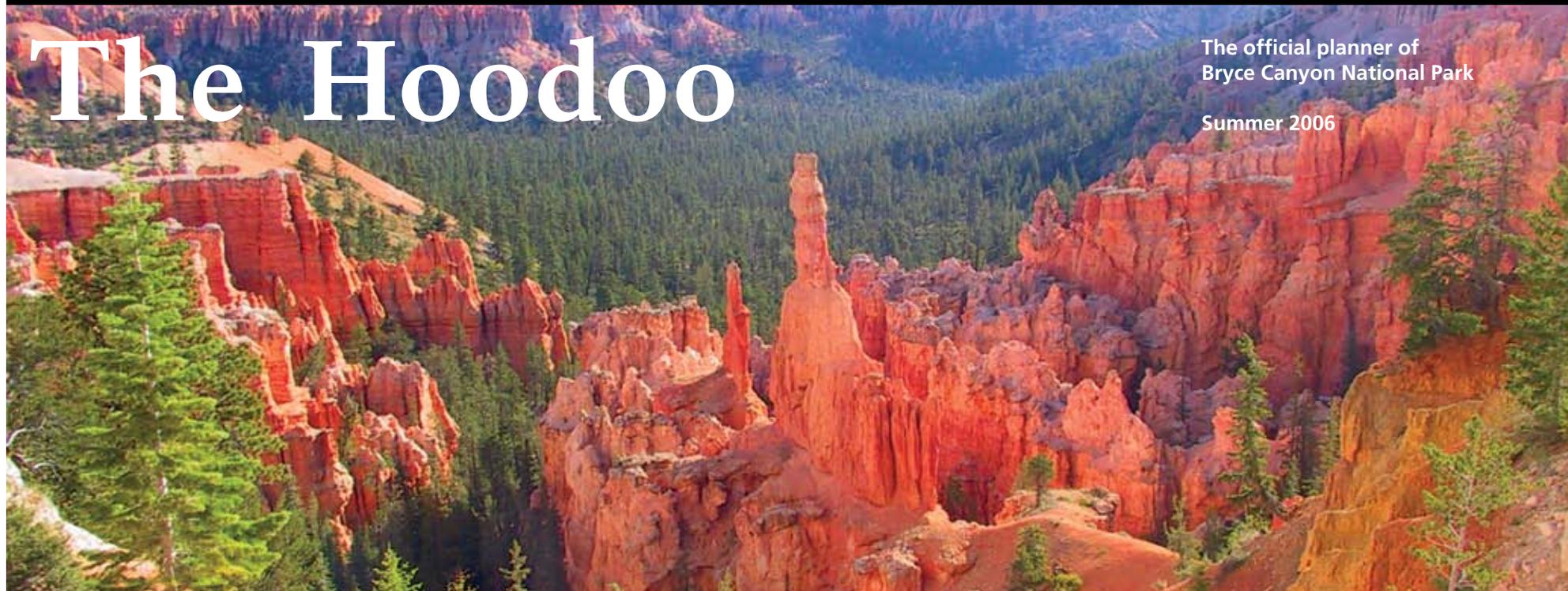




The Hoodoo

The official planner of
Bryce Canyon National Park

Summer 2006



Ron Warner

All Aboard Our Free Shuttle!

THE BRYCE CANYON SHUTTLE IS VOLUNTARY. HOWEVER, WE ENCOURAGE you to use it during your stay. Not only is it free, easy, and convenient, but you'll be doing your part to reduce pollution, conserve fuel, protect park resources, and minimize traffic. See pages 6-7 for route map and shuttle schedule.

When does the shuttle operate?

The Bryce Canyon Shuttle operates May 26 - September 4, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily, Mountain Daylight Time. Tune to Radio 1610 AM for more information.

Where does the shuttle go?

The shuttle makes a continuous loop from the Shuttle Parking and Boarding Area (at the junction of Utah 12 and 63) through the northern portion of the park. Visitors may hop on and off as they please, accessing park facilities, trailheads, and scenic overlooks of the Bryce Amphitheater.

Is there a charge to ride the shuttle?

Riding the shuttle is free, but boarding the shuttle from outside the park requires payment of the park entrance fee.

How often do the shuttle buses run?

Shuttle buses run approximately every 13 minutes.

Where can I board the shuttle buses?

There are 11 different shuttle stops. See pages 6-7 for shuttle schedule and route map.

Where should I park my private vehicle?

Ample parking is available at the Shuttle Parking and Boarding Area, Ruby's Inn, and the North Campground Trailer Drop-off. Parking is limited elsewhere.

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Making The Most of Your Time

Less Than 3 Hours

Visitor Center

Stop at the visitor center for information, exhibits, and a 22-minute award-winning orientation film, shown daily 8:30 a.m. to closing, on the hour and half hour. Maps, publications, and videos are available from our bookstore.

Visit Viewpoints

Ride the shuttle or drive your own vehicle to Sunrise, Sunset, Inspiration, and Bryce points, which feature Bryce Canyon's most famous views.

Picnic

Picnic at one of the designated picnic areas, or dine at Bryce Canyon Lodge.

Rim Walk

Stroll along the canyon rim. The ½-mile section of Rim Trail between Sunset and Sunrise points is paved, fairly level, and offers stunning views of Bryce Amphitheater. (Note: Trail repairs may cause some delays.)

More Than 3 Hours

Rainbow Point

Drive to Rainbow Point (18 miles, one-way). See the spectacular cliffs and long-distance views across the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Since all the viewpoints are on the *left* side of the road as you drive south to Rainbow Point, we recommend stopping at the viewpoints as you drive north on your return trip. Then each stop will be an easier and safer *right* turn.

Ranger Programs

Attend a free Ranger Program to learn more about the geology, biology, and history of this region. Program schedules are posted at the visitor center, campgrounds, General Store, and Bryce Canyon Lodge.

Horse Ride

Take a horse ride into Bryce Canyon. Wranglers lead 2-hour and half-day rides daily. Inquire at Bryce Canyon Lodge.

Below The Rim

Hike a trail below the rim. Check the trail guide on page 7 for descriptions of day hikes that take you into the heart of the hoodoos. Wear hiking boots; carry and drink plenty of water.

Visitor Center Hours

Summer

8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Fall, Spring

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Winter

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Lost & Found

Bryce Canyon Visitor Center or call 435-834-4303.

Emergencies

Call 911 or 435-676-2411, 24-hours a day, or contact a Park Ranger.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Bryce Canyon National Park

Acting Superintendent Eddie L. Lopez

Mailing Address

PO Box 640201
Bryce, Utah 84764-0201

Web Site

www.nps.gov/bcrca

Park Headquarters

435-834-5322
Fax 435-834-4102

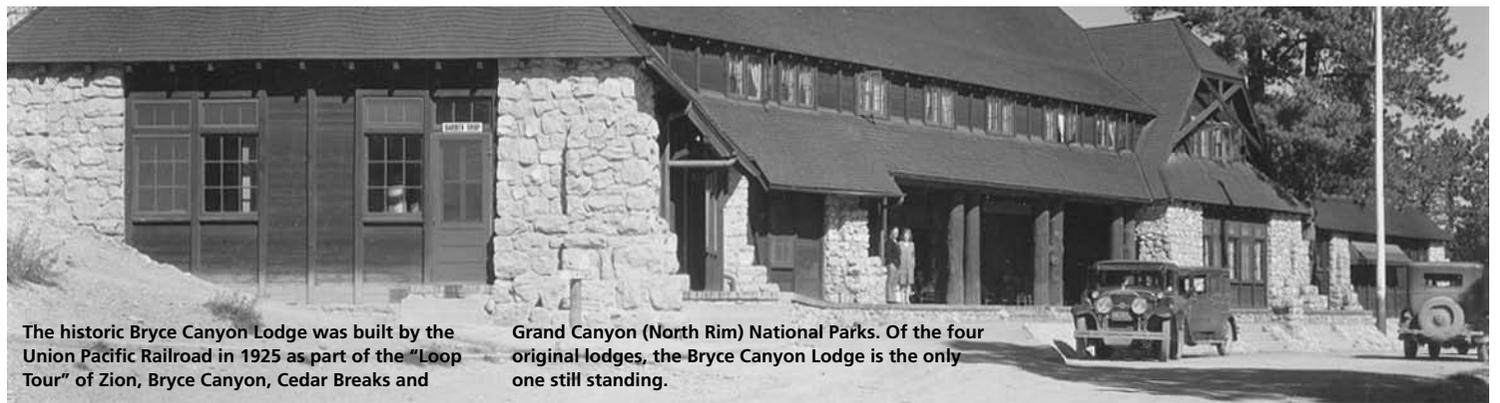
E-mail

bcrca_information@nps.gov

Employment Information

with the National Park Service: www.usajobs.opm.gov. Seasonal jobs are listed on www.sep.nps.gov.

Information and Services



The historic Bryce Canyon Lodge was built by the Union Pacific Railroad in 1925 as part of the "Loop Tour" of Zion, Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks and

Grand Canyon (North Rim) National Parks. Of the four original lodges, the Bryce Canyon Lodge is the only one still standing.

Be Safe, Not Sorry

Hazardous Cliffs

Stay on designated trails and away from cliff edges. Loose and crumbly rocks can make footing treacherous. Falls can be deadly. Don't throw rocks into the canyon; you may injure hikers on trails below you.

Lightning

During lightning storms, stay away from the rim and do not take shelter under trees.

Footwear

Ankle injuries are our number one safety problem! Wear hiking boots with good ankle support and traction.

Park Roads

- Observe speed limits • Watch for wildlife
- Avoid driving on muddy road shoulders
- Buckle up!

High Elevation

Park elevations reach 9115 feet (2778 m). Know and respect your own physical limitations. High-altitude sun burns and dehydrates quickly.

Drink Your Water

Carry and drink plenty of water. Wear a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses that block ultraviolet light.

Don't Feed The Animals

Human food is harmful to wild animals. Animals will bite and can transmit diseases such as rabies and bubonic plague. Watch wildlife from a distance.

Visitor Center

 In summer, open daily 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Information, museum, publications, an award-winning film, backcountry permits, first aid, and lost-and-found services are available here.

Emergencies

For 24-hour emergency response, call 911 or 435-676-2411. Garfield Memorial Hospital, 435-676-8811, and Clinic, 435-676-8842 are in Panguitch. Hospitals are also in Cedar City, Kanab, and St. George.

Accessibility

 Shuttle buses, restrooms, the visitor center, Bryce Canyon Lodge, and General Store are fully accessible. Two campsites in Sunset Campground are reserved for people with mobility impairments. The ½-mile section of Rim Trail between Sunset and Sunrise points is paved and mostly level; however this trail will be under repair this summer. Some ranger-led programs are accessible; ask at the visitor center. An *Access Guide* and temporary handicapped parking permits are available at the visitor center.

Restrooms

 Available at the visitor center, Bryce Canyon Lodge, the General Store, North and Sunset Campgrounds, Sunset Point, Farview Point, and Rainbow Point.

Phones

 Public phones are available at the visitor center, Bryce Canyon Lodge, General Store, and Sunset Campground.

Pets

 Pets are not recommended in the park. If you must bring your pet, be aware that it must be on a leash and under control at all times. Pets are not permitted in buildings, at park viewpoints or on trails.

Entrance Fees

 **Private Vehicle** \$20 per vehicle, good for 7 days in Bryce Canyon National Park.

Individual \$10 per person (pedestrian, bicycle, motorcycle, and organized group), good for 7 days in Bryce Canyon National Park.

National Parks Pass \$50, good for one year from date of purchase in all areas of the National Park System.

Bryce Canyon Annual Pass \$35, good for one year from date of purchase at Bryce Canyon National Park.

Commercial Tours Ask for rates.

Golden Age Passport \$10 lifetime pass for U.S. residents 62 or older.

Golden Eagle Passport \$65, good for one year from date of purchase in all federal fee areas.

Golden Access Passport Free lifetime pass for permanently disabled U.S. residents.

Camping

 **North Campground** Open all year, 107 campsites. Available first-come, first-served Oct 1-May 14. Some campsites may be reserved May 15-Sept 30 by calling 877-444-6777 or www.ReserveUSA.com. Reservations are accepted up to 240 days in advance.

Sunset Campground Open late spring to early fall, 101 campsites. Available first-come, first-served.

Fees Camping is \$10 a night per campsite (half price for Golden Age/Access Passport holders). There is an additional booking fee of \$9 per reservation for North Campground.

Group Campsite One site available by reservation only. Group size is limited to 7-30 people and 8 vehicles. Cost is \$3 per person, with a minimum of \$30 per night. Campsite may be reserved by calling 877-444-6777 or www.ReserveUSA.com.

Dump Station No hookups are provided in the park, but a fee-for-use sanitary dump station is available seasonally near North Campground.

Other Campgrounds For camping reservations at Zion and Grand Canyon National Parks, call 800-365-2267 or visit <http://reservations.nps.gov>. Public campgrounds are available on US Forest Service, BLM, and Utah State Park lands nearby. Private campgrounds with showers and hookups are available outside the park.

Lodging

 **Bryce Canyon Lodge** Open April 1 - November 1, has cabins, motel rooms and suites, a restaurant, and gift shop. For lodging reservations, write to: Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc., 4001 East Iliff Ave., Suite 600, Aurora, CO 80014, call 888-297-2757; or visit www.brycecanyonlodge.com. **Other Lodging** Available near the park entrance and in Tropic, Cannonville, Bryce Junction, and Panguitch.

Food Services

 **Bryce Canyon Lodge Open** April 1 - November 1. Dining room serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Dinner reservations are required; call 435-834-5361. The General Store, open April - October, has groceries, quick meals, film, and camper supplies.

Other Food Services Restaurants are available near the park entrance and in Tropic, Bryce Junction, and Panguitch.

Showers & Laundry

 Coin-operated shower and laundry facilities are available at the General Store, open April - October, and outside the park at some local nearby establishments.

Horseback Riding

 Wranglers lead 2-hour and half-day horse and mule rides April - October. For same-day reservations, inquire at Bryce Canyon Lodge or call 435-834-5500. For advance reservations, contact: Canyon Trail Rides, P.O. Box 128, Tropic, UT 84776; 435-679-8665. Information: www.canyonrides.com.

Post Office / ATM / Internet

 Ruby's Inn has a post office open Mon-Sat (Bryce, UT 84764), an ATM, and internet services. Personal mail addressed to visitors will not be accepted.

Bicycles

 Bicycles are restricted to paved roads in the park. The nearby Dixie National Forest has a paved 5-mile bicycle path through Red Canyon, and many miles of challenging and spectacular mountain bike trails. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument has countless miles of dirt roads suitable for mountain biking. Contact the Garfield County Travel Council, P.O. Box 200, Panguitch, UT 84759, 800-444-6689, www.brycecanyoncountry.com; or the Dixie National Forest, P.O. Box 80, Panguitch, UT 84759, 435-676-9300, www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie; or Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, 435-826-5499; 435-644-4600; or 435-679-8981, www.ut.blm.gov/monument.

Picnic Areas

 Available at Sunset Point, the General Store, Rainbow Point, and at the south end of North Campground. Water is available seasonally at all of the above locations except Rainbow Point. Fire grates are available only at North Campground Picnic Area.

Ranger-led Activities

We invite you to join rangers to learn more about Bryce Canyon National Park. Rangers discuss geology, plants, animals, and human history on the various walks and talks offered each day.

All programs are free. Check at the Visitor Center, Bryce Canyon Lodge, General Store, shuttle buses, or campground bulletin boards for program topics, locations, and times.



Program	Dates	Description
Geology Talk 	May - Oct	Rangers tell the geologic story of Bryce Canyon. 30 minutes.
Kids Programs/ Family Programs	June - August	Join a ranger for games and activities on ecology, history, and Bryce Canyon. 1 hour. Register at the visitor center up to one day in advance. Space is limited.
Rim Walk 	May - Oct	Stroll along the canyon rim to learn of the park's diversity. 1 mile, 1½ hours.
Canyon Hike	May - Sept	Hike into the heart of the hoodoos below the rim. 1½-2 miles, 2-2½ hours. Wear hiking boots, a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Carry and drink plenty of water.
Campfire/ Auditorium Program 	May - Oct	Bryce Canyon's diversity comes to life during the slide program at the campground outdoor theaters, or the auditoriums at the visitor center or Bryce Canyon Lodge. 1 hour. Auditoriums are wheelchair accessible, as is Sunset Campground Outdoor Theater. North Campground Outdoor Theater is not.
Astronomy Program 	May - Oct	Join park rangers, volunteers, and NASA Solar System Ambassador Patrick Wiggins, to learn about the heavens, and (weather permitting) view Bryce Canyon's night skies through telescopes. 2 hours. (Offered at least twice a week. Ask at the visitor center or check our website, www.nps.gov/brca , for night sky program schedules.)
Moonlight Hike	May - Sept	Hike among moonlit hoodoos. Register early at the visitor center in person on the day of the hike. 1½ miles, 2 hours. (Offered two nights each month during the full moon. Ask at the visitor center or check our website, www.nps.gov/brca , for moonlight hike schedules.)

GeoDetective

Check out this exciting adventure series about earth science!

Kids, Parents, Teachers

Learn about Earth Systems, Paleontology, Rocks and Minerals, Landforms, Plate Tectonics, and the Hydrological Cycle. Lesson plans can be downloaded from our web site. Fun experiments and learning mysteries are under construction and will be available soon.

All lesson plans follow the Utah State Core Curriculum and meet the National Science Education Standards.

Visit our GEODETECTIVE web page at www.nps.gov/brca/



Weather at Bryce

WEATHER AT BRYCE CANYON	MONTH											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
TEMPERATURE (°F)												
Normal Daily Maximum	39	41	46	56	66	76	83	80	74	63	51	42
Normal Daily Minimum	9	13	17	25	31	38	47	45	37	29	19	11
Extreme High	62	66	76	82	89	96	97	94	91	85	75	67
Extreme Low	-30	-29	-13	-5	5	20	25	17	17	-2	-20	-23
Average # of Days above 90 °F	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Average # of Days below 32 °F	31	28	31	20	20	6	0	9	9	22	29	31
PRECIPITATION (inches)												
Normal	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.6	1.4	2.2	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.6
Maximum	9.2	6.8	6.8	3.8	2.3	2.7	3.8	4.8	4.2	4.5	5.4	6.2
Maximum 24 hr. Precipitation	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.8	3.8	3.4	1.7	1.5	3.2
Maximum Snowfall	63	75	75	62	18	6	T	T	4	22	22	49
Days with Measurable Precipitation	7	7	8	6	5	3	5	6	4	4	5	6
Average # of Thunderstorms	0	0	0	1	5	6	14	19	7	2	0	0
SUNSHINE/CLOUDINESS												
Number of Clear Days	9	7	9	10	12	17	16	16	18	17	11	10
Number of Partly Cloudy Days	8	8	8	9	10	8	10	10	8	7	8	8
Number of Cloudy Days	14	13	14	11	9	5	5	5	4	7	8	13
% Possible Sunshine	56	64	60	68	74	83	77	79	80	75	63	60

Junior Ranger Program

Would you like to become a Junior Ranger?

For Kids Only

Bryce Canyon's Junior Rangers have a special chance to learn about the park's natural and cultural history.

Kids, stop at the visitor center and pick up a Junior Ranger booklet. Complete the activities inside and return it to a ranger at the Visitor Center.

When you've finished, you'll receive an official certificate and Bryce Canyon Junior Ranger badge. Junior Ranger patches are also available for purchase for those who complete the Junior Ranger program.



Park Profile

Established

1923 as Bryce Canyon National Monument administered by the U.S. Forest Service; 1924 as Utah National Park administered by the National Park Service; 1928 name changed to Bryce Canyon National Park

Significance

Established to preserve and protect outstanding scenic and scientific values. Best known for the beautiful and bizarre rock spires called hoodoos.

Hoodoo

[hoo'doo] n. 1. A pinnacle or odd-shaped rock left standing by the forces of erosion. 2. v. To cast a spell or cause bad luck. 3. Voodoo.

Elevation/Size

Lowest: 6,620 feet (2018 m) Yellow Creek. Highest: 9,115 feet (2778 m) Rainbow Point.
55 square miles (35,835 acres)

Name

Ebenezer and Mary Bryce lived in the area from 1875-1880 and aided in the settlement of southwestern Utah and northern Arizona.

Humans

Ancestral Puebloans, known as the Anasazi, probably lived in the area from 2,000 years ago. They were followed by the Fremont Culture through the 1200s, then the Southern Paiutes until 100 years ago. Mormon settlers arrived in the 1870s. Park visitation in 1929 was 22,000. In 1996 it reached 1.7 million.

Plant Life

More than 400 native plant species live in the park. Pinyon pine and juniper grow among the hoodoos at low elevations; ponderosa pine forests dominate the plateau top; and spruce, fir, and aspen thrive at the highest elevations. Bristlecone pines—some more than 1,600 years old—live at the highest reaches.

Animal Life

Utah prairie dogs, a threatened species, can be seen in open meadows. Mule deer are the most common large mammal seen. Mountain lions and black bears live in the park, but are rarely seen. About 170 species of birds visit Bryce.

Bryce Canyon Lodge

Designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood and built in 1925, it is a National Historic Landmark. Of the four original lodges in the Union Pacific Loop Tour (Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, Zion, and Grand Canyon-North Rim), the Bryce Canyon Lodge is the only one still standing.

Help Stop Animal Cruelty

FEEDING WILD ANIMALS IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE of how good intentions can unwittingly cause serious harm. In fact, feeding wildlife is actually a form of animal cruelty!

Fed animals frequent roads and parking lots where they are much more likely to get run over by cars. Furthermore, wild animals have very strict natural diets and therefore very specific types of digestive bacteria. Human food causes the wrong type of digestive bacteria to become dominant. Soon, fed animals can no longer digest their natural foods and ultimately will starve to death with full stomachs. What could be more cruel?

Fed animals will even teach their offspring to beg for food. These young animals may never learn the necessary skills to find natural foods and grow up totally dependent on humans for survival.

The act of feeding wildlife can also be dangerous to people. Rodents are notorious for transmitting diseases. You put yourself in jeopardy every time you get within flea-jumping distance 6-9 feet (2-3 m) of a squirrel or prairie dog. Worse yet, feeding can cause normally docile animals, like deer, to become aggressive. In one sad instance at Yosemite National Park, a young child was gored and killed by a "spike" deer buck when he refused to relinquish his sandwich to the animal.

Unfortunately, once animals become habituated to humans, their behavior often leads to management actions that may result in their removal from the park.

Giving in just once to the big, brown, pleading eyes of a cute animal can have major consequences. Be responsible. Learn to be a friend of wildlife by not trying to befriend animals with food.

Please spread the word. True animal lovers don't feed wild animals. Help protect your national parks.



Do not feed the animals.
Bitte nicht die Tiere füttern.
Ne donnez pas à manger aux animaux.
No dé comida a los animales.

Threatened: Utah Prairie Dogs



Utah Prairie Dogs keep an ever-watchful eye out for predators.

A YEAR-ROUND INHABITANT OF BRYCE CANYON'S HIGH PLATEAU meadows is the Utah Prairie Dog, *Cynomys parvidens*. Actually, prairie dogs are not in the canine family; prairie dogs are rodents. The species' range, limited to the southwestern quarter of Utah, is the most restricted of any prairie dog in North America. While the Utah Prairie Dog occurs on numerous federal, state, and private lands, Bryce Canyon is the only National Park Service unit in which it's found.

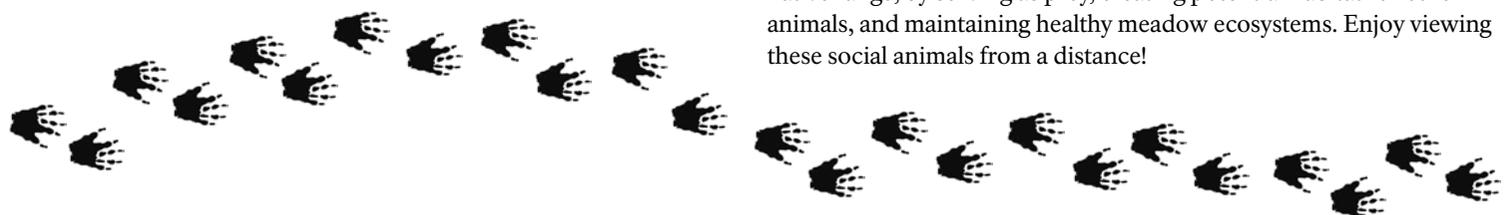
The Utah Prairie Dog is federally listed and protected as a threatened species, having been eradicated from much of its limited range in southwest Utah through poisoning, disease, habitat loss, and natural cycles such as drought. Utah Prairie Dogs were eradicated from Bryce Canyon in the 1950s. The park began a re-establishment program with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in 1974 with Utah Prairie Dog transplants to meadows within the park. This program continued through 1988. Throughout its range, there are fewer than 5,000 Utah Prairie Dogs remaining. Within the park, Utah Prairie Dog numbers in the 10 colonies that are monitored by National Park Service personnel have averaged around 82 adult animals over the past five years.



Storing up fat for winter hibernation is critical for prairie dogs' survival.

The Utah Prairie Dog is an example of the complex web of life that exists in nature. Prairie dogs dig deep burrows. This burrowing provides not only refuge from predators and cold winter temperatures, it also aerates the soil and allows moisture to penetrate deep to plant roots which helps the vegetation in the meadows flourish. Utah Prairie Dogs utilize the burrows for protection from numerous predators—which include badgers, coyotes, foxes, bobcats, birds of prey such as hawks and eagles, and the occasional snake. Some predators, after dispatching a Utah Prairie Dog, may then utilize the burrow for shelter or even denning purposes. Utah Prairie Dogs prefer a landscape relatively clear of trees, shrubs, and tall grasses so they can keep an eye out for danger. The natural process of fire enhances the viability of prairie dogs by eliminating the trees, shrubs and tall grasses that may be encroaching into meadow habitat and therefore decreasing their ability to detect predators. Fire also returns nutrients to the soil, which in turn enhances the edible crop of native grasses and forbs for the Utah Prairie Dog.

In short, Utah prairie dogs fill a crucial role in the ecosystem at Bryce Canyon National Park, as well as throughout the remainder of their native range, by serving as prey, creating potential habitat for other animals, and maintaining healthy meadow ecosystems. Enjoy viewing these social animals from a distance!



How Was Bryce Canyon Created?

THE STRIKING SCENERY THAT MAKES Bryce Canyon unique, has been created by the forces of nature sculpting the brilliantly-colored Claron Formation into a series of beautiful and unusual erosional features.

Bryce Canyon's beginnings take us back to the end of the earth's tumultuous Cretaceous Period, 65 million years ago. It was a time that brought cataclysmic changes worldwide, including the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Deposition

The creation of this unique landscape can be traced back to a network of braided rivers and streams which transported a variety of sediments into a large freshwater lake that once covered southwestern Utah. Colorful minerals such as iron (yellow and red) and manganese (pink and violet) mixed with dissolved calcium carbonate to create this unusually colorful limestone. Over time, the water disappeared, leaving behind the multicolored Claron Formation from which Bryce Canyon's unusual scenery is carved.

Uplift & Faulting

About 10-15 million years ago, a period of uplift began in the large region of the southwest known as the Colorado Plateau. Such tremendous stress on the earth's crust led to a period of faulting, stretching and fracturing, thereby creating a series of smaller plateaus.

The highest of these plateaus, the Aquarius, is visible to the east of Bryce. Bryce Canyon

has been carved from the eastern rim of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. The Paunsaugunt Fault, which separates these two plateaus, initiated the sculpting process by breaking the surrounding rock with vertical mini-fractures called joints. A series of perpendicular joints were also created by another earthquake zone called the Ruby's Inn Over-thrust Fault. Earthquakes along these two faults left a checkerboard pattern of fractures, priming Bryce Canyon for the forces of weathering and erosion.

Weathering & Erosion

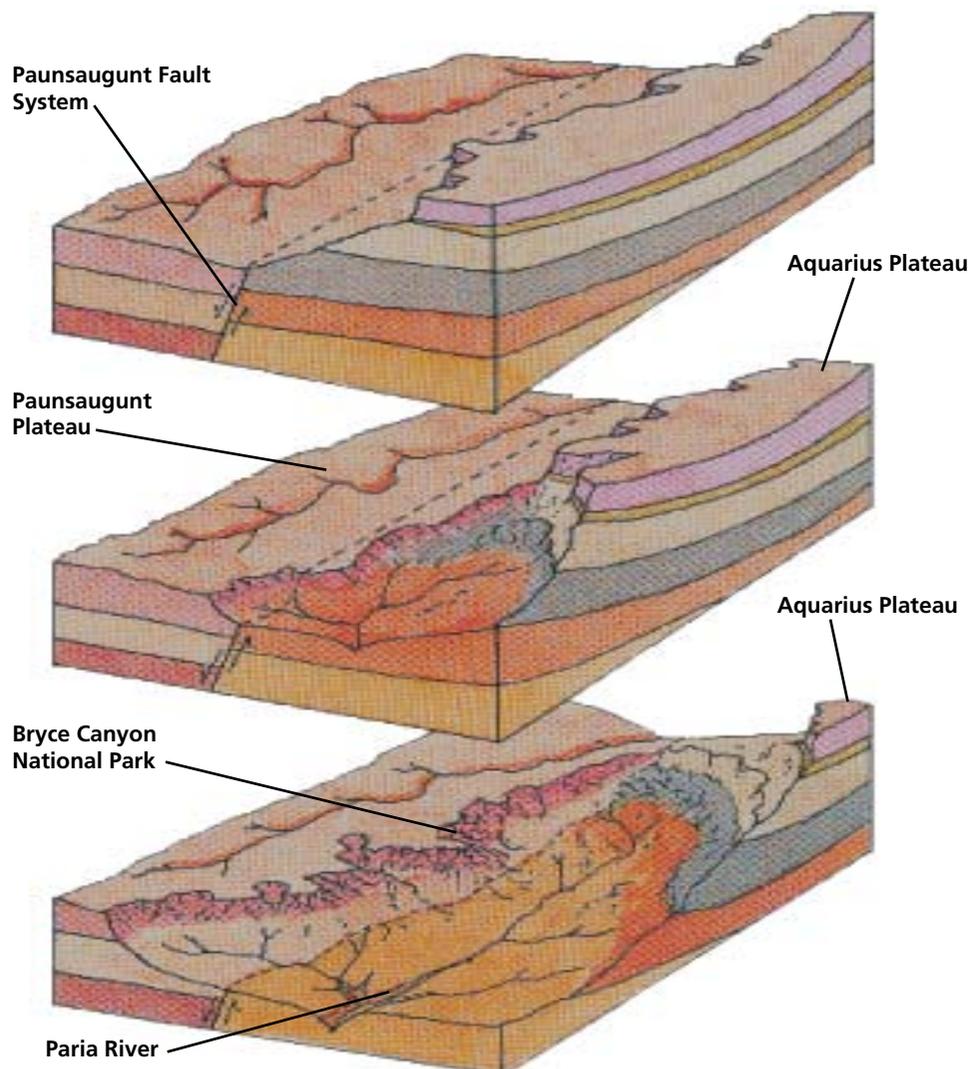
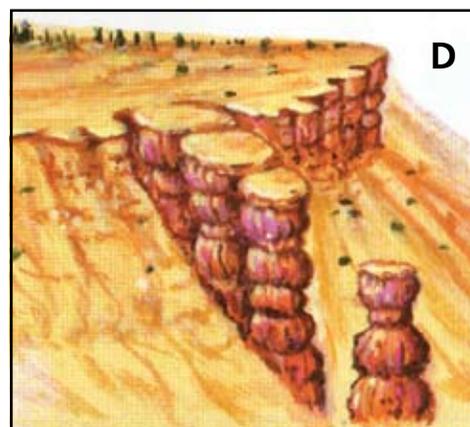
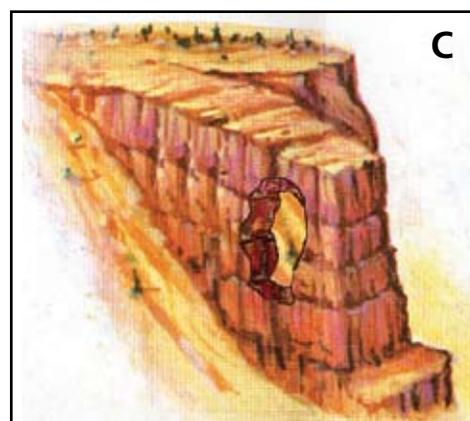
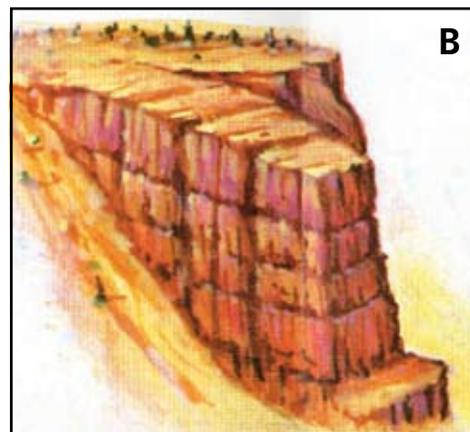
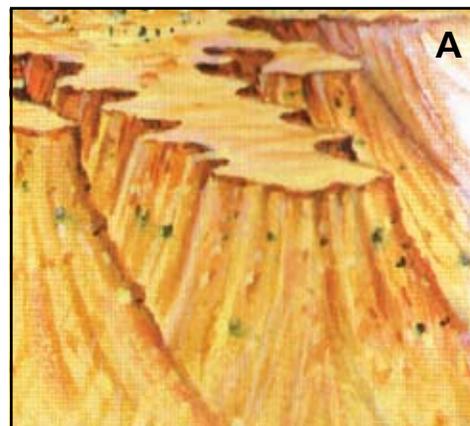
Although Bryce Canyon receives a meager 18 inches of precipitation annually, it's amazing what this little bit of water can do under the right circumstances!

Sub-freezing nighttime temperatures and relatively warm days result in over 200 freeze-thaw cycles annually. During the afternoon, snow and ice will melt, and water seeps into the joints of the Claron Formation. Once the sun sets, temperatures plummet and the water re-freezes, expanding up to 9% as it becomes ice. Exerting tremendous force on the adjacent rock, this process, known as frost wedging, shatters and pries the weak rock apart.

At the same time, rain water, which is naturally acidic, is slowly dissolving away the limestone, rounding off the edges of these fractured rocks, and washing away the debris. The plateau continues to erode westward in a process called headward erosion.

Small rivulets of water periodically run down the sloping eastern escarpment of the plateau, forming gullies (A). As gullies are cut deeper, narrow walls of rock known as fins begin to emerge (B). Fins eventually develop holes known as windows (C). Windows grow larger until their roofs collapse, creating hoodoos (D). As old hoodoos collapse, new ones are being born.

The conditions and processes at work here are not unique, but the distinctive way in which all of the elements operate together results in the fantastic scenery that makes Bryce Canyon worldly unique.



Erosion: Hoodoos' Creator and Executioner!

Bryce Canyon is famous for its erosion. Ironically, the same forces that create Bryce Canyon's spectacular scenery, also destroy it.

This past spring, melting snow triggered mudslides and rockfalls, and forced us to close the Thors Hammer side of the Navajo Loop Trail for several months—one of the most popular trails in Bryce Canyon. As you hike in the park, you may encounter areas of heavy rockfall, mudslides, under-cutting from water run-off, and sections of trail that have narrowed due to sliding. **Use extra caution on all trails!**

Bryce Canyon will spend the better part of the summer working on repairs and improvements to many of our trails—including Navajo Loop, Mossy Cave, and the Rim Trail. Work will involve re-constructing retaining walls and fences destroyed by slope slumping, removing rock and mud debris, resurfacing trail tread, and stabilizing rock walls. Barring unforeseen circumstances, all trails will remain open while repairs are being made, with only minor delays expected.

Despite some of our trails having suffered the effects of erosion, we encourage you to take a hike into the hoodoos or along the rim. After your hike, come learn more about the erosion that is still shaping Bryce Canyon today. Rangers offer daily Geology Talks; check posted program schedules for time and locations. And don't forget your camera. You can stop geologic time and capture erosional forces in action with just one click!



Rockfall on the Navajo Loop Trail.

Touring the Park

Bryce Canyon Shuttle



ALTHOUGH VOLUNTARY, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THE BRYCE CANYON SHUTTLE during your stay. It's free, easy, and convenient; and you'll be doing your part to reduce traffic, conserve fuel, and protect park resources. Shuttle buses are fully accessible. Pets are not allowed.

The Bryce Canyon Shuttle operates May 26 - September 4, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Mountain Daylight Time. Buses run approximately every 13 minutes. **The last bus of the day leaves the visitor center at 5:45 p.m. and travels to Bryce Point.** Visitors wishing to take the bus back to their vehicles at other shuttle stops should **not** miss this last bus!

Bryce Canyon Shuttle Stops

Shuttle Parking & Boarding Area	Bryce Point
Ruby's Inn	Inspiration Point
Ruby's Campground	Sunset Point
Visitor Center	Bryce Canyon Lodge
North Campground Trailer Drop-off/Shuttle Parking Area	Sunrise Point & General Store
Sunset Campground	

Auto Tour

THERE ARE 13 VIEWPOINTS ALONG BRYCE CANYON'S 18-MILE SCENIC DRIVE (one-way distance). Our most famous views are found in Bryce Amphitheater, including Sunrise, Sunset, Inspiration and Bryce Points. The southern overlooks feature long-distance, panoramic views across the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Allow 2-3 hours to visit the entire scenic drive.

Since all the viewpoints are on the *left* side of the road as your drive south towards Rainbow Point, we recommend stopping at the viewpoints as your drive north on your return trip. This way, each stop will be an easy and safe *right* turn.

Backcountry Hiking

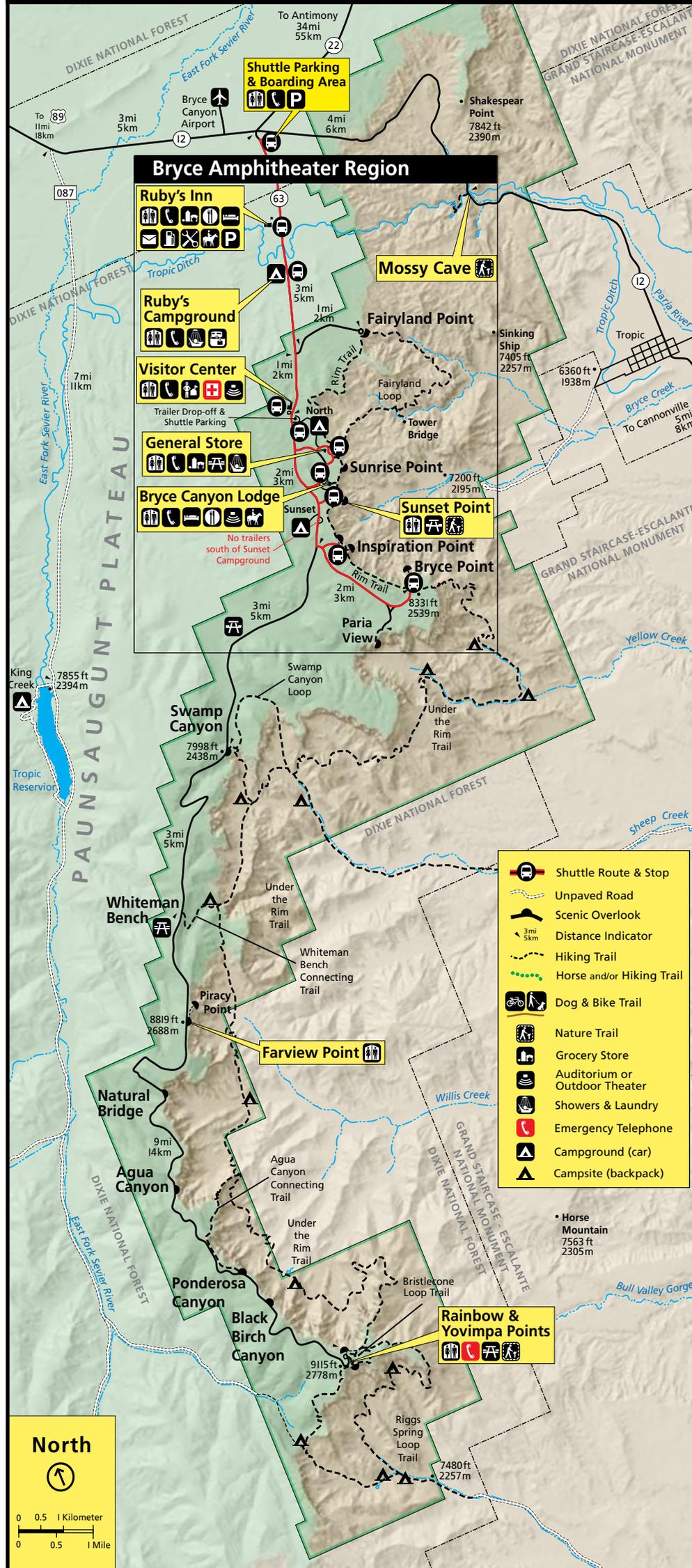
BRYCE CANYON HAS TWO TRAILS DESIGNATED FOR OVERNIGHT HIKING, the 9-mile Riggs Spring Loop, and the 23-mile Under-the-Rim Trail. Backcountry camping is *by permit only* on a first-come, first-served basis. Permits may be purchased at the visitor center from 8:00 a.m. until one hour before the visitor center closes.

Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry. Use a campstove to cook meals. Backcountry water sources are unreliable and should be filtered. Each hiker should carry a minimum of one gallon of water for each day they are in the backcountry.

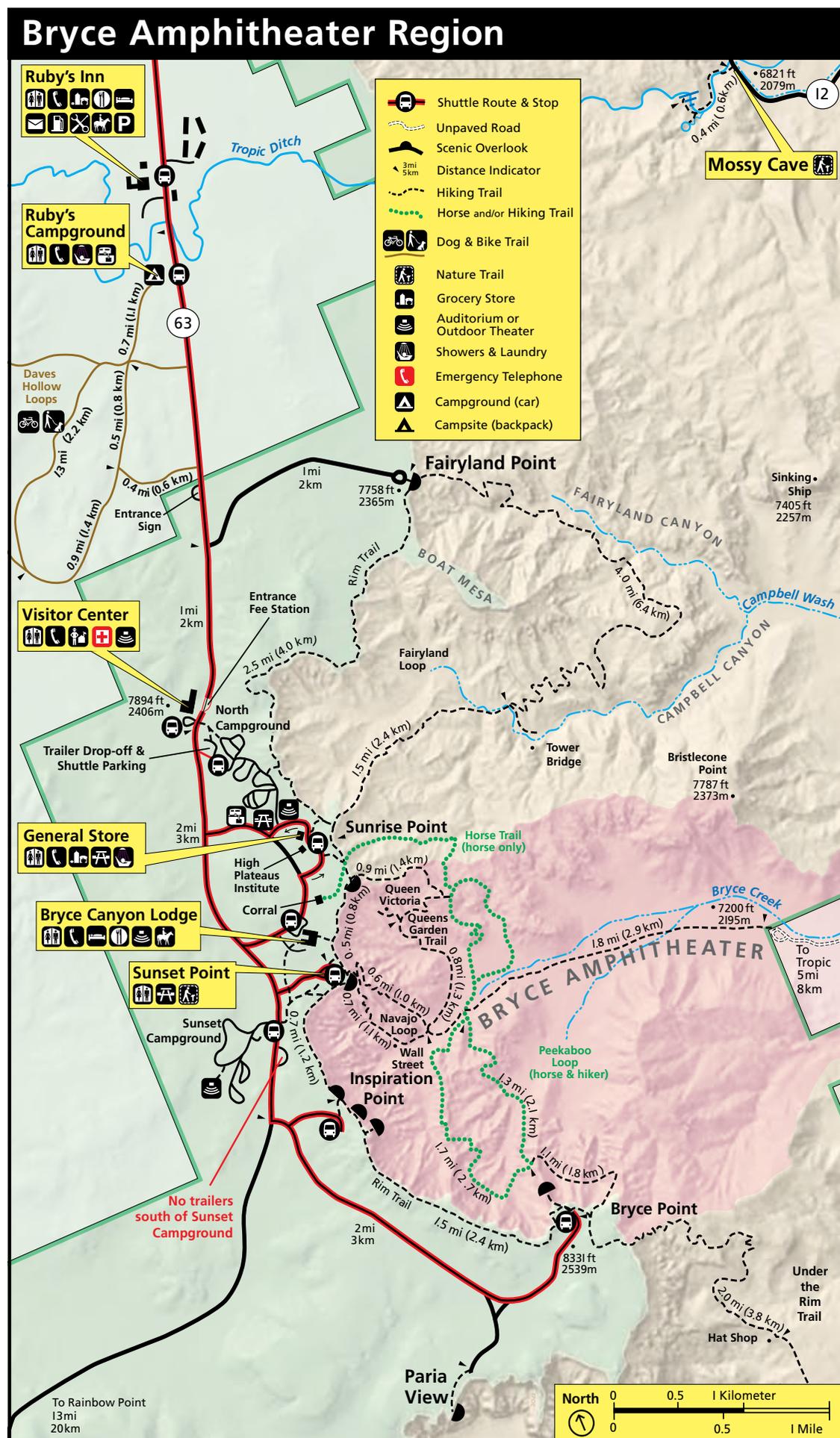
The 23-mile Under-the-Rim Trail can be accessed by four different connecting trails along the park road. The 9-mile Riggs Spring Loop Trail begins and ends at Yovimpa Point.

Stop at the visitor center and talk to a ranger before making any overnight trip into the backcountry. Maps and information on trails, campsites, water availability, and backcountry regulations are available at the visitor center. Ask for a free **Backcountry Information brochure** to aid in planning your trip.

Bryce Canyon National Park



Hiking the Park



Day Hiking Trail Guide

TRAIL NAME / STARTING POINT	ROUND TRIP	ELEVATION CHANGE	DESCRIPTION
Easy to Moderate Hikes (gentle grades & minimal elevation change)			
MOSSY CAVE North end of Bryce along Hwy 12 (not a loop)	0.8 mi 1.3 km 1 hour	↓ 200 ft 62 m ↑ 200 ft 62 m	Streamside walk up to a mossy overhang and small waterfall.
RIM TRAIL Anywhere along rim (not a loop)	1.0-11.0 mi 1.6-17.7 km (you pick start and end points)	↓ 34-1734 ft 10-535 m ↑ 34-1734 ft 10-535 m	Outstanding views of hoodoos from above. Trail is paved and fairly level between Sunset and Sunrise Points.
BRISTLECONE LOOP Rainbow Point	1.0 mi 1.6 km 1 hour	↓ 150 ft 45 m ↑ 150 ft 45 m	Hike through spruce-fir forests to cliffs with bristlecone pines and expansive vistas.
QUEENS GARDEN Sunrise Point (not a loop)	1.8 mi 2.9 km 1-2 hours	↓ 320 ft 98 m ↑ 320 ft 98 m	The least difficult trail into the canyon. See Queen Victoria at the end of a short spur trail.
Moderate Hikes (steep grades with "down & back" elevation change)			
NAVAJO LOOP Sunset Point	1.3 mi 2.2 km 1-2 hours	↓ 550 ft 167 m ↑ 550 ft 167 m	Switchbacks descend into Wall Street, a "slot" canyon with huge Douglas-fir trees.
QUEENS/NAVAJO COMBINATION LOOP Sunset or Sunrise Point	2.9 mi 4.6 km 2-3 hours	↓ 580 ft 177 m ↑ 580 ft 177 m	Combine the two trails described above. Hike the Rim Trail back to your starting point.
TOWER BRIDGE North of Sunrise Point (not a loop)	3.0 mi 4.8 km 2-3 hours	↓ 950 ft 290 m ↑ 950 ft 290 m	See bristlecone pines and the China Wall. A shady 1/4-mile spur trail leads to the bridge.
HAT SHOP Bryce Point (not a loop)	4.0 mi 6.4 km 3-4 hours	↓ 1336 ft 407 m ↑ 1336 ft 407 m	Descend Under-the-Rim Trail to see a cluster of balanced-rock hoodoos.
Strenuous Hikes (steep grades with MULTIPLE elevation changes)			
FAIRYLAND LOOP Fairyland Point or north of Sunrise Point	8.0 mi 12.9 km 4-5 hours	↓ 2309 ft 704 m ↑ 2309 ft 704 m	See the China Wall, Tower Bridge and tall hoodoos on this less-crowded trail.
PEEKABOO LOOP Bryce Point	5.5 mi 8.8 km 3-4 hour	↓ 1555 ft 473 m ↑ 1555 ft 473 m	Steep but spectacular hike through the heart of Bryce Amphitheater. See the Wall of Windows.
NAVAJO/PEEKABOO COMBINATION LOOP Sunset Point	4.9 mi 7.8 km 3-4 hours	↓ 1755 ft 535 m ↑ 1755 ft 535 m	Combine Navajo and Peekaboo Loop Trails into a mini figure 8.
THE 'FIGURE 8' (NAVAJO/PEEKABOO/QUEENS GARDEN COMBINATION) Sunrise or Sunset Point	6.4 mi 10.2 km 4-5 hours	↓ 1785 ft 544 m ↑ 1785 ft 544 m	Combine Navajo, Queens Garden, and Peekaboo Loop Trails into one ultimate hike!
BRYCE AMPHITHEATER GRAND LOOP Inspiration Point	7.5 mi 12.1 km 3-4 hours	↓ 1584 ft 482 m ↑ 1584 ft 482 m	Follow Rim Trail to Bryce Point. Descend connector trail and hike west side of Peekaboo Loop. Ascend Queens Garden Trail to Sunrise Point. Complete loop via Rim Trail.

Hiking Reminders...

- Wear hiking boots with good traction.
- Carry plenty of water; drink a gallon a day.
- Park elevations reach over 9100 feet (2774 m). Even mild exertion may leave you feeling light-headed and nauseated. Know and respect your own physical limitations.
- Trails with this symbol  are used by horses April-October. Horses have right-of-way. Stand on uphill side of trail to let horses pass. Give them warning of your presence. Talk but don't yell; talk to rider.

- Stay on maintained trail. Stay off social trails.
- Do not feed the wildlife.
- Do not throw anything, anywhere, at any time.
- Be respectful of others; keep noise levels down—no yelling.
- Remember, you are entering a wild setting. Ultimately, *you* are responsible for your safety and the safety of those around you. Take what you bring; leave what you find.

Lightning Safety

Take Lightning Seriously

Summer storms at Bryce Canyon bring lightning, a powerful force which can and does kill. Take a look along the canyon's edge, and you'll soon spot one of the countless trees that have been struck. Don't let that be you!

Here at Bryce Canyon, lightning has claimed the lives of three visitors in the past 17 years. Six other visitors have been seriously injured by lightning strikes.

In the state of Utah, Bryce Canyon is the second most common place for lightning fatalities and injuries, behind the Uinta Mountains. Considering that the park is much smaller in area, Bryce Canyon is by far the area of highest lightning hazard density in the state!

Where is it Safe?

The safest place to be is in an enclosed building with walls, roof, and floor (such as the visitor center). The next best place is in an enclosed vehicle.

If you can't get to a safe location, avoid the most dangerous places and activities, including higher elevations, wide-open areas, tall isolated objects, water-related activities and open vehicles. **DO NOT GO UNDER TREES TO KEEP DRY DURING THUNDERSTORMS!**

How Do I Plan for Safety?

In this area, thunderstorms usually occur in the afternoon during July and August. If possible, plan your outdoor activities for the early part of the day. Learn and practice the **30/30 Rule** (see below).

When is it Time to Seek Shelter?

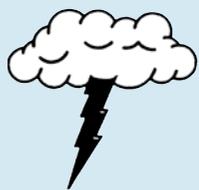
Begin counting as soon as you see a flash of lightning. If you **CANNOT count to 30** (i.e., 30 seconds) between the flash and hearing its thunder, it is unsafe to be outdoors. You should seek shelter immediately.

When is it Safe to Go Back Outside?

It is not safe to be outdoors until at least **30 minutes** after you hear the last thunderclap or see the last flash of lightning.

Don't be fooled by the bright sunshine overhead! Lightning can strike away from the dark clouds. Be alert to new storms developing in the area.

Remember, your safety is YOUR responsibility. Learn the signs of an impending lightning storm. Be willing to alter your visit to make the safe choice. And practice the 30/30 rule.



Burning Our Way To a Better Future



A bolt of lightning contains about a billion volts and can reach 50,000 degrees F!

Fire on the Plateau

Lightning-sparked fires have been an essential part of park ecosystems for thousands of years. Where there's smoke there's fire and that may not necessarily be a bad thing. In fact, fires were once a common occurrence throughout the Paunsaugunt Plateau. Before human settlement increased in the late 1800s, lightning frequently started fires that rejuvenated plant growth, recycled soil nutrients, and increased wildlife habitat diversity. Grazing, fire suppression and other land management practices have altered this natural cycle and created unhealthy forest conditions with dangerous accumulations of downed trees and dense underbrush in some areas of the park.

Bringing Fire Back

A primary mission of the National Park Service includes preservation of dynamic natural processes. Fire has been an essential and natural part of Bryce Canyon's ecosystems for thousands of years. Research in fire ecology indicates that many plants and animals have evolved with and actually benefit from the effects of fire. Without fire, forests would not be able to support the diverse habitats required by many plant, bird and mammal species. The reintroduction of fire after a century of absence, will help restore these fire adapted ecosystems within Bryce Canyon National Park.

Forest Health Care

Much like a doctor would prescribe a specific medical treatment for a sick patient, fire managers prescribe a planned course of action to remedy unhealthy forest conditions. Prescribed fires are intentionally ignited under predetermined environmental conditions to meet a variety of park management objectives.

"Wildland fire use" is the term used to describe natural lightning-ignited fires that are allowed to burn under specific conditions within predetermined areas. When acceptable temperature, humidity, wind and other conditions occur, fire managers may use prescribed fires or allow lightning-caused fires to burn for resource benefit.

Fire-Adapted Ecosystems

The ponderosa pine, with thick fire resistant bark, is an excellent example of a fire-adapted species. Some of the larger trees show



Prescribed burn in the vicinity of Fairyland Canyon, October 2004.



Burn piles near Bryce Canyon Lodge.

evidence of scars from past fire activity and demonstrate that fire rarely destroys everything in its path. More typically, fire creates an important mosaic of burned and unburned vegetation. Regularly occurring lower-intensity fire naturally thins the forest, creates meadows, recycles nutrients and releases seeds for new plant growth, all critical factors to maintain forest health and natural cycles of growth and decomposition.

In some areas of the park, especially near developed zones, it may not be feasible to reintroduce fire. The area where park lands meet developed zones is referred to as the "wildland-urban interface." In partnership with other federal, state and local agencies, as well as responsible private landowners, park managers are implementing strategies to reduce the risk of wildfire in these areas. Landowners can reduce their risks considerably through clearing a defensible space around their buildings.

Using chain saws and hand tools, park crews remove dead and downed woody materials and thin closely spaced live trees to create fuel breaks. Some dead standing trees and downed material remains in place for use as wildlife habitat. Some of the wood from these thinning projects is hauled away and may be burned in another location or utilized for various purposes. The remaining material is piled to dry and burned on site when conditions permit.

Fire Suppression and Prevention

Public and firefighter safety are always the highest priority in all fire management activities. Fires that threaten life and property will continue to be suppressed. Fire suppression crews from Bryce Canyon National Park and partnering agencies provide the first line of defense from unwanted wildfire. Fire prevention is every citizen's responsibility, so please use caution with all campfires and smoking materials during your visit to the park.

Healthier Forests on the Horizon

Park staff also work in conjunction with state air quality officials to ensure that smoke impacts are kept to a minimum, however you may encounter slight inconveniences during your visit. Smoke from prescribed fires may temporarily obscure a vista, but also signals that healthier forests are on the horizon.



Firefighter using a drip-torch to ignite a prescribed burn.

Your Fee Dollars at Work

DO YOU EVER WONDER WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MONEY YOU GIVE to Bryce Canyon National Park? Bryce Canyon is one of many federal fee areas participating in the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program initiated by Congress in 1996. This program allows the park to keep 80 percent of the revenue from most fees we charge (including entrance fees, backcountry permit fees, and camping fees), and use this money to upgrade infrastructures, address maintenance backlogs, and enhance our visitors' experience. The remaining 20 percent supports projects in other National Park Service areas.

Since 1996, Bryce Canyon has used fee money for several major projects, including renovating and expanding our deteriorated visitor center/headquarters building; overhauling entrance station kiosks; constructing a Shuttle Staging and Boarding Area; and implementing and operating a 5-year Transportation System.

This year, Bryce Canyon will use fee money to rehabilitate some of our more-popular hiking trails, including Queens Garden, Mossy Cave, and the Rim Trail. Additionally we plan to install exhibits at backcountry trailheads, and upgrade campground amphitheatres.

The Recreational Fee Demonstration Program was implemented as a test program with a 10-year trial period. In 2005, the program was made permanent with the enactment of the Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act (FLREA).

In future years, plans are underway to upgrade historic buildings throughout the park to make them compliant with fire and safety regulations, and renovate the park's two campgrounds, replacing their utility systems, repaving roads, and renovating restrooms.

Thank you for supporting your national parks.



Many of Bryce Canyon's hiking trails are critically in need of repair and improvement. This year, the park will use fee money to fund crews, equipment and materials to make our trails more safe and enjoyable for the more than one million visitors who use them each year.

A Weed By Any Other Name...

AS YOU DRIVE ALONG BRYCE CANYON'S SCENIC ROADWAYS OR hike any of the trails, you may see Bryce Canyon's revegetation crew and volunteers hard at work. They're identifying and documenting information such as species, location, and size of exotic vegetation infestations; manually pulling non-native plants; conducting erosion control measures on steep slopes; and revegetating disturbed soils.

Bryce Canyon currently has 73 documented exotic plant species in the park. How did these "weeds" become established here? Wildlife may have played a small role. Animals with large ranges such as mule deer, black bears, and mountain lions can bring in exotic plant seeds embedded in their fur. Birds may eat berries and seeds that, when passed through their digestive systems and excreted, can sprout exotics. Rodents may cache seeds for winter lean times in various locations, thus spreading the seed base. Probably more significant, though, is the role that humans play in this cycle. For instance, the revegetation crew is working to ensure that soils disturbed by road construction activities are repopulated with native, rather than exotic invasive species. Clothing and boot soles carry and spread non-native seeds into the backcountry, and vehicles do the same along roadways. How can you help prevent the loss of native plant diversity to invasive species at Bryce Canyon? Scraping boots and cleaning the undercarriages of vehicles prior to entering the park will help.

Once identified, exotic species are eradicated using a number of techniques, including manual (hand-pulling and chopping), mechanical

(chainsaw), fire, and—as a last resort—chemical means. Sometimes a combination of techniques is utilized such as in the case of tamarisk, *Tamarix ramosissima*. Small tamarisk plants can be pulled by hand if care is taken to remove the entire taproot. However, larger trees must be cut with a chainsaw, and the stumps treated with chemical herbicides to prevent resprouting. Tamarisk favors fragile riparian areas and outcompetes native species due to its rapid growth rate, deep taproots, and salt secretions that create a hostile environment for native plants.

Along the park's roadsides, the revegetation crew is planting and reseeding soils with native stock following the 2002–2003 park road-widening project. To prevent roadside weeds from becoming established, the crew will reseed with native seeds and transplant native shrubs, trees, and grasses. Seeds gathered from grasses and forbs native to the Paunsaugunt Plateau were sent to a nursery in Meeker, Colorado, in order to propagate the volume of seed necessary for appropriate seed density and ground coverage.

Erosion control has also been undertaken along the new road. You may have seen the "waddles" (straw-filled, net-covered cylinders that are certified weed free) staked into the bare hillsides past the Swamp Canyon Overlook and elsewhere in the park. Waddles prevent topsoil from sloughing downhill or being washed down drainage ditches until roots from the reseeding efforts take hold and naturally bind the soil.



Spotted knapweed is one of 73 exotic plant species in the park.



When driving, stay alert for park employees working along the roadsides. Give them a brake!

Thank You to Our Donors & Partners

Bryce Canyon National Park wants to thank its generous donors and park partners for helping to improve programs and services here at the park.

The **Bryce Canyon Natural History Association** provides the park with this publication; the booklets, badges and certificates for the Junior Ranger program; printing costs for other publications; housing for Astronomy Volunteers and interns; and other interpretive and research support. The Association also funds a full time Education/Outreach Specialist for the park.

Grant programs administered through the **National Park Foundation Proud Partner Program** are supplying the park with two **Ford** Transportation Interpreters; **Kodak** digital cameras and printers; and equipment for the park's environmental education program.

The donation box in the lobby of the visitor center has funded parts and repairs for the telescopes used in the Bryce Canyon National Park night sky programs. Last year, one of the park's night sky volunteers donated funds to purchase a solar telescope and accessories for viewing the sun.

A Geoscientist-in-Parks intern has been granted by the **Geologic Society of America**. This intern will assist with research, present public geology programs throughout the summer, and provide training for interpretive staff on the geology of the Colorado Plateau.

The **Bryce Canyon Lodge** and **Ruby's Inn Resort** have implemented a Dollar Check-Off Program. Guests at their hotels have the option of donating a dollar per night of their visit. These programs have funded seasonal employees for interpretation, the trail crew and a backcountry intern.

A hearty "thanks" to our generous donors and park partners. We couldn't do it without you!

V.I.P.s

Last year, more than 180 volunteers donated over 19,000 hours to Bryce Canyon National Park! If **you've** got time and talents to share, why not become a Volunteer-In-Park (V.I.P.)?

For more information, log on to: www.nps.gov/brca (click on volunteer) or www.volunteer.gov.

Protecting Park Resources



Losing Afraid of [^]the Dark?

SOME PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF THE DARK. Interestingly, Bryce Canyon's park rangers love the dark and are scared of the *light!* Perhaps you'd be fearful, too, if it was your job to protect the last of the best dark left in the world.

Preserving darkness isn't easy. Education is our best tool, as Bryce Canyon's biggest threats to darkness come from outside its boundaries. Protecting the dark requires controlling the light. Light that shines down is often necessary; however, light that escapes sideways or upward only pollutes the night and dims the stars. Many municipalities have found that by switching to shrouded light fixtures, they can more effectively illuminate neighborhoods with less electricity. This not only reduces light pollution, but their residents' tax burden, as well.

Being far from civilization, Bryce's night skies are not only dark, but our high desert location makes our thin air very easy to see through. Consequently, this is a phenomenal place for stargazing. With a limiting magnitude rating of 7.4, Bryce's sky is almost as dark as the summit of Hawaii's Mauna Kea and other world class astronomical research locations. By comparison, a moonless night in most rural settings rates at a 6.0 magnitude, where 2500 individual stars can be seen twinkling in the void. But here at Bryce, 7500 are visible to the unaided eye!

Before the stars appear, look for the rare sight of Earth's penumbra. After the last light of the setting sun fades from the highest clouds, a purple band will appear directly above the eastern horizon. This is the edge

of Earth's own shadow being projected onto our planet's upper atmosphere. Look quickly because this phenomenon is soon engulfed in darkness as the stars take the stage.

The first star may actually be the planet Venus, shining so brightly at Bryce it will cast your shadow. Venus is soon followed by Vega, Arcturus, and other bright stars. When the transition from light to dark is complete, look for the combined light of billions of stars all so distant they appear as one long cloud spanning the horizons. Behold, the Milky Way! This stellar strip of light is only a portion of our galaxy's other great spiral arm. Imagine standing in the left hand of a spinning figure skater, looking across to her right arm while she dances our solar system and the rest of her 100 billion stars through the Universe. What does an entire galaxy look like?

In most places it's never dark enough to see, but at Bryce, only hours after sunset, your eyes will be able to see 527 quadrillion miles (2.2 million light years) to the Andromeda Galaxy. This smudge of light is an entirely different figure skater, dancing to a different tune. Near the hind legs of the constellation Pegasus you will discover this fuzzy cloud that astronomers know as M31. Andromeda is simultaneously the largest and most distant object you will ever see with your unaided eye, measuring 110,000 light years in diameter!

At Bryce, the Andromeda Galaxy is just the beginning. From the vantage point of this sanctuary of darkness, a universe of stellar wonders awaits. Join a park ranger for one of

our popular astronomy programs where you can marvel at star clouds, star clusters, and other galaxies. Before being veiled by the light pollution of the modern world, these deep sky objects were once visible everywhere. Now over much of the planet they are hard to detect even with large telescopes. Indeed, NASA estimates that less than half of the residents in the northern hemisphere can even see any of the Milky Way!

To many people, light provides safety and knowledge. It means finding the right car key without having to worry about what's lurking in the shadows. To others, light is profitable, insuring 24-hour advertising and industry. For those who travel far from home, knowing their stars, offers a sense of connection to a loved one, who although not present, is at least enjoying the same starry

sky. Those who have come to love the dark will gaze into the night sky void for hours, inspired by an unparalleled sense of awe, or intrigued by that age old question, "Is there anyone or anything looking back?"

It is easy to feel insignificant underneath such vastness, yet ironically, it is within an individual's power to help preserve such a view. Close your blinds at night. Replace porch lights with motion sensor security lights that only come on when they are needed. Become involved in local efforts to establish good lighting and maintain light ordinances. Who knows? Perhaps your home town has the potential for Bryce Canyon quality stargazing. In most places, all it takes to restore the heavens is a shared passion for the dark and the unified responsible management of light.

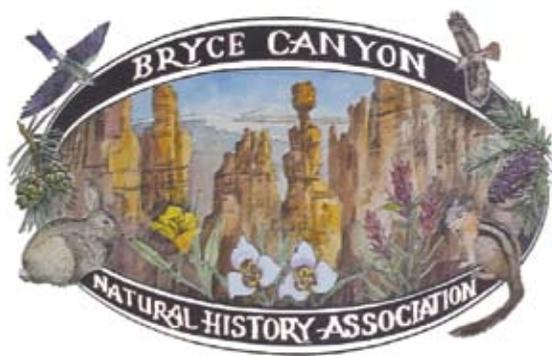


Park rangers and volunteers offer astronomy programs twice a week in summer. These popular programs include an indoor multimedia presentation followed by telescope viewing of the heavens (weather permitting). Check at the visitor center or on our website at www.nps.gov/brca for program schedules.

Bryce Canyon Natural History Association

PO Box 640051, Bryce, UT 84764-0051 435-834-4601 Fax 435 834-4606 www.brycecanyon.org

Established in 1961, Bryce Canyon Natural History Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Bryce Canyon National Park and Dixie National Forest in furthering their scientific, educational, historical, and interpretive activities. It is our mission to enhance the visitor's understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service. This is accomplished, in part, by making educational publications and materials available for sale and/or free distribution, and supporting existing interpretive activities, like our Junior Ranger Program.



Every purchase from a Bryce Canyon Natural History Association bookstore helps support our mission. Furthermore, by becoming a member of the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, you not only help preserve these magnificent resources for future generations, but you'll enjoy benefits not available to the general public!

For more information, visit the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association website at: www.brycecanyon.org.

As a Bryce Canyon Natural History Association member, you can help us:

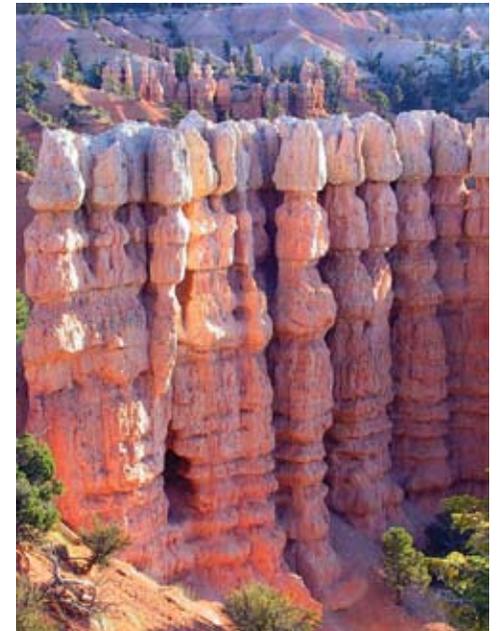
- Publish nearly one million pieces of free literature for park visitors each year.
- Support resource management research activities.
- Support educational outreach programs to schools in southern Utah and beyond.
- Continue National Park Service research projects that document the natural and human history of Bryce Canyon National Park.
- Support the Junior Ranger Program.
- Help publish interpretive books, maps, posters, and audio-visual products that educate visitors about Bryce Canyon National Park and Dixie National Forest.
- Support the Bryce Canyon Interpretation Division of the National Park Service.
- Provide scholarships to deserving students and universities.

A membership with Bryce Canyon Natural History Association includes these benefits:

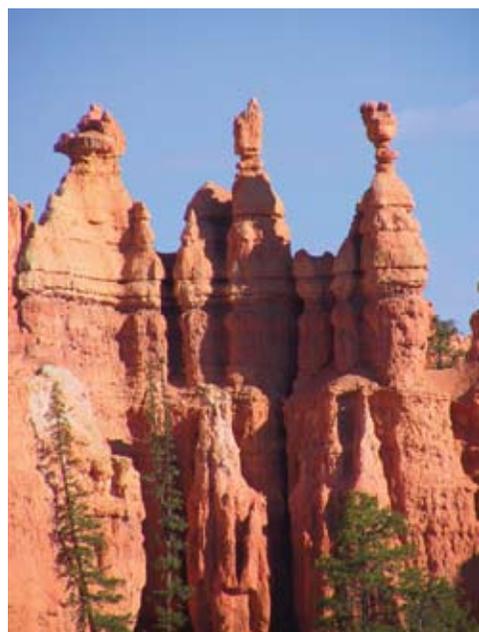
- 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, and other products sold by Bryce Canyon Natural History Association in our stores, by phone (888-362-2642), or online (www.brycecanyon.org).
- 10% discount at the Bryce Canyon Lodge and General Store gift shops operated by Xanterra Parks and Resorts (you must present your membership card to receive discount).
- Discounts to hundreds of other stores operated by more than 60 nonprofit cooperating associations at numerous national parks and other public lands throughout the United States (you must present your membership card to receive discount).
- Bryce Canyon Natural History Association members receive a discount on most High Plateaus Institute courses. These courses offer in-depth outdoor education to visitors. Call or check our website for listings.



Become a personal partner with Bryce Canyon National Park to help preserve and protect the wonder and resources for this and future generations.



You can help us support our mission so that future generations can enjoy Bryce Canyon National Park and continue to be inspired by its breathtaking geology.



High Plateaus Institute



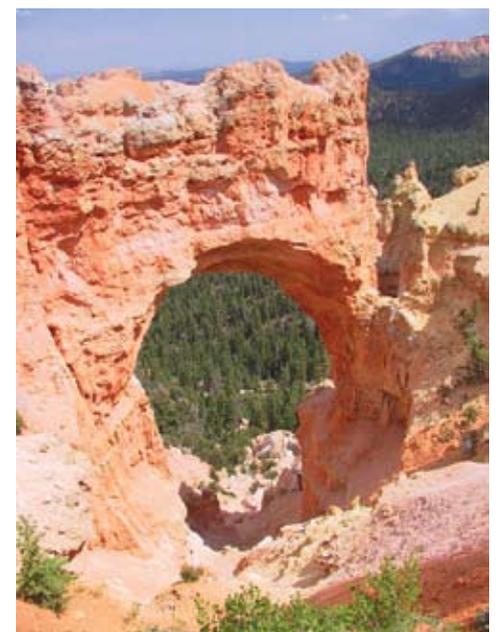
In the spring of 2004, the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association and Bryce Canyon National Park, in collaboration with the local business community, school officials, universities, and city, county, state and federal government entities, initiated efforts to facilitate the inaugural year of the High Plateaus Institute (HPI). This exciting educational endeavor provides researchers, students, teachers, local residents, and visitors with expanded opportunities for exploration, discovery, and science-based learning.



High Plateaus Institute, Bryce Canyon National Park

For 2006, there are many new and exciting programs being offered through the HPI. Some examples include: educational programs in geology, astronomy, plants, wildlife, cultural history (ranching and cowboy poetry) and photography. The HPI plays host to a variety of researchers each year, as well as provides a location for ranger-led programs for kids and families.

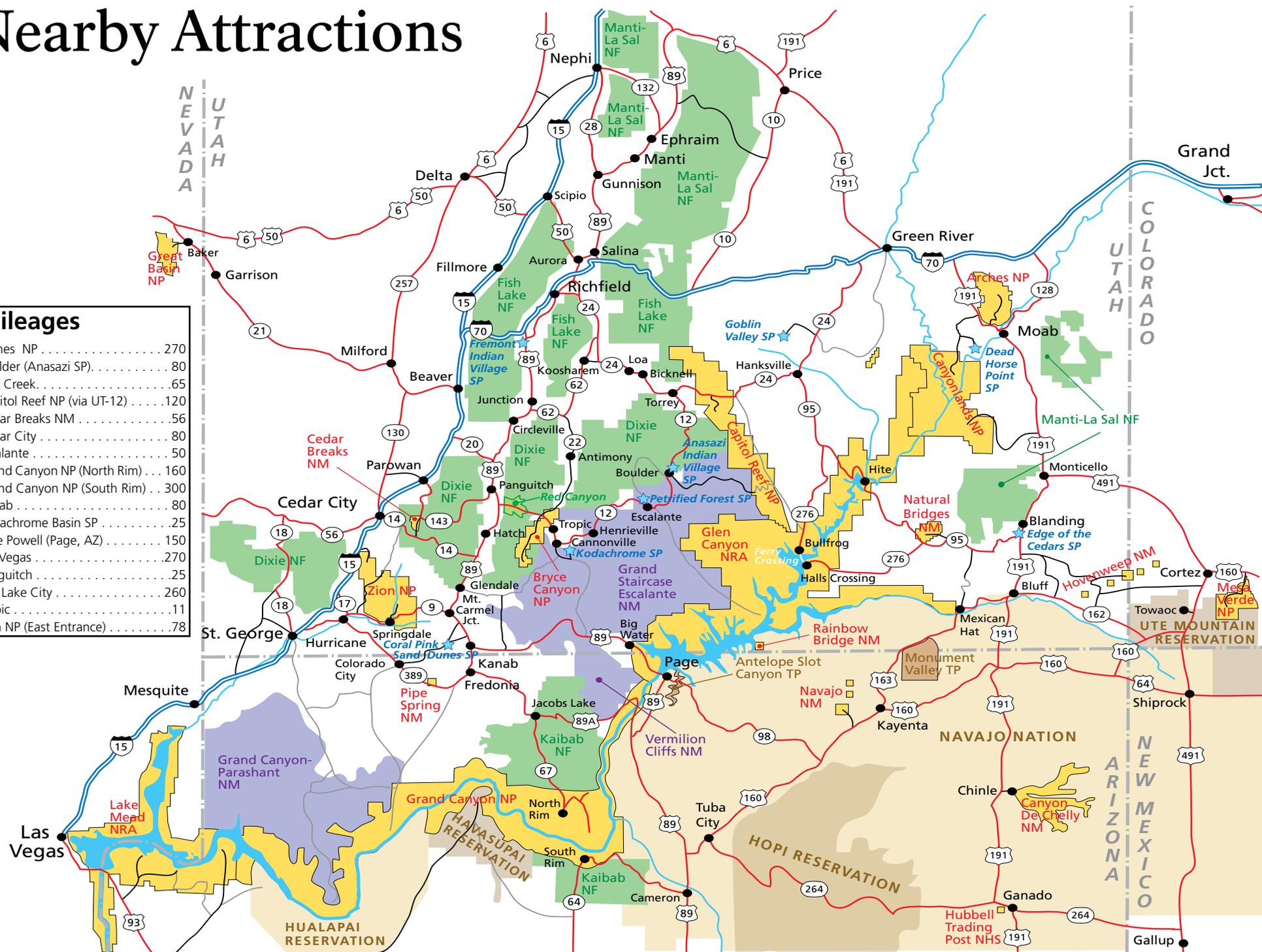
For further information and courses being offered, contact the HPI Director at (435) 834-4413 or email debbiec@scinternet.net.



Nearby Attractions

Mileages

Arches NP	270
Boulder (Anasazi SP)	80
Calf Creek	65
Capitol Reef NP (via UT-12)	120
Cedar Breaks NM	56
Cedar City	80
Escalante	50
Grand Canyon NP (North Rim)	160
Grand Canyon NP (South Rim)	300
Kanab	80
Kodachrome Basin SP	25
Lake Powell (Page, AZ)	150
Las Vegas	270
Panguitch	25
Salt Lake City	260
Tropic	11
Zion NP (East Entrance)	78



Capitol Reef National Park
121 miles northeast via Utah 12 and 24

The Waterpocket Fold, a giant wrinkle in the Earth's crust, features a spectacular jumble of colorful cliffs, massive domes, soaring spires, twisting canyons, and graceful arches. The park protects this grand and colorful geologic feature, as well as the unique cultural history. Capitol Reef features a visitor center, hiking trails, Ranger programs, picnic area, campground, and scenic drive. The historic Fruita orchards are open June to October for "self-serve picking" of apples, cherries, peaches and pears. 435-425-3791, or visit www.nps.gov/care



Cedar Breaks National Monument
83 miles west via Utah 12, US 89 & Utah 14

Atop the Markagunt Plateau at an elevation of 10,350 feet (3155 m), Cedar Breaks features a spectacular amphitheater of walls, fins, spires, and columns eroded out of colorful Claron limestones. Forests of spruce, fir, and aspen are separated by alpine meadows ablaze with brilliant summer wildflowers. Cedar Breaks features a visitor center, Ranger programs, hiking trails, picnic area, campground, and viewpoints overlooking the "breaks." Temperatures are usually cool. Utah 148 is closed late fall through spring because of snow. 435-586-9451 or visit www.nps.gov/cebr



Grand Staircase-Escalante Nat'l Monument
South and east via Utah 12 & US 89

Administered by the Bureau of Land Management, this 1.9 million acre area features diverse and ruggedly beautiful landscapes. The monument preserves a combination of archaeological, historical, paleontological, geological, and biological resources. Utah 12 and US 89 skirt the northern and southern fringes of the monument and offer numerous scenic pull-outs. All of the roads in the monument's interior are unpaved, and many require 4-wheel drive. 435-826-5499 Escalante; 435-679-8981 Cannonville; or 435-644-4600 Kanab. www.ut.blm.gov/monument



Red Canyon / National Scenic Byway 12
124-mile route between US 89 and Utah 24

Surrounding Bryce Canyon National Park are several recreational and scenic areas which can be reached by driving National Scenic Byway 12. The Federal Highway Administration recently designated this route an "All-American Road," with one-of-a-kind features so exceptional that it qualifies as a "destination unto itself." Dixie National Forest, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef national parks, and three Utah state parks, are among the many attractions along National Scenic Byway 12. Ask for a Byway 12 Route Guide at any visitor center along the way.