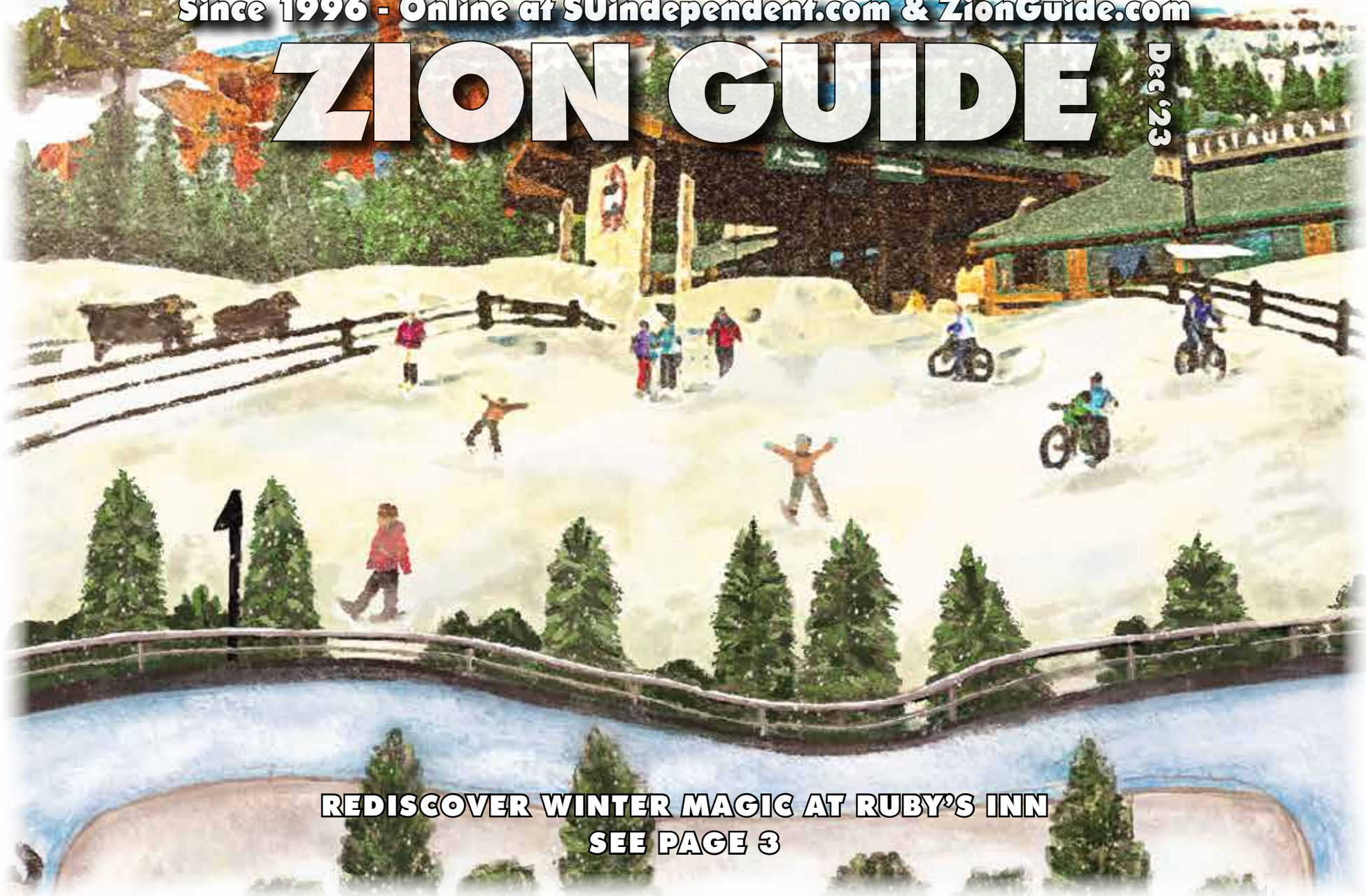


THE INDEPENDENT

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ZION GUIDE

Dec '23



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REDISCOVER WINTER MAGIC AT RUBY'S INN

This winter, as the world rushes toward downhill ski resorts in search of adrenaline and expensive thrills, you may find yourself drawn to a different, more nostalgic path. Follow this feeling and discover Ruby's Inn. Ruby's offers a unique and affordable alternative for families to relive the warmth of simpler times and make cherished memories that will last a lifetime. At Ruby's Inn, step into a storybook winter adventure that will linger in your heart long after the snow has melted.



Come and join our family at Ruby's Inn, nestled against the breathtaking backdrop of Bryce Canyon National Park. Let us transport you to a bygone era when holiday vacations were about togetherness and simplicity rather than expenses and frivolity.



One of the main attractions of Ruby's Inn during the winter is our proximity to the magnificent Bryce Canyon National Park. Instead of crowded ski slopes, we invite you to immerse yourself in the tranquility of a pristine winter landscape. Picture yourself surrounded by snow-draped hoodoos at sunrise, the cold air filling your lungs, and the surreal beauty of the vistas taking your breath away.

At Ruby's, we provide a chance to rediscover the delight of old-fashioned winter activities. Whether it's ice skating on our new Ice Ribbon or traversing through

Bryce Canyon on snowshoes, we help you go back in time when winters were simpler and more authentic. For a more active adventure, take your family on a journey along our 30 miles of cross-country skiing trails across our sprawling property, all for free. There's no need for fancy equipment or costly lift passes; all you need is an open heart and a spirit of adventure. Left your skis at home? Not to worry: our Winter Adventure Center has affordable equipment rentals for every activity.

And don't miss out on Ruby's Winter Warmer Deal, a heartfelt gift from our fam-



ily to yours. If you choose to stay with us for two nights or more between November 6th and March 9th, 2024, you'll enjoy 33% off per night, ensuring that your dollar takes you further than ever.

Ruby's Inn is more than just a destination; it's an invitation to rediscover the magic of winter in a simpler, more meaningful way. True winter magic lies in the beauty of the moment and the warmth of connection, and we invite you to join our family in experiencing it.

We can't wait to see you, at Ruby's Inn.



EDITOR'S LETTER

By James McFadden



The Holidays are a great reminder each year of the importance of family, togetherness, and shared experiences which bind us together and enrich our lives. They are also a great time for reconciliation for those moments in our lives that are not so perfectly handled or understood at the time.

Steeped in tradition, the Holidays offer a unique opportunity for family members to come together, strengthen bonds, and create new and lasting memories. This togetherness is vital, offering a sense of belonging and continuity. Family traditions, whether you're simply sharing a meal, decorating, or

participating in religious activities, foster a sense of unity and identity, creating a bond that transcends the individual and connects generations together.

The holiday season also presents an opportunity for reconciliation. It's a time when grievances and misunderstandings can be put aside in favor of forgiveness and understanding. This period encourages reflection and offers a chance for family members to reach out, communicate openly, and resolve conflicts that might have created rifts during the year.

Shared experiences and memories are also vital. Creating shared memories is another important aspect of family gather-



ings during the holidays. These memories become part of the family's legacy, passed down through stories and traditions. They serve as a reminder of the family's history and values, reinforcing the bond between family members as stories are shared and remembered together.

It's all of this and the strength we can receive from those we love that makes this season the most warming for me. Families can provide a support system that can't be found anywhere else. For those facing challenges, be it emotional, health-related, or financial, the family unit offers a comforting space for support and encouragement. The holidays remind us of the importance of being there for each other, not just in times of celebration but also in times of need.

This season, I hope you take a little extra time to embrace the spirit of family, cherish the moments we have together, and foster the bonds that tie us, making our family units stronger and more resilient is how we can bring change to the world around us and I don't know

about you, but I sure could use a little change for the better in my life...

So from our families here at the Independent to yours at home, we hope your holidays are filled with love, memories, and reconciliation.

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EVENTS

MAKE YOUR WINTER MAGICAL – VISIT BEST FRIENDS!

Southern Utah is gorgeous any time of year, but there's something really special about visiting in the winter. With fewer tourists and snow on the stunning red rocks, you'll have more time and space to explore all the fantastic attractions in the area.

At the top of the list is Best Friends



Animal Sanctuary, located just outside Kanab, Utah, and in close proximity to Zion and Bryce National Parks. Best Friends cares for about 1,600 animals on any given day and offers free visitor and volunteer experiences at every level. It's the dogs, cats, horses, bunnies, pigs, goats, and more that attract visitors for the first time. But it's the sense of community, the beautiful ambiance, and the peaceful energy of the

Sanctuary that keep people coming back.

Lodging can be found on-site in one of the Sanctuary's several cabins and cottages that offer views of horse pastures and starry skies, or at the organization's hotel the Best Friends Roadhouse & Mercantile, in downtown Kanab, winner of the 2022 and 2023 Best Motel Award and the 2023 Best of the Best Hospitality Trophy from Best of State Utah.

Designed as the most pet-centric hotel in the country, the Roadhouse extends the Sanctuary experience by offering guests sleepovers of Sanctuary dogs, cats, and bunnies or offers a warm welcome to your own pets. What's more, every stay benefits the lifesaving work of Best Friends Animal Society. Now through February 29, guests can save by staying 3 nights and getting the 4th night free (must mention promo at time of booking).

The Roadhouse is just five miles away from the Sanctuary, where visitors can see and experience Best Friends' lifesaving work in action, while volunteers have the potential for such activities as socializing puppies or bunnies, feeding popcorn to pigs, taking a cat on a stroller ride, taking a dog for a walk, playing with kittens or taking select pets on a sleepover.

What began as a dream by its co-founders in 1984 to save homeless pets, Best Friends' Sanctuary has grown from endless acres of rustic land formerly used as dinosaur stomping grounds and a backdrop for Western movies into a national organization that's working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters.

However long you plan to visit Kanab – a few hours, days, or even weeks – you won't want to miss the magic of the Best Friends experience. Visit bestfriends.org or call (435) 688-2327 to learn more about the Sanctuary. To book a stay at the Roadhouse, visit bestfriendsroadhouse.org or call (435) 644-3400.

BUMBLEBERRY THEATER PRESENTS UPLIFTING HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

The Bumbleberry Theatre in Springdale, Utah is excited to be hosting some fantastic events during the upcoming holiday season.

A Joshua Creek Christmas

December 9th, Saturday 7 PM. \$15 per person.

Celebrate the Christmas spirit with Joshua Creek as they sing the songs of the season. Join in as Joshua Creek brings us the Christmas spirit. Enjoy song written storytelling with a collection of traditional and original Christmas songs, making this a great gift or date night to nurture the Christmas spirit. Visit www.joshuacreek-music.com for more information and to purchase tickets for the show.

Casey Lofthouse and Friends Christmas Concert

December 13th, Wednesday 7PM. \$15 per person.

A night of classic Country Christmas music featuring the talented musicians John Houston, Layne Benson, Drew Williams, Shawn Olsen, and Joe Costello.

A Juniper City Christmas

December 16th, Saturday 7 PM. \$15 per person.

Come join us at Bumbleberry Theater as we invite Juniper City to bring in the Christmas Spirit with their music. One of the best bands in Southern Utah will entertain you and bring joy to the season.

Juniper City plays a diverse mix of rock covers including classics from Floyd, Zep, Petty, and 90's alternative rock. Juniper City also has an impressive set of original music that has been described as "highly infectious".

A New Year's Eve, Eve Party with Celebration Band

December 30th, Saturday 7 PM. Free.

Celebration Band is a ten piece "horn band", with a dedicated sound engineer, composed of some of Southern Utah's best musicians. The band specializes in playing a variety of musical genres across several decades, including Rock, Pop, R&B, Blues, Funk, and even a little Country and Disco. You will enjoy hearing the band cover songs by such artists as Amy Winehouse, Etta James, Huey Lewis and the News, The Blues Brothers, Blood Sweat and Tears, Kool And The Gang, Toni Braxton, Reba McEntire, BB King, Alicia Keys and many others.

Visit www.bumbleberry.com for information and to purchase tickets.



"A TUNA CHRISTMAS" UNWRAPS AT THE ELECTRIC THEATER!

Get Ready to Deck the Halls with *Laughter* December 16, 20, 21, and 23, 2023.

The Stage Door is unwrapping a festive treat this holiday season with its uproarious production of "A Tuna Christmas" at The Electric Theater. Starring the comedic maestros Josh Scott and Tristan Griffin, and directed by the talented Jalee Scott, this show is your ticket to a side splitting holiday extravaganza.

"A Tuna Christmas" a hilarious comedy written by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard. Set in the fictional town of Tuna, Texas, the play unfolds the outrageous events surrounding the town's annual Christmas Yard Display Contest. Dive into the holiday mayhem of Tuna, where Christmas Yard Displays are taken more seriously than fruitcake.

The 22 zany characters, all played with impeccable comedic timing by Scott and Griffin, promise an evening of non-stop laughter and holiday cheer. Josh Scott, our very own artistic director, will be juggling more characters than Santa has presents, while Tristan Griffin, the rising star with more charm than a mistletoe, will have

you in stitches faster than you can say, "Grandma got run over by a reindeer."

Director Jalee Scott is the mastermind behind the madness, ensuring that this holiday spectacle is more fun than a snowball fight at the North Pole. With her unique vision, she's transforming The Electric Theater into a winter wonderland of laughter and holiday cheer.

Mark your calendars for December 16, 20, 21, and 23, at 7:30 PM, with a 2 PM matinee on Saturday, December 23, because these are the nights when Tuna, Texas, meets St. George in a collision of Christmas craziness. Whether you've been naughty or nice, this show promises a hilarious escape from the holiday hustle and bustle.

Tickets are flying off the shelves faster than fruitcake at a regifting party, so grab yours now! You can snag them online at stagedoorutah.com or call 435-656-4407. Don't be a Grinch—join us for a night of festive fun, and let's make this holiday season the jolliest one yet!



INAUGURAL TWINKLING TINSEL TALENT SHOW AT KAYENTA

December 14 - 16 and December 20, 2023.

The Center for the Arts at Kayenta proudly announces their inaugural "Twinkling Tinsel Talent Show" this holiday season. This event aims to celebrate the vibrant talents within our community and spread joy through a showcase of local performers. As part of our commitment to nurturing and supporting artistic endeavors, the talent show is set to highlight a diverse array of talents, promising evenings of entertainment and celebration.

The event will unfold in two stages: preliminary evenings on December 14, 15, and 16, starting at 7:30 pm, leading up to the grand finale on December 20 at 7:30 PM. Each preliminary evening will feature a selection of acts demonstrating a spectrum of skills and artistic holiday flair, with the top ten acts proceeding to the grand finale.

The Twinkling Tinsel Talent Show is set to be an exciting and engaging experience for both participants and the audience,

with the charismatic John Yohman serving as the evening's host, guiding us through these memorable performances. You never know what special holiday surprises might happen each evening, perhaps even a very special visitor.

Not only will this event serve as a platform to spotlight the incredible talents found in our community, but it will also reward the exceptional performers. The first-place winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,000, while the second-place winner will be awarded \$500.

Tickets for the preliminary evenings and the finale are now available for purchase on our website kayentaarts.org. A schedule of events each evening will become available closer to the event. Don't miss this opportunity to witness the holiday magic of local talent and support your favorite performers!

"We are thrilled to host the Twinkling Tinsel Talent Show and provide a stage for our community's incredible talents. This event is a celebration of art, entertainment, and the spirit of the holiday season," said Brianna Rosia, Marketing Manager at the Center for the Arts at Kayenta.

Join us for an enchanting display of local talent this holiday season and be a part of this exciting inaugural event! For more information and ticket purchases, visit kayentaarts.org or call 435.674.2787.

Join us for a magical holiday spectacular!



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EVENTS

THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS STORIES

December 21, 22, and 23 at 7 PM in Cedar City.

The SimonFest Theatre Company presents *The Greatest Christmas Stories*, an evening of Yuletide tales told in word, song, and dance. Master Storyteller, Richard Bugg, heads a talented ensemble that brings to life many of the greatest Christmas stories and songs ever written — a charming and life-affirming treat for the entire family.

“I grew up in a storytelling household. I wish to pass on that legacy and share my love for the spoken word,” proclaims Bugg, founder and Executive producer of the company. “Together with my very skilled company, we will bring to life through word and song, (and occasionally audience participation,) the great stories of Christmas. The only thing missing will be the campfire.”

Dickens, Moore, Luke, Dahl, and many other great authors and songwriters will be a part of the evening’s mix.



Richard Bugg was trained at the National Theatre Conservatory where he earned his Master of Fine Arts in Acting. He has taught acting at the University level for 34 years and he started the SimonFest Theatre group in 2003. He is both a stage and screen actor and the author of a Christmas book entitled “Let Me Come In. Bugg is often asked to read stories at schools in the area.

“This is our Christmas card ‘to kids from one to ninety-two,’” chimes in Alyson King Wheeler, SimonFest Artistic Director. “We are taking such great delight in these stories, that we know our audience will too.”

The Greatest Christmas Stories will play at the Heritage Center Theater in Cedar City December 21, 22, and 23 at 7 PM. For tickets visit SimonFest.org or call 435-267-0194.

ZION VINEYARDS TURNS SOUTHERN UTAH INTO WINE COUNTRY

By Michael B. Jackson

Welcome to Utah Wine Country at Zion Vineyards. The Tasting Room has been Open for Business for six months now. A Boutique Winery where a Tasting is \$25 for 5, 1 oz pours. They have had guests from all over the world come into the tasting room to enjoy their wines, and the response has been fantastic, including folks from France, New York, Canada, and California who have purchased their wines to take home. Proving Utah can produce some Great Wines. Wine and People do better with a bit of struggle, and it breeds Strong Character.

The Tempranillo Reserve drinks are like a full-bodied Napa Valley Cabernet, the Cabernet Sauvignon 2020, Bold and full-bodied, and a semi-sweet Moscato. So, come and visit them at 5 Hidden Valley Rd in Leeds, Utah, just off the I-15, 12 miles North of St George. Select them in Google Maps, and it will bring you right to their front door. Gift Baskets are available for the Holidays, and they are so much better than fruitcakes.

This from Owner and Vintner Michael B. Jackson; yes, it’s his real name.

“Utah can easily be considered the most picturesque State in America. There are five National Parks within its borders for a reason, and the landscape offers an endless canvas for any individual to paint their dreams. My dream was to combine my love of the natural wonders of Southern Utah with my love of amazing wines, so I created Zion Vineyards. The State’s limited precipitation, long growing season, and unique soils offer a promising outlook for



The Owner and Vintner, Michael Jackson, thinks of this as his Legacy. He has had a love of wine for most of his life, and this is a fulfilled dream. Their Winemaker, Robert Cec, has created some amazing wines—reds with a depth of character and bold style and whites with low acidity and balance. Since Labor Day, four new Wines have been added to the Tasting Menu—the Miscela Rossa, a full-bodied and well-balanced Red Blend in the Tuscan

locally produced wine with an unmatched complexity and smoothness best uncovered by Zion Vineyards selections.

The rugged desert environment, together with our spirit of craftsmanship and experimentation, consistently presents us with wines that hold deep character and complex notes that personify the enthusiasm of our team and the resilience of our vines.”

Come on out for a Visit!

8TH ANNUAL ST GEORGE JAZZ FESTIVAL

Featuring Saxophonist Sal Lozano – February 9-10, 2024.

The 8th Annual St George Jazz Festival returns with wonderful concerts and informative clinics. LA-based saxophonist Sal Lozano will be the featured guest artist for this year’s festival. All events will take place on the campus of Utah Tech University.

Lozano is featured in performance at the Eccles Fine Arts Center on Saturday February 10, backed by the Rebel Jazz Band. Lozano is an educator at California State University Long Beach and in constant demand for performances nationwide, most notably with the Tom Kubis Big Band and Gordon Goodwin’s Big Phat Band. A few of the artists he has recorded with include Paul McCartney, Natalie Cole, John Legend, Lady Gaga, Stevie Wonder, Michael Buble, and Maynard Ferguson.

“You’ve heard Lozano on Dancing with the Stars, La La Land, and The Incredibles. Now come here him



live at our festival” St George Jazz Artistic Director Glenn Webb says.

The festival will feature a Live and Local evening on Friday February 9, 2024. This will feature many of the exciting local jazz musicians that perform in the area. The 7:30 PM concert will include performances by the St George Jazz All Stars, the Sweet and Spicy Jazz-tet, and the George Staheli Memorial Jazz Band.

Educational clinics are presented free for students and the public on Saturday Feb 10th. Lozano will present a clinic at 2pm in the Eccles Mainstage Theater on the Utah Tech campus. Other clinics are provided by members of the Rebel Jazz Band at 11 AM on Saturday.

Tickets for the showcase concert featuring Sal Lozano are available online at UtahTech.edu/ticket-office. Tickets are \$20 General Admission. Tickets for the Friday Live and Local night are \$10.

BEST FRIENDS ROADHOUSE AND MERCANTILE

Magical winter getaways

Winter is magical in southern Utah. Come hike Kanab’s snowy red rocks, tour Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, and enjoy a very warm welcome at Best Friends Roadhouse & Mercantile for both you and your pet. Don’t have a pet? We’re happy to arrange a sleepover with a Sanctuary dog, cat or bunny!

Book your stay at bestfriendsroadhouse.org or 435-644-3400.

Best of State Utah Awards
Best Motel, 2022 & 2023
Best of the Best in Hospitality, 2023



EVENTS

**ERIC RAMSEY
- BLUES
GUITAR
SHOWCASE**

January 11, 2024 – 7 PM at the Rockville Community Center.

So, who IS Eric Ramsey, anyway?

Eric is the Winner of the International Blues Challenge as well as the Memphis Cigar Box Guitar Award for the outstanding guitarist in the Solo/Duo Category. He's a three-time Champion of the Phoenix Blues Society's Blues Showdown, a two-time Finalist at the Telluride Blues Challenge. He's a Winner of the Stefan George Memorial Songwriting Contest sponsored

by the Tucson Folk Festival, Winner of the Peoples' Choice Award at the Wildflower Arts and Music Festival, a Finalist in the Al Johnson Songwriting Competition, and has been tapped for the prestigious Songwriter's

Showcase produced by Tempe Center for the Arts, filmed for PBS distribution. He's been a 4x featured performer at the Dripping Springs (TX) Songwriter's Festival, has garnered numerous accolades for his song-



writing, and performs at concerts and festivals nationwide.

Eric is a perennial favorite on the Folk and Blues Festival circuits, not only for his dynamic, engaging performances but for his open tuning and slide guitar workshops as well.

With soaring vocals and organic arrangements, Eric's original compositions reflect his musical influences, but come from a place all their own. He writes from experience about the human condition - stark, at times sensitive, at times humorous, always thought-provoking. His arrangements and delivery encompass a spectrum of styles, from delicate fingerpicking to raucous, bluesy bottleneck slide.

Eric lives in the Phoenix area with his patient, long-suffering wife, three kids, and four dogs of indeterminate pedigree. He can often be found in the garage, where his family prefer, he practices.

Tickets are just \$15 per person. Visit www.zarts.org for tickets. Rockville Community Center - 43 E Main, Rockville, UT. Presented by Z-Arts, the Zion Canyon Arts & Humanities Council.

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EVENTS

BUCKSKIN TAVERN - SUCCESS IN REVIVAL

The Buckskin Tavern, an iconic local bar in Fredonia, Arizona, has continued to gain popularity and boasts 'the longest bar in Arizona' since its re-opening under new ownership in late April 2023.



After a fresh update to the classic 'dive bar' built in 1934 by a local family, the new owners have brought The Buckskin Tavern into the 21st century while keeping the original mystique and charm that has drawn patrons for close to 100 years.

'We have so much to offer here at the bar: 12 beers on draft; we like to focus on local Arizona breweries and have a couple of personal favorites on tap we've found while out and about tasting. Special Featured taps lately have been - Coronado Brewing Company (San Diego) - Weekend



Vibes, Second Chance Beer Co. (San Diego), and Maui Brewing Co. - Coconut Porter; 'the featured taps change as we discover new delicious brews in the expansive Craft beer market; so many fantastic tastes and options to be found' explained Lianne Kelly of The Buckskin Tavern. We carry a gluten-free beer, four different non-alcoholic Beers, ciders, seltzers, and an ever-growing fine wine list to enjoy.' Along with a vast array of great draft beers, import bottles, fine wine, and cocktails, The Buckskin Tavern sells package liquor, 'I've found a lot of visitors to the bar do not know what that entails; package liquor is retail liquor sales, 'booze to go' as we like to say and we have a solid selection of spirits, locally brewed beer, Modelo and good ol' classics available like Coors Banquet bottles.'

The Buckskin Tavern has a lineup of entertainment to keep locals and visitors alike relishing the welcome vibe, with Live Music offered on Saturday nights, Trivia Night and Karaoke on Thursdays, friendly Pool Tournaments, Sip n' Paints, and the popular Wine Education Tastings. We continually add and mix our events to keep the grins and laughter flowing.



We've also added food to our plate, no pun intended; the Buckskin Bites menu includes a Portobello sandwich, a pulled pork 'sammy,' and a variety of classic bar food to choose from. If you happen to be at The Buckskin on a lucky night, be sure to order the delicious Buck Burger & fries, a fantastic companion to a draft beer or a Vegan Hot Brat, notable, to say the least! Besides our Buckbites menu, The Buckskin Tavern has guest food trucks serving exceptional BBQ and woodfired pizzas. Order outside and bring it to the bar for all the best tastes.

'Honestly, we've got you covered for good times all around here at The Buckskin, no doubt about it!'

Make sure to check out us out at the-buckskintavern.com for all the merrymaking!

LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING

December 15, 2023

The Southern Utah Heritage Choir will hold its annual Christmas concert titled "Let Earth Receive Her King" at the M.K. Cox Performing Arts Center on the Utah Tech University campus on December 15, 2023, at 7:30 PM.

This event is part of their 30th concert season. Special guests, pianist Brandon Lee and vocalist Mackenzie Lee, will join the choir for this special performance, with tickets starting at \$14.

The program features grand choral arrangements of traditional and inspirational Christmas songs, including "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Carol of the Bells," and "Angels from the Realms of Glory." Brandon Lee is known for his impressive piano skills and has won over 40 piano competitions nationwide. The concert

will be the last at the Cox Performing Arts Center before its renovation in January 2024.

Correction - There was an error in last month's article regarding this performance. The Southwest Dance Group and the Snow Canyon H.S. Madrigals will not be performing; however, the Crimson Cliffs H.S. Chamber Choir will enhance the performance with a pre-show act.

For tickets to "Let Earth Receive Her King," or more information, go to HeritageChoir.org or the Cox Ticket Office on the Utah Tech campus.





KANE COUNTY HOSPITAL

Healing Happens Here



Kane County Hospital is proud to announce the opening of our new Senior Life Solutions Program!

Kane County Hospital's Senior Life Solutions is an intensive outpatient group therapy program designed to meet the unique needs of individuals, typically 65 and older, experiencing depression or anxiety related to life changes often associated with aging.

The program staff includes a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed therapists, a registered nurse, and other professionals dedicated to the emotional well-being of the seniors in our community.

Anyone can make a referral to the program. This includes self, family members, physicians, or other healthcare professionals.




Senior Life Solutions®

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ZION CANYON JOY TO THE WORLD

2023 ZION CANYON
HOLIDAY EVENTS

12/9/23 @ 7PM

LIGHT PARADE & SWEETS SOCIAL

PARADE STARTS ON CANYON SPRINGS DR, SR-9 TOWARD ZNP, LEFT ON LION BLVD. TO THE CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER. SWEETS SOCIAL AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER FOLLOWING PARADE (126 LION BLVD, SPRINGDALE)

12/16/23 @ 10AM

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

JOLLEY-GIFFORD CEMETERY, SPRINGDALE. WREATHS WILL BE PLACED ON VETERAN'S HEADSTONES FOLLOWING A SHORT CEREMONY

12/30/23 @ 6:30PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION & DRONE SHOW

AT THE CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER (126 LION BLVD, SPRINGDALE) COME ENJOY LINE DANCING & FOOD, CHAT WITH FRIENDS AND FOR THE FIRST TIME... WATCH THE **DRONE SHOW!!** DRONE SHOW STARTING AT 8PM!

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msturq@msn.com

MOVIES

- ★★★★★ - Amazing!
- ★★★★ - Good
- ★★★ - Decent
- ★★ - Poor
- ★ - Terrible

THE INDEPENDENT MOVIE REVIEW

By Adam Mast

THE HOLDOVERS (R)

★★★★½

“The Holdovers” stands high amongst 2023’s very best films.

Every now and again, a movie comes out of nowhere and sneaks up on you in all the right ways. “The Holdovers” is certainly one of those movies. In addition to being a wonderful throwback to 70s cinema, this is also an ode to some of the more thoughtful character-driven dramas of the late 80s and early 90s (think “Dead Poet’s Society” and “Scent of a Woman.”) What’s more, this is one of the best Christmas movies I’ve seen in quite some time.

In the 70s-set “The Holdovers,” cranky history teacher Paul Hunham is forced to



stay put at a prep school campus to look over a few students with nowhere to go during Christmas break. Eventually, he and grieving campus cook Mary Lamb (Da’vine Joy Randolph) find themselves developing a bond of sorts with Angus Tully (Dominic Sessa), a bright but often angry and defiant student with a bit of a chip on his shoulder. Throughout this turbulent Christmas break, layers are peeled away and certain truths are revealed. Truths that will all but force viewers to re-examine these multi-layered characters with a new pair of eyes.

As directed by Alexander Payne (“Election”) and written by David Hemington (a t.v. writer with episodes of “Black...ish” and “Bones” to his credit), “The Holdovers” is all about the tiny nuances. It’s a movie that feels authentic and lived in. It

also manages to be sentimental without being cloying. It’s certainly dark around the edges and even bittersweet at times but it’s always hopeful and it’s this attribute, along with the Christmastime setting and chilly New England backdrop, that add to its overall holiday-inspired tone.

Payne does an expert job with the direction delicately fashioning a mostly understated movie that walks several lines without crossing them. Of course, it helps that he has a trio of stellar leads in Giamatti, Randolph, and Sessa. While we’re on the topic of Giamatti, this is some of the best work of his career! Of course, he has the luxury of shorthand with Payne which should come as no surprise as they made beautiful cinematic music together in the form of the exceptional “Sideways” nearly 20 years ago but Hunham is a considerably different animal.

With Hunham, Giamatti has fashioned one of the most entertaining characters of the year. He’s a man that seems cold at the surface, but it’s clear that there’s a lot more to him than his body odor, his lazy eye, his sarcasm, and his curmudgeony ways. Look no further than the undeniably effective look on Hunham’s face when he quickly realizes that a sweet flirtation isn’t exactly what he initially thought it was. That simple look speaks more than 1000 words. Giamatti is just outstanding in this picture bringing subtlety, fire, and vulnerability in equal measure. Again, it’s some of his very best work.

Likewise, Randolph is a force to be reckoned with here. As the grief-stricken Mary, she brings a raw, emotional charge to “The Holdovers.” The pain she displays feels all too real but at the same time, she shows real toughness and a biting wit. In the end, I wouldn’t be at all surprised if Randolph is showered with much-deserved accolades during an upcoming awards season.

Rounding out this stellar trio is newcomer Sessa whose experience in theater has served him well as this is quite the big screen debut. As is the case with Hunham, there’s a reason for Tully’s hardened exterior and Sessa plays the proceedings beautifully. In fact, there were times throughout “The Holdovers” that he reminded me of a young Tom Hanks.

Simply put, Giamatti, Randolph, and Sessa have created three of 2023’s most memorable characters but as much as they excel as individuals, it’s their chemistry and interactions with one another that give this movie its big beating heart. “The Holdovers” is a movie about people, after all, and these are three characters I had absolutely no problem spending 135 minutes with.

Ultimately, this is a film that’s every bit as honest and poignant as it is heartfelt and thoughtful. Going in, I knew Payne and crew would bring the funny but what I didn’t expect was to walk away from this one with a great big lump in my throat. “The Holdovers” stands high amongst 2023’s very best films.

OPINION

UTAH WILL NEVER RUN OUT OF WATER

By Howard Sierer

How can this column’s title be correct? Most of us are all too aware that the Great Salt Lake is shrinking and that Colorado River flows have been declining for decades, effectively killing the Lake Powell pipeline. If Utah continues to grow at recent rates, where will we find the water needed to support continued growth?

The answer has been demonstrated by our neighboring state to the south. An article titled “Phoenix Is in No Danger of Running Out of Water” explains why even the hottest big city in the country, located in the midst of the Sonoran Desert, is in no danger of running out of water.

The state of Arizona uses about the same amount of water today as it did in the 1950s, this despite the fact that the state’s population is now seven times as large and its economy is 15 times as large. How did the state do it? As the Phoenix metropolitan area grew, it spread outward into the surrounding basin that contained much of the state’s farmland. In Arizona’s arid climate, farm acreage uses up to six times as much water as the housing subdivisions that replace it. Large swaths of this formerly agricultural lands were subdivided into residential areas, and water use per acre decreased.

The Central Arizona Project brings Colorado River water into the Phoenix and Tucson basins, recharging underground aquifers and, as a priority, providing drinking water to metropolitan areas. That priority, plus ongoing conservation measures, gives Phoenix water managers confidence that the metro area has sufficient residential water for the next 100 years.

Not so for farmers who still use 70% of the state’s water. The federal Bureau of Reclamation cut Arizona’s Colorado River water allocation by 20% in 2021, and farmers and ranchers were the first to feel the cuts. The hardest-hit farmers are in Pinal County, halfway between Phoenix and Tucson, where agriculture is slowly being replaced by solar panels and housing developments, a trend that reduces water demands.

Arizona’s topography differs from Utah’s in that the bulk of both its population and its agriculture are located in a single basin area. Nonetheless, Arizona’s experience provides an important example for Utah.

First and foremost, like Arizona, we live in an arid area requiring massive amounts of our limited water supplies to support farming. Our agriculture, like theirs, is a legacy from pioneer days when food had to be grown

locally.

Our state’s farmers and ranchers generate less than 1% of our state product, employ 2% of our workforce, yet use 82% of our water. While some of that water is used to produce locally-grown food and dairy products, a stunning 68% of our state’s water is used to irrigate alfalfa, a water-intensive crop that represents a minuscule 0.2% of our economy! And a significant fraction of that hay is exported to China, of all places.

We don’t have a statewide shortage of water; instead, we have to make decisions about how to use the water we have. In an interview with KSL, University of Utah Professor Daniel McCool said saving “just 10% of [agriculture’s water use] would solve a lot of our problems. Agriculture has so much water — and farmers get it so cheaply — that there’s no incentive to conserve.”

Most Utah agricultural water comes from mountain snow and is “free” to the many farmers, with water rights granted in the 19th century. McCool explains that traditional Western “use it or lose it” water laws discourage conservation.

Many Americans tend toward nostalgic feelings about the “family farm.” As a result, we often oppose societal and economic trends that appear to threaten the family farmer. These feelings persist despite the fact that while 41% of the nation’s workforce was employed in agriculture in 1900, only 1.9% is today. Our sentiments lead to political support for farmers but result in poor public policy choices.

It’s time for Utah to create a free market in water, one that allows farmers and ranchers to sell portions of their water rights to county and municipal water supply agencies without losing the balance of those rights. When they see that their water really is a marketable asset, water rights holders could make rational and cost-effective choices about which crops to raise, how much to plow (pun intended) into more efficient irrigation methods, or whether to abandon farming completely.

If we fail to incentivize farmers to make more of their water available, we have only two options. First, we could implement serious conservation measures that start with raising water rates for high-volume users to incentivize them to conserve. This option would allow construction to continue at today’s pace but only for a while and eventually would be constrained by the 18% of our water currently available to non-agricultural users. Alternatively, we could restrict the number of water taps allowed for new construction, which would put the brakes on population growth and dramatically downsize our construction industry.

As with too many public policy problems — even when they have obvious solutions — the government doesn’t act until a large segment of the public is impacted and ready for a change. Half measures like xeriscaping our yards will help, but only at the margins. Revising our water rights laws and applying steeply increasing rates for high-volume residential water users are doable. Then, we, like Phoenix, could have confidence in adequate water supplies for the next 100 years.

ERIC RAMSEY
BLUES GUITAR

WITH SOARING VOCALS AND ORGANIC ARRANGEMENTS, ERIC RAMSEY WRITES FROM EXPERIENCE ABOUT THE HUMAN CONDITION - STARK, AT TIMES SENSITIVE, AT TIMES HUMOROUS, ALWAYS THOUGHT-PROVOKING. HIS ARRANGEMENTS AND DELIVERY ENCOMPASS A SPECTRUM OF STYLES FROM DELICATE FINGERPICKING TO RAUCOUS, BLUESY BOTTLENECK SLIDE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, ERIC RAMSEY IS THE WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE AS WELL AS THE MEMPHIS CIGAR BOX GUITAR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GUITARIST IN THE SOLO/DUO CATEGORY. HE IS A THREE-TIME CHAMPION OF THE PHOENIX BLUES SOCIETY'S BLUES SHOWDOWN AND A TWO-TIME FINALIST IN THE TELLURIDE BLUES CHALLENGE.

THURSDAY - JANUARY 11, 2024 - 7:00PM
ROCKVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
43 E. MAIN, ROCKVILLE, UTAH
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12/30 Mesozoic • 7-10pm - Classic Rock
12/31 Gundy & the Gurus • NYE *10pm-1am

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CALENDAR

How To Use This Calendar: Begin by reviewing the 'Multi-Day Events' section to find specific dates or event types happening over multiple days. For weekly reoccurring events go to 'Events by Day.' Then explore 'Events By Date' for date-specific events. Enter your events for free at suindependent.com, click Calendar, then Add Event. Please verify events in advance due to events possibly being canceled, changed, or postponed.

Multi-Day Events

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT RED HILLS DESERT GARDEN Nov. 22-Jan. 1, 5 PM. A winter wonderland with thousands of lights and displays. Lights are on nightly until 10 p.m. Red Hills Desert Garden, 375 Red Hills Pkwy., St. George.

BACK INTO THE FUTURE Dec. 1-23, 7 PM. Join Rattlin' D Playhouse for an evening of big laughs, good food, and great music! The Rattlin' D Playhouse, 63 S. 100 W., Hurricane.

MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS DRAWING Dec. 2, 9, 16, 10 AM. Social Hall, 50 E. Center, Panguitch.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - A NEW MUSICAL Nov. 24-Dec. 12, 7:30 PMA Christmas Carol returns. Southern Utah's newest holiday tradition at the Electric Theater, starring some of the best young performers in St George. Come join us this holiday season at the Electric Theater. Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

SHE LOVES ME Dec. 1-16, 7:30 PM. She Loves Me is a euphoric romantic comedy with a soaring score. St. George Musical Theater, 212 N. Main St., St. George.

LAVERKIN CITY WINTER FEST Dec. 1-2, 4:30 PM. A winter festival promoted by LaVerkin. The first Fri. & Sat. of Dec. annually. All are invited! LaVerkin City Wanlass Park, 320 N. Main St., LaVerkin.

HOLIDAYS AT THE HOMESTEAD Dec. 6-9, 5:30 PM. Walk through our historic museum structures as they glow bright in the winter evening. Each building will be decorated with a themed tree and festive decorations. Including crafts, performers, Winter Wonderland, Santa, and more! Frontier Homestead State Park Museum, 635 N. Main, Cedar City.

NUTCRACKER BALLET Dec. 7-9, 7:30 PM. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

THE CASECRACKER: A NUTCRACKER MURDER MYSTERY! Dec. 7-9, 7:30 PM. The Caseracker is St George Dance Company's silly sequel to the classical story ballet, the Nutcracker, told through contemporary dance. Drama, intrigue, and murder threaten to ruin the festivities. Guess whodunnit and their motive, and you'll win a prize! Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct, Ivins.

CANYON VIEW HIGH: NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE Dec. 7-9, 7 PM. Canyon View High School, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

SUU FALL FACULTY DANCE CONCERT Dec. 7-9, 7:30 PM. A SUU Faculty-Choreographed Concert. Tickets are available at the Utah Shakespeare Festival Box Office and can be purchased in person a half-hour before each performance or by phone at 435 586-7878. Ticket prices vary, Students/Faculty/Staff: FREE with a valid I.D. Randall L. Jones Theatre, 300 W. Center St., Cedar City.

A TUNA CHRISTMAS Dec. 8, 9, 11, and 12, 7:30 PM. It's Christmas in the third-smallest town in Texas, a hilarious sequel to Greater Tuna. Radio station OKKK news personalities report on various Yuletide activities, including the hot competition in the annual lawn-display contest. Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH Dec. 8-9, 7:30 PM. An uplifting performance by the Southwest Symphony. Experience the timeless majesty of one of the greatest works of Western classical music. This beloved masterpiece tells the story of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through music. Cox Performing Arts Center, 325 S. 700 E., St. George.

MESQUITE TOES CHRISTMAS SHOW-VV COMMUNITY THEATER Dec. 8-9, 1 PM. Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca St., Mesquite.

A DIAMOND CHRISTMAS Dec. 14-16, 7 PM. Celebrate the holidays with an evening of dancing, singing, and Christmas magic. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S. 700 E., St. George.

WATCH THE RODEO LIVE FEED AT CASABLANCA Dec. 7-16, 5:45 PM. Watch the Rodeo Broadcast Live Feed in the Skydome Lounge! Free admission, must be 21 or older. Skydome Lounge, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

GEORGE STRAIT TRIBUTE AT CASABLANCA DEC. 15-16, 8:30 PM. Jack LeDuc and his band will present the best of George Strait. Purchase by phone at (800) 585-3737 or at the front desk. Must be 21 or older to attend. CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

LIGHTS AT THE HOMESTEAD Dec. 20-24, 5:30 PM. Enjoy a relaxing stroll through the park among the holiday lights and decorations. Frontier Homestead State Park Museum, 635 N. Main, Cedar City.

SIMONFEST: THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS STORIES Dec. 21-23, 7 PM. Master Storyteller, Richard Bugg, heads a talented ensemble that brings to life many of the greatest Christmas stories and songs ever written. Tickets available online at simonfest.org. Festival Hall/Heritage Center Conference Center, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CANYON AT TUACAHN AMPHITHEATRE Nov. 24-Dec. 23, 6 PM. Over 250,000 twinkling lights, a live nativity, train rides on The Tuacahn Express, and a visit from Santa Claus. Admission is free. Tuacahn's Cafe is open for dinner and treats! Tuacahn Amphitheatre, 1100 Tuacahn, Ivins.

UTAH GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION - UGWA CONFERENCE & EXPO Jan. 3-5. Mesquite.

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Events by Date

CALENDAR

TUACAHN EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE Nov. 24–Dec. 23, 6 PM. A narrated journey through the festive Tuacahn Loop with thousands of Christmas lights. Tickets for specific dates can be purchased in advance; however, ride times are not reserved. Tuacahn, 1100 Tuacahn, Ivins.

IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS Nov. 24–Dec. 22, 7:30 PM. A timeless story adapted for the stage full of dancing and laughter featuring Irving Berlin songs and the book by David Ives and Paul Blake. Tuacahn Amphitheatre, 1100 Tuacahn, Ivins.

DICKENS' CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL Dec. 1–3, 10 AM. Olde English shops, hundreds of period costumes, fortune tellers, orphans, royalty, and Father Christmas. Set in the Victorian Era. Dixie Center, 1835 Convention Center Dr., St. George.

NORTH POLE EXPRESS AT THUNDER JUNCTION Dec. 1–18, 6 PM. Celebrate the holidays at Thunder Junction! The Park will be filled with amazing lights and the spirit of the holiday. Tickets include access to the park, a visit with Santa, cookie decorating, hot cocoa, a holiday craft, and a ride on the North Pole Express. Thunder Junction All Abilities Park at Tonaquint Park, 1851 S. Dixie Dr., St. George.

GLEN GALLARDE PROJECT AT CASABLANCA Dec. 1–3, 7 PM. Showtimes may vary. Former Star Search vocalist Glenn Gallarde and the band, specializes in bringing a show of Top 40's, Dance and all Rock Anthems of the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and to the present day. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

THE RIDE AT CASABLANCA Dec. 6–10, 7 PM. Showtimes may vary. Singing a great variety of classic rock. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MOST WANTED AT CASABLANCA 7 PM. Nov. 22–26, Showtimes may vary. Playing classic rock, disco, oldies, and everything in between. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

TERRY WAYNE PROJECT AT CASABLANCA Dec. 20–24, 7 PM. Showtimes may vary. R&B, funk, dance, oldies, and classic rock. Free admission. 21 or older. Skydome Lounge, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MR. OK - LIVE AT VARIOUS VENUES 6 PM. Wednesday's & Saturday's - The Cliffrose Lodge, The Anthera Restaurant, 281 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. Thursdays and Sundays, Live at The Embers Restaurant at Under Canvas Zion. Under Canvas Zion, 3955 Kolob Terrace Rd., Virgin. Friday's - Zion Wildflower Resort, 100 Kolob Terrace Rd., Virgin. Rain or Shine (In good weather, on the patio - in bad weather, in the restaurant where space is sometimes limited). Mr. OK weaves unique groove stylings into classics and original tracks by way of beatbox, guitar, vocals, melodic, and occasional brass.

GUILD "GIFT OF ART SHOW" Nov. 17–Dec. 21. The Southern Utah Art Guild invites the public to its upcoming "Gift of Art" art show. Red Cliff Gallery, 220 N. 200 E., St. George.

KANAB ARTS BOARD FOURTH QUARTER EXHIBITION Oct. 19–Dec. 27, 9 AM. The Kanab Arts Board Fourth Quarter Exhibition is ongoing from October 19 to December 27, 2023, at the Kane County Hospital Lobby and Kanab City Library. Kane County Hospital, 355 Main St., Kanab.

THE MIGHTY FIVE: ZION NATIONAL PARK Dec. 1–Jan. 12. At this unique exhibition, you will see Zion through the artist's eyes. This incredible homage to Utah's first national park features works of art collected by the Sears Art Museum as well as select contemporary works from regional artists. Dolores Doré Eccles Fine Arts Center, 255 S 700 E, St. George.

PEOPLES, PLACES, & PONIES PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT Jan. 1–6, 10 AM. An exhibit that's all photography - whether it's color, black and white, abstract, or representational! Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

GREGG PETERSON BAND AT CASABLANCA Dec. 27–31, 7 PM. Showtimes may vary. Classic Rock, Variety, and dance band. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

KANE COUNTY HOSPITAL'S HEALING ARTS Featuring artists Camberly Brown Anderson, Fiona Duncan, Laura Wilson, Marc Joseph Supancich, and the late Nancy Vogel. Kane County Hospital, 355 Main St., Kanab.

CEDAR CITY DAUGHTERS OF UTAH MUSEUM 10 AM. We have Artifacts, Photos, and Histories of our Iron County Pioneer settlers who paved the way for our established communities of today. Tools, Clothing, Hats, Dolls, Furniture, Books, A Spinning Wheel, and Organ are on display. Cedar City Visitors Center, Cedar City Daughters of Utah Pioneer Museum, 581 N. Main St., Cedar City.

KARAOKE WITH "GAYLE LOUISE" 5 PM. Karaoke Funnnnn! with "Gayle Louise" Tuesday's and Wednesday's (702) 345-6747. PEGGY SUE'S DINER. 380 N. Sandhill Blvd., Mesquite.

TODDLER TIME 11 AM. Days/times vary. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

Events by Day

MONDAYS

STORY TIME WITH GRANDPA STEVE 10 AM. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

TUESDAYS

FRONTIER HOMESTEAD: CHILDREN'S STORY TIME 10 AM. Every Tuesday morning a Ranger will read a frontier-themed story and have fun with a corresponding take-home activity. Story Time is an opportunity for preschool children and their guardians to learn about the past through stories and history-related activities. This program is offered free to the public with help from the Visit Cedar City. Brian Head is recommended for preschool-aged children. Admission is FREE. Frontier Homestead, 635 N. Main St., Cedar City.

MAKE ART TUESDAYS 11 AM. Everyday is better when you make art! Join us every Tuesday from 11–Noon to create unique projects that you can take home. St. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

STORY TIME AT WASHINGTON BRANCH 11 AM. Washington County Library System, 220 N. 300 E., Washington.

TRAUMA & LOSS WOMEN'S GROUP 6 PM. Trauma & Loss Group for Women. 640 E. 700 S., STE 101, St. George.

THE GRACEFUL WOMAN 6:30 PM. Tuesday nights are now open to Women of all ages for a wonderful night of specialized teachings to empower, uplift, heal, strengthen and teach. Kundalini Yoga offers unique, transformative guidance for women to stay healthy both in body, mind and heart. Pregnant mamas are welcome, teenagers welcome, young and old are welcome! Fruit and Yogi Tea will be served after class. Bring your girlfriends, your daughters, your aunts, your mother and grandmother. By Donation \$5–\$11. Sage Hills Healing Center, 6232 W. Sage Hills Dr., Cedar City.

WEDNESDAYS

STORY TIME AT HURRICANE LIBRARY 11 AM. Washington County Library System, 36 S. 300 W., Hurricane.

GAMER CLUB 3 PM. Teens and 'tweens who love anime, gaming, or both meet for book discussions, games, and great times. Santa Clara Library, 1099 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

MIDVALLEY: FARMERS MARKET 4 PM. Come for live music, jump house, face painting, and more. Find some beautiful, original, and unique items for your loved one, all the crafters and artisans are local and everything is handmade by them. This is the perfect place to take a break midweek with your family, friends, and neighbors, have some dinner, listen to some music, and let the kids play in the jump house while you watch the sunset. This is a Project of The PEACE Guild - Text: 435 704-6916. 780 Midvalley Rd., Enoch.

KARAOKE AT BEAVER DAM BAR 5:30 PM. Every Wednesday with Gayle Louise (SAME TIME as Mesquite) (435) 229-9725. 411 Co Hwy. 91, Littlefield.

STORY TIME WITH MRS. MANN 10 AM. Washington County Library, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

SINGER'S CLUB LIVE 6 PM. Open mic, sing, guitar, or grand piano. Facebook "Singer's Club" like our Facebook and watch the livestream every Wednesday night. Contact us if you want to perform. Gentry Music & Arts, 771 S. Bluff St., St. George.

THURSDAYS

SUNRISE ROTARY 8 AM. Meets every Thursday at Scotty's Restaurant at the Falcon Ridge Golf Course. e contact: Deb Parsley debparsley@kwcom. Falcon Ridge Golf Course, 1024 Normandy Ln., Mesquite.

STORYTIME WITH KRIS 11 AM. It's everyone's favorite time Join Kris in the theatre to hear stories that have to do with our monthly theme, holidays, or just for fun St. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

A.P.E.X. EVENTS 11:30 AM. Eccles A.P.E.X. is Southern Utah University's premier weekly lecture series, with speakers and presenters invited from all areas of the world. Attendees to our events are students, faculty, staff and community members, and the series features a diverse range of topics and disciplines. All A.P.E.X. events are free and open to the public. Southern Utah University, 351 W University Blvd., Cedar City.

MUSIC TIME WITH MARLENE 11:30 AM. Join Marlene in our Theater Room every Thursday for music, prizes, and dancing! St. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) 4 PM. Support group helping you focus on making small, steady lifestyle changes with "Real People-Real Weightloss. Call (435) 669-7172 or visit www.tops.org Pioneer Museum, 145 N. 100 E., St. George.

DESERT COMMUNITY STRINGS AND NEW HORIZONS STRINGS 5:30–7:30 PM. Open to all ages and abilities. If you used to play a stringed instrument and would like to get back to the joy of music, this group is definitely for you. desertstrings.org Basement of St. George Medical Building, 736 S. 900 E., St. George.

KARAOKE B-I-N-G-O! 6:30 PM. Karaoke B-I-N-G-O! with "Gayle Louise". Two ways to win! Not based on talent. SING-PLAY-WIN! "KORAL KAFE Might As Well Lounge" (435) 627-6262. 2400 N. Town Center Dr., Washington.

JOYFUL YOGA 6:30 PM. An all Levels, all Ages class for anyone and everyone! Get your Joy on with Kundalini Yoga and Meditation as taught by Yogi Bhajan. Mantra, Mudra, Breathing, Movement all with a specific intention to elevate and synchronize your energy, physical and mental bodies to Meditate. Yogi tea and fresh fruit served after each class. By donation. \$5 to \$11. Sage Hills Healing Center, 6232 W. Sage Hills Dr., Cedar City.

KARAOKE WITH DJ LANCE AT MIKES TAVERN 9 PM. 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

FRIDAYS

MOMS 'N TOTS PLAYTIME AT HURRICANE 11 AM. Washington County Library System, 36 S. 300 W., Hurricane.

CRAFTIVITY 11 AM. Join in this creative activity every Friday where together, guests and volunteers work to make easy, fun, and educational crafts for themselves and their families. Free to members or paid admission St. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

CEDAR STREET FEST 3 PM. The Cedar Fun Center has brought together local businesses, artisans, and performers for a weekly celebration of Cedar City's unique culture. Everyone is invited to attend this family-friendly event to enjoy music, food, and fun including live music, theatrical performances, stand-up comedy, bouncy houses, art classes, games, Artisans Fair, Farmers Market, drive-in movies, and more. For information visit Cedarstreetfest.com. Cedar Fun Center, 170 E. Fiddlers Canyon Rd., Cedar City.

OFF THE CUFF 8 PM. Off the Cuff Off the Cuff Comedy Improv is held every Friday. Tickets are \$10 and advance tickets are available for purchase at otcomedy.com. Trained by some of the greatest names in improv comedy, Off the Cuff seeks to delight and entertain your funny bone with their hilarious, notorious, and uproarious brand of performance styles. Off the Cuff Theater, 913 S. Main St., Cedar City.

SATURDAYS

ST. GEORGE FARMERS MARKET 8 AM. The Farmers Market at Vernon Worthen Park is a free event, held every Saturday, from 8 AM. to 12 noon. The event is held every Saturday through the end of December. Vernon Worthen Park, 300 S. 400 E., St. George.

BEST FRIENDS GENTLE YOGA 9 AM. Join us for a 45-minute gentle yoga class for all levels and ages at Best Friends Roadhouse and Mercantile Best Friends Roadhouse and Mercantile, 30 N. 300 W., Kanab.

CEDAR CITY FARMERS MARKET 9 AM.–1 PM. Come for the farmers, food, and artisans as well as drawings, bingo, and more! For information visit them on Facebook, Cedar Saturday Market, or call Nancy (435) 463-3735. IFA, 905 S. Main St., Cedar City.

TUACAHN SATURDAY MARKET 9 AM. A fun craft festival set in a beautiful and scenic canyon. Every Saturday morning we have live entertainment, crafters, vendors, food and fun. In the event of rain, we cozy up under the cover of the Tuacahn Amphitheater plaza. Tuacahn Amphitheatre, 1100 Tuacahn, Ivins.

FESTIVAL CITY FARMERS MARKET 10 AM. Every Saturday behind 1/G Winery. Free admission. Come and support local farmers by buying fresh and local year-round. Shop locally produced and grown fruit, vegetables, cheese, jam, bread, eggs, honey, farm products, and more. 45 W. University Blvd./Center St., Cedar City.

TAI CHI DRAGON QIGONG AT SANTA CLARA LIBRARY 10:30–11:30 AM. Full-body energetic healing. Admission is free. No experience needed. Tai Chi Dragon Qigong is good for all ages and all levels of health and mobility. Santa Clara Library, 1099 N. Lava Flow Dr., Santa Clara.

TINKER LAB 11 AM. Tinkerlab is the museum's newest weekly class offered to museum guests. In this class kids will get the chance to experiment, and learn new skills. Tinkerlab activities will normally be crafted for groups ages 5+, but all are welcome to come "tinker" with us! Tinkerlab will be held on each Saturday of the month. Participation is included with your admission price. St. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

SATURDAY MOVIE MATINEE AT ST. GEORGE LIBRARY 2 PM. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS WEEKLY MEETING 3 PM. Al-Anon Family Group is Back! Weekly meetings on Sundays. Mesquite Veterinary Clinic, 371 Riverside Rd. A, Mesquite.

Fri, Dec 1

LET'S DO HOLIDAY LUNCH 11:30 AM. Come support Memory Matters Utah at our annual "Let's Do Holiday Lunch" event! Hilton Garden Inn, 1731 S. Convention Center Dr., St. George.

COZY CHRISTMAS CONCERT 6:30 PM. The Symphony, led by guest director, Larry Sorenson, will take a stroll down a wintry memory lane with all your favorites of the season! Kanab High School, 59 E. Cowboy Dr., Kanab.

RAY AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 7 PM. Country bal-ladeer. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

OPENING RECEPTION FOR THE MIGHTY FIVE: ZION NATIONAL PARK 7 PM. Art and light refreshments. In this unique exhibition, you will see Zion through the artist's eyes. Sears Art Museum, 225 S. University Ave., St. George.

SUU HOLIDAY CONCERT 7:30 PM. Music Masterworks Series Holiday Concert. For more information, visit our Arts Page. Heritage Center Theatre, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

JERSEY JAM 9 PM. 70 E. Fiddlers Canyon Rd., Cedar City.

Sat, Dec 2

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY/ SANTA'S VISIT 10 AM. Panguitch City, Panguitch.

SYMPHONY OF THE CANYONS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 9:30 AM. An annual Christmas Festival at Kanab Middle School with vendors, food, and Santa Claus. All proceeds go to support the Symphony of the Canyons operations and scholarship fund. Kanab Middle School, 690 S. Cowboy Way, Kanab.

KANABS FESTIVAL OF TREES 10 AM. Get something for all those naughty and nice on your list with the Festival of Trees! See the little dancers from Red Rock Studio, Studio 12, and music by local talent. Tell Saint Nick what you want for Christmas from 12-2 PM! Kanab Center, 20 N. 100 E., Kanab.

MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS DRAWING 10 AM. Social Hall, 50 E. Center, Panguitch.

DENNIS FEEHAN ROCK'N SING-ALONG CHRISTMAS 3 PM. Get your tickets now and make this a Christmas to remember! Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca St., Mesquite.

SO U COMEDY THEATER IMPROV! 7 PM. Family-Friendly Presented by the So U Comedy Theater. Come enjoy some family-friendly fun with our improvisers! We get suggestions from YOU, the audience, to inspire scenes and characters. Dixie Center, 1835 Convention Center Dr., St. George.

SO U COMEDY THEATER IMPROV UNCENSORED 9 PM. Come enjoy some no holds barred fun with our improvisers! We get suggestions from YOU, the audience, to inspire scenes and characters Dixie Center, 1835 Convention Center Dr., St. George.

Sun, Dec 3

AUSTIN "STINO" MARIANO AT GEORGE'S CORNER 6 PM. Variety of music. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Mon, Dec 4

DESERT HILLS HIGH: IMPROV SHOW 5 PM. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

THE JOHNSON FILES 7 PM. After over 60 sold-out shows across the country, The Johnson Files are back in St. George for their fully improvised musical comedy show! Fully improvised jokes, music, and stories. No two shows are the same! Ring in the Christmas season with some much-needed laughter! Cox Performing Arts Center, 325 S. 700 E., St. George.

ORCHESTRA CONCERT 7 PM. Cedar High School, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

Tues, Dec 5

CHAPTER 1 BOOK CLUB 5:30 PM. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

JAMIT AT CASABLANCA 6 PM. Showtimes may vary. Classic and modern rock, R&B, pop, country, and more. Free. 21 or older. Skydome Lounge, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Wed, Dec 6

WONDER WEDNESDAY (ARTSFUSION AT SUMA) 4 PM. Wonder Wednesday is a free community event for families with children in grades K-5. SUMA, 13 S. 300 W., Cedar City.

FOREIGN FILM CLUB 6 PM. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

Thurs, Dec 7

CHAMBER 101 8:30 AM. A crash course on all things Chamber-related. Recommended for all newly joining Chamber members and new Sunshiners. Learn how to make the most of your membership. SGACC, 136 N. 100 E., St. George.

PARADE OF LIGHTS 5:30 PM. Between Arrowhead & Willow St., down Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

CHAPTER 1 BOOK CLUB 5:30 PM. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

JOHNNY HAZZARD AT GEORGE'S CORNER 6 PM. Live Loop Artist. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

TRIVIA AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6 PM. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

DIAMOND RIO HOLIDAY & HITS 7:30 PM. Diamond Rio returns to Southern Utah to perform their Holiday & Hits Christmas concert in Cedar City Utah! America First Event Center, 351 W. Center St., Cedar City.

Fri, Dec 8

CRUSIN OLD 89 CHRISTMAS CAR SHOW Triple C Arena, 50 E. 800 N., Panguitch.

LIGHT PARADE 7 PM. Main Street, Panguitch.

JAC: OPEN MIC NIGHT 7 PM. Every second and fourth Friday of each month. Each artist will have a 7-minute set. First come, first served signups at the door. A \$5 donation is required for entry. For information and questions please email info@johnsonartscenter.org. Johnson Center for Community Arts & Education, 59 N. 100 W., Cedar City.

Sat, Dec 9

SPRINGDALE LIGHT PARADE & SWEETS SOCIAL 7 PM. Travel from Canyon Springs Road, up SR-9, turning left onto Lion Blvd. Concludes at the Canyon Community Center (126 Lion Blvd). See and take pictures with Mr. & Mrs. Claus! Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

A JOSHUA CREEK CHRISTMAS 7 PM. Celebrate the Christmas spirit with Joshua Creek as they sing the songs of the season. Sure to enrich your Christmas season. Bumbleberry Theater, 897 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.



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CALENDAR

SECOND SATURDAYS AT SUMA 2 PM. Formerly known as Family Day, this series of events is for families and friends in the community of all ages. Planned activities for all ages and backgrounds. Free and open to the public. Southern Utah Museum of Art, 13 S. 300 W., Cedar City.

LAUGHING ALL THE WAY 6 PM. Join best-selling authors and HILARIOUS motivational speakers Hank Smith, Meg Johnson, and John Bytheway for "Laughing All The Way," an entertaining family Christmas live event! Dixie High School, 350 E. 700 S., St. George.

RIVER HOUSE BAND AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 7 PM. Blues, ballads, and saddle boogie. 21+ and \$5 cash cover. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

Sun, Dec 10

HAPPY HOUR THE DUO AT GEORGE'S CORNER 6 PM. Classic Rock. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Mon, Dec 11

THE FORGOTTEN CAROLS 2023 TOUR 4 PM. The Forgotten Carols Musical features breathtaking performances of heartwarming melodies and laugh-out-loud entertainment within a timeless Christmas story. Cox Performing Arts Center, 325 S. 700 E., St. George.

VIRGIN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 6 PM. The Virgin Valley Amateur Radio Club holds meetings on the second Monday of each month. For more information please go to our website at: www.vvarc.net. Airport Fire Station #3, Mesquite.

SNOW CANYON HIGH: CHOIR CONCERT 6 PM. Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

BAND CONCERT 7 PM. Cedar High School, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

DESERT HILLS HIGH: ORCHESTRA CONCERT 7 PM. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

DESERT HILLS HIGH: CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7:30 PM. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

Tues, Dec 12

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB 2:30 PM. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

Wed, Dec 13

DESERT HILLS HIGH: DHMS/DHHS WINTER PERCUSSION/JAZZ CONCERT 6 PM. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

SNOW CANYON HIGH: CONE SITE JAZZ BAND CONCERT 7 PM. Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

CANYON VIEW HIGH: CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7 PM. Canyon View High School, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

JOY TO THE WORLD! A SACRED CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 7 PM. Celebrate Christmas with Grammy-nominated violinist Jenny Oaks Baker & her accomplished children, musical group Family Four as they present an inspiring Christ-centered Christmas show of sacred, exhilarating, and beloved Christmas Carols. Cox Performing Arts Center, 325 S. 700 E., St. George.

CASEY LOFTHOUSE AND FRIENDS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7 PM. Enjoy an evening with Casey Lofthouse and his friends as they celebrate the Christmas Season with some of the best Classic Country Music. Bumbleberry Theater, 897 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

VOCALOCITY 7:30 PM. Vocalocity will provide a fun and uplifting a cappella concert of your favorite Christmas songs. Festival Hall and Heritage Theater, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

Thurs, Dec 14

MR OK AT GEORGE'S CORNER 6 PM. Island Vibe. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

KARAOKE AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6 PM. Jimmy T every 2nd and 4th Thursday. 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

DESERT HILLS HIGH: DHMS/DHHS WINTER BAND CONCERT 7 PM. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

Fri, Dec 15

ZARTS: TRIO KOLOB 7 PM. Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

WINE EDUCATION JOURNEY AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 7 PM. Unlocking the mystery of wine. Pre-register at Buckskin Tavern. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

JOY TO THE WORLD! A SACRED CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 7 PM. Celebrate Christmas with Grammy-nominated violinist Jenny Oaks Baker & her accomplished children, musical group Family Four as they present an inspiring Christ-centered Christmas show of sacred, exhilarating, and beloved Christmas Carols. Festival Hall and Heritage Theater, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

TRIO KOLOB 7 PM. Trio Kolob includes Michele Zukovsky, Clarinet; Jason Bonham, Viola; and Christian Bohnenstengel, Piano. Performing works from Marchenerzahlungen, Schumann; Trio Pathetique, Glinka; Beethoven Piano Trio No. 4 in B-flat with Q&A after-performance. Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING 7:30 PM. Join southern Utah's premier concert choir as they present their ever-popular annual Christmas concert featuring special guest artist and piano virtuoso Brandon Lee with vocalist McKenzie Lee. M.K. Cox Performing Arts Center, 225 S. 700 E., St. George.

Sat, Dec 16

SUN CITY SOUNDS CONCERT-VV COMMUNITY THEATER 2 PM. Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca St., Mesquite.

CHRISTMAS CHROME & CANDY CANES 110 AM. Christmas, Chrome, & Candy Canes, a holiday toy donation car meet. December 16th, 10 AM-6 PM at Diamond Z Arena. See Santa, and the band, Muddy Boots. Bring a camp chair or dance the night away. Bring an unwrapped gift. Room for more vendors and cars to join us. Email socurt86@gmail.com or call/text Curtis at 951-520-3667 for registration and to reserve your spot. We're looking for holiday gifts, food trucks, permanent jewelry, etc. Accepting all types of cars for the car meet. Diamond Z Arena, 11 N. Cross Hollow Rd., Cedar City.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 10 AM. Join us at the Jolley-Gifford Cemetery on Saturday, December 16th at 10 AM to place wreaths on Veteran's headstones following a short ceremony. Jolley Gifford Cemetery, 221 Paradise Lane, Springdale.

KIDS DIY-U WORKSHOP 10 AM. Calling all little elves! Join us for this jolly Holiday Delivery Truck build that's also a gift card holder! Kids will love hand-crafting this unique toy that also makes a memorable gift. Lowe's Home Improvement, 415 S. River Rd., St. George.

A JUNIPER CITY CHRISTMAS 7 PM. Come join us at Bumbleberry Theater as we invite Juniper City to bring in the Christmas Spirit with their music. One of the best bands in Southern Utah will entertain you and bring joy to the season. Bumbleberry Theater, 897 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

CHRIS PAUL AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 7 PM. Rock, County. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

Sun, Dec 17

GARY HUFF AT GEORGE'S CORNER 6 PM. Contemporary Music. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT: SING-ALONG FIRESIDE 7 PM. A Christmas Gift: The Choir's Annual Christmas Sing-Along Fireside returns to the St. George Tabernacle with cherished hymns and holiday favorites. St. George Tabernacle, 18 S. Main St., St. George.

Mon, Dec 18

VVAA GENERAL MEETING 11 AM. Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

2023-24 WINTER CONCERT SERIES 7 PM. A festive celebration of wonderful music! This NEW series runs through January once a month. Seating is first come, first served. FREE to the public. Donations appreciated. Enjoy this series with your family and friends this winter season! Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

CHOIR CONCERT 7 PM. Cedar High School, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

SNOW CANYON HIGH: CONE SITE BAND CONCERT 7 PM. Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

Tues, Dec 19

IN-A-FECT AT CASABLANCA 6 PM. In-A-Fect is multi-talented with a universal sound & sizzling harmonies. Pop, Rock, R&B Classics, Hip-Hop, Old School Funk & a touch of Motown. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

ELECTRIC FILM SERIES 6 PM. On the third Tuesday of every month, join us for a FREE screening of a noteworthy film of the past at the historic Electric Theater. Each movie will include an intro and post-screening discussion with a special guest. Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

A NATHAN PACHECO CHRISTMAS- LIVE IN CONCERT 7:30 PM. Nathan Pacheco is a classically trained tenor who has a passion for reaching out and uplifting people through music. Cox Performing Arts Center, 325 S. 700 E., St. George.

SNOW CANYON HIGH: CONESITE ORCHESTRA CONCERT 7 PM. SChS, SCMS, Intermediate Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

Wed, Dec 20

SOUTHERN UTAH LADIES SOCIETY MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING 6 PM. Southern Utah Ladies Society is a non-profit group of volunteers dedicated to making a difference in our community. We also plan monthly service projects where we volunteer as a group. St. George Area Chamber of Commerce, 136 N. 100 E., St. George.

Thurs, Dec 21

TEEN BOOK CLUB 3:30 PM. Teen Book Club Washington County Library System, 36 S. 300 W., Hurricane.

BOOK ENDS BOOK CLUB 4:30 PM. Meet's on the third Thursday of every month. Washington County Library System, 220 N. 300 E., Washington.

MARK BOGGS AT GEORGE'S CORNER 6 PM. An eclectic mix of different songs from Elton John, Chuck Berry, Aretha Franklin, and more. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Fri, Dec 22

FOURTH FRIDAY NETWORKING WITH SBSU AND UFIRST 8:30 AM. Fourth Friday business networking event sponsored by State Bank of Southern Utah and U First Credit Union. Food, drinks, prizes, and more! Join us! Please register. SGACC, 136 N. 100 E., St. George.

READER'S CIRCLE BOOK CLUB 3 PM. Reader's Circle Book Club Washington County Library System, 36 S. 300 W., Hurricane.

JAC: OPEN MIC NIGHT 7 PM. Every second and fourth Friday of each month. Each artist will have a 7-minute set. First come, first served signups at the door. A \$5 donation is required for entry. For information and questions please email info@johnsonartscenter.org. Johnson Center for Community Arts & Education, 59 N. 100 W., Cedar City.

Tues, Dec 26

SENSORY FRIENDLY TUESDAY EVENINGS 5 PM. Every fourth Tuesday of the month, we invite families to explore the Museum in a sensory-modified environment with limited admission, exclusively for families who have a family member with sensory processing differences. Admission is free, registration is required. St. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

JOHN BROOKS "TRIBUTE TO ELVIS" AT CASABLANCA 6 PM. John Brooks is back! John will start the night with his "Tribute to Elvis" show. The bonus...the 2nd part of the night John will come out as himself and will be singing from his "Variety Mix Tape" of non-Elvis songs from Country to classic rock to some surprises! CasaBlanca Showroom. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Wed, Dec 27

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 7 PM. Book Discussion Group Washington County Library System, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

Thurs, Dec 28

BLOOD DRIVE-VITALANT - MESQUITE 10 AM. Mesquite Recreation Center will be collecting blood to donate to Red Cross to help people in need. Schedule your appointment to Red Cross at <https://www.redcrossblood.org> and search for available dates and times with our Zip Code: 89027 or call Red Cross at 800-733-2767 for assistance. Mesquite Recreation Center, 100 W. Old Mill Rd., Mesquite.

ADOBE TAYLOR AT GEORGE'S CORNER 6 PM. Neo Soul. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

KARAOKE AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6 PM. Jimmy T every 2nd and 4th Thursday. 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

Sat, Dec 30

SPRINGDALE NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION 6:30 PM. Enjoy Line Dancing & refreshments, chat with friends, and for the first time... watch the DRONE SHOW! Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

MESOZOIC AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 7 PM. Classic rock. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

A NEW YEAR'S EVE, EVE PARTY WITH CELEBRATION BAND 7 PM. A New Year's Eve, Eve Party with Celebration Band. Bumbleberry Theater, 897 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

Sun, Dec 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE NOON DAY BALLOON DROP 10 AM. Saturday, December 31st, 10 AM to 12:30 PM. The Noon Day Celebration includes games, crafts, music, crazy hats, and a countdown. Three giant nets filled with balloons will await until the appointed hour, hovering over the crowd of revelers. Purchase tickets onsite at the event or in advance. General admission is \$8, and the event is \$2 for members. St. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

NYE DANCE PARTY! 8 PM. New Year's Eve Dance Party with DJ Lex in the CasaBlanca Showroom with dance party hits from the 70's, 80's, 90's, and today! General Admission Seating is free, with wheelchair-accessible seating. VIP Tickets are Online at www.etix.com, by phone at 800-514-3849, or in person at the CasaBlanca Resort Box Office. Must be 21 or older to attend. CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

GUNDY & THE GURU'S AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 8 PM. A bit rock, and a big jazz. 21+ and \$5 cash cover. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

FINAL COUNTDOWN 2024 9 PM. 1094 W. 1600 S., St. George.

KANAB NEW YEARS CELEBRATION 2023 9 PM. Come kick off the New Year at the Kanab Center! Kanab Center, 20 N. 100 E., Kanab.

Tues, Jan 2

JAMIT AT CASABLANCA 6 PM. Showtimes may vary. Classic and modern rock, R&B, pop, country, and more. Free. 21 or older. Skydome Lounge, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Wed, Jan 3

STORYTIME WITH KRIS 11 AM. It's everyone's favorite time! Join Kris in the theatre to hear stories that have to do with our monthly theme, holidays, or just for fun! St. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

WONDER WEDNESDAY (ARTSFUSION AT SUMA) 4 PM. Wonder Wednesday is a free community event for families with children in grades K-5. SUMA, 13 S. 300 W., Cedar City.

FOREIGN FILM CLUB 6 PM. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

Thurs, Jan 4

THE EDWARD TWINS LA CAGE-VV COMMUNITY THEATER 2 PM. Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca St., Mesquite.

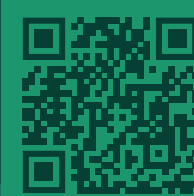


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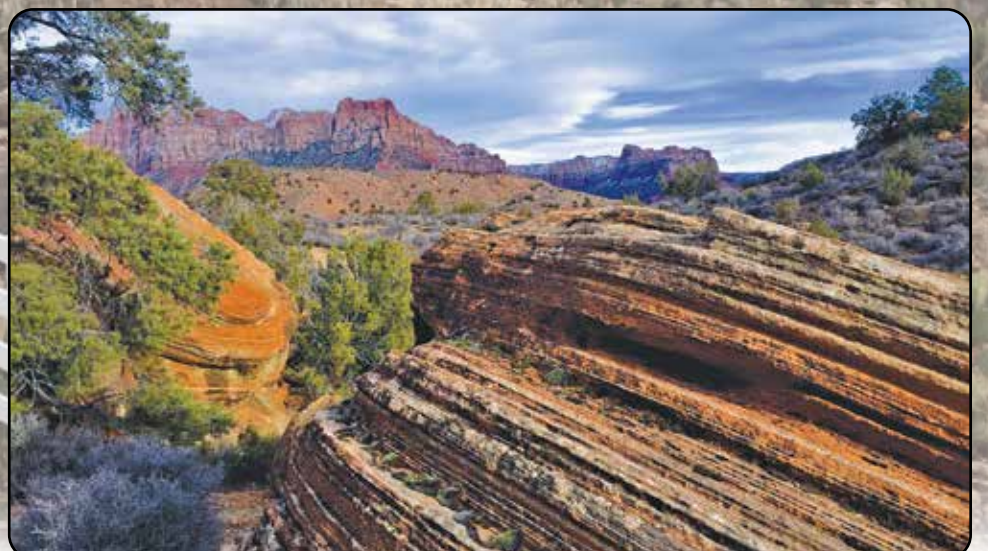
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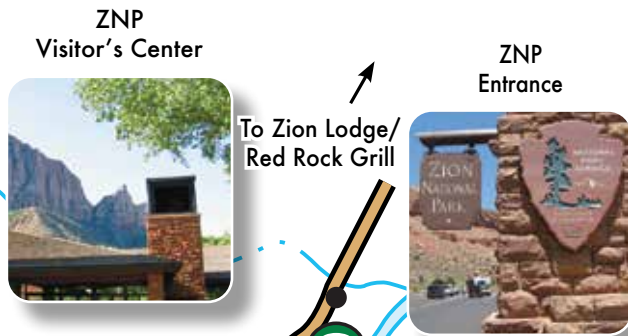
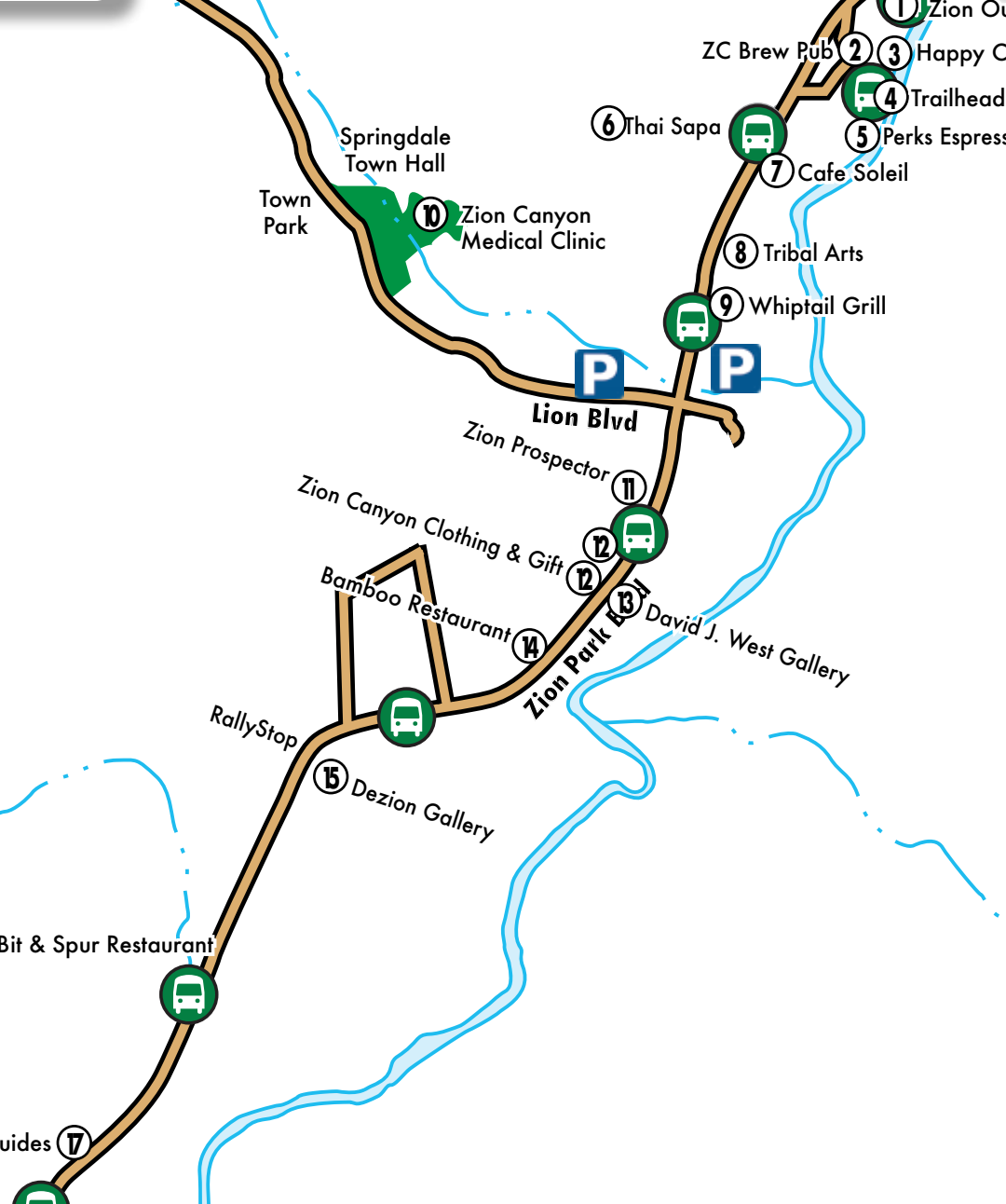
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P Paid parking lots can be found on Lion Blvd, behind Whiptail Grill Restaurant at 445 Zion Park Blvd, and a number of other locations throughout Springdale.

Other spots of note in Springdale include the library (located on Lion Boulevard, next to Town Hall), tennis/pickleball courts (also on Lion Blvd), and the Virgin River, which has numerous locations of access, but Riverside Park is one of the best.

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GUIDE TO UTAH'S LIQUOR LAWS

If you order an alcoholic drink at the restaurant bar, don't be surprised when the bartender asks you to order some food with your drink. In Utah, restaurants may only serve alcoholic beverages with food. Customers don't have to order food each time they buy another drink. The beer sold in grocery stores and gas stations, and tap beer is a bit weaker in Utah, limited to 3.2% alcohol content by weight (4.0% by volume), about 0.5% less than a typical American domestic beer. You can buy full-strength beer, along with liquor and wine, in a state-operated liquor store. Please remember to tip your servers and drink responsibly! The Utah State Liquor Store in Springdale is located inside the Switchback.

SPRINGDALE'S FEATURED RESTAURANTS FROM ZION GUIDE

Restaurant <i>(Listed by address from ZNP Entrance)</i>	Address	Phone	Drinks/Vegan <i>(W)ine, (B)eer, (M)ixed Drinks (E)spresso, (V)egan items on menu</i>	Hours	WI-FI
Red Rock Grill	1 Zion Lodge	435-772-7760	W, B, M, E, V	6:30-10:30am, 11:30am-3pm, 5-10pm daily	Yes
Zion Canyon Brew Pub	95 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0336	W, B, V	Noon-10pm daily	Yes
Happy Camper Market	95 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-7805	B, V	8am-8pm daily	Yes
Thai Sapa	145 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0510	W, B, E, V	11:30am-9:30pm daily	No
Perks Coffee Shop	147 Zion Park Blvd	435-668-0446	E	7am-4pm daily	No
Café Soleil	205 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0505	W, B, M, E, V	7am-9pm daily	No
Spotted Dog Cafe	428 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0700	W, B, M, E, V	7-11am, 5pm-9pm daily	Yes
Whiptail Grill	445 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0283	W, B, V	Noon-9:30pm daily	Yes
Bamboo Chinese Restaurant	828 Zion Park Blvd	435-703-2882	V	11:30am-10pm daily	Yes
Zion Pizza & Noodle	868 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3815	W, B, V	4pm-10pm daily	No
Oscar's Cafe	948 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3232	W, B, E, V	7am-9pm daily	No
Switchback Grille Restaurant	1149 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3700	W, B, M, E, V	5-8pm daily	No
Jack's Sports Grill Restaurant	1149 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3700	W, B, M, V	Noon-9pm daily	No
Bit & Spur Restaurant & Saloon	1212 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3498	W, B, M, E, V	5pm-11pm daily	Yes
Park House Café	1880 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0100	W, B, V	8am-2pm daily	Yes

See detailed restaurant listings for Springdale and the greater Zion National Park area at ZionGuide.com.

Welcome To Zion from Zion Guide!

Safety Tips For Zion

Emergencies

For 24-hour emergency response, call 911 or (435) 772-3322. The Zion Canyon Medical Clinic is located in Springdale near the south entrance to the park. For hours, please call (435) 772-3226. Other medical clinics are located in Hurricane. The nearest hospitals are in St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab.

Hydrate and use refillable water bottles

It is easy to get dehydrated while hiking and walking in the desert, so pack along extra water, and be sure to take rest and water breaks on long hikes. There are a number of places to refill your water bottles in Zion National Park including the visitors' center and Zion Lodge as well as a new hydration station at the Springdale bus stop in front of The Bumbleberry Inn and Zion Canyon Brew Pub.

Be cautious near steep cliffs

Falls from cliffs on trails can result in death. Loose sand or pebbles on stone are very slippery. Be careful of edges when using cameras or binoculars. Never throw or roll rocks because there may be hikers below you. Stay on the trail. Stay back from cliff edges. Observe posted warnings. Please watch children.

Watch for flash floods

All narrow canyons are potentially hazardous. Flash floods, often caused by storms miles away, are a real danger and can be life threatening. You are assuming a risk when entering a narrow canyon. Your safety is your responsibility.



Tips To Minimize Your Impact

Pack it in, pack it out & use recycling bins

Each month, Zion National Park pays many thousands of dollars to haul away waste collected from garbage cans and recycling bins. Your experience and that of everyone who visits Zion Canyon can be improved by never littering and making sure you pick up any trash you see along the way. Recycling bins are placed strategically throughout Zion Park, and it is highly encouraged for everyone to use them.



Please stay on the marked trails

Hiking off trails can lead to loss of vegetation, soil compaction, erosion, and unsightly scars on the landscape. Remember, if you bring it in, please pack it out.

Go before you go

It is always a good idea to use the restroom before you begin a hike since facilities are limited to select locations. If you do need to take care of your business, please pack it back out.

Be respectful to the wildlife

Feeding, harming, or capturing wild animals is illegal and can cause injury or death to the animal. Animals can become aggressive beggars when fed.

Please leave it how you found it

It is illegal to remove anything from Zion National Park, including flowers, rocks, or anything else that you might find. Do not write or carve on natural surfaces.

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Top Things To Do In Zion

Get some great hiking in

Zion National Park is known for its scenic landscape and unrivaled hikes. No matter your fitness level, there are hikes here for you. Please go to ZionGuide.com to see the details on many area hikes.

Spend a day in Springdale

Springdale is unique to our national park system in that it is almost completely surrounded by Zion National Park. So when you're in Springdale, you're right in the middle of Zion Canyon.

Catch an event

Not only does Zion Brew Pub have live music every Saturday, the property also hosts a handful of events throughout the year, as do the Bit and Spur restaurant, Tanner Amphitheater, Bumbleberry Inn, Wildcat Willies, and several other locations.

Try a guided tour

Jeep, helicopter, ATV, canyoneering, horseback riding, or mountain biking, guided tours are all available. Many of these tours take you outside Zion National Park boundaries and give you a unique perspective on Zion's canyons and plateaus from surrounding areas of southern Utah. Check out ZionGuide.com for listings and ads.

Visit the east side of Zion and spend a day in Kanab

The east side of Zion is generally less crowded, making hikes more accessible and private. These are some of the most enjoyable hikes in the canyon. You can spot wildlife you won't see elsewhere in the canyon. The city of Kanab, situated east of the canyon, is full of unique attractions, like the Little Hollywood Movie Museum and the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

Take lots of pictures, leave only footprints

Be sure you've got extra charged batteries, smartphone cables, and memory cards so you can capture all the magic of Zion National Park. Additionally, there are numerous photo tour and guiding companies to assist you. Thank you for visiting the Zion National Park area.

Tips To Maximize Enjoyment

Go on a less crowded hike

The most visited Zion hikes have a lot of competition. If you'd rather not feel like you're in the line at a theme park, consider seeking out a less traveled path. Check out our feature, [Less-Traveled Zion Hikes](#), in this issue.

To avoid the crowds, go early or late in the day

Consider getting up extra early or trekking out midday after the initial rush has flooded in.

Consider coming back again in the low season

Starting in the late fall, the number of visitors to Zion Canyon starts to dwindle, and by December it's significantly less than in the heat of the summer. It is simply a different experience to see Zion in the winter with the snow-capped monoliths. Most hikes are still accessible and are less crowded. You can also drive to the Temple of Sinawava parking lot. The shuttles stop running from November until March.

Check out Kolob Canyons & Kolob Terrace Road

With gorgeous open spaces and plenty of dirt roads to explore, Kolob Terrace Road is one of Zion's best kept secrets. You'll notice the air getting cooler as you gain elevation, and you'll find plenty of beautiful views worth stopping at for a quick photo op. The Kolob Terrace Road turnoff is in Virgin, so watch for signs. Portions of the Kolob Canyon District of Zion National Park are reached via Exit 40 on Interstate 15.



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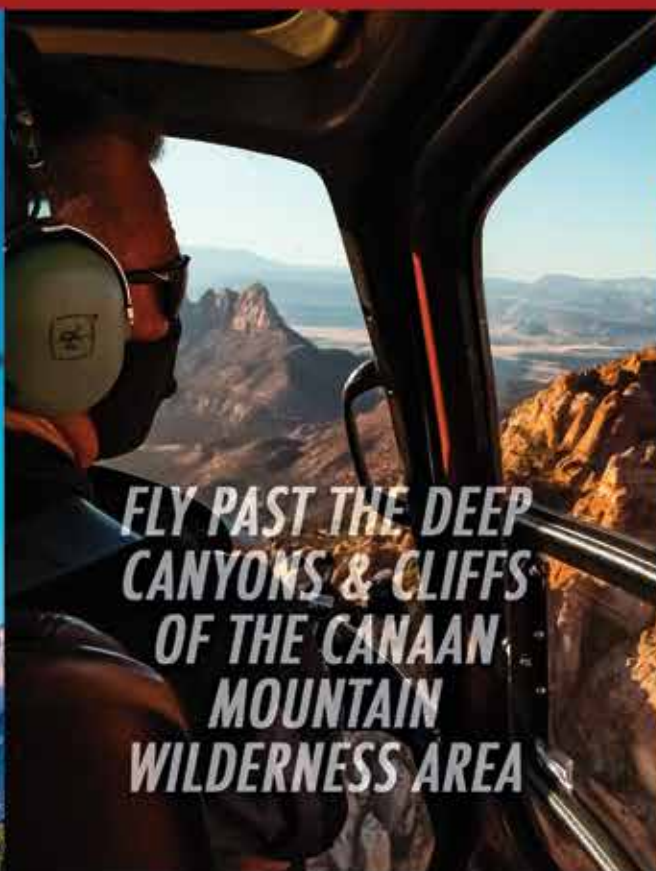


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Zion National Park Shuttle Info

ZION 2023 WINTER SHUTTLE SCHEDULE INFO

SPRINGDALE, Utah – The seasons are changing in Zion National Park! Every year, the National Park Service (NPS) adjusts shuttle schedules and campground availability throughout the year. Here is what you need to know to plan your visit:

Fall personal vehicle access in Zion Canyon starts Monday, November 27, 2023

- The last day of fall shuttle service in Zion Canyon and Springdale was November 26.
- Visitors can drive personal vehicles on Zion Canyon Scenic Drive starting today, November 27.
- We post updates on the Zion Current Conditions webpage when parking is full.
- Plan for limited parking; when parking in Zion Canyon is full, the NPS may temporarily close the road.
- Shuttle service will resume in Zion Canyon and Springdale starting on December 22 for 10 days.
- During these 10 days, visitors cannot drive personal vehicles on Zion Canyon Scenic Drive.

Shuttle service resumes Friday, December 22, 2022 – Sunday, December 31, 2023

- Winter personal vehicle access in Zion Canyon starts January 1, 2024
- The last day of winter shuttle service in Zion Canyon and Springdale is December 31, 2023.
 - Visitors can drive personal vehicles on Zion Canyon Scenic Drive starting on January 1, 2024.
 - Plan for limited parking; when parking in Zion Canyon is full, the NPS may temporarily limit access.
 - We post updates on the Zion Current Conditions webpage when parking is full.

Shuttle service resumes in spring

The NPS will resume shuttle service in spring. We will share specific dates in 2024.

Fall and winter camping

Watchman Campground is open year-round, and you can make a reservation up to six months before your visit at www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. Plan

ahead and make arrangements for where you will stay before you get to the park.

South Campground and Lava Point Campground are closed for the season.

Visitor Center and Wilderness Permit Desk hours



Zion Canyon and Kolob Canyons Visitor Centers

- Open 8 AM and close at 5 PM every day through the fall and winter.

Wilderness Permit Desks

- Zion Canyon Wilderness Desk: Open 8 AM to 10 AM and from 3PM to 4:30 PM.
- Kolob Canyons Wilderness Desk: Closed for the season. Get permits at Zion Canyon Wilderness Desk.

We post updates on the park's operating hours and seasons webpage when hours change.

Big Bend (shuttle stop 8) is temporarily closed due to construction.

In order to accommodate larger, electric shuttle buses that are scheduled to enter service in 2024 and to resolve significant cracking in concrete on the edges of the paved

area at Big Bend, the National Park Service is completing construction at Big Bend. While work is happening, the paved area at the shuttle stop is fenced closed. Depending on the availability of materials and winter weather, the park plans to reopen Big Bend in Spring 2024.

Attend a Ranger Led Talk

Free ranger talks happen outside of the Zion Canyon Visitor Center every day at:

- 11 AM
- 1:30 PM
- 3 PM

No matter when you visit, be prepared for crowds and remember:

- Parking fills early year-round. You may have to wait to enter Zion Canyon Scenic Drive if parking is full there.
- Watch out for pedestrians and bicyclists if you are driving.
- Stay on trails and avoid walking in the road.
- Put your pass in your pocket. Don't forget your park pass or receipt in a hotel room or at home.
- Ride your bike on the road or the Pa'Rus Trail. Bicycling is not allowed on any other trails in the park. If you are riding in the road, you must stop to let buses pass you.
- The NPS may temporarily close roads if traffic is congested or there is nowhere for drivers to park.
- In general, fewer people visit Zion on weekdays than weekends. Consider arriving early or after 3 p.m. to avoid the busiest times of day.

Plan ahead and prepare

If you cannot park in Zion or if all of our campsites are full, research nearby communities and public lands to learn about other recreational activities and lodging. Always recreate responsibly and respect private owners' property and facilities.

Follow Leave No Trace practices everywhere in the park and beyond; be sure to pack out all your trash.

ZION PARK PUTS NEW ELECTRIC SHUTTLE BUSES INTO SERVICE

Five new battery-electric buses entered service this week at Zion National Park. These are the first of an entirely new fleet of electric buses Zion will acquire using a \$33 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"The Zion Canyon Shuttle System has a bright future," Jeff Bradybaugh, Superintendent of Zion National Park, said. "We are building on past successes that were enabled by the perspective and resources provided by partners like Zion Forever, the National Park Foundation, U.S. Department of Transportation, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), Utah Clean Cities, the Town

of Springdale, and our neighbors in Washington, Kane, and Iron Counties."

These battery-electric buses will replace the park's propane-powered vehicles – some of which have been in service for over 20 years.

A Little Background

In 2000, three years ago, the National Park Service began providing free shuttle service in Zion Canyon and the Town of Springdale. The National Park Service developed this system in consultation with our neighbors in the Town of Springdale, Federal Highway Administration, and Utah Department of Transportation engineers, state, county,

and municipal partners' input. Shuttle buses provide service for millions of riders a year and have successfully reduced traffic congestion and crowding so visitors can enjoy Zion Canyon. Zion recorded the system's 90 millionth boarding in the summer of 2023.

Since the shuttle system began operation, the number of visits recorded at Zion has risen from about 2.4 million in 2000 to a record 5 million in 2021. With the number of visits still consistently exceeding those recorded before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Zion is making other improvements that will sustain the system's success into the future. www.nps.gov/zion



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Zion National Park Hiking Info

THE LOCALS' GUIDE TO HIKING PREPAREDNESS

National parks are seeing an uptick in helicopters carrying unfortunate hikers out of precarious situations.

In 2017, the National Park Service reported 324 search-and-rescue operations, which means 324 extremely unpleasant vacation experiences — nearly one a day. In 2014, the reported number was almost half that. The majority of those rescues occurred in Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, and most hikers who end up getting into trouble are either in their 20s or are older than 60.

Despite our highly skilled and dedicated rescue teams' valiant efforts, not everyone made it out of their predicaments safely. Twelve people lost their lives in Utah's national parks in 2017 alone.

It's hard to imagine one wanting a vacation amid the splendor of our national parks to involve search and rescue teams or a close encounter with death.

Zion National Park is often referred to as an outdoor Disneyland. But this is the

wilderness, and it's far less forgiving than any theme park. Here are some tips for how to safely enjoy your time in Zion Canyon.

Bring water

You lose more water through perspiration than you realize, and if you are used to a more moist climate — and nearly any climate is less arid than southern Utah — you can become dehydrated quickly without realizing it.

The National Park Service recommends that hikers bring one gallon of water per hiker per day. There are fill stations throughout Springdale and the park that provided filtered water at no charge.

Natural water sources in the park such as creeks and streams are not reliable sources of clean drinking water. If you find yourself in a situation wherein you need water but have none, it is strongly advised that any locally-sourced water intended for consumption first be filtered, boiled for at least 10 minutes, or treated with iodine before consuming.

Wear appropriate clothing

While most paths and trails are well maintained, this is the great outdoors, and a little loose gravel or slickrock can lead to injury — or worse. Think of appropriate footwear as an insurance policy — and if you are a little nervous, a hiking stick never hurts. Also, dress lightly if it's going to be hot, but be sure to use appropriate sun protection like sunscreen and large-brimmed hats, because suffering from sunstroke or severe sunburn during an already taxing hike can be brutal.

Hike at your skill level, and don't take risks

Trails in Zion range from short and easy to long and challenging. Don't overestimate your ability and endurance level. And don't engage in horseplay or other activity that might endanger yourself or others. Some of Zion's hikes are steep, and you wouldn't be the first person to tumble down a hill — or worse, fall off a cliff. Zion is beautiful, but it's also dangerous, so respect yourself and

others by respecting the terrain.

Leave wildlife alone

Animals instinctively avoid humans, but the area is home to everything from poisonous snakes to mountain lions. Never approach local wildlife — and never try to feed them. This can result in injury to visitors, and numerous visitors have required stitches after attempting to hand-feed animals. But when humans feed wildlife, it's also not good for the animals, who are already best suited to feed themselves.

Hike sober

Sometimes relatively stationary outdoor activities like boating or camping involve enjoying an adult beverage or two. But when you're hiking the varied terrain of our national parks, you don't want your coordination, balance, or judgment to be impaired to any extent. Zion Canyon, Springdale, and Kanab are home to several fine restaurants and bars — but visit them for a cocktail after your hike, not before.

PERMIT PROCESS FOR HIKING ANGELS LANDING IN ZION

Apply to hike Angels Landing

SPRINGDALE, Utah — Planning a visit to Zion National Park this summer? Are you hoping to hike Angels Landing? Everyone who hikes Angels Landing must have a permit. Starting this year, you must apply for a permit to hike at Angels Landing, and you can now visit www.recreation.gov and click on Permits.

• For Day-before Lottery applications, visit www.recreation.gov and click on Permits.

You can also apply by calling recreation.gov at (877) 444-6777 from 10 AM – 11:59 PM EST every day except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

The lottery schedule is posted at www.recreation.gov then click on

permits, and we will share news releases and social media updates when we open those permit lotteries.

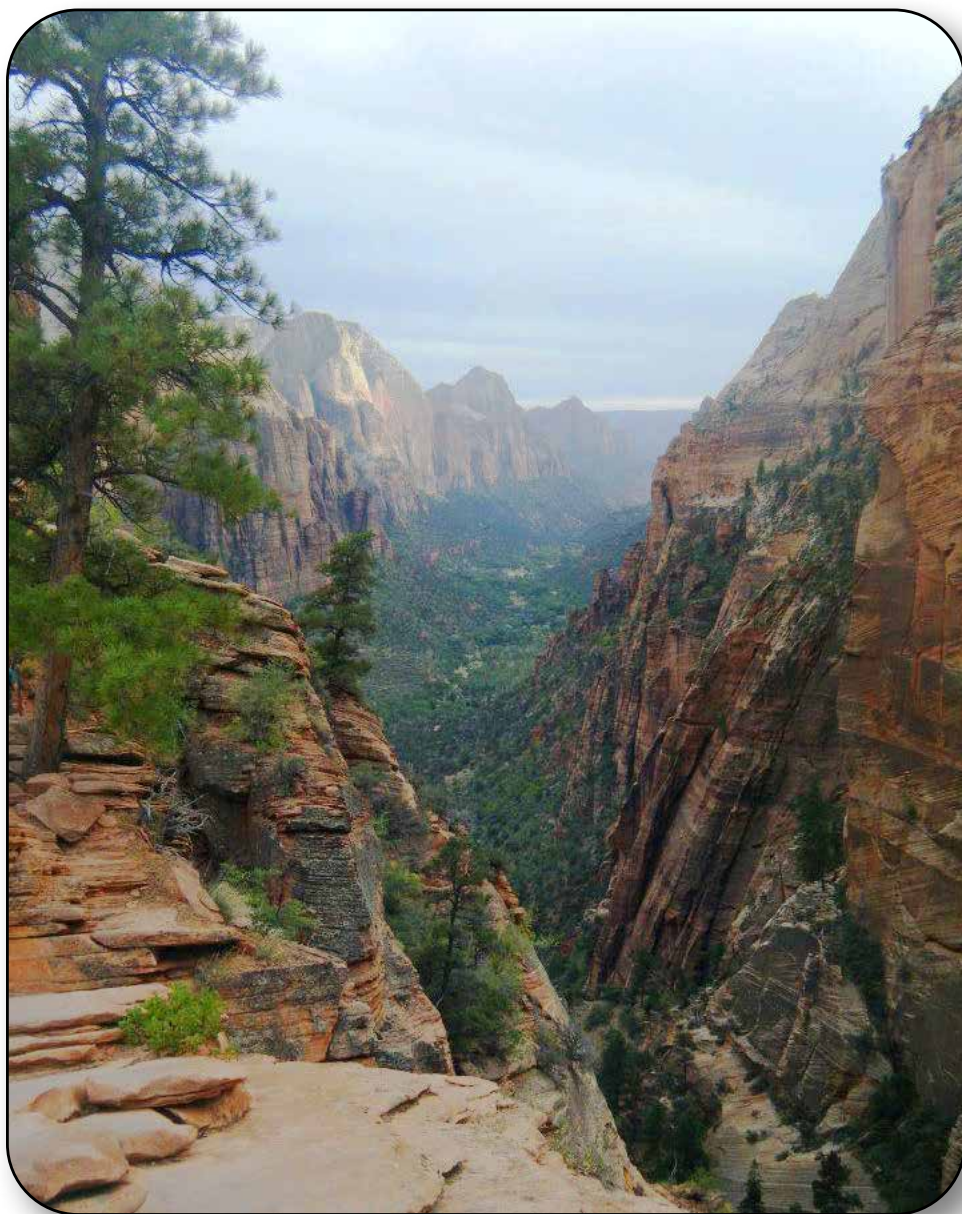
About Zion's Angels Landing Pilot Permit Program

Everyone hiking past Scout Lookout to Angels Landing needs to have a permit. This means you need a permit to hike on the half-mile section of the trail with chains. Hikers do not need a permit to go to Scout Lookout.

This is a pilot program, and the National Park Service (NPS) will monitor and adjust it as needed.

Angels Landing is one of many places people enjoy hiking in Zion National Park. The park recorded about 2.8 million total visits in 2011 and nearly 4.5 million in 2019. As the number of people who visit Zion continues to rise, the NPS is preparing a plan designed to provide high-quality visitor experiences and sustainably manage park resources. The Angels Landing Pilot Permit Program will inform that planning process.

For a list of great hikes, check out our 'Popular' and 'Less-Traveled' hikes here within the Zion Guide. Always check the weather forecast before hiking in canyons. Please visit www.nps.gov for the latest updated information.



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"We expect many visitors will want to apply for a permit, so we made our process accessible, flexible, and fair." Superintendent Jeff Bradybaugh said. "Lotteries were the right fit for Angels Landing because they give certainty about application periods and flexibility so that people can fill out the application when it's convenient for them."

Need to know

• All advanced 'Spring Seasonal Permits' have been awarded except for Day-Before permits.

• You can apply for a permit the day before your planned hike. This lottery opens every day at 12:01 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. Mountain Time (MT).

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Trail Closures (as of Nov. 2022)

Hidden Canyon Trail, Watchman Trail, and Emerald Pools (all routes). Some of these closures are temporary.

Hiking is popular in Zion National Park, and popular hikes are seeing record visitation at peak days and times. For a less congested trek, consider these less-traveled hikes.

Northgate Peaks

By Don Gilman

The Northgate Peaks trail in the Kolob Terrace section of Zion National Park is an amazing trail with spectacular views. The trail itself is nearly flat, making it a perfect hike for families.

To reach the Northgate Peaks trailhead, take State Route 9 to the town of Virgin. Turn left onto Kolob Terrace Road. Drive for 15.7 miles through increasingly spectacular country until the short spur road (on the right) for the Wildcat Trailhead is reached. Drive a few hundred feet to the large parking area.

The trail heads east across grassy plains and stands of Ponderosa Pine with dynamite views of the towering Pine Valley Peak to the west. Soon the trail will be fully in the forest with limited views. After 0.9 miles, the junction with the Hop Valley trail is reached. Continue east, and 0.1 miles further, the junction with the Northgate Peaks Trail is reached. Head south on this trail for another 1.1 miles until the end of the official trail is reached at a rocky basalt bluff with epic views of the Northgate Peaks to the east and west and of North Guardian Angel to the south.

For families with young children, this makes an excellent turnaround spot.

Gifford Canyon

By Bo Beck

Gifford Canyon offers a nice stroll through a sandy wash and is very charming when water is running. This hike is nearly 3 miles long and will take about 2 hours to finish.

To start this hike, park in the lot located immediately east of the Zion/Mt. Carmel Tunnel. The trail begins at the backside of the restrooms at the back of the parking lot. There will be a steep, sandy path to climb down before you enter Pine Creek slot. Follow the path upstream for almost 75 feet, and look for a 15-foot wall of slickrock. You can scramble up the rock or look for the beaten path on the backside of the rock.

On top of this wall is a narrow dirt path that is crowded by rock



Chinle Trail

and vegetation. It winds around the mountain to a dead end with a beautiful view of the mountain where the Canyon Overlook Trail is located, opposite is Gifford Canyon.

The path will lead past stone bridge and to another minor slickrock climb. At the end of the canyon, there is a circle of cliffs preventing further exploration without climbing up the sandstone.

Chinle Trail

By Greta Hyland

Chinle Trail is an off-the-beaten-path trail located in the lower elevation west desert wilderness area, offering wide vistas, desert landscapes, and a reprieve from the more touristy trails in the park. Though it's a long trail, it's a mellow hike that can be cut off whenever you feel like turning around. It's a great hike with kids because it's not treacherous, slippery, or steep. Avoid it after snow or rain as it will be muddy.

The Chinle Trailhead starts outside of Zion, south of Springdale. If you are coming from St. George, the turn is about a block before you hit the apple orchard and stand as you leave Rockville off of State Route 9. There is a parking area off the right of Anasazi Way near the Anasazi Plateau housing development. If you hit houses, you missed it. And yes, the trail starts below the housing development and takes you right through it. Don't worry though, it doesn't last long.

Shortly after you get through the housing development, you will hit a sign

letting you know you are entering the Zion Wilderness. At this point, you can breathe a sigh of relief, because you have gotten away from civilization to enjoy nature, and chances are that you won't see another soul until you return to your car.

Many Pools - Temporarily Closed

By Candice Reed

The route is moderate with a gentle uphill climb to an alcove, but plan for a strenuous hike if you continue to the East Rim.

The route begins right off the highway. Drive to the pullout near the second drainage on the north side of the State Route 9, about 0.8 miles after the smaller tunnel. Walk carefully along the road about 150 yards and drop down into a sandy bowl on the north side of SR-9. There is a trail for a short distance, and then the sand turns into large flat stones that you can pick and choose to walk on, depending on your sense of balance. A short distance off the road, filled pools carved into the rocks appear. Ponderosa Pines and Juniper trees twisted by the wind are a good backdrop to the reds and whites ribboned through the rocks.

Overlook Trail

By Charlotte Emett

The Overlook Trail is a short, beautiful hike located on the east side of Zion National Park, just outside the Mt. Carmel tunnel. The hike is about one mile roundtrip, and it usually takes people about an hour. It is definitely one of the easier hikes in Zion, but it's still

considered a moderate-level hike due to a few exposed areas and sandstone pathways, which can be slippery.

The Overlook trailhead lies right outside of the Mt. Carmel tunnel by the ranger booth. Exit the tunnel too quickly and you'll miss it.

It begins with a staircase carved out of the sandstone leading up and away from the road. Soon, you'll be walking along the side of the mountain and looking down into a thin crevice known as Pine Creek Canyon. At about halfway, you'll walk across a bridge that wraps around a corner and leads to an area of recessed rock wet with the moisture that caused it to erode and be filled with ferns growing out of the sandstone.

The East Rim Trail

By Bo Beck and Tanya Milligan

After positioning a vehicle or making shuttle arrangements at the Weeping Rock parking lot, watch for the small "trailhead" sign along the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway, immediately west of the east entrance booth.

This trail is said to be one of the most scenic in all of Zion National Park and is on many lists as one of the best hikes in Utah. This trek begins on the east side of the park and climbs over 1,400 feet to the rim. This hike begins with a backdoor view of Checkerboard Mesa as it skirts Clear Creek for a short time and steadily and gently climbs through a juniper and pine forest. On top of the mesa, scenery gets interesting as a spectacular view of Echo Canyon takes center stage.

The downhill finish is spectacular, keeping an almost constant view of some of Zion's greatest landmarks, including Angels Landing, Organ, Great White Throne, and in the distance is Cathedral Mountain.

Please check with nps.gov for current conditions, restrictions, and access. Be careful and have fun!

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Popular Zion Hikes

Trail Closures (as of Nov. 2022)

Hidden Canyon Trail, Watchman Trail, and Emerald Pools (all routes). Some of these closures are temporary.

Warning: These hikes are very popular and often overcrowded. While they are well worth doing, expect them to be a little congested.

If you are feeling up to some of the more difficult hikes, try some of these popular hikes.

Angels Landing via West Rim Trail

Possibly the most popular hike in Zion, Angels Landing takes around four hours to complete, covers just under 5 1/2 miles, and requires a permit to hike. As you work your way up the 1,488-foot change in elevation, you'll want to look out for long drop-offs. This hike is not for young children or people with a fear of heights. Be sure to enjoy, but be careful along the last section of the hike, which is a steep, narrow ridge to the summit. The hike starts at The Grotto.

Observation Point via East Rim Trail

This hike climbs through Echo Canyon to a viewpoint of Zion Canyon and offers access to Cable Mountain, Deertrap, and East Mesa trails. Plan for at least half of a day as this hike takes around five hours to complete and stretches over 8 miles. The 2,148-foot change in elevation from start to finish has long drop-offs, so be careful. Like Hidden Canyon Trail, this hike starts at Weeping Rock.

The Narrows via Riverside Walk

A full-day hike at 8 hours, the Narrows can pose extra dangers depending on the weather. High water levels can prevent access to the Narrows, so be sure to check with the visitor center before beginning this 9 1/2-mile hike. You'll start this hike at Temple of



"Observation Point Revisited" - photo by David J West.

Sinawava.

Kolob Arch via La Verkin Creek Trail

Getting to Kolob Arch via the La Verkin Creek Trail follows Timber and La Verkin creeks and connects to the trail to Kolob Arch, one of the world's largest freestanding arches. A full-day hike, it will take around 8 hours to finish the 14-fourteen mile trip. This hike starts at Kolob Canyons Road.

If you are looking for something more moderate, try some of these mid-range hikes.

Kayenta Trail

This two-hour hike starts at the Grotto and goes for two miles. You'll gain 150 feet in elevation, and the trail does have long drop-offs. This unpaved climb connects the Grotto to the Emerald Pools trails.

Canyon Overlook Trail

Starting at Zion-Mt. Carmel

Highway, this one-hour hike provides a 163-foot gain in elevation over the course of a mile. This rocky and uneven trail ends at a viewpoint for Pine Creek Canyon and lower Zion Canyon. While this trail is mostly fenced, there are long drop-offs.

Taylor Creek Trail

You'll begin this five-mile hike at Kolob Canyons Road. It should take around 4 hours to complete and provides a 450-foot gain in elevation. Larger groups may need to split up, as this hike limits 12 people to a group. It follows the Middle Fork of Taylor Creek past two homestead cabins to Double Arch Alcove.

Timber Creek Overlook Trail

A quick hike, the Timber Creek Overlook Trail covers just one mile and 100 feet in elevation gain. It can be done in about 30 minutes. The trail follows a ridge to a small peak with views of Timber Creek, Kolob Terrace, and Pine Valley Mountains.

Those looking for something less strenuous should check out these easy hikes.

Pa'rus Trail

Starting at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center, this two-hour hike covers 3 1/2 miles and rises 50 feet in elevation. A paved trail that follows the Virgin River from the South Campground to Canyon Junction, Pa'rus Trail is wheelchair accessible and is open to both bicycles and dogs.

Archeology Trail

Also starting at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center, this short half-hour hike covers just under half a mile and rises 80 feet in elevation, making it a short but steep trail. This trail offers trailside exhibits and views of several prehistoric buildings.

Grotto Trail

Starting at Zion Lodge or the Grotto, this trail connects the two locations and can be combined with the Middle Emerald Pools and Kayenta trails to create a 2 1/2-mile loop. The non-loop version should take about 30 minutes and rises 35 feet over one mile.

Riverside Walk

Starting at Temple of Sinawava, this 1 1/2-hour hike cover just over two miles and rises 57 feet in elevation. While it is wheelchair accessible, there are minor drop-offs. The trail, which is paved, offers trailside exhibits as it follows the Virgin Rivet along the bottom of a narrow canyon.

Lower Emerald Pool Trail - Temporarily Closed Due To Falling Ice

This paved trail leads to the Lower Emerald Pool and waterfalls. It also connects to the Middle Emerald Pools Trail. It should take about an hour and covers just over one mile with 69 feet in elevation gain.



Zion National Park Visitor Center



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Southern Utah State & National Parks

ANASAZI STATE PARK MUSEUM - This ancient Indian village in the heart of Utah's canyon country was one of the largest Anasazi communities west of the Colorado River. The site is believed to have been occupied from A.D. 1050 to 1200. The village remains largely unexcavated, but many artifacts have been uncovered and are on display in the newly remodeled museum. Anasazi State Park is in the picturesque town of Boulder on State Route 12. Group and individual picnic areas are available. There is no camping. (435) 335-7308.

BAKER - Baker Reservoir is a small lake on the Santa Clara River four miles north of Veyo on Utah State Route 18. It is a 63-acre lake with an average depth of about 20 feet. Many people come to the reservoir to camp at one of its 10 campsites and to fish. The reservoir is stocked with rainbow trout and contains brown trout, green sunfish, crayfish, redbreast shiner, and mountain sucker. It has picnic areas and vault toilets. There is a fee for visiting the reservoir and no boat ramp.

BRYCE CANYON - Bryce Canyon National Park is a scientist's laboratory and a child's playground. Because Bryce transcends 2,000 feet of elevation, the park exists in three distinct climatic zones: spruce/fir forest, ponderosa pine forest and pinon pine/juniper forest. This diversity of habitat provides for high biodiversity. Here at Bryce, you can enjoy over 100 species of birds, dozens of mammals, and more than a thousand plant species. (435) 834-5322.

CEDAR BREAKS - Sitting at over 10,000 feet and looking down into a half-mile deep geologic amphitheater. Come wander among timeless bristlecone pines, stand in lush meadows of wildflowers, ponder crystal-clear night skies and experience the richness of our subalpine forest. Just four miles off Utah Highway 148, you'll find the Cedar Breaks National Monument parking lot.



CORAL PINK SAND DUNES - At an elevation of 6,000 feet and 12 paved miles off U.S. Highway 89 near Kanab, this park provides a fantastic setting for camping, hiking, OHV riding or just playing in the sand. A 265-acre conservation area prohibits motorized vehicles in order to protect the Coral Pink beetle (found nowhere else in the world) and its habitat. The mule deer, jackrabbit, kit fox, coyote, and many small rodents also make the park their home. (435) 648-2800.

DEAD HORSE POINT - Dead Horse Point State Park is perhaps Utah's most spectacular state park. Dead Horse Point is a promontory of stone surrounded by steep cliffs near Moab. The overlook at Dead Horse Point is 6,000 feet above sea level. Two-thousand feet below, the Colorado River winds its way from the continental divide in Colorado

to the Gulf of California, a distance of 1,400 miles. (435) 259-2614.

DINOSAUR TRACKS - The St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm is home to exceptionally well-preserved dinosaur tracks, some displaying skin impressions. These tracks, along with hundreds of fossil fish, plants, rare dinosaur remains, invertebrates' traces, and important sedimentary structures, show evidence that this site was produced along the western edge of a large, Early Jurassic (age between 195-198 million years ago) freshwater lake. (435) 574-3466.

ENTERPRISE - There are two reservoirs in the Bull Valley Mountains 10 miles southwest of the town of Enterprise. The main one is Upper Enterprise Reservoir, about 250 acres with an average depth of about 50 feet, while Lower Enterprise Reservoir is 79 acres. Many come to the reservoir to camp, fish hike, and boat. The Honeycomb Campground



is situated between both lakes and has 21 campsites and flush toilets. There is a boat ramp on Upper Enterprise Reservoir and several fishing areas around both reservoirs. Fishermen will find rainbow trout and smallmouth bass here. Fees are charged.

FOUR CORNERS - The Four Corners is the only place in the U.S. where four states come together at one place: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. Here, a person can put each of their hands and feet in four states at the same time. The unique landmark is on Navajo Nation land and is open for visits from the public. West of U.S. Highway 160, 40 miles southwest of Cortez, Colo. (928) 871-6436.

GRAND CANYON - A World Heritage Site encompassing 1,218,375 acres on the Colorado Plateau in northwestern Arizona. The land is semi-arid and consists of raised plateaus and structural basins typical of the southwestern United States. (928) 638-7888.

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT - Nearly 1.9 million acres of America's public lands and located between Bryce Canyon and Glen Canyon Recreational Areas. From its namesake Grand Staircase of cliffs and terraces across the rugged Kaiparowits Plateau to the beauty of the Escalante River Canyons, the Monument's size, resources, and isolated location provide amazing opportunities.

GUNLOCK - In scenic red rock country, 15 miles northwest of St. George, lies the 240-acre Gunlock State Park and Reservoir where year-round boating, water sports, and quality fishing for bass and catfish attract visitors. Facilities include boat launching ramp and pit privies. (435) 628-2255.

LAKE MEAD - Lake Mead National Recreation Area offers a wealth of things to do and places to go year-round. Its huge lakes cater to boaters, swimmers, sunbathers and fishermen, while its desert rewards hikers, wildlife photographers, and roadside sightseers. It is also home to thousands of desert plants and animals adapted to survive in an extreme place where rain is scarce and temperatures soar. (702) 293-8990.

LAKE POWELL - In Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is one of the world's great places for houseboating! The 186-mile-long lake offers sandy beaches, cool blue water, and exceptional red-rock scenery. It is excellent for boating, skiing, kayaking, and fishing. Boat or hike to Rainbow Bridge, or explore any of its many canyons or sand dunes. (928) 608-6200.

PINE VALLEY - Pine Valley Reservoir is a beautiful place for fishermen to fish brook trout and rainbow trout. The reservoir is near the Pine Valley Recreation Complex, which has over 150 campsites with picnic and restroom facilities. This area is greener than most other parts of southwestern Utah with pine and pinon trees, and many come to enjoy camping and hiking. It is west of the town of Central. (435) 652-3100.

QUAIL LAKE - Quail Creek State Park provides excellent year-round camping, picnicking, boating, and trout and bass fishing in sunny southwest Utah. The park is three miles east of the Interstate 15 Hurricane exit on Utah State Route 9. Facilities include 23 campsites, modern restrooms, a fish cleaning station, and two covered group-use pavilions. (435) 879-2378.

SAND HOLLOW - Looking to fish? Swim? Ride your ATV in the sand? Do all that and more at Sand Hollow State Park, located between St. George and Hurricane. Bring your boat, a picnic, and some fishing gear for a fun day on the reservoir, or watch the kids swim while you relax on the beach. Load up your RV or tent and settle in for a nice campout, or ride your ATV in the dunes of Sand Mountain. (435) 680-0715.



SNOW CANYON - Named after early Utah leaders Lorenzo and Erastus Snow, Snow Canyon State Park begins just outside of Ivins and stretches northward. Spectacular scenery includes towering red and white sandstone cliffs, black lava formations, and even a waterfall that appears during heavy rain. Snow Canyon offers 16 miles of hiking trails, beautiful sand dunes, technical rock climbing sites, horseback riding, year-round camping, nature studies, and wildlife viewing. This park is a favorite for locals and visitors alike. (435) 628-2255.

ZION - With breathtaking views, numerous hiking attractions of all difficulty levels and some of the most spectacular scenery on earth, Zion National Park and its surrounding areas attract thousands of visitors every year. This natural wonder is not only a mecca of recreational activity, but Zion and nearby Springdale host numerous cultural activities, as well. There's something for everyone in Zion - whether you're looking for a challenging hike or a fun excursion for the family. (435) 772-3256.



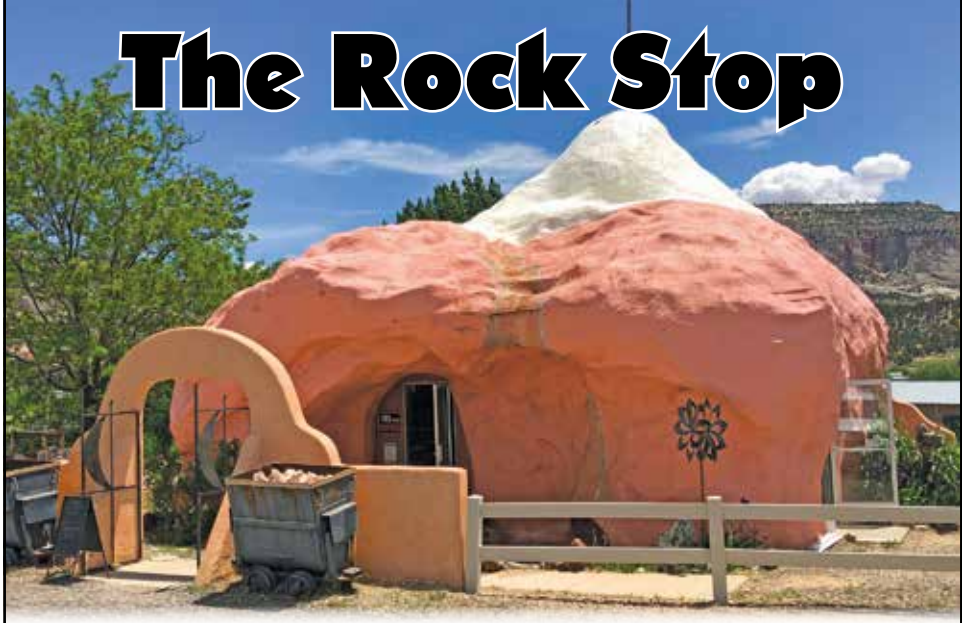
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Customer parking available in the Zion Canyon Village at the South entrance to Zion National Park

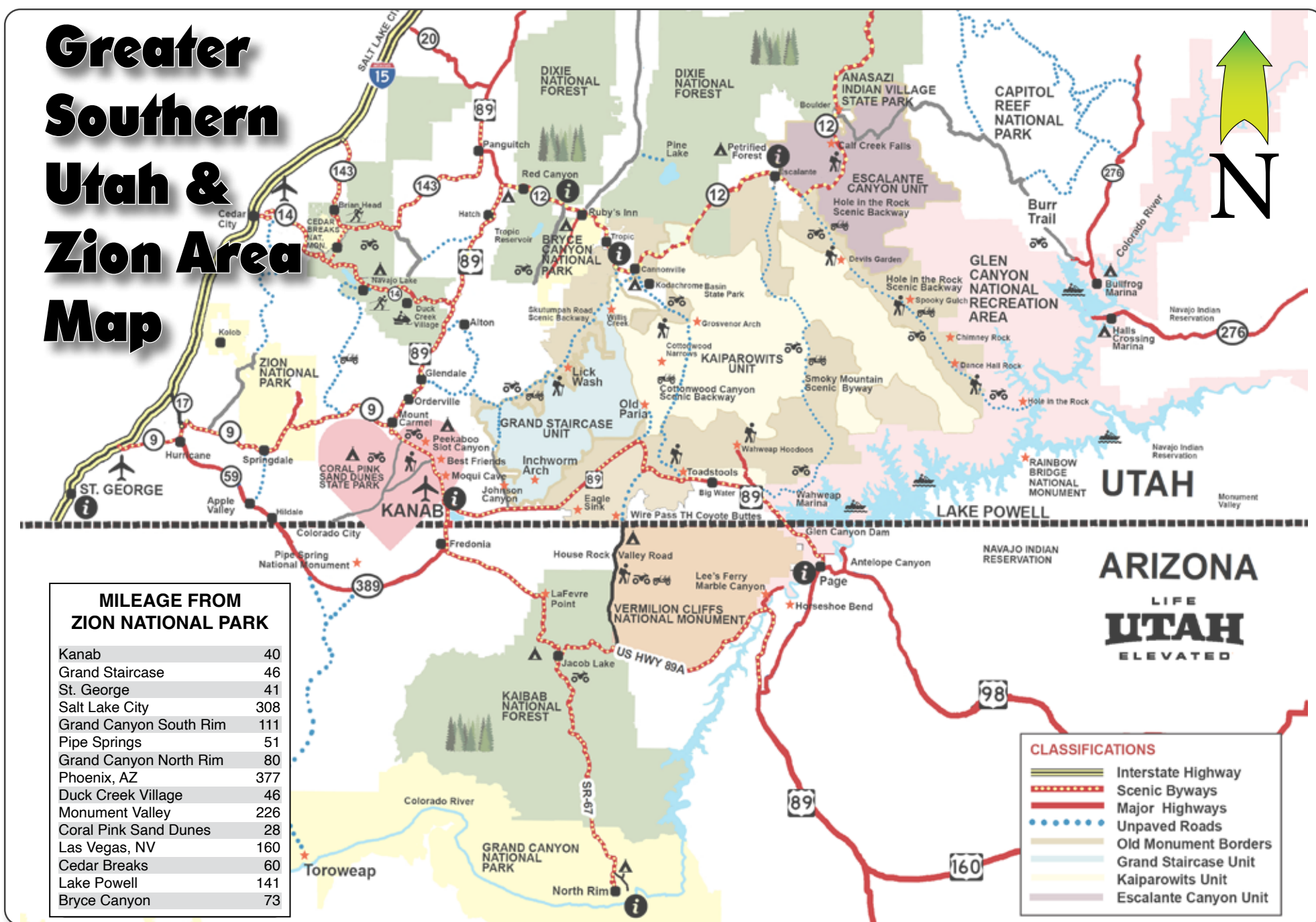


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Greater Southern Utah & Zion Area Map



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Please visit the Kane County Info Center located at 78 S. 100 E. in Kanab for more info on:

- Local Hiking Trails
- Jackson Flat Reservoir & Sherry Belle Trail
- Family History Center
- Heritage House
- Kanab Heritage Museum
- Kanab City Library
- Grand Staircase Escalante Visitor Center

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Kanab Utah City Map

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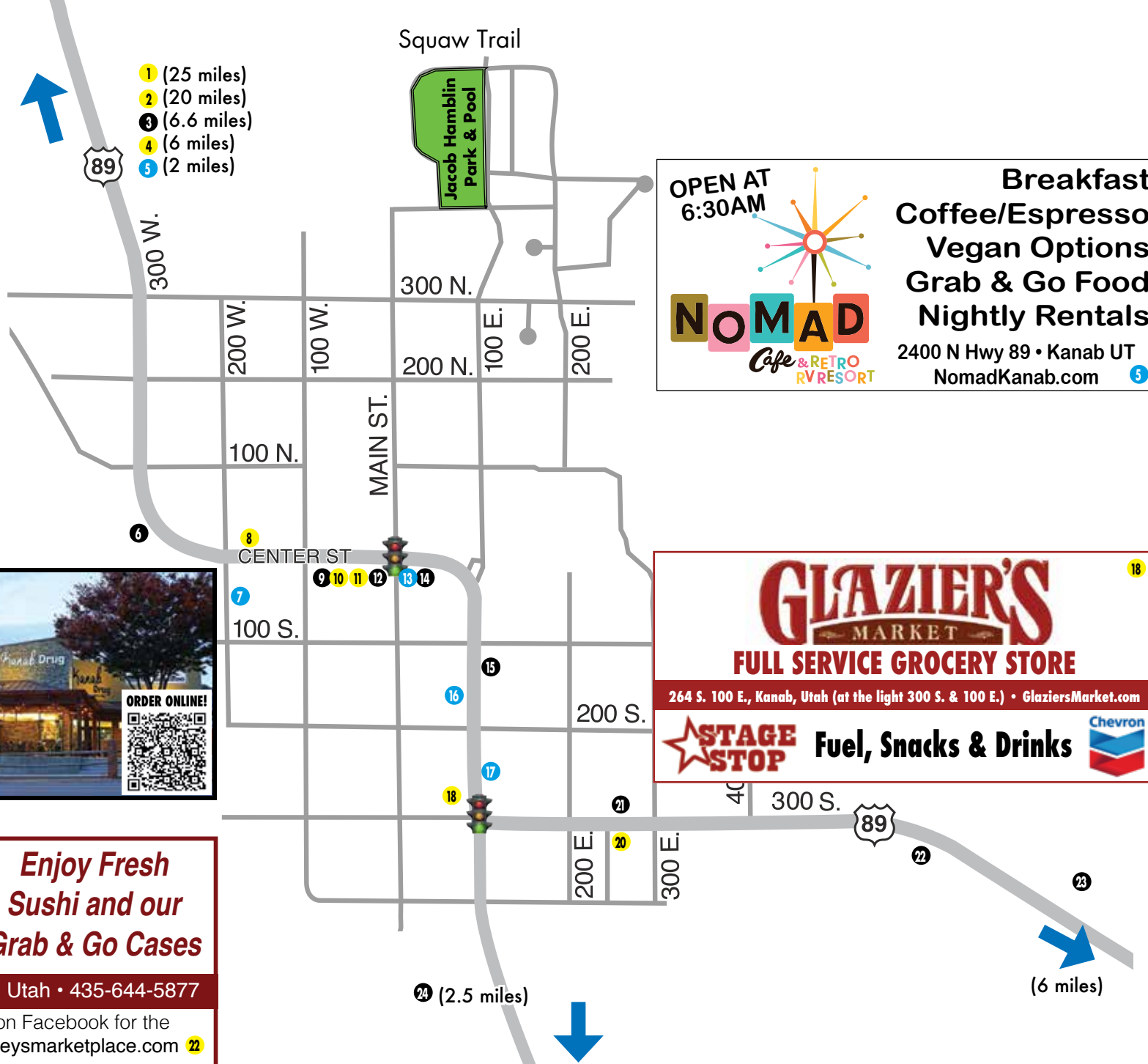
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EAST ZION & KANAB'S FEATURED RESTAURANTS FROM ZION GUIDE

Restaurants (Listed Alphabetically)	Address	Phone	Drinks/Vegan (W)ine, (B)eer, (M)ixed Drinks, (E)spresso, (V)egan items on menu	Hours	WI-FI
7 Adria's Restaurant	86 S 200 W, Kanab	(435) 644-7800	W, B, M	8:30am-2pm Tues-Sun	No
16 Asava Juice & Smoothies	176 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-2637	V	9am-6pm Mon-Sun	Yes
13 Jakey Leigh's	4 E Center St, Kanab	(435) 644-8191	E, V	7am-2pm Mon-Fri, Sat & Sun 8am-Noon	Yes
5 Nomad Cafe & RV Resort	2400 N Hwy 89, Kanab	(406) 594-0294	E, V	6:30am-2:30pm Thurs-Mon	Yes
22 Sunny Creek Coffee	681 E Chinle, Kanab	(435) 212-3839	E, V	7am-2:30pm Mon, Wed-Sat	Yes
17 Willow Canyon Outdoor	263 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-8884	E	7:30am-7pm daily	Yes

EAST ZION & KANAB'S FEATURED SERVICES, SHOPS & GALLERIES FROM ZION GUIDE FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

Services (Listed Alphabetically)

19 Adobe Realty	323 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-2232
3 Best Friends Animal Sanctuary	5001 Angel Canyon Rd, Kanab	(435) 644-2001
24 Blacksmith Adventures	2450 S Hwy 89, Kanab	(575) 313-4650
23 Dreamland Safari Tours	Serving the greater Kanab area	(435-644-5506
12 ERA Utah Properties	7 West Center, Kanab	(435-644-2606
12 Kanab eBikes	11 W Center St, Kanab	(435) 899-0489
22 Kanab Tour Company	681 Chnle Dr, Kanab	(435) 644-5525
6 Nature's Showcase	288 W Center, Kanab	(435) 644-2390
9 The Cut Scene	89 W Center, Kanab	(435) 849-8670
15 Ramsay Auto Service	115 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-8070
14 Zion Pharmacy	14 E Center, Kanab	(435) 644-2693

Shops (Listed Alphabetically)

18 Glazier's Market	264 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-5029
1 Glendale Country Store	10 N Main St, Glendale	(801) 918-7107
20 Honey's Marketplace	260 E 300 S, Kanab	(435) 644-5877
8 Kanab Drug	176 W Center, Kanab	(435) 644-3401
4 Moqui Cave	4581 US-89	(435) 644-8525
10 Lotus Boutique & Studio	87 W Center St, Kanab	
2 The Rock Stop	385 W State St, Orderville	(435) 648-2747

To get your business on this map and directory please call Josh at 435-632-1555 for details.

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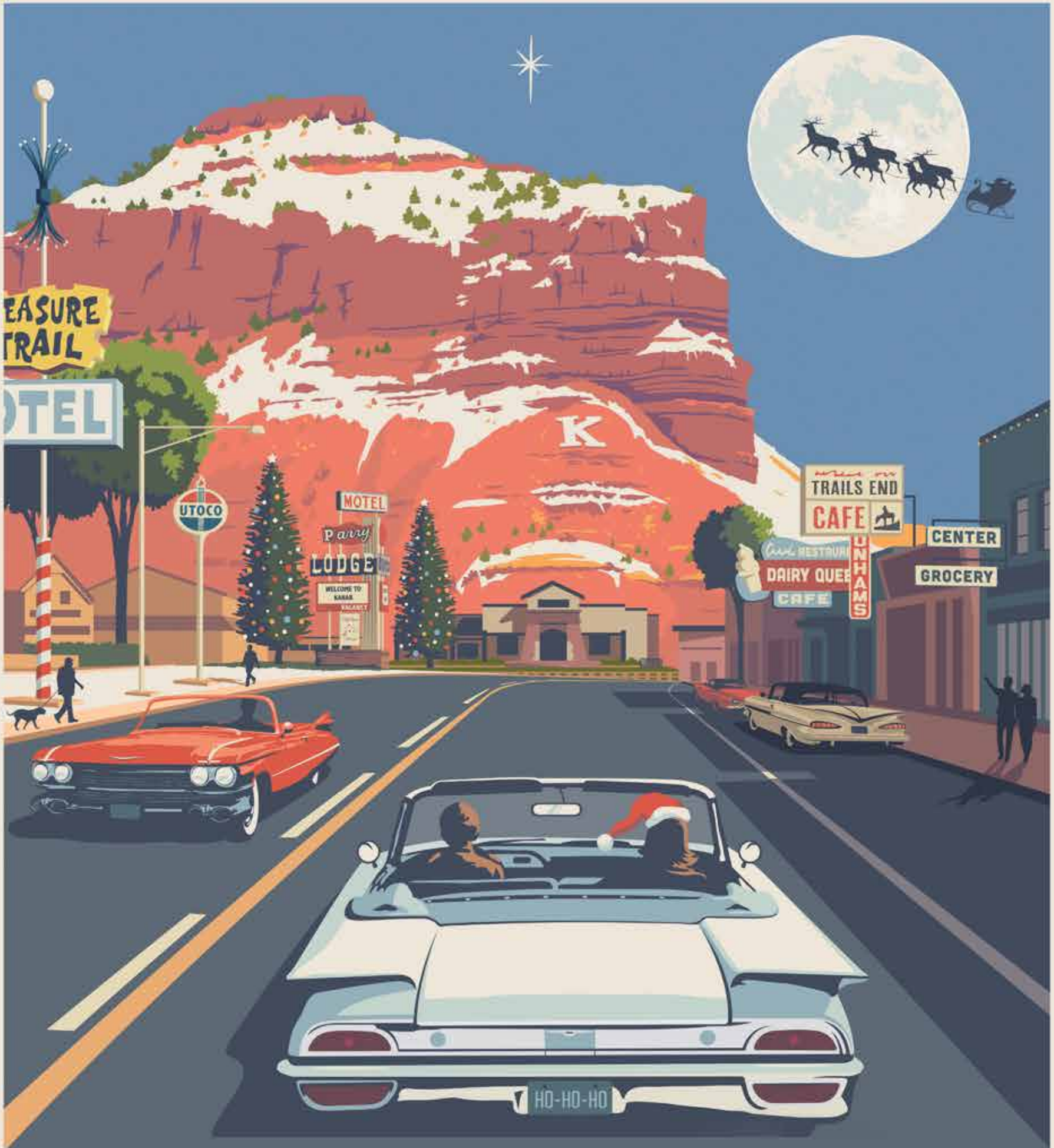
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