

backcountry images



Coyote Buttes

The **Coyote Buttes Wilderness**, located in the Paria Canyon Vermillion Cliffs Wilderness, is a diamond in the rough situated on the Colorado Plateau. Highly regarded as a prime location for adventuring in the Southwest United States, this wonderland of sandstone formations and deep slot canyons remains relatively unknown to the everyday tourist. Yet, among nature and landscape photographers it has become a cherished destination, one worth waiting up to a year to get one of the limited day passes into the BLM controlled Coyote Buttes North Wilderness area.



Towering red rock spires and dynamic swirls of Navajo sandstone are trademarks of the Colorado Plateau. Early morning and late afternoon sunlight bounces off these geologic formations creating unlimited photographic opportunities. Nowhere in the Southwest is the grandeur of nature's

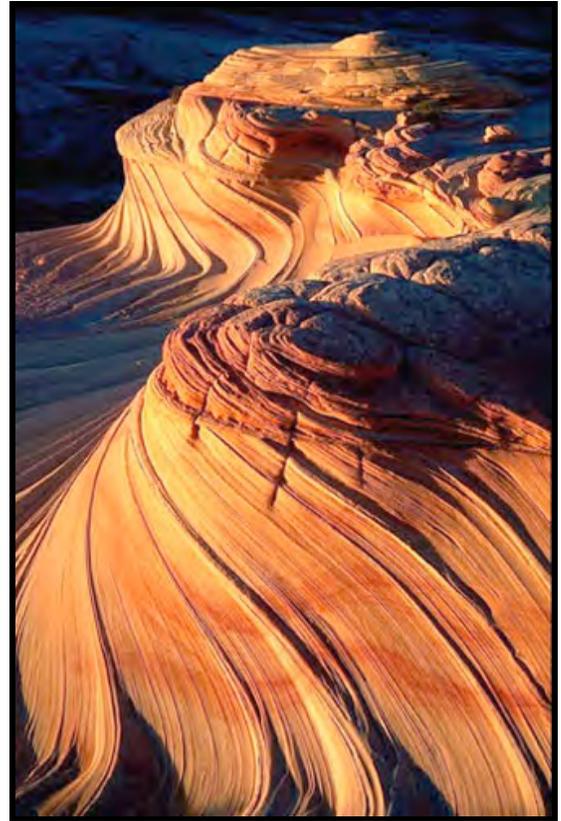


As a resource for quality landscape and nature photography, backcountryimages.com is proud to launch this series of Photo and Travel Guides to help fellow photographers discover new and classic locations. These guides will provide accurate and up to date information, and a sampling of my favorite images.

palette more evident than in the hidden alcoves and geodesic domes of Coyote Buttes. Rising well before dawn, and hiking back to the trailhead after dark is the only way to properly experience Coyote Buttes at its finest hours.



On crisp, clear mornings, the rising sun rips across the landscape, casting shadows behind the sandstone ridges, texturing the formations for the adventurous photographer. In those rare moments when clouds form in the early morning sky, light dances along the buttes, reflecting dynamic colors where none existed minutes earlier.



Hiking and Trailhead Information

Hiking to the heart of the Coyote Buttes area, commonly referred to as "The Wave", requires approximately a two hour hike. The easiest access to this area begins at the Wirepass Trailhead, located on House Rock Valley Road, west of Page, Arizona on U.S. Highway 89. An experienced hiking companion, a flashlight, plenty of water, and a topographic map are highly recommended.

Starting at the Wirepass Trailhead, follow the creek bed towards the entrance to the Buckskin Gulch (approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile). After about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, there is a trail off to the right of the creek that ascends to the top of the plateau. From here, follow the unmarked footpath across the dunes to the rock formation crossing another creek bed before climbing some sandstone benches. The Wave formation is approximately a mile south from here.

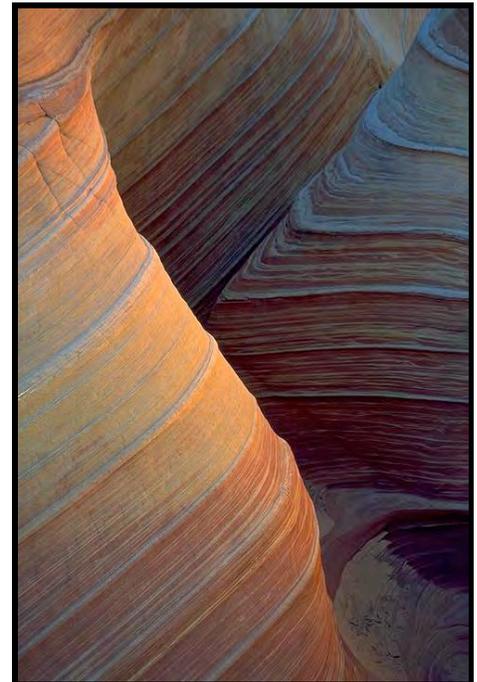
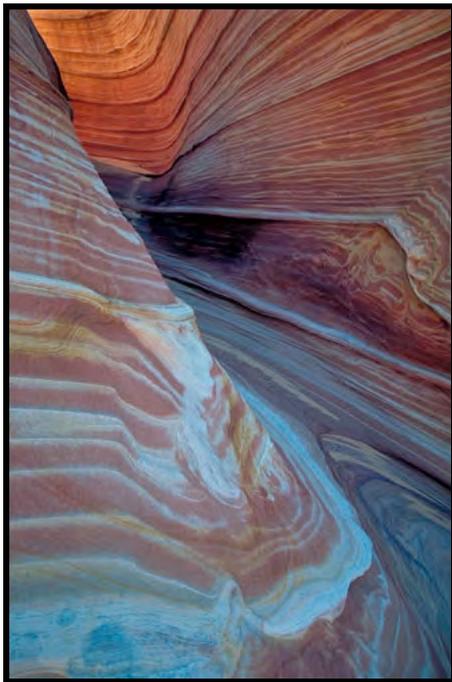


Keeping the crest of the buttes on your right, proceed south looking for the wave formation in sight about half way up the formation known as the Top Rock. There are helpful maps available at the BLM office on Highway 89. Protected by the Bureau of Land Management, exploring Coyote Buttes requires a permit and reservations, which are usually booked months in advance to guarantee access to this remote wilderness. Only ten visitors are allowed into Coyote Buttes each day to help protect the delicate sandstone formations, securing this pristine wilderness for generations to come. Here is the URL for Coyote Buttes permits: <https://www.blm.gov/az/arolrsmain.htm>. For more information, contact BLM, Arizona Strip Field Office at (435) 688 3230.



Photography Tips & Information

I prefer to use a wide angle lens (12-24mm) and medium telephoto (24-120mm) for most of my work in Coyote Buttes. Zoom lenses allow me to crop and compose rock forms and patterns in the field. I normally shoot both digital files and Fuji Velvia. I still like looking at my slides on my lightbox, and the dramatic colors that Velvia brings to my images.



For More Information Visit My Website at:
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