

Hook Canyon • Zion National Park

Rating:	3A II
Best Season:	Summer or fall.
Time:	Full day from Grotto Trailhead—full route is about 10 miles. Canyon takes 2 hours from the Pass.
Longest Rappel:	150 feet (50 m)
Access:	Begins and ends at Grotto Trailhead—use free shuttle April-October.
Permit:	Not required.
Seasonality:	Summer —HOT! Bring plenty of water and get an early start. Early summer may still have snow present in the north-facing canyon. Fall —The preferred season, with nice temperatures and scenery. Winter and Spring —No access—high elevation with lots of snowpack and dangerous ice conditions in the canyon exist. The north-facing canyon often holds snow into early summer.
Equipment:	Helmets, rappelling gear, webbing and rapid links.
Cold Protection:	None.
Drinking Water:	None, bring plenty.
Flash Flood Risk:	Low.
Skills Required:	The approach route requires some exposed, but easy rock climbing.
Anchors:	All natural anchors.

Hook Canyon is a short canyon that runs north from the pass between Cathedral Mountain and Mount Majestic. It is a convenient and quick exit route from the summit area of these peaks, descending to the bench below the north face of Cathedral, from which the West Rim Trail is easily accessed.

The Approach: Start by hiking up the West Rim trail and attain the summit plateau of the Majestic/Cathedral massif. The best route is probably Behunin Ridge – the ridge that climbs toward the northern summit of Majestic Mountain from the top of the first rappel in Behunin. Climb steeply from the flat slickrock, then cut left and avoid the sub-peak and attain a loose, steep, brushy gully heading toward the top. The last pitch follows the crest of the ridge, and weaves through trees on steep 4th-class rock to the plateau rim. The ridge is south-facing and steep, and unpleasant in all but the coolest weather.

Cross the Manzanita to the col between Majestic and Cathedral.

The Canyon: Pick a tree right near the head and rap in. Downclimbing and a couple rappels lower in the canyon lead to the bench.

The Exit: Hike out the mouth of the canyon and a ridge to the left, staying on the slickrock, to the West Rim Trail, then down to the Grotto Trailhead.

BEHUNIN CANYON

