

#16.2 Hornet Canyon Trail - Grotto Section

Length: 0.5 mile
Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30 minutes
Elevation Gain: 344 feet



Description: This hiking trail leads up the east side of Hornet Canyon to a beautiful grotto hidden in the canyon (POI #24). The grotto has a small waterfall, a pool of water, a huge spring bursting from the mountainside, a 30-foot long “water weep” off an overhang, and green moss everywhere. It is a delightful place to visit.

Before reaching the grotto, you will pass several shaded campsites. One is next to a large rock outcropping called “Moss Rock” (POI #51). Beware of the poison ivy near the creek.

Access Locations:

Access #1 - Steed Creek Junction: The trailhead splits off the Steed Canyon Trail (#17.4) just after you cross Hornet Creek. Follow the trail up Hornet Canyon right next to the creek. Note that Hornet Creek is only a trickle in the late summer.

Access #2 - Hornet Canyon: This access is south off section #16.1. Take the trail spur before the ‘03 Fire Trail split-off.

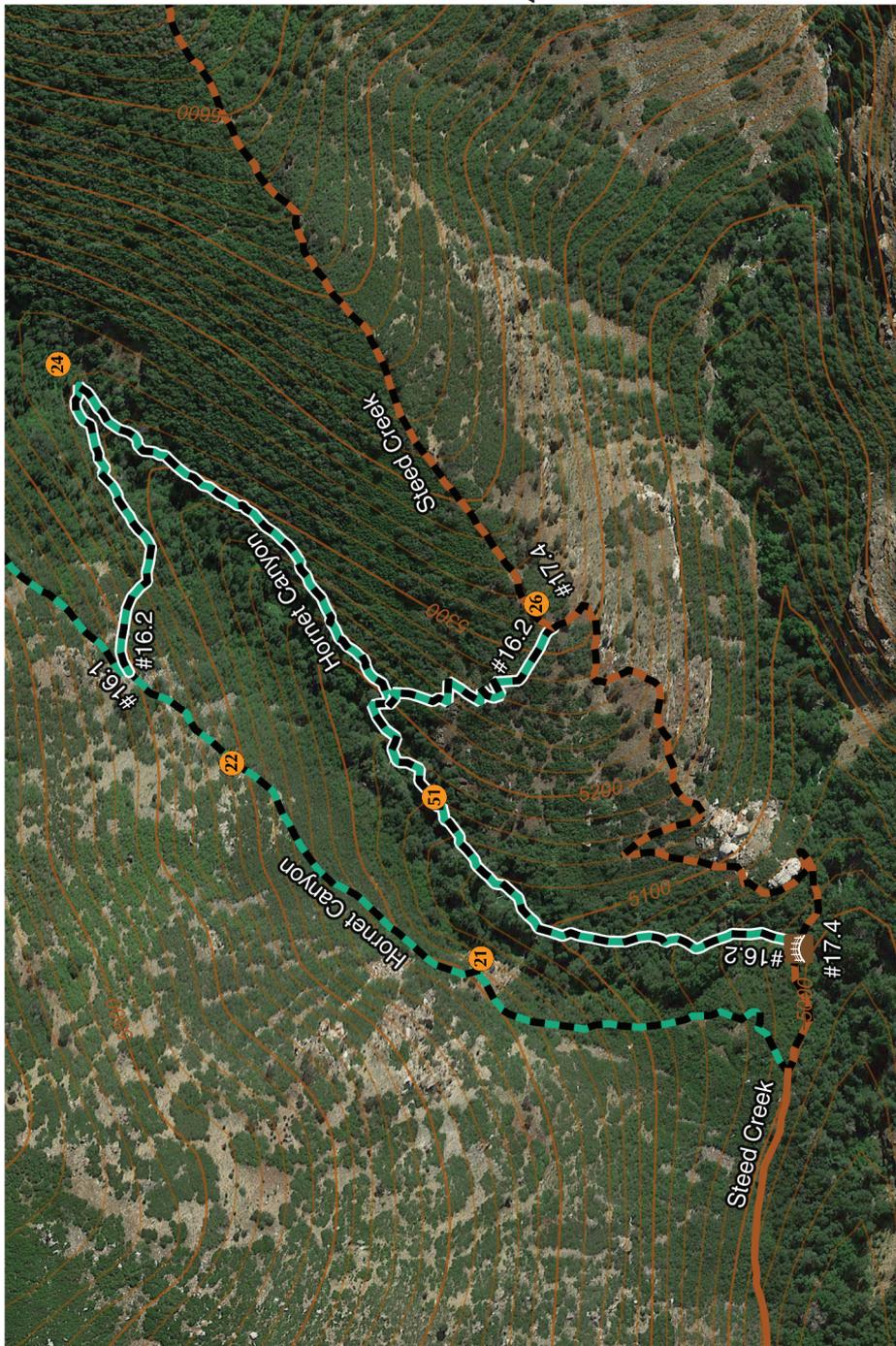
Features:

- The trail parallels a mountain stream with continuous tree cover.
- There are several shaded campsites with water only 20 minutes up the trail.
- Experience the grotto with its small waterfall descending into a pool (POI #24).
- Fresh water bursts from a huge spring out of the mountainside.
- There is a 30-foot long “water weep” dripping off an overhang.
- Green moss is everywhere.

Trail Surface and Status: This dirt trail is grassy, narrow, and well-shaded.



Photo by Steve Rossi



The mountain is strong but the stream is patient. -Anonymous