Information and Services

Entrance Fees
Private Vehicle: $25 per vehicle, valid for 7 days in Bryce Canyon National Park.
Individual: $12 per person (pedestrian, bicycle, motorcycle, and organized group), valid for 7 days in Bryce Canyon National Park.
Bryce Canyon Annual Pass: $30, valid for one year from date of purchase at Bryce Canyon National Park only.
Commercial Tours: Ask for rates.
Interagency Annual Pass: $80, valid for one year from date of purchase in all federal fee areas.
Interagency Senior Pass: $10 lifetime pass for U.S. residents 62 or older.

Camping
North Campground: Open all year, 101 campsites (only one loop open in Winter). Available first-come, first-served Oct 1 – May 6. RV sites may be reserved May 7 – Sept 26 by calling 877 444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov.
Sunset Campground: Open late spring to early fall, 102 campsites. 20 tent sites are available for reservation up to 6 months in advance, all others first-come, first served.

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

Bicycles
Bicycles are restricted to paved roads in the park. In addition to the Bryce Canyon Lodge and other lodges, Tropic, Bryce Junction, and Panguitch.

Recycling
Recycling bins are located at the entrance to Sunset & North Campgrounds, Sunset Point, the General Store and Bryce Canyon Lodge. Now accepting aluminum cans, plastic (#1–7), cardboard, tin, and glass. Receptacles for recycling small propane cylinders are available at North Campground, Sunset Campground, and the General Store.

Post Office / ATM / Internet
Ruby’s Inn has a post office open Monday-Saturday 8-5 (Bryce, UT 84764), an ATM, and internet services. Personal mail addressed to park visitors will not be accepted at Bryce Canyon National Park.

Travelers Information Stations
Tune radio to 1590 and 1610 AM for park and shuttle information.

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

2 The Hoodoo

Footwear
The Hoodoo

Top Causes of Bryce Injuries

#10 Unsafe Driving
• Speeding (limits are 25, 30, 40 and 45 mph).
• Tired. Know and respect your own limits.
• Alcohol. Drink and drive is illegal and dangerous.

#9 Climbing / Sliding down cliffs
The rock at Bryce forms crumbling cliffs and steep gravelly slopes. Hand and toe holds support nothing heavier than chimneys. Climbing the rock and sliding on the slopes is illegal and dangerous.

#8 Feeding Animals
Fed animals become aggressive. Even small animals can inflict bites requiring stitches and worse yet transmit disease. Watch-wildlife from a distance and discourage animals that approach you.

#7 Ignoring Extreme Weather
At Bryce it is possible for the difference between the daily high and low to be as much as 50°F / 27°C! Lightning is a year-round danger — especially during summer monsoons! Seek the shelter of a building or your vehicle whenever the “flash-bang interval” (time between lightning and thunder) is less than 30 seconds.

#6 Dehydration
Drink 1 quart / liter every 1-2 hours. A well hydrated body is better able to regulate body temperature and is more resistant to heat exhaustion. Sunburns also lead to dehydration. Wear a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses to protect from the sun overhead and reflected UV light.

#5 Leaving the Trail
Stay on designated trails and away from cliff edges where footing can be tricky. Even on seemingly gentle slopes, it can be impossible to keep your footing. Bring the maps on page 6 and 7 to avoid getting lost.

#4 Over-exertion
Park elevations reach 9115 ft (2778 m) subjecting you to 70% of the oxygen you might be used to. Bryce’s trails start at the top which means all returns will be uphill. Turn BACK BEFORE you become tired. Know and respect your own physical limitations.

#3, #2, & #1 Bad Choice of footwear
Wear hiking boots with good ankle support and “lug” traction. Hiking without hiking boots is like SCUBA diving without an air tank. Sport-sandals & “trainers,” are NOT safe hiking footwear.

Safety at Bryce Canyon

How many people die at Bryce?
Fortunately, Bryce averages less than 1 fatality per year. In order of decreasing abundance, fatalities are caused by:
• Heart attacks
• Falling off cliffs
• Lightning
• Vehicle accidents
Unfortunately, hundreds of serious injuries have also needlessly occurred, some out of ignorance, but too many from ignoring park safety warnings.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Center
In summer, open daily 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. Information, museum, publications, an award-winning film, backcountry permits, and lost-and-found services are available here.

Emergency Services Call 911 or 435-676-2411
24-hours a day or contact a Park Ranger

Park Headquarters
435 834-5322
Fax 435 834-4703
Lost & Found: 435 834-4736

Mailing Address
Park Headquarters
P.O. Box 640201
Bryce, Utah 84764-0201

Web
Website: www.nps.gov/bryca
Twitter: brycecanyonNPS
Facebook: facebook.com/BryceCanyonNPS

Travellers Information Stations: Tune radio to 1590 and 1610 AM for park and shuttle information

Commercial Tours: Ask for rates.

Interagency Annual Pass: $80, valid for one year from date of purchase in all federal fee areas.

Interagency Senior Pass: $10 lifetime pass for U.S. residents 62 or older.


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How to Make the Most of Your Time

Less Than 4 Hours

Visitor Center
Stop at the Visitor Center for information, museum exhibits, and a 22-minute award-winning orientation film, shown daily 8:00 a.m. to closing, on the hour and half hour.

Auto Tour of the Overlooks
Ride the shuttle or drive your own vehicle to Bryce, Inspiration, Sunset and Sunrise points first. If you have more time, visit overlooks in the southern portion of the park.

Short Walk
Hike a short segment of the Rim Trail or select one of the hikes from the “Easy to Moderate” group in the hiking table on page 7.

More Than 4 Hours

Visitor Center, Auto Tour, Short Walk and:

Day Hike
Bryce is best experienced from its trails. Select one of the combination loops from the “Moderate” or “Strenuous” groups in the hiking table on page 7.

Ranger Program
Attend a free Ranger Program to learn more about the natural and cultural history of this region. Check at the Visitor Center for the current program schedule.

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

Auto Tour

Where is the best overlook?
There are 14 viewpoints along Bryce Canyon’s 18-mile scenic drive (one-way distance) and everybody determines his or her favorite for a multitude of reasons. Furthermore, for every 15 minutes you extend your visit, you can see another overlook. If you stop at all the viewpoints, it could take as little as 3-4 hours.

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.

Since all the viewpoints are on the left side of the road as you drive south towards Rainbow Point, we recommend stopping at the viewpoints as you 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 fee permit on a first-come, first-served basis. Permits may be purchased at the visitor center from 9:00 a.m. until one hour before the visitor center closes.

There are two group sites available with a limit of 15 people per site. 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. We strongly encourage the use of bear-proof canisters for storing food. Canisters are for loan free of charge at the Visitor Center.

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. The park does not provide shuttle service to the southern end of the park. Note that these trails and campsites are in forests and not among the hoodoos.

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.

Ranger-led Activities

Geology Talk
Hoodoos, ancient lakes and something called frost wedging? Geologists have spent years studying the unique story of Bryce Canyon. Spend a half hour with a ranger as we discuss the current scientific explanation behind Bryce Canyon’s unique geologic history.
Sunset Point at 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Duration: 30 minutes

Rim Walk
Great views, fascinating plant and wildlife stories, a touch of geology, a smattering of cultural history – what more could you want? Join a park ranger for an overview of Bryce Canyon as you stroll along the rim of the Bryce Amphitheater.
Sunset Point at 5:00 p.m.
Length: 1 mile, Duration: 1.5 hours

Evening Program
Bryce Canyon’s diversity comes to life during ranger programs at the Bryce Canyon Lodge or Visitor Center auditoriums. In addition, programs are occasionally offered at the North Campground Amphitheater. Auditoriums are wheelchair accessible, the North Campground facility is not.
Duration: 1 hour

Canyon Hike
Join a park ranger for a hike down into the heart of the Bryce Amphitheater. Enjoy face to face encounters with hoodoos. Immerse yourself in a labyrinth of breathtaking views and engaging stories about all that surrounds you.
Length: 1.5 to 2 miles
Duration: 2 to 2.5 hours

Astronomy Programs
Join dark rangers, volunteers, and NASA Solar System Ambassador Patrick Wiggins, to learn about the heavens, and view Bryce Canyon’s night skies through telescopes (weather permitting). Offered most Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Ask at the Visitor Center or look on page 10 for program schedules.
Duration: 2 hours

Full Moon Hike
Group size is limited to 30 people; get your first-come first-served tickets at the Visitor Center the morning of the hike. Not for children 5 and under. Offered two nights each month during the full moon. HIKING BOOTS ARE REQUIRED. Check page 10 for schedule.
Length: 1.5 to 2 miles
Duration: 2 to 2.5 hours

Kids Programs
While most of Bryce Canyon’s ranger programs are family friendly, some may be too technical for younger children. However, these in particular are fun for kids and parents alike. Rangers present a wide range of programs appealing to a variety of interests. Most Kids Programs require reservations, inquire at the Visitor Center.
Duration: 1 hour

Become a Junior Ranger!
Attending a ranger program is the #1 requirement toward completion of your Junior Ranger workbook. Ask how you can become a Bryce Canyon Junior Ranger at the Visitor Center and, while you are there, check the schedule of upcoming ranger programs.

*ages 5 and up
Hoodoos: The Odyssey of an Oddity

The geologic history at Bryce Canyon National Park is rich and complex. Many processes and events have interacted over vast amounts of time to create and continually alter this unique landscape. The story begins long before multicolor hoodoos emerged from this limestone that geologists call the Claron Formation. First, you need to lithify sediments - turn them to rock. Before lithifying sediments, you need to trap them in a basin. To build a basin you need to first build mountains.

Approximately (~) 200 million years ago (Ma), Earth’s crust was shrinking throughout Nevada, into southern Canada. A strong, dense Pacific seafloor had smashed into North America’s weaker continental crust. Much was at stake as the loser would be forced down and melted in Earth’s mantle. Although North America remained on top, it was shattered in the contest. Over the 120 million year match, compression forces bent, folded, broke, and heaved our crust into the sky, giving birth to the once mighty Sevier Mountains. Given enough time, rain and snow become geologic jackhammers splitting mountains apart. From the mountains, streams and rivers carried debris eastward, pulverizing the boulders to mud in transit.

Slightly before the dinosaurs went extinct, (~ 65 Ma), the land in the Western U.S. changed dramatically. Down but not out, the oceanic plate pushed up our continental crust, stubbornly remained on top, it was shattered in the contest. Over the 120 million year match, compression forces bent, folded, broke, and heaved our crust into the sky, giving birth to the once mighty Sevier Mountains. Given enough time, rain and snow become geologic jackhammers splitting mountains apart. From the mountains, streams and rivers carried debris eastward, pulverizing the boulders to mud in transit.

Approximately 200 days a year, ice and snow melt during the day and refreeze at night. When water becomes ice, it not only gets harder but expands to ~110% its original volume! This exerts enormous pressures on the rocks, forcing them apart from inside the cracks. First attacking the fractures created during uplift and faulting, the rock is chiseled into broken remains. Monsou rains remove this debris, helping to reveal fins, the first step in hoodoo creation. Most commonly, the second step in hoodoo formation begins when frost-wedging cracks the fins, making holes we call windows. When windows collapse they create the rust painted pinnacles we call hoodoos. We often think of this process as hoodoo creation; when, in reality, it’s just another step in water’s endless process of destroying the rocks it began creating 55 Ma.

Although visitors to Bryce come to see the hoodoos in the Claron Formation, five other rock formations also exist in the park. They tell stories of dinosaurs, beaches, and of a sea that once separated North America into two large islands. Ask a ranger to learn more about these times in Earth’s history.

The Claron Formation consists of two types of limestone rock. It has a lower pink member and an upper white member. In the early years of the basin, the environment appears to have been more marsh-like, where plant roots helped oxidize iron to give the sediments a red color. Within the pink member, thin and non-continuous gray layers formed, suggesting that individual ponds within this marsh setting became so salty and/or mineralized that only cyanobacteria could survive. These algal-like creatures enriched limestone with magnesium they took from the water to create dolostone - important to hoodoo formation. With the passage of time and an increase in water depth, the basin transitioned into purer lakes where the less iron-rich white limestone was deposited.

Geologists are unsure as to this mud puddle’s fate as rocks that might have recorded this story do not exist. Did it evaporate away? Was it eventually drained as the basin was uplifted? What geologists are sure of is that over time these beds of sediment were compressed into rock and uplifted from 3000 ft to ~9000 ft in elevation. This uplift began ~15 Ma, forming the Colorado Plateau. About 8 Ma, the Bryce Canyon area broke off this uplift as the Paunsaugunt Plateau and has been sinking ever since into the Great Basin.

Technically, Bryce is not a canyon because canyons are primarily carved by flowing water – a stream or a river. Naturally acidic rainwater dissolves limestone, making the rounded edges of hoodoos, but the freezing and thawing of water does most of the sculpting at Bryce Canyon.

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A Threatened Resident - Utah Prairie Dogs

The Utah Prairie Dog has been federally listed under the Endangered Species Act since 1973 and is protected as a threatened species since 1973 and is the only National Park Service unit where they occur. Today, approximately 200 Utah Prairie Dogs are found within several meadow complexes within the Park. Every year these colonies are monitored and counted to track the health of the animals and their habitat. Although protected, the Utah Prairie Dog still faces challenges to its survival as human development, disease and drought continue to threaten remaining colonies. Please help us protect our Utah Prairie Dogs!

- Drive slowly around prairie dog towns – they live in the Park’s meadows and can be seen next to and sometimes crossing roads.
- Do not feed or approach prairie dogs; it is illegal and dangerous! All prairie dog species may carry and transmit diseases to humans. By feeding wildlife you decrease their ability to survive in the wild.

Bryce Canyon National Park is helping to recover and protect the Utah Prairie Dog. We’re lucky to have this special animal within the Park – please appreciate these amazing creatures from a distance!

UTAH PRAIRIE DOG DAY!
Friday June 24, 2011

What Other Animals Live Here?

For a small park, Bryce Canyon has several types of habitat which support a diversity of wildlife. While you may not see lots of any one species, you will see a variety of animals if you know when and where to look.

Habitat: Sagebrush, Meadow, Forest, Canyon, All habitats
Season: W=Fall/Winter, S=Spring/Summer, A=all seasons
Best time to look: d=day, t=twilight, b=both day and twilight
Difficulty in finding: e=easy, h=hard, u=unlikely

Mammals:
- Mule Deer
- Pronghorn
- Elk
- Prairie Dog
- Coyote
- Gray Fox
- Ringtail
- Black Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Jackrabbit
- Cottontail
- Squirrels
- Chipmunks

Birds:
- Turkey Vulture
- Golden Eagle
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Peregrine Falcon
- Wild Turkey
- Mournning Dove
- Great Horned Owl
- N. Saw-whet Owl
- C. Nighthawk
- C. Raven
- C. Nutcracker
- Steller’s Jay

Reptiles/Amphibians:
- G.R. Spokane Toad
- S. Spadefoot Toad
- S. Spadefoot Toad

Please report all sightings of predators (black bear, mountain lion, foxes, bobcat, coyote, etc.) to a Park Ranger or the Visitor Center. In addition, please report any wildlife hit on the road to a Park Ranger. Studying road-killed wildlife helps Park Resource Managers track animal diseases such as plague and rabies.

The Wild Side of Bryce Canyon

Pronghorn: Built for Speed

The Utah Prairie Dogs do not live in the West, however, they are members of the same family. Prairie dogs live in complex social colonies or “towns.” Their burrow systems are made up of several chambers and provide the animals with protection from predators, places to raise young, store food, and hibernate through the cold winter months. Utah Prairie Dogs are considered “key species” that perform a variety of important ecological functions including soil aeration which helps plants grow, providing prey for other animals, and maintaining healthy meadow ecosystems.

The Utah Prairie Dog’s range is the most restricted of the four prairie dog species in North America and is limited to the southwestern quarter of Utah. Once nearly eradicated through poisoning, disease, habitat loss and drought, Utah Prairie Dogs currently number less than 5,000 animals.
Touring the Park

Bryce Canyon Shuttle

FREE SHUTTLE! Bryce Amphitheater Route
The Bryce Canyon Shuttle is voluntary. Riding the shuttle reduces traffic, conserves fuel, saves time, money, and the planet! Shuttle buses are fully accessible. Pets are not allowed.

2011 Season: May 6 – October 9
Hours:
8 am – 7:40 pm Mountain Daylight Time (8 am – 5:40 pm Sep 29 - Oct 9)
Bus Interval:
10 – 15 min 10 am - 6 pm
20 mins 8 – 10 am & 6 – 8 pm
Last Bus ENTERS Park:
7:05 pm (5:05 pm after September 19)
Last Bus ARRIVES Bryce Point:
7:20 pm (5:20 pm after September 19)
Last Bus LEAVES Visitor Center:
7:50 pm (5:50 pm after September 19)

Rainbow Point Tour: In addition, two round-trip tours to Rainbow Point are offered most days, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. For further information, inquire at the Shuttle Boarding Area outside the park or at the Visitor Center.

Scenic Drive Highlights . . .

There are 14 overlooks along Bryce Canyon's 18-mile scenic drive (one-way distance). The Bryce Amphitheater Region features the park's most famous and photographed scenery. If you use your own car, you can expect to spend at least 3-4 hours touring the entire park.
Hiking the Park

Hiking Reminders...

- **CAUTION**: Rocks occasionally fall on most hiking trails. If you see or hear active rockfall, leave the area.
- Wear hiking boots with lug soles and ankle support.
- Carry plenty of water; drink a quart/filter for every 2 to 3 hours of hiking.
- Park elevations reach over 9115 feet (2778 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, don’t yell.
- Stay on maintained trails. Do not take short cuts.
- Do not feed the wildlife.
- Do not throw anything, anywhere, at any time.
- Be respectful of others; keep noise levels down—no yelling.
- Pack out all trash including tissue paper and cigarette butts.
- Pets are not permitted on any unpaved surface or trail.
- Uphill hikers have the right of way.
- 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.

Day-Hiking Trail Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL NAME / STARTING POINT</th>
<th>ROUND TRIP</th>
<th>HIGH POINT ASCENT</th>
<th>LOW POINT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Easy to Moderate Hikes</strong> (gentle grades &amp; minimal elevation change)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOSSY CAVE</td>
<td>North end of Bryce along Hwy 12 (not a loop)</td>
<td>0.8 mi</td>
<td>1.3 km</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNSET TO SUNRISE</td>
<td>Sunset Point (not a loop)</td>
<td>1.0 mi</td>
<td>1.6 km</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIM TRAIL</td>
<td>Anywhere along rim (not a loop)</td>
<td>1.0-11.0 mi</td>
<td>1.6-17.7 km</td>
<td>(you pick start and end points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRISTLECONE LOOP</td>
<td>Rainbow Point (not a loop)</td>
<td>1.0 mi</td>
<td>1.6 km</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate Hikes</strong> (steep grades with “down &amp; back” elevation change)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVAJO LOOP</td>
<td>Sunset Point</td>
<td>1.3 mi</td>
<td>2.2 km</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEENS/NAVADO COMBINATION LOOP</td>
<td>Sunset or Sunrise Pt. with best 3-mile hike!</td>
<td>2.9 mi</td>
<td>4.6 km</td>
<td>2-3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOWER BRIDGE</td>
<td>North of Sunrise Point (A portion of the Fairland Loop - not a loop)</td>
<td>1.0 mi</td>
<td>1.6 km</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAT SHOP</td>
<td>Bryce Point (not a loop)</td>
<td>4.0 mi</td>
<td>6.4 km</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strenuous Hikes</strong> (steep grades with MULTIPLE elevation changes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIRYLAND LOOP</td>
<td>Fairly Land or north of Sunrise Point</td>
<td>8.0 mi</td>
<td>12.9 km</td>
<td>4-5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEEKABOO LOOP</td>
<td>Bryce Point</td>
<td>5.5 mi</td>
<td>8.8 km</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVAJO/PEEKABOO COMBINATION LOOP</td>
<td>Sunset Point</td>
<td>4.9 mi</td>
<td>7.8 km</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE ‘FIGURE 8’ QUEENS/GARDEN/PEEKABOO/NAVADO COMBINATION</td>
<td>Sunset or Sunrise Point</td>
<td>6.4 mi</td>
<td>10.3 km</td>
<td>4-5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRYCE AMPHITHEATER TRAVERSE</td>
<td>Bryce Point (May to Oct during shuttle operations)</td>
<td>4.7 mi</td>
<td>7.5 km</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The Wall Street side of the Navajo Loop is subject to closure at any time due to rockfall. Be alert at all times for potential rockfall when hiking this and all other Bryce Canyon trails.
Fire: A Burning Issue

You may notice signs of forest fires here at Bryce Canyon. Some fires were started by lightning, others were intentionally set by park management using a practice called prescribed burning.

Fires were once a common natural occurrence throughout this area. Before the late 1800s, lightning frequently started fires which rejuvenated plant growth, recycled soil nutrients, cleared undergrowth, and increased wildlife habitat diversity. Grazing, fire suppression, and other land management practices have altered this natural cycle and created an unhealthy forest with dangerous accumulations of dead trees and underbrush in some areas of the park.

A primary mission of the National Park Service is the preservation of dynamic natural processes. At Bryce Canyon, the wise use of fire is an important tool in the effort to restore a healthy balance to our forest ecosystems. Here, fire managers use prescribed fires, which are intentionally ignited during periods of manageable fire behavior to rejuvenate forests and meadows. In addition, natural fires ignited by lightning are allowed to burn within confined zones and, frequently, costing less money to manage.

During the summer of 2009, Bryce Canyon Fire Management, working with the Dixie National Forest, managed a wildland fire that burned for three months. The Bridge Fire started June 14, 2009 from a lightning strike on national forest lands. The fire burned for one month before it swept into the park atop Whiteman Bench. Evidence of this fire may be seen between mile markers 8 and 10 on the park road. You may also see it below Swamp Canyon and Farview Point. The Bridge Fire burned a total of 1,926 hectares, of which 779 were within the park’s boundary, making it the largest wildland fire in the park’s history. It was allowed to burn in order to open the forest canopy and forest floor to promote the regeneration of ponderosa pine, quaking aspen and other native species.

As you notice the blackened trees also look for deer, elk, prairie dogs, and countless species of birds that thrive here because of our management of fire. Park scientists measure how plants and animals respond to fire in order to continuously refine fire management practices for the benefit of forest and grassland plant communities as well as the animals they support.

Is This Weather Normal?

Bryce Canyon’s high altitude and semi-arid climate cause extreme and sudden changes in the weather. It’s not uncommon for the temperature to fluctuate 40°F in a single day. Thunderstorms occur 7 months of the year! Here, weather averages can be misleading. Locals will tell you day . Thunderstorms occur 7 months of the year! Here, weather averages can be misleading. Locals will tell you.

WEATHER is what is happening now, what is likely to happen tomorrow, and/or what was recorded on a given day.

CLIMATE is a summary of the range of what is the most probable weather occurrences an area usually experiences. It is not based merely on averages as much as it is on what amount of variability is normal. So don’t check the climate table to see if today’s weather is average. Check to see if it’s within normal range for this month of the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>F</th>
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<td>% Possible Sunshine</td>
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Bryce Canyon is already experiencing the effects of Global Climate Change. Some observations—such as 65 years of weather data—suggest subtle changes, while other discoveries—though more anecdotal—are more attention-getting.

In recent decades, rattlesnakes have been found summering at the highest elevations in the park. Being reptiles, rattlesnakes usually freeze to death when they try to overnight above 8000 feet. (Graph #1 shows warming low temps.)

Worst of all, perhaps even our hoodoos are vulnerable to Global Climate Change. Frost-wedging keeps these limestone spires tall and vertical, while chemical weathering of acidic rainwater smooths and rounds them off. All three graphs (but especially #3) show that frost-wedging winters are going to give way to more flush-toilets and drinking water were removed from Rainbow Point due to diminished flows of Yovimpa Pass Spring. Yet, graph #2 shows that while snowfall is declining, overall precipitation is slightly increasing. This means that snowfall is being replaced by rain. When this increase in rain comes as thunderstorms, this can increase lightning danger and may result in more flash-flooding. Sections of Bryce Canyon’s Under-the-Rim Trail and two backcountry campsites were obliterated by severe flash-floods in 2010.

Until recent awareness efforts, lightning caused more fatalities than even falling deaths. Yet, graph #2 shows that while snowfall is declining, overall precipitation is slightly increasing. This means that snowfall is being replaced by rain. When this increase in rain comes as thunderstorms, this can increase lightning danger and may result in more flash-flooding. Sections of Bryce Canyon’s Under-the-Rim Trail and two backcountry campsites were obliterated by severe flash-floods in 2010.

Yet all hope is not lost. Though climate change is a daunting and malignant problem, it has been likened to smoking. Quit the bad habit, and health improves because further harm is halted. Mother Nature—who already cleans up more of our mess than we do (see diagram below)—is like the human body: capable of healing herself if only given a decent chance. Reducing, reusing and recycling is good place to start. Making our homes and cars more energy efficient is the most cost-effective improvement. But our best chance to avoid the worst ravages of Global Climate Change is to switch from fossil fuels, such as coal-generated electricity, to green energy sources as soon as possible. That, above everything else, will determine just how much hotter, drier, and stormier, places like Bryce Canyon will become.

In the summer of 2002, for the first time since its 1892 completion, the Tropic Ditch that carries irrigation water from Tropic Reservoir, through Bryce, to the town of Tropic, ran dry! In response, all but the section flowing along the Mossy Cave Trail was ‘piped’ in 2010 to protect the dwindling water supply. Tropic Reservoir gets most of its water from snow-melt. (Note snowfall decline in graph #2.)

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Do You Want to See Reality or Something Better?

Graphs are commonly used to explain Global Climate Change science. Unfortunately, reading graphs can be difficult. Sometimes concepts are too complicated, or the change is too subtle. Still other times, human nature makes it hard for us because we won’t believe what we don’t want to believe!

Nobody likes bad news and because so much of climate change is bad news, many prefer to ignore, be skeptical, or just plain deny valid data.

Consider the two graphs below. One shows 128 years of average global temperature increase, while the other shows 128 weeks of stock performance for Apple®. Though both graphs are very similar, many people will see one graph as obvious proof of a profitable company with whom to make long term investments, while the other graph is merely questionable science that doesn’t require any immediate action. Why?

Global Carbon Flux Annual Cycle (all units in Billions of Metric Tons of Carbon)

Mother Nature produces the most atmospheric Carbon? True or False

Humanity is still the main cause of the Climate Crisis? True or False

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Some people are afraid of the dark. Yet, Bryce Canyon’s night-sky advocates, “The Dark Rangers,” are scared of the light! Perhaps you’d be fearful too, if it was your job to protect that last grand sanctuary of natural darkness.

All amphibians, most mammals, and many bird species are nocturnal. Any human-made light brighter than our Moon upsets the predator/prey balance, confuses navigation, disrupts reproduction, and displaces animals from their natural habitats.

Excess light, known as light pollution, is the malignant enemy of darkness. Most of Bryce Canyon’s light pollution comes from outside its boundaries so our education is our best tool. The biggest misconception is that more light means more safety. In reality many crime-rate misconceptions are that more light means more safety.

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Safe lighting isn’t about the amount of lumens, its about strategic design, out-smarting the criminal. Because vision is hindered by extreme contrasts between light and dark (A), criminals lurk in the hard shadows created by the glare of unshielded lights. Smart lighting (B) removes glare and leaves the “bad guys” with no place to hide. This kind of lighting is not only night-sky-friendly, it also requires less “base load” electricity, which actually comes from coal-fired power stations, the most polluting sources of electricity.

Be far from civilization, Bryce is a phenomenal place for stargazing. With a limiting magnitude rating of 7.4, our sky is up to six times darker than most astronomical research locations. Indeed our 11” diameter telescopes function just as well as 24” telescopes at more famous astronomy locales like Kitt Peak, Arizona and Mt. Palomar, California. Through our scopes you will not only see the rings of Saturn, but also seven of its moons! We can show you dozens of nearby galaxies including the ongoing collision of the famous Whirlpool Galaxies. On a moonless night at Bryce, you’ll notice that light from Venus causes you to cast a shadow; and even without a telescope you can see 7500 stars. But, if we were to add just one un-shielded streetlight, that number would plunge to 2500 stars!

Before being veiled by the light pollution of the modern world, these wonders were once visible everywhere. Now over much of the planet they are hard to detect. Here at Bryce Canyon, we can still see the Milky Way (our galaxy’s other great spiral arm) – stretching like a silvery rainbow from horizon to horizon.

Yet, less than half of the residents of the northern hemisphere can see any of the Milky Way!

It is easy to feel insignificant underneath such vastness, yet ironically, it is within the individual’s power to help preserve such a view. Close your blinds at night and replace porch lights with motion-sensor security lights. Become involved in local efforts to establish night-sky friendly lighting 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 overcoming the fear of darkness and unifying behind the responsible management of artificial light.

Our most popular activity is the FULL MOON HIKE – no artificial light allowed! Group size is limited to 30 people (ages 6 and up) per Dark Ranger. To obtain a FREE ticket you must sign-up at the visitor center the morning of the hike. NO advance reservations possible! Only people who can prove they have “lug” traction shoes/boots will be issued tickets. Come join us for one of these ultimate nocturnal adventures.
As a Natural History Association member, you can help us:

- Publish nearly a half million pieces of free literature for park visitors each year.
- 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.
- Publish sales items like 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 university scholarships to deserving students.

Purchase a $35 Membership to receive these benefits:

- 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, and other products sold in our stores, and online at www.brycecanyon.org.
- Discounts to hundreds of other stores operated by more than 60 other nonprofit cooperating associations in national parks and other public lands in the United States (must show membership card to receive discount).
- Discount on most High Plateaus Institute courses. These courses offer in-depth outdoor education to visitors. Call 888-362-2642 or check our website for listings.

Thank You to Our Donors & Partners

Bryce Canyon National Park is grateful to its generous donors and partners who improve park programs and services.

The Bryce Canyon Natural History Association provides the park with booklets and badges for the Junior Ranger program, printing costs for this Hoodoo newspaper and other publications, The Association also funds a full time Education/Outreach Specialist for the park.

The donation box in the lobby of the visitor center has funded interpretive equipment that directly benefits the visiting public. A “state of the art” projector for the visitor center auditorium was purchased in 2007.

Each year since 2008, two Geoscientist-in-Parks interns have been funded by the Geologic Society of America. These interns, involved with research, presented public geology programs throughout the summer, and provided training for park staff on the geology of the Colorado Plateau. Our Natural History Association also helped to fund these two positions.

The Lodge at Bryce Canyon and Ruby’s Inn Resort have implemented a Dollar Check-Off Program. Hotel guests have the option of donating a dollar per night of their visit. These programs have funded seasonal employees for interpretation and the trail crew.

A hearty “thanks” to our generous donors and park partners. We couldn’t do it without you!

Let’s Move Outside!

In February 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama launched the Let’s Move! Initiative, dedicated to solving the problem of childhood obesity so that kids born today will grow up healthier and better able to pursue their dreams. Let’s Move! encourages kids and their families to eat healthier and exercise more. When children combine physical activity with healthy eating in their daily routine, they build lean muscle, reduce fat, promote strong bones and joint development, reduce stress, and decrease the risk of obesity-related diseases.

Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled. Today, almost 33% of our nation’s children are overweight or obese. Consider that, in a typical day, American adolescents spend an average of 7.5 hours engaged in TV, computers, cell phones, and movies. Yet all parents need to do is entice their kids away from electronic media for a single hour each day with fun family outside play.

As part of the Let’s Move! Initiative, the Department of Interior has created Let’s Move Outside!—now underway in national parks across the nation. Regular exercise in nature has shown to improve children’s physical and mental health. Let’s Move Outside! encourages kids and their families to take advantage of America’s great outdoors by engaging in outdoor activity that gets hearts pumping and bodies moving.

Whether you prefer a 3-mile/2 hour hike through the hoodoos, or a 1-hour leisurely stroll on a ranger-led bird watch, Bryce Canyon is great place to make fun fitness a family tradition. Although few families can exercise regularly in a national park, most can enjoy similar outdoor adventures in their home community.

For more information, visit: http://www.letsmove.gov

“National Parks are amazing places where exercise is disguised as adventure, and we sneak in some learning, too!”

~National Park Service Director, Jon Jarvis
How do I drive to...?

Driving Distances

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<th>Miles Hours</th>
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Capitol Reef National Park
121 miles northeast via Utah 12 & 24

The Waterpocket Fold, a giant wrinkle in Earth’s crust, features a jumble of colorful cliffs, massive domes, soaring spires, twisting canyons, and graceful arches. Ancient rock art and historic orchards tell of the park’s cultural history. Orchards are open June - October for “self-serve picking” of cherries, pears, apricots, peaches, and apples. Visitor Center: 435-425-3791
www.nps.gov/cebr

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

At 10,350 feet (3155 m), Cedar Breaks is the highest Park Service unit and features a spectacular amphitheater of walls, fins, spires, and columns eroded out of colorful Claron limestone. Forests of pine, spruce, fir, and aspen are separated by alpine meadows ablaze with brilliant summer wildflowers. Temperatures are usually cool. Headquarters: 435-586-9451
www.nps.gov/cebr

Grand Staircase-Escalante National 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. Utah 12 and US 89 skirt the 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. Escalante Visitor Center: 435-826-5999
Cannonville Visitor Center: 435-679-8981
Kanab Headquarters: 435-644-4600
www.ut.blm.gov/monument

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

National Scenic Byway 12 stretches 124 miles from Red Canyon to Capitol Reef National Park and provides breathtaking views across the Grand Staircase and the Escalante Canyons. The Federal Highway Administration designated this route an “All-American Road,” making it a “destination unto itself.” Ask for a Byway 12 Route Guide at any visitor center along the way.

12 The Hoodoo