BRYCE CANYON

Bryce Canyon NATIONAL PARK UTAH

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Bryce Canyon National Park was set aside to preserve for present and future generations a colorful "fantasia" of natural formations created by the forces of erosion. The superintendent and his staff are here to help you get the greatest understanding and enjoyment from this park and to protect its unique features for those who will follow you. They hope you will share their responsibility for the care of these irreplaceable natural wonders.

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Introduction to the Park

Your introduction to Bryce Canyon will take place at the visitor center. Do not fail to stop here for hints to assist you in your exploration of the park. Exhibits and displays here will unfold the story of this fabulous land and stimulate your desire to see the evidence yourself. You will probably want to return to the center later for answers to the questions that will surely arise.

Within the 56-square-mile area of Bryce Canyon National Park stands the jagged edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. Here are exposed the famous Pink Cliffs of Bryce Canyon, carved in Wasatch limestone. Below the plateau rim stand miniature cities, cathedrals, spires, windowed walls, and endless chessmen, shaped by rain, frost, and running water working through alternate strata of harder and softer limestone.

These rock sculptures challenge the imagination not only with their fantastic forms but with their color—an array of pink and red and orange blended with white, gray, and cream. Here and there strips of lavender, pale yellow, and brown appear—threads of color gone astray from the master design.

You may stand anywhere along the rim and look down into what appears to be a community provided with houses, schools, and theaters, and with inhabitants of various sizes, shapes, and characteristics.

The Paiute Indians, who knew the area many centuries ago, described the rock formations quite unemotionally but accurately as "red rocks standing like men in a bowl-shaped canyon." In their language it was "unka-timpe-wa-wincepockich."

Suppose you are standing on the amphitheater rim. Look eastward, beyond the Alice-in-Wonderland country at your feet. There, spread out before you as far as you can see, is a series of valleys and plateaus—the valleys a carpet of sagebrush, the plateaus dark with evergreen forests. On a clear day you can trace the massive dome of Navajo Mountain, a familiar landmark on the horizon 80 miles away.

From lookout points along the rim, you can observe clues to the story of the Pink Cliffs. Evidence of faults, where blocks of the earth's crust have shifted position, can be seen, as well as abundant proof of the persistent encroachment of the Paria River.

But you will never experience the sensation of mystery and awe that hangs over this amphitheater until you have ventured into it on one of the many safe and well-marked trails and walked among its weird formations.



To Help You Understand and Enjoy the Park

Enrich your experience here by banishing haste. Take a few moments to catch the infinite shades of color, the intricate forms carved in the layered limestone. Notice the almost "incandescent" glow of the Silent City in the afternoon sun. Let your mind, as well as your film, record these things to be recalled and enjoyed at other times and other places.

At the visitor center, park naturalists are on duty to answer your questions and assist you in planning your tour. Publications are available there which will add to your understanding and enjoyment of the park.

Every evening during the summer season, park rangernaturalists give illustrated talks at the lodge and the campfire circle. Subjects—from history to geology, to flowers and animals—are changed each night and cannot fail to contribute to your understanding and appreciation of the park, as well as give you valuable suggestions for taking pictures.

Formation of the Pink Cliffs. Bryce Canyon's history began about 60 million years ago. It was then that inland lakes and seas started to lay down upon this area deposits of silt, sand, and lime in beds as much as 2,000 feet thick.

These new deposits covered preexisting rock beds 12,000 feet thick, which are today exposed in the walls of the Grand Canyon and Zion Canyon. As the rock formation in Grand Canyon portray early geologic eras, and those of neighboring Sunset Point.

Zion Canyon show a middle era, so the colorful strata of Bryce Canyon illustrate the earth's most recent geologic time—the last 60 million years.

After the deposition of the Bryce strata, estimated to have ended 13 million years ago, the lands of southern Utah rose slowly from what was then sea level to heights of 10,000 feet. During this gradual elevation, produced by powerful pressures from within the earth, great beds of rock were broken into huge blocks many miles in length and width. Some blocks were raised more than others, producing 7 distinct plateaus, or tablelands, ranging as much as 2,000 feet in relative elevation.

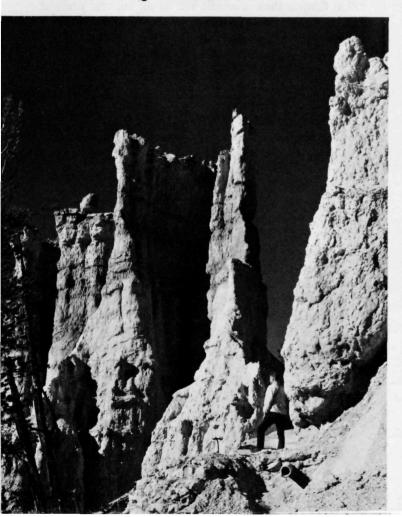
The Paiute Indians named one of these plateaus Paunsaugunt, which means "home of the beaver." On its eastern rim, the Pink Cliffs of Bryce Canyon mark one of the major faults, or lines of weakness, along which block movement took place. The western edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau was determined by the Sevier Fault. This displacement created the colorful Sunset Cliffs, which lie east of U.S. 89. Erosional forces at work during the centuries were of many kinds—the alternate freezing and thawing of water in the cracks of the rock, plant roots forcing themselves deeper into the cracks, and chemicals in the air—and all helped to decompose and break up the seemingly solid rock and contributed to changing the surface features. The streams, formed from melting snow and rain, carried away the loose material, even moving large chunks of rock in time of flood, down to the mouth of the canyon into the Paria River and thence to the Colorado River.

The process of erosion is still going on, altering rock formations and very gradually producing new ones. Slowmelting snow, which in the present weather cycle covers the tops of the cliffs to a depth of 3 feet several months a year, seeps into the cracks and dissolves the natural cement that holds the rock grains together. Alternate freezing and thawing in the evening and morning drives wedges of ice into the cracks of the rock walls for about 6 months of the year.

If the rock layers were not of so many degrees of hardness, the formations would not be so numerous or diversified in their configuration. But for all the variations in color and hardness, limestone still accounts for most of the cliff rock, along with thinner layers of shale, sandstone, and conglomerate.

Unusually interesting forms develop from these colorful rocks. Because of their systems of cracks, or joints, some

Gulliver's Castle from the Queen's Garden Trail.



rock masses develop windows and arches, recesses and caves. Variations in weather resistance of the different layers make shelves and recesses. Some enduring cap rocks sit like mushroom tops upon "stems" of less durable rock. Walls eventually become dissected, and individual columns eventually collapse. But the same processes that are destroying present formations are carving new ones from the plateau rim.

The park contains about a dozen major indentations in the rim of the plateau. They differ in depth, intensity of color, and arrangement of erosion remnants. Parking areas along the Rim Drive are convenient to many scenic overlooks.

How To See the Park

(Stop at the Visitor Center first)

The Visitor Center. The suggestion that you make this your first stop is not an attempt to "prefabricate" your impression of the things that you will see in the park. Rather, it is a tip that here you will "pick up the keys" that will unlock the secrets of this fantastic place. After seeing the short orientation film program and the exhibits depicting the forces that shape the land, you will be better able to make the most of your time in the park. You will be prepared to look for evidences of the geologic processes and to understand them. Nevertheless, you may wish to return to the exhibit room later in your trip to obtain the answers to questions which are almost sure to arise in your mind.

Now you are ready to tour the park. Spaced along the 20-mile rim of the Paunsaugunt Plateau are a dozen amphitheaters carved in Wasatch limestone. Each has its own display of curious and beautiful formations. You should see them all-from north to south, Fairyland View, Sunrise Point, Sunset Point, Inspiration Point, Bryce Point, Paria View, Farview Point, Bryce Natural Bridge, Agua Point, Ponderosa Canyon, Yovimpa Point, and Rainbow Point. If you are truly short of time, you should at the very least stop at Sunset, Inspiration, and Bryce Points and Paria View. After this introduction, you will surely want to return to see more of this strange land.

The Park Trails. To enjoy the park trails, you should be equipped with walking shoes and a reasonable amount of energy. Some people strike out on their own, but the guided walk on the Navajo Loop trail is a logical way to start.

After a brief orientation talk by the park naturalist in charge of your group, you will begin the gradual, 521-foot descent into the canyon.

This is the only guided walk in the park. It will give you an invaluable preview of the park trails.

While listening to the naturalist explain the phenomena, you will sit in cool comfort on a tiered-log bench, gathering strength for the return trip. You begin the last lap-an amazing series of stairlike switchbacks-at your own pace. You will come out on top at Sunset Point, where you started.

Now you are on your own, and you can embark on any number of adventures. One of these, the self-guiding trail to Queens Garden, starts you out with a leaflet giving the geological and botanical high points of the walk, with numbered paragraphs in the guide corresponding to numbered points along the trail.

You will come away with a deeper appreciation not only of how the Pink Cliffs came to be but of the gnarly little pine trees and other plants that manage to grow in such an arid region.

For other trail walks, see the table on pages 12 and 13.

By Horseback. The most effortless and probably the most effective way to see the amphitheaters and canyons is on horseback. The corral is just below the lodge, and both morning and afternoon trips start there.

As the caravan sets forth at a slow and steady pace and the canyon rim begins to drop away, the conversation is hushed-as if the awesome beauty of the trail should not be disturbed.

Sometimes the way leads over the tops of ridges, sometimes along the foot of a cliff, and now and then through the short span of a cool and shadowed arch. At the halfway point, almost around the corner from Peek-a-boo Canyon, there is a rest area where horses and riders may stop for a cool drink.

On the way again, riders learn that the most spectacular scenery of all awaits the last half of the trip. Steplike switchbacks, sudden tunnels, and startling panoramas mark the homeward trail.

The Forest and the Wildflowers

Many factors which influence the growth of plants, such as temperature and precipitation, vary with altitude. Because of the wide range of elevation in the park-6,600 feet on the edge of the Paria River valley to 9,105 feet at Rainbow Point-three major forest types are represented here.

Up to 7,000 feet, the slopes are covered with pinyons and junipers. Big sagebrush is found on the valley floors. Between 7,000 and 8,500 feet, just below and above the rim in the Bryce Amphitheater area, the ponderosa (western

yellow) pine is abundant in open stands. Limber pine, bristlecone pine, Douglas-fir, and Rocky Mountain juniper are also present. Manzanita and antelope bitterbrush cover the forest floor. The open valleys between the forested slopes are covered with black sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and grasses. In the southern part of the park, above 8,500 feet, you will see dense forests of white fir, blue spruce, and quaking aspen.

Some of the exquisite wildflowers found on the slopes below the red-rock formations are the blue columbine. twinpod, and goldenweed. The yellow evening-primrose, blue flax, painted-cup ("Indian paintbrush"), skyrocket gilia, western yarrow, blue penstemon, and segolily mariposa are more abundant on the plateau. Stop at the visitor center to learn more about Bryce Canyon vegetation and for help in plant identification.

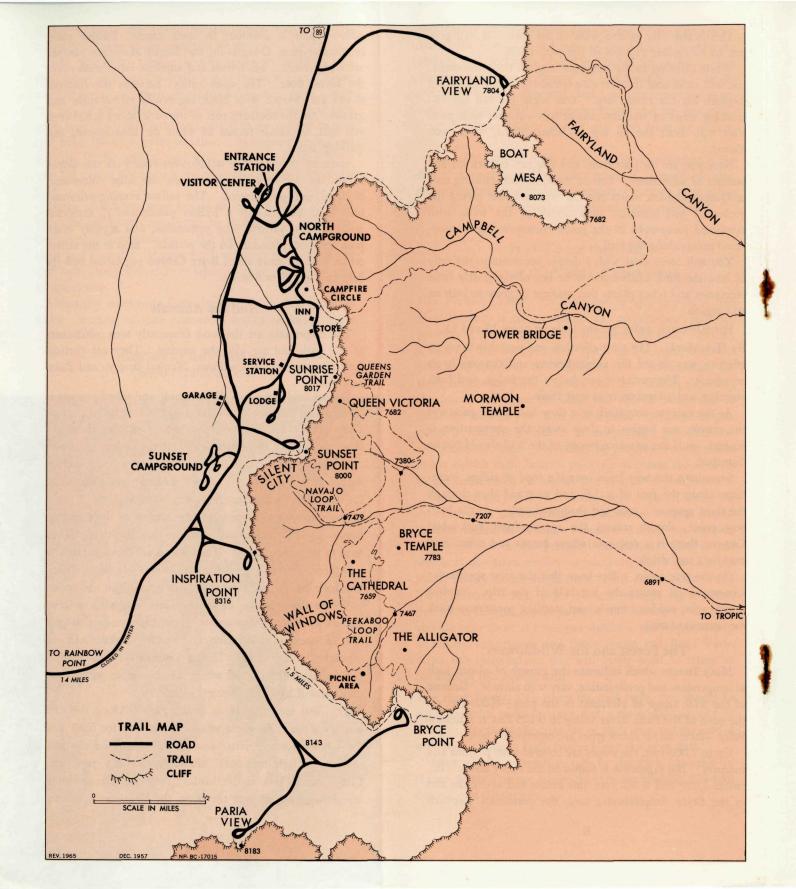
And the Animals

The chipmunks are the most frequently seen inhabitants of the park and are also the sauciest. They are particularly common at Farview Point, Natural Bridge, and Rainbow Point.

Do not feed them. A diet of candy and salted peanuts is harmful to them, and you may get a painful nip from sharp teeth. Furthermore, you should not let them get close to you, for they carry fleas that can transmit diseases to humans. Actually, it is far better sport to go after chipmunks with a camera. You can get close enough to them for that-but do not expect them to stand still!

More difficult to capture on film because of their visiting hours-early morning and evening-are the deer. They tend to roam in groups. Thus if you are lucky enough to spot deer, you will probably see several of them-fawns that have not yet lost their spots, does, yearlings, and bucks. Where the road has rocky shoulders, watch for yellowbellied marmots. Slow-moving porcupines may also give you an unexpected occasion to test your brakes; and too often the "porky" loses. The golden-mantled ground squirrels usually will be found where the chipmunks gather, and they too will have that "hungry look."

You will see many birds in the park. Along the rim, watch for the violet-green swallows, who "fly for fun," and the white-throated swifts; around the lodge and the inn, mountain (light-breasted) bluebirds, Steller's jays, and Clark's nutcrackers; in the thistles by the roadside, the hummingbirds; and all over the park, the large, noisy ravens.



Paria Valley Pioneers

Probably the first people to visit Bryce Canyon in any numbers were the Basketmakers, a group of Indians who hunted in this country from about the time of Christ until about A.D. 700. Artifacts suggesting their way of life are found in the floors of dry caves and consist of objects of fur or fiber and baskets buried with the dead. In the Paria River valley below the Pink Cliffs, burials of these people indicate that man was familiar with this area at the time of the fall of Rome.

Later, the Pueblo Indians left many fine stone walls and remains of implements and pottery. They lived along the tributaries of the Paria, undoubtedly hunting in the summer in the area that is now the park.

Still later came the peaceful Paiutes, a hunting and gathering people. Most of them spent their summers on the plateaus, hunting and trapping animals and gathering herbs, seeds, and berries. Abundant sources of chalcedony and jasper nearby provided raw materials for their stone implements. For the Paiutes the area must have had strong at-

BRYCE CANYON TRAILS

Name of trail	Starting point	Distance (miles)	Average (bout
Navajo Loop	Sunset Point	11/2	11/2
Queen's Garden	Sunrise Point	1½ (Round trip)	11/2
Navajo and Peekaboo Loops (together)	Sunset Point	5	4-:
Tower Bridge	Bryce Inn or Store	3 (Round trip)	3
Fairyland-Tower Bridge-Bryce Inn	Fairyland or Bryce Inn	51/2	4-5

The Rim Trail extends from Fairyland to Bryce Point (about 51/2 miles), and it provides many interesting views into the eroded amphitheaters. Between Sunset Point and the North Campground, this trail is nearly level.

Connecting trails in many places allow you to join two or more of the above-listed trails. More information can be obtained from the map (opposite), from Crawford's Trail Guide (25 cents), and from the information desk in the visitor center. REMEMBER: Your heart and lungs probably are not accustomed to vigorous exercise or to this elevation. IT WILL BE MORE FUN-AND SAFER-IF YOU WILL TAKE IT EASY.

tractions, because they left many evidences of their visits here.

Trappers visited the locality from 1800 to 1850, and Mormon scouts from 1850 to 1870. But it was the explorer of the Grand Canyon, Maj. J. W. Powell, a veteran of the Civil War, and his geographer, A. H. Thompson, who, in the early 1870's, first described Bryce Canyon. It remained for Capt. C. E. Dutton, who accompanied a surveying party led by Capt. George M. Wheeler (1870-76), to report it in detail. Wrote Dutton:

"The upper tier of the vast amphitheater is one mighty ruined colonnade. Standing obelisks, prostrate columns, shattered capitals, pannels, niches, buttresses all bring vividly before the mind suggestions of the work of giant hands, a race of genii once rearing temples of rock, but now chained up in a spell of enchantment while their structures fall in ruins."

U.S. Surveyor T. C. Bailey, equally moved, reported (in 1876): "There are thousands of red, white, purple, and vermilion-colored rocks of all sizes resembling sentinels

urs)	Remarks
1/2	Views of Thor's Hammer, Temple of Osiris, Camel and Wise Man, Wall Street, and other features. Descends 521 feet. Fairly strenuous.
/2	Views of Queen Victoria, Queen's Castle, Gulliver's Castle, and other features. Descends 320 feet. Easiest trail below canyon rim. Self-guiding leaflets.
-5	Peekaboo Loop provides views of Bryce Temple, Three Wise Men, Wall of Windows, Hindu Temples, other features. Strenuous. Picnic area with water and rest- rooms.
3	Views of Chinese Wall and Tower Bridge. Descends 750 feet. Fairly strenuous.
-5	Views of Fairyland, Tower Bridge, other features. Strenuous. Carry water.

on the walls of castles, monks and priests in their robes, attendants, cathedrals and congregations.

"There are deep caverns and rooms resembling ruins of prisons, castles, churches with their guarded walls, battlements, spires and steeples, niches and recesses, presenting the wildest and most wonderful scene that the eye of man ever beheld."

The first Mormon settlers laid out their farms in the valley in 1874.

Ebenezer Bryce, for whom the park is named, arrived in 1875 to raise cattle, and settled farther upstream than the original homesteaders, near the end of the amphitheater now known as Bryce Canyon. He became discouraged and in 1880 moved to Arizona.

The small town of Tropic, established in 1891, can be seen plainly beyond the canyon from Bryce Point lookout. It is one of the early settlements that survived later development in the valley.

A Park Is Established

In 1905, Government surveys resulted in having the Paunsaugunt Plateau set aside as a National Forest. Now pack trips began to come into the canyon, and by 1915 a few automobiles were using the road between Panguitch and Cannonville, pushing through deep sand and sinking into the mud during rainy seasons.

An intrepid mountaineer, Le Roy Jeffers, reached the fabulous towers in Bryce alcove in 1918 by "sliding down the steep and treacherous slopes and entering the gloom of a canyon only 5 or 6 feet wide whose overhanging walls are several hundred feet high." His writings were among the first to draw widespread attention to the area. Accounts by J. W. Humphrey and Mark Anderson broadened the circle of readers who were aware of this fantastic place in southern Utah.

In 1919 the Utah Legislature proposed to the Congress of the United States that the canyon be set aside as a National Monument.

In 1923 Bryce Canyon National Monument was established by Presidential proclamation. A change in status to Utah National Park was authorized in 1924, but it was not until 1928 that this area became Bryce Canyon National Park.

Photography

Make your own rules for picture taking. There is no "best" time for photographs. You will soon find that you are dealing with a remarkably brilliant landscape and that you will have to expose with care. The light may be flat,

as at noonday, or brightly reflected in early morning or late afternoon, when incandescent effects of great beauty are possible.

Do not be afraid of deep shadows. Even if they turn out black, they will add drama to your pictures. And here is the place to experiment with side-lighting and backlighting.

The deeper the blue of the sky, the more intense will be the coloring of the rocks. And do not neglect the possibility of filling your whole negative with rock formations, omitting the sky altogether. A telephoto lens will be of great help in documenting the more famous but often fardistant formations, and a wide-angle lens of equal aid in photographing the larger formations from close up.

The Park Seasons

The park road is open in winter to Sunset Point, Inspiration Point, Bryce Point, and Paria View. From these you can see the Wall of Windows, Silent City, and many other formations under the magic snowy touch of Jack Frost.

And if you have never seen the quaking aspens in October with the afternoon sun shining through their bright-yellow leaves, you have never really seen them.

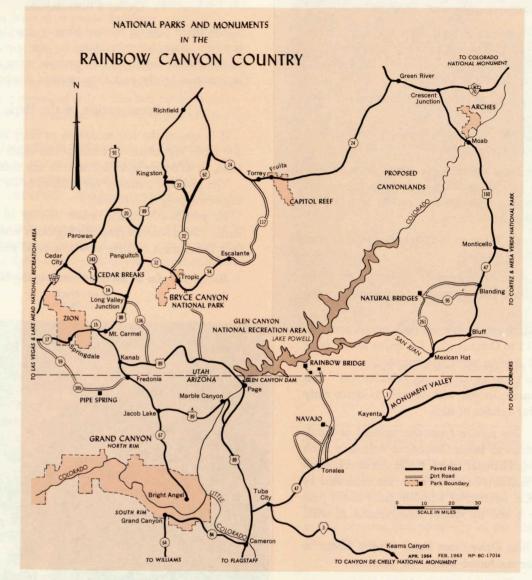
If you come in late spring or early summer, the flowers alone will have made your trip worthwhile. Nesting birds at this season will be of particular interest to the growing number of amateur ornithologists.

Climate. From November to March, it is cold on the plateau. But the rest of the year the days are warm, with persistent sunshine; the nights are nippy and cool. There are occasional summer thunderstorms.

The Altitude. You may not realize that you are on a plateau ranging from 8,000 to 9,000 feet in elevation, and you may notice a lack of energy and shortness of breath. You may also notice that your automobile lacks its usual power going uphill. These symptoms are normal-caused by insufficient oxygen.

To allow for this deficiency, take a more leisurely pace. Stop often to examine the things around you. Eat more slowly and, perhaps, a little less than usual. Do not bolt a hearty breakfast and go rushing down the Navajo trail. Wait an hour after eating, and you will have a more comfortable trip.

If you have distressing symptoms of any sort, do not hesitate to call on the nurse at the lodge. She is on duty to assist anyone who may have a health problem.



How to Reach the Park

By Automobile. The park is usually entered from U.S. 89. At Bryce Junction, 7 miles south of Panguitch, turn east on Utah 12.

If you drive south from Salt Lake City on U.S. 89, consider turning off at Sigurd for the 72-mile side trip on Utah 24 to scenic Capitol Reef National Monument.

If you drive from Cedar City on Utah 14, a 3-mile side trip will take you to Cedar Breaks National Monument.

Travelers from the southwest often leave U.S. 91 near St. George and follow Utah 17 and 15 through Zion National Park to U.S. 89.

By Train. The Union Pacific Railway connects at Lund with buses of the Utah Parks Co., which operate from there to Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Grand Canyon National Parks and Cedar Breaks National Monument.

By Bus. Main buslines operate from Salt Lake City and Los Angeles to Cedar City, where park passengers can transfer to Utah Parks Co. buses.

By Air. Air service is available by Bonanza Airlines from Phoenix to Cedar City, connecting with Salt Lake City. Private planes may use Bryce Canyon Airport, 4 miles north of the park.

Accommodations and Services

The Lodge, near the rim of Bryce amphitheater, is open from about June 10 to Labor Day. It contains a lobby, dining room, recreation hall, gift shop, and soda fountain. Accommodations at the lodge are in cabins, of two types:

Deluxe cabins are built of logs and native stone, and have their own fireplaces.

Standard cabins, with or without bath, can accommodate two families in one 2-unit structure.

The Inn and the Store are near the North Campground. The inn contains a cafeteria. The store rents cabins and sells film, souvenirs, and a moderate variety of groceries. Public showers are available nearby.

Cabin Reservations. Write to the Utah Parks Co., Cedar City, Utah.

Campgrounds. North Campground is just east of the visitor center. Sunset Campground is 1 mile south of the visitor center.

Camping facilities for tents and trailers are available from about May 15 to October 15. Campsites have a table and fireplace, and are near water and restrooms.

Camping is limited to 14 days in any calendar year. No reservations are made, so you will do well to arrive early in the afternoon for a choice of sites.

Transportation. Bus service from the railhead at Lund, and all-expense tours to Bryce Canyon, as well as to Zion and Grand Canyon National Parks, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and Kaibab National Forest, are furnished by the Utah Parks Co. on regular schedule from about June 15 to September 5 and by special arrangements at other times.

Tours of the Rim Drive from Bryce Canyon Lodge to Rainbow Point are conducted during the summer.

Communications. Bryce Canyon Lodge maintains a post office; the summer address is Bryce Canyon National Park, Bryce Canyon, Utah. Modern long-distance telephone service is available.

Medical Service. There is no resident physician in the park at any time of the year, but a registered nurse is available at the lodge during the summer season. A modern hospital is located at Panguitch (26 miles).

Church Services. Protestant services, under the Christian Ministry for the National Parks, are held each Sunday during the summer; Catholic and Latter-day Saints services also are scheduled.

Other Publications

The Bryce Canyon Natural History Association has publications, maps, and color slides for sale at reasonable prices in the visitor center. These provide more comprehensive information on the park than space in this booklet permits.

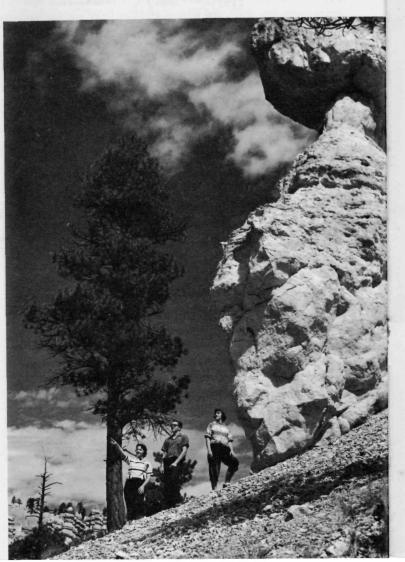
Preservation of the Park

It is against the law to disturb or carry away flowers or any other vegetation, or rocks or any other natural formations, or to deface rocks and trees in any manner.

The park is a sanctuary for wildlife of all kinds. Hunting or trapping is prohibited.

Be particularly careful while driving at dusk or after dark. Wild animals cross the highways when you least expect to see them. Drive slowly to avoid striking them.

Below the rim at Sunset Point on the Navajo Loop foot trail.



PETS must be kept on a leash at all times. They are not allowed on trails or in public buildings.

FIRES. Be Careful With Fires. Be Sure Your Campfire Is Out! Be equally careful with cigarettes; do not throw them from automobiles or horseback. Make sure they are completely out by shredding them between your fingers.

CAMPING is permitted only in the two campgrounds. PICNICKING is permitted in the campgrounds and in established picnic areas.

TRAILS. Do not take shortcuts or cut between switchbacks; by doing so you endanger yourself and others. Consult a park ranger before attempting longer trails.

CAREFUL DRIVING. Roads in the park are built for enjoyment of the scenery—not as high-speed thoroughfares.

Speeds are posted; stay within the limits: Observe habits of courteous driving; signal when pulling over to park your car; keep to the right; do not park on curves; pass only when view ahead is ample and unobstructed.

Administration

Bryce Canyon National Park, established on September 15, 1928, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

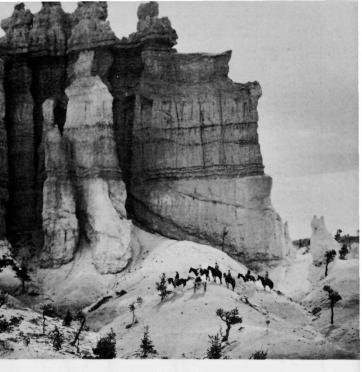
Park rangers, the protective force of the park, enforce park regulations and can help and advise you. Consult them if you are in any difficulty.

Park naturalists are here to help you understand the park. They, too, welcome your observations and inquiries.

A superintendent, whose address is Bryce Canyon National Park, Bryce Canyon, Utah, 84717, is in immediate charge. Send questions or comments on services in the park to him.

Vehicle permit fees are collected at entrance stations. If an entrance station is unattended, you must obtain a permit before leaving the park. Fees are not listed herein because they are subject to change; but the information may be obtained by writing to the superintendent.

Fee revenues are deposited in the U.S. Treasury; they partially offset the cost of operating the National Parks.



Horses and riders dwarfed by massive formations of stone.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—bears a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute their full measure to the progress and prosperity of the United States—now and in the future.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Revised 1965

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1965-0-762-061

