

Bryce Canyon

NATIONAL PARK • UTAH

Before you and below you, as you stand on the rim of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, lies a city of stone: cathedrals, spires, and windowed walls, structures of countless shapes and sizes delicately tinted in shades of pink and red and orange and softened further by grays and whites and creams—all sculptured by the never-lagging forces of erosion. These are the Pink Cliffs of Bryce Canyon.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

In scenic southwestern Utah, Bryce Canyon National Park is centrally situated in relation to other nearby units of the National Park System: Zion National Park; Cedar Breaks, Capitol Reef, and Pipe Spring National Monuments; Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; and the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Your trip to Bryce Canyon may well include stops at some or all of the other areas.

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 Capitol Reef National Monument. A 3-mile side trip from Cedar City on Utah 14, 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 the park.

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.

SEASONS

From April through October, days are warm and nights cool. There are occasional summer thunderstorms. It is cold on the plateau from November through March, although the days are often delightfully bright and crisp.

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 a mantle of snow.

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, and are 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 Loop Trail. Wait an hour after eating, and you will have a more comfortable trip.

ACCOMMODATIONS

North Campground is just east of the visitor center; **Sunset Campground**, 1 mile south. Tent and trailer facilities are available from Easter week to November 15. Campsites, with tables and fireplaces, 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 day for a choice of sites.

An *inn*, with a cafeteria, and a *store* are near the North Campground. Cabins and food service are available from early May to early October. The store sells film, souvenirs, and a modest selection of groceries. Public showers are available nearby.

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, built of logs and native stone, and with fireplaces; and standard, with or without bath, accommodating two families in one 2-unit structure. For cabin reservations, write to the Utah Parks Co., Cedar City, Utah 84720.

Service station and garage. A service station is open from May to September. Emergency garage and repair services are provided in summer.

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 in summer.

Communications. Bryce Canyon Lodge maintains a post office; the summer address is Bryce Canyon National Park, Bryce Canyon, Utah 84717. Telephone service is available.

Medical service. There is no resident physician in the park, but a registered nurse is available at the lodge in summer. A modern hospital is at Panguitch (26 miles).

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

HOW TO SEE THE PARK

The *visitor center* should be your first stop. 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.

Now you are ready to tour the park. Spaced along the 20-mile rim of the Paunsaugunt Plateau are 12 amphitheaters carved in Wasatch limestone. Because 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.

Hiking 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 guided walk will give you an invaluable preview of the park trails.

While gathering strength for the return trip, you will sit in cool comfort on a tiered-log bench as the naturalist explains the geology of the area. You return to Sunset Point at your own pace.

Now you are on your own, and you can embark on any number of adventures. One of these, the self-guiding trail to Queen's Garden, has a leaflet giving the geological and botanical high points of the walk, with 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 pines and other plants that manage to grow in this arid region.

Riding the trails. The most effortless and probably the most effective way to see the amphitheaters and canyons is on horseback. Both morning and afternoon trips start at the corral, just below the lodge.

As the caravan sets forth at a slow and steady pace and the canyon rim begins to drop away, the riders' conversation is hushed—as if the quiet 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 a short span of a cool and shadowed arch. At the halfway point, almost around the corner from Peekaboo Canyon, is a rest area where horses and riders can stop for a cool drink.

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

BRYCE CANYON TRAILS

Name of trail	Starting point	Distance (miles)	Time (hours)	Remarks
Navajo Loop	Sunset Point	1½	1½	Views of Thor's Hammer, Temple of Osiris, Camel and Wise Man, Wall Street. Descends 521 feet. Fairly strenuous.
Queen's Garden	Sunrise Point	1½ (round trip)	1½	Views of Queen Victoria, Queen's Castle, Gulliver's Castle. Descends 320 feet. Easiest trail below canyon rim. Self-guiding leaflets.
Navajo and Peekaboo Loops (combined)	Sunset Point	5	4-5	Peekaboo Loop. Provides views of Bryce Temple, Three Wise Men, Wall of Windows, Hindu Temple. Strenuous. Picnic area, water, restrooms.
Tower Bridge	Bryce Inn or Store	3 (round trip)	3	Views of Chinese Wall, Tower Bridge. Descends 750 Feet. Fairly Strenuous.
Fairyland Tower Bridge-Bryce Inn	Fairyland or Bryce Inn	5½	4-5	Views of Fairyland, Tower Bridge. Strenuous. Carry water.

Rim Trail extends from Fairyland to Bryce Point (about 5½ miles) and provides many interesting views into the eroded amphitheaters. Between Sunset Point and North Campground, this trail is nearly level.

Under-the-Rim Trail extends from Bryce Point to Rainbow Point (22 miles) and Yovimpa Pass (28 miles). There are no dependable watering places along this trail.

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

PRESERVATION OF THE PARK

Do not disturb or carry away flowers or any other vegetation, or rocks or any other natural formations, or deface rocks and trees in any manner.

The park is a sanctuary for all wildlife; therefore, hunting or trapping is not allowed.

Be particularly careful while driving at dusk or after dark. Drive slowly to avoid striking wild animals.

PETS must be leashed 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 campgrounds. PICNICKING is permitted in the campgrounds and in established picnic areas.

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

CAREFUL DRIVING. Park roads are built for enjoyment of the scenery—not as high-speed thoroughfares. 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 the view ahead is ample and unobstructed.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1968—306-123/113

ADMINISTRATION

Bryce Canyon National Park, containing 56 square miles, was established on September 15, 1928, and is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Park rangers enforce 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 welcome your observations and inquiries. The maintenance staff will also help and answer your questions.

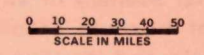
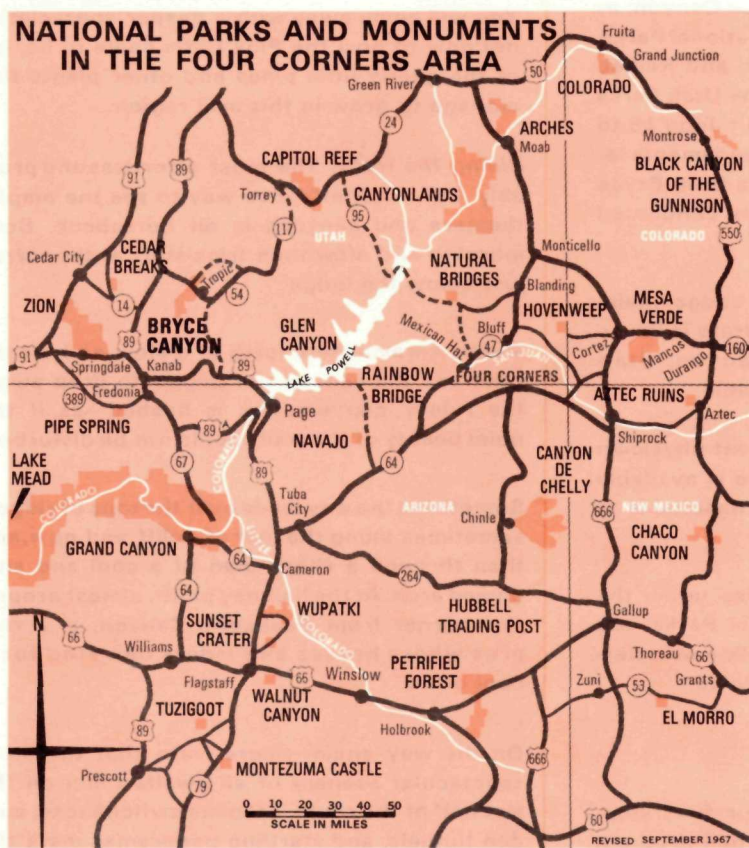
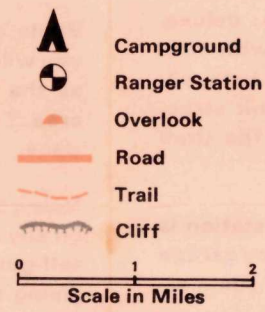
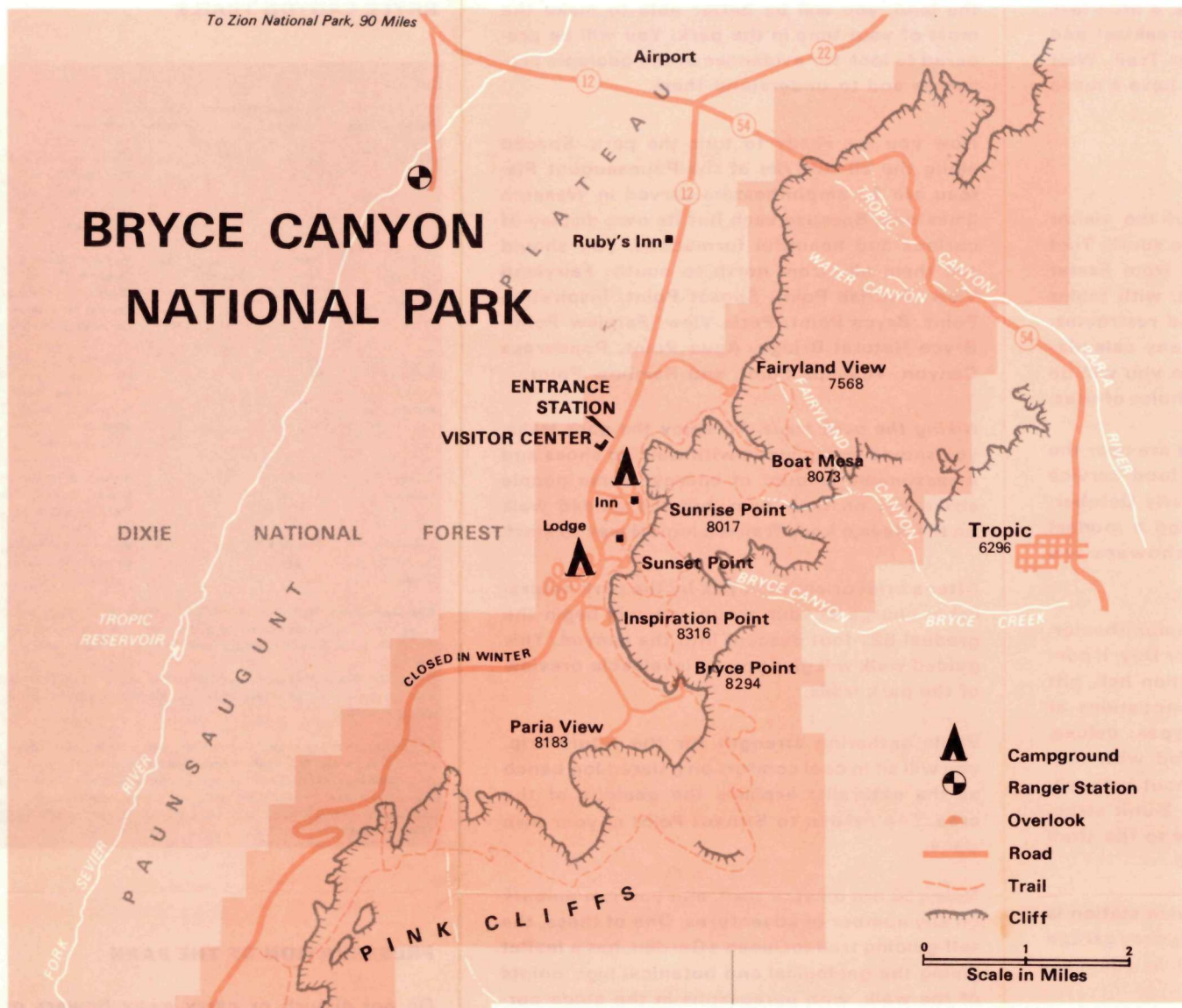
A superintendent, whose address is Bryce Canyon National Park, Bryce Canyon, Utah 84717, is in immediate charge.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—has 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.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK



TRAILS OF BRYCE CANYON

