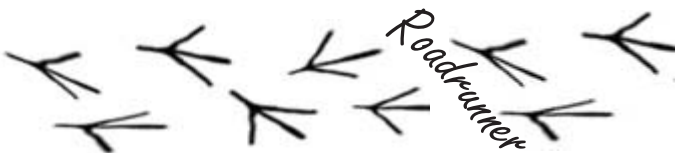


RED CLIFFS WALK



Trail Essentials

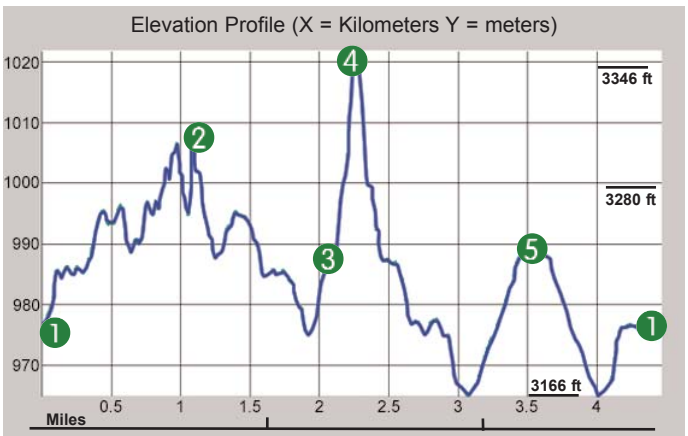
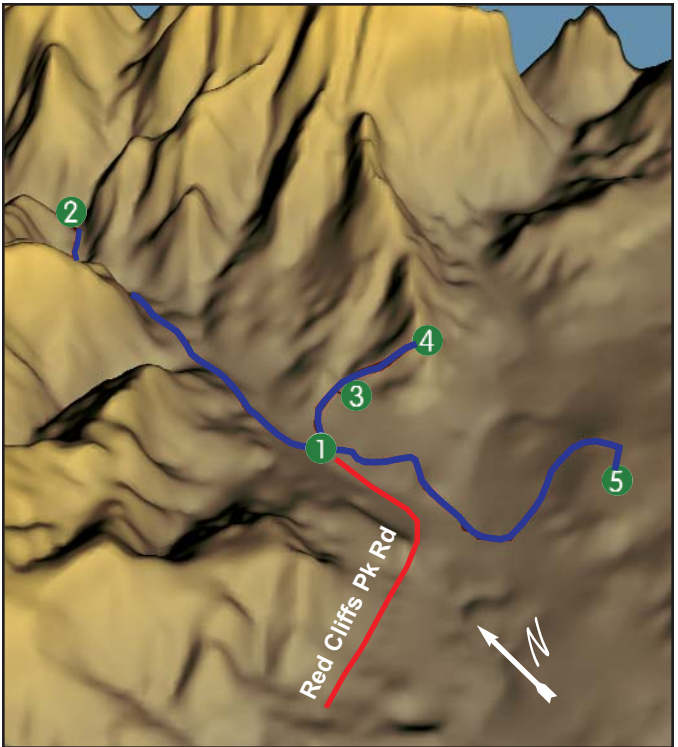
Length	Approximately 4.5 kilometers (2.8 miles)
Duration	Approximately 2 hours
El Gain	Approximately 43 meters (141 feet)
Difficulty	Easy
Don't Miss	Waterfalls/Pools, Dino Prints, Summit View, Anasazi Granary

**Landmarks and Waypoints (UTM Coordinates)**

- ① Parking/Campground/Trailhead N 4122255 E 286613
- ② Water Pools N 4122803 E 286069
- ③ Dino Prints N 4122359 E 286726
- ④ Overlook N 4122433 E 286852
- ⑤ Anasazi Site N 4112386 E 296045

Introduction and Directions to the Trailhead

This hike consists of a relatively easy walk over moderately level terrain. While the scenery of the canyon is reason enough to visit this area, there are four points of interest, including the waterfall (2), often active in the spring during the snowmelt and after monsoons in the summer, the not-often-visited dinosaur tracks (3), the silver reef overlook (4), and the elaborate anasazi habitation and granary site (5). Travelling north on I-15, take the Hurricane Exit (SR-9) and make a left at Quail Creek Reservoir. Drive past Quail Creek to Harrisburg and make a left to red cliffs campground through a box culvert under the freeway. You'll cross a small stream that washes over the road and eventually come to a fee station. The parking lot and trailhead is just ahead.





Onward to Silver Reef Lookout Point



Red Bud (*Cercis occidentalis*), Desert False Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)

The Hike

From the parking lot, head north along a well-worn trail that follows the margin of Quail Creek and weaves in and out of a lush riparian woodland of native willows and cottonwoods. The trail appears to dead-end in a slot canyon at the base of two large clear pools, the furthest of which is fed by a scenic waterfall. The falls will be absent in the dead of summer, but will generally be gushing late fall through late spring and following summer monsoons. If you are brave enough, you can continue upstream, over the falls, and hook into the Red Cliffs Loop Hike (see Hard Hikes section for further info). After your eyes recover from the full visual impacts of this scene, make your way back to the trailhead. Near where the public restrooms are located, you will find the access to the Silver Reef Overlook Trail. Its a short jaunt up a well-marked slickrock path to the overlook. Along the way, check out the dino prints, a well-kept secret in these parts. You'll probably need the waypoints to find them as they are not marked nor obvious and it'll take some snooping around. The overlook features a scenic panorama of the the old Silver Reef Mining District and a giant escarpment of red and white cliffs that flank the Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness. The peaks of the Pine Valley Mountains and Zion National Park appear on the horizon. Double back and return to Silver Reef Lookout Trailhead and proceed due south through the campground to connect with the trail that leads accross a large, tree-covered ephemeral wash and over over sage-covered dunes to the top of a small protruding ridgeline where the Red Cliffs Archaeological site is located.

This site is a relatively large Virgin Anasazi (Ancestral Puebloan) habitation area. It was excavated by BLM archaeologists in the late 1970's. The main living area originally consisted of a C-shaped arrangement of 15 room blocks and several storage cists on the crest of the ridge. These were constructed using sandstone slabs that lined the floors and subterranean portions of the walls. A smaller concentration of similar structures was located nearby to the south. Analysis of ceramic styles and C14 dates indicated the area was occupied primarily during the Pueblo II Period (~ A.D. 1000 - 1150), although earlier Basketmaker III (~ A.D. 400-800) and Pueblo I (~ A.D. 800 -1000) Periods were also represented. Notable ceramic items recovered were ten reassembled vessels including five globular jars, an olla, and four bowls. Also collected were numerous small and large stone projectile points, knives, drills, scrapers, bifaces, hammerstones, grinding implements (slabs and hand-stones), a stone ax, and an anvil. Stablized portions of the site are periodically maintained and covered by small Ramadas . A boardwalk provides access to the ramadas and protects the approach to the site from continuous foot traffic.



Slab-Lined Storage Cist



Ramada-covered slab-lined room blocks of the Red Cliffs Site