



Lost Spring Canyon



A view into Lost Spring Canyon

This 3,140-acre area was added to Arches National Park in 1998. It provides a unique backcountry experience. The Bureau of Land Management administered the area as a Wilderness Study Area since 1985, though Lost Spring Canyon has been grazed for years. When it was added to Arches, the Grand Canyon Trust generously purchased the grazing permit and donated it to the National Park Service. Livestock were removed and will be fenced out, enabling the National Park Service to begin vegetation monitoring, protection and restoration efforts. In addition, the removal of livestock has eliminated potential conflicts between recreational backcountry visitors and active livestock operations.

How to Get There

You can reach Lost Spring Canyon by hiking from within Arches, or by driving to the canyon's rim from Interstate 70 near Thompson. Both routes take about two hours travel time from the park entrance. You'll want a full day to explore this marvelous area.

By Hiking

Drive 17.7 miles (28.5 km) from the main park entrance to the Sand Dune/Broken Arch trailhead, where you can park your vehicle. Take the trail to Broken Arch (past the Sand Dune Arch cutoff). At about 0.2 mile, the trail crosses a buried natural gas pipeline. The pipeline is a mostly obvious, right-angle swath of contrasting vegetation. Follow the pipeline to your right (northeast), downhill, away from the main park road. About two miles from the road, you will cross the wash leading into Clover Canyon. Follow the pipeline for another 2/3 mile, and you will reach Salt Wash.

The recommended route is to walk down Salt Wash (south, or to your right) two miles to reach Lost Spring Canyon. If time and your energy level permit, you can make a loop hike of about six miles from here by heading down Salt Wash, up Lost Spring Canyon to the parking area described below, and following the pipeline back to the Sand Dune Arch trail.

By Driving

These directions take you via dirt roads to the northwest rim of Lost Spring Canyon. Normally, these roads are passable by high-clearance, two-wheel-drive vehicles. If the road is wet, four-wheel drive may be required or roads may be impassable. Vehicles are not permitted off designated roads within Arches National Park. Signs will indicate the park boundary and where you should park.

On I-70, drive 11.5 miles east of Crescent Junction and take Exit 193 ("Ranch Exit - No Services"). Turn south at the stop sign. If you are coming from the east, it will be a left turn; from the west, right. Immediately after leaving the exit ramp, there are two signs: "End State Maintenance" and "No Access to Moab. Local traffic Only." Reset your trip meter at this point.

The other side of this page contains a detailed map of the route from the highway to Lost Spring Canyon. Your odometer may vary slightly from these measured distances. This route begins as a very good, very straight dirt road, headed toward the La Sal Mountains.



Cavern Arch, Lost Spring Canyon

Minimize Your Impact

Once you reach the canyon, walk on slickrock or in the sandy wash, or use existing paths on the benches. This will help prevent damage to fragile soil crusts and plants.

Drive on designated roads only.

Please carry out your garbage.

There are many old mining roads and evidence of mining activity throughout this area. Do not attempt to enter or explore old mines, and leave everything as you found it.

Safety

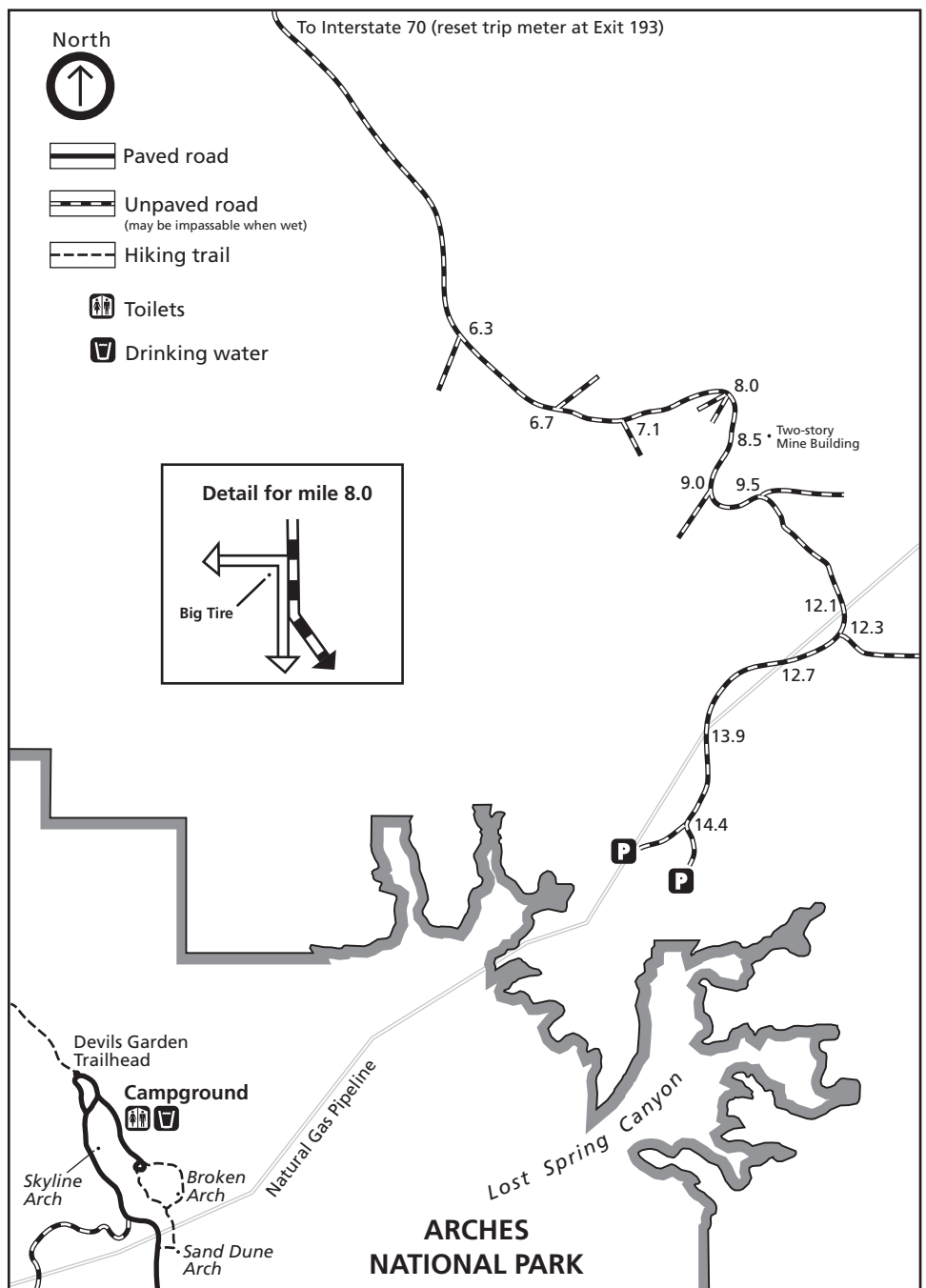
Go prepared to survive on your own.

If you're hiking, carry water, food, extra clothing, a topographic map (not just this one!) and compass, sunscreen, first aid kit, and wear good hiking boots and a hat. In your vehicle, consider taking extra food and water, a shovel and a flashlight.

There are no toilet facilities or drinking water in Lost Spring Canyon.

Carry at least one gallon (4 liters) of water per person per day.

You are responsible for your safety in this remote area. The nearest telephones are in Thompson, Utah (16 miles from the north rim of Lost Spring Canyon) or at the Arches Visitor Center.



Mile Markers, Locations and Point of Interest

- 0 Reset trip meter at I-70 exit ramp.
- 1.8 Corral on right.
- 5.9 First curve in road, to your right.
- 6.3 Road junction to right. Continue straight.
- 6.7 Road junction to left. Go straight.
- 6.9 Cattle guard and fence.
- 7.1 Road junction - stay to the left. Proceed downhill. Road gets slightly rougher now.
- 8.0 Three-way junction, big tire on right. Take left-angled road. See sketch of junction on map.
- 8.4 thru 8.7 A number of small wash crossings. If road is wet, these could get nasty!
- 8.5 Two-story wooden mine shaft on left. Open shaft to right of structure: use caution! Continue up rocky hill just beyond.
- 8.8 Old mine on left. Straight ahead, you can see Skyline Arch, in Devils Garden, on the horizon.
- 9.0 Road junction to right; continue straight. Next two miles contain many curves.
- 9.5 Road junction, nearly a "Y." Continue to right.
- 10.2 Small two-track road goes off to right. Look down the road and see Skyline Arch in Devils Garden on the horizon.
- 10.5 to 11.0 Curving, rough section of road.
- 12.1 Natural gas pipeline crossing.
- 12.3 "Y" junction; veer to right.
- 12.7 Natural gas pipeline crossing. On horizon, see Windows section of Arches to left (about 9 o'clock) with Balanced Rock on right side of rock outcrop.
- 13.9 Natural gas pipeline crossing; small compressor building on left.
- 14.4 Road forks.
Road to RIGHT is sandy and may require 4WD. Go 0.8 mile; park at or before the small pipeline building and walk about 0.5 mile to access into Salt Wash Canyon.
Road to LEFT continues 0.1 mile, where it blends into slickrock area. Park and walk downhill, bearing left, into Lost Spring Canyon.