

PARADISE CANYON



Trail Essentials

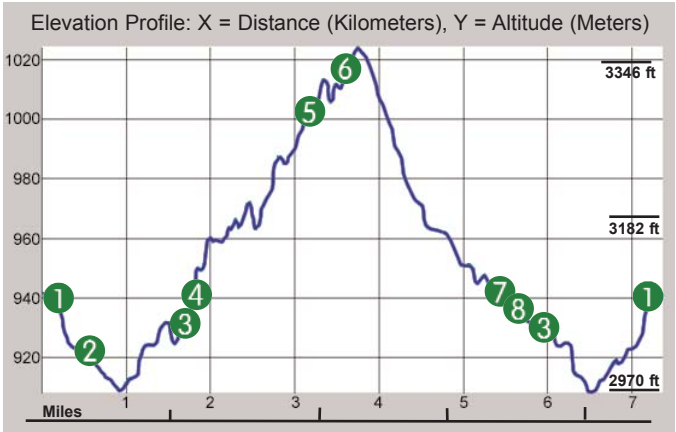
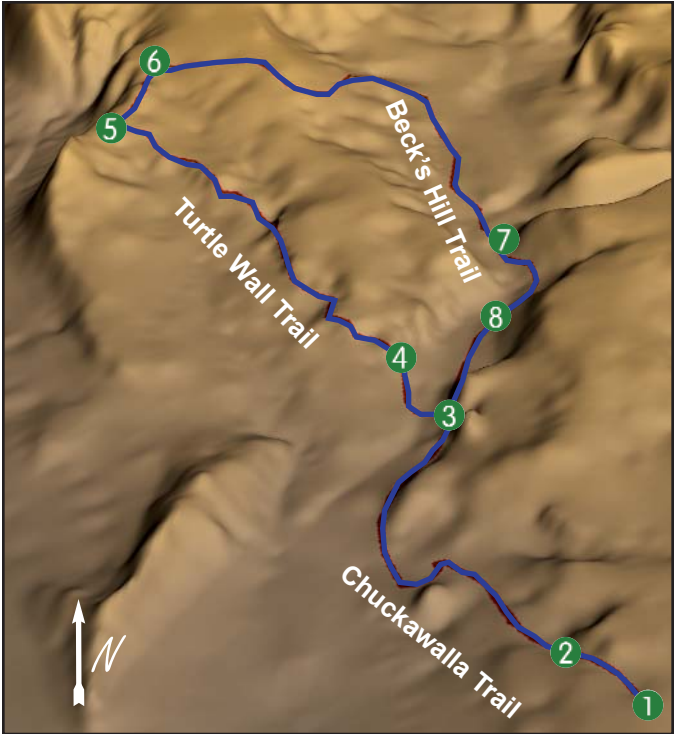
Length	.....	Approximately 7.3 Kilometers (4.5 Miles)
Duration	.....	Approximately 2.5 Hours
El Gain	.....	Approximately 117 Meters (370 ft)
Don't Miss	....	Paradise Rim, Turtle Rock, Spring Wildflower Show
Difficulty	.....	Easy
Comments	.....	Kids and Dogs, Watch for Bikers

**Landmarks and Waypoints (UTM Coordinates)**

- ① Trailhead N 4113388 E 268645
- ② Chuckawalla Wall N 4113502 E 268530
- ③ Turtle Wall / Beck's Hill Trail Junction .. N 4114297 E 268084
- ④ Turtle Rock Turn N 4114406 E 268967
- ⑤ Rock Pile/ Paradise Rim N 4115129 E 267058
- ⑥ Gila/Beck's Trail Junctions N 4115438 E 267107
- ⑦ Basalt Boulder Wash N 4113502 E 268530
- ⑧ Turtle Wall Access Trail N 4114654 E 268115

Introduction and Directions to the Trailhead

This hike represents just one of many possible routes located in this scenic area. Its part loop and part up and back. The four 1/2 mile distance should require at least a couple hours. Foot paths, bike trails, and old two-tracks are plentiful here and criss-cross at intervals creating a network of trails that can be confusing if your not paying attention to the sign posts. But the area has a relatively gentle grade, plenty of signposts, lacks obstacles, and is located close enough to town that it makes an ideal afternoon family hike or perhaps morning run. To reach the trailhead, continue north on Highway 18 from the intersection of Bluff and Sunset approximately 1 mile and turn into the improved Paradise Canyon parking area, complete with outhouse.





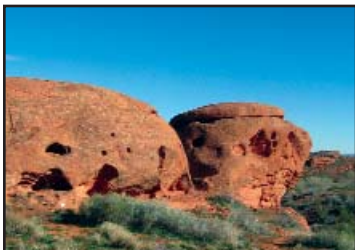
The Hike

The area's main appeal is an exposure of cliff forming upper Kayenta cliffs that line the margins of many of the designated hiking and biking paths. The cliffs are red to maroon and average around 50 ft high. The extensive trail system, combined with the ever-present complex of small cliffs, creates an ideal rock climbing setting. In fact two of the most popular local climbing walls are accessed from this trail: The Chuckawalla Wall, and the Turtle Wall. You'll see Chuckawalla wall just north of the trailhead on your right (2). The Turtle Wall (3) is located up the trail another $\frac{3}{4}$ miles or so. The small cliffs bear markings from climbing bolts and the wall surfaces are generally covered with white chalk and hand prints. These days, it's unlikely that either wall will be vacant. You'll see signs of springs (intermittent cottonwoods) or high groundwater (mesquites) which occurs occasionally near the upper Kayenta formation. The plant community is typical of the lower elevation Mojave Desert associations in the area and consists chiefly of creosotebush-bursage scrubland with ratany, blackbrush, cheatgrass, brittlebrush, and four-wing saltbush. In the spring, the wildflower show here is unbeatable. And despite the seemingly ubiquitous human presence, sighting of tortoises, gila monsters, chuckawallas, and rattlesnakes (especially sidewinders) are commonplace.

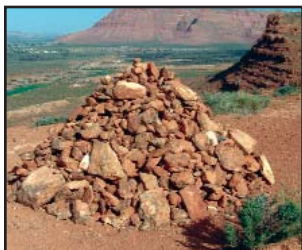
Follow the old two track to the Turtle Rock Trail junction (3) and take a left on Turtle Rock Trail. Just ahead you'll pass a small drainage covered with yucca and see the Turtle Rock. It consists of two large boulders representing the head and body of the tortoise. There's a small natural arch just behind the turtle. Take a left near the back of the tortoise shell, near the arch, and proceed northwest over slick rock and worn trail to paradise rim (5), where a pile of rocks marks the overview. From paradise rim, follow the trail northward (usually marked by cairns) over slickrock about a quarter mile until you see the Gila and Beck's Trail junctions (6). The Gila Trail leads northward and intersects with the Scout Caves Trail (discussed earlier) The trails can be easily linked with some creative shuttling. Return via the Beck's Hill Trail two-track eastward and then southward. Its about a two mile trip back to the car from the junction. You'll pass through a basalt boulder-strewn drainage (7) and then walk past the Turtle Wall Access Trail (8) and eventually connect with the Chuckawalla Trail (3) about a quarter mile later. From here its a little less than a mile back to the parking lot.



Chuckawalla Wall (2)



Turtle Rock (4)



Rock Pile (5)



Dune Buckwheat
(*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)



Ratany (*Krameria Parvifolia*), Overlook (5) Indigo bush (*Psoralea fremontii*)



Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*)



Trail adjacent to Kayenta Cliffs



Brittlebrush (*Encelia farinosa*)