



# Zion

# Backcountry Planner

Free

National Park Service

2001

## Zion National Park Backcountry

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### Emergencies

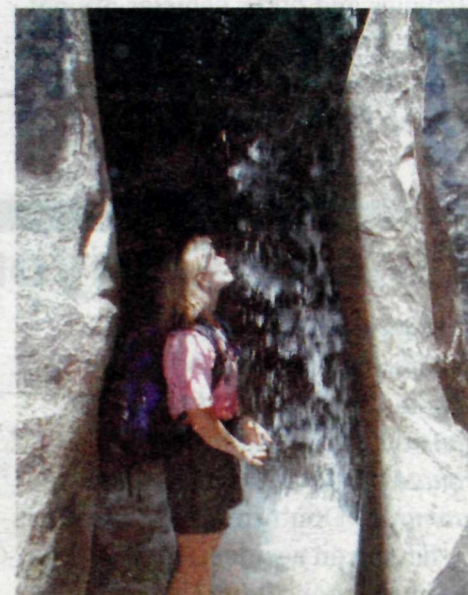
Call 911 or 772-3322  
24 hours a day or  
contact a Park Ranger.

### Plan Carefully

Zion National Park preserves a spectacular network of colorful canyons, forested mesas, and fascinating deserts. Trips into the Zion backcountry, even short ones, require advance planning. Summer weather is hot and dry, winter can be cold and icy, narrow canyons are subject to flashflooding, and there are cliffs everywhere. Many hikes involve walking in water. River flows vary greatly depending on time of year and weather conditions. Plan your trip carefully.

Rangers at the Kolob Canyons and Zion Canyon Visitor Centers can help. Check the National Weather Service and Flashflood Potential forecasts before any trip, but especially before entering any canyon. It is posted daily in both visitor centers. *Your safety is your responsibility.*

There is no "one best trail." Use this *Backcountry Planner*, guidebooks, and topographic maps to plan "your best way" to make the most of your visit.



## Planning Your Trip

### Permits

Permits are required for overnight backpacking trips, climbing bivouacs, all through day hikes of the Virgin River and tributaries, the Left Fork of North Creek (the Subway), Kolob Creek, and all canyons requiring the use of descending gear or ropes. Permits are issued at both visitor centers beginning at 8 a.m. the day before your hike. Backpacking permits are issued up to three days in advance of your trip. Cost: \$5 per permit. Subway permits may be reserved up to one month in advance starting March 1, call (435) 772-0170. A vehicle license plate number and emergency contact name and phone number are required for all backcountry permits. Be prepared to provide this information.

### Group Size

The maximum group size is 12 people of the same affiliation on the same trail or in the same drainage on the same day. Group size restrictions do not apply on the heavily used trails inside Zion Canyon including Upper, Middle,

and Lower Emerald Pools, Weeping Rock, Angels Landing, and Riverside Walk from the end of the pavement upstream to Big Spring.

### Camping Areas

Backcountry hikers are required to camp in designated sites or designated camping zones (see map page 4). When camping in a designated zone, you must camp at least one mile from any road, and out of sight and sound of trails, to preserve the feeling of wilderness. Camp at least ¼ mile from springs. In narrow canyons, camp above the high water mark and at least 200 feet from water wherever possible. Springs and watercourses are easily impacted and are used by wild creatures and other hikers.

### Be Prepared

All narrow canyons are potentially hazardous. Flashfloods, cold water, and strong currents present real dangers that can be life threatening. Your safety depends on your own good judgement, adequate preparation, and constant attention. *By entering a narrow canyon, you are assuming a risk. Your safety is*

*your responsibility.* It is often necessary to cancel a trip at the last minute because of forecasted weather conditions.

### Pre-trip Checklist

- Obtain a permit.
- Obtain an accurate weather forecast.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back.
- Suitable map.
- Water: one gallon per person per day.
- Food.
- Rain gear and extra clothing.
- Sunglasses, hat, and sunscreen.
- First aid kit.
- Flashlight and spare batteries.
- Shelter: tent, tarp, or bivy sack.

### Zion Canyon Shuttle

Travel in Zion Canyon from April 2, 2001, through late October is by shuttle bus only. The buses have room for backpacks, climbing gear, two bicycles, and other equipment. Buses will run often throughout the day. You may get on and off as often as you like. The buses are free. Shuttles begin at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center and stop at

Zion Museum (open in 2002 with new exhibits), Canyon Junction, Court of the Patriarchs, Zion Lodge, The Grotto, Weeping Rock, Big Bend, and Temple of Sinawava. Check the schedule on page 9. *If your hike ends at a trailhead in Zion Canyon, plan your trip so you will not miss the last shuttle bus of the day.* Only the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive will be closed to private vehicles, all other roads in the park remain open to private vehicles.



Hidden Canyon Trail

## General Information

### Emergencies

For 24-hour emergency response, call 772-3322 or 911. Zion Canyon Medical Clinic is in Springdale, call for hours, 772-3226. The nearest hospitals are in St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab.

### Pets

Pets are not allowed on backcountry trails. Even well-behaved pets may disrupt wildlife and other visitors.

### Bicycles & Other Vehicles

Bicycles and other vehicles are not allowed off roadways. Bicycles are allowed on established roadways and the Pa'rus Trail.

### Firearms

Firearms are prohibited throughout Zion National Park.

### Fires

Fires are not allowed in the backcountry. Carry a backpacking stove, or plan simple no-cook meals.

### Transportation

You may choose to complete your hike at a different location from your starting point. Private shuttle and taxi services are available in towns surrounding the park. Inquire at the backcountry desk.

### Watercraft

All watercraft use in the park, including in the Virgin River, requires a backcountry permit. The type of watercraft permitted is limited to hard sided or inflatable kayaks, small canoes, and/or rafts that are designed to be used in whitewater. Operators must be in compliance with U. S. Coast Guard regulations. Water level restrictions apply. Inner tubes are not permitted at any time on any watercourse within the park. For more information, inquire at the backcountry desk or call (435) 772-0170.

### Winter In Zion

Trails at higher elevations can be snowpacked and icy. Lower elevation trails can be muddy. There is often enough snowpack for skiing and snowshoeing above 7,000 ft. Trails such as West Rim or Wildcat Canyon to Lava Point or trails in Kolob Canyons provide routes. The Kolob Terrace road is closed to automobiles and opened to snowmobiles (road only) at Maloney Hill once the snow is deep enough.

### More Information

Superintendent, Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah 84767. (435) 772-3256, [www.nps.gov/zion](http://www.nps.gov/zion).

## This is Canyon Country

### Judgement

Whether hiking, climbing, or driving, *your safety depends on your own good judgement, adequate preparation, and constant attention.* Don't ruin your vacation by having an accident. *Your safety is your responsibility.*

### Steep Cliffs

Trails can be snow and ice covered in winter. Loose sand or pebbles on stone are very slippery. Be careful of edges when using cameras or binoculars. Falls from cliffs on trails have resulted in death. Never throw or roll rocks; there may be hikers below.

- Stay on the trail.
- Stay back from cliff edges.
- Observe posted warnings.
- Parents-watch your children!

### Water

The desert is dry. Carry, and drink water: one gallon per person per day for everyone in your group. Water is available at visitor centers, campgrounds, and Zion Lodge. Do not drink untreated water. Flow at springs can vary; check for recent information at visitor centers.

### Hypothermia

Hypothermia occurs when the body is cooled to dangerous levels. It is the #1 killer of outdoor recreationists, and it usually happens without the victim's awareness. It is a hazard in narrow canyons, even in summer, because immersion in cold water is the quickest route to body heat loss. To

prevent hypothermia, avoid cotton clothing (it provides no insulation when wet) and eat high energy food (especially sugars and starches) before you are chilled.

Signs of hypothermia:

- Uncontrollable shivering.
- Stumbling and poor coordination.
- Fatigue and weakness.
- Confusion or slurred speech.

If you recognize any signs of hypothermia in your group, stop hiking and immediately replace wet clothing with dry clothing. Warm the victim with your own body and a hot drink. Shelter from breezes. A pre-warmed sleeping bag will help prevent further heat loss.

### Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion occurs when the body loses more fluid than is taken in. Signs of heat exhaustion include nausea, vomiting, fatigue, headaches, pale appearance, stomach cramps, and cool clammy skin. If you or a member of your party begin to experience any of these symptoms, it is essential that you stop your hike. Find a cool, shady area. Rest with your feet up to distribute fluids throughout your body. It is important to drink fluids, but is also important to eat. Drinking lots of fluids, and not eating, while suffering from heat exhaustion can lead to a potentially dangerous condition of low blood salt. If heat exhaustion symptoms

persist for more than two hours, seek further medical assistance.

Heat stroke is an advanced stage of heat exhaustion. It is the body's inability to cool itself. Symptoms of heat stroke include confusion, disorientation, and behavior changes. Seizures may occur. A person may still be sweating. If you believe that a member of your party is suffering from heat stroke, it is imperative to cool them using any available means; and obtain immediate medical assistance.

### Flashfloods

All narrow canyons are potentially hazardous. Flashfloods, often from storms miles away, present a real danger and can be life-threatening. *By entering a narrow canyon, you are assuming a risk.* During a flash flood, the water level rises almost instantly—within minutes or seconds. Narrow Canyons are susceptible to flash flooding because much of the surrounding land is bare rock that does not absorb water. During storms, runoff water is funneled rapidly into narrow canyons. Watch for these signs of possible flash flood:

- Sudden changes in water clarity from clear to muddy (may be accompanied by floating debris)
- Rising water levels or stronger currents.
- Build-up of clouds or sounds of thunder.

■ An increasing roar of water up-canyon.

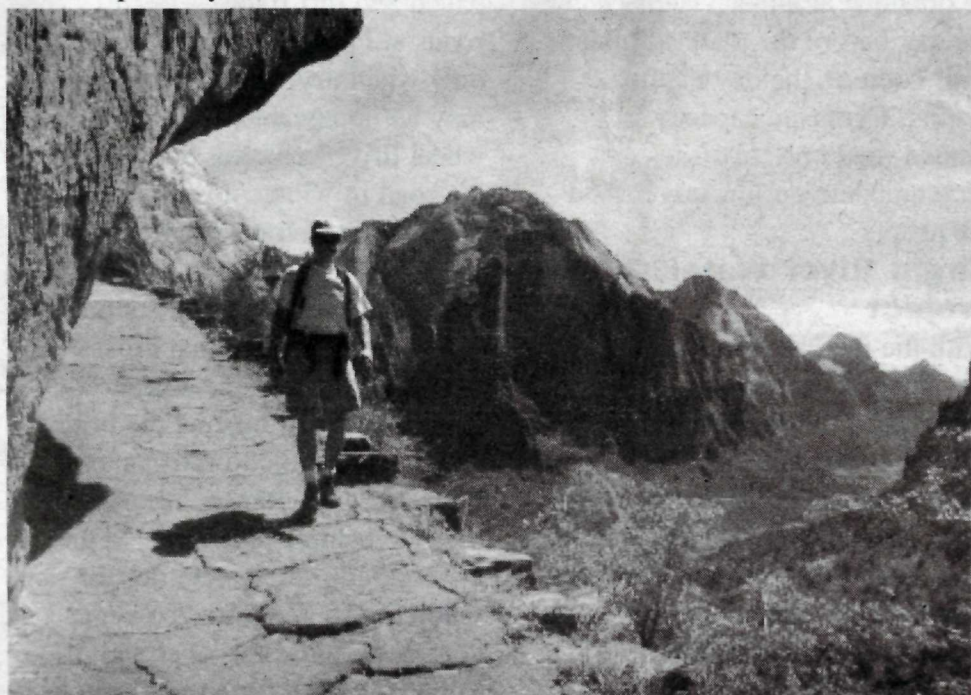
■ Any deterioration in weather conditions.

If you observe any of these signs, *seek higher ground immediately. Do not try to beat a flash flood out of the canyon.* Remain on high ground until conditions improve; water levels usually drop within 24 hours. If caught by flooding in an area with no high ground, try to take shelter behind a jutting fin of rock that can break the initial mass of water and debris. It may be possible to wedge yourself into a crack above water level. Even climbing a few feet may save your life. Know the weather and flash flood potential forecasts before starting your trip. *Make informed decisions.*



# Backcountry Trails

Trail	Distance one way	Level of Use	Seasons	Description
<b>East Rim</b>				
Weeping Rock to Stave Spring	5 miles	moderate	spring/summer/fall	Beautifully sculpted sandstone canyon.
East Entrance to Stave Spring	5.6 miles	moderate	spring/fall	Rolling terrain, mixed open forest.
Stave Spring to Cable Mountain	2.9 miles	moderate	spring/fall	Historic cableworks, spectacular panoramas.
Stave Spring to Deertrap Mtn.	3.2 miles	moderate	spring/fall	Spectacular views of Zion Canyon from rim.
Weeping Rock to East Mesa Trail	3.7 miles	light	spring/fall	Mixed open forest, panoramic views.
<b>West Rim</b>				
The Grotto to Cabin Spring	5 miles	3 groups per night	spring/summer/fall	Deep canyons, views into Zion Canyon.
Lava Point to Cabin Spring	9.5 miles	6 groups per night	summer/fall	Panoramic views of canyons and mesas.
Wildcat Canyon from Lava Point to Kolob Terrace Road	6 miles	light	summer/fall	Panoramic views, forest, wildflowers.
Northgate Peaks from Wildcat Canyon Trail	1.2 miles	moderate	summer/fall	Forest, overlook of Northgate Peaks.
Connector Trail from Kolob Terrace Rd. to Wildcat Canyon Trail	4 miles	light, no overnight camping	summer/fall	Mixed forest, views.
<b>Southwest Desert</b>				
Chinle Trail to Coalpits Wash	8.1 miles	light to moderate	spring/fall/winter	Panoramic desert views.
Huber Wash to Chinle Trail	2.5 miles	light to moderate	spring/fall/winter	Desert and canyons. Involves a difficult hike around a fall.
Coalpits Wash to Scoggins Wash	1.8 miles	light to moderate	spring/fall/winter	Desert and canyons.
Upper Coalpits from Scoggins Wash to Chinle Trail	1.6 miles	light to moderate	spring/fall/winter	Desert and canyons.
<b>Kolob Canyons</b>				
Hop Valley from Kolob Terrace Road to La Verkin Creek	6.7 miles	3 groups per night	spring/fall	Wide, red-walled valley. Several miles of sand.
LaVerkin Creek to Kolob Arch	7.2 miles	15 groups per night	spring/fall	Possibly world's largest arch, canyons.
Upper LaVerkin/Willis Creeks from Hop Valley Trail	4.5 miles	4 groups per night	spring/fall	Colorful, steep-walled canyons.



West Rim Trail



East Mesa Trail

# The Zion Narrows

The Virgin River has carved a spectacular gorge in the upper reaches of Zion Canyon: 16 miles long, up to 2000 feet deep, and at times only 20-30 feet wide. The Zion Narrows: walking in the shadow of its soaring walls, sandstone grottos, natural springs, and hanging gardens can be an unforgettable wilderness experience.

It is not, however, a trip to be underestimated. Hiking the Zion Narrows means hiking *in* the Virgin River. At least 60% of the hike is spent wading, walking, and sometimes swimming in the stream. There is no maintained trail; the route is the river. *The current is swift, the water is cold, and the rocks underfoot are slippery. Flash flooding and hypothermia are constant dangers.* Good planning, proper equipment, and sound judgement are essential for a safe and successful trip. *Your safety is your responsibility.*

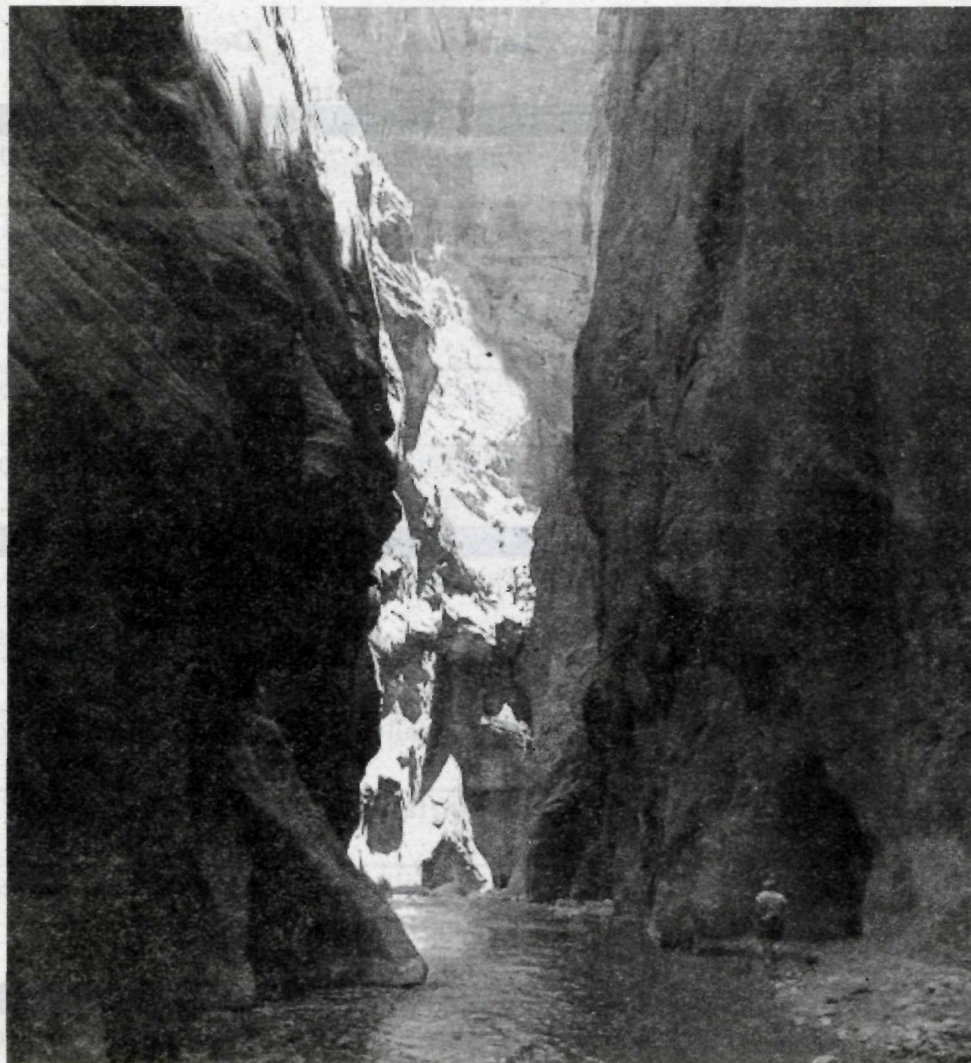
Weather forecasts, flash flood potential ratings, and stream reports are available at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center, (435) 772-0170. Permits are not issued when the flow is 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater.

## When to Hike the Narrows

Entering the Narrows is safest when the Virgin River is low, clear, and relatively warm. *Conditions change from day to day, and are impossible to predict.* Check at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center for the latest weather forecast and possible advisories. Flash floods can occur at any time, but are more common in mid-summer and early fall. From November through May, trips through the Narrows require wetsuits or drysuits and special cold-weather preparation.

## Ways to Hike the Narrows

**Day-Hike From the Bottom and Back** This is the easiest way to experience the Narrows. Ride the shuttle to the Temple of Sinawava, walk one mile to the end of the paved Riverside Walk, and begin wading up the river. Almost immediately the views are breathtaking, and each bend of the river brings new delights. There is no



*The Narrows near Orderville Canyon.*

formal destination, and you return the same way you came. Many hikers try to reach Orderville Canyon, a tributary creek approximately 2 hours upstream from the end of the paved trail. In the vicinity of Orderville Canyon the Narrows are at perhaps their most majestic. No permit is required for this day-hike and group size limits do not apply. Travel upstream beyond Big Springs is prohibited.

## Day-Hike From Top to Bottom

Walking the entire length of the Narrows can be a grueling experience. Under favorable conditions, the 16-mile route takes an average of 12 hours. Even for well-conditioned hikers, this makes for a long and strenuous day. Because the trailhead at Chamberlain's Ranch is a 1½-hour drive from the Temple of Sinawava, either two vehicles or a shuttle is necessary. A backcountry permit is required. Permits may be obtained at either visitor center on the day before you plan to hike. A maximum of 80 people daily will be granted permits. Group size limits apply.

## Overnight Hike From Top to Bottom

To enjoy the Narrows at a more leisurely pace, some visitors choose to spend a night in the gorge. There are 12 numbered campsites, each located above the high water mark at a different spot along the route. Only one-night stays are allowed. Campsites are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis upon completion of a backcountry permit. Permits may be obtained at either visitor center the day before the planned hike or until noon on the day the hike begins. Campsite capacity is limited, and only two sites can accommodate groups larger than six people.

## Virgin River Water Quality Project

With the increase in recreational use along Zion National Park waterways, the National Park Service is introducing a human waste disposal program for overnight users in The Narrows beginning April 2001. An environmentally friendly human waste disposal bag, complete with use and disposal instructions, will be provided

to all party members with every Narrows overnight backcountry permit. The bag is called the Restop 2. It is a lightweight, sanitary way to pack out waste. The bag within a bag design and ziplock closure securely contains waste and odor, while the special blend of chemicals instantly begins to break down waste and turn it into a deodorized gel. The contents of the bag are safe for landfills and may be deposited in the trash; no special receptacle is needed. Use of this waste disposal system is strongly encouraged for all Narrows hikers and may become mandatory in the future as a means for protecting the Virgin River.

## Transportation

If you are hiking the Narrows from top to bottom, there are several transportation options:

- If you have two vehicles, you can shuttle yourself by parking one vehicle at Chamberlain's Ranch and the other at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center.

- A ride board is available in the Zion Canyon Visitor Center.

- You may make arrangements with a local shuttle service

- In any case, at the end of your hike at the Temple of Sinawava, you must catch the Zion Canyon Shuttle back to the visitor center. Plan your hike so you do not miss the last shuttle.

## Directions to

### Chamberlain's Ranch

Chamberlain's Ranch is a 1½-hour drive from Zion Canyon, along paved and dirt roads. The dirt roads are passable for normal cars only when dry. When wet, they may be impassable even for 4-wheel-drive vehicles. Snow closes the road in winter. From the park's East Entrance station, drive 2½ miles east on Route 9. Turn left on a paved road and continue 18 miles to a bridge that crosses the North Fork of the Virgin River. Turn left beyond the bridge and drive ¼ mile to the gate of Chamberlain's Ranch. Please close the gate behind you. Drive ½ mile further and park just before the road crosses the river. To begin your hike, cross the river and follow the road for approximately 3 miles. Enter the river at the end

of the road. Chamberlain's Ranch is a private ranch outside of Zion National Park. Please respect private property.

### Group Size Limit

Large groups produce increased impacts on the backcountry. Group size is limited to a maximum of 12 people sharing the same affiliation (school, club, scout troop, family, friends) in the same drainage, route, or backcountry trail on the same day. This is strictly enforced; violators will be cited.

### Preparation

**Footwear** Hiking the Narrows is like walking on slippery bowling balls. It requires balancing on algae-coated rocks in the middle of a swiftly flowing river. Sturdy footwear is essential. Hiking boots with good ankle support are best. Sandals, river shoes, and bare feet are not appropriate—they result in twisted ankles and in crushed toes.

**Clothing** Even in mid-summer the Narrows is chilly. The water is cold, breezes blow steadily, and very little sunlight penetrates to the

canyon floor. Although you'll probably hike in shorts (nylon shorts are best—cotton ones will stay wet), take plenty of extra warm clothing. Clothing made of wool or synthetic fibers provides the best insulation.

**Drinking Water** Water in the Virgin River and its springs is not safe to drink untreated. It has passed over rangeland and may be contaminated with an illness-causing bacteria called giardia. Either treat the water you collect by filter, tablets, or by boiling, or carry in all the water you'll need. Drink one gallon of water per person per day.

**Walking Stick** To help maintain your balance, a walking stick is recommended. Hiking the Narrows without one, increases your chance of injury and fatigue. Walking sticks usually can be found in an informal depository at the north end of the Riverside Walk or may be purchased in town. Cutting trees or bushes to make a walking stick is strictly prohibited, both in

the park and at Chamberlain's Ranch.

**Water Depth** Water level varies in the Narrows. Under ideal conditions, when flow is under 70 cubic feet per second, most crossings are around knee-deep. Higher flows mean higher water, a stronger current, and may include wading in waist-deep water. Be prepared to swim. Even when the river is low, chest-deep holes are common.

**Waterproofing** Even the most experienced hikers fall occasionally in the Narrows. It is therefore a good idea to waterproof your belongings. Many hikers line their packs with large plastic garbage bags. Smaller, resealable bags provide extra protection for cameras and other valuables.

### Recommended Equipment

- hiking boots with ankle support
- walking stick
- shorts while hiking
- extra dry, warm clothes
- extra food and water
- flashlight and spare batteries
- first aid kit

- plastic bags for waterproofing gear
- trash bags for packing out food scraps and toilet paper
- sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat (near Chamberlain's Ranch the hike is exposed)
- topographic map (available for purchase at visitor centers).
- Obtain an accurate weather and flashflood potential forecast.

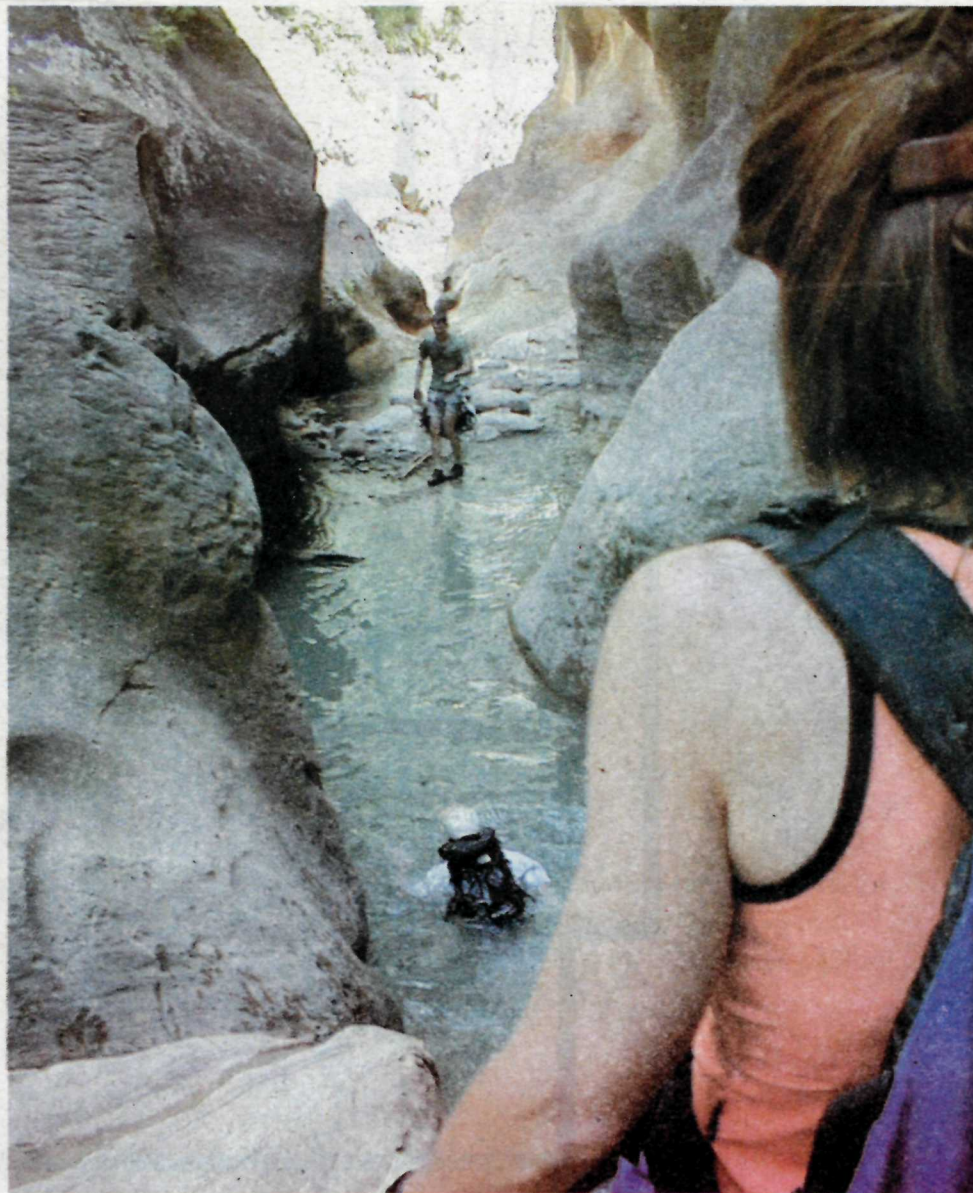
### Hiking Timetable Hours

Chamberlain's Ranch	start
End of 4x4 Road	1:00
First Narrows	3:30
Waterfall	4:15
Deep Creek	5:00
Kolob Creek	5:45
The Grotto	6:00
Goose Creek	6:35
Big Springs	7:20
Orderville Canyon	10:00
Riverside Walk	11:50
Temple of Sinawava	12:20

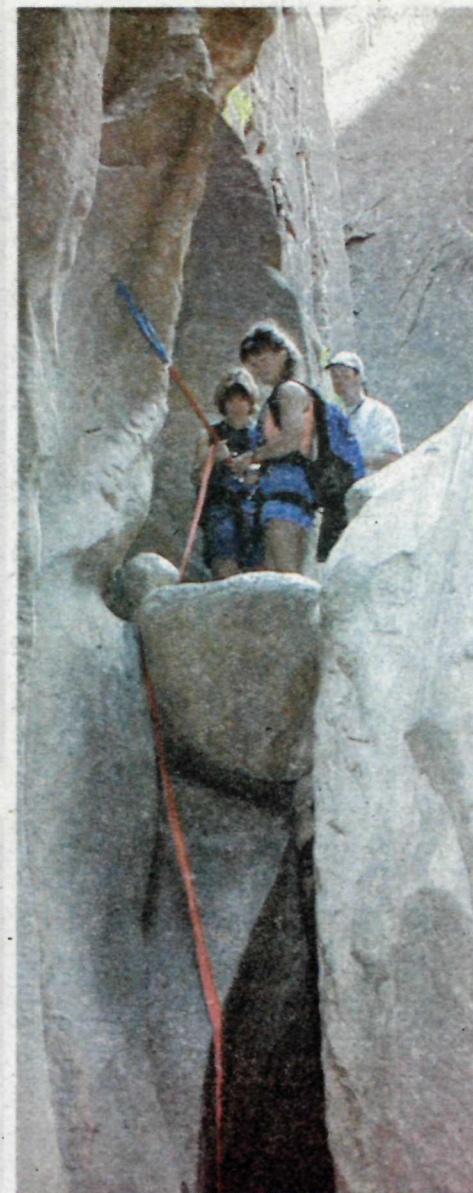
Track your progress by recognizing side canyons; Deep Creek, Kolob Creek, the Grotto, and Big Springs. Watch closely for the mouth of Goose Creek.



*Somewhere in The Narrows.*

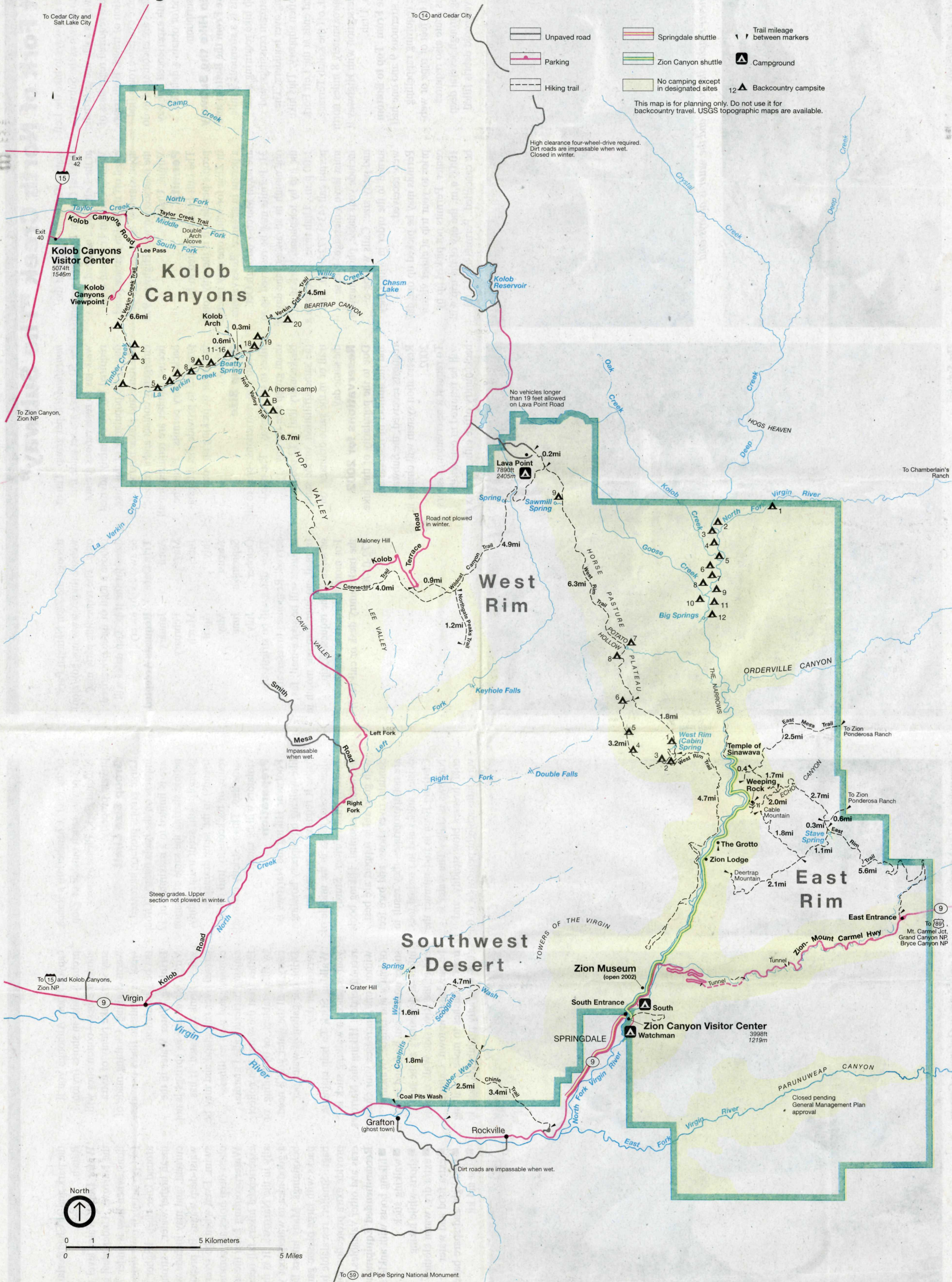


*A cold swim in Orderville Canyon.*



*Rappelling in Orderville Canyon*

# Backcountry Planning Map



## Backcountry Campsites

West Rim		Zion Narrows		Kolob Canyons		Lava Point Campground	
Site Number	Max Group Size	Site Number	Max Group Size	Site Number	Max Group Size	Site Number	Max Group Size
1	4	1	6	1	4	13	12
2	2	2	4	2	7	14	8
3	4	3	4	3	4	15	7
4	8	4	6	4	6	16	4
5	4	5	2	5	4	17	site removed
6	6	6	4	6	7	18	4
7	4	7	6	7	4	19	8
8	6	8	12	8	4	20	4
9	6	9	6	9	4	A	12
		10	6	10	2	B	7
		11	4	11	6	C	7
		12	10	12	2		

Primitive campground, 6 sites, pit toilets, no water, no reservations, no fee. Closed in winter.

## Left Fork of North Creek "The Subway"

There are two ways to hike the Left Fork, also known as the Subway. The Subway is a day use area only. Permits are required regardless of the direction of travel. Both trips also involve extensive route finding. Visitors are encouraged to do the trip with experienced Subway hikers and/or obtain a detailed route description.

### Ways to Hike the Subway

**Day-Hike From the Bottom and Back** This is a strenuous 9 mile round trip hike requiring route finding, stream crossings, and scrambling over boulders. The route is often slippery. This hike begins and ends at the Left Fork Trailhead, off the Kolob Terrace Road, approximately 8 miles north of the intersection with Highway 9 in Virgin, Utah.

**Day-Hike From Top to Bottom** This is a strenuous 9 and one half mile hike requiring rappelling skills and 60 feet of rope or webbing. This route also requires swimming through several deep pools of very cold debris filled

water. This route begins at the Wildcat Canyon Trailhead and ends at the Left Fork Trailhead. The Wildcat Canyon Trailhead is located off the Kolob Terrace Road, approximately 16 miles north of the intersection with Highway 9 in Virgin, Utah.

### Permits

The Left Fork is limited to 50 people per day. It is the only route in Zion for which one may reserve a permit in advance. Reservations are taken March 1 through Oct. 31. Permits may be reserved up to one month in advance of the day of the trip by telephone, starting at 1:00 p.m., Utah time. To reserve a permit call (435) 772-0170. You must leave a message. Please include your name, phone number, and party size. Calls will be returned in the order in which they were received.

Permits may be picked up one day prior to your trip at either visitor center. Permits not picked up by 10:00 a.m. the day of the trip will be cancelled. Permits are \$5.00

*nonrefundable* per group. Ten of the 50 spaces are set aside for walk-ins so reservations are not required but are certainly advised due to the popularity of this hike. The name and phone number of an emergency contact and a vehicle license number are required for all backcountry permits. Please be prepared to provide this information prior to picking up your permit.

### Group Size

Group size restrictions apply to all hikes in the Subway. The maximum group size for any backcountry trail is 12 people of the same affiliation, on the same trail or in the same drainage, on the same day.

### Reservations for 2002

Due to the popularity of this hike and the number of reservation requests received, the Subway Reservation system will change in 2002.

To request a reservation, visitors will be required to contact the backcountry office either by Fax or

through the Zion National Park website (<http://www.nps.gov/zion>) only. The requesting party may choose a total of three prioritized dates for the trip. Trip dates will be awarded by lottery.

Trip Date	Requests Accepted
April	January
May	February
June	March
July	April
August	May
September	June
October	July

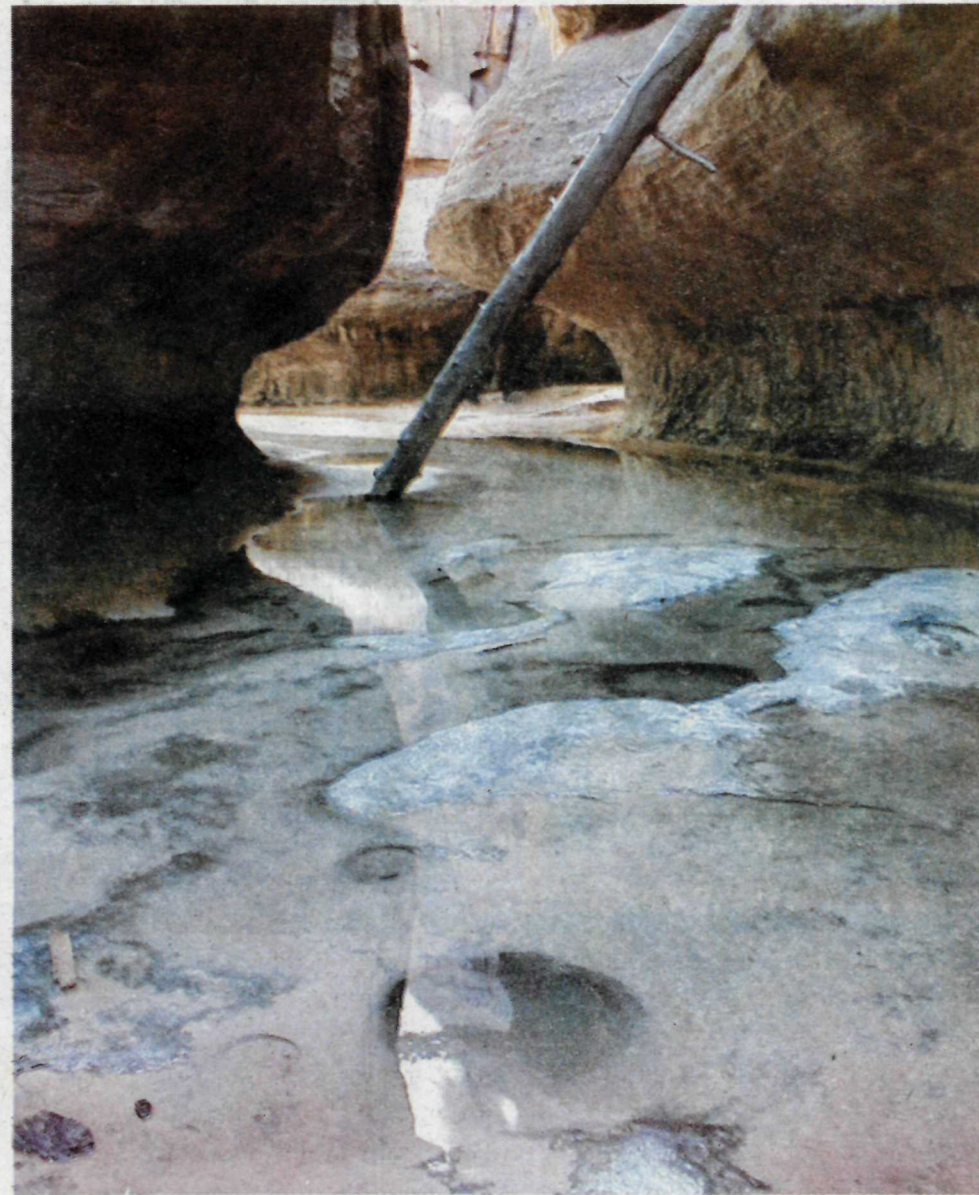
These dates will be strictly observed. Responses to reservation requests will be sent e-mail, fax, or mail, no later than one month in advance of the requested trip. For more information, inquire at the backcountry desk or call (435) 772-0170.



*The sun never reaches the pools and the water is always cold.*



*Rappelling in the Subway.*



*The Subway*

## Stock Use

Horses have traditionally been used to explore Zion's rugged terrain. Stock animals currently allowed in the backcountry are horses, mules, and burros. Llamas, dogs, goats, camels, and other pack animals are not allowed. Permits are not required for day trips. Stock use on backcountry trails is prohibited during spring thaws, unusually wet periods, or when their use would cause undue trail damage. Stock may be used in these areas:

**Trails** LaVerkin Creek, Hop Valley Wildcat Canyon, West Rim (above Cabin Springs), East Rim (above rim, includes Cable Mountain and Deertrap trails), Sandbench (November through February only).

**Off-trail Areas** Off-trail use of pack stock is permitted only in Lower Coalpits Wash from the trailhead to the junction with Scoggins Wash, Scoggins Wash, and Huber Wash.

**Group Size** Maximum group size is six animals.

**Overnight Trips** The only overnight stock camp is Hop Valley

Site A, and is limited to one night. A permit is required. Stock must be hobbled or tethered to reduce damage to vegetation. To reduce the spread of noxious and exotic weeds, all stock must be fed only certified weed-free hay two days prior to entering the backcountry and when using park trails.

**On The Trail** In areas where trails are present, stock must remain on trails. Free-trailing or loose herding is not allowed. Animals must be kept at a slow walk when passing hikers. When standing, stock must be kept at least 100 feet from drainages.

## Shuttle Schedule

The Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is by shuttle only from April through October. *Private vehicles are not allowed.* Plan your trip to include using the shuttle. There is room for backpacks and climbing equipment on the bus.

### Spring & Fall

#### Zion Canyon Loop

Visitor Center Departures

first bus 7 am  
15 minute service 7-9 am  
7-10 minute service 9 am-8 pm  
15 minute service 8-9 pm  
last bus 9:30 pm  
last departure from  
Temple of Sinawava 10 pm

#### Springdale Loop

Zion Canyon Theater Departures  
first bus 7 am  
10 minute service 7-11:20 am  
15 minute service 11:20 am-4:20 pm  
10 minute service 4:20-9 am  
30 minute service 9-10 pm  
last bus 10 pm  
last departure from  
Eagles Nest 10:15 pm

### Summer

#### Zion Canyon Loop

Visitor Center departures

first bus 5:45 am  
30 minute service 6:30-7:30 am  
10-15 minute service 7:30-9 am  
6-10 minute service 9 am-8 pm  
15 minute service 8-9 pm  
30 minute service 9-9:30 pm  
last bus 10:30 pm

last departure from

Temple of Sinawava 11 pm

#### Springdale Loop

Zion Canyon Theater departures  
first bus 5:30 am  
20 minute service 6:40-7 am  
10-15 minute service 7 am-9 pm  
30 minute service 9-11 pm  
last bus 11 pm  
last departure from  
Eagles Nest 11:15 pm

Buses are fully accessible. Pets are not allowed.

## Weather and Climate

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Temperature (°F)</b>												
normal daily max	52	57	63	73	83	93	100	97	91	78	63	53
normal daily min	29	31	36	43	52	60	68	66	60	49	37	30
extreme high	71	78	86	94	102	114	115	111	110	97	83	71
extreme low	-2	4	12	23	22	40	51	50	33	23	13	6
days above 90°F	0	0	0	1	8	21	30	28	18	3	0	0
days below 32°F	19	14	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	18
<b>Precipitation (inches)</b>												
normal	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.6	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.5
maximum	7.5	6.7	7.1	4.4	3.0	4.0	3.6	4.8	6.7	3.3	3.2	4.3
max 24 hour	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.2	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.3	2.0
maximum snowfall	26	18	14	3	T	0	0	0	T	1	5	21
days w/precipitation	7	7	8	6	5	3	5	6	4	4	5	6
no. thunderstorms	0	0	0	1	4	5	14	15	5	2	0	0

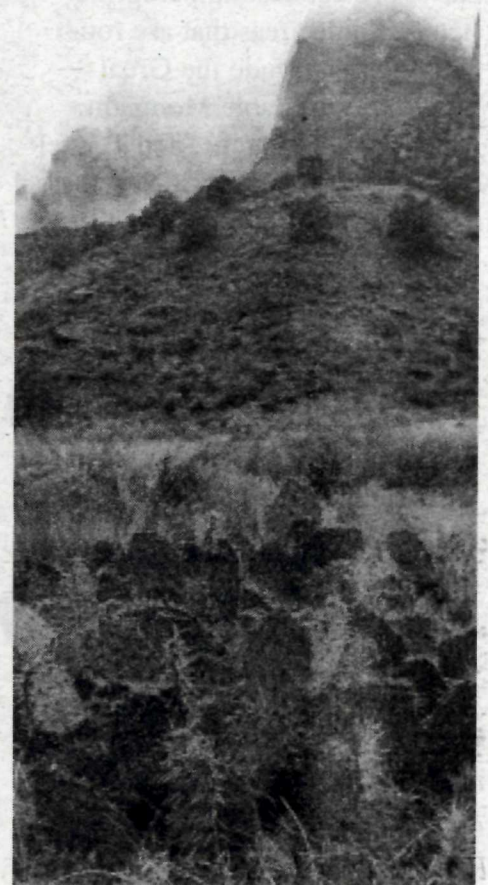
Be prepared for a wide range of weather conditions. Temperatures vary with changes in elevation and day/night temperatures may differ by over 30°F.

**Spring** Weather is very unpredictable. Stormy, wet days are common, but warm, sunny weather may occur too. Precipitation peaks in March. Spring wildflowers bloom from April through June, peaking in May.

**Summer** Days are hot (95-110°F), but overnight lows are usually comfortable (65-70°F). Afternoon thunderstorms are common from mid-July through mid-September. Storms may produce waterfalls as well as flash floods.

**Fall** Days are usually clear and mild; nights are often cool. Autumn color displays begin in September in the high country. Colors in Zion Canyon usually peak in late October.

**Winters** in Zion Canyon are mild. Winter storms bring rain or light snow to Zion Canyon, but heavier snow to the higher elevations. Clear days may become warm, reaching 60°F; nights are often in the 20s and 30s. Winter storms can last days and cause roads to be icy. Roads are plowed, except the Kolob Terrace road, which is closed in winter. Be prepared for winter driving conditions from November through March.





# Climbing

The best conditions for climbing are from March through May and September through early November. Climbing in the summer can be extremely hot, especially on unshaded walls. Due to the nature of sandstone, climbing is not recommended for inexperienced climbers. The climbs here are high, exposed, big wall climbs. Because of Zion's 2,000 foot cliffs, few areas are suitable for top roping. There are no sport climbing opportunities in Zion. Sandstone is weak when wet. Avoid climbing in damp areas or after rain. Afternoon thunderstorms are common in July and August.

## Bouldering

There are two accessible bouldering areas in the main canyon. One is 40 yards west of the south entrance. This is a house sized boulder that poses a variety of options and problems. The other site is .5 mile north of the south entrance. Drilled Pocket Boulder is located on the west side of the road and is a slab with an obvious south facing crack.

## Permits

Permits are not required for day climbs but are required for all overnight bivouacs.

## Route Closures

Some rock formations and routes are closed to climbing from early February until late August each year to protect nesting peregrine falcons. Some areas that are routinely closed include the Great White Throne, Cable Mountain, Court of the Patriarchs, and Tunnel West. Check at the Visitor Centers for current closures.

## Route Descriptions

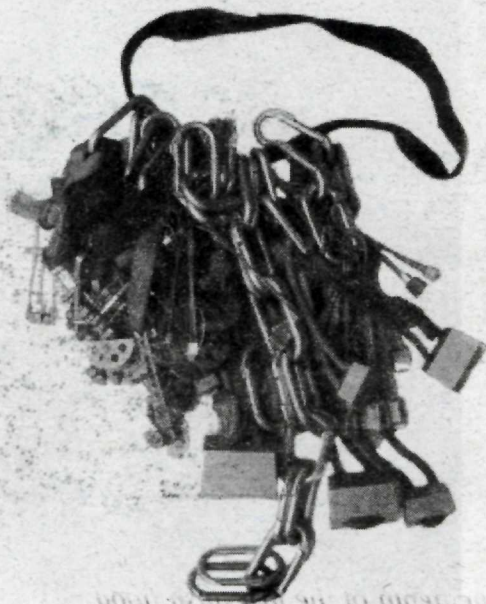
*Desert Rock* by Eric Bjornstad and *Rock Climbing Utah* by Stewart M. Green are published climbing guides for Utah and the Colorado Plateau. They include routes in Zion National Park. Informal notebooks of route descriptions have traditionally been kept by climbers at the backcountry permits desk at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center. The National Park Service neither endorses nor confirms the accuracy of the information. *You assume all risks and are responsible for your own safety.* If you complete a new climb; or wish to make changes or additions to current descriptions, you may add to these notebooks.

## Minimum Impact Climbing

When approaching a climb, use established trails to prevent further erosion of slopes. It is illegal to camp at the base of the wall or in your vehicle. White chalk causes undesirable visual impacts; add red pigment if chalk is used. Tube or bag human waste and carry it out. Do not drop your waste. Remove all old, worn rope and equipment. Gardening, the pulling of vegetation from cracks, is prohibited. Do not remove fixed pins. Make sure your climb is adequately protected by visually inspecting any preexisting bolts or fixed pins. It is illegal to use a power drill to place bolts. Never climb directly above trails where hikers may be hit by dislodged rocks.



Climbing Moonlight Butress



## Maps and Guides

The Zion Natural History Association sells maps and guides, as well as other books, at park visitor centers. ZNHA may be contacted for phone or mail orders: Zion Natural History Association, Zion National Park, Springdale, UT 84767, (800) 635-3959 or (435) 772-3264 or [www.zionpark.org](http://www.zionpark.org). ZNHA is a non-profit membership organization which supports the scientific, educational, historical, and interpretive activities of the park. Members receive a 20% discount.

### Area Guides

**Zion: The Trails** Bob Lineback. Covers trails in Zion Canyon, the Southwest Desert area, Kolob Terrace, Kolob Canyons, and the East side in Zion National Park with chapters on minimum impact, safety, and management. \$4.95  
**Exploring the Backcountry of Zion National Park, Off-trail Routes** Thomas Brereton and James Dunaway. In-depth route descriptions of Zion National Park's backcountry. \$7.50

**Hiking Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks** Eric Molvar and Tamara Martin. An illustrated guide to some of the breathtaking slickrock canyons and towering cliffs of southwest Utah. \$14.95

**Wild Utah** Bill Cunningham and Polly Burke. Guide to roadless recreation areas, includes Greater Zion Complex. \$19.95

**Hiking Utah** A Falcon guide by David Hall. \$14.95

**Hiking the Southwest's Canyon Country**, Sandra Hinchman. Describes backpacking, day hikes and canyon routes. \$14.95

**Canyoneering** John Annerino \$14.95

**Desert Rock** Eric Bjornstad. Rock climbing routes in National Parks of the Colorado Plateau. \$25.00

**Rock Climbing Utah** A Falcon guide by Stewart M. Green. The essential guide for planning your next trip to Utah's climbing areas. \$26.95

### How To Books

**Desert Hiking Tips** Gruce Grubbs. \$6.95

**Backpacking Tips** Bill and Russ Schneider. \$6.95

**Leave No Trace** Will Harmon. The official Leave No Trace manual of the American Hiking Society, pocket-size. \$6.95

**Reading Weather** Jim Woodmency. Weather basics to help you avoid bad weather on your outdoor adventures, pocket-size. \$6.95

**Route Finding** Gregory Crouch, pocket-sized guide to map and compass navigation. \$6.95

**Soft Paths** Bruce Hampton and David Cole. A NOLS guide to enjoying wilderness without destroying it. \$14.95.

**Leave No Trace Outdoors Skills and Ethics: Desert and Canyon Country** NOLS National Outdoor Leadership School. \$1.50

**Wilderness First Aid: Emergency Care for Remote Locations** The National Safety Council and Wilderness Medical Society. A comprehensive guide to first aid in the wilderness. \$19.95

### Maps

**Zion Topographic Map** Scale 1:37,700 39"X25" Backcountry and hiking information, paper, folded. \$3.95

**Trails Illustrated Topo Map of Zion National Park** Scale approximately 1:37,700 30"X25" Backcountry and hiking information, waterproof, tear resistant, folded. \$9.95

**USGS Topographic Maps** Scale 1:24,000, 7.5 minute quads. Paper, rolled. \$4.00 each.

Kanarrville, Kolob Arch, Kolob Reservoir, Cogswell Point, Smith Mesa, Guardian Angels, Temple of Sinawava, Clear Creek, Springdale West, Springdale East, The Barracks.

## Flash Floods



*This small flash flood took place in Oak Creek.*



*This entire sequence was photographed in less than ten seconds.*



*A hiker caught in this would not survive.*



*The sticks on top of this rock mark the depth of the last flash flood.*

# Leave No Trace

The Leave No Trace program promotes and inspires responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. The Leave No Trace message is more than a campaign for clean campsites. It's a program dedicated to building awareness, appreciation, and most of all, respect for our public recreation places. Leave No Trace is about enjoying the great outdoors while traveling and camping with care.

## Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

### Plan Ahead and Prepare

Be prepared. Don't forget clothes to protect you from adverse weather conditions. Here in Zion National Park, it is very important to protect yourself from the summer heat. Take plenty of water (one gallon per person per day) and drink it. The signs of dehydration are headache, weakness, nausea, vomiting, and cramping. In the colder months, have lots of warm wool or synthetic clothes and a good sleeping bag. Carry maps

and know how to use them. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Learn about the areas you are planning to visit by reading books and talking to others.

### Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Stay on the main trail and walk single file to protect vegetation. Keep natural areas looking natural by steering clear of flowers, cryptobiotic soil crusts, and small trees. Once damaged, they might never grow back. Use existing camp areas and keep your camp small. Camp at least 100 big steps and out of view of roads, trails, and most importantly, water sources. Your campsite should not compact vegetation.

### Dispose of Waste Properly

Carry your trash out of the backcountry and dispose of it in a proper trash can or dumpster, or take it home with you. Leave the site cleaner than you found it. Urinate away from drainages. Bury human waste in a small hole 4-8

inches deep and 100 big steps from water. Put your toilet paper in a plastic bag and carry it out. You may wish to try the Restop 2, described on page 5. Keep water clean by not putting human waste, soap, food, or trash in water sources.

### Leave What You Find

Treat resources with respect. If you find something really interesting, enjoy it; please leave it there so others may enjoy it. The best way to remember is to take pictures. Find a campsite that someone else has already used. Don't dig trenches in your campsite or alter it in any way.

### Minimize Campfire Impacts

Campfires are not allowed anywhere in the Zion backcountry. Use a gas-fueled stove for cooking. In established frontcountry campgrounds you may have a fire in the fire ring provided. Bring your firewood with you; firewood gathering is prohibited in the park. Be sure that your fire is out and cold before you leave and scatter

the ashes. Please be careful with all fire.

### Respect Wildlife

Watch wildlife from a distance and don't approach, feed, or follow them. Feeding wildlife human food is unhealthy and is illegal. Protect wildlife and your food by storing your meals and trash tightly. Pets are not allowed in the backcountry of Zion National Park.

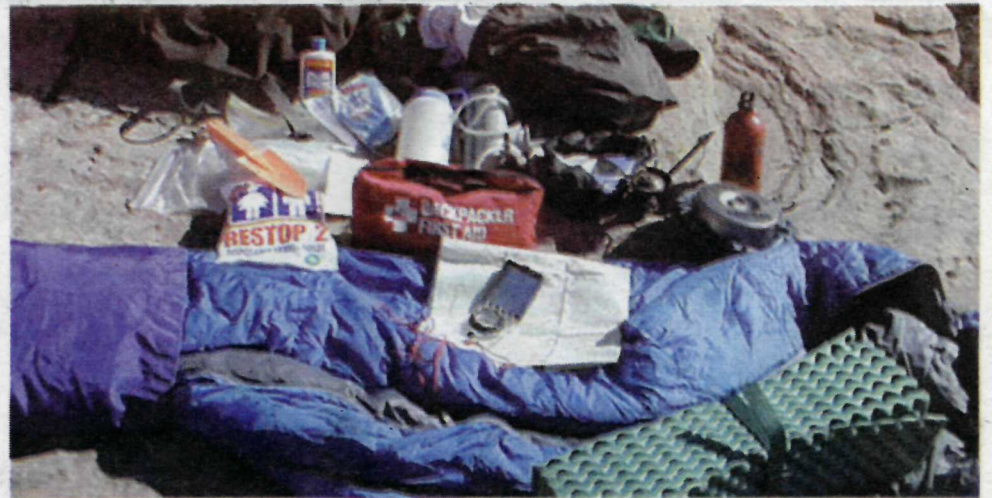
### Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Like you, other visitors are here to enjoy nature. The fun you have should not bother anyone else. If you meet horses on the trail, step downhill and speak softly until they pass. Avoid yelling and making loud noises, especially in the narrow slot canyons here in Zion National Park.

To learn more about the nationwide Leave No Trace program, call (800) 332-4100 or on the web at [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).



Camp on durable surfaces



Be prepared.



Carry map and compass and know how to use them.



Bury human waste.

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