


# TOM'S UTAH CANYONEERING GUIDE

## Archive

### Knotted Rope Canyon, Hidden Splendor Overlook San Rafael Swell, Southern Reef

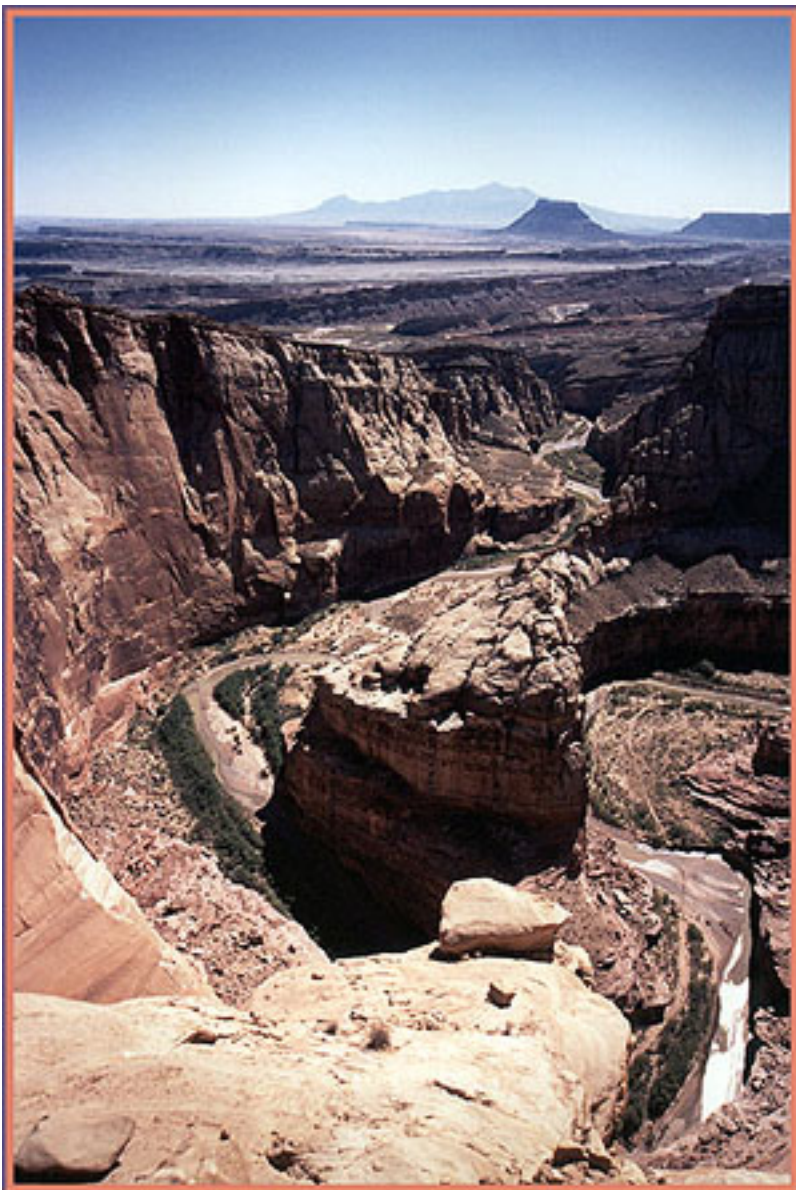
<b>Rating:</b>	II Class 3 
<b>Best Season:</b>	Spring or fall. The return hike is in full sun, so high summer is very HOT.
<b>Time:</b>	3 to 5 hours.
<b>Access:</b>	Route starts and ends at the Quadary Canyon branch road, 2.2 miles east of Hidden Splendor Mine.
<b>Permit:</b>	Not required.
<b>Equipment:</b>	No technical equipment needed.
<b>Map:</b>	USGS 7.5' Hunt Draw. The Overlook is the section of the escarpment just south of point 6245T.
<b>Cold Protection:</b>	None needed.
<b>Drinking Water:</b>	None, bring plenty.
<b>Flash Flood Risk:</b>	None.
<b>Skills Required:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> class climbing up a steep, loose chimney. Though a bit difficult, the exposure and danger is minimal.

A marvelous hike to incredible views of the Lower Swell. This easy, scenic hike ascends a mining road, then a steep gully to gain the top of the escarpment above Hidden Splendor Mine. Fantastic views are to be had. Return the way you came.

**Getting There:** Drive 2.2 miles northeast from the Air Strip at Hidden Splendor Mine. A small parking lot and mining road appear on the right side of the road. Cars park here, 4WDs can go another 3/4 mile. Drive or walk the road past one 4WD section, toward the obvious opening in the reef, Ramp Canyon. The road forks - turn right, past a dead car (park here) and toward a gunsight notch between the reef (on the left) and a very large Wingate tower on the right. The road disappears into the wash. Follow the wash. The canyon steepens and narrows, and an old mining track appears on the right. Follow this right and then left, easily up to a notch in the Wingate wall on the left, and into a delightful bowl at the top of Quandary Canyon.

**Climbing the Gully:** Follow the wash. It turns left and narrows. (This is Quandary Canyon). Don't follow it, instead, go straight ahead up a gully with a large rock blocking it near the top. Climb steeply up the gully, cut around the rock and into Wayne's Wriggle, a steep little chimney at the very top of the gully. Climb through this section (Class 4, but not exposed). (60 - 80 minutes to top of the Wriggle.)

Note the cairns marking the top of the chimney. Turn right and follow the crest of the ridge directly to the edge of the escarpment. Enjoy the views. Follow the rim of the escarpment to the left. (Route 1: return at your leisure).



Follow the edge of the escarpment to the left. Eventually, the edge runs into some Navajo sandstone towers. About 1/4 mile before the towers, cut down and to the left, into the Knotted Rope drainage and locate some mining ruins, 1/4 mile from the rim. There are several ruins of shacks, and an iron pipe heading off across the landscape. Apparently, the miners planned to pump water 1000 feet up the escarpment from the Muddy River! *IS THIS THE END?*