

2023 Angels Landing Permit Pilot Program FAQs and Forms

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Angel Landing Permits: *Who needs a permit to hike Angels Landing, and when do I need a permit?*

In response to concerns about crowding and congestion on the trail, on and after April 1, 2022, everyone who hikes Angels Landing is required to have a permit. Permits are required 24 hours a day, seven days a week to hike any portion of the Angels Landing trail from Scout Lookout. Hiking Angels Landing without a permit is a violation of 36 CFR 1.6 (engaging in a permitted activity without a permit) and is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or six months in jail. Everyone is required to have a permit with the exception of CUA Guides when guiding groups. CUA Guides are not required to have an Angels Landing permit when guiding groups under their authorized CUA holders commercial use authorization.

- **Guides or CUA holders must not enter the public lottery on behalf of commercial clients.** Entering the public lottery or advising and/or soliciting clients to enter the public lottery for commercial guided services, and/or reselling permits to third-party entities, is a violation of CUA conditions which may result in punitive action leading to the revocation of your permit.
- **Authorized CUA holders may guide individuals or groups (up to 6 people)** that have obtained public lottery permits and **have independently approached a guiding service.** CUA holders may guide public lottery permittees on any day of the week for which the public lottery permit is reserved. CUA holders or guides must not advise and/or solicit clients to enter the public lottery for commercial guided services, or reselling permits to third-party entities. This is a violation of CUA conditions which will result in punitive action leading to the revocation of your permit.
- Guides must show the groups Angels Landing lottery permit reservation confirmation and CUA Company ID at the permit checkpoint. All Guides must be identifiable as employees of the CUA. This can be accomplished by Company ID in the form of nametags and/or company identifiable clothing/accessories/hats.
- **CUA guides do not need an Angels Landing permit to guide groups under their Level III Hiking CUA.** CUA guides will not be counted against the number of permits for that group (i.e., a group of 6 would not need to have obtained a seventh permit for their guide).

Methodology Used for 2nd year of Angels Landing Permit Pilot Program:

As part of the Angels Landing Pilot Permit Program, the park distributes a finite number of permits to CUA holders intended for their clients. During the pilot program, the park is working with CUAs to identify effective and fair ways to distribute permits. The number of permits equates to 2% of use along Angels Landing, which reflects previous levels of commercial guiding on the trail.

Methodology: In the first year of the Angels Landing pilot permit program Zion distributed permits to CUA holders through allocations based on historical CUA trail use data. In the second year of the pilot program, after reviewing and assessing first-year pilot program submitted CUA trail use guiding data, guiding patterns, and CUA comments, Zion will transition to a first-come first-served permit system to distribute permits to CUA holders. These changes were made in the second year of this pilot program to improve the equitable distribution of permits to provide the same opportunity to all applicable CUA holders, regardless of how many guided hikes they led in the past.

How do I obtain Angel Landing permits? *I am a CUA holder. I cannot join the public lottery to get permits, how do I obtain Angels Landing permits to guide clients?*

When 2023 CUA permits are fully executed and issued to the CUA holder, the Authorization Letter issued with the permit will contain a link to the online form to create a recreation.gov commercial account. Each CUA holder will be

required to utilize a commercial account in recreation.gov to obtain permits. Commercial users with an existing Recreation.gov account may utilize their current commercial account. Commercial users will login to their commercial recreation.gov account to reserve permits on a first-come first-served basis for dates that are available on the permit calendar. (Follow the 2 steps below). See Step # 1 for commercial account options, step # 2 reserve available permits.

Step #1 – Fill out the Angels Landing Permit Commercial Account Information Form

Form gathers account information to create your commercial Recreation.gov account and obtain permits.

- **Create New Commercial Recreation.gov Account** – CUA holders who do not have a recreation.gov account can create a new commercial account by filling in the required fields on the create a new commercial account form and submit to have access to Zion National Park Angels Landing Permit Pilot Program permits. You can use your new commercial recreation.gov account to login and also see other locations you may be operating in now, or in the future (National Parks and Monuments, BLM, National Recreation Areas, etc.) that recreation.gov has commercial reservation systems in place and make commercial reservations with just one login.
- **Existing Commercial Recreation.gov Account** – CUA holders with an existing commercial recreation.gov account, provide your commercial account name and email address. We will attach your existing commercial account to the Zion National Park Angels Landing Permit Pilot Program facility location to access Angels Landing permits. You can use your new commercial recreation.gov account to login and also see other locations you may be operating in now, or in the future (National Parks and Monuments, BLM, National Recreation Areas, etc.) that recreation.gov has commercial reservation systems in place.
- **Personal Non-Commercial Recreation.gov Account** – CUA holders with a personal non-commercial account can choose to **keep their existing personal account and continue using it for non-commercial reservations** in recreation.gov. If you choose to keep your existing personal non-commercial account, **then you must create a new commercial recreation.gov account** for commercial access to the Zion National Park Angels Landing Permit Program. Use a unique email address for your new commercial account that is different from your personal account.

*If your **personal account** is to be used only for the **Zion National Park Angels Landing Permit Pilot Program permits**, or if you are thinking about making commercial reservations at other locations in the future, you may **convert your personal account into a commercial account**. You can login to your commercial recreation.gov account for access to the Zion National Park Angels Landing Permit location and see other location facilities you may operate in the future (National Parks and Monuments, BLM, National Recreation Areas, etc.) that recreation.gov has commercial reservation systems.*

Enter required fields and submit form: [Angels Landing Permit Commercial Account Information Form](#)

Step #2 – Log into your commercial recreation.gov account and reserve available permits in the first-come first-served permit system.

- **Log in:** [Angels Landing Zion Commercial Use Permits](https://www.recreation.gov/permits/4251913)
<https://www.recreation.gov/permits/4251913>

February 1, 2023, at 10:00 am MST, the first-come first-served permit system will open and permits being released to reserve Angels Landing permits. Commercial users will login to their commercial recreation.gov account to reserve permits for days and dates that show available on the permit calendar. Permits will remain available until all permits are purchased. If a CUA holder purchases and then cancels a permit or reduces group size (48 hours in advance of hike date), those permits will return to the permit system until all permits are once again purchased. Permits will be issued through recreation.gov, with the CUA holder paying the \$6.00 reservation permit application fee (up to 6 permits) per reservation and \$3.00 per-person use fee.

- **Starting Feb. 01, 2023**, commercial activities to Angels Landing will be limited to **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday ONLY**.

- Recreation.gov Angels Landing commercial users permit reservation system:
 - Permit calendar will show how many permits are available each day to reserve.
 - The number of commercial permits available will vary by time of the year:
- **High Season - (March through November)**
 - 24 commercial permits a day will be available through this site on a first come, first served basis.
 - Maximum group size is 6 guests plus one guide. A CUA company may bring a total of 12 guests per day. Groups larger than 6 guests must be broken into smaller groups. Each group must be accompanied by a guide and each group must be separated on the trail by a minimum of 15 minutes.
 - Limited to 2 permit reservation transactions per day in High Season, with a maximum of 6 permits per permit reservation. 2 separate permit reservation booking transactions required to reserve more than 6 permits in a day.
 - **Note:** Must not reserve more than **2 permit** reservation transactions per day per CUA holder in High Season. It is a violation of your permit and may result in punitive action leading to the revocation of your permit.
- **Low Season - (December through February)**
 - 8 commercial permits a day will be available through this site on a first come, first served basis.
 - Maximum group size is 6 guests plus one guide. A CUA holder may bring a total of 6 guests per day in one group during low season.
 - Maximum of 1 permit reservation booking transaction per day per CUA holder, with a maximum of 6 permits per permit reservation.
 - **Note:** Must not reserve more than 1 permit reservation transaction per day per CUA holder in Low Season. It is a violation of your permit and may result in punitive action leading to the revocation of your permit.

A CUA holder may guide individuals or groups (up to 6 people) that have obtained public lottery permits and have **independently approached a guiding service**. CUA holders may guide lottery permittees on any day of the week for which the public lottery permit is reserved. Guides or CUA holders must not enter the public lottery on behalf of commercial clients. Entering the public lottery or advising and/or soliciting clients to enter the public lottery for commercial guided services, and/or reselling permits to third-party entities, is a violation of CUA conditions which will result in punitive action leading to the revocation of your permit.

This is a pilot program; it is expected that changes will be ongoing as we continue to monitor and adapt the system in the second year of this program. Conditions are subject to change during the 2023 operating year. Notice of change will be given in writing.

Important Dates and Times: There will be two reservation booking windows, six months apart

First Reservation Window Opens: February 01, 2023 - 10:00 am MST	For Hiking Dates In: February through June 2023	Permits Issued: At time of confirmation
Second Reservation Window Opens: June 01, 2023 - 10:00 am MDT	For Hiking Dates In: July through December 2023	At time of confirmation

Note: It is important to be aware of the booking window dates above in order to reserve available permits for your desired dates.

Permit Confirmation Email – *I received a permit reservation confirmation email for my guided trip I reserved.*

I logged in and accepted my permits and received my permit reservation confirmation email. Do I download or print the permit reservation confirmation email? Is this my permit?

Yes, you will receive an email confirmation for your permit reservation with the number of permits for the group size of each permit reservation. Download or print the permit reservation confirmation to have available to show the Ranger when asked.

Your confirmation email serves as your permit for your entire group size listed on your permit

- Commercial permits are available **ONLY** on **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** and **Saturday**.
- A permit is an opportunity, not a guarantee that conditions will allow a hike on a specific date or time. Environmental or trail conditions may result in the NPS closing the trail.
- Maximum group size is six guests.
- During the high season (March through November), two groups per CUA holder per day is permissible for a total of fourteen (12 guests and 2 guides). Each group must be accompanied by a guide and each guide group must be separated on the trail by a minimum of 15 minutes. Limited to 2 permit reservation transactions per day in High Season.
- During the low season (December through February), one group per CUA holder per day is permissible for a total of seven (6 guests and 1 guide). Limited to 1 permit reservation transaction per day in Low Season
- Guides and all members of the hiking party must be present at the permit checkpoint at the same time to proceed.
- Guides must show their Angels Landing commercial permit (confirmation email), and CUA permittee Company ID at the permit check point or anywhere along the trail when asked.
- All guides must be identifiable as employees of the CUA permittee and have a copy of the CUA itself. This can be accomplished by Company ID in the form of nametags and/or company identifiable clothing/accessories/hats.
- Guides will accompany their groups for the duration of the hike along Angels Landing.
- Guides or CUA holders must not enter the public lottery on behalf of commercial clients.
- Guides or CUA holders must not advise and/or solicit clients to enter the public lottery for commercial guided services, or reselling permits to third-party entities. These are violations of CUA conditions which will result in punitive action leading to the revocation of your permit.
- Permits are non-transferable.

Before your hike – *Know before you go to be prepared*

Even when conditions are perfect, this hike can be challenging. Environmental or trail conditions may result in NPS closing the trail and you may not be able to do the hike. Your safety is your responsibility. You are responsible for deciding if conditions are safe to proceed and being prepared before you start. Check the Angels Landing weather forecast before you hike.

- Spring temperature can be highly volatile with weather ranging from a snowstorm to a heatwave. When it does snow several sections may remain icy. This trail is extremely dangerous during icy or snowy conditions, and during thunderstorms. Check conditions before you hike and prepare accordingly.
- [Traction devices](#) for shoes/boots are HIGHLY recommended in wintertime. Ice and snow cause treacherous conditions. Ask Park rangers at the information desks for current conditions of the trail.
- Having a permit does not guarantee the safety of the trail. Conditions may cause the trail to be impassable.
- Remember: a permit is an opportunity, not a guarantee that conditions will allow a hike on your date and time. Environmental or trail conditions may result in NPS closing the trail and you may not be able to do the hike.

Before your hike – Do I have my permit reservation confirmation downloaded or printed?

You need to download or print the permit reservation confirmation email from recreation.gov that says **it is your permit** (this serves as your groups permit) before you get to the trailhead. A ranger may check your permit at the Grotto (Shuttle Stop 6), at Scout Lookout or along the trail. If you do not have your permit confirmation with you, we may not allow you to take your hike.

Start Your Hike – Where does the Angels Landing hike start?

Angels Landing hike starts at the Grotto trailhead (shuttle stop 6). *permits are valid for the day of issue only.*

Ranger Permit Check – Have all hikers together, permits and Company ID ready to show

- ✓ The Guide and all members of the hiking party must be present at the permit checkpoint at the same time to proceed.
- ✓ Guides must show their Angels Landing hiking permit reservation confirmation, and CUA permittee Company ID at the permit checkpoint. Permits are non-transferable.
- ✓ All Guides must be identifiable as employees of the CUA permittee. This can be accomplished by Company ID in the form of nametags and/or company identifiable clothing/accessories/hats.
- ✓ Your Angels Landing hiking permit reservation confirmation must be carried with you while on your hike (Note: mobile phone service is unreliable at the permit checkpoint; therefore, an electronic copy should be downloaded prior to starting the hike).

Cancellation & Change Policies

- **Cancellation Policy – What if I need to cancel my permit reservation? Or, if the weather forecast looks bad and I cancel my permit reservation. What happens to my permits?**

Day-before/day-of permit date-(within 48 hours): Cancel permits. Permits and all fees non-refundable.

Up until 2 days before the permit date: You can cancel a commercial permit up to two days before the permit reservation date and you will get a refund of the \$3 per person use fee. The \$6 application fee is not refundable. *Cancelled permits with at least 2 days advance notice will be released back into the permit calendar and will remain available until all permits are purchased. If a CUA holder purchases and then cancels a permit or reduces group size (48 hours in advance of hike date), those permits will return to the permit system until all permits are once again purchased. Recreation fees will only be refundable if canceled within the aforementioned time range and will not be refunded in cases of unexpected trail closures, adverse weather conditions or other circumstances.*

Example: If you have a permit reservation to hike on a Friday, June 24, you can cancel it or reduce the number of people on it until 11:59 p.m. MT on the Wednesday, June 22. If you reduce the number of people in your group or cancel it, recreation.gov will refund the \$3 per person use fee for each person who is removed or cancelled, and permits will be released back into the permit calendar and will remain available until all permits are purchased. If a CUA holder purchases and then cancels a permit or reduces group size (48 hours in advance of hike date), those permits will return to the permit system until all permits are once again purchased.

- **Change Policy - What if a client in my group opt-outs and cancels? Or, what happens if a client gets ill last minute on our trip and doesn't use the permit?**

Day-before/day-of permit date-(within 48 hours): No changes are allowed. Permits and all fees non-refundable.

Up until 2 days before the permit date: You can reduce the group size until two days before the permit reservation date. If you reduce the number of permits in your group, you will get a refund for the \$3 per person use fee for each person in your group you take off of the permit reservation. The \$6 application fee is not refundable. *Reduced permits with at least 2 days advance notice will be released back into the permit calendar*

and will remain available until all permits are purchased. If a CUA holder purchases and then cancels a permit or reduces group size (48 hours in advance of hike date), those permits will return to the permit system until all permits are once again purchased. Recreation fees will only be refundable if canceled within the aforementioned time range and will not be refunded in cases of unexpected trail closures, adverse weather conditions or other circumstances.

Example: If you have a permit reservation to hike on Friday, June 24, you can cancel the permit or reduce the number of people in your group until 11:59 p.m. MT on the Wednesday, June 22. If you reduce the number of people in your group or cancel a permit, recreation.gov will refund the \$3 per person use fee for each person who is removed or canceled and will release cancelled permits back into the permit calendar. Permits remain available until all permits are purchased.

- **No Show Policy**

There are no daily permit cancellations. Please only purchase permits that will be used, and cancel or reduce group size within two days prior if no longer needed. This will allow those permits to be purchased by another authorized CUA holder.

Changes you cannot make

- Increase the number of guests in your permit group above 6
- Change the date of your hike
- NO reselling permits to third-party entities
- Change the permittee (transfer the permit)
- Permits are not transferable

Forms: [Angels Landing Permit Commercial Account Information Form](#)