WE SHARE THE PARK . . .

Over one million people from all over the world enjoy Bryce Canyon National Park each year. Summer months are especially popular, with about 650,000 visitors during June, July and August!

We hope you will all enjoy a safe and fulfilling visit. Stop at the visitor center for information on activities and ways to protect park resources. Take a walk, hike into the canyons, view and photograph the scenery, and enjoy the wildlife while you are here.

With increasing visitation, it is more important than ever that each of us

Der Park gehört uns allen...

Wir hoffen, daß Sie alle einen sicheren und angenehmen Aufenthalt haben werden. Im Besucherzentrum können Sie Informationen über Veranstaltungen erhalten, sowie Möglichkeiten erfragen, wie man den Park besser schützen kann. Während Ihres Aufenthaltes in unserem Park können Sie spazieren gehen, in den Schluchten herumklettern, sich die schöne Umgebung ansehen und Fotos machen und sich einfach an der unberührten Natur erfreuen.

Mit den steigenden Besucherzahlen ist es wichtiger denn je, daß jeder von uns den Park so hinterläßt, wie er ihn vorgefunden hat. Bleiben Sie auf

minimizes our impact on park resources. Stay on established trails, drive carefully, stop only in designated areas, be considerate of other visitors' enjoyment of quiet and solitude, and let the wildlife be wild.

Your help is especially needed to stop problems with feeding wildlife, and/or approaching the animals for photography, or just for the opportunity to get close to them.

These improper 'people' activities disturb wild animals' eating habits, lure them to the road where they are hit by cars, and take away from their wildness, making them easier prey for predators.

Share this information with others so we can all share the park.

Emergency Number - (801) 676-2411
CLEAR DAYS AND STARRY NIGHTS

While the most obvious reason for visiting Bryce Canyon National Park is the dazzling display of intricately-carved rock formations, the park also has other resources worthy of attention. Not least of these are unobscured views across the vast expanses of the Colorado Plateau and the crystal-clear night sky which is our window into the universe. These qualities together with the peace, quiet and solitude available, are woven into the fabric of our very being.

The expansive views and bright, starry nights can largely be attributed to the clean air which exists here. Crisp and pure, Bryce Canyon's air is some of the cleanest in the 48 contiguous states. The park is classified as a "Class I" air quality area—a legal designation which mandates that the quality of the air here not be significantly degraded. Through the use of monitoring stations located at points throughout the park, the condition of the air is being recorded and compared with past records.

While some sources of pollution, such as blowing dust and forest fires, are difficult to control, human-caused sources of pollution which can be singled out and proven to degrade the quality of the air here must, by law, be restricted. The goal of Bryce Canyon's Class I designation is to preserve, undiminished for generations to come, the brilliance of the panoramas. With visibility often exceeding 100 miles, the clean air is a protected resource that extends far beyond the park boundary.

At night, Bryce Canyon is well suited for star-gazing. The high altitude (up to 9100 feet, 2775 meters), clean air and freedom from light pollution (stray light from artificial sources), make it one of the best places in the continental United States for night sky observation. On cloudless nights, one may behold dazzling horizon-to-horizon displays of planets, stars, galaxies and many other celestial phenomena.

Special astronomy programs are offered periodically throughout the summer season. Consult the schedule of ranger activities to see if one is offered during your visit. Whether you are a casual observer or an avid astronomer, the night sky at Bryce Canyon is a resource which should not be overlooked.

Take the time to appreciate this pristine environment. Breathe deeply the fresh air as you survey the unique and beautiful landscape. Delight in the dark of the night and the Milky Way spanning the sky. Take full advantage of your park.

A SLOW DEMISE

Bryce Canyon has traditionally been a place where the evidence of human activity was minimal. However, as visitation to the park has increased in recent years, so have human impacts. One of the most basic, avoidable impacts is trash littering the ground. Paper can last for years since Bryce Canyon lacks the moisture and biological decomposers necessary for biodegradation.

The following are examples of materials commonly found discarded on the ground along with their approximate decomposition times:

- Cigarette filters: 13 years.
- Orange/banana peels: several years.
- Aluminum cans: 200 to 500 years.
- Plastic/styrofoam/polystyrene: 500 years.

In order for Bryce Canyon to continue to be a clean and natural place to visit, everyone must leave the park as they found it. A little extra care in disposing of cigarette butts and other waste, along with picking up trash that falls out of pockets or blows out of car doors and windows, is all that it takes.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

Bryce Canyon's Junior Ranger Program is a fun way to inform our younger visitors about the park and some of its resources. By attending ranger-guided activities and completing the activities in the booklet, children will earn a certificate and a Bryce Canyon Junior Ranger patch ($1). Children up to age 12 who are interested in participating in the program should stop at the Visitor Center to ask for a Junior Ranger booklet.

So, come on kids! Join a ranger on a hike or a talk. Get to know the park a little better by doing the puzzles and other activities in your booklet. After all, this is your park too!
MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES
AT BRYCE CANYON

By David Halpern

Photographers have a saying, "Light is a Law." Nowhere is that saying more appropriate than here at Bryce Canyon National Park.

When we photograph, we are not simply recording the images of people, places and things on our film. We are capturing the light reflected from those subjects, and what that light reveals; its intensity, direction, color and quality; makes our pictures exciting or just ordinary. So much depends on our ability to observe what the light is "doing" and to capture the appropriate "moment."

Standing at Bryce Point in the morning, the sun rises to your right across the Aquarius Plateau. If you are here at dawn, (few people are) you may find the sunrise more exciting than the canyon below. Around 8:30 or 9 a.m., depending on the time of year, sunlight streams over the hoodoo tops and reflects off the sheer face of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, causing the formations of the amphitheater to glow as if possessed by their own light.

As the sun rises higher over the canyon, the light will become "flat" from the rim overlooks and the hoodoos will not appear as distinct or as rich in texture as they did earlier. Changing weather conditions, however, can suddenly create very exciting light at any time. One needs to be ready to take advantage of shadows from clouds that create patterns on the canyon, or rain showers that pass quickly, leaving drops of moisture sparkling in brilliant sunlight. Light conditions at Bryce can offer surprises for the photographer. Elsewhere, you have probably noticed that the sky is commonly the brightest area of your subject — that is to say that if you take an exposure meter reading with your camera "aimed" at the sky, it will indicate that less exposure is required than if you take a reading off the ground or foreground. Well, that isn't the common situation here at Bryce. Light readings off the canyon formations frequently show them to be brighter than, or at least as bright as the sky above. This means that the sky will appear more vivid in your color pictures of Bryce Canyon than it will in pictures you may make of forest-covered mountain landscapes. Your black and white photographs! will have less contrast between earth and sky, so you may achieve better cloud detail without using filters.

Photographers accustomed to using a polarizing filter for making color photographs with enhanced blue skies, may wish to photograph Bryce without a polarizer, particularly when using color transparency films like Kodak's warm-toned Ektachrome 64X and 100X or Fuji Velvia. If you photograph in black and white, avoid the use of red, orange and yellow filters commonly used to enhance the sky and clouds. Filters transmit their own colors and block the light of their complimentary or opposite colors. This means that the red, orange and yellow formations of the canyon, if photographed through filters of the same color, will tend to appear white in your black and white prints — lacking the texture and tonal contrast that defines the strata.

With black and white film, you can gain better sky definition without altering the appearance of the appearance of the rock formations by using a green filter (Wratten #58 or equivalent). It will also lighten green foliage and won't alter the skin tones of people in your pictures.

You don't need high speed films at Bryce. The light is intense for most of the day and you can get your best results on slower (ISO 25-100) color and black and white films. Only in the darker recesses of the canyons, like Wall Street, will you wish to load your camera with a fast film (ISO 200-400 and above). I recommend a tripod for steadiness, and because I prefer pictures that are made with small lens apertures (for maximum depth-of-field) at appropriately slower shutter speeds.

While photography from the rim will yield fine images, I encourage you to make an effort to see the hoodoos from the canyon floor. A hike of seven tenths of a mile (1.1 km.) to the Queen's Garden provides spectacular photographic opportunities and is the least strenuous way to become acquainted with conditions below the rim.

You will see a different light from the trails within the canyon. While early morning and late afternoon light provide the best contrast and definition for rim photographers, mid-morning and afternoon sunlight reflected downward provide opportunities for exciting pictures as you look up from the base of the rock formations.

Having hiked most of the canyon trails several times, I hesitate to pick a favorite. Every area of Bryce has something to interest the photographer. Here are a few recommendations, both on and under rim:

- The west side of the Peekaboo Loop Trail offers the best views of the Wall of Windows, while the Queen's Garden area supplies enough variety throughout the day to occupy a photographer for as long as their film lasts.
- The forested portion of Sheep Creek, above the rim, will provide solitude and yield fine photographs of a very different nature than those made in the canyon, or you may find a big old bristlecone pine at the end of the Bristlecone Loop Trail to be a fascinating subject.
- The Rim Trail between Bryce and Inspiration Points offers many fine photographic opportunities, as does the Rim Trail from Sunrise to Fairyland Point.
- Explore the dry stream beds in Fairyland Canyon, looking for small details and unusual textures.
- Along the Navajo Look Trail, Wall Street presents fascinating opportunities beyond the "standard shot" of Douglas Firs rising from this narrow slot to meet the sky.
- A trail often overlooked is the one leading from Bryce Point to the Hat Shop. The round trip of 3.8 miles (6.0 km.) is steep, but the Hat Shop is an extremely rewarding subject. Go in the early morning while the sun is low in the sky, and you will arrive in time to take advantage of mid-morning shadows. If you go in the afternoon, you may find yourself shooting into the sun as it passes over the canyon rim — not an ideal condition.
- Startling in "architecture," overwhelming in detail, surprising in its response to changing sunlight and weather, Bryce Canyon is a challenge to all photographers, no matter what their expertise. Enjoy your visit to Bryce Canyon and take away beautiful memories on film.

David Halpern has twice served as photographer/artist in residence at Bryce Canyon National Park. He lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma and photographs mostly in black and white using 4" x 5" format cameras.
The clock read 1 a.m. Something was definitely wrong. Slowly, my sleep-dulled senses connected and I recognized the smell of smoke. What was burning? Then I remembered — the prescribed burn!

Through the hallway door I could see the shadows of flames dancing on the walls. Years of training pulled me from the bed. Prescribed or not, no one would be out watching the fire at this time.

Little smoke accompanied the flames whose shadows had awakened me. The flames were small, and dabbled through the woods where remnants of logs lay, silent reminders of fires not allowed to burn over the years. I watched awhile and reflected on accounts of fires which, left to run their natural course, did little damage, but reduced fuel loads, broke down nutrients and removed diseased trees.

First thing in the morning, I went out to inspect the edge of the fire. How close was it to my house? Forty or fifty feet. There was the fire break. And there was the hose, laid down in case an unexpected wind blew the fire across the line. With this in mind, thoughts of burning houses and raging forest fires diminished, and the flames of the night before became romantic, the stuff of fireplaces and campfires.

I knew that starting the fires was only the smallest part of a long process of planning and coordination.

A prescribed fire is no random event, no escaped campfire, no careless use of matches. If, on waking, the weather is not right, the fire is not lit. If it is drier than expected, the fire is not lit. If the crew cannot gather, the fire is not lit.

When all is right, the fire burns, skipping across needles, lighting a limb or log, occasionally running up a small pine which then bursts into flames. Some trees will die upright; others will fall and be completely consumed by the fire.

Behind my house, most wear only a black apron and singed needles to show their exposure to the fire. In this year's growth, even these marks will gradually fade until only the trained researcher will recognize the passing of the fire. Only records will tell of its cause.

At noon, I went out to watch the crew for awhile. In all of this time, I had never really seen anyone starting fires.

I'd watched the preparation — the gathering of fuel load data, the monitoring of moisture content, the inventory of animals in the area to be burned, the check for endangered species and historical structures or artifacts, and the training of the people who would be managing the fire.

I'd helped write the plans. I'd seen the contacts made with the local folks to let them know what was happening. And I'd seen the Forest Service employees who would be helping with our park's burn, going over the plans.

I'd often checked on distant smoke from Forest Service and state-prescribed burns reported by visitors. But, after all those years of listening to Smokey, I needed to see for sure that we really did start these fires.
Weathering Bryce

Weather is an important force of nature which, no matter how hard we try, defies prediction. Even with all of the scientific equipment now in use, the weather continues to give us a few surprises.

If you plan to venture into Bryce Canyon’s backcountry, even for short dayhikes, you should have some idea of the weather outlook for that day. The Visitor Center staff should be able to advise you of upcoming bad weather, but be aware that Bryce Canyon’s weather can change rapidly.

The most visited part of Bryce is at or above 8000 feet (2440m). This means that the temperature drops rapidly as the sun sets due to the air being thinner and holding in less daytime heat. Clear nights are colder than cloudy ones, and Bryce Canyon has many clear nights.

The high elevation also exaggerates storm conditions. In fact, Bryce Canyon can have trace amounts of snow any month of the year. This means that it would be prudent to be ready for changes in the weather even if conditions look good.

Even with up-to-the-minute forecasts, slight differences in terrain can add some surprises to the weather in some areas. Some signs of approaching storms are:

- Changes in wind direction or wind speed.
- Wispy “mare’s tail” (cirrus) clouds.
- A ring around the sun or moon (from light shining through ice crystals in cirrostratus clouds).
- Rapidly approaching thunderheads.

LIGHTNING

A spectacular display of lightning is a common occurrence during the summer at Bryce Canyon. Although beautiful, lightning can be deadly. Sadly, a young woman was recently killed by lightning in the park. You can greatly decrease your chances of being injured by lightning by watching for lightning producing weather and taking the appropriate precautionary measures.

Frequently, on summer days, puffy cumulus clouds will begin to build over the park. Usually in the afternoon these clouds will start to grow vertically, becoming what are known as “thunderheads.” These tall cumulonimbus clouds generally have black, flat bottoms and anvil-shaped tops. Thunderheads indicate that an electrical storm is brewing. Be prepared to seek safe shelter if a storm is moving your way.

If you see lightning and hear thunder shortly afterwards (a few seconds), seek shelter immediately! Your car or a building are generally safe. Avoid viewpoints, open areas and tall trees. These are all very dangerous places to be. If you are caught on a trail during an electrical storm, stay low; do not climb to the rim until the storm is over, and keep clear of tall objects such as trees and hoodoos. If someone is struck, the charge dissipates immediately, so touching them cannot shock you.

The violent forces of nature do not forgive ignorance or the failure to take proper actions. Be aware of the dangers and know what to do to avoid them — this is your best method for preventing accidents.

FLASH FLOODS

Another danger of Bryce Canyon’s sudden, violent storms is flash flooding. When hiking below the rim, be aware that if a storm develops upstream from you, sudden floods can wash down the stream beds. Bear in mind that it does not have to rain where you are for a flood to occur. Many heavy downpours are highly localized, and can cause floods in dry areas downstream. On rare occasions, a flood will crash down the stream bed as a “wall” of water. This is especially dangerous because, if you are unaware, it can wash you away with the flood.

Your best defense against the danger of flash flooding is to be aware of the weather. If you are in or near a rain storm, watch for flooding. If you are caught in a flood, move to higher ground (climb away from the stream bed). Floods here usually subside within two hours. Any indication of an oncoming storm should make the backcountry user re-evaluate travel plans and suitability of equipment.

Weather is a very powerful natural force which inspires awe but demands respect. Enjoy your visit, but be prepared for changing conditions.

Day Hiking Kit

- Water
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Rain poncho, space blanket or large plastic garbage bag for warmth and protection
- Dry change of clothes
- First Aid Kit
- Matches or lighter
BRYCE VOLUNTEERS WEAR MANY HATS

Last summer, Bryce Canyon received ten volunteers to assist with tasks beyond the park’s budget capabilities. Two positions were funded through the non-profit Student Conservation Association (SCA), which has been placing volunteers from high school age on up in various conservation agencies for 35 years. The other volunteers participated in the Park Service’s 21-year-old Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program. Included in the SCA program are a weekly food stipend, housing, uniform allowance and compensation for least-expensive travel (usually by bus). Positions range from mammal taggers for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to river runners for the Park Service to Forest Service technicians. School credit is also available.

Robert Bloodworth, 24, a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, said his experience as an SCA at Bryce Canyon was a fulfilling one. "Pretty much every day you learn something because you always meet new people, plus you learn from everybody you work with," he said. In fact, the Wildlife Biology major added that learning to adapt to different types of people was the most valuable skill he acquired during his time there.

As an interpretive ranger, Bloodworth conducted walks and talks during the 12-week SCA term. He also worked the information desks and cash registers in the park’s Visitor Center and Nature Center.

The Goodlettsville, Tennessee native worked 40 hours per week (three daytime and two evening shifts) with two consecutive days off. He said the arrangement was more than sufficient, with a house to himself and a little extra pocket money after grocery shopping.

"Ninety dollars (every two weeks). I can pretty well go on $90 for a while," he explained. "Out here we don’t have night life and stuff to spend money on." Still, he suggested that SCAs take along extra money to cover the initial expense of settling in.

Bloodworth said his summer was not all fun. For one thing, he explained, the bus ride from Nashville, Tennessee was trying. "I hated it. In fact, I’m flying back. I was on it for 50 hours, and that was quite too long," he said.

Bloodworth will be returning to Bryce this summer, again as an SCA volunteer. He said he will probably do a few things differently, such as bring a car. He also recommended having items such as laundry detergent, cooking utensils and a bicycle shipped from home.

Although working the Bryce Canyon Visitor Center desk during the busiest part of the season was hectic, Gwyn said she liked the job. "At least you don’t get bored," she said. On the other hand, she added that she likes this park because it isn’t as crowded as some she’s worked in.

Bob and Gwyn Spellman of Ormond Beach, Florida spent about ten weeks at the park as campground hosts and visitor assistants. The couple became involved in the VIP program soon after Bob retired from his job as a civil engineer. They worked for two seasons at Acadia in Maine, one month in Badlands in South Dakota and 14 weeks in the Smokies.

Their ventures have resulted in some interesting experiences. In the Smokies, they posed as turn-of-the-century inhabitants of an Appalachian farm. Gwyn demonstrated open hearth cooking, weaving and quilting, while Bob tended animals, plowed and whittled.

The couple’s diverse volunteer experiences have generated some suggestions for VIP hopefuls. "Don’t go into it because it’s the thing to do or something like that," Bob remarked. "You have to want to do it. You have to like the people and the type of life." He added, "We had traveled to a lot of the national parks, so I think we knew what we were getting into."

The Spellmans are returning to Bryce this summer. "There’s a lot we haven’t done here, and with two days off a week, we’re not going to get it all done," Gwyn explained. The couple, both 62 years old, go on hiking excursions almost every weekend.

Volunteers have the same workload as paid employees and carry out their duties in the spirit of their hired colleagues. Bob does not seem to mind. "We’re going to keep doing it as long as we can," he said. Referencing to his quadruple bypass surgery in 1989, he added, "I’m thankful that I can be here because I was almost out of it two years ago."

To find out more about the Student Conservation Association, write to PO Box 550, Charleston, NH 03603. To find out more about the Volunteers in Parks program, contact the VIP coordinator at the national park area where you are interested in working.
GRAND CIRCLE ADVENTURE

The Grand Circle Adventure includes 15 national parks, monuments, and recreation areas, millions of acres of national forests and Bureau of Land Management areas, as well as state parks and local points of interest.

**Capitol Reef National Park**
Water has cut colorful sandstone and shale formations into a maze of walls, canyons and arches. Visit sites used by prehistoric man, and historic fruit orchards planted by Mormon settlers.

**Goblin Valley State Park**
A multitude of bizarre red sandstone formations offer opportunities for hikers, photographers and off-highway enthusiasts.

**Canyonlands National Park**
Spectacular canyons cut by the Colorado and Green Rivers are easily viewed from overlooks. More thorough exploration can be done by backpacking, river running and jeep touring.

**Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park**
An area of numerous sandstone monoliths run by the Navajo tribe. Many movies have been staged in these beautiful surroundings.

**Navajo National Monument**
Hikes lead to well-preserved Anasazi cliff dwellings in sheer sandstone walls.

**Arches National Park**
The largest concentration of rock arches in the world. Over 90 sandstone arches can be seen from the road or on short walks.

**Dead Horse Point State Park**
Spectacular overlooks of canyons cut by the Colorado River.

**Natural Bridges National Monument**
An 8-mile loop drive offers views of three large natural bridges.

**Goosenecks State Park**
Overlook snake-like meanders carved by the San Juan River.

**Hovenweep National Monument**
Hovenweep — a Ute Indian word for “deserted valley.” A dirt road, suitable for cars, leads to the monument which preserves six groups of Pueblo Indian ruins.

**Mesa Verde National Park**
An outstanding group of Anasazi cliff dwellings in the high plateau country of southwestern Colorado.

**Before traveling any unpaved road, check conditions locally.**
WHAT TO DO DURING YOUR TIME AT BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

For park information, stop at the Bryce Canyon Visitor Center and tune your radio to 1610 AM.

With two or more days to spend in the park:

• Hike the canyon trails and attend ranger-guided activities. Spend an evening at the campfire program or in the historic park lodge.
• Drive to Rainbow Point and stop at the overlooks on your return trip.
• Backpack the Under-the-Rim Trail and camp at one of the backcountry campsites. (Obtain a backcountry permit at the Nature Center or Visitor Center.)
• Horseback ride on the canyon trails for one-half day. (Inquire at the Bryce Canyon Lodge.)
• Children ages 12 and under can participate in our Junior Ranger Program. The Visitor Center staff will provide additional information.

With one day to spend in the park:

• Watch the introductory slide program and see the exhibits at the Visitor Center.
• Hike one of the canyon trails or stroll along the rim.
• Attend one of our ranger-guided activities.
• Drive to Rainbow Point and stop at the overlooks on your return trip.
• Picnic at one of the designated areas along the way.
• Horseback ride on a canyon trail for two hours.

With a short time to spend in the park:

• Drive to Sunset, Inspiration and Fairyland viewpoints.
• Walk along the rim between Sunset and Sunrise points.
• Hike the Queen’s Garden or Navajo Loop trails.

Accessibility

For information on accessibility in the park, request a copy of the Bryce Canyon National Park guide entitled “Access.” Copies are available at the Entrance Station, Visitor Center, Sunrise Nature Center and Bryce Canyon Lodge.

Mail and Phones

A post office is open at Ruby’s Inn (Bryce, Utah 84764) all year, and at the Bryce Canyon Lodge (Bryce Canyon, Utah 84717) from May to October. All visitor mail addressed to park headquarters will be returned to General Delivery.

Public phones are available in the park at the Visitor Center, General Store, Bryce Canyon Lodge and Sunset Campground. Emergency information can be found at each of these phones.

INFORMATION

Bryce Canyon National Park
(801) 834-5322

Bryce Canyon Lodge
(TW Recreational Services)
(801) 834-5361
For reservations call:
(801) 586-7686

Utah Parks and Recreation
(801) 586-4497
For camping reservations call:
1-800-284-2267

Canyon Trail Rides
(801) 834-5219

Garfield County Travel Information
1-800-444-6689

U.S. Forest Service
Dixie National Forest
(801) 865-3000

Bureau of Land Management
Cedar City District
(801) 586-2401

When You Lock Your Car Make Sure Your KEYS Are With You!!