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.

Tour of the Overlooks
Between 8 am & 7 pm, ride the shuttle to Bryce, Inspiration, Sunset and Sunrise Points first. If you have more time, use your car to 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, Shuttle/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.

Horseback 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. 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 beautiful, though smaller, amphitheaters and/or long-distance, panoramic views across the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. From many of the park’s viewpoints you can see over 100 miles (160 km) on a clear day!

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 easier and safer right turn.

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Information and Services

Emergencies 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
PO Box 640201
Bryce, Utah 84764-0201

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

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

Lodging
The Lodge at Bryce Canyon: Open March 29 - November 9, 2013. Cabins, motel rooms and suites, a restaurant, and gift shop. For lodging reservations, write to: The Lodge at Bryce Canyon, P.O. Box 640041, Bryce Utah 84764, call 877-386-4383; or visit brycecanyon forever.com.
Other Lodging: Available near the park entrance in Bryce Canyon City and in Tropic, Cannonville, Bryce Junction, and Panguitch.

Food Services
The Lodge at Bryce Canyon: Open March 29 - November 9, 2013. Dining room serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Valhalla Pizzeria is open mid-May to mid-October. The General Store, open late March to November 9, has groceries, quick meals, and camper supplies. Other Food Services: Restaurants are available near the park entrance in Tropic, Bryce Junction, and Panguitch.

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 park visitors will not be accepted at Bryce Canyon National Park.

Wireless Internet (WiFi)
Free wireless Internet access is available year-round at the Visitor Center or seasonally for lodge guests at the Bryce Canyon Lodge lobby (password required).

Showers & Laundry
Coin-operated shower and laundry facilities are available at the General Store, open late March - early Nov., and outside the park at some nearby establishments.

Bicycles
Bicycles are restricted to paved roadways in the park. The nearby Dixie National Forest has a paved 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.

Recycling
Recycling bins are located at the entrance to Sunset & North Campgrounds, Sunset Point, Visitor Center, 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.

2 The Hoodoo
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 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. Daily in the late afternoon June – September, check at the Visitor Center for start times. Length: 1 mile, Duration: 1.5 hours

Evening Program
Bryce Canyon’s diversity comes to life during ranger programs at the Bryce Canyon Lodge, Visitor Center auditoriums, or North Campground Amphitheater (weather permitting). Auditoriums are wheelchair accessible, access to the North Campground facility may require additional assistance. Duration: 1 hour

Canyon Hike (June – August)
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. Offered occasionally – inquire at Visitor Center. Length: 1.5 to 2 miles Duration: 2 to 2.5 hours

Hike the Hoodoos!
Hiking is great exercise and Bryce Canyon’s “I Hiked the Hoodoos!” program is not just hiking, it’s also a scavenger hunt intended to encourage children to enjoy the great outdoors. Searching for special benchmarks gives them the incentive to earn a reward for their efforts. Follow the instructions below so they can earn the reward while hiking some of the park’s most beautiful trails. One possible route is the famous Queens/Navajo Combination Loop – a 3-mile hike that includes two benchmarks along the way (you must find both!). Detailed hiking information can be found on page 7.

I Hiked the Hoodoos” Program Rules
1. In order to qualify for the reward you must hike a minimum of 3 miles (4.8 km) AND complete the requirements in #2 below.
2. Each individual seeking the reward must have: 1.) Either a pencil rubbing of the benchmark or, 2.) a photograph of themself standing next to the benchmark.
3. Only special “I Hiked the Hoodoos” benchmarks qualify for the reward. USGS benchmarks found at various locations within the park do not qualify. Please, only one (1) reward per person.

Nine special benchmarks like the one pictured at right may be found in the park along trails in the table. Look for signs similar to the photo at left.

Benchmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mossy Cave</td>
<td>0.8 miles 1.3 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rim Trail</td>
<td>2.5 miles 4.0 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower Bridge</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens Garden</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navajo Loop</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peekaboo (from Sunset Point)</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall of Windows (from Bryce Point)</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep Creek</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristlecone</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trail difficulty: Easy, Moderate, Strenuous

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 permits are on a first-come, first-served basis; fees range from $5 – $15 depending upon group size. Permits may be purchased at the Visitor Center from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. daily.

There are two group sites available with a limit of 15 people per site. Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry – use a camp stove 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, and at times may require, the use of bear-proof canisters for storing food. Canisters are available 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 to speak with a ranger and obtain a permit 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.

Astronomy Programs
Join Dark Rangers, Volunteers, and NASA Solar System Ambassador Patrick Wiggins, to learn about the heavens, and view Bryce’s night skies through telescopes (weather permitting). Offered most Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Ask at the Visitor Center or look on page 10 for additional information. 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 under age 6. 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 (June – August)
While most of Bryce Canyon’s ranger programs are family friendly, some may be too technical for younger children. However, these are fun for kids and parents alike. Rangers present a wide range of programs appealing to a variety of interests. Most Kids Programs, offered occasionally, 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.

Black Bears are present in Bryce Canyon National Park. Use of bear-resistant food canisters on overnight backcountry hikes is strongly encouraged (and, at times, may be required). Canisters are available for loan, free of charge, at the Visitor Center.

The Hoodoo 3
The Hoodoo

Established
1923 as Bryce Canyon National Monument administered by the U.S. Forest Service; Congress passed legislation in 1924 to create the national park and, in 1928, Bryce Canyon National Park was officially established.

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

Hoodoo
[ho‘oodoo] 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) at 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
Archaeological studies indicate Ancestral Pueblos probably lived in the area from 2,000 years ago, followed by the Fremont Culture through the 1200s. Then the Southern Paiutes inhabited the area until about 100 years ago. Mormon settlers arrived in the 1870s. Park visitation in 1929 was 22,000; last year it was 1.3 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; fir and aspen thrive at the highest elevations. Bristlecone pines, some more than 1,600 years old, live at various elevations throughout the park.

Animal Life
Utah Prairie Dogs, a federally threatened species, can be seen in open meadows. Mule Deer and Pronghorn (mistakenly known as Antelope) are the most common large mammals seen. Mountain Lions and Black Bears live in the park, but are rarely seen. Over 200 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 lodges in the Union Pacific Loop Tour (Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, Zion, and Grand Canyon-North Rim), the Bryce Canyon Lodge is the only original of these structures still standing.

Bryce Canyon
Geology Festival
July 26 – 27, 2013
featuring
Special Guest Speakers
Geology Talks
Kid’s Programs & more

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 multicolored 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 wrinkling throughout Nevada, into southern Canada. A strong, dense Pacific sea floor 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, compressional 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 surfing atop the mantle instead of sinking and melting. This attempt at escaping uplifted land, forming the Rocky Mountains and warping Utah and Arizona. The continued slow uplift shaped a land-locked basin between the Sevier Mountains and the younger Rockies. When the rivers wearing down the Sevier Mountains reached this basin they became braided streams and deposited layers of muds and silts. At the lowest levels, chains of lakes and ponds formed. Water escaped through evaporation, but with no rivers flowing out of the basin, the sediment was trapped. Between 55 - 30 Ma this mammoth mud puddle, known as the Claron Basin, continued to fill with sediments rich in calcium carbonate – dissolved limestone. 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.

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. Monsoon 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 million years ago.

Look closely at the rock formations and it becomes easier to see the progression from fins (A), which develop windows (B), that later collapse to form hoodoos (C).

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.

Utah region 50 million years ago. Sediments eroded from mountains in northwestern Utah were deposited in a lake, lithified (turned to stone), and later uplifted to be re-eroded into hoodoos.
A Threatened Resident - Utah Prairie Dogs

A year-round inhabitant of Bryce Canyon’s high plateau meadows is the Utah Prairie Dog, Cynomys parvidens. Although called a "prairie" dog, this species is actually a member of the rodent 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 "keystone 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 five 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. The Utah Prairie Dog has been federally listed under the Endangered Species Act since 1973 and is protected as a threatened species. Bryce Canyon National Park reintroduced the Utah Prairie Dog from 1974 through 1988 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!

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: A=day, B=twilight, B=both day and twilight

Difficult in finding: A=easy, H=hard, U=unlikely

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mammals:</th>
<th>Birds:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mule Deer</td>
<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronghorn</td>
<td>Golden Eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elk</td>
<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Dog</td>
<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyote</td>
<td>Wild Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Fox</td>
<td>Dusky Grouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringtail</td>
<td>Mourning Dove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Bear</td>
<td>Great Horned Owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mtn. Lion</td>
<td>N. Saw-whet Owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackrabbit</td>
<td>C. Nighthawk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottontail</td>
<td>C. Raven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squirrels</td>
<td>Clark’s Nutcracker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chipmunks</td>
<td>Steiler’s Jay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEVER approach or attempt to feed any wild animal!

Travels in Time: Bryce Canyon Lodge

As the number of America's national parks grew in the early 20th century, so did their popularity. Travel to and from the parks was difficult, and obtaining food and lodging was equally challenging in the remote areas in which they were located. Beginning at Yellowstone National Park, and soon spreading to other parks across the west, the railroads began bringing passengers to the parks while also building lodges so they would have a place to stay. In southern Utah, that railroad was the Union Pacific and, in 1924, their subsidiary, Utah Parks Company, began construction of the Bryce Canyon Lodge. They would build three additional lodges in the region at Zion, Grand Canyon North Rim, and Cedar Breaks, offering a travel package sometimes referred to as The Grand Circle Tour (or Loop Tour).

Designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood, who also was the architect for the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park, the Bryce Canyon Lodge and Cabins are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to their national significance, together they have also been designated a National Historic Landmark. The lodge and cabins were constructed using local timber and stone, with most of the workforce coming from the area. The lodge received its first guests in 1925 and, over the next four years, the main lodge building would be expanded and additional cabins built. Underwood tried to design his buildings to blend in with their environment, and one unique aspect of the lodge buildings at Bryce Canyon is their roofs. The irregular pattern in the shingles give the roof a wavy, or undulating, appearance. The purpose for this was to mimic the effect of pine boughs (large branches) moving in the wind.

Travellers would arrive in Cedar City by train, then ride in touring autos (and, within a short time, 14 passenger touring buses) that took them to the parks. The first stop on the tour would be Zion, followed by a brief visit to Kaibab National Forest, from there to Grand Canyon North Rim, Bryce Canyon, and Cedar Breaks before returning to Cedar City.

Of the four lodges designed by Underwood for Utah Parks Co., the Bryce Canyon Lodge is the only original structure that remains. Open from late March to early November, the lodge is a beautiful structure that is well worth stopping to see. The dining room serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily during the Lodge's season. The auditorium, completed in 1927, is home to evening ranger programs during the summer season (inquire at the Visitor Center or Lodge for schedules).

Help Stop Animal Cruelty

Feeding wild animals is a sad 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 likely to get run over by cars.

Furthermore, wild animals have very strict natural diets with 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 teach offspring to beg for food. The 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 notoriously transmit 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.

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.

No donne pas à manger aux animaux!

¡No dé comida a los animales!

Bitte nicht die Tiere füttern!

Please do not feed the 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 helps protect the planet! Shuttle buses are fully accessible. Pets are not allowed.

2013 Season: May 10 – October 13

**Hours:**
- 8 am – 6:50 pm May 10 – 23
- 8 am – 7:50 pm May 24 – September 14
- 8 am – 6:50 pm September 15 – October 5
- 8 am – 5:50 pm October – October 13

**Bus Interval:**
- 8 – 10 am: 20 mins
- 10 am - 5 pm: 10-15 min
- 6 pm – close: 20 mins (except May 10–23: 4 pm-close and Sep 15 - Oct 13: 5 pm-close)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAST BUS</th>
<th>Enters Park</th>
<th>Leaves Bryce Pt</th>
<th>Leaves Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 10 – 23</td>
<td>6:05 pm</td>
<td>6:20 pm</td>
<td>6:50 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24 – Sep 14</td>
<td>7:05 pm</td>
<td>7:20 pm</td>
<td>7:50 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 15 – Oct 5</td>
<td>6:05 pm</td>
<td>6:20 pm</td>
<td>6:50 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 6 – Oct 13</td>
<td>5:05 pm</td>
<td>5:20 pm</td>
<td>5:50 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(all times are approximate)

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. For tour reservations call 435-834-5290.

**Scenic Drive Highlights . . .**

Natural Bridge, Agua Canyon, Yovimpa Point, Rainbow Point (clockwise from top left).

6 The Hoodoo
Hiking the Park

Bryce Amphitheater Region

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/liter for every 2 to 3 hours of hiking.
- Wear hiking boots with lug soles and ankle support.
- Pets are not permitted on any unpaved surface or trail, including all trails below the rim.
- 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

Where’s a Good Hike? Bryce Canyon has 8 different day-hiking trails. Because many of these trails are interconnected, our most popular hikes are combinations of two or more of these basic trails. If you can only do one hike, the Queen’s/Navajo Combination Loop might be the best choice. Take this page with you while hiking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name / Starting Point</th>
<th>Round Trip</th>
<th>Elevation Change</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>
</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNSET TO SUNRISE</td>
<td>Sunset Point (not a loop)</td>
<td>1.0 mi</td>
<td>1.6 km</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRISTLECONE LOOP*</td>
<td>Rainbow Point</td>
<td>1.0 mi</td>
<td>1.6 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEENS GARDEN*</td>
<td>Sunrise Point (not a loop)</td>
<td>1.9 mi</td>
<td>2.5 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate Hikes</strong> (steep grades with “down &amp; back” elevation change)</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEENS/NAVAJO COMBINATION LOOP*</td>
<td>Sunrise or Sunset Point</td>
<td>2.9 mi</td>
<td>4.6 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOWER BRIDGE*</td>
<td>North of Sunrise Point (A portion of the Fairland Loop - not a loop)</td>
<td>3.0 mi</td>
<td>4.8 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAT SHOP</td>
<td>Bryce Point (not a loop)</td>
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<td>6.4 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHEEP CREEK/SWAMP CANYON LOOP*</td>
<td>Swamp Canyon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strenuous Hikes</strong> (steep grades with MULTIPLE elevation changes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAIRYLAND LOOP*</td>
<td>Fairland Point or North of Sunrise Point</td>
<td>8.0 mi</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEAKABOO LOOP*</td>
<td>Bryce Point</td>
<td>5.5 mi</td>
<td>8.8 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAVAJO/PEEKABOO COMBINATION LOOP*</td>
<td>Sunset Point</td>
<td>4.9 mi</td>
<td>7.8 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE FIGURE 8* (QUEENS GARDEN/PEEKABOO/NAVAJO COMBINATION)</td>
<td>Sunrise or Sunset Point</td>
<td>6.4 mi</td>
<td>10.2 km</td>
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<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Trails marked with an asterisk are part of the “Hike the Hoodoos!” adventures described on page 3.

The Hoodoo 7
### Lightning Safety

A bolt of lightning contains about a billion volts and can reach 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit! This photo was taken from Sunset Point.

**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 18 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 has the 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.

**How is the weather?**

The national weather service uses a prescription that considers public safety, favorable weather conditions, and probability of meeting management objectives. In addition, lightning ignited fires are allowed to burn within areas that have previously been determined to meet ecological and cultural objectives safely.

The park contains a large number of historic structures built in the 1920s and 1930s, including the Bryce Canyon Lodge and Cabins. The forests in this area have become overgrown, with as many as 200 trees per acre in some places. Typically, healthy Ponderosa Pine forests in this region should contain only about 40 trees per acre, with regular localized fires clearing dead wood and underbrush naturally. Instead of burning this area and putting historic structures at risk, the park has chosen to thin the trees and will ignite the “burn piles” during the winter months. Burning with snow on the ground reduces the potential for the fire to spread and safely consume the thinned wood.

Once the snow melts in the spring, visitors to Bryce Canyon may see blackened circles on the ground where the burn piles were used. The healthier forest that results from these fire management practices will protect the buildings from high severity fire, increase visitor safety, and improve habitat for wildlife species that make Bryce Canyon National Park their home.

**Fire: A Burning Issue**

Trees that were cut down in the park stacked in “burn piles.”

You may notice signs of forest fires here at Bryce Canyon. While some of the fires were started by lightning, others were intentionally set by park management using a practice called prescribed burning. You may have also wondered about the piles of wood seen between North Campground and Sunset Point.

Fires were once a common natural occurrence throughout this area. Before the late 1800s, lightning frequently started low intensity fires that occurred every 3 to 7 years prior to Euro-American settlement of the region. These fires 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. This has led to 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 conservation 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 ignite fires under a prescription that considers public safety, favorable weather conditions, and probability of meeting management objectives.

Is This Weather Normal?

![Temperature Chart](chart.png)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
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<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Extreme High</td>
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**PRECIPITATION**

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<td>Maximum 24 hr. Precipitation</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Maximum Snowfall</td>
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<td>46</td>
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<td>Days with Measurable Precipitation</td>
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**SUNSHINE / CLOUDINESS**

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<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Possible Sunshine</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>76</td>
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<td>60</td>
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</table>
Throughout geologic history, increases of carbon in Earth's atmosphere have caused warming and, as the Earth warms, even more carbon is released into the atmosphere. Not since the Yucatan asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs has this self-perpetuating relationship, now fueled by increasing human-produced carbon dioxide, created such rapid change as measured in the last several decades. From graph #1 you will notice that while our maximum temperatures are decreasing slightly, our low temperatures are soaring. In just 65 years, Bryce Canyon's average annual low temperature has increased by 5°F! This is one of the most rapid increases ever recorded.

In 2001, one of the hottest summers on record, Tropic Ditch which carries irrigation water from Tropic Reservoir, through Bryce, to the town of Tropic, ran dry – the first time since its 1892 completion! To protect this historic water supply all but the section flowing along the Mossy Cave Trail was “piped” in 2010 – an expensive undertaking indeed! Tropic Reservoir gets most of its water from snow-melt. (Note snowfall decline in graph #2.) Our snow-pack is also crucial to our natural springs. In 1998, flush-toilets and drinking water were removed from Rainbow Point due to steadily diminishing flows from the Yovimpa Spring.

At Bryce Canyon, lightning causes more fatalities than even falling deaths. Graph #2 shows that while snowfall is declining, total precipitation remains unchanged. This means that snow is being replaced by rain. Here, increased rain means increased thunderstorms and lightning danger, as well as more flash-flooding. Sections of Bryce Canyon’s Under-the-Rim-Trail and two backcountry campsites were obliterated by severe flash-floods in 2010.

Perhaps even our hoodoos are vulnerable to global climate change. Frost-wedging keeps these limestone spires tall and vertical, while chemical weathering from acids in rainwater smooths and rounds them off. All three graphs (but especially #3) show that frost-wedging winters are giving way to more rainy summers. In the future our hoodoos may become lowly lumps, instead of the statuesque towers the world comes to see.

Yet all hope is not lost. Though climate change is a daunting and malignant problem, it has been likened to smoking. It’s never too late to quit the bad habit. Your health will improve once further harm is halted. Planet Earth, like the human body, is very good at healing itself if given the chance. Mother Nature not only sequesters (cleans up) 100% of the carbon dioxide she produces naturally, she also cleans up 43% of humanity’s mess. However, that still leaves us 57% over budget!

There are many ways to reduce your carbon footprint. Some require planning, others merely require modifying your lifestyle a bit, and others may save you money. Decide what makes sense for your family. A great place to start is by reusing, reducing, and recycling. Is affordable green energy available at home? Can you use public transportation more often? Perhaps your electric company can complete a home energy audit for you. Remember that everybody benefits as each of us takes action. Because our planet, including your national parks, will directly benefit from greener living, we sincerely appreciate everybody’s effort to lower his or her carbon footprint.

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 find it easier to believe what we 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 (1880-2008) of average global temperature increase, while the other shows 128 weeks (Nov. 2008 - April 2011) 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?

Ask a Bryce Canyon ranger if you’re not sure which graph is which.
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.

Watching wildlife is often why people visit national parks. But did you know that so many of your favorite animals are nocturnal? All amphibians, most mammals, and many bird species are nocturnal. As shown above, any human light that exceeds the brightness of a full Moon, upsets the predator/prey balance, confuses navigation, disrupts reproduction, and displaces animals from otherwise healthy habitat. Because the light from cities can shine over 200 miles (300km), protecting park wildlife from artificial light can only be achieved if everybody switches.

Night-sky friendly lights are amber-yellow in color, instead of blue-white. Night-sky friendly lights are also shielded and ideally controlled by motion sensors so they only come on when they are needed. Poor lights not only contribute to global light pollution they are also less safe. Safety isn’t about the amount of light, it’s about designing lights that take away the “hard” shadows where criminals like to hide (see light comparison images below). Night-sky friendly lighting also requires less “base load” electricity, which usually comes from coal-fired power stations, the most polluting sources of electricity.

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Bryce Canyon National Park celebrates the night sky most Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays throughout the summer and into fall. Each night begins with a choice of two 1-hour multimedia shows, each with different night-sky related topics. Check at the Visitor Center and choose the show and location that most interests you.

After the indoor presentations, it’s out to the telescopes to enjoy the real sky! Remember to bring warm clothes. Even in August, temperatures may dip down as low as 40° F / 4° C.

Through the multimedia shows are never cancelled, stargazing is weather-dependent.

*No astronomy program will be offered Saturday July 27.

**Lug Traction**

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 Earth 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. For example, 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, 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 hike. To obtain a FREE ticket you must sign-up at the visitor center EARLY the morning of the hike.

NO advance reservations permitted! 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.

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The Dark Rangers’ Summer/Fall Night-Sky Program Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Poor lighting</td>
<td>8:30pm Start Time</td>
<td>May 7 - May 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Night-sky Friendly lighting</td>
<td>9:00pm Start Time</td>
<td>June 1 - August 10*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:30pm Start Time</td>
<td>Aug. 13 - September 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30pm Start Time</td>
<td>Sept. 17 - Oct 31</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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DR. STORY MUSGRAVE RETURNS!

Join us for our 13th Annual Astronomy Festival (June 5 - 8, 2013) where Bryce Canyon National Park and the Salt Lake Astronomical Society welcome back NASA astronaut Dr. Story Musgrave on Friday June 7 for his second appearance as our festival’s keynote speaker. Other special guests, along with Bryce Canyon’s Dark Rangers, will present a full slate of programs on the other nights during the festival. Each night’s programs are followed by stargazing with telescopes!
Established in 1961, Bryce Canyon Natural History Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting Bryce Canyon National Park and Dixie National Forest in furthering their scientific, educational, historical, and interpretive activities. This is accomplished, by making educational publications and materials available for sale and/or free distribution, and supporting existing interpretive activities, like the Junior Ranger Program.

Every purchase from a Bryce Canyon Natural History Association bookstore helps support our mission.

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 National Park’s Interpretation & Resources divisions.
- 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 Geo scientist-in-Park interns have been funded by the Geologic Society of America. These interns assist with research, present public geology programs throughout the summer, and provide training for park staff on the geology of the Colorado Plateau. Our Natural History Association helps 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 to the park each night of their visit. These programs have funded seasonal employees for interpretation, the trail crew, and projects such as the recent addition of restrooms at Inspiration Point.

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

The “White” Bus

It doesn’t really look white, does it? In the 1930’s the White Motor Company of Cleveland, Ohio produced 500 Model 706 18-passenger touring buses, such as the one pictured, specifically for passenger travel in the national parks. Each park or concessionaire employed its own distinctive color scheme: Glacier National Park was known for its “Red Jammers” and Yellowstone for its vivid yellow-colored buses, some of which have been refurbished and are still in service in these parks. The Utah Parks Company White buses were painted in more subtle colors, dark green and silver with black trim and fenders. No original buses of the Utah Parks Company’s fleet are known to exist. The 706’s dominated passenger travel along the route of the Grand Circle Tour from Cedar City through Zion National Park, North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon National Park and Cedar Breaks National Monument.

Early motorized travel in the 1920’s through the Grand Circle area was generally on dusty gravel roads, but by the 1930’s roads were much improved and many were paved. Thus, passengers in the 706 buses travelled in relative comfort, and could roll back the canvas top of the bus to enjoy the fresh air and vertical scenery of southern Utah. Even though travel by private automobile eventually became the favored means of transportation for park visitors, even in 1938 up to 40 percent of visitors to Bryce Canyon came here as guests of the Utah Parks Company aboard these buses.

In 1996, the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association generously provided the funds to purchase this model 706 White bus from Yellowstone National Park and to restore it for use here at Bryce Canyon. Repairs were made to make the bus drivable and it is still used by the park for special events. However, much as any aging machinery, the park’s White Bus is now in need of additional work. Restoration plans include retaining all of the original body, chassis and drive train, but the bus will be repainted to match the green, silver and black of the Utah Parks Company fleet. In time, visitors to Bryce Canyon will be able to at least see a fully-restored remnant of the Grand Circle fleet of 706’s and acquire a sense of travel in an earlier era in the comfort of a “White” bus.
How do I drive to...?

Driving Distances

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

Cedar Breaks National Monument
83 miles west via Utah 12, US 9 & 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

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

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: 435-679-8981 Kanab Headquarters: 435-644-4600

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 into 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