



BOULDER MOUNTAIN AREA ITINERARY

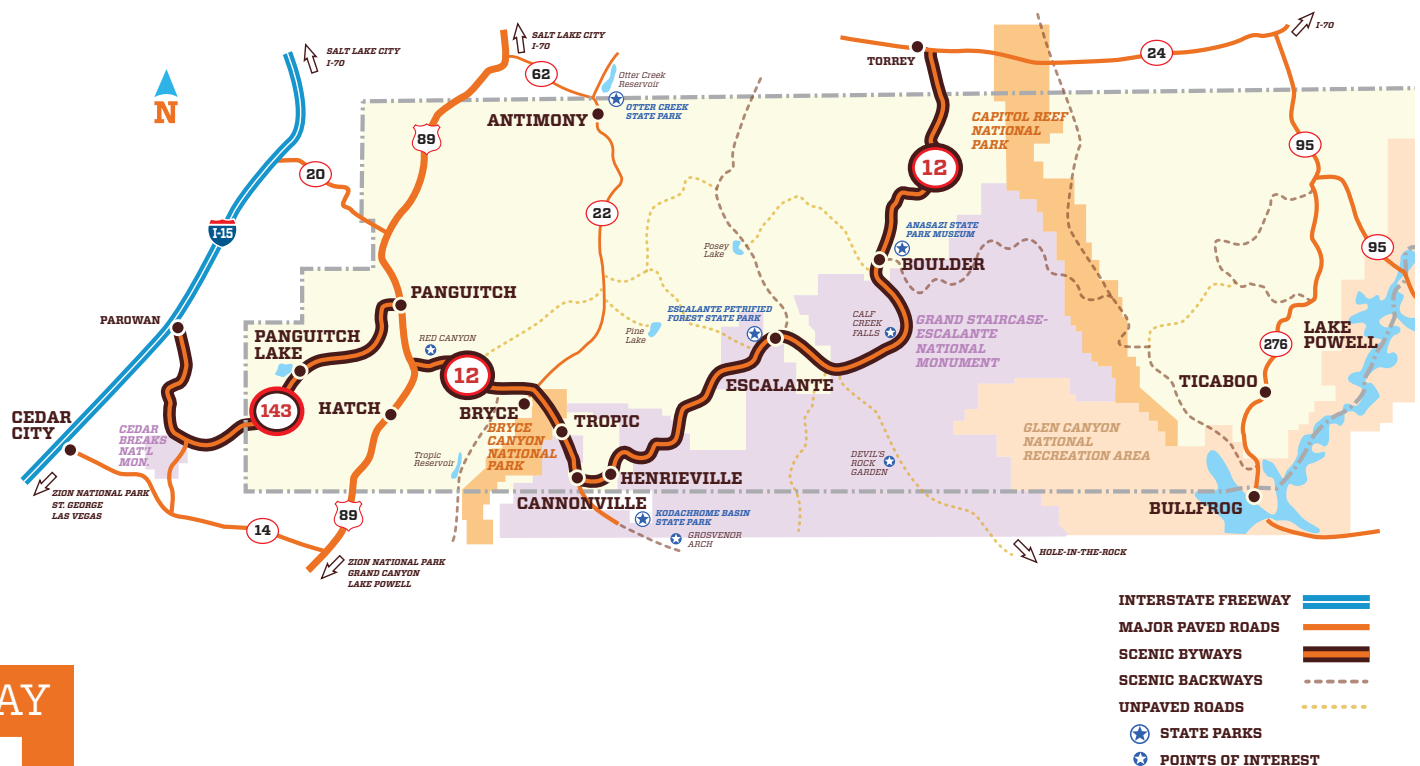
The high plains of the Aquarius Plateau (Boulder Mountain) are heavily forested and covered in countless winding roads that showcase the rugged beauty of this dramatic landscape. The region is one of only two major high-elevation lake areas in Utah and contains approximately 80 small lakes. Boulder Mountain not only gives you the chance to experience the highest wooded plateau in North America, but also provides ample opportunity for fishing, photography, hiking, ATV riding and other outdoor experiences.

The main backroads through this area are well graded, but if you decide to venture off the beaten-path, expect some roads to be rough. The off-roading paths may require high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicles. Depending on weather conditions, these rough roads are accessible during spring, summer and fall.



TRAVEL, CHECK-IN AND EAT

The drive through Bryce Canyon Country is incredibly scenic, so allow yourself time to stop at some of the astounding viewpoints along National Scenic Byway 12. As you drive through Bryce Canyon Country, you will find a variety of accommodations in the area that offer country-style cabins, full service hotels and luxury lodging. Upon checking in, make sure you dive into some local cuisine. The local cuisine ranges in many dining options, including family-friendly, hearty home-cooked meals, outdoor dining and some of the greatest farm-to-table experiences in Utah.






DAY
1



TAKE A DRIVE ON HELL'S BACKBONE SCENIC BACKWAY

If you chose to stay in Boulder or Escalante, a great place to start your journey is on Hell's Backbone Scenic Backway. Hell's Backbone Road is a winding route that follows 44 miles of vast ridges with staggering switchbacks and a rugged area that bridges between the Boulder Mountain and Escalante River canyons. If you choose to pack a lunch and want to take a hike to an amazing mountain setting stop at McGath Lake, which is ideal for those coming from the Boulder route. When you arrive at the trailhead near Cuddy Lake, take the short half-mile hike to McGath Lake for a great place to picnic.

Afterwards, continue on Hell's Backbone Road. The highlight of the drive is the unique bridge created by CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) workers in 1933 as the only access for vehicles driving between Escalante and Boulder. The awe-inspiring Hell's Backbone Bridge follows a narrow spine with sheer drops on both sides. Better yet, this scenic backway is only part of the experience if you enjoy fishing, since hundreds of pristine lakes cover Boulder Mountain.

- HELLS BACKBONE 
- MAJOR PAVED ROADS 
- SCENIC BYWAYS 
- SCENIC BACKWAYS 
- UNPAVED ROADS 
- ★ STATE PARKS
- ★ POINTS OF INTEREST





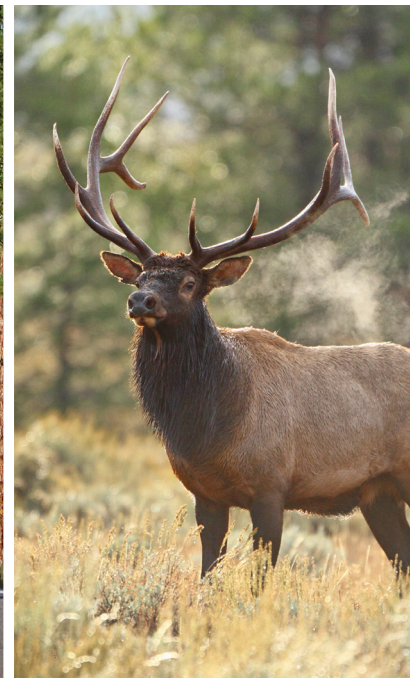
EXPERIENCE BOX-DEATH HOLLOW OR OTHER AREAS ON BOULDER MOUNTAIN

Along the Hell's Backbone Road, are many backcountry camping opportunities in the wilderness, with one of the most popular being the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. This deep canyon country is full of wild cypress and sharp layers of stacked rock that reveal multi-colored sediment in a staggered desert backdrop.

Make sure to check in at one of the nearby visitor centers for road and trail conditions. Along the Boulder Mountain road there will be plenty of opportunities for additional alpine forest hikes, sightseeing, photography and fishing. Other options for this day can be Posey Lake or Pine Creek Road. Posey Lake is easily-accessible and is ideal for ATV or mountain bike exploration.

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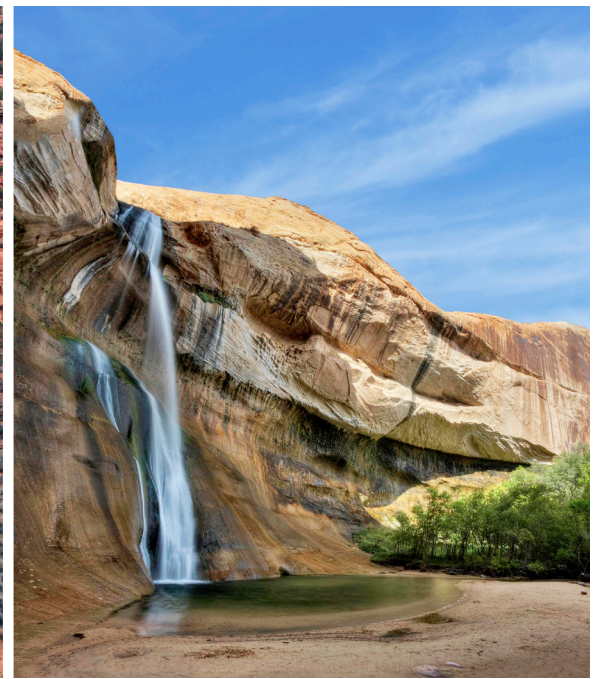


EXPLORE THE GRIFFIN TOP SCENIC BACKWAY

To experience Griffin Top Scenic Backway, you can connect to it from Posey Lake or the western edge of Boulder Mountain and Johns Valley. Pine Lake sits on a western bench of Boulder Mountain, and from here, you ascend an enchanting road that climbs to the top of the Aquarius Plateau. The Griffin Top features more panoramic views of open meadows and towering spruce and fir. You can enjoy pristine mountain lakes and may even see elk.

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DRIVE OTHER SCENIC BYWAYS IN THE AREA

Depending on your schedule and point of origin you can experience a myriad of other scenic byways while departing Bryce Canyon Country. After relishing in the remote pleasure of Boulder Mountain and the Aquarius Plateau, take a day to have a late breakfast and begin your journey home.

Scenic Byway 12 can carry you north toward Capitol Reef or southwest toward Highway 89 and Interstate 15. On Scenic Byway 12 you will enjoy options to visit Escalante Petrified Forest State Park, Calf Creek Falls, Red Canyon, Kodachrome Basin State Park or Anasazi Museum State Park.

