



THE WESLEY
BOUTIQUE HOTEL

The Wave lottery playbook

The Wave in Coyote Buttes North might be the hardest hike to get into in America. Only 64 people a day. Two lotteries, both on Recreation.gov. Here's how they actually work, and how to play them smart.

The Advanced Lottery

For planners. Runs four months ahead.

- Apply on Recreation.gov during the calendar month, four months before your trip. Results land on the 1st of the next month.
- 48 people (or 12 groups) per day come from this pool.
- You pick up to 3 preferred dates per application.

YOUR ODDS

Low single digits

In peak months. Winter dates run better. Apply anyway, it costs \$6.

The Daily Lottery

For people who are HERE. This is the one most winners use.

- **You must be physically in the area to enter.** The Recreation.gov app uses a geofence around the Page and Kanab region.
- Apply 2 days before your hike, between 6 AM and 6 PM. Results come that evening.
- 16 people (or 4 groups) per day. Winners attend a next-day safety briefing and pick up permits in Page or Kanab.

YOUR ODDS

Roughly 15 to 30%

Much better than advanced. Weekdays and winter run higher.

HOW TO ACTUALLY RAISE YOUR ODDS

- **Play both lotteries.** \$6 each. Advanced for the long shot, daily as the real plan.
- **Stay 2 or more nights in Page.** Each night in the area is another daily-lottery entry. This is the single biggest lever you control.
- **Keep your group small.** Permits go by people and groups. A pair fits where a party of six won't.
- **Aim midweek, or come in winter.** Fewer applicants, same canyon.

Lose the lottery? You still win.

The Wave sits in the middle of the most concentrated stretch of strange rock in the country. Losing the lottery just changes which strange rock you see.

NO PERMIT NEEDED

White Pocket

Swirled white-and-red domes that trade blows with the Wave for beauty. No lottery, no cap. The catch: deep-sand roads that demand real 4WD or a guided tour (they run daily from Kanab and Page). Book the tour, skip the stuck rental car.

NO LOTTERY, SMALL FEE

Buckskin Gulch

The longest slot canyon in North America, entered via Wire Pass from the same trailhead area as the Wave. Towering walls, filtered light, a petroglyph panel. Self-guided with a small day-use fee. Beginner-friendly as far as you choose to go.

EASIER PERMIT

South Coyote Buttes

The Wave's little sibling. Teepees, brain rock, and color for days. Permits are far easier to get, though the access roads also want 4WD or a guide.

FREE AND EASY

Toadstool Hoodoos

Mushroom-shaped rock spires 45 minutes from Page off US-89. A 1.5-mile round-trip walk, no permit, no fee, kid-friendly. The consolation prize that doesn't feel like one.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Wave hike itself is 6.4 miles round trip across open wilderness with no marked trail, no shade, and no water. Winners get route maps at the safety briefing. Summer heat out here is dangerous by 10 AM. Carry more water than feels reasonable (a gallon per person is the local rule) and start at first light.

WHY THIS GUIDE ARGUES FOR TWO NIGHTS

The daily lottery is geofenced. You cannot enter it from home, only from here. Every extra night in Page is another ticket in the drawing, and if you win, you'll want the early start anyway. The Wesley is the only boutique hotel in town, rebuilt top to bottom by the two of us who bought it. Book direct at thewesleyaz.com for our best rate and free cancellation up to 7 days out.