



*Once you're familiar with the variety and richness of National Park System areas, you'll no longer be satisfied with armchair traveling. These natural, historic, and recreational sites comprise part of an astounding system that began in 1872, when a group of forward-looking men saw the need to preserve unique features of our nation, without impairment, for the future. We still enjoy the fruits of their idea, the first system of national parks in the world, and so—with your help—will generations to come.

This sampler will help you choose those areas you'd most like to visit. Some of the more popular activities in each area are listed, but don't hesitate to inquire if others you may have in mind are appropriate. Most parks are open year-round, a few winter holidays excepted. Write or call the areas for more detailed information to help you fully plan your trip and for specifics on activities, regulations, and weather conditions. And never hesitate to ask a ranger for help or advice once you've arrived.

Planning ahead will likely make the difference between an enjoyable trip and a less gratifying one. An off-season visit to a major park or a stop at a lesser-known one along your route can be particularly rewarding. If you asked for information more appropriately supplied by some other agency, we have forwarded the request. For National Park Service-operated sites, the following general information should get you started on the right track in planning your vacation!

- Entrance fees vary, can be up to \$2 per car or .50 per person not traveling by car. A Golden Eagle Passport (\$10 annually) provides entry to all parks, but does not apply to other fees. A free Golden Age Passport covers entry for those 62 and over, and their passengers, and provides a 50% discount on camp fees. Get them at NPS offices or parks.
- Auto camping is allowed only in designated campgrounds, all of them operated on a first-come, first-served basis, most with cold-water restrooms and no hookups or showers (occasionally concessioners offer these services). Winter operation often limited or curtailed, with no water available. Fees up to \$3 per site. In large park areas, group campsites can be reserved by organizations.
- Almost all parks require free permits for overnight backcountry use, numbers usually limited. Write or call for local regulations.
- In-park lodging available only where noted.
- Pets must be leashed at all times. They cannot be taken on trails or in the backcountry in most parks.
- Special regulations often apply to the use of horses or mules.
- State fishing licenses required at all parks.
- Motor boats must meet State/Coast Guard regulations on reservoirs, lakes, and rivers.
- Off-road vehicle use is never allowed; some few parks have designated four-wheel drive roads.
- Some major park roads are not plowed during winter.

- Snowmobiles are allowed in some areas; always check local rules.
 - Hunting allowed only in National Recreation Areas and then is regulated; firearms must be broken down in other areas.
 - Every park has at least one visitor center and a variety of interpretive activities; be sure to take advantage of them!
 - Keep peak-season travel plans flexible, since campgrounds, tours, or popular backcountry areas may be full when you arrive.
 - Special safety precautions are necessary in parks because of dangers like wild animals, steep cliffs, or thermal areas — stay alert and don't take chances.
- Most important, remember to have a good time! The parks are yours to preserve, use, and enjoy.

1 ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

Many arches of 150 million year old Entrada sandstone dot the landscape in this park in southeast Utah's redrock country, more than in any other known section. Sit quietly under one of them when you visit. You'll never forget that sense of awe! Hiking is great; whatever you do, get out of your car. Four-wheel drive roads available; campground year 'round. Tourist facilities handy in nearby Moab. Elevation 4000-5800'. **Moab, UT 84532; (801) 259-7265.**

2 BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

"... the wildest and most wonderful scene that the eye of man ever beheld..." was one early impression of Bryce Canyon, whose mood varies with weather, season, and sunlight. A winding cliff is bordered by badland topography, all famous for vivid colors and fragile forms. The pinks, reds, and lavenders... can there be so many shades? Try the rim drive, then a hike or a horseback ride into the canyon, or a X-C ski trip in winter. NPS has camping. Concession food and lodging summers only, year 'round nearby. **Bryce Canyon, UT 84717; (801) 834-5322.**

3 CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Time and erosion have produced an outstanding variety of form in Canyonlands — fins, pinnacles, arches, and canyon labyrinths — and clothed the landscape in hues of rock and sky that defy everyday experience. A rugged area, most access is by trail or four-wheel drive road; camping and backpacking are popular, as is river-running on the Colorado through Cataract Canyon (advance permit required). Park has primitive campgrounds, backcountry camping. Tourist services available in adjacent towns. Commercial river trips. Elevation 3800-6500'. **446 South Main Street, Moab, UT 84532; (801) 259-7165.**

4 CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

Capitol Reef is a water carved land, a geology buff's delight! Dikes, plugs, the monocline of Waterpocket Fold, and layers of sandstone all are there... but if you're not a geologist you'll still enjoy a visit, because it's just plain a pretty place. Capitol Reef also boasts an early Mormon settlement now maintained as an historic district; its orchards still bear fruit that's offered a lift to many a fatigued visitor. Camping, hiking popular; concessioner tours in summer. No commercial facilities in park. **Torrey, UT 84775; (801) 425-3871.**



* U.S. Government Printing Office: 1976-678-774

National Park Service
Public Affairs Office
PO Box 25287 Denver, CO 80225



NATIONAL PARK AREAS IN

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5 CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

At Cedar Breaks the visitor is treated to the redrock badland scenery eroded into the spires and ridges that are so characteristic of southern Utah, along with a portion of the pine, fir, spruce, and aspen highlands from which the ravines were carved. Meadows sparkle with wildflowers in late July. Especially interesting are the Bristlecone pine trees, one dated as old as 1,600 years. Enjoy the rim drive, campground, and trails; tourist support facilities are distant. Elevation 10,000'. For more information, contact **Zion NP**.

6 GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

At 12:47 p.m., May 10, 1869, the telegraphers' three dots — "DONE," flashed coast to coast from Promontory Summit, Utah: the golden spike was symbolically driven, and rails from east and west for the first time joined. Today, the site features a collection of railroad memorabilia; that last, famous piece of track is reconstructed; vintage engines tickle the imagination; and in summers, "living history" characters recreate the times. Day use only; tourist services nearby. **Promontory Star Route, Corinne, UT 84307; (801) 471-2209.**

7 DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

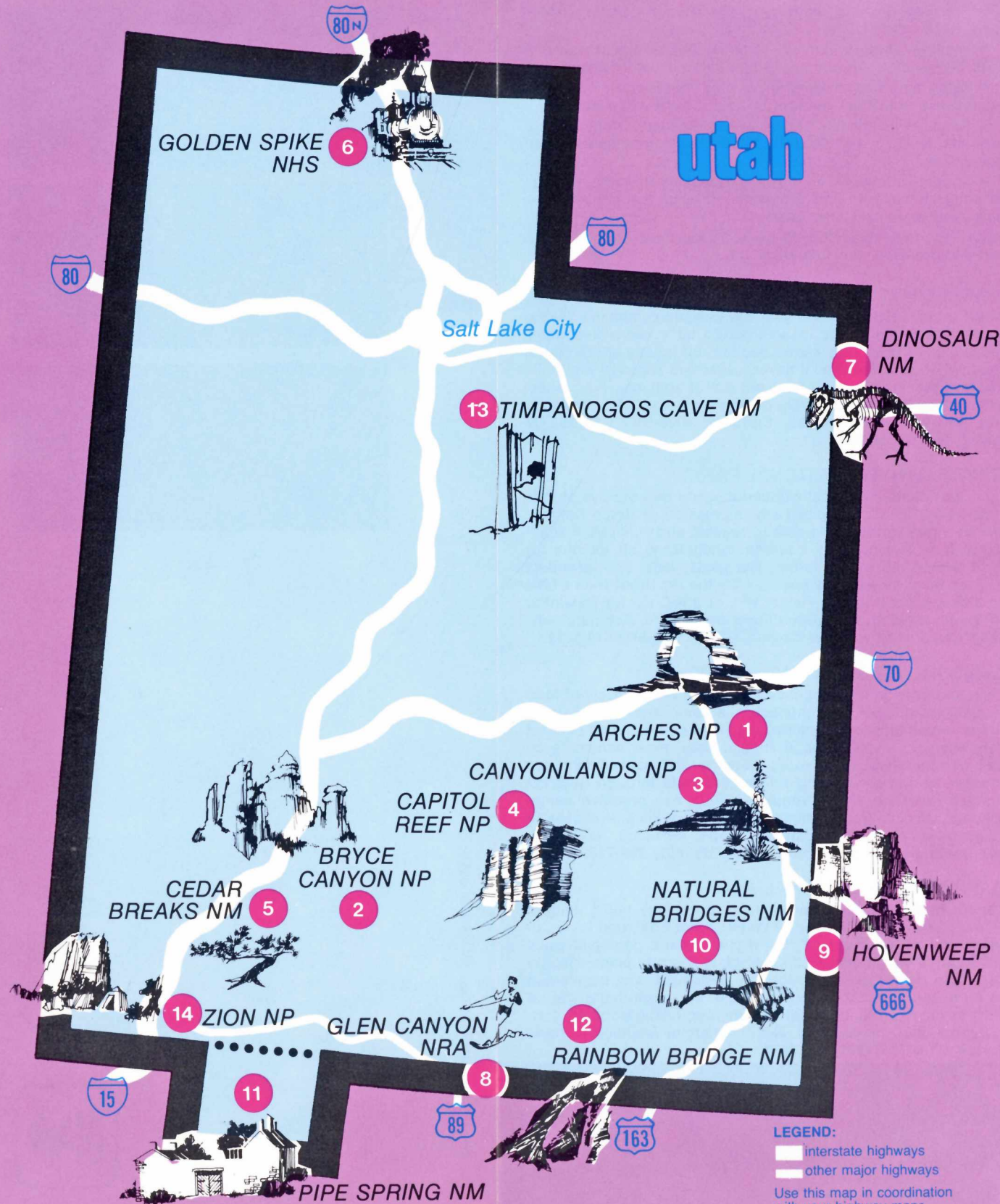
Rivers tumbling through lovely canyons and a world-famous dinosaur fossil quarry make an attractive package here! At the quarry, visitors watch as technicians bring into relief the million year old fossilized bones. And on the Green and Yampa Rivers, whitewater rafting enthusiasts enjoy thrills and occasional spills on two of the finest runs in the west. Free permits required for river-running; numbers strictly limited. Apply by December 1 of preceding year. Campgrounds in monument; other services nearby. **P. O. Box 210, Dinosaur, CO 81610; (303) 374-2216.**

8 GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The Colorado River behind Glen Canyon Dam has swollen to form the sandstone-rimmed 186 mile-long Lake Powell, with 1,960 miles of canyon-indented shoreline. Water sports are the major activity here, wilderness hiking in canyon country is also popular. Campgrounds, beach, and launching facilities. Boat and equipment rental, motel, restaurant, trailer villages, service stations available scattered through area. Visit Glen Canyon Dam and Rainbow Bridge NM. Lake elevation 3700'. **P. O. Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040; (602) 645-2471.**

9 HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT

At Hovenweep, a Ute Indian word meaning "deserted valley," pre-Columbian Pueblo Indians left six groups of ruins, all noted for their square, oval, circular, or D-shaped towers. The farmers and craftsmen who lived here in the San Juan region came as long as 2000 years ago and drifted away during a prolonged drought in the late 1200's. All approach roads are unpaved; inquire locally about conditions. Campground on-site; other services are distant. For further information, contact **Mesa Verde NP**.



10 NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT

It's taken nature 225 million years to hollow out these three great natural bridges, but it was worth the waiting. Sipapu . . . Kachina . . . Owachomo, stream-eroded bridges with lyrical names that range from 180 to 268 feet in span and 9 to 93 feet in thickness. Prehistoric pictographs and ruins enhance the monument's appeal. Bridge View Drive provides a good look; a hike under the bridges is especially recommended. Small primitive campground on-site; all other tourist facilities are distant, so be prepared. Elevation 6500'. For more information, contact **Canyonlands NP**.

11 PIPE SPRING NATIONAL MONUMENT

An oasis in the desert, Pipe Spring was an outpost for Mormon settlers and missionaries who vowed to tame this wild portion of the west. Established as both a fort to protect settlers from Indian raids and a ranch to raise their cattle and dairy products, Pipe Spring in the 1860's and 1870's was typical of its era. "Living history" programs during the summer months. Day use only; tourist facilities nearby. **Moccasin, AZ 86022; (602) 643-5505.**

12 RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Early Indians held this natural bridge in awe; ancient legends tell it is a rainbow changed to stone. Its salmon-pink sandstone face is streaked with iron oxide and hematite, whose colors become bright in the afternoon sun. The bridge was formed when Bridge Creek cut through a thin rock spur along its meandering course. It is accessible by commercial or private boat from Lake Powell, or by horseback or hiking from the Navajo Indian reservation. For more information, contact **Glen Canyon NRA**.

13 TIMPANOGOS CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Your reward for making the steep 1.5 mile hike up to the entrance to Timpanogos Cave, in addition to great views of the American Fork Canyon, is a trip through an absolute jewel of a cave! Much of the interior of this series of small limestone caverns is covered by a filigree of white translucent crystals which sparkle in a variety of formations. Small tour fee. For less energetic visitors, a nature walk on the lovely canyon floor is great for the sighted and has been adapted for the blind. Summer snack service. Cave closed winter. Day use only; tourist facilities nearby. **Route 2, Box 200, American Fork, UT 84003; (801) 756-4497.**

14 ZION NATIONAL PARK

As the westward-moving Mormon pioneers of the 19th century sought "Zion," an ideal place to settle, they claimed Utah's Great Basin and the surrounding country. At first the colorful Zion Canyon was considered an obstacle, but soon it became a place for retreat and recreation. It's appropriate that the national park that developed here was named Zion, for the towering and beautiful rock formations, domes, and narrow canyons, interspersed with oases of springs and broadleafed trees, cannot be faulted. Camping, hiking, rock climbing, summer nature school for youngsters. Elevation 4000-8000'. Food and lodging in summer only; year 'round facilities nearby. **Springdale, UT 84767; (801) 772-3256.**

