

Driving Distances (miles)

Entrances

There are no entrance stations; the monument is accessible 24/7. It encompasses three major geologic areas: the westernmost Grand Staircase, south of Bryce Canyon and west of Cottonwood Canyon Rd; central Kaiparowits Plateau, east of Cottonwood Canyon Rd and west of Hole-in-the-Rock Rd; and the eastern Escalante Canyons, southwest of the Burr Trail. In the north, scenic Hwy 12 skirts the boundary of GSENM, passing through the small towns of Escalante and Boulder.

In the south, Hwy 89 arcs east from the larger town of Kanab. Three unpaved roads cross the park between the highways, roughly north to south: Skutumpah and Johnson Canyon Rds, Cottonwood Canyon Rd and Smoky Mountain Rd. Hole-in-the-Rock Rd, a dead end, leads southeast from Hwy 12 toward Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Partly paved Burr Trail crosses the monument's northeast corner from Boulder into Capitol Reef.

You'll need a free permit to car-camp or backpack overnight, available from any visitor center, information kiosk or major trailhead. Only Calf Creek Recreation Area carries a day-use fee.

DON'T MISS

GSENM is so big that it is conducive to multiple visits. Start with a hike near Boulder (Lower Calf Creek or Escalante Natural Bridge) and explore some of the slot canyons on Hole-in-the-Rock Rd. If you have time, drive the Cottonwood Canyon Rd toward Kanab and enjoy the solitude of its lesser-known hikes.

When You Arrive

- Day use is generally free. Visitor centers in Escalante, Cannonville and Kanab offer free park bulletins and maps, and sell more detailed maps, like the USGS 7.5-quadrangles.
- Fill up on water at visitor centers, since there is none at trailheads and most campgrounds.
- Check with rangers at a visitor center about road conditions, the weather forecast and the type of vehicle suitable for the roads you plan to travel. Much of the park is on 4WD roads and clay surfaces become impassable when wet.
- There is no comprehensive topo for the park but the National Geographic Trails Illustrated (www.natgeomaps.com) map No 710, *Canyons of the Escalante*, covers the northeast corner of the park.

PARK POLICIES & REGULATIONS

All vehicles must stay on designated roads, which are open to mountain bikes, cars, 4WDs, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other off-highway vehicles.

Campfires in developed campgrounds are restricted to fire rings; elsewhere you're allowed to use a fire pan. Do not light fires at archaeological sites or in rock shelters or alcoves. Banned in Coyote Gulch, dogs are allowed elsewhere, often leashed.

Fast Facts

- Total area: 2969 sq miles
- Elevation: 4900ft
- Average high/low temperature (at Escalante) in July: 91°F/55°F (33°C/13°C)

Reservations

While GSENM campgrounds do not accept reservations, the state park and private campgrounds do. Campers may wild camp on Bureau of Land Management land, following regulations and standard Leave No Trace ethics. Some popular hikes require permits based on a lottery system.

Resources

- **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument** (www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/grand_staircase-escalante.html)