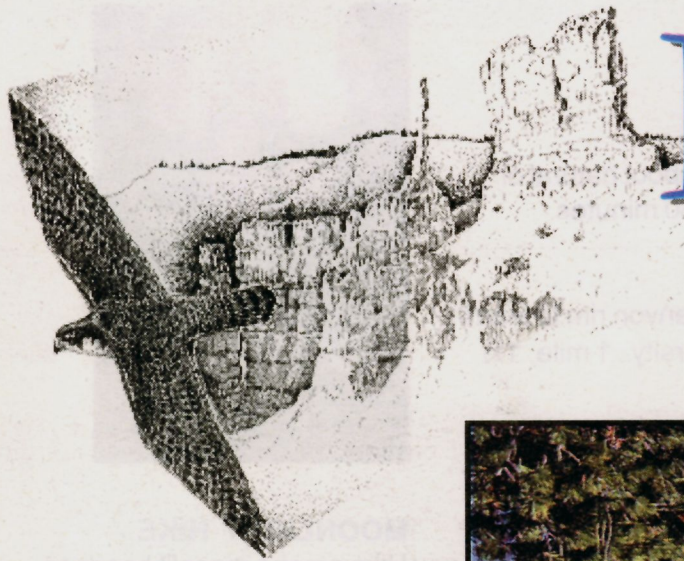




HOODOO

[hōō'-dōō] *n.* (Of African origin) 1. A pinnacle, or odd-shaped rock left standing by the forces of erosion. 2. To cast a spell or cause bad luck.



"...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein, and to provide for their enjoyment in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations..."

National Park Service Organic Act, 1916



Photo of Bryce Amphitheater courtesy of John Wagner

Superintendent's Welcome...

Welcome to Bryce Canyon National Park, a place of extraordinary beauty. We hope you take the time to savor the park's special wonders.

We are pleased that you have made the journey to Bryce Canyon in this millennial year. Nearly two million visitors from all over the world will visit the park this year. It's been said that the National Park Service is one of America's best ideas. With this success, however, comes the challenge of protecting our unique resources and managing the ever-increasing numbers of park visitors.

New this year are several park projects which are directed toward resolving visitation concerns. The Bryce Canyon National Park Shuttle, Visitor Center remodel, and 10-mile reconstruction of the park road will be initiated this summer. Please look for more information on these exciting improvement projects inside this edition of the *Hoodoo*.

You can explore the park in a variety of ways. Sight-seeing, photography, hiking, camping, horseback riding and star-gazing are some of the many ways you can experience and enjoy your national park.

We invite you to join park rangers on free guided activities. These activities vary from the Rim Walk, which is wheelchair accessible, to the more strenuous Navajo Loop, which descends 521 feet to the floor of the canyon. Rangers discuss plants, animals, geology and history during the various programs offered each day.

Take time to ponder the wonders at Bryce Canyon National Park and enjoy the precious moments you spend here.

Fred J. Fagergren

What's Inside...

Accessibility.....	3
Backcountry Information.....	8
Day Hiking Information.....	6
Junior Ranger Program.....	2
Map of Developed Area.....	6-7
Maps of Park.....	5,8
Natural History Association.....	11
Park Improvement Projects.....	4
Photo Tips.....	10
Preserving Your Park.....	10
Ranger Programs.....	2
Recycling.....	9
Resource Management.....	9
Safety Information.....	3
Services and Facilities.....	3
Shuttle Information.....	5
Shuttle Schedule.....	6
Southwest Utah Sites.....	12
Weather Information.....	8

RANGER PROGRAMS

How to Contact Us:

✓ **FOR EMERGENCIES:**
Notify a park ranger or call 911.

✓ **Listen** to AM Radio 1610 for Bryce Canyon National Park Shuttle information.

✓ **Listen** to AM Radio 1590 for general park information.

✓ **Call us** at 435/834-5322.

✓ **Write** to us at:
Bryce Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 170001
Bryce Canyon, UT 84717

✓ **Visit** our web site at:
www.nps.gov/brca/



Park Profile

✓ **Established:**

1923 as Bryce Canyon National Monument, 1924 (proposed as) Utah National Park and in 1928 Bryce Canyon National Park

✓ **Elevation:**

Lowest point: 6,620 feet (2018 m)
Highest point: 9,115 feet (2778 m)

✓ **Precipitation:**

Annual Average: 18 inches (45.7 cm)

✓ **Name:**

Ebenezer Bryce lived in the area from 1875-1880 and aided in the settlement of southwestern Utah and northern Arizona.

✓ **Annual Visitation:**

1929: 22,000 visits
1959: 278,000 visits
1999: 1.7 million visits

Walks, Talks & Other Activities

MORNING HIKE -

Hike into the hoodoos along either the Queens Garden or Navajo Loop Trail. 1½ miles, 2½ hours.

GEOLOGY TALK -

Rangers tell the geological story of Bryce Canyon. 30 minutes.



PATIO TALK -

Relax and learn about natural or cultural history. 30 minutes.

RIM WALK -

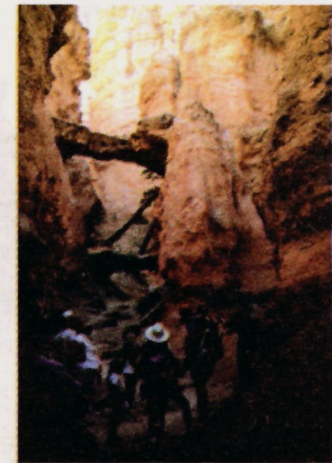
Stroll along the canyon rim to learn of the park's diversity. 1 mile, 1½ hours.

JUST FOR KIDS -

Join a ranger for games and activities on ecology and Bryce Canyon. 1 hour. Reservations required.

CAMPFIRE/AUDITORIUM PROGRAM -

Bryce Canyon's diversity comes to life during the slide program or evening talk at the campfire circles or Bryce Canyon Lodge auditorium. 1 hour.



MOONLIGHT HIKE -

Hike among moonlit hoodoos. Reservations (in person) required. 2 hours. (Offered three times each month during the full moon.)

STAR PARTY -

Join an astronomer from Hansen Planetarium and view the sky through telescopes. 2 hours. (Offered once each month.)

Performing Arts Series

NEW THIS YEAR!

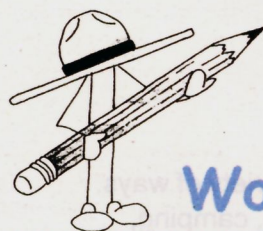
June 23: "Earth Speaks" by Jim Gores and Kevin Tippets. Stunning nature photography combines with stirring and emotional music to create a beautiful and unforgettable slide show.

July 13-15: "Old Time Fiddlers." Come join in the fun with foot-stomping, thigh-slapping, hand-clapping American fiddle music.

August (exact date to be announced): "The Utah Raptor and Other Fascinating Dinosaur Discoveries from Southern Utah" Jim Kirkland, Ph.D. Utah's leading paleontologist uses slides and fossils to describe the life and times of some of the most fascinating creatures that ever lived.

MORE TO COME. . . .

For dates, times, locations and topics, check the activity schedules posted at the visitor center, general store, Bryce Canyon Lodge, and campground bulletin boards.



Hey Kids!

Would you like to become a Junior Ranger?

Bryce Canyon's Junior Rangers have a special chance to learn about the park's natural and cultural history.

Kids, stop at the visitor center and pick up a Junior Ranger booklet. Complete the activities inside and return it to a ranger at the visitor center.



When you've finished, you'll receive a certificate, a Bryce Canyon Junior Ranger badge and embroidered patch!

For Kids Only!

Join in the fun and become a Bryce Canyon Junior Ranger.



SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Visitor Center:



Bryce Canyon's visitor center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended hours during the spring, summer and fall. Park information, exhibits, publications, an orientation video, backcountry permits, first aid and lost-and-found services are available here.

Camping:



North and Sunset Campgrounds have a total of 216 sites, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Camping is \$10 a night per site. One group campsite is available by reservation only. No hookups are provided, but a fee-for-use sanitary dump station is available seasonally near North Campground.

Lodging:



Bryce Canyon Lodge has 114 rooms including suites, motel rooms and cabins. For lodging reservations, write to: Amfac Parks and Resorts, Inc., 4001 East Iliff Ave., Suite 600, Aurora, CO 80014, or call (303) 297-2757.

Food/Supplies:



The lodge has a restaurant, gift shop and post office. The restaurant at Bryce Canyon Lodge is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The General Store, located near Sunrise Point parking area, has groceries, quick meals, film and camper supplies.

Showers/Laundry:



Shower and laundry facilities are available at the General Store, located near Sunrise Point parking area.

Church Services:



Non-denominational and LDS services are held in the park on Sundays. Other services are offered in neighboring communities. Check at the visitor center or Bryce Canyon Lodge for schedules.

Horseback Rides:



Morning and afternoon horseback rides led by wranglers are available April through October. Inquire at Bryce Canyon Lodge or call (435) 834-5500. For advance reservations, write to: Canyon Trail Rides, P.O. Box 128, Tropic, UT 84776, or call (435) 679-8665.

Phones:



Public phones are available in the park at the visitor center, Bryce Canyon Lodge, General Store and Sunset Campground. Emergency information is posted at the phones.

Mail:



A post office is open at Ruby's Inn (Bryce, UT 84764) all year, and at the Bryce Canyon Lodge (Bryce Canyon, UT 84717) April through October. The park is unable to accept personal mail addressed to visitors.

Pets:



Pets are not recommended in the park. If you must bring your pet with you, be aware that they must be on a leash and under control at all times, they are not permitted on park trails, and there are no kennel services within 80 miles of the park.

Bicycles:



Bicycles are restricted to paved roadways. Information on mountain biking opportunities outside of the park may be obtained by writing or calling the Garfield County Travel Council, P.O. Box 200, Panguitch, Utah 84759, (800) 444-6689.

Picnic Areas:



Picnic tables, water and restrooms are available at Sunset Point, Yovimpa Point and the south end of North Campground. Picnic tables are also located along the road to Rainbow Point, but these offer no other amenities.

Accessibility



National parks are set aside for the enjoyment of all. Because of the rugged nature of many of our nation's treasures, it has been difficult to provide access for everyone who might have special needs. The National Park Service has been making strides to furnish facilities that allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy the beauties of the great outdoors.

Visitors will find that this is true at Bryce Canyon as well. Some of the steps to insure accessibility include:

- ♦ restrooms with accessible stalls
- ♦ accessible campsites
- ♦ half-mile section of the Rim Trail between Sunset and Sunrise Points is suitable for wheelchair and those who have difficulty walking
- ♦ parking displaying the International Access Symbol
- ♦ many ranger guided interpretive programs (check at the visitor center for applicable programs)

- ♦ Bryce Canyon General Store and Lodge are accessible as are the gift shop, laundry, showers, and restaurant.

If you have any questions about accessible facilities within the park, please contact the visitor center. Here you can obtain temporary handicapped parking permits, if necessary.

Safety at Bryce



Observe speed limits and buckle up!

Be aware of the altitude. Park elevations reach 9115 feet (2778 meters). Know and respect your own physical limitations. High altitude sun can burn and dehydrate quickly. Drink plenty of water. Wear a hat, sunscreen and sunglasses that block ultraviolet light.



Stay on designated trails and away from cliff edges. Loose and crumbly rocks can make footing treacherous. Falls can be deadly. Don't throw rocks into the canyon; you may injure hikers on trails below you.



Ankle injuries are our number one safety problem. Wear hiking boots with good ankle support and traction.



During lightning storms, stay away from the rim and do not take shelter under trees.



Do your part. DON'T feed the wildlife. Human food is harmful to wild animals. Animals will bite and can transmit diseases such as rabies and bubonic plague. Watch wildlife from a distance.

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



Please Pardon Our Road Dust...

Beginning this summer, visitors to Bryce Canyon National Park will discover that the first 10 miles of park road will be receiving a much-needed overhaul. Modifications are designed to increase safety, protect the resource and improve the visitor experience. Road work will continue through the fall of 2002.

History of the Road:

The original road from the park's northern boundary to Bryce Canyon Lodge was constructed by the U.S. Forest Service in 1923. The road was extended south along the plateau rim to Rainbow Point between 1930 and 1934. The entire road corridor was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

Time for a Change:

In 1985, the park's General Management Plan recognized the fact that the park road no longer met current specifications and was unable to accommodate today's volume of traffic and vehicle size. Interim widening efforts had resulted in unstable slopes and the loss of shoulder areas. The road bed, never intended for winter use, had seriously deteriorated and become difficult and expensive to maintain. Therefore, it was deemed necessary to reconstruct the entire 18-mile road.

Improvements to be Made:

In 1994-95, the 8-mile section of road from Farview Point south to Rainbow Point was completely reconstructed. Phase I included widening and realigning road corridors, and expanding parking areas to increase capacity and eliminate safety hazards.

Phase II of the road project will begin in July, 2000 and will include the section of road from the park's northern boundary, south to Farivew Point. Much of the work will include widening lanes and shoulder areas. Some intersections will be realigned, and certain parking areas will be redesigned and expanded.

Short Delays Possible:

The park will remain open during construction; however, there may be delays of up to 15 minutes on some sections of roadway. We appreciate your patience during this improvement project.



One way to relieve the stress of driving in the park during road construction is to ride the new Bryce Canyon National Park Shuttle. Shuttle buses will be granted preferential treatment and construction delays will be shorter for shuttle passengers than for those in personal vehicles.

Fee Demonstration Program

Bryce Canyon National Park is one of 100 National Park Service areas participating in the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, authorized by Congress in 1996.

The goal of the Fee Demonstration Program is to provide the National Park Service with increased financial resources to meet the ever-increasing visitor and resource demands. You may notice higher fees to enter parks and camp in campgrounds, as well as new fees for such things as backcountry permits and some interpretive programs. But even with these increases, our national parks could still be considered a bargain in today's world. Eighty percent of these new fees remain at the collecting park, rather than going to the general fund of the U.S. Treasury, as before.

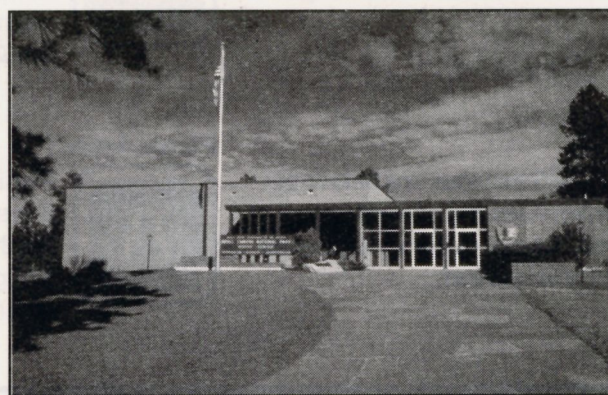
Bryce Canyon has identified numerous projects, such as implementation of a visitor shuttle system, improvements to the park visitor center, and rehabilitation of existing restrooms and campgrounds throughout the park. These and other projects will greatly improve service to the growing number of park visitors, as well as enhance the total visitor experience within Bryce Canyon National Park.

Thank you for your support in making our parks a better place for all.

UserFee

improves this park

Visitor Center Remodel



To better serve our visitors, Bryce Canyon National Park's 40-year-old visitor center will be undergoing significant expansion and renovation over the next two years.

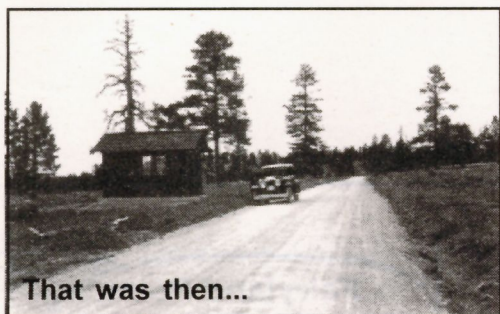
When our visitor center was constructed in 1959, it was more than adequate for accommodating its 17 employees and 278,000

annual visitors. Today, however, our visitor center is bursting at the seams with a staff of 66 employees, and annual visitation exceeding 1.7 million visits. No one could have predicted 40 years ago that Bryce Canyon's visitation would increase more than 500% by the turn of the century!

The visitor center renovation will provide Bryce Canyon's visitors with expanded, wheelchair-accessible restrooms and a visitor center more than double its current size. Increased office space will enable Bryce Canyon employees to further the National Park Service mission of protecting our resources and providing greater interpretation, education and research opportunities for our visiting public.

Bryce Canyon's visitor center renovation will be funded, in part, by revenues generated from the National Park Service Fee Demonstration Program. This project is just one of many improvements you'll see in your national parks over the next few years.

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK SHUTTLE

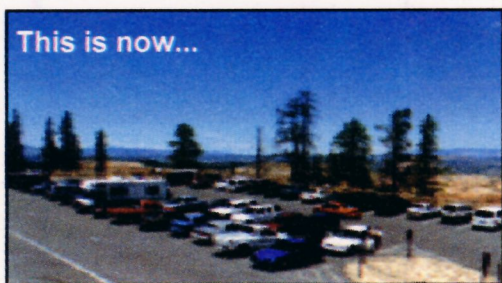


That was then...

It probably would have been difficult to imagine a problem with overcrowding when Bryce Canyon became a national park back in 1928. The park's remote location and poor dirt roads kept visitation to a minimum.

Today the situation has changed dramatically. During summer months, much of the magic of Bryce Canyon is lost to heavy traffic and long lines of vehicles waiting for an empty parking space. There is currently one parking space for every four vehicles entering the park.

This summer, the National Park Service will implement a shuttle system at Bryce Canyon in an effort to eliminate congestion, reduce vehicle emissions, and restore the serenity and natural quiet which are integral to the Bryce Canyon experience.



This is now...

When will the shuttle operate?

During this first year, the Bryce Canyon National Park Shuttle will operate from June 19 through September 30, 2000. In subsequent years, the shuttle will operate May 15 through September 30.

How much will it cost?

Congress has mandated that all new transportation systems be self-supporting. In order to provide a shuttle service without using tax dollars, a private contractor will provide shuttle buses and facilities at a staging area outside of the park. A \$15 fee will be charged for visitors who leave their cars at the staging area and ride the shuttle into the park.

What if I want to bring my own vehicle into the park?

Visitors who drive their own vehicles into the park will be charged a \$20 fee at the entrance station. Once inside the park, all visitors have the option of using the shuttle throughout their stay.

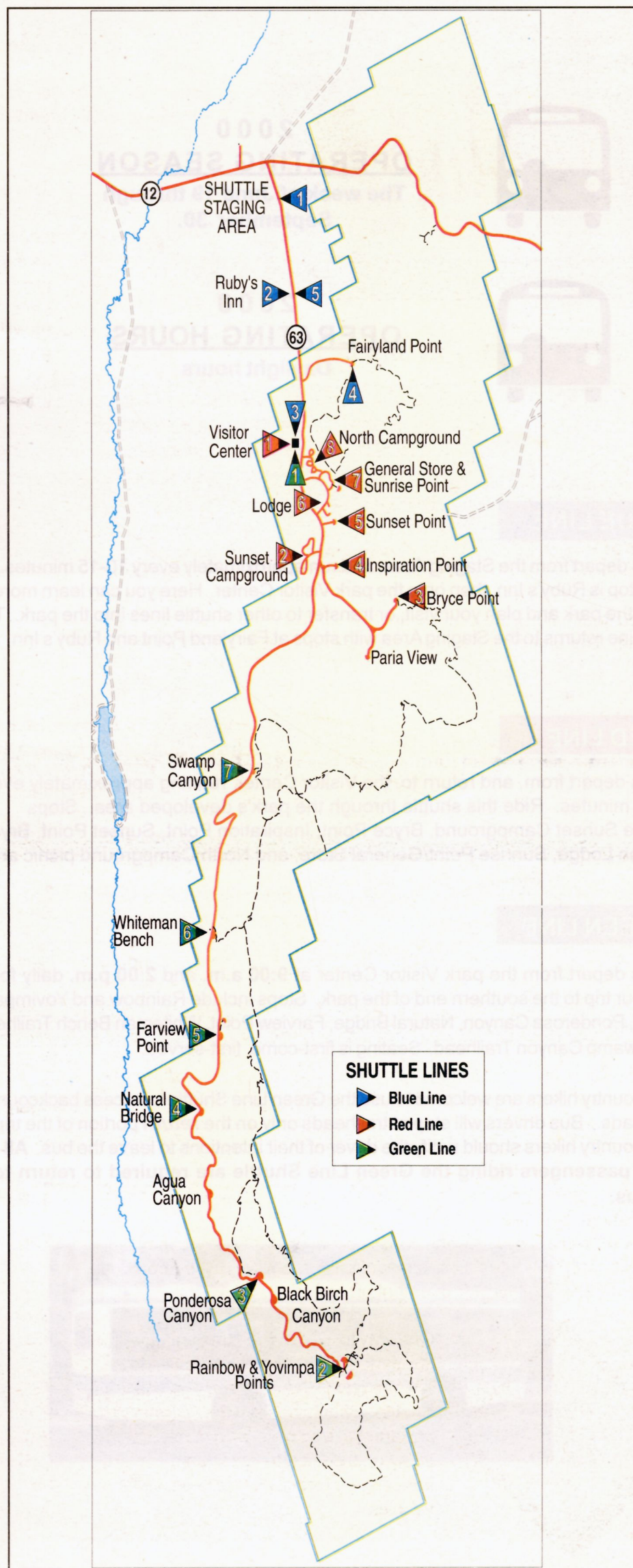
How often will the shuttle make stops at the various viewpoints?

Approximately once every 10-15 minutes. See the shuttle schedule on page 6 for more information.

Do your part. Park and ride!



Future Bryce Canyon Visitor Center and Park Headquarters





**2000
OPERATING SEASON**
The week of June 19 through
September 30.



**2000
OPERATING HOURS**
Daylight hours

BLUE LINE

Buses depart from the Staging Area, and run approximately every 10-15 minutes. First stop is Ruby's Inn, then onto the park Visitor Center. Here you can learn more about the park and plan your visit, or transfer to other shuttle lines into the park. The Blue Line returns to the Staging Area with stops at Fairyland Point and Ruby's Inn.

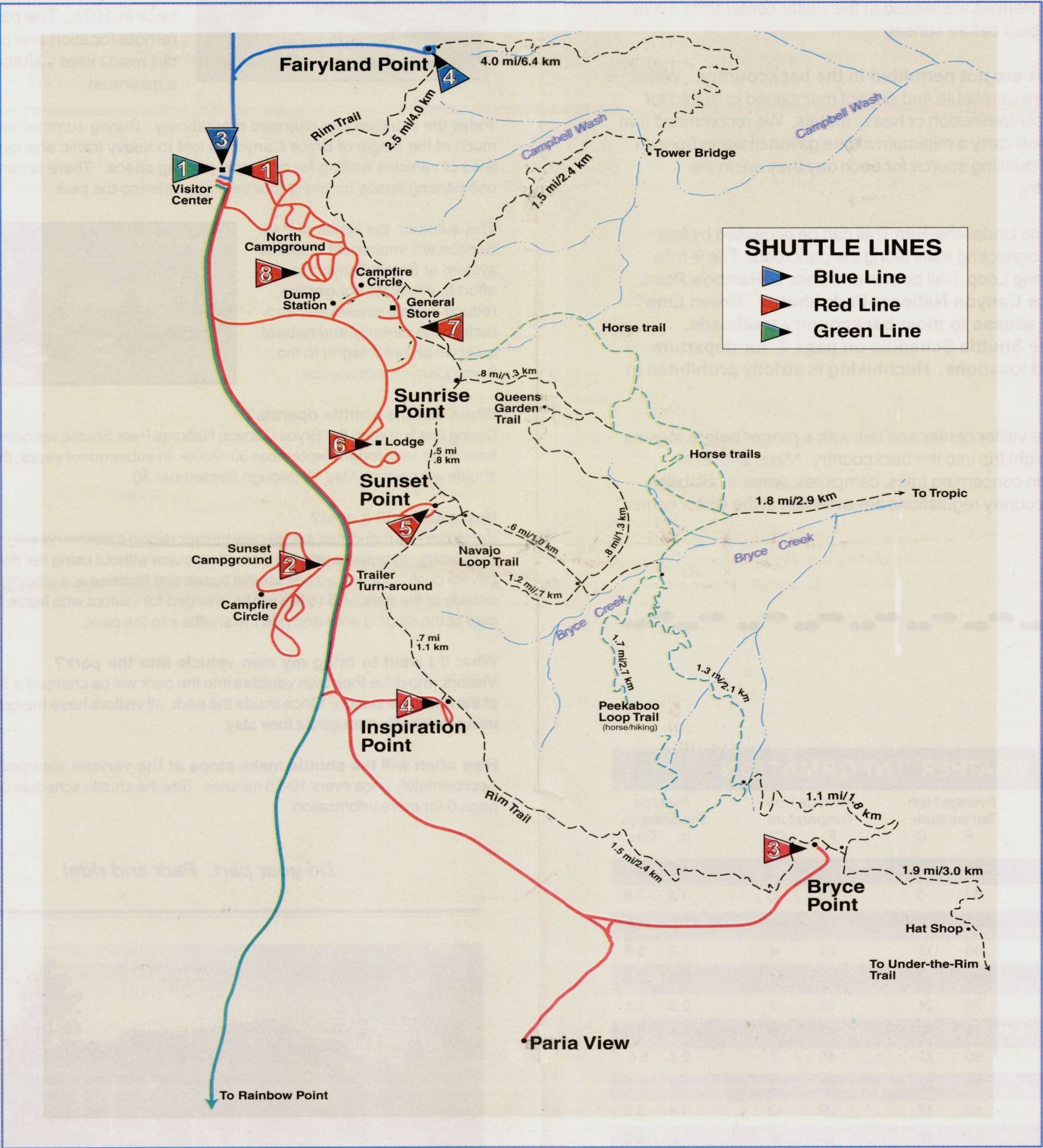
RED LINE

Buses depart from, and return to, the Visitor Center, running approximately every 10-15 minutes. Ride this shuttle through the park's developed area. Stops include Sunset Campground, Bryce Point, Inspiration Point, Sunset Point, Bryce Canyon Lodge, Sunrise Point/General Store, and North Campground picnic area.

GREEN LINE

Buses depart from the park Visitor Center at **9:00 a.m.** and **2:00 p.m.** daily for a 2½-hour trip to the southern end of the park. Stops include Rainbow and Yovimpa Points, Ponderosa Canyon, Natural Bridge, Farview Point, Whiteman Bench Trailhead, and Swamp Canyon Trailhead. Seating is first-come, first-served.

Backcountry hikers are welcome to use the Green Line Shuttle to access backcountry trailheads. Bus drivers will stop at trailheads only on the **return** portion of the trip. Backcountry hikers should notify the driver of their intentions to leave the bus. **All other passengers riding the Green Line Shuttle are required to return to the bus.**



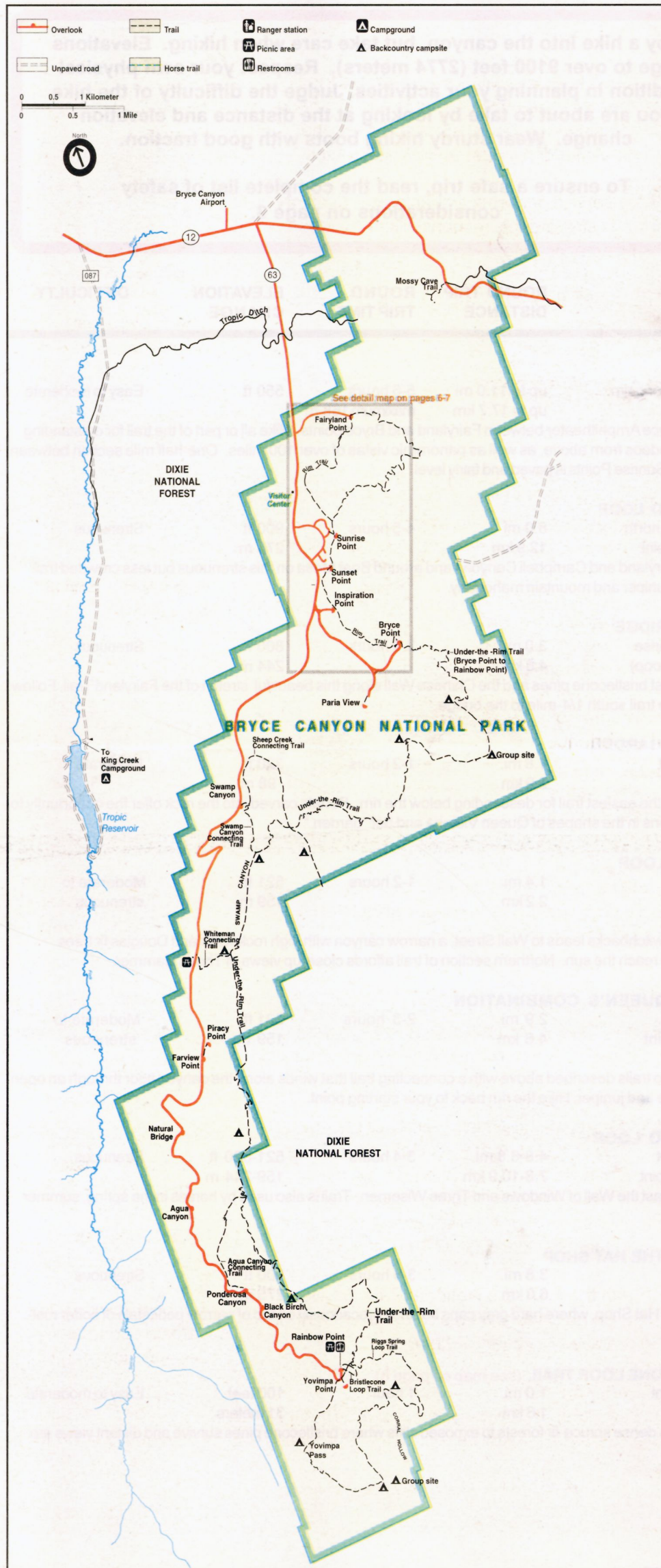
Developed Area Map

Enjoy a hike into the canyon, but take care when hiking. Elevations range to over 9100 feet (2774 meters). Respect your own physical condition in planning your activities. Judge the difficulty of the hike you are about to take by looking at the distance and elevation change. Wear sturdy hiking boots with good traction.

To ensure a safe trip, read the complete list of safety considerations on page 3.

STARTING POINT	ROUND TRIP DISTANCE	ROUND TRIP TIME	ELEVATION CHANGE	DIFFICULTY
RIM TRAIL				
Anywhere along rim (not a loop)	up to 11.0 mi up to 17.7 km	5-6 hours maximum 168 m	550 ft	Easy to moderate
Parallels Bryce Amphitheater between Fairyland and Bryce points. Hike all or part of the trail for outstanding views of hoodoos from above, as well as panoramic vistas of over 100 miles. One-half mile section between Sunset and Sunrise Points is paved and fairly level.				
FAIRYLAND LOOP				
Fairyland or north of Sunrise Point	8.0 mi 12.9 km	4-5 hours	900 ft 275 m	Strenuous
Hike into Fairyland and Campbell Canyons and around Boat Mesa on this strenuous but less crowded trail dotted with juniper and mountain mahogany.				
TOWER BRIDGE				
North of Sunrise Point (not a loop)	3.0 mi. 4.8 km	2-3 hours	800 ft 244 m	Strenuous
Descend past bristlecone pines and the Chinese Wall along this beautiful stretch of the Fairyland Trail. Follow a shady side trail south 1/4-mile to the bridge.				
QUEEN'S GARDEN				
Sunrise Point (not a loop)	1.8 mi. 2.9 km	1-2 hours	320 ft 98 m	Moderate
Considered the easiest trail for descending below the rim. Portals carved into the rock offer the opportunity to see formations in the shapes of Queen Victoria and her "garden."				
NAVAJO LOOP				
Sunset Point	1.4 mi. 2.2 km	1-2 hours	521 ft 159 m	Moderate to strenuous
A series of switchbacks leads to Wall Street, a narrow canyon with high rock walls and Douglas fir trees stretching to reach the sun. Northern section of trail affords close-up views of Thor's Hammer.				
NAVAJO/QUEEN'S COMBINATION				
Sunset or Sunrise Point	2.9 mi. 4.6 km	2-3 hours	521 ft 159 m	Moderate to strenuous
Combine two trails described above with a connecting trail that winds along the canyon floor through an open forest of pine and juniper. Hike the rim back to your starting point.				
PEEKABOO LOOP				
Bryce, Sunset or Sunrise Point	4.8-6.8 mi. 7.8-10.9 km	3-4 hours	521-800 ft 159-244 m	Strenuous
Steep hike past the Wall of Windows and Three Wisemen. Trail is also used by horses in the spring, summer and fall.				
TRAIL TO THE HAT SHOP				
Bryce Point (not a loop)	3.8 mi. 6.0 km	3-4 hours	900 ft 275 m	Strenuous
Leads to the Hat Shop, where hard gray caps balance precariously on top of narrow pedestals of softer rust-colored rock.				
BRISTLECONE LOOP TRAIL (see map on page 8)				
Rainbow Point	1.0 mi. 1.6 km	1 hour	100 feet 31 meters	Easy to moderate
Hike through dense spruce-fir forests to exposed cliffs where bristlecone pines survive and distant views are exceptional.				

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING



Bryce Canyon's backcountry is a primitive area and managed according to regulations that protect its wilderness values. Backcountry camping is allowed on a limited basis and only at designated campsites. A \$5 backcountry permit is required. Permits are issued at the visitor center from 8 a.m. until two hours before sunset.

Campfires are not permitted in the backcountry. Water sources are unreliable and are not maintained or tested for bacterial contamination or heavy metals. We recommend that each person carry a minimum of one gallon of water from an approved drinking source for each day they are in the backcountry.

The 23-mile Under-the-Rim Trail can be accessed by four different connecting trails along the park road. The 9-mile Riggs Spring Loop Trail begins and ends at Rainbow Point. **The Bryce Canyon National Park Shuttle "Green Line" provides access to most backcountry trailheads. Check the Shuttle Schedule on page 6 for departure times and locations. Hitchhiking is strictly prohibited in the park.**

Stop at the visitor center and talk with a ranger before making any overnight trip into the backcountry. Maps and other information concerning trails, campsites, water availability and backcountry regulations are available at the visitor center.



WEATHER INFORMATION

	Average High Temperature		Average Low Temperature		Average Precipitation	
	F	C	F	C	In.	Cm.
January	39	4	9	-13	1.7	4.3
February	41	5	13	-11	1.4	3.6
March	46	8	17	-8	1.4	3.6
April	56	13	25	-4	1.2	3.0
May	66	19	31	-1	0.8	2.0
June	76	24	38	3	0.6	1.5
July	83	30	47	8	1.4	3.6
August	80	27	45	7	2.2	5.6
September	74	23	37	3	1.4	3.6
October	63	17	29	-2	1.4	3.6
November	51	11	19	-7	1.2	3.0
December	42	6	11	-12	1.6	4.0

Those Who Came Before

This summer, Bryce Canyon National Park will be conducting an archeological survey to gain a better understanding of the archeology resources in the park.



Because Bryce Canyon's archeology has never been systematically investigated, the age and type of prehistoric and historic sites present are largely unknown.

It is anticipated that this survey will turn up artifacts from Archaic camps, Fremont and Ancestral Puebloan (formerly Anasazi) summer residences, Paiute encampments, and 19th century Anglo-American timber and livestock sites.

The National Park Service performs archeological inventory surveys as part of its stewardship responsibilities for the 379 sites under its administration. Bryce Canyon's survey will be conducted by a team of archeologists from the Anthropology Projects Program in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Why Are So Many Trees Black?

While driving through Bryce, you may find scorched trees or other signs of recent forest fires. Some fires were started by lightning, others were intentionally set by park rangers using a modern ecological practice called "prescribed burning."

Smokey Bear, the U.S. Forest Service's mascot, was such an effective fire prevention tool that now it is very hard for land managers to convince people that forest fires are necessary. Many people are left confused, wondering, "Is fire good or bad?"

The answer depends on what species you are. Fire is devastating to forest parasites and can be harmful to some tree species. On the other hand, fires promote the growth of grasses, forbs, and berry-producing shrubs, thus providing food for birds and other wildlife species. Yet, the main reason why the National Park Service prescribes fire is simply because fire is a natural process.



For millions of years, plants and animals have lived with fire. Only in the last 125 years, have we humans tried to change the laws of nature by preventing forest fires. Nature has not adjusted

well to our anti-fire notions. We realize now how our fear of fire has upset the natural balance. Fire prevention is turning our forests into sterile monocultures, leading to an overall reduction in biodiversity. Fire suppression has also led to large, unnatural accumulations of fuels on our forest floors. Should a fire ignite, these fuels could lead to a firestorm of destruction.

The National Park Service will continue to prescribe fire in an attempt to restore the balance. We will also allow natural fires to burn freely, providing they do not threaten people, property, historic resources, or endangered species. We do this not because forest fire is either good or bad, but because it has always been a part of the natural process.

The Nature of Sound

There was a time not long ago when the silence on the trails at Bryce Canyon was broken only by natural sounds: wind whispering in the trees, birdsong, thunder. Today, however, we are increasingly subjected to the noise of low-flying aircraft at Bryce Canyon, as is the case in many national parks. The noise of aircraft destroys the solitude that is integral to the Bryce Canyon experience.



Aircraft noise is the park's primary source of visitor complaints. Unfortunately, the park has no authority over its airspace. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the agency charged with governing overflights. At Bryce Canyon, the FAA imposes no restrictions on flights other than an advisory to maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet above the highest landform.

Recently, President Clinton announced new measures to assist in "substantially restoring natural quiet" to Grand Canyon National Park. These rules will limit the number of commercial air tours over the park, and increase the total park area under "flight-free" zones from 45 to 75 percent. The rules are the latest in a series of steps taken by the FAA and the National Park Service to bring Grand Canyon National Park closer to achieving the statutory mandate of Public Law 100-91. Commonly referred to as the National Parks Overflights Act, its goal is to achieve "substantial restoration of natural quiet."

In coordination with the FAA, the National Park Service continues to work on noise analyses and development of a comprehensive noise management plan.

"Natural sounds are part of the special places we preserve. Rustling winds in the canyons and the rush of waters in the rivers are the heartbeat and breath of some of our most valuable resources."

Director Robert Stanton, National Park Service

Help Bryce Canyon RECYCLE!



The average person generates about 4.5 lbs of garbage each day. With over 1.5 million visitors, that's about 7 million pounds of trash each year! Unfortunately, some of that ends up on the ground. Trash decomposes very slowly in the park's cold and dry climate.

Due to the remoteness of Bryce Canyon, disposal and recycling facilities are a distance away. The park hauls garbage 15 miles to a landfill and recyclables 80 miles. To keep Bryce Canyon natural and beautiful for the future, please dispose of trash in the proper receptacles.

Trash containers: visitor center, all view points and campground entrances.

Aluminum recycling receptacles: visitor center, sewage dump station, North Campground picnic area, Sunrise, Sunset, Bryce, Farview and Rainbow Points, Bryce Canyon Lodge and General Store.

**Please keep
Bryce Canyon
beautiful!**

PRESERVING YOUR PARK

Photo Tips



Early morning and late afternoon hours are great times for pictures. The lower angle of the sun highlights shadows and enriches the red and orange colors of the rock formations.

Sunrise and sunset times are posted daily at the visitor center.

Since the canyons face east, all viewpoints are excellent for the morning sun. For sunset, Inspiration and Bryce Points are high enough above the trees to see the sun set in the west.

At high altitudes, consider using filters to minimize ultra-violet light. A polarizer helps to saturate colors and enrich a blue sky.

Use a telephoto lens when photographing wildlife. Keep your distance and catch them in a natural setting.

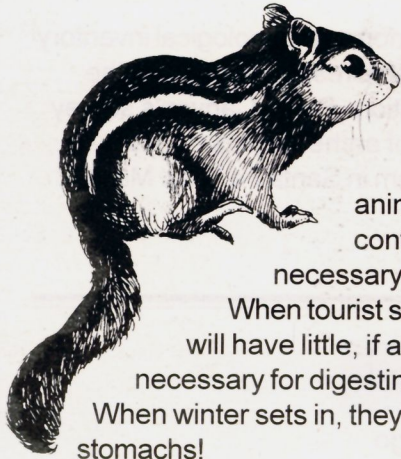
Stay a safe distance from the rim. Rocks are loose and crumbly and can make footing treacherous.

Bright light can make it difficult to get a properly exposed picture. It's a good idea to "bracket" your exposures (over and under-exposing) to get an acceptable picture.

Bryce photography continues into the night. With a tripod and cable release you can capture the moon, stars and planets as they shine in the clear night sky.

Please Don't Feed the Wildlife...

We, as visitors, have just as important a role in managing our national parks as do national park managers. Feeding wildlife is a classic example of how good intentions can unwittingly upset the ecological balance.



It has long been known that wildlife can be easily habituated to human feeding. After a summer of being fed by humans, animal stomachs will adjust to contain only the bacteria necessary for digesting human food.

When tourist season ends, these animals will have little, if any, of the stomach bacteria necessary for digesting their natural food items.

When winter sets in, they may starve to death with full stomachs!

The act of feeding wildlife can also be dangerous to people. Rodents are notorious for transmitting diseases. You put yourself in jeopardy every time you get within flea-jumping distance (6-8 feet) of a squirrel or prairie dog. Worse yet, feeding can cause normally docile animals like deer to become aggressive. In one sad instance at Yosemite National Park, a young child was gored and killed by a "spike" deer buck when he refused to relinquish his sandwich to the animal.

Giving in just once to the big, brown, pleading eyes of a cute animal can have major consequences. Be responsible! Learn to be a friend of wildlife by not trying to befriend animals with food.

Please document and report to a park ranger any illegal wildlife feeding you observe!

Wings of Success

They're back! In 1996, six California condors were released in the Vermilion Cliffs south of Bryce Canyon National Park. Starting with only 21 birds, a 10-year captive breeding program has hatched over 100 condors and put the species on the road to recovery. Not since the 1800's, have nine-foot wingspans cast majestic shadows across the deserts of southern Utah. Condors range over 100 miles a day in search of road kill and other sources of carrion. Keep your eyes peeled. Condors occasionally explore the cliffs of Bryce.

While scanning for soaring condors, you may miss a glimpse at another success story streaking out of the sky at speeds approaching 200 miles per hour. Bryce is also home to four nesting pairs of Peregrine falcons. This species was also once pushed to the brink of extinction. In the summer of 1999, its national recovery was declared a success and the Peregrine was removed from the Endangered Species List.

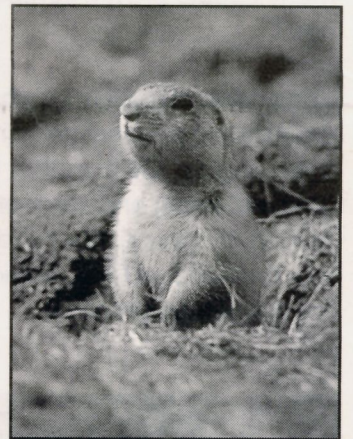


Condors and Peregrines serve as testament to how miraculous things can be accomplished when people care enough.

Please report sightings of either of these two bird species to a park ranger.

Utah Prairie Dogs

Bryce Canyon is home to the Utah prairie dog (*Cynomys parvidens*), the western-most of five species of prairie dogs that inhabit North America. Prairie dogs once inhabited vast areas of the western Great Plains. The first pioneers who crossed the short-grass prairies were astounded to find vast colonies of stout little rodents. They called the creatures "prairie-dogs" and labeled their sprawling settlements towns. One such town in Texas covered an estimated 25,000 square miles and was said to have 400 million inhabitants! The settlement of the West, however, decimated these enormous populations.



Prior to the 1920's, Utah prairie dog distribution was estimated to be 95,000 animals. By the 1960's, populations had crashed due to poisoning, disease (bubonic plague), drought and human-related alterations of the environment. In 1972 it was estimated that only 3,300 Utah prairie dogs remained, and it was thought they would be extinct by the year 2000.

In June 1973 the animals were listed as an endangered species. Conservation strategies included reintroducing them to Bryce Canyon National Park. Today about 130 animals live in the park, and comprise the largest protected population of Utah prairie dogs. Utah prairie dog populations remain precariously low. The threat of extinction is still an uncomfortable reality.

NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, Box 170002, Bryce Canyon, Utah 84717 435-834-4600 Fax 435-834-4102



General Books

Shadows of Time-Geology of Bryce Canyon National Park. Text by Frank DeCourten, Photos by John Telford. 155 pages, \$9.95 soft

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK



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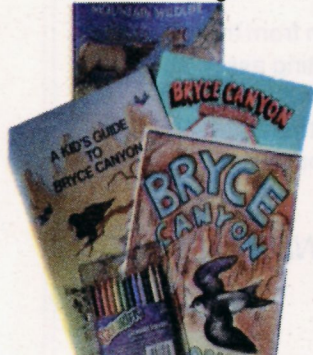
Geology of Utah, W. L. Stokes.
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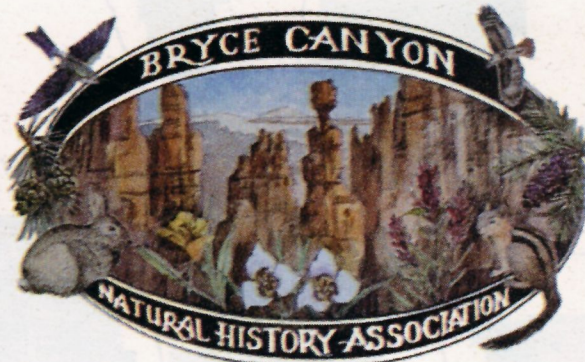
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Cedar Breaks, Zion, Grand Canyon region.

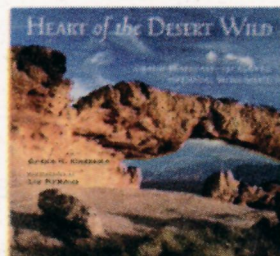
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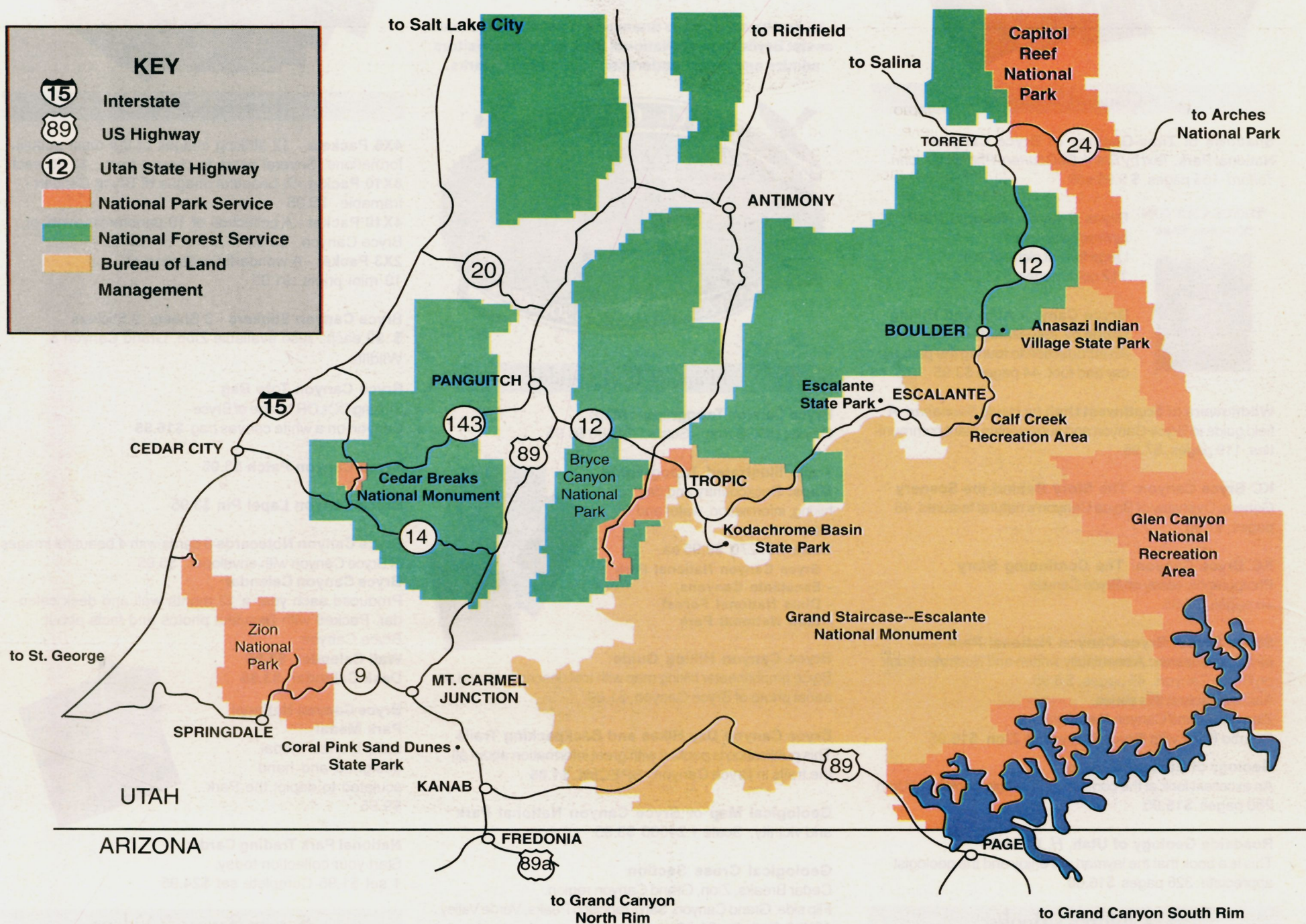
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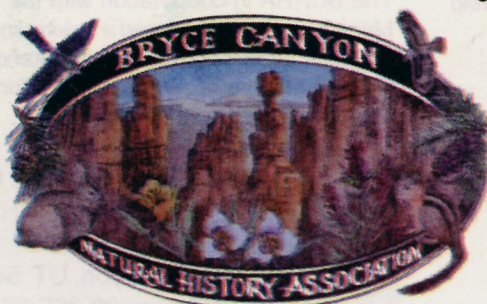


AREA MILEAGES

Arches National Park.....	270
Boulder (Anasazi Indian Village State Park).....	80
Calf Creek Recreation Area.....	65
Capitol Reef National Park via Highway 12.....	120
Cedar Breaks National Monument.....	56
Cedar City.....	80
Escalante.....	50
Grand Canyon National Park (North Rim).....	160
Grand Canyon National Park (South Rim).....	300
Kanab.....	80
Kodachrome Basin State Park.....	25
Lake Powell (Page, Arizona).....	150
Las Vegas.....	270
Panguitch.....	25
Salt Lake City.....	260
Tropic.....	11
Zion National Park (East Entrance).....	78

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