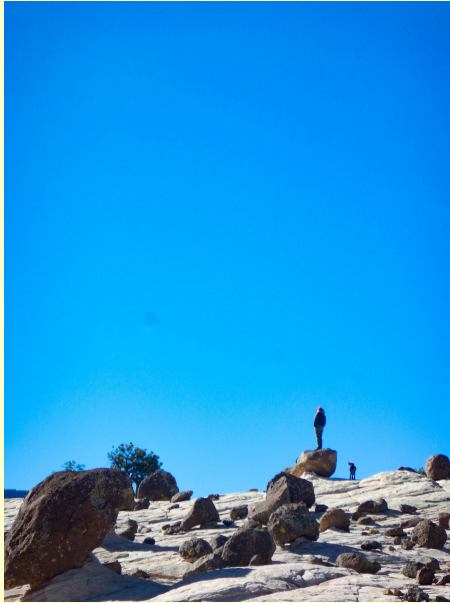




SLICKROCK BENCH TRAIL - TORREY



Rating: Easy hiking

Length: 3-4 hours (6.5 miles)

Gear: Standard Hiking Gear

Maps: Grover, UT;

Water: None.

Season: Spring, Fall, Winter if no snow

Waypoints:

Trailhead	12S 472338mE 4227957mN N38° 11' 57" W111° 18' 57"
Junction, go right.	12S 472373mE 4227722mN N38° 11' 49" W111° 18' 56"
Forest Boundary	12S 471868mE 4227750mN N38° 11' 50" W111° 19' 17"
Junction, go left.	12S 471731mE 4227268mN N38° 11' 34" W111° 19' 22"
Corner and Views	12S 472615mE 4225282mN N38° 10' 30" W111° 18' 46"

Hype

It is a rare day that I recommend a hike that is along an ATV trail. Slickrock Bench Trail, near Capitol Reef, is a hike I will make an exception for. The hike is fairly unremarkable, but the destination is pretty, and I think well worth the hike. Even though this is an ATV trail, is it a rough one, and didn't seem particularly well traveled. If hiking in the off season, you are likely to have it to yourself. We visited on a late fall Saturday and saw no signs of recent travel and didn't see anyone on our trip. The end of the hike makes a great lunch spot.

Note: This hike is outside of the National Park, so dogs are allowed. There is no water on the hike, however, so bring all that will be needed.

Tags: *hike, dog friendly, beginner, access: 2wd*

Trailhead

From the east side of Torrey, head south on highway 12, toward Boulder/Escalante. Follow highway 12 for 7.1 miles. Just past the small town of Grover, the Miners Mountain Road takes off on the left and is signed.

- Reset your odometer as you turn onto the Miners Mountain Road off of highway 12. (12S 470020mE 4230475mN / N38° 13' 18" W111° 20' 33")

- Follows the road as it winds through a few houses and fields. At the junction at 1.2 miles, stay left on the main road. (12S 471194mE 4229254mN / N38° 12' 39" W111° 19' 45")
- At 2.3 is a Y junction. Go right here, an addition 0.1 miles and park anywhere convenient in the large open area. (12S 472324mE 4228142mN / N38° 12' 03" W111° 18' 58")
- Trailhead (12S 472338mE 4227957mN / N38° 11' 57" W111° 18' 57")

Route

From the open parking area, follow the rough jeep/ATV trail south as it steeply climbs a very rocky hill. In 5 minutes is a signed trail junction. Go right here, as the trail flattens a little and becomes a bit less rocky.

In 30 minutes, a minor side road takes off on the right. Stay on the main trail (Left). The trail meanders in and out of small drainages and over ridges. At about 1.5-2 hours (3.25 miles from the trailhead), the trail climbs onto slickrock and rounds a point; this is the recommended destination.

The point has massive volcanic boulders dotting the landscape and creates a dramatic contrast of black rock on white sandstone. To the east is Capitol Reef National Park, with the Henry Mountains visible in the far distance past the park.

Note: The trail continues on past the point, but is not particularly interesting. This used to be used as an old road between Grover and Boulder.

