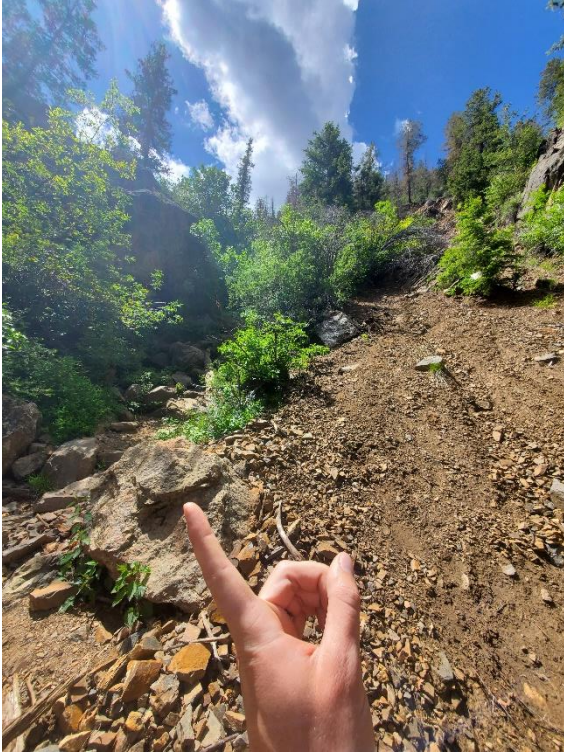
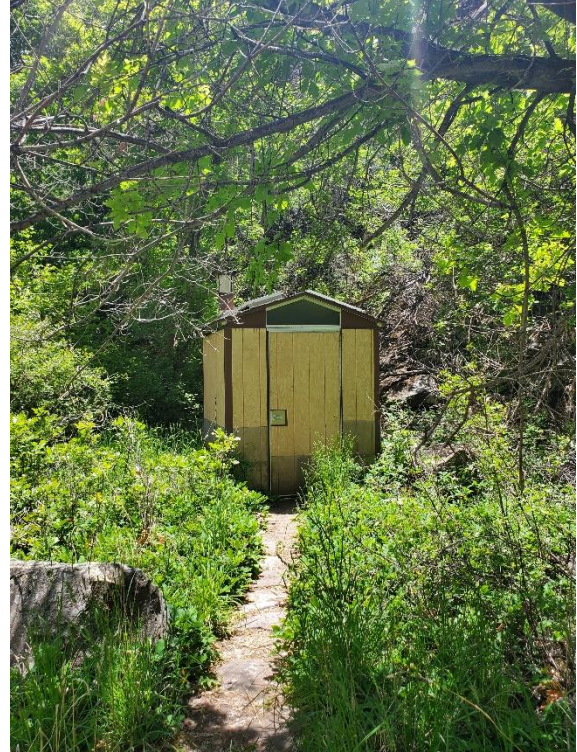


## Gunnison Route Hiking Guide

1. Start your hike at the South Rim Visitor Center on the Oak Flat Loop Trail.
2. A couple minutes into your hike you'll see a sign that says Oak Flat Loop, go right at this fork in the trail.
3. About a half mile into the Oak Flat Loop, a sign will read "Black Canyon of the Gunnison WILDERNESS". This is where you will turn off the Oak Flat Loop and start your way down to the bottom of the canyon. It is about 1 mile to the bottom from here but it drops 1500 feet.
4. About a third of the way down you will find an 80 ft long chain to help you down some steep rocks. Where the chain ends it continues to be very steep the rest of the way down, if you feel uncomfortable with the chain portion it is wise to turn around here because it does not get any easier.
  - o Note: Once you pass the chain there will be many spots where the trail appears to branch and it will be very confusing on your way back up. In order to not get lost, be sure to turn around at every possible branching point and take a photo of where you just came from. It is helpful to put your hand in the photo and point in the correct direction for even more clarity.
5. Once you get to the bottom of the trail enjoy the beautiful canyon by walking along the river in either direction. There is a bathroom available at the bottom so be sure to take a pit stop if needed. There are also 3 primitive camping spots at the bottom of the canyon if you choose to stay overnight (make sure the park rangers are aware of your plan).
6. Follow the same route you took down back to the top of the canyon. Plan for much more time spent going up due to the steepness and elevation gain.



Example of a photo taken for route finding.



Bathroom at the bottom of the Canyon. It is tucked away in the trees so it may take a second to find.



Bottom of the Gunnison route.