

Coyote Buttes Magic

The Wave, in Coyote Buttes North, is one of the most highly photographed nature settings in Arizona - an international favorite.

Coyote Buttes straddles the Utah-Arizona border. A 3-mile hike across slickrock leads you to The Wave. Access is limited; the BLM lets 20 people visit per day using a lottery system.

The simple creation idea ~ wind and sand. Windblown sand marches across a cold, arid desert for thousands of years as ancient dunes. Original dune fields stretched from Wyoming to northern Arizona / southern Nevada. The Wave looks



complex, but only reflects one paradigm - wind and blowing sand - from some 200 million years ago.

The result - uniquely picturesque nature shots.

Magic Arc

The Wave presents several challenges. With a ticket, you pack in on slickrock. When you get to the base of The Wave, you climb a sand dune. When you're at The Wave, it's so big you need to shoot a panorama. Then, you wander around, looking for subtle textures and faint hematite banding. The banding shows ancient water tables.

Learning Barriers

Lottery access, the hike under pack on sloping rock, and capturing The Wave near Magic Hour when light is best. For strong contrast, the high ridge to the west casts mid-to-late afternoon shadows. Your return hike may require GPS tracking to safely find your vehicle.

Come with Joe to Coyote Butte; let him take you beyond just nature photography into fantastic natural history stories from long ago and far away...

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