**General Information**

**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.

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**Location Map**

**Hell Canyon Trail**

**Trail Number 32**

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

www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills

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

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2021
The trail begins in the Hell Canyon drainage, crossing the creek multiple times, then winds past the foundations of a Civilian Conservation Corp camp.

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.

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.

**Hell Canyon Trail**  
**Moderate**

**Elevation:**  5,360 to 5,800 feet

**Trailhead 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.

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