

Slots o' fun

by Jennaye Derge

Canyon country in southeastern Utah is as vast as it is deep and narrow. It's no wonder Butch Cassidy hid in the maze of crevices as an outlaw. Today, a growing number of adventurers are eager to explore every last nook and cranny of this amazing place using ropes, scrambling, swimming and any other means necessary. Canyoneering, as it's come to be known, is an epic adventure that should only be approached with the utmost respect and experience. And if you're not a canyoneering expert, the area also offers a multitude of less perilous hiking options that allow more leisurely explorers to take cameras and canines. They also offer a chance to heal bruised knees, elbows and egos from the previous day's series of narrows, where bodies were stemmed, pushed and squeezed into impossibly tiny passages.



Staring up into the abyss.



Nearing the mouth of the Leprechaun.



Nai Phillips safely stemming over a slot canyon at the exit of Leprechaun Canyon.



Cara Arpino peeking through a slot with some deep water.