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2022/2023

Oh, Ranger!®

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE PARKS

STATE PARKS  
MONUMENTS  
SCENIC BYWAYS  
REGIONAL MAPS  
NIGHT SKIES  
LOCAL GEMS  
AND MORE!

# UTAH'S NATIONAL PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS



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\*Keep wildlife wild;  
Don't feed the animals



# WELCOME



## Welcome to Utah!

Utah is lucky to have an abundance of outdoor recreation and beautiful places, including our Mighty 5® national parks, many national monuments and recreation areas, 46 state parks, 24 designated dark sky places, and vast expanses of national forests and open lands. This natural abundance creates an abundance of responsibility. We want to keep these places beautiful — forever.

As Utahns, we strive to enjoy and care for our cherished, forever places. As we escape to the outdoors, we recognize that these places are fragile. Keeping them timeless means being good stewards. This ethic is what we call Forever Mighty®. To help you plan and prepare for a responsible trip, the Utah Office of Tourism encourages you to follow the Utah Leave No Trace 7 Principles:

1. Know before you go. Plan ahead, research your destination.
2. Stick to trails and “Overnight Right.” Camp only in designated campsites.
3. Trash your trash. Pack out everything you pack in.
4. Protect indigenous cultural heritage. Observe, but don’t touch any rock imagery and historic inscriptions you may find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts. Use a camp stove. Put your fire out by drowning the ashes until they are cool to the touch.
6. Keep wildlife wild. Keep yourself and your pets at a distance from wild animals. Never feed wildlife.
7. Share our parks, trails, and roads.

This American Park Network guide offers resources to help ensure your travels in Utah are well-planned, thoughtful and memorable. Additional information is also available at [visitutah.com](https://www.visitutah.com), including descriptions of our other state parks and itineraries to get you started. In your travels, consider hiring knowledgeable guides and seek out park rangers to educate you about local wildlife, geology and history, as well as how to help preserve and protect these treasures for future generations.

Enjoy your unique, authentic and enriching Utah adventure!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicki Varela".

**Vicki Varela**

Managing Director,  
Utah Office of Tourism and Film



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Sincere thanks and admiration goes to Andrew Dash Gillman, Lorraine Daly and the rest of the dedicated and talented team at the Utah Office of Tourism. They are truly Mighty!

Cover: Green River, Dinosaur National Monument. Photo: Jeremiah Watt.

(Utah Office of Tourism)

All other photos are courtesy of Utah Office of Tourism and Getty Images unless otherwise indicated.



FOR ANSWERS TO ALL YOUR  
QUESTIONS, GO TO  
**OhRanger.com**

# GET TO KNOW UTAH



Utah is a state of incredible diversity and beauty. Because the state is part of three distinct geological zones: the Colorado Plateau, the Rocky Mountains, and the Great Basin, the terrain, flora, fauna, and recreation are diverse as well.

The northern section of the state comprises a section of the Rocky and Uinta mountains. At this high elevation you'll find mountain lakes, rushing rivers, tree-covered slopes, 11,000-foot-plus peaks, and all the outdoor activities that come with the territory. The central and southern sections of the state take you into a wonderland of red rock slots, hoodoos, shifting sand dunes, sandstone amphitheaters and geologic marvels you've only dreamed of. Many of the natural features found in Utah are hundreds of millions of years old.

Because of its incredible topographic diversity, Utah is truly able to offer something for every visitor. Whether you are visiting The Mighty 5® (Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Arches and Canyonlands National Parks), boating on Lake Powell, climbing Utah's highest summit (King's Peak), or any of the other countless places to visit, explore, and experience, this guide will help you plan your trip and introduce you to the five sections of Utah and what you will find within them: the **Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, and East Central.**

## FOREVER MIGHTY®

The quintessential American road trip starts with careful planning. Soak up the wildness of the West by visiting the mighty red canyon walls, hoodoos, and mesas that soar thousands of feet. Step across time by viewing petroglyphs and Native American ruins, or just enjoy the mountains, lakes and sand dunes that define the region. We've got places that are rich in history, like the Golden Spike National Historic Park, as well as some of the best fishing you'll find, in our lakes and streams. It's nature at its mightiest.

## VISITORS OFTEN REGRET THAT THEY TRIED TO DO TOO MUCH. CENTER YOUR ITINERARY AROUND ONE OR TWO DESTINATIONS...

Because of the popularity of the Mighty 5® and surrounding areas, we all have to work together to "leave only footprints." Please remember to be a responsible traveler. Though

Utah's treasured landscapes have existed for eons, there's no guarantee they'll exist for eons more. In order to get the most out

of your visit to Utah's parks and monuments, while also ensuring they stay Forever Mighty, we encourage you to travel with care and personal responsibility. Come as you are and leave the land as it is. Always place your trash in a bin. Always take home everything you bring—food, wrapping, peels, paper products, tissues, gear, etc. Always respect archaeological sites by enjoying them from a respectful distance and leaving any historic items you find, where you find them. Respect wildlife by watching them from afar as well, and never feed them. Always feel free to take photos.

We love our visitors and want you to have a great time. With that in mind, the local communities have a variety of great dining options, local guides, outfitters, quaint little shops, and lots of informational support around town. Support the locals and get an authentic feel for wherever you visit by being present and supporting the people who provide the comforts of travel. Help keep the communities vibrant and thriving.

**VisitUtah.com/Forever**

LIFE  
**UTAH**  
ELEVATED



# COME AS YOU ARE

(BUT LEAVE THE  
LAND AS IT IS)

**VISITUTAH.COM/FOREVER**



# WHAT TO EXPECT IN THIS GUIDE

Each of the five geographic sections of the state have their own chapter: Northwest, Northeast, East Central, Southwest and Southeast. Within each section chapter we highlight the national parks, many of the state parks, national monuments, national recreation areas, and the most popular things to do while visiting. Along with these state and nationally recognized scenic and recreational meccas we have also added an **"On the Road"** section that highlights classic scenic drives or not-to-miss places you can easily access from the road. Another new section is **"Off-the-Beaten-Path"** where we highlight areas that are amazing, but more difficult to visit. These might require a 4x4 or be a location that is more remote. **"Local Gems"** features areas that fall outside the national and state parks, but are not-to-be missed highlights of an area.

## SPEND A DAY IN SALT LAKE CITY

Salt Lake City, the capital of Utah, is a destination in and of itself. It is home to rich culture, live music, great food, dynamic history, and is a conveniently located gateway to many nearby outdoor activities—it was the home of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Temple Square sits in the center of the city inviting people from around the world to walk the grounds, learn about the history of the establishment of the state, and visit the museums and visitor centers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Downtown Salt Lake also provides access to incredible shopping at City Creek and Gateway malls. An affordable and comprehensive public transportation system combines bus and light rail and makes getting around easy.

[visitutah.com/articles/48-hours-salt-lake](http://visitutah.com/articles/48-hours-salt-lake)

Utah. America's Film Set® has always been a place that inspired storytelling and photography, and as such, many a filmmaker has used Utah as the backdrop to some of our favorite films. **Each section includes a detailed list of movies filmed there.**



We've added **BE MIGHTY!** content in most of the regions. Follow the guidance here for more mindful and responsible travel suggestions. We encourage you to take the time to consider how you can support the local businesses and outfitters and communities along your travels—who make this state such a vibrant and wonderful place to visit year-round.





## ACCESSIBLE UTAH



A number of Utah organizations—in collaboration with federal land management agencies and tourism councils—collaborate to advocate for and develop specialized programs so everyone can experience this inspiring place.

**Arches** features an accessible visitor center that includes touchable exhibits for the visually impaired as well as captioned audio-visual programs and interactive kiosks for the hearing impaired. Delicate Arch Viewpoint, Park Avenue Viewpoint and Balanced Rock Trail are wheelchair accessible. There is an accessible campsite at Devils Garden Campground.

At **Zion**, park visitor centers, the museum, restrooms, shuttle buses, picnic areas and Zion Lodge are all accessible and the park's film is captioned. Both the Pa'rus Trail and Riverside Walk are paved. Several campsites are reserved for people with disabilities.



The visitor centers in both the Needles and Island in the Sky districts of **Canyonlands** are accessible, as are many primary overlooks. There's an accessible campsite at Willow Flat and at Needles Campground.

**Bryce Canyon's** geology talk, evening programs and ranger-led rim walk are all accessible. All viewpoints, as well as the section of Rim Trail between Sunset and Sunrise points, are wheelchair accessible. The Sunrise unit of Bryce Canyon Lodge has some accessible rooms. The orientation film in the visitor center is captioned.

In **Capitol Reef**, the visitor center, restrooms, picnic areas, Fruita Campground and the Fremont Petroglyph Panel boardwalk (on Highway 24) are accessible.



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[nationalforests.org](http://nationalforests.org)**

# UNDER THE [DARKEST] NIGHT SKIES

Utah reigns supreme in dark-sky state park designations. With 24 dark-sky places accredited by the International Dark-Sky Association. These elusive night skies, unpolluted by man-made light, draw in crowds from across the country to participate in full moon hikes, night sky snowshoeing, owl prowls, star parties, or just a night camping under a dark sky dotted with innumerable points of light. Look for the **icons**  throughout the book that indicate where dark-sky designations have been awarded and consider visiting some of these beautiful places during evening hours when there's less traffic. We've included some of our favorites below:

Has provided ranger-led regular astronomy programs and special events in the park since at least 2012. Visit at night for a whole new experience. For more information on dark sky places and stargazing experiences go to [visitutah.com/stars](https://visitutah.com/stars).

Many people have no idea how many stars can be seen at night because they have never been in places without light pollution.

**Canyonlands National Park** is recognized as one of the darkest night-sky places in the country. Come see how much you can see.

Want to see the stars of the Milky Way in a whole new light? **Dinosaur National Monument** is one of the darkest places remaining in the United States and from almost anywhere in the monument you can view the night sky with clarity. The monument staff hold their night sky programs near the Split Mountain Campground. Contact the Quarry Visitor Center at **(435) 781-7700** for up-to-date information on current programs.

**Kodachrome Basin State Park** also holds one of the darkest areas remaining in the continental United States. The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) awarded Dark-Sky Park status to the park in 2021 to celebrate this remote night-sky viewing opportunity. At the right time of year you can see the Orion Nebula, the Andromeda Galaxy, the Hercules Globular Star Cluster

M13, meteor transits, and some planets. Come share telescopes to view rarely seen detail of the Milky Way.

Recently designated as an International Dark-Sky Park, **Jordanelle State Park** is recognized for incredible night viewing. This park is very popular for tent and RV campers with many new amenities. Visit at night and enjoy one of the best star-gazing locations in the world.

**Dead Horse Point State Park** sits hundreds of feet above the surrounding area as it overlooks the Colorado River. This position above the canyon walls gives 360-degree, unobstructed views of the night sky. The park hosts evening dark-skies programming for visitors. For more information, please call the visitor center at **(435) 259-2614**.

In January of 2021 The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) awarded International Dark-Sky Park status to **Rockport State Park**. Join the park staff for their Dark-Sky programs. The most popular recurring interpretive program is the Scorpion Walk and Star Talk presentation given by Rockport park staff. Contact Rockport State Park at **(435) 336-2241** for more information on their night-sky programs.

To learn more about State Park-based dark sky events and programs, please visit [stateparks.utah.gov/activities/dark-sky](https://stateparks.utah.gov/activities/dark-sky).





# Welcome to *Wonder*



Cedar Breaks  
National Monument  
Dan Ransom

Zoe Galligan-Stierle (left) as The Little Girl and Aaron Galligan-Stierle as Tateh  
in the Utah Shakespeare Festival's 2021 production of *Ragtime*  
Karl Hugh | Copyright Utah Shakespeare Festival 2021

*From the grand stages at the Utah Shakespeare Festival to the red rock splendor surrounding Cedar Breaks, wonder awaits in Cedar City, Parowan, and Brian Head.*





## COVID-19 SAFETY

With so much changing, it is difficult to forecast the precise situation Utah's counties and cities will be in over the coming months of the continued pandemic. What we do know is that there are many ways to protect yourself and others while traveling.

- **Physical distancing**
- **Proper face coverings**
- **Good hygiene**

These will not only help keep you safe, but keep our communities safe by minimizing the spread of the coronavirus. Many Utah businesses have implemented important health protocols to help keep residents and visitors safe. Regardless of where you go in the state, it is equally important to travel responsibly within our communities, parks, recreation areas and backcountry. As always, if you have been traveling in high-risk areas, know that you are likely to have been exposed to the virus, or are feeling sick, it is recommended that you avoid non-essential travel. Mask recommendations may apply in some areas of the state of Utah when you visit, it is your obligation to understand local guidelines.



GET  
HEALTHY  
UTAH



## TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS

**Your safety is your responsibility.**

**Rescue is never a certainty.**

- Carry plenty of water. One gallon per day per person is recommended for desert hiking. Do not drink from backcountry water sources unless the water is treated or filtered.
- Check with rangers at park visitor centers about a hike's difficulty, time required for round-trip travel, water availability, trail and weather conditions.
- Do not hike or climb alone. Always let someone know your itinerary.
- Pay attention to weather changes. Avoid hiking or camping in areas with the potential for flash floods. Avoid high, exposed areas during lightning storms.
- Know your limits. People with heart or respiratory problems should be especially cautious about overexertion in heat and at high elevations. Summer temperatures in the shade may exceed 100°F (38°C). Always wear sunscreen and a hat.
- Stay back from the edges and watch your footing. Many trails in the parks have precipitous drop-offs, slippery rock surfaces and loose sand.
- Wear appropriate footwear.
- Stay on designated trails. Cutting across switchbacks can be dangerous for you and those below you, and it increases erosion.
- Do not throw or roll rocks.
- Please be a concerned and proactive park user. If you see someone damaging or collecting resources, report your sightings to a park ranger.



## PRESERVE AND PROTECT

For your safety and enjoyment, and to preserve and protect the parks, please honor all regulations while inside national and state parks, national monuments, and national recreation areas. Refer to specific park publications and websites for details. Here are a few key points:

- ➔ **Do not disturb wildlife or remove park resources, including rocks, plants, fossils and artifacts.**
- ➔ **Do not feed wild animals—human food is harmful to them.**
- ➔ **Do not use drones.**
- ➔ **Pets must be on leashes at all times**
- ➔ **Bicycles are allowed only on roads or designated routes.**
- ➔ **Camp only in designated areas.**
- ➔ **Dispose of trash properly or pack it out. Recycle whenever possible.**
- ➔ **Firewood collection is prohibited.**
- ➔ **Permits are required for backcountry overnight camping in all parks.**



## PET FRIENDLY UTAH

Utah is full of great outdoor places to spend time with your furry family members. There are recreation areas open to pets, and companion animals can generally accompany visitors in campgrounds and may be walked on roads or in parking lots, while **leashed**.

In many communities, you'll find pet daycare, canine campgrounds or veterinary clinics that can serve as an intermediate home if there's an area you want to explore that prohibits pets. Consult the local visitor sites at **visitutah.com/dog-friendly** for more information.

For the safety of you, your pet and other hikers, the following are crucial considerations:

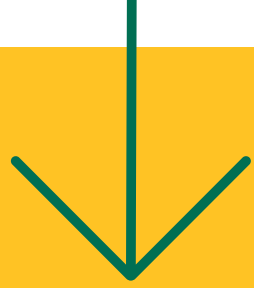
## QUAGGA & ZEBRA MUSSEL THREAT



Quagga and zebra mussels are a serious threat to many Western waters. They cause tremendous economic harm by clogging pipes and damaging infrastructure. Invasive mussels ruin beaches and destroy boat motors and interior systems. In many national parks, reservoirs, and national recreation areas, if you have recently used your boat in mussel-infested water, you are required by law to have your boat professionally decontaminated before launching.

- Be aware that you may encounter wildlife along trails. Trapping is also allowed on many public lands.
- If you and your pet encounter wildlife, maintain your distance and remain quiet.
- Make sure you have adequate water for yourself and your pet before setting out.
- Always clean up after your pet.
- **Never** leave your pet unattended in a vehicle. The desert can be deadly for pets left in vehicles. On sunny days, regardless of outdoor temperatures, vehicle interiors heat up quickly and can claim a pet's life. Each year pets die inside vehicles as visitors are simply unaware or unaccustomed to the sun's intense effects on the Colorado Plateau.





# North- west

## LAND OF MOUNTAINS AND LAKES

**N**orthwest Utah is an area beloved for its views and access to the magnificent Wasatch Mountain Range and all the pristine lakes and streams that dot this corner of the state.

The Great Salt Lake, the second saltiest body of water in the world, is the largest, but others such as Bear Lake, Utah Lake, Pineview Reservoir, Cecret Lake, Willard Bay, Lake Mary, Martha and Catherine, and Silver Lake, promise a perfect mountain getaway. Recreation options align with these beautiful places and you'll find hiking, biking, climbing, backpacking, and watersports galore.

Morgan-Parleys Scenic Byway is the state's newly designated 20th such road, and a beautiful part of your Northwest journey. Enjoy the mountains and lakes of Northwest Utah, but care for them and tread lightly while you are here. We practice Leave No Trace ethics to keep these beautiful places beautiful.



### WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN NORTHWEST UTAH:



Fishing



Waterskiing



Swimming



SUP



Hiking



Backpacking



Sailing



Mountain  
Biking



Road Biking

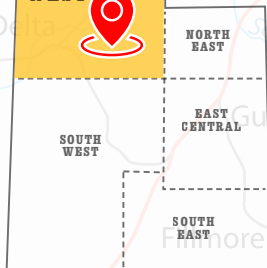


Boating



# NORTHWEST

## NORTH WEST



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- 9 Golden Spike National Historic Park

# → Antelope Island State Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!



**Bear Lake  
State Park**



There it is. Right there! Its craggy ridge line beckons from the mainland. Leave the bustle of modern civilization behind for the tranquility of Antelope Island, a scenic and adventurous destination that boasts 36 miles of hiking and mountain bike trails meandering among **free-roaming bison** and antelope herds. Visitors also enjoy spectacular birding along the causeway and the pioneer history of the Fielding Garr Ranch. Sailboats and kayaks dot placid waters, and sunsets from the island are among the best in Utah. Once that sun sets and the island darkens, you'll feel a million miles from anywhere, though you are only seven miles, across the causeway, from the highly populated Wasatch Front.

**(801) 725-9263**



Best known for turquoise waters, open waterskiing, swimming, scuba diving, sailing and year-round angling for cutthroat, mackinaw, cisco and whitefish, the majestic Bear Lake is nestled on the Utah/Idaho border. Formed approximately 28,000 years ago by earthquake activity, the lake's unique aqua-blue color results from suspended calcium carbonates. Twenty miles long and eight-miles wide, the 112 square-mile lake is sectioned into three recreation areas: Rendezvous Beach, Bear Lake Marina, and the Eastside. The sandy Rendezvous Beach, named for the famous rendezvous of fur trappers and Native Americans held in the summers of 1827 and 1828, extends for 1.25 miles and offers excellent camping, picnicking and small watercraft activities. All three campgrounds have modern restrooms with hot showers. Boat launching is available during high water years. Facilities at Bear Lake Marina include a shelter harbor, concrete boat ramp, 283 seasonal and 22 daily boat slips, boat pump-out facility, modern restrooms, hot showers, group-use pavilion and visitor center. Bear Lake State Park Eastside is located 10 miles north of Laketown and is popular with scuba divers, boaters and anglers. Six primitive campgrounds provide three, two-lane concrete boat launch ramps. Enjoy Logan, Utah as you begin your trip to Bear Lake, and the raspberry shakes of Garden City, on the shores of Bear Lake. **(435) 946-3343**

## → Jordanelle State Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

Jordanelle State Park is located in a picturesque mountain setting near Heber City. The park, divided in two distinct recreation areas, offers a wide range of recreational opportunities including camping (tent and full RV hookups), boating, swimming, fishing and hiking. Rich in delicate riparian geology, the Rock Cliff Recreation Area is located two miles west of Francis and offers environmental and interpretive activities. Birdwatchers, photographers and other outdoor enthusiasts travel from around the country to view more than 200 different forms of bird and mammal life that are endemic to Rock Cliff. Unfortunately, no pets are allowed at this time. The Hailstone Recreation Area's facilities (located between Park City and Heber City) include a visitor center, children's play area, two boat ramps, group-use pavilions, day-use cabanas, mini laundromats, marina store and restaurant, fish cleaning stations, outdoor amphitheater and three campgrounds. **(435) 649-9540.**



## ↑ East Canyon State Park

Nestled in the mountains northeast of Salt Lake City, East Canyon State Park is a 680-acre boating and fishing mecca. History buffs are also lured by the park's historical significance. The Mormon Trail, blazed by the Donner/ Reed party in 1846, transects the park. Mormon pioneers followed that same trail one year later, settling in the Salt Lake Valley. The trail continued to be a major travel corridor into Utah until the arrival of the railroad in 1869. Amenities include boat rentals, refreshment stand and a convenience store as well as full-service restrooms and showers. East Canyon State Park boasts new camping and day-use facilities, four new yurts and improved launch ramp facilities. **(801) 829-6866.**

## → Willard Bay State Park

Willard Bay rests atop the Great Salt Lake flood plain in northern Utah. Anglers, boaters, and water-skiers will delight in its 9,900 acres of fresh water. Crappie, walleye, and catfish teem in these waters. During winter months, visitors can observe bald eagles nesting here. Willard Bay State Park is popular for camping and offers two state-owned facilities, North and South marinas, open to visitors. Willard Bay North Marina offers day-use cabanas on the beach, boat launches and 62 campsites, some with full hookups. Willard Bay South Marina has a boat ramp as well as a camping area offering modern facilities for overnight and day-use including restrooms and parking. Brigham City is the closest destination for supplies, food, and fuel. **(435) 734-9494.**







## Timpanogos Cave National Monument



Wander three linked and spectacularly decorated caverns on a cave tour featuring unexpected colors and formations like helictites, stalactites, stalagmites and calcite crusts, draperies and frostwork. Visitors hike to the cave entrance on a wide, paved trail, gaining over 1,000 feet in elevation in a mile and a half. Timpanogos Cave sits high on the northern slope of Mount Timpanogos in the Wasatch Mountains. Reserve in advance. The visitor center and trailhead are located in American Fork Canyon.

See all Utah State Parks and make reservations at [stateparks.utah.gov](https://stateparks.utah.gov)



## Golden Spike National Historic Park



You can almost hear the celebration echoing across the basin. The history of railroads comes alive at Golden Spike, the site where the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific met to unite a nation with the **First Transcontinental Railroad**. During the summer months, see daily runs of two fully operational replicas of the Jupiter and No. 119 steam locomotives on the tracks. There are full reenactments on Saturdays. There are auto tours and a hiking trail, and easy access to the famous Spiral Jetty. Base camp in Brigham City.

## → Great Salt Lake State Marina



The Great Salt lake is the largest lake between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Ocean. It is also the largest saltwater lake in the Western hemisphere and one of the most asked-about tourist destinations in Utah. A remnant of the massive ancient Lake Bonneville, it covers more than 2,000 square miles and is several times saltier than the ocean, attracting more than **257 species of birds**, depending on the season. While the Great Salt Lake State Marina offers marina access for sailors, sculling enthusiasts, and other boaters, it's also a great departure point for bird watchers and a great place to watch sunsets. Visitors enjoy the beautiful views of the lake, nearby Antelope Island State Park, and Black Rock, as well as Saltair Resort, a modern-day vestige of the original Saltair, which was much more elaborate and built on pilings over the shore area of the Great Salt Lake. The new resort features live entertainment, concerts and a concession service for souvenirs. **(801) 250-1898**

## → Utah Lake State Park

Utah Lake State Park is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Utah Lake, west of Provo, is unusual in that it is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the West, yet lies in an area that receives on average only 15 inches of rain-fall a year. At this popular fishing hole anglers can cast for channel catfish, walleye, white bass, black bass and several species of panfish. The park also offers unfettered access to the 96,600-acre lake for power boating, sailing, canoeing or kayaking, and to both camping and day-use facilities. **(801) 375-0731**



## → BE MIGHTY! TRAVEL TIPS

The Northwest section of the state of Utah is the most densely populated region. This means many of your travels across the Wasatch Front and Wasatch Back are likely to include many locals who frequent the trails and state parks. Please be mindful and considerate as you share the trails, waterways and parks. What does this mean? Pack out what you bring. Never leave trash or food behind. Leaving trash is unsightly, pollutes these valuable recreation areas, and threatens wildlife with unnatural food sources. Be polite and share the trail with others. Many areas allow multiple types of trail usage — hikers, bikers, equestrians, and OHV. Politely cooperate as you share space. Please leash your dogs in all areas that indicate leashing as a rule, and always clean up after your pet.

After your adventure, support the local towns by enjoying the award-winning restaurants and local establishments across the Wasatch Front and Wasatch Back. Culinary adventures abound.



## → 🏠 BASE CAMP TOWNS

**Provo** - 45 minutes south of Salt Lake City, Provo serves as the premier basecamp for such adventures as Mount Timpanogos, Utah Lake State Park, and Bridal Veil Falls. Lodging, food, gas, and supplies abound.

**Spanish Fork** - Located on the far southern end of the Wasatch Front, Spanish Fork is a basecamp town for hiking into Diamond Fork Hot Springs or launching trips into the North East and East Central sections of the state.

**Logan** - Surrounded by scenic canyons such as Sardine Canyon from the west and Logan Canyon on the east, your approach to Logan will be gorgeous no matter how you approach. Enjoy the Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway and climb, hike, bike, ski or snowshoe in Logan Canyon. Logan Canyon provides the western entry to Bear Lake State Park.

**Garden City** - Situated on the shores of Bear Lake this small, seasonal town provides their famous raspberry shakes, food, gas, and lodging - but make sure to reserve your lodging ahead of time. Gateway city to Bear Lake State Park.

**Ogden** - A northern Utah favorite, historic Main Street often hosts live music, comedy, and plenty of culinary options. Look for the colorful painted horse sculptures.

**Heber City and Railroad** - A tourism hub year-round, Heber City provides food, lodging, guide options and supplies as it serves the OHV, hunting, fishing, golf, mountain bike and ski communities that use its services. Check out the always-fun and family friendly Heber Valley Railroad while you're there, for a historic train ride.

# → ON THE ROAD

Items listed under this heading include scenic drives or not-to-miss areas easily accessed by road. Utah is home to eight National Scenic Byways, and 20 State Scenic Byways. These roads are recognized for their outstanding archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities. The Northwest section of Utah is home to one National and one State Scenic Byway. For more information, visit [visitutah.com/scenicbyways](http://visitutah.com/scenicbyways).

## **PROVO CANYON STATE SCENIC BYWAY-BRIDAL VEIL FALLS**

Provo Canyon features Bridal Veil Falls, Vivian Park and the Provo River Parkway, among other stops that collectively are a fantastic year-round destination for outdoor recreation. In the summer, Bridal Veil Falls and Provo Canyon serve as the scenic backdrop for abundant biking, family picnics, mountaineering, floating and hiking, and in the winter is a must-visit destination for ice climbing. A great way to see it all is to run or ride the paved Parkway.

## **LOGAN CANYON NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY**

Beginning on the east side of Logan, this scenic byway travels through Logan Canyon, following the Logan river, and at the summit provides views of the turquoise waters of Bear Lake. This 39-mile drive takes about an hour and is especially lovely in the fall.



## **WASATCH FRONT CANYONS**

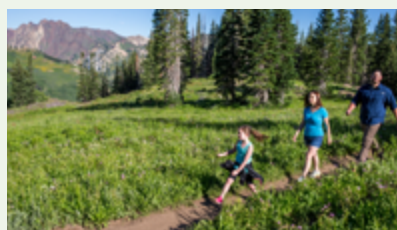
The local canyons that line the Wasatch Front in northwest Utah invite you to explore. For more information on hiking, biking, camping, fishing, backpacking, and enjoying these canyons go to:

**LOGAN CANYON** - Logan Ranger District, (435) 755-3620

**OGDEN CANYON** - Ogden Ranger District, (801) 625-5112 or visit the Forest Service website [www.fs.usda.gov/uwcnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/uwcnf)

**BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON** - Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, (385) 468-1800; Salt Lake Ranger District, (801) 733-2660 or look up Uintah-Wasatch-Cache National Forest; No dogs allowed due to watershed.

**LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON** - Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, (385) 468-1800; Salt Lake Ranger District, (801) 733-2660 or look up Uintah-Wasatch-Cache National Forest; No dogs allowed due to watershed.



**MILL CREEK CANYON** - Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, (385) 468-1800; Salt Lake Ranger District, (801) 733-2660; or look up Uintah-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

**AMERICAN FORK CANYON** - Pleasant Grove District Recreation, (801) 785-3563, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



## → WILDLIFE VIEWING

**N**orthwest Utah boasts a number of reserves, refuges, and wildlife management areas. Here are some of the primary places you can see wildlife up close.

At Hardware Ranch, 18 miles east of Hyrum at the head of Blacksmith Fork Canyon, thousands of Rocky Mountain elk congregate for prime big game viewing.

The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, west of Brigham City in Box Elder County, offers phenomenal birdwatching during the spring, summer and fall. From the arrival of shorebirds, including white-faced ibis, black-necked stilt and long-billed curlew in the spring, to the tens of thousands of tundra swans and other waterfowl in the fall, this is a must-see refuge for birders.

In spring and summer, Cutler Marsh offers wildlife viewing in a protected wetland habitat. White pelicans, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, western grebes, com-

mon egrets, and a wide variety of ducks, geese and shorebirds are visible from roadways or by canoe or kayak. The sheer numbers of marsh birds and the diversity are spectacular.

Wildlife is abundant at Antelope Island State Park and along the lake's shoreline marshes. Visitors frequently view free-roaming bison, pronghorn antelope, deer, bobcats and coyotes; remember to keep a safe distance from all wildlife, at least 25 yards. Birdwatching is popular at many spots around the lake, including the federally-managed Bear River Bird Refuge and the state's Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area. The lake's marshes attract vast quantities of migratory birds. Duck and goose hunting is permitted in select areas.



## → LOCAL GEMS



### **SPIRAL JETTY**

Sculptor Robert Smithson transformed six thousand tons of black basalt rocks and earth on the northeastern shore of the Great Salt Lake into one of the world's most unique works of art: The Spiral Jetty. The spiral reaches 1,500 feet in length and is 15 feet wide. It is a 45-minute drive from Golden Spike, so perhaps combine the two. Check local conditions as the last 15 miles of the drive are on a gravel road. Take extra water and supplies.

### **BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY**

The summer sun evaporates water from the broad, densely packed plain of the Bonneville Salt Flats. Nature annually renews the hard, flat surface. What once was an ancient lake now is a popular destination for racers from across the globe throughout the world who pursue glory and land speed records. On this natural straightaway, the 300, 400, 500 and 600 mile-per-hour land speed barriers were broken. Land speed trials are scheduled from July through October, conditions permitting. The events are open to the public. Even without a racing event, the one-of-a-kind Salt Flats are a must see, but plan ahead and visit responsibly. **(801) 977-4300;** **[www.blm.gov/visit/bonneville-salt-flats](http://www.blm.gov/visit/bonneville-salt-flats)**

### BONNEVILLE SEA BASE

How can a desert have an ocean—complete with sharks and other aquatic life? Forty miles west of Salt Lake City, warm-spring water rises through the ancient lake bed of Lake Bonneville where it becomes almost 3% saltwater. With the addition of sea life, including a nurse shark, SCUBA and snorkeling become possible in Utah's desert. **(435) 884-3874; seabase.net**



### DIAMOND FORK HOT SPRINGS - FIFTH WATER TRAIL:

Every traveler hopes to come across a natural hot springs, non-commercialized but usable. This is the place. At the base of the springs there are several man-made rock pools and a waterfall that cools the hot springs pumping water from the ground. A great year-round hike, this local gem is found up Spanish Fork Canyon.



### MOUNT TIMPANOGOS

Mount Timpanogos is the second highest peak in the Wasatch Range and has been one of Utah's most popular hiking destinations for almost a century. This hike provides everything - waterfalls, glacial lakes, a herd of mountain goats, summer wildflowers, a summit notch on your belt and 360-degree views across the valleys, mountains, lakes and cities. This hike is found up Provo Canyon.



### FILMED IN NORTH WEST UTAH



- **Footloose** - 1984: Lehi, American Fork, Orem, Payson, Provo
- **High School Musical** - 2006: Salt Lake City
- **Andi Mack** - 2017: Salt Lake City
- **The Sandlot** - 1993: Ogden, Salt lake City Area, American Fork
- **Better Off Dead** - 1985: Alta, Brighton, Snowbird
- **National Treasure** - 2004: Strawberry Reservoir
- **Touched By An Angel** - 1994-2003: Salt Lake City, Ogden, Midvale, Magna, Heber
- **Jeremiah Johnson** - 1972: Sundance
- **Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End** - 2007: Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover
- **Wind River** - 2017: Wasatch Mountain, Coalville, Park City
- **Independence Day** - 1996: Bonneville Salt Flats, Skull Valley,



# North-east

## DINOSAURLAND

More than 150 million years in the making, Utah's Dinosaurland in the Uinta Basin of eastern Utah is a scenic blend of red rock landscapes and mountain vistas crisscrossed with trails, dotted with tranquil reservoirs and streams, and rich in geologic history. Dinosaur National Monument is home to 1,500 dinosaur bones still left in the mountain where they were discovered. This is the only place on earth to see and touch this many bones from so many different species in one place. What many don't realize is that beyond the Quarry, Dinosaur National Monument encompasses 210,000 acres of wilderness perfect for hiking, camping, rafting, and exploring. The scenery will leave you speechless

and will instantly become a family favorite destination.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area is also beloved and renowned for fishing, rafting, biking and hiking. The Green river runs through Dinosaur National Monument between the Gates of Lodore and Split Mountain and is home to intense class III and class IV rapids, incredible scenery, great camping, and hiking trails along the river. You'll paddle furiously, you'll scream with excitement, and you'll never forget the breathtaking views and pure exhilaration of rafting in Dinosaurland. Whether it's a trip down the river or a trip through time to see the skeletons of prehistoric giants, Northeast Utah won't soon be forgotten.



### WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN NORTHEAST UTAH:



Fishing



Waterskiing



Swimming



SUP



Hiking



Backpacking



Sailing



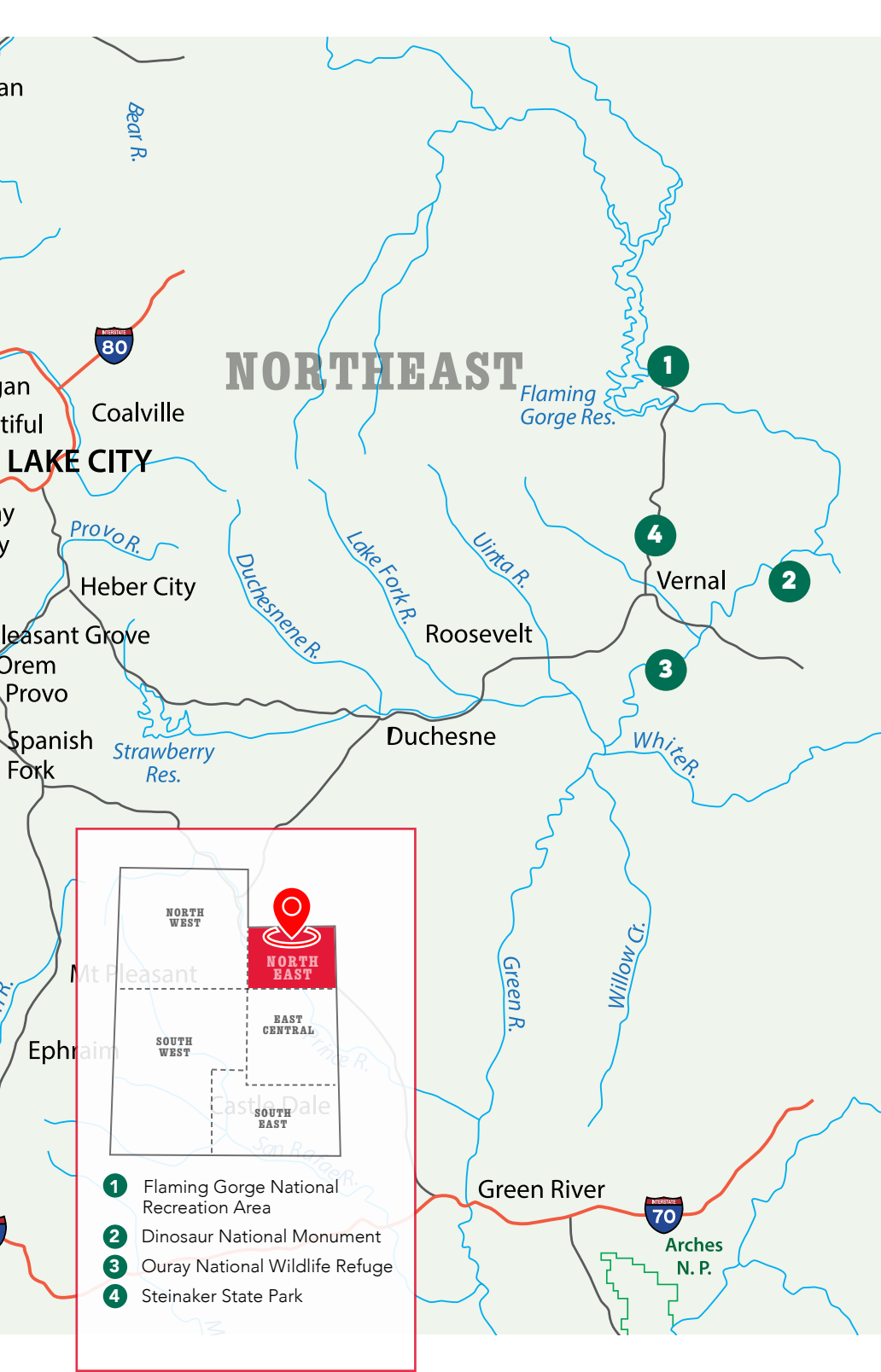
Mountain Biking



Road Biking



Boating



# NORTHEAST

Coalville

Flaming Gorge Res.

LAKE CITY

1

Provo R.

Heber City

Duchesne R.

Lake Fork R.

Uinta R.

4

Vernal

2

Pleasant Grove  
Drem  
Provo

Roosevelt

3

Spanish Fork

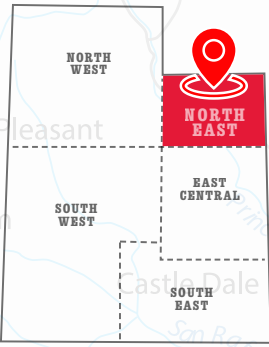
Strawberry Res.

Duchesne

White R.

Green R.

Willow Cr.



- 1 Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area
- 2 Dinosaur National Monument
- 3 Ouray National Wildlife Refuge
- 4 Steinaker State Park

Green River

70

Arches N. P.



# → Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area

If you haven't yet boated Flaming Gorge Reservoir (and the Green River below the dam), you are missing out. Covering more than 42,000 acres, this 91-mile reservoir is located within a diverse geologic region that is as dramatic as it is beautiful. Spanning every type of terrain, from the mountainous forests, benches, and canyons of northeastern Utah to the rolling sage prairies of southwestern Wyoming, its position within the narrow course of the Green River presents boaters with endless opportunities to explore glassy waters in isolation. From water sports, cruising, fishing, and paddling, the potential for fun on this picturesque reservoir is unlimited.

The guarded position of the lake set low within narrow canyons makes Flaming Gorge a prime destination for water sports. As water temperatures climb into the 70s by late summer, water skiing, wakeboarding, and jet skiing are extremely popular here. Access to this colorful playground has been made easy via any number of boat launches, campgrounds, and marinas surrounding the lake.

The deep and fertile waters of the lake have also made it one of the premier fisheries in the United States where trophy fish are reeled in year after year. Seasoned anglers from around the globe troll for lake trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, smallmouth bass and channel catfish. Rainbow trout provide the bulk of the harvest. Kokanee salmon are typically second in harvest and popularity with anglers.



Kayaking and stand up paddle boarding, in particular, are fast-growing sports at Flaming Gorge. Paddling on the reservoir is a skill that is easily learned and allows you to explore at your own speed. If you love water, viewing wildlife, and exploration, paddling the lake is definitely for you.

## 6 LINKS TO FAMILY FUN

### TOP 3 HIKING TRAILS:

#### **LITTLE HOLE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL**

[www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Little-Hole-National-Scenic-Trail](http://www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Little-Hole-National-Scenic-Trail)

#### **CANYON RIM TRAIL**

[www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Red-Canyon-Rim](http://www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Red-Canyon-Rim)

#### **BEAR CANYON TRAIL**

[www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Bear-Canyon](http://www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Bear-Canyon)

### PADDLING TRAILS:

[www.flaminggorgecountry.com/paddling](http://www.flaminggorgecountry.com/paddling)

### MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL:

[www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Dowd-Mountain](http://www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Dowd-Mountain)

### FAMILY FRIENDLY WHITE WATER RAFTING:

[www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Rafting](http://www.flaminggorgecountry.com/Rafting)



# Steinaker State Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!



Located in the heart of Dinosaurland, Steinaker State Park is well known to geologists, historians and collectors for its fossilized oysters, clams and other shellfish that lived in the ancient seas that once existed here. Steinaker also enjoys a reputation as a first-class water sports destination, and its convenient location makes it a popular base for exploring the many attractions of Dinosaurland in northeast Utah and the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. Visitors will appreciate the secluded campground on the western shore where they can fish for rainbow trout and largemouth bass, relax on sandy beaches, swim, sail and waterski. The park was named after John Steinaker, a pioneering rancher in the region, who was 81 when construction began on the dam and reservoir in 1962. The park was opened to the public in 1964 and has 30 developed campsites. **(435) 789-4432.**



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

Home to one of the most productive fossil digs in the world, Dinosaur National Monument is the result of geological and climatic forces tilting, warping and eroding the earth's crust to reveal a treasure trove of fossils. Enter the Quarry Exhibit Hall to see the 1,500 displayed fossils. Paleontologists discovered the bones just where you see them today. **Everything in the quarry is real.** The larger monument offers a full array of rich history and scenic splendor, all connected by beautiful trails, rivers or rugged backcountry. Visitor center and quarry hours vary by season. Access the monument via Highway 149 north of Jensen, Utah. **(435) 781-7700.**

# ON THE ROAD

Scenic drives or areas easily accessed by 2-wheel drive.



## UINTA MOUNTAIN RANGE— MIRROR LAKE SCENIC BYWAY:

The Mirror Lake Scenic Byway is one of the highest roads in the state of Utah, cresting at 10,687 feet at Bald Mountain Pass. Its path will guide you through the western portion of the Uinta Mountains, one of the few ranges in North America that runs east to west as opposed to the more common orientation of north to south. The route winds its way from farmland to forested valleys and higher to pristine lakes overflowing with fish. The byway will take you by the headwaters of the Provo, Weber, Duchesne, and Bear rivers. The fact that you can escape the crowds of the greater metro area of Salt Lake City and be in the Uinta Mountains in less than two hours is one of its greatest draws. The byway is a 42-mile stretch of state Route 150 that begins in Kamas, Utah, and climbs into the Uinta Mountains before descending to the Wyoming border.

## FLAMING GORGE-UINTAS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY:

A 150-mile drive along the eastern edge of the Uinta Mountains and along the southern rim of Flaming Gorge Reservoir, delivers outstanding views of the river gorge and the High Uintas as well as roadside geology lessons. Special attractions along the route include, Utah Field House of Natural History/Dinosaur Garden, Steinaker and Red Fleet state parks, Ashley National Forest and Uinta Mountains, Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Dam, Sheep Creek Canyon, and Swett Ranch. The drive begins in Vernal, runs north to Flaming Gorge Reservoir, then explores branches to Manila and Dutch John.

## DINOSAUR DIAMOND PREHISTORIC HIGHWAY:

The Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway might just be the ultimate getaway. After all, the 512-mile loop stretching across Utah and Colorado transforms travelers into explorers of this majestic geography, considered the best place in the world to experience dinosaurs. Paleontologists, who have been coming here for 100 years, continue to make new discoveries at active quarries, unearthing fossils and bones embedded for 150 million years. Along the loop, travelers can visit numerous museums showcasing **reconstructed skeletons** and see the **preserved footprints** of huge plant-eating dinosaurs and their not-so-friendly carnivorous cousins. Perfect for a three to four day exploratory trip traveling through the Utah towns of Jensen, Vernal, Roosevelt, Duchesne, Price, Green River and Moab.



## LOCAL GEMS

Areas that fall outside the national and state parks, but are highlights of the region.

### LODORE CANYON RIVER RUN:

#### >> WHITE WATER UP TO CLASS IV RAPID

The Gates of Lodore form the scenic entrance to the Canyon of Lodore, a gorge on the Green River, deep within Dinosaur National Monument. Recognized as one of North America's most beautiful river canyons, it is a treasure trove of archaeology, history, grand scenery and recreation. The stark contrast between the red and brown sandstone and the green trees that flourish in the riparian area will make an impression you won't soon forget. First navigated by Major John Wesley Powell on his descent that led him through the Grand Canyon, the ancient fossils, petroglyphs, and bighorn sheep are the same now as they were then.

### DESOLATION CANYON RIVER RUN

#### >> FAMILY FRIENDLY CLASS I, II, AND III RAPIDS

Standing proudly atop the podium as one of Utah's premier multi-day river trips, Desolation Canyon serves up a cornucopia

of experiences, scenery, rapids and geologic and anthropological interests. In 1869, John Wesley Powell led an expedition through Desolation Canyon to chart these unknown wilds, an area still considered to be one of the most remote places in the lower 48. At its deepest point, this canyon rises 5,000 feet from the river to the unseen Tavaputs Plateau. Prehistoric evidence abounds throughout the run, ancient Fremont petroglyphs and pictographs are found within short hiking distance from the river's edge. Of historical note, notorious outlaws, including Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch, found refuge here. For most river runners, the average time to complete this 84-mile journey, from the put-in at Sand Wash to the take-out at Swasey's Landing, just north of the town Green River, is six to seven days.

There are many excellent local guides and outfitters to support and enhance your river experience. A guided river trip ensures that all safety precautions have been taken and all necessary equipment for a safe, enjoyable trip is included.

## WILDLIFE VIEWING ←

### FLAMING GORGE RESERVOIR

This national recreation area, located within Ashley National Forest, is well-known for the osprey that nest along the craggy outcroppings of the red rock gorge. Pronghorn antelope, mule deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, wild turkey, black bear, moose, and elk also inhabit the area.



### MIRROR LAKE SCENIC BYWAY (HWY 150 FROM KAMAS TO UT-WY BORDER)

Along this popular mountain road, valley farmland gradually climbs to forested mountain terrain, grassy meadows, glacial lakes, and rugged 13,000' alpine peaks. Look for mule deer, elk, moose, black bear, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, river otter, raptors, and cougar that populate the area.

### OURAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Twelve miles of the Green River flow through this 12,000-acre marshland, which supports waterfowl, songbirds, and other wildlife. A 12-mile self-guided auto tour winds through a variety of refuge habitats and wildlife viewing areas.



## ➔ BASE CAMP TOWNS



Say “**Vernal**” to most Utahns and the word that most often comes to mind is “dinosaurs.” Vernal is close to **Dinosaur National Monument** and downtown Vernal offers the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum. Not into dinosaurs? No worries. You’ll find plenty of territory to hike, bike, and raft all summer long. Vernal is also a gateway to Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

In pioneer days, **Roosevelt** was considered the hub of the Uinta Basin. A central point between Price and Vernal for trade. Today Roosevelt provides food, lodging, gas, and an 18-hole golf course.

Located in proximity to the Highline hiking trail, and up to 400 lakes, **Duchesne** provides a base-camp town for Uinta Mountain adventures, such as climbing Kings Peak (the tallest peak in Utah), as well as Dinosaurland adventures to the east.

## ➔ OFF THE BEATEN PATH

**King’s Peak** - Uinta Mountain Range: Kings Peak, the highest mountain in Utah, is little more than a giant pile of rocks, but the hike to the 13,528-foot razor-backed summit takes you into the heart of Uinta country, a land of alpine splendor, flowing streams, and over 2000 glacially carved lakes. The view from the top of Utah’s highest peak is worth the belt-notch climb.



### FILMED IN NORTH EAST UTAH



- ➔ **The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch** - 2020: Lehi, Ballard
- ➔ **Mystery at Blind Frog Ranch** - 2021: Vernal
- ➔ **Chill Factor** - 1999: Vernal
- ➔ **Jeremiah Johnson** - 1972: White Rocks Canyon
- ➔ **Highline** - 2020: Vernal

# NATURE MAKES US BETTER



## ESPECIALLY WHEN WE FEEL IT UNDER OUR FEET!

Here in our national and state parks, and wherever your adventures take you, remember these simple tips to make the most of your family time on the trail.

- 1 START SMALL** – Make sure that your first hikes here are achievable, and ideally have clearly defined end points. Family traditions are built slowly – the love of hiking is too!
- 2 FOCUS ON FEATURES** – Lakes, streams, waterfalls, overlook views, etc. will keep your family focused and engaged.
- 3 ROTATE THE LEADER** – Walking in front on a hike is a different experience. Encourage even the youngest to take turns keeping the pace and navigating.
- 4 BONUS FUN** – Scavenger hunts, word games, species spotting prizes, and yes, even tech toys (check out iNaturalist!) are all great hiking companions.

## HIKE. WASH. SHARE. REPEAT.

Nature Valley is proud to support and promote restoration projects that increase access to thousands of miles of trails in parks across the country – dedicating those miles to the countless people like you who are out there making them matter! Visit [naturevalley.com/nationalparks](https://naturevalley.com/nationalparks) to learn more.

NATURE VALLEY



**10,000  
MILES**



# South- east

## THE ARCHEOLOGICAL CORNER

The topography, geography, and prehistoric architecture of Southeast Utah blows the mind and pushes us into a space of complete wonder. How? Who? And When? Before the term “national park” was even coined, people were living and thriving in these areas. Southeastern Utah is home to spectacular pictograph and petroglyph panels and some of the highest density of known prehistoric remains. The archaeological displays you’ll find in this section of the state are some of Utah’s most treasured sites.

There is more than one way to explore the canyons of Southeast Utah. Glen Canyon Recreational Area, including Lake Powell, sits in this corner of the state as well. You’ll find 120 canyons of soaring red cliffs that can be accessed by water rather than on foot. Geologic wonders, ancestral sites and rugged outdoor adventure await well-prepared and thoughtful travelers!



### WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SOUTHEAST UTAH:



Boat



SUP



Kayak



Houseboat



Sightseeing



Backpacking



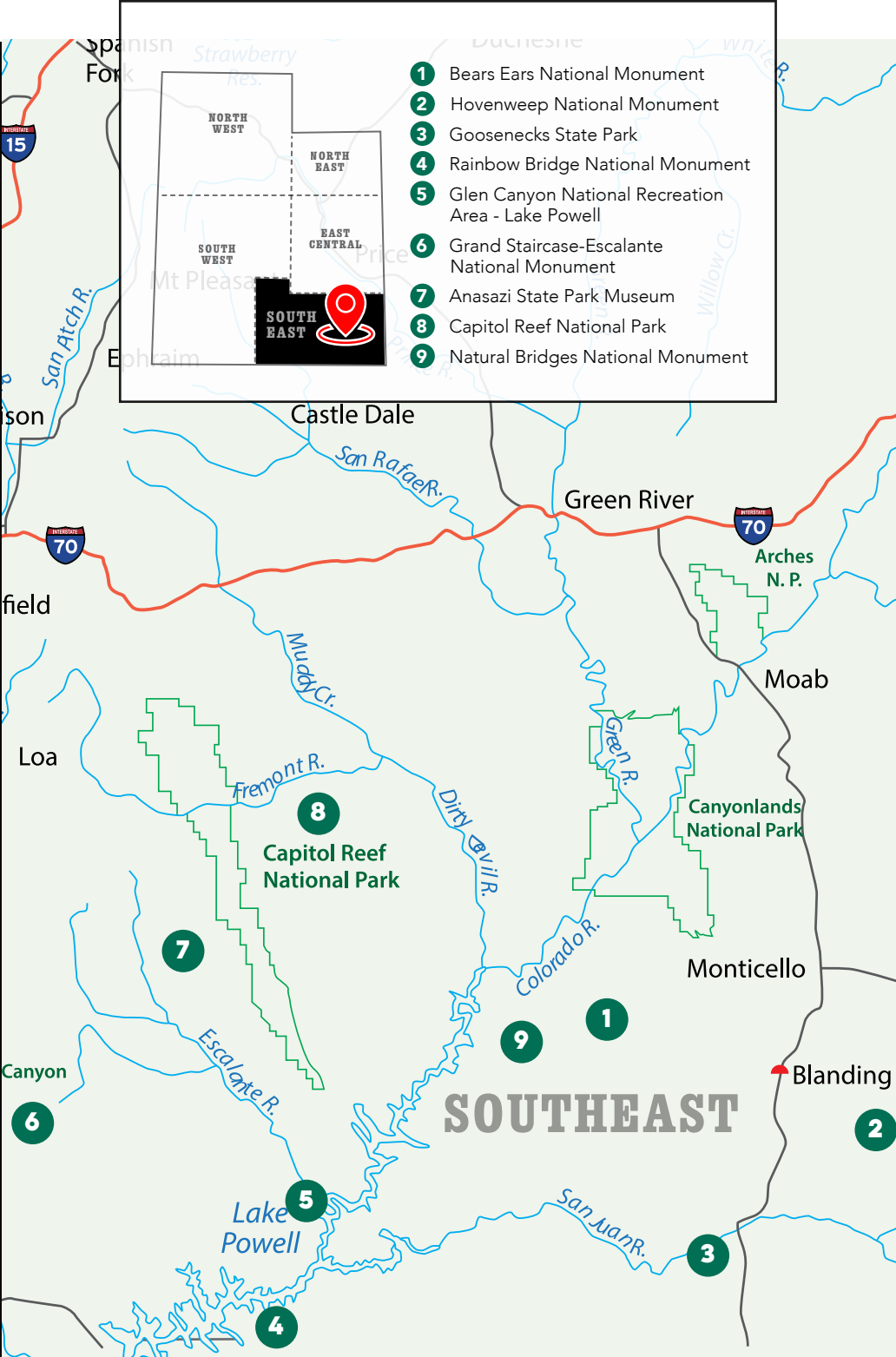
Canyoneering



Hiking



History  
Ancestral Sites

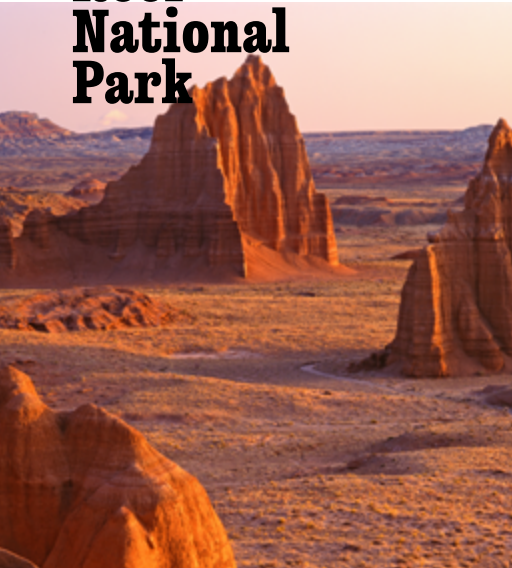




# Capitol Reef National Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!



Welcome to Capitol Reef National Park, home to the Waterpocket Fold, a massive warp in the earth's crust, that comprises unique desert features—colorful canyons, arches, bridges, and domes. The Capitol Reef region of Utah offers solitude-seeking travelers spaces between the beaten path, even during peak season. There's more to Capitol Reef than stellar views and ancient sandstone. Throughout the region you'll find opportunities to glimpse what life was like back in the day. From abandoned outposts of settlers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the heart of the park, to the heart of the national park, to orchards that still bear apples, cherries, apricots and pears, unearthed Fremont Indian villages and petroglyphs, the history of this region of Utah is as much human as it is geologic.

## 5 MUST-DO—MUST-SEE:

**Hickman Bridge Trail:** The Hickman Bridge natural sandstone arch is an easy way to start checking off the "must-dos" within Capitol Reef. This two-mile, moderately strenuous hike, begins right on the shoulder of Route 24 and gives the entire family the chance to scramble between ancient volcanic boulders while circumnavigating the 133-ft. tall sandstone arch.

**Grand Wash Trail:** Take an easy walk through a gorge that cuts through the upper portion of the Waterpocket Fold, with sheer canyon walls on each side. 2.2 miles

**The Scenic Drive:** The paved Scenic Drive is 15.8 miles round-trip. Here you will enjoy views of the massive cliffs of Capitol Reef. Two dirt roads off the Scenic Drive, generally accessible by passenger vehicles, continue into Grand Wash and Capitol Gorge, locations along the reef where water has cut completely through the towering walls of stone. Several walks begin from the

Grand Wash and Capitol Gorge spur roads. A Scenic Drive guide can be purchased at the visitor center.

**Cathedral Valley:** Capitol Reef offers remote wilderness. To the north of Route 24, dirt roads, which generally require high-clearance and sometimes high-clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicles, lead into the park's northern section through the heart of Cathedral Valley, an area of monolithic formations of Entrada and Curtis sandstones, some of which are 500 feet high.

**Waterpocket Fold:** This defining geologic feature of Capitol Reef is a nearly 100-mile-long fold in the Earth's surface. This warp in the earth's crust contains numerous eroded basins or pockets that hold rainwater and snowmelt - thus the name. Entering the park from the west gives the most impressive view of the 1,000-foot-high stone barrier into which erosive forces have sculpted myriad canyons, mesas, buttes and mazes.

## PARK INFORMATION

**Park Fees:** Entrance to the Capitol Reef Scenic Drive is \$20 per car; \$15 per motorcycle; \$10 per individual cyclist or pedestrian (valid for seven days). Fees subject to change.

**Avoiding the Crowds:** Spring and fall have pleasant warm days and cool nights. Summer months are hot and dry. Winter is often cold and at night can drop below freezing. Time your visit so you will be safe and enjoy the area.

**Lodging and Dining:** There are no restaurants or accommodations in the park. Please bring food, drink and plenty of water with you. For a complete list of services in the area, inquire at the visitor center, or contact the Wayne County Information Center at **(435) 425-3365** or **(800) 858-7951**, or visit **capitolreef.org**.

## VISITOR SERVICES

**Gasoline:** There are no gas stations in the park. Fuel is available in Torrey, 11 miles west of the visitor center, and in Hanksville, 37 miles east of the visitor center.

**Groceries:** Aside from snacks in the Gifford House and visitor center, and the seasonal fresh fruit you can purchase locally, there are no food services in the park. Food can be found in nearby towns.

**Medical Emergencies:** Park rangers or visitor centers can administer emergency first-aid. A medical clinic is located in Bicknell, which is 19 miles west of the park. The nearest hospital is in Richfield, 75 miles away.

**Accessible Services:** The visitor center, restrooms, five sites in the main campground, picnic area and petroglyph panel boardwalk are wheelchair-accessible.

Park Contact: For more information, call **(435) 425-3791** or visit **nps.gov/care**.

## ROCK TALK

The Waterpocket Fold defines Capitol Reef National Park. Early pioneers provided the park's namesake—"capitol" for the white

domes of Navajo Sandstone that resemble the capitol dome in Washington, D.C., and "reef" for the rocky cliffs that are a barrier to travel, like an ocean reef. A nearly 100-mile-long warp in the earth's crust, the fold is a classic monocline: a regional fold with one very steep side in an area of otherwise nearly horizontal rock layers. The Waterpocket Fold formed between 50 million and 70 million years ago when a major geologic shift in western North America reactivated an ancient buried fault. When the fault moved, the overlying rock layers were pushed up, bent, and draped into the monocline. Almost 10,000 feet of sedimentary strata are found in the Capitol Reef area. These rocks record nearly 275 million years of history. Ancient environments revealed in the rock include rivers and swamps (Chinle and Moenkopi formations), Sahara-like deserts (Navajo and Wingate formations), and shallow oceans (Mancos Shale and Kaibab Limestone).



## BASE CAMP TOWNS

**Torrey:** Torrey, is recognized by the International Dark Sky Association as a "Dark Sky Community." This means it's one of the best places in the country to view the heavens at night. Just 11 miles outside of the park, Torrey is your source for fuel and food.

**Hanksville:** Hanksville is a Base Camp for both Lake Powell and Capitol Reef. It's the largest little city before a dearth of services but an occasional gas station. Hanksville also offers tours and guide services.

The most populated city in San Juan County, **Blanding** is still home to only a few thousand residents. It is the jumping off point for forays into the ancient desert ruins found in the far southeast corner of the state. Grab some lunch and hit the Blanding Visitor Center as you prepare to launch your exploration into any number of archeological and historic sites.

# Goosenecks State Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

Goosenecks State Park sits on a high mesa overlooking the San Juan River 1,000 feet below. This primitive park offers a spectacular view of a rare geologic formation—an entrenched meander—carved by the San Juan River as it made its way through the desert for more than 300 million years. One of the more popular features is the Honaker Trail, built by gold prospectors to gain access to the deepest part of the gorge. Located 1.5 miles northwest of the Goosenecks, this narrow and technical 2.5-mile trail descends 1,200 feet to the river. The park is located nine miles northwest of Mexican Hat, Utah, via hard surface road off Utah Highway 261. Year-round activities include camping, picnicking, hiking and sightseeing. A small parking area, observation point, primitive restroom facilities, and picnic tables are available, though potable water and firewood are not. (435) 678-2238.



# Anasazi State Park Museum



Located in Boulder, Utah, Anasazi State Park Museum is one of America's most scenic and archeologically significant parks. Once the home to more than 200 Ancestral Puebloan people, it was one of the largest communities discovered west of the Colorado River. This site features a visitor center, museum, gift shop, and a life-sized, six-room replica of an ancient dwelling, as well as portions of the original village, which remains largely unexcavated. (435) 335-7308

## Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Experience more than a million acres of outdoor adventure and starry skies. Slot canyons, slickrock and other geologic marvels offer backpacking, canyoneering, hiking, mountain biking, off-roading and camping. This massive national monument is vast and rugged, yet easily accessible

off Scenic Byway 12 and U.S. Highway 89. Explore visitor centers in Kanab (Grand Staircase section), Escalante (Escalante Canyons section) and Cannonville (Kaiparowits Plateau section). Sun-drenched Utah backcountry boasts a mixture of colorful sandstone cliffs soaring above narrow slot canyons; as well as abandoned old Western movie sets, among many other treasures.

The Escalante Canyons section is the most popular area of the monument, especially for hiking, backpacking and canyoneering. This is the area where you'll find classics like Coyote Gulch, and Hole-in-the-Rock road as well as other popular recreational canyons.



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

The amazing force of water has cut three spectacular natural bridges in White Canyon at Natural Bridges National Monument, situated 42 miles west of Blanding or 47 miles north of Mexican Hat. These stunning rock bridges have Hopi Indian names: delicate Owachomo means “rock mounds”, massive Kachina means “dancer”, while Sipapu, the second-largest natural bridge in the state, means “place of emergence”. A nine-mile scenic drive has overlooks of the bridges, canyons and a touch of history with ancient Puebloan Ancestral Sites. Moderate to difficult trails, some with metal stairs, lead down to each bridge. A longer trail follows the stream bed beneath all three bridges.

There is ample evidence that ancient people occupied this complex system of canyons from about 500 BC until around AD 1270. The earliest inhabitants probably lived in pit houses on the mesa tops, while the later Ancestral Puebloans built cliff dwellings that can still be seen today. They likely farmed on the broad mesas, not in the narrow canyons.



**Night Sky:** Given its remote location, it's no wonder the park has some of the world's least light-polluted night skies. The International Dark Sky Association named Natural Bridges the world's first “International Dark Sky Park.” Accordingly, park rangers not only give interpretive discussions on astronomy but also refitted the park's light fixtures to reduce their own light pollution.

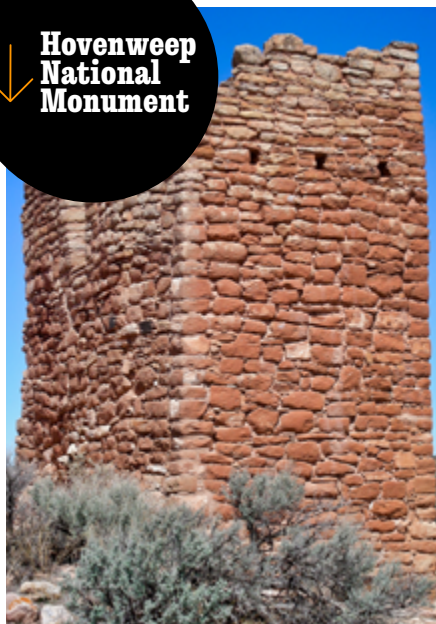
## ↓ Bears Ears National Monument



While there's beauty all around, it's the layers of life and history that give definition to these lands. The area includes red rock, juniper forests, high plateau and an abundance of early human and Native American historical artifacts. The Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Hopi Nation and other tribes are inextricably linked to this land. Layers of history and culture are visible on the landscape. Thousands of fragile sites are spread across the rugged backcountry. Each artifact tells a centuries-old story that is part of a longer narrative with deep meaning for the area's indigenous people. Plan to see the Ancestral Puebloan sites along State Route 95 and Comb Ridge.



## Hovenweep National Monument



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

**H**ovenweep National Monument is an inspiring place that begs visitors to ask questions about the ancients. Located a mere 39 miles northeast of Bluff on U.S. 191 and Highway 26, this enchanting place is known for its six abandoned Ancestral Puebloan Sites. These multi-storied towers cover an expanse of more than 20 miles throughout a wilderness of mesas and canyons sparsely dotted with sage and juniper. These 700-year-old and older archaeological sites can be visited by paved and improved dirt roads, but you'll need to go on foot to fully explore them. As you check out the structures, such as the iconic and photogenic Hovenweep Castle and Square Tower House, it's impossible not to imagine what happened here hundreds of years ago.



**R**ainbow Bridge National Monument is the tallest natural bridge in the world. It is roughly the sixth longest. Considered sacred in Navajo culture, Rainbow

Bridge is a symbol of deities responsible for creating rain, the essence of life in the desert. Before the construction of Glen Canyon Dam formed Lake Powell, Rainbow Bridge National Monument was a remote destination requiring a multi-day hike from Navajo Mountain. Now, Lake Powell water level brings visitors within one-quarter to two miles of Rainbow Bridge, yet this impressive Utah natural bridge still feels a world apart. Carved from red Navajo sandstone, the bridge is 290 feet tall and 270 feet across—higher than the United States Capitol Building—and nearly as long as a football or soccer field.

## Rainbow Bridge National Monument



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

**U**p at the mouth of Bridge Canyon, in a cove on Lake Powell, you can reach the bridge by personal boats and watercraft, or via a boat cruise offered daily from Halls Crossing or Bullfrog Marinas north of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area or Wahweap Marina near the Arizona border. With a permit from the Navajo Nation, you can also follow a historic trail on foot or by horseback. Trails exceed 13 miles in length and require good preparation and wayfinding skills (i.e., compass, map, GPS, overnight gear and lots of water).

# Glen Canyon National Recreation Area - Lake Powell



An expansive lake ringed with towering cliffs and a labyrinth of side canyons, Lake Powell promises sun-drenched boating, great fishing and endless opportunities for exploration. With 2,000 miles of shoreline, beautiful blue water and vast scenic landscapes, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area offers unparalleled opportunities for water-based recreation. Lake Powell, is the second largest human-made lake in the United States, and is widely recognized as one of the premier boating destinations in the world.

Stretching from the beginning of the Grand Canyon at Lees Ferry in Arizona to the Orange Cliffs of southern Utah, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is graced with scenic views, unique geology and evidence of 10,000 years of human history. A visit to Glen Canyon/Lake Powell usually involves water skiing, jet skiing or relaxing in a houseboat, soaking in the otherworldly scenery.

## ON THE ROAD

Scenic drives or areas easily accessed by 2-wheel drive.

**Valley of the Gods:** Perhaps one of the most intriguing names of all of the destinations in San Juan County is the Valley of the Gods. This special area, located near Bears Ears National Monument and Mexican Hat, Utah, attracts individuals looking for idyllic sandstone structures. While similar to the geography found at Monument Valley to the south, this Bureau of Land Management (BLM) spot sees much less traffic, thereby adding solitude to its many virtues. A number of tall, red, isolated mesas, buttes, and cliffs tower above the valley floor and can be seen while driving along the 17-mile gravel road on which it sits. Carved over the course of 250 million years from the Cedar Mesa sandstone, the variety of formations shows the power of time, water, wind, and ice at play in this desert landscape. You can hike throughout the Valley of the Gods, but it's more of an exploration in cross-country meandering, as there are no established trails. Park at the base of whichever rock structure you like and walk about.



**Boulder Mountain:** Do yourself a favor and stop off Utah's All-American Road, Scenic Byway 12 when traveling from Torrey to Boulder to visit one of the area's many high-alpine lakes (check out the great fishing). On Boulder Mountain, which sprawls over an expansive 50,000 acres and is the highest timbered plateau in North America, you'll have more than 80 lakes and ponds from which to choose.

# OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Destinations listed under this heading include areas that are more difficult to access.



## THE PROCESSION PANEL:

The panel depicts three snaking lines of 179 human-like figures, marching in single file and converging on a great circle. The petroglyphs, engraved into the rock surface by ancient artists, also feature images of deer, bighorn sheep, elk and geometric shapes. The small human figures appear to be led by a few larger ones carrying hooked staffs and wearing headdresses, perhaps shamans who interacted with the spirit world and its animal helpers. Respect the pictograph and petroglyph panels and archeological sites. Petroglyphs are an important part of our human and national heritage and can be fragile. Follow Leave No Trace principles so future hikers have the same experience and sense of discovery that you do.

The Procession Panel (reached by a 1.4-mile cross-country hike) and the nearby Wolfman Panel in Lower Butler Wash are the best-known petroglyph sites at Comb Ridge, but you'll have to work a little to see them. Stop by the BLM offices in Blanding or Monticello for directions and information on how to appropriately visit.

## GREATER CEDAR MESA:

The Cedar Mesa area encompasses 1.9 million acres and is home to more than 100,000 archaeological sites. It is considered among the country's most important indigenous cultural areas. The area's remote, rugged backcountry trails are not for everyone. But for adventurers with a love of solitude, archaeology and geographic beauty, this area has it all.

## GRAND GULCH:

A great place to start your adventure is the serpentine Grand Gulch. Often called an "outdoor museum" because of its dense concentration of Ancestral Puebloans' ancestral sites and pictograph and Petroglyph Panels, Cedar Mesa's Grand Gulch is a destination that offers many opportunities for recreation, exploration and discovery. As a whole, the Grand Gulch Primitive Area sprawls over 37,580 acres of canyons and mesas. Grand Gulch can be accessed via a number of trailheads, most of which are located off State Route 261.

Most Ancestral Sites are 800 to 1,200 years old. Around every corner in Grand Gulch and its adjoining canyons, you will see the real dwellings, buildings, tools, pottery, art and other signs of civilization left behind by the ancients. The canyon is thought to have been one of the most densely populated areas before colonization in North America. This remote location requires permits and fees and can only be accessed on foot or by pack animal.

## ANTELOPE CANYON:

Upper Antelope Canyon, just over the border in Arizona, has been capturing the attention of visitors' and photographers' cameras since tours were first permitted.



The reason will become immediately clear: The shafts of light beaming in through the canyon are simply stunning. Located in the Navajo Nation, you must hire a guide and book a tour to see this phenomenal spot. The Navajo call Upper Antelope Canyon Tsé bighánilíni, which means, “the place where water runs through rocks.” Because of its intense popularity, expect to be ushered in and out within an hour—this is not a slot canyon for meandering and exploring. That said, it is one of the prettiest rockways in the Southwest, and one of Mother Nature’s most impressive masterpieces, period.

### COYOTE GULCH, ESCALANTE

The most popular hiking destination in the Escalante Canyons, Coyote Gulch is an adventure of soaring red cliffs, beautiful arches, and a walk down the river. Most explore the gulch on a multi-day backpacking trip to take in such sites as Jacob Hamblin Arch, Coyote Natural Bridge, an

array of pictographs and petroglyphs, Cliff Arch and several waterfalls. This unforgettable trip requires stamina and a descent into the gulch.

### FILMED IN SOUTH-EAST UTAH



- **Forrest Gump** - 1994: Monument Valley, Mexican Hat
- **Planet of the Apes** - 1968: Lake Powell
- **2001: A Space Odyssey** - 1968: Monument Valley
- **Gravity** - 2013: Lake Powell
- **WESTWORLD** - Season 2; 2018: Lake Powell
- **Easy Rider** - 1969: Monument Valley





# East Central

## HOODOOS, ARCHES, AND GOBLINS

Hoodoos, Arches and Goblins, oh my!! That's right, Dorothy, you are no longer in Kansas. Welcome to Utah and the geology that makes you feel like you've left home and landed in a crazy stone playground. Moab, Utah is well known as an outdoor recreational hub for the East Central section of the state of Utah. This gateway town is a base for Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, and all the surrounding recreation. Get ready for the adventures that await as you explore the "needles" in Needles section of Canyonland National Park, the "goblins" in Goblin Valley State Park, the numerous arches that abound in Arches National Park, and the towers, mesas, and buttes you'll traverse along the way.



### WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN EAST CENTRAL UTAH:

 River Rafting

 Mountain Biking

 Jeep/Off-roading

 Hiking

 Rock Climbing

 Scenic Drives

 Backpacking

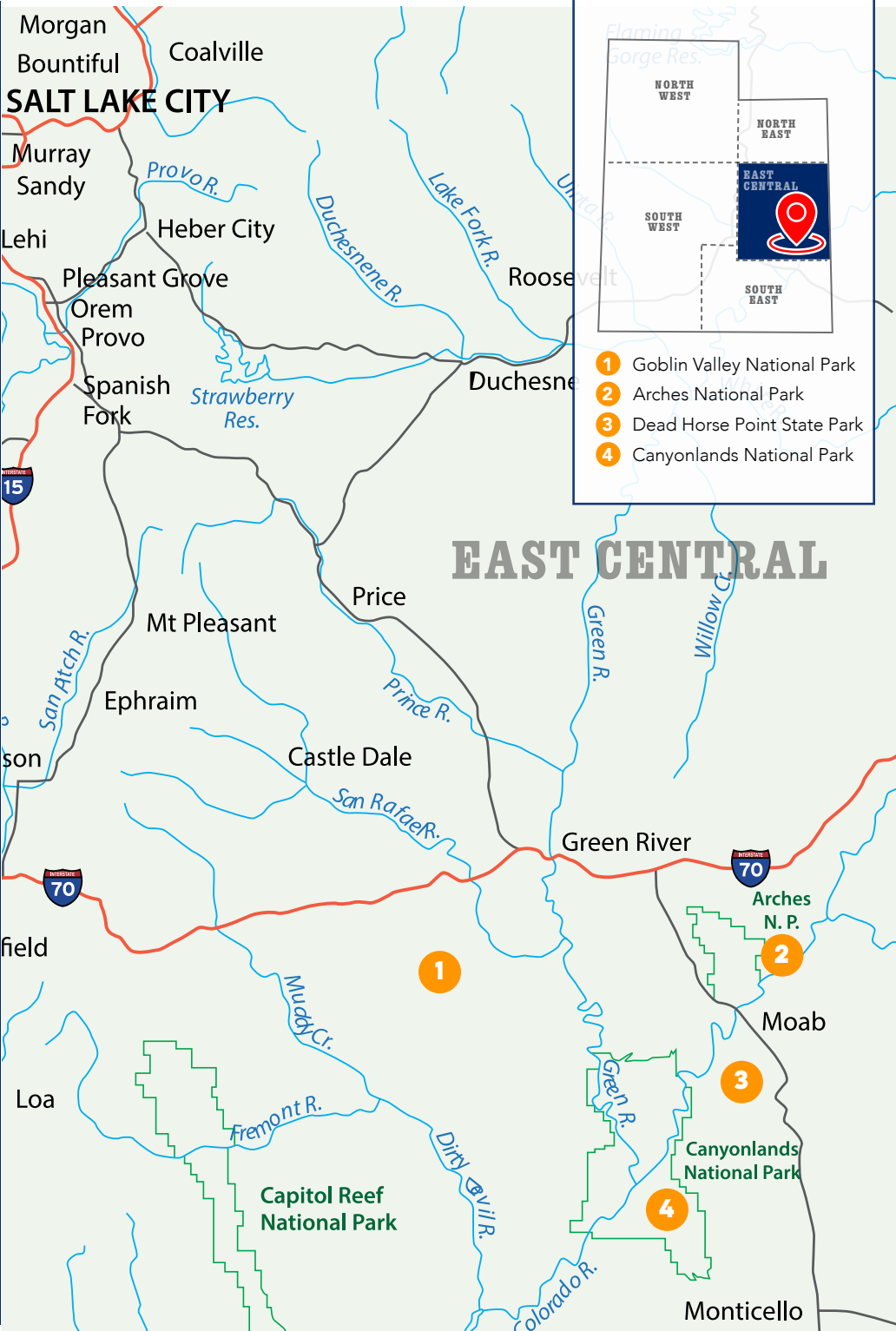
 Cycling

 Camping

 Photography

 Astronomy





# Arches National Park



Arches National Park is home to more than 2,000 natural sandstone arches and other unusual rock formations. Towering spires and balanced rocks complement the arches, creating a remarkable assortment of red-rock landforms in a relatively small area. These other-worldly formations stagger the imagination and draw people from all over the world. Hiking, sightseeing, cycling, and photography are popular. Though many of our parks are well-equipped and staffed, any visit to Utah will have you stepping foot in wild areas, even within a busy national park. Well-prepared visitors have the most fun on their journey and leave it in better condition than they found it; don't forget sunscreen, water, sunglasses, hats, and clothing to layer.

## TOP 5 MUST-DO HIKES

### 1. Ranger Tour of the Fiery Furnace

The route through Fiery Furnace, a twisting maze of fin formations and canyons, is so deceptive that you should go with a ranger. Guided hikes are offered twice daily from spring through fall and can be reserved **six months in advance on [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)**. Ranger-led hikes are available most afternoons and can be reserved in person at the visitor center up to six days in advance. Reservations cannot be made by telephone. This moderately strenuous two-mile hike takes about three hours and requires rock climbing, scrambling, and squeezing through narrow spaces. Fees apply.

### 2. Windows District

This loop trail leads to a series of rock formations and arches, including North and South Window and Turret Arch. This one-

mile, one-hour route is easy, and complete with steps.

### 3. Park Avenue Trail

Park Avenue or Courthouse Towers trailhead is the starting point for a route that follows a canyon bottom offering two miles of moderate close-up views of massive fins and monoliths, including the Three Gossips and the Courthouse Towers.

### 4. Landscape Arch

The longest arch in the park—and one of the longest natural stone arches in the world—Landscape Arch is 306 feet long and, at one point, only six feet thick. A large slab of rock fell from Landscape Arch in 1991 and additional rockfalls occurred in 1995 and 1996, but the arch persists in its flirtatious relationship with gravity.

## 5. Delicate Arch

Delicate Arch is probably the best-known feature in the park. Standing at the edge of a slickrock bowl, the Arch's opening is 46 feet high and nearly 32 feet wide. Well known because of its presence on the Utah license plate and the state's America the Beautiful Quarter, Delicate Arch is one of the most popular destinations in the park. Take plenty of water.

## PARK INFORMATION

**Park Fees:** Entrance to the park is \$30 per car, \$25 per motorcycle, and \$15 per pedestrian or bicyclist (each pass good for seven days). Fees are subject to change.

Arches National Park has implemented a new reservation system for visits between April 3 and October 3, 2022. If you're visiting during those dates between 6 am and 5 pm, you'll need a reservation which allows visitors to enter the park during a one-hour window. Once inside, you can stay as long as you like. You can also exit and re-enter the park on the same day once your Timed Entry Ticket is validated. Visitors are required to pay the \$2.00 non-refundable reservation fee. To make a reservation, please visit **recreation.gov**.

**When to Visit:** The park welcomes more than 1.5 million visitors per year, primarily during spring and fall. Be aware that parking is congested and popular points of interest are crowded. If you are coming to enjoy solitude and have a wilderness experience, consider visiting off-season or very early in the morning or late evening hours. Check out the Off-the-Beaten-Path section for ideas on visiting some of the other impressive public lands in the area that will be less crowded. Commercial tours of the park are also available and can help reduce traffic congestion. Visit **discovermoab.com** for information about these tours.

## VISITOR SERVICES

**Lodging and Dining:** To preserve the area's natural beauty, there are no restaurants or accommodations in the park except for the Devils Garden Campground. Please bring food, drinks and plenty of water with you, although water is available in two areas. A list of services available in the area can be found at the visitor center or from the Moab Area Travel Council: call **(435) 259-8825** or visit **discovermoab.com**.

**Groceries:** Grocery stores and other supplies are available in Price, Moab, Green River, and Monticello. There are no stores in the park.

**Medical Emergencies:** Emergency first aid is available from park rangers. The nearest hospital facilities are five miles south of the park, in Moab. Please be aware that cell phone reception is unreliable in the area.

**RV Facilities:** Sites at the Devils Garden Campground accommodate RVs and tents. There are no hookups or dump stations in the park, but they can be found in nearby Moab. Reserve campgrounds in Arches online using [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) between March 1 and October 31. Spaces sell out months in advance. Additional options can be found in nearby Moab.

**Accessible Services:** The visitor center, picnic area and restroom facilities throughout the park are wheelchair-accessible, as is one designated site at Devils Garden Campground. Park Avenue, Balanced Rock and Delicate Arch have short, accessible viewpoint trails. The visitor center orientation film and a geology animation video are captioned for visitors with hearing impairments. For more information, call **(435) 719-2299** (voice).

**Park Contact:** For more information, call **(435) 719-2299** or visit **nps.gov/arch**.

# ➤ Arches National Park (continued)



## ROCK TALK

Like pieces of fine pottery, the arches stand in fragile impermanence amid this rugged landscape. Bearing the creative imprint of time and the elements, they will, however, eventually surrender to the persuasive forces of gravity and water. The most recent example of this occurred on August 4, 2008, when Wall Arch collapsed. The formation of arches began 300 million years ago in the Pennsylvanian Period, when saltwater from a nearby ocean flooded the area. The water evaporated, leaving a deposit of salt. Repeated flooding and evaporation left deposits that, over many millions of years, became thousands of feet thick.

Over time, the sediments petrified, in some places more than a mile thick. The enormous weight of this rock caused the salt, which is somewhat elastic, to flow deep underground. In the process, domes, faults and anticlines (up-folds of the earth with cores of salt) were created. At some point between 60 million and



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

10 million years ago, the deposition of rock slowed and erosion began in earnest. It is estimated that during the last 10 million years erosion has stripped away more than 5,000 vertical feet of rock. This process exposed cracks in the rock that allowed water to infiltrate and dissolve the salt, which in turn caused the salt valleys to collapse, setting the stage for the formation of the arches.

Entrada Sandstone, windblown sand fused together with varying amounts of natural calcium carbonate cement, is the basic material of the arches. The fluctuating cement content is responsible for differential weathering—some areas resist weathering, while others do not—which results in fins, arches and sculpted rock.

Remember, as you enter into these rugged but fragile landscapes, to travel respectfully. Never leave trash, engrave scratch marks into the rocks, or push over rock formations.

## Canyonlands National Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

The colorful landscape of Canyonlands has eroded into countless canyons, mesas and buttes by the Colorado and Green Rivers and their tributaries. From scenic overlooks to remote canyons and thunderous rapids, there's plenty in this park to explore!

Canyonlands is made up of **three land districts and the rivers that carved it.**

These three districts are: Island in the Sky District; The Needles District; and The Maze District.

### 1. Island in the Sky

The Island in the Sky District is home to the famous White Rim mountain biking trail. Permits are often secured a year in advance for this popular 100-mile ride. A popular 4x4 drive is the Shafer Trail which takes you to the “Thelma and Louise” cliff edge where the two drove their car off the edge in the finale of this 1991 classic film. (See “On the Road” for more details) For less strenuous adventure, Island in the Sky is the most accessible district, with stunning overlooks and shorter strolls available.

### 2. Needles District

The Needles District is a scenic playground loaded with red-rock “needles” that jut into the sky. Backpacking is the most popular way to enjoy this vast and beautiful space, though families will also find trails to experience this remote and rugged landscape. A popular trail, the Big Needles Loop, is 23.2 miles and covers most of the outstanding features of this district.

### 3. The Maze

The edge of the Maze District is reachable by high-clearance two-wheel drive vehicle, but travel into the Maze requires high-clearance four-wheel drive. Road conditions change quickly following rain or snow. (See “Off-the-Beaten Path” for more information). This district requires skill in navigation and high levels of self-sufficiency.

## PARK INFORMATION

**Park Fees:** As of May 2020, entrance to Canyonlands is \$30 per car, \$25 per motorcycle and \$15 per pedestrian or bicyclist (all passes valid for seven consecutive days). Fees are subject to change.

**Visitor Centers:** There are community information offices in the towns of Moab and Monticello. Park visitor centers are located in ***Island in the Sky District***,



35 miles from Moab, and ***Needles District***, 50 miles northwest of Monticello. Hours of operation vary, with extended hours March through October. Visitor centers are closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Needles Visitor Center is closed December through mid-February. The Island in the Sky Visitor Center may close intermittently in winter.

**Lodging and Dining:** There are no restaurants or hotel accommodations located within the park. Please bring food, drink, and plenty of water with you. Lodging and dining can be found in the nearby communities of Moab, Monticello, Hanksville, and Green River.

For a list of area lodging and dining, ask at park visitor centers or contact either the Moab Area Travel Council at **(435) 259-8825** and **[discovermoab.com](http://discovermoab.com)**, or Utah's Canyon Country Visitor Services at **(800) 574-4386** and **[utahscanyoncountry.com](http://utahscanyoncountry.com)**.

## VISITOR SERVICES

**Groceries:** A small store with limited supplies is open intermittently at the Needles Outpost, located just outside the park boundary. Food, water, tools and emergency supplies are available in Moab, Monticello, Green River, and Hanksville.





# Canyonlands National Park (continued)

**Other Services:** Laundry facilities, gasoline, banks, postal and religious services, and other amenities are available in Moab, Monticello, Hanksville, and Green River.

**Medical Emergencies:** Emergency first aid is available at visitor centers in the Needles and the Island in the Sky districts. There are hospitals in Moab and Monticello.

**RV Facilities:** Private campgrounds with utility hookups are located in Helper, Moab, Monticello, Green River, and Hanksville.

**Accessible Services:** The Island in the Sky and The Needles District visitor centers and restrooms are wheelchair accessible, as are some key overlooks. The Moab Information Center and the Southeast Utah Welcome Center in Monticello are wheelchair-accessible.

**Park Contact:** For more information, call **(435) 719-2313** or visit **[nps.gov/cany](https://nps.gov/cany)**.

## RIVERS IN CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

### Colorado River

Visitors to the area cross the Colorado River as they drive into Moab from the northwest. This big muddy river is one of the principal rivers in the Southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The 1,450-mile-long river drains an expansive, arid watershed that encompasses parts of seven American and two Mexican states. As it flows through Utah, the river brings together whitewater opportunities, fascinating historical sites and isolated camping destinations, making it a favorite among visitors. Three of the most popular river rafting trips include the Moab Daily, Cataract Canyon and West

Water. Thrills ahead. Most rafting outfitters are based in Moab.

### Green River

The Green River is the chief tributary of the Colorado River, which flows from Wind River mountain range in Wyoming.

Great for all-family adventures. Two favorite float trips launch from this area.

**Desolation and Gray Canyons** provide a river run of Class I to III rapids, sandy beaches for camping, outlaw hideouts, historic ranches, petroglyphs, hoodoos and towering Cottonwood trees along the way. You're in for a 3 to 6 day experience that covers 84 river miles.

**Stillwater Canyon** is for you if you prefer a nice float without the crowds and prefer easy class I flat water. Stillwater Canyon is a four-day, 52-mile paddle from Mineral Bottom to the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers.



## BASE CAMP TOWNS

**Moab**, one of the most sought after destinations in the Southwest, is a hub for the thousands of visitors who seek ultimate outdoor adventures in this area. From rock climbing to hiking and rafting to canoeing, Moab offers plenty to do—be it wild or mild. Head here to find restaurants, rentals, lodging and guides services. Call **(435) 259-8825** or visit **[discovermoab.com](https://discovermoab.com)**.

**Green River, UT.** - Need a bite to eat, a hotel, a tank of gas? Looking for the Rock and Mineral Fest or Green River Melon Days? This satellite community sits about an hour outside Moab and provides all the basics and then some.

## Goblin Valley

### State Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!



### Dead Horse Point State Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

Driving to each of the park's many overlooks reveals a completely different perspective into Utah's vast canyon country. The park is a slender peninsula of land extending off the massive plateau that is home to Canyonlands National Park's Island in the Sky. Dead Horse Point sits above the beautiful White Rim Trail in Canyonlands National Park and offers views of Moab, the La Sal Mountains to the south and the Colorado River, 2,000 feet below. Many visitors find Dead Horse Point State Park to be even more captivating than the views at the Grand Canyon. According to legend, the area got its name, around the turn of the century, from its use as a natural horse corral.

The park is an excellent place for photography. There are also mountain bike trails, campsites, and yurts for glamping. The Wingate and Moenkopi Yurts offer the seclusion and serenity of camping with trails right outside your door.

Located along the San Rafael Reef, south of Interstate 70, Goblin Valley State Park is unlike any other place in the world—a place that challenges you with its geological whimsy. The landscape, covered with sandstone “goblins” and fascinating formations, is often compared to Mars. Explore the geology, and camp among the nooks and gnomes. Your entire family will love hiking—on and off trail—camping, mountain biking, camping, mountain biking, and traversing the surrounding canyons in this land of hoodoos, mushrooms, and goblins.

Goblin Valley is recognized by the **International Dark-Sky Association** as one of the best places to view night stars. Laying among the goblins at night, staring into the night sky is an experience you won't soon forget. Goblin Valley State Park offers a yurt for overnight camping.

### FILMED IN EAST CENTRAL UTAH



- **Utah's remarkable scenery has always inspired great storytelling. Add a touch of film history to your travels.**
- **Westworld** - 2016-2018: Moab, Monument Valley, Dead Horse Point State Park, Lake Powell
- **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade** - 1989: Arches National Park, Moab
- **Thelma and Louise** - 1991: Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, La Sal Mountains, Moab, Mexican Hat, Thompson Springs
- **The Lone Ranger** - 2013: Dead Horse Point State Park, Moab, Monument Valley
- **127 Hours** - 2010: Moab, Canyonlands
- **Galaxy Quest** - 1999: Goblin Valley State Park
- **Need for Speed** - 2014: Moab

# ON THE ROAD

Items listed under this heading include classic scenic drives and not-to-miss places you can easily access from the road.

## NINE MILE CANYON:



Nine Mile Canyon is a natural conduit through the Book Cliffs to their north side and is famous for its well-preserved and abundant collection of prehistoric pictograph and petroglyph panels, some of which are the finest examples in the United States.

## FISHER TOWERS:



The Fisher Towers are a series of pillars located sixteen miles outside of Moab. The area is usually accessed from Fisher Towers Road. The region is known for hiking, rock climbing, and a maze of soaring

finns, pinnacles, minarets, gargoyles, spires, and strangely shaped rock formations.

## SHAFER TRAIL:



The Shafer Trail is a 19.6 mile off-road drive that is best negotiated with a four-wheel drive vehicle. This route provides views of Dead Horse Point and the Colorado River, as well as a trip past the edge where Thelma and Louise drove their car into the abyss. Accessible from either direction, this wonderful scenic drive will make you a little antsy if you're afraid of heights.

## INDIAN CREEK CORRIDOR SCENIC BYWAY:

The Indian Creek Corridor Scenic Byway is home to

Newspaper Rock, a famous petroglyph panel on the route to the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. Both are part of the Indian Creek unit of Bears Ears National Monument. The road passes through The Nature Conservancy's Dug-out Ranch so the views of rugged western landscapes are unblocked by development.

## NEWSPAPER ROCK:



This artistic landmark is covered with images of animals, people, ancient symbols and depictions of the natural world painstakingly etched into the rock by peoples from the Fremont, Ute and Ancient Puebloan (Anasazi) Native American tribes. It's surmised that the perennial natural spring at-

tracted ancients to this distinctive area of Utah.

## CASTLE VALLEY:



A small town and scenic area just 16 miles northeast of Moab near State Route 128, this area is known for impressive castle-like rock formations made famous by Hollywood and tower climbers. Step away from hordes of tourists on this quick, but impressive, 20-mile scenic drive. You can also hike, bike or horseback ride in the area, making it the perfect place to take your foot off the gas, figuratively and literally. In summer, you can continue the tour up the La Sal Mountain Loop Road.



MONARCH M5

# Love at first sight.

Get closer to nature with **Nikon's Monarch M5 Binoculars**. Nikon's legendary Extra-Low Dispersion glass lenses feature high-reflective multilayer prism coatings that deliver superior light transmittance resulting in brighter images and more natural colors. The waterproof and nitrogen purged body offers a non-slip rubber-armored exterior for rugged shock resistance and fog-free performance when you need it most. And you won't miss a thing thanks to its quick-focus system and turn-and-slide eyecups with long eye relief on any outdoor adventure. **Don't just hear the call of the wild, see it.**

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[www.nikonusa.com](http://www.nikonusa.com)



# OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Destinations featured here include areas that are less accessible, less trafficked, and generally require 4x4 capability.

## SAN RAFAEL SWELL

Thanks to an earth-bulge (called an orogeny) that created the Swell between 40 to 70 million years ago, this roughly 75-mile long and 40-mile wide area is one of the few wild places left in the country. The Swell is an oasis for anyone who wants to pick up and head into the wilderness without running into throngs of people. Come visit for the spectacular views, pictograph and petroglyph panels, dinosaur bones, and wilderness hiking and biking.

The **Jurassic National Monument**, situated in the San Rafael Swell, holds the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, first excavated in the 1920s. The quarry has yielded more than 12,000 bones belonging to 74 species, and boasts a complete 28-foot long Allosaurus skeleton.

## LA SAL MOUNTAINS

The La Sal Mountains, the second-highest range in the state, run southeast of Moab. La Sal Mountain Loop Drive is an auto tour that traverses nearly 60 miles of sublime red rock terrain, and provides a sense of its grandeur for anyone not up for a hike or other physical adventure. Yurts, huts, fishing, and hiking trails are also popular in the La Sals.

## THE MAZE

Mazes have long been things of wonder, challenge, trial and torture. They are games, but serious ones. Few canyon systems in Utah will help you get lost faster than the Maze District of Canyonlands National Park, where five major canyons on the west side of the Green River branch into hundreds of smaller canyons over roughly 100 square miles. The area provides an isolated, challenging and physically demanding desert backpack experience. Even the 4x4 roads are challenging. If you're completely self-sufficient and up for taking it to the next level, this may be your next adventure.

## HORSESHOE CANYON

This half-day hike introduces you to the extensive and rare Barrier Canyon Style pictograph panels —some of the most significant pictograph and petroglyph panels in North America. An easy hike for beginners, this 6.5 mile route includes a trip to the Great Gallery pictograph panel. A four-wheel-drive road leads to the east rim of Horseshoe Canyon from the Hans Flat Ranger Station. Road conditions can be affected by weather.

## LOCAL GEMS

Not-to-be-missed highlights of the area outside the national and state parks.

## SLICKROCK BIKE TRAIL

"Slickrock" may be the most popular mountain biking trail in the world. Twelve miles long, this trail traverses nothing but the slick red sandstone that feels like you should slip, but where tires grip and climb. Located in Moab, this area attracts over 100,000 visitors a year. There is a shorter practice loop if you want to try it out first.

## DING AND DANG AND LITTLE



## WILD HORSE CANYONS

These slot canyons, found near Goblin Valley, offer popular half-day slot hiking experiences. Take plenty of water and check the weather for flash flood potential before you go.



# BE MIGHTY! RESPONSIBLE OHV



Seasons and a variety of terrain make exploring on Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) a year-round possibility in Utah. Whether you ride a motorbike, side-by-side, or another style, you'll find many beautiful locations to play. OHVs can ride across almost all terrain Utah has to offer if rules and regulations are followed. Consider these seasonal options:

- The **tall pine forests** of the Uinta mountains provide cooler, forested trails during the hot summer months.
- The **red rocks** of Southwestern Utah and the sand dunes are some of the local favorites, best visited during winter, spring and fall.
- Bounce around the **sand dunes** of Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, Sand Hollow State Park, or Little Sahara Recreation Area for a different kind of desert experience.



## RULES OF OHV USE:

- Owners of OHVs brought into Utah by non-residents, must obtain a non-resident permit for their machine in order to operate on public lands. For more information, go to [stateparks.utah.gov/activities/off-highway-vehicles/non-resident-ohv-permits/](https://stateparks.utah.gov/activities/off-highway-vehicles/non-resident-ohv-permits/)
- Mufflers with an approved spark arrestor are required on each OHV.
- Lights must be used between sunset and sunrise.
- A red or orange "whip flag" must be attached to each OHV when riding in sand dunes such as Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, Sand Hollow State Park, or Little Sahara Recreation Area. The flag must be at least 6 by 12 inches in size and 8 feet above the ground.
- Youth 15 years and younger, must provide an OHV education certificate before operating an OHV on public land, be under adult supervision and able to reach and operate the controls.



**NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, DRIVE RESPONSIBLY, BE SAFE, AND KINDLY SHARE THE TRAILS!**

## RECREATE RESPONSIBLY

Riding OHVs is a privilege that comes with tremendous responsibility. Motorized vehicles are powerful and can be dangerous. Here are a few points to keep in mind for a successful Utah experience:

- Check the rules and regulations in the riding area and make sure to comply for everyone's safety.
- Play nice with others and share the trail. Wait your turn in crowded situations and slow down when passing human-powered recreationalists.
- Always practice minimum impact, wherever you ride, and be sure to pack out any trash.
- Only operate on open designated trails and stay off wet trails as it can scar the terrain.
- Keep noise down in business and residential areas.
- If possible, **Go with a Guide!**



## GENERAL SAFETY

- As you plan an OHV trip, check the weather and prepare accordingly. Make sure you take enough water. Utah deserts are hot.
- Wear your helmet.
- Abrasion resistance clothing is recommended, including gloves, over-the-ankle boots and protective outerwear.
- Before you hit the trail make sure the OHV is in good mechanical shape.
- Always ride on the right side of the trail in a single file.
- If you are involved in an OHV accident, help others and notify local law enforcement immediately.
- Avoid crowds in high-use areas by visiting during off-season times, early mornings, or weekdays.



## A FEW TOP TOUR AND RENTAL OUTFITTERS:

**Coral Pink OHV** - Kanab  
(435) 862-5084  
[www.coralpinkatvtours.com](http://www.coralpinkatvtours.com)

**Ruby's Inn Tours** - Bryce Canyon  
(866) 866-6616  
[www.rubysinn.com](http://www.rubysinn.com)

**Big Pine Sports** - Fairview  
(435) 427-3338  
[www.bigpinesports.com](http://www.bigpinesports.com)

**Rocky Mountain ATV** - Various  
(800) 336-5437  
[www.rockymountainatvmc.com](http://www.rockymountainatvmc.com)

**Piute ATV Outfitters** - Marysville  
(435) 326-4549  
[www.piuteatv.com](http://www.piuteatv.com)

**Steadman's Recreation** - Tooele  
(435) 882-3344  
[www.steadmans.net](http://www.steadmans.net)

**Cache (CHY) Motorsports** - Hyde Park  
(435) 563-6291  
[www.cachehy.com](http://www.cachehy.com)

**Southern Utah Adventures** - St. George  
(435) 635-0907  
[www.southernutahadventurecenter.com](http://www.southernutahadventurecenter.com)

# tread lightly!®

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL DESIGNATED OHV AREAS IN THE STATE, VISIT FOR MORE INFORMATION [OHV.UTAH.GOV](http://OHV.UTAH.GOV) & [TREADLIGHTLY.ORG](http://TREADLIGHTLY.ORG); (801) 538-(RIDE) 7433



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REALIZE  
YOUR ADVENTURE



Professional riders on closed area. Side-by-Side models shown are recommended for use only by operators 16 years and older with a valid driver's license. Always wear your seat belt, helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Yamaha recommends that all Side-by-Side riders take an approved training course. For Side-by-Side safety and training information, see your dealer or call the RDIWA at 1-866-267-2751. Read the Owner's Manual and the product warning labels before operation. Avoid excessive speeds and never engage in stunt riding. Always avoid paved surfaces and never ride on public roads. And be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. It is illegal and dangerous. Model shown with optional accessories. Vehicle specifications subject to change. ©2021 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved.



# South- west

RED ROCK  
COUNTRY

The geographic diversity of Utah knows no bounds. Heading south and west the scenery continues to evolve—the beautiful, dramatic cliffs and canyons of Southwest Utah cultivate thoughts of awe and wonder. Whether you are gazing up 2,000-foot chocolate-brown sandstone walls bisected by the Virgin River, overlooking a canyon filled with orange hoodoos, sliding pink sand dunes, or staring at the clear night sky where the Milky Way suddenly reveals itself, you will also find a sense of stunned reverence wherever you find yourself in the Southwest corner of the state.




## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SOUTHWEST UTAH:

 Hiking


 Biking

 Sightsee/  
Scenic Drive

 Backpacking

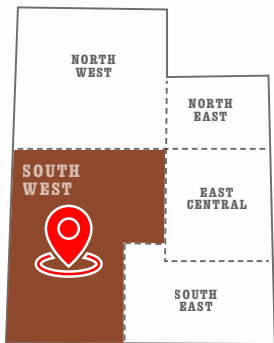
 Canyoneering

 OHV

 Climbing

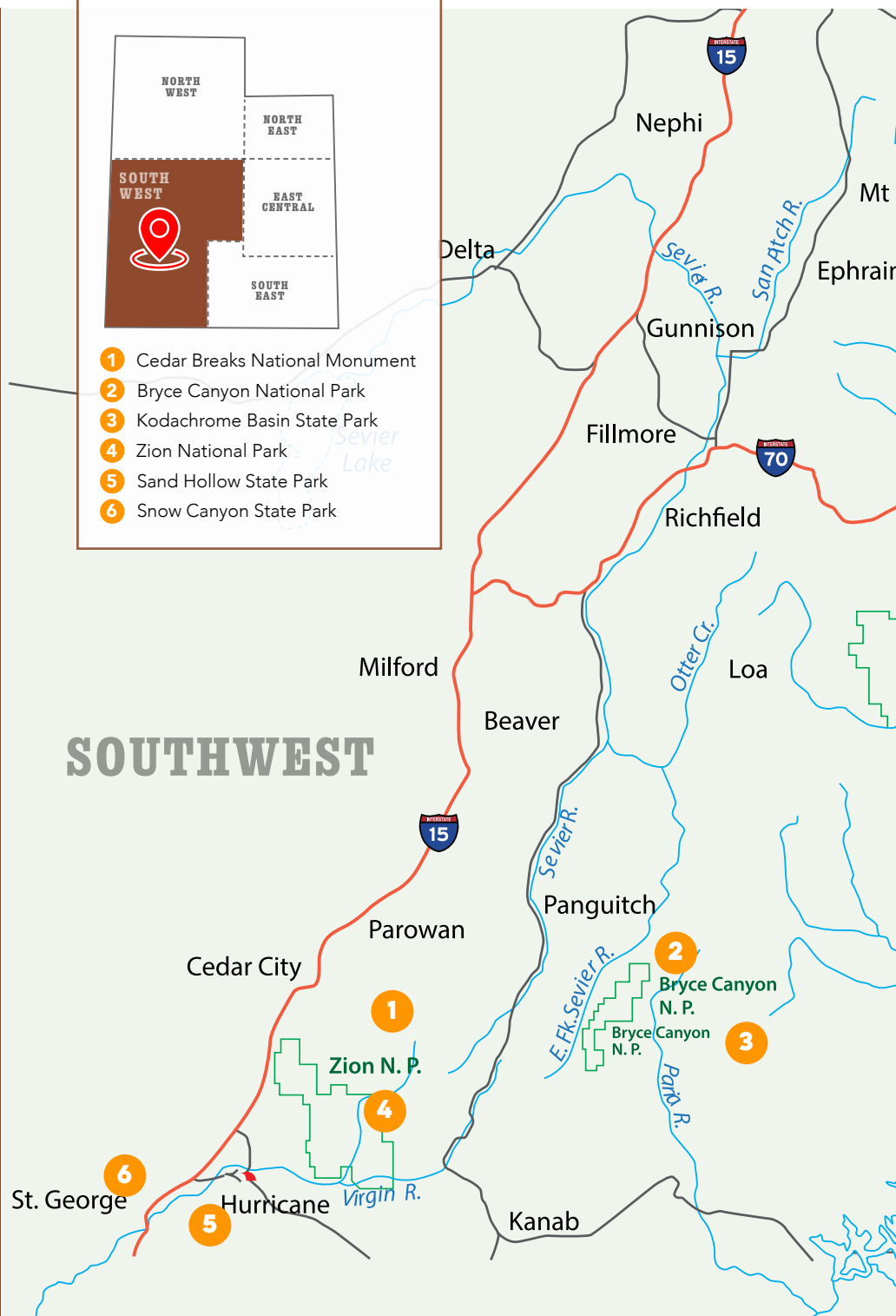
 Astronomy

 Horseback  
Riding



- 1 Cedar Breaks National Monument
- 2 Bryce Canyon National Park
- 3 Kodachrome Basin State Park
- 4 Zion National Park
- 5 Sand Hollow State Park
- 6 Snow Canyon State Park

# SOUTHWEST







# Zion National Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

Zion means “peaceful resting place.” This land received its name from the first white settlers in the area, the Mormons. Early visitors, like the Methodist minister Frederick Vining Fisher, added names such as Great White Throne and Angel’s Landing to the landscape. Paiutes, the Native American tribe that lived in the area, had their own legend about the spirits that inhabit this land of 2,000-3,000 foot cliffs. Other names like the Altar of Sacrifice; the Three Patriarchs; and West Temple also attest to the awe and reverence these sandstone canyons evoke. Enjoy scenic drives, slot canyons, a world-famous river hike and a feast for the eyes and soul.



## TOP 5 MUST-DO - MUST-SEE

**The Narrows:** An out-and-back day hike located in the lower section of the famous Zion Canyon Narrows, where the North Fork of the Virgin River runs beneath thousand-foot walls of some of the most beautiful rock in the American Southwest. This river walk requires poles for stabilizing you as you walk up the rocky river bed. Insulated socks will also save the day. The hike can be as long or as short as you decide to make it. It is extremely popular and incredibly gorgeous. Hiking The Narrows from the top down requires a Wilderness Permit available through the National Park Service.

### **The Watchman/Great White Throne:**

Standing guard at the park’s south entrance is a monolith that rises more than 2,400 feet above the river and is highlighted in the evening by the setting sun. Find this marker as you enter the park.

**Weeping Rock:** A grotto carved from stone and lavishly adorned with hanging gardens, this 0.4-mile trail is an easy walk to a beautiful, natural space. It’s quite popular due to the easy access.

**Orderville Canyon:** This popular canyoneering hike is a technical canyon punctuated with waterfalls. Often called The Narrows’ little sister, Orderville Canyon is just as (if not more) beautiful, but with an additional technical aspect. It’s one of the easiest technical canyons in the Zion National Park area, but still demands respect. For most visitors, it will require a local guide or experienced climbing partner with the correct gear to complete it safely. This 12.3-mile slot canyon hike is a good adventure for both beginning and experienced canyoneers. Be sure to bring a short rope (50 feet), a harness, rappel equipment, a helmet and enough water on hot days to get you to the lower, wetter section of the canyon where you can filter additional water.

**Kolob Canyons:** The finger canyons of Kolob are carved from Navajo Sandstone by the north, middle and south forks of Taylor Creek. Double Arch Alcove is a large colorful grotto in a canyon of the middle fork of Taylor Creek and is accessible by the Taylor Creek Trail. Also found in this section of the park is Kolob Arch, the sixth longest natural arch in the world. Its span of some 287 feet makes it one of the longest free-standing arches in the world. The arch can be reached by hiking from Lee Pass along the La Verkin Creek Trail. The 14-mile round-trip excursion is strenuous and is usually done as an overnight backpacking trip (permit required).

## PARK INFORMATION

**Park Fees:** As of May 2022, entrance to Zion is \$35 per car, \$30 per motorcycle and \$20 per pedestrian or cyclist (valid for seven days). Call **(435) 772-3256** for information. Fees are subject to change.

**Avoiding the Crowds:** Zion National Park is one of the most popular parks in the nation. Overcrowding during peak season has become an issue. For more breathing room, visit in the winter, hike in the early mornings, and head to the less-visited northwest section of the park—Kolob Canyons. Night-time hikes are also a beautiful way to take in the Milky Way, and weekdays are better than weekends.

**Road Restrictions:** Vehicles that are 7-feet 10-inches wide or wider (including mirrors), or 11-feet 4-inches tall or taller are subject to one-way traffic control through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel. A \$15 fee is charged and allows for two trips through the tunnel within seven days. Commercial vehicles, and vehicles over 13-feet 1-inch tall, single vehicles over 40 feet, or combined vehicles over 50 feet in length, are prohibited in the tunnel. For road information, call **(435) 772-3256**.

**Shuttle System:** A free shuttle runs from mid-February through November along the six-mile Zion Canyon Scenic Drive and provides access to all trailheads in that area (times vary slightly each year). During high season, the shuttle runs as often as every four minutes. The only guests allowed to drive on the road during this time are those with confirmed overnight reservations at the Zion Lodge. No vehicles are allowed to drive past the lodge when the shuttle is in operation. The lodge provides a guided tram tour for groups by reservation.

**Lodging and Dining:** Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood designed **Zion Lodge** in the 1920s. In 1966, a fire destroyed the building and it was rebuilt in just over 100 days. This rapid reconstruction, however, sacrificed Underwood's classic design and historic appearance in an effort to maintain service. In 1990, the exterior was restored to represent more of its original rustic appearance. Six suites, 40 cabins and 76 motel-style rooms are available. The lodge is open year-round. Accommodations are generally in heavy demand March through November. Visitors should make reservations up to a year in advance. Visit [zion-lodge.com](http://zion-lodge.com). The reservations office is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**The Red Rock Grill** inside Zion Lodge is open 365 days a year. Hours of dining room may vary by season. Dinner reservations are required; call **(435) 772-7760**. **Castle Dome Cafe**, open April to October, is adjacent to the gift shop.



## VISITOR SERVICES

**Groceries:** Groceries, gasoline, and other supplies are available in Springdale and other nearby communities.

**Medical Emergencies:** Call **911** or **(435) 772-3322**. Visitor centers offer first aid year-round. The nearest hospitals are in St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab. A physician's assistant is available in Springdale in summer and all year in Hurricane.

**RV Parks:** Watchman Campground has electrical hookups. Generator use is prohibited. South Campground has RV sites without electrical hookups and generator use is allowed during designated hours. Trailer sites, tent sites and disposal stations are available.

**Accessible Services:** Several campsites in the South and Watchman campgrounds are accessible to visitors with disabilities, as are shuttle transportation, Pa'rus Trail, Zion Lodge, visitor centers and restrooms. From the end of Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, the one-mile Riverside Walk is accessible (wheelchairs may need assistance).

**Park Contact:** For more information, call **(435) 772-3256** or visit **nps.gov/zion**.



## BASE CAMP TOWNS

As the gateway to scenery and adventure, **Springdale** is a little different than the other towns near Zion National Park. The charming town of 500 permanent residents welcomes a couple million visitors from all over the world to their spectacular corner of southwest Utah.

**St. George** is the launching point to Zion National Park. As the cultural capital of southwest Utah, its quaint atmosphere, restaurants and shops offer the perfect escape after a hard day on the trails. St. George's temperate climate will allow you to relax in style any time of year.

**Richfield** is located on the thoroughfare between several national parks and national forests, Richfield, the largest city in central

Utah, is a great stop-over for supplies, fuel, and lodging. Enjoy the restaurants and local shops on historic Main Street. Its central location provides easy access to nearby natural hot springs, Fremont Indian petroglyphs, red rock national park wonders, ancient lava tubes and aspen stands, and one of the country's best ATV trails.



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

## Bryce Canyon National Park



Famous for its red rock spires and horseshoe-shaped amphitheaters, Bryce features grand views from the eastern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in southern Utah. When you think Hoodoos, you often think first of Bryce Canyon and the beautiful canyons surrounded by these magnificent red-rock spires. To the south of Bryce, the land descends in a series of gigantic steps called the Grand Staircase. The pink cliffs of Bryce Canyon are the uppermost step in the Grand Staircase.

## TOP 5 HIKING TRAILS

A system of trails allows you to travel one or more routes during a hike. The Rim Trail, Queens Garden Trail, Navajo Loop Trail, and Peekaboo Loop Trail are all interconnected and pass unparalleled scenery.

**Rim Trail:** Situated along the plateau rim, this trail offers spectacular views. Paved and level. Up to 11 miles.

**Queens Garden Trail:** A beautiful hike into a maze of colorful hoodoos. The trail leads past Gulliver's Castle and Queen's Castle. Moderate; 2 miles.

**Navajo Loop Trail:** The trail travels into two neighboring slot canyons, with views of the Two Bridges, Thor's Hammer, and Wall Street Formations. Moderately strenuous; 1.3 miles.

**Peek-a-boo Loop Trail:** This trail winds past the famous Wall of Windows, a fin of hoodoos that hugs the lower slopes of the rim. Hikers share this trail with horses. Strenuous; 5.5 miles.

**Bristlecone Loop Trail:** Trek along the top of the 9,100-foot plateau that begins at Rainbow Point. The trail winds through fir forests and offers dramatic views. Easy; 1 mile.

## PARK INFORMATION

**Park Fees:** As of May 2022, entrance to Bryce is \$35 per car, \$30 per motorcycle and \$20 per pedestrian or cyclist (valid for seven days). Fees are subject to change.

**Avoiding the Crowds:** Bryce is open year-round, but the most popular times to visit, because of the pleasant daytime temps are spring and fall. Enjoy warm summer days or snowy winter excursions at Bryce and find a little more solitude. You will have the best luck getting lodging reservations November to April.

**Road Restrictions:** All vehicles are restricted to paved roads and designated parking areas only. Trailers are not allowed at Bryce Point and Paria View. Roads are plowed after snowfalls and are reopened as soon as weather permits.

**Shuttle System:** A voluntary free shuttle primarily serves the main amphitheater, lodge, general store, visitor center and local viewpoints. **RVs will not be allowed to park at these locations:** Visitor Center; Sunrise General Store; Sunset Point; Bryce Point; Inspiration Point; Paria View; and Fairyland Point. A separate free three-hour narrated bus tour to Rainbow Point can be arranged at the visitor center or shuttle office. The shuttles operate daily April 13 to October 22.

**Lodging and Dining:** The Lodge at Bryce Canyon, designed by architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood in the 1920s, is a National Historic Landmark. It has been restored to reflect its original rustic style. Exhibits inside describe the park's human history. The lodge has three deluxe suites, a studio, 70 newly remodeled motel rooms and 40 newly remodeled deluxe cabins. Visitors are encouraged to make reservations several months in advance. Contact The Lodge at Bryce Canyon by calling **(877) 386-4383** or **(435) 834-8700**, or visiting **brycecanyonforever.com**. Other lodging is available year-round outside the park. For visitor services in Garfield County, call **(800) 444-6689** or visit **brycecanyoncountry.com**. **The Lodge at Bryce Canyon Restaurant** offers casual dining in a fine dining atmosphere. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are available, including children's, gluten-free, vegetarian and healthy selection menus. **Valhalla Pizzeria & Coffee Shop**, located behind the main lodge, is open June through October, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. for coffee and pastries, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. for pizza, calzones, salads, and other Italian favorites. Indoor and outdoor seating, as well as take-out, are available. Beer and wine are available with food.

## VISITOR SERVICES

**Gasoline:** There are no gas stations in the park, but there are several in towns just outside the park, including Bryce Canyon City and Tropic.

**Groceries:** Snacks, fresh deli sandwiches, pizza, soups, hot dogs, ice cream, beverages, beer, camping supplies, and sundries may be purchased at the park's *General Store*, located a half-mile north of The Lodge at Bryce Canyon near Sunrise Point. The General Store is open April to October, generally from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but call The Lodge at Bryce Canyon for current hours. Groceries are also available in nearby communities. Ruby's Inn, located in Bryce Canyon City, has groceries, restaurant, rooms, tours and other services available. [www.rubysinn.com](http://www.rubysinn.com)

**Medical Emergencies:** Emergency medical services are available at the visitor center. Call **911** for 24-hour emergency service. The nearest clinic and hospital are in Panguitch, 24 miles from park headquarters.

**RV Facilities:** There are no hookups available at campgrounds, but a sanitary dump station, located just south of North Campground is open in the summer. RV parks and services can be found just outside the park and in local communities.

**Accessible Services:** Most park buildings, restrooms, and viewpoints are accessible, as is the paved, fairly level trail between Sunrise and Sunset points. From mid-April through mid-October, Sunset Campground has accessible campsites for visitors with mobility impairments. Many ranger-led programs are accessible as well. **Park Contact:** For more information **(435) 834-5322**

## ROCK TALK

**Water and wind, over millions of years of freezing and thawing, have carved endless fields of distinctive red rock pillars, called hoodoos, into the plateau.**

A hoodoo is a spire of rock that has an easily eroded column and a more resistant cap. Sometimes they look like mushrooms and they often get called goblins or fairy chimneys. These tall, red, rock spires stand in lines like soldiers and line the natural amphitheaters.



## BASE CAMP TOWNS

**Cedar City:** Less than 80 miles from two national parks, and located right along the I-15 corridor, Cedar City is sometimes called the "Gateway to the Parks." A vibrant small town, Cedar City is a perfect place to stop on your journey to this region's natural wonders. Cedar City is also home to the Utah Shakespeare Festival every year from June to October. Visit [bard.org](http://bard.org) for more information.



**Panguitch:** No trip to Panguitch would be complete without a trip through the historic downtown. The entire original townsite is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today downtown Panguitch is home to shops and restaurants.



## Snow Canyon State Park

Located deep in southwestern Utah, Snow Canyon State Park is known for its red Navajo sandstone, capped by an overlay of black lava rock. Sand dunes and quiet trails beckon visitors year-round, though use of the park is especially appealing in early spring and fall due to southern Utah's moderate winter climate. This strikingly colorful canyon is 11 miles northwest of St. George. Facilities include a 35-unit campground, modern restrooms, hot showers, electric hookups, sewage disposal station, covered group-use pavilion and overflow campground. Find time to explore the trails and dunes of beautiful Snow Canyon on foot, bike and horseback.

**(435) 628-2255.**



## Kodachrome Basin State Park



CHECK IT OUT  
AT NIGHT!

Named by a National Geographic expedition in 1949 for its spectacular colors, Kodachrome Basin is a 2,241-acre park that preserves the area's unique geologic structures known as sand pipes. Some scientists believe that 65 million years ago, sand pipes were underground springs or geysers, similar to those found in Yellowstone National Park today. These geyser channels, over time, filled in with sediment rich in calcite, which cemented the materials.

As the softer Entrada sandstone surrounding the geysers erodes, the monolithic structures—alternatively called sand pipes, chimneys and petrified geysers—emerge. These pipes are not known to exist anywhere else in the world. **(435) 679-8562.**



## Sand Hollow State Park

Formed by two dams that took three years to fill, Sand Hollow reservoir holds 50,000 acre-feet of water, perfect for boating, waterskiing, fishing and swimming. One of Utah's newest state parks, Sand Hollow is already a favorite among off-highway vehicle (OHV) enthusiasts. A short tunnel offers easy access to Sand Mountain and more than 16,000 acres of prime OHV riding. Park facilities are open every day, making Sand Hollow State Park, with its warm summers and mild winters, a year-round recreation destination for nearly every user from boaters to bikers, and OHV riders to equestrians. Sand Hollow State Park is located 14 miles northeast of St. George. Sand Hollow State Park facilities include 50 developed campsites with water, sewer and electrical hookups, and covered picnic tables. Primitive camping is also available as are modern restrooms, showers and courtesy docks at the boat ramp. **(435) 680-0715**





## FILMED IN SOUTHWEST UTAH

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| → <b>Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid</b> - 1969:<br>Snow Canyon State Park,<br>Zion National Park,<br>Grafton ghost town | → <b>The Electric Horseman</b> -<br>1979: St.<br>George | → <b>Romancing the Stone</b> -<br>1984: Snow<br>Canyon State<br>Park | → <b>Westworld</b> -<br>2018: Coral Pink<br>Sand Dunes<br>State Park,<br>Kanab |
| → <b>The Outlaw Josey Wales</b> -<br>1976: Kanab  | → <b>Greatest Story Ever Told</b> -<br>1965: Kanab      | → <b>Guns smoke</b> -<br>1955-1975:<br>Kanab                         |  |

### Cedar Breaks National Monument

Hidden within the mountains above Cedar City is the brilliant geology and vivid environment of Cedar Breaks National Monument. The geologic amphitheater and surrounding area is home to cool hiking trails, ancient trees, high-elevation camping, and over-the-top views along the "Circle of Painted Cliffs." Cedar Breaks' majestic amphitheater is a three-mile-long cirque made up of eroding limestone, shale, and sandstone. The monument sits entirely above 10,000 feet. The

Amphitheater is like a naturally formed coliseum that plunges 2,000 feet below taking your eyes for a colorful ride through arches, towers, hoodoos, and canyons. Stunning views are common throughout so keep your camera nearby.

**Night Sky:** The Dark Sky Park in Cedar Breaks National Monument is situated in a campground on the edge of an alpine meadow. This is one of only a handful of dark sky parks in the world, making it an optimal locations for astral viewing. Far from any metro light pollution and high in altitude, sleeping here, under the stars is first class. Cedar Breaks hosts stargazing programs with a ranger/naturalist throughout the summer months as part of its commitment to pristine night skies and the Dark Sky Parks certification.

## ON THE ROAD

### Brian Head Resort:

In the summer, Brian Head Resort switches to a haven for mountain bikers, festival-goers, musicians, foodies and families looking for outdoor fun. As the temperatures of other destinations push into the hot zone, the resort stays nice and cool at 9,600 feet. And while crowds flock to the typical sites, this resort retains a peaceful atmosphere perfect for unplugging from the daily grind. Brian Head is popular for festivals such as Festival of Flavors, BBQ, Blues and Brews, mountain bike races, country music festivals and Rocktober Fest. [www.brianhead.com](http://www.brianhead.com)

**Gooseberry Mesa:** Popular world-wide, this shelf is home to miles of intermediate to advanced mountain biking trails. Three private yurts are available to rent for camping, on the North Rim, and sit right at the trailhead for easy access to the trails.



LORI LEE



Outdoor Utah is a magical place for kids of all ages. Parks, forests, lakes, and deserts collectively inspire children to explore, engage in physical activities and respect the world around them. Here are a few tips to help increase your chances of success in all outdoor endeavors, as well as make your kids want to do it again next time!

Hiking with kids is a great way to combine quality family time with exercise and exploration of the outdoors. Part of preserving wilderness for future generations is teaching children to appreciate and enjoy nature.

## PLAN

Kids are less likely to “roll with it,” when an important element is forgotten, so advance planning is essential, even if you’re only going a few miles. Pack a first-aid kit, and remember water, snacks, tissues, sunscreen, lip balm, safety whistles, binoculars, magnifying glass, and ideally field guides. Tell someone where you’ll be, even if it’s just a short trail. And be sure to check the weather forecast and trail conditions (where applicable) before heading out, as everything can change in a matter of hours.

## TRAIL SELECTION

For the first few times, choose a trail that’s a bit shorter in length and isn’t too strenuous. Even if your child is used to walking to and from school, that’s different than hiking over varied terrain, at altitude, in different weather elements. For kids, the hike is about the moment. Pick an easy or moderate trail that has some features, whether it’s a lake, stream, waterfall, or something that will keep the child occupied and focused on a goal.

## DRESS

First things first, make sure your child has the appropriate clothing for the hike/adventure you will be doing. Bring rain clothing that can double as wind breaking layers, and hats and sunglasses can be a plus. Make sure kids have adequate hiking shoes. Depending on the terrain, this can range from sturdy sandals to hiking boots. Always pack a change of clothes for each child and save them in the car for your return from the trail. It’s more than likely that kids will finish the hike dirty, muddy, and even wet from splashing around. It’s all part of the experience.

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## FUN

Kids like to be in charge, so when hiking with more than one child, make sure everyone gets a chance to be the leader and set the pace at some point. Since the key to family friendly hiking is keeping the kids motivated and having fun, create games that combine the two, like organizing a scavenger hunt to find things that have certain characteristics (color, texture, size, etc.), counting wildflower or wildlife species, looking for signs of wildlife, or creating rhymes about things you see. Be generous with praise, because kids thrive with positive reinforcement. If they hear how good a hiker they are and what an awesome job they're doing, they'll focus on doing the right things to continue hearing praise. There are also some fantastic learning apps available now. One of our favorites is iNaturalist. Give it a try. We're not against technology; just use it appropriately!

## Visiting national parks with kids

provides a great way to share the natural heritage of our country, build family relations, and learn about nature. The national parks have programs just for kids. Try these when your littles want a more hands-on experience.

### Become a Junior Ranger

Junior ranger programs are a great way to have fun while learning what makes public lands special. Pick up an activity booklet at visitor centers and complete as many activities as you can to earn patches and certificates.

### Walk with a Park Ranger or Volunteer

Get the real scoop on nature through a ranger-guided walk or a slideshow at campground amphitheaters. Ask a ranger at a visitor center for current times and topics to get involved.

## Other Ideas for helping your kids really get into the experience of exploration and making memories:

### Keep an Outdoor Journal

While exploring parks and public lands, a great way to connect with the natural elements around you is to write down and draw the things you see. Journals keep marks off of stones, signs, ruins, etc. Bring along a small notebook and, at the end of the trip, compare with your family and friends! Everyone sees something different, and half the fun is discussing those differences and discussing how you each experienced the trip.

### Take Pictures

If you plan to explore a new place, photography is a great way to document your trip! Utah's public lands offer stunning views of unique landscapes, lakes, wildlife, and more. Be sure to snap photos to capture your best memories—then fashion a scrapbook to remember your experience and share via social media. Within The Mighty 5®, you can help kids post to social sites using the hashtag #Mighty5.

### Leave No Trace – Respect and Protect

The earlier you begin teaching children how to take care of our wild lands, the better stewards of those places they'll learn to be when they're older. Bring a small bag to collect your garbage while out on the trail, and even consider picking up extra litter you see even if it's not "yours." In most areas, however, the local plants, rocks, and especially artifacts are protected and should be appreciated, but never gathered. Kids watch and emulate behavior, so showing them how to do good things will stick.

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