

THE INDEPENDENT

30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EDITION • 1996-2026

FREE ZION GUIDE

Mar '26

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TRAILBLAZER TRADITIONS: D-WEEK RETURNS TO SO. UTAH

April 6-11, 2026 — St. George, UT

As the sun sets behind the red cliffs of St. George, the D on the hill glows against the desert sky. For more than a century, that hillside letter has stood as a symbol of southern Utah's pride in its university and the campus and community's shared tradition of working hard for the benefit of others. And each spring, that same spirit comes to life during D-Week.

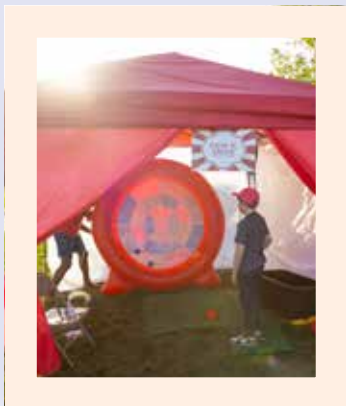
Hosted by Utah Tech University, D-Week is more than a lineup of events. It's a celebration rooted in history. Dating back to 1915, when the student body constructed the D on the hill, this spirit week bears the name it has long held to honor the longstanding traditions it includes.

Kicking off D-Week 2026, Brooks' City Tour is set to take place Monday, April 6, and will feature pop-up parties offering deals, promotions, and freebies at local businesses and featured



Other signature events throughout the week spotlight student leadership, alumni achievement and community engagement. From the Trailblazer Queen Pageant to live music performances, award ceremonies and family-focused gatherings, D-Week showcases the vibrant campus culture that continues to grow each year. Visit utahtech.edu/dweek for updated details on all D-Week festivities.

D-Week is Utah Tech University's way of bringing history to life. This endeared week invites neighbors to campus, reconnects alumni with familiar places and gives families an opportunity to be part of something that has defined St. George for more than a century. Join Trailblazer Nation in continuing the tradition of celebrating D-Week.



Art in the City bison throughout the day.

Then, one of the most anticipated athletic events of the spring season will take place when Trailblazer baseball takes on the University of Utah on Tuesday, April 7, at 4 PM at Utah Tech's Hurst Baseball Complex. The matchup brings a spark of rivalry, especially after last year's thrilling win over the U. Whether you're a longtime supporter or attending your first Utah Tech event, it's an opportunity to rally together in blue and red and cheer on the home team.

Tradition continues off the field as teams of students, alumni and community members enter into the friendly competition that is The Great Race. Dating back

to a 1960s bike race through St. George, The Great Race has morphed into a 10-person relay team that included motor crossing, horseback riding across Foremaster Ridge and tubing down the Virgin River in the early 1970s before it moved to campus in 2000.

In its current form, The Great Race still features relay teams of 10 as they run, pedal, swim, scoot and slide their way through the infamous mud pit to the finish line. This year's iteration of the storied relay is set to start at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 10, in Greater Zion Stadium.

This year's D-Week also marks a milestone for one of the university's most beloved ambassadors: Brooks the Bison turns 10.

Introduced during D-Week in 2016, Brooks quickly became more than a mascot. His 10th birthday will be celebrated at the Brooks' Birthday Carnival, also on Friday, April 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Utah Tech's Encampment Mall. This family-friendly event features games, entertainment and activities designed to feel like a classic hometown festival.

The following day, students, alumni and community members will come together to hike up the Black Ridge and apply a new coat of paint to the iconic D. The tradition begins at 8 AM on Saturday, April 11, and breakfast will be served, preserving a ritual that connects today's Trailblazers with those who first shaped it over a century ago.



LONGER DAYS, BRIGHT IDEAS By Elizabeth Gunter, Editor



Last month, if you picked up our February issue, you probably felt the difference before you even turned the first page.

We were gifted a glossy stock by our printer, something with presence. Something

that honored the completion of thirty years of stories, partnerships, late-night layout edits, community milestones, and the steady rhythm of showing up month after month. It was our quiet way of saying thank you. To our readers. To our advertisers. To the artists, organizers, musicians, chefs, nonprofit

leaders, and risk-takers who trust us to help tell their stories.

Thirty years is not just a number. It represents conversations at kitchen tables, backstage interviews, ribbon cuttings, rehearsals, first openings, final bows, and the countless moments in between that define a community. We have had the privilege of documenting those moments, preserving them in ink and paper, issue after issue.

Print is still relevant. Tangible still holds weight. And sometimes, the paper itself gets to participate in the celebration. There is something grounding about holding a story in your hands, folding down a corner, passing it across a café table, or saving it on a shelf because it mattered.

Now we turn the page into spring.

Longer light. Warmer evenings. Outdoor concerts. Festival season. Patio dining. Fresh exhibits. Open studio doors. Southern Utah begins stretching again this time of year, and you can feel the shift. There's momentum building in our parks, theaters, galleries, trailheads, and town squares.

Spring always carries the language of beginnings, new shows, new menus, new collaborations, new ideas finally stepping into public view. It's one of my favorite times to be in this work, because this is when creativity spills outside and invites the whole community in.

As always, The Independent is here for it.

If you're planning an event, launching a production, opening an exhibit,

hosting a fundraiser, debuting a menu, or creating something the community should know about, send it our way. Press releases, early announcements, save-the-dates, story ideas. The earlier we hear from you, the better we can serve you and help amplify your work.

We remain committed to thoughtful coverage of the arts, music, culture, parks and recreation, and the people shaping life in Southern Utah. That mission doesn't change with the seasons, but spring certainly gives it new energy.

Thank you for reading. Thank you for supporting local storytelling. And thank you for continuing to build a community.

Here's to longer days and bright ideas.

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ST. GEORGE ART FESTIVAL RETURNS APRIL 3-4 WITH 200 ARTISTS, LIVE MUSIC AND MORE

April 3-4, 2026 — St. George, UT

Every year during Easter Weekend, Historic Town Square comes alive with dazzling pieces of artwork, the sounds of live music and the aromas of food from around the world. The St. George Art Festival returns April 3-4 at Town Square, promising to inspire and delight festivalgoers of all ages.



Nearly 200 artists from across the United States were accepted into this year's festival. Awards will be presented in multiple categories on April 3. Visitors can look forward to viewing and purchasing paintings, ceramics, sculptures, textiles, glassworks, photography, fine jewelry and more, carefully curated from hundreds of submissions.

Live entertainment will take place

on three stages throughout Town Square, including two free evening concerts. Headlining April 3 at 7 PM on Tabernacle Street is The Aquabats, known for their high-energy superhero punk rock performances. On April 4 at 6 PM, James Hardy & The Fire will bring their groove-driven roots rock sound to the stage.

Additional highlights include artwork from featured artist Prince Duncan-Williams, a creation station offering 15 hands-on crafts for children and families, nearly three dozen food trucks and vendors, and a freestyle dance battle on April 4 at 3 PM.

Runners can participate in the Art Attack 1 Mile and 5K races on April 4 at 9 AM on Tabernacle Street. The Desertscape Film Festival also returns April 1-4 at the Electric Theater, offering independent films and filmmaker showcases.

Festival hours are 10 AM to 7 PM on April 3 and 10 AM to 6 PM on April 4.

The St. George Art Festival began in 1980 and has grown into one of the region's signature events, drawing more than 30,000 visitors annually to Historic Town Square on Main Street, between Tabernacle Street and 100 South.

For more information, visit sgartfestival.com.

COLOR & LIGHT: A SPRING ARTS CELEBRATION IN WASHINGTON

March 28, 2026 — Washington, UT

The Washington City Arts Council invites the community to celebrate spring at Color & Light: A Spring Arts Celebration, the 2026 Spring Art Gala, on Saturday, March 28, from 4 PM to 7 PM at Heritage Hall, 25 E. Telegraph Street, in historic downtown Washington. This free community event welcomes guests of all ages for an evening honoring the creativity and spirit of Southern Utah's local arts community.

The theme "Color & Light" reflects the beauty of spring in Southern Utah — bright skies, blooming landscapes, and renewed energy. It also speaks to the role art plays in everyday life, bringing inspiration, connection and fresh perspective. The gala is designed as a warm, welcoming gathering where guests can slow down, explore and enjoy art in a relaxed setting.

Throughout the evening, visitors may browse a diverse exhibition of original artwork, with many pieces available for purchase. The show features a range of styles and artistic voices, offering something for every taste. Participating artists will be present to share insights about their creative processes and inspiration.

Guests can also participate in a silent auction featuring select works of art. Open

throughout the event, the auction offers a fun way to support local artists and the Arts Council's year-round programs.

Live art demonstrations will provide a behind-the-scenes look at how color, texture and light come together in real time. Live music will create an uplifting atmosphere, and light refreshments will be available as guests mingle and explore.

More than an exhibition, Color & Light is a celebration of community. Families are encouraged to attend, with opportunities



for guests of all ages to engage with art in meaningful and accessible ways.

This event is produced by the Washington City Arts Council, whose mission is to enrich the community through arts education, exhibitions, and cultural events.

For more information, visit washingtontcityartscouncil.com, email washingtontcityartscouncil@gmail.com, or follow the Washington City Arts Council on Facebook.

THE DESERTSCAPE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO ST. GEORGE

April 1-4, 2026—St George, UT

Discover independent cinema as the 501(C)(3) nonprofit, Film and Media Alliance of Southern Utah, proudly presents the return of the 2026 Desertscape International Film Festival. DIFF 2026 will take place in beautiful St. George, UT from Wednesday, April 1st through Saturday, April 4th with the majority of screenings and events taking place at the historic Electric Theater. This 4-day celebration of the latest in independent film will feature over 50 titles—shorts and features—from all around the world. Multiple countries and genres will be represented throughout the festival and programmers suggest there will be a little something for everyone.

Sundance winner "Jazz Infernal," the righteously hilarious fresh-off-its-South-By-South-West-appearance giallo sendup "The Seeing Eye Dog Who Saw Too Much," the inspiring mountain-climbing mini doc "Morgan," the sweet and sour Sundance entry "Candy Bar," and the poignant, dialogue-free father/daughter drama "Little Victories."

Of course, these titles will only scratch the surface. Again, the lineup will consist of over 50 features and shorts, presented in various film block categories that will include comedy, international, sights and sounds, Made-in Utah, and After Dark. Additionally, DIFF 2026 will host industry panels, filmmaker Q&As, after parties, an



Feature films to be showcased in this year's impressive lineup include the emotionally-charged Plummer Brothers-directed drama, "The Strawberry," starring a stellar Mike Farrell (who many of you will remember as B.J. Hunnicutt from the iconic, long-running series "M*A*S*H") as an elderly man connecting with his family after discovering he's terminally ill; "I've Seen All I Need to See," Zeshaan Younus's artistic (and beautifully photographed) character driven piece about a woman (well played by Renee Gagner) who returns to her hometown after the untimely death of her estranged sister; "The Last Picture Shows," a heartfelt (and often heartbreaking) documentary about the decline of single screen movie houses from director Rustin Thompson.

Short films will include the energetic

awards ceremony, and more.

It should also be noted that as was the case with the last two years, the second half of the Desertscape will, once again, coincide with the long-running St. George Art Festival and this will only add to the magic of the proceedings. In addition to amazing art and a plethora of must-visit food trucks, the evening of Friday, April 3rd will also see a not-to-be-missed live outdoor performance by "The Aquabats." This is to say nothing of all of the breathtaking scenic locales that Southern Utah has to offer. Desertscape International Film Festival; Come for the unforgettable films and stay for the amazing sights. All DIFF 2026 info—including lineup, film descriptions, showtimes, and ticket details can be found at fmasu.com/desertscape.

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR CELEBRATES AMERICA 250 WITH HISTORY AND FAMILY FUN

April 10-18, 2026 — Hurricane, UT

In less than a month, the Washington County Fair will welcome the community to one of Southern Utah's most anticipated traditions. This year's fair joins the nationwide celebration of America 250, commemorating 250 years of American independence through immersive, family-friendly experiences that honor the nation's founding spirit.

The celebration begins Friday, April 10, with an official ribbon-cutting at 3:30 PM to open the fair. Immediately following, a short program featuring the La Verkin Elementary School Choir will perform patriotic songs. Guests are then invited to sing "Happy Birthday" and enjoy free ice cream and cake.

As part of the America 250 festivities, the City of St. George will host a patriotic parade themed "America: Past, Present, and Future" on Saturday, April 11, at 9 AM. The parade will feature community groups, creative floats, music and youth

organizations. Cash prizes will be awarded for best theme, best performance, best business entry, best community/group and a commissioner's award.



A centerpiece of the celebration is the Founders Festival, a living-history colonial village featuring tradespeople, interpreters and reenactors with interactive booths designed for families. Visitors will learn about colonial life, craftsmanship and early American values through demonstrations and conversations that bring history to life. The Founders Festival will be open Thursday through Saturday, April 16-18.

The Field of Flags display will serve as a powerful visual tribute throughout the fair. The installation will feature 26 historical flags along with a 250-flag display representing each year of American independence. The display provides a reflective space for visitors to pause, take photos and appreciate the shared values that connect generations.

The 2026 Washington County Fair runs April 10-18 with free admission. For updates and more information, visit washcofair.net.



CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH SO U COMEDY - GIVE A LITTLE CASH, GET A LOT OF LAUGHS

March 7, 2026 — St. George, UT
This month, So U Comedy Theater features a celebration of laughter, community, and just the right amount of chaos. With a milestone birthday show, a special guest appearance, and the launch of a brand-new fundraising initiative, the coming weeks promise unforgettable nights for improv fans of all ages.



The celebration begins March 7 with So U's TENTH Birthday Show! This special night will feature a guest appearance by founder Chewi, returning to the stage for a reunion performance fans won't want to miss. Expect a high-energy mix of classic short-form games, audience participation, and a few surprises as past and present cast members come together. Whether you've followed So U since the early days of Improv Dixie or it's your first time, celebrate in style with some laughs.



month, turning fundraising into a full-blown comedic spectacle, cast members will take on increasingly outrageous dares as donation milestones are reached. Week one - Polar Plunge! The more funds raised, the more people in the pool! Public dance-offs in questionable costumes and permanent decisions involving tattoo ink are possible.

Each dare will be documented and shared on social media so supporters can watch the chaos unfold in real time. By blending humor with heart, the initiative aims to raise funds and spirits for the Dove Center and its cause. Donations can be made through Venmo, PayPal, and in person on March 7 and 21.

Of course, audiences can still expect the signature So U experience at every show: scenes built from audience suggestions, fast-paced games, and spontaneous moments that can never be repeated. Short-form improv delivers quick hits of comedy where anything can happen, and usually does. If you need a reason to laugh, give back, and maybe witness a performer make a wildly questionable life choice onstage (or in freezing water), March at So U Comedy Theater delivers.

Shows take place on the first and third Saturdays upstairs at the Electric Theater Center, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George, with a Family Friendly show at 7 PM and the Uncensored show at 9 PM for those who prefer their comedy a little spicier. Tickets are available online or at the door, with discounts offered.

KOLOB GALLERY WELCOMES GUEST ARTIST ROBERT HALE AND UPCOMING ABC GUILD EXHIBIT



March 2026 — Cedar City, UT
Kolob Gallery will feature guest artist Robert Hale during the month of March.

Hale describes the making of art as both challenging and rewarding. For him, art serves as a link to the future and provides something of a legacy. He also views creating art as an appropriate way to honor his creator.

Looking ahead to April, Kolob Gallery will host an exhibit from the ABC Guild, a group known for producing book art,

assemblage and collage pieces. The exhibition will include two-dimensional and three-dimensional works, art books and books as art, often blurring the line between art and publishing.

Guests are invited to meet the ABC Guild artists on April 9 from 4 PM to 5:30 PM at Kolob Gallery, located at 111 S. Main Street in Cedar City. The gallery is co-located with The Art Center, a full-service frame shop, in the heart of beautiful Cedar City, Utah.

We would like to thank you, our readers, for helping us sustain during this challenging time.

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THE DISH: CUBBY'S BALANCES COMFORT AND CLEAN EATING IN ST. GEORGE

St. George, UT

There is a particular tension that happens when one friend wants something clean and protein-forward, and the other wants a sandwich with real heft. Cubby's manages that balance with surprising ease.

Located in St. George, Cubby's feels casual but intentional. The ordering is fast-casual, but the food lands closer to

textures keeps each bite interesting. It's the kind of dish that feels nourishing without feeling like you compromised. Substantial, balanced, and thoughtfully built.

Across the table, my friend went all in on the tri-tip sandwich. Thinly sliced, well-seasoned beef layered onto a soft roll with just enough structure to hold it together. It's the type of sandwich that requires two



chef-driven comfort than quick-service convenience. It's the kind of place where you can sit down and exhale, knowing everyone at the table will find something that fits.

I ordered the Wild Rice & Kale salad, a bowl that reads virtuous on paper but eats like a full meal. The wild rice adds chew and depth, the kale is tender rather than aggressive, and the combination of

hands and full commitment. He was quiet for most of it, which is usually the best review.

What stands out at Cubby's is the flexibility. You can build a meal around greens and grains, or lean into sandwiches, burgers, and hearty sides. It works for someone counting macros, someone avoiding gluten, or someone who just wants something satisfying and straightforward.

The space itself is clean and relaxed, with enough energy to feel lively but not chaotic. It's a dependable option when you're meeting friends with different preferences, dietary needs, or moods.

In a town where dining options continue to expand, Cubby's holds its place by doing something simple and doing it well: serving food that feels fresh, filling, and approachable.

Sometimes that balance is harder to find than it sounds.



GUEST EDITORIAL: THERE IS ALWAYS TIME FOR CHANGE

By James McFadden, Former Editor



Thirty Years, One Truth

For the last few weeks, I've been thinking a lot about accountability. Not the kind we point outward. The kind we look inward for.

I had the privilege of serving

as Editor of the Independent for about five years.

What I learned during that time is simple: sustainability is a daily choice.

Integrity is a daily choice. Showing up when it's easier not to... is a daily choice.

And that's why thirty years matters.

Thirty years doesn't happen because everything went right. It happens because, year after year, someone chose not to quit.

I recently read a line that stopped me cold:

"Whatever you are not changing, you are choosing." — Laurie Buchanan, PhD.

Read that again. Whatever you are not changing, you are choosing.

was willing to sacrifice, stay late, get up early, make hard choices, absorb criticism, and keep going anyway.

That's not luck. That's choice. Which leads me to the other thing that has been on my mind lately. If we're all being honest right now, our world feels kind of heavy.

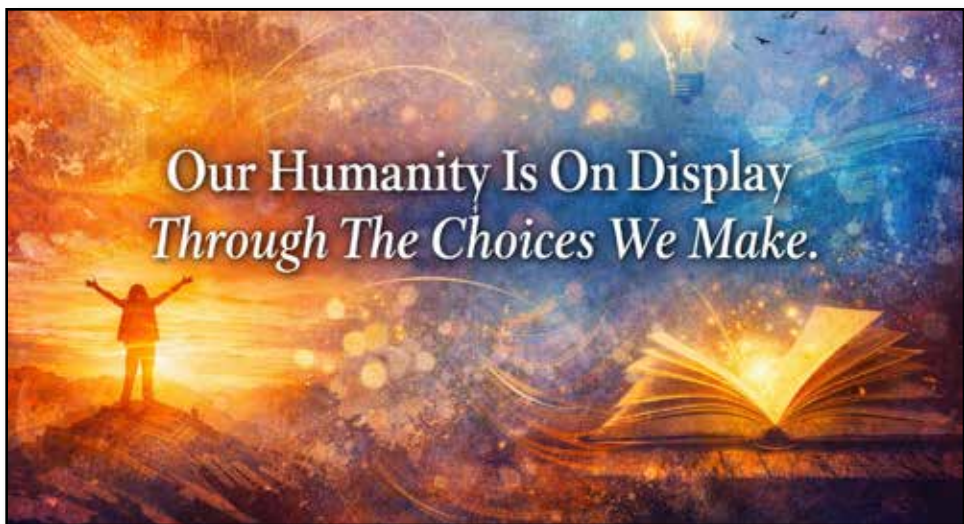
Fraud. Contention. Media manipulation. War. Anger. Division at every turn. We can keep blaming. Or we can ask a harder question: What am I choosing by not changing how I might be contributing to all of it? Omission is a powerful thing...

The chaos we see "out there" often reflects what we've tolerated within. If we want a stronger community, a stronger nation, a stronger future, it starts with individuals willing to choose differently and treat others differently. Who's with me?

Life is short. Most of us have lived more years than we have left. That's not morbid, it's motivating.

So, here's my challenge:

Pick one thing you've been tolerating, in your habits, in your attitude, in how you show up for others. Tell yourself the



We don't get to call the things happening to us or around us "problems" if we're not doing anything to change them. At some point, we have to call the majority of them decisions. And the moment we own them as decisions; we gain the power necessary to change them.

That truth applies to a newspaper celebrating thirty years. It applies to a business. It applies to marriage and family. And it absolutely applies to our community.

Growth and success, real success, isn't accidental. It isn't convenient. It doesn't show up because you got lucky or had good intentions. It shows up because someone

truth about it. Then choose again. Choose something better and focus your energy on it.

Get involved. Support something that makes our city stronger and safer.

Volunteer. Mentor. Build. Give generously. Find a purpose greater than yourself; one that wouldn't be the same without you.

That's how institutions last thirty years. That's how communities last even longer.

And that, more than anything, is how success is built.

The choice, as always, is ours.

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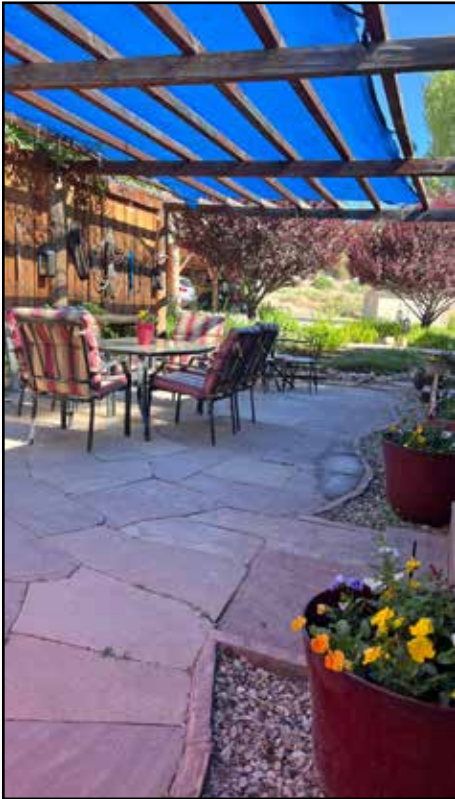
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PLEIN AIR PAINTERS OF AMERICA 2026 NATIONAL EXHIBITION & SALE COMES TO MT. CARMEL

May 15, 2026 — Mt. Carmel, UT

The Plein Air Painters of America will present its 2026 National Exhibition & Sale, titled “Heart of America,” at the historic Maynard Dixon Home & Studio in Mt. Carmel, Utah.



Hosted by the Thunderbird Foundation Gallery, this major exhibition features more than 100 paintings created by over 40 members of the organization. Landscape works from across the United States will be on display, including paintings created in artists’ studios and works completed



outdoors on location.

The Patron Preview takes place Friday, May 15, 2026, followed by the Public Opening on Saturday, May 16. During the Public Opening at 12 PM on May 16, many participating artists will also offer field studies created during the week leading up to the show.

Approximately 30 Signature PAPA members are expected to attend opening weekend. Plein Air Painters of America membership is by invitation only and limited to approximately 50 accomplished artists.

In addition to the exhibition and sale, four PAPA Master Instructors will lead a workshop offered by the Scottsdale Artists’ School beginning Monday, May 19. The workshop is open to artists of all levels.

The exhibition remains on view through July 6, 2026.

For more information about the exhibition and Patron Preview, visit the Thunderbird Foundation Gallery website. To learn more about Plein Air Painters of America and preview paintings, visit the organization’s official website. For workshop details and registration, visit the Scottsdale Artists’ School’s website.

Location: Thunderbird Foundation Gallery - Historic Maynard Dixon Home & Studio. 2200 S. State St. (Hwy 89) in Mt. Carmel, UT 84755.



SOUTHERN UTAH ART GUILD SHOWCASES MARCH EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS

March 2026 — St. George, UT

All Southern Utah Art Guild events are free and open to the public.

Red Cliff Gallery’s current March show, Close to Home, continues through March 26 and features 155 artworks by 65 artists. Cheryl Sache is the featured artist. Red Rock Writers, the St. George chapter of the Utah State Poets Society, are also exhibiting poems inspired by selected paintings in the show, creating a collaboration between visual art and poetry.

Arrowhead Gallery’s featured artist for March is Diane Cliff. Her work focuses on pieces designed to harmonize with architecture and interior design. She incorporates original acrylic paintings on canvas, paper, metal and mixed media to enhance interior environments.

Arrowhead Gallery is located at 68 E. Tabernacle Street, St. George. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 AM to 6 PM and Friday and Saturday from 11 AM to 8 PM.

The Guild’s Connect program,



Red Cliff Gallery is located at 220 N. 200 E., St. George. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM and Saturday from noon to 4 PM.

sponsored by the Utah Arts Alliance, offers new, emerging and established Utah artists an opportunity to have their work critiqued by host Colleen Gianatiempo. The session takes place March 26 from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Social Hall, 212 N. Main Street.

Meet + Mingle, another Guild program, features artist demonstrations, critiques and networking opportunities. The March gathering will be held March 17 at 3:30 PM in the Arrowhead Gallery building, upper level.

For more information, visit southernutahartguild.com.



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KANAB'S 20TH ANNUAL AMAZING EARTHFEST RETURNS MAY 7-10

May 7-10, 2026 — Kanab, UT
Southern Utah's annual Amazing EarthFest returns to Kanab May 7-10 for its 20th year, offering four days of experiential learning and community celebration centered on the public lands of the American West.



The festival highlights the importance of national parks, monuments, conservation lands, historic and scenic trails, state parks, national forests and public lands managed for multiple use. These landscapes provide recreation, habitat, cultural and scientific value, scenic

and Night Sky. The multi-day schedule invites visitors to explore the landscapes and cultures of south central Utah and the Arizona Strip from a home base in Kanab. This year's programming includes professional-level workshops in landscape photography, presentations on rainforest

ecology, wilderness history, preventive search and rescue, seismology, archaeology and botany. A series of documentary films explores topics ranging from ecological balance to sustainability and cosmology. Each day begins with a guided hike into the surrounding scenery.



beauty and economic benefit, while serving as vital resources for future generations. Amazing EarthFest features events across six categories: Arts and Culture, Community, Documentary Film, Outdoor Adventure, Science and Land,

A total of 23 activities are planned, all offered free of charge. Organizers encourage those interested to watch for updates as the full schedule is finalized. For more information, visit amazingearthfest.org.





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UTAH TECH'S FIRE & ICE GALA RETURNS TO ST. GEORGE TO EXPAND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

March 20, 2026 — St George, UT
Bringing the Southern Utah community together for a night of elegance and impact, Utah Tech University will host its 22nd Annual Fire & Ice Scholarship Gala on March 20, raising critical support for need-based scholarships.



Organized by the Utah Tech University Foundation, the black-tie evening highlights what happens when a community invests directly in its students. Over the past two decades, the event has helped provide \$1.9 million in scholarships to more than 1,000 students who may not otherwise have been able to pursue a college education.

Community at the Center
Fire & Ice is designed as more than a fundraiser. It's a demonstration of Southern Utah's commitment to expanding access to higher education and helping students overcome financial barriers as they work toward earning degrees and preparing for the future. This year's honorary community co-chairs reflect that spirit of giving. Alma and Melissa Jeppson, new to the area and dedicated to giving back, are serving alongside Brandon and Becky Staples, owners of Sun American Mortgage Company and Utah Tech alumni and supporters.

The Staples shared that scholarships "really do change what's possible for students," noting they were both scholarship recipients and saw firsthand how removing financial barriers can change the direction of a life.

The Jeppsons echoed that sentiment, calling education "an investment in people, in our community and ultimately a chance to improve someone's future." The gala begins at 5:30 PM with a social hour on Palm Street before moving inside the M. Anthony Burns Arena for dinner and entertainment. Both portions of the evening will feature performances from more than 45 students, primarily from Utah Tech's College of Arts, under the guidance of a dozen faculty members and Dean Jeff Jarvis.

Shane B. Smeed and First Lady Angela Smeed are also closely involved, with the first lady providing vision and direction for the event while overseeing many of the design elements that shape the gala experience.

Founded by community members Marica Wade and Dorothy Orton, Fire & Ice also celebrates their legacy of "paying it forward" through direct support of students via the Marcia Wade and Dorothy Orton Pay It Forward Scholarship. Supporting Students, Together The Fire & Ice Scholarship Gala continues to serve as a powerful reminder that education is a community effort. For those interested in attending, sponsoring, or learning more, visit utahtech.edu/fireandice. Community members who cannot attend can still support students by donating directly to the scholarship fund online.



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3405 Dalton Wash Road, Virgin
Reservations Required

KAAP SEEKS PLANT DONATIONS FOR "ROOT IT FOR PAWS" FUNDRAISER

May 16, 2026 — Kanab, UT

The Kanab Animal Assistance Program is calling on local gardeners to help support its upcoming "Root It for Paws" plant sale fundraiser.

the online donation form available through the organization or email KanabAnimalAssistance@gmail.com with their name, plant types and quantities. Proceeds from the fundraiser support



The sale will take place May 16 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Kanab City Park North Pavilion. Organizers are seeking donations of water-wise and drought-tolerant plants, vegetable seedlings, flower seedlings, houseplants and seeds.

Community members interested in donating plants are asked to complete

KAAP's mission to provide medical assistance to animals in the community. Services include cat assistance, spay and neuter and core vaccinations, as well as medical or surgical care for sick or injured owned animals.

For more information about the plant sale or KAAP's programs, visit kanabanimalassistanceprogram.org.

ST. GEORGE HOME EXPO RETURNS APRIL 10-12

April 10-12, 2026 — St. George, UT

The St. George Home Expo returns to Southern Utah April 10-12 at the Dixie Convention Center, bringing homeowners and local home-improvement professionals together for a free, community-focused weekend event.

experts. Homeowners can explore products and services, gather inspiration for upcoming projects and compare multiple professionals under one roof.

Featured exhibitors include home remodelers, roofing and exterior specialists, window and door companies, landscapers,

energy-efficiency providers and smart home experts. The event will also include live demonstrations, interactive displays and exclusive show-only promotions.

For contractors and home-improvement businesses, the expo provides a platform to engage with homeowners planning projects, generate leads and showcase services in person.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

The St. George

Home Expo takes place Friday through Sunday, April 10-12, at the Dixie Convention Center in St. George.

For more information, visit stgeorgehomeexpo.com.



Hosted by Nationwide Expos and presented by ABC4, Utah's CW30 and Superior Sleep, the expo offers attendees the opportunity to connect directly with contractors, service providers and industry

SPRING INTO LAUGHTER: OTC COMEDY KEEPS FRIDAYS FUNNY IN MARCH

Fridays — Cedar City, UT

longer story arcs, and bold ideas that might not fit into a standard Friday show. It's a little looser, a little riskier, and always memorable.

Tickets for all performances are available at otccomedy.com. You can also learn more about upcoming events, special performances, and ways to support local live comedy.

This March, shake off the winter blues and step into something spontaneous.

At OTC Comedy, the scripts are imaginary, the laughs are real, and the only thing you can expect is the unexpected.



March rolls in with longer days, hints of spring, and plenty of reasons to get out of the house. OTC Comedy is keeping the momentum going with live improv every Friday at 8:00 PM at the OTC Comedy Theater, 913 S. Main Street in Cedar City.

Each show is completely unscripted and built from audience suggestions, which means you're not just watching the comedy, you're fueling it. It's fast, fearless, and different every single week.

Admission is still just \$10, making it one of the most affordable nights out in town. Whether you're bringing a date, gathering friends, or flying solo, OTC's Friday shows offer a low-pressure, high-laughter way to kick off the weekend.

March also marks the return of a fan favorite: The Improv Lab on Thursday, March 26 at 7 PM. The Improv Lab is where the ensemble stretches its creative muscles, experimenting with new formats,



Southern Utah's Longest Running Improv Comedy!

off the cuff comedy improvisation

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Admission \$10

Every Friday @ 8pm

913 S. Main St. Cedar City

By IFA & Dollar Tree

Visit otccomedy.com for more info

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20th Annual Amazing Earthfest Kanab, Utah ~ May 7 - 10, 2026

www.AmazingEarthfest.org



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Photo by Marty Feely

HURRICANE EASTER CAR SHOW RETURNS FOR 41ST YEAR IN DOWNTOWN HURRICANE

April 4, 2026 — Hurricane, UT

The Hurricane Easter Car Show Fundraiser will take place Saturday, April 4, in downtown Hurricane. Gates open at 9 AM and remain open through the awards ceremony, which concludes by 5 PM. Admission is \$5 and free for children ages 5 and under.

Now in its 41st year, the show is organized by the Hurricane Valley Rotary Club and presented by Mahoney Performance and Auto Repair in Washington. Proceeds from the event



vans and motorcycles will be on display, competing in 48 award categories. The show



support Rotary's community service efforts, including youth mental health initiatives. Approximately 300 cars, trucks,

also features dozens of vendors, food and non-alcoholic drinks, and family-friendly activities throughout the day.

Those interested in entering a vehicle or applying as a vendor may register at eastercarshow.com. Updates are available on the Hurricane Valley Rotary Club Easter Car Show Facebook page.

Questions may be directed to hurricanerotaryclub@gmail.com. Community members interested in learning more about Rotary and its service efforts are encouraged to reach out.



SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY AND ST. GEORGE CHAMBER SINGERS PRESENT MOZART'S REQUIEM

March 27-28, 2026 — St. George, UT

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra will present a major choral-orchestral collaboration with the St. George Chamber Singers on March 27 and 28 at Desert Hills Auditorium. Both concerts begin at 7:30 PM.

revered works in choral literature.

Guest soloists include soprano Madison Leonard, mezzo-soprano Aubrey Adams-McMillan, tenor Shea Owens and Grammy Award winner Thomas Glenn, bass.

These performances are sponsored by Gardner Facial Plastic Surgery and Robert



Led by Maestro Lucas Darger, the program opens with Franz von Suppé's Poet & Peasant Overture. Audiences will then hear Adoration by Florence Price, a lyrical work by one of the most important American composers of the twentieth century.

The collaboration continues with John Rutter's The Gift of Life, conducted by Dr. Paul Wiens, Director of the St. George Chamber Singers. The evening concludes with Mozart's Requiem, one of the most

& Geneva Lee.

Tickets start at \$23, with discounts available for seniors and students. Tickets may be purchased at swsutah.org/events.

Find more events daily
at SUindependent.com

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YARD SALE • FUNDRAISER • FURNITURE • GIFTS

IVINS FITNESS FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH WELLNESS FAIR AND SLOTHATHLON KICKOFF

March 30, 2026 — Ivins, UT

Ivins City Parks and Recreation and the Southwest Utah Public Health Department will host the Second Annual Ivins Fitness Festival on Monday, March 30, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at Ivins City Heritage Park.

kicks off the month-long Slothathlon fitness challenge, where participants complete a triathlon (full, half or sprint) over the course of April.

The evening includes a wellness fair, games and activities, music and food trucks. Attendees can register for the



The Fitness Festival brings health-focused organizations together so community members can learn about local resources, programs and opportunities that support overall wellness. The event also

Slothathlon and enjoy free smoothies while exploring booths and connecting with local organizations.

Ivins City Heritage Park is located at 100 N. 100 W., Ivins, UT 84738.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UTAH EXPANDS OPPORTUNITY AND INCLUSION ACROSS SOUTHERN UTAH

When athletes take the field wearing the red and white of Special Olympics Utah, they are competing for more than medals. They are building confidence, community, and lifelong skills through year-round sports training and competition for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Serving communities across the state, including Southern Utah, Special Olympics Utah provides organized athletic programs that promote physical fitness, skill development, and meaningful inclusion. The nonprofit operates with a mission centered on empowerment, offering athletes opportunities to participate in structured sports programs while fostering leadership, teamwork, and social connection.

Year-Round Training and Competition

Special Olympics Utah offers a variety of Olympic-style sports throughout the year. Athletes train with volunteer coaches and compete in local, regional, and statewide events. The program emphasizes consistent development rather than one-time competition, allowing participants to grow in both athletic ability and personal confidence.

A Community Effort

The success of Special Olympics Utah depends on volunteers, coaches, families, and community partners. From event coordination to mentorship, the program is sustained by individuals who believe in expanding access to sport and opportunity.

In Southern Utah, events and competitions often bring together families and supporters from across Washington County and neighboring areas. The impact extends beyond the playing field, creating environments where athletes are recognized for their abilities and achievements.

Beyond the Game

While competition is central, the organization's broader goal is inclusion. Through sport, athletes build self-esteem, develop leadership skills, and form lasting friendships. Programs are designed to promote health, wellness, and social engagement, reinforcing that athletics can serve as a powerful pathway to personal growth.

Community members interested in volunteering, coaching, or supporting athletes can learn more at sout.org. Whether



In addition to traditional sports programming, the organization supports Unified Sports, which bring together athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to compete on the same team. This inclusive model promotes understanding and connection while strengthening the broader community.

through sponsorship, participation, or simply showing up to cheer, involvement helps ensure that opportunities remain accessible for athletes throughout Southern Utah and across the state.

Special Olympics Utah continues to demonstrate that when communities rally around inclusion, everyone wins.

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2026

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- FOOD
- BEER GARDEN
- VENDORS 10AM-5PM
- WILD & SCENIC FILM FEST. SHOWINGS 4/17 & 4/18 AT THE BUMBLEBERRY THEATRE
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VISIT OUR WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFO
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/ZCEF26](https://bit.ly/ZCEF26)

Hurricane Easter 2026 CAR SHOW

PRESENTED BY: MAHONEY PERFORMANCE AND AUTO REPAIR

Saturday, April 4 - Downtown Hurricane
At the Hurricane Community Center (State and Main Street).
Gates open to the public at 9am. The awards ceremony is at 4pm.
\$5 admission per person. Kids 5 and under are free.

Activities for the whole family!

Proceeds go to Hurricane Valley Rotary projects for the community, including: Youth Mental Health (our major cause), Books & Scholarships, Youth Programs, Food, Clothing, Utilities, and Fighting Polio.

Cars, vans, trucks, and motorcycles can be registered at eastercarshow.com
Vendors may apply at eastercarshow.com.

Hurricane City park rules: No pets. Service animals only.

MOVIE REVIEW: "SCREAM 7" IS THE KIND OF SEQUEL THE ORIGINAL FILM HAD SUCH A FUN TIME MOCKING By Adam Mast

MOVIE REVIEW: SCREAM 7
(R) Grade: C-

As the end credits for "Scream 7" began to roll, I was left to ponder if what I just watched was, by design, ingeniously meant to be the exact kind of movie that the original film spent a great deal of its runtime playfully mocking over 3 decades ago, or...If "Scream 7" just wasn't very good movie. Sadly, for this horror fan, it was more of the latter.

After a turbulent whirlwind that saw the makers of "Scream 5" and "Scream 6" departing "Scream 7" so that they could focus their attention on "Abigail," a potential seventh entry would continue hitting multiple snags shortly thereafter including the departure of director Christopher Landon ("Happy Death Day") as well as set-to-return "Scream 5" and "Scream 6" stars Melissa Barrera and Jenna Ortega, both of whom departed for reasons that we don't really need to spend time getting into in this review.



With no director and no stars attached, the decision was ultimately made to jump into "nostalgia" mode and bring in Kevin Williamson (the screenwriter behind "Scream" chapters 1, 2, and 4) to try his hand at directing again for the first time since his only other directing credit, 1999's all but forgotten "Teaching Mrs. Tingle." Original "Scream" final girl Neve Campbell was also brought back (no doubt, she was given the payday she asked for after being denied what she was rightfully worth in the last film.)

In "Scream 7," Sidney Prescott-Evans is living a seemingly peaceful life in a new hometown with her police officer husband (played by Joe McHale) and her sometimes angsty but good-hearted daughter, Tatum (played by Isabel May). For the most part, she's put a terrifying past behind her, but of course, it isn't long before Ghostface is back, wreaking havoc once more, and ultimately, it'll take the likes of Sidney, Tatum, and intrepid (and obnoxious) reporter Gale Weathers (played by Courtney Cox) to put a stop to a new string of grisly killings in what could be best described as a fan-servicey whodunnit. Whodunnit, you ask? Like that'll be spoiled in this review. That being said, it's pretty easy to solve the mystery within the first half of the movie.

Admittedly, it's fun having Campbell back here' and it's certainly cool seeing her play this role more tough-as-nails. This is to say that her turn here is akin to Laurie Strode in "H20" as opposed to the PTSD-stricken Laurie Strode of the

recent "Halloween" trilogy. Likewise, May is pretty good as Tatum, too, although, it's strange that she's constantly grilling her mom for information about her tragic past when all she really needed to do was look mon's story up on the internet...Or watch the "Stab" movies...Or read the book that her mom actually wrote on the subject. Granted, that's really more about the often uninspired screenplay that, ironically, sometimes feels as if it might have had an uncredited rewrite by AI.

Now, full disclosure; I've never been the world's biggest "Scream" fan. I'm certainly not a hater but whereas meta-tinged slasher films go, I didn't feel like Wes Craven's 1996 original did anything that Craven's very own "New Nightmare" didn't do more creatively almost 2 years prior. And that particular movie had the extra baggage of being several entries in.

With "Scream 7," Williamson struggles to find an interesting new way in. There's a fun opening and there are, of course, the occasional on the nose references to classic horror films of the past (look no further than the iconic 70's film playing at the town's single screen movie theater), but rather than making a meta commentary on modern horror (something that the upcoming "Scary Movie 6" looks far more interested in doing), "Scream 7" instead turns its sights on the likes of AI, Chat GPT, and streaming services but this movie never really explores any of these things beyond a service level. Instead, "Scream 7" is more interested in the aforementioned nostalgia (watch for Sidney's leather jacket), obligatory callbacks (Tatum's boyfriend crawling through her bedroom window), a handful of returning characters (most of which are incredibly forced), and a few familiar needle drops (Nick Cave being one of the big ones.) Of course, once the new story threads that were set into motion in parts 5 and 6 came

to a crashing halt, it was pretty obvious that this was the only direction "Scream 7" could really go.

You can't really fault Williamson for wanting to come back to the property that essentially gave him his career but for the most part, the proceedings here are pretty uninspired (and in some cases, downright nonsensical) and while there are a handful of kills that deliver the gory goods, some of this stuff (including a gag involving a beer tap in a bar) feels like it belongs in an entirely different slasher film. It should also be noted that Ghostface appears to have superhuman strength in this movie as once certain reveals are made, some might question how on Earth this ultra-talented killer could have pulled some of these crazy shenanigans off, especially from a physicality sense (stabbed, shot, falling from balconies, etc.) That said, to be fair, the same could be said for other entries in this franchise and certainly, movies like this require suspension of disbelief.

Look, "Scream 7" certainly isn't the worst horror film I've ever seen. At the very least, it's stronger than the worst entries in the "Friday," "Nightmare," and "Chainsaw Massacre" franchises but then, that's a backhanded compliment at best. At the end of the day, though, nothing I'm saying will keep this thing from making a literal killing at the box-office, meaning that we're sure to get another 10 of these. Let's just hope that whatever comes next (it's been speculated that Campbell already has an idea for a future entry) is a little more inspired.

TEMPORARY NORTH WASH RAMP IMPROVEMENTS AIM TO PRESERVE CATARACT CANYON ACCESS

March 2026 — Southern Utah

State and federal agencies are moving forward with improvements to the North Wash boat ramp to maintain reliable river access for trips through Cataract Canyon.

that North Wash is not suitable for a permanent facility, prompting partners to pursue a temporary, high-durability ramp while planning continues for a long-term replacement.



The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation and the National Park Service at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area are advancing a temporary ramp solution following prolonged drought and low water levels at Lake Powell, which have rendered the historic Hite boat ramp unusable. River takeouts have since shifted to North Wash.

Maintaining safe and reliable access to Cataract Canyon remains a priority for Utah's river-running community and guiding economy. Site evaluations determined



Geotechnical engineering and environmental compliance work are underway, with a goal of completing improvements before spring runoff. Construction is anticipated to begin around March 2026, pending final approvals.

The temporary ramp will extend farther downstream and utilize an articulated concrete block system designed to improve traction, reduce erosion and better accommodate fluctuating river levels and heavy trailers.

Funding for design, compliance and site improvements is being provided by the Utah Outdoor Adventure Commission, with coordination support from the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office and the Utah Guides and Outfitters Association.

River users should expect construction activity at the North Wash site once reviews are complete. Additional updates, including construction windows and potential impacts to river traffic, will be shared as timelines are finalized.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

March Guest Artist

Robert Hale

April Guest Artist

ABC Guild

Opening Reception

April 9, 2026

4pm to 5:30pm

111 South Main Street Suite 1

Cedar City, UT 84720

P: 435-586-1414

IG: @kolobgallery

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

LIVE TRIVIA EVENT AT CASABLANCA Mar. 11, and 25. Calling all Mesquite Journey Rewards Members! Gather your squad for a night of laughs, friendly competition, and trivia fun! This exclusive event features Live Event Trivia where you can win big prizes, including cold hard cash! CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

ANASTASIA THE MUSICAL Mar. 6-7, 7 PM. Anastasia is a dazzling, heart-filled musical adventure inspired by the beloved animated film and historical legend. Performed by a talented cast of young actors. Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

SEARS INVITATIONAL ART SHOW & SALE Mar. 6-28. Museum-quality exhibition featuring more than 100 artists from across the American West, with traditional, contemporary, and sculptural works. Sears Art Museum, Utah Tech University, 155 S. University Ave., St. George.

DESERTSCAPE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL Apr. 1-4, 11 AM. (Fri.-Sat. 11 AM. to 8 PM.) A four-day celebration of independent cinema featuring over 50 international shorts and features, including Mike Farrell in "The Strawberry." Includes industry panels, filmmaker Q&As, and after-parties. The Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

ARROWHEAD FEATURED ARTIST: DIANE CLIFF Mar. 1-31, 11 AM. (Fri.-Sat. 11 AM. to 8 PM.) An exhibition of acrylic paintings on canvas, paper, metal, and mixed media designed to harmonize with architecture and interior design. Arrowhead Gallery, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

PAROWAN SWAP MEET March 20-21, 9 AM. A community gathering at the Iron County Fair Building featuring antiques, food, clothing, toys, and furniture. Open to all. Iron County Fair Building, E Clinic Wy, Parowan. **KISS ME, KATE!** Mar. 6-7, 7:30 PM. Kiss Me, Kate is a musical with music and lyrics by Cole Porter and a book by Bella and Samuel Spewack. St. George Musical Theater, 212 N. Main St., St. George.

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.

KNEEHIGH'S TRISTAN & YSEULT Mar. 6-7, 7:30 PM. A legendary love story of passion, betrayal, and fate reimagined with Kneehigh Theatre's signature mix of music, movement, and modern flair. Rating: PG-13. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S. 700 E., St. George.

MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY Mar. 6-7, 7:30 PM. (Sat. 2 PM.) The SUU Department of Theatre, Dance, & Arts Administration proudly presents Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play by Ann Washburn. Eileen and Allen Anes Studio Theatre, 101-199 W. University Blvd., Cedar City.

NATIVE BEES: THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE BEEHIVE STATE Mar. 6-25, Noon. Native Bees: The Unsung Heroes of the Beehive State explores the importance of our local pollinators, showcases bees of all shapes and sizes, and highlights research done by SUU faculty, staff, and students. Frehner Museum of Natural History, 162 S. 300 W., Cedar City.

MS. SENIOR MESQUITE - WORKSHOPS Mar. 11-Apr. 1, 5:30 PM. Weekly workshops for the Ms. Senior Mesquite pageant. Mesquite Fine Arts Ctr., 15 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

CLOSE TO HOME ART SHOW Mar. 6-26, 9 AM. (Sat. 12 PM.) Exhibit celebrating St. George's Parade of Homes featuring vibrant works by artist Cheryl Sache. Red Cliff Gallery, 220 N. 200 E., St. George.

THE GREAT MOM GETAWAY Mar. 12-14, 5:30 PM. A first-annual retreat for mothers to relax and recharge with yoga, pottery, jewelry making, and inspiring speakers. The event features healthy meals, a mother-hood panel, and evening dance parties. Kanab Center, 20 N. 100 E., Kanab.

VINTAGE MARKET DAYS® Mar. 12-14, 10 AM. Large curated market featuring over 125 vendors selling antiques, handmade goods, and home decor. Washington Co. Legacy Pk. Fairgrounds, 700 S. 5500 W., Hurricane.

SHAMROCK JUNCTION Mar. 14, 16-17, 5:30 PM. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with green attire, festive fun, magic, and family activities including games and treats. \$8 per person; kids 12 months and under are free. Thunder Junction All Abilities Park, 1851 S. Dixie Dr., St. George.

AN AMERICAN ANTHOLOGY Mar. 20-21, 27-28, 7:30 PM. St. George Dance Company celebrates the 250th anniversary of the U.S. by honoring literary classics like Moby Dick and The Great Gatsby through dance. Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

PINNERS CONFERENCE GARDEN PARTY Mar. 20-21, 10 AM (Sat. 9 AM). A creative conference featuring over 100 classes and shopping. This year's VIP pre-show party features a creative and relaxing Garden Party theme. \$12 for general admission; class passes \$22-\$39. Dixie Convention Center, 1835 S. Convention Center Dr., St. George.

GUYS AND DOLLS - MESQUITE COMMUNITY THEATRE Mar. 20-21, 27-28, 7 PM. Community theater production of the classic musical. Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca St., Mesquite.

EASTER EGG EXTRAVAGANZA Mar. 21, 27-28, Apr. 3-4, 11 AM (Fri. 6 PM). Family-friendly egg hunts for kids and adults. Includes a free special needs hunt on Mar. 21. Note: Must bring your own basket or bag. The Farm, 1162 W. 3000 S., Hurricane.

HÄNSEL AND GRETEL - MUSIC MASTERWORKS SERIES '25-'26 Mar. 25-28, 7:30 PM. Spring Opera performance of Engelbert Humperdinck's classic work directed by Carol Ann Modesitt. Heritage Center Theatre, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO SNOOPY!! Mar. 26-28, 30, 7 PM. The beloved Peanuts gang comes to life in a joyful, family-friendly show full of humor, heart, and imagination. Get tickets at theforgearts.com. The Forge @ Cedar Fun Center, 170 E. Fiddlers Canyon Rd., Cedar City.

SUNDAY BRUNCH Mar. 8-22, 11 AM. Weekly morning dining event. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

2026 HURRICANE MTB FESTIVAL Mar. 27-28, 8:30 AM. Join the 15th annual festival featuring bike demos, shuttles, and on-site camping at the venue. Online registration ends Mar. 21. Quail Creek State Park, 472 N. 5300 W., Hurricane.

FUSION SPRING FINALE Mar. 27-28, 7:30 PM. Utah Tech Entertainment Alliance presents showstoppers from Hamilton, Wicked, and Moulin Rouge. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S. 700 E., St. George.

MOZART'S REQUIEM - SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY WITH ST. GEORGE CHAMBER SINGERS Mar. 27-28, 7:30 PM. Southwest Symphony performs Mozart's masterpiece with the St. George Chamber Singers. Tickets start at \$23. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

SECOND STUDIO: MACBITCHES Apr. 2-4, 7:30 PM (Sat. 2 PM). A dark comedy about ambition and betrayal among university acting majors scoring a coveted role. \$5. Southern Utah University, 351 W. University Blvd., Cedar City.

HURRICANE THEATRICAL PRESENTS MAMMA MIA! Apr. 2-4, 7 PM. High-energy musical featuring ABBA's hits on a Greek island. Adults \$20, Seniors \$18, Kids \$10. Hurricane Fine Arts Center, 92 S. 100 W., Hurricane.

UTAH TECH D-WEEK Apr. 6-Apr. 11, 11 AM. Annual spirit week celebrating university traditions with athletic events, competitions, performances, and community activities. Utah Tech University, 225 S. 700 E., 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.

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.

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. Weather-permitting. Bit & Spur, 1212 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

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.

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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 KAFE 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! 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

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.

CEDAR STREET FEST 3 PM. Businesses, artisans, & performers come together for a weekly celebration of Cedar City’s unique culture. 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! Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

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

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 Amphitheatre, 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 I/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 ‘twens who love anime, gaming, or both meet for book discussions, games, and great times. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

Events by Date

Fri, Mar 6

HOMESCHOOL DISCOVERY DAY 10 AM. This educational adventure is specifically designed for homeschool students and their families. This special day offers exclusive access to a world of discovery, including a behind-the-scenes tour at Utah Shakespeare Festival Theaters, guided tours of the Southern Utah Museum of Art, and the SUU Greenhouses. Southern Utah Museum of Art, 13 S. 300 W., Cedar City.

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.

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.

DOCUTAH PRESENTS LIFE THAT MATTERS 7:30 PM. The documentary delves into the remarkable journey of Ben Lesser surviving the Holocaust, sharing profound insights gained from his harrowing experiences and the loss of his family. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

MUSIC BINGO 7 PM. Numbers are swapped for songs in this louder and more fun version of bingo featuring a mix of genres and cash prizes. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

JUNIOR BROADWAY REVUE 6 PM. A musical showcase featuring hit songs from the Broadway Junior collection. The PAC Performing Arts Campus, 905 S. Main St., St. George.

TVBOO 6 PM. High-energy bass music performance featuring the unique sounds and personality of Mitch Draper. Black Hill Event Venue, 84 W. 1470 S. #4, St. George.

THE MIXX 8 PM. Experience The Hottest Cover Band. Playing all your favorites! Free Admission. 21+. CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Sat, Mar 7

O BEAUTIFUL ART EXCHANGE 10 AM. Community art exchange where participants can trade 5x7 original works. Frontier Homestead State Park Museum, 635 N. Main, Cedar City.

BLUEGRASS CONCERT WITH MARINA PENDLETON 2 PM. Performance by a nationally-touring multi-instrumentalist and decorated fiddle champion. Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St., Mesquite.

EL GEORGE HARRIS 6 PM. A live performance by the Venezuelan comedian and actor. Eccles Concert Hall, Dolores Doré Eccles Fine Arts Center, 149 S. 700 E., St. George.

SO U COMEDY’S TENTH BIRTHDAY SHOW 7 PM. (9 PM. Uncensored) A milestone celebration featuring founder Chewi, classic short-form games, and a reunion of past cast members. Includes the Dare To Care fundraiser for The Dove Center. Electric Theater Center, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

COWBOYS IN CONCERT WITH BRENN HILL AND ANDY NELSON 7 PM. Live western music and cowboy poetry performance. Kanab Center, 20 N. 100 E., Kanab.

EL GEORGE HARRIS 8 PM. Live performance featuring the acclaimed comedian George Harris. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S. 700 E., St. George.

JOURNEY USA 8 PM. A high-energy tribute band capturing the signature sound of Journey with hits like Don’t Stop Believin’ and Open Arms. Must be 21 or older. Doors open at 7 PM. CasaBlanca, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

THEMED KARAOKE 8 PM. Specialized karaoke night. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

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.

POOL CLASS 6 PM. Billiards instructional session. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.

Mon, Mar 9

CONCERT IN THE PARK–MARSHALL STAR BAND 7:30 PM. High-energy country and variety hits with the Marshall Star Band. This FREE event invites you to relax in the open air, enjoy wonderful tunes, and create lasting memories. Park seating is provided, or bring your own blankets, lawn chairs, and picnic to make the most of it. Vernon Worthen Park., 300 S. 400 E., St. George.

Tues, Mar 10

BERTOIA BIRTHDAY BASH PM. Interactive art experience featuring sculptures, pastries, and a sounding sculpture concert. Harry Bertoia Foundation, 1449 N. 1400 W., Ste. 11, St. George.

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

JAZZCAST! FEATURING TENOR SAXOPHONIST TANNER DAWSON 7 PM. A live performance presented by the Jazz Alliance of Cedar City featuring tenor saxophonist Tanner Dawson. OTC Comedy, 913 S. Main St., Cedar City.

SPECIAL CONSENSUS 7:30 PM. Award-winning bluegrass quartet delivering contemporary sounds rooted in traditional music. Festival Hall and Heritage Theater, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

Wed, Mar 11

ARTISTS NOW! GUEST LECTURE SERIES: TODD McDONALD 12 PM. Guest lecture featuring artist Todd McDonald. Central.

TACO FIESTA NIGHT 5 PM. A community gathering featuring various taco vendors and festive atmosphere. Various locations, Downtown St. George.

Thurs, Mar 12

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

VOYAGE - CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF JOURNEY 8 PM. Tribute performance celebrating the classic hits of the band Journey. Tuacahn Amphitheatre, 1100 Tuacahn, Ivins.

Fri, Mar 13

MARDI GRAS STYLE - 8TH ANNUAL DENIM & DIAMONDS 6 PM. Annual themed celebration featuring food and community gathering. 333 N. Sandhill Blvd., Mesquite.

“COME IF YOU DARE” 36+ SINGLE ADULT ACTIVITY 7 PM. Social activity specifically for single adults aged 36 and older. LDS Church, 1178 S. 700 W., Hurricane.

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.

TOM PAPA 8 PM. Top comedic voice Tom Papa shares insights from his 20-year career and new Netflix special, “Home Free,” exploring life after the kids move out. Tuacahn Amphitheatre, 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

Sat, Mar 14

UTAH TECH SOFTBALL TRAILBLAZER CLASSIC 11 AM. A college softball double-header featuring BYU vs. Omaha at 11 AM. and Utah Tech vs. Omaha at 2 PM. Karl Brooks Field, S. 800 E. St., St. George.

SMART SATURDAY 10 AM. 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.

GUERRILLA SHORTS SHOWCASE: 2026 NEW YEAR EDITION 6 PM. See a collection of short films created by Utah-based filmmakers of all ages and skill levels in a limited timeframe. The showcase features cash prizes and audience choice awards. Adult tickets are \$10, children ages 3–11 are \$5, and group passes for up to 5 people are \$30. Doors open at 5:30 PM. The Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

ST GEORGE SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB BANQUET 6 PM. Annual fundraising banquet and evening of community celebration. Dixie Convention Center, 1835 S. Convention Center Dr., St. George.

SHAMROCK & ROLL DRAG SHOW 7 PM. St. Patrick’s themed drag performance with a \$10 cover charge. Buckskin Tavern, 2321 N. Main St., Fredonia.



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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 Willie's, 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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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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The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) is a nonprofit organization with members and supporters from across the country dedicated to protecting America’s redrock wilderness—places like Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, Labyrinth Canyon, the San Rafael Swell, and many others. Our team of professionals defends the redrock, organizes support for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, and stewards a world-renowned landscape.

Learn more at www.suwa.org.



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—spring snowmelt can cause sudden increases, so check conditions before starting; Zion Canyon Scenic Drive operates shuttle-only service during busy 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; 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 early spring storms; Kolob Terrace and Lava Point Roads can still close during late-season snow; March daytime highs typically range from the 50s to low 60s with cool mornings—layer clothing, watch for muddy or slick trails, and carry plenty of water (2–3 L per person); overnight backpacking or top-down Narrows trips require a wilderness permit.

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 weather. High water levels can prevent access to the Narrows, so be sure to check



Photo by David J. West

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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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—spring snowmelt can cause sudden increases, so check conditions before starting; Zion Canyon Scenic Drive operates shuttle-only service during busy 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; 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 early spring storms; Kolob Terrace and Lava Point Roads can still close during late-season snow; March daytime highs typically range from the 50s to low 60s with cool mornings—layer clothing, watch for muddy or slick trails, and carry plenty of water (2–3 L per person); overnight backpacking or top-down Narrows trips require a wilderness permit.

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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Featured Hike

SANDSTONE MOUNTAIN TRAIL

By Tom Garrison

Location: South of Leeds in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, Utah.

Difficulty: Strenuous (very strenuous for older folks--my wife Deb and I are in our mid-70s) with some rocky sections, several long deep sand sections, and much up and down hiking, sometimes over fairly steep ridges. The absence of trail signs after the initial one at the trailhead makes this hike a bit more difficult than it need be (wandering around looking for the correct trail).

Average Hiking Time: About 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 hours at a leisurely pace with many stops for resting and photos.

Elevations: Approximately 3,110 feet trailhead elevation with a 550 feet elevation change from the lowest to highest point. We only did a portion of the hike and gained approximately 400 feet.

Family Friendly: Nope, unless everyone on the hike is in pretty good shape.

Finding the Trailhead: Heading north on Interstate 15 take Exit 22 onto Old Highway 91. Continue north approximately 2.2 miles through the town of Leeds. (In Leeds the highway is renamed Main Street.) Next turn right (south) onto unsigned Babylon Road just past the sign for the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area. Babylon Road (the primary access to seven trailheads and 13 designated trails) is also known as 900 North Road. It is mostly a good dirt road, especially the first part near all the new development. However, past the development, there are a few very rocky and deep sand sections.

At 2.7 miles upon encountering a major (for dirt roads) signed intersection, go left (east) to the Sand Cove and



Sandstone Mountain trailheads. Less than .1 mile further is the Sand Cove Trailhead parking area. Continue east past the Sand Cove Trailhead and at .2 mile from the Babylon Road intersection turn right (south) at the first junction.

The road past Sand Cove Trailhead parking area is very rough in a few places and includes a high ledge in the road. Driving over the ledge requires a high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle. You could park at the Sand Cove Trailhead parking area and walk about .3 mile to the Sandstone Mountain Trailhead.

About .4 mile from the Babylon Road intersection is the signed Sandstone Mountain Trailhead/stepover on the left (north) side of the road. There is a small area for parking, space for three or four vehicles. If the trailhead parking area is full, follow the sign to the Sand Cove Primitive Camping Area about .1 mile ahead which has plenty of parking. If you park at the Sand Cove Primitive Camping Area, walk back about .1 mile to the Sandstone Mountain Trailhead (now on your right) and begin your hike. I strongly recommend a high clearance vehicle due to road conditions in the last .4 mile.

Red sandstone mountains are anything but rare in southwest Utah. But how often do you get to explore them up close? There is one close by, Sandstone Mountain, where the trail circles the base and crosses over the mountain. My wife, Deb, and I decided that's the hike for us. We did not do the entire hike, it was strenuous. But the views were worth the effort.

Sandstone Mountain Trail is located in the Reds Cliffs Desert Reserve near Leeds. The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve is a 62,000 acre scenic wildlife reserve set aside in 1996 to protect the desert tortoise and other sensitive plants and animals. The reserve has more than 130 miles of shared use trails for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Remember, the reserve is a sensitive area, stay on the trails and minimize your impact—walk as if you are kissing the earth with your feet.

Our adventure began on a weekday in late February. We parked at the signed Sandstone Mountain Trailhead/stepover on the left (north) side of the road, ours was the only vehicle there.

The temperature was in the mid-50s at about 9:30 AM as we began our hike under a slightly overcast blue Utah sky. The trailhead elevation is approximately 3,100 feet with about a 550 feet elevation gain from the lowest to highest point.

We headed northeast on a fairly flat wide trail toward the highest peak of Sandstone Mountain. This .4 mile

portion of the trail is packed dirt with some rocky areas, easy to walk on. It then transforms into the fun part for another .6 mile—loose, deep sand almost all uphill. Along this first mile of the trail are splendid views to the north of the Pine Valley Mountains and the smaller red sandstone mountains and cliffs in front of them. And Sandstone Mountain towering above on our right (east).

About one mile from the trailhead we came to a stepover in the fence that runs along the right side of the trail. Since there was no trail sign we did not know if it was the correct route to take. Over the stepover was a definite trail leading to the saddle between the mountains. Deb checked ahead a couple of hundred yards on the loose sand trail and did not find another obvious trail going east.

We crossed the stepover and headed east up and down sandy ridges into a wash, the lowest part of the saddle between Sandstone Mountain and the mountain to the north. We noticed a couple of what seemed to be user trails headed in different directions. Due to the lack of trail signs, we were not sure which way to go and continued east.

Once out of the wash, the trail was rocky and up and down. We did some fairly serious rock scrambling and explored the tops of two deep canyons looking for the trail.

By then we had meandered around for awhile in difficult terrain and were tired when we saw a trail on a very steep slope, it looked near vertical, heading north. Probably the way out of the saddle. However, we could not find a connector trail to the near vertical trail and decided it was time to head back.

The payoff for our wandering was the amazing views of Sandstone Mountain, deep canyons, and jumbled rocks in all directions and many colors. During our hike we encountered some desert denizens—lizards and quail.

The lack of trail signs is usually not a big concern because it is obvious where the trail leads. That is not the case in the maze of the Sandstone Mountain saddle.

This is a strenuous hike, suitable for most adventurers in decent physical shape, with great scenery. As with many of our hikes, we did not encounter other people. The entire hike we did was around four miles and took about three hours.



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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.



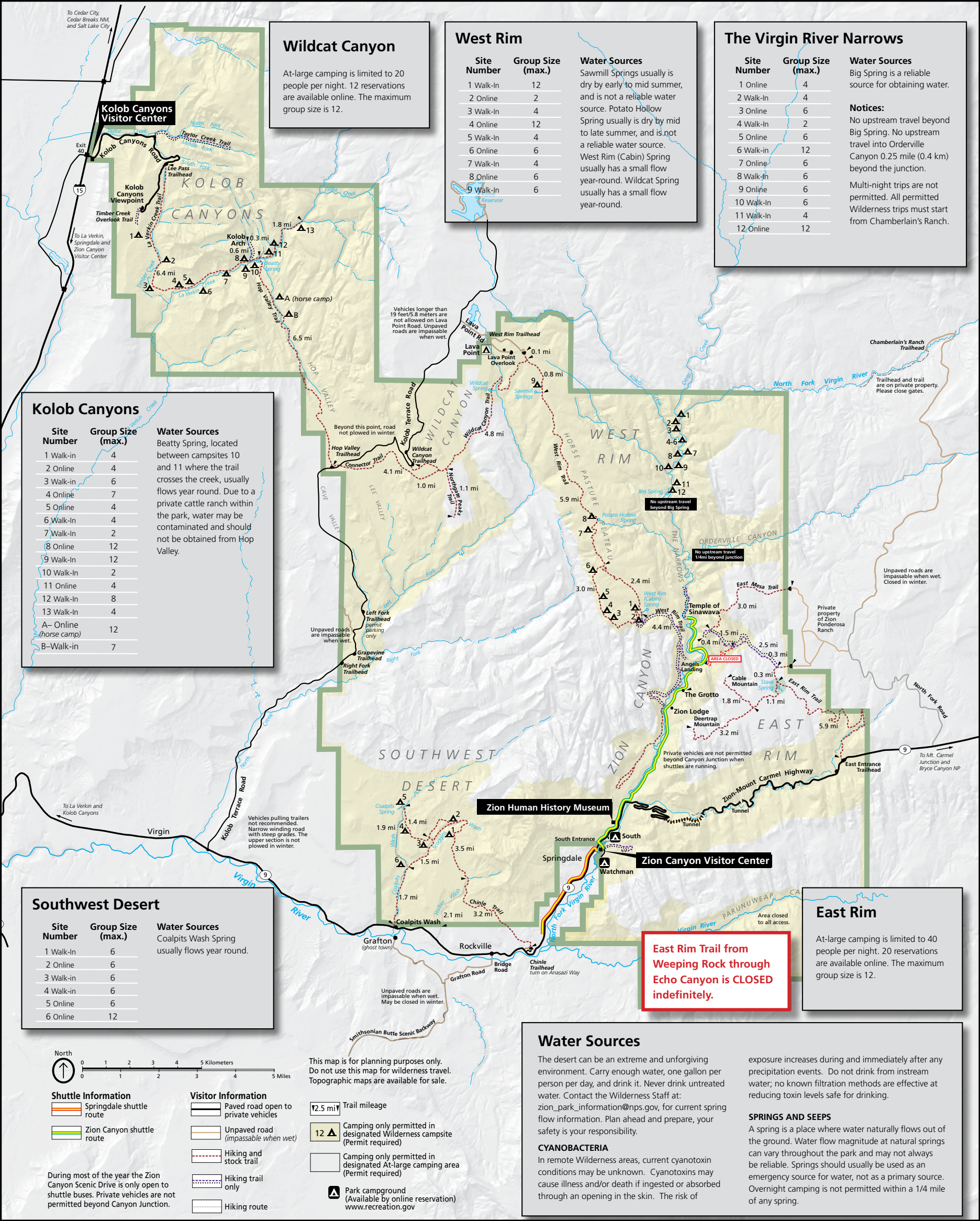
HUMAN WASTE

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.

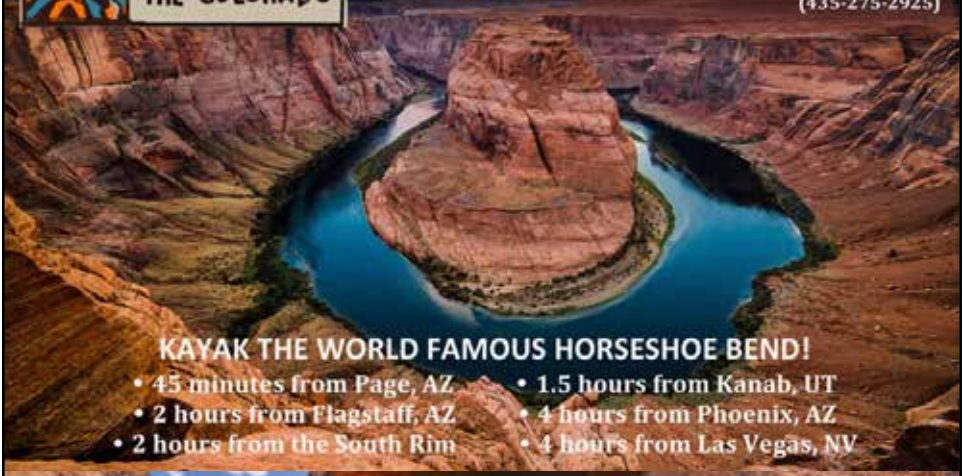
Plan ahead and prepare

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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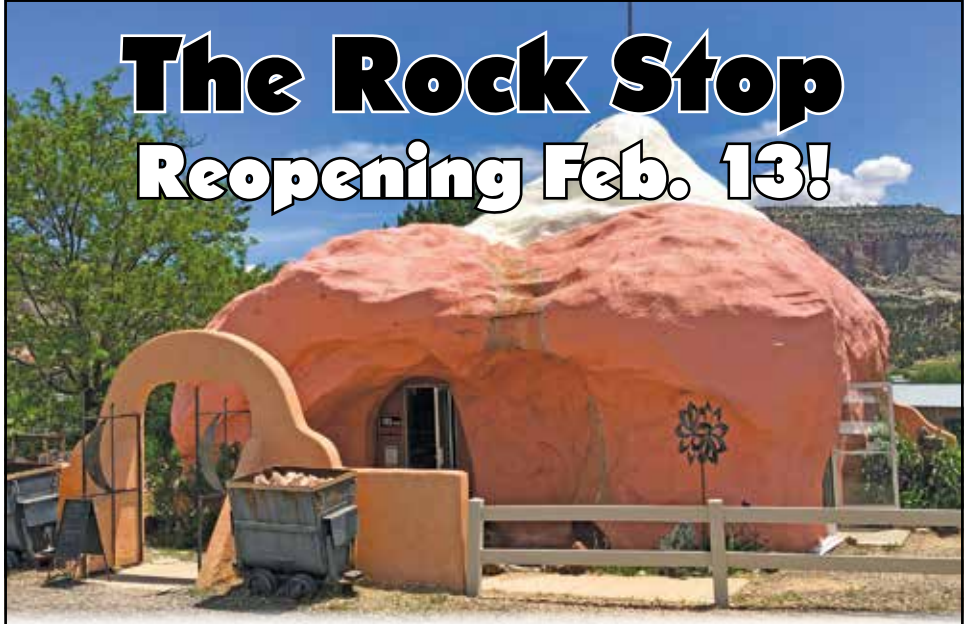
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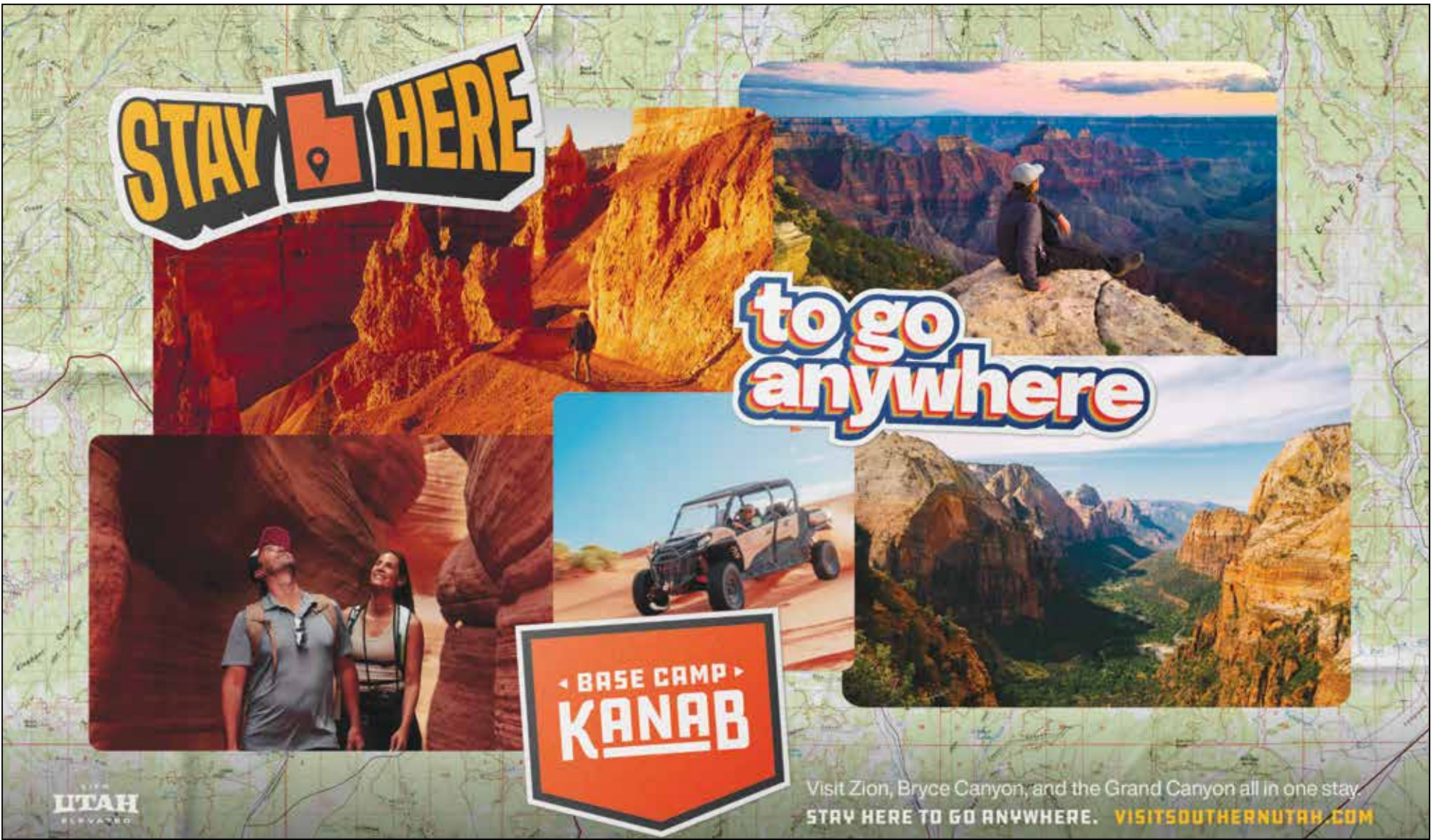


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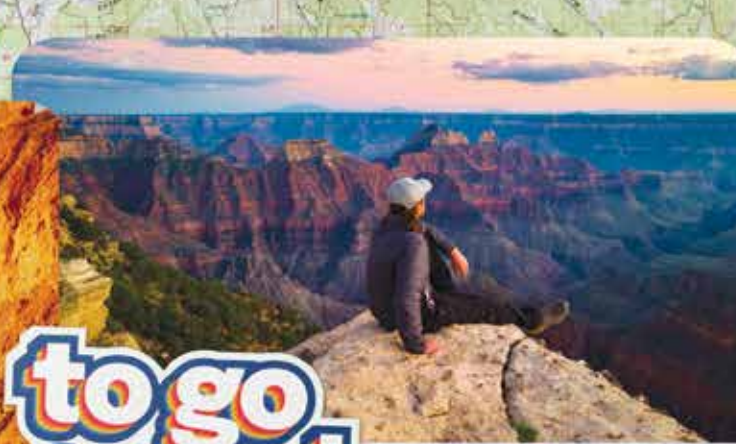
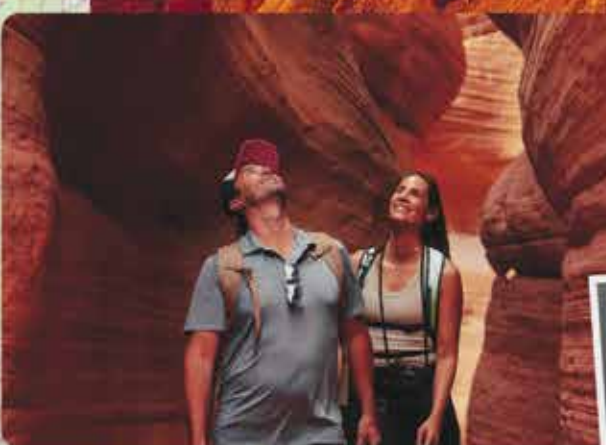
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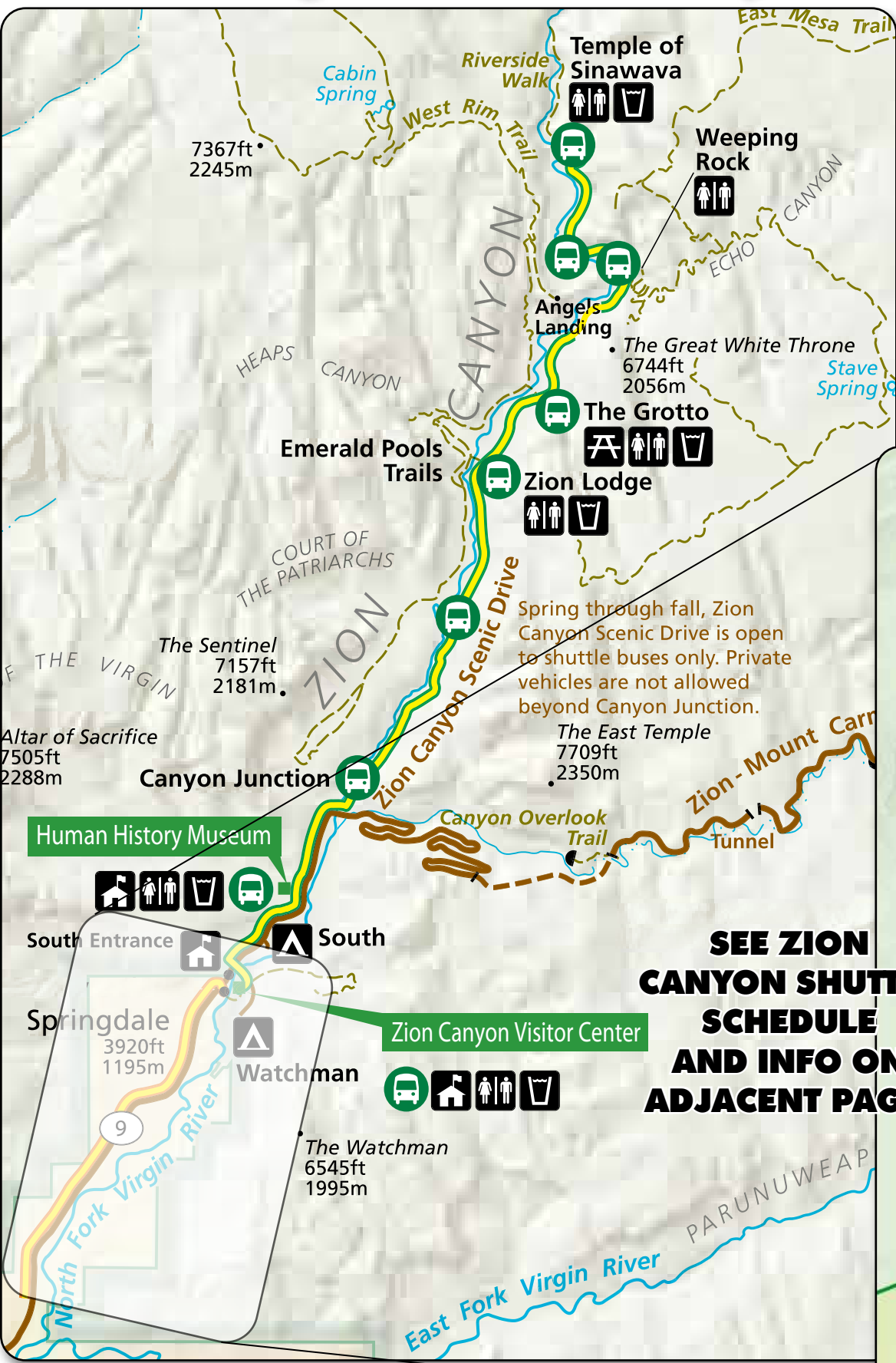





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Zion Canyon Shuttle Map



Springdale Shuttle Map





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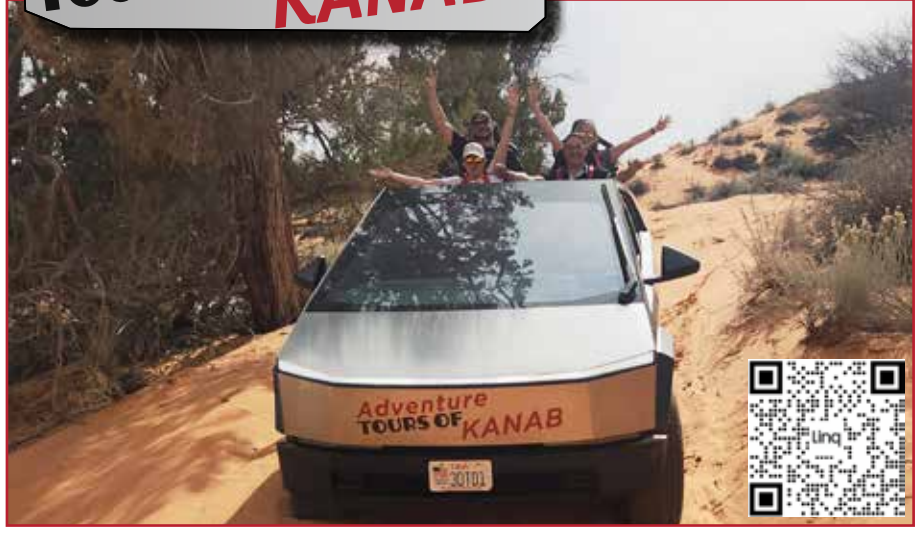


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Southern Utah State & National Parks

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

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

BRYCE CANYON - Bryce Canyon National Park is a scientist's laboratory and a child's playground. Because Bryce transcends 2,000 feet of elevation, the park exists in three distinct climatic zones: spruce/fir forest, ponderosa pine forest and pinion 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 pinion 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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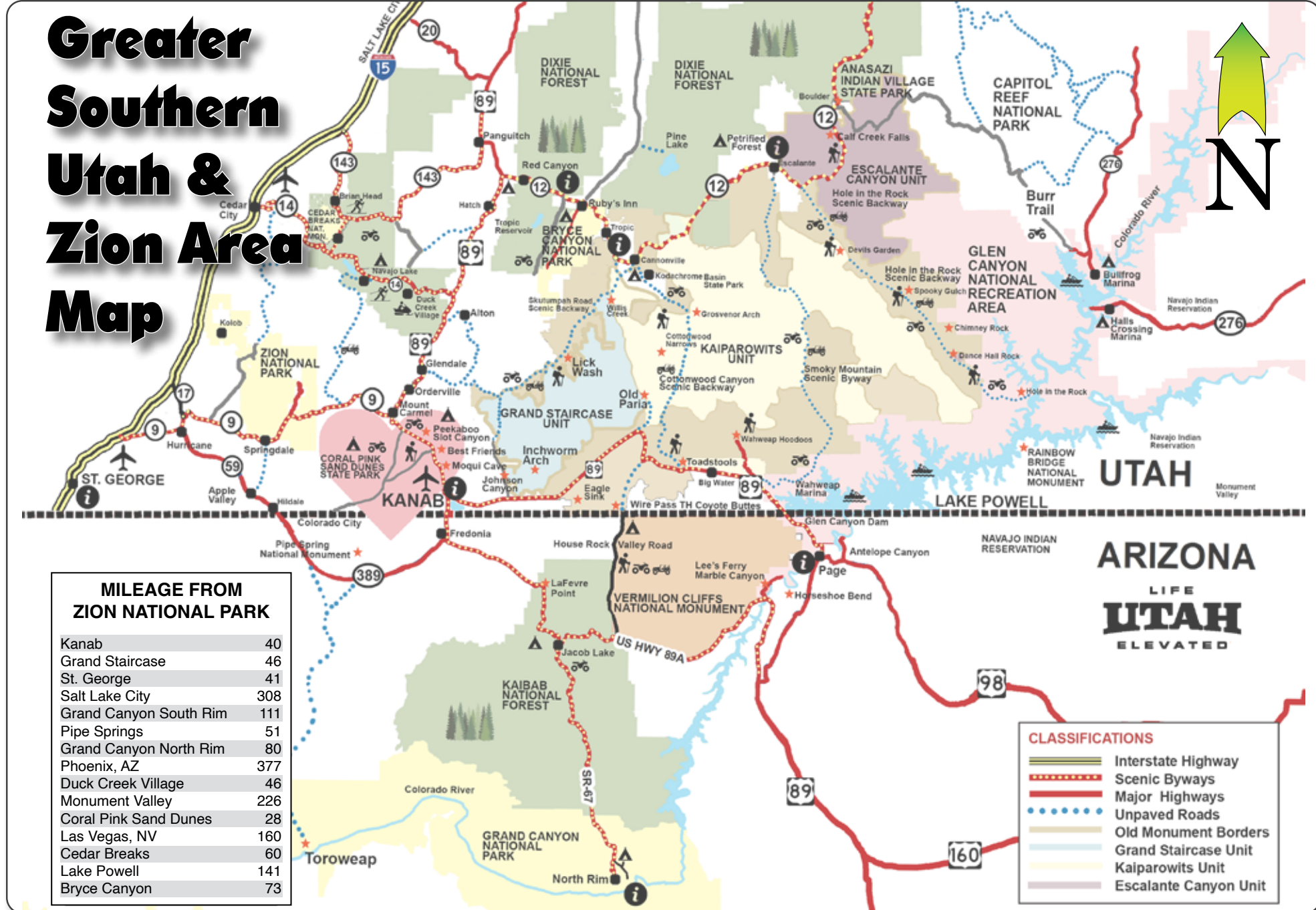
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Zion Area Annual Events



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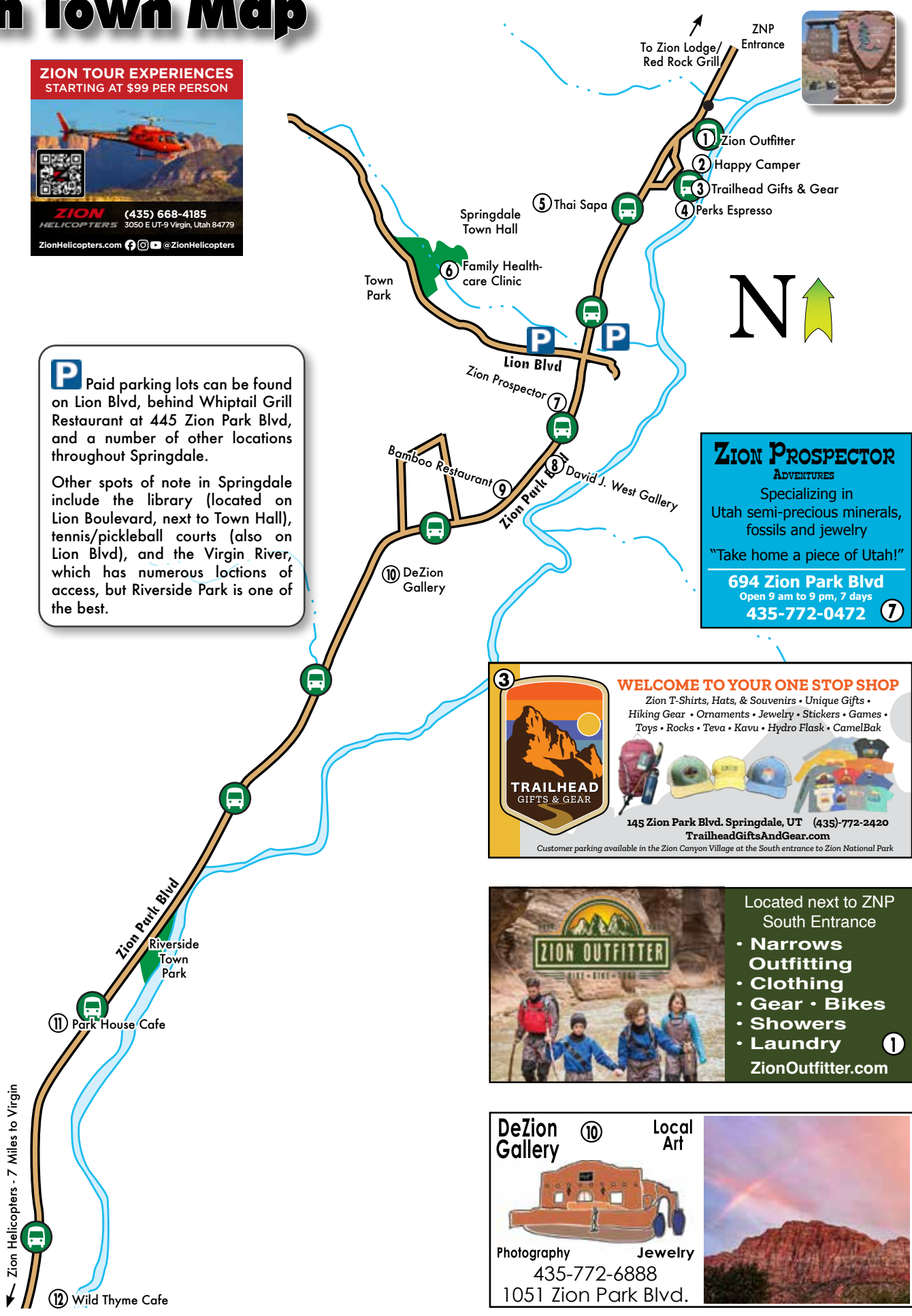
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P Paid parking lots can be found on Lion Blvd, behind Whiptail Grill Restaurant at 445 Zion Park Blvd, and a number of other locations throughout Springdale.

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 loctions of access, but Riverside Park is one of the best.



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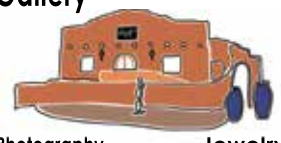
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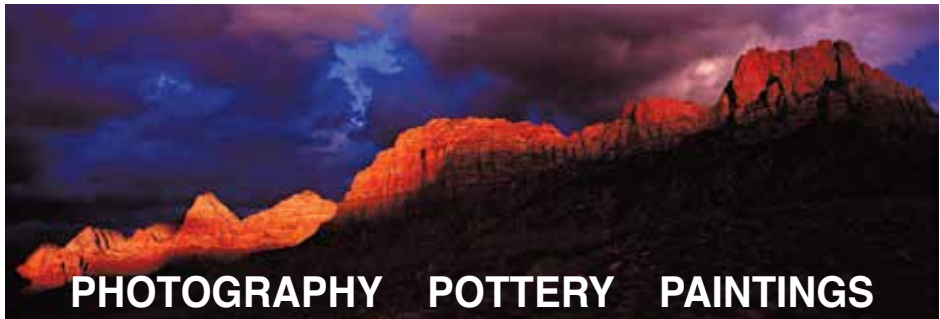


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EAST ZION & KANAB AREA FEATURED RESTAURANTS & BARS FROM ZION GUIDE

Restaurants/Bars	(Listed Alphabetically)	Address	Phone	Drinks/Vegan	Hours	WI-FI
(W)ine, (B)eer, (M)ixed Drinks, (E)spresso, (V)egan items on menu						
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

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

Services (Listed Alphabetically)

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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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