

Backcountry Use Concerns and Regulations

Welcome to Capitol Reef National Park. In order to protect fragile desert resources and maximize your enjoyment, please follow these guidelines:

Backpacking and Day Hiking

- A free backcountry use permit, available at the Visitor Center, is required for all overnight trips.
- Purify all water before drinking. Do not pollute water sources with soap, food scraps, suntan lotion, etc. Do not swim or bathe in potholes or tanks.
- When possible, hike on existing roads and trails. In other areas, walk on slickrock, in washes, and on animal trails. Avoid walking on biological soil crust.
- Do not disturb or deface natural features, historic or archaeological sites.
- Collecting items of any kind is prohibited.
- Pack out all trash including food scraps, cigarette butts, and toilet paper. Burning or burying toilet paper is prohibited.
- Bury human waste at least 6 inches deep in soil and at least 100 feet away from any water sources, and out of washes.
- Pets are not permitted on trails or in the backcountry, and may not be left unattended.
- Gathering firewood and building fires is prohibited; use fuel-burning stoves in the backcountry.
- Camp at least ½ mile from roads and trailheads. Camp out of sight and sound of the trail and other campers. Camp at least 300 feet away from flowing water, archaeological/historic sites, and trail junctions.
- Parties camping overnight in the backcountry must not number more than 12 persons.
- Backcountry camping is limited to 3 nights in a particular location, 14 days per trip and 30 days annually.

Camping With a Vehicle

- Vehicle camping is restricted to designated sites within Cedar Mesa campground or Cathedral campground.
- Fires are permitted at established campgrounds, but must be contained within designated receptacles in each site. You must supply your own wood or charcoal; gathering firewood is prohibited.
- Read and follow posted guidelines in the campgrounds.
- Pets must be leashed at all times.

Vehicle/ ATV/ Bicycle Use

- All vehicles must stay on designated roads. Vehicles and drivers must be state licensed.
- ATV use is prohibited within the park.
- Bicycles are permitted only on designated roads, and are not permitted on any trail or anywhere off-road.

Firearms and Hunting

- Hunting and trapping are prohibited.
- The use of a weapon, trap, or net is prohibited. The carry of firearms must be consistent with Utah State Law.

Your cooperation in observing these regulations and guide-lines will assure these unique resources will be preserved for your further enjoyment, and the enjoyment of future generations. Thank you for your cooperation, and enjoy your visit.