Very few routes are marked or maintained. In some cases, you need a high-clearance vehicle with four-wheel drive and a good map. Check road conditions before you go.

Road conditions change rapidly. High clearance or 4WD may be required.

Summer temperatures in the desert can be lethal. Avoid hiking in the heat.

Flash floods are a significant danger. Do not enter canyons if rain threatens. Dangerous thunderstorms often produce torrential rain that leads to flash floods, sometimes miles away from the storm.

Respect wildlife. This is their home.

Soil crust is alive and should not be trampled. Stay on existing routes.

The Escalante River links a diverse array of agencies, elevations, and ecosystems, providing endless challenges and rewards for the prepared visitor. This guide represents several opportunities on public and surrounding lands.

These lands hold a special place in the soul of pioneers, explorers, Native Americans, and travelers from all walks of life. It is not an easy place to visit— it is primitive, remote and unforgiving. Because of these qualities it is also rewarding. With your care it will retain those elements of challenge, untrammeled beauty, and frontier spirit.

Your safety is your responsibility. Be prepared and know your limits.

- Very few routes are marked or maintained. Keep yourself oriented.
- Road conditions change rapidly. High clearance or 4WD may be required.
- Summer temperatures in the desert can be lethal. Avoid hiking in the heat.
- Flash floods are a significant danger. Do not enter canyons if rain threatens. Dangerous thunderstorms often produce torrential rain that leads to flash floods, sometimes miles away from the storm.
- Respect wildlife. This is their home.
- Soil crust is alive and should not be trampled. Stay on existing routes.
**Hikes**

1. **Escalante Petrified Forest State Park**
   - Climb a picturesque mesa to hike among rainbow-hued petrified wood.
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 2 miles
   - Hiking Distance: 1 to 1 1/2 miles roundtrip loops

2. **Posey Lake Overlook**
   - Escape the desert heat by taking a short, steep hike through aspen and pine forest to views of Posey Lake.
   - Distance from Posey Lake Visitor Center: 8 miles
   - Hiking Distance: 1 1/2 miles roundtrip

3. **Hole-in-the-Rock Heritage Center**
   - Learn about the 1879 Hole-in-the-Rock Expedition—a treacherous six-month, 200-mile expedition that involved navigating wagons down a 2,000-foot vertical cliff to the banks of the Colorado River.
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 2 miles

4. **Anasazi State Park Museum**
   - View an original archaeological site, tour a replica-900-year-old dwelling, and learn about the lifeways of this sizable Ancestral Puebloan community through artifacts found at the site.
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 28 miles

5. **Long Canyon Slot**
   - Experience the towering walls and narrow perspectives of a slot canyon on this short but beautiful walk.
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to Burr Trail Road turnoff: 28 miles
   - Distance from turnoff to Long Canyon Slot: 11.2 miles
   - Walking distance: 1/4 mile roundtrip

6. **Devil’s Garden**
   - Explore, play, or picnic in a garden of whimsical sandstone rock formations.
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to Hole in the Rock Road turnoff: 6 miles
   - Distance from turnoff to Devil’s Garden: 12 miles

7. **Pine Creek Road to Hell’s Backbone Road**
   - Experience hair-raising heights on Hell’s Backbone Bridge, a one-lane bridge that spans 1,500 feet above a gaping gorge.
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to turnoff: 1 mile
   - Distance from turnoff to Hell’s Backbone Bridge: 26 miles
   - Distance from bridge to Scenic Byway 12 near Boulder: 16 miles

8. **Burr Trail Road**
   - Travel through Navajo Sandstone domes, climbing out of the desert to a high-elevation aspen forest.
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to turnoff: 28 miles
   - Distance from turnoff to Capital Reef National Park boundary: 30 miles
   - Distance from Capital Reef National Park boundary to Burr Trail: 17 miles

9. **Lower Calf Creek Falls**
   - Hike through a sculpted canyon, along a perennial stream, and near abundant plant and animal life to a rare and stunning 124-foot waterfall.
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to trailhead: 15 miles
   - Hiking Distance: 4 miles roundtrip

10. **Barker Recreation Area**
    - Explore trails that meander around lovely aspen and conifer-ringed lakes and meadows.
    - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to trailhead: 20 miles
    - Multiple trails of varying distances

11. **Dry Fork Slots (Peekaboo & Spooky)**
    - Squeeze, push, and pull your way through a series of fun and challenging slots requiring a 12-foot climb and maneuvering through 10-inch-wide gaps.
    - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to trailhead: 33 miles
    - Hiking Distance: 3 miles roundtrip

12. **Chris Lake**
    - Ascend through aspen stands and mountain meadows while enjoying excellent views of the vast Escalante region below.
    - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to trailhead: 37 miles
    - Hiking Distance: 2 miles roundtrip

**Drives**

6. **All American Road Scenic Byway 12**
   - Encounter surprises around each bend on Utah’s only All American Road designated for its diverse, remote, and stunning landscapes that range from desert canyons and hoodoos to narrow ridges and lush forests.
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 65 miles eastbound to HWY 24
   - 59 miles westbound to HWY 89

7. **Pine Creek Road**
   - Experience hair-raising heights on Hell’s Backbone Bridge, a one-lane bridge that stands 1,500 feet above a gaping gorge.
   - Distance from Burr Trail Road turnoff: 28 miles
   - Distance from Burr Trail Road turnoff to Pine Creek Road: 7 miles

8. **Burr Trail Road**
   - Travel through Navajo Sandstone domes, climbing out of the desert to a high-elevation aspen forest.
   - Distance from Burr Trail Road turnoff to turnoff: 4 miles
   - Distance from turnoff to Barker Recreation Area: 17 miles

17. **North Creek Road**
    - Wind through a progression of ecological zones, climbing out of the desert and into high-elevation aspen forest.
    - The road ends at Barker Recreation Area, where a peaceful congregation of lakes and meadows awaits.
    - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to turnoff: 6 miles
    - Distance from turnoff to end of the road: 16 miles

**Points of Interest**

3. **Escalante Petrified Forest State Park**
   - Visitor Center: 2 miles
   - Distance from Escalante: 59 miles westbound to HWY 89
   - 65 miles eastbound to HWY 24
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 1 mile
   - Distance from Escalante Petrified Forest State Park Museum: 37 miles
   - Distance from Visitor Center to turnoff: 4 miles

4. **Visitor Center: 2 miles**
   - Distance from Escalante: 59 miles westbound to HWY 89
   - 65 miles eastbound to HWY 24
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 1 mile
   - Distance from Visitor Center to turnoff: 4 miles

5. **Posey Lake Visitor Center: 8 miles**
   - Distance from Escalante: 59 miles westbound to HWY 89
   - 65 miles eastbound to HWY 24
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 1 mile
   - Distance from Posey Lake Visitor Center: 8 miles
   - Distance from Posey Lake to Posey Lake Overlook: 1/2 mile

6. **Burr Trail Road turnoff: 28 miles**
   - Distance from Escalante: 59 miles westbound to HWY 89
   - 65 miles eastbound to HWY 24
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 1 mile
   - Distance from Burr Trail Road turnoff: 28 miles
   - Distance from Burr Trail Road turnoff to Pin Creek Road: 7 miles

7. **Hole in the Rock Road turnoff: 6 miles**
   - Distance from Escalante: 59 miles westbound to HWY 89
   - 65 miles eastbound to HWY 24
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 1 mile
   - Distance from Hole in the Rock Road turnoff: 6 miles
   - Distance from Hole in the Rock Road turnoff to Devil’s Garden: 12 miles

8. **Visitor Center to trailhead: 33 miles**
   - Distance from Escalante: 59 miles westbound to HWY 89
   - 65 miles eastbound to HWY 24
   - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center: 1 mile
   - Distance from Visitor Center to trailhead: 33 miles
   - Distance from trailhead to end of the road: 16 miles

**Drives**

16. **Hole-in-the-Rock Road**
    - Visit this narrow and steep crevice on the western rim of Glen Canyon, listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as the 1879 route for Mormon pioneers.
    - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to Hole in the Rock Road turnoff: 6 miles
    - Distance from turnoff to Hole in the Rock: 56 miles

17. **Smoky Mountain/Alvay Wash Road to Left Hand Collet Road**
    - Drive a spectacular loop that leaves from Escalante, climbs up and across the isolated and rugged Kaiparowits Plateau, descends the steep and narrow Left Hand Collet Canyon, and opens onto sagebrush benches below the stunning Straight Cliffs.
    - Distance from Escalante Visitor Center to turnoff: 1 1/4 mile
    - Distance of round trip loop: 63 miles