



TOM'S UTAH CANYONEERING GUIDE

Archive

Dry Forks Coyote Gulch Spooky • Brimstone • Peek-a-Boo • Canyons of the Escalante

Rating:	II-III Class 3 ★★☆☆
Best Season:	Spring or Fall recommended. Also possible in summer as the slots themselves are well shaded.
Time:	2 to 6 hours. This is an exploration kind of hike.
Access:	Route starts and ends on a spur road of the Hole in the Rock Road.
USGS 7.5' Map:	Big Hollow Wash. The Egypt Quad shows the area north of the slots.
Permit:	Not Required for day use. Free overnight permits required for overnight backpacking, available at VCs and trailheads.
Equipment:	Wading shoes and a ski pole or hiking stick may be useful.
Drinking Water:	None, bring plenty.
Flash Flood Risk:	Moderate.
Difficulties:	Walking in loose sand. Exploring the slots is usually done as far as one is comfortable. Climbing through Peek-a-Boo and Spooky requires scrambling up to easy 5 th class. Brimstone is explored from the bottom until it gets too thin. The hike to the start of Brimstone requires downclimbing a rough spot (Class 3+). This can be avoided on the left. The slots can have water in them and be mucky—but still worth exploring.

Slot Canyon. 'Tis here the concept is epitomized. You know, where you walk sideways because the walls are narrower than your shoulders. The Dry Forks are an Exploratorium of slot canyons, and a whole bunch of fun. This is one of the most popular hikes in the Escalante, so take care to leave nothing but footprints.

A Few Hours are easily spent exploring the top three slots (Main Fork of Coyote up-canyon, Peek-A-Boo and Spooky), especially if you enjoy scrambling to get past the front pool in Peek-A-Boo and to the top of Spooky. Taking the walk down the main wash to Brimstone extends the visit to 'most of a day', but adds the biggest, deepest and coolest of the slots to the itinerary. There is a small narrows in the main wash before Brimstone that may require some scrambling over a dryfall to get through. Or find a way around this obstacle by walking the desert on either side.

Getting There: from Escalante, drive south down the Hole in the Rock Road 26.1 miles (marathon distance) to a rough dirt road on the left, usually well signed. Follow the dirt road around left to the top of a knoll and park. There is rough camping in the area, but no shade. There is a BLM trail register.

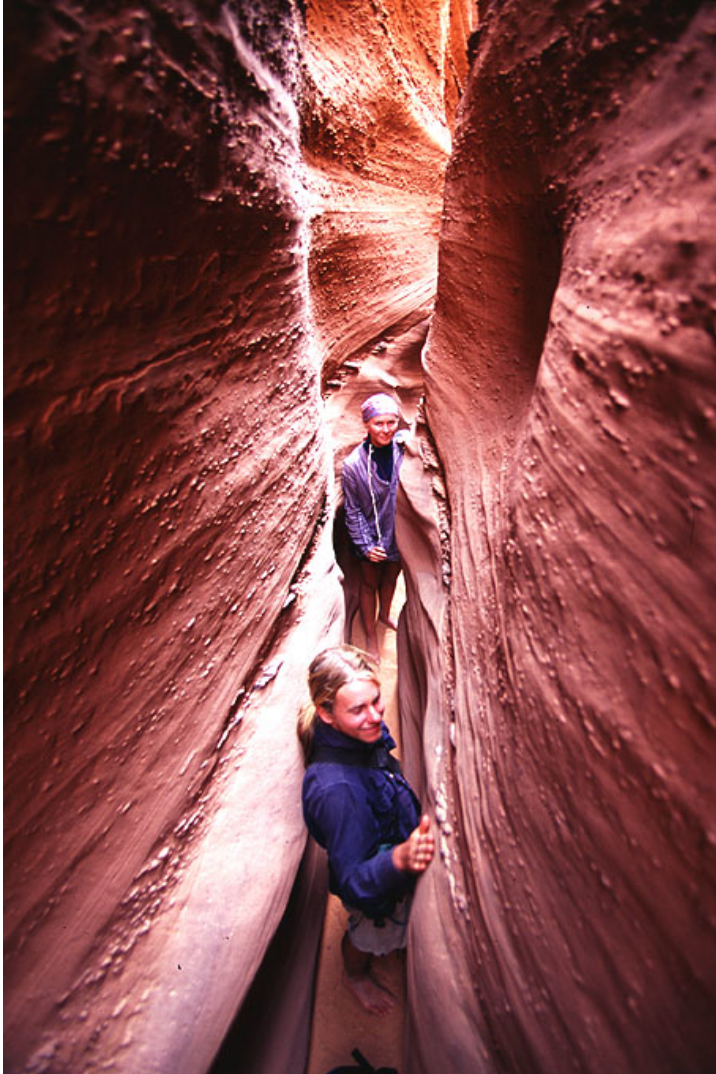
The Trail leads down a ridge, then left toward a dune and down to the bottom of the wash. Straight ahead is Peek-

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A-Boo with its lovely double arch at the entrance.

Main Fork Narrows: But first, head left, upcanyon to a nice slot in the main wash. Skip up the slot as far as mud and footwear allow. There is often a pygmy rattlesnake that lives in the slot - please give him/her a reasonable berth.

Peek A Boo is a little downcanyon from where the trail comes in. A pool at the bottom can often be surmounted by a little dicey climbing. Clamber up Peek A Boo - great fun.



Spooky is 5-10 minutes downcanyon from Peek A Boo, on the left, starting in the back of a small cove. It is tall and dark - easy to imagine bats living up there. Walk in a ways, turn sideways, shuffle as far as your physique and claustrophobia allow. It is not too hard to worm all all the way through, to where it opens into a broad wash. Return along the right rim and drop back to the main wash down a large dune (easily visible next to the entrance).

Brimstone: Is 40 minutes further downcanyon. Head down the main wash to where it closes into yet another narrows, offering relief from the sun. Clamber down a short dryfall in this narrows section. After exiting the narrows, a large wash comes in on the left. Follow this past interesting walls and some nice dunes. 15 minutes of tramping leads to the tallest and deepest slot of the three. Bigger, deeper, longer, cooler, and really fun. Enjoy.

Return the way you came.

