Drives

The Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is open to private vehicles in the winter season until March 31, 2010. Shuttle service begins April 1, 2010.

Zion Canyon Scenic Drive
A short 6-mile 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
A steep 10-mile 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
A steep drive with switchbacks. Not advised for long vehicles. The first 14 miles of the road are plowed. The rest of the road, including Lava Point, is closed due to snow.

Kolob Canyons Scenic Drive
An uphill 5-mile 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
Near the south entrance. Rangers are available to answer questions and issue backcountry permits. The orientation film is shown here when the Museum is closed. The main park bookstore is located here.

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 November 30 through March 5.

Orientation Film
Twenty-two minute film highlights the features of the park. Shown daily on the hour and half hour. Plays in the Zion Canyon Visitor Center November 30 through March 5; at the Museum during the rest of the year.

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 Wash, and Huber Wash offer good hiking during dry weather and are the most accessible for winter hiking and backpacking.

Planning Your Winter Visit

Be prepared for a wide range of conditions that vary with elevation. In late fall, days are often clear and warm, but nights are cold. In winter, clear days can reach 60°F, with nights in the 20s and 30s. Storms bring rain or light snow to the canyon, but heavier snow to the higher elevations. Winter storms can last for 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.

Winter Hiking Information Inside

Visitor Center Hours
December 1, 2009 – March 5, 2010
Zion Canyon 8 am – 5 pm
Closed Dec. 25
History Museum Closed
Kolob Canyons 8 am – 4:30 pm
Closed Nov. 26 & Dec. 25

March 6 – April 2, 2010
Zion Canyon 8 am – 5 pm
History Museum 10 am – 5 pm
Kolob Canyons 8 am – 4:30 pm

Emergencies
Call 911 or 435 772-3322; 24 hours a day or contact a park ranger.

Lost and Found
Items may be reported at any visitor center.

2010 Shuttle Season
Shuttle service begins on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive and in Springdale on April 1, 2010.
This is Canyon Country

Steep Cliffs
Trail 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.
- Whether hiking, climbing, or driving, your safety depends on your own good judgment, 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.

Information and Services

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

Accessibility
- Restrooms, visitor centers, museum, and Zion Lodge are fully accessible. Several campgrounds 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.

Do Not Feed The Animals
- Wildlife are wild. Keep them that way by not feeding, touching, or getting close. Feeding wildlife is illegal. Deer may kick and have been shot as a result of becoming not feeding, touching, or getting close.
- Deer may kick and can hop on cars, scratching the paint.
- Feeding wildlife is illegal. Deer may kick and have been shot as a result of becoming not feeding, touching, or getting close.

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, and organized groups), 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.

Camping
- South Campground Near the south entrance to the park. South Campground is first-come, first-serve and is open March 13, 2010 through early November.
- Watchman Campground is open all year. Reservations may be made for the 2010 season (March 6 – October 23) 6 months prior to your arrival date; 877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov. Sites are first-come, first-serve November 8–March 23. The fee is $16 a night, or $18 per night with electric hookups (half price for holders of Senior/ Access Passes).
- Group Campsites March 6–October 23 by reservation to organized groups of 9-40 people for $3.00 per person per night; 877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

Bicycling
- Bicycles are allowed 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. Some routes may be closed to climbing when peregrine falcons are nesting. A permit is required for overnight climbs.

Flash Floods occur without warning. This one was in North Creek, July 25, 2002.

It happens in seconds. A hiker would not survive.
Winter in the Backcountry

Winter hiking 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 at park visitor centers. Park rangers can provide current trail information. See the Zion Backcountry Planner for long hikes.

Permits

Permits are required for overnight backpacking trips, climbing bivouacs, all through-hikes of the Narrows and its 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 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 (6 in certain areas) of the same affiliation on the same trail or in the same drainage on the same day. Small groups are encouraged.

Zion Narrows

The full through-hike of the Narrows is not recommended 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 skins 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 judgment, adequate preparation, and constant attention. Your safety is your responsibility. Guidebooks can be helpful, but are not a substitute for sound judgment.

Books and Maps

Topographic maps and guidebooks are available from the Zion Natural 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.

Weather and Climate

<table>
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<td>0.6</td>
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<td>1.6</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
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Emerald Pools Loop Trails

This series of pools and waterfalls may be accessed by three different routes. 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 one-way from Middle Emerald Pools Trail, 200-foot ascent. A sandy, rocky trail climbs to the base of the tall cliff.

Kayenta 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.

Grotto Trail

Easy, 0.5-mile one-way, level. Trail connects Zion Lodge to The Grotto Picnic Area. Can be linked with Emerald Pools and Kayenta Trails to make a 3-mile loop hike.
Winter Hiking
Your safety is your responsibility. 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Head</th>
<th>Round Trip (mi/km)</th>
<th>Ascent (ft/m)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Map Location</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Zion Canyon</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa'rus Trail</td>
<td>3.5/5.6</td>
<td>50/15</td>
<td>Easy Paved trail follows Virgin River from South Campground to Canyon Junction.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeping Rock</td>
<td>0.5/0.8</td>
<td>98/30</td>
<td>Short but steep Minor drop-offs. Paved trail ends at alcove with dripping springs. May be icy, closures possible.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside Walk</td>
<td>2.0/3.2</td>
<td>57/17</td>
<td>Easy Minor drop-offs. Paved trail follows Virgin River along short side of canyon. Trailside exhibits. May be closed because of falling ice.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Emerald Pool</td>
<td>1.2/1.9</td>
<td>69/21</td>
<td>Easy Minor drop-offs. Paved trail to lower pool and waterfalls. May be closed because of ice on trail or ice falling from above. Page 3 for other trail options.</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Emerald Pool</td>
<td>2.4/3.8</td>
<td>350/107</td>
<td>Moderate Rocky trail ends at upper pool. May be closed because of ice on trail or falling ice. Distance given for route via the Lower Emerald Pool Trail.</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canyon Overlook</td>
<td>1.0/1.6</td>
<td>163/50</td>
<td>Moderate Long drop-offs. Rocky, uneven trail ends at viewpoint of lower Zion Canyon and Pine Creek Canyon. May be snow covered and icy.</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sand Bench</td>
<td>6.0/9.6</td>
<td>500/152</td>
<td>Moderate Loop trail passes ancient landslide and Streaked Wall. Good views of lower Zion Canyon and the Three Patriarchs.</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watchman Trail</td>
<td>2.7/4.3</td>
<td>368/112</td>
<td>Moderate Minor drop-offs. Ends at viewpoint of lower Zion Canyon and Oak Creek Canyon. May be muddy.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidden Canyon</td>
<td>2.0/3.2</td>
<td>850/259</td>
<td>Strenuous Long drop-offs. Not for anyone fearful of heights. Ends at narrow canyon. May be snow covered and icy.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angels Landing</td>
<td>5.0/8.0</td>
<td>148/453</td>
<td>Strenuous Long drop-offs and narrow trail. Not for anyone fearful of heights. Last 0.5 mi (0.8 km) follows steep, narrow ridge; chains have been added. May be snow covered and icy.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation Point</td>
<td>8.0/12.9</td>
<td>2148/655</td>
<td>Strenuous Climbs through Echo Canyon to a viewpoint. Trail gives access to other East Rim plateau trails. Cables, Deertrap Mountains. Snow and ice likely.</td>
<td>11</td>
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</table>

Zion Map & Guide 5
Park Profile

Established

Significance
Established to preserve and protect aesthetic and scientific values:
• Stunning scenery found nowhere else on earth.
• A geologic showpiece with sandstone cliffs among the highest in the world.
• One of the last mostly free-flowing river systems on the Colorado Plateau.
• A large, diverse plant and animal community.
• Evidence of human occupation both historic and prehistoric, including excellent examples of Civilian Conservation Corps work.

Size
232 square miles (148,733 acres).

Elevation
Lowest: 3,666 ft (1,117 m), Coalpits Wash in the southwest corner. Highest 8,726 ft (2,660 m), Horse Ranch Mountain.

Precipitation
Average: 15 inches in Zion Canyon.

Name
Zion, interpreted by Mormons as a place of safety or refuge, given to this canyon by Mormon pioneers in the 1860s. Kolob, in Mormon theology, is a heavenly place close to God.

Humans
Evidence of Ancestral Puebloans, known as the Anasazi, date from 2,000 years ago; Southern Paiutes from about 800 years ago to present. Mormon settlers arrived in the 1860s. Park visitation in 1920 was 3,692; in 2008 it reached 2.7 million.

Plant Life
Zion protects a rich diversity of plants with almost 800 native species. Differences in elevation, sunlight, water, and temperature create “microenvironments,” like hanging gardens, side canyons, and isolated mesas that lend to this diversity.

Animal Life
67 species of mammals, 207 birds, 35 reptiles and amphibians, six native fish. Commonly seen animals include mule deer, lizards, and many species of birds. Rare or endangered species include the peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owl, California condor, desert tortoise, and the Zion snail, found nowhere else on earth.

Zion Canyon Shuttle
Includes 30 propane buses. In 2008, ridership was 3.5 million. Each bus/trailer combination replaces 28 cars.

Wilderness
On March 30, 2009, President Barack Obama signed a bill into law designating 124,406 acres of Zion National Park as wilderness. The bill also added 648 acres of Bureau of Land Management land into the park on the east edge of Springdale. Ninety percent of Zion is managed under the 1964 Wilderness Act.
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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>December</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Winter Photography</td>
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<td>February</td>
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<td>Native Plant Seed Propagation</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>Watercolor Journaling</td>
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Service 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.

Zion National History Association

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 $400,000 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 Canyons; 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 of Zion in your own living-room. Learn about plants, animals, geology, park history, and what to see and do in Zion. 23 minutes, color. DVD (plays worldwide, English subtitles) $14.95, VHS $4.95.

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.

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 located between the park’s 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 (November 30 - mid-March), escorts through the tunnel must be scheduled between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Arrangements may be made at entrance stations, Zion Canyon Visitor Center, Zion Human History Museum, Zion Lodge, or by phoning 435-772-3256. Escorts are available 7 days a week.

You will not follow 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.

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.

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