

THE INDEPENDENT

NOW IN OUR 30TH YEAR! 1996 - 2026

FREE ZION GUIDE

Feb '26



BALLOONS & TUNES 2026 SET TO LIFT SPIRITS IN KANAB - SEE PAGE 3

MORE GREAT HAPPENINGS IN THIS ISSUE:



**HERITAGE CHOIR SPRING CONCERT IS "A GIFT OF LOVE"
- SEE PAGE 4**



**THE STAGE DOOR OPENS 2026 SEASON WITH
NEXT TO NORMAL - SEE PAGE 4**



**AMERICA IN HARMONY WITH
THE ORCHESTRA OF SOUTHERN UTAH - SEE PAGE 4**



**39TH ANNUAL SEARS INVITATIONAL ART SHOW & SALE
RETURNS TO UTAH TECH - SEE PAGE 4**

THE INDEPENDENT AND ZION GUIDE CONTENTS - FEBRUARY 2026

ON THE COVER:



**Ballons & Tunes 2026
Set To Lift Spirits in Kanab**
- See page 3

THE INDEPENDENT SECTION

Local Spotlights3
The Dish6
Calendar of Events 14

ZION GUIDE SECTION

Hiking
Local's Guide to Hiking Preparedness 19
Popular Zion Hikes..... 20
Less-Traveled Zion Hikes.....21
Featured Hike..... 22
Beyond Hiking
The Best Drives and Day Trips..... 18
Southern Utah State & National Parks 26
Maps
Zion NP Wilderness Map 23

Zion Shuttle Map 25
Greater Southern Utah & Zion Area Map..... 27
Springdale Utah Business & Services Map.... 29
Kanab Utah Business & Services Map 30
Tips & Info
Safety and Preparedness Tips 17
Top Things To Do & General Tips 17
Zion Shuttle Info 24
So. Utah State & National Parks 26

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Publisher: Josh Warburton, ipc@infowest.com • Editor: Elizabeth Gunter, editor@suindependent.com
Office Manager: Nikki Slade, independent@infowest.com • Advertising Director: Scott Dunford, scott@suindependent.com
Graphic Designer: Josh Segovia, graphics@infowest.com

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BALLOONS & TUNES 2026 SET TO LIFT SPIRITS IN KANAB

February 20–22 – Kanab, UT

Kanab will once again come alive with color, music, and small-town magic as Balloons & Tunes 2026 returns February 20–22. The three-day winter festival blends hot air balloon experiences with live music, food, and community fun, making it one of Southern Utah's most anticipated annual events.

The 2026 theme looks ahead to the nation's 250th Independence celebration, with a patriotic balloon-inspired message, "Rise Together."

Each morning of the festival, weather permitting, vibrant hot air balloons will launch into the crisp Kanab skies, offering unforgettable views against the area's red rock backdrop. Early risers can watch balloons inflate at sunrise, while others can enjoy the spectacle from vantage points throughout town.

On Friday and Saturday, the festival's vendor and entertainment fair comes to life in a new downtown location. The fair features food trucks, artisan vendors, and family-friendly



activities. From comfort food and sweet treats to handmade crafts and local businesses, the atmosphere remains festive, welcom-

ing, and distinctly Kanab. Twisted Cherry, Harbour Patrol, and Paddle Out. The lineup brings high-energy sets and a mix of sounds that keep the celebration going throughout the day and evening.

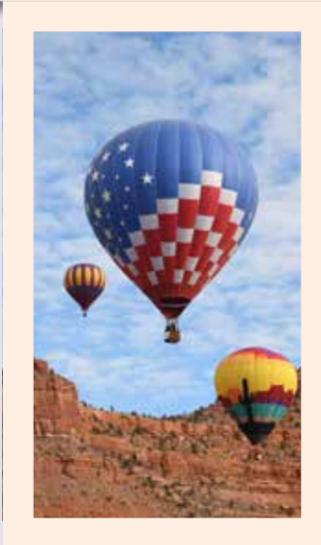
Friday night features the Lantern Festival, weather permitting, as glowing lanterns lift into the night sky, creating a peaceful and memorable scene. On Saturday night, again weather permitting, Center Street becomes the setting for the popular hot air balloon GLOW. Tethered balloons illuminate as their burners light the fabric, filling downtown Kanab with color and light.

Because balloon launches and lantern events are weather dependent, attendees are encouraged to stay informed by following Balloons & Tunes Roundup on Facebook for real-time updates.

With striking visuals, live music, local food, and a strong sense of community, Balloons & Tunes 2026 promises a memorable winter weekend in Kanab. More information is available at visitsouthernutah.com.

ing, and distinctly Kanab.

Live music fills the weekend with performances by Grovonix, Fox Brothers, Fenwick Way,



PUBLISHER'S PERSPECTIVE

By Josh Warburton



This current February edition marks the completion of 30 years of publishing for me and for The Independent. What started out as just a simple idea between friends and coworkers way back in 1996 to highlight some fun stuff we knew about, has evolved over the years to become the definitive arts

and entertainment guide for Southern Utah that it is today.

Although I've lost the exact count, that would make February's edition somewhere between issue number 370 and 375 that we have published. We published twice a month for about a year, but it was so early on in our history, it'll be hard to find that info. And you would think that this process would get easier over time, and in many ways it certainly has. But in some ways it's as hard as it's ever been. Writing this piece right now has been a challenge for me because of numerous events in the world,

the country, locally and around the state, as well as in my own personal life.

Finding creative energy amidst the chaos has been really difficult, and I've heard a similar sentiment from other people working in creative spaces as well.

Many people are anxious, stressed, sad, or struggling in other ways, and some days it can just be hard to find the joy. I think in times like these it is more important than ever to seek peace and find joy in your own life. One great way to do that is through Music, Comedy, Art, and the other accoutrements of life. So I hope this volume

filled to the brim with joyous events helps you find some sanity.

And while no one knows what the future holds, including for me and for The Independent, as long as I am at this helm, I will continue to strive to highlight the best of what the greater Southern Utah area arts and entertainment has to offer.

Happy reading.

Note: You may have noticed our printing is different this month. Long story short, our printer could not get our regular paper in time, so this was the best solution for this issue. Hope you like it.

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AMERICA IN HARMONY WITH THE ORCHESTRA OF SOUTHERN UTAH

February 19—Cedar City, UT

In celebration of America250, the Orchestra of Southern Utah presents a concert of iconic American music on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 PM at the Heritage Theater in Cedar City.

The program opens with “The Star-Spangled Banner,” honoring the nation’s founding. The anthem grew out of Francis Scott Key’s 1814 poem written after the bombardment of Fort McHenry and was officially designated the national anthem in 1931.

Aaron Copland’s “Rodeo Suite,” written in 1942 for choreographer Agnes DeMille, captures the spirit of the American West, from “Buckaroo Holiday” to the exuberant “Hoedown.” The John Mead Dance Company will perform live with the orchestra. Since relocating to Cedar City in 2023, John Mead and Mei Chian Lim have launched a professional dance company featuring local dancers.

The program also includes Samuel Barber’s “Adagio for Strings,” conducted by



Music Director Carylee Zwang conducts a program that traces American music from the Revolutionary era through the 20th-century rise of jazz. This season’s theme, America’s Playlist, explores a wide range of American musical traditions.

George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” epitomizes the fusion of classical and jazz styles that define American music. Pianist Christian Bohnstengel, a faculty member with the Southern Utah University Music Department, performs the piano solo, with Trevor Davis, Director of Woodwinds, opening the work with its iconic clarinet solo. Bohnstengel is a founding member of SUU’s faculty jazz combo Kind of Blue and is familiar to OSU audiences through his performances in “Handel’s Messiah.”

assistant conductor David Jordan; Leroy Anderson’s “Blue Tango”; Scott Joplin’s “The Entertainer”; and “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” performed with the vocal quartet SideNote. OSU will also present an orchestral arrangement of “Souvenir d’Amerique,” based on “Yankee Doodle,” by French composer Henry Vieuxtemps.

Tickets are available at myosu.org. Children over five are welcome with adult supervision. The Orchestra of Southern Utah is a community orchestra of professionals and dedicated amateurs bringing live orchestral music to the region.

For more information, contact Amy Gold, OSU Manager, at 435-233-8185.

THE STAGE DOOR OPENS 2026 SEASON WITH NEXT TO NORMAL

February 5–21—St. George, UT

The Stage Door will open its 2026 season with Next to Normal, a powerful, award-winning rock musical that brings an intimate family story to the Electric Theater from February 5 through February 21. Directed by local artist Kelly Thomas, with music direction and choreography by Amy Gleave and Tino Smith, the production promises an emotionally resonant experience that has challenged and moved audiences since its Broadway debut.

At the heart of Next to Normal is Diana Goodman, a mother living with bipolar disorder, struggling to hold her family together while managing grief that never quite loosens its grip. Her husband, Dan, remains steady and devoted, though often unsure how to reach her. Their teenage daughter Natalie, driven and tightly wound, carries her own quiet burden as she tries to be perfect in a home that feels anything but normal. The family’s story is further complicated by the presence of Gabe, their son who died as an infant and now appears as a haunting, charismatic reminder of unresolved loss. Through sharp dialogue and a contemporary rock score, the musical explores how mental illness ripples through a family, shaping love, denial, hope, and healing.

Written by composer Tom Kitt and lyricist and book writer Brian Yorkey, Next to Normal was developed over nearly a decade, beginning as a small workshop piece in the late 1990s before reaching Broadway in 2009. The show went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, a rare honor for a musical, and remains one of the most celebrated works of modern American

theatre. Kitt and Yorkey later collaborated on other projects including If/Then and the musical adaptation of Freaky Friday.

CONTENT ADVISORY: Audience members should be aware that Next to Normal addresses mature subject matter, including mental illness, medical treatment, grief, substance abuse, sex, death, and suicide, as well as strong language and



emotionally intense scenes.

“Next to Normal is storytelling that creates space for empathy and conversation. We need to see theatre that actually reflects true life, not just some version of what we wish it would be,” said director Kelly Thomas.

The Stage Door, a nonprofit organization based in Southern Utah, is known for producing thoughtful, ambitious work while supporting artists of all ages and experience levels. In residence at The Electric Theater, the organization continues its mission to inspire, educate, and transform both performers and audiences by bringing meaningful stories to the stage.

Tickets and additional information are available at stagedoorutah.com.

HERITAGE CHOIR SPRING CONCERT IS “A GIFT OF LOVE”

February 27–28—St. George, UT

The Southern Utah Heritage Choir will present its annual spring concert, “A Gift of Love,” featuring guest violinist Jason Swigert. Performances take place Friday, February 27, at 7 PM and Saturday, February 28, at 2 PM at the historic St. George Tabernacle, located at the corner of Main and Tabernacle streets in downtown St. George.

for violin and piano, a piece Swigert describes as “charming, playful, exuberant.”

Under the direction of Ken Peterson, the 180-voice choir will present the third concert of its 32nd season. The program includes “Gloria Fanfare,” “Come Unto Him,” “Abide with Me (Cornish),” “Brightly Beams Our Father’s Mercy,” “The Gates of Heaven,” and additional selections highlighting the volunteer vocalists’



Dr. Swigert brings a unique dual career to the stage as both a board-certified internist with Southwest Internal Medicine and an accomplished violinist. A longtime chamber musician with a passion for new compositions, he has premiered several new works that have been warmly received by audiences throughout the region. His musical work reflects a balance of artistic innovation and a deep respect for the classical violin tradition.

Since joining Southwest Internal Medicine in 2013, Swigert has remained actively involved in Southern Utah’s music community, including numerous performances with the Southern Utah Heritage Choir, as well as chamber music recitals across the region.

He will be joined by pianist Jennifer Redfearn for three selections with the choir, including Fritz Kreisler’s “Liebesfreud (Love’s Joy)” from Alt-Wiener Tanzweisen

commitment to excellence and expressive performance.

The choir’s accompanists for the concert are organist Karen Kennedy and pianist Jennifer Redfearn.

Choir President Geri Rhodes shared her enthusiasm for the program, saying, “Who doesn’t appreciate the music of love? Whether it’s the love song you share with a special someone in your life or hymns which deepen your testimony of and love for the Savior Jesus Christ, music can make you feel like it’s the first day of spring, full of warmth and new beginnings.”

Admission is free, but seating at the St. George Tabernacle is open and limited. Audience members are encouraged to arrive early and bring family and friends to enjoy an evening of uplifting music. More information is available at HeritageChoir.org.

39TH ANNUAL SEARS INVITATIONAL ART SHOW & SALE RETURNS TO UTAH TECH

February 13 – March 28 – St. George, UT

Bringing together museum-quality artwork, accomplished artists, and dedicated collectors for nearly four decades, the 39th Annual Sears Invitational Art Show & Sale returns to the Sears Art Museum on the campus of Utah Tech University.

The exhibition opens with a Gala Opening Reception on February 13, followed by a public exhibition and sale on view through March 28. This year’s invitational will feature approximately 230 works by more than 170 artists from across the American West, offering a wide-ranging survey of contemporary regional art.

James Peck, director and curator of the Sears Art Museum, noted that the invitational plays a critical role in supporting the museum. He emphasized the level of artistic excellence represented each year, with artists from Utah and beyond presenting new works that consistently generate excitement among collectors and the broader arts community.

Organizers received 1,115 submissions for inclusion in the 39th annual exhibition. Artists were selected from across the

American West, with priority given to those working in Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and Nevada. The final show reflects both depth and diversity, featuring established artists such as Martin Blundell, Alexander Selytin, and Larry Winborg, alongside a new generation of emerging artists.

Visitors can expect a broad range of styles and media, including landscapes, still lifes, Western scenes, contemporary realism, sculpture, ceramics, and photography. Together, the works offer a snapshot of artistic practice in the American West today. For the third consecutive year, the exhibition is accompanied by a full-color catalog, available for purchase for \$25.

The Sears Invitational was founded by Robert N. Sears (1915–1995), a retired vice president of Phillips Petroleum, who believed Southern Utah should have consistent access to high-quality visual art. With continued support from Peggy Sears and Utah Tech University, his vision has grown into a cultural cornerstone and a winter-season anchor for St. George’s arts calendar.

Proceeds from art sales directly support the operation and programming of the Sears Art Museum, sustaining exhibitions, educational initiatives, and community engagement throughout the year.

During the invitational, the Sears Art Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM. Tickets for the Gala Opening Reception and information about future calls for artists are available at searsart.com.



DOCUTAH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2026 TO FEATURE SUPER/MAN FILM

February 26-28, 2026—St George, UT
Utah Tech University and the City of St. George present the 16th season of the DOCUTAH International Film Festival.

The 2026 Festival will take place February 26 through the 28th at the Megaplex Theatres on

The Trailblazer is given by DOCUTAH to individuals who have made a significant contribution to society. That and all other awards will be given at the awards ceremony Saturday, February 28 at 8 pm at the Megaplex



Sunset, offering three full days of newly released documentary films. Many premiering for the first time in this region, the 57 films have all been released within the last two years.

Theaters' on Sunset. The DOCUTAH awards ceremony will feature filmmakers visiting southern Utah from all over the world.

In addition to the events at the Megaplex Theatres on Sunset, the DOCTalk



Also premiering regionally, Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story, will be the festival's closing film and recipient of the festival's distinctive Trailblazer Award.

In response to learning of the award, Matthew Reeve, son of Christopher and Dana Reeve, said he and his siblings were so happy to hear of DOCUTAH "screening the Super/Man film and honoring our dad with a posthumous award, we deeply appreciate your recognition of his achievement."

Masterclasses will take place on the campus of Utah Tech University the mornings of February 26 & 27 at 9 am in the Zions Bank Room of the Holland Centennial Commons Library. Featuring two powerful films, the DOCTalk Masterclasses are free to the public and will include intensive post-screening discussion with the filmmakers.

More information on DOCTalk Masterclasses, ticketing and screening times can be found at www.docutah.com.

INSPIRED BY ZION? ARTISTS INVITED TO APPLY FOR 2025 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

June 1–July 19, 2024, Springdale, UT
Do the striking landscapes and quiet power of Zion spark creative ideas? Artists inspired by the park's dramatic canyons, desert light, and sense of place are invited to apply for the 2025 Artist-in-Residence program at Zion National Park.

immerse themselves in the landscape and rhythms of Southern Utah.

Community engagement is a core component of the residency. Each Artist-in-Residence presents two public programs designed around their medium, interests, and experience. These may include open



The application period opens June 1 and runs through July 19, 2024. Two artists will be selected to participate in month-long residencies during one of three available timeframes: February 2025, June 2025, or mid-October to mid-November 2025.

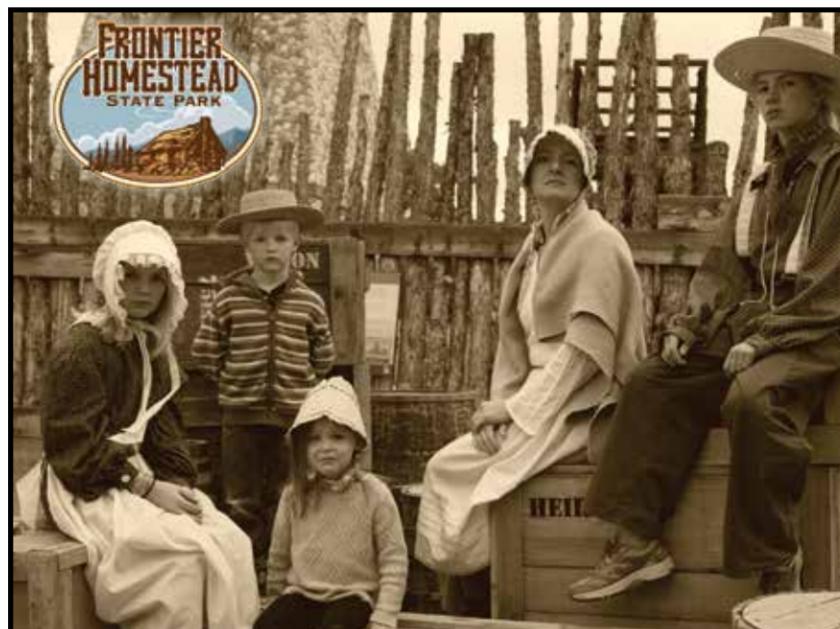
Open to professional artists who are American citizens or U.S. permanent residents, the program welcomes a wide range of creative disciplines. Artists can visit the online application portal to review program requirements, submit portfolio work, and complete their application. The two 2025 Artists-in-Residence will be announced in fall 2024.

Zion's Artist-in-Residence program offers artists the rare opportunity to live and work inside the park for a full month. Participants are provided housing within Zion at no cost, allowing them to fully

studio hours, artist talks, or informal interactions with visitors near trailheads. During their residency, artists serve as part of the Volunteers-in-Parks program and wear National Park Service volunteer uniforms.

Within six months of completing their residency, each artist submits an original work inspired by their time at Zion. These pieces may become part of the park's permanent museum or interpretive collections, or, in partnership with the Zion National Park Forever Project, may be used to help financially support the Artist-in-Residence program.

More information about eligibility and how to apply is available through Zion National Park's official Artist-in-Residence application portal.



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THE DISH: VALENTINE'S DAY DINING IN SOUTHERN UTAH

February 14-15—Southern Utah

Valentine's Day in Southern Utah offers far more than a single style of celebration. Whether your ideal evening includes candlelight, comedy, or cocktails with a view, this year's dining options invite couples to shape the holiday around their own tastes, timelines, and personalities.

are recommended.

For a more elevated, resort-style celebration, Black Desert Resort presents several Valentine's experiences across its dining venues. FLO sets a lively tone with champagne packages, specialty cocktails, and live music during the evening. Basalt offers a prix-fixe Valentine's dinner focused



For those who prefer laughter with their love story, Rattlin' D Playhouse continues its long-running February variety show, My Funny Valentine, in Hurricane. Now in its 13th year, the family-owned dinner theater blends music, comedy, and skits centered on love, with the option of a full prime rib dinner. Dinner begins at 5:45 PM, followed by the show at 7 PM, making it a full evening experience that feels festive, relaxed, and refreshingly different from the traditional restaurant reservation.

Couples celebrating on Valentine's Day itself, or stretching it into a weekend, may gravitate toward Scout Bar & Grill, which is offering a Late Lovers' Weekend menu on February 14 and 15. Set within Red Cliffs Lodge Zion, Scout's prix-fixe menu features a choice of appetizer, entrée, and dessert, served in a quiet, romantic setting. The menu is available from 2 PM to 9 PM and is designed for those who prefer an unhurried, intimate dining experience. Reservations

on seasonal ingredients and bold flavors, ideal for couples seeking a refined night out. For those who enjoy mixing play with indulgence, the 20th Hole pairs a curated menu with time in the golf simulators, adding a lighthearted twist to date night.

Beyond special menus, Southern Utah's established romantic restaurants remain popular Valentine's destinations. Painted Pony continues to anchor Ancestor Square with its intimate atmosphere and Southwestern-inspired cuisine, while Wood Ash Rye offers a modern, upscale setting well-suited for lingering dinners. Italian favorites like Cappelettis and Chef Alfredo's remain reliable choices for couples who value comfort, wine, and conversation.

Whether your Valentine's plans lean elegant, playful, or somewhere in between, Southern Utah's dining scene offers plenty of ways to celebrate — reservations strongly encouraged.

HERSTORY 2026 OPENS AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT KAYENTA DURING FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

March 6-April 18, 2026 - Ivins, UT

ART Provides is proud to present Herstory 2026, the fourth installment of its powerful regional group exhibit celebrating feminine narratives through visual art. The show opens on Friday, March 6, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at the Center for the Arts at Kayenta, as part of the area's First Friday Art Walk.

and transformation. Each piece reflects a personal or poetic interpretation of the feminine experience—past, present, or imagined. From sculpture to fiber art, painting to photography, the work is as diverse as the women and femmes who created it.

"We're honored to bring Herstory to Kayenta this spring and continue



Featuring all-local artists from St. George and the greater Southern Utah region, Herstory 2026 reflects a collaborative spirit between neighboring communities. While ART Provides is proudly rooted in St. George—where it continues to host programs, exhibitions, and the annual Plein Air Festival—this year's exhibit marks a special pop-up partnership with Kayenta, expanding the reach and visibility of Southern Utah's creative voices.

The exhibit will remain on view through April 18, 2026 in the Kayenta Art Center's west gallery.

This year's Herstory exhibit brings together a dynamic collection of artworks exploring themes of identity, care, resistance, embodiment, ancestry,

cultivating connections throughout our Southern Utah arts community," said the ART Provides team. "This is a visiting exhibition—an extension of our St. George mission—and we're grateful to the City of St. George for helping support its curation and outreach."



The opening reception is free and open to the public. Guests are invited to experience the show during the First Friday Art Walk, meet exhibiting artists, and enjoy light refreshments in the gallery.



AMERICAN CROSSROADS THEATRE
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WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR ANNOUNCES NEON TREES AS 2026 CONCERT HEADLINER

April 10-18, 2026—Hurricane, UT

The Washington County Fair is turning up the volume in 2026 with an expanded concert lineup that celebrates both nationally recognized talent and the region's thriving local music scene. Headlining the fair's main stage this spring is Neon Trees, the chart-topping alternative pop band known for its high-energy live shows and radio hits.



With songs including "Animal," "Everybody Talks," and "Sleeping With a Friend," Neon Trees has built a reputation for infectious hooks and crowd-pleasing performances. Their appearance at the Washington County Fair underscores the event's ongoing commitment to pairing world-class entertainment with hometown tradition, a fitting match given the band's Utah roots. Tickets for the concert start at \$29 and will be available exclusively through the fair's official website.

While the Neon Trees performance serves as a marquee moment, fair organizers

emphasize that the 2026 concert series is equally focused on showcasing local talent. Throughout the fair, regional musicians will take the stage, offering audiences a chance to experience the diverse sounds being created across Washington County. From rock and country to pop and familiar crowd favorites, the lineup reflects the creative spirit of the local music community.

"The fair has always been about bringing people together," said Fair Director Susi Lafaele. "By featuring local musicians alongside an internationally recognized act like Neon Trees, we're celebrating both our community roots and our connection to the wider music world."

Music is just one piece of the broader Washington County Fair experience. Returning in 2026 are the attractions attendees have come to expect, including agricultural exhibits, family-friendly entertainment, carnival rides, competitions, and classic fair food. Together, these elements create a multi-generational event designed to be accessible, welcoming, and rooted in tradition.

Guided by its mission to celebrate the heritage, culture, and community spirit of Southern Utah, the Washington County Fair continues to serve as a gathering place where tradition meets innovation. In recognition of America's upcoming 250th anniversary, fair organizers are inviting the community to join the celebration with free admission throughout the event.

The 2026 Washington County Fair will take place April 10-18 in Hurricane. For updates, concert details, and ticket information, visit washcofair.net or follow the fair on social media.

WINE MAKING REFINED IN SOUTHERN UTAH THE PERFECT BLENDS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

February 14, 2026—Leeds, UT

February is a busy and meaningful time at Zion Vineyards, where winter pruning in the vineyard coincides with bottling and releasing new wines. This season, the winery introduces a new ZIOJA Red Blend, released just in time for Valentine's Day and now available for tasting and purchase.

Styled after a classic Rioja, the ZIOJA Red Blend is composed of 60% Tempranillo and 40% Grenache. The full-bodied wine offers bold notes of vanilla and dark fruit, with layers of cherry, plum, blueberry, tobacco, cedar, dill, and clove. A smooth, rounded mouthfeel and velvety tannins give the wine balance and depth, making it a versatile food pairing. Suggested pairings include tapas, tomato-based sauces, barbecue, grilled meats such as steaks and chops, tacos, burritos, chile relleno, and dark chocolate desserts with a hint of spice, an ideal choice for a Valentine's date night.

Zion Vineyards has become known for its thoughtfully crafted blends, created through a deliberate and methodical process known as a bench trial. The process begins by determining which varietals are available and defining the intended wine style, such as a Rioja or Super Tuscan. Using

measured combinations of different wines, multiple blend ratios are tested, evaluated, and discussed by a small tasting group. Notes are taken on flavor profiles, structure, and balance before a final blend is selected. Each wine reflects time, intention, and a deep respect for the vineyard and craft.

Visitors are invited to stop by the winery to taste current releases and learn more about the blending process. Zion Vineyards is located at 5 Hidden Valley Road in Leeds, approximately 12 miles north of St. George and just off I-15. Reservations are not required. The tasting room is open seven days a week from noon to 6 PM. More information is available at zionvines.com or by calling 435-849-8376.





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HURRICANE, UTAH

AMERICAN CROSSROADS THEATRE BRINGS DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS TO ST. GEORGE

February 26-28—St. George, UT

American Crossroads Theatre presents the hit Broadway musical comedy *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, playing February 26-28 at 7:30 PM, with a special 2 PM matinee on Saturday, February 28, at the Performing Arts Campus (PAC), located at 905 S. Main St.

Bugg said. "If you enjoy great singing, dancing, and a great caper with likeable con artists, then don't miss this show."

Formerly known as SimonFest, American Crossroads Theatre has established itself as one of Southern Utah's premier professional theatre companies, known for producing entertaining, high-



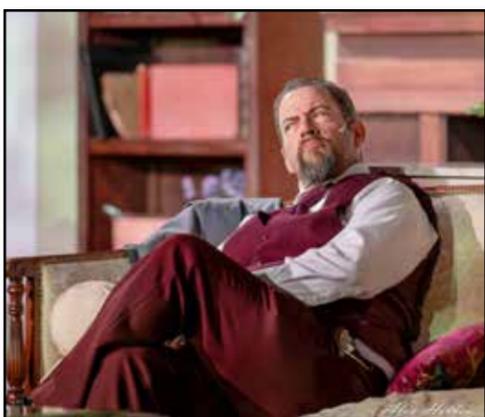
Based on the popular film of the same name, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* is a stylish and fast-paced musical caper set on the glamorous French Riviera. The story centers on two rival con artists, one smooth and sophisticated, the other scrappy and impulsive, who engage in an escalating battle of wits as they compete to swindle a wealthy young woman. Disguises, deception, and unexpected twists drive the action, delivering sharp comedy and classic farce wrapped in a jazzy, high-energy score.

The production stars American Crossroads Theatre founder Richard Bugg, who also directs, alongside a cast that includes Rachel Cox, Brodie Perry, Jared David, and Tyson Chanticleer. Together, the ensemble brings Broadway-style polish, strong vocals, and physical comedy to a show that balances romance with laugh-out-loud moments.

"What a fantastic collection of talent we have found for this show,"

quality productions that appeal to a broad audience. *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* continues that tradition, offering an evening of sophisticated fun and theatrical spectacle during the winter performance season.

Tickets are available by calling 435-267-0194 or online. Additional information, including behind-the-scenes updates, can be found at ACTplayers.com.



BLACK SAGE BRINGS FARM-TO-TABLE DINING TO THE HEART OF GREATER ZION

Virgin, UT

Tucked into the high desert landscape near Zion National Park, Black Sage offers a dining experience rooted in place, season, and intention. Located onsite at Open Sky Zion, the destination restaurant is open not only to resort guests but to the public, inviting diners to slow down and savor Southern Utah one thoughtfully prepared dish at a time.

local sourcing, a whole-animal program, and menus that highlight the integrity of each ingredient.

Black Sage also offers a curated wine and beer list, locally sourced ciders, and a selection of mocktails, ensuring thoughtful pairings for a range of preferences. Gluten-free and vegan options are available by request.

The restaurant has earned multiple



Black Sage's approach is firmly farm-to-table, drawing on locally sourced ingredients and bold regional flavors that reflect the surrounding landscape. Menus change seasonally and include weekly features alongside a core selection of elevated comfort dishes. The result is cuisine that feels both refined and grounded, rich and vibrant without losing its sense of place.

Guests may dine indoors in an elegant, intimate setting or step outside onto the restaurant's expanded patio, which was reimaged in early 2025 to enhance capacity and deepen the connection to the natural environment. Panoramic views stretch across the Virgin River corridor and surrounding mesas, making the setting as memorable as the meal itself.

At the helm is Executive Chef Charles Parcell, who has led the restaurant for the past three years. Parcell's culinary journey began at age 13 and includes experience with Marriott International, Cinque, and Cordwood. His cooking blends Italian, Appalachian, and Southwestern influences, resulting in dishes that balance technique with warmth and familiarity. Passionate about sustainability, Parcell emphasizes

accolades, including Best Outdoor Dining and Best View in the 2025 Best of Southern Utah awards, along with recognition as a Silver Winner for Romantic Getaway. Chef Parcell was also recently honored with the Tableside Champion Award by the Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office, celebrating culinary professionals who elevate the visitor experience beyond the plate.

Dinner is served from 5 PM to 9 PM daily, except Tuesdays. Reservations are required and can be made through OpenTable. Black Sage is located at 3405 Dalton Wash Road in Virgin. Be sure to preview the menu at StayOpenSky.com/Culinary.



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111 S Main St #1

Cedar City UT 84720

Located inside the Arts Center

PUBLIC ART FOR EVERYONE: ART AROUND THE CORNER IN ST. GEORGE

March 28, 2026—St. George, UT

Public art has a unique ability to transform shared spaces into places of connection, curiosity, and conversation. In St. George, that transformation is made possible by the Art Around the Corner Foundation (AACF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to making fine art accessible to everyone.



Founded more than two decades ago by a group of local artists, Art Around the Corner grew from a simple but powerful belief, that art should not be limited to galleries or museums. Instead, it should be part of everyday life, accessible in the places where people gather, walk, and connect. What began as a grassroots idea supported by local artists and sponsoring businesses has since evolved into a year-round Outdoor Sculpture Gallery featuring large-scale works by artists from across the country.

Each year, AACF curates and installs a new Outdoor Sculpture Gallery through a competitive jury process. Selected sculptures are placed throughout Town Square Park and along Main Street to 200 North, creating an open-air gallery woven directly into downtown St. George. The approach invites residents and visitors alike to encounter art in an approachable, unpretentious setting.

All sculptures in the exhibition are available for purchase, directly supporting the artists and helping sustain the program. To date, Art Around the Corner has facilitated more than \$1 million in art sales. By placing artwork in shared public spaces, the program creates meaningful opportunities for artists while inviting art lovers to engage with and collect work in a relaxed, accessible way.

Beyond the sculptures themselves, Art Around the Corner plays an important role in building community. Public art enriches

the character of a city, sparks dialogue, and reflects creativity and shared values. Through exhibitions, events, tours, and educational opportunities, AACF fosters connections between artists, residents, and visitors while celebrating St. George's growing cultural landscape.

"Being a part of this program that brings so much heart, culture, and joy to

our downtown spaces is so rewarding," said Heather Atkin, executive director of AACF. "Seeing the community come together on installation day, and having the chance to connect with the artists in person, is my favorite part of the program."

The community is invited to celebrate the opening of this year's Outdoor Sculpture Gallery during a free public event on Saturday, March 28, from 10 AM to noon. The gallery will be installed earlier that day, and the opening celebration will include live music, light refreshments, a self-guided walking tour, and an art-themed scavenger hunt for all ages.

Art Around the Corner will also host its annual Artist's Social on Friday, March 27, from 6 PM to 9 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn. Tickets are available through the AACF website, with proceeds supporting participating artists.

For event details, tickets, and information on sponsorships or donations, visit artaroundthecorner.org.



FEBRUARY BRINGS NEW FACES, IMPROV CLASSES, AND A BOLD FUNDRAISER AT SO U COMEDY THEATER

February 7-21—St. George, UT

February at So U Comedy Theater is packed with fresh energy, audience-driven laughs, and a new fundraising initiative that blends heart, humor, and just enough chaos to keep things interesting.



This month introduces two new cast members, Christian and Rhett, who make their debut appearances on February 7 and 21. Joining the regular ensemble, the new additions bring bold choices and fresh perspectives to shows that remain entirely unscripted and shaped by audience suggestions. As with every So U Comedy performance, no two nights are ever the same, making repeat visits part of the fun.

February also marks the return of Improv 101, an eight-week introductory course beginning February 10. Held on Tuesday nights and taught by instructors Anitra and Jay, the class covers the fundamentals of improvisation in a supportive and encouraging environment. Designed for anyone curious about improv, whether frequent audience members or first-time performers, the course emphasizes confidence, creativity, and connection. The theater's guiding philosophy, "Improv for Everyone," reflects a belief that the benefits of improv extend beyond the stage into everyday life, communication, and

collaboration.

Looking ahead to March, So U Comedy Theater will launch its first-ever Dare To Care initiative, a month-long fundraiser benefiting a local nonprofit. The concept challenges cast members to complete increasingly outrageous dares as donation milestones are met. As fundraising totals grow, so does the level of commitment from the performers, with dares ranging from public dance-offs to cold-water plunges and other unexpected antics. Each completed dare will be shared on social media, allowing donors and fans to follow the unfolding mayhem in real time.

Founding member Anne Schwab described the motivation behind the project as a response to both community needs and the spirit of improv itself. She noted that improvisors tend to bring fearlessness, generosity, and passion into everything they do, and that Dare To Care offers a creative way to give back while spreading joy.



So U Comedy Theater hosts a family-friendly show at 7 PM and an uncensored show at 9 PM. Tickets are available online at soucomedy.com or at the door, with discounts offered. Updates and dare suggestions can be found by following So U Comedy Theater on Facebook and Instagram.

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REACHING A MILESTONE: 20 YEARS STRONG

May 7-10—Kanab, UT

When we look back, the year 2026 will be significant in so many ways. Will we become better informed, more engaged to make a positive difference where we can, wiser, more compassionate to each other, to ourselves, other creatures, and to our natural environment? Can we be more cognizant of how our personal and societal choices, our culture and our economy affect our immediate surroundings and the greater natural world that sustains us? Will our communities become more resilient?

that could be widely emulated. A public forum that would seek to develop and deepen societal awareness of our intrinsic connection to, and indeed, dependence upon nature as the enabling source for humanity to be able to thrive and evolve. To increase appreciation and respect for our magnificent public lands as engines for rural Utah economies. And to cast an eye to the future, to love, protect, and preserve the natural ecosystems of our planet and better comprehend our impacts upon them.

The community is invited to the 20th Annual Amazing Earthfest in May 2026 to



The direction Americans collectively choose to take will help set the course of history. According to founding director Rich Csege, the 20th annual festival of learning opportunities at Amazing Earthfest can play a role by focusing attention on the importance of our relationship with the natural world.

Two decades ago, a guiding concept motivated the founders of Kanab's Amazing Earthfest. The inspiration was to create a template for a new kind of festival of experiential learning events and activities

discover and strengthen connections with others who love nature, and with America's unmatched public estate, our National and State Parks, Forests, Monuments, and Public Lands. These places remain an inexhaustible source of ongoing inspiration as repositories of natural wonder, and a shared heritage for humanity and all forms of life.

As planning continues for the 20th consecutive festival program, visit the official website to learn what's coming for 2026 at amazingearthfest.org.

RATTLIN' D PLAYHOUSE RETURNS WITH "MY FUNNY VALENTINE: 2026"

February 14, 2026—Hurricane, UT

For the 13th year in a row, Rattlin' D Playhouse brings its popular Valentine's variety show, My Funny Valentine, back to audiences in Hurricane. Known for its blend of music, comedy, and hearty comfort food, the family-owned dinner theater continues a tradition that has become a seasonal favorite for Southern Utah audiences.

by Stephen Michaud, Skyler Scott, and Durrant himself. Songs, skits, and comedy numbers are all centered on the theme of love, delivering a lighthearted Valentine's experience designed to entertain a broad audience.

Rattlin' D Playhouse has also drawn attention beyond Southern Utah. Last year, Merrill Osmond attended a performance



Founded by the Durrant family after relocating from Idaho 13 years ago, Rattlin' D Playhouse has steadily grown a loyal following. Owner Drew Durrant credits that growth to consistency, community support, and a clear vision for the experience they offer. The playhouse prides itself on delivering family-friendly humor that remains genuinely funny, paired with a prime rib dinner that has become part of the show's appeal.

The production is staged on the campus of Utah Prep Academy, where the 330-seat dinner theater regularly sells out during its limited seasonal runs. Performances are offered only during the Christmas season and throughout February, making My Funny Valentine a special, time-bound event each year.

The 2026 cast features a mix of local and international performers with extensive stage experience. Rachel Peterson, Danna Richards, and Tabitha Bradley anchor the female side of the ensemble, joined

and later praised the production, calling it one of the best-produced and funniest shows he had seen.

During the summer months, the Durrant family operates Yellowstone Playhouse in Island Park, Idaho, carrying the same blend of food and humor to a different audience.

Shows are available with or without dinner. Dinner service begins at 5:45 PM, followed by curtain at 7 PM. Tickets and additional information are available at rattlindplayhouse.com.



UTAH TECH THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS TRISTAN AND YSEULT

Feb. 26-28 & March 3-7—St. George, UT

Utah Tech University Theatre and Dance invites audiences into a world where passion defies destiny and love becomes a force both breathtaking and dangerous with its spring production of Tristan and Yseult. The visually striking reimagining of the legendary romance runs February 26-28 and March 3-7 at 7:30 PM at the Eccles Mainstage Theatre, located in the Dolores Doré Eccles Fine Arts Center on the Utah Tech campus.

artistry, and theatrical invention to transform an ancient myth into an immersive contemporary experience.

The story follows Tristan, a wandering knight, whose forbidden love for Yseult, promised to King Mark, places loyalty, honor, and entire kingdoms in jeopardy. As secrecy and devotion collide, the narrative balances epic scale with intimate emotion while examining the powerful pull of fate and the cost of desire.

This production represents a full collaboration between Utah Tech's Theatre, Dance, and Music departments. Audiences can expect aerial silks, modern and contemporary dance, stage combat, intimacy choreography, live vocal performance, and an ensemble-driven visual style that emphasizes physical storytelling and innovation.

The creative team includes stage manager Adda Fernandez, assistant director Frankie Garrard, dramaturg Allison Gibbes, and designers Shelby Burgess for scenery and technical direction, Abdiel Portalatin Perez for costumes, and Henry Echeverria for lighting and sound. Additional artistic leadership features aerial choreography by Dr. JB Shilcutt, vocal coaching and composition by Dr. Melissa Glenn, fight choreography by David Parry, and intimacy coordination by Rebecca Wright and John Terry.

Tristan and Yseult is rated PG-13 for adult themes, sensuality, and staged violence. Tickets go on sale February 2. General admission tickets are \$20, with \$5 tickets available for Utah Tech faculty, staff, and students. Tickets: utahtech.eventnet/events/theatre.



Directed by Theatre Professor John Terry and visiting artist Jennifer Weber from the University of Georgia, Tristan and Yseult explores timeless questions of devotion, desire, and the risks taken in pursuit of true love. The production draws on Kneehigh Theatre's bold storytelling style, blending movement, music, aerial

BLACKSAGE

a culinary adventure
3405 Dalton Wash Road, Virgin
Reservations Required

OTC COMEDY BRINGS LIVE IMPROV AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION TO CEDAR CITY

February 2026—Cedar City, UT

OTC Comedy has become a familiar and welcome presence in Cedar City's arts and entertainment scene, offering live, unscripted improv comedy every Friday night at the OTC Comedy Theater. With performances fueled entirely by audience suggestions, each show delivers a fast-paced, unpredictable experience that keeps regulars coming back and newcomers pleasantly surprised.



with laughter, shared moments, and a relaxed, playful atmosphere. Whether celebrating romance, friendship, or simply a shared appreciation for comedy, OTC Comedy leans into the idea that laughter itself is a meaningful form of connection.

Affordability is also part of the draw. Tickets are priced at \$10, making live performance accessible without a major commitment. Shows are open to all ages, broadening the audience and reinforcing OTC Comedy's role as a welcoming, community-centered venue rather than a niche nightlife destination.

OTC Comedy also encourages repeat attendance through a rewards program that allows audience members to earn points for every dollar spent at the theater. Those points can be redeemed for concessions or future tickets, adding a sense of fun continuity to the experience.

More information, including tickets and show details, is available at otccomedy.com.



Performing at 8 PM each Friday, OTC Comedy provides an accessible night out that works for couples, groups of friends, students, and anyone looking to do something different at the end of the week. Because no two shows are ever the same, repeat visits feel fresh, spontaneous, and often personal, with audience ideas shaping the direction of each performance in real time.

February brings an added layer of appeal, particularly for those looking to rethink traditional Valentine's plans. A Friday show falling on February 13 offers an alternative to crowded restaurants and predictable date nights, replacing them

PRETTY IN PINK OPENS FEBRUARY AT KOLOB GALLERY

February 7, 2026—St. George, UT

February at Kolob Gallery blends color, craftsmanship, and community with the opening of *Pretty in Pink*, a month-long exhibition that brings a lighthearted and thoughtful start to Valentine's season. An opening reception takes place February 7 from 6 PM to 8 PM at the gallery, located inside the Art Center at 111 S. Main St. in St. George.

ideal for both new and seasoned collectors. The small scale encourages close viewing and personal connection, offering an alternative to traditional Valentine's gifts that lasts long after February 14. While the exhibit runs throughout the month, many works are expected to sell quickly.

In addition to *Pretty in Pink*, Kolob Gallery highlights fiber artist Teri McHale as its Solo Artist for February. McHale,



The exhibition features a curated selection of miniature paintings, many inspired by florals and themes of affection, making them approachable, giftable, and



who has worked in textiles since 2003, is widely respected for her painted silk pieces and coiled fiber vessels. Her work often draws inspiration from natural forms and spiritual themes, blending technique with intuition.

McHale's pieces have been juried into national and international exhibitions, and she was recently recognized as an "Artist of Utah" by the Southern Utah Museum of Art. Her solo feature adds depth and contrast to the gallery's February offerings, balancing playful charm with refined craftsmanship.

Kolob Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM and continues to serve as an accessible space for discovering local and regional art within downtown St. George.

SOUTHERN UTAH ART GUILD CONNECTS ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY THROUGH FEBRUARY EXHIBITS

February 2026—St. George, UT

The Southern Utah Art Guild continues its mission of supporting local artists and building creative community through a full slate of February exhibitions and events, all free and open to the public.

work adds another dimension to the guild's February programming, showcasing the breadth of artistic voices represented within the organization.

Beyond exhibitions, the guild continues to foster artistic growth through



At Red Cliff Gallery, the February exhibition *Close to Home* runs from February 13 through March 26. Celebrating St. George's Parade of Homes, the show highlights artwork inspired by place, community, and the idea of home. Featured artist Cheryl Sache brings vibrant color and expressive energy to the exhibition, inviting viewers to engage emotionally as well as visually.

Adding a collaborative layer to the experience, members of Red Rock Writers, the St. George chapter of the Utah State Poets Society, have written original poems inspired by selected artworks in the show. The pairing of visual art and poetry creates a thoughtful dialogue between mediums, encouraging visitors to slow down, reflect, and experience the work from multiple perspectives. All artwork in the exhibition is available for purchase.

Meanwhile, Arrowhead Gallery features photographer Deb Bice as its February featured artist. Known locally and nationally for her photography, Bice's

CONNECT, a monthly critique night sponsored by the Utah Arts Alliance. Held February 5 from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Social Hall on Main Street, CONNECT offers emerging and established artists the opportunity to receive constructive feedback in a supportive environment, guided by host Colleen Gianatiempo.

Together, these offerings reflect the Southern Utah Art Guild's ongoing commitment to accessibility, collaboration, and creative development. More information is available at southernutahartguild.com.



AARON METLER SELECTED FOR PROFESSIONAL FIELD AT 130TH BOSTON MARATHON

St. George, UT

Four-time St. George Marathon champion and local resident Aaron Metler has been selected to compete in the men's professional field at the Boston Marathon presented by Bank of America. The 130th running of the historic race will take place on April 20, 2026.



Metler is one of only eight international Masters runners, age 40 and older, whose qualifying times earned them a place in the elite field. The Boston Marathon, held annually on Patriots' Day, is both the world's oldest marathon and widely regarded as one of the most challenging.

Metler qualified with a finishing time of 2:19:48 at last year's St. George Marathon, where he claimed the Overall Masters title while maintaining a 5:20-per-mile pace across the 26.2-mile course.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Metler serves as Recreation Manager for Races and Special Events with the City of St. George Parks and Community Services Department. His training regimen includes logging approximately 100 miles per week on local trails in all weather conditions,

paired with a disciplined, all-organic diet that avoids sugar and processed foods.

The professional field in Boston is expected to be highly competitive, featuring world and Boston champions, Olympic and Paralympic medalists, national standouts, and 25 men who have previously run marathon times under 2:07. Eight of the top 10 finishers from the 2025 race are also set to return. Provo resident Michael Ottesen, who placed second overall at the 2025 St. George Marathon, will also compete in the professional field.

Metler's running journey began after relocating from Detroit to St. George in 2008. Although he did not compete on the varsity team at the University of Michigan, he founded a collegiate running club that helped spark the formation of the National Intercollegiate Running Club Association, now a nationwide organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities.

City officials praised Metler's dedication and work ethic, noting his consistency, mental strength, and long-standing commitment to the sport of running.

More information about the City of St. George is available at sgcityutah.gov.



SNOW-COVERED PEAKS MEET DESERT ESCAPE IN CAPITOL REEF COUNTRY

February 2026—Torrey, UT

Anchoring Utah's Mighty 5 National Parks in the south-central region of the state, Capitol Reef Country sits at the crossroads of high-alpine mountains to the west and snow-free desert terrain to the east, offering a best-of-both-worlds winter getaway in Wayne County.



Capitol Reef Country's small, welcoming communities provide a quieter alternative for travelers seeking a reset in the New Year, with varied winter recreation available across dramatically different elevations. Higher mountain terrain allows for snow-based activities such as ice fishing and snowmobiling, while lower desert landscapes remain accessible for hiking and exploration, often beneath clear skies found within the region's International Dark Sky-designated areas.

Winter Hiking Without the Crowds

With more than 150 miles of trails, Capitol Reef National Park becomes a hiker's haven during the winter months. Popular routes include the 2-mile Hickman Bridge Trail, which leads to a striking natural arch, and the 3.6-mile Chimney Rock Trail, offering views of the park's signature Waterpocket Fold and ancient Fremont petroglyphs. The 3.4-mile Cassidy Arch Trail is steep and storied, tied to local lore surrounding Butch Cassidy, while the

Grand Wash Trail near Torrey follows a 4.4-mile gorge framed by towering sandstone walls and is suitable for hikers of varying ages and abilities.

Additional winter hiking opportunities can be found on Boulder Mountain in Dixie National Forest and Thousand Lakes Mountain in Fishlake National Forest, where trails wind through alpine forests and past frozen mountain lakes.

Off-Road ATV Adventures

Guided ATV tours are available year-round east of Capitol Reef, leading riders across rugged terrain and remote destinations such as Moonscape Overlook, Factory Butte, Robbers Roost, and the San Rafael Swell. These off-road routes provide access to landscapes that remain largely untouched during the winter season.

Photography and Night Skies

Winter's low-angle light and crisp air create ideal conditions for photography throughout the region. Scenic viewpoints like Sunset Point and Gooseneck Overlook capture vivid contrasts between warm earth tones, river corridors, and dramatic rock formations.

Capitol Reef Country is also home to three International Dark Sky-designated areas, including Goblin Valley, Torrey, and Capitol Reef National Park, offering expansive night skies and exceptional stargazing opportunities far from urban light pollution.

Ice Fishing and Snow Play

Winter anglers can find ice fishing opportunities at several mountain lakes within Dixie and Fishlake national forests. Boulder Mountain, rising above 11,000 feet, is a popular destination that also transforms into a snowmobiling hub during the winter months.

More information about planning a winter visit to Capitol Reef Country is available at capitolreefcountry.com.

KAYAK THE COLORADO DELIVERS MORE THAN JUST A PADDLE—IT'S AN AWAKENING LEES FERRY, AZ

Explore the heart of Glen Canyon like never before with Kayak the Colorado, a locally owned adventure company operating out of Lees Ferry, inside the breathtaking Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Offering easy access to the calm, scenic stretch of the Colorado River just below Glen Canyon Dam, this outfit serves up more than a kayak rental—it delivers a chance to truly connect with the land, the water, and maybe even yourself.

Southwest.

The most popular trip begins with an upriver boat shuttle to mile 10 or mile 14, where guests are dropped off with their kayaks for a self-paced float back down to Lees Ferry. It's a tranquil journey through canyon beauty, with opportunities to stop at sandy beaches, explore hidden side canyons, or just drift in silence while soaking in the serenity of the place.

What makes Kayak the Colorado



"This river changes people—not just the way they see nature, but the way they see themselves," say co-owners Shaun Riding and Dale Gauthier, whose vision for Kayak the Colorado goes far beyond thrill-seeking. "Kayak the Colorado was born from a belief that adventure should be more than adrenaline—it should be awakening."

And awakening is exactly what you'll find as you paddle beneath towering sandstone walls, past ancient petroglyphs, and along waters so clear you can see the pebbles on the bottom. Suitable for all experience levels, this is a mellow, meaningful way to engage with one of the most iconic rivers in the American

stand out is their passion for preservation and personalization. Locally owned and operated, the team is committed to protecting the fragile Glen Canyon ecosystem while providing high-quality gear, expert trip advice, and a warm, knowledgeable welcome to every guest.

Whether you're seeking solitude, family bonding, or just a break from the noise of modern life, Kayak the Colorado offers a unique and peaceful way to experience the red rock wonders of Glen Canyon.

To learn more or book your trip, visit kayakthecolorado.com, follow them on Instagram or Facebook @kayakthecolorado, or call 435-275-2925.

UT THEATRE | UT DANCE
UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY | UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY

KNEEHIGH'S TRISTAN & YSEULT

Written by: Emma Rice, Carl Grose & Anna Maria Murphy
Directed by: John Terry & Jennifer Weber

February 26-28 • March 3-7 | 7:30 PM
Eccles Fine Art Center: Main Stage
\$20 Admission • \$5 UT Students, Faculty & Staff

UTAH DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION AWARDS \$735,000 TO EXPAND YOUTH OUTDOOR LEARNING

The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) has awarded more than \$735,000 in grants to support youth-focused outdoor recreation and education programs across the state, benefiting more than 21,500 young people and contributing

through outdoor learning," said Caroline Weiler, DOR's youth engagement program manager. "Through both our long-standing UCORE program and the new Outdoor Classroom grant, we're helping more kids experience the joy and growth that comes from learning outside."



Several funded projects directly impact Southern Utah. In Washington County, Zion Youth Stewards received \$15,000 to support hands-on conservation learning for local tribal youth in partnership with Zion National Park. The program focuses on connecting young people to cultural heritage and land stewardship through immersive outdoor

to over \$4.4 million in total project value.

The funding supports 57 projects statewide through two programs, the Utah Children's Outdoor Recreation and Education (UCORE) Grant and the Outdoor Classroom Grant. Both initiatives aim to remove barriers to outdoor access while fostering environmental stewardship, hands-on learning, and long-term connections to Utah's natural landscapes.

"These projects represent the creativity, heart, and community impact that happen when we invest in our future

experiences.

Other UCORE-funded projects across the state include adaptive skiing and snowboarding programs for youth with disabilities, trauma-informed outdoor experiences for children impacted by domestic violence, and outdoor leadership and science-based learning initiatives in rural communities. Together, the projects span a wide range of activities, including avalanche awareness, mountain biking, archery, gardening, STEAM-based outdoor camps, and tribal heritage exploration.

THE INDEPENDENT MOVIE REVIEWS

By Adam Mast

MOVIEREVIEW:SENDEHELP(R)

Grade: B-

If you grew up a horror fan in the 80s, you're already well aware that it was a magical time for the genre and few horror films of that decade stuck with me as much as "Evil Dead II: Dead By Dawn," a movie I was fortunate enough to see a test screening of before it opened in the spring of 1987. Sure, the first film (released in 1981) was a memorable work that Stephen King referred to as "The most ferociously original horror film of the year," but the Three Stooges-inspired lunacy at the center of the sequel made for a special brand of entertainment that, to this very day, remains my favorite of Sam Raimi's noteworthy titles (although "A Simple Plan" comes in a close second.) Where does the recently released "Send Help," rank on

his work in last year's little seen indie, "Twinless," that would truly showcase his range. In "Send Help," O'Brien (who appears to be channeling Ray Liotta and Robert DeNiro a bit here) is effective yet again taking the narcissistic (and manipulative) office boss behavior and multiplying the asshole component by ten. He's a ton of malicious fun in this movie and that cackle of his is absolutely hilarious.

As great as O'Brien is here, the big surprise is Rachel McAdams. Not that McAdams hasn't been great in a multitude of diverse projects through the years ("Mean Girls," "The Notebook," and "Spotlight" among them) but here, we get to see the biggest of personalities from her and I'm there for it. Interestingly enough, for years, I've joked with my lovely wife that McAdams is on "my island" and ironically



Mr. Raimi's resume? Well, it's certainly his best film since 2009's "Drag Me to Hell."

In "Send Help," awkward office worker (and faithful "Survivor" fan) Linda Liddle (played by Rachel McAdams) is passed over for a promotion when the new D-bag head of the company, Bradley Preston (played by Dylan O'Brien), decides he has different plans for the family-owned business. Despite passing her over, Bradley does offer Linda an opportunity to prove herself worthy by inviting her to be part of an overseas business trip. Said business trip is violently cut short, however, when the plane the team is on goes down in a brutal storm, stranding Bradley and Linda on an island in the middle of nowhere. Shortly thereafter, a power dynamic shift takes place between these two individuals resulting in a slice of survival-laced horror that is punctuated by Raimi's unique brand of energy, over the top bravado, and hilarious (and altogether dark) sense of humor.

As suggested in the trailer, "Send Help" sort of plays like a fusion of "In the Company of Men," "Misery," "Cast Away," and "Lord of the Flies" but there are two things that really make this movie instantly watchable; It's sense of humor (seriously, this movie is a lot funnier than I thought it would be), and its outstanding (and undeniably charismatic) leads.

Dylan O'Brien has been a star on the rise for what feels like a very long time dating back to his lead role in "The Maze Runner" films. Movies like the underappreciated gem, "Love and Monsters," would follow but it would be

enough, in "Send Help," she's literally on an island.

Of course, it's Mr. Raimi conducting the loopy action in this bit of survival madness and after more than four decades in the business, it's clear that he's still got it, even if the screenplay by Damian Shannon and Mark Swift often tries to hold him back with the familiar "stuck on an island" framework. There are certain beats here that are a little tough to buy into, too, and this is to say nothing of the repetition when it comes to certain character beats. Additionally, there's a bit in the final act that's meant to pull the rug out from underneath the viewer but it's not as successful as it thinks it is, mostly because it tips its hand not once, but twice earlier on in the film.

Add to that an unsatisfying ending that opts to take a side, and you have a movie that, for all its memorable moments (the boar, the procedure, the fight, etc.), doesn't quite stick the landing. For my money, this film would have been more effective had the writers taken more of a "War of the Roses" approach with the ending as that would have been more appropriate given where these two characters end up as "Send Help" makes its way to its blood-soaked battle-of-the-sexes finale.

Again, though, O'Brien and McAdams are really damn good here. Not just as individuals but as a duo. They bring real energy and humor to the proceedings as does an always game Raimi. "Send Help" may not be at the same level as his best work but it's always a joy to see him back in the director's chair.

SUNDANCE ENDS UTAH RUN ON A HIGH NOTE!

By Adam Mast

It was a bittersweet year for Sundance Film Festival attendees as the legendary independent showcase (I've been attending since the mid-1990s) prepares to leave the state of Utah for its new home, Boulder, CO in 2027. That said, this last dance in the Beehive state offered a well-balanced roster of memorable films for lovers of independent cinema. The following four titles represent my favorites of the bunch. Here they are, in alphabetical order;

THE INCOMER

If you're a fan of warm-hearted UK efforts like "The Ballad of Wallis Island" and you like the quirky (and quick-witted) sense of humor at the center of little seen-gems like "Brian and Charles," then "The Incomer" is going to be right up your alley. It certainly worked for me. This hilarious comedy from writer/director Louis Paxton plays like a humor-tinged Scottish folk tale. "The Incomer" follows Daniel (played by an affable Domhnall Gleeson), an awkward official who makes his way to a remote Scottish island where he's ordered to relocate Isla and Sandy (energetically played by the charismatic duo that is Gayle Rankin and Grant O'Rourke), a pair of slightly eccentric, childlike, and in some cases, unhinged, siblings who've been living there in near solitude for years. Not surprisingly, craziness ensues. This movie is hilarious and charming in equal measure. But for all the funny business and charm, "The Incomer" also has something to say about moving on from your familiar surroundings. It also has plenty of profound things to say about conquering your fears and simply being yourself. A wonderful film from top to bottom.

THE SCREENER

This one is a bit of a cheat as it wasn't actually a movie but rather part of Sundance's episodic program. "The Screener" is comprised of 5 thirty-minute episodes and we were treated to 3 of the 5. This fiercely hilarious and shrewd skewering of the film industry comes from the great independent film legend, Jim Cummings, the unique voice behind "Thunder Road." It sort of plays like the independent film equivalent of Seth Rogen's "The Studio" only for my money, this series is more clever (if a tad more inside.) The setup is pretty simple; A screener copy of an independent film is leaked online by way of a talent agency following a private advanced screening and once the movie makes its way on to the internet, all hell breaks loose. The energy of this series (not to mention the moments of entitlement and excess) recall titles like "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "Succession" while the breakneck pace and colorful wordplay recall the best of Aaron Sorkin. "The Screener" emerged as the best thing I saw at Sundance this year. It may not have the weight of the most-talked about prestige dramas of the fest but holy cow does this thing fire on all cylinders. And it's purely independent. Interestingly enough, the stellar ensemble cast is mostly unrecognizable, but trust me when I tell you, they will be recognizable after this show gets picked up. And if "The Screener" doesn't get picked up, it'll be a bigger crime than leaking a screener onto the internet!

TAKE ME HOME

Writer/director Liz Sargent has expanded her effective short film "Take Me Home" into an equally effective feature. Shot like a documentary, this movie follows an elderly couple (beautifully played by Marceline Hugot and Victor Slezak) in their golden years that struggle to provide for their adult child, Anna, a cognitively disabled 38-year-old whose personality is as big as her heart. One of the things that makes this movie so special is that the role of Anna is beautifully played by Anna Sargent, Liz's real-life cognitively disabled sister. Like "Peanut Butter Falcon" before it, this casting choice brings a whole new level of authenticity to this movie. "Take Me Home" has a sweet side but it's also honest when it comes to the many themes it's delving into. Preparing for the future, the perils and pitfalls that come with health care, the challenges that come with raising a child with special needs, etc. This movie has a lot to say and the fashion in which it explores these things make for a rich and sometimes unpredictable experience. The ending of the film—which is somewhat open to interpretation—will be jarring for some but as a whole, this is a sensitive, funny, thoughtful, and heartfelt look at the life of the kind of exceptional individual we rarely get to see represented in the movies and I was really moved by it.



UNION COUNTY

While many eyes seemed to be firmly focused on the much talked about festival award-winner "Josephine" (I feel like I'm alone in my observation that, while far from a bad movie, it's not as profound as it aspires to be despite the gut-wrenching subject matter), this compassionate, hard-hitting, and quietly devastating look at addiction came across as more enlightening and authentic. Featuring a beautifully understated (and nuanced) turn by Will Poulter (who also serves as the film's producer), this docudrama from writer/director Adam Meeks finds a twenty-something struggling while in a rural Ohio recovery program. This intimate little indie certainly doesn't shy away from the negative aspects of drug use, but it also refuses to become the doom-and-gloom drama you might be expecting. On the contrary, this outstanding and wholly empathetic film (which features both actors and real-life addicts in its cast) suggests that hope is alive and well, even in the darkest of times. The cast here is exceptional but a special shout out to Annette Deao. This woman is to be commended for her three decades plus career in assisting those in recovery but as it turns out, she's also a pretty damn good actress. "Union County" is the kind of film that should be required-viewing at recovery centers.

To the Sundance Film Festival, I say thank you for decades of wonderful film-centric experiences in the state of Utah.



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Photo by Marty Feely

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.

Multi-Day Events

BRIAN HEAD ICE SKATING Feb. 6-15, 6 PM. Outdoor alpine ice-skating rink at Brian Head Resort. Fun winter outing for families and visitors. \$19. (866) 930-1010. Brian Head Resort, 329 S. Hwy 143, Brian Head.

TERRY WAYNE PROJECT AT CASABLANCA Feb. 5, and 19, 6 PM. R&B, funk, dance, oldies, and classic rock. Free admission. 21 or older. Skydome Lounge, 950 West Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MY FUNNY VALENTINE Feb 6-28, Dinner 5:45 PM, show 7 PM. Rattlin' D Playhouse presents its annual Valentine's variety show with music, comedy, and an optional prime rib dinner. Rattlin' D Playhouse, 433 Diamond Ranch Pkwy., Hurricane.

BELLY DANCING CLASS FOR ADULTS Feb. 11, 18, and 25. 6:45 PM. Only \$70 for the WHOLE session! Taught by Joia Lane, this Belly Dance class is an excellent way to use creative self-expression to promote health, encourage self-care, relieve stress, strengthen & tone muscle, & build self-esteem. Each week, students will learn a different skill & explore creating movements while working on technique, posture, flexibility, balance, grace, and building awareness of the mind-body connection. Jan. 7-Feb. 25. Arrowhead Gallery ETC, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

MY SONDEHEIM VALENTINE Feb. 11-14, 7:30 PM. My Sondheim Valentine brings iconic Broadway love songs, live performers, and an intimate setting to The PAC for a night that feels truly special! Performing Arts Campus, 905 S. Main St., St. George

GREGG PETERSON BAND AT CASABLANCA Feb. 12, and 29, 6 PM. Showtimes may vary. Variety and dance band. Free. 21 or older. CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

STUDENT DANCE CONCERT - SPRING 2026 Feb. 12-14, 7:30 PM. The SUU Department of Theatre, Dance, & Arts Administration proudly presents the Spring Student Dance Concert in the Randall L. Jones Theatre at 7:30 PM, with a matinee on February 14 at 2 PM. Randall L. Jones Theatre, 300 W. Center St., Cedar City.

CLOSE TO HOME Feb. 13-Mar. 26. Southern Utah Art Guild exhibition celebrating St. George's Parade of Homes. Red Cliff Gallery, 220 N. 200 E., St. George.

39TH ANNUAL SEARS INVITATIONAL Feb. 14-Mar. 28, 10 AM. Runs with special exhibit hours from 10 AM-6 PM. Guests can explore outstanding Western works in oil, photography, watercolor, 3D sculpture, and more. This highly anticipated exhibition also serves as a fundraising event for the museum. Admission is free, making the Sears Invitational an accessible experience for anyone. Sears Art Museum, 155 S. University Ave., St. George.

FEBRUARY ART FESTIVAL Feb. 14-15, 10 AM. Stroll through our free art festival with live music, culinary delights, and stunning desert vistas with a collection of eclectic artists specializing in media ranging from sculpture to painting, jewelry to ceramics, wood to metal, and more. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

THE YELLOW BOAT Feb. 19-21, 7:30 PM, with a matinee on February 21 at 2 PM. Presented by Second Studio in the Auditorium Studio Theatre (AUD 108). From Dramatic Publishing: The story of The Yellow Boat is a glorious affirmation of a child's life and the strength and courage of all children. This dramatization is based on the true story of David and Sonja Saar's son, Benjamin, who was born with congenital hemophilia and died in 1987. Southern Utah University, 351 W. University Blvd., Cedar City.

THE CAREGIVER'S GUIDE Feb. 19-28, 7:30 PM. The Caregiver's Guide is a deeply human comedy about the messiness of caring for each other. When a comedian reveals he's inherited the early-onset Alzheimer's gene, he and his family lean on laughter, memory, and love through life's hardest turns. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

BALLOONS & TUNES Feb. 20-22. Winter festival featuring hot air balloon launches, live music, lantern festival, balloon glow, food vendors, and family-friendly activities. Downtown Kanab.

KNEEHIGH'S TRISTAN & YSEULT Feb. 26-28 & Mar 3-7, 7:30 PM. Visually stunning production presented by Utah Tech Theatre and Dance. Eccles A legendary love story of passion, betrayal, and fate reimagined with Kneehigh Theatre's signature mix of music, movement, and modern flair. When Tristan falls in love with Yseult, his uncle's bride-to-be, a web of loyalty, longing, and heartbreak threatens to consume them all. Both epic and intimate, this inventive retelling blends myth and contemporary storytelling for a breathtaking theatrical experience. Rating: PG-13. Adult themes, sensuality, staged violence. Eccles Mainstage Theatre, 149 S. 700 E., St. George.

CEDAR CITY DAUGHTERS OF UTAH MUSEUM 10 AM. Artifacts, Photos, and Histories of our Iron County Pioneer settlers. Tools, Clothing, Hats, Dolls, Furniture, Books, A Spinning Wheel, and the Organ are on display. Cedar City Visitors Center, 581 N. Main St., Cedar City.

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS Feb. 26-28, 7:30 PM, Sat. matinee at 2 PM. American Crossroads Theatre presents this fun Broadway musical comedy. Dirty Rotten Scoundrels is a fast-paced, laugh-out-loud musical packed with smooth-talking schemers, outrageous disguises, jazzy tunes, and twists you won't see coming. It's glamorous, clever, and wickedly fun - the kind of show that keeps you grinning long after the final bow. Performing Arts Campus, 905 S. Main St., St. George.

HERITAGE CHOIR: A GIFT OF LOVE Feb. 27-28, Fri. 7 PM, Sat. 2 PM. Spring concert featuring guest violinist Dr. Jason Swigert. St. George Tabernacle, 18 S. Main St., St. George.

MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY Feb. 27 & 28, and March 2 & 6, 7:30 PM with matinees on Feb. 28 and Mar. 7 at 2 PM. The SUU Department of Theatre, Dance, & Arts Administration proudly presents Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play by Ann Washburn; score by Michael Friedman and lyrics by Anne Washburn; directed by Dr. Scott Knowles. Eileen and Allen Anes Studio Theatre, 101-199 W. University Blvd., Cedar City.

CEDAR CITY ROCK & GEM SHOW Mar. 6-8, 10 AM. Cedar City Rock & Gem Show Diamond Z Arena, 11 S. Cross Hollow Dr., Cedar City.

HERSTORY 2026 Mar. 6-Apr. 18. A regional group exhibit presented by ART Provides featuring artists from St. George and greater Southern Utah. Herstory explores themes of feminine identity, care, resistance, and resilience through painting, sculpture, photography, fiber art, and more. Free and open to the public. Opening Reception: Fri, Mar 6, 5:30-8 PM. On display at the Center for the Arts at Kayenta, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

ST. GEORGE ART MUSEUM 10 AM. The St. George Art Museum showcases more than 1,400 pieces in its permanent collection, along with rotating exhibitions highlighting regional and national artists. Donation-based entry, with contributions supporting education and operations at sgartmuseum.com. St. George Art Museum, 47 E. 200 N., St. George.

SOUTHERN UTAH MUSEUM OF ART (SUMA) 10 AM. Located on SUU campus, free admission. Permanent collection includes Maynard Dixon, Jimmie F. Jones, Edith Hamlin, and Marc Chagall, and the building itself is a work of art. Visit www.suu.edu/suma. Southern Utah Museum of Art, 13 S. 300 W., Cedar City.

ARROWHEAD GALLERY (Ongoing) Tues.-Thu. 11 AM-6 PM, Fri.-Sat. 11 AM-8 PM. Mosaic glass artwork. 68 E. Tabernacle, St. George.

Events by Day

MONDAYS

FARMERS MARKET AT THE BIT & SPUR 5 PM. The Bit & Spur Farmers Market and local Bazaar feature everything from local jewelry, artwork, & amazing produce, clothing booths, & more. Listen to great bands & sample the fare from our awesome taco truck & cocktails from our cantina. Dogs & kids are welcome. Both on leashes, of course. Weather-permitting. Bit & Spur, 1212 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

MONDAY MASH UP 7 PM. Let the games begin Mash-up Monday Games include beer pong, giant tetris, giant uno, jenga, and more!! With music by dj gudnplenty. The one and only.No cover charge. 21 Event/must have valid id. One And Only, 64 N. 800 E., St. George.

TUESDAYS

MAKE ART TUESDAYS 11 AM. Every day 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.

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

KARAOKE TUESDAY AT WAREHOUSE BAR + KITCHEN 8 PM. 432 N. 100 W. Cedar City.

WEDNESDAYS

FREE POOL WEDNESDAYS AT WAREHOUSE BAR + KITCHEN Warehouse Bar + Kitchen, 432 N. 100 W., Cedar City.

MIDVALLEY: FARMERS MARKET 4 PM. Live music, jump house, face painting, & more. Beautiful, original, & unique items for your loved one, all the crafters & artisans are local, & everything is handmade. Text: 435 704-6916. 780 Midvalley Rd., Enoch.

WONDER WEDNESDAY 4 PM. Wonder Wednesdays are an after-school program for elementary-aged children. Activities are held each Wednesday during the school year. Southern Utah Museum of Art. Southern Utah Museum of Art, 13 S. 300 W., Cedar City.

ROWLEY'S RED BARN WEDNESDAY MARKET 5 PM. Come hang with us at Rowley's Red Barn every Wednesday Night for some good times & great vibes. A Perfect destination for a Date night or Family outing. Live music, awesome vendors, & yummy food trucks. Rowley's Red Barn, 471 W. Telegraph St., St. George.

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.

KJS ICE BARN: COSMIC SKATING Everyone is invited to come get funky with Freddy with flashing lights, groovy music, cosmic fun, & more! KJs Ice Barn, 2550 E. Pinnacle Way, Enoch.

THURSDAYS

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 KAFFE Might As Well Lounge" (435) 627-6262. 2400 N. Town Center Dr., Washington.

BONKERZ COMEDY NIGHT 7 PM. Comics from TV and the Movies at the CasaBlanca Showroom! Three new comedians each week! Free Admission. Must be 21 or older. CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

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

KARAOKE THURSDAYS 9 PM. Grab the mic and bring your A-game! Whether you're a shower singer or a rockstar in disguise, Karaoke Night at The Blackbird Bar is your time to shine. No cover, just killer vocals. Drink specials all night. You sing it, we spin it. The Blackbird Bar, 90 W. Hoover Ave, Cedar City.

FRIDAYS

CEDAR STREET FEST 3 PM. Businesses, artisans, & performers come together for a weekly celebration of Cedar City's unique culture. Enjoy music, food, & fun, including live music, theatrical performances, stand-up comedy, bouncy houses, art classes, games, Artisans Fair, Farmers Market, drive-in movies, & more. Visit Cedarstreetfest.com. Cedar Fun Center, 170 E. Fiddlers Canyon Rd., Cedar City.

FIRST FRIDAYS AT KAYENTA 4 PM. Celebrate the creative spirit of Southern Utah every First Friday at Kayenta! This monthly event brings together art, music, community, and now—a curated boutique market from Southern Utah Market, featuring an exceptional selection of local art, crafts, and farmers market favorites. Shop handmade goods, meet regional artisans, and enjoy the vibrant energy that fills the Kayenta Arts Village. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

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CRAFTIVITY 11 AM. Join this creative activity every Friday where, together, guests & volunteers work to make easy, fun, & educational crafts. St. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

KARAOKE AT ADRIA'S 7 PM. Come in and have a great time with us! Adria's Restaurant, 86 S. 200 W., Kanab.

LIVE MUSIC AT HOME ON THE DESERT RANGE 7:30 PM. Join Home on the Range & Navajo Crafting Co as they welcome local duo Wes & Trekker performing for their first night of live music. Shop, enjoy homemade ice cream, sip some craft soda, & relax to the music. Home on the Desert Range, 97 W. Center St., Cedar City.

OTC COMEDY IMPROV 8 PM. Performing for over 20+ years, you can be sure that every show is unique & completely made up on the spot from suggestions that YOU (the audience!) give them! Every Friday. Tickets are \$10. Advanced tickets available for purchase at otccomedy.com. OTC Comedy Theater, 913 S. Main St., Cedar City.

SATURDAYS

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.

HURRICANE FARMERS MARKET 9 AM. Support local farmers, bakers, and artisans at this weekly Saturday market running May through October. Shop fresh produce, homemade goods, and more while connecting with your community. Free admission. All ages welcome Hurricane City Fine Arts Center, 92 S. 100 W., Hurricane.

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. Every Saturday morning, live entertainment, crafters, vendors, food & fun. In the event of rain, we cozy up under the cover of the Tuacahn Amphitheater plaza. Tuacahn Amphitheater, 1100 Tuacahn, Ivins.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET 10 AM. Over 50 vendors from all over Washington & Iron Counties bringing you the best in locally grown produce, pasture-raised meats, raw cheeses, & unique artisanal products. Enjoy local food, goods, and jamming out to local live music. Every Saturday. Vernon Worthen Park, 300 S. 400 E., St. George.

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.

ADULT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2:30 PM. Join us for the adult Dungeons & Dragons club at the Springdale Library! Embark on epic quests, battle fearsome monsters, and unravel mysterious plots in this immersive tabletop role-playing game. Springdale Branch Library, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

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

GAMER CLUB 3 PM. Teens and 'tweens who love anime, gaming, or both meet for book discussions, games, and great times. 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.

Events by Date

Fri, Feb 6

SOUP N' BOWL FUNDRAISER 11 AM. The annual Soup N' Bowl fundraiser is more than just a fundraising event; it's a celebration of art, community, and a shared passion for fine art. Participants can sit outside on a beautiful afternoon and enjoy a delicious lunch of soup, bread, and dessert - in a handcrafted ceramic bowl of your choice. Also, experience live music, locally made goods, and the chance to explore the St. George Museum of Art. St. George Museum of Art, 47 E. 200 N., St. George.

LOVE LETTER TO SUBURBIA: AN AFTERNOON WITH DIANE ALISA 3 PM. Join Diane Alisa, social media influencer and author of A Love Letter to Suburbia: How to Restore the American Village, for an engaging afternoon conversation about the future of our neighborhoods and the power of community. Saint George Area Chamber of Commerce, 136 N. 100 E., St. George.

FIRST FRIDAYS AT KAYENTA 5 PM. First Fridays at Kayenta. Enjoy live music, food trucks, and a pop-up boutique market in the Kayenta Art Village beginning at 5 PM, with film screenings in the theater presented by DOCUTAH. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS 7 PM. Don't miss the opportunity to send off this year's cast and crew of the Shakespeare in the Schools Tour with a free 75 minute community performance of The Comedy of Errors with a cast talkback after the show! SUU Auditorium, S 300 W., Cedar City.

ARABIAN NIGHTS - SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY 7:30 PM. Be transported to the enchanting world of Arabian Nights as the Southwest Symphony brings to life the mesmerizing soundscape of Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade. Through vivid orchestration and captivating storytelling, this evocative work paints portraits of adventure, romance, and imagination. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

DOCUTAH PRESENTS CIGARETTE SURFBOARD 7:30 PM. An impassioned surfer, Taylor Lane, creates a functional surfboard with 10,000 littered cigarette butts collected from California beaches. The Cigarette Surfboard becomes a platform to learn from professional surfers who are working to protect and restore the health of the ocean, and the symbol of a grassroots campaign to hold Big Tobacco accountable for their toxic, plastic waste. Surfing is the medium, but the message is universal. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

ANGELS LANDING ORCHESTRA PRESENTS MOTOWN ON MAIN STREET 7:30 PM. Angels Landing Orchestra Presents MoTown on Main Street Performing Arts Campus, 905 S. Main St., St. George.

KARAOKE AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 8 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 and older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Kanab.

GLENN GALLARDE PROJECT AT CASABLANCA 8 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. CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

JAMIT (THE DUO!) AT CASABLANCA 8 PM. You remember one of the Skydome's favorite bands, "Jamit"? Well, here are AJ and Tim bringing you all the fun and variety of Jamit as a duo! Classic Rock, R&B, and Dance music keeping you on the dance floor all night long! Free. 21 or older. CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

DEALT A STRAIGHT BAND AT BLUES KATZ ROCK N' ROLL BAR 8 PM. 307 N. Bluff St., St. George.

Sat, Feb 7

SKY FEST 2026 7 AM. Sky Fest at Sand Hollow Resort is a visually striking celebration set against Southern Utah's red rock landscape. Mornings come alive with hot air balloons lifting into the sky, filling the horizon with color and movement. As evening arrives, Sky Fest transitions into the Glow Dinner, a nighttime event where tethered balloons are illuminated after dark. The glowing balloons create a dramatic, almost surreal setting, paired with curated dining and ambient lighting that elevates the experience. Sand Hollow Resort, 5662 W. Clubhouse Dr., Hurricane.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - COMEDY NIGHT FOR COUPLES 6 PM. A night dedicated to marriages - laughter, connection, and elegance come together for an unforgettable evening designed just for couples. Featuring Joey I.L.O. Revival Center, 960 S. 1900 E. #6, Washington.

PRETTY IN PINK OPENING RECEPTION 6 PM. Opening reception for Kolob Gallery's February exhibit featuring miniature paintings and refreshments. Kolob Gallery, Art Center, 111 S. Main St., St. George.

COWBOY POETRY NIGHT 6:30 PM. Saddle up for a night of heartfelt rhymes and cowboy tales, all while supporting local youth preparing for a Humanitarian Trip to Peru. Garfield County Fair Grounds, 740 N. Main St., Panguitch.

BLACK MOUNTAIN BAND AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 8 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 or older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Kanab.

PEDRITO MARTINEZ & ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ 8 PM. "The Pedrito Martinez Group is the real thing. They had the club JUMPING! It made me feel like a teenager!" - Quincy Jones. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

Sun, Feb 8

SOUTHERN UTAH SUNDAY FUNDAY MARKET 10 AM. (2nd & 4th Sundays) Soaps, baked goods, and produce. Ace Hardware on North Bluff, 160 N. Bluff St., St. George.

SUPER BOWL BRUNCH 11 AM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 and older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Kanab.

"GOLDEN DESERT" PAINT & WINE TASTING 2:30 PM. Get ready to unleash your creativity and paint a stunning golden desert scene with friends in a chill, fun vibe! "Golden Desert" Paint & Wine Tasting, 5 Hidden Valley Rd., Leeds.

K-POP STARS LIVE SHOW 5:30 PM. K-POP STARS LIVE SHOW is here to light up the stage with spectacular tributes to your favorite groups: Huntrix Saja Boys BLACKPINK BTS Feel the thrill of electrifying choreographies, stunning outfits, and all the energy that makes K-Pop shine - live on stage! Sing, dance, and vibe to the hits you love as if you were at a real concert in Korea! Dixie Convention Center, 1835 S. Convention Center Dr., St. George.

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Carylee Zwang, Music Director & Conductor
David Jordan, Assistant Conductor

WITH GUEST PERFORMERS:

Dr. Christian Bohnstengel performing

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

The John Mead Dance Company

SideNote



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Featuring music by GERSHWIN • BARBER • COPLAND • JOPLIN

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Heritage Center Theater • 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$15, Students: \$10 with ID

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Mon, Feb 9

HAM RADIO CLUB 6 PM. Virgin Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month. Call Jonny Rauzi at 801-643-4952. Airport Fire Station #2, Mesquite.

Tues, Feb 10

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

TACO TUESDAY AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 or older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

PAINT NIGHT AT FISH ROCK GRILLE 6 PM. Buy Tickets @ www.buzzedarts.com. Fish Rock Grille at The Ledges, 1585 Ledges Pkwy., St. George.

DUE WEST 7:30 PM. Due West is an American country music group from Nashville, Tennessee. The group consists of Tim Gates (lead vocals), Brad Hull (harmony vocals, guitar), and Matthew Lopez (harmony vocals, guitar). Due West has released two full-length studio albums, several EPs, and five singles, including "Things You Can't Do in a Car", which charted at number 47 on Billboard Hot Country Songs. Heritage Center Theatre, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

Wed, Feb 11

OHM'S GALENTINE'S WELLNESS NIGHT 6 PM. Grab your besties and come treat yourself to a night of movement, glow, and feel-good vibes. This is your sign to take a night for YOU – move, glow, sip, shop, and leave feeling amazing. OHM Fitness – St. George, 446 S. Mall Dr. #4, St. George.

CLUE 7 PM. Eccles Fine Arts Center, 149 S. 700 E., St. George.

Thurs, Feb 12

GREGG PETERSON BAND AT CASABLANCA 6 PM. Showtimes may vary. Variety and dance band. Free. 21 or older. CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

LINE DANCING CLASS AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6:30 PM. Must be 21 or older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

DYLAN THOMAS GAVIN AT GEORGES 7:30 PM. Enjoy Original Pop and Indie music with Live Looping Artist Dylan Thomas Gavin. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Fri, Feb 13

SEARS INVITATIONAL GALA OPENING RECEPTION 6 PM. Gala opening for the 39th Annual Sears Invitational Art Show & Sale. Utah Tech University, Sears Art Museum, 155 S. University Ave., St. George.

OTC COMEDY VALENTINE SHOW 8 PM. Live, unscripted improv comedy fueled by audience suggestions. OTC Comedy Theater, 913 S. Main St., Cedar City.

Sat, Feb 14

VIRGIN RIVER HALF MARATHON 9 AM. This is Southern Utah's longest-running half-marathon! This spectacular race is on paved city trails that wind along the Virgin River and take you through the beautiful landscape of St. George. Start Location: Dixie Convention Center. Dixie Convention Center, 1835 Convention Center Dr., St. George.

SMART SATURDAY SmART Saturday is a monthly art class geared towards children 6-12 years of age. Two separate sessions begin at 10-11:30 AM and 11:30-1 PM on the second Saturday of each month. For information or to make reservations, call the St. George Art Museum at (435) 627-4525. 47 E. 200 N., St. George.

THE LOVE LIFT SPEED DATING AT BRIAN HEAD RESORT 11 AM. Valentine's Day speed dating on the Blackfoot Chairlift for skiers and snowboarders ages 18+. Brian Head Resort, 329 S. Highway 143, Brian Head.

VALENTINE'S DAY DINING AT SCOUT BAR & GRILL 2 PM. Late Lovers' Weekend prix-fixe menu available Valentine's Day afternoon and evening. Scout Bar & Grill, Red Cliffs Lodge Zion, 792 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

BEE GEES GOLD 8 PM. Get ready to boogie because Bee Gees Gold is bringing the ultimate disco explosion to the CasaBlanca Showroom! This high-energy tribute, led by John Acosta flawlessly channeling Barry Gibb's iconic falsetto, features the perfect harmony blend of Eric Sean as Robin and Pete Sprague as Maurice. Backed by a dynamic live band, they flawlessly cover the hits from early classics. CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

SWEETHEART SWING 7 PM. Searching for the perfect Valentine's Day plans? Join us for the enchanting Sweetheart Swing! Immerse yourself in the rhythm of live music by The Rebel Jazz Band, and dance the night away at this heartwarming event presented by the St. George Arts Commission. Dixie Academy Ballroom at Town Square, 86 S. Main St., # 3, St. George.

RED ROCK STOP LIGHT DANCE 7 PM. Red: Taken, Pink: It's Complicated, White: Single. Country Swing. \$8-\$10. Reach Higher Building, 1094 W. 1600 S., St. George.

GALENTINES PARTY AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 8 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 and older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Kanab.

RUNAWAY FIRE AT THE BLACKBIRD BAR 9 PM. Southern Utah's own rock-n-roll powerhouse returns to the stage! Runaway Fire is coming back with high-energy favorites along with tracks from their newest album, Day Dream (and plenty more). 21+ Only. Don't miss this night of killer live music! The Blackbird Bar, 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

Sun, Feb 16

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 5 PM. Must be 21 or older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

Mon, Feb 16

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

Tues, Feb 17

FMASU ELECTRIC FILM SERIES--THE ROARING TWENTIES 6 PM. Step into a world of bootleggers, backroom deals, and hard-earned consequences with "The Roaring Twenties," a defining gangster film that helped shape crime cinema as we know it today. Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

MARDI GRAS AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 8 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 and older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Kanab.

Feb, Feb 18

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAY AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 or older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

Thurs, Feb 19

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. Book Ends Washington County Library System, 220 N. 300 E., Washington.

TEEN NIGHT 4:30 PM. Every 3rd Thursday of the month. Join us for a fun activity. All teens in grades 6-12 are invited. Specific details are posted each month. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

TRIVIA AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 or older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

JERRY ALLEN AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7:30 PM. Jerry Allen is based out of St. George and cites Matchbox 20 and The GooGoo Dolls as influences. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

AMERICA IN HARMONY - ORCHESTRA OF SOUTHERN UTAH 7:30 PM. Join us for America in Harmony, a stirring musical tribute to 250 years of American spirit, sound, and storytelling. This powerful concert blends the jazz-infused brilliance of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, the vibrant energy of Copland's Rodeo, the syncopated charm of ragtime, and the irresistible swing of big band classics. From majestic orchestral works to toe-tapping rhythms, America in Harmony celebrates the rich tapestry of American music, its struggles, and triumphs. Festival Hall and Heritage Theater, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

Fri, Feb 20

BORDERLANDS TOUR AT THE BLACKBIRD BAR 5 PM. Rock the night with Scotty Austin, former vocalist of Saving Abel, plus 4 killer guest bands! Don't miss this epic show! The Blackbird Bar, 90 W. Hoover Ave, Cedar City.

SPRING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT - MUSIC MASTERWORKS SERIES 7:30 PM. The Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Xun Sun. Ticket Prices: Adults: \$10, Alumni: \$8, Youth/Non-SUU Students: \$5 SUU Students/Faculty/Staff: FREE with a valid ID. Festival Hall and Heritage Theater, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City. **LARA ASH & INFERNO AT CASABLANCA** 8 PM. showtimes may vary. Variety cover band. Free. 21 or older. CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Sat, Feb 21

LINE DANCING KARAOKE AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 9 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 and older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Kanab.

Sun, Feb 22

SOUTHERN UTAH SUNDAY FUNDAY MARKET 10 AM. (2nd & 4th Sundays) Soaps, baked goods, and produce. Ace Hardware on North Bluff, 160 N. Bluff St., St. George.

Mon, Feb 23

LOVERS AND SINNERS 5:30 PM. An intimate evening where romance meets indulgence. Lovers & Sinners is a private Good Bones Supper Club experienced that will be hosted at Sandtown Pizza, featuring a five-course dinner thoughtfully curated by our team. Expect candlelit ambiance, decadent flavors, and expertly crafted cocktails designed to complement each course. This is a night for lovers, rule-breakers, and anyone who appreciates the beauty of good food, strong drinks, and a little temptation. Buy Tickets at www.sandtownpizza.com. Sandtown Pizza, 195 S. Bluff St., St. George.

CRAFTS AND COCKTAILS AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6:30 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 and older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Kanab.

Tues, Feb 24

UT SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT 7:30 PM. Music Season 2026 Symphonic Band Concert Tue, Feb 24, 2026 at 7:30 PM. Eccles Concert Hall. Eccles Fine Arts Center, 149 S. 700 E., St. George.

Thurs, Feb 26

LINE DANCING CLASS AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6:30 PM. Must be 21 or older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

ADOBE TAYLOR AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7:30 PM. Neo Soul. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

UT CHORAL CONCERT 7:30 PM. Eccles Fine Arts Center, 149 S. 700 E., St. George.

Fri, Feb 27

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

POOL TOURNAMENT AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 6 PM. \$5 cover charge. Must be 21 or older. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

Sat, Feb 28

AN EVENING WITH MENTALIST JAMES LUX 6 PM. Come have your minds blown and question everything you know about reality with Mentalist James Lux. Join us for a night of mind reading and predictions that promise to leave you amazed. The Sunflower Magic Shop & Theater 13 S. Main St., Parowan.

FRONTIER HOMESTEAD OPEN MIC NIGHT 7 PM. Free community talent showcase. Every 4th Saturday. Call (435) 586-9290. Frontier Homestead State Park Museum, 635 N. Main, Cedar City.

Tues, Mar 3

BROWN BAG LECTURE Noon. Artists of all media are invited to give a presentation. Community and business people are welcome to bring a sack lunch and enjoy the 45-minute lecture during their lunch break. A list of the monthly events can be obtained at the gallery or by calling 346-1338. Contact: 702-346-1338 vvarats@gmail.com. Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

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

Wed, Mar 4

AMERICAN LEGION CEDAR CITY AUXILIARY UNIT 74 MONTHLY MEETINGS 1 PM. The monthly Members Meeting is open to the public to attend for information on how to support veterans, families, and the community through services and activities. Cedar City Library, 303 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

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

Thurs, Mar 5

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

REVISITING CREEDENCE 7:30 PM. They toured the globe with original members of Creedence Clearwater Revival & Rock and Roll Hall of Famers. Now they continue the legacy by celebrating CCR's iconic catalog live in concert. Tuacahn Amphitheatre, 1100 Tuacahn, Ivins.

Fri, Mar 6

HERSTORY 2026 OPENING RECEPTION 5:30 PM. ART Provides opens its fourth Herstory exhibit celebrating feminine narratives in visual art. Join local artists at the Center for the Arts at Kayenta during the First Friday Art Walk. Free and open to the public. 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

Sat, Mar 7

EL GEORGE HARRIS 8 PM. El George Harris is a Venezuelan-born stand-up and storyteller who has become a go-to voice for Spanish-speaking audiences across the Americas. From his home base in Miami, he blends quick-fire crowd work, biting social observation, and nimble code-switching between Spanish and English. His live sets crackle with riffs on migration, identity, relationships, and the everyday absurdities that follow the Latin diaspora, delivered with big-hearted wit and theatrical flair. Eccles Fine Arts Center, 149 S. 700 E., St. George.

Sun, Mar 8

SOUTHERN UTAH SUNDAY FUNDAY MARKET 10 AM. (2nd & 4th Sundays) Soaps, baked goods, and produce. Ace Hardware on North Bluff, 160 N. Bluff St., St. George.

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WELCOME TO ZION FROM ZION GUIDE

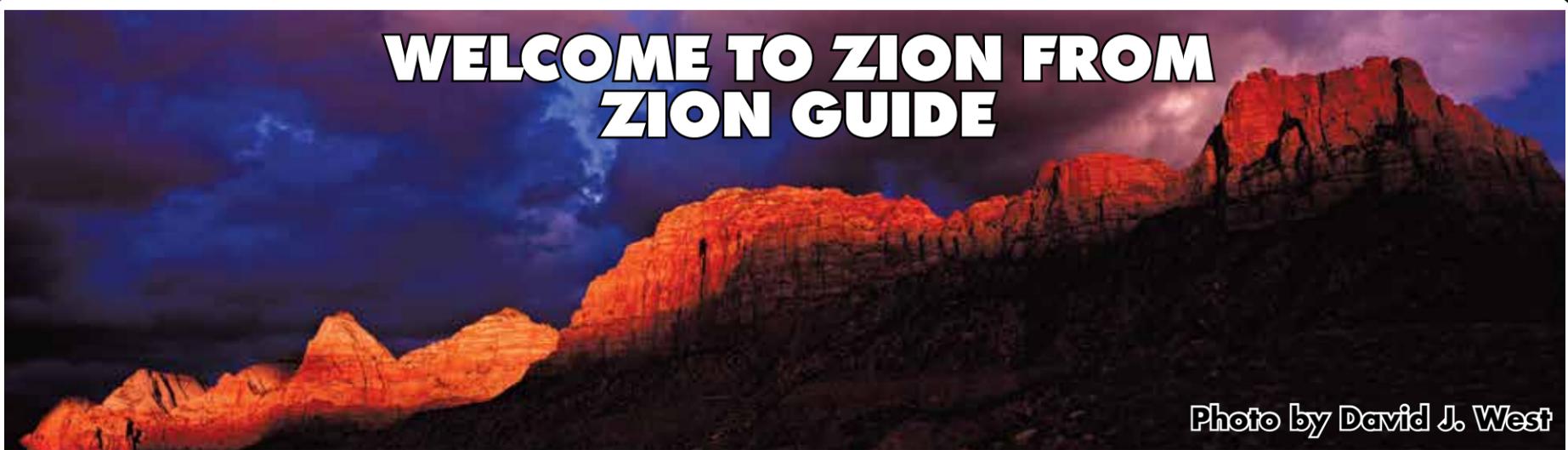


Photo by David J. West

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.



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. Especially during the Summer months, it's highly recommended to go early!

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.

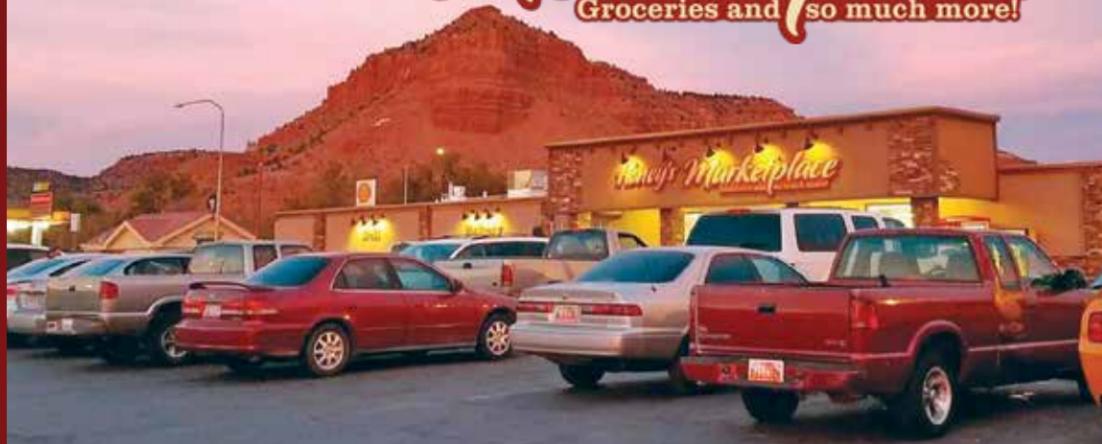
Check out Kolob Canyons & Kolob Terrace Road

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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Beyond Hiking

THE BEST DRIVES & DAY TRIPS AROUND ZION

We're glad you're here—and if you're reading this, chances are you came for the world-famous hikes, towering cliffs, and unforgettable canyons of Zion National Park. But maybe you've already hiked Angels Landing or tackled The Narrows. Or maybe you're looking for a different kind of adventure—something a little less strenuous, a little more scenic, or just a great way to spend a day in the car with some jaw-dropping views.

Well, you're in luck. Zion sits in the middle of a wonderland of scenic drives, hidden gems, and bucket-list day trips. So, whether you're taking it easy, chasing new sights, or looking for ways to escape the crowds, here are some top picks to round out your Southern Utah experience.

Scenic Drives and Viewpoints

Kolob Canyons (Zion National

Park – Northwest Entrance)

If you love Zion but want something quieter, head to the Kolob Canyons section of the park. Located off I-15 near Cedar City, this five-mile scenic drive offers massive red rock cliffs, sweeping vistas, and several short hikes. It's a perfect add-on for road trippers and a beautiful detour on your way north.

Kolob Terrace Road

A local favorite, this backroad winds its way from the town of Virgin up into the cooler high country above Zion. Along the way, you'll pass lava fields, meadows, forested plateaus, and killer canyon views. There's even a reservoir near the top if you want to dip your toes.

Zion-Mount Carmel Tunnel

Even if you've already been through the tunnel, it's worth a second look. The

drive east from Springdale through Zion Canyon and out to the East Entrance is one of the most dramatic in the state. Stop at the many pullouts along the way to take in views of slickrock formations, bighorn sheep, and winding canyons.

Gooseberry Mesa

This spot is a mecca for mountain bikers, but the road out to Gooseberry is scenic. You'll need a high-clearance vehicle for the final stretch, but you'll be rewarded with stunning panoramic views over Zion and the Virgin River Valley.

Smithsonian Butte Backway

This off-the-beaten-path route connects Rockville to Apple Valley with unpaved road and unparalleled views. Think mesas, cliffs, and the perfect backdrop for golden hour photos. It's a local secret—and one of the best-kept ones at that.

Best Day Trips and Nearby Parks Bryce Canyon National Park

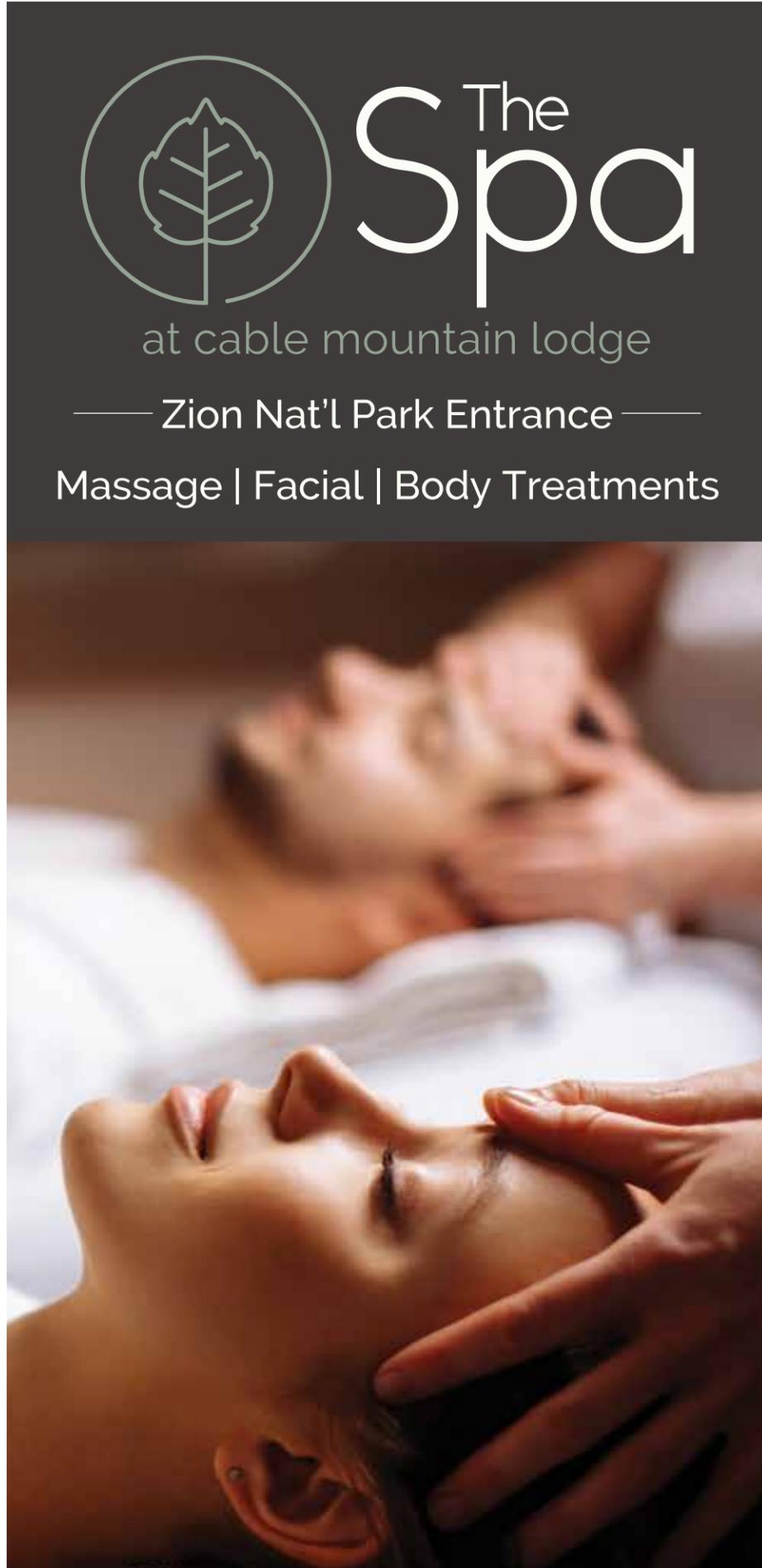
About 90 minutes from Zion, Bryce is known for its bizarre and beautiful hoodoos—towering spires of red and orange rock that glow at sunrise and sunset. You can easily drive the scenic loop and stop at multiple viewpoints or stretch your legs with a short hike into the amphitheater.

Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park

Located just outside Kanab, this state park features rolling hills of—you guessed it—deep coral-colored sand. Rent a sandboard, hop on an ATV, or just enjoy the surreal landscape.

Snow Canyon State Park

Tucked just north of St. George, this park is a mini-desert paradise filled with lava flows, red cliffs, and white sandstone. It's perfect for a short hike or scenic drive and less than an hour from Zion.



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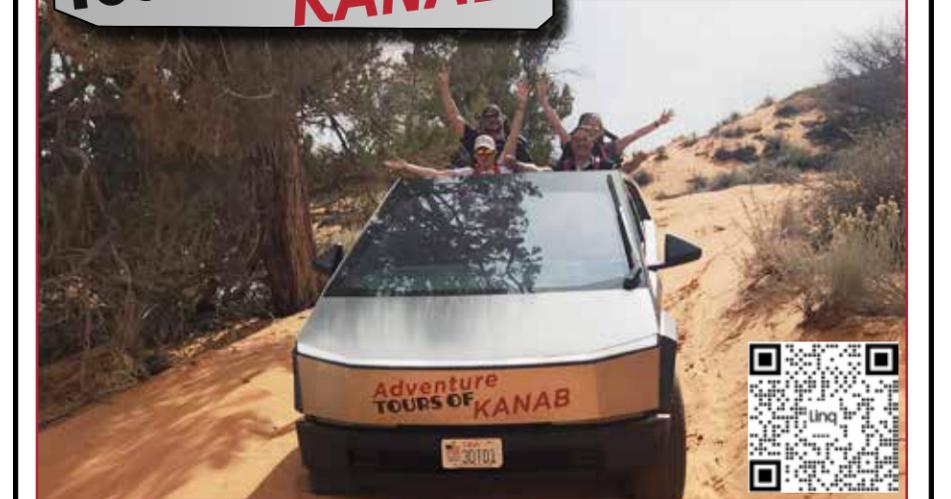
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Zion National Park Hiking Info

THE LOCALS' GUIDE TO HIKING PREPAREDNESS

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

In 2024, the National Park Service reported over 200 search-and-rescue operations, which means over 200 extremely unpleasant vacation experiences. Many more than just a decade ago. 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. An average of four people per year lose their lives in Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks.

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 moister 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 a minimum of 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 and UV protective clothing, because suffering from sunstroke or severe sunburn during an already taxing hike can be brutal.

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.

Leave No Trace

Zion's beauty is matched by its fragility. The red rock landscapes and delicate desert ecosystems are easily damaged, often taking years or decades to recover. That's why it's so important to leave no trace. Stay on designated trails to protect sensitive plant life, especially the black, crusty-looking soil known as biological soil crust — a vital part of the desert ecosystem. Pack out all trash, including food scraps, tissues, and biodegradable items. Use established restrooms when available, and if not, follow park guidelines for disposing of waste properly. Avoid carving into rocks or trees, and keep noise levels down so everyone can enjoy the peace of the canyon. When we leave no trace, we help ensure Zion remains as breathtaking for the next hiker as it was for us.

Hike Sober

Sometimes relatively stationary outdoor activities like boating or camping involve enjoying an alcoholic drink 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.

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.





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Popular Zion Hikes

Current Trail Closures & Popular Trail Considerations:

Hidden Canyon and Observation Point remain closed due to long-term rockfalls; Angels Landing requires a year-round lottery permit (apply via Recreation.gov); The Narrows closes when Virgin River flows exceed 150 cfs—check current conditions before starting; Zion Canyon Scenic Drive operates shuttle-only service during busy winter periods and weekends; park entry requires the standard entrance fee with no reservation needed for shuttle or canyon access; Weeping Rock shuttle stop and trail remain open following September's reopening; the Kolob Canyons area (Kolob Canyons Road, Taylor Creek, Lee Pass, and Timber Creek Overlook) may experience intermittent closures due to lingering wildfire impacts and winter weather; Kolob Terrace and Lava Point Roads frequently close at higher elevations during winter storms; daytime highs average in the 40s–50s with freezing mornings and evenings—layer clothing, watch for icy patches in shaded areas and slot canyons, and continue carrying plenty of water (2–3 L per person); any overnight backpacking or top-down Narrows trip still requires a wilderness permit at Zion National Park.

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.

The Narrows via Riverside Walk

A full-day hike at 8 hours, the Narrows can pose extra dangers depending on the



Photo by David J. West

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 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.



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Learn more at www.suwa.org.



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Less-Traveled Zion Hikes

Current Trail Closures & Popular Trail Considerations:

Hidden Canyon and Observation Point remain closed due to long-term rockfalls; Angels Landing requires a year-round lottery permit (apply via Recreation.gov); The Narrows closes when Virgin River flows exceed 150 cfs—check current conditions before starting; Zion Canyon Scenic Drive operates shuttle-only service during busy winter periods and weekends; park entry requires the standard entrance fee with no reservation needed for shuttle or canyon access; Weeping Rock shuttle stop and trail remain open following September's reopening; the Kolob Canyons area (Kolob Canyons Road, Taylor Creek, Lee Pass, and Timber Creek Overlook) may experience intermittent closures due to lingering wildfire impacts and winter weather; Kolob Terrace and Lava Point Roads frequently close at higher elevations during winter storms; daytime highs average in the 40s-50s with freezing mornings and evenings—layer clothing, watch for icy patches in shaded areas and slot canyons, and continue carrying plenty of water (2-3 L per person); any overnight backpacking or top-down Narrows trip still requires a wilderness permit at Zion National Park.

Northgate Peaks

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

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 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

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

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

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.

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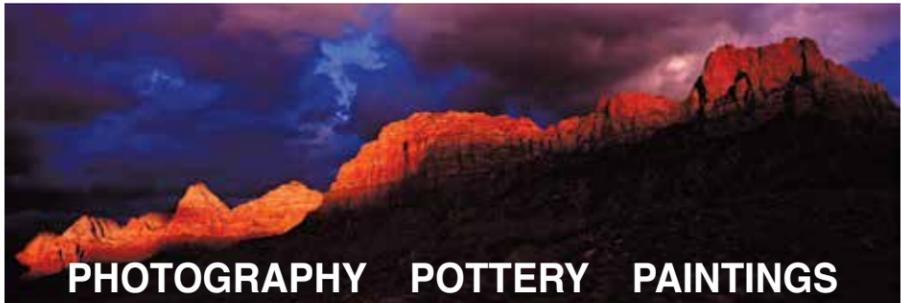
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Amidst the grandeur of Zion National Park

Featured Hike

TEMPLE QUARRY TRAIL By Tom Garrison

Location: West of Tech Ridge Drive in St. George, Utah

Difficulty: Easy with no strenuous sections. Much of the trail is rocky, watch your step.

Average Hiking Time: One to 1 ½ hours at a leisurely pace with many stops.

Elevations: Approximately 2,860 feet trailhead elevation with less than a 100 feet elevation change from the trailhead to the highest point. The trail is mostly flat.

Family Friendly: Yes, this is an easy hike.

Finding the Trailhead: Starting in St. George go west on St. George Boulevard (aka State Route 34) until the street ends at the intersection with Bluff Street (aka State Route 18). At the intersection continue west crossing Bluff Street onto Tech Ridge Drive which heads south and steadily uphill. About .4 mile from the St. George Boulevard--Bluff Street intersection turn right (west) onto 265 South Street, the first right hand turn on Tech Ridge Drive. After less than 100 yards on 265 South Street turn left (south) onto Donlee Drive. After a very short distance on Donlee Drive,



Did you know there is an history steeped, easy, short hike with good views surrounded by urban St. George? There is, Temple Quarry Trail. It is a perfect mid-winter hike—in the sun and only 2.4 miles long round trip, not long enough to freeze even if it is a bit cold.

The trail leads to a lava rock quarry

The quarry was in operation from 1871 to 1874. It was chosen because of the abundance of large chunks of lava rock that could be quarried and used as a foundation that would not dissolve in the alkali soil of St. George. The cut stones averaged about ten feet long, weighed around 5,500 pounds each, and were carried by horse and wagon to the temple site. Quite a feat for the 1870s.

My wife, Deb, and I began our expedition to Temple Quarry Trail on a cold Thursday morning in mid-January. We parked about 10:00 am with the temperature in the mid-40s under an overcast Utah sky. The trailhead elevation is 2,860 feet with very little elevation change (less than 100 feet) from the trailhead to the highest point. The trail is mostly flat with much of it being rocky, lava rocks embedded into the dirt and strewn about on both sides of the trail. Watch your step.

The beginning of the easy-to-follow trail is marked by a ten feet tall sandstone arch. We walked through the arch and began our hike. The trail mostly is cut into the eastern and southern slopes of Black Hill (aka Black Ridge). Initially we headed west following a cut into a hillside

that went down and then back up the slope of Black Hill. At the end of this first section are a series of steps to make the uphill slope a bit easier to traverse. After that point, about .2 mile into the hike, the trail is generally flat and turns left and heads south. This portion of the trail has rather steep drop-offs on the left.

Along the way are some benches to rest from the arduous (not) hike and take in the views. There are also a couple of plaques on the trail telling part of the Temple Quarry Trail history. At certain locations are good views of the Pine Valley Mountains to the north and the Snow Canyon mountains to the northwest. Large green fields dominated the southern view. Urban areas border the entire perimeter of Black Hill.

About one mile from the trailhead, the trail began curving around the tip of Black Hill going west for a short distance and then quickly north. We soon reached the Temple Quarry site at 1.2 miles from the trailhead. It looked like much of the rest of the trail but had a plaque embedded in a rock saying we had reached the quarry. We explored a bit and noted that there was a picnic table at the site.

The trail does continue about ½ mile to the northwest toward the Valley View Drive neighborhood, but is the same territory as the way we came with similar views. No good reason to continue, so we headed back to the trailhead.

Being a mid-winter Thursday and cold, we saw only three other hikers on the trail. If you want an easy short hike in urban St. George with some decent views, consider visiting Temple Quarry Trail.



turn right (west) into the paved trailhead parking area marked with a trailhead sign and a ten feet tall sandstone arch. The address is 312 South Donlee Drive. There are no restrooms at the trailhead.

used by early pioneers (followers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called Mormons) who moved large blocks of lava rock from the quarry to the St. George Temple.





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Zion Wilderness Map



NO CAMPFIRES

Campfires are prohibited in the Zion Wilderness. Fuel stoves and lanterns may be used for camping purposes, but should only be lit on bare ground away from all vegetation. In the interest of protection of environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, and public safety, these restrictions on fires are necessary. Please do all you can to protect the park from human caused wildfires.



FOOD STORAGE

All food and trash must be stored inside a secure hard sided container or interlocking wire mesh bag. For the welfare of park wildlife, your safety, and the safekeeping of your equipment, you should make your food items as unobtainable as possible. Your actions can put other people at risk of food pilfering, since animals regularly revisit areas where they easily obtained food. At worst, your behavior may lead directly to the death of a wild animal. These guidelines are meant to protect park wildlife, people, and equipment.



LEAVE NO TRACE

Protect the park from all graffiti and vandalism. All graffiti, including words, drawings, and arrows, no matter how small or superficially drawn, carved, scratched, or painted, is vandalism. Do not build rock cairns. If placed incorrectly, they can mislead visitors, cause unnecessary damage, and lead to potential injuries. Help protect Zion by not leaving your mark. Make memories, take photos, and leave no trace.



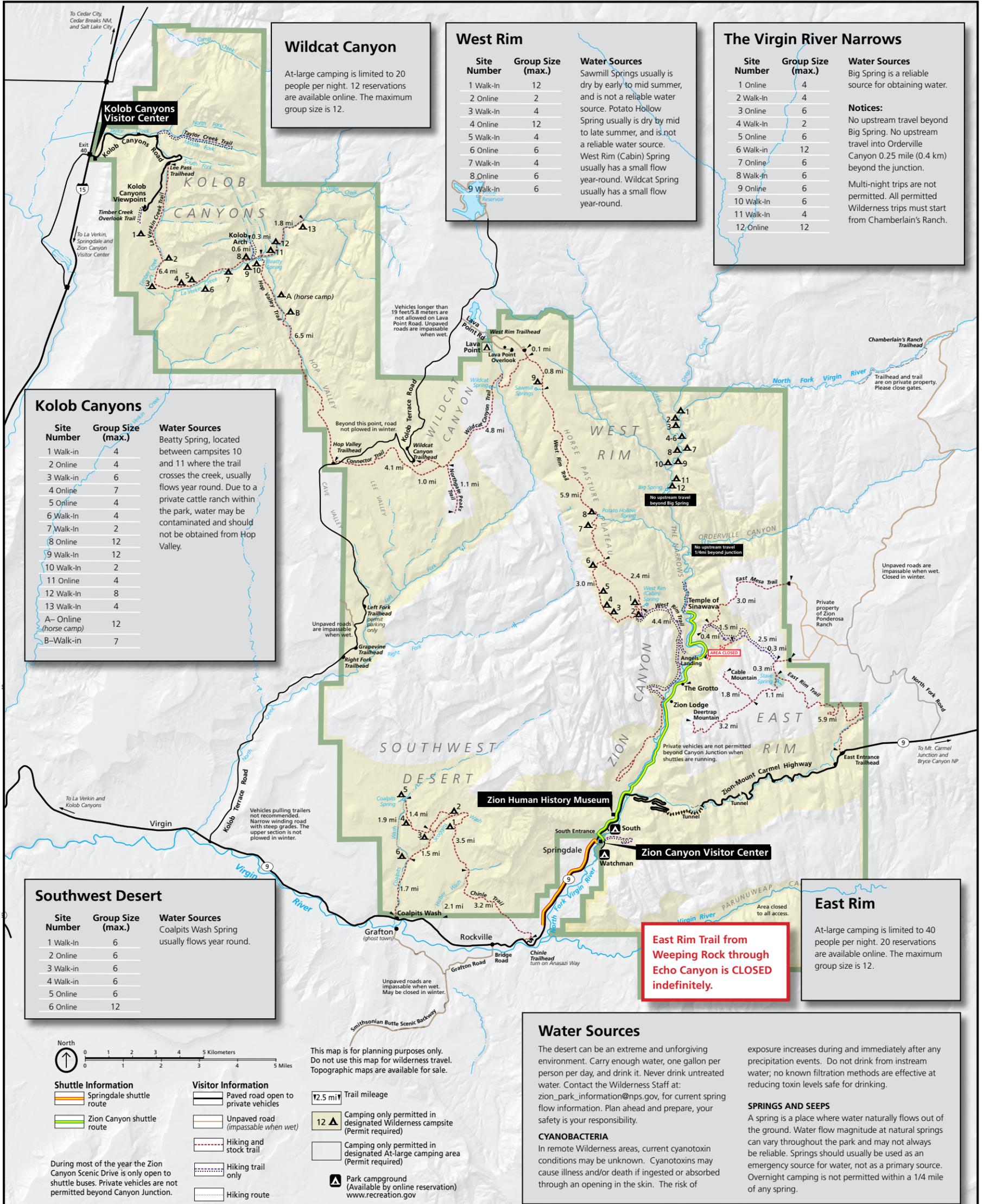
HUMAN WASTE

Pack out all solid human waste, toilet paper, diapers, and personal hygiene products. An environmentally friendly human waste disposal bag, complete with use and disposal instructions, is available for sale in the Zion Forever Park Store and at local outfitters. The contents of the disposal bag may then be deposited in the trash. Use of this waste disposal system is required for all Wilderness permit holders.



GROUP SIZE

Wilderness trails have a group size limit of 12. These limits apply to all trips into the park's wilderness, including trips that do not require a permit. Group size limits are strictly enforced. Groups that exceed these limits may not split up and visit the same route, or wilderness trail on the same day, but may split up and visit different areas.



ZION CANYON SHUTTLE
The Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is closed to private vehicles during most of the year. The Zion Canyon shuttle provides access to the trailheads for the Emerald Pools, the West Rim, and the Narrows.

PRIVATE VEHICLES
The Zion-Mount Carmel Highway, Kolob Terrace Road, and Kolob Canyons Scenic Drive are open to private vehicles. Park roads are used by vehicles, bicycles, and wildlife. Obey posted speed limits. Park only in designated spaces to protect fragile vegetation.

BICYCLES
Bicycles are not permitted in the Zion Wilderness. Bicycling is permitted on all park roadways and on the Pa'rus Trail. Bicyclists must ride single file and stop to let shuttle buses pass.

HIKER SHUTTLE SERVICES
Commercial shuttle services can be hired to provide point-to-point pick-up and drop-off at designated parking areas within the park. All services must have a current Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) with Zion National Park. Search online for current authorized services.

OTHER VEHICLES
Any use of any off-highway vehicle (OHV), all-terrain vehicle (ATV), utility vehicles (UTV) or other motorized conveyance manufactured for recreational non-highway, off-road, or all-terrain travel is prohibited within Zion National Park.

Zion National Park Shuttle Info

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's What You Need To Know To Plan Your Visit

- You do not need a ticket or reservation to ride the park shuttle or enter the park.
- During the shuttle season, visitors cannot drive personal vehicles on Zion Canyon Scenic Drive.

• Shuttles arrive about every 15 minutes on the Springdale Line (outside the park) and about every 5-10 minutes on the Zion Canyon Line (inside the park).

• Shuttles will not run December 2-20. Shuttles take about 45 minutes to drive between the Zion Canyon Visitor Center and the Temple of Sinawava. This means a round trip takes about an hour and a half.

Be mindful of the time you board the shuttle back to the Zion Canyon Visitor Center at the end of the day. You should not wait for the last shuttle of the day. If the last shuttle is full, or if you miss the last shuttle, you may have to walk nine miles back to the Zion Canyon Visitor Center.

Zion Canyon Line

• First bus departs Zion Canyon Visitor Center to Temple of Sinawava at 7 AM through May 17th, then at 6 AM from May 18th to September 14th.

• Last bus departs Zion Canyon Visitor Center to Temple of Sinawava at 5 PM through May 17th, then at 7 PM from May 18th to September 14th.

• Last bus departs the Temple of Sinawava to Zion Canyon Visitor Center at 7:15 PM through May 17th, then at 8:15 PM from May 18th to September 14th.

Springdale Line

• First bus leaves the Hotel De Novo (Stop #9) at 8 AM through May 17th, then at 7 AM from May 18th to September 14th.

• Last bus leaves Zion Canyon Village (Stop #1) at 7 PM through May 17th, then at 8 PM from May 18th to September 14th.

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 is closed for a long-term rehabilitation project.

Lava Point Campground is a 1-hour drive from Zion Canyon. Reservation only.

Visitor Center and Wilderness Permit Desk Hours

Zion Canyon & Kolob Canyons Visitor Centers

• The Information Desk opens at 8 AM and closes at 5 PM every day.

Wilderness Permit Desks

• Zion Canyon Wilderness Desk: Open daily from 8 AM to 5 PM.

• Kolob Canyons Wilderness Desk: Closed until late 2024.

Attend a Zion Canyon Ranger-Led Patio Talk

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

• 11 AM, 1:30 PM and 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 leave 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.

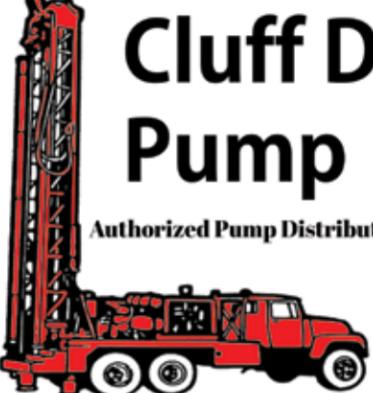
• The NPS may temporarily close roads if traffic is congested or there is nowhere for drivers to park.

• In general, fewer people visit Zion on weekdays than weekends. Consider arriving early or after 3 PM 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.



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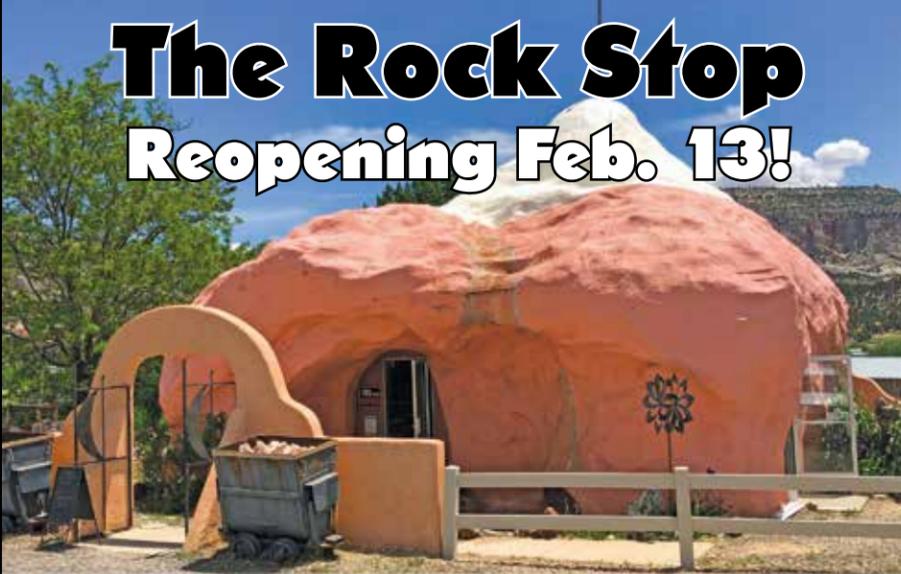
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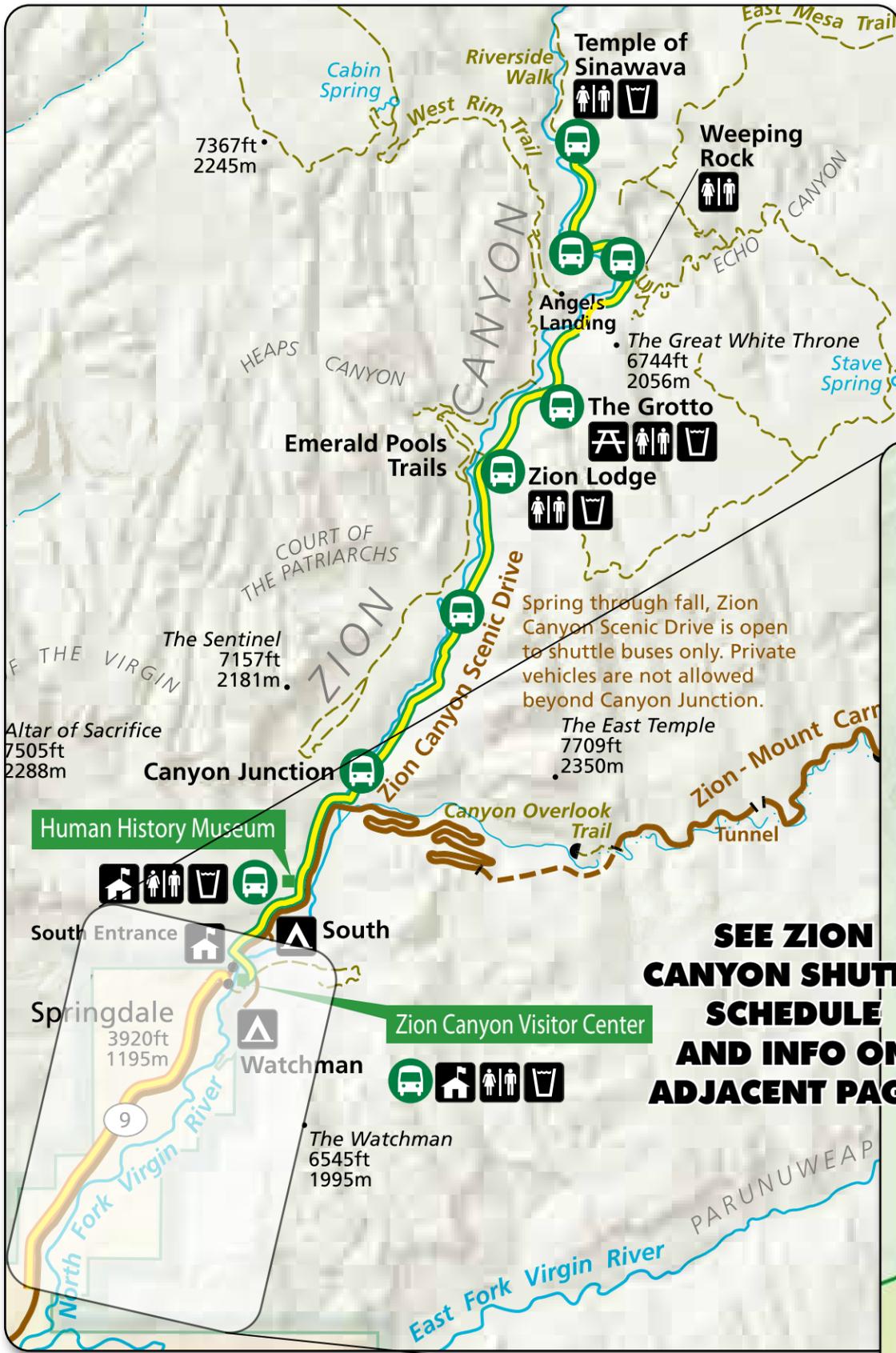
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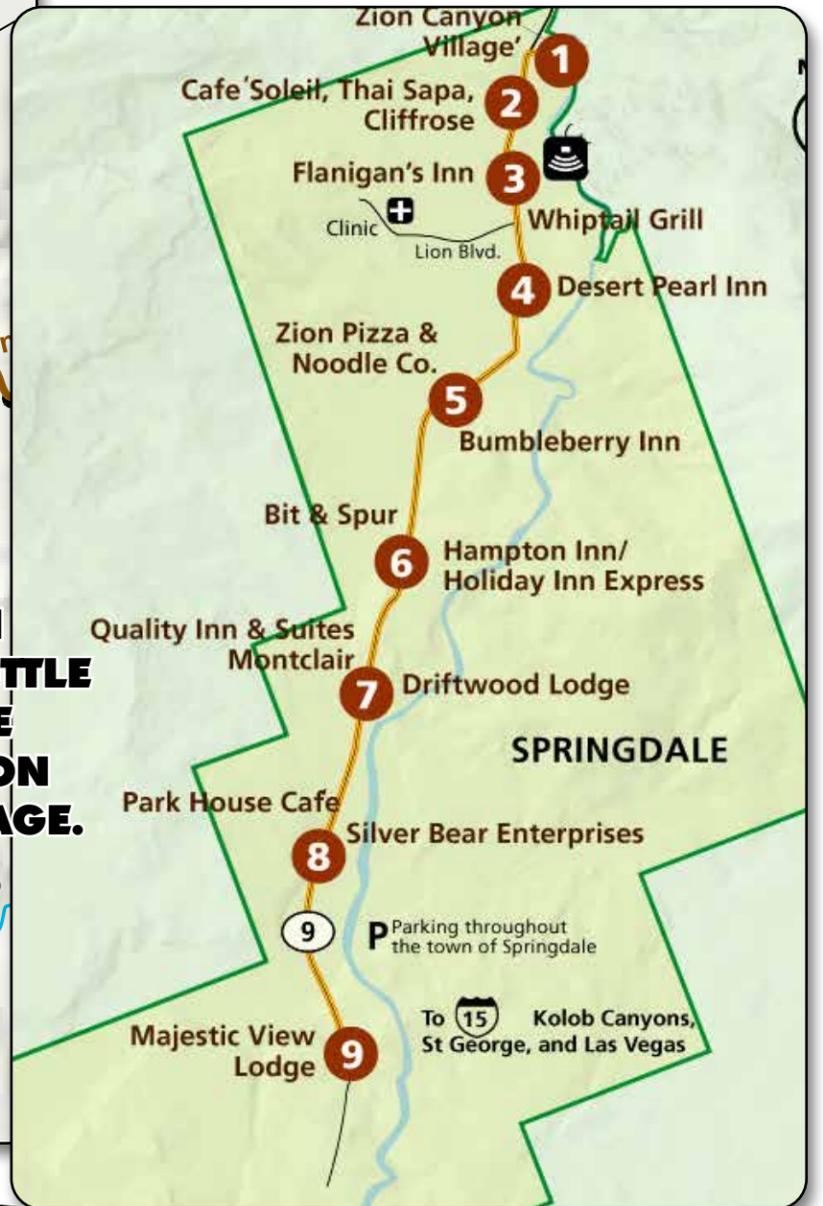
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Zion Canyon Shuttle Map



Springdale Shuttle Map



SEE ZION CANYON SHUTTLE SCHEDULE AND INFO ON ADJACENT PAGE.

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

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 piñon 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 piñon 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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Enjoy stunning red rock views in Southern Utah with no HOA. Build your custom home or ADU, create an equestrian retreat, or explore vacation rental potential. Utilities including water, power, and fiber are available at the lot line. Buyer to verify all info. Sunflower Valley Estates. **2-Acre lots starting at \$145,000**

Luxury new construction in Sunflower Valley Estates with breathtaking Kanab views. This property includes a 1,894 sq. ft. main home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, plus a 933 sq. ft. detached casita featuring 2 bedrooms and 2 baths—perfect for guests or rental income. Set on a spacious 2.01-acre lot, with nightly rentals allowed and room for horses. Buyer to verify all info. **4377 / 4375 Colt Circle, Kanab, UT - \$719,000**



Luxury living with built-in investment potential. 1,525 sq. ft. home offers 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and 9-foot ceilings. Both main-house bedrooms feature en-suite baths, while a lock-out casita with separate entrance and laundry allows vacation or long-term rentals. Kitchen includes a walk-in pantry and laundry. Covered back patio is pre-wired with 220 power for a hot tub, plus a 2-car garage. Buyer to verify all info. **1603 S West Creekside Drive, Kanab, UT - \$433,000**

Well-appointed 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with detached 2 bedroom, 2 bath casita, built in 2022. High-end countertops, backsplash, and electric fireplace with granite surround. Separate fenced yards with artificial grass offer privacy and low maintenance. Split 2-car garage with 220 power allows flexible use. Ideal for multigenerational living, rental income, or guest space. Buyer to verify all info. **1558 S East Creekside Drive, Kanab, UT - \$599,000**



Cindy Nelson

Realtor | LRG Collective

cindy@kanabproperties.com

805.204.7667

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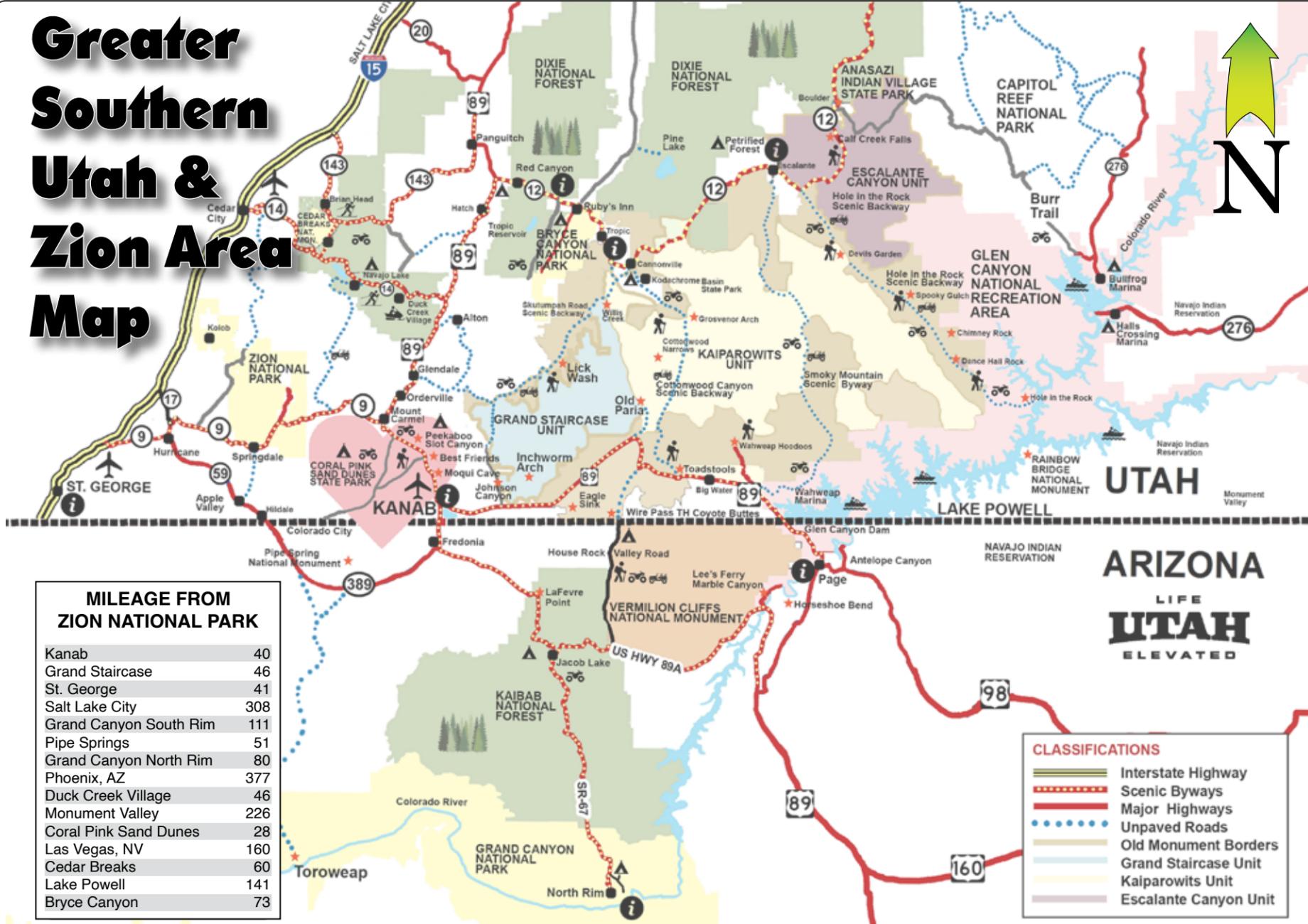


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Zion Area Annual Events



The Zion area is incredible for hiking—but did you know it also hosts hundreds of amazing events every year? From art festivals and outdoor concerts to rodeos, parades, and film screenings, there's something happening in every season. Here are just a few highlights. Be sure to check out *The Independent's* extensive Events Calendar and local event coverage in every issue!

January

Winter 4x4 Jamboree (Hurricane/Sand Hollow) – One of the biggest off-road events in Southern Utah during the winter season, attracting enthusiasts from across the West.

February

St. George Parade of Homes (Washington County) – Showcasing luxury and custom homes with a focus on design, architecture, and interior inspiration. Bryce Canyon Winter Festival (Bryce Canyon National Park) – Presidents' Day weekend celebration featuring snowshoeing, archery, arts and crafts, and more. The Annual Sears Invitational (St. George) – Every year on President's Day weekend, showcasing over 100 artists from all over the West and more than 200 traditional, contemporary, and sculptural pieces of artwork.

March

Southern Utah Early Music Festival (St. George) – Hosted by Utah Tech University, this concert explores early music traditions from Gregorian chant to the Baroque. Ivins Fitness Fest (Ivins) – A health-forward community event with fitness booths and the kickoff to the month-long "Sloth-A-Thlon."

April

Kayenta Chalk Festival (Ivins) – A vibrant celebration of ephemeral art, where local and visiting artists transform the sidewalks

of the Kayenta Art Village with large-scale chalk creations. St. George Art Festival (St. George) – Held Easter weekend in historic downtown, this beloved festival features fine art, live music, and local food vendors. St. George Plein Air Festival (St. George) – Now in its fifth year, this outdoor painting festival draws artists of all levels to capture the beauty of Southern Utah landscapes on canvas. Includes workshops, exhibitions, and live painting events. Art Around the Corner Unveiling (St. George) – Each spring, the annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit kicks off with a celebratory unveiling of new public art installations throughout downtown. Zion Chalk & Earth Fest (Springdale) – This interactive art and nature festival combines chalk art, earth-based installations, and hands-on activities along the gateway to Zion National Park.

May

Spring Fiesta (Cedar City) – A lively cultural celebration featuring music, food, and family fun in historic downtown Cedar. Amazing Earthfest (Kanab) – Southern Utah's signature festival of learning, arts, culture, and outdoor adventure. Kanab Outdoor Market (Kanab) – A weekly market running through October, offering nursery stock, baked goods, local art, jewelry, crafts, and a bounce house for kids.

June

Jacob Hamblin Days Festival (Kanab/Kane County) – Honoring the region's pioneer and Western heritage with family-friendly festivities. Maynard Dixon Country Campout (Mt. Carmel, Kane County) – A multi-day gathering of artists and fans of Western art history and painting. Utah Shakespeare Festival (Cedar City) – Kicks off in late June and runs through October with a celebrated

lineup of Shakespearean and contemporary plays.

June–July

Firefly Powerbike Rally (Toquerville or Hurricane area) – Electric dirt-bike gathering with rides, demos, and social events for e-bike enthusiasts.

July

Independence Day Festivities (Various towns in Southern Utah) – Parades, fireworks, barbecues, and live music in communities like Kanab, Springdale, Duck Creek, and more. Pioneer Day Celebrations (Various towns in Southern Utah) – Celebrations on or around July 24th honoring Utah's pioneer history with parades, games, dinners, and traditional festivities.

August

Kane County Fair (Orderville) – A family-friendly event offering games, contests, food, and community fun with mostly free admission. Legends Weekend (Kanab) – A celebration of Kanab's Western and film heritage featuring parades, rodeos, film screenings, concerts, and more.

September

Red Rock Film Festival (Cedar City) – Independent film screenings, workshops, and panels celebrating artistic and innovative filmmaking. Carmel Mountain Music & Art Festival and Car Show (Mount Carmel, Kane County) – Classic cars, live music, food vendors, and kid-friendly activities. Duck Creek End of Summer Bash (Duck Creek Village, Kane County) – Labor Day Weekend music event at Duck on In Saloon. Zion Canyon Music Festival (Springdale) – A fall tradition in Zion Canyon with live music, artisan booths, food, and local flair. Swiss Days (Santa Clara) – A lively heritage celebration

with Swiss-inspired food, vendors, live music, and community activities. Hurricane Peach Days (Hurricane) – Parade, rodeo, carnival, and of course, peaches – held the weekend after Labor Day. Escalante Canyons Art Festival (Escalante) – Featuring plein air competitions, art exhibits, guided hikes, and workshops celebrating art and landscape.

October

Kanab Arts Festival (Kanab) – Art, food, live music, poetry, wagon rides, and kids' activities line Kanab's main street in a festive fall atmosphere. Zion Rocktoberfest (Springdale) – A mix of live music, food, beer, and Oktoberfest-inspired celebration set against the red cliffs of Zion. Red Bull Rampage (Virgin) – The world's premier freeride mountain biking event, drawing top athletes and huge crowds to Southern Utah.

November

Butch Cassidy 10K Run (Springdale/Virgin/Grafton area) – A scenic road race through red rock country followed by a celebratory gathering in historic Grafton. K-town Turkey Trot 5K (Kanab) – A Thanksgiving morning fun run/walk for all ages in downtown Kanab. Zion Plein Air Invitational (Springdale) – A week of exhibits, workshops, and painting sales with some of the finest plein air artists in the nation. Christmas Light Parade and Festival (Kanab) – Parade, gourmet s'mores, hot cocoa, caroling, and a lantern launch held the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Zion Canyon Arts & Crafts Fair (Springdale) – A beloved community tradition featuring local and regional artisan booths and handmade goods.

December

Z-Arts Gala (Springdale) – A formal night of celebration with food, dancing, and an art auction hosted by Z-Arts.

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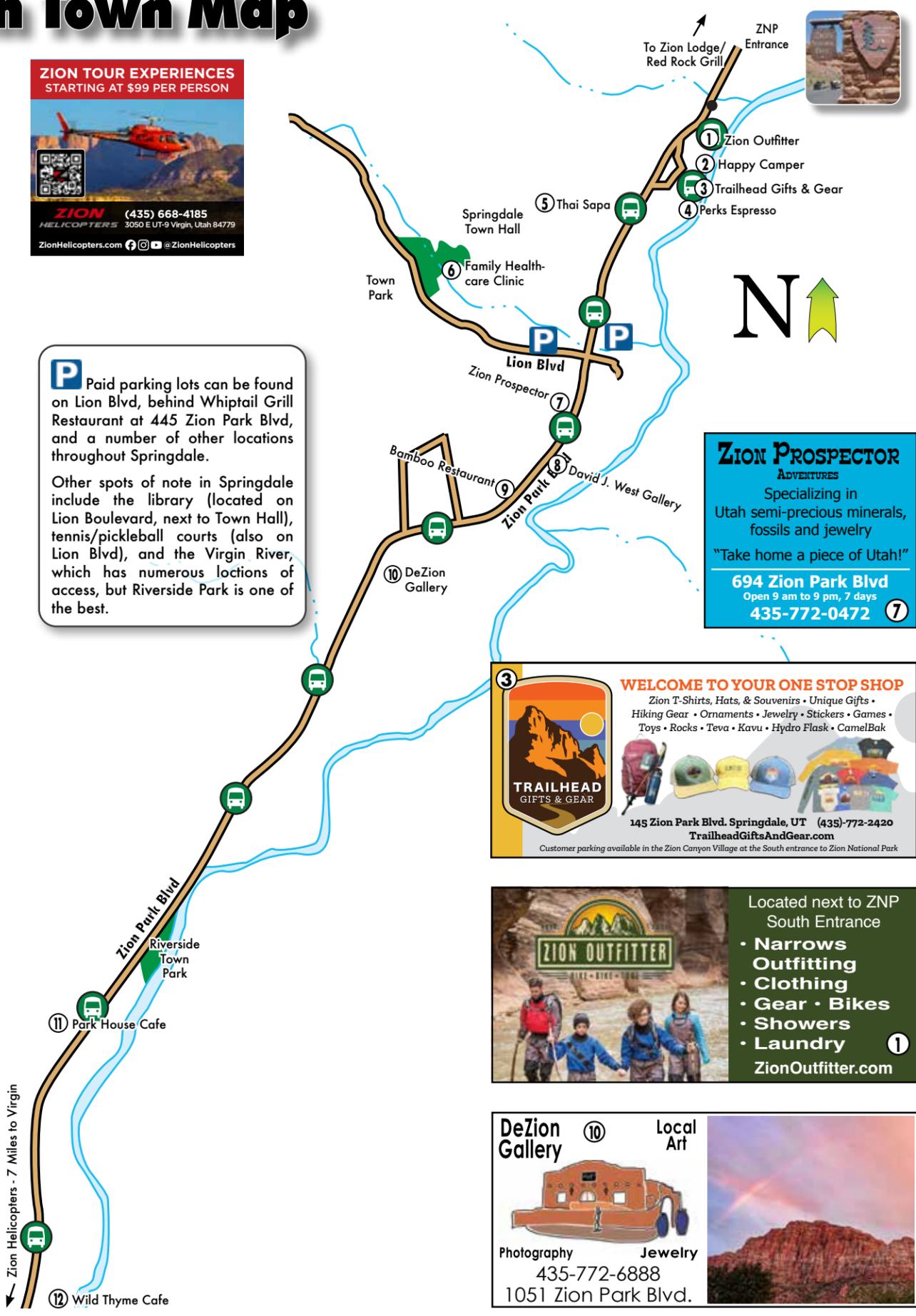


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P Paid parking lots can be found on Lion Blvd, behind Whiptail Grill Restaurant at 445 Zion Park Blvd, and a number of other locations throughout Springdale.

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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Restaurants/Bars (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	8:30 AM - 2 PM Tues - Sun	Yes
17 Buckskin Tavern	2321 N Main, Fredonia, AZ	(928) 643-7094	W, B, M, V	Noon - Close	Yes
10 Jakey Leigh's	4 E Center St, Kanab	(435) 644-8191	E, V	7 Am - 2 PM Daily	Yes
5 Nomad Cafe & RV Resort	2400 N Hwy 89, Kanab	(406) 594-0294	E, V	6:30 AM - 2:30 PM Thurs - Mon	Yes
1 Soup Town	30 E State, Orderville	(435) 648-2370	V	11 AM - 5 PM Tues - Fri	Yes
14 Wild Thyme Cafe	198 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-2848	W, B, M, E, V	11:30 AM - PM Daily	Yes

EAST ZION & KANAB AREA FEATURED SERVICES, SHOPS & GALLERIES FROM ZION GUIDE

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Services (Listed Alphabetically)

Adventure Tours of Kanab	Serving Kanab	(435) 689-2029
3 Best Friends Animal Sanctuary	5001 Angel Canyon Rd, Kanab	(435) 644-2001
Grand Canyon Expeditions	Call for Info	(435) 644-2691
16 Hope Hyperbarics	395 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 689-1831
11 Kane County Visitors Bureau	78 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-5033
12 Kanab Family Dental	76 E 100 S, Kanab	(435) 644-2719
Kayak The Colorado	Call for Info	(435) 275-2925
13 Ramsay Auto Service	115 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-8070

Shops (Listed Alphabetically)

15 Glazier's Market	264 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-5029
17 Honey's Marketplace	260 E 300 S, Kanab	(435) 644-5877
9 Kanab Drug	176 W Center, Kanab	(435) 644-3401
4 Moqui Cave	4581 US-89	(435) 644-8525
6 Nature's Showcase	288 W Center, Kanab	(435) 644-2390
2 The Rock Stop	385 W State St, Orderville	(435) 648-2747

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