Planning Your Winter Visit

Be prepared for a wide range of conditions that vary with elevation. Fall days are usually clear and mild; nights are often cold. Fall color begins in September in the high country and peaks in Zion Canyon by late October. Winters in Zion Canyon are mild. Storms bring rain or light snow to the canyon, but heavier snow to the higher elevations. Clear days can become warm, reaching 60°F; nights are often in the 20s and 30s. Winter storms can last days and cause roads to be icy. Be prepared for winter driving conditions from November through March. Spring is unpredictable. Stormy, wet days are common, but warm, sunny weather may also occur. Precipitation peaks in March. The spring wildflower bloom usually starts in April.

Making The Most of Your Time

Drives
The shuttle system does not operate in winter. The Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is open to private vehicles November 3 through April 3. The 2009 shuttle season is April 4 through early November.

- **Kolob Canyons Scenic Drive**
  6 miles. Short drive along the canyon floor. Be prepared for hazardous driving conditions during and after storms. Icy spots remain through the winter.

- **Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway**
  10 miles. Steep drive up switchbacks and through tunnels to Checkerboard Mesa. See large vehicle limitations on page 8. Be prepared for hazardous driving conditions during and after storms. Icy spots remain all winter.

- **Kolob Terrace Road**
  14 miles. Steep uphill drive with switchbacks to the high country. Not recommended for long vehicles. The road is plowed for the first 14 miles north of Virgin, Utah. The rest of the road, including Lava Point, is closed by snow.

- **Kolob Canyons**
  5 miles. Uphill scenic drive skirting the Kolob finger canyons. The road is plowed, but may be temporarily closed during storms or plowing.

Visitor Centers
**Zion Canyon Visitor Center**
At the south entrance; across the river from Springdale. Exhibits and a three-dimensional model of Zion Canyon help you plan your visit and make the most of your time. An animated computer simulation demonstrates the geologic processes that created Zion Canyon. Rangers are available to answer questions and issue backcountry permits. Books and maps.

**Zion Human History Museum**
One-half mile north of the south entrance. Exhibits show how humans have influenced, and been influenced by Zion. Orientation film, information desk, and books. Closed December 1 through March 6.

**Orientation Film**
Twenty-two minute film highlights the features of the park. Shown by request daily on the hour and half hour in the Human History Museum. Shown in the Zion Canyon Visitor Center December 1 through March 6.

**Kolob Canyons Visitor Center**
Interstate 15 at Exit 40, 45 miles north of Springdale. Exhibits and a three-dimensional model of Zion Canyon help you plan your visit and make the most of your time. An animated computer simulation demonstrates the geologic processes that created Zion Canyon. Rangers are available to answer questions and issue backcountry permits. Books and maps.

Winter Hiking
Hikers should be flexible and plan to turn back if trail conditions are unsafe or falling ice is a hazard.

**Zion Canyon**
Trails usually have patchy snow, ice, or mud during winter and spring. Portions of several trails, including Emerald Pools, Weeping Rock, and Riverside Walk are hazardous when icy and may be closed because of ice falling from above. The Sand Bench and Watchman Trails are usually snow free, but muddy in spots. Trails leading to higher elevations such as Observation Point, Angels Landing, and Hidden Canyon are often hazardous because of ice.

**High Country**
West Rim, Wildcat Canyon, and all east side trails are covered with up to three feet of snow in winter and are icy or muddy in spring. Kolob Canyons trails are snow covered most of the winter.

**Southwest Desert**
Chinle Trail, Coalpits, and Huber Washes offer good hiking during dry weather and are the most accessible for winter hiking and backpacking.
This is Canyon Country

Steep Cliffs
Trails can be covered with snow and ice in winter. Loose sand or pebbles on stone are very slippery. Be careful of cliff edges when using cameras or binoculars. Never throw or roll rocks; there may be hikers below.
• Stay on the trail.
• Stay back from cliff edges.
• Observe posted warnings.
• Parents—watch your children!

Flash Floods
All narrow canyons are potentially hazardous. Flash floods, often from storms miles away, present a real danger and can be life threatening. Flash floods can occur at any time of day or year. By entering a narrow canyon, you are assuming a risk.

Judgement
Whether hiking, climbing, or driving, your safety depends on your own good judgement, adequate preparation, and constant attention. Don’t ruin your vacation by having an accident. Your safety is your responsibility.

Water
The desert is dry, even in winter. Carry enough water for everyone in your group. Water is available at visitor centers, campgrounds, and Zion Lodge. Do not drink untreated water.

Some routes may be closed to climbing when Peregrine Falcons are nesting. A permit is required for overnight climbs.

Horseback Riding
Guided trips are available March through October, 435 679-8665. For private stock use, contact a visitor center.

Watercraft
Watercraft designed and manufactured for whitewater use are allowed by permit when the water level exceeds 140 cubic feet per second. Inner tubes are not allowed.

Food Service
Zion Lodge Dining room serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Dinner reservations are advised: 435 772-7760. Other Food Service Restaurants are available in Springdale, Mt. Carmel Junction, and Kanab.

Groceries
Grocery stores are available in Springdale and Kanab. Convenience stores are available in Mt. Carmel Junction.

Lodging

Other Lodging Available in Springdale, Rockville, Mt. Carmel Junction, Kanab, Cedar City, and other nearby towns.

Information and Services

Entrance Fees
All passes available at entrance stations. Private Vehicle $25 per vehicle, good for 7 days in Zion National Park. Individual $12 per person (pedestrian, bicycle, motorcycle subject to change, and organized group), good for 7 days in Zion National Park.

Zion Annual Pass $50, good for one year from date of purchase at Zion National Park only.

Commercial Tours Ask for rates.

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

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


Fires
Fires are permitted only in the fire pits provided at campgrounds and some picnic areas. Bring or purchase your firewood; collecting wood is not permitted. Fires are not permitted in the backcountry at any time; use a stove to cook.

Winter Sports
Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are possible in the higher elevations of Zion National Park and in nearby Cedar Breaks National Monument. For information on routes, snow conditions, weather, and safety, check at the visitor centers. Recreational snowmobiling is not permitted in the park.

Backpacking
Permits are required for all backcountry camping and are based on group size. 1-2 people: $10, 3-6 people: $15, 7-12 people: $20. Maximum group size is 12 people. Permits and hiking information are available at both visitor centers. See the Zion Backcountry Planner for more information.

Bicycling
Bicycles are permitted only on established roads and the Pa’rus Trail. Cyclists must obey traffic laws. Bicycles are not allowed on hiking trails or off-trail. Riding through the Zion-Mt. Carmel tunnel is prohibited. Bicycles must be transported through the tunnel by motor vehicle.

Climbing
Climbing on Zion’s sandstone requires appropriate hardware and technical skills. Climbing information is available at visitor centers. Climbing and rappelling are prohibited on the cliffs above Middle and Lower Emerald Pools and Weeping Rock.

Do Not Feed The Animals
Wildlife are wild. Keep them that way by not feeding, touching, or getting close. Feeding wildlife is illegal. Deer will kick and have been shot as a result of becoming aggressive. Squirrels will bite and can carry bubonic plague. Turkeys will run at people not feeding, touching, or getting close.

Accessibility
Restrooms, visitor centers, the museum, and Zion Lodge are fully accessible. Several campsites are reserved for people with disabilities, and two trails are accessible.

Pets
Pets must be under physical control on a leash no longer than six feet at all times. They are not allowed in the backcountry, on trails, or in public buildings. Pets may be walked on the Pa’rus Trail. Boarding kennels are available in Rockville, Hurricane, Kanab, St. George, and Cedar City.

Camping
Watchman and South Campgrounds
Near the south entrance to the park. South Campground is first-come, first-serve and is open March 6, 2009 through early November. Watchman Campground is open all year, sites are first-come, first-serve October 26–March 29. The fee is $16 a night or $18 per night with electric hookups (half price for holders of Golden Age/Access Passports or Senior/Access Passes). Reservations may be made for the 2009 season (April 1–October 24, 2009) starting January 7, 2009; 877 444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

Group Campsites April 1–October 24 by reservation to organized groups of 9-40 people for $3.00 per person per night; 877 444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

Facilities Restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, fire grates, and dump stations.

Other Campgrounds Private campgrounds with showers and hookups are available outside the park.

Emergency
For 24-hour emergency response, call 435 772-3322 or 911. Zion Canyon Medical Clinic is in Springdale, reduced winter hours, 772-3226. The nearest hospitals are in St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab.

Water is available at visitor centers, campgrounds, and Zion Lodge. Do not drink untreated water.

Grocery stores are available in Springdale and Kanab. Convenience stores are available in Mt. Carmel Junction.


Other Lodging Available in Springdale, Rockville, Mt. Carmel Junction, Kanab, Cedar City, and other nearby towns.

This symbol is a warning. Falls from cliffs on these trails have resulted in death.

This one was in North Creek, July 25 2002.

It happened in seconds. A hiker would not survive.
Winter Hiking

Winter hiking, even short walks, requires advance planning. Trails in the higher elevations will be snow covered, and canyon trails can be icy in the winter and muddy in the spring. Hikers should be flexible and turn back if trail conditions are unsafe. Check the National Weather Service forecast posted daily in visitor centers and Zion Human History Museum. Park Rangers can provide trail information. See the Zion Backcountry Planner for long hikes.

Permits

Permits are required for overnight back-packing trips, climbing bivouacs, all through-hikes of the Narrows and tributaries, the Subway, Mystery Canyon, and all canyons requiring the use of rappelling or climbing equipment. Permits are issued at both visitor centers beginning at 8 a.m. the day before your hike. Check www.nps.gov/zion for permission for Mystery Canyon and Subway lottery applications and backcountry reservations. Reservations are not required but are recommended. Reservations: $5. Permits: 1-2 people: $10, 3-6 people: $15, 7-12 people: $20.

Group Size

The maximum group size is 12 people of the same affiliation on the same trail or in the same drainage on the same day. Small groups are encouraged.

Zion Narrows

Narrows day-use permits are not issued in the winter because of cold water, low air temperatures, and short days. You may take a short day-hike from the end of the Riverside Walk. Dry suits are essential gear for winter hikes in the Narrows. Talk to a Park Ranger for details.

Backpacking

Highcountry trails will be snow covered, requiring skis or snowshoes. Trails in the southwest desert offer good winter hiking during dry weather. Ask a Park Ranger for details. Permits are required for overnight trips.

Be Prepared

Your safety depends on your own good judgement, adequate preparation, and constant attention. Your safety is your responsibility. Guidebooks can be helpful, but are not a substitute for sound judgement.

Books and Maps

Topographic maps and guidebooks are available from the Zion National History Association bookstores in both visitor centers. They may be purchased in advance through the mail. A catalog is available at www.zionpark.org. See page 7 for ordering information.

Emerald Pools Loop Trails

This series of pools and waterfalls may be accessed by three different routes. These trails, as well as a short trail to the upper pool, connect and can be combined as a loop. There is always a small waterfall at the lower pool. If it rains, or if snow is melting, there may be larger waterfalls at both the upper and lower pools. The trails may be closed at times during the winter because of ice on the trails or ice falling from above.

Lower Emerald Pool Trail

Easy, 0.6-mile one-way, 69-foot ascent. Paved trail to the pool, then continues behind the waterfalls that cascade from the middle pools into the lower pool.

Middle Emerald Pools Trail

Moderate, 1-mile one-way, 150-foot ascent. Unpaved climb to a sandstone ledge that parallels the lower trail but at a higher level. Connects to lower pool trail to form a 1.6-mile loop. Do not go near the edge. Deaths have occurred from falling from the middle pools. Ice, snow, loose sand, or pebbles on stone are very slippery.

Upper Emerald Pool Trail

Moderate, 0.5-mile from Middle Pool Trail one-way, 200-foot ascent. A sandy, rocky trail climbs to the base of the cliff.

Kayenta Trail

Moderate, 1-mile one-way, 150-foot ascent. Unpaved climb to a sandstone ledge, connects The Grotto Picnic Area to the Emerald Pools.

Grotto Trail

Easy, 0.3-mile one-way, level. Trail connects Zion Lodge to The Grotto Picnic Area. Can be linked with Emerald Pools and Kayenta Trails allowing a 3-mile loop hike.

Weather and Climate

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Zion Canyon

Winter Hiking
Hikers should be flexible and turn back if trail conditions are unsafe. Trails can be snow covered and icy. Stay on established trails and watch your footing, especially near drop-offs. Always stay back from edges. Watch children closely. Ice, snow, loose sand, or pebbles on stone are very slippery. Be careful of edges when using cameras or binoculars. Never throw or roll rocks; there may be hikers below.

<table>
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<th>Ascent (ft/m)</th>
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Zion Map & Guide 5
A Century of Sanctuary 1909-2009

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.

A Century of Sanctuary
Juried Art Exhibition
Historic and contemporary paintings St. George Museum of Art, St George, Utah, August 25, 2008–January 24, 2009

Historical Lecture Series
Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, except where noted.

- The Artists of Zion: Personal Reminiscences: J.L. Crawford, St. George Art Museum, St. George, Utah December 16, 2008, 7 pm
- Romance of the Old Spanish Trail: Paul Ostapuk, January 10, 7:30 pm
- Saving Boys, Developing Men, and Enhancing a Park: The Civilian Conservation Corps at Zion National Park, Utah: Dr. Wayne Hinton February 6, 7:30 pm

SUU Art & Design Faculty Exhibition Braithwaite Fine Art Gallery, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah Feb. 5-March 14

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

Springdale Folk Life Festival Debut of Red Rock Rondo, Zion PBS TV Special, Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, May 9

Zion: The Integration of Art and Science Arts and Sciences Student & Faculty Braithwaite Fine Art Gallery, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah, May-June; Salt Lake City Office of Tourism, July-August

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

100th Anniversary Ceremony The Grotto Historic Building, Zion National Park, July 31

Post Office Stamp Cancellation Zion Canyon Visitor Center & Kolob Canyons Visitor Center, July 31

A Century of Cinema Hollywood Comes to Zion Movies filmed in Zion National Park Thursdays, starting August 13

Tunnel Walk Through the 1.1 mile-long Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel, August 26. Advanced registration.

Historic Photos of Zion Iron Mission State Park, Cedar City, Utah, September 1-October 9

Centennial Fundraiser Dinner The Grotto, Zion National Park September 19

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

Utah 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.
**Educational Adventures in Zion**

Imagine hiking with a wildlife biologist to watch bighorn sheep on the East side of Zion National Park. Capture the photograph of a lifetime when a rainbow appears against the West Temple. Find the tracks of ringtails and wild turkeys in the fine sands of a dry wash. Marvel at a scorpion visible in the dark under the beam of an ultraviolet light. View a bat up close during a mist-net study. Discover and map an unrecorded archaeological site.

These are experiences that Zion Canyon Field Institute (ZCFI) participants enjoy during their workshops. The Field Institute educates and inspires visitors about the greater Zion National Park ecosystem and environment. ZCFI is the educational division of the non-profit Zion Natural History Association, publisher and seller of books on Zion National Park and related subjects for over 70 years. The Field Institute sponsors 1, 2, and 3-day outdoor workshops with expert and engaging instructors, and challenging itineraries that immerse participants in the park and stimulate investigation of its many natural and cultural resources. These workshops take place at and around Zion National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and Pipe Spring National Monument.

We are called a Field Institute because our primary classrooms and lecture halls are the vast canyons and formations of magnificent Zion National Park.

All classes include hiking which ranges from moderate to strenuous. Most classes also include an indoor component such as a lecture, slide presentation, demonstration, or examination of specimens.

**December**
- 4: Thursday Trek
- 12-13: Winter Photography

**February**
- 7: Native Plant Seed Propagation
- 18: Wednesday Wildlife Walk
- 19: Thursday Trek

**April**
- 3-4: Lytle Preserve
- 10: Zion's Low Desert Wildflowers
- 11: Zion Geology
- 15: Wednesday Wildlife Walk
- 16-17: Zion Through the Lens
- 18: Earth Day Festival
- 18: Watercolor Journaling
- 18: Native Plants & Xeriscaping
- 23, 25: Thursday Trek

**May**
- 3: Life Zones: Mojave to Zion
- 8: Energy Alternatives: Solar Power in Zion and Beyond
- 10: Edible Plants
- 14: Wednesday Wildlife Walk
- 15: Thursday Trek
- 16: Wildflowers of Kolob Canyons
- 17: Watercolor Journaling
- 19: Geology: Kolob Canyons and Beyond
- 23: Basic Plant Identification
- 31: Zion Narrows Service Project

**Zion Trip Planning Package**

Plan your vacation to Zion National Park with our hand-selected publications. Includes the books: *Zion, Sanctuary in the Desert; Zion Shuttle Guide; Falcon Guide; Hiking Zion and Bryce Canyon; Introduction to the Geology of Zion National Park; and a Zion topographic map* ($35.29 value). Only $25.95 (All books are also available for individual purchase.)

**Zion National Park Orientation Video/DVD**

Enjoy the official National Park Service orientation video to Zion in your own living-room. Learn about plants, animals, geology, park history, and what to see and do in Zion. 23 minutes, color. VHS $9.95, DVD (plays worldwide, English subtitles) $14.95

**Maps of Zion**

From topo maps, to geologic maps, to maps on CD-Rom; call us for details on which map will fit your needs.

**Serve Projects**

Participants have the opportunity to get a “backstage” view of Zion, to learn intensively about a single subject, and to be part of a project that benefits Zion National Park.

**To Enroll**

Visit our website at www.zionpark.org or stop by the Zion Canyon Visitor Center. Call us for a free catalog of workshops at 435 772-3264 or 800 635-3959. Fees range from $25-$80 per day.

**Private Workshops**

Our “Explore Zion” program provides private workshops for your small group or family scheduled at your convenience.

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**Zion Canyon Field Institute**

Outdoor Learning Adventures

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**Zion Natural History Association**

**Springdale, Utah 84767  435 772-3264  fax 435 772-3908  www.zionpark.org**

The Zion Natural History Association is a non-profit organization established in 1931 to support education, research, publications, and other programs for the benefit of Zion National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and Pipe Spring National Monument. Financial support by ZNHA members combine with sales from our bookstores to provide parks with approximately $300,000 in aid annually. Join us as a member of ZNHA today and receive a 20% discount on Field Institute workshops and on purchases at ZNHA bookstores. Order books by phone at 800 635-3959 or our website: www.zionpark.org. Find hundreds of books, posters, t-shirts, and other Zion items at our website.

**Zion Trip Planning Package**

Plan your vacation to Zion National Park with our hand-selected publications. Includes the books: *Zion, Sanctuary in the Desert; Zion Shuttle Guide; Falcon Guide; Hiking Zion and Bryce Canyon; Introduction to the Geology of Zion National Park; and a Zion topographic map* ($35.29 value). Only $25.95 (All books are also available for individual purchase.)

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**Create a Lasting Relationship With Zion National Park**

Become a member of ZNHA and enjoy benefits for yourself today while you help Zion tomorrow. ZNHA supports the Junior Ranger program, publishes books on Zion, contributes to park interpretive programs, and provides free visitor information about the park. Every year we provide thousands of dollars of aid to the National Park Service.

- Sojourns Individual $45
- Sojourns Family $60
- Contributor $100
- Advocate $250
- Lifetime $500

As a member you receive 20% discount on books and workshops, reciprocal discounts at participating associations, quarterly newsletter, and special premiums. Most importantly, your membership helps ensure future educational and research activities in Zion.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ________

Make checks payable to ZNHA. Mail to: Zion Natural History Association, Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah 84767. We also accept credit cards. Call 800 635-3959 for details.
Tunnel Information & Large Vehicle Restrictions

**Tunnel Limitations**
The Zion - Mt. Carmel Tunnel is between the East Entrance and Zion Canyon. It was built in the 1920s when cars were small and few in number.

**Vehicle Size**
Vehicles sized 7'10” in width or 11'4” in height, or larger, are required to have an “escort” (traffic control) through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel. Vehicles this size are too large to stay in their lane while traveling through the tunnel. Nearly all RVs, buses, trailers, dual-wheel pickups, 5th wheels, campers, and boats will require an escort.

**Arranging An Escort**
Visitors requiring an escort must pay a $15 fee in addition to the entrance fee. Pay this fee at either park entrance before proceeding to the tunnel. The fee is good for two trips through the tunnel for the same vehicle during a 7-day period.

During the winter season, escorts must be arranged at the entrance stations, Zion Canyon Visitor Center, Zion Human History Museum, Zion Lodge, or by phoning 435 772-3256. From November through mid-March, escorts may be scheduled between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily.

You will not be following an escort vehicle through the tunnel. Rangers will stop oncoming traffic and when the tunnel is clear, you will drive down the middle of the road. We apologize for the delays that many visitors will encounter because of this safety precaution.

**Prohibited Vehicles**
- Vehicles over 13'1” tall
- Semi-trucks
- Commercial vehicles
- Vehicles carrying hazardous materials
- Vehicles weighing more than 50,000 lbs
- Single vehicles over 45’ long
- Combined vehicles over 50’ long
- Bicycles and pedestrians

**Large Vehicle Parking**
The Weeping Rock parking area has a small turnaround space. The Temple of Sinawava can have heavy traffic congestion on busy weekends and holidays throughout the winter. Buses with a capacity of 16 or more passengers may park at Checkerboard Mesa but may not park between Checkerboard Mesa and the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel.

**Weeping Rock**
Vehicles longer than 19 feet may not park at Weeping Rock at any time.

**Temple of Sinawava**
Vehicles longer than 19 feet may park in the designated parallel spaces and in front of the shade structure.

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If your vehicle is 11'4” (3.4m) tall or taller or 7’10” (2.4m) wide or wider, including mirrors, awnings, and jacks, you will need a tunnel escort.

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**The tunnel was built for cars like this 1930s model.**

**Some modern vehicles require the whole tunnel to themselves.**

**Please park in designated sites and not on the side of the road, as shown here.**

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