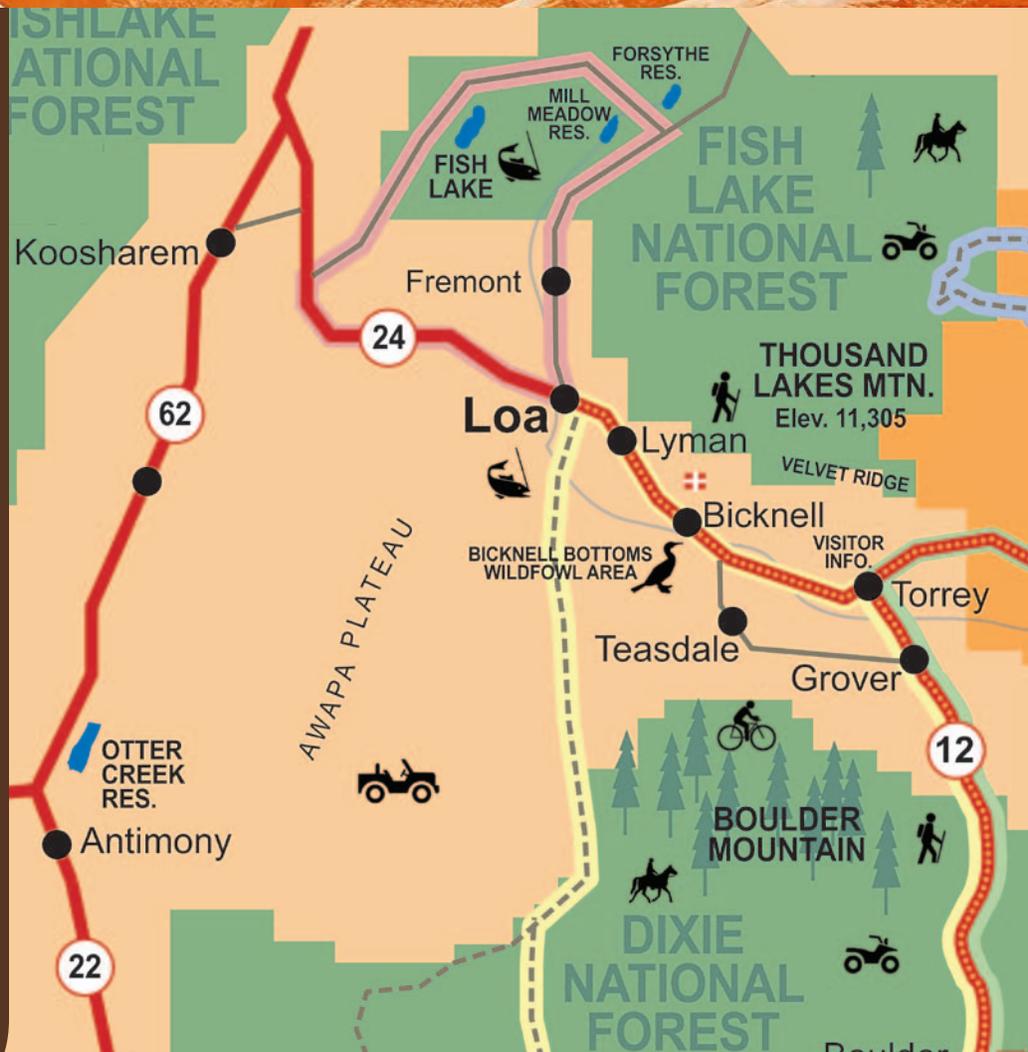




INSIDER'S GUIDE TO LOA, UTAH

Loa is the county seat of Wayne County and, as such, is home to the banking, shopping and education centers of the area. The high-elevation of the area leaves only a short drive to fishing, ATV/OHV, horseback riding, hiking, hunting, and camping while still within an hours drive of Capitol Reef National Park.

Loa is found at the junction of Scenic Byway 24 and SR 72. Loa marks the western beginning of Byway 24 and is an integral part of Fishlake Scenic Loop.



Bicknell Bottoms/Wildfowl Area

A bird watcher's paradise, Bicknell Bottoms is a 670 acre wetland and farmland area located along the Fremont River. The peaceful area is an attractive place to spot waterfowl and birds of all kinds. See here for more information and directions.



Fishlake Scenic Byway

This stunning, paved drive allows visitors to view mountains and meadows from the windows of their car, or as they stop and explore the beautiful, mountainous area along the drive that includes everything from sagebrush to high mountain aspen. Wildlife sightings are common along the way as deer, squirrels, moose and elk have all are common in the area. The scenic loop can be accessed by traveling west on HWY 24, and then heading north on HWY 25 toward Fish Lake.



National Scenic Byway 12

This famously beautiful drive is 124 miles of red rock, wildlife, and some of the best mountain scenery Utah has to offer. Visitors can choose to travel any length of the drive, stopping at any safe point to explore the trails and views along the way. It is recommended to calculate time for your journey based on a 40 mph. average speed. Leaving from Loa you may also take a backway (dirt road) heading south towards Posey Lake and follow a large loop toward the town of Escalante to connect to Scenic Byway 12.



Scenic Byway 24

Hwy 24, which leads visitors to most of the towns in the area as well as through Capitol Reef National Park, is listed as a scenic byway. The beautiful drive takes travelers from the high mountains down to red rocks and desert of the lower attractions on the other side of the park. This may be a great drive for first-time visitors looking to explore all the area has to offer.

Thousand Lake Mountain

The areas on and around Thousand Lake Mountain are used for farming, camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing. The mountain is situated to the east of Loa. Surprisingly, Thousand Lake Mountain is boulder-filled terrain, while Boulder Mountain (to the south) is covered in lakes. While there are several stories to explain these mismatched names, most common is that a cartographer recorded the names incorrectly on early maps of the area. Today, you can explore this beautiful, boulder-filled area, no permits necessary.



Overview of Closest Attractions to Loa:

Name	Distance from Loa	Time Spent	Level of Difficulty/Age
National Scenic Byway 12	Loop begins in Loa	Varies (see Above description)	All ages (some trails along drive may be listed as “moderate/hard”)
Bicknell Bottoms/ Wildfowl Area	15 min. drive	Varies	All ages
Fishlake Scenic Byway	Loop begins in Loa	45 minute drive	All ages
Scenic Byway 24	From Loa to Hanksville	1-2 hrs	All ages
Fishing, Hiking, Hunting at Thousand Lakes Mountain, Mill Meadows Reservoir, Johnson reservoir	Varies. Many areas within 10-15 min.	Multiple days	All ages

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

Name of Trailhead	Distance	Difficulty Level
Sunglow Trail	0.65 miles	Easy/Moderate

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

Name of Trailhead	Distance from Loa	Time Spent	Level of Difficulty/Age
Capitol Reef National Park	35 min. drive	Half day to multiple days	All ages. Trails and areas with all levels of difficulty.
Goblin Valley State Park	1 hr. 10 min. drive	Half day	All ages

A Brief History of the Area

First settled by Mormon pioneers in 1876, Loa—meaning high, large and powerful in Hawaiian—was named by Franklin Young who had served as a Mormon missionary in Hawaii. The name seemed fitting as Loa, at 7,045 feet, has one of the highest elevations of any county seat in Utah. The town was incorporated in 1919 and today has a population of 514. Loa's two parks are named after prominent locals. Harold Brown Park is named for a resident who died in World War I. Turner Park was named for the family who donated the park acreage to the town of Loa. Town attractions include the historic Wayne Stake tithing office, built in 1897, a museum owned and preserved by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. The Tabernacle, located just south of Turner Park, was dedicated in 1909.

