

COTTONWOOD WASH TRAIL

Explore the Slot Canyons of Capitol Reef National Park



LOCATION

This trail is located 9.1 miles south of Hwy 24 on the Notom-Bullfrog road.

TRAIL TYPE

This trail is hiking only.

DISTANCE

This trail is 3 miles each direction for a total of 6 miles.

DIFFICULTY

Moderate, with some opportunities for rock scrambling, and negotiating narrow passages.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The wash is open for about a mile and then it narrows into the slots. Depending on the season, there may be pools of water and obstacles along the path. The trail requires some agility.



EQUIPMENT

You will want shoes that are conducive for walking in water, and clothing that dries quickly.

ENVIRONMENT

Cottonwood Wash could be very dangerous in rainy weather due to flash flooding.

SAFETY

Be careful while hiking this trail. Falling may cause severe injury. Do not hike if there is any chance of rain in the area.



TAKE IN THE VIEWS.

The Cottonwood Wash may not be as noticeable from the road, but the colorful array of red and white sandstone is a sight that you won't want to miss. The rocks and formations are the result of water erosion over thousands of years and now create a beautiful view for hikers year round.

GET A CLOSER LOOK.

This slot canyon will make you feel like you are deep in the center of the earth. The narrows in some parts are just wide enough for a person. There dark spots in the middle of day and the towering cliff that almost come together to create the slot will leave a person in awe.



Trail tip: Make sure that you hike with a companion. This trail can be difficult and it is best when you have someone there so you can help each other along when needed.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at:

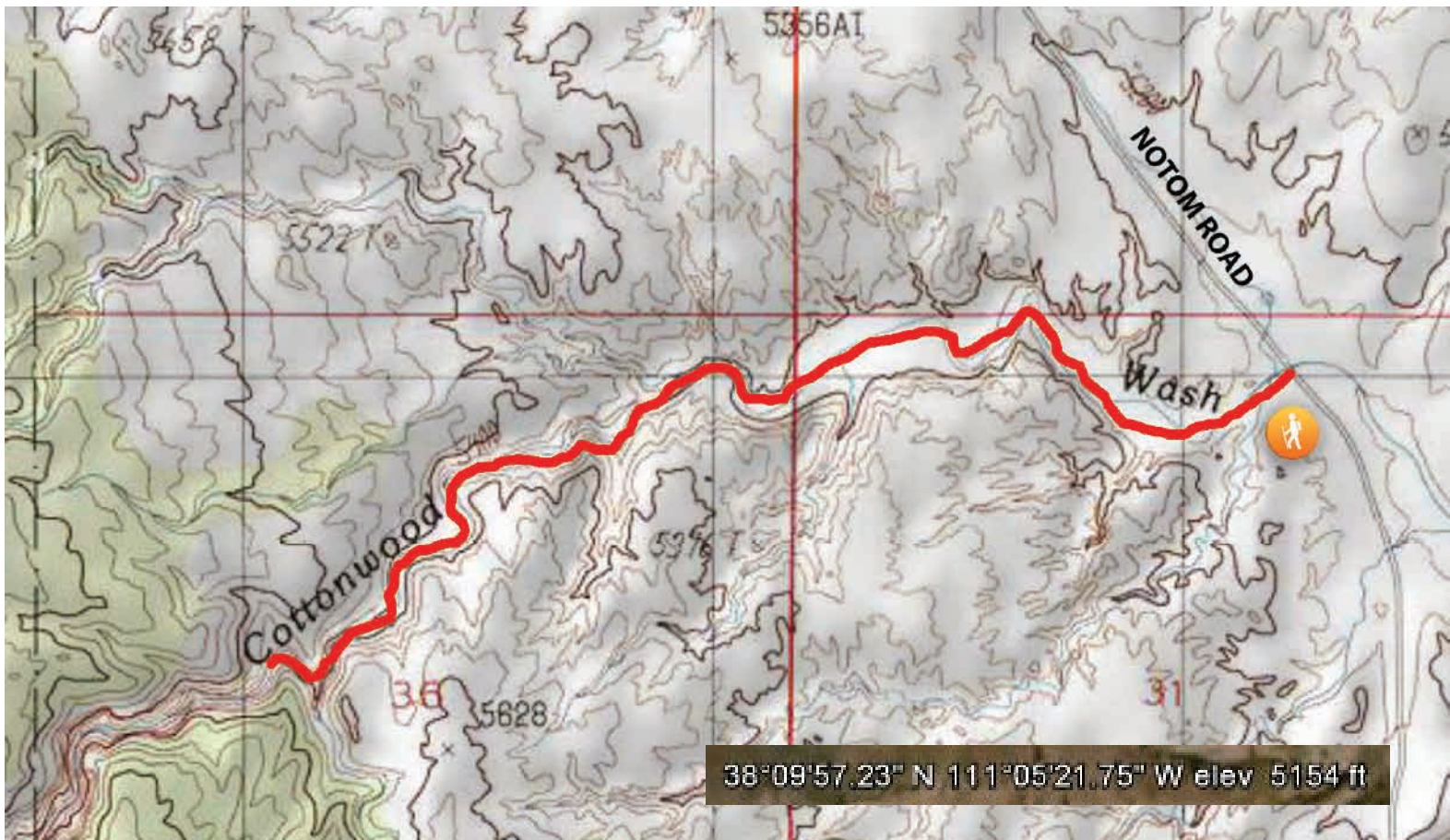
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DO IT AT YOUR OWN PACE.

This trail requires some physical strength and make sure that you don't get so caught up in just completing it that you miss out on the beauty along the way. Be smart while hiking through the wash and be safe. Also make sure that you have a hiking buddy so you can help each other along the way.





TRAIL INSTRUCTIONS

From the Notom Road you will venture up the wash for one mile before coming to a fork in the drainage and you will want to stay to the left. Soon after this you will pass through a rough stretch of canyon strewn with large boulders which may require a little scrambling. One and a half miles in on the trail you will see another side drainage coming from the south side and you will want to stay to the right. Soon after this the canyon will narrow to a slot where there may be water to wade or swim through (depending on recent rains or water flow). For the next mile you will work your way through narrow and wider sections of the canyon and will negotiate a few more chock stones. At the end of this route, you will come to an impassable 35 foot pour-off that blocks the canyon. Return down canyon to your vehicle the same way you came in.