



TOM'S UTAH CANYONEERING GUIDE

Archive

Upper Harris Wash—Zebra and Tunnel Slots • Canyons of the Escalante

Rating:	1A II ★★☆☆
Best Season:	Spring or Fall.
Time:	6 to 8 hours.
Access:	Route starts and ends on the Hole in the Rock Road.
USGS 7.5' Map:	Ten Mile Flat
Permit:	Not Required for day use. Free overnight permits required for overnight backpacking, available at VCs and trailheads.
Equipment:	Map and map reading skills. Wading shoes. A drybag for your camera.
Drinking Water:	None, bring plenty.
Flash Flood Risk:	Low.
Difficulties:	Getting yourself into the cold, cold water to actually get to the cool stuff.



Nice. It's not much of an adventure (though it is easy to get lost in this terrain). Rather than a day of thrills and spills, Upper Harris Wash is a mellow, fun day of traipsing around and through some nice canyons.

But it takes you to some nice places - Zebra and Tunnel Slots are really cool, well worth a couple hours of slogging across the soft sand to get to them. The hiking is exposed to the full force of the sun, so this is **a cool weather adventure** to be enjoyed in early spring, late fall or a nice day in the winter. You have been warned.

Approach: From Highway 12, drive down the Hole-In-The-Rock Road 7.76 miles and park where a fence crosses the road. This point is 1.06 miles north of the signed Harris Wash side road (which leads to the middle of Harris Wash). (UTM: **12S 460805mE 4165817mN**). This is just north of where Halfway Hollow crosses the road. Wander Northeast from the road until you are swept into the wash. Follow the wash about an hour (2.35 miles) to where it opens out and enters Harris Wash.

Photo: Cattleguard and canyoning partner, ready to head down Halfway Hollow to Upper Harris Wash.

To Zebra Slot: head upcanyon to where a large, wide non-descript wash comes in on the right. This can be mistaken for the main Harris Wash. Follow the wash (UTM: 12S 463120 mE 4167875 mN) to where it becomes a canyon, then narrows into a slot. Walk or wade up the slot, enjoying the beautiful cross bedding and nice colors. The top of the canyon is blocked by 2 large potholes that are rather difficult to climb out of. Return the way you came.

To Tunnel Slot: back at Halfway Hollow, head downcanyon to where a narrow canyon comes in on the left, at an angle. (UTM: 12S 464082 mE 4167405 mN) This does not look like much, but a quarter mile back or so, it turns into the very awesome Tunnel Slot. Wade in and have fun.



Photos: Early in the day, indirect light will produce the prettiest pictures in a shallow slot like Zebra. At right, a bit of cold wading is required to get through the Tunnel Slot. What could be more fun on a cold day!

Back to the Car: return to Halfway Hollow, then up HH to the road.

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