

**ZION NATIONAL PARK
COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM**

**2023 OPERATING PLAN FOR
GUIDED PHOTOGRAPHY AND PAINTING WORKSHOPS**

1. Authorized Use:

Photography Workshops: An organized group of one to fourteen visitors including guides/instructors using an itinerary that has been package, priced, or sold as a guided photography instructional session. Photography Workshops embrace the scenic, cultural, and/or natural resources of Zion National Park to create an instructional based experience designed to improve a photographer's skills and/or photography techniques.

Painting Workshops: An organized group of one to fourteen visitors including guides/instructors using an itinerary that has been packaged, priced, or sold as a guided painting instruction session. During these sessions, visitors are given painting and related art instruction that embrace the scenic, cultural, and/or natural resources of Zion National Park.

Instructors/Guides provide safety information and messages that encourage visitors to preserve and protect park resources in conjunction with the management objectives of Zion National Park.

2. Authorized Area:

The holder is hereby authorized to use the following described land or facilities in the above-named area (area must be restored to its found condition or better at the end of each activity):

The following Road Corridors: Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway (NPS Route 10) through Zion National Park connecting sections of Utah State Route 9, Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, Kolob Canyons Road, Kolob Terrace Road, and associated park facilities open to the public in Zion National Park. Groups may travel on foot up to 100 feet from roadway staying on hardened surfaces (i.e. Slick rock or gravel).

The following trailheads/trails: The permittee may have multiple guided groups on any one trail at any one time, PROVIDED the permittee does not exceed a maximum of 14 participants, including guides, on any one trail at any time (each group must have a guide). *The use of tripods or other multi-legged stabilization devices including easels are not authorized on trails (monopods authorized).*

- West Rim Trail from Shuttle Stop 6, the Grotto to Scout Lookout Only. (may not continue on West Rim Trail past Scout Lookout)
- Angels Landing (Permit Required – max 2 separate groups of 6 people + 1 guide per group)
- Canyon Overlook Trail
- Court of the Patriarchs Overlook Trail
- Grotto Trail
- Kayenta Trail
- Lower, Middle, and Upper Emerald Pools Trails
- Narrows but not into or above Orderville Canyon (1.5 miles north of Riverside Walk)
- Pa'rus Trail including signed river access points
- Riverside Walk
- Sandbench Trail (November to February)
- Timber Creek Trail
- Watchman Trail

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- Weeping Rock Trail
- Observation Point Trail (only from Weeping Rock Trailhead)*
- Weeping Rock Trailhead to mouth of Echo Canyon (not into Echo Canyon)*
- Hidden Canyon Trail to mouth of Hidden Canyon (only from Weeping Rock Trailhead to end of chains)*

Note: Trails marked with an * may be closed for extended periods of time due to rock fall. All closures must be followed.

Angels landing Pilot

The Angels Landing pilot permit program for commercial users will transition to a first-come first-served permit system starting February 01, 2023. From January 01, through January 31, 2023, CUA holders will continue using the 2022 permit system processes by submitting itineraries for hiking dates in January 2023 only. Starting Feb. 01, 2023, the new first-come first-served permit system will be activated and utilized for obtaining Angels Landing permits. Each CUA holder will be required to have a commercial account in Recreation.gov to obtain permits. Commercial users with an existing Recreation.gov account may utilize their current commercial account (see [FAQs](#)).

Starting February 1, 2023, commercial activities to Angels Landing will be limited to **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday ONLY**. 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.

High Season

Twenty-four (24) permits per day will be available on a first come, first serve basis during high season (March through November). Maximum group size is limited to 6 guests plus one guide. Two groups per CUA holder per day is permissible in high season. Each group must be accompanied by a guide and each group must be separated on the trail by a minimum of 15 minutes.

Low Season

Eight (8) permits per day will be available on a first come, first serve basis during low season (December through February). Maximum group size is limited to 6 guests plus one guide and is limited to one (1) group per CUA holder per day during low season.

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**. Guides or CUA holders may 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 commercially guided services is a violation of this CUA.

FAQs, and more information are available by visiting the Zion National Park Commercial Use Authorization webpage: [Commercial Use Authorization - Zion National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

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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.

Authorized use areas of tripod or other multi-legged stabilization devices including easels:

- Areas permitted for the use of tripods and easels include paved roadway pullouts along HWY 9 and parking lots open to the public (does not include park administrative and maintenance areas)
- Behind the Human History Museum, either on the patio or within 100 feet of the patio in the field staying on hardened surfaces and/or areas devoid of vegetation.
- From the end of the Riverside Walk to Orderville Canyon (not into or above Orderville Canyon) in the Narrows (maximum group size is limited to nine people, including guides, in the Narrows).
- At signed river access points along the Pa'rus Trail (does not include the Pa'rus Trail during daylight hours).
- In the Virgin River at the designated Special Use Area located at the Temple of Sinawava (see photo below).



3. Unauthorized Use:

Public Use Obstruction: Permitted groups are sharing visitor facilities with the general public. This permit does not convey any priority use of any park areas including park trails, roadside pullouts, parking areas, picnic areas, etc. Permittees are responsible for the conduct of their clients. The use of tripods or any other multi-legged stabilization device including easels on trails is prohibited by permittees or clients (monopods are authorized). Workshops must not interfere with the general visiting public.

Social trails (informal, non-designated trails between two locations) are not authorized for CUA holders use.

Taking photographs or painting from the wood railed bridge located just before the Scenic Drive on highway 9 is not authorized for commercial groups.

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Laws and Policies: A Commercial Use Authorization does not authorize permittees to facilitate any activities or actions that are prohibited in the park. For more information on park regulations visit: <http://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm>. Permit violations can result in punitive action (fine, revocation of permit and or arrest) against both the representative (guide), and the permittee.

Use of Models/Props: The use of models/props in Photography/Painting Workshops is not authorized.

Shuttle Bus Embarkation: Permittee may not commence shuttle ridership within the park at the Human History Museum or Canyon Junction shuttle stops. All up-canyon shuttle ridership must commence at the Zion Visitor Center. Groups may disembark the down-canyon shuttle at any stop (but not to catch an up-canyon shuttle).

Shuttle Bus Onboard Interpretation

No onboard interpretation from CUA guides while onboard park shuttle buses. Answering incidental questions from CUA guides clients is permissible.

Shuttle Etiquette: Preferential treatment for CUA holders will not be permitted. The following activities are prohibited: No bus and/or trailer for your group only, instructing driver where to stop or not stop along the shuttle route, use of the public address system on the bus park shuttle to conduct an interpretation tour, and no cutting in line to be boarded first at the Visitor Center. These types of activities will put your CUA at risk of revocation.

4. Guide/Instructor Requirements:

All Guides/Instructors must be identifiable as employees of the permittee: This can be accomplished by nametags and/or company identifiable clothing/accessories/hats. Company vehicles must also be identifiable.

Acknowledgement of Permit Conditions: All guides/instructors/drivers are required to submit an online acknowledgement of CUA permit conditions before leading and/or driving workshops into Zion National Park. This acknowledgement form is available online by visiting: [2023 Zion Commercial Photography/Painting Workshop Conditions Acknowledgment Form](#)

Commercial Use Form: *(formerly Attachment “E” form)* Guides are required to fill-out the online Commercial Use Form prior to entering the park. Any last-minute changes to itinerary or group number must be updated within 24 hours using the online form. The online form is located at [2023 Commercial Use Form: Zion National Park](#). This link is also available in your fully executed CUA.

Medical Certifications: All guides must have a valid driver's license and current medical certifications at minimum in basic first aid and CPR. These certifications must be on file with the Commercial Services Office. It is the permittees responsibility to keep this information up to date.

Guides are responsible for making sure clients have sufficient drinking water and nourishment for the duration of the planned activity and related weather conditions.

5. Speed Limits, parking, and vehicle requirements:

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Speed Limits: Permittee and permittee's employees must follow all applicable traffic laws and posted speed limits throughout the park. Operating a vehicle at a speed in excess of the speed limit is prohibited. **The passing of motor vehicles is prohibited throughout the park.**

Parking: No Commercial Use Authorization holder is permitted to park at the Human History Museum or the Canyon Junction (junction of the Scenic Drive and Zion Mt. Carmel Highway). Parking and stopping along park roads is prohibited except at designated parking areas or pull-offs. All vehicles must be kept on established roadways, and there must be no interference with pedestrians or other traffic in the park. All vehicles must park in designated parking spaces.

Parking and stopping in shuttle bus stops is prohibited during Zion shuttle bus operating season.

- 15 passenger vans without trailer: May park in any parking space designated for a standard sized vehicle (excluding Zion Scenic Canyon Drive unless in possession of overnight lodging reservations).
- 15 passenger vans with trailer: May only park in the oversized vehicle parking lot adjacent to the Zion Canyon Visitor Center (37.201240, -112.985378), or in the town of Springdale.



Visitor Center Shuttle Stop

15 Passenger Van *WITH* Trailer

Vehicle requirements: Gear may be tied to the top of the vehicle, carried inside of the vehicle, or transported in a trailer, but must not be attached to the sides of the vehicle.

6. Closures and Public Use Limits:

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The Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, shuttle buses, private vehicles driven by Lodge guests with lodging reservations, and 16+ capacity passenger buses (with lodge reservations) during the shuttle season (typically mid-February through November, subject to change). Travel in Zion Canyon above the Lodge is restricted to all motor vehicles except Zion National Park shuttle buses and administrative traffic. Permittee's vehicles that do not meet the above criteria are prohibited from traveling on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive during the shuttle season (unless in possession of overnight lodging reservations as stated above, a valid Red Permit must be displayed and visible in windshield) Visit www.nps.gov/zion for more information on the park's shuttle system. Addition official seasonal or emergency closures of roads, trails, or public areas must be observed by permittee.

Additional closed areas: Behind administrative offices, employee housing areas, behind locked gates, near water tanks, beyond fences, on service roads, and in construction areas.

7. Accidents/Injuries/Illness:

All accidents involving property damage, injuries, and/or medical problems must be reported to the park immediately at a ranger contact station or by calling (435) 772-3322. All such information must also be relayed by the permittee to the Commercial Services Office within 24 hours via email to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov.

8. Resource Protection:

All permittees are required to communicate the following messages to clients receiving interpretive service:

- Group leaders should be aware of current local conditions, flood levels, and flash flood warnings. This information can be obtained by stopping at the Visitor Center.
- Collecting or removing from the park any natural or cultural resource, or damaging or defacing any natural or cultural resource is prohibited.
- Stay on the trail or hardened surfaces (i.e. slick rock, gravel) to protect delicate vegetation and soils.
- In developed areas, the disposal of human waste anywhere other than in designated locations or fixtures provided for that purpose is prohibited. In non-developed areas, the disposal of human waste within 100 feet of a water source, high water mark of a body of water, a campsite, or within sight of a trail is prohibited (36 CFR 2.14). The preferred option for human waste disposal is a removal system such as a "[Restop 2](#)." If a removal system is unavailable a 4- to 8-inch deep "cat hole" can be used. Toilet paper must be carried out.
- Take only pictures - leave no evidence of your visit.
- All food scraps (fruit peels, nut shells, etc.) are considered trash and must be disposed of properly. It is a violation to feed the wildlife, including squirrels.
- Smoking on trails is highly discouraged. Smokers must use caution when smoking to prevent igniting a wildfire. Cigarette butts are trash and must be packed out for proper disposal. Trip leaders/guides should check fire conditions for current restrictions.
- Vehicles must not idle their engines when parked. Vehicles that sit with engines idling create unacceptable amounts of noise and air pollution within Zion National Park.

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- **Vegetation:** Photographic/painting workshop participants must be made aware of the values and sensitivities of biological soil crust soils and avoid trampling on them. Participants should also respect signs or other obvious indications that an area is being revegetated or restored – staying on designated pathways or hardened surfaces.
- **Wildlife:** Photographic/painting workshop participants must be made aware that approaching or enticing wildlife is illegal and dangerous. Participants should respect wildlife at a distance and avoid harassing the wildlife.

Protection of Park Resources: Alteration of any park features (to allow set-up of equipment, enhance setting, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Littering is prohibited. Participants are to leave as little evidence of their workshop use as possible and properly dispose of refuse. The permittee shall be liable for any damages to park resources or property.

Dumping of painting materials is not authorized and no onsite chemical development or processing of films is permitted.

Cultural Resources: Photography/painting workshop participants must not set up within the boundaries of known prehistoric archaeological sites. Rock art sites are potentially sensitive to photographic equipment, such as flashes, and use of this equipment should be avoided in these types of sites. Contact the park archaeologist for more information about cultural resources, as necessary.

9. Nighttime Photography:

Nighttime photography is authorized in the following areas: Permittee must notify the Commercial Services Office one week in advance of any nighttime workshops.

- Pa'rus trail (during dark hours only) - To include marked river access points. Welcome sign parking area at the south entrance to the park - Travel may not exceed 100 feet from roadway and must remain within hardened surfaces.
- Roadside pull-outs on the east side of the park along Hwy 9- All areas must be accessible directly from roadside pullouts. Stay on hardened areas, Travel may not exceed 100 feet from roadway.
- Parking lot south of entrance to The Watchman trail - The Canyon Visitor Center RV Overflow Parking Lot is authorized. Participants must stay on the paved area of the parking lot and must be considerate of campers directly across the river (noise levels).

Illuminating park features and landscapes in any way for the purpose of photography is not authorized due to the sensitivity of nighttime resources in Zion National Park. Since nighttime photography requires the use of tripods and tripods are not authorized on park trails, nighttime photography is not authorized on park trails with the exception of the Pa'rus trail during dark hours (groups/equipment must not take up more than half the width of the Pa'rus trail). No other areas of the park are authorized for nighttime photography.

10. Safety Precautions:

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Permittees must post a **safety notice** and advise all participants to read this notice (and/or provide a safety talk before activities begin). Information contained in this notice must include, but not be limited to, water safety, environmental hazards (weather, floods, sun, temperature, etc.) and resource protection. Leaders should remind participants that heatstroke is a real danger in the desert. Participants should be advised to drink lots of water, eat snacks, and wear hats/sunscreen to minimize sun exposure. Safety information and weather conditions are available at park visitor centers and by visiting www.nps.gov/zion

Each guide must carry and maintain a kit for emergency medical care. The kit must be appropriate for group size and the nature of the activity and include a flashlight.

11. Camping:

If the permittee requires camping within the park, reservations must be made through <http://www.recreation.gov> or by calling 877-444-6777. Permittee's groups of 7 or more people are limited to Group sites in the E Loop of Watchman Campground and group sites A, B, C and D in the South Campground. Each company regardless of the number of CUA permits held is restricted to one group site per campground, per night. **Group campsite maximum capacities are strictly enforced. Arriving with a group beyond the maximum capacity for the site reserved will result in the cancellation of your reservation.**

Permittee's groups of 6 or less people may reserve one individual campsite at either campground per night, per company.

Group size is defined by the itinerary the group is traveling on. Splitting of groups is not permitted.

Violations of camping regulations will be considered a violation of this permit and may lead to the revocation of your company's campsite reservation and/or Commercial Use Authorization.

12. Monitoring: The Superintendent shall have the right to monitor permittees activity for compliance with all aspects of this permit.

13. Entrance Fees:

Each time a permittee enters the park, they must identify themselves at a park entrance station or at the Kolob Visitor Center by presenting a valid Commercial Use Authorization Permit to park staff (and must be able to present to park staff upon request at other park locations). This will enable park personnel to verify holders are on the approved list for commercial activities.

Fee Schedule (subject to change)

Multiple Vehicle Caravan: Visitors traveling in private vehicles will be charged the standard vehicle entrance fee (\$35.00) Participants may use annual or lifetime federal recreational land passes for entry of the pass holder (valid ID required) and up to three guests traveling with pass holder.

Groups Arriving in a Single Vehicle: \$20.00 per participant individual entrance fee will apply to each participant (children 15 and under are free). Participants may use annual or lifetime federal recreational land passes for entry of the pass holder (valid ID required) and up to three guests traveling with pass holder.

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Individuals or groups who have previously paid an entrance fee must show proof of prior payment. No fee will be collected from an empty vehicle entering the Park for the purpose of picking up passengers.

Tunnel permit fees are required for any vehicle driving through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway Tunnel that is 7 feet 10 inches (2.4 meters) in width or wider including mirrors, awnings, and jacks, and/or 11 feet 4 inches (3.4 meters) in height or higher is required to have a tunnel permit for traffic control at the tunnel. Vehicles over 13 feet 1-inch tall, single vehicles over 40 feet long, combined vehicles over 50 feet long, all bicycles, and pedestrians are prohibited from entering the tunnel. Pay \$15.00 for the tunnel permit at the entrance station before proceeding to the tunnel. Your tunnel permit is good for two trips through the tunnel for the same vehicle and same group within seven days of purchase.

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