

1-2 hour Easy Ride

Chuckwalla—Red Cliffs Desert Reserve



About the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve:

At the merging of three great ecosystems, the Mojave Desert, the Great Basin, and the Colorado Plateau, the reserve is biologically rich with an array of animals and plants rarely seen in one place. The reserve contains the most northern populations of the desert tortoise, Gila monster, sidewinder rattlesnake, and chuckwalla - reptiles typically associated with hotter and more southerly deserts, like the Mojave. A significant portion of the shrubs in this area, such as blackbrush, are more commonly associated with the cooler Great Basin Desert. The conditions in the region are such that several endemic species, those which occur nowhere else in the world, are found here.

Directions: From St. George, take Bluff Street (Rt. 18) north, past Sunset Boulevard and then past Snow Canyon Parkway. About 100 yards past Snow Canyon Parkway, there is a sign showing the Chuckwalla trailhead to the left. This is a wonderful trailhead with rest rooms, but no water. There is plenty of trailer parking.

The Ride: After going over the step over, you'll wind down the service road, probably past a bunch of rock climbers (they're always there). Take a left at the definite intersection that goes down a slight hill through a dry wash, and at the top of the hill, go left on the Rim Trail. This wanders up the south side of the area, through and below some rocks, and comes to some great overlook areas. The view of the St. George area is outstanding. Wander a bit—but don't take the trail down to the scout caves....which is off to the northwest—not horse friendly. The Turtle trail along the rocks in the center of the area is a really nice way back to the trailers. This is an easy, 'before or on the way out of town' ride. Please clean up around your trailers, taking your manure with you— help preserve our right to ride.