



GHOST RIDER CANYON - VIRGIN RIVER GORGE



Rating: 3A

Length: 1-2 hours (1 mile)

Gear: Standard Technical Gear

Maps: MOUNTAIN SHEEP SPRING, AZ

Rappels: 3-4 to 24 m (79 ft.)

Water: None

Flash Flood Danger: Moderate

Season: Any, though summers can be hot.

Waypoints:

Parking	12S 250914mE 4095590mN N36° 58' 25" W113° 47' 53"
Drop In	12S 250877mE 4095636mN N36° 58' 26" W113° 47' 55"
Rappel 1	12S 250968mE 4095609mN N36° 58' 25" W113° 47' 51"
Rappel 4	12S 251133mE 4095598mN N36° 58' 25" W113° 47' 45"
Exit	12S 251251mE 4095645mN N36° 58' 27" W113° 47' 40"
Main Trail	12S 251255mE 4095572mN N36° 58' 24" W113° 47' 40"

Hype

Ghost Rider makes for an excellent evening canyon or beginner friendly canyon. Though not touted as a destination canyon, I must say I enjoyed it immensely as a way to break up a long drive while passing through. Ghost Rider has a short approach with 3-4 rappels in relatively rapid succession, followed by a casual exit. A mile and an hour are all the canyon takes.

Ghost Rider is also an excellent choice for rounding out a Cherry Canyon day as well, as it is very nearby. As of 2018, all anchors were bolts and chains.

Tags: canyon, beginner, access: 2wd

Trailhead

Note: The road is generally pretty good. High clearance helps, but a carefully driven car should make it as well.

The trailhead is off the Cedar Pockets road in the Virgin River Gorge. This is exit 18 from I-15 about 17 miles west of St. George or 20 miles east of Mesquite NV. This is the same exit for the Virgin River Gorge Campground,

- Reset your odometer on the north side of the freeway and head north of the dirt Cedar Pocket Road. There are a few primitive campsites next to the road a short distance from the freeway. (12S 250884mE 4093502mN / N36° 57' 17" W113° 47' 52")
- 1.6 miles - Cedar Pocket Wash Trailhead on the right. This is the exit point, and the recommended trailhead. (12S 250867mE 4095450mN / N36° 58' 20" W113° 47' 55")
- 1.8 miles - Ghost Rider Canyon on the right. Limited parking. (12S 250887mE 4095635mN / N36° 58' 26" W113° 47' 55")

Route

Approach (5 minutes)

From the trailhead, follow the road a minute or so to the wash, then turn right and head down the wash. The wash is Ghost Rider Canyon.

Canyon

R1 - 2 m (7 ft.) - This is a downclimb for most, but someone has installed a bolted anchor if needed.

R2 - 8 m (27 ft.) - A few minutes down from R1, the canyon drops at the first "real" rappel.

R3 - 24 m (79 ft.) -The big rappel in the canyon, and most photogenic in my opinion.

After R3, it is a short walk to R4.

R4 - 8 m (27 ft.) - A final short rappel, then the canyon open and join a large wash.

Exit - 15-20 minutes

Just before Ghost Rider joins the large wash, look for a social trail leaving on the right. This well worn social trail climbs to the ridge, then follows a side road back to the main road right near the trailhead.

Side Trip: The Cedar Pocket Narrows are about 5 minutes down from the exit, and a nice side trip. To visit, continue down the wash about 5 minutes. On your return, look for a small sign indicating the Cedar Pocket Narrows trail leaves on the left. This alternate return joins the standard exit about 3/4 of the way up the hillside.

