

ARCH CANYON

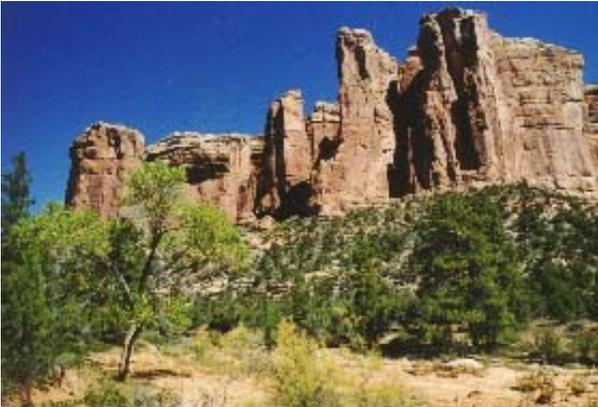


Arch Canyon is a twelve mile long box canyon located in Townships 36 and 37 South and Ranges 19 and 20 East. Most of the canyon is on BLM lands though the last five miles is on National Forest Service lands. No motor vehicle use is allowed on Forest Service lands.

The maps needed for this area are the South Long Point and Hotel Rock 7.5 minute topographic maps. The portion of the canyon located on National Forest Land was designated a roadless area by the 1980 Manti-La Sal National Travel Plan.

A BLM sign on highway U-95, one mile west of Comb Ridge, marks the road that leads to Arch Canyon. The mouth of the canyon is 2 ½ miles up this road. The trail is initially an old jeep road that winds

its way up the canyon, crossing the creek frequently. The trail crosses the Forest Service boundary near the confluence of Arch and Texas Canyons. Butts Canyon, a second major tributary of Arch Canyon, runs north from Arch Canyon for a mile up the trail. The system offers approximately 15 miles of canyon bottoms and cliff walls to explore. This is a four wheel drive road. Motorized access is allowed to the Forest Service boundary.



The canyons are of geological interest. The canyon bottom was laid down during the Permian Epoch and the walls during the Upper Permian. There are several arches and numerous hanging gardens in the canyon. The canyons are also of archaeological interest, as cliff dwellings may be seen along the canyon walls. Visitors are asked to preserve the archaeological quality of the area.



There is ample opportunity for camping in the canyon bottom, and water is usually available from the creek year round. The public is encouraged to treat all water before consumption. The Arch Canyon Trail is recommended as a two to three day hike, allowing half a day to hike to the confluence of Texas and Arch Canyons and several days to explore the canyon arteries.

Please sign the visitor registration box located at the mouth of Arch Canyon.



