

The frontier lives on in Badlands National Park's Sage Creek Wilderness Area. Bison and pronghorn roam freely on prairies riddled with labyrinthine washes and surrounded by rock pinnacles. And so will you on this three-day, 22-mile loop. From the backcountry trailhead (1) at the Conata Picnic Area, 12 miles south of Wall, head southwest through knee-high grass (watch for rattlers), skirting the base of the Badlands formations and the occasional pronghorn boneyard.

Descend into a steep wash pocked with mud puddles and bison prints. Follow several snaking bends northwest to a T-junction at mile 4.1 (5); turn left. At mile six, bear left along a dry creek-bed enters on the right (6); leave the wash .6 mile later (7). Then traverse the Sage Creek Basin, a 3.5-mile-wide grassland veined with gullies. Stop for lunch at a grass-lined pond (the route's lone water source) (8) 8.2 miles into the loop. In 3.4 miles, hike west into Tyree Basin; spend night two here (9).

Trip Planner

Permit Badlands National Park has no formal backcountry permit or reservation system.
Contact Badlands National Park, (605) 433-5361; nps.gov/badl/



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Vicinity Map

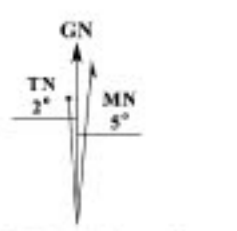


Source Map Information

Index of original USGS topographic map sheets. Source date, contour interval, and map symbology may vary by source map. Please refer to the index the published date of the original map.



ID	Date	Sheet Name (contour int)
1	1979	Quinn Table NE (20 FT)
2	1980	Wall (10 FT)
3	1991	Quinn Table SE (20 FT)
4	1978	Wall SW (20 FT)

Magnetic declination of 5 ft at center of map on
March 8, 2012

1:20000 Scale

Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Projection Zone 13
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)

1000 meter UTM / USNG / MGRS

Grid Zone Designation: 13T
100,000-m Squares: GJ