

General Information

Location Map



Trail Ethics

Cutting switchbacks causes erosion. Please stay to the designated trail.



Extreme Weather

Clear sunny days can quickly turn into afternoon thunderstorms. Carry extra warm clothes, and be prepared for snow or hail!



Water

Streams in the forest may look safe to drink, but usually it is not. Carry at least one quart of water per hiker.



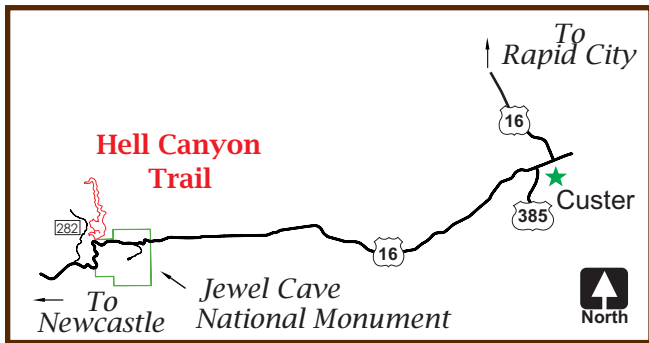
Fires

Open fires are prohibited throughout the forest at all times.



Motors and Machines

This trail is open to non-motorized travel only.



Expect and respect other users.

MORE INFORMATION

Forest Headquarters
Hell Canyon Ranger District
1019 North 5th Street
Custer, SD 57730
(605) 673-9200

www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills



Hell Canyon Trail

Trail Number 32



Black Hills National Forest



Enjoy the National Forest, but please **LEAVE NO TRACE and DON'T LITTER.**

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Hell Canyon Trail

Moderate

Elevation: 5,360 to 5,800 feet

Traihed Latitude: 43.73828 **Longitude:** -103.845381

Length: 5.3 mile loop; 0.3 mile to spur trail & overlook

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: From Custer take Highway 16 for approximately 13.5 miles west of Custer to the trailhead. From Jewel Cave National Monument entrance, continue west on U.S. Highway 16 for approximately 1 mile to the trailhead.

The Hell Canyon Trail is maintained for hikers, horseback riders, and bicycles. No motorized use is allowed.

The trail begins in the Hell Canyon drainage, crossing the creek multiple times, then winds past the foundations of a Civilian Conservation Corp camp.

Approximately two miles up the canyon, pay close attention to trail signage and arrows as the trail makes a sharp left turn and climbs up to a bench below the cliffs which provide outstanding views of Hell Canyon.

The trail gradually climbs through areas burned during the Jasper Fire in 2000, then levels out. A spur trail on the ridge leads to the east and ends at an overlook. The last 1/2 mile of the main trail descends at a steep grade, with one switchback, as it takes you back to the parking lot.

Allow 2-4 hours to travel the loop trail. Recommend traveling in a counter-clockwise direction around the trail loop to minimize encounters with other people traveling in the same direction.

