Humans, who have inhabited southern Utah for over 10,000 years, continue to visit this mysterious canyon. Why? Originally it wasn’t to hike or take pictures, rock climb or rest. Food and water…it was as simple as that. Human survival meant gleaning from the land its scant harvests. Archaic peoples, Ancestral Puebloans, and Southern Paiutes, the latter inhabiting this area for the last several hundred years, had extensive and intuitive knowledge of the plants, animals, and seasons. Homes were temporary brush shelters used for sleeping or to escape the heat. As they observed their surroundings, they knew they could “make a living.” They would hunt, fish, gather, and grow modest crops. Whatever was necessary to ensure their survival was used, but the harvest did not begin until asking and thanking the generous bounty.

This ancient way of life is gone now. Today, when traveling through on vacation, our temporary home isn’t a brush shelter but a tent or motel. We graze on granola rather than rice grass. Our water source comes from a tap, not the natural springs in the rocks. We don’t need to forage in order to live. But what may not have changed is a deeply felt, personal experience after we set foot here: the sound of the song of a river; a canyon wren scolding us; the subtle perfumery of sagebrush and juniper; the sight of cliffs that make us think big and feel small. Yet here we stand, mouths agape, eyes wide.

What will your harvest be? Joy, relief, excitement, challenge? Unlike our earliest visitors, we come to collect not things but knowledge, not resources but memories, not trophies but satisfaction.

Zion National Park has shed its winter whites, brushed off the dry remains of last season’s display, and opened its arms to you. The sun warms the ground. Buds and birds return once more. A quiet liveliness rustles and shuffles through the park. This year is special. We have the chance to reflect on the last century of what it has meant to come to this place. A Century of Sanctuary—1909 to 2009—includes the millions of people who have made their journey to Zion and, in many ways, made their mark. From the initial establishment of Makunutweap National Monument in 1909 to this year’s gala packed with events, dedications, and programs; we can know, always, that we have an unchanging landscape to visit. With all the changes in the world, we can take comfort in returning to this spot. We can believe that, even though our personal world may be unsettled, sitting and gazing deep into the soul of this canyon, we might find contentment—we might find peace. John Muir suggests: “Keep close to Nature’s heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.”

May your spirit be renewed and soar as high as the highest cliffs. May this visit to your park be a remarkable experience.

To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

National Park Service Organic Act 1916
Altar of Sacrifice

Fort Towers of the Temple and Towers of the Virgin, behind the Human History Mu-
seum, this distinctive cliff was named for the red iron oxide streaking down its front.
The streaking of minerals within the cliff confers the appearance of wood on a sacred altar.

Canyon, settling at what is now Zion Canyon. The cliff was named in 1903 by young pioneer David Flanagan. His hope was to fulfill Brigham Young's prophecy that one day the temple would come down from the cliff on Zion Canyon "like a bird from the nest." The cliff works proved to be a success. The system was used to provide building timber for the pioneer around Zion Canyon. The cliff was used as an extension for over 20 years. Wood was hauled to Zion Lodge down the cable works.

Overlook Mesa

Named for its location. The name stems from the cliffs distinctive checkerboard pattern. The horizontal lines are caused by crossbedding, a remnant of ancient sand dunes. The vertical lines formed because of the contraction and expansion of the sandstone. This peak was originally named "Overlook Mountain" by the third superintendent, Preston P. Page.

Cable Mountain

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Canyon

Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coal Pits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.
The Golden Age of the Loop Tour

The decade was unmistakably the 1920s. As cities grew, architecture evolved and those who called rural surroundings home. Meanwhile, in cities throughout the East, movies and fashion started to blend seamlessly with the grandeur of the American Southwest.

The park's first visitor center and museum opens at The Grotto adjacent to the Temple of Sinawava. Under the direction of Walter Ruesch and completed in 1924, it would go on to serve over 4 million visitors in its first decade. The Grand Canyon (circa 1928). These facilities were funded and run by the Utah Parks Company, a subsidiary of the Union Pacific Railroad. Hired to design these three lodges was architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood. Underwood brought to the park a design style with a classic rustic approach, which allowed the buildings to blend seamlessly with the grandeur of the site. Naturally, the design of the structures would complete a lush landscape, delicious dining, a barber shop, and a bar. Understandably, time spent in the great outdoors was the draw to these National Parks, but as it turned out, time spent indoors was incredibly popular.

The road was the twenty-five-mile Canyon Rim Drive, a narrow dirt road that ran through the cliffs of the 1920s and became an integral part of the promotion of travel, including enticing the nation’s road-trip enthusiasts. The park's first visitor center and museum opens at The Grotto adjacent to the Temple of Sinawava. Under the direction of Walter Ruesch and completed in 1924, it would go on to serve over 4 million visitors in its first decade.

Under the direction of Walter Ruesch, construction begins on the Rim Trail between the 2nd day and June 1927. The trail opened in 1929 and is still in use today.

The cost of an annual park permit cost up to $1.

The all-expense rates included casual cabin accommodations. If “live” cabins were desired, the additional charge per day was $4.25 for one person or $8 each for two people.

Tour No. 1A—Five Days Zion, North Rim Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Cedar Breaks

1st day
Lv. Las Vegas. Travel by motor car to Grand Canyon, then by motor bus to Grand Canyon, a cannon-planning to one mile in depth from the rim down toward the mighty Colorado River, Bryce Canyon, a mystery maze of whimsically sculptured spires and hoodoos, and Zion Canyon, where a descriptively small river had uncon- temporizingly fashioned some of the world’s tallest sandstone cliffs and contributed to a landscape of remarkable diversity.

By the mid-1920s, curiosity was peaked throughout the American Southwest by motor coach, a good sign that the era of the Great Depression was on the horizon. By the mid-1920s, curiosity was peaked throughout the American Southwest by motor coach, a good sign that the era of the Great Depression was on the horizon.

What awaited travelers was a vacation of a lifetime: a trip through America’s “Loop Tour” of the American Southwest by motor coach, complete with luxury lodging, and high- caliber entertainment. People of interest upon this journey included: Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Along the way tourists would encounter a variety of attractions along the way, including a world of adventure and the promotion of travel to America’s National Parks was in full swing, Union Pacific Railroad travel brochures raved of a “tourist paradise.” They did. Tourists embossed via railroad to Cedar City, Utah, and the park was infected with the phrase “gear jammers." A guided horse tour ascends Walter's Wiggles.

The decade was unmistakably the 1920s. As cities grew, architecture evolved and those who called rural surroundings home. Meanwhile, in cities throughout the East, movies and fashion started to blend seamlessly with the grandeur of the American Southwest. The park's first visitor center and museum opens at The Grotto adjacent to the Temple of Sinawava. Under the direction of Walter Ruesch and completed in 1924, it would go on to serve over 4 million visitors in its first decade.

The all-expense rates included casual cabin accommodations. If “live” cabins were desired, the additional charge per day was $4.25 for one person or $8 each for two people. Zion Lodge and the others on the Loop Tour, provided a comfortable and affordable way to visit the parks. Employees... to as “gear jammers.” A guided horse tour ascends Walter’s Wiggles. Coaches line up to meet the train in Cedar City.
Growing Up In Zion

After Zion was designated a national monument in 1919, life in the canyon remained a wildness of work, while civilization and modern life changed outside its boundaries. For the families who made their home in Zion, nature still played a major role. For children brought up here, that first recollection, and the landscapes that are in their minds as home, is a wild, open and unchanged one.

Living in a national park also means living through many of the events of the conservation movement. There are guidelines and rules to keep the park pristine. Many families here have many experiences with the young people who came before. They may have had wildlife at the back door step, or a pet cougar running through the yard. It is important to give children the freedom to go up there in the hills.” She recalls, “I always felt so fortunate to have experienced the park. We slept outdoors in the summertime. That was a huge thing, to have the freedom to go up there in the hills.” She recalls, “I always felt so fortunate to have experienced the park. We slept outdoors in the summertime. That was a huge thing, to have the freedom to go up there in the hills.”

Over time, millions of visitors have hiked the 21 switchbacks known as “Walter’s Wiggles” in Zion Canyon. The trail was an engineering marvel as it wound its way up to Angels Landing. Ruesch loved tradition of affordable, comfortable canvas tent contained board floors with red cinders, now a park roadbed. Roads are chipped-sealed in original appearance.

The largest recorded flood roars through the Virgin River at the Sentinel Slide and a section of the road is washed away. The Kolob Canyons Visitor Center opens and the shuttle system begins.

The Kolob Canyons Visitor Center opens.

The Zion Lodge is restored to its original appearance. More than 2 million people visit.

The Zion Lodge burns down by 1950 after it has been a quirky, continually replaced opens to the public.

The largest fire in the park’s history burns 10,516 acres.

The economic impact of the park’s development continues to rise. In 2022, Zion National Park turned 100. Park visitation reaches 2,452 million visits. Employment in and around the park has increased to more than 90,000 jobs.

The largest fire in the park’s history burns 10,516 acres.

The economic impact of the park’s development continues to rise. In 2022, Zion National Park turned 100. Park visitation reaches 2,452 million visits. Employment in and around the park has increased to more than 90,000 jobs.

The largest fire in the park’s history burns 10,516 acres.

The economic impact of the park’s development continues to rise. In 2022, Zion National Park turned 100. Park visitation reaches 2,452 million visits. Employment in and around the park has increased to more than 90,000 jobs.

The largest fire in the park’s history burns 10,516 acres.

The economic impact of the park’s development continues to rise. In 2022, Zion National Park turned 100. Park visitation reaches 2,452 million visits. Employment in and around the park has increased to more than 90,000 jobs.

The largest fire in the park’s history burns 10,516 acres.

The economic impact of the park’s development continues to rise. In 2022, Zion National Park turned 100. Park visitation reaches 2,452 million visits. Employment in and around the park has increased to more than 90,000 jobs.

The largest fire in the park’s history burns 10,516 acres.

The economic impact of the park’s development continues to rise. In 2022, Zion National Park turned 100. Park visitation reaches 2,452 million visits. Employment in and around the park has increased to more than 90,000 jobs.

The largest fire in the park’s history burns 10,516 acres.

The economic impact of the park’s development continues to rise. In 2022, Zion National Park turned 100. Park visitation reaches 2,452 million visits. Employment in and around the park has increased to more than 90,000 jobs.

The largest fire in the park’s history burns 10,516 acres.

The economic impact of the park’s development continues to rise. In 2022, Zion National Park turned 100. Park visitation reaches 2,452 million visits. Employment in and around the park has increased to more than 90,000 jobs.

The largest fire in the park’s history burns 10,516 acres.

The economic impact of the park’s development continues to rise. In 2022, Zion National Park turned 100. Park visitation reaches 2,452 million visits. Employment in and around the park has increased to more than 90,000 jobs.
Centennial Events

**A Century of Sanctuary**
- Juried Art Exhibition
- Historic and contemporary paintings
- St. George Museum of Art, St George, Utah, August 25, 2008–May 23, 2009

**Zion: A Creative Response**
- Art Exhibition
- Southern Utah University student and faculty work
- Zion Human History Museum, March 2–April 20

**Zion Centennial Celebration**
- Juried Photo Exhibition
- Utah photographers, Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah
- March 31-May 11

**Special Ranger-led Programs**
- Zion National Park, April–October

**Zion Canyon Centennial Fun Run**
- 10Ks of fun on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, April 18. Advanced registration.

**In the Footsteps of Thomas Moran**
- Z-Arts!: Zion Arts & Humanities Council
- Invited artists painting locations sketched by Moran in 1873
- April 20-24

**Springdale Folklife Festival**
- Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, May 9

**Red Rock Rondo**
- Live concert and debut of PBS musical documentary about Zion
- O.C. Tanner Amphitheater, Springdale, Utah, May 9

**Children’s Vision of Zion & Springdale**
- Photo Exhibit
- Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, June 23-August 3

**Zion Postage Stamp**
- First day of sale, June 29

**Zion National Park**
- Utah High Schools Student Art Exhibition
- Braithwaite Fine Art Gallery, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah, September, 2009.

---

**Top left Camp Center cafeteria and cabins (now the Nature Center) staff, 1950s. Lower left Interpretive Ranger staff, 2007.**

---

**Top center Original Zion Museum at The Grotto (hand-colored glass slide), 1928. Lower center Hikers at Emerald Pools Trailhead, 1958.**

---

**Top right Map of Zion Canyon from 1948 park brochure. Lower right Ranger at Park Headquarters at Canyon Junction, 1925.**

---

**ZION NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES 100 YEARS ON JULY 31, 2009. EVENTS AND PROGRAMS WILL commemorate this milestone for Utah’s most visited national park. The centennial recognizes the park’s initial establishment as Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909 and Congressional designation as Zion National Park in 1919.**

**Centennial Fundraiser Dinner**
- The Grotto, Zion National Park
- September 19

**Vision of Zion**
- Local artists, multi-media exhibit

**Employee Reunion**
- Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, October 16–18

**Zion Centennial License Plate**
- Available at all Utah Department of Motor Vehicles Offices.

For more information visit www.nps.gov/ zion or contact Karen Mayne, Centennial Program Coordinator; karen_s_mayne@ nps.gov; 435 772-0210.

For Red Rock Rondo tickets or information visit the Western Folklife Center website, www.westernfolklife.org.