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Oh, Ranger!®

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE PARKS

# UTAH'S NATIONAL PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS

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TRAILS • HISTORY • MAPS • MORE



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# WELCOME

Office of the Governor



Gary R. Herbert  
Governor



## Welcome to Utah!

Utah is home to The Mighty 5® spectacular national parks, many national monuments, segments of three national historic trails, two national recreation areas, and a national historic site — all prolific in recreation and endowed with natural wonders and exceptional beauty.

Last year, the National Park Service celebrated its Centennial. As we look ahead to the next 100 years, there is no better time to get outdoors and explore Utah, whether you are visiting here for the first time, returning to find new adventure, or a lifelong resident.

Here in the heart of the Mountain West, Utah offers a wide range of outdoor recreation, thanks to a unique blend of lofty mountain landscapes and fantastic red rock playgrounds.

Our national parks protect the iconic formations of Arches National Parks, deep channels of Canyonlands, whimsical hoodoos of Bryce Canyon, monoliths and heritage of Capitol Reef and bucket-list hikes of Zion National Park. From there, let Utah's scenic drives and unforgettable trails lead you to all the additional places and experiences that define Life Elevated®.

This American Park Network guide provides valuable information to help ensure your travels in Utah are safe and memorable. Additional information is also available at [www.visitutah.com](http://www.visitutah.com), including descriptions of Utah's 43 state parks. In your destination, knowledgeable park rangers are eager to guide and educate you about local wildlife, geology, and history, and how to help preserve and protect these treasures for future generations.

Best wishes for an exciting and enriching Utah adventure!

Sincerely,  
Gary R. Herbert | Governor



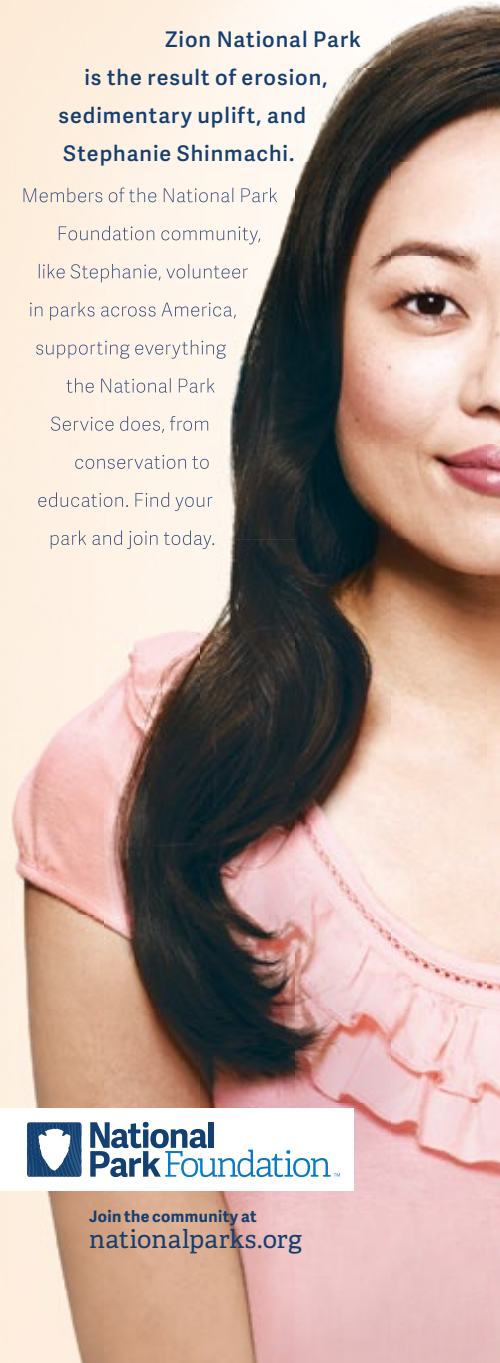
## PHOTO OP!

Send us your stories and photos and you could be a part of our guide! Be a part of the Oh, Ranger!

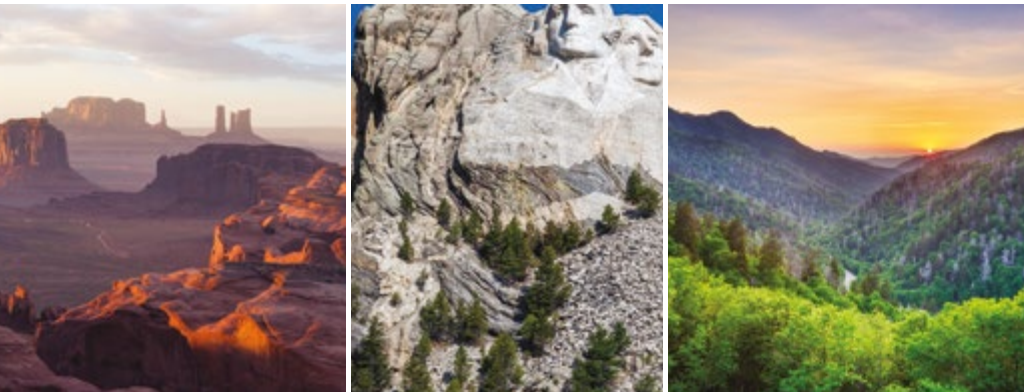
OhRanger

## Zion National Park is the result of erosion, sedimentary uplift, and Stephanie Shinmachi.

Members of the National Park Foundation community, like Stephanie, volunteer in parks across America, supporting everything the National Park Service does, from conservation to education. Find your park and join today.



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(Cover: Hickman Bridge, Capitol Reef National Park Utah Office of Tourism)



For answers to all your questions,  
go to **OhRanger.com**



# WHAT'S NEW! WHY PARKS MATTER

“There is nothing so American as  
our national parks.”

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Mark, Joel & Alex — Support parks, stay healthy!

Take a deep breath in a park and you'll immediately know the value of greenspace.

**Health & Wellness** Studies show a high correlation between time spent in parks and improved health (and, in my view, happiness). You move more when you're outside, which decreases stress, makes you more fit and reduces the risk of many health issues, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Exercise (which parks inspire) also positively impacts your cholesterol levels. A few years ago, I started bicycling to work every day. A year later, my overall cholesterol went down while my HDL—the “good” cholesterol—went up. The results of a small change in your exercise routine can be amazing! Parks invite this change.

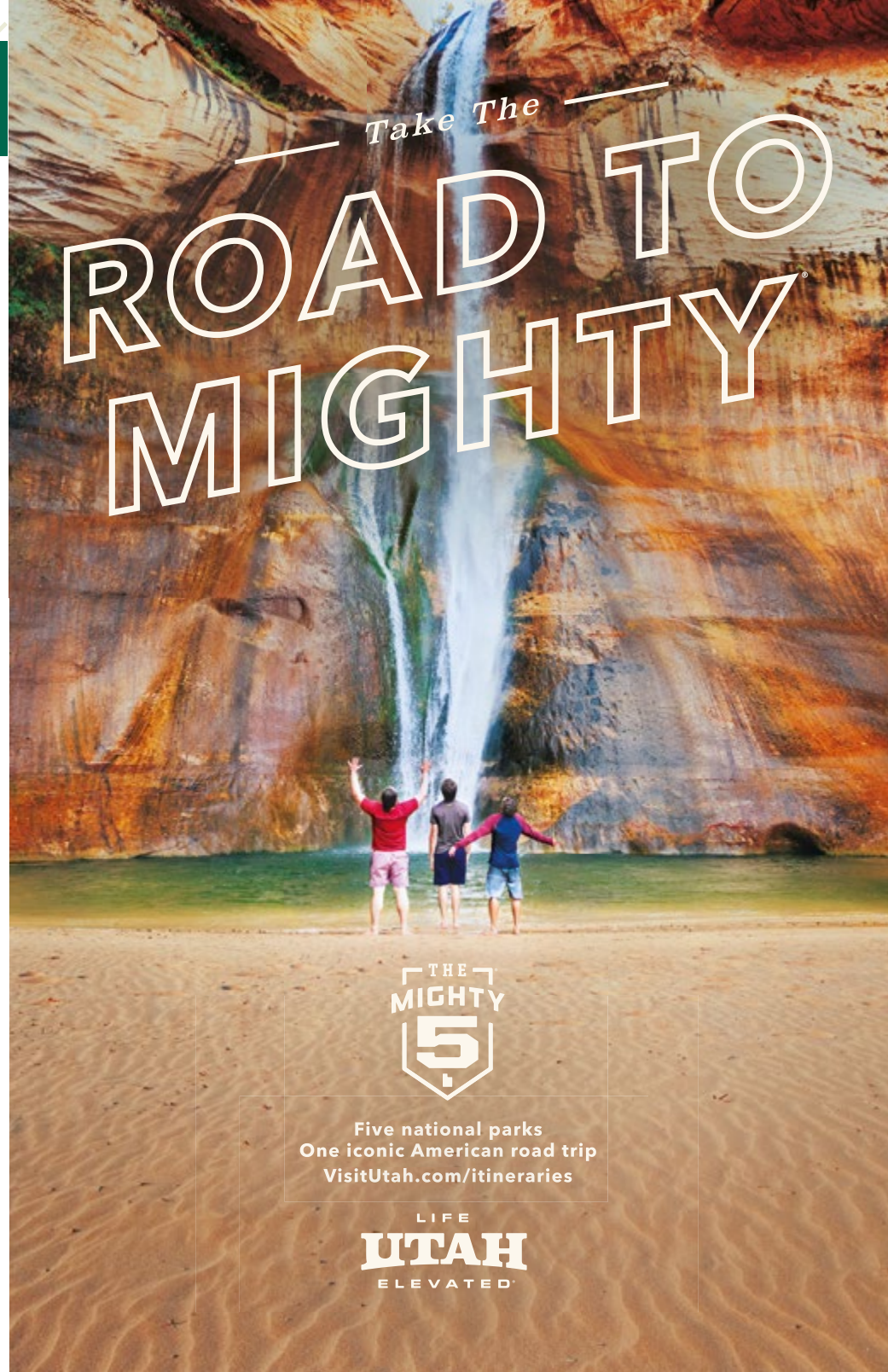
The value of parks is undeniable, so follow FDR's lead and support our public lands. It's the all-American thing to do. (Congress, take note!) You'll save the country money while improving our nation's health—and your own, too. Not a bad combination!

mark@americanparknetwork.com



## GET CONNECTED AT YOUR FAVORITE PARKS!

Parks are about enjoying nature, but what if you want to share a great picture or are awaiting an important email? If you're looking to add connectivity to your park, or if you already have Wi-Fi and would like help adding content or generating sponsor revenues, please let us know at [wifi@americanparknetwork.com](mailto:wifi@americanparknetwork.com).



# Take The ROAD TO MIGHTY



Five national parks  
One iconic American road trip  
[VisitUtah.com/itineraries](http://VisitUtah.com/itineraries)

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**UTAH**  
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# AT A GLANCE



The national parks of the Colorado Plateau make up an immense area of land bordered on the south by the Sonoran Desert and the Painted Desert, on the west by the Great Basin of Nevada, on the east by the Rocky Mountains, and on the north by the Uinta Mountains of Utah.

This guide takes you on a journey of approximately 900 miles to visit The Mighty 5<sup>®</sup> portion of the **Grand Circle**: Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Arches and Canyonlands national parks, each unique and magnificent in their own way. This guide will help you plan your trip so that you have time to get to know each place.

Visitors often regret that they tried to do too much in a limited amount of time. We encourage you to center your itinerary around one or two destinations where you can take full advantage of the many wonderful opportunities each park offers. It's better than burning out!

## NATIONAL PARKS OF THE COLORADO PLATEAU

In **Zion National Park**, precipitous canyon walls and massive monoliths—sculpted by the ceaseless action of the Virgin River—lie in every direction. Here, the formations in stone are on a grand scale, soaring thousands of feet above the lush floor of Zion Canyon.

Heading northeast, we reach **Bryce Canyon National Park**, where erosive forces have created thousands of spires, pillars and rocky temples, whimsically arranged within huge amphitheatres of red rock. These formations are smaller and more intricate than those seen at Zion, and the colors are more vivid.

Continuing northeast on Scenic Byway 12, through the towns of Escalante and Boulder, we come to **Capitol Reef National Park**. Entering the park from the west affords a spectacular view of the western es-



## FEDERAL RECREATION LANDS PASSES

A federal recreation pass is helpful if you plan to visit many national parks, forests or other federal lands. For information, call (888) 275-8747 or visit [store.usgs.gov/pass](http://store.usgs.gov/pass).

Type	Cost	Availability	Details
Annual Pass	\$80	General Public	This one-year pass is available on site, by phone or online (see above).
Senior Pass	\$10	U.S. residents age 62+	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. ID required.
Military Pass	Free	U.S. military members and their dependents	This one-year pass is available on site. ID (CAC Card or DoD Form 1173) required.
Access Pass	Free	U.S. residents with permanent disabilities	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. ID and documentation required.
Volunteer Pass	Free	250 cumulative volunteer service hours	Inquire locally to obtain information about this one-year pass.

The 2017 Pre-Collision<sup>1</sup> with Pedestrian Detection<sup>2</sup> standard.

# The 2017 PRIUS

Pedestrians can come out of nowhere. So Pre-Collision with Pedestrian Detection can help spot them and brake for you. It's just one of the standard Toyota Safety Sense™ P (TSS-P)<sup>3</sup> features that give you more peace of mind.

Options shown. Dramatization. 1. The TSS Pre-Collision System is designed to help avoid or reduce the crash speed and damage in certain frontal collisions only. It is not a substitute for safe and attentive driving. System effectiveness is dependent on road, weather and vehicle conditions. See Owner's Manual for additional limitations and details. 2. The Pedestrian Detection system is designed to detect a pedestrian ahead of the vehicle, determine if impact is imminent and help reduce impact speed. It is not a substitute for safe and attentive driving. System effectiveness depends on many factors, such as speed, size and position of pedestrians, and weather, light and road conditions. See Owner's Manual for additional limitations and details. 3. Drivers are responsible for their own safe driving. Always pay attention to your surroundings and drive safely. Depending on the conditions of roads, weather and the vehicle, the system(s) may not work as intended. See Owner's Manual for additional limitations and details. ©2017 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

carpment of Capitol Reef’s most outstanding feature, the Waterpocket Fold. This 100-mile-long fold in the earth’s crust is characterized by tilted rock layers incised by deep canyons. The enigmatic petroglyphs of the prehistoric Fremont culture can still be seen on cliff faces. A drive through the Fremont River Valley passes the Historic Fruita District, containing remnants of a pioneer settlement and one of the largest historic orchards in the national park system.

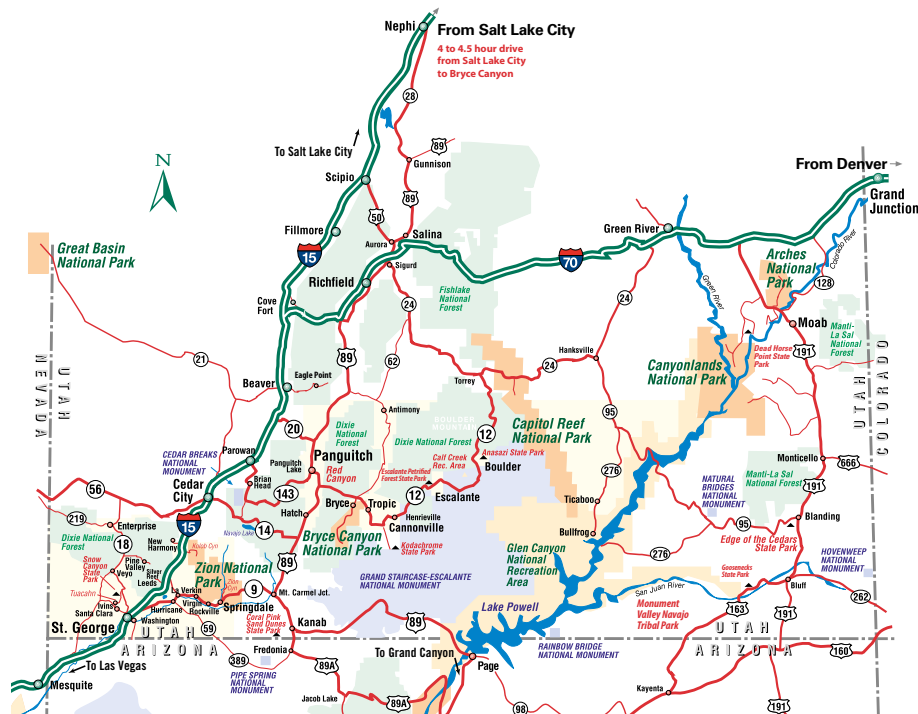
Our next destination is **Arches National Park**. Travel east and north on Route 24 past Goblin Valley State Park, east on Interstate 70, and south on U.S. 191 to arrive at the town of Moab and the park entrance (five miles north of Moab). Nowhere else in the world will you see a greater number of natural stone arches and unusual erosional shapes.

From Arches, we travel to **Canyonlands National Park**, the largest and most rugged of all of Utah’s parks. The three sections of Canyonlands—Island in the Sky, the Maze and the Needles, divided by the Green and Colorado rivers—are primitive worlds so vast that even repeated exploration will not uncover all their secrets.

**MORE PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS**

In addition to the five main parks highlighted in the following chapters, consider a visit to some of the state’s stunning **national monuments** and intriguing **historic sites**.

From the natural land bridges and dark night skies at **Natural Bridges** to the brilliant summer wildflowers at **Cedar Breaks**, a side trip to any of the sites listed in the “More Parks & Public Lands” chapter is sure to be worth your while!



**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

<b>National Park Service</b>		nps.gov
<b>LODGING</b>		
<b>Xanterra Parks &amp; Resorts</b>	(888) 297-2757 (303) 297-2757	zionlodge.com
<b>Forever Resorts</b>	(877) 386-4383	brycecanyonforever.com
<b>NONPROFITS</b>		
<b>Zion Natural History Association</b>	(435) 772-3264 Zion National Park, Springdale, UT 84767 (800) 635-3959	zionpark.org
<b>Bryce Canyon Natural History Association</b>	(435) 834-4783 P.O. Box 640051, Bryce, UT 84764-0051 (888) 362-2642	Brycecanyon.org
<b>Capitol Reef Natural History Association</b>	(435) 425-4106 Capital Reef National Park, Torrey, UT 84775	Capitolreefha.org
<b>Canyonlands Natural History Association</b>	(435) 259-6003 3015 South Hwy 191, Moab, UT 84532 (800) 840-8978	cnha.org
<b>Grand Circle Association</b>	(888) 254-7263 P.O. Box 750392, Torrey, UT 84775	grandcircle.org
<b>TOURISM INFORMATION</b>		
<b>Arches National Park</b>	(435) 719-2299 Moab Area Travel Council (435) 259-8825	nps.gov/arch discovermoab.com
<b>Bryce Canyon National Park</b>	(435) 834-5322 Garfield County Office of Tourism (800) 444-6689	nps.gov/bryca brycecanyoncountry.com
<b>Canyonlands National Park</b>	(435) 719-2313 San Juan County Visitor Services (800) 574-4386	nps.gov/cany utahscanyoncountry.com
<b>Capitol Reef National Park</b>	(435) 425-3791 Wayne County Information Center (800) 858-7951	nps.gov/care capitolreef.org
<b>Zion National Park</b>	(435) 772-3256 St. George Area Convention & Tourism Office (800) 869-6635	nps.gov/zion visitsstgeorge.com
<b>Exploring Utah’s Parks</b>	(877) 882-4727	fiveutahparks.com
<b>Utah Office of Tourism</b>	(800) 200-1160	visitutah.com
<b>ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Utah National Parks Accessibility</b>	(303) 969-2500	nps.gov/accessibility.htm
<b>Utah State Parks Accessibility</b>	(801) 538-7428	stateparks.utah.gov/resources/accessibility
<b>Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Accessibility</b>	(801) 539-4225	blm.gov/utahrecreation/accessibility.htm
<b>Tag-a-Long Expeditions</b>	(435) 259-8946	tagalong.com
<b>Holiday River Expeditions</b>	(801) 266-2087	bikeraft.com
<b>National Ability Center</b>	(435) 649-3991	discovernac.org
<b>Common Ground</b>	(435) 713-0288	cgadventures.org

## BEYOND THE PARKS

Utah’s parks and monuments are complemented by a group of **gateway cities** and **towns** that are destinations in themselves. Visitors spend as much time out of the parks as they do in them on most trips, staying in hotels and motels or at campgrounds, shopping and experiencing local culture and cuisine. See the “Important Numbers” chart in this chapter for relevant contact information, as well as the “Beyond The Park” section in each park chapter for additional ideas of what to do and where to stay.

## SPEND A DAY IN SALT LAKE CITY

Before or after your park visit, spend some extra time exploring dynamic Salt

Lake City. Salt Lake is a destination in itself with an inspiring wealth of indoor and outdoor activities for lovers of nature, history and adventure. Hiking and urban cycling (as well as mountain biking) options are available throughout the city and in nearby canyons just minutes away. Check out Green Bike, SLC’s non-profit bike share at [greenbikeslc.org](http://greenbikeslc.org)

### OUR READER FEEDBACK

“We had a great time in Salt Lake City. Wish we could’ve spent even more time exploring!” - Simone Cahill



## ACCESSIBLE UTAH

Utah’s public lands are among the most exciting in the world. They are also almost all accessible to people with disabilities! Dozens 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 breathtaking land.

### NATIONAL PARK HIGHLIGHTS

**Arches** features an accessible visitor center that includes touchable exhibits for the visually impaired as well as captioned AV 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 Pa’rus

Trail and Riverside Walk are both paved. For the hearing impaired, assistive listening devices are available by reservation for ranger-led programs. 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 Squaw Flat.

**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 for the hearing impaired.

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



# PARK REGULATIONS & SAFETY

For your safety and enjoyment, and to preserve and protect the parks, please honor all NPS regulations. 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.
- **Pets** must be on leashes at all times and are not allowed in the backcountry or on most trails.
- **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.

### QUAGGA & ZEBRA MUSSEL THREAT

Quagga and zebra mussels are a serious threat to many Western waters. They are capable of creating tremendous economic harm by clogging pipes and damaging infrastructure. The invasive mussels result in ruined beaches, destroyed boat motors and interior systems. It is always wise to clean, drain and dry your boat before launching in another body of water. In many national parks, if you have recently used your boat in mussel-infested water, you are required by law to have your boat professionally decontaminated with hot water.

### SAFETY TIPS

Walking and hiking are the best ways to experience the national parks. While on

foot, you can better appreciate the vast distances, massive monoliths and the scale of human beings in relation to the land. Here are a few key 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.
- **Watch your children.** Make sure they don’t wander off or run ahead.
- **Check with rangers at park visitor centers before setting out on a hike.** Ask about the hike’s difficulty, time required for round-trip travel, water availability, trail and weather conditions, and any special precautions.
- **Do not hike or climb alone.** Always let someone know of 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). Wear sunscreen and a hat.
- **Stay back from the edges and watch your footing.** Many trails in the parks have precipitous dropoffs, slippery rock surfaces and loose sand.
- **Wear appropriate footwear.** To prevent blisters or broken ankles, wear comfortable hiking boots with good ankle support and rubber soles, and quality outdoor socks.



- **Stay on designated trails.** Cutting across switchbacks can be dangerous for you and those below you, and it increases erosion.
- **Mules and horses have the right-of-way.**
- **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.



## 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 on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands, as well as open access in many of Utah's state and local town parks. National parks are more limiting on trails, though companion animals can generally accompany visitors in campgrounds and may be walked on roads or in parking lots, while leashed.

The state's towns often offer pet daycare, a canine campground or veterinary clinics that can serve as an intermediate home if there's an area you want to explore without your pet. Two examples of Utah's pet-friendly trails are below. Consult the local visitor sites in this guide or [visitutah.com/dog-friendly](http://visitutah.com/dog-friendly) for more information.

**Grandstaff Hiking Trail (Moab):** Just outside of Arches National Park, this trail leads to Morning Glory Natural Bridge. To reach this five-mile trail from Moab, travel north on Main Street; turn right on Utah 128; drive three miles. The trailhead will be on the right.

**Canyon Rim Trail (Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area):** The five-mile Canyon Rim Trail travels high in the mountains and lets you and your pet explore alpine meadows and forests.

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

- Be aware that wildlife may be encountered along trails. Trapping is also allowed on many public lands.
- If you and your pet encounter wildlife,



Sandra Selvas

*Utah is full of great pet-friendly trails for hikers with two or four legs.*

- 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 a sunny day, regardless of outdoor temperatures, vehicle interiors heat up quickly and can claim a pet's life. Do not leave pets unattended in vehicles. If you must, roll down windows, use windshield screens, provide water and, most critical, sit in the car yourself for at least 15 minutes to witness the temperature rise. Each year pets die inside vehicles as visitors are simply unaware or unaccustomed to the intense sun effects on the Colorado Plateau.



# ZION

Located in Southwestern Utah, Zion National Park encompasses some of the most scenic canyon country in the United States. A showcase of geology, Zion is characterized by high plateaus, a maze of narrow, deep sandstone canyons and striking rock towers and mesas.

**Getting to the Park:** Zion is located on State Route 9, accessible from the west via I-15, or from the east via U.S. 89.

**Park Fees:** Entrance to Zion is \$30 per car, \$25 per motorcycle and \$15 per pedestrian or bicyclist (all fees good for seven days). Call **(435) 772-3256** for information. Fees are subject to change.

**Road Information:** For updates, call **(435) 772-3256**.

**Road Restrictions:** Vehicles 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. The size limitation provides for user safety through the narrow and limited-clearance 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 or 50 feet in total length, are prohibited in the tunnel.

**Shuttle System:** A free shuttle runs from mid-March to late October, and on weekends in November, along the six-mile Zion Canyon Scenic Drive and provides access to all trailheads in that area (dates vary slightly each year). 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.

Private vehicles are allowed on the scenic drive on weekdays in November, and then from December through late March.

**Visitor Centers:** At the park's south entrance, the **Zion Canyon Visitor Center** is open year-round, except for December 25, and provides information, exhibits, backcountry permits and book sales. At the park's northwest border (off I-15), the **Kolob Canyons Visitor Center** offers information, backcountry permits and limited bookstore items year-round except for December 25. The **Zion Human History Museum** is open spring through fall and provides exhibits, an informative park orientation film and book sales.

**Park Guide:** The free *Zion Map and Guide*, the park's official newspaper, lists services, activities and hiking trails. Pick up a copy at park entrance stations or visitor center information desks.

## LODGING & DINING

**Zion Lodge** was designed by architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood 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. Contact Xanterra Parks & Resorts by calling **(303) 297-2757** or **(888) 297-2757** or visiting [zionlodge.com](http://zionlodge.com). The reservations

office is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Red Rock Grill Dining Room** 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

**Gasoline:** There are no gas stations in the park. Gas is available in nearby towns.

**Gifts:** Authentic, handmade Native American jewelry, pottery and souvenirs may be purchased in the **Zion Lodge gift shop**, a Fred Harvey Trading Company store. Call (435) 772-7755 for hours. Books and other items are available in the **Zion Natural History Association bookstores** located in the park visitor centers and museum.

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

**Medical Emergencies:** Call 911 or **(435) 772-3322**. First aid is available at visitor centers 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.

**Religious Services:** Roman Catholic and non-denominational Christian worship services are available in summer. LDS services are available year-round in nearby communities. For times and locations check the information board in the lodge lobby.

**RV Facilities:** **Watchman Campground** has electrical hookups and 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.

**Showers & Laundry:** No showers are

available in park campgrounds. However, these services are available in Springdale and other nearby communities.

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

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

## HISTORY

How were Zion's massive stone formations created? The area was the floor of a shallow sea, a broad tidal flat, the delta of a great river and a network of streams and lakes. Distant volcanoes erupted leaving ash to form bright layers.

More than 180 million years ago, a great desert of windblown sand covered a huge area of today's western United States, including Zion. The sand provided the raw material for the Navajo Sandstone, which composes cliffs some 2,000 feet high in Zion Canyon. The next stage in the creation of Zion was the long, slow uplift of the **Colorado Plateau**, which raised the entire region many thousands of feet. Streams running off of the plateau, such as the rapidly flowing and occasionally flooding Virgin River—with its load of sand, pebbles and sometimes boulders—carved the canyon we see today over the last several million years. The river's job of sculpting the canyon is made easier by the nature of sandstone, which consists of grains of quartz sand that are held together with a weak "cement." Also contributing to the erosion process are numerous cracks in the

sandstone, called joints. These joints form channels through which water can run.

## HUMAN HISTORY

Named by early Mormon settlers for the sanctuary and refuge it provided, Zion features massive stone formations and red cliff faces that have elicited feelings of reverence in those who have paused to reflect on this area's majesty. The names given by settlers and visitors to prominent landmarks reflect this: **Angels Landing, the Great White Throne, Altar of Sacrifice, the West Temple and the Three Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**. The Southern Paiute people recognized the extraordinary character of the canyon and some park features were named after figures from Paiute theology.

The earliest evidence of human occupation in and around Zion comes from a time known as the Archaic Period, whose scarce

remnants have been dated to about 7000 B.C. Over the years, farming began in the region and the people began to live in larger groups. We call these people the **Ancestral Puebloans** (Virgin Anasazi). They grew corn and squash and stored their surplus crops in granaries. They lived in and around Zion along with their neighbors to the north, the Fremonts, until about A.D. 1300.

The Southern Paiutes farmed Zion Canyon in the years during and following the Fremont and Ancestral Puebloan abandonment, and were still there when the first white settlers arrived several hundred years later. These white settlers were Mormons sent from Salt Lake City in the 1850s and 1860s to grow cotton in the warmer climate of southwest Utah. The Mormons established towns and settlements at Grafton, Rockville and Springdale, all in the immediate vicinity of what is now Zion National Park.



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VisitCedarCity.com

Cedar City is centrally located to Zion, Bryce Canyon and Cedar Breaks and is the home of Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival, June - October.

## RECOMMENDED WALKING & HIKING TRAILS

Trail	Description	Round-Trip Distance	Difficulty
Trailhead		Time*	Elevation Gain
<b>Canyon Overlook</b> <i>Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway east of the long tunnel</i>	This trail leads to a spectacular view of Zion Canyon, where some of the most breathtaking photos of the park have been taken.	1.0 mile 1 hour	moderate 163 feet
<b>Riverside Walk</b> ♣ <i>Temple of Sinawava shuttle stop</i>	This trail follows the Virgin River upstream to the Narrows. It is wheelchair-accessible with assistance.	2.2 miles 1.5 hours	easy 57 feet
<b>Weeping Rock Trail</b> <i>Weeping Rock shuttle stop</i>	This trail leads to the verdant gardens of Weeping Rock, a rock alcove with hanging gardens and water drizzling over the edge.	0.4 mile 30 minutes	easy 98 feet
<b>Lower Emerald Pools</b> <i>Zion Lodge shuttle stop</i>	This beautiful trail ends at the lower pool and three waterfalls. It also climbs to the middle pool, but this leg is more difficult.	1.2 miles (to lower pool) 1 hour	easy 69 feet
<b>Taylor Creek</b> <i>Kolob Canyons Road two miles from the visitor center</i>	This trail follows the middle fork of Taylor Creek to Double Arch Alcove. Your feet may get wet fording the creek.	5.0 miles 4 hours	moderate 450 feet
<b>Angels Landing</b> <i>The Grotto shuttle stop</i>	This trail/route runs along a narrow rock fin with dizzying drop-offs culminating in a view high above Zion Canyon.	5.4 miles 4 hours	strenuous 1,488 feet

\* The times given are round-trip averages for hikers in good physical condition.

Zion was designated a national park by Congress in 1919.

### SIGHTS TO SEE

Rain, seeps, the pull of gravity and the small, seemingly peaceful Virgin River are master sculptors chiseling out Zion Canyon and its massive stone formations. Like inspired artists, these sculptors of Mother Nature continually refine their work. Erosion from rain and floods takes place continuously,

changing the details of the canyon and the sandstone monoliths that give the park its power and character.

**The Watchman**, 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.

**West Temple**, behind the Zion Human History Museum, is the highest peak in the southern part of Zion. In layer upon layer of rock, it ascends more than 3,800 feet from

its base. West Temple and its neighboring peaks of the Towers of the Virgin receive the first rays of sunlight in the canyon.

**The Great White Throne**, about five miles upstream from the visitor center, rises over 2,400 feet above the canyon floor.

Continuing deeper into the canyon is **Weeping Rock**, a grotto carved from stone and lavishly adorned with hanging gardens. Above it towers **Observation Point**. From this lofty perch, you can see the length of Zion Canyon.

The road ends at the **Temple of Sinawava**. From here, the **Riverside Walk** takes you deeper into the canyon beyond the end of the road. This is an easy, paved path with nearly 2,000-foot high canyon walls towering on both sides.

When conditions are favorable, visitors may walk beyond the end of the trail toward **The Narrows**, wading up-

stream in the Virgin River itself. Check first at a visitor center for flash flood information and river conditions. The trailhead for the full 16-mile hike through the Narrows lies beyond the park boundary (permit required).

Punctuating the **Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway** is a one-mile tunnel, blasted out of solid sandstone. Begun in 1927 and completed in 1930, it was considered at the time to be an engineering miracle. Visitors still use the tunnel when entering the park from the east.

*Note: Large vehicles may require an escort; see the Road Restrictions section of this chapter.*

Near the east entrance is **Checkerboard Mesa**, a prominent example of naturally sculpted rock art. Horizontal lines—evidence of ancient sand dunes—are etched into a checkerboard pattern by vertical fractures that have been enlarged over the years by runoff from rain and melting snow.

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In the northwest corner of the park is **Kolob Canyons**, which offers vast areas for backcountry exploration. The finger canyons of the 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 accessible by the Taylor Creek Trail.

Also found in this section of the park is **Kolob Arch**. Its span of some 287 feet makes it one of the longest freestanding arches in the world. The arch can be reached by hiking seven miles 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).

## THINGS TO DO

In **spring**, temperatures are comfortable and precipitation is usually light. **Bicycling, hiking, horseback riding** and **birdwatching** are all popular activities. Most trails are open in the spring, with the possible exception of the high country and the Narrows route. **Photography** is especially rewarding because flowers, in full bloom, abound and waterfalls may be present.

**Summer** is the busiest season, in terms of both visitors and activities. **Free ranger-led talks, shuttle tours, audio-visual programs, guided hikes** and **evening programs** take place daily. Enjoy **wading in the Virgin River**, but be cautious; flash floods are unpredictable and dangerous. For your safety, do not wade in rushing waters.

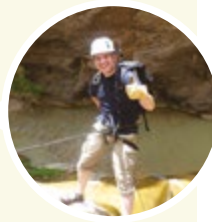
Zion is spectacular in late **autumn**, when hues are at their peak and temperatures are comfortable (late October to early November).

## Oh, Ranger! POLL

### FAVORITE ZION MEMORIES

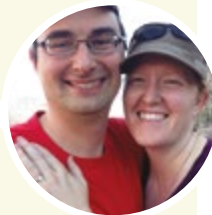
What's your favorite Zion memory? Here are some highlights—in 140 characters or less!—from feedback we received via Twitter.

"Dropping into the Virgin after a beautiful day of canyoneering in Mystery Canyon."  
— Logan D.



"Hiking the narrows with my family!"  
— Jennifer C.

"Got engaged on Angel's Landing. Definitely my favorite memory!"  
— Lee G.



SHARE YOUR OWN MEMORIES!  
TWEET THEM TO @OhRanger  
AND @VISITUTAH.

Don't forget to hashtag  
#Mighty5!

**Winter** is generally mild, snowfall light. Snow may accumulate on higher elevations of the park, and visitors can enjoy **cross-country skiing** and **snowshoeing** on the Kolob Plateau. Main roads through Zion and those leading into the park—except Kolob Terrace Road (the road to Lava Point)—are open and passable in winter. Most higher elevation hiking trails are snow-covered and many trails are icy. Zion Lodge and Watchman Campground are open year-round.

**Camping** is a favorite pastime at Zion. **South Campground** is half a mile north of Springdale on the main park road. Open March through October on a first-come, first-served basis, it has tent, trailer and RV sites (without hookups) and flush toilets. The maximum length of stay is 14 days. Pets are allowed, but must be leashed at all times. **Watchman Campground** is located just off the main park road at the south entrance to the park. There are tent, trailer, RV and group sites (with flush toilets). Electric hookups are available. Pets are allowed, but must be leashed at all times. Open year-round, reservations are accepted up to six months in advance for early March through November. Call **(877) 444-6777** or visit **recreation.gov**. *Note: Backcountry camping and overnight hikes require a permit, available at park visitor centers (fee charged).*

For **walking** and **hiking** enthusiasts, a variety of trails crisscross Zion. Before embarking, consult the free Map and Guide, available at entrance stations and visitor centers. The key to successful hiking is becoming familiar with each trail and knowing your limits and abilities. Before hiking in any of Zion's narrow canyons, **check the current weather and flash flood forecast**. Many trails in Zion have precipitous drop-offs, so **stay back from edges and always watch your footing**.

**Horseback tours**, offered March through October, last from one hour to a half-day, and can be arranged at the corral near Zion Lodge. For reservations, please contact Canyon Trail Rides by calling **(435) 679-8665** or visiting **canyonrides.com**.

### ZION CANYON FIELD INSTITUTE

The Zion Canyon Field Institute is the non-profit educational organization of the Zion Natural History Association and was created in cooperation with Zion National Park. The Zion Canyon Field Institute offers year-round outdoor workshops, field trips and service learning projects on topics including geology, archaeology, photography, and flora and fauna of southern Utah. These classes are held trailside at Zion National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument and Pipe Spring National Monument. For more information, call **(800) 635-3959** or visit **zionpark.org**

## BEYOND THE PARK

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. Don't leave St. George before checking out these places and activities:

**Town Square & Water Walk:** The historic town square of St. George was originally created to welcome soldiers returning from war. Today the square is a stunning park, featuring the 45-foot-tall Heritage Tower. From Main Street, stroll the Water Walk through Brooks Nature Park to Cox Pond.

**Tuacahn Amphitheatre:** Located just north of St. George, Tuacahn Amphitheatre is the perfect place to take in a concert



Clockwise from top left: Thea Sis, NPS, Joe Cho

Clockwise from top left: Angel's Landing, the Subway, and the Narrows

surrounded by the beauty of red rock formations. For more information, please visit [tuacahn.org](http://tuacahn.org) or call (435) 652-3200.

**Spas:** St. George is famous for its spas and resorts, and is the perfect place to relax in style after a long day of sightseeing.

**Dinosaur Discovery Site:** Home to fossils and dinosaur remains, Dinosaur Discovery Site also features one of the best-preserved sets of tracks currently on exhibit. There is a fee for museum entry. For more information, please visit [dinosite.org](http://dinosite.org) or call (435) 574-3466.

**Golf:** St. George is a golfer's absolute paradise, with greens set among the red

rock canyon walls. Mild temperatures year-round mean golfers can golf throughout the winter. St. George features 10 of Utah's best golf courses.

**Green Valley Loop Trail:** This trail provides mountain bikers the perfect place to get out and explore southwestern Utah. Those who take the trip will be rewarded with unparalleled views. However, riding up and down sheer sandstone walls is not for the faint of heart.



St. George Area • [utahstgeorge.com](http://utahstgeorge.com)  
Off of Interstate 15 at Utah Highway 18  
(800) 869-6635



## BRYCE CANYON

Famous for its red rock spires and horse-shoe-shaped amphitheatres, Bryce features grand views from the eastern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in southern Utah.

**Getting to the Park:** Bryce Canyon is located on Utah Route 63, south of Utah Route 12 (a National Scenic Byway).

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

**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 during summer.

**Park Newspaper:** *The Hoodoo*, published by Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, provides park information and shuttle schedules.

**Visitor Center:** Open year-round—except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day—the visitor center is located one mile inside the park boundary and houses a bookstore and new \$1.5 million exhibit area, featuring geologic formations, a model Utah Prairie, night sky exhibit and more. Ranger program schedules are available.

**Weather:** Summer days are generally warm, while winters are cold and snowy. Spring and fall offer pleasant daytime temperatures and crisp, cool evenings.

### LODGING & 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. (Even the company that manufactured the original hickory furniture was commissioned to produce the new furniture!) 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.

Rooms are in high demand from May through October. 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](http://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](http://brycecanyoncountry.com).

**The Lodge at Bryce Canyon Dining Room** 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 late May through October, from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. for coffee and pastries, and 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. for pizza, calzones and other Italian favorites. Indoor and outdoor seating, as well as take-out, are available.

**Additional restaurants** are located in communities outside the national park.

## VISITOR SERVICES

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

**Gifts:** Visit **The Lodge at Bryce Canyon's gift shop.**

Materials produced by the **Bryce Canyon Natural History Association**—including books, maps, and educational items—are available year-round at the visitor center.

**Gift shops in local communities** sell souvenirs, art, gifts and traveler's needs. Digital downloading services are available at Ruby's Inn, located just outside the park.


**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 half a 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.

**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.

**Post Office:** Stamps may be purchased at the park's visitor center. There is a post office available year-round at Ruby's Inn, located just outside the park.

**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.

**Showers & Laundry:** Coin operated laundry and showers are located adjacent to the General Store. They are open April to October. Hours may vary.

**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, call (435) 834-5322 or visit [nps.gov/brca](https://www.nps.gov/brca)

## HISTORY

For the most part, the history of Bryce Canyon is geologic history. As a visitor, you can see more than 60 million years of it revealed in the magnificent—and sometimes bizarre—formations that surround you. On a geologic time scale, the history of Bryce Canyon began at the end of the Cretaceous Period. Since that time, the Claron Formation has been deposited, uplifted and eroded by ice, snowmelt, thunderstorms and the roots of plants and trees. As billions of tons of ground rock moved out of Bryce Canyon and into the Colorado River, amphitheaters of colorful temples, pillars, domes and spires were left standing.

## HUMAN HISTORY

For centuries, bands of Southern Paiutes lived near Bryce Canyon. They hunted and fished on the plateau top while inhabiting the warmer valleys. There was a way of life that left few artifacts and, as a result, little is known of humans' early use of the area. In the early 1870s, the Kanarra Cattle Company used the plateau adjacent to Bryce Canyon for grazing. It was not until 1875 that

Ebenezer Bryce, a Scottish immigrant and millwright, became one of the first settlers.

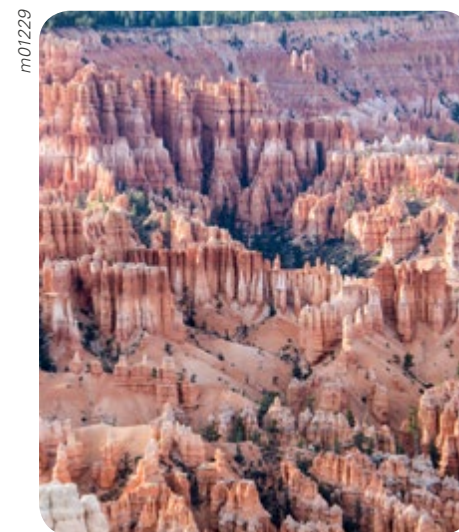
Others saw Bryce Canyon as having tourism potential. In 1915, the area was managed by the U.S. Forest Service. J.W. Humphrey, Forest Supervisor, recognized the value of the exquisite landscape. Humphrey penned articles and hired photographers to prove that the area was worthy of national park status. In 1919, Reuben C. Syrett built accommodations for tourists and became the first postmaster of Bryce Canyon. In 1923, President Warren G. Harding set Bryce Canyon aside as a national monument. It received national park status in 1928. Rim Road was completed in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and, by 1942, the park reached its present size of 35,835 acres.

Bryce Canyon was not widely known, even within the state of Utah, until the 1920s and early 1930s, when the park was extensively advertised by the Union Pacific Railroad, which built a lodge and provided transportation to the area.

Today, Bryce is easily accessible and visitors can witness the effects of the interplay between earth and water, time and the elements—a drama that enchants us with its vision of the past and stirs us with its uncommon beauty.

## SIGHTS TO SEE

Bryce Canyon is carved out of the eastern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, one of the high plateaus of Utah. 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. The gray, white, vermilion and chocolate cliffs recede into the south, stepping



Visitors marvel at the towering hoodoos of Bryce Canyon.

down to the Kaibab Plateau, which then rises to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The vantage point at Bryce offers up to 200-mile views of southern Utah and northern Arizona.

From the rim of the canyon, the ground falls away to reveal an incredible assortment of **hoodoos, fins, mazes and spires**. One reputed Paiute name for the canyon was a description loosely translated as "Red Rocks Standing Like Men in a Bowl-Shaped Recess." Subsequent others have searched for something recognizable in Bryce, naming different rocky forms the **Queen's Garden, Sinking Ship, Silent City, Wall Street, Fairyland Canyon, Thor's Hammer, the Alligator, the Sentinel** and **Queen Victoria**. These are simply labels, but they indicate how people have attempted to make this fantastic landscape seem a little more familiar.

To see these amazing formations, leave your car and enter the canyon by foot or on

horseback. 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 wind past some of the most breathtaking scenery in the canyon.

Don't forget to take the time to explore Bryce's forests and meadows. Walk amid ancient bristlecone pines and the vibrant colors of aspen groves. Pine, spruce and fir, which grow in profusion on the plateau above the canyons, provide a strikingly familiar contrast to the otherworldly quality of the naturally formed amphitheater.

## THINGS TO DO

Bryce Canyon has been described as one of the world's geologic masterpieces. Pinnacles, spires and eroded stone stand in galleries of bizarre statuary that never appear quite the same way twice.

**Photographers** of all abilities are attracted to Bryce Canyon's colorful landscape and sweeping vistas. Early morning and late afternoon are the best times to capture the red and orange hoodoos, as shadows define their intricate forms. Sunrise and sunset are posted daily.

Another visual delicacy is the **nighttime sky**. The park's clean air, high elevation and distance from city lights make Bryce one of the best places for stargazing. Offered spring, summer and fall, star talks include an indoor multimedia presentation followed by telescope viewing. During full moons, when hoodoos take on a spooky personality, moonlit hikes are offered. Please see the "Utah at Night" chapter for more information.

From May to October days are pleasant and nights are cool. **Spring, summer** and

**fall** are ideal for **hiking, horseback riding, camping** and **wildlife viewing**. From July to September, thunderstorms are common. There is a risk of being struck by lightning in open areas, along the canyon rim and near tall, isolated trees. If you hear thunder, seek shelter in a building or vehicle.

Late spring and early summer are great for **wildflower viewing**. Rocks are also worth observing, due to their myriad hues.

Free **ranger-led activities**, including nature walks, geology talks, evening programs and astronomy shows, are offered throughout the spring, summer and fall. Check current listings at the visitor center.

Overlooks on the park's **18-mile scenic road** offer stunning views of Bryce Canyon. Pinnacles, spires and monuments can be seen from Fairyland, Sunrise, Sunset, Inspiration and Bryce points, and Paria View. Long distance views are best from Farview, Rainbow and Yovimpa points.

All family members will enjoy 2017's **Astronomy Festival** (June 21-24) and **Geology Festival** (July 14-15). Visit the park website for more details.

**Horseback tours**, offered in two-hour or half-day durations, can be arranged at the Lodge at Bryce Canyon. Contact Canyon Trail Rides before arriving to schedule: call (435) 679-8665 or visit [canyonrides.com](http://canyonrides.com).

**Ground** and **aerial tours** are popular ways to get to know the park. Ask at the Bryce Canyon Airport on the north side of Hwy 12 or at Ruby's Inn for more information.

Snow is possible from November through May, especially at higher elevations. The bright, crisp days of **winter** offer some of the most striking views of the year. White snow, red rock and blue skies make winter one of the most dazzling times for **photography**.

**Cross-country skiing** and **snowshoeing** are popular winter activities. Ski rentals are available outside the park in Bryce Canyon City. **Ranger-led snowshoe hikes** (with free snowshoes!) are offered when snow and staffing are sufficient. The main park road is open year-round, but some spurs are closed in winter to permit cross-country ski access.

**Camping** is another top activity. **North Campground** is open all year. 101 campsites and 25 RV sites can be reserved May 6 through September 25. The rest are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No hookups are available, but a fee-for-use dump station is available near North Campground in summer. **Sunset Campground** is open from mid-April through September. Most sites are first-come, first-served, but there are 20 tent sites that can be reserved. One group campsite is available from late spring through early fall. The fee is \$20 per tent and \$30 per RV. Campground facilities include water, restrooms, picnic tables and fire grates.

Reservable sites at both campgrounds may be booked up to 12 weeks in advance: call (877) 444-6777 or visit [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov). The fee is \$15 per night per site (half-price for holders of America the Beautiful Senior and Access passes). Note: Construction projects will be occurring in both North and Sunset Campgrounds. Some noise disturbance will occur during construction hours.

Campgrounds and full-service RV parks are located outside the park as well. Contact Garfield County by calling (800) 444-6689 or visiting [brycecanyoncountry.com](http://brycecanyoncountry.com).

Walking and hiking are fantastic ways to experience Bryce Canyon's spectacular scenery. Try Bryce Canyon's new 6.2 mile shared used path, which accommodates bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, pedes-

trians and dogs. Remember, many trails that descend to the bottom are steep, which may make return trips difficult. Bryce's high elevation requires extra exertion, so know your limits and be extra careful if you have heart or respiratory problems. Wear a hat, sunscreen, long sleeves and hiking boots with lug traction, and carry plenty of water. For more remote, backcountry travel, check out Under-the-Rim and Riggs Spring Loop trails. Trail information and backcountry camping permits are available at the visitor center. Remember to advise a friend or family member of your itinerary.

## BEYOND THE PARK

Just 25 miles from the park entrance, Panguitch, a Paiute Indian word for "Big Fish," offers visitors a little piece of culture and history. When visiting Panguitch make sure to pack your curiosity, and explore the places listed here.

**Historic Downtown:** 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. Many of the buildings in downtown retain the bright red brick they were originally built with, a reminder of the prominent brick factories the town was founded around. Today downtown Panguitch is home to plentiful shops, restaurants.

**Fish Panguitch Lake:** Panguitch Lake, located just 18 miles north of downtown, was appropriately named by the Paiute Indians—Panguitch means "big fish." The lake offers excellent trout fishing opportunities.

For the brave, ice fishing is popular at several other high-elevation lakes, including Pine Lake and Tropic Reservoir. **Anasazi State**

**Park Museum:** The Anasazi State Park Museum offers visitors a chance to explore one of the largest Ancestral Puebloan communities west of the Colorado River, known as Combs Site. Occupied from A.D. 1160 to A.D. 1235, the site may have housed as many as 200 people.

**Patchwork Parkway National Scenic Byway:** If you're looking to explore more than just downtown Panguitch, hop in your car and take a trip on Utah State Highway 143. This scenic byway travels

51 miles, connecting the communities of Parowan on one end and Panguitch on the other. During the trip, you'll experience a nearly 4,500-foot change in elevation and numerous good pulloffs. If a modest amount of stops are made, a trip from one end to the other takes about two hours to complete.



**Garfield County •**  
[brycecanyoncountry.com](http://brycecanyoncountry.com)  
 Intersection of US Highway 89 and Utah State Route 143 • (800) 444-6689



# CAPITOL REEF

Welcome to Capitol Reef National Park, home to the Waterpocket Fold, a massive warp in the earth's crust, with unique desert features including colorful canyons, arches, bridges and domes.

**Getting to the Park:** Capitol Reef is located on Utah Route 24, accessible via I-70 or Utah Route 12 from the west or Utah Route 95 or I-70 from the east.

**Park Fees:** Entrance to Capitol Reef is \$10 per car or motorcycle and \$7 per individual bicyclist or pedestrian (good for seven days). Fees are subject to change.

**Visitor Center:** The visitor center offers exhibits, an 18-minute movie and information. Books, maps, postcards, CDs and DVDs are available. It is located at the junction of Route 24 and the Scenic Drive, and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended summer hours. It is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and other winter holidays.

**Weather:** Capitol Reef National Park is a high desert region and, like the rest of southern Utah, is prone to temperature extremes. June through August are the hottest months, with midday temperatures reaching close to 100°F (38°C). However, mornings and evenings are usually very pleasant, with temperatures in the low 70s (22°C). Low humidity lessens the impact of the heat, but can also lead to dehydration in the unaware hiker. Summer thunderstorms can bring flash floods. Check with a park ranger for a current weather forecast before setting out, especially if it has just rained or if rain threatens.

Spring and fall are mild, with warm days and cool nights. Winter days are cold—usually in the 30s to 40s°F (2°C) — and, at

night, temperatures often drop below freezing. Snowfall is usually light. The average annual rainfall is less than eight inches and humidity is low.

## LODGING & 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, check at the visitor center, or contact the Wayne County Information Center at **(435) 425-3365** or **(800) 858-7951**, or visit [capitolreef.org](http://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, baked goods and beverages at the Gifford House and visitor center, and seasonal fresh fruit in the orchards, there are no food services in the park. Food can be found in nearby towns. A list of services is available at the visitor center or from the Wayne County Travel Council. Call (435) 425-3365 or (800) 858-7951 or visit [capitolreef.org](http://capitolreef.org).

**Medical Emergencies:** Emergency first aid is available from park rangers or at the



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## RECOMMENDED WALKING & HIKING TRAILS

Trail	Description	Round-Trip Distance	Difficulty
Trailhead		Time*	Elevation Gain
<b>Bristlecone Loop Trail</b> <i>Rainbow Point</i>	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.	1.0 mile 1 hour	easy 200 feet
<b>Rim Trail</b> <i>Several access points between Bryce and Fairyland Points</i>	Trail along plateau rim offers spectacular views. It is paved and level from Sunset to Sunrise Point. In summer, consider hiking one-way and taking the shuttle back.	Up to 11 miles 5–6 hours	easy gentle grades
<b>Queen's Garden Trail</b> <i>Sunrise Point</i>	A beautiful hike into a maze of colorful hoodoos. The trail leads past Gulliver's Castle and Queen's Castle.	2.0 miles 1.5 hours	moderate 357 feet
<b>Navajo Loop Trail</b> <i>Sunset Point near main amphitheater</i>	This trail travels into two neighboring slot canyons, providing views of the Two Bridges, Thor's Hammer and Wall Street formations.	1.3 miles 1.5 hours	moderately strenuous 550 feet
<b>Fairyland Loop Trail</b> <i>Fairyland Point or Rim Trail north of Sunrise Point</i>	This trail, which has lots of ups and downs, winds through red rock spires past Tower Bridge and the China Wall before joining the Rim Trail.	8.2 miles 4–5 hours	strenuous 1,716 feet
<b>Peekaboo Loop Trail</b> <i>Bryce Point</i>	Trail winds past the famous Wall of Windows, a fin of hoodoos that hugs the lower slopes of the rim. Hikers share the trail with horses.	5.5 miles 3–4 hours	strenuous 1,571 feet

\* The times given are round-trip averages for hikers in good physical condition.





Murray Foubister

Hiking trails through Capitol Gorge show dramatic evidence of the forces of erosion at Capitol Reef National Park.

visitor center. A medical clinic is located in Bicknell, which is 19 miles west of the park. The nearest hospital is in Richfield, 75 miles from the park.

**Post Office:** A post office with limited service hours is located in Torrey, 11 miles west of the visitor center. Postage stamps and a mail drop are available at the visitor center.

**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](https://www.nps.gov/care).

## HISTORY

### GEOLOGIC HISTORY

The Waterpocket Fold defines Capitol

Reef National Park. 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. 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.

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). Most of the erosion that carved today's landscape occurred after the uplift of the Colorado Plateau some time within the last 20 million years. Today, both water and wind, along with the pull of gravity—in the form of rock falls or rock creep—continue to shape Capitol Reef's majestic domes, arches and canyons.

### HUMAN HISTORY

The "pockets" of the Waterpocket Fold are natural basins capable of holding rainwater and snowmelt. It was these water pockets, along with the fertile floodplains of the

Fremont River and Sulphur Creek and area wildlife, that attracted early human settlers. Evidence of prehistoric American Indians, called the Fremont Culture by archeologists, has been found here, indicating that around 300 C.E. (common era), for about 1,000 years, farming, hunting and gathering activity took place. Around 1300 C.E., they abandoned the area, perhaps because of complications of a prolonged widespread drought. Distinctive petroglyphs are a characteristic of Fremont Culture. Petroglyphs (carvings in rock) and pictographs (paintings on rocks and stone walls) are located throughout the park. These carvings and paintings may relate religious ceremonies, migration or travel, and resource information.

Several hundred years passed before Capitol Reef saw permanent human habitation again. In the 1880s, Mormon settlers estab-

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lished a community near the site of the present visitor center and campground. Using the water from the Fremont River for irrigation, they planted crops and orchards. Local ranchers trailed cattle through the Waterpocket Fold. The pioneers lived here for less than 100 years; although President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed the area a National Park Service national monument in 1937, the last residents left in 1969. Congress designated Capitol Reef a national park in 1971.

## SIGHTS TO SEE

Capitol Reef is a park with many striking vistas and important geological features.

**Waterpocket Fold**, the main feature of the park, is the name of a nearly 100-mile-long fold in the Earth’s surface. This uplift contains numerous eroded basins or pockets that hold rainwater and snowmelt. These pockets of water have influenced the history of humanity within the park and the flora and fauna of the region.

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. In the park, more sweeping panoramas await.

Within a short distance of the visitor center, you will see the **Castle**, **Capitol Dome**, **Chimney Rock**, the **Goosenecks** and the **Egyptian Temple**. **Hickman Bridge**, the **Golden Throne** and **Capitol Gorge** offer rewarding views after easy to strenuous hikes.

**Prehistoric petroglyphs**, the **Fruita Schoolhouse**, the **Gifford Farmhouse** and the **Behunin Cabin** can be reached by car. The 15.8-mile (25.4 km) round-trip Scenic Drive will take you past the **Ripple Rock Nature Center** and park features.

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.

South of Route 24, graded roads, usually suitable for high-clearance vehicles and passenger cars, lead into some fine hiking country. Besides good hiking opportunities, the southern part of the park also offers spectacular views of the folded strata of Capitol Reef and the Henry Mountains. **Muley Twist Canyons** and **Halls Creek Narrows** are also located at the southern end of the park.

Check with a park ranger before setting out for any of these more remote locations. Weather conditions may make the roads slick and impassable.

## THINGS TO DO

During the summer the park offers free ranger-led activities, including discussions, evening programs and children’s activities. Schedules are posted at the campground, visitor center and [nps.gov/care](http://nps.gov/care).

The Gifford Farmhouse, part of an historic Mormon homestead, has interpretive exhibits and a gift shop. It is located one mile south of the visitor center and open spring through autumn, sells reproduction pioneer-era items, snacks and more.

The **Ripple Rock Nature Center**, less than one mile south of the visitor center, is open seasonally and offers self-guided interactive displays and ranger-guided activities.

The paved **Scenic Drive** is 15.8 miles (25.4 km) round-trip. Here you will enjoy views of the massive cliffs of Capitol Reef.

## RECOMMENDED WALKING & HIKING TRAILS

Trail <i>Trailhead</i>	Description	One-Way Distance <i>Time*</i>	Difficulty <i>Elevation Gain</i>
<b>Sunset Point Trail</b> <i>Goosenecks/Sunset Point parking area</i>	The trailhead is beyond Panorama Point off Hwy 24. Enjoy panoramic views, especially at sunset!	0.4 mile 0.6 km 30 minutes	easy <50 feet 15 m
<b>Grand Wash Trail</b> <i>Grand Wash parking areas</i>	Walk through a gorge that cuts through the upper portion of Waterpocket Fold, with sheer canyon walls on each side.	2.2 miles 3.6 km 2–3 hours	easy 200 feet 61 m
<b>Capitol Gorge Trail</b> <i>end of Capitol Gorge Road</i>	Level walk along a narrow wash bottom with sheer canyon walls. Settlers signed the Pioneer Register rock wall.	1.0 mile 1.6 km 1–2 hours	easy <50 feet 15 m
<b>Chimney Rock Trail</b> <i>Chimney Rock Trailhead on Hwy 24</i>	Named for the view of Chimney Rock, a pinnacle, this loop trail offers panoramic views.	3.6 miles 5.9 km 3 hours	strenuous 590 feet 180 m
<b>Cohab Canyon Trail</b> <i>across Hwy 24 from Hickman Bridge parking</i>	Climbs to a hidden canyon high above the campground, accessing many viewpoints. The western 0.25 mile is strenuous.	1.7 miles 2.7 km 2–3 hours	moderate 320–440 feet 97–134 m
<b>Fremont River Trail</b> <i>Fruita Campground Amphitheater parking lot</i>	Walk past orchards and the river, then a strenuous climb to a canyon overlook.	1.0 mile 1.7 km 2 hours	moderate 480 feet 146 m
<b>Hickman Bridge Trail</b> <i>Hwy 24 Trailhead</i>	This self-guided trail offers a spectacularly scenic trek to Hickman Natural Bridge, a large natural bridge.	.9 mile 1.4 km 1–2 hours	moderate 400 feet 122 m
<b>Cassidy Arch Trail</b> <i>end of Grand Wash Road</i>	This trail climbs steeply from the floor of Grand Wash to high cliffs, ending above an the arch named for Butch Cassidy.	1.7 miles 2.8 km 3 hours	strenuous 670 feet 204 m
<b>Golden Throne Trail</b> <i>end of Capitol Gorge Road</i>	This trail climbs from the bottom of Capitol Gorge to the top of sandstone cliffs with views of massive formations,	2.0 miles 3.2 km 2–3 hours	strenuous 730 feet 223 m
<b>Navajo Knobs</b> <i>Hickman Bridge parking area on Hwy 24</i>	Follow the Rim Overlook Trail then continue two more miles to a panoramic view of the entirety of the Waterpocket Fold.	4.7 miles 7.6 km 5–6 hours	strenuous 1,620 feet 494 m
<b>Rim Overlook Trail</b> <i>Hickman Bridge parking area on Hwy 24</i>	The trail ends on top of thousand-foot cliffs with views of the Fruita Historic District and lands to the south.	2.3 miles 3.6 km 3–4 hours	strenuous 1,110 feet 338 m

\* The times given are round-trip averages for hikers in good physical condition.

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.

Many **hiking** trails traverse Capitol Reef, some near the visitor center and campgrounds, others in the more remote backcountry. Spring and fall are ideal times for backcountry hiking and camping, due to the mild temperatures.

Capitol Reef offers year-round **camping** and features three campgrounds: Fruita, Cedar Mesa and Cathedral Valley. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Pets are allowed but must be leashed at all times. Be aware when camping that insects can be nuisances May through July; flash floods usually occur July through September; and camping in or waiting out storms at the bottoms of drainages is discouraged.

**Backpacking** opportunities abound at Capitol Reef. Free backcountry permits are required for overnight camping outside established campgrounds and can be obtained at the visitor center. Rangers can offer suggestions for trips according to your experience level and schedule. *Note: Whenever you plan to be in the backcountry for an extended period of time, be sure to tell someone of your itinerary.*

## BEYOND THE PARK

Torrey and surrounding Wayne County serve as the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park. At an elevation of 7,000 feet, the area is very pleasant in the summer and

offers a variety of activities for visitors of all interests and ages year-round.

**Torrey Gallery:** Art lovers should check out Torrey Gallery, which features work by local artists, as well as antique and contemporary Navajo rugs.

**Thousand Lake Mountain:** Known for its exposed red sandstone, this mountain in Fishlake National Forest features gentle slopes, making it a popular destination for hikers, cyclists, equestrians and ATV riders.

**Orchards:** Several orchards dot the landscape around Torrey, and much like the Fruita Orchard, are remnants of early pioneer settlers. Today the orchards grow apples, cherries, apricots and pears.

**Torrey Downtown:** Torrey features tree-lined streets with restaurants, cafés, bookstores and gift shops. The town's artistic flair is further promoted by the **Entrada Institute**, a non-profit organization that promotes the region's natural, cultural and historical heritage. Each year, Torrey sponsors the annual **Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival**.

**Boulder Mountain:** Wonderful forested hikes in nearby Dixie and Fishlake National Forests offer a cool getaway during the hot summer months. Several campgrounds with sweeping views of Capitol Reef and beyond are available. Trails are dog-friendly.

**Scenic Byways:** Torrey is an excellent starting point for a trip on Utah Scenic Byway 12, a designated National Scenic Byway. The entire byway travels 124 miles through the heart of southern Utah, with scenery ranging from beautiful mountains and forests to stunning red rock canyons.



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Arches National Park is home to more than 2,000 natural sandstone arches, as well as many other unusual rock formations. Towering spires, fins and balanced rocks complement the arches, creating a remarkable assortment of landforms in a relatively small area.

**Getting to the Park:** Arches is located five miles north of Moab, Utah, along U.S. 191, south of Interstate 70.

**Park Fees:** Entrance to the park is \$25 per car, \$15 per motorcycle, and \$10 per pedestrian or bicyclist (each pass good for seven days). Fees are subject to change.

**Park Newspaper:** The free *Arches National Park Visitor Guide* is available at the park entrance. It contains park information, photography tips, trail descriptions and tips for budgeting your time.

**Visitor Center:** The visitor center is located near the park entrance and is open daily except Christmas Day. Hours of operation vary, with extended hours March through October. The visitor center features interactive exhibits, educational kiosks, a large outdoor plaza for after-hours information, and a bookstore with guide books, maps, DVDs, postcards and more. The 140-seat theater features a stunning orientation film.

**Weather:** Arches has hot summers (100°F/38°C), pleasant springs and falls, and cool winters. Thunderstorms are common in late summer and it snows in winter.

**When to Visit:** The park receives over one million visitors per year. Be aware that parking is congested and popular destinations are crowded. If you are coming to enjoy solitude and have a wilderness experience, consider visiting during very early morning or late evening hours, or visiting

some of the other stunning public lands in the area. Commercial tours of the park are available and can help reduce traffic congestion. Visit [discovermoab.com](http://discovermoab.com) for information about these tours.

### LODGING & DINING

There are no restaurants or accommodations in the park. *Please bring food, drink and plenty of water with you.* A complete list of services in the area is available at the visitor center or from the Moab Area Travel Council: call **(800) 635-6622** or visit [discovermoab.com](http://discovermoab.com).

### VISITOR SERVICES

**Groceries:** Grocery stores and other supplies are available in 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, 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.

**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](http://nps.gov/arch).

Paxson Woelber



Arches National Park is home to more than 2,000 natural sandstone arches!

## HISTORY

Arches is a park of contradictions. 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.

### GEOLOGIC HISTORY

Born of seeping salt, the formation of arches began 300 million years ago in the Pennsylvanian Period, when saltwater from a nearby ocean flooded the area. The water then evaporated, leaving a deposit of salt. Repeated flooding and evaporation left deposits that, over many millions of years, became thousands of feet thick. Coastal sand dunes and desert sediments then buried the salt. Over time, the sedi-

ments became rock, 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 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 exposed cracks in the rock that allowed water to infiltrate and dissolve the salt, and the salt valleys began to collapse, setting the stage for the formation of the arches.

Entrada Sandstone is the basic material of the arches. The Entrada Sandstone consists of windblown sand fused together with varying amounts of natural calcium carbonate cement. The varying cement con-

tent is responsible for differential weathering—some areas resist weathering, while others do not—which results in fins, arches and sculpted rock.

Arches are often created from narrow sandstone walls called “fins,” which have been isolated as a result of cracks in the earth and subsequent erosion. Water seeps into the rock, removing the cement and widening the cracks, causing the rock to eventually crumble. The fin wall is narrower in some places than in others. Rain-water dissolves the calcium carbonate in these weaker areas and creates holes,

much like soda drinks dissolve calcium and form cavities in teeth. Gravity and erosion expand the holes to help complete the formation of an arch.

### HUMAN HISTORY

Several individuals—over the course of decades—had a hand in establishing Arches as a national park.

In 1922, prospector Alexander Ringhoffer traveled through the area and was so impressed with its wild beauty that he convinced Frank Wadleigh to come and see for himself. Wadleigh, the passenger

traffic manager for the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, was moved to contact Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the National Park Service. Mather then pushed for the creation of a national monument at the same time Moab local and retiree Dr. J. W. Williams was promoting the area. Williams showed a geologist, Laurence Gould, the Arches area in 1921. Gould returned in 1924 and that winter wrote to Utah Senator Reed Smoot urging for a national monument designation. Smoot, in turn, pressured Mather. Creation of a monument had the support of NPS officials, D&RGW railroad officials, a geologist, a senator and others, but the Secretary of the Interior, Hubert Work, opposed the monument’s creation. Park officials countered, taking the story to the *New York Times Magazine*, published May 9, 1926.

In 1929, President Herbert Hoover signed an executive order that established Arches as a national monument.

### SIGHTS TO SEE

In some cultures, the naming of a place is an attempt at capturing its essence. People have given the wonders at Arches colorful and descriptive names: Delicate Arch, Fiery Furnace, Courthouse Towers, the Three Gossips, Devils Garden and Parade of Elephants. In total, there are more than 2,300 sandstone arches in the park.

**Delicate Arch** is probably the best-known feature in the park. Standing at precarious attention at the edge of a slick-rock bowl, the opening is 46 feet high and nearly 32 feet wide. From this lofty vantage point, one can see mesas, canyons, the Colorado River canyon and the La Sal Mountains.

The longest arch in the park—and one of the longest natural stone arches in the world—is **Landscape Arch**, 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.

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 March to October. This moderately strenuous two-mile hike takes about three hours. Reservations are required and can be made online at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov). Fees are charged.

The **La Sal Mountains**, the second-highest mountain range in the state, are located southeast of the park and can be seen from various viewpoints. **Courthouse Towers**, the **Three Gossips**, **Devils Garden**, **Parade of Elephants**, **Tower of Babel** and **Park Avenue** are fascinating spires, fins and monoliths that can be seen from the main park road.

### THINGS TO DO

Arches is located in a high desert region, subject to a range of temperatures and climatic conditions. **Summer** is hot, with temperatures often exceeding 100°F

RECOMMENDED WALKING & HIKING TRAILS			
Trail	Description	Round-Trip Distance	Difficulty
Trailhead		Time*	Elevation Gain
<b>Double Arch Trail</b> <i>Double Arch parking area</i>	This short, sand-covered path leads to the base of Double Arch—two arches that share the same stone as a foundation for both of their outer legs.	0.5 mile <i>30 minutes</i>	easy <i>level</i>
<b>Park Avenue Trail</b> <i>Park Avenue or Courthouse Towers trailhead</i>	This trail follows a canyon bottom, offering close-up views of massive fins and monoliths, including the Three Gossips and the Courthouse Towers.	2.0 miles <i>2 hours</i>	moderate <i>320 feet</i>
<b>Windows Trail</b> <i>Windows parking lot</i>	This loop trail leads to a series of arches and rock formations, including the North and South Windows, as well as Turret Arch.	1.0 mile <i>1 hour</i>	easy <i>gentle climb with steps</i>
<b>Devils Garden Trail</b> <i>Devils Garden trailhead</i>	This trail passes seven arches and offers excellent views of the Salt Valley and La Sal Mountains. Distance varies by destination.	1.6–7.2 mi. <i>1–5 hours</i>	easy to <i>strenuous</i> <i>300 feet</i>
<b>Tower Arch Trail</b> <i>Tower Arch trailhead</i>	Located in remote Klondike Bluffs section of the park, this trail climbs many small hills en route to Tower Arch.	3.4 miles <i>2–3 hours</i>	strenuous <i>100 feet</i>
<b>Delicate Arch Trail</b> <i>Wolfe Ranch parking area</i>	This rugged, steep trail crosses a bridge over salt wash and continues over slick rock, emerging at the beautiful, iconic Delicate Arch. Bring water!	3.0 miles <i>2–3 hours</i>	strenuous <i>480 feet</i>

\* The times given are round-trip averages for hikers in good physical condition.



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# Oh, Ranger! POLL

## BEYOND THE MIGHTY 5®

What's your favorite thing to do or sight to see **beyond** Utah's Mighty 5® National Parks? Here are some highlights from feedback we received via Facebook.

### GRANDDADDY BASIN

Ashley Nat'l Forest

"I love backpacking in the Granddaddy Basin. I love being completely in nature. No cell phones or other distractions."

— Michael



### MOKI DUGWAY

Utah Highway 261

"An experience every driver should have. If you approach from the north, see the road ahead just suddenly disappear and plummet over the edge."

— Jon

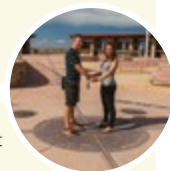


### FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT

West of U.S. Highway 160

"Took some great pix and checked four states off my list at Four Corners."

— P. Allen



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(38°C) during midday. Mornings and evenings are long and pleasant, and lend themselves to vigorous activity.

**Autumn** is comfortable, but be prepared for thundershowers in late summer and early fall. In **winter**, the park receives minimal snowfall and temperatures dip below freezing at night. In **spring**, temperatures are also pleasant, but on occasion high winds can bring dust and sandstorms.

Arches offers myriad activities year-round. **Hiking, photography, wildlife viewing and camping** can be enjoyed any season. The park is open 24 hours a day, year-round, and the visitor center is open daily, except Christmas Day. A park ranger is available to answer questions during visitor center hours.

Some Moab-based **tour companies** are authorized to provide **hiking and driving tours**. Contact the Moab Area Travel Council for more information by calling (800) 635-6622 or visiting [discovermoab.com](http://discovermoab.com).

The 50-site **Devils Garden Campground** is located 18 miles from the park entrance and is open year-round. The sites will accommodate up to 10 people and cost \$25 per night. The campground will be closed through November 2017 due to major construction. Campground **reservations** often sell out well in advance, so secure as early as possible. During the off-season, 22 sites operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Two **group sites** are available: Juniper Basin accommodates up to 55 and Canyon Wren up to 35. No RVs or trailers permitted—tents only. For reservations, call **(877) 444-6777**; TDD: **(877) 833-6777**; international: **(518) 885-3639**; or visit [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov).

**Water** is available year-round. Gathering **firewood** is prohibited in the park. Bring your own or purchase it from campground hosts (March through October) or at the visitor center (in winter). Pets must be

leashed at all times and are prohibited on trails and in the backcountry.

**Backcountry camping** is possible in a few locations, but there are no trails or designated camps. A complimentary backcountry permit for overnight trips is required, and can be obtained at the visitor center.

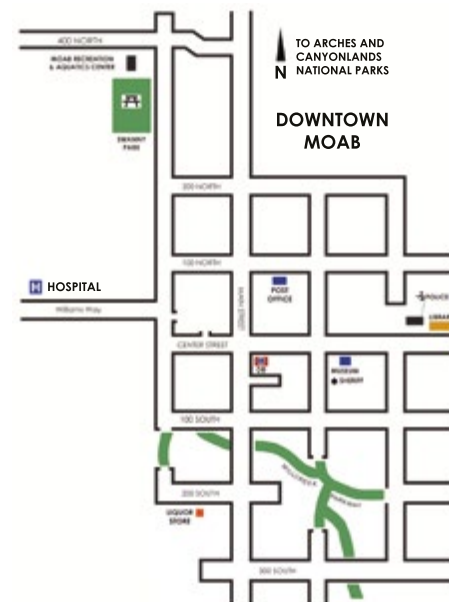
Relatively short **hiking and walking** trails offer access to many popular arches. Books describing self-guided walking tours are available for purchase at the visitor center bookstore.

## BEYOND THE PARK

Just outside Arches National Park, Moab's unique combination of beautiful red rock scenery and the cool waters of the Colorado River make it one of the most sought after destinations in the Southwest. The city serves as a hub for the thousands of visitors who seek ultimate outdoor adventures. From rock climbing to hiking, mountain biking to road biking, rafting to canoeing, Moab offers it all—be it wild or mild. Be sure to check out the map in this section, which highlights some of the best things to explore in Moab.

**Explore Downtown:** Moab is a quaint town with a touch of big city atmosphere. In the downtown business district, find shops and galleries, as well as world-class restaurants, and outfitters for adventures that await.

**Museums:** Moab is home to two museums, the Museum of Moab and the Film Museum at Red Cliffs Ranch. The Museum of Moab commemorates both the geological and human history of the town of Moab, featuring exhibits on geology, paleontology, archaeology, pioneer history and mining. The Film Museum, on the other hand, fea-



tures exhibits on films shot in the area and on cowboys, including memorabilia from several of the films, both old and new.

**La Sal Mountain Loop Drive:** The La Sal Mountain Loop is an absolute must. This auto tour travels nearly 60 miles through the beautiful red rock terrain of the area, and gives those who might not be up for a hike or other physical adventure a real sense of its grandeur. The trip starts at the Colorado River and travels west to the La Sal Mountains through the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

**Biking:** The region features several technical trails for experienced riders that offer varied terrain in beautiful scenery. The 10.5-mile Slickrock Mountain Trail is considered by many to be the ultimate mountain biking experience.



Moab • [discovermoab.com](http://discovermoab.com)  
US Highway 191 exit off 1-70  
(800) 635-6622



# CANYONLANDS

Canyonlands is a place of colorful landscape 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 to explore!

**Getting to the Park:** The *Island in the Sky District* is located on Route 313, west of U.S. 191. A turnoff leads to Dead Horse Point State Park (\$10 entrance fee), where you can get a panoramic view of the Colorado River and the terrain of Canyonlands. The *Needles District* is located on Route 211, accessible via U.S. 191 from the west. The *Maze District* is reachable via high clearance 2-wheel-drive and 4-wheel-drive dirt roads from Utah 24 or 95. Travel into the Maze requires a 4-wheel drive vehicle,

**Park Fees:** Entrance to Canyonlands is \$25 per car, \$15 per motorcycle and \$10 per pedestrian or bicyclist (all passes good for seven 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 is typically closed from late December through mid-February.

**Weather:** The desert climate is characterized by hot summers (100°F/38°C), a pleasant spring and autumn, and cool winters. Low humidity tempers the heat of the summer. Limited rainfall generally occurs

from late summer to early fall. There is light snowfall in winter.

## LODGING & 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 and Green River.

For a list of area lodging and dining, ask at park visitor centers or contact either the Moab Area TravelCouncil at **(800) 635-6622** 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.

**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. Hospitals are in Moab and Monticello.

**RV Facilities:** Private campgrounds with utility hookups are located in 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](http://nps.gov/cany).

## HISTORY

As with all of Utah's national parks, the history of Canyonlands is written primarily in the language of stone. The perpetual struggle between the elements of limestone, sandstone and shale along with water, gravity and heat has resulted in the magnificence of the Canyonlands we know today.

## GEOLOGIC HISTORY

We begin our story some 320 million years ago in the Pennsylvanian geologic period. At that time, the Canyonlands area was a basin. Nearby, to the northeast, stood an ancient mountain range some 30,000 feet high called the Uncompahgre Uplift. The basin was repeatedly flooded by seawater from an adjacent ocean. Flooding was followed by evaporation and an accumulation of salts. Meanwhile, debris from erosion of the ancient Uncompahgre Uplift added layers of dark shale to the basin area.

Over the next 10 million years, layers of limestone, sandstone and more shale were deposited. But, by about 10 million years ago, the forces of erosion started to gain ground when tectonic forces pushed the Colorado Plateau skyward, making it vulnerable. Since then, at least one vertical mile of rock has been stripped away from the Canyonlands, most of it having been carried away by the mighty waters of the Green and Colorado rivers. The fantastically carved spires, fins and cliffs that make up the region today are the result of

this tireless and ongoing clash between rock, time and the elements.

## HUMAN HISTORY

People have hunted game in the area for thousands of years. Paleo-Indian cultures lived in the area as far back as 11,500 B.C. Their descendants, the Desert Archaic people, also hunted and gathered here and, by about 1000 B.C., began to grow corn. As agriculture became more important, these people gave up their nomadic ways and developed permanent settlements. The culture that planted crops and built villages is called the ancestral Puebloan.

By about A.D. 1100, Ancestral Puebloans occupied the Needles District of Canyonlands. The ruins around Salt Creek are evidence of small settlements.

The Fremont people, whose origins are more obscure, lived across the Colorado River to the northwest of the Ancestral Puebloans. Both groups left their mark on Canyonlands. In all three areas of the park, there are painted and pecked scenes of hunting and harvesting, stylized figures and abstract designs left by ancient artists working in stone for purposes that remain unclear. Newspaper Rock State Historic Monument, on the road into the Needles District, gives evidence of their existence.

For about 200 years, the Fremont and Ancestral Puebloan peoples cultivated crops in canyon bottoms and left rock art on canyon walls, but this was not to be a permanent home. They left Canyonlands in the 13th century, possibly because of prolonged drought, and resettled in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, where their descendants, the Pueblo communities, remain today.

For the next several hundred years, Canyonlands remained little used. It was not

until the 1800s that the first Europeans entered Canyonlands. In 1836, fur trapper Denis Julien traveled through this rugged country. Several more efforts to explore the area followed shortly thereafter. In 1859, Captain John N. Macomb entered Canyonlands in order to locate the confluence of the Green and the Grand rivers (as the Colorado River was then called), to chart the course of the San Juan River and to determine the most direct route from the Rio Grande of New Mexico to the small towns of southern Utah. John Wesley Powell explored the area by river in 1869 and again in 1871. Powell's expeditions resulted in the first detailed geologic and topographic information on this area. By 1885, cattle ranching was becoming a big business in southeast Utah, and cattle were beginning to graze in Canyonlands itself. Some of the descendants of ranchers, who were running cattle operations in Canyonlands during the last century, are still in residence today and many still raise cattle nearby on the family ranch.

In September 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed legislation preserving Canyonlands as a national park.

## SIGHTS TO SEE

Canyonlands, Utah's largest national park, awes visitors with the power and size of its landscape. The park is divided into four districts: **the Island in the Sky**, the **Maze**, the **Needles**, and the **Green and Colorado rivers**.

**Island in the Sky** is the highest and northernmost section of the park. Formed of a broad, level mesa, it is bordered on the west by the Green River and on the east by the Colorado. From the **Grand View Point Overlook**, the views en-

compass 100 miles of canyons. A thousand feet below is the **White Rim**, a nearly continuous sandstone bench that follows the contours of the mesa. Below that, the Green and Colorado rivers sedately flow toward their confluence. After they meet, they undergo a turbulent change and pass furiously through the stretch of white water known as **Cataract Canyon**. They then continue on their way through the Grand Canyon and out to the sea at the Gulf of California.

Hiking trails in the Island in the Sky district lead to overlooks, arches and an unusual geologic feature known as **Upheaval Dome**. Geologists from around the world have come to study this stone curiosity and debate its origin.

**The Maze** is the westernmost section of the park and is also the most rugged and difficult to access. It has been called one of the most remote and unreachable regions in the U.S. The Maze itself, a tortuous jumble of canyons, has been described as "a 30-square-mile puzzle in sandstone." There are bizarre towers, walls, buttes and mesas in the **Land of Standing Rocks**, the **Doll House** and the **Fins**. A 4-wheel-drive vehicle is necessary to explore this region. Prehistoric cultures have left their mark in the Maze. Ghostly, larger-than-life figures, painted more than 2,000 years ago, adorn the walls of the **Great Gallery** in **Horseshoe Canyon**, a detached part of the park northwest of the Maze.

**The Needles District**, in the southeastern section of the park, is an area of immense diversity, the most striking landforms are the "**Needles**" themselves—massive sandstone spires of orange, rust and coral-colored rock that stand upright in a tangled formation. **Petroglyphs and**

**pictographs**, as well as some small dwellings and granaries, are also highlights of the region.

Arches—including **Angel Arch**, **Castle Arch**, **Druid Arch**, **Fortress Arch** and **Wooden Shoe Arch**—are another fascinating geologic feature of the Needles.

## THINGS TO DO

Canyonlands is wild and rugged—intriguing to explore any time. Because it is a desert environment, the **spring** and **fall** are typically pleasant, except for possible high winds in April and May. **Winter** is short, with little snow, although temperatures drop below freezing at night. **Summer** brings hot, dry heat.

See the park either by driving on **paved**

**roads** or, if you have a **4-wheel-drive** vehicle, from more rugged, remote roads. These trips can be as short as a day or longer than a week. Backcountry permits (fee charged)—available online at **canypermits.nps.gov** and at park visitor centers—are required and reservations are recommended. For more information on permits, including day use permits for wheeled vehicles, call (435) 259-4351 or **nps.gov/cany/plan-yourvisit/dayusepermits.htm**. *Note: ATVs, UTVs and OHVs are not permitted.*

You can see a lot of the park from your car, but to get a closer look, leave it behind—**hike**, **camp**, **backpack**, check out **park exhibits**, attend **ranger talks** and **campfire programs**, or **look for wildlife**.

River rafting permits (fee charged) are required for overnight river trips within the

Fabio Achilli



Canyonlands Arches are one of the park's most amazing sights.



## RECOMMENDED WALKING & HIKING TRAILS

Trail Trailhead	Description	Round-Trip Distance Time*	Difficulty Elevation Gain
<b>Mesa Arch Trail</b> <i>Mesa Arch parking lot; Island in the Sky</i>	This self-guiding loop trail leads to Mesa Arch and offers spectacular views of the canyons below.	0.5 mile 30 minutes	easy 100 feet
<b>Neck Springs Trail</b> <i>0.4 mile south of visitor center; Island in the Sky</i>	This trail passes evidence of early ranching nearby lush seep springs.	5.8 miles 3–4 hours	moderate 300 feet
<b>Cave Spring Trail</b> <i>2.5 miles from visitor center; Needles</i>	This loop trail leads to a historic cowboy camp and rock art, then ascends wooden ladders to an overlook with canyon views.	0.6 mile 45 minutes	easy fairly level
<b>Slickrock Foot Trail</b> <i>7 miles past visitor center; Needles</i>	The trail runs along rolling slickrock surface marked by rock cairns. It offers spectacular views of surrounding canyons and buttes.	2.4 miles 2–3 hours	moderate level

\* The times given are round-trip averages for hikers in good physical condition.

park, and must be reserved online in advance through the backcountry reservation system: [nps.gov/cany](https://nps.gov/cany). There is no vehicle admittance to boating takeout points in the park. For those taking calm water river trips into Canyonlands, arrangements must be made prior to your trip to be taken back upriver by commercial (jet boat) tour companies. World-class whitewater, which requires skilled boaters, awaits below the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers. There are no services along the rivers, so boaters must be fully prepared before embarking. Many visitors who travel the rivers take commercial trips. For details, stop by information centers in Moab and Monticello, or contact the Moab Area Travel Council at (800) 635-6622 or [discovermoab.com](https://discovermoab.com).

Two campgrounds, **Squaw Flat** and **Willow Flat**, are open year-round. Reservations are not available for individual sites, which in spring and fall typically fill by midday.

Bring a camp stove and, in summer, at least one gallon of water per person per

day. **Island in the Sky Visitor Center** has limited water. Piped water is available near Squaw Flat in the Needles and no water is available at Willow Flat.

Reservations for the Needles District group campsites and backcountry camping can be made on [reservation.gov](https://reservation.gov). Walk-in permits may be obtained based on availability. Call (435) 259-4351 for more information.

**Pets** are only allowed at frontcountry roads and campgrounds, and must be leashed at all times.

Canyonlands has hundreds of miles of **hiking** trails that explore the park's natural and cultural features. Walks of less than one mile in the **Island in the Sky** and longer hikes in the **Needles** will take you to ruins, overlooks, arches and other geologic wonders. Obtain a backcountry permit (fee charged) if you plan to camp. For more information, inquire at a visitor center.

Commercial operators are licensed to conduct tours through the park, including **4-wheel-drive**, **mountain biking** and **river rafting**. Most require reservations. A

list of companies is available from the park or by contacting the Moab Travel Council at (800) 635-6622 or [discovermoab.com](https://discovermoab.com).

**For your safety**, carry plenty of food, fuel, water, tools and first-aid supplies. In remote areas, it is advisable to travel with another party in a second vehicle.

## BEYOND THE PARK

While Canyonlands National Park does not have a specific gateway town, **Mexican Hat**, **Cedar Mesa**, **Bluff** and **Monticello** are all worth a visit, and the area in southeast Utah is an outdoor adventurer's paradise. After visiting the park, be sure to check out the locations listed here.

**Monument Valley:** Located on a Navajo reservation, Monument Valley awes visitors with its stunning red rocks.

**Edge of the Cedars State Park:** This park features pre-Colombian Pueblo Indian ruins and a modern museum, which allows visitors to view the largest collection of Anasazi pottery in the Four Corners region.

**Grand Gulch Primitive Area:** This remote area, accessible only by pack animal or on foot, is a unique backcountry hiking destination. It is home to a rich collection of American Indian rock art. Please treat this special place with care and respect.

**ATVing:** Exploring by ATV offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reach remote areas. Rental ATVs are available in nearby towns. *Note: ATVs are not permitted in Canyonlands National Park.*



Canyon Country •  
[utahscanyoncountry.com](https://utahscanyoncountry.com)  
US Highway 191 near Interstate 70  
(800) 574-4386 Ext. 4139

## GUIDED NATIONAL PARK ADVENTURES

### 1- TO 6-DAY ARCHES AND CANYONLANDS TOURS



RAFTING • HIKING • 4x4

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OR CALL US AT 1-800-346-6277



# MORE PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS

While Utah's five national parks receive a great deal of much deserved attention around the country and the world, don't miss the other outdoor destinations that likewise contribute to a state that is almost 80 percent public lands!

Utah features the best of both the Rocky Mountains and the Desert Southwest and has unparalleled access to some of the best mountain biking, fly fishing, skiing, rock

climbing, hiking, birdwatching and golfing on earth!

Visit one park or combine them for a perfect day or weekend trip. We've broken out some of our favorites **by region** to get you started. All have something unique to offer, and many are closer than you might think—in some cases it's only one to three hours between parks. Make a checklist and see them all!

## NORTHERN UTAH



### BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS

This BLM-managed location is one of the most unique natural features in Utah. Stretching over 30,000 acres, the Bonneville Salt Flats are a playground for both people and race cars. This is a fragile resource, however. The flats are located along the I-80 corridor near the Utah-Nevada border. Wendover is the closest city. (866) 299-2489 • [blm.gov/utah](http://blm.gov/utah)



### DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

Home to one of the most productive fossil digs in the world, Dinosaur National Monument also offers wildlife viewing and scenic wonders. At the Quarry Exhibit Hall, visitors can view approximately 1,500 dinosaur bones and exhibits about life during the late Jurassic. Access the monument via Highway 149 north from Jensen, Utah. (435) 781-7700 • [nps.gov/dino](http://nps.gov/dino)



### GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

This site celebrates the completion of the world's first transcontinental railroad, where the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads met on May 10, 1869. In summer, watch reenactments of the Last Spike Ceremony and steam locomotive demonstrations. It is located 32 miles west of Brigham City, Utah, off State Route 83. (435) 471-2209 • [nps.gov/gosp](http://nps.gov/gosp)



### MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Crossing Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Utah and Wyoming, this National Historic Trail commemorates the escape of roughly 70,000 Mormons from religious persecution. The mass migration from Nauvoo, Illinois to Salt Lake City, Utah, followed the Mormon Pioneer Trail from 1846 to 1869. The trail covers about 1,300 miles. (801) 741-1012 • [nps.gov/mopi](http://nps.gov/mopi)

Rob Glover

Rob Glover

James St. John

BLM

## NORTHERN UTAH (CONTINUED)

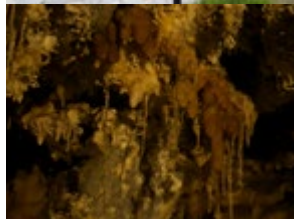
Ken Lund



### PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Organized by private entrepreneurs, this horse-and-rider relay system became the nation's most direct and practical means of east-west communications before the telegraph. Learn more about the system that carried mail from Missouri to California, at several spots along the trail in northern Utah, accessible via I-80 and I-84. (801) 741-1012 • [nps.gov/poex](http://nps.gov/poex)

lelo\_pangue



### TIMPANOGOS CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Sitting high in the Wasatch Mountains, this cave system consists of three distinct and spectacularly decorated caverns. Park rangers guide hour-long tours through the caves. Outside the cave, experience canyon views and a crystal-clear river. The monument is 10 miles east of Alpine, Utah, on State Route 92. *Closed during winter.* • (801) 756-5238 • [nps.gov/tica](http://nps.gov/tica)

Ken Lund



### WASATCH MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Year-round adventure awaits those who venture to Wasatch Mountain State Park. In summer, hiking, biking and camping are popular activities and, in winter, visitors can ski or snowmobile through the mountain terrain. The park is located 50 miles east of Salt Lake City off of U.S. 40. • (435) 654-1791 [stateparks.utah.gov/parks/wasatch-mountain](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/wasatch-mountain)

## CENTRAL UTAH

dfphotos



### DEAD HORSE POINT STATE PARK

Take a stroll along the Rim Walk—2,000 feet above the Colorado River—for breathtaking views of southeastern Utah's Canyon Country and the pinnacles and buttes of Canyonlands National Park. The park is located 32 miles from Moab on U.S. 191 and State Route 313. • (435) 259-2614 [stateparks.utah.gov/parks/dead-horse](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/dead-horse)

USDA



### FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST

Majestic stands of aspen encircle open mountain meadows in this beautiful mountain lake forest—the largest in Utah. Fishing and birdwatching are popular activities. Take I-70 or State Highway 24, both of which provide access to the forest. • (435) 896-9233 [www.fs.usda.gov/fishlake](http://www.fs.usda.gov/fishlake)

Roderick Erme



### FLAMING GORGE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

This area of Ashley National Forest is nestled along the border of Utah and Wyoming. With 43 campgrounds, 91 water-miles and 360 miles of shoreline along the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, this recreation area is a perfect weekend playground. From Vernal, Utah, take U.S. Highway 191 north for 43 miles. (435) 789-1181 • [www.fs.usda.gov/ashley](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ashley)

**CENTRAL UTAH (CONTINUED)**



**LITTLE SAHARA RECREATION AREA**

Little Sahara is home to over 60,000 acres of sagebrush flats, juniper-covered hills and free-moving sand dunes, including a 700-foot mountain of sand. Little Sahara is among Utah's premier OHV areas. A vehicle-free zone offers hiking and wildlife-watching opportunities. From Nephi, travel 34 miles west on Highway 132. • (435) 433-5960 [blm.gov/utah](http://blm.gov/utah)

BLM



**MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST**

The mountains at Manti-La Sal National Forest provide islands of green that rise above the desert below. The Manti division, the main recreational area, features high-elevation lakes, diverse vegetation and areas of scenic and geological interest. The forest is accessible at multiple points along State Route 10. • (435) 637-2817 • [www.fs.usda.gov/mantilasal](http://www.fs.usda.gov/mantilasal)

NPS Manti-La Sal National Forest



**OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL**

This trail across remote deserts and mountains was primarily a horse and burro pack route between Santa Fe and Los Angeles, which developed partly from a network of American Indian and Hispanic trade routes. It crosses six states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. (505) 988-6098 • [nps.gov/olsp](http://nps.gov/olsp)

NPS

**SOUTHERN UTAH**



**CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Located 76 miles northeast of St. George on State Routes 14 and 148, Cedar Breaks is a two-mile natural amphitheater. Its exquisitely carved pinnacles, spires and columns change color with the sun, making the scenery come alive. In winter, visitors can cross-country ski, snowshoe and snowmobile. • (435) 586-9451 [nps.gov/cebr](http://nps.gov/cebr)

Don Graham



**BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT**

The Bears Ears feature is only one part of the landscape. The pair of towering buttes stand in the center with Dark Canyon Wilderness to the west, Comb Ridge on the east, Cedar Mesa to the south and Indian Creek to the north. (435) 587-1500 • [blm.gov/utah](http://blm.gov/utah)

BLM



**GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

Together with Lake Powell, this area offers unparalleled opportunities for water-based and backcountry recreation, as well as scenic vistas, geological wonders and human history. Glen Canyon is also a popular houseboating destination. It is located 68 miles south of Hanksville on state routes 95 and 276. • (928) 608-6200 • [nps.gov/glca](http://nps.gov/glca)

Sharon Mollenus

**SOUTHERN UTAH (CONTINUED)**



**GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT**

This dramatic landscape embraces a spectacular array of scientific and historic resources. The high, rugged and remote region—with bold plateaus and multi-hued cliffs—was the last place in the continental U.S. to be mapped. It can be viewed from State Route 12 between Bryce Canyon and Boulder, Utah. • (435) 826-5499 [utah.com/grand-staircase-escalante](http://utah.com/grand-staircase-escalante)

Jeff Hollett



**HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Hovenweep showcases 10,000 years of habitation and protects five prehistoric, Puebloan-era villages spread over a 20-mile expanse of mesa tops and canyons along the Utah-Colo- rado border. The monument is located 35 miles southeast of Blanding, Utah, on U.S. Highway 191 and State Route 262. (970) 562-4282, ext. 10 • [nps.gov/hove](http://nps.gov/hove)

Ken Lund



**KODACHROME BASIN STATE PARK**

At Kodachrome Basin, see 180 million years of geological time in colorful sandstone. The color and beauty here prompted a 1948 National Geographic Society expedition to name the area after the popular color film. The park is located 9 miles south of Cannonville, Utah, off Highway 12. • (435) 679-8562 [stateparks.utah.gov/parks/kodachrome-basin](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/kodachrome-basin)

Murray Foubister



**MONUMENT VALLEY NAVAJO TRIBAL PARK**

This park preserves the Navajo way of life and showcases some of the Southwest's most striking and recognizable landscapes of sand- stone buttes, mesas and spires that have been the backdrop for several films. It is located on the Utah-Arizona border, 25 miles south of Mexican Hat, Utah, on U.S. 163. • (435) 727-5874 [navajonationparks.org](http://navajonationparks.org)

Moyan Brenn



**NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Explore massive natural stone bridges, among the largest in the world, that formed as meandering streams eroded canyon walls. Here you'll also find some of the darkest night skies in the country and ranger-led star watching programs. The monument is 35 miles west of Blanding, Utah, via Highway 95. • (435) 692-1234, ext. 16 [nps.gov/nabr](http://nps.gov/nabr)

U.S. Geological Survey



**RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Rainbow Bridge is the world's largest known natural bridge and is considered sacred by neighboring American Indian tribes. Please visit this landmark with respect. Reach the bridge via a 50-mile boat ride from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, or reach it by driving 68 miles south of Hanksville on Utah Highways 95 and 276. (928) 608-6200 • [nps.gov/rabr](http://nps.gov/rabr)

NPS

SCENIC BYWAYS



OLDS

The Capitol Reef Country Scenic Byway leads into the park.

Utah is home to seven **National Scenic Byways** and one **All-American Road**. These roads are recognized for their outstanding archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities. For more information, visit [visitutah.com/scenicbyways](http://visitutah.com/scenicbyways) or call (800) 200-1160. These scenic routes are:

- Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway (Colorado, Utah)
- The Energy Loop: Huntington & Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byways
- Flaming Gorge–Uintas National Scenic Byway
- Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway
- Nebo Loop National Scenic Byway
- Patchwork Parkway National Scenic Byway
- Scenic Byway 12 All-American Road
- Trail of the Ancients National Scenic Byway

There are also 19 **State Scenic Byways** that access Utah’s unique combination of recreational adventures, cultural attractions and widely varied landscapes. From the rugged mountains and forests in northern Utah to the

stark vistas of the Great Salt Lake Desert and the dramatic sprawl of southern Utah’s red rock canyons, take these roads less traveled and it will make all of the difference.

- Bear Lake Scenic Byway
- Beaver Canyon Scenic Byway
- Big Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Byway
- Capitol Reef Country Scenic Byway
- Cedar Breaks Scenic Byway
- Dead Horse Mesa Scenic Byway
- Fishlake Scenic Byway
- Great Salt Lake Legacy Parkway
- Indian Creek Scenic Byway
- Kolob Fingers Scenic Byway
- Little Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Byway
- Markagunt High Plateau Scenic Byway
- Mirror Lake Scenic Byway
- Mount Carmel Scenic Byway
- Ogden River Scenic Byway
- Potash Lower Colorado River Scenic Byway
- Provo Canyon Scenic Byway
- Upper Colorado River Scenic Byway
- Zion Canyon Corridor Scenic Byway

UTAH STATE PARKS



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Antelope Island State Park is a haven for hikers, birdwatchers and photographers.

There is a seemingly limitless list of things to do and sights to see in Utah’s 43 State Parks. From **Bear Lake State Park**—known for its beautiful and unique blue-green waters—to **Goblin Valley State Park**—often compared to Mars due to its peculiar formations—recreational opportunities abound in every corner of this great state. Parks like **Kodachrome Basin**, **Snow Canyon** and **Dead Horse Point** could easily be national parks for their red rock scenic splendor.

One could write an entire book about the many amazing destinations Utah has to offer visitors and residents. Here are just a few of our favorite places to explore.

Given its myriad features, **Antelope Island State Park** proves the perfect place for everyone, from wildlife lovers and hiking enthusiasts, to birders and photographers. Even beach bums will find themselves at home here, splitting their time between the sandy shores and the salty waters.

A number of animals take up permanent residence here, including free-ranging bison, mule deer and bighorn sheep.

Millions of birds gather at the perimeter of the island, offering binocular-toting fans of our feathered friends a rare chance to watch on in awe.

Hikers also bask in happiness here, taking

advantage of the incredible backcountry trails. Campers, too, will be eager to pitch tents and set up shop for a night at one of the primitive campsites, as active daytime diversions seamlessly transition into relaxed evening activities. As is custom for the state of Utah, nightfall reveals bright shining stars and a moon that city-slickers aren’t always able to appreciate.

Those with an affinity for recording their experiences will discover much to document at Antelope Island, not the least of which being the unparalleled scenery. From breathtaking big picture shots of wide open sky and distant peaks, there are plenty of natural wonders to immortalize.

Another top spot is **Goosenecks State Park**, also superbly suited for photo ops. Named for its sinuous incised meanders—the result of erosion caused by wind, water, frost and gravity—vast views lend special visual interest to the area.

While there are no hiking or bike trails, primitive campsites with picnic tables are situated a safe distance from the cliff’s edge. So pack a camera and prepare to be taken aback by this stop outside **The Mighty 5®**.

For more on state parks in Utah, please visit [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov) or call (801) 538-7220. Enjoy exploring!



The national parks of Utah span one of America's most beautiful stretches of land—the Colorado Plateau. One town proudly announces on a sign “the greatest earth on show,” but among the many geologic features and attractions, visitors are finding new gold in the landscape that was once overlooked; for Utah has some of the darkest night skies and most spectacular starry skies found anywhere. The national parks and monuments of Utah protect this nighttime scenery and those points of light beckon city-weary souls.

As light pollution has rapidly increased across the country over the last four decades, Americans are finding that the simple experience of showing constellations to your children, tracing the arc of the Milky Way, spotting planets, or lying on your back hunting for shooting stars has become rare and precious. Fortunately, the Colorado Plateau is one of the last harbors of natural darkness. Above the red rocks, cliffs, and arches, one can still gaze upon the sky our grandparents once knew, the same sky that John Wesley Powell saw, or that the ancient Puebloan and Fremont people slept beneath.



At Capitol Reef, “half the park is in the dark”

Mike Goard

## GRAND SANCTUARY OF NATURAL DARKNESS

For those accustomed to suburban or urban skies with only sporadic constellations visible, a natural night sky can be a bit of a surprise. First, all the constellations seem to be lost amid the diamond dust of thousands of stars. Next, you may notice a faint cloud hanging above an otherwise clear sky—that’s the Milky Way, our own spiral galaxy seen edge-on. After several minutes in the dark, you will detect your vision adjusting, and what once was pitch black becomes more distinguishable. Even the planet Venus shines brightly enough to sear your night vision, and will cause you to cast a visible shadow! Dozens of faint shooting stars will catch your eyes—not a rare meteor shower, but the benefit of pristine dark skies, offered every clear night in Southern Utah, one of the earth’s last grand sanctuaries of natural darkness.

## A STARGAZING ADVENTURE

The doorstep of the grand sanctuary of dark skies begins at **Zion National Park**. Leaving the lights of the city behind you, you will find the starlit silhouette cliffs are just as beautiful as during the day. Further on, **Bryce Canyon National Park** is the highest elevation of Utah’s national parks, with some of the clearest air. Warm clothes are your only passport to the almost pristine skies of Bryce. The park offers regular stargazing programs, and its four-day Astronomy Festival (this year’s event is June 21-24, 2017) has quickly become one of the premier settings for connecting with the cosmos and peering through large telescopes.

Continuing on to **Capitol Reef National Park**, the All-American Road, Scenic Byway 12, winds into the darkest part of the Colo-

Mike Durkin



The National Park Service helps preserve dark night skies, which are an important natural resource in Utah.

rado Plateau. At this point, you are furthest from the city lights of Las Vegas and Salt Lake City, just beyond the 200-mile reach of their skyglow. In fact, the National Park Service has a light pollution measurement program that declares Capitol Reef National Park—along with **Natural Bridges National Monument** and a few other locations—to have the best documented night skies.

Two national parks (Capitol Reef and Canyonlands), three national monuments (Natural Bridges, Hovenweep and Cedar Breaks) and two state parks (Goblin Valley and Dead Horse Point, with more on the way) combine for one of the densest clusters of certified International Dark Sky Parks in the world. Northern Utah’s North Fork Park of Ogden Valley is a certified park that is astonishingly near a major urban center.

For explorers looking for a more wild experience, hiking at night, listening to the sounds of nocturnal wildlife or telling stories in the

moonlight are just as grand as the astronomical view.

A red flashlight, or a white one covered with colophane, will make a big difference in protecting your night vision as you explore.

## DO YOUR PART

Don’t let any day of your Utah vacation end with the same old television shows, instead get to know a national park at night, or take in one of the many stargazing programs offered by rangers.

Cherish the rarity of these clear windows to the universe and perhaps endeavor to do your part to keep artificial light on the ground where it belongs and prevent the needless and wasteful shining of light into the sky. Not only will the nocturnal wildlife thank you, but your children can come back to these places years from now and once again feel part of the larger universe.



From dry desert environments to lush riparian communities, Utah's diverse climate and terrain supports a wide variety of plant and animal species. More than 600 species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians make their home in Utah. **Happy spotting!**

## ARCHES

Since water is scarce, many visitors are surprised at the amount of vegetation in Arches. Adaptations enable plants—including grasses, wildflowers, cacti, yucca, mosses, ferns and trees—to survive the extremes of temperature and aridity.

To cope with the heat, cold and aridity of the desert, most land animals living in the park remain sheltered until evening, when they venture out in search of food.

## BRYCE CANYON

An incredible variety of plant and animals call Bryce Canyon home, thanks in part to pine and brush habitats, which provide shelter for many animals. Piñon pine nuts and juniper berries are also a main ingredient in the park's vital food chain, providing food for ground squirrels, mule deer, mice, wood rats, birds and chipmunks, who are preyed upon by hawks, eagles, bobcats, ringtails, foxes, and sometimes coyotes, bears and mountain lions.

## CANYONLANDS

Aside from the Green River and the Colorado River and the few springs, water is in very short supply in the park. Rain is infrequent and, due to rapid evaporation and runoff, much of what does fall is unavailable to plant life. Despite all of this,

some plants do quite well here, including grasses, brush, piñon pines, junipers and mountain mahogany.

From tiny biting midges to golden eagles and the rarely seen desert bighorn sheep, animals in the park have adapted to a wide range of climatic conditions.


## CAPITOL REEF

Life is abundant along the banks of the Fremont River, where cottonwood trees, willows and numerous plant and animal species thrive. Deer are often seen in orchards along with the occasional marmot. Piñon pine and Utah juniper grow in higher and drier conditions and provide valuable food sources and shelter to wildlife. Mountain lions, bighorn sheep, eagles and squirrels are also among the creatures found at Capitol Reef.

The water pockets are home to numerous plants and animals that come alive after a heavy rain. Hours after a flash flood, sandstone pockets that have filled with water swarm with fairy shrimp and spadefoot toads.

## ZION

The moist grottoes along Zion's Virgin River are home to wildflowers, including golden columbine, shooting star, monkey flower, and even the orchid and the cardinal flower. In drier locations, Indian paintbrush, prickly pear, scarlet gilia, penstemon and the sacred datura grace the landscape. Larger shrubs and trees are equally diverse.

 **WHAT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR TRIP TO UTAH? TELL US! @OhRanger**



## WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



**1** The haunting cry of the **coyote** (*canis latrans*) is one of the most distinct sounds of the landscape of the American West. Found in almost every habitat across Utah, coyotes are very successful predators, but are also opportunistic, eating small mammals, reptiles, insects and fruit. • **Weight** 20–30 lbs • **Size** 3–4.5 ft long • **Active** year-round • All Parks. Photo: mrpolynomous

**2** The **golden eagle** (*aquila chrysaetos*) is named for its striking buff-gold collar of feathers. Inhabiting rugged terrain of cliffs and mesas, they feed on small mammals, like rabbits and squirrels. They mate for life and build elaborate nests of sticks and fur on cliffs or in trees. • **Size** 2–3.5 ft, 5–7.5 ft wingspan • **Weight** 5–15.5 lbs • **Active** spring through fall • All Parks. Photo: Tony Hisgett

**3** **Elk** (*Cervus canadensis*) Utah's state animal is plentiful throughout the state's mountain ranges and can be found in and around most state parks. Living in family groups, they eat grasses, berries, mushrooms and wildflowers. During late summer, bull elk's antlers grow rapidly, sometimes reaching six feet in width. • **Weight** 600– 1200 lbs (bull)/500 lbs or less (cow) • **Size** 5 ft at shoulder (bull)/4.5 ft at shoulder (cow) • **Active** year-round.

**4** **Desert bighorn sheep** (*ovis canadensis nelsoni*) are a distinct subspecies that resides across the Southwest and can survive long periods without water. They climb steep, rocky terrain effortlessly to avoid predators, and their horns can reach three feet in length and one foot in circumference at the base! • **Height** 5–6 ft • **Weight** 150–200 lbs • **Active** year-round • CR, Z, A, CL Photo: NPS

**5** **Mule deer** (*odocoileus hemionus*) are most active at dawn and dusk. Their large, mule-like ears are like a satellite dish, collecting noises and alerting them of danger. Mule deer are capable of moving with great speed over rough terrain by taking bounding leaps and landing on all fours simultaneously. • **Weight** 70–475 lbs • **Size** 4–7.5 ft long • **Active** in winter • All Parks. Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife

**6** **Red foxes** (*vulpes vulpes*) live in areas where meadow, woodland and wetland intersect. While they are in the canine family, they have more in common with domestic cats. Foxes hunt using their large feline eyes, ears and whiskers to stalk rodents, rabbits and birds. • **Weight** 10–15 lbs • **Size** 3.5 ft • **Active** year-round • CR, Z, BC. Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife



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. Because Utah has such a wide variety of activities and programs geared toward kids, please contact the places you plan to visit to find out about specific opportunities. Here's a helpful rundown of some fun ways kids can get involved in general in most places.

## 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 at a visitor center for current times and topics.

## KEEP AN OUTDOOR JOURNAL

While exploring parks and public lands, write down and draw things you see. 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.

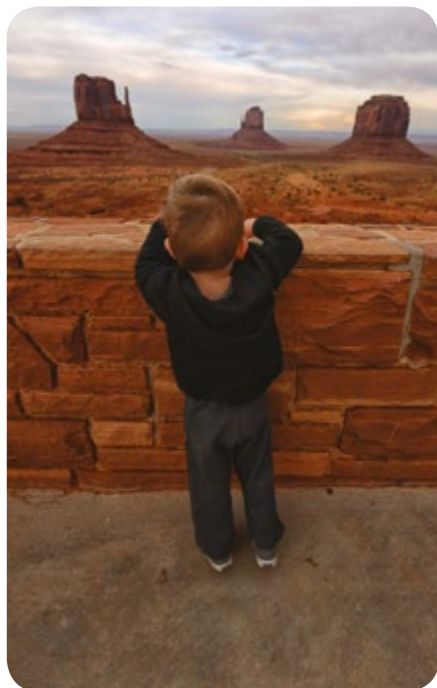
## TAKE PICTURES

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 red rock, desert landscapes, lakes, wildlife and more. Be sure to bring a camera to capture your best memories—then fashion a scrapbook to remember your experience and share via social media. Within The Mighty 5<sup>®</sup>, you can help kids post to social sites using the hashtag #Mighty5.

## GO ON A FIELD TRIP

Local colleges and universities often offer special family programs and trips to nearby parks. Topics include reptiles and amphibians, insects and animal tracks. Inquire locally for more information.



Ask at visitor centers for information about kid-friendly ranger walks and talks



National parks are fragile ecosystems that must be preserved, not only for the enjoyment and enrichment of future generations, but also for the protection of both the natural environment and cultural heritage. The challenge is to maintain a meaningful "visitor experience" for the millions who visit the parks each year, while simultaneously minimizing the negative impact of human traffic.

## BENEATH OUR FEET

Biological soil crust, also known as cryptobiotic soil, is a microscopic plant community of lichens, algae, fungi and cyanobacteria that slows erosion, retains moisture and adds nitrogen to the nutrient-poor desert soil. Assume it is anywhere except trails, rocks or in sandy washes. Easily damaged by walking or driving on it, please stay



To reduce erosion and preserve delicate ecosystems, hike on marked trails and in approved areas.

on marked trails to best avoid disturbance. In other areas, fire is used to manage a lower density of forest trees, while encouraging grass and flowering plant growth on the forest floor. Aggressive revegetation efforts are ongoing.

## FIGHTING EXTINCTION & EMPLOYING ERADICATION

Mountain lion, marmot, deer and peregrine falcon populations have been studied, and desert bighorn sheep and Utah prairie dogs have been reintroduced. Introduced exotic plant species—plants not native to the area—such as Russian olive and tamarisk, have been researched, and eradication programs are in place.

## HOW PARKS HELP

Park staff are responsible for promoting cultural awareness, recovering archaeological data from rapidly eroding river terraces, stabilizing existing prehistoric structures, recording newly discovered sites, and monitoring the impact of nature and humans on these non-renewable cultural resources.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The archaeological and historic sites on all our public lands are important links to the past. The NPS protects these precious resources by surveying and documenting sites and stabilizing and reinforcing ruins, but we need your help. A tiny shard of pottery or a few corn kernels may hold the answers to questions about our cultural past. Please leave sites as they are. Remember that it is illegal to damage or remove cultural or natural resources in the parks.



# PHOTOGRAPHY

The ecosystems of America's national and state parks and public lands are among the most diverse on the planet—from the wetlands of the Everglades to the temperate rain forests of Olympic National Park and the deserts of Death Valley to the mountains of Yellowstone and Grand Tetons. For both aspiring and experienced photographers, the goal of any trip to a national park is to capture its endemic wildlife.

Taking photographs of animals presents a unique set of challenges. Landscapes cooperate; wildlife does not. Not only are animals likely to react to a photographer's presence, but they are also driven by their own instincts and behavior, which can make capturing them difficult. The tips below will help you compose better wildlife images of all creatures great and small—from the bison to the tiniest hummingbird and everything in between.

- **Use a tripod.** If you are using a large telephoto lens, consider investing in a gimbal head, which will make it easier to track your subject.
- **Know your subject.** Before you take out your camera, understand your subject's

behavior so that you can be prepared for what it will do next.

- **The eyes have it.** Capturing your subject's eyes will lead the viewer into the picture and make your image more impactful. Always keep the eyes in focus and try to place them in the power points (the intersection of rule of third guidelines).
  - **Keep a safe distance.** You'll want to keep a minimum of 25 yards between you and your subject and more than 75 yards for larger predators. That means that you'll need a big telephoto lens if you want to get up close and personal.
  - **Shoot in burst mode.** Instead of taking a single frame, increase the probability that you'll capture the behavior, head position or angle by capturing multiple frames.
  - **Be prepared.** Wildlife, and particularly birds, move quickly and without provocation. Practice your panning skills to better catch birds when they alight.
  - **Timing is everything.** The best time to photograph wildlife is during the golden hours—at dusk and dawn—when the light is soft and less likely to cast harsh shadows across your subject's face.
  - **Keep it simple.** The easiest way to draw attention to your subject is to use a simple background. Use a shallow depth of field to blur any distracting backgrounds.
  - **Aim for the action.** Make your image more compelling by capturing your subject exhibiting its natural behavior—flying, hunting, eating or caring for young.
- The best way to take better photographs is to practice, and you don't need to go far. Buy a bird feeder and build a studio in your backyard, where you'll be able to create your own version of *A Star(ling) is Born*



JPechar/Stock

Don't miss your shot! Be aware of your surroundings.



Arches National Park

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Canyonlands National Park



  
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# EDITOR'S PICKS



Clockwise from left: NPS, NPS, Utah Office of Tourism.

Clockwise from left: Hike The Narrows, a Zion National Park route that takes you into the Virgin River. Select trails in Utah's National Parks, like the popular Pa'rus Trail, are perfect for strolling with a furry companion. Explore summer wildflowers in the high alpine meadows of Albion Basin in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

- Experience the **ancient pictographs and petroglyphs of Canyon Country**.
- Pets are welcome on many Utah park trails, including the popular **Hidden Valley Trail** near Moab.
- **Explore summer wildflowers in the high alpine meadows of Albion Basin** in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Near Bryce Canyon and Zion, **Cedar Breaks National Monument** hosts a wildflower festival every summer.
- **Enjoy the beautiful turquoise-blue color of Bear Lake State Park**. Activities in the summer include golfing, boating, hang gliding and paragliding. Come back in the winter for snowmobiling, cross country skiing and ice fishing.
- Feeling adventurous? Join a ranger for a guided hike through the Arches' **Fiery Furnace**.
- Experience **locomotive demonstrations and historical reenactments at Golden Spike National Historic Site**.
- Take a relaxing or heart-pumping **bike ride through Park City**, exploring the beauty of this historic silver mining town and the diverse terrain.
- Enjoy winter fun with **downhill or cross-country ski adventures** on some of the same **trails used in the 2002 Winter Olympics**. Go for the gold!
- Sample **farm-to-table dining and renowned performing arts in Salt Lake City**.

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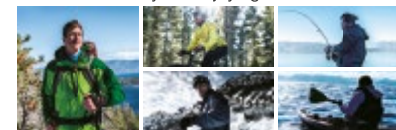


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