Services

ACCESSIBILITY
Restrooms, Visitor Center, Bryce Canyon Lodge, Valhalla, and Friends Store are fully accessible when open.
- The 5-mile section of Rim Trail between Sunset and Sunrise Points is paved and fairly level.
- Free Access Guide at Visitor Center

 Lodging
The Lodge at Bryce Canyon is open Spring-Fall. Winter lodging is available at the Sunset Motel. Reservations can be made by calling (435) 834-0700 or visiting byrcecanyonreservations.com.

Shuttle
Free! Runs Spring through Fall. See Bryce Amphitheater map.

Money
ATM available at the Lodge and Ruby’s Inn General Store, north of the park.

Recreation

Camping
Camping is available on a first-come first-served basis. Tent sites are leased at the self-service loop for $20/night. RV sites ($20/night) are available. RVs over 26 feet can be accommodated by calling 877-544-6777 or visiting recreation.gov. Half-price for Senior’s 55+ Program holders. Observed regulations posted at all campground kiosks. See map for seasonal closures.

Bicycling
Bicycles are restricted to paved roads, campground roads, and the Shaved-Ice Path (see map). Bicycles are not permitted along the Rim Trail or on any other hiking trail. The Dixie National Forest has a paved bicycle path traveling over 17 miles through Red Canyon to connect to the park path, along with many miles of mountain bike trails.

Horseback Riding
Horse rentals are available at the park.

Backcountry
Backcountry permits must be obtained from the Bryce National Park for each person from each group. The permit is free and available online at bncbackcountry.com.

Entrance Fees
Fees are available at park entrance stations. Information about participating agencies (NPS, BLM, FWS, USFS, and DOH) is available online at nps.gov/bryce.

While valid, the cost of your entrance to this park and others on your trip can be used toward the cost of an Annual Pass. Simply bring your receipt to the booth or Visitor Center front desk.

Annual Pass
$10 (residents and non-federal employees) or $20 (non-residents and federal employees) or $80 (non-residents and federal employees over 62 years old)

Senior Pass
$10 (maximum permanent) or $20 (non-federal employees over 62 years old) or $80 (non-residents and federal employees over 62 years old) or $10 (non-residents and federal employees over 62 years old)

Military Annual Pass
Free admission to all federal fee areas for active-duty military (active-duty military and dependents only).

4th Grade Pass
Free admission to all federal fee areas for 4th graders.

Regional Map
Ranger Programs

Jr. Ranger Program

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER
Learn about the wonders of Bryce Canyon National Park while
learning what makes it unique through programs and activities.

This is a special opportunity to earn a special badge and patch
that cannot be purchased or otherwise obtained except through this program.

Visitors of all ages are welcome to participate. Please allocate 3-6 hours of your visit
to this experience. See Visitor Center for materials and more information.

Winter Activities

SNOWSHOEING
Snowshoe programs are offered when snowpack and staffing allow.
On days the program is offered, it is typically substituted for the Rim Walk. Hikes are typically 1.5 miles, lasting no more than 2 hours. See ranger schedule for times and locations.

Volunteer

BECOME A VOLUNTEER
Volunteer with Bryce Canyon National Park and help
us care for this special place. Volunteers work with
park employees to preserve park resources, play
a vital role in educating and engaging our visitors,
and get to live in one of the world’s most beautiful
environments. Call the park at 435-834-5322 or
email us at bryce informatib@nps.gov for more information.

VOLUNTEER ANNUAL PASS
Free admission to all federal fee areas for one year for volunteers with over 250 hours of service.

10 Most Common Injuries

1. Improper Footwear
Wear shoes with support. Ankle injuries on Navajo Loop are the most common.

2. Over-exertion
2.5 miles, providing only 70% of the oxygen you may need. Hikers often increase going down and back; avoid before you become tired.

3. Exerting
Stay on designated trails and away from cliffs. Winter cliffs are hard to see.

4. Dehydration
Drink 1 quart every 1-2 hours. See map for water stop stations.

5. & 6. Ignoring the Weather & Lighting
The difference in the daily high and low can be as much as 50°F if you hike
throughout the day. Seek shelter immediately to stay safe.

7. Feeding Animals
Do not feed wildlife. Feeding animals becomes aggressive. Observe from a distance.

8. Climbing or Descending Cliffs
Spring snakes are very plentiful. Climbing is both illegal and highly dangerous.

9. Unsafe Driving
Speeding equals accidents, wildlife death, injury. Observe speed limit in the park.

10. Firearms
Discharge of firearms and hunting within the park is prohibited.
Geology of Bryce Canyon

Geologic Time
- 150 million years ago: First amphibians appeared
- 200 million years ago: First land plants appeared
- 370 million years ago: First dinosaurs appeared
- 230-150 million years ago: First birds and mammals appeared
- 97 million years ago: Oldest exposed rocks deposited at Bryce Canyon
- 60 million years ago: Non-avian dinosaurs go extinct
- 50 million years ago: Rocks that form hoodoos deposited
- 2.5 million years ago: Start of the last ice age

Deposition of the Colorado Plateau
- 525 to 270 Million Years Ago: Sedimentary rock layers of the Grand Canyon deposited
- 245 Million Years Ago: (Moenkopi Formation) Utah was a transitional area where rivers met the sea. This area may have looked like the estuaries of the southern California coast.
- 195 Million Years Ago: (Kayenta Formation) Marine and shallow seas flowed through a tropical desert that covered the area. Occasionally, wind-blown sand surged into the inner deposits.
- 190 Million Years Ago: (Navajo Sandstone) Shallow, warm lakes deposited sand and siltstone on top of the muddy lake sediments. This created variable layers of limestone, sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, and conglomerate.
- 90 Million Years Ago: (Tropic Shale) An ocean covered this area along with two thirds of North America. Thousands of feet of marine mud piled up on the bottom of this subtropical inland sea.
- 6 Million Years Ago: The Colorado River and its tributaries began rapidly carving through rock layers, carrying off sediments.

Uplift of the Colorado Plateau
- The Colorado Plateau and the layers of rock that now form the Grand Staircase were once covered by a huge plate of land. As the western edge of this plate moved westward, an ocean plate was pushed under the North American continent during the creation of the Rocky Mountains to the east and rising upward forces here.

Hoodoo Erosion
Hoodoos here begin their life as a fin (typically) capped with a harder form of limestone extending from the rim of the plateau. As nearly 200 days of freeze/thaw cycles a year combine with the effects of CO2-fueled acid rain, “windows” in these fins begin to open up through the forces of frost wedging. Eventually the caprock is unsupported and windows cave in to form hoodoos.

What is an Amphitheater?
As streams and rivers that feed the Grand Canyon began rapidly carving down into the rock layers, the beginnings of these stream moved slowly, further and further back, like fingers into the edge of the plateau. This creates a bowl-shaped pattern, forming not only the Paria Valley seen east of the park, but the scalped amphitheaters in which the hoodoos of Bryce Canyon can be seen eroding from the rim. The Bryce Amphitheater, for which the park was first established, contains the densest collection of hoodoos in the world.
Sun Rise/Set

Explore your world and beyond through one of Bryce Canyon National Park's most precious resources: its night sky. Each June, the Astronomy Festival features renowned guest speakers, telescope displays, stargazing programs, night sky tours, and many activities the entire family will love.

ns.gov/park/planyourvisit/astrofest.htm

GEOLOGY FESTIVAL

Enjoy guided hikings, geology programs, bus tours, stargazing programs, and a guided tour of the Park's fossil beds.
Scenic Areas

Rainbow and Yovimpa Points
Enjoy two of the longest views in North America at MILE 18, the end of the scenic drive. Walk the 1.0-mile Bristlecone Loop amongst Bristlecone pines over 1,000 years old. (See inside cover for hiking information)

Natural Bridge
Just past MILE 12, technically not a bridge, but a natural arch formed by headward erosion. Enjoy the contrast between the red rocks and deep greens of the plateau forest.

Bryce Amphitheater
The park’s most popular area, and the reason it was first established. Marvel at this “cave without a ceiling” from four main overlooks and along numerous hiking trails above and below the rim. Accessible within first four miles of the park. (See inside cover for detailed map)

Mossey Cave
Travel 3.7-miles east on Hwy 12 to reach this popular and easy hike that leads you along flowing water beneath hoodoos to a waterfall and grotto (not a cave) that fills with moss and winter icicles. (See inside cover for hiking information)

Plan Your Visit

Welcome to Bryce Canyon National Park, home to the largest collection of hoodoos in the world. Explore the park by traveling on the main road (Highway 63). As you enter the park, all turns for viewpoints and hikes will be on your left.

4 Hours or Less

Hike the Canyon (next page for detailed map)
- Walk paved 1.0-mile Rim Trail from Sunset to Sunrise Points (Leashed Pets OK)
- Or hike below the rim on 2.0-mile Queen’s / Navajo Combination Loop

Plan Your Visit

Questions? Bring this Map and Guide to the Visitor Center and watch the map orientation video
HIKING GUIDE

EASY TO MODERATE HIKES (gently graded & moderate elevation change)

Sunset Point (1 hour round trip)
- Start point: Sunset Point parking lot
- Distance: 1 mile (1.6 km)
- Elevation gain: 36 feet (10 meters)
- Description: A short hike with views of the Bryce Amphitheater.

Moderate Hikes (more graded & moderate elevation change)

Queen's Garden Trail
- Start point: Sunset Point parking lot
- Distance: 3.8 miles (6.1 km)
- Elevation gain: 662 feet (202 meters)
- Description: A hike through a series of natural tunnels and alcoves.

Strenuous Hikes (steep graded & steep elevation change)

Peaks Loop Trail
- Start point: Sunset Point parking lot
- Distance: 8.8 miles (14.2 km)
- Elevation gain: 1,520 feet (463 meters)
- Description: A steep hike through a series of natural tunnels and alcoves.

RIDE THE SHUTTLE

Additional Stops in Bryce Canyon City at Ruby's Inn, Grand View Hotel, and Ruby’s Campground

Additional Shuttle Routes:
- Additional Shuttle Route 1
- Additional Shuttle Route 2

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Hiking is great exercise, but be aware of the potential hazards.

HIKE THE HOODOOS PROGRAM

BRYCE AMPHITHEATER (Hiking Guide below the fold)