

# **The Hole-in-the-Rock Trail San Juan Hill**

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## **Hole-in-the-Rock Trail San Jan Hill**

San Juan Hill was the last major barrier faced by the Mormon pioneers of the San Juan Mission as they blazed a wagon road between Escalante, Utah and the Four Corners area in 1879/1880.

This map is provided for those who wish to experience what was a difficult challenge for the pioneers and their teams and wagons.

Note that the pioneer route down Comb Wash and through the private property beyond San Juan Hill is only the general location of the pioneers' route. The route up San Juan Hill and to the northeast for about a third of a mile is very accurate due to the remaining physical evidence/road work.

Number 5 on the map is a pioneer road/cribbing, down from the bench, leading toward the mouth of Butler Wash. This was likely the pioneers' first replacement route for San Juan Hill. This route may have exited Butler Wash at number 7. It is known that the dugways/cribbing at number 7 were constructed or widened to get mining or oil drilling equipment to a location down on the San Juan River. Originally number 7 may have only been wide enough for a wagon but later widened for the mining equipment. By the time the mining equipment was taken down, the San Juan River course would have been far enough away from the cliffs, otherwise dugway number 5 would have had to be widened.

Number 7 can be accessed by taking the Bluff Airport Road. From the airport road take the first road to the west (0.25 miles from the highway turnoff). Follow this road to its end (about 1.4 miles). The road ends near the edge/access to number 7.






Best wishes on your adventure.  
Lamont Crabtree

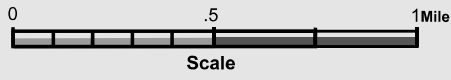
### **WARNINGS!!!**

**For your safety, please study and follow these guidelines.**

1. The road is only suitable for high ground clearance four-wheel drive vehicles or ATVs.
2. It is advisable to check on the road's latest condition before venturing out.
3. During dry seasons, the road is easily traversed. However, storms or spring runoff can result in high / swift water conditions in Comb Wash. The road crosses Comb Wash numerous times. When water is present, check the water depth and quicksand conditions before crossing the wash. It is common for the water to undercut the road as it enters or exits the wash. At times the road is impassable.
4. Always leave a detailed itinerary with a responsible party.
5. Hot!!! Temperatures during summer months can reach 100 degrees or higher. Take much more water than you think you will need!
6. To ensure that the trail remains open for everyone's future enjoyment, please stay on established trails, carry out all trash and obey no trespassing signs. Exercise extreme care when visiting the ruin; avoid climbing on the walls and take only pictures.

# San Juan Hill Map

-  Highway
-  Dirt Road
-  4-Wheel Drive
-  Foot Trail
-  Pioneer Route



- 1** Navajo Spring
- 2** San Juan Hill (approximately 4.3 Mi. from the highway)
- 3** Barton Trading Post
- 4** River House Ruin
- 5** Pioneer Dugway/Cribbing
- 6** Kachina Petroglyph
- 7** Dugways/Cribbing

Aerial image courtesy of USDA-FSA-APFO  
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Bluff is approximately 6 Miles  
East of Comb Ridge.

Comb Wash

Comb Ridge






Butler Wash

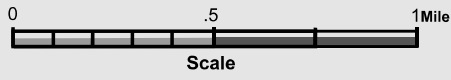
San Juan River

Private property

Private property

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