UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HAROLD L. ICKES, Secretary
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ARNO B. CAMMERER, Director

ZION NATIONAL PARK
UTAH

GENERAL INFORMATION

Zion National Park is an area of 148 square miles, set aside by Act of Congress approved November 19, 1919, to preserve the canyon scenery of southern Utah where the Virgin River has intrenched itself into the White and Vermilion Cliffs. It is administered by the Department of the Interior, through the National Park Service. A year-round park, it is located in a region of light precipitation and mild winters.

Zion Canyon was discovered in November, 1858, by Nephi Johnson, a Mormon scout; and after several years he was followed by a few settlers, who raised crops and grazed stock in the canyon until 1909, when it was proclaimed a national monument by President Taft.

The park consists of a high plateau, 6,500 to 7,800 feet elevation, into which the Virgin River and its tributaries have cut three main canyon systems. Zion Canyon, at an average elevation of 4,200 feet, is the largest and most beautiful; it is truly a "rainbow canyon" - the cool green of cottonwoods at the bottom, glowing red and white sandstone cliffs on the sides, and an intense blue sky overhead.

HOW TO SEE THE PARK

Motoring: There are two scenic drives in the park; the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway, 11.5 miles, including a tunnel 1.06 miles long, and the Canyon Road, 8 miles up Zion Canyon to the Temple of Sinawava. Motorists driving closed cars should stop frequently and get out of their cars, since much of Zion's scenery is directly overhead. All major views are plainly marked.

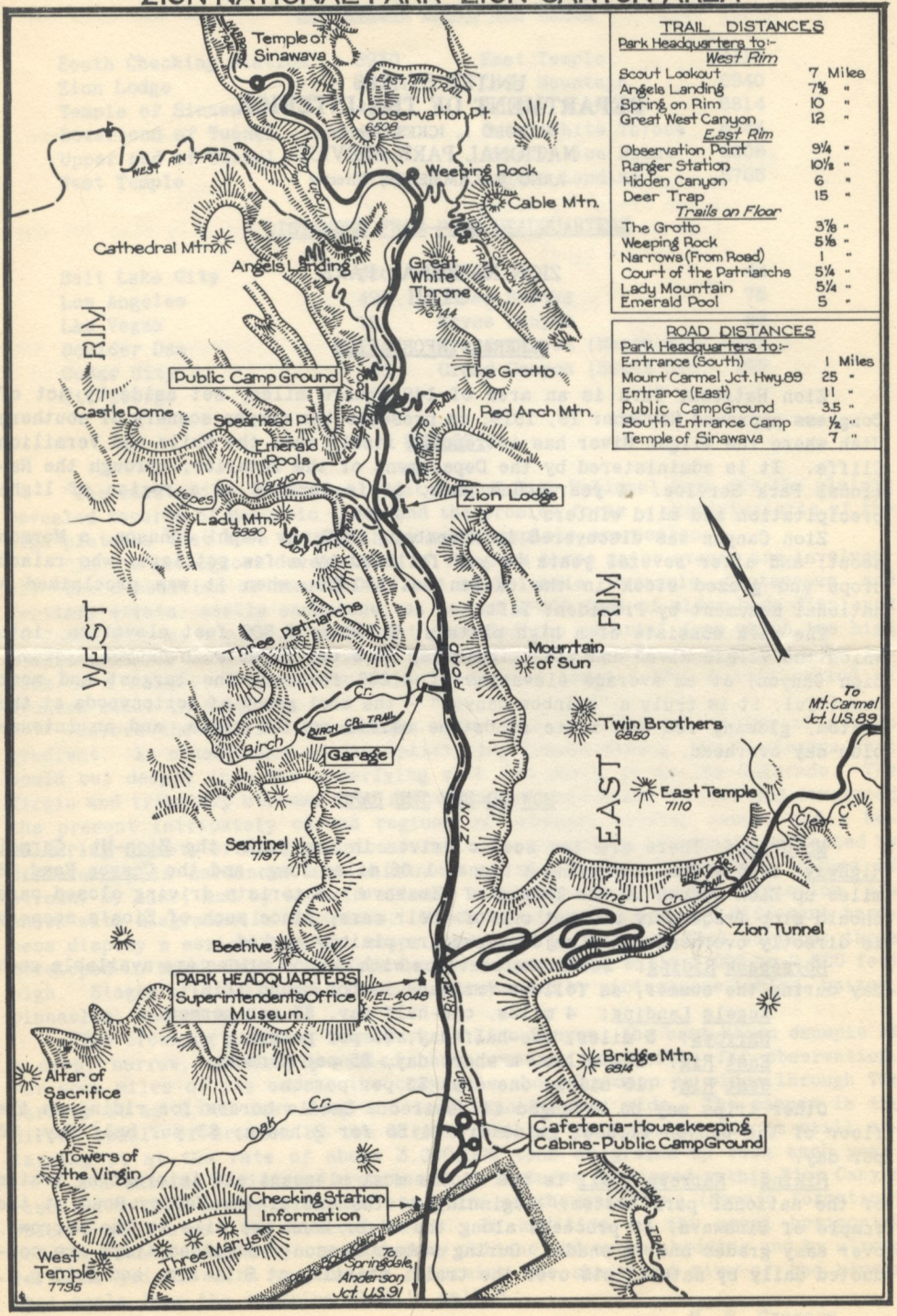
Horseback Riding: Saddle horse trips with cowboy guides are available each day during the summer, as follows (mileage is for round trip):

Angels Landing: 4 miles, one-half day, $3 per person.
Narrows: 5 miles, one-half day, $3 per person.
East Rim: 11½ miles, a short day, $5 per person.
West Rim: 15 miles, one day, $5 per person.

Other trips may be arranged if desired. Saddle horses for riding on the floor of the canyon without guide are $1.50 for 2 hours; $3 per half day; $5 per day.

Hiking: Narrows Trail is one of the most pleasant and interesting trails of the national park system. Beginning at the end of the Valley Road at the Temple of Sinawava, it proceeds along the river bank one mile to The Narrows, over easy grades and in shade. During summer season two guided trips are conducted daily by naturalists over the trail, starting at 9:00 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

ZION NATIONAL PARK - ZION CANYON AREA



Hikes recommended for morning (mileage is for one way from road)

Grotto, 1/4 mile
Weeping Rock, 1/8 mile
Great Arch (east of tunnel), 1/2 mile
Hidden Canyon, 1 mile
Angels Landing, 2½ miles (suitable also for late afternoon.)

Hikes recommended for afternoon

Emerald Pool, 1 mile
Birch Creek, 3¾ miles
Lady Mountain, 2 miles (very strenuous; suitable also for daybreak hike)

MUSEUM AND LECTURE SERVICE

At park headquarters is located the museum and information office, open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It contains exhibits of all the natural features of the park, including a fine relief map.

Lectures are given daily during the summer season, as follows:

Geology: Temple of Sinawava, 9:00 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.
Reptiles: Museum, 11:30 a.m. (demonstrations with live specimens)
Popular Science: Public camp, 8:15 p.m.; Zion Lodge, 8:30 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION AND RULES

The representative of the National Park Service in immediate charge of this park is Superintendent Preston P. Patraw, to whom all inquiries and complaints should be addressed.

The following are briefed from the official regulations:

1. Be careful with fire; keep a clean camp, and a quiet one after 10:30 p.m.
2. Drive carefully, especially at intersections and in tunnels.
3. Parking permitted in designated areas, and for short times on roadsides or at tunnel galleries (keep lights on). Drive only on regular travel ways.
4. Camping and lunching permitted only in the public camp grounds.
5. Picking flowers and defacing trees or rocks are prohibited.
6. Dogs are to be kept on leash, or in cars or cabins, and are not allowed on trails.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The park is open all year, with an admittance fee of $1 per car to motorists in private cars. Hard surfaced roads are available to Salt Lake City and Los Angeles and good gravel roads to Flagstaff or Grand Canyon South Rim. Scheduled rail and bus connections are maintained each day from June 1 to October 1 by the Union Pacific System out of Lund and Cedar City, Utah.

Zion Lodge: (season: June 1 - October 1). Standard cabins, $1.50 to $2 per person; de luxe cabins, $3.50 to $6 per person; meals, $1 to $1.25 each; telephone, telegraph, photograph development, garage, registered nurse, barber, curios, groceries, and swimming pool.

Zion Cafeteria: (open all year). Standard and housekeeping cabins, $2 and up; meals average 75¢; curios, groceries, delicatessen, gasoline and oil.

Free Public Camps: Grotto Camp open May 1 to November 1; South Entrance Camp open all year; wood, water, comfort stations, and tables; fireplaces at South Entrance.

ELEVATIONS ABOVE SEA LEVEL

South Checking Station	3930	East Temple	7110
Zion Lodge	4276	Lady Mountain	6940
Temple of Sinawava	4411	Bridge Mountain	6814
Lower end of Tunnel	4839	Great White Throne	6744
Upper end of Tunnel	5114	Observation Point	6508
West Temple	7798	Angels Landing	5785

DISTANCES FROM PARK HEADQUARTERS

Salt Lake City	330	Kanab	44
Los Angeles	490	Cedar Breaks	75
Las Vegas	181	Bryce Canyon	89
Boulder Dam	211	Grand Canyon (North Rim)	125
Cedar City	61	Grand Canyon (South Rim)	265
St. George	50		

GEOLOGY

"The outstanding geological features of Zion National Park are the plainly revealed records of Mesozoic times and the erosion forms - characteristic of the high plateaus that here attain their most complete expression.

"In the geological development of the park three major events are involved: (1) The deposition of some 8,000 feet of Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, and Tertiary strata, mostly sandstone, on top of 4,000 feet of older beds displayed in Grand Canyon; a pile of rock that provided the material from which the high scenic features were later carved. (2) A regional uplift which brought the top beds to a height of about two miles above sea level. (3) A long period of erosion still in progress.

"Before the uplift the streams were flowing in broad valleys of gentle gradient. In consequence of the uplift they became strong, swift streams that could cut deeply into the underlying rock and carry it to the Colorado. The Virgin and tributary streams have removed many cubic miles of rock and developed the present intricately carved regions of canyons, cliffs, mesas, and a bewildering variety of minor erosion forms. The processes of erosion, affected by differences in hardiness and thickness of strata, by fluctuating volume of stream, by time, and by an arid climate with consequent sparse vegetation, are shown with diagrammatic clearness. Mesas developed in beds of different hardness display a series of giant steps that lead to an upper flat surface; those developed in thick beds of uniform hardness have sheer walls 1,000 to 2,500 feet high. Stages of erosion are likewise represented by picturesque tables, buttes, pinnacles, and cones.

"The crowning glory of Zion Park is Zion Canyon, the best known example of a deep, narrow, vertically-walled chasm readily accessible for observation. For some miles of its course the canyon is about as deep as wide; through The Narrows it is 2,000 feet deep and less than 50 feet wide. The canyon is the direct result of erosion by the stream that now occupies it and is still enlarging it at the rate of about 3,000,000 tons of ground-up rock each year.

"The amazing variety of architectural features displayed within Zion Canyon result from the composition and structure of the sandstone (Navajo formation) which constitutes its vertical walls. In addition to the usual horizontal bedding planes, the Navajo is marked by oblique and curved bedding and by strong vertical joints which combine to determine the shape and size of the blocks that scale from the towering cliff's wall."

(August 1936) H. E. Gregory.