



Sportclimbs in the San Rafael Swell - Utah - USA

The whole San Rafael Swell is a remote and beautiful place. Take your time and explore the desert and enjoy the pictographs and petroglyphs. There is much more to see and to do than climbing.

The San Rafael Swell offers hundreds of Trad Climbs but only a few Sport Climbs exist. The Buckhorn Wash Road Sportclimbing Crag is a unique place with 12 amazing routes. On tiny little holds, over/into big holes with round edges above or overhangs. It's all there.

The experience gets even better together with a night camping out in the desert. There is a spot just below the crag including a big boulder. If that one is taken there are several other places along the dirt road.

Buckhorn Wash Pictographs

Type		Approach	10 min	Altitude	??
Style		Descent	chain on two bolts	Length	up to 100 feet 30m
Rock	Sandstone	Gear	200 ft (60m), 12 quick draws, (maybe clip stick)	Exposure	South West
Grade	US 5.10a - 5.12a	Protection		Commitment	

When to go

There is not much shade, only early in the morning. Summer might therefore be too hot. Fall and Spring are the best time at the South West facing wall. Winter might be good as well but the road conditions might not allow easy access.

Restriction, Access, Ethics and Family Issues

No restrictions or access problems. It doesn't rain much in the area. If so please don't climb on wet sandstone. First of all can you damage the rock and even worse, it is dangerous. Bolts might not hold a fall. Use common sense and don't leave anything behind. No easy climbs for your kids but they can play around at the parking/camping area. Dogs are allowed.

Hazards and Emergencies

Rattle Snakes and Tarantulas are common in the area. Check for road condition, especially after rain. If it rains be careful about flesh floods. Emergency call 911. Emery Medical Center, Castledale: 435-381-2305, Green River Medical Center: 435-564-3434 or Castleview Hospital, Price: 435-637-4800

Camping

Can't get any better. Free camping along the dirt road. Please use existing sites and if you make a fire please take the ash with you. There is also an official campground at the San Rafael Bridge.

Guidebooks

None for the Sport Climbs but there are several books for the trad climbing in the area

Other Information

There are three information center around the San Rafael Swell. The Museum of the San Rafael in Castle Dale, the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River and the CEU Prehistoric Museum in Price. Furthermore are info boards in the area with free maps and brochures.

Getting there

From Interstate 70 take exit 129. Take the Cottenwood Wash Road towards the San Rafael River (North). Once at the river (19.1 Miles) the road turns into Buckhorn Wash Road. Keep on going North. After a while you will pass the Buckhorn Wash pictograph panel (22.7 Miles, well worth a stop). Keep on following the road North. After a while you will see a parking area and restrooms to your right. From there it will take another few minutes until you see a big square boulder on your right. There are also signs of fires there. This is the parking and maybe your camping spot.

Buckhorn Wash Road Sportclimbs

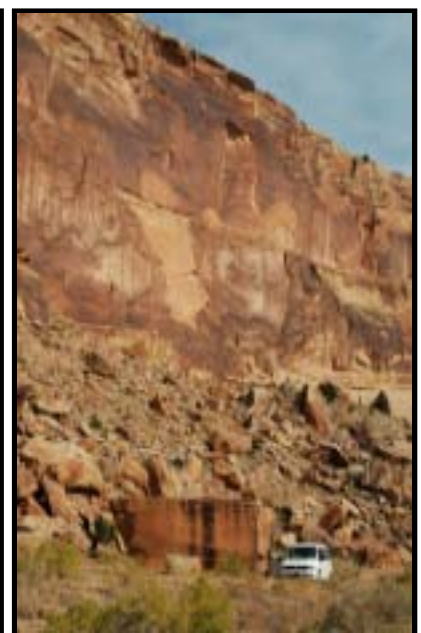
There is only on crag in the area with bolted routes. Just follow the trail up the hill behind the big square boulder. Once on that trail you will reach climb l first. .



- a Unknown, hard
- b Unknown, hard
- c Unknown, moderate
- d Unknown, moderate
- e Unknown, moderate
- f Unknown, moderate
- g Unknown, moderate
- h Unknown, moderate
- i Unknown, moderate
- j Unknown, moderate
- k Unknown, moderate
- l Unknown, moderate



On the way from Interstate 70 to the San Rafael River



The square boulder at the parking

Services around the San Rafael Swell:

- **Grocery:**
No shops in the area. Stuck up in the towns around the San Rafael Swell (Green River, Castle Dale or Price)
- **Water/Showers:**
Water and showers available at the State Park in Green River
- **Restaurant:**
Nothing in the area. Fast Food and some Restaurants at Green River and in other towns around the Swell
- **Internet Access:**
Public Libraries at Green River or other towns around the Swell

Other activities and attractions

- **Mountain Biking** is possible but only on the dirt roads in the area. Hiking trails are not good enough.
- **Jogging** is nice there as well but also only along the dirt road.
- **Hiking/Back Country** is a unique experience. Check out at the visitor center for more information.
- **Goblin State Park** about 1.5 hours South is a unique place to explore
- **Little Wild Horse Canyon** a very narrow canyon to walk through close by the Goblin State Park
- **Moab and the Arches National Park** about 1 hour to the East
- Check out www.rockandmusic.com for more information

Climbing areas close by you will find on www.rockandmusic.com

- **Maple Canyon** about 3 hours North West

Other climbing areas close by

- **Moab Area** offers several 100 trad climbs and some sport climbs

Information on the Internet:

Castle County Regional Info and CEU Prehistoric Museum: <http://museum.ceu.edu>
 Castle County Travel Region: www.castlecounty.com
 Green River Visitor Center: www.johnwesleypowell.com
 Museum of San Rafael: www.museumsanrafael.org

RaM Experience Board

Always check out the RaM Experience Board before you head out to a climbing area. There might be an important message. Should you encounter anything special could we kindly ask you to add your experience/comment to the RaM Experience Board. A big thanks from all the other climbers.



Goblin State Park



Little Wild Horse Canyon