



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Capitol Reef National Park
HC 70 Box 15
Torrey, UT 84775
www.nps.gov/care

National Park Service News Release

Release Date: May 18, 2020

Contact: Sue Fritzke, Superintendent, 435-425-4100

20-10

Capitol Reef National Park to increase recreational access along State Route (Highway) 24 and Scenic Drive

Torrey, UT – Following guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local public health authorities, Capitol Reef National Park is increasing recreational access. The National Park Service (NPS) is working servicewide with federal, state, and local public health authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and using a phased approach to increase access on a park-by-park basis.

Beginning May 19, 2020, Capitol Reef National Park (NP) will reopen access to:

- Scenic Drive and all trails off Scenic Drive at 6:00 a.m.,
- All trails along Highway 24.
- Backcountry camping throughout the park (with a permit).
- Canyoneering routes are open (with a permit), except for all routes in Shinob, Burro, Cottonwood, and 5-Mile canyons. These routes are temporarily closed due to resource concerns.

With public health in mind, the following facilities and areas **remain closed**:

- The visitor center and Gifford House are closed until social distancing measures are installed over the next couple of weeks.
- Fruita Campground remains closed until June 2, 2020. Reservations are through www.recreation.gov Limited campsites in the park are available on a first-come first-served basis at Cathedral Valley and Cedar Mesa. Visitors are encouraged to utilize the private campgrounds within Wayne and Garfield counties, as well as the U.S. Forest Service public campgrounds and dispersed camping areas on public lands nearby.

OHV's, including ATV's and UTV's, continue to be prohibited within Capitol Reef National Park.

The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners continues to be paramount. At Capitol Reef National Park, our operational approach will be to examine each facility function and service provided to ensure those operations comply with current public health guidance, and opened operations will be regularly monitored. We continue to work closely with the NPS Office of Public Health using CDC guidance to ensure public and workspaces are safe and clean for visitors, employees, partners, and volunteers.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

While these areas are accessible for visitors to enjoy, a return to full operations will continue to be phased and services may be limited. When recreating, the public should follow local area health orders, practice [Leave No Trace](#) principles, avoid crowding and avoid high-risk outdoor activities.

The [CDC has offered guidance](#) to help people recreating in parks and open spaces prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We will continue to monitor all park functions to ensure that visitors adhere to CDC guidance for mitigating risks associated with the transmission of COVID-19, and we will take any additional steps necessary to protect public health.

Details and updates on park operations will continue to be posted on our website www.nps.gov/care and social media channels. Updates about NPS operations will be posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus.

-end-

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).