

The Best of Utah 2021

TO: UTAH TREKKERS
FR: COACH GUNN
RE: ANTELOPE CANYON

BEHIND THE SCENES: The Antelope Canyon situation has been very frustrating. I made reservations and paid over \$11,000 for tours for all three trips. In June 2020 we began our attempts to reschedule our reservations to the 2021 dates. We had one confused email response and then no responses from repeated attempts. Because Antelope Canyon is a slot canyon in a very tight space they had remained closed due to COVID restrictions until late July 2021. When I could finally reach someone by phone I found they had no reservations for our groups despite the repeated reminders. They have finally agreed to refund our money, which is not their usual policy. I am trusting this will come through soon.

PLAN B: We are still going to Horseshoe Bend while in Page, AZ and I have added the Rim View Trail. This 9.8 mile trail circles the Page area on the bluff and is loaded with dynamite views of Lake Powell, Glen Dam and Bridge, and Antelope Canyon area. It is also very convenient as it runs right by our hotel.

LOOKING AHEAD: The good news from this change is that I have made a contact with a tour company in Kanab, UT to set up a hike in what many consider the world's premier slot canyon called Buckskin Gulch via Wire Pass Trail. Because of the logistics of getting everyone to the trailhead we won't have the time to do it this year. But next year this will be a part of our Grand Canyon tour. It is a 5 mile round trip hike that requires 3 to 5 hours. My son Jake will explore this hike soon. The following is a description by Julie Trevelyan of the book *100 Classic Utah Hikes*:

“Considered by many to be the world's premier slot canyon, Buckskin Gulch is also it's longest. Deep, sculpted cliffs reach as much as 500' overhead, in some places leaving the bottom of the canyon unlit because the sunlight can't reach down there. Patterned whirls and whorls slice into the sandstone walls, luring the eye as you wander down this deep cut in the earth. Dark stains drip down the walls, desert varnish painting the dark red and burnt orange canyon with a natural brush. The canyon's tremendous presence and striking beauty are sure to awe you as you pass through this soaring natural chapel.”



This will be a real adventure to look forward to!