

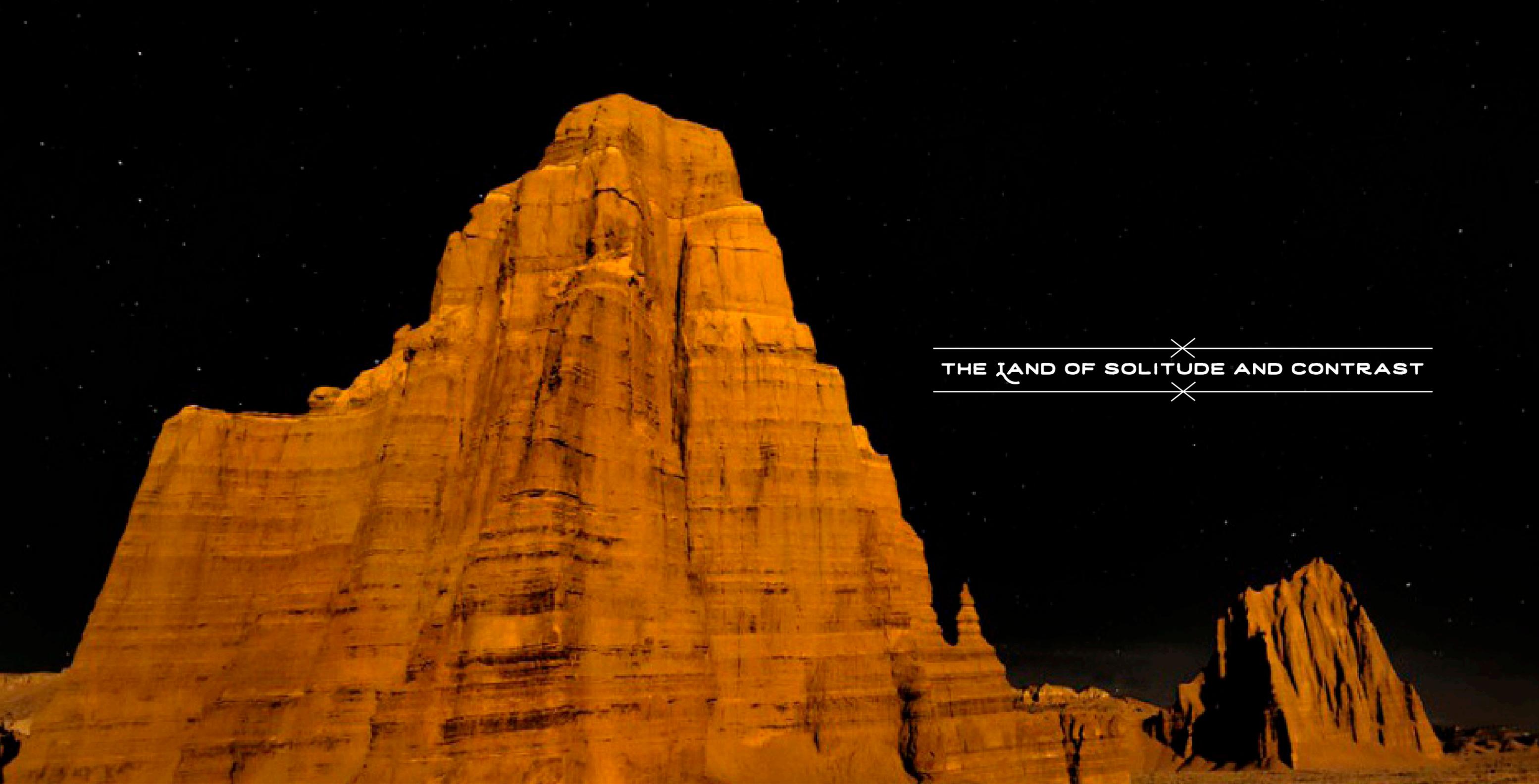


CAPITOL REEF

Red rock paradise in Southern Utah
STORY AND PHOTOS *Justin and Lauren*

Capitol Reef Country is an exciting destination in the wild west. There's sensational scenery to admire, captivating national parks to explore, and outdoor adventures that you'll remember for years to come. The Capitol Reef region in southern Utah is home to a diverse landscape, from red rock canyons to breathtaking green valleys. Naturally, it's a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. Let me tell you more about Capitol Reef Country. You'll definitely be adding it to your next road trip through the USA, or at least to your bucket list!

Capitol Reef Country, Wayne County, Utah is known as the Land of Solitude and Contrast. The zone known as the Western Highlands ranges in elevation, up to 11,000 feet. There are quaint towns tucked away in picturesque valleys. There are lush forests and mountains all around, a peaceful retreat from city living. It's a great place for hiking and biking during the summer months. You can view many species of wildlife in its natural habitat. By contrast, the Eastern High Desert offers a dramatic desert landscape, like Mars or the Moon. Walk where dinosaurs once roamed the earth. View the free ranging buffalo at the Henry Mountains. Walk along some of the 2000 miles of shoreline at Lake Powell. Capitol Reef National Park has stunning geological features like impressive rock formations, towering pillars, and colorful sandstone cliffs. Be sure to visit the Waterpocket Fold, a 100-mile erosion in the earth's



THE LAND OF SOLITUDE AND CONTRAST

crust with steep canyons and huge domes. A vast array of wildlife lives there, including deer, chipmunks, raccoons, eagles, ravens, lizards, mountain lions, and wild turkeys – more than 300 species in total.

There are dozens of spectacular places to explore outdoors in Capitol Reef Country. There's Capitol Reef National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Lake Powell, Canyonlands National Park, Boulder Mountains, and

Thousand Lake Mountain. At Canyonlands, visitors can enjoy wide open spaces with gorgeous panoramic scenery. The Boulder Mountains are home to North America's highest wooded plateau, with over 50,000 acres of forest.

Take a drive on Thousand Lake Mountain Road, a 35-mile scenic byway. And you must pay a visit to Bryce Canyon National Park. Bryce Canyon is a series of massive rock amphitheaters. It's one of the most unique

landscapes in the country.

In such an amazing area, you'll be spending most of your time outdoors. There are many opportunities for activities like hiking, biking, canyoneering, and even winter adventures. For hiking

enthusiasts, there are many day hikes through Capitol Reef National Park with well developed paths. These are shorter hikes with incredible views all around. There are also more strenuous climbs through the jagged rocks.



If you're interested in canyoneering, Little Wild Horse Canyon is a typical slot canyon that's perfect for beginners. The Robber's Roost area has several opportunities for experienced canyoneers.

There are also a vast amount of mountain biking trails that range in difficulty, allowing you to travel to remote locations. Even in the winter, Capitol Reef has many opportunities for adventure. You can try snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Capitol Reef is an ideal destination for those who love nature and being outdoors. This brilliant region is perfect for that upcoming summer road trip or adventure getaway.

Justin and Lauren are vegan travelers from Canada