

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAROLD L. ICKES, Secretary
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ARNO B. CAMMERER, Director

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK
UTAH

GENERAL INFORMATION

Bryce Canyon National Park, located in south central Utah, is an area of 55 square miles set aside by Acts of Congress approved June 7, 1924, and February 25, 1928, and is administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. It has within its boundaries spectacular portions of the Pink Cliffs, which are the uppermost of the varicolored series of cliffs extending across the plateau region of southern Utah and northern Arizona. Although known by the name of Bryce Canyon, it is actually not a canyon but a long line of intricately eroded "breaks" where the Paunsaugunt Plateau, at an elevation of 8,000 to 9,000 feet above sea level, breaks off into the Paria Valley 1,000 to 3,000 feet below. These breaks, known as the Pink Cliffs, are eroded into a series of bowl-shaped amphitheaters, of which there are at least fourteen within the park boundaries. The largest of these amphitheaters is known as Bryce Canyon, in honor of Ebenezer Bryce, a pioneer Mormon cattleman who settled near its mouth in 1875. The Paiute Indians knew it by several names, the two most descriptive being "Anka-Tompi-wawitz-pokitch", meaning "many red rocks in a hole", and "Anka-kw-was-a-wits", meaning "red painted faces".

HOW TO SEE THE PARK

The roads leading to Bryce Canyon National Park across level plateaus and valleys give but little hint of the beauty ahead, and the first glimpse of the varicolored and grotesquely carved formations is breath taking. This first view is best obtained by stopping at Bryce Canyon Lodge and walking a short distance out to the rim; another favorite spot is Sunset Point, just beyond the Lodge. To appreciate the park fully it should be seen from several points at different times during the day, particularly at sunrise and sunset. Sight-seeing trips may be made by motor, by horseback, or on foot.

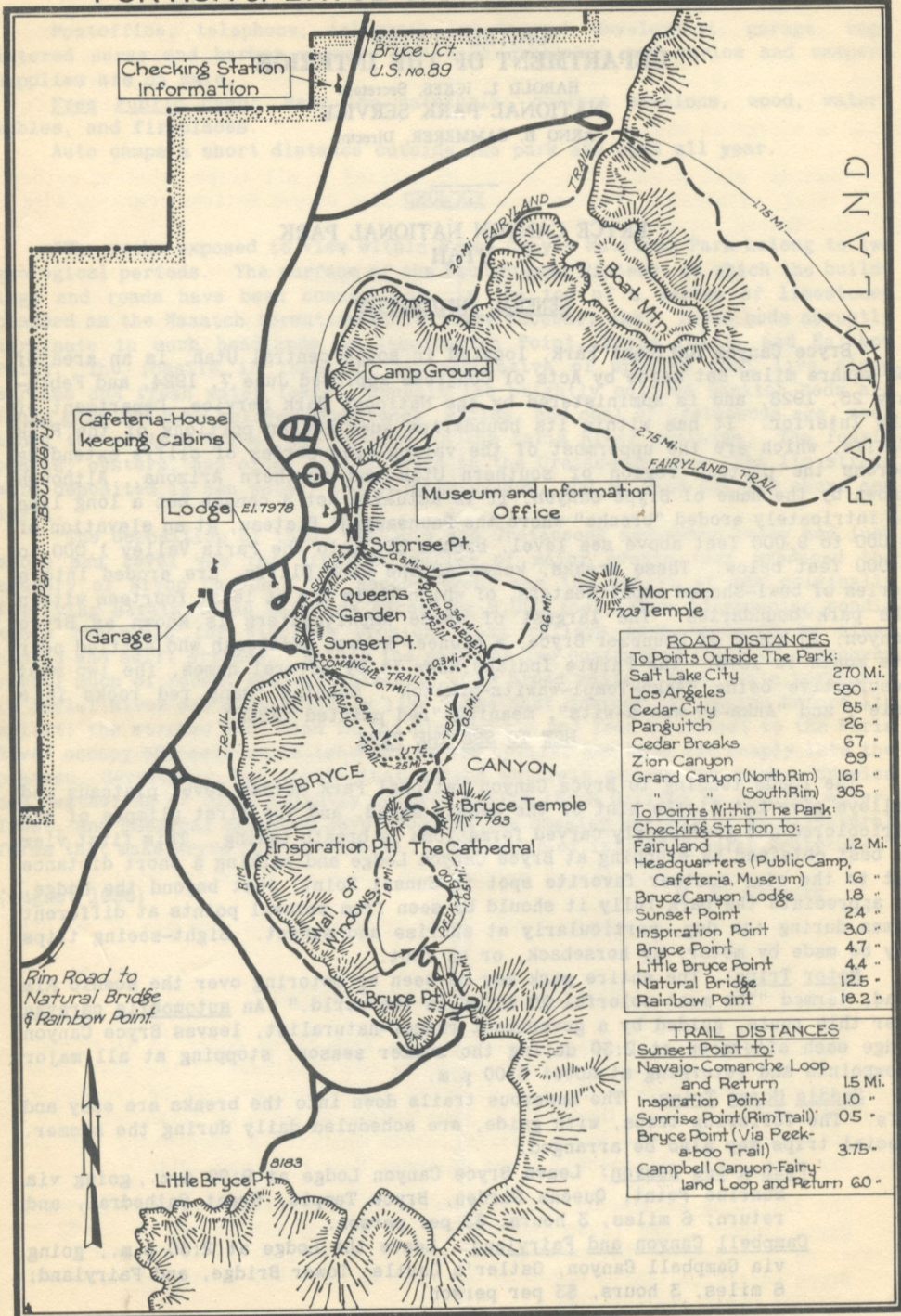
Motor Trips: The entire park may be seen by motoring over the scenic Rim Road, termed "the most colorful 20 miles in the world." An automobile caravan over this route, guided by a government ranger-naturalist, leaves Bryce Canyon Lodge each afternoon at 2:30 during the summer season, stopping at all major viewpoints and returning at about 5:00 p.m.

Saddle Horse Trips: The numerous trails down into the breaks are easy and safe. The following trips, with guide, are scheduled daily during the summer. Special trips may also be arranged.

Peek-a-boo Canyon: Leave Bryce Canyon Lodge at 9:00 a.m., going via Sunrise Point, Queens Garden, Bryce Temple, Great Cathedral, and return; 6 miles, 3 hours, \$3 per person.

Campbell Canyon and Fairyland: Leave the Lodge at 2:30 p.m., going via Campbell Canyon, Ostler's Castle, Tower Bridge, and Fairyland; 6 miles, 3 hours, \$3 per person.

PORTION OF BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK



Checking Station
Information

Bryce Jct.
U.S. no 89

Cafeteria-House
keeping Cabins

Lodge
El. 7978

Museum and Information
Office

Garage

Mormon
7793 Temple

ROAD DISTANCES	
To Points Outside The Park:	
Salt Lake City	270 Mi.
Los Angeles	580 "
Cedar City	85 "
Panguitch	26 "
Cedar Breaks	67 "
Zion Canyon	89 "
Grand Canyon (North Rim)	161 "
" (South Rim)	305 "
To Points Within The Park:	
Checking Station to:	
Fairyland	1.2 Mi.
Headquarters (Public Camp, Cafeteria, Museum)	1.6 "
Bryce Canyon Lodge	1.8 "
Sunset Point	2.4 "
Inspiration Point	3.0 "
Bryce Point	4.7 "
Little Bryce Point	4.4 "
Natural Bridge	12.5 "
Rainbow Point	18.2 "

TRAIL DISTANCES	
Sunset Point to:	
Navajo-Comanche Loop and Return	15 Mi.
Inspiration Point	1.0 "
Sunset Point (Rim Trail)	0.5 "
Bryce Point (Via Peek- a-boo Trail)	3.75 "
Campbell Canyon-Fairy- land Loop and Return	6.0 "

Rim Road to
Natural Bridge
& Rainbow Point.



Little Bryce Pt.
8183

Hikes: Hikers will find all trails in Bryce well marked, and the cool climate makes them pleasant at any time. A small canteen of water should be taken on the longer trips. The most popular short trip is over the Comanche-Navajo Trails. A naturalist conducts a guided hike over this route, leaving Sunset Point at 9:00 a.m. each morning during the summer season, and returning to the same point about 11:00 a.m.; a loop trip of one and one-half miles, for which no charge is made.

Cameras, with extra films, should be carried on all trips, whether motor-ing, riding, or hiking. Professionals rate Bryce Canyon National Park as ideal for photography, especially in color.

MUSEUM AND LECTURE SERVICE

A small museum, located near the cafeteria, is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. It offers interesting exhibits of the natural features of the region, as well as information and lost and found service.

Lectures on some phase of Bryce natural history are given by ranger naturalists each evening beginning at 8:30 at the public campground, and also at Bryce Canyon Lodge in connection with the evening entertainment. At Sunset Point a short geology talk is given daily at 9:00 a.m. preceding the morning hike.

ADMINISTRATION AND RULES

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

Briefed regulations are as follows:

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 viewpoints.
3. Parking permitted in designated areas, and for short periods on road-sides. Drive only on regular travel ways.
4. Camping and lunching permitted only in the public auto camp near the cafeteria.
5. Picking of flowers and defacing of trees or rocks are strictly pro-hibited.
6. Dogs are to be kept on leash, or in cars or cabins, and are not allowed on the trails.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The park is open to travel continuously from about April 15 to November 15; it is also accessible to motorists during the remainder of the year except for possible short periods during and after winter storms. It is reached via Utah Highway No. 12 which leaves U. S. 89 seven miles south of Panguitch. It is reached by rail over the Union Pacific which operates a subsidiary bus line each day from June 1 to October 1 out of Cedar City and Lund, Utah.

The following accommodations are available between June 1 and October 1:
Bryce Canyon Lodge (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.

Bryce Cafeteria (Early May-late October) Tents, 75¢; housekeeping cabins, \$2 to \$2.75; meals average 75¢.

Postoffice, telephone, telegraph, photograph development, garage, registered nurse and barber service are also available and curios and campers supplies are on sale.

Free Public Camp: Near the cafeteria; comfort stations, wood, water, tables, and fireplaces.

Auto camps a short distance outside the park are open all year.

GEOLOGY

"The rocks exposed to view within Bryce Canyon National Park belong to two geological periods. The surface of the Paunsaugut Plateau, on which the buildings and roads have been constructed, is the top of a series of limestones classed as the Wasatch formation of Tertiary (Eocene) age. These beds abruptly terminate in such headlands as Inspiration Point, Bryce Point, and Rainbow Point. The fossils in them are representative of species that live along streams and fresh water lakes. Beneath the brightly colored Wasatch beds are found gray and drab colored sandstones, shales, and coal of Cretaceous age, seen along the eastern border of the park in the Paria River drainage. The fossil plants, oysters, and other shells found in the Cretaceous show that its strata were deposited in sea water, in brackish swamps, and on land not far above sea level.

"The deposition of these Tertiary and Cretaceous sediments below and just above sea level was the first in series of major events that produced the scenery of Bryce Canyon. The second event was the uplift of the originally low-lying strata to an altitude exceeding 8,000 feet, thus introducing conditions favorable for vigorous erosion; flat valleys were replaced by steep slopes and swift streams. Within the park the two contrasted types of streamway reveal much of recent geologic history. The broad valleys that drain northward to Sevier River are substantially like those that drained the region before its uplift; the streams that head in the plateau rim and lead southwest to the Paria River occupy channels established after the uplift, and have cut deeply into the plateau, developing the cliffs that extend entirely across the park. Erosion and weathering of these brightly colored cliffs (Pink Cliffs) by running water, frost, and chemical agencies have produced the amazing variety of architectural forms that make Bryce Canyon a unique illustration of intricate earth sculpture."

(August 1936)

H. E. Gregory.