



## INSIDER'S GUIDE TO

## TORREY, UTAH

**Torrey** is eight miles from Capitol Reef National Park's west entrance, making it a great home-base for travelers looking to explore the park. Located at an elevation of 6,800 feet, Torrey offers tourists pleasant summer weather, proximity to canyons, trails and parks, and wholesome small-town fun. With restaurants, a bookstore and café, two art galleries, a general store, gift shops, RV campground and lodging options, Torrey is a convenient gateway town to exploring Capitol Reef Country. The town offers great access to the red sandstone canyons and aspen forests of Thousand Lake Mountain, and hiking and fishing at Boulder Mountain, located just minutes away. Torrey is also an excellent access point for Utah's Scenic Byway 12.

To reach Torrey, head east on Scenic Byway 24 towards Capitol Reef National Park.



### **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.



### **Velvet Ridge**

This 14-mile trail, used mostly for mountain biking, takes riders along the edge of Torrey Breaks through views of canyons, cliffs, ledges and mesas as it wraps around Thousand Lake Mountain. The short trail ride goes along the Fremont River and leads through the Red Gate and forests of alpine timber. To reach the trail, head towards the town of Torrey. Just before entering the town, turn left at Sand Creek Road. After a mile you will come to an unpaved parking area. Look for the Great Western Trail Information Board for info on the trailhead.



### **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.



## Overview of Closest Attractions to Torrey:

Name	Distance from Torrey	Time Spent	Level of Difficulty/Age
<b>Bicknell Bottoms/Wildfowl Area</b>	25 min. drive	Varies	All ages
<b>Capitol Reef National Park</b>	15 min. drive	Half day to multiple days	All ages. Trails and areas with all levels of difficulty.
<b>Velvet Ridge (Mountain Biking Trail)</b>	15 min. drive	1-2 hours	Trail is listed as "good for all levels"
<b>National Scenic Byway 12</b>	Hwy turnoff is just east of Torrey	6-7 hours for entire loop. Time may vary based on route.	All ages

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

Name of Trailhead	Distance	Difficulty Level
<b>Cooks Mesa</b>	2.1 Miles	Easy
<b>Chimney Rock</b>	3.5 miles	Difficult
<b>Cassidy Arch Trail</b>	3.5 miles	Difficult

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

Name of Trailhead	Distance from Torrey	Time Spent	Level of Difficulty/Age
<b>Goblin Valley State Park</b>	2 hour drive	Half day	All ages
<b>Fishing, Hiking, Hunting at Thousand Lakes Mountain, Mill Meadows Reservoir, Johnson reservoir, Boulder Mountain</b>	Varies. Many areas within 10-15 min.	Multiple days	All ages



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

Thanks in part to the efforts of the Entrada Institute, a non-profit organization that promotes and preserves the natural, historical and cultural heritage in the region, Torrey has become known as “the biggest little city Wayne County.” This small town, population 171, even has three denominations of churches. Torrey has always attracted famous visitors, including Major John Wesley Powell, Butch Cassidy, Zane Grey and Maynard Dixon. Originally settled by Mormon pioneers in the 1880s and called Youngstown, the town was renamed when it got a post office, in honor of Wyoming legislator and Rough Rider Colonel Jay L. Torrey. Today visitors to Torrey can experience pioneer history up close by staying overnight in the renovated 1914 historic brick schoolhouse.

