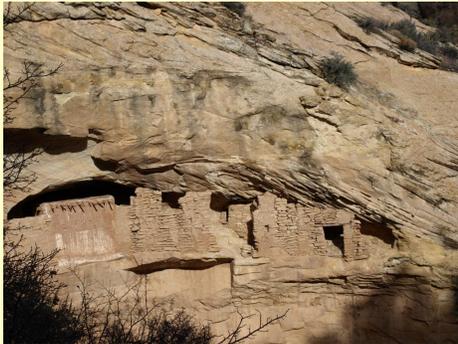




UPPER BUTLER WASH & TARGET RUIN - CEDAR MESA



Rating: Easy Hiking

Length: 1 hour for the tourist ruins, 2-4 for the other ruins

Maps: Hotel Rock, UT

Water: None.

Season: Any

Waypoints:

Tourist Ruin Trailhead	12S 620796mE 4153877mN N37° 31' 26" W109° 37' 59"
Trailhead	12S 621113mE 4154121mN N37° 31' 34" W109° 37' 46"
Target Ruin	12S 620308mE 4154717mN N37° 31' 54" W109° 38' 18"
Small Ruin	12S 620249mE 4154948mN N37° 32' 01" W109° 38' 20"
Ruin	12S 620149mE 4155152mN N37° 32' 08" W109° 38' 24"
Ruin 2	12S 620104mE 4155264mN N37° 32' 12" W109° 38' 26"

Hype

With ruins dating from 500-1300AD, and easy access, Upper Butler Wash provides a great outing. This is a highly recommended hike that should be accessible to most anyone. Due to its short nature, and easy access from the highway, this is also an excellent choice during inclement weather.

Note: Indian ruins are very old archeological artifacts, some dating back well over 1000 years. Please be very respectful when visiting them. Do not touch petroglyphs or pictographs, as this results in damage. Also, please leave any artifacts you may find as you found them. Without careful preservation, these site can be destroyed. Follow the adage, "Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints."

Tags: *hike, rock art, indian ruins, family friendly, access: paved*

Trailhead

To reach the trailhead, go south out of Blanding about 3.5 miles until the junction with Highway 95. Follow Highway 95 about 10.6 miles until crossing a bridge over Butler Wash. This is the trailhead for the main ruins, park at a small pullout on the west side of the bridge. (just before milepost 111) To reach the tourist ruins,

continue just past milepost 111, to a signed paved road on the right. Follow this a short distance to the trailhead where parking and pit toilets are available.

Route

Rock Art and Historic Site Etiquette

Rock art and historic sites are fragile, non-renewable cultural resources that, once damaged, can never be replaced. To ensure they are protected, please:

- Avoid Touching the Petroglyphs: Look and observe, BUT DO NOT TOUCH!
- Stay on the Trails: Stay on the most used trails when visiting sites, and don't create new trails or trample vegetation.
- Photography and Sketching is Allowed: Do not introduce any foreign substance to enhance the carved and pecked images for photographic or drawing purposes. Altering, defacing, or damaging the petroglyphs is against the law -- even if the damage is unintentional.
- Pets: Keep pets on a leash and clean up after them.
- Artifacts: If you happen to come across sherds (broken pottery) or lithics (flakes of stone tools), leave them where you see them. Once they are moved or removed, a piece of the past is forever lost.

Tourist Ruins

To reach the tourist ruins, simply follow the signed trail. It is a short hike, less than 1-mile round trip. There are some interpretative guides at the trailhead. Be sure to pick one up, as it provides great information about the area and the hike. The trail ends at an overlook where you can see several ruins down below.

Upper Butler Wash Ruins

For the Upper Butler Wash Ruins, cross the fence on the north side of the bridge from the trailhead. There is a trail register here. Follow the well-worn trail about 5-10 minutes to where the canyon and trail forks. Go left here, following the canyon bottom up as it deepens and turns to slickrock. About 30-45 minutes from the trailhead, you will see ruins on the left. The first ones you come to are quite impressive. Just up canyon about 5 minutes from the first set of ruins is a second, equally interesting set of ruins. There used to be a rickety ladder here, but as of 2018, it is missing.

As you return from the ruins, watch for a side trail leaving the canyon on the right about 5 minutes down from the last ruin. This short side trail (5-10 minutes) climbs steeply up the bank, then levels out to a small side canyon. In this side canyon, on the north side, are some great ruins. They are not reachable from the ground. If you look closely, though, on the west wall, you can see a target painted. These are often referred to as the Target Ruin because of this painting. Also, notice in the slickrock below them two shallow holes. Presumably these were used to hold the bottom of a ladder in place for the Indians to access the ruins.

Return the way you came.

