

Traveler

Las Vegas to Zion in 3 days

Roadbook

DetourOn

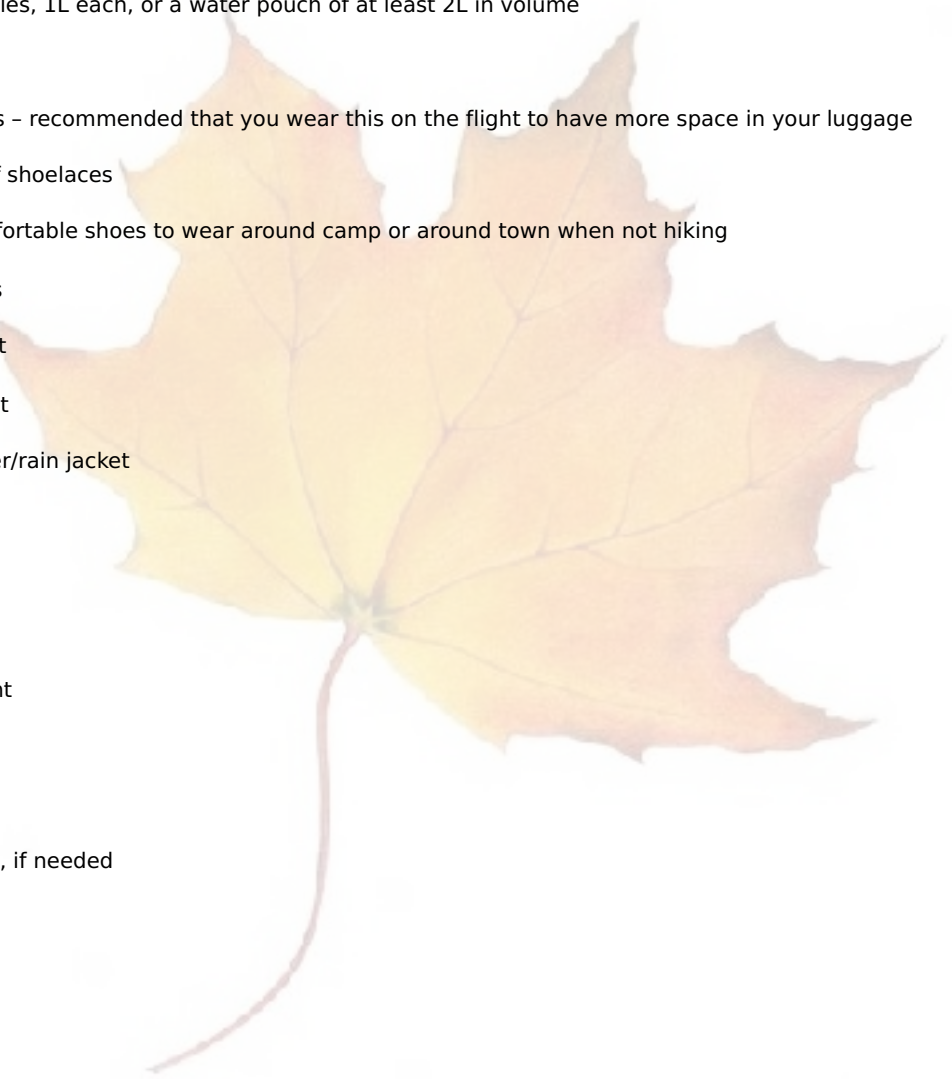
Start Jul 30 to Aug 1

Table of Contents

Packing List	3
Practical information about the United States of America	4
In case of emergency	4
Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)	4
Renting a vehicle and driving in the United States	5
Other common practices	6
Visiting the American national and state parks	8
Jul 30	10
Las Vegas	11
St. George	14
Valley of Fire State Park	16
Snow Canyon State Park	18
Jul 31	22
Zion National Park	22
Hike - Observation Point - Zion National Park	28
Aug 1	30
Hike - Canyon Overlook - Zion National Park	30
Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park	32



Packing List

- ☐ Passport/ID/Driver's License and copies, extra cash
 - ☐ Daypack for hiking, recommended volume 30-35L - to be used also as your carry-on bag for the flight and include any fragile items or small valuables (no liquids or sharp objects). Item recommendations for the flight include books, jacket, medications, toothpaste, toothbrush, change of clothes, laptop, camera
 - ☐ Suitcase, limited to 50lbs (23kg) - remember to place your sharp objects, such as pocket knife and tweezers in the suitcase before the flight
 - ☐ Anti-theft pouch - with a copy of your passport and ESTA, driver's license, extra money, insurance card, important phone numbers; keep this on you at all times
 - ☐ 2 water bottles, 1L each, or a water pouch of at least 2L in volume
 - ☐ Pocket knife
 - ☐ Hiking shoes - recommended that you wear this on the flight to have more space in your luggage
 - ☐ Extra pair of shoelaces
 - ☐ Slip-on comfortable shoes to wear around camp or around town when not hiking
 - ☐ Hiking pants
 - ☐ Hiking t-shirt
 - ☐ Fleece jacket
 - ☐ Wind breaker/rain jacket
 - ☐ Sun hat
 - ☐ Winter hat
 - ☐ Sunscreen
 - ☐ Bug repellent
 - ☐ Towel
 - ☐ Bathing suit
 - ☐ Hiking poles, if needed
 - ☐ Headlamp
 - ☐ Sunglasses
 - ☐ Toiletries
 - ☐ First aid kit and repair kit
 - ☐ If camping, consider packing long underwear to sleep in
 - ☐ If staying in hotels, consider bringing your own plate and cup to avoid using disposables
- 

Practical information about the United States of America

The United States of America (The US or USA) is a federal republic composed of 50 states, one federal district (Washington, DC, the capital), and five major self-governing territories. Its 48 contiguous states are bordered by Canada to the north, Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The state of Alaska is in the northwest corner of North America, bordered by Canada to the east and across the Bering Strait from Russia to the west. The state of Hawaii is an archipelago in the mid-Pacific Ocean. The U.S. territories are scattered about the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, stretching across nine official time zones. With a population of roughly 325 million people, the US is the third most populous country in the world (after China and India). And at nearly 3.7 million square miles, it is the fourth largest country in the world by area (after Russia, Canada, and China).

In case of emergency

9-1-1 is the only number in the United States for all emergencies

In case of non-emergency questions during your trip, call DetourOn at 617-383-1321

In the case of a car accident: NEVER RUN AWAY! Call 9-1-1 immediately and calmly explain the situation. Follow the dispatcher's directions. If police arrives, you may need to show your driver's license, passport, car rental contract, insurance, etc. Refusing to take an alcohol test will result in an immediate revocation of your driver's license. You are entitled to request the presence of an attorney and/or a translator if needed. In the case that your rental vehicle is damaged, once all emergencies have been dealt with, call the rental company.

Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)

This automated system is used to determine the eligibility of visitors to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and whether such travel poses any law enforcement or security risk. Check your eligibility and apply for the authorization at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

United State Customs and Border Protection recommends that you apply for ESTA at the time you book your travel, but no less than 72 hours prior to boarding. Upon arrival to the United States, you must still complete a blue Customs declaration form.

Approved ESTA applications are valid for a period of two years, or until the passport expires, whichever comes first, and multiple trips to the United States without the traveler having to re-apply for another ESTA. There is no set requirement for how long you must wait between visits. When traveling to the U.S. with the approved ESTA, you may only stay for up to 90 days at a time.

Travelers whose ESTA applications are approved, but whose passports will expire in less than two years, will receive an ESTA valid until the passport's expiration date.

Fees: All applicants requesting an electronic travel authorization are charged for the processing of the application. The fee is US \$4.00. If your application is approved and you receive authorization to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, an additional US \$10.00 will be added to your payment method. If your electronic travel authorization is denied, you are only charged for the processing of your application.

Note: It is important to PRINT a copy of the document for your records. The printout is not required upon arrival into the United States, as the officers have the information electronically.

ESTA is not a visa. It does not meet the legal requirements to serve in lieu of a U.S. visa when a visa is required. Travelers that possess a valid U.S. visa may travel to the United States on that visa for the purpose it was issued. Travelers traveling on valid visas are not required to apply for an ESTA. In the same way that a valid visa does not guarantee admission to the United States, an approved ESTA is not a guarantee of admission to the United States.

Renting a vehicle and driving in the United States

When renting a vehicle in the United States, you must show a valid driver's license and a major credit card, both in the name of the primary driver. Debit cards are not accepted by rental car companies. Possessing an international driver's license is recommended but not required. You must still present your national driver's license when renting a car in the United States. The rental car company will keep a copy of your driver's license and credit card for the duration of your rental, in the form of a deposit. Some companies may even put a hold on your credit card of up to US\$1000 until your undamaged vehicle is returned at the end of the rental agreement. Your card will be charged the rental fees upon the return of your vehicle.

By signing the rental contract, you agree to abide by its conditions for the duration of your rental period. Unless covered by your credit card company, your car rental should include basic liability and collision damage insurance. Charges for this basic insurance plan could be waived with a signature if your credit card also provides this service to you. You will be required to pay for any extra insurance coverages, additional drivers, or any other add-ons. Naturally, you will also be required to pay any tolls and tickets you may receive during your rental period.

All rental vehicles, unless otherwise requested, have an automatic transmission. Most also come equipped with Cruise Control, allowing the driver to program and maintain a certain speed without having to press on the gas pedal. This is a very useful feature for the long distances so representative of the big open roads of United States. Pressing the breaks automatically cancels the Cruise Control feature. Some vehicles come with a keyless ignition, but the key must be in the vehicle in order to start the car. Remember to take the key with you when exiting the vehicle, to avoid accidentally locking the keys inside.

Gas: All rental vehicles, unless otherwise specified, run on regular unleaded gas. The displayed price at gas stations is per gallon (3.785 L) and taxes are already included. Cash price is usually lower than credit. Unless otherwise indicated, you must return your vehicle with a full tank of gas.

Speed limit: American police officers are quite strict when it comes to obeying the speed limit. Pay attention to road signs and modify your speed as needed. The speed limit is posted in miles per hour (mph), as is the rental car odometer. Note: The odometer also shows your speed in km/h but in much smaller print.

Traffic lights: Look for traffic lights suspended above intersections or completely on the other side of an intersection. Stop at red lights BEFORE crosswalks.

4-way stop: In the case of a 4-way intersection where all sides have a stop sign, use common courtesy: First-come, first-served. If two cars arrive to the intersection at the same time, the car on the right has the right-of-way.

Right on red: Unless otherwise posted at an intersection, after coming to a complete stop, you may turn right even when the light is red. Note: Some major cities like New York have their own laws about this. Make sure to look for and carefully read street signs before making a turn on red.

Other common practices

Typical accommodations in the United States

Hotel and motel rooms in the United States are typically quite spacious with 1 king bed or 2 queen beds, a large bathroom, small fridge, and a coffee machine. Unless otherwise noted, the tap water in the room is potable and hot water is always available. A light continental breakfast of toast, cereal, and pastries is usually included. Parking space is oftentimes limited in big cities and may incur an additional charge. So you know what to expect, it is important to familiar yourself with the available amenities before arriving at your accommodation.

Drive-up campgrounds vary tremendously between one another in their comfort, size, and amenities. All RV parks offer water and electric hook-ups, dump stations, and a shower building. Some RV parks also allow tent camping. Other campgrounds may not have RV hook-ups but would still have spaces large enough to accept RV's as well as simple tent. Showers, if available, may be free of charge or paid with quarters or tokens that can be purchased at the front desk. Even flush toilets and sinks with flowing water may or may not be available. So you know what to expect, it is important to familiar yourself with the available amenities before arriving at your campground.

At check-in, you will be required to show your ID (driver's license or passport). Most accommodations will also request to take a copy of your credit card for incidentals. They may put a hold of a certain amount on your card for the duration of your stay. Some may also take note of your vehicle's color, make, model, and license plate as permission to park overnight on their property.

Typical restaurants in the United States

On a general rule, breakfast is served between 6am-9am, lunch between 11am-2pm, and dinner between 5-9pm. Even in big cities, though bars remain open longer, dinner is usually served until no later than 10pm. In tourist towns with limited options, it is recommended to make reservations for dinner. If a restaurant does not take reservations, there may be a wait time. But it should not be too long to get a table. The staff is quite efficient in delivering a check to the table at the end of a meal and quickly clearing it for the next patron.

The price of a meal marked on the menu does not include any taxes or service charges. These vary from state to state, county to county, city to city... They are automatically added to your final bill. It is common practice to add a tip (otherwise known as gratuity) to the final bill, between 15-20%, even more if you really appreciated the service. For groups of 6 or more, most restaurants automatically include a gratuity of 18%.

The most common type of restaurants found pretty much everywhere in the United States is fast-food chain establishments such as McDonalds, Burger King, KFC, Taco Bell, etc. These remain open throughout the entire day, opening for breakfast very early in the morning and closing very late at night. Coffee shops such as Starbucks, Peet's Coffee, and other non-chain shops also remain open all day and offer small sandwiches and pastries. Chain family restaurants and diners such as Denny's, IHOP, Friendly's, etc. have a very big selection of food, from breakfast items served all day to burgers and steaks. These generally do not serve alcohol. Supermarkets usually have a deli section that will make sandwiches on request, similar to Subway. Aside from all of the above chain restaurants, the United States also has a very large selection of ethnic restaurants (Chinese, Indian, etc.) that usually open for lunch and dinner and have very good lunch specials. These vary quite a bit in quality and price. Other great options for dinner are breweries, sit-down Italian restaurants, and Steakhouses, all of which have many different food options and serve alcohol. Prices are usually steeper than chain restaurants, but so is the quality.

Tips (gratuities)

As mentioned earlier, it is common practice to add a tip (otherwise known as gratuity) to the final bill at a restaurant, between 15-20%, even more if you really appreciated the service. This practice is also extended to any other profession in the service industry. Here are a few guidelines: Taxi drivers should usually receive 10-15% of the price of the ride. Shuttle drivers, especially if this is a free service at the hotel or airport, should receive between \$2-5 per person, depending on the length of the drive, help with your luggage, or the amount of trouble they went through to get you to your destination. Tour guides should receive \$5 per person for half-day tours to \$10 per person per day of guiding. The bell person who carries your luggage to your room should receive \$1 per bag. Housekeeping staff in 3* hotels or higher are used to finding a tip in the room, starting at \$2 for simple hotel rooms and going higher from there depending on the size and amount of cleaning required.

Supermarkets

American supermarkets are typically quite complete. Aside for fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and dairy products, and non-perishable food, they also have a deli, a bakery, a pharmacy, and a general section for home and office necessities. Depending on state laws, supermarkets may even sell alcohol. Gas stations and general stores may also sell some necessities, but they will be at a higher rate. Taking it a step further, Walmart Supercenters also offer sportswear and gear, car repair, electronics, and so much more; Americans say that "if you can't find it at Walmart, you probably don't need it!"

Time Zones

The United States spans across four times zones:

- Eastern Time, GMT-5
- Central Time, GMT-6
- Mountain Time, GMT-7
- Pacific Time, GMT-8

Daylight Savings Time is observed in most of the United States. Hawaii and Arizona are the only states that do not change their time, as well as some reservation lands found in other states. Fun (confusing) fact: In Arizona, the Navajo reservation does observe the time change, whereas the Hopi Reservation, which is completely surrounded by Navajo land, does not.

Currency

The United States currency is the American Dollar \$US, made up of 100 cents, also called pennies. Each penny is copper-colored, and is roughly the same size as a dime, which is worth ten cents but is silver-colored. A nickel is next in size, also silver and a bit thicker, and is worth 5 cents. A quarter is worth 25 cents. Though 50-cent coins, \$1 coins, and \$2 coins exist, they are rarely encountered. Paper bills of different currency all have the same color and dimensions, so look closely at the amount before paying. Common paper bills come in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100. Using a credit card, even for small transactions, is very common.

Communication

WiFi is found just about everywhere: hotels, restaurants, even visitor centers of national parks. Cell phone signal could be spotty in the western deserts of the United States and in wilderness areas. It is recommended to tell someone your plan before entering a wilderness area.

Measurements

Length: 1 yard = 3 feet / 1 foot = 12 inches.

1 inch = 2.54cm / 1 yard = 0.914 cm / 1 mile = 1.6 km

Weight: 1 pound = 16 ounces

1 pound (lb) = 0.4536kg / 1 ounce (oz) = 28.3g

Volume: 1 gallon = 4 quarts / 1 quart = 2 pints

1 gallon = 3.785L / 1 quart = 0.9461L / 1 pint = 0.473L

Area: 1 square mile = 640 acres / 1 acre = 43560 square feet

1 square yard = 0.836 m² / 1 square mile = 2.590 km² / 1 acre = 4046.86 m² / 1 hectare = 2.471 acres

Temperature:

To convert Celsius to Fahrenheit: $(^{\circ}\text{C} \times 9/5) + 32$

To convert Fahrenheit to Celsius: $(^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times 5/9$

Freezing point: 32°F = 0°C.

Boiling point: 212°F = 100°C

Normal body temperature: 98.6°F = 36.9°C

Electricity:

North American voltage is 110-120. If coming from elsewhere, consider investing in a both an adaptor and a transformer.

Visiting the American national and state parks

In 1872, Congress established Yellowstone National Park as America's First National Park "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people," to be run under the supervision of the United States Department of the Interior (DOI). The protection of public lands in the United States, however, began a decade earlier. Today's Mariposa Grove in Yosemite National Park became California's first state park in 1864 and paved the way for the protection of natural spaces in the United States and the entire world.

Following the addition of more parks under the jurisdiction of the DOI, it became clear that a separate organization was needed to manage these lands. The National Park Service (NPS) was created in 1916 for this purpose and today manages over 400 sites, including 59 national parks and countless other national monuments, historic sites, lakeshores, and recreation areas. Even more sites are managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), not to mention over 6000 state parks, which, as the name suggests, are managed by the states in which they are located.

Quick shout-out to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which helped shape most of these parks. The CCC was created by Roosevelt during the Great Depression as a work relief program for millions of young men. Under the guidance of the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, CCC employees fought forest fires, planted trees, cleared and maintained access roads, re-seeded grazing lands and implemented soil-erosion controls. During the nine years of the program's existence (1933-1942), these men planted more than three billion trees and constructed trails and shelters in more than 800 parks nationwide.

Visitor Centers

Almost every tourist attraction in the United States has an easy-to-reach visitor center or

information board where visitors can collect information about the significance of the site, history of the region, trail conditions, weather patterns, and so on. Some visitor centers are also attached to a souvenir shop that sells post cards, posters, maps, books, etc.

The visitor centers are a great resource to inquire about current conditions before departing on a hike. Staff is usually knowledgeable about parking availability at the trailhead, location of water-filling stations and toilets, length and difficulty of the hike, weather conditions, trail closures, and other things to look out for. Trails are generally well-signed and well-maintained.

Wildlife

A valuable characteristic of natural parks is the preservation of wildlife. It is illegal to approach or feed wildlife, as this can lead to dangerous situations for the animals, for you, and for other visitors. Even the most peaceful-looking animals can become aggressive. Squirrels will bite, deer will kick, bison will charge... Among the more dangerous animals, though extremely rare, black bears and mountain lions have been known to attack even when unprovoked. If you encounter such a big animal, the best course of action is to scare it away. Make yourself big by flailing your arms around and making a lot of noise. Slowly back away while facing the animal until the danger recedes. Report the encounter to local rangers or law enforcement as soon as possible.

Annual Parks Pass

If your travels take you to 4 or more national parks, consider purchasing the annual parks pass. This \$80 pass grants one vehicle, or you and 3 other people, access to any site managed by the federal government (NPS, BLM, USFS, USFWS) for a period of one year from the date of purchase. These passes may be purchased at park entrance stations or visitor centers. State park profits go to the state, not the federal government, and are therefore paid for separately.

Use of drones

In 2014, the National Park Service (NPS) made it illegal to operate drones in National Parks due to serious concerns about the negative impact that flying unmanned aircraft can have for safety of visitors, staff, and wildlife. In general, drones disturb animals and people enjoying the tranquility of the wilderness. Furthermore, flying a drone near or over wildlife can cause them stress that may impact their natural behaviors, resulting in harm to the animal, and even death. Drones can only be piloted in National Parks by licensed professionals with permits for search and rescue missions, fire safety, science studies, and research. Many state parks allow for drone flight, but always check in advance the official park websites to see if it is an allowed activity.

Leave-No-Trace

Regardless of the jurisdiction, preservation of the environment is a significant trait shared by all sites. It is the responsibility of all visitors to be respectful of this and do their part to assure that things continue to endure. Park rangers help in educating the public about these common courtesies, but some also have the ability to give tickets for any infraction, such as feeding wildlife, littering, or even speeding vehicles. To remain on the good side of the law, the sites, and other visitors, there are a few guidelines you should always follow, known as the seven Leave-No-Trace principles:

- *Plan Ahead and Prepare*

Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.

- *Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces*

Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites. Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. Keep campsites small. Walk single file in the middle

of the trail, even when wet or muddy.

- *Dispose of Waste Properly*

Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished. In the desert, use wag bags. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

- *Leave What You Find*

Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them. Do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

- *Minimize Campfire Impacts*

Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the environment. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings. Keep fires small. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely.

- *Respect Wildlife*

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely. Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.

- *Be Considerate of Other Visitors*

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock. Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Jul 30

Morning



Pick up Jucy rental

Confirmation 123



Valley of Fire State Park

Near Overton, NV

World-renowned for its 40,000 acres of bright red Aztec sandstone outcrops nestled in gray and tan limestone, Valley of Fire State Park contains ancient, petrified trees and petroglyphs dating back more than 2,000 years. A Visitor Center provides exhibits on the geology, ecology, prehistory and history of the park and nearby region.

The park also hosts an Annual Atlatl Competition in which participants test their skills with replicas of ancient spears. Open year round, the park has numerous campsites equipped with shaded tables, grills and water, as well as many intriguing trails to tempt hikers.

Visit time: 2 hours

Afternoon



St George Temple

250 E 400 S, St. George, UT 84770

Completed in 1877, it was the LDS church's third temple completed, and is today the oldest Mormon Temple still in operation. Entering the temple is prohibited to non-Mormons, but a Visitor Center on the temple grounds provides a stunning view of the brilliantly white building and its guides tell the extraordinary story of the pioneer

sacrifice that built this first temple in Utah.

Visit time: 1 hour



Snow Canyon State Park

1002 Snow Canyon Dr, Ivins, UT 84738

Snow Canyon State Park is a 7,400-acre scenic park quietly tucked amid lava flows and soaring sandstone cliffs in a strikingly colorful and fragile desert environment. Majestic views and the subtle interplay of light, shadow, and color dancing across canyon walls evoke strong emotional responses from visitors. Located

in the 62,000 acre Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, established to protect the federally listed desert tortoise and its habitat, the park offers opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. Activities include hiking, nature studies, wildlife viewing, photography, camping, ranger talks and junior ranger programs. There are more than 38 miles of hiking trails, a three-mile paved walking/biking trail and over 15 miles of equestrian trails.

Visit time: 2 hours

Evening



Watchman Campground

Confirmation 123

Site 41

Las Vegas

Short history

The city of Las Vegas was officially established with the creation of a post office in 1905. The town did not get much attention in those days, yet prospered much like any other stop on the railroad line, thanks to drinking and gambling. In 1910, however, gambling was outlawed and the young town faced economic challenges. Bootleg operations immediately sprang up to finance the town.

Then, in the end of the 1920's and in the midst of the Great Depression, three major factors contributed to the revival of Las Vegas and paved the foundations to becoming the great city that it is today. First and foremost was the approval to construct a great dam on the Colorado River. This created not only construction jobs, but also a tent city for the workers next to the construction site, today's Boulder City. But this was a government town where drinking and gambling was outlawed. The small town of Las Vegas lay nearby and immediately saw the opportunity to offer the dam workers an escape from their daily routine. For this, Las Vegas decided to reinstate gambling, and experienced immediate gratification. Women from across the nation heard of the need for more hotels and restaurants in Las Vegas and joined the movement westward. They had another motive for moving to Nevada: lenient divorce laws. The law states that anyone residing in the state for a minimum of 6 weeks may apply for divorce.

By 1931, the population of Las Vegas jumped from 5,000 to 20,000 residents. This assured Las Vegas as one of the only places in the United States that was not negatively impacted by the Great Depression – au contraire, it thrived thanks to it!

Fun facts

- The population of the Las Vegas metro area exceeds 2 million inhabitants, while the entire population of the state of Nevada is estimated to be just over 3 million
- The Strip, a 4.2 mile stretch of casinos on Las Vegas Blvd, is actually a part of the unincorporated areas of Enterprise, Winchester and Paradise, not Las Vegas proper. In this part, it is legal to carry open alcoholic containers in public areas.
- Nicknames of Las Vegas: City of Lights, Sin City, The Entertainment Capital of the World, Wedding Capital of the World
- Las Vegas is the brightest city in the world; so bright, in fact, that it can be seen from space
- Las Vegas hosts an average of 300 weddings per day
- McCarran International Airport sits close to the Strip at an elevation of 2,181ft (665m). Located in the Mojave Desert, it receives an average of 3.96 inches (101mm) of precipitation per year. It is the 8th busiest airport in the United States, and sees 114,000 passengers per day.
- 40 million visitors per year come to Las Vegas, the majority of which attend one of the 19,000 conventions that are held there each year and stay in one of its 150,000 hotel rooms.
- Of the 45 casinos in the Las Vegas Strip area, a total of 11 are owned by MGM Resorts International and 9 are owned by Caesars Entertainment
- In 1960, following the success of the film *Ocean's 11*, the Rat Pack (Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr, Peter Lawford, Joey Bishop) started impromptu performances in the casinos featured in the film (*The Desert Inn*, *Sahara*, *Riviera*, *Flamingo* and *Sands*) that drew more tourists than the hotels had space for

Practical information

This is a big city. Gas stations, banks, and supermarkets are everywhere around the Strip, but not on the Strip. You can leave the Strip in any direction to find what you are looking for.

Restaurant recommendations

On the Strip:

Try one of the many casino buffets. Among the best are the **Buffet at Bellagio** (\$39pp on weeknights, alcohol sold separately) or **Bacchanal Buffet at Caesars Palace** (\$55pp on weeknights, alcohol sold separately). No reservations. Lines are usually long, but move fairly quickly.

Downtown:

Carson Kitchen – rotating menu, tapas-style, rooftop patio with full bar and live music, handcrafted cocktails

Pizza Rock – creative twist on pizzas

Chinatown:

District One – Inventive Vietnamese and Asian fusion dishes, handcrafted cocktails

Monta Ramen – Casual and compact seating in a tight shopping center, no reservations and small waiting area, but the ramen is the best in town

Other:

Herbs and Rye – Classic American dishes with an upscale twist, handcrafted cocktails, half off steaks for happy hour

Echo and Rig – butcher shop and bar downstairs, classic steakhouse upstairs

Things to do

Bellagio Fountains – Soaring, iconic fountains featuring dramatic aquatic shows choreographed with music & lights. Free viewing, open to the public, watch from the Strip. Shows every half hour from 3pm-8pm and every 15 minutes from 8pm-midnight. Sunday shows every half hour from 11am-7pm.

Bellagio Conservatory and Botanical Gardens – Sky-lit Bellagio atrium featuring vibrant, seasonal scenes composed of plants, flowers, and trees. Located near the hotel registration, open 24/7 aside for 3 days per season during the changing of the display. Free viewing, open to the public.

Mirage Volcano – erupting nightly at 8pm, 9pm, 10pm. Free viewing, open to the public, watch from the Strip.

Venitian Grand Canal Shoppes – walk through the shops and along the Grand Canal, maybe even opt for a Gondola ride.

Stratosphere – Visit the Observation Deck and cocktail lounge that sits at the top of the tallest freestanding tower in the US, offering 360-degree views of the The Strip and beyond. From there, try one or all of the thrill rides at the top of the 1149ft tower, including the Skyjump, a freefall of 829ft above Las Vegas Boulevard.

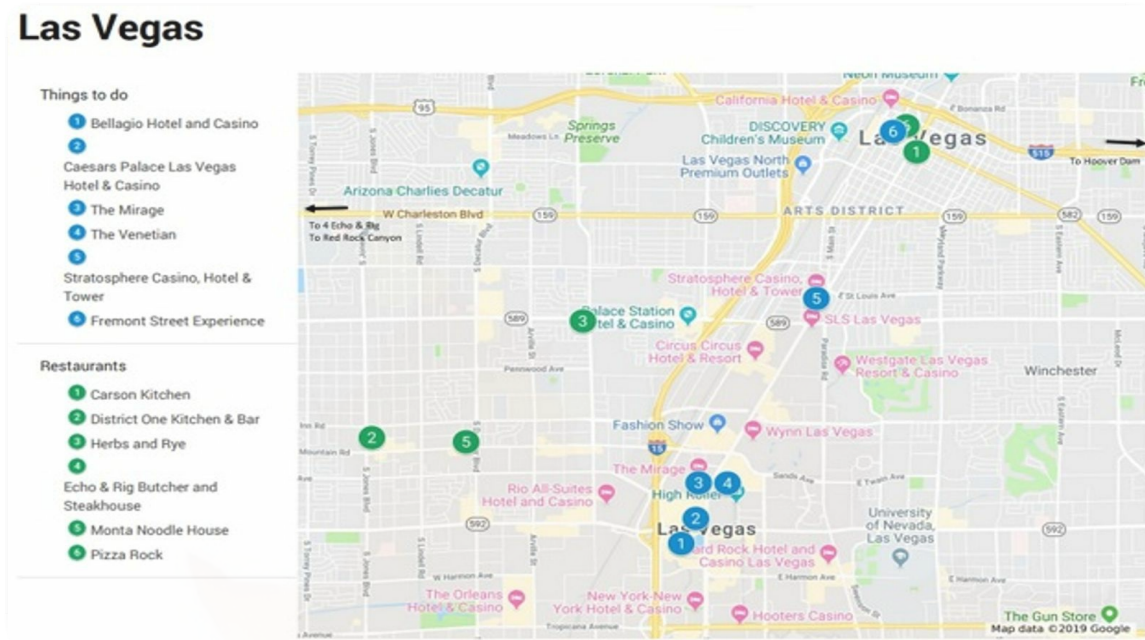
Fremont Street Experience – go here at night to enjoy the Viva Vision Light Shows, every hour between 8pm-midnight. The Viva Vision video screen is 1,500 feet long, 90 feet wide and suspended 90 feet above Fremont Street's renowned pedestrian mall. It is made up of 12.5 million energy-efficient LED lamps.

Nearby:

Hoover Dam – An engineering marvel in its day (and to this day), when the Hoover Dam was finished in 1935 it was the tallest hydroelectric dam in the world. Still today, Lake Mead, formed by the dam, is the largest reservoir in the United States by volume and second largest in surface area. Tours of the power plant can be reserved in advance, but tours of the dam

must be purchased in person.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area – Red Rock Canyon features a one-way 13-mile scenic drive, hiking trails, plants and wildlife, geology, camping, cultural resources, climbing and cycling opportunities, and so much more. The Visitor Center features indoor and outdoor exhibits and a book and gift store.



St. George

Short history

The largest city in Washington County and the eighth-largest city in Utah, St George's area is home to nearly 85,000 residents and growing. It has consistently ranked as one of the fastest growing areas in the nation for the last two decades, becoming a popular retirement destination as well a respite for those seeking a second home in a more moderate climate. Residents and visitors alike are attracted to St. George's scenic beauty and its close proximity to unparalleled recreation, including Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, and Lake Powell National Recreation Area.

Through rock art and dwellings we know that the St George Valley was inhabited by the Virgin River Anasazi since about 200 B.C. and was then replaced by the Paiute Tribe starting around 1100 A.D. These tribes used the area for hunting and growing crops along riverbeds. European-Americans, mostly fur trappers and government survey parties, recorded passing through the area since 1776, but it was not until the mid-1800s that Mormon pioneers started settling in the region for good.

In October 1861, LDS (Latter Day Saints, aka Mormons) church leaders headed by Brigham Young called on 309 families to establish a Cotton Mission in present-day St George, similar to a dozen smaller agricultural missions that were already established nearby in prior years. St. George was named in honor of Mormon apostle George A. Smith, but paying homage to the nickname of their former home, the new settlers called the region "Utah's Dixie" (Dixie refers to the southern states that seceded from the Union during the American Civil War.)

Due to challenges such as drought, flooding, freezing winter nights, and scorching summer days, the cotton industry, as well as other agricultural endeavors, proved unsuccessful. Yet St. George still became the county seat of Washington County in 1863. That same year,

construction began on the St. George LDS Tabernacle, which was finished in 1875. In 1871, work began on the St. George LDS Temple, completed in 1877. It was the first Mormon Temple to be completed west of the Mississippi River and is today the longest continuously operated Mormon Temple in the world.

Fun facts

- The City of St George is located on the intersection of the Mojave Desert, Basin and Range region, and the Colorado Plateau, receiving only 8 inches of rain per year
- The city's main water source is the Virgin River, the same river that cuts through Zion National Park. This water is stored nearby at the Quail Creek and Sand Hollow Reservoirs. Other water sources include wells, the Santa Clara River, and mountain springs from Pine Valley Mountain.
- The word Dixie shows up everywhere in southern Utah, from Dixie State University in St George to Dixie National Forest outside of Bryce Canyon National Park and beyond. This is a tribute to the Mormon cotton growers who first populated the area. They nicknamed themselves Dixie, much like the Deep South of that time.
- Though construction of the Salt Lake City Mormon Temple began well before the St. George Temple, it was 40 years in the making (1853-1893). The St George Temple took less than 5 years to construct (1873-1877) and became the oldest Mormon Temple still in use today.
- St. George was named in honor of Mormon apostle George A. Smith, also known as the "Potato Saint" because he urged early settlers to eat raw, unpeeled potatoes to cure scurvy.

Practical information

This is a big city. Gas stations, banks, and supermarkets are everywhere along the I-15 corridor.

Restaurant recommendations

Twentyfive Main Café – Local restaurant offering delicious pizza, sandwiches & gourmet cupcakes, exhibiting local art and occasional live music.

Chuch-A-Rama – a buffet chain found only in Utah and Idaho serving comfort food and non-alcoholic drinks

Viva Chicken – Fresh and flavorful Peruvian fast-food

Xetava Garden Café – beautiful setting and creative fresh food just outside of St George

Things to do

St George Temple – Dedicated in 1877, this is the oldest Mormon Temple still in operation today. Entering the temple is prohibited to non-Mormons, but a visitor center on the temple grounds explains its building and significance.

Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm – A small indoor educational natural history museum built right over the original discovery site of dinosaur tracks.

Warner Valley Dinosaur Tracks – 0.4 mile (650m) roundtrip; fun and easy hike with great historical value (over 400 fossilized tracks, according to the archeologists who have studied the area) and beautiful desert landscapes of the red sandstone region.

Nearby:

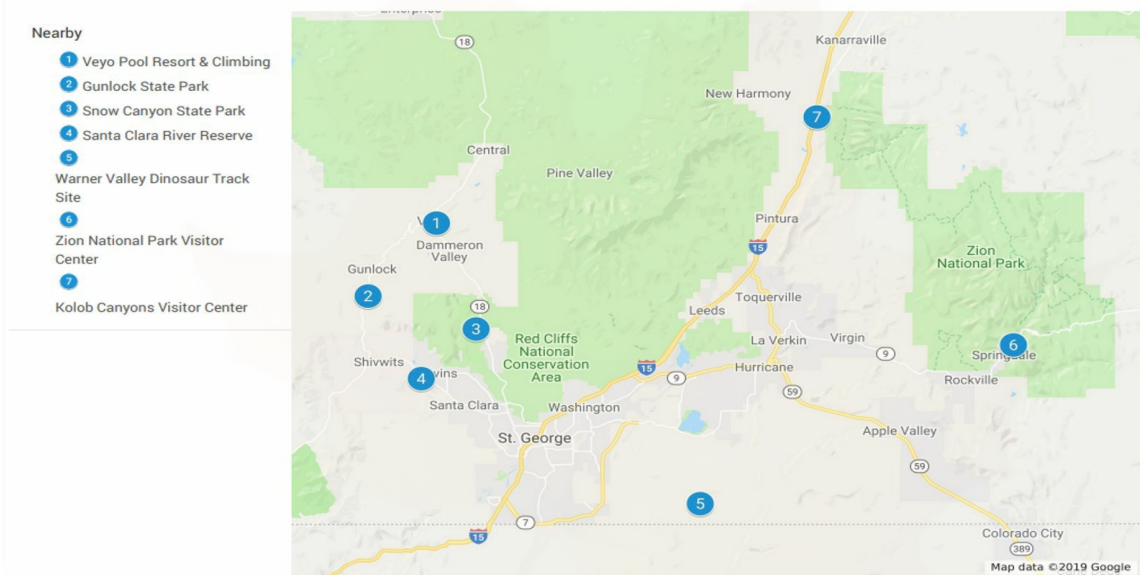
Snow Canyon State Park – A scenic Utah state park quietly tucked amid lava flows and soaring sandstone cliffs in a strikingly colorful and fragile desert environment.

Veyo Pool and Crawdad Canyon – A private desert oasis located just minutes north of St George, offering rock climbing, camping, crawdad catching, swimming, and a delicious food stand.

Gunlock State Park – Boat, fish, and swim on the tranquil waters at Gunlock Reservoir or enjoy an afternoon picnic on the beach.

Santa Clara River Reserve – A small protected natural area offering numerous trails for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers to discover prehistoric rock art, sandy washes, scenic desert landscapes, and the cottonwood-rich riparian corridor of the Santa Clara River.

St George Area



Valley of Fire State Park

Short history

Valley of Fire State Park was officially established as Nevada's first state park in 1935. It consists of concentrated outcroppings of bright red sandstone amidst gray limestone mountains. In the 1920's a AAA official traveled through the area during sunset and purportedly said that the entire valley looked like it was on fire. The name stuck.

The sandstone is a remnant from the Jurassic period. Inland seas that once covered the area subsided while the land rose, leaving behind sand to be blown around and deposited by wind. This gradually solidified into the red Aztec sandstone that gives the park its descriptive name today.

There is evidence of occupation of the area dating as far back as 11,000 years ago, but the most obvious are petroglyphs carved into the rocks by the Basketmaker culture about 2,500 years ago. They were later followed by the Early Pueblo culture. When Mormons settled nearby in 1865, they encountered Paiutes that were living in the area. Thanks to the availability of a narrow stretch of water in the region, farming, ranching and mining were able to take place.

Starting in 1912, the region gained more recognition thanks to a new stretch of road built as part of the Arrowhead Trail, connecting Salt Lake City with Los Angeles. Discovering its archeological richness and recreational opportunities, the area that was once part of the federal public domain was given to the State of Nevada.

Fun facts

- Valley of Fire State Park stretches over 40,000 acres; that's about the size of the City of San Francisco.
- In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps built the first facilities and campgrounds in the park, including stone cabins that can be visited today.
- On Easter Sunday in 1934, Valley of Fire was formally opened as Nevada's first state park. However, the park didn't receive its legal designation from the Nevada State Legislature until the body convened in 1935.
- Among the many movies filmed in Valley of Fire: The Professionals, Star Trek: Generations, Transformers, Casino, Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery, Total Recall, Con Air
- Part of the movie set of The Professionals, filmed in 1966, can still be seen at White Domes

Practical information

Entrance fee: \$10 per day per vehicle. If approaching the park from I-15, pay fee at entrance station. If coming from Lake Mead, pay fee at the self-pay kiosk (exact change) or at the visitor center.

The use of drones is not allowed in the park.

No supermarket, bank, or ATM. Plan accordingly. Closest gas station is at the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza, exit 75 on the I-15. If taking a detour, there's a gas station, grocery store, and a credit union in Overton, NV.

Restaurant recommendations

No restaurants here. Closest place to get food is at the **Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza**, exit 75 on I-15. If you have time, detour through Overton, NV, for **The Inside Scoop** for great diner-style food and ice cream. Next closest is **Mi Pueblito**, a Mexican restaurant along I-15 in Moapa.

Things to do

Short stops:

Visitor Center – Books and souvenir shop, as well as exhibits on the geology, ecology, prehistory and history of the park and nearby region

Elephant Rock – A roadside arch in the shape of an elephant

Seven Sisters – A group of 7 tall, red, eroded boulders

Atlatl Rock Petroglyphs – Outstanding and very well-preserved petroglyphs

The Beehives – A short path winds through these unique rocky sandstone formations, which show excellent examples of geologic crossbedding

Short walks:

Mouse's Tank Petroglyphs – 30 minutes, 0.75 mile (1km) roundtrip walk to a natural basin in the rock where water collects after each rainfall. Excellent examples of petroglyphs on the trail.

Rainbow Vista – 30 minutes, 1 mile (1.6km) roundtrip walk to the top of a low ridge revealing a panoramic view of multicolored canyons, domes, towers, ridges and valleys

Pink (Pastel) Canyon - GPS coordinates: 36°28'47" N 114°31'36" W

White Domes – 30 minutes, 1.25 miles (2.3km) loop that combines sweeping desert vistas, windows, caves, a slot canyon, and contrasting rock colors.

Fire Wave – 30 minutes, 1.25 miles (2.3km) roundtrip takes you to a breathtaking vista resembling a wave of colorful sandstone. Follow rock cairns on the slickrock to find the wave.

Nearby:

St Thomas Ghost Town – Located within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area park boundaries, once a Mormon settlement that served as a stopping point between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City along the Arrowhead Trail, the town was inundated when Lake Mead first filled up in the 1930's. Today, remnants of the town can be seen and visited thanks to the lowering water levels of Lake Mead.

Lost City Museum – Located in Overton, NV, the museum was built in 1935 by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The National Park Service created the museum to exhibit artifacts recovered from local prehistoric archaeological sites, most of which were flooded when the Colorado River was dammed to form Lake Mead. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the museum has grown to include three exhibition galleries, a small screening room, a research library, and a store. Outdoor exhibits include a Native American pit house and reconstructed pueblos, which visitors may enter.

Valley of Fire

Short stops

- 1 Valley of Fire Visitor Center
- 2 Seven Sisters Parking
- 3 Atlatl Rock
- 4 Beehives Parking
- 5 Elephant Rock Parking

Short walks

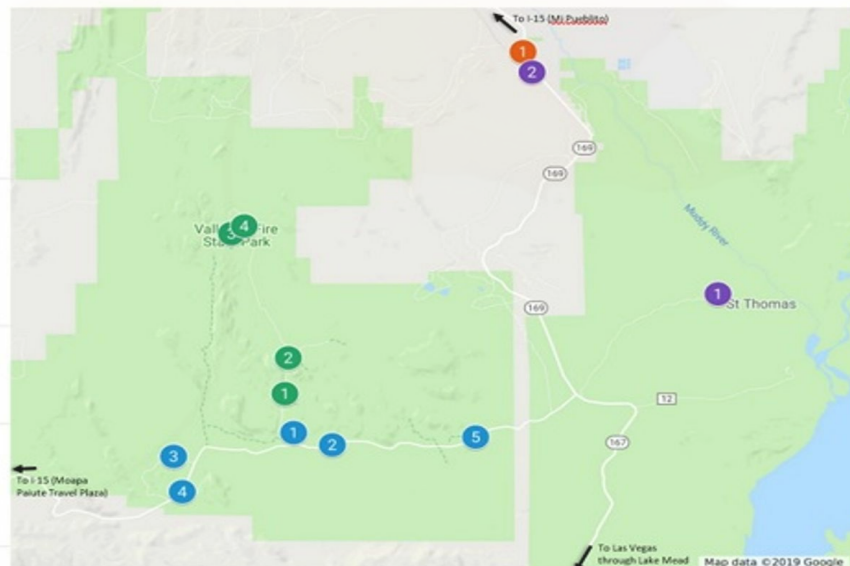
- 1 Mouse's Tank Trailhead
- 2 Rainbow Vista Trailhead
- 3 White Domes Trailhead
- 4 Fire Wave Trailhead

Nearby

- 1 St Thomas Ghost Town
- 2 Lost City Museum

Restaurants

- 1 The Inside Scoop
- 2 Mi Pueblito
- 3 Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza



Snow Canyon State Park

Short history

Snow Canyon State Park is a 7,400-acre scenic park quietly tucked amid lava flows and soaring sandstone cliffs in a strikingly colorful and fragile desert environment. Located at the

intersection of the Mojave Desert, Great Basin Desert and Colorado Plateau, the park averages 7.5 inches of rainfall a year. It is home to a diversity of plant and wildlife species not occurring elsewhere in the state.

Opened to the public as a state park in 1962, Snow Canyon has a long history of human use. Anasazi Indians inhabited the region from A.D. 200 to 1250, utilizing the canyon for hunting and gathering. Paiute Indians used the canyon from A.D. 1200 to the mid-1800s, when Mormon pioneers moved in. More recently, the canyon has been the site of Hollywood films such as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, The Electric Horseman, and Jeremiah Johnson. Originally called Dixie State Park, it was later renamed for Lorenzo and Erastus Snow, prominent pioneering Utah leaders.

Navajo sandstone is the predominant burnt orange to creamy white rock in the park. It is the remains of an ancient desert sea of sand dunes from 183 million years ago that were cemented into stone. Over time, water has cut and shaped the sandstone to form canyons. Approximately 1.4 million years ago, and as recently as 27,000 years ago, nearby cinder cones erupted, causing lava to flow down these canyons, filling them with basalt. This redirected ancient waterways, eventually carving new canyons.

Fun facts

- Mormon pioneers discovered Snow Canyon in the 1850's while searching for lost cattle.
- There are more than 38 miles of hiking trails, a three-mile paved walking/biking trail and over 15 miles of equestrian trails.
- Thirteen sensitive species protected by state and/or federal law are found within the park. They include peregrine falcons, desert tortoises and gila monsters.
- Snow Canyon State Park is located in the 62,000 acre Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, established to protect the federally listed desert tortoise and its habitat.

Practical information

Pay fee at entrance station. Closest services can easily be found in the nearby city of St George, UT.

Restaurant recommendations

No restaurants here. Closest services can easily be found in the nearby city of St George, UT.

Things to do

Short stops:

Butterfly Trail to West Canyon Overlook – great views up and down the canyon

Hidden Pinyon Trail – self-guided nature path to learn about the park's plant life and geology

Pioneer Names Trail – signatures of pioneers from the 19th century along the base of a tall red cliff

Petrified Sand Dunes Trail – walk on ancient dunes that solidified into Navajo sandstone mounds

Short walks:

Three Ponds Trail – 45 minutes, 1.8 mile (3km) roundtrip: varied route through ravines and sandstone ridges, up a sandy drainage to a very short slot canyon containing watery potholes

Whiterocks and Lava Flow Trails – 2 hours, 3.9 mile (6km) loop among sandy flats, red and white sandstone, lava caves, and a high viewpoint

Cinder Cone Trail – 30 minutes, 1 mile (1.6km) roundtrip; climb to the top of a cinder cone and circle the crater rim

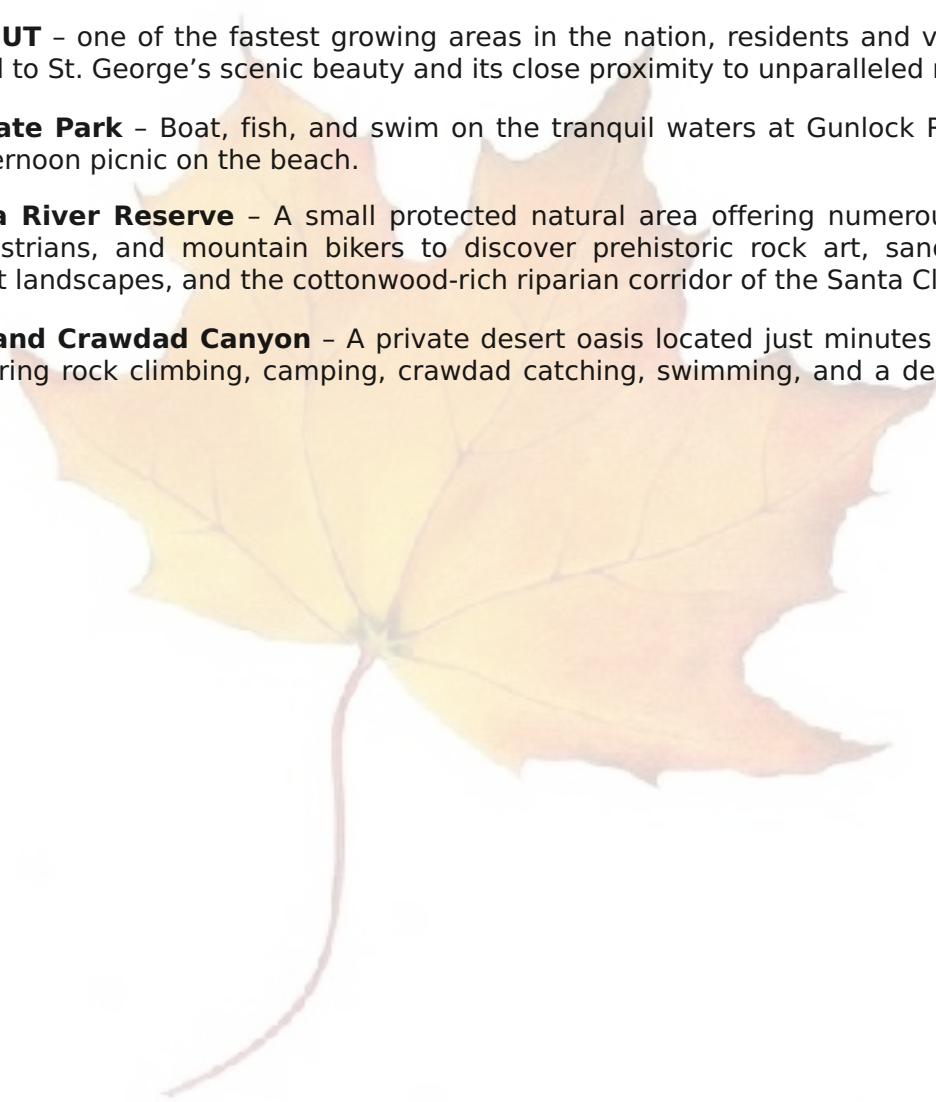
Nearby:

St George, UT – one of the fastest growing areas in the nation, residents and visitors alike are attracted to St. George's scenic beauty and its close proximity to unparalleled recreation.

Gunlock State Park – Boat, fish, and swim on the tranquil waters at Gunlock Reservoir or enjoy an afternoon picnic on the beach.

Santa Clara River Reserve – A small protected natural area offering numerous trails for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers to discover prehistoric rock art, sandy washes, scenic desert landscapes, and the cottonwood-rich riparian corridor of the Santa Clara River.

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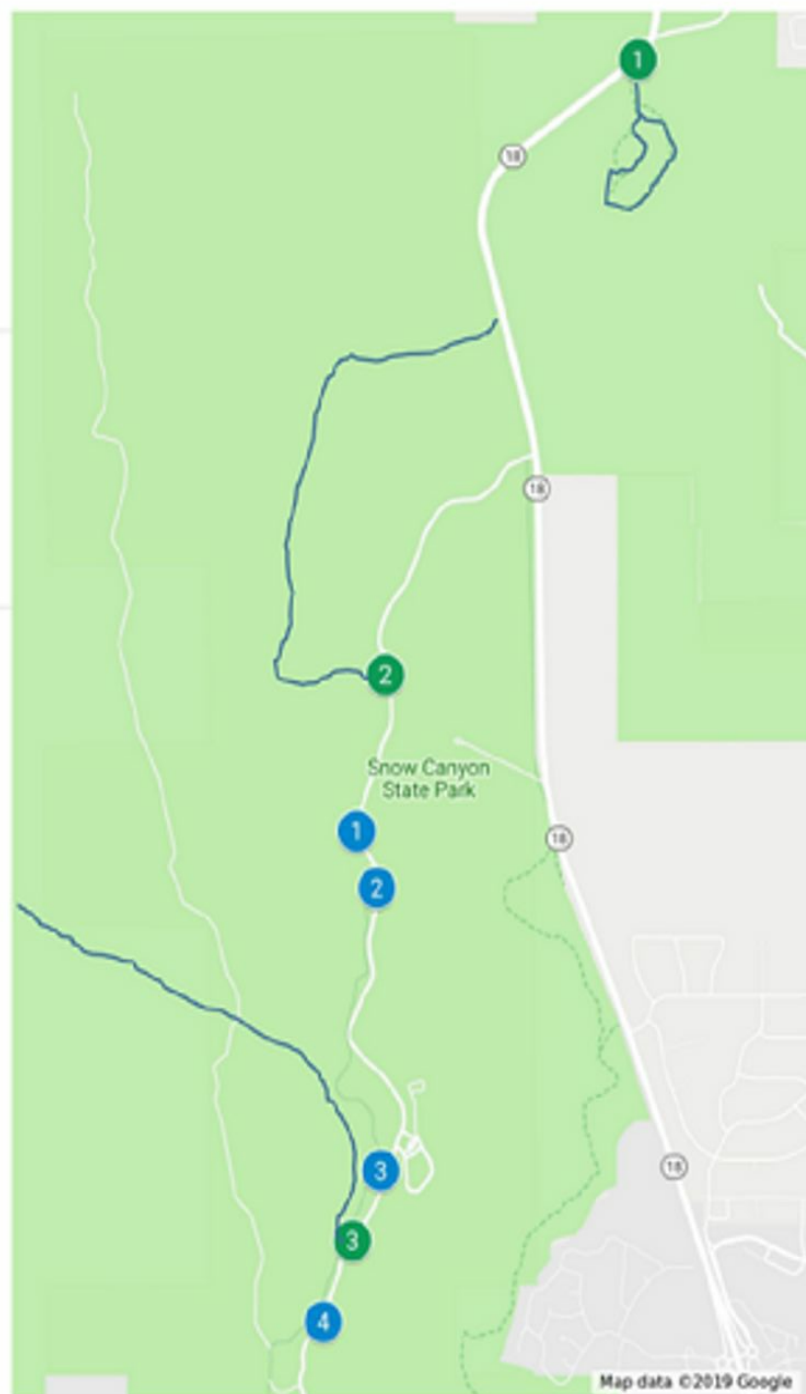
Snow Canyon State Park

Short stops

- 1 Butterfly Trail
- 2 Petrified Sand Dunes Trailhead
- 3 Hidden Pinyon Trailhead
- 4 Pioneer Names Trailhead

Short walks

- 1 Cinder Cone Trailhead
- 2 Snow Canyon Lava Tubes Trailhead
- 3 Three Ponds Trailhead



Jul 31

Morning



Hike - Observation Point - Zion National Park **Near Springdale, UT**

4-mile (6.4km) one-way, 2148ft (655m) elevation gain, moderate to difficult hike. Passes near Weeping Rock, Hidden Canyon, and Echo Canyon before reaching the summit. Excellent views of Zion's main canyon, towering above the summits of Angel's Landing and the Organ.

Visit time: 5 hours

Afternoon



Zion National Park Human History Museum **Zion National Park Rd, Springdale, UT 84767**

Permanent exhibits display the rich human history of Zion National Park. Showcasing American Indian culture, historic pioneer settlement, and Zion's growth as a national park, the Human History Museum also illustrates the effects of water in Zion. Both creator and destroyer, water is why people have traveled through

and settled in Zion. Water creates the scenery and sanctuary that makes Zion famous.

Visit time: 1 hour

Evening



Watchman Campground

Confirmation 123
Site 41

Zion National Park

Short history

Zion National Park was first explored by Mormon pioneers, missionaries, and explorers. Nephi Johnson entered the canyon with a Paiute guide in the mid-1800s to determine whether the land was suitable for farming, and returned enthusiastically. The town of Springdale was established soon after. At that time the area was inhabited solely by Southern Paiute Indians.

Archaeological evidence points to traces of hunters and gatherers dating back to the Archaic Period, over 8000 years ago. Pithouses, rock art, and other ruins in the Basketmakers style (200 B.C. to 1200 A.D.) were found within the park boundary, as well as evidence of trade with other Puebloan cultures. Next, Utes and Paiutes settled in the area (around 1200 A.D.) before European-Americans took over.

Early white settlers were completely astounded at the magnificent beauty of the towering cliffs, majestic slot canyons, and impressive streams. They named the area Zion, a Biblical word that is prominent in the Mormon lexicon that refers to a place of spiritual sanctuary. Word quickly spread about the beauty of the region, bringing with it an influx of visitors. In the late 1870s these visitors were explorers, railroaders, ranchers, and miners. At the turn of the century, photographers and artists began making their way to render the sights of Zion.

More than 250 million years ago, the stunning geologic features of Zion started to form. Zion was then a relatively flat basin near sea level. Streams from nearby mountains eroded sand, gravel, and mud, and deposited these materials into the basin. Over time, due to changing climates, this basin transformed from a shallow sea to coastal plains to a desert environment. Meanwhile the sediments compacted under their own weight as mineral-filled waters slowly filtered through, cementing them into stone using iron oxides, calcium carbonate, and silica. The ancient sea bed turned into limestone, which makes up the lowest layer of rock in the park; mud and clay from the plains turned into mudstone, schist, and shale, and make up the middle layer; and desert sand dunes, at one time one of the largest deserts on earth, transformed to today's breathtaking 2,000 foot sandstone cliffs.

Zion National Park is located along the western edge of the Colorado Plateau, a high desert that extends from Central Utah to Northern Arizona, including parts of Colorado and New Mexico. The plateau was uplifted millions of years ago by the same forces that created the Rocky Mountains. During this uplift, streams in Zion became steeper and gained greater cutting force as they tumbled rapidly and forcefully off the plateau, removing sediments and large boulders along their path, exposing different rock layers, and resulting in deep and narrow canyons.

The park now houses what are some of the most scenic canyon views in the country. Sitting on the junction of 3 ecosystems (the Mojave Desert, the Colorado Plateau, and the Basin and Range region) makes for a stunning biodiversity within the park boundaries. In just a 229 square mile radius there are 4 life zones all mixed together (desert, riparian, woodland, and coniferous forest), contributing to the enormous pine and juniper covered plateaus, narrow sandstone canyons, the windy Virgin River, and many seeps, springs, and waterfalls. The Virgin River is still carving the canyon today, and flash floods still play a key role in the everlasting formation of the park.

Fun facts

- Zion National Park is one of the most visited parks in the United States. In 2017 it saw over 4.5 million visitors, a 5% jump from the previous year.
- Park elevations range from 3,666-8,726ft. The Zion Lodge sits at around 4300ft and the East Entrance at 5700ft.
- In 1909, President Taft declared the area as Mukuntuweap National Monument, using the Paiute word for the Canyon (meaning "straight arrow"). Nearly a decade later, Congress changed the park name and status to Zion National Park, declaring it Utah's first national park in 1919. Years later, in 1956, the park boundaries were expanded to include the Kolob section, which before that point was its own national monument.
- Over a period of millions of years, rock layers in this region were uplifted, tilted, and eroded, exposing a series of colorful cliffs called the Grand Staircase. This "staircase" presents a spectacular record of Earth's history between Zion, Bryce, and Grand Canyon National Parks from nearly 2 billion years ago up to the most recent geologic period. The top rock layer in Zion National Park, the Dakota Formation, is also the lowest layer in Bryce Canyon National Park; and the lowest of nine layers of rock in Zion Canyon, the Kaibab Formation, is the highest in the Grand Canyon.
- Zion has many sporadic waterfalls from hanging valleys due to the Virgin River cutting through the canyon faster and deeper than its tributaries.

- The Virgin River drains out of Navajo Lake, just northeast of Zion National Park, at 9000ft of elevation. It drops 7800ft in the 170 miles (273km) it takes it to travel to Lake Mead and the Colorado River. In the park, it drops an average of 71ft per mile. In comparison, the Mississippi River drops about one inch every mile. This steepness has given the Virgin River the ability to transport an average of 1 million tons of sediments per year.
- During flash floods water grows in volume as it moves downhill, having the potential to increase its flow by over 100 times. These flood events can carry large boulders and rip cottonwood trees out of the ground. Flooding destroyed many of the first Mormon settlements along the Virgin River, leaving behind several ghost towns, such as Grafton.
- In 1995, a landslide dammed the Virgin River and created a small lake behind it, flooding the Scenic Drive until it finally broke under its own force. This event trapped 430 visitors at the Zion Lodge. It took 24 hours to airlift everyone out of the canyon, and another 6 weeks to get their cars out.
- In 1998, a flash flood increased the volume of the Virgin River from 200 cubic feet per second to 4,500 cubic feet per second, again damaging the park's Scenic Drive
- The 1.1-mile Zion-Mt Carmel Tunnel was completed in 1930 by the Civil Conservation Corps to connect Zion with Bryce and Grand Canyon National Parks by roads. Until then, to lower wood and other materials into the canyon from the higher eastern plateaus, it was necessary to drive around to Cedar City and approach the park from its south entrance. Alternatively, a pulley system was used on top of Cable Mountain to lower building materials into the canyon. Its remains are still visible today.
- The Cable Mountain Draw Works was originally conceived and constructed by Springdale pioneer David Flanigan, who regarded the Draw Works as a fulfillment of an 1863 prophecy by Brigham Young that lumber would one day be transported from the canyon rim "as the hawk flies." During operation of the Draw Works, from 1901 to 1927, the structure was used to move hundreds of thousands of board feet of lumber, goods, people occasionally, and a dog once, to the canyon floor 2,000 feet below.

Practical information

Practical information

Pay fee at South or East entrance station on the main road through the park (the Zion-Mt Carmel Hwy) or at the Kolob Canyons Visitor Center, off I-15, exit 40. There is also a separate pedestrian fee station to the park in the town of Springdale, near the Zion Canyon Visitor Center.

Nearest amenities can be found at the town of Springdale, at the South Entrance. The small town has many hotels, restaurants, shops, and galleries, two small but well-stocked supermarkets, a gas station, and a bank.

Another gas station is located 13 miles east of the East Entrance at Mt Carmel Junction, on the intersection with Hwy 89. Also located here are a restaurant (try their pies) and a golf course.

Kolob Canyons, to the west, is accessed from I-15 between St George and Cedar City. There is a gas station at the exit 2 miles north of the visitor center. For food and lodging, continue to one of the bigger towns on I-15.

Park Shuttle:

A shuttle system was established in 2000 to eliminate traffic and parking problems, protect vegetation, and restore tranquility to Zion Canyon. There are two shuttle loops. The Zion Canyon Shuttle connects the Zion Canyon Visitor Center to stops at nine locations on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive. The Springdale Shuttle has nine stops in the town of Springdale. The Springdale Shuttle will take you to the park's Pedestrian Entrance near the Zion Canyon Visitor Center.

Each year from March to November shuttles run daily from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset, and arrive at each stop every 7-10 minutes at peak times. When the shuttle is running no private vehicles are allowed on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive (that's the portion between Canyon Junction and Temple of Sinawava). Exceptions are made for those staying overnight at the Zion Canyon Lodge.

Parking is limited inside the park, especially when the shuttle system is in operation. Parking lots commonly fill early in the day. To avoid parking hassles it is easiest to park in the town of Springdale and ride the free Springdale Shuttle to the park's Pedestrian Entrance. You may get on and off the shuttle as often as you like. Riding the shuttle is free. All shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible.

Restaurant recommendations

Oscar's Café – Best restaurant in Springdale, as the crowds attest. There is always a line to get in and they do not take reservations. The wait is worth it. Big portions, decent price.

Jack's Sports Grill – Tucked away on the side of a hotel, typical American sports bar, good hamburgers and great rice bowls. Service may be a bit slow.

Blondie's Diner – Small, funky, antique-filled restaurant serving all day breakfast, homemade pies, and interesting burgers. A good place to try elk or bison burgers.

Things to do

Short stops:

Zion Human History Museum – Permanent exhibits display the rich human history of Zion National Park. Showcasing American Indian culture, historic pioneer settlement, and Zion's growth as a national park.

Checkerboard Mesa – A viewpoint near the East Entrance of the park showcasing an excellent example of vertical joints and horizontal weathering on the Navajo sandstone, resembling lines of a checkerboard.

Court of the Patriarchs – At the fourth stop of the Zion Canyon Shuttle is a quick walkway uphill that leads to a good view of the monoliths across the canyon, three of which are named for the Three Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Big Bend – At the eighth stop of the Zion Canyon Shuttle, where the river curves at a large angle, is a dramatic viewpoint looking up at the Great White Throne through the saddle between the Organ and Angel's Landing, and of Observation Point, Cable Mountain, and several other formations.

Short walks:

Riverside Walk – 1 hour, 2 miles (3km) roundtrip, mostly paved wide path in a progressively narrowing canyon. The path follows the Virgin River to the beginning of The Narrows, where the trail joins the river.

Lower Emerald Pool – 1 hour, 2 miles (3km) roundtrip, mostly paved wide shaded path in a side canyon leading to a waterfall (at times powerful, at times just a trickle) and a small natural pool. No swimming. End of trail slippery when wet.

Weeping Rock – 20 minutes, 0.5 mile (800m) roundtrip, paved and short but steep path leading to a trickle of water that exits through the porous sandstone. A series of steps lead behind the waterfall to spectacular view of the canyon.

Hikes:

Canyon Overlook Trail – 1 hour, 2 miles (3km) roundtrip, moderate hike due to slick footing and exposed sections. Excellent views of Pine Creek Canyon and lower Zion Canyon.

Angel's Landing – 3.5 hours, 5 miles (8km) roundtrip, 450m elevation gain; difficult hike to the top of Zion's most iconic monolith. Steep drop offs make this an exciting adventure unsuitable for those with fear of heights.

Upper Emerald Pool – 2 hours, 3 miles (5km) roundtrip, moderate hike; pass Lower and Middle Pools, finally arriving at the Upper Pool at a cul-de-sac made of towering sheer sandstone cliffs. Depending on the season, you may be charmed by a tall waterfall. No swimming.

Observation Point – 5 hours, 8 miles (12.8km) roundtrip, 655m elevation gain; moderate to difficult hike passing near Weeping Rock, Hidden Canyon, and Echo Canyon before reaching the summit. Excellent views of Zion's main canyon, towering above Angel's Landing and the Organ.

Other activities:

Rock climbing/Canyoneering/Horseback riding/Mountain Biking – See activities offered by Zion Adventure Company/Zion Ponderosa/Zion Rock Guides



Zion National Park

Short stops

- 1 Zion National Park Visitor Center
- 2 Zion Human History Museum
- 3 Court of the Patriarchs
- 4 Zion National Park Lodge
- 5 Big Bend Viewpoint
- 6 Checkboard Mesa Viewpoint
- 7 Kolob Canyons Visitor Center
- 8 Kolob View Point

Day hikes

- 1 Emerald Pools Trailhead
- 2 Angels Landing Trailhead
- 3 Weeping Rock/Observation Point Trailhead
- 4 Riverside Walk/The Narrows Trailhead
- 5 Canyon Overlook Trail Parking

Restaurants

- 1 Blondie's Diner
- 2 Oscar's Cafe
- 3 Jack's Sports Grill



Hike - Observation Point - Zion National Park

Hike stats

Average hike time: 5 hours

Difficulty: moderate to difficult

Distance: 4 miles (6.4km) one-way

Elevation difference: 2148ft (655m) gain

Notes:

- This trail offers little shade. On hot days, take plenty of water and a sun hat. In winter, conditions can be icy and slippery. YakTrax or MicroSpikes may be helpful.
- Watch out for sneaky squirrels and chipmunks at the Point – they know this is a good picnic spot. Keep an eye on your food and do not feed the animals!
- Pit toilets available at trailhead parking. No drinking water.

Trailhead: Weeping Rock parking/shuttle stop

To get here, take the Zion Park Shuttle to stop #7 Weeping Rock.

If permitted to drive, take the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive to the Weeping Rock parking lot, 2 miles north of the Zion Lodge.

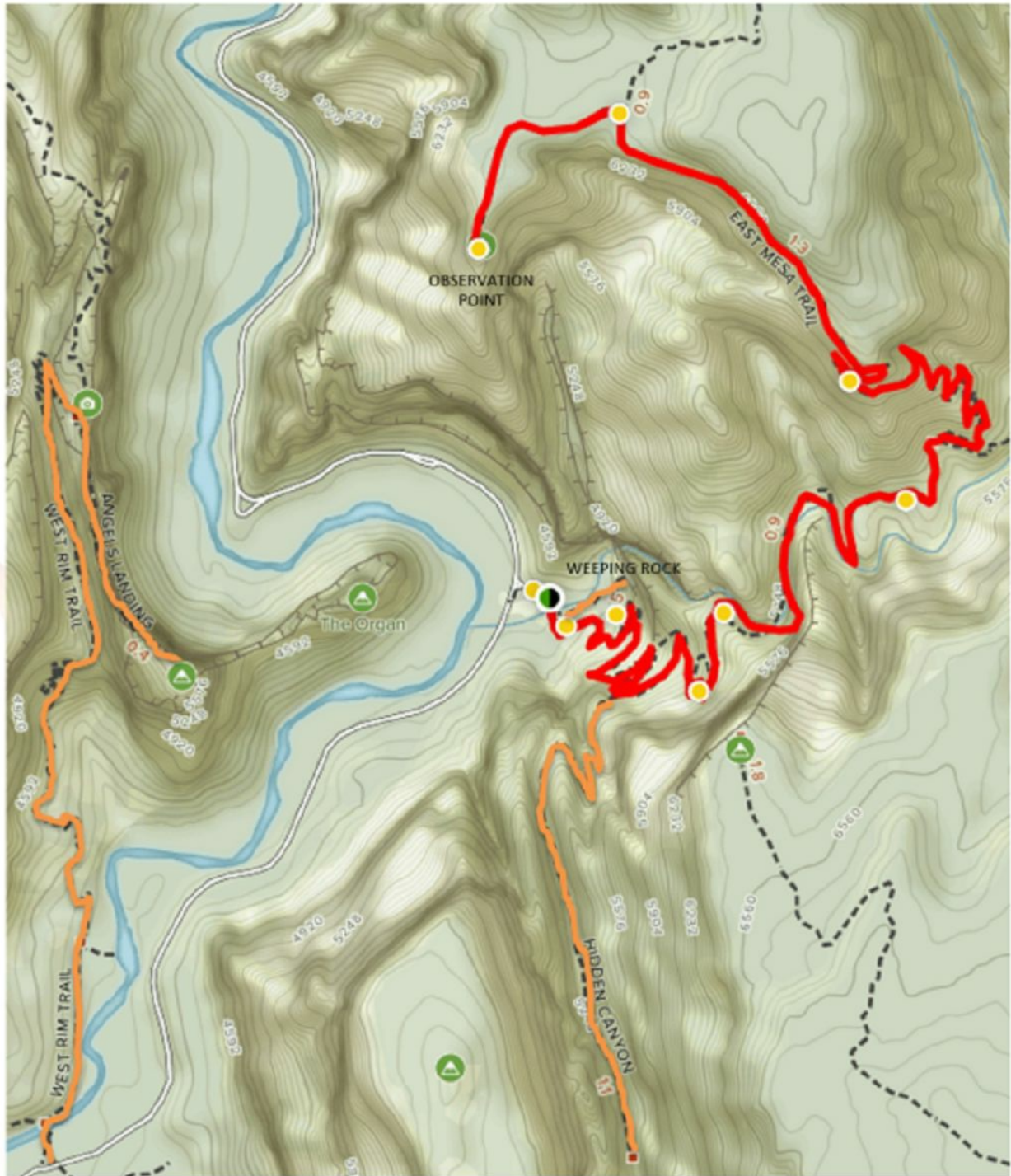
Hike description

The trailhead is found at the southeast corner of the parking lot. Cross a short bridge over a small stream and arrive at your first intersection. Continue straight here, following signs to Echo Canyon. Turning left would take you to Weeping Rock, a highly recommended short but steep roundtrip 10-minute detour. The entire 0.25-mile path is mostly paved and very easy to follow.

The trail to Observation Point immediately climbs up paved switchbacks toward Echo Canyon. Halfway through the switchbacks (about 0.5-mile) is a well-marked side trail on the right to Hidden Canyon. It would take about an hour to go to the mouth of the canyon and back. This moderate trail may be turned into a day hike of its own if you choose to explore inside the canyon itself. Beware: This side trail has some exposed sections.

For Observation Point, keep left at the intersection with Hidden Canyon and continue up the switchbacks. Soon the path leaves the Zion Canyon views and enters Echo Canyon, where the walls gradually close in on a small stream (sometimes dry). Explore the slot canyon as conditions allow, then continue to follow the clear path left of the slot. The canyon walls open up again on the other side. Following a few more turns, you will pass the intersection to the East Rim Trail. For Observation Point, keep left. Turning right will take you to the East Entrance of the park, over 5 miles away, through a ponderosa pine forest without any viewpoints.

The Observation Point trail continues to climb a few more switchbacks for another mile, then opens up again to views of Zion Canyon. The slope eases off toward the top of the plateau and the final 0.5 mile is relatively flat. Keep left at the final intersection. Going right will take you 3 miles on the East Mesa Trail to the park boundary. You'll know you've made it to the Point when you arrive at an exposed overlook towering above the summits of Angel's Landing and the Organ and other excellent views of Zion's main canyon. To return, retrace your steps down the switchbacks.



Aug 1

Morning



Hike - Canyon Overlook - Zion National Park **Near Springdale, UT**

1-mile (1.6km) one-way, 163ft (50m) elevation gain, moderate hike. Despite its low elevation gain, sleek footing and exposed sections contribute to the moderate rating of this trail. Creatively maintained, leads to excellent views of Pine Creek Canyon and lower Zion Canyon.

Visit time: 1 hour

Afternoon



Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park **12500 Sand Dune Road, Kanab, UT 84741**

Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park features coral-hued sand dunes located beside red sandstone cliffs. The Dunes are formed from the erosion of pink-colored Navajo Sandstone surrounding the park. High winds passing through the notch between the Moquith and Moccasin Mountains pick up loose sand particles and

then drop them onto the dunes (the Venturi effect). The dunes are estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000 years old.

Visit time: 1 hour

Evening



Return Jucy rental

Hike - Canyon Overlook - Zion National Park

Hike stats

Average hike time: 1 hour

Difficulty: moderate

Distance: 1 mile (1.6km) one-way

Elevation difference: 163ft (50m) gain

Notes:

- Sleek footing and exposed sections. In winter, conditions can be icy and slippery. YakTrax or MicroSpikes may be helpful.
- Watch out for sneaky squirrels and chipmunks at the Point – they know this is a good picnic spot. Keep an eye on your food and do not feed the animals!
- Pit toilets available at trailhead parking. No drinking water.
- Trailhead parking is very limited. Possibility to park on the side of the road. Be sure to park only in cleared areas.

Trailhead: Near the east entrance of the Zion-Mt Carmel Tunnel

To get here from the South Entrance, continue on Hwy 9 E through the park, up the switchbacks, and through the 1.1 mile tunnel. The trailhead parking is on the right immediately as you exit the tunnel.

To get here from the East Entrance, continue 5 miles on Hwy 9 W through the park (you're close when you pass under a short tunnel). It may not be possible to turn left into the parking lot right before the entrance of the 1.1 mile tunnel. If you see an empty spot along the road approaching the trailhead, take it.

Hike description

The trailhead is across the street from the parking lot. Cross the street at the sidewalk and find the well-marked series of stairs on the right leading up the sandstone slope. Soon following this initial climb, the trail bends to the right and into a cool and shaded alcove lined with ferns. It continues on the other side on a planked boardwalk and over bare slick rock, at times with guard rails, until reaching the edge of the impressive cliff overlook.



Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park

Short history

Sand dunes are created by three factors: Sand, high winds, and a unique influence upon the wind. At Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, estimated to be 10,000 to 15,000 years old, it is the notch between the Moquith and Moccasin mountains that causes this unique influence. Wind is funneled through the notch, thereby increasing wind velocity to a point where it can carry sand grains from the eroding Navajo sandstone. Once the wind passes through the notch and into the open valley, the wind velocity decreases, causing the sand to be deposited. This phenomenon is known as the Venturi Affect. The same iron oxides and minerals that give us the spectacular red rock country are responsible for this landscape of coral pink sand. The park opened to the public as a state park in 1963.

Fun facts

- Coral Pink Sand Dunes support a diverse population of insects, including the Coral Pink tiger beetle that is found only here. Melting snow sometimes creates small ponds in the dunes that support amphibians such as salamanders and toads.
- Coral Pink Sand Dunes is the only major sand dune field on the Colorado Plateau. Sitting at just over 6000ft, the Coral Pink Sand Dunes is the second highest dune in North America, after the Great Sand Dunes of Colorado.
- The park is a popular destination for ATV riders. About 90% of the dunes are open for riding, but all of the dunes are open for hiking and playing in the sand. ATV use is only allowed between 9am-10pm.

Practical information

Pay fee at entrance station. Closest gas station is at Mt Carmel Junction. No supermarket or bank. Plan accordingly.

Restaurant recommendations

No restaurants here. Closest is at Mt Carmel Junction.

Things to do

Visitor Center – collection of sand from around the world, sand sled rentals

Walk/sled on the dunes and nature trail

Nearby:

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary – pet rescue and advocacy organization in a majestic environment providing tours of its land and facilities, home to approximately 1600 individual animals.

Zion National Park - a beautiful canyon surrounded by tall sandstone cliffs

Kanab, UT– Small town of 4300 residents, Kanab is often referred to as "Little Hollywood" because of its film-making history. It is surrounded by the topography of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, a large region geologically connection Bryce, Zion, and Grand Canyon National Parks.

