

Dark Valley Trail

OHV / JEEPING

Aspen gold and alpine air above 10,000 feet.

CAPITOL REEF COUNTRY TRAIL GUIDE



20 miles

DISTANCE

1,200 ft

ELEVATION GAIN

Moderate

DIFFICULTY

3-5 hrs

EST. TIME

LOCATION

Western slopes of Boulder Mountain, between Bicknell and Loa.

TRAIL TYPE

Loop.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

A high-mountain journey from the Aquarius Ranger Station, climbing toward 10,000 ft through Quaking Aspen groves that come alive with color in fall, with alpine meadows and wildlife viewing.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Dogs allowed; no fees; technical shelf sections restricted to OHVs only. Nearest services: Aquarius Ranger Station (staging area). High-elevation route — often snow-covered and impassable in winter/early spring; check current conditions before you go. Pack out everything you pack in. Flash floods can hit canyons fast from distant storms — check the forecast first.

EQUIPMENT

Saw or winch for downed trees.

COORDINATES

38.19528, -111.57611 (Staging area (Ranger Station))

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

SAFETY

Cell service unreliable; carry physical map, first aid kit; notify someone of your route; beware downed trees after storms.

TRAIL TIP

Conditions vary trip to trip — potholes and downed trees are common, so take it slow.

