



VISITOR SAFETY TIPS  
while in Zion National Park

- - - - -

This handout is intended to make your visit to Zion National Park safe and enjoyable. Please read this handout thoroughly and if you have questions, contact a Ranger.

1. Do not feed animals. The bite of the smallest squirrel can result in illness from tetanus, rabies, or in rare instances, bubonic plague.
2. Do not hike or climb alone and stay on trails. Daytime temperatures can reach 110° F and without water, survival is doubtful.
3. If you become lost, stay where you are. Zion is crisscrossed with steep canyons and cliffs, and wandering will endanger your life and make finding you extremely difficult.
4. Watch your children. Kids can become lost in seconds - or get into the Virgin River in seconds. Keep close tabs on them for their safety. Keep them away from irrigation ditches.
5. During thunderstorms stay away from isolated trees and peaks and the Virgin River. Lightning commonly strikes the cliffs in the park, and flash floods in the Virgin River are common during the summer months.
6. Speed kills. The speed limit is 35 MPH and must be observed. The roads in the park are designed for sightseeing speeds - not freeway speeds. Stay on your side of the center line and pull off the road to sightsee.
7. Poisonous snakes (rattlesnakes) and scorpions are residents of the park - watch out for them.
8. Guard against sunburn - the higher the elevation the easier it is to get a severe burn.
9. Don't throw rocks off trails - there might be someone below.
10. Don't lock children or pets in cars in the direct sunlight. The extreme heat can kill them.
11. Watch your step if taking pictures near cliffs. Loss of balance while looking through a view finder (or binoculars) is common and fatal falls have occurred.
12. Watch for rockfalls. Zion is still in the process of being formed and rockfalls and landslides occur with regular frequency.
13. Finally, Zion is a desert park. Always have plenty of drinking water available. To be without water in the desert is foolish - and can be deadly.

We hope you have a nice and safe visit.

