



TOM'S UTAH CANYONEERING GUIDE

Archive

Segers Window Canyon San Rafael Swell, Moroni Slopes, Southern Reef

AKA:	South Fork Segers Hole Canyon
Rating:	3B III (1 star)
Best Season:	Spring or fall.
Time:	8 to 10 hours.
Access:	Route starts and ends at Hidden Splendor.
Permit:	Not required.
Equipment:	2-165' ropes, extra slings.
Map:	USGS 7.5' Hunt Draw.
Cold Protection:	Summer wetsuits and dry bags.
Drinking Water:	None, bring plenty.
Flash Flood Risk:	Moderate; the canyon has a large headwater area.
Skills Required:	This is a long but not too technical canyon that requires decent natural anchor skills and some technical climbing. Keeper potholes are present, but are avoided via technical climbing far off the ground.

Pretty Nice Canyon, Neat Final Rappel. Segers Window Canyon is pretty nice, but neither very technical nor continuous. A couple impressive keeper potholes are avoided by moderate climbing around the sides. And then it has a really neat final rappel through an arch and into a keeper pothole.

The nomenclature on this canyon is a little muddled, and I've taken the liberty of applying a brand new name to it. In Steve Allen's guide, the canyon is the Return Canyon when doing Upper and Middle Squeeze. Mr. Kelsey calls it "South Fork Segers Hole Canyon" which I find quite confusing, as the South and North Forks never meet, and have radically different natures. Therefore, following Mr. Allen, I call The Squeeze "The Squeeze", and more originally, the return canyon "Segers Window Canyon", after the dramatic final rappel through an arch.

Starting from Hidden Splendor, the route starts by descending the Grand Gorge of the Muddy Creek to the front of the reef. A small trail is followed up the face of the Moroni Slope - a task that is easy but tends to be rather warm. From a point high on the slope, a steep trail is follows a chossy rib to steep slabs that descend to the canyon floor.

The canyon itself starts with a nice narrows section, popping through some nice potholes with little difficulty. Then it opens up into a wide, sandy wash. The rest of the canyon is generally wide at the bottom, with 5 or 6 interesting sudden obstacles, including a final 165' rappel through an arch into a giant pothole. A quick walk along the base of the Moroni Slopes takes one back to the Grand Gorge.



Muddy Creek. Near the end, The Squeeze comes in from the right, with the mouth blocked by tamarisks and roses. Continue past the Squeeze until fully out in front of the Reef and the Moroni Slopes. There are a few cottonwoods here, and a well established trail across the front of the Moroni Slopes.

Getting To the Start: OK, the pleasant part is over. From the first clump of cottonwoods on the southwest side of Muddy Creek, locate a small trail cutting diagonally left to right up the steep, nasty slope to the north. Follow this trail 100' up to the face of the Slope, then continue following the trail up and up and up, tending somewhat toward the left. Climb approximately 2 hours to the highest point attainable on this part of the slope, with Segers Window Canyon on the left and The Squeeze on the right. A ridge continues to the northwest, leading past a small, cruffy dome to a large, round slickrock dome.
UTM: 12S 503338mE 4265758mN

Get Down! Probably the hardest part of this gig, getting down requires a little dicey downclimbing (3rd or 4th class). From the high point, follow a social trail down through some cliffbands to the col between the point and the scruffy dome. Continue forward and down to the left, following a few small cairns down the first rib that heads toward the canyon floor. Steep slab climbing, though unlikely looking, leads around a corner to easier ground that works down fairly easily into the canyon. Some hunting is required to find the easiest route down, but nowhere is the climbing either difficult or exposed.

Approach (4WD): From the Hidden Splendor Airstrip drive south on a very rough road, in and out of washes, then down to the floodplain and past a cottonwood. Continue south to an old miner's shack ("Motel 6") and park a few feet further. This is the end of the road.
(UTM: 12S 0504279E 4267588N)

Approach (2WD): From the Hidden Splendor Airstrip **(UTM: 12S 0503526E 4268673N)** head east to Muddy Creek. Walk or drive down the switchbacks to the river, then walk down the river into the Gorge.

Getting to the Moroni Slopes: walk and wade down the Grand Gorge of



Down Canyon. Heading down canyon leads immediately to some nice, small potholes. Immediately after rain, these holes might require swimming, in addition to a little scrambling. After a couple hundred yards of potholing, the canyon broadens out into a wide, sandy wash between tall sandstone walls. Follow the canyon down.

The rest of the canyon is generally wide, sandy and not so interesting, but is punctuated by four or five dramatic obstacles. Admire the giant, keeper potholes. If you did not understand "keeper" before, you do now. Do not go into the keeper potholes, instead, (in general) climb ramps on the right to avoid them. Avoid the first one by climbing an obvious ramp up and right to the crest, then rappel low-angle off a bush 100' to a slot. The second big keeper pothole can be rappelled into, then the opposite lip ascended using a line of convenient holds (5.4?). An easy traverse into the gully to the left leads to some blocks that can be rappelled from.



used a solid rock thread-through here, which caused some consternation in the party.

Other obstacles were rappelled directly off of natural anchors.

The final rappel goes through a lovely arch (Segers Window), then 140' down into a giant pothole. Continue the rappel off the high anchor out of the pothole and 25' further to the bottom of the drop.

This is a good example of a canyon that has an abundance of natural anchors. Mr. Kelsey's request for a few bolts is misplaced. Sure, it takes a little more effort to do a canyon boltless, but isn't it more fun to leave but a few slings as your signature in the canyon?

The canyon continues past some more interesting rock layers, but offers no more obstacles. Follow it out toward Salt Wash, then cut left up an intimate chocolate canyon to cross a small divide and back to the cottonwoods from hence we came. Follow Muddy Creek back to your spacious room at the Motel 6.



Alternatively, avoid the second keeper by climbing the obvious ramp steeply up and right, then steeper (5.5?) through a bulge, then step left to a ledge with a bush. We

Our times:

- Motel 6 to Front of Moroni Slopes: 1 hr 15 mins
- Up Slope to High Point on Moroni Slopes: 2 hrs
- Downclimb to floor of Segers Window Canyon:

- 45 mins
- Segers Window Canyon: 3 hrs 45 mins
- And back to the car: 1 hr 15 mins for 9 hrs total.



