

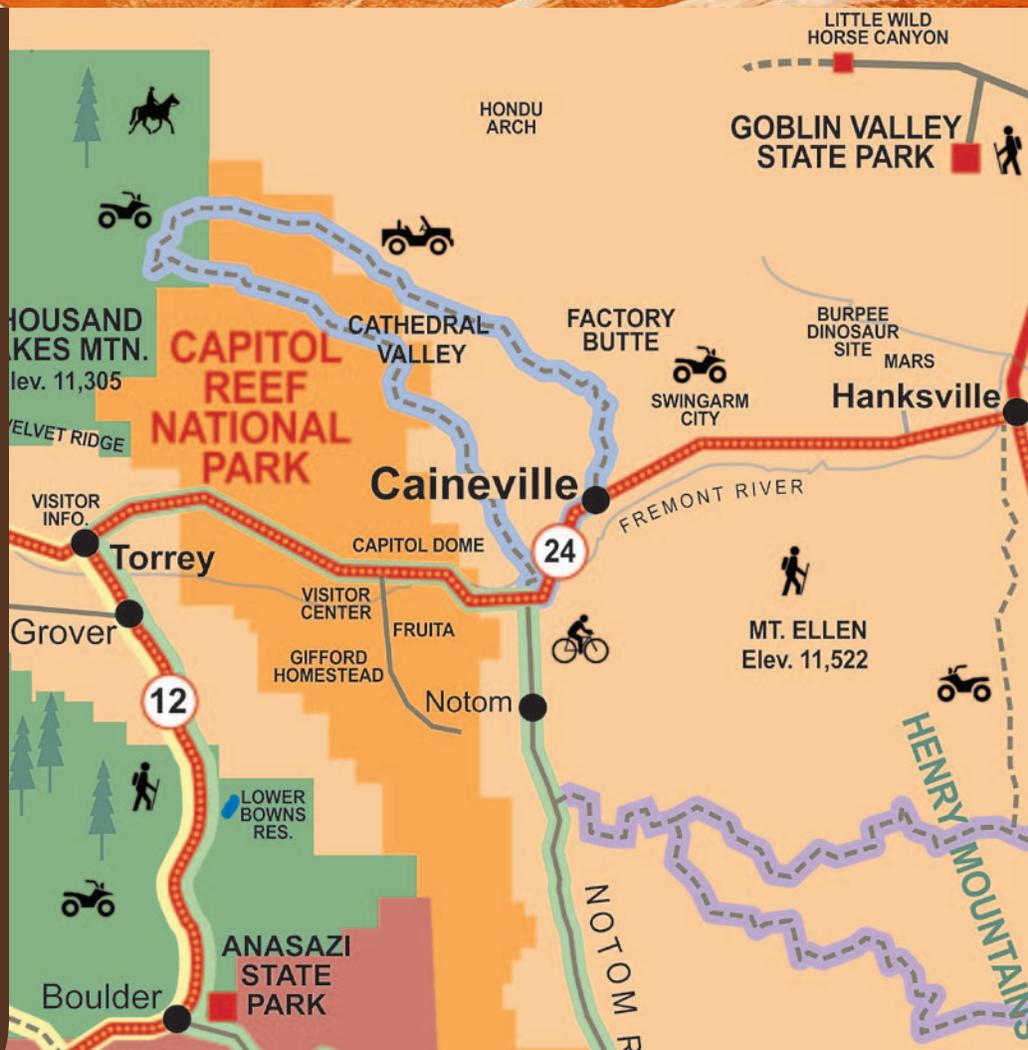


## INSIDER'S GUIDE TO

## CAINEVILLE, UTAH

Caineville, Utah is an unincorporated community, located near many of the wonders of the Capitol Reef area. This small community sits in a central location to the National Park as well as the Henry Mountains, Factory Butte area, OHV/ATV terrain sites and many other outdoor adventures. The Caineville location is most ideal for Wayne County visitors looking for OHV and ATV adventures, found next to some of the best-known open terrain for these types of vehicles. Warm, comfortable lodging found within the community makes Caineville an ideal location for exploring local attractions.

To reach Caineville, head east on Scenic Byway 24. To reach the town from this direction drivers must pass through Capitol Reef National Park.



### Swingarm City

Not actually a “city,” Swingarm City is located just east of Caineville and is really a wide surface of bentonite clay that has been designated for OHV and ATV vehicles only. In recent years it has become a haven for thrill-seeking riders of all levels as the terrain-riding difficulty ranges from easy to extreme. This area has been used in making many motocross and ATV videos and is famous for its stunning views set behind smooth terrain that is free of plants and vegetation. Click [here](#) for information on how to reach the best trails and points of interest.



### Factory Butte

A landmark of the area, Factory Butte rests next to Swingarm City and is also an area often used for OHV and ATV recreation. Outside of OHV and ATV recreation, visitors can travel closer to the flat-top hills of orange and brown sandstone for a wider area of travel and more diverse scenery. The appeal of this area is the colorful erosion and vast, moon-like terrain. The easiest way to access this area is via the unpaved Factory Bench Road (marked on Google Maps as Coal Mine Road) which is found about 7 miles East on HWY 24 from Caineville. This road is well-maintained by the BLM but is best used when dry. Close to ten miles down this road you will find free, designated camping spots (no water spigots or toilets available) near a coal pit at the end of the smooth section of the road. Beyond this point you will find a colorful, eroded area with small arches and fins to explore, as well as a few deepening ravines just east of the road.



### **Notom Road**

Found southwest of Caineville on HWY 24, Notom Road, also known as Notom-Bullfrog Road, is a wellknown scenic byway that is paved for the first 11 miles of breathtaking scenery. The drive (that eventually turns to dirt road) leads past many great hiking and biking trails, including access to many of Capitol Reef’s backcountry trails such as Lower Muley Twist and Halls Creek Narrows. Because the majority of the trails and road are dirt, visitors are advised to check on road conditions with the park visitor’s center before setting out.



### **Mt. Ellen**

The Henry Mountains sit just southeast of Caineville. Their highest point, Mount Ellen, reaches well over 11,500 feet. Mount Ellen itself is known as an “ultra prominent peak,” meaning that it stands out considerably from the surrounding mountains and has been described as one of Utah’s best views. At its peak, set well above the tree-line, the breathtaking spectacle includes views of the Thousand Lake Mountain, Boulder Mountain, The La Sal and Abajo Mountains, the Circle Cliffs and the Waterpocket Fold. To reach this trail take Notom Road south from Highway 24. Drive south about 8 miles to the Sandy Ranch Road. This road will go east into the Henry Mountains. Follow signs to Bull Creek Pass (the road is an easy-to-navigate dirt road for much of the distance) and park at the Bull Creek Pass Parking Lot.



## Overview of Closest Attractions to Caineville:

| Name                 | Distance from Caineville  | Time Spent  | Level of Difficulty/Age                            |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Swingarm City</b> | 7-10 miles east of Caineville<br>(See link in description for directions)                 | Varies. Half-day to multiple days for riders.                           | Terrain available for beginning riders to experts. |
| <b>Factory Butte</b> | 7 miles east of Caineville on HWY 24 to turnoff<br>(See description above for directions) | Half day for hikers/explorers.<br>Half day to multiple days for riders. | All ages.  |
| <b>Notom Road</b>    | 10 miles southwest of Caineville on HWY 24 to turnoff                                     | 1-2 hrs. for scenic drive.<br>Half day for hikers.                      | All ages. Dirt road may be new to some drivers.    |
| <b>Mount Ellen</b>   | 1.5 hr drive via HWY 24 and 95  | 6-7 hours including drive and hike.                                     | Hike is listed as "moderate" difficulty.           |

**\*Here are three recommended hikes for the area. See website for more details and other hikes.**

| Name of Trailhead            | Distance  | Difficulty Level |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| <b>North Caineville Mesa</b> | 1.2 miles | Hard             |
| <b>South Caineville Mesa</b> | 2.8 miles | Hard             |
| <b>Mt. Ellen</b>             | 5 miles   | Moderate/Hard    |

## Other Don't-Miss Attractions in the Nearby Area:

| Name of Trailhead                        | Distance from Caineville | Time Spent                | Level of Difficulty/Age                                   |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Capitol Reef National Park</b>        | 20-30 min. drive         | Half day to multiple days | All ages. Trails and areas with all levels of difficulty. |
| <b>Goblin Valley State pARK</b>          | 1 hr. 10 min. drive      | Half day                  | All ages.   |
| <b>Fishing, Hiking, Hunting, Camping</b> | Varies.                  | Half-day to Multiple days | All ages  |

### **A Brief History of the Area**

According to one legend, the Mormon Church sent Brigham Ney and Elijah Cutler Behunin to settle the untamed area; Ney left after one night but Behunin and his nine family members stayed and built the first cabin in the area. Other sources say a young Walter Hanks led the way on foot, followed by Behunin, William Stringham and Yergen Jergensen who together accomplished the difficult task of taking a wagon through the rugged Capitol Reef gorge.

By the spring of 1883, several families had joined the Behunins, and Caineville continued to grow into an agricultural community. During the winter of 1892-'93 a diphtheria outbreak struck the community, claiming many lives including several children. Over the years the town was also impacted by several floods. After a particularly devastating flood in 1909 many farmers and ranchers abandoned the town. Several original structures remain in Caineville today, including the school-church building, the cemetery, and Behunin's red sandstone cabin.

