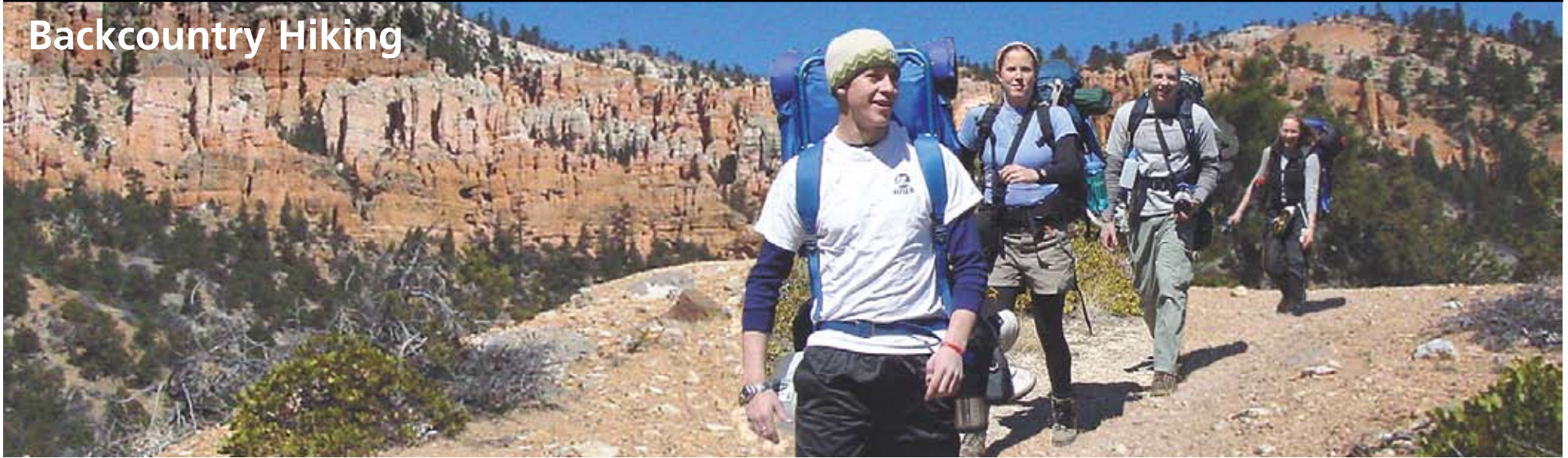




Backcountry Hiking



Hiking at Bryce

Bryce Canyon is best known for its hoodoos—intricately-carved rock spires left standing by erosion. Hoodoos are best experienced from our day-hiking trails, which offer an up-close and intimate look at these beautiful and bizarre rock formations. Day-hiking trails are relatively short, moderately difficult, and very popular.

In contrast, Bryce Canyon’s backcountry trails offer forests and meadows, stunning views of distant cliffs, solitude, but fewer hoodoos. If you’ve come to hike among the hoodoos, be sure to take a day hike. Check your Hoodoo newspaper for day-hiking information.

Backcountry camping is permitted only in designated backcountry sites.

Backcountry Trails

The Riggs Spring Loop is an 8.8-mile (14.2 km) loop which begins and ends at the Rainbow/Yovimpa Point parking lot. Either the Yovimpa or Rainbow Point trailhead may be used to access this loop.

The Under-the-Rim Trail is approximately 22.9 miles (36.9 km) from Bryce Point to Rainbow Point. Three connecting trails intersect the Under-the-Rim Trail at Swamp Canyon, Whiteman Bench and Agua Canyon trailheads.

In summer months, the Bryce Canyon Shuttle provides optional transportation to and from Sunrise, Sunset, Inspiration, and Bryce Points, but does not serve the southern end of the park. You must provide your own transportation to/from those locations. **Please note that hitchhiking is not allowed in Bryce Canyon National Park.**

The Under-the-Rim Trail may be broken into sections as follows:

Trail sections	distance (one-way)	elevation change
• Bryce Point to Swamp Canyon T.H. (Steep descent past the Hat Shop)	11.6 mi / 18.7 km	1294 ft / 394 m
• Swamp Canyon T.H. to Whiteman T.H. (Hike through plant communities)	3.6 mi / 5.8 km	848 ft / 259 m
• Whiteman T.H. to Agua Canyon T.H. (Interesting geology and good birding)	7.0 mi / 11.3 km	1460 ft / 445 m
• Agua Canyon T.H. to Rainbow Point (Hike across hogbacks; good views)	7.9 mi / 12.7 km	1365 ft / 416 m

T.H. = Trailhead

Water in the Backcountry



We recommend that you carry at least one gallon (4 liters) of water per person per day into the backcountry. Water sources are intermittent and unreliable.

Water from backcountry sources must be purified by boiling (10 minutes), filtering, or iodine treatment.

Please check at the visitor center for the most current information on water availability.

You MAY find water at the following locations:

- Yellow Creek (near all campsites)
- Sheep Creek (near campsite)
- Iron Spring (trail near campsite)*
- Riggs Spring (inside log fence area)
- Yovimpa Spring (below Yovimpa Pass campsite)

** Note: Water in Iron Spring has substantial sediment and metallic taste.*

Backcountry Guidelines

Permits.....A Backcountry Permit is required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. Permits may be purchased at the visitor center from 8:30 a.m. until one hour before closing.

Water.....Carry plenty of water and check water availability with a ranger at the visitor center before you leave. Purify all water from backcountry sources.

Hygiene.....Wash dishes and bathe at least 100 feet (30 m) from water sources, trails and campsites. Collect and bag food scraps and pack out as trash.

Waste.....Dig “catholes” 6 to 8 inches (15 cm) deep at least 100 feet (30 m) away from water, trails and campsites to bury human waste. Pack out all trash and any left by others. Pack out toilet paper in zip-type bags.

Fires.....NO OPEN FIRES are allowed in the backcountry. Camp stoves are permitted.

Safety.....Carry a good map; compass; extra clothing, food and water; rain gear; hat and sunscreen. Check weather forecast.

Travel.....Prevent unnecessary and unsightly erosion—stay on designated trails. Shortcutting is illegal and dangerous.

Camping.....Camp only in designated sites as reserved on your backcountry permit. Leave no trace of your visit.

Groups.....Backcountry campsites are limited to 6 people per regular site, and 15 people per group site.

Wildlife.....Protect wildlife by hanging all food from a tree branch 10 feet (3 m) high and 4 feet (1.5 m) away from the tree trunk.



Immediately report emergencies and resource violations to a ranger, or call 911.

Bryce Canyon's Backcountry

