

"There is an eloquence to their forms which stirs the imagination with a singular power and kindles in the mind . . . a glowing response. . . . Nothing can exceed the wondrous beauty of

Zion... in the nobility and beauty of the sculptures there is no comparison." When geologist Clarence E. Dutton wrote that description in 1880, southern Utah was a wild, rugged

country of little-known canyons and plateaus. Slowly, scientific reports, magazine articles, and photographs spread the word that deep within this remote territory lay the scenic phenomenon of Zion. Some refused to believe such a place existed, just as others had scoffed at the first stories of Yellowstone. But the massive multi-colored vertical cliffs and deep

canyons were real, and in 1909 this area was added to the National Park System. Take time and discover Zion on its roads, and beyond.

On The Road

The roads of Zion introduce you to the park's spectacular cliff-and-canyon landscape. You can drive, bicycle, or take a guided tram tour, depending on your time and interests. Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway, and the Kolob Canyons Road are open yearround. The Kolob Terrace Road is usually closed by snow from late November to May.

If you are driving, remember the roads are designed for sightseeing, not speed. They are narrow, winding, and sometimes steep. Obey posted speed limits. If you want to stop use a roadside parking area. Be alert for hazards, particularly pedestrians, bicyclists, wildlife, fallen rocks, and other motorists.

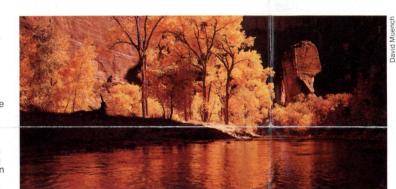
Bicyclists will find the level, often shaded roads in Zion Canyon easiest to ride. No special biking lanes are provided.

Zion Canyon Scenic

Drive Sheer, vividly colored cliffs tower above as you follow this road along the floor of Zion Canyon. This narrow deep canyon is the centerpiece of the park. Long ago it inspired fear in Paiute Indians, who refused to stay here after dark. It awed early visitors like Frederick Vining Fisher, a Methodist minis ter who named the Great White Throne, Angels Landing, and many other massive cliffs. Today the canyon continues to

and disbelief in those who come and stand bemeter (2,000- to 3,000-

Along the bottom of the canyon flows the Virgin River. It is a river with the looks of a creek and the muscle of the Colorado. This small river almost singlehandedly carved the profound rock gorge of Zion Canyon. It began its downcutting more than 13 million years ago and continues its work today



The Virgin River in autumn

Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway Outstanding works of man attention along this route The road, completed in 1930, was considered an almost impossible project," an engineering mar-vel of its time. Built across rough up-and-down terrain, it connects lower Zion Canyon with the high plateaus to the east. Two narrow tunnels, including one 1.8 kilometers (1.1 miles) long, were drilled and blasted through the cliffs to finish the construction job

As you travel from one side of the long tunnel to the other, the landscape changes dramat ically. On one side lies Zion Canyon with its mas-sive cliff walls. The colossal size of the canyon is matched by one of the most striking attractions along this road—the Great Arch of Zion, a 'blind" arch carved high in a vertical cliff wall.

On the other side of the tunnel is slickrock coun try. Here rocks colored in white and pastels of



beneath this canopy. Other wildlife, including You may witness the river's power during a flash flood, when it turns ringtail cats, bobcats, muddy and violent, carryfoxes, rock squirrels, and ing cottonwoods and oulders like twigs and

On most days, though the Virgin winds through the canyon peacefully remont cottonwoods willows, and velvet ashes alongs its banks provide shady spots for a picnic or a short walk. Mule deer and many birds, too, seek refuge from the extreme midday heat of summer

orange and red have

been eroded into hun-

dreds of fantastic shapes

etched through time with

and grooves. The mountain of sandstone known

as Checkerboard Mesa

stands as the most prom

rally sculpted rock art.

nent example of this natu

odd patterns of cracks

cottontails, rest under rocky ledges. The best times to see animals along the road are early morning, evening, and at night, when they are most active. These are also ideal times to see the conspicuous white trumnet-shaped flowers of the sacred datura. This common roadside plant is also called moonflower because its blossoms oper in the cooler hours of

Roads to the Kolob Two

roads lead into the north-

vest corner of the park,

carved spectacular can-

yons at the edge of the Kolob Terrace. The Kolob

Canvons Road penetrates

he heart of the brilliant

steep-walled Finger Canyons. The Kolob Ter-

race Road overlooks the

white and salmon-colored cliffs of the little-explored

Creek. Both routes climb

into forests of pinyon pine

and juniper; ponderosa

Right Fork of North

red rock country of the

where streams have

The Great White Throne

pine, fir, and quaking

aspen are found at Lava

Point. In summer there is

coolness to the air atop

the Kolob's high country plateaus. And in the win-

ter and early spring the Kolob is buried under a thick snowpack. The

sparkling white of the snow heightens the colors of this already

colorful landscape

rising heat of the day.

lived in Zion Canyon year-round. Mormon set-tlers once did. They were here in summer, when dramatic thunderstorms send dozens of waterfalls large and small, cascading off the cliffs; in autumn, when the green canyon trees turn gold; in winter, when light snow dusts the rocks; and in spring, when wildflowers fed by melting snows

bloom. You may want to

sample a different sea-son on your next visit to Zion Canyon. You can be return, and no matter how often, Zion Canyon will always repay you gener-ously for the time you



A finger canyon of the Kolob

Beyond the Road

The names of the trails in Zion—Emerald Pools, Hidden Canyon, Gateway to the Narrows, Canyon Overlook - hint at some of what you can find beyond the road. There are surprises, toodesert swamp, a petrified forest, springs and waterfalls, and the always unpredictable appearance of wildlife. You may be overwhelmed by the size and scale of the park as it surrounds you, or fascinated by the tiny details of a rock pattern or a cactus bloom.

Before you head out on your first hike, consult "Hiking Zion," a brief guide to the park's trails on the opposite side of this folder. Naturalists take guided trips along some of these trails from late March to November. They also lead off-trail hikes through canyons, up the Virgin River, and over slickrock country.

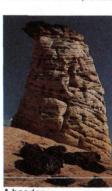
Guided horseback trips are offered April through October. Private horseback parties should check in at either visitor center. The Weeping Rock access to the East Rim Trail is closed to horses because the steep and narrow path is unsafe for them. The Lava Point trailhead is the safest

Climbing is permitted in the park. Registration at Zion Canyon Visitor Center is voluntary. Climbing alone is not recommended.

access to the West Rim Trail.

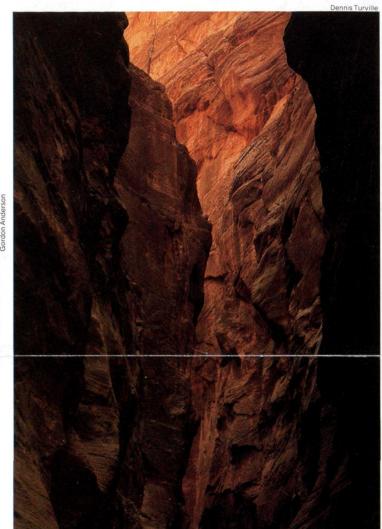
A Gallery of Sculpted Rock A hiker stands knee-deep in the Virgin River, dwarfed by the dark sandstone walls of ion Canvon. In some stretches, barely 5 meters (18 feet) separate canyon sides that loom 610 meters (2,000 feet) high. The canyon is an overpowering testimony to the creative powers of erosion. There are many such displays of wind-and water-sculpted rock beyond the road's end. From trails on the plateau

View out long tunnel



rim there are sweeping vistas of Zion Canyon and the massive and equally colorful canyon of the Right Fork of North Creek. Other trails lead through smaller, narrow side canyons with graceful curving walls as smooth as polished stone

One observer called Zion "a singular display of nature's art mingled with nonsense." Perhaps nothing reflects this idea better than the hoodoos do. These weird, ironcapped rocks resemble enormous mushrooms, or king-sized footstools or whatever your imagi nation fancies. A multi-tude of other interesting rock forms-from arches to alcoves to potholes are scattered here, there everywhere.



A Refuge for Wildlife The name Zion suggests a place of peace and refige. This is true not only or visitors but for wildlife is well. The park is a sand tuary for roadrunners and golden eagles, mule deer and mountain lions. cactus and cottonwood

Some of the best opportunities for encountering wildlife are along park trails. You may suprise lizards or Gambel's quail on a hike along a wooded wash on the desert's edge. Or hear echoes of the clear gushing song of the canyon wren in a pyamy forest of pinyon pine and juniper. Watch for tracks; they may be the closest you get to rare species like the mountain lion or to nocturnal ani-

mals like the ringtail cat Wildflowers are common throughout the park, particularly in spring and fall. Even where there is nothing more than a tiny pocket of soil in a rock crack, plants manage to take root and grow. Some cliffs, like those at Weeping Rock, are thick with golden and cliff colum-bine, scarlet monkeyflower, and maidenhair ing through the porous rock walls nourishes these lush hanging

A Wilderness Preserved

Protected within Zion's 595 square kilometers

(229 square miles) is a

vilderness full of the

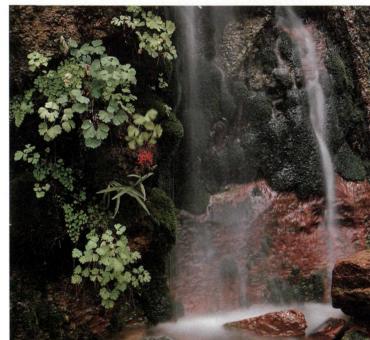
unexpected. It includes the world's largest arch— Kolob Arch—with a span

that measures 94 meters

(310 feet), and simpler natural wonders, such as

small waterfalls and clear backcountry pools. The fundamental qualities of wild America—quiet and solitude-are here, too

gardens.



Hanging gardens

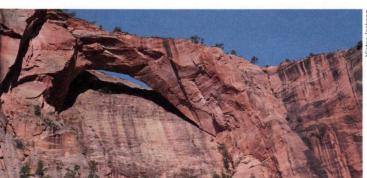












General Information and Services

The Zion Canyon Visitor Center offers a wide variety of information and services year-round. Many books and free brochures, topographic maps, and exhibits are available. Park rangers can assist you in planning your visit to get the most out of your time.

The Kolob Canyons Contact Station, a smaller visitor center, offers a similar range of services and information year-round.

man and South Camp-grounds are open on a first-come, first-served basis. One is open year-round; both are open in summer. A fee is charged Both have fire grates, picnic tables, water, restrooms, and a sanitary disposal station for trailers. There are no utility hookups or showers. Some sites are set aside for the handicapped in Watchman. Group campsites are available by reservation to organized educa-

Campgrounds Watch-

The Lava Point Primitive Campground is usually

tional or youth groups

open from May to October. Fire grates, tables, and toilets are provided out there is no water. No fee is charged.

Camping is limited to 14 days and is permitted only in designated sites or in the backcountry.

Picnic Areas The park's two picnic areas are the Grotto Picnic Area in Zion end of the Kolob Canyons Road. The Grotto has fire grates, picnic tables, water, and restrooms. The more primi tive Kolob site has tables and pit toilets.

Zion Lodge Cabins, a restaurant, snack bar. and gift shop are located at Zion Lodge. For information on cabin rentals write: the Utah Parks Division of TW Services, Inc., 451 N. Main St., Cedar City, UT 84720; or call (801) 586-7686.

Advance reservations are recommended in the summer. The cabins, and the rest of the lodge services, are available from mid-May to mid-October. Tram Tours Concessionoperated tours of Zion Canvon aboard open air times daily in the summer

Reservations and information are available at

Horseback Rides Guided trail rides are available April through October. Reservations and infor mation are available at the lodge, or you can call (801) 772-3967 or

Nearby Services and Accommodations Springdale, Mt. Carmel and the larger towns of Hurricane, St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab have motels, restaurants cery stores. A private

campground in Springdale has full utility hook ups and hot showers. Other private campgrounds are located within 40 kilometers (25 miles) of the park. The

nearest hospitals are in

St. George, Cedar City and Kanab.

Park Activities Naturalist-guided walks, evening programs, and talks are given from late March to November. Activity schedules are posted in the visitor centers and

throughout the park From June to early Au gust, children ages 6

through 12 can learn about the park at the Zion Nature Center, Sessions are conducted five days a week

license is required in the park. Angling success

Climate From May to October temperatures range from 22° to 40°C (72° to 105°F) in the day and from 7° to 23°C (45° to 73°F) at night. Brief afternoon thunderstorms are common in July and August. Winters are mild in Zion Canyon with tem-peratures often reaching

above 4°C (40°F). Little snow falls in Zion Canyon, but snow accumu ates on the plateaus

Spring and fall are ideal

times to visit the park. During these seasons Fishing A Utah fishing temperatures range from 7°C (44°F) at night to 27°C (80°F) in the day

Information For more information write: Super intendent, Zion National Park, Springdale, UT 84767-1099; or call (801) 772-3256

As a visitor to Zion, please take a moment to read these precautions to protect yourself and the park

For a Safe Visit

Summer temperatures can reach 43°C (110°F). Guard against becoming overheated. Drink even when you don't feel thirsty. You can lose a lot of water in this dry heat and not know it.

occur frequently Plants, animals, and all Watch your step at over-looks and along other cliff other natural features are protected and should edges. It is particularly easy to lose your balance when taking photos or looking through binoculars. Keep a close eye

not be disturbed. Hunting or the use of firearms is Pets must be kept under

Flash floods are a po-

tential danger whenever

thunderstorms are in the

area. Stay out of drainage

areas when a storm is

threat of lightning, too.

Watch for rockfalls and

andslides. Although they

rarely do damage, they do

near. Be alert to the

a ranger, or call (801) 772-3322 or 772-3311.

times. They are pro-hibited in public build-

ings, on trails, and in the

Fires are permitted only

in campstoves or pro-vided grills. Keep them

small and controlled.

down wood.

Collect only dead and

In an emergency contact

physical control at al

Hiking Zion

There are trails in Zion for those who want an easy 10-minute walk, a two-day backpacking trip, or something in-between. The chart at right lists the park's most popular trails. When choosing a hike consider not only your time and interests but also your hiking experience and physical fitness. Easy trails are short and mostly level. Moder-ately strenuous and strenuous trails require hiking long distances, of-ten uphill. Extreme summer heat makes any hike more difficult and ex-hausting. Early morning, late afternoon, and evening are best for hiking, unless you come in spring or fall when it is much

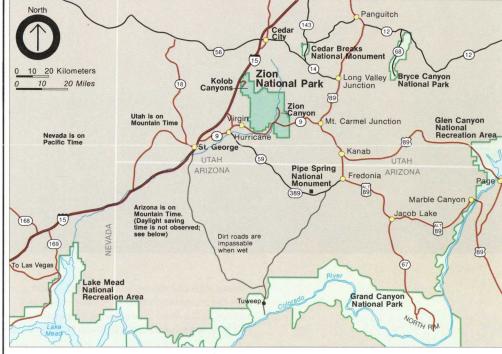
Always let a friend or relative know where you are going and when you expect to return. Stay on trails unless you have discussed plans to hike offtrail with a ranger. Carry a topographic map when hiking longer trails or off-trail. Water is scarce in the backcountry; you should carry four liters (one gallon) per person per day. Carry some water even on short hikes. Don't drink water you find in the backcountry with-out boiling or treating it. Carry food on long trips. Pack out all trash. See "For a Safe Visit" for more

Backcountry Camping
Free backcountry permits
are required to camp on
a hiking trip. Permits are
issued at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center and
the Kolob Canyons Contact Station. Camping is
not permitted within 1.6
kilometers (1 mile) of a
road or trailhead

The Narrows The Narrows of Zion Canyon is one of the park's most popular, and most stren-uous, off-trail hikes. Hik-ing through the Narrows is a 21-kilometer (13-mile) trip requiring at least one full day. Much of the trip involves wading through the Virgin River. The Nar-rows may be closed because of the threat of flash floods. Permits are required for trips through the length of the Narrows They are available at either visitor center

Trail	Trailhead	Round Trip (km/mi)	Round Trip (avg. time)	Ascent (m/ft)	Description			North
Veeping Rock	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive— Weeping Rock parking lot	0.8/0.5	½ hour	30/98	Easy. Self-guiding trail. Ends at Weeping Rock, a rock alcove with dripping springs.	Hanging gardens of wild- flowers decorate the walls in spring and summer.		
anyon Overlook	Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway— just east of long tunnel	1.6/1.0	1 hour	50/163	Easy. Self-guiding trail; guidebooks are available at visitor center and trailhead.	Ends at spectacular view- point of lower Zion Canyon, Pine Creek Canyon, and Zion-	Mt. Carmel Highway switchbacks.	0 10 20 Kilometer
merald Pools	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive— opposite Zion Lodge	1.9/1.2	1 hour	21/69	Easy. Ends at Lower Pool and three waterfalls. Accessible to handicapped, with some	assistance. To reach Upper Pool, hike another 1.6 kilom- eters (1 mile); this is more	strenuous. Upper Pool is larger, sits at base of high cliffs.	
Sateway to the Jarrows	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive— Temple of Sinawava	3.2/2.0	1½ hours	17/57	Easy. Follows Virgin River upstream to Zion Canyon Narrows, where paved trail	ends. Hanging gardens of wildflowers in spring and summer. Trailside exhibits.	Accessible to handicapped; assistance recommended on last part of trail.	Nevada is on Pacific Time
Vatchman	Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway— South Campground Amphitheater	3.2/2.0	2 hours	112/368	Moderately strenuous. Ends at viewpoint of lower Zion Canyon, Oak Creek Canyon,	and town of Springdale. Recommended for hiking in fall, winter, and spring.		
lidden Canyon	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive— Weeping Rock parking lot	3.2/2.0	3 hours	259/850	Moderately strenuous. Leads through narrow side canyon carved in joint of rock. Trail	ends at canyon mouth; can hike beyond end of the trail for another 1 kilometer (0.6	mile). Natural arch.	
and Bench	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive— Court of the Patriarchs	5.8/3.6	3 hours	152/500	Moderately strenuous. Good views of lower Zion Canyon and the Three Patriarchs.	Crosses ancient landslide. Ends below the Streaked Wall. Recommended for	hiking in fall, winter, and spring.	168
angels Landing	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive— Grotto Picnic Area	8.0/5.0	4 hours	453/1488	Strenuous. Ends at summit high above Zion Canyon floor. Last 0.8 kilometer (0.5 mile)	follows a steep ridge; chains and railings have been added for safety. This hike is not	recommended for anyone afraid of heights.	To Las Vegas
ast Rim	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive— Weeping Rock parking lot	12.0/8.0	7 hours	655/2148	Strenuous. Climbs to Observation Point high above the floor of Zion Canyon. Excel-	lent views of the canyon. Trail gives access to other East Rim plateau trails,	including Cable Mountain and Deertrap Mountain Trails.	N N
olob Arch	Kolob Canyons Road— Lee Pass	22.0/14.0	8 hours	213/699*	Strenuous. Follows Timber and La Verkin Creeks and ends at Kolob Arch, the	world's largest freestanding arch. This red rock span is 94 meters (310 feet) long.		Lake
est Rim	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive— Grotto Picnic Area	42.6/26.6	20 hours	1095/3593	Strenuous. Climbs to high country viewpoint of canyon of Right Fork of North Creek	(20.4 kilometers/12.8 miles), and continues to Lava Point, an alternate starting point.	Trip to Lava Point should not be attempted as one-day hike.	Zion is part of the west's "Grand Cire
				*Descent				national parks, mo
								ments, historical a and recreation ar one of the world's concentrations of standing natural a tural features. Dri
Unpaved	road Trail	A Picnic area			Self-guiding trail	Campground	▲ Primitive campground	distances from the Canyon Visitor Ce many of these site
Overlook parking a		F	Ranger stat	ion	Amphitheater	Private campground		area towns are list

Traveling in the Area



Zion is part of the South-west's "Grand Circle" of national parks, monu-ments, historical areas, and recreation areas and recreation areas— one of the world's great concentrations of out-standing natural and cul-jural features. Driving distances from the Zion Canyon Visitor Center to nany of these sites and to rea towns are listed here

Bryce Canyon National Park, 138 km (86 mi); Cedar Breaks National Cedar Breaks National Monument, 122 km (76 mi); Cedar City, 96 km (60 mi); Grand Canyon National Park: North Rim, 190 km (119 mi) and South Rim, 405 km (253 mi); Kanab, 66 km (41 mi); Lake Mead National Rec-reation Area reation Area (Hoover Dam area), 304 km (189

mi); Lake Powell (Glen

Canyon National Recreation Area), 184 km (115 mi); Las Vegas, 253 km (158 mi); Pipe Spring National Monument, 101 the same time from late October to late April. But from late April to late October Arizona is one hour earlier than Utah, km (63 mi); **St. George**, 69 km (43 mi). and thus on the same time as Nevada.

Be aware of time changes as you travel throughout this region. Nevada is always one hour earlier than Utah. Utah and Arizona are on

