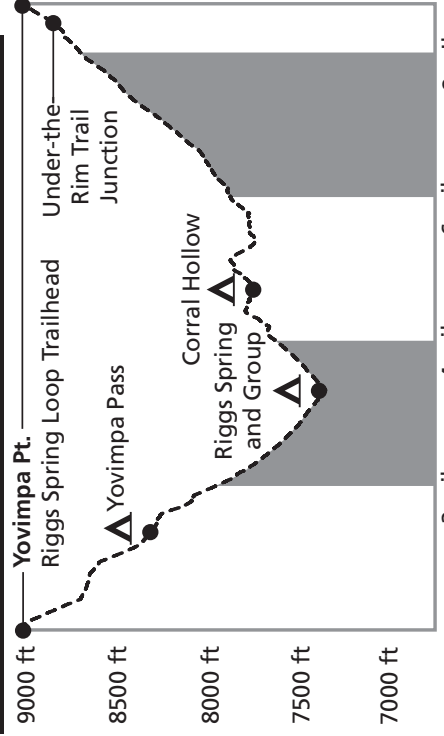


### Campsite Coordinates (Approximate)

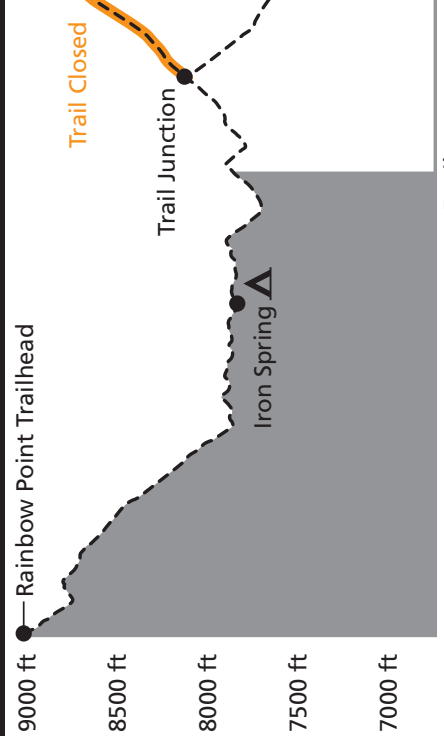
Yovimpa Pass	37.46366, -112.25895
Riggs Spring	37.45176, -112.24114
Riggs Spring Group Site	37.44945, -112.23933
Corral Hollow	37.46375, -112.23612
Iron Spring	37.49083, -112.24336
Natural Bridge	37.52655, -112.24165
Swamp Canyon	37.55805, -112.23138
Right Fork Swamp Canyon	37.57677, -112.21341
Yellow Creek	37.58148, -112.14217
Yellow Creek Group Site	37.57578, -112.14683
Right Fork Yellow Creek	37.58148, -112.14217

Coordinates are listed in decimal degrees, using NAD 83 map datum

## Riggs Spring Loop - 8.6 miles (13.8 km)



## Under-the-Rim Trail - 22.9 miles (36.9 km)



Scale bars for the inset maps: 0 to 8 miles and 0 to 5 miles.