

## Ding & Dang Canyon and Goblin Valley

### Summary

A moderately strenuous slot canyon hike in central Utah's San Rafael Swell—equal to or better than Little Wild Horse/Bell Canyon loop, but much less crowded; close to the popular Goblin Valley State Park.

### Submitter Name & E-mail

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### Directions

Roughly 215 miles south of Bountiful, UT; take I-15 south to I-70, proceed east and exit onto state highway 24, drive south approximately 25 miles to the Goblin Valley Park turn-off (also the turn-off for Temple Mtn.). Follow the paved road 12 miles to Goblin Valley State Park; several slot canyon hikes, including Ding/Dang Canyon, are along Wild Horse Rd (county road 1013) which departs from the paved road just before the park. The trailhead is roughly 6.5 miles along the dirt road, 1.5 miles past the large Little Wild Horse/Bell Canyon parking lot.

### Cost

Entrance to Goblin Valley State Park is \$7 per vehicle; campsites within the park range from \$16 for individual campsites to \$75 for the group area (occupancy between 25 and 35); free campsites outside the park available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Availability

Best in spring or fall, rather hot in high summer; slot canyons are susceptible to flash flood danger, avoid when thunderstorms are visible or forecast.

### References

See excellent hike description at <http://canyoneeringusa.com/utah/swell/dingdang.htm>, see also USGS topo map "Little Wild Horse

Mesa"; Goblin Valley State Park campsite registrations at <http://stateparks.utah.gov/reservations>.

### Difficulty

Moderate canyoneering, easy otherwise.

### Key Points to Consider

- Several dirt roads lead off the paved road leading to the park, some of these lead to informal campsites that fill up quickly as the day progresses.
- Even in late spring and early summer the slot canyon hikes can get hot once you're out in the open, be sure to bring lots of water. You may want to begin the hike very early in the morning.
- Goblin Valley State Park can be very fun in the evening, the park stays open until 10PM. The area in and among the hoodoo formations is especially good for games like kick the can or capture the flag.

