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JANUARY 8, 2018

Hike! Bryce Canyon — The Figure 8 {Navajo Loop, Peek-a-Boo Loop, Queens Garden}

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The Navajo Loop

The Figure 8 begins at Sunset Point, which is one of the most beautiful viewpoints in Bryce Canyon. Take a moment to stand on the edge and snap some photos while you are here — the hoodoos stretch as far as the eye can see!



From Sunset Point, look for the Navajo Loop Trail sign and start hiking. You'll immediately begin your descent into the hoodoos....be sure to look for Thor's Hammer along the way.

After hiking just a few steps, you'll reach a junction. To head into the spectacular Wall Street section of the Navajo Loop, take a right. From here, you'll descend a crazy set of switchbacks dropping deep into the canyon.

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Standing in the narrow passage between hoodoos connects you to this place. It makes you feel small. It fills your soul with wonder and amazement. Everyone deserves to feel this connection with nature, and Bryce Canyon's Wall Street is a fabulous place to find it.

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After passing through Wall Street, the trail opens up to the canyon floor and takes on a completely different personality. Trees surround you, and instead of looking down on the hoodoos, you are now standing at the bottom looking up.

From Sunset Point to the end of the Navajo Loop portion of the hike is 0.7 miles. Continue along the canyon floor for a moment until you see the sign for Peek-a-Boo Loop.

If you choose to leave out the Peek-a-Boo Loop portion of this hike, follow the signs to the Queens Garden instead.

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When you reach the beginning of the Peek-a-Boo Loop, you'll have the option to go right or left. Because the Peek-a-Boo Loop is also a trail for horses, the park rangers ask that you hike the loop clockwise. In my opinion, hiking this way also puts the best views in front of you as you hike!

Take a left and start hiking up the hill. You'll be standing among the hoodoos in no time, with spectacular views everywhere you turn.

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In my opinion, the Peek-a-Boo Loop is the BEST way to see the hoodoos in Bryce Canyon. It gives you the chance to get up-close-and-personal as well as see expansive views.



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Keep your eyes peeled for your first glimpse of the Wall of Windows. It is a precursor to the fantastic views that lie ahead of you on the trail.

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Shortly after seeing the Wall of Windows from afar, you'll come to another trail junction. Stay on the main trail here. The side trail travels up to Bryce Point at the top of the rim and is a strenuous way out.

When you reach this junction, you have traveled 1.3 miles along the Peek-a-Boo Loop.

Continue hiking along the Peek-a-Boo Loop, twisting and turning along the path through some incredibly unique rock formations.

After rounding a big corner, you'll reach a small alcove with a restroom. This restroom is open in the summer only, but is a great place to stop — there's still a lot of ground to cover!

Just a short distance away is what most would say is the absolute BEST part of the Figure 8...the Wall of Windows!!

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Beyond the Wall of Windows is a fabulous display of hoodoos lining the path. This part of the trail deserves a pause.....just to take in the grandeur of the formations.

It's hard to fully appreciate the beauty of Bryce Canyon until you are actually standing at the base of these hoodoos.

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After passing through this magnificent section of the trail, make your way up some tight switchbacks. This part of the hike is exhausting, but luckily there's an exciting tunnel and a gorgeous view at the top!

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At this point, you've nearly complete the entire 3-mile Peek-a-Boo Loop trail. Enjoy the views for a moment before hiking back down to the canyon floor and exiting the Loop.

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As you come off the Peek-a-Boo trail, take a left and travel back along the connector trail toward the Navajo Loop. When you reach the end of the connector trail, follow the signs that point toward the Queens Garden.

The Queens Garden

The Queens Garden is the final trail you'll explore on your quest to complete Bryce Canyon's Figure 8!

Hike along the bottom of the canyon on the Queens Garden Trail. There aren't as many hoodoos along this stretch of the trail, but the landscape is incredibly varied.

After 0.8 miles, you'll have the chance to be welcomed into the Queens Garden by Queen Victoria herself {in hoodoo form of course}! Look for the sign for a short side trail that takes you to the base of the hoodoo known as Queen Victoria.

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Backtrack down the side trail you took to see the Queen, and continue hiking along the main trail.

This part of the hike has some amazing tunnels carved through the hoodoo formations! Take time to enjoy the view while gradually working your way 0.9 miles up to the top of the rim.

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The Queens Garden Trail is the easiest way to exit the canyon while hiking the Figure 8. For the most part the ascent is gradual, but toward the end there are a few more challenging switchbacks to climb.

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Take one last look through the hoodoos before you get to the top of the rim. What a glorious adventure you've just been on!!

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Sunrise Point is at the top of the Queens Garden Trail. Stop here for a moment to snap a few photos, review the route you just hiked, and take in the beauty of Bryce Canyon from above.



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The views from the hike from the red rocks are so beautiful, you'll want to take a picture of every rock you see as you hike back to your car!



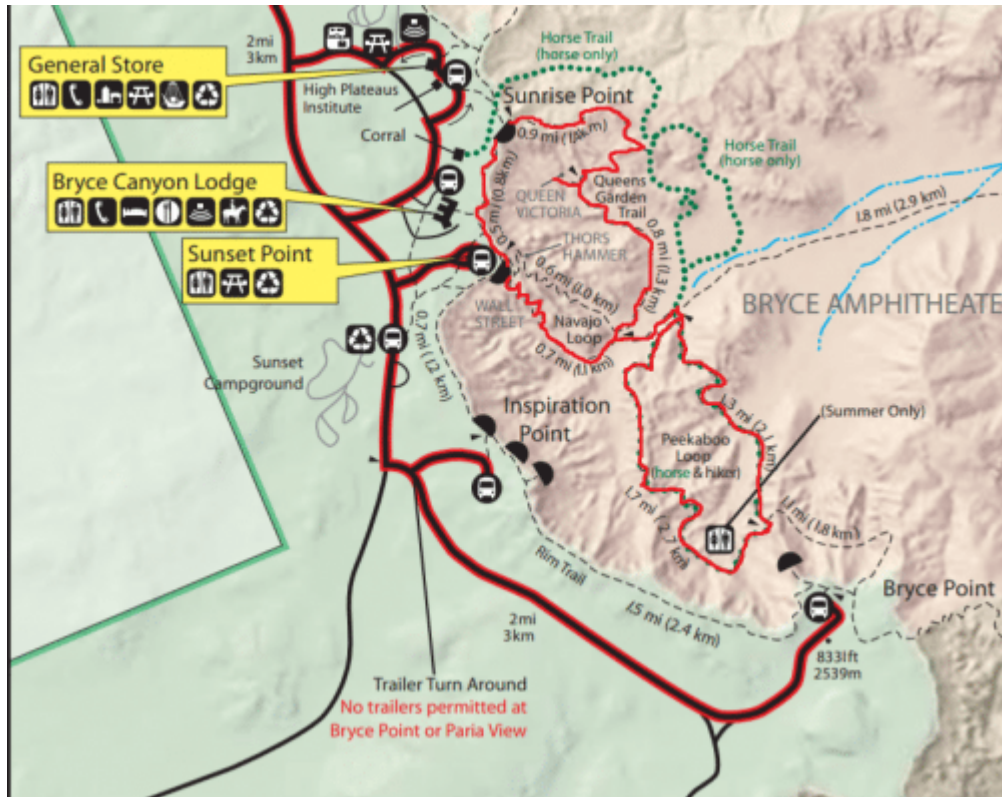
You did it!! Congratulate yourself for completing this challenging, but extremely rewarding hike.

The entire Figure 8 Trail is 6.4 miles roundtrip and is a strenuous up-and-down hike. You'll lose 550 feet of elevation while descending into the canyon via the Navajo

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The entire route is outlined below:



Getting Here

From the entrance of Bryce Canyon National Park, drive approximately 2 miles south to the turn-off for Sunset Point. Turn left here and park in the parking area. Walk toward Sunset Point and look for the trail sign for the Navajo Loop. This is where the Figure 8 Trail starts.

Have a fabulous time hiking Bryce Canyon's most beautiful trail!

Click NEXT to read about the 10 Things You Can't Miss on Your First Visit to Bryce Canyon!