

Dog Canyon

DISTANCE: 10 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 3600 feet

ROUTE TYPE: Out & Back

Fantastic views the whole time, allow plenty of time if you plan to do the whole thing in a day. I did it in early November and had someone meet me at the upper trailhead. The 4th mile is by far the most difficult, but the scenery is well worth it. Only saw one other hiker the whole trip. Bring water, as the creek near the 3 mile mark may or may not be flowing. Be in decent shape and you should be fine.

Perfect trail for those who are in good shape, 5.5 miles and 3100 feet up, parts with steep grades 25%. We were not that brave and returned halfway at Line Cabin. Very nice trail, remote area.

Absolutely fantastic hike. The scenery, wildlife and views are awesome. Did this hike in April and conditions were perfect. Please see my video of the hike here: <https://youtu.be/w1vg71dmhqq>

My wife and I did this as a backpacking trip this past weekend. It was amazing and intense! The trail is not too bad up to the 3 mile mark, where there is a partial stone cabin. After that the trail gets kind of crazy, very very steep and narrow around the "eyebrow" (like 6-8 inches with a sheer drop narrow). It was hard with our big packs. We camped at the top, on a wind-blown plateau just short of the official end. There is no water along the way, so we had to hike with more than normal. The ideal way to do this is probably to make camp at the 3 mile cabin, then do the rest as a day trip. Not for the faint of heart, but rewarding.

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Beautiful! Very scenic as you are surrounded by the massive canyon walls shining against the sun. Here are some tips: The trail starts a bit rough with the first half mile you will be climbing a steep wall that will take you 500 feet in elevation that will take you to the first plateau for some amazing views. This plateau is about a quarter of a mile long that will help you catch your breath. Afterwards you will start a mild descend through some mild terrain (you will find a naturally formed chair made out of rocks to rest).

Then the trail will get harder and starts another climb for the second Plateau. By this time you're close to about a mile to a mile and a quarter in the trail. The second plateau is the most beautiful! You have massive canyon walls to your right with the river canyon drop off to your left. Good area to rest and catch your breath by the large rock on the left. Then you descend to the river bed below and you will start the most challenging and perhaps the most dangerous part of this trail.

As you start your ascending you will literally be climbing on the very side of the canyon wall in some of the steepest and narrowest paths with little room for error. This should be around the 3.5 mile marker or as soon as you drop to the river bed and behind to climb.

KNOW YOUR LIMIT! ITS ABSOLUTELY FINE TO TURN AROUND AT THIS POINT! Lots of loose rocks and dirt, watch your step carefully for some areas are narrow between a foot wide or less with a 500-1000 foot drop. Keep going forward until the trail wraps around the Canyon and you will see some beautiful naturally formed caves on your left side.

The next part of the trail is not as beautiful flat rocks not much to catch your eyes on, until you reach and more forested area and you will see the 4.5 mile marker. You are less than a mile away to the finish, and you will notice the dirt is red with plenty of wild life signs (watch your step for animal droppings) and you will start a small climb to the final top and will notice a sign saying dog canyon trail but don't be fooled it's not the end yet.

On the top, you will see many burnt trees (perhaps a small forest fire happened there?) and the path becomes less clear. Follow it as best as you can until you see two signs officially stating the trail. Good luck! Rest up! Bring **PLENTY OF FOOD** and water (I wasn't smart and brought a bag of skittles and a slim Jim lol but had plenty of water but my energy drained quick due to lack of food and the hike back was tough)

