

Cottonwood Wash Trail

HIKING

A wash that narrows into wonder.

CAPITOL REEF COUNTRY TRAIL GUIDE



6 miles

DISTANCE

544 ft

ELEVATION GAIN

Moderate

DIFFICULTY

3-5 hrs

EST. TIME

LOCATION

9.1 miles off Highway 24.

TRAIL TYPE

Out-and-back desert wash hike.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

A dynamic landscape shifting from a wide, sun-drenched wash into towering red and white sandstone narrows, with boulder jams, dryfalls, and seasonal pools requiring basic scrambling.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

No Dogs, No fees. Pack out everything you pack in. Flash floods can hit canyons fast from distant storms — check the forecast first.

EQUIPMENT

Physical map, first aid kit.

COORDINATES

38.16590, -111.08938 (Trailhead)

Coordinates are a navigation aid — conditions change, so always verify current road and trail status before you go.

SAFETY

Check the forecast; canyons and washes can flood instantly from rain occurring miles away. Carry a physical map and first aid kit, and notify someone of your route.

TRAIL TIP

Hike with a companion — this trail is difficult enough that having help along the way really matters.

