

**ZION NATIONAL PARK
COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM**

**2024 OPERATING PLAN FOR
COMMERCIAL TAXI AND RECREATIONAL SHUTTLE SERVICES**

1. Authorized Use:

Taxi Service, Recreational Hiker Shuttle Service is authorized for the point-to-point pick-up and drop-off of passengers in Zion National Park at designated parking areas, pullouts and developed areas appearing on the official Zion Park Map available by visiting: <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/maps.htm>. Passengers shall not be picked up or dropped off on roadways or in any area where traffic or terrain creates an unsafe condition. Taxi/Shuttle Services also includes the transportation of park visitors through the park area.

The commercial activity does not end until the shuttle vehicle exits the park and returns to its base of operation. As such, the NPS considers the shuttle service to be over when visitors are dropped off at their requested destination and the shuttle returns to its home of operation, thus terminating outside of the park.

The flagpole located on the west side of the Zion Canyon Visitor Center is the designated pick-up/drop-off area at the visitor center. This designated pick-up/drop-off area is not a parking space. The driver is required to remain with the vehicle while stopped in this area. During the period from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., the Interpretive Shuttle Bus has exclusive use of the flagpole area on the west side of the Visitor Center. Shuttle permittees may use the area for loading and unloading as long as this service does not conflict with the Interpretive Shuttle Bus.

Shuttle services or business limited to and/or focused upon Zion National Park (In-Park) are not authorized by this permit. Only services defined above may occur under this authorization.

Unauthorized Uses:

A Commercial Use Authorization does not authorize permittees to facilitate any activities or actions that are prohibited in the park. As such river tubing and associated transportation is 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/driver), and the permittee.

Commercial Interpretive Services: This authorization does not allow guided hiking, interpretive, or instructional services on park trails. Leading interpretive talks or walks, guided tours in the park, or the shuttling of bicycles is a violation of your permit and may result in revocation of permit privileges. Park policy prohibits commercially guided backpacking, climbing, and canyoneering within the park.

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 road side pullouts, parking areas, picnic areas, etc. Permittees are responsible for the conduct of their clients. Shuttle Services must not interfere with the general visiting public.

2. Operational Requirements: A list of all vehicles and their license plate numbers to be used in the operation, and a list of drivers and a copy of their driver’s license must be provided to the National Park Service before the permit is issued. It is the permittee’s responsibility to continuously update the list of drivers and vehicles and provide proof that vehicles are covered by insurance. The park reserves the right to refuse entry to any previously undeclared driver or vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle shall be responsible for complying with the requirements of this permit, and ensuring that all passengers are familiar with the safety notice (see Special Condition #7). Gear may be tied to the top of the vehicle,

_____ Signature *Operating Plan for Commercial, Taxi and Shuttle Services, updated 11.14.2023*

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carried inside of the vehicle, or transported in a trailer, but shall not be attached to the sides of the vehicle.

Vehicles used while conducting shuttle services must have permitted company's identification visible on the driver's side of the vehicle. Company identification must be clearly visible from 25 feet away and be no smaller than two feet wide by one foot tall. The park reserves the right to refuse entry to any previously undeclared driver or vehicle.

3. Driver Requirements and Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure that all employees are informed of, understand, and abide by the conditions of the permit. Any permit condition violations can result in punitive action (fine, revocation of permit and or arrest) against both the representative (guide), and the permittee.

The driver shall be certified in CPR and First Aid and have a valid Driver's License on file with the commercial services office. In addition, **the driver shall be familiar with which park activities require a permit and that each passenger has the proper permit for those activities to which the passenger is being transported.**

Acknowledgement of Permit Conditions: All guides and drivers are required to submit an online acknowledgement of CUA permit conditions before shuttling visitors into Zion National Park. This form is available online by visiting: [2024 Zion Commercial Shuttle Service Conditions Acknowledgment Form](#)

4. 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.

5. Closures and Public Use Limits: The following areas are closed or restricted as indicated below. Additional locations may be closed or restricted by the posting of appropriate signs.

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.

Marked commercial Taxis: After passengers have paid the required entrance fee, taxis may transport their passengers directly to the Zion Lodge providing the passengers have a pre-booked room reservation at the Lodge. A red permit will be issued at the entrance station.

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

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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 shall be no interference with pedestrians or other traffic in the park. **Parking and stopping in shuttle bus stops is prohibited during the shuttle season.**

6. **Accidents/Injuries/Illness:** All accidents involving property damage, injuries, and/or medical problems should 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.
7. **Safety Notice:** 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
9. **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 (in full) 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):

No fee will be collected from an empty vehicle entering the Park for the purpose of picking up passengers.

\$20.00 per participant individual entrance fee will apply to each participant (children 15 and under are free). Participants may use or purchase annual or lifetime federal recreational land passes for entry of the pass holder (valid ID required) and three guests in their immediate party (not strangers). The \$35.00 Auto pass is not available for purchase to commercial users.

Guides are exempt from entrance fees when facilitating a commercial activity.

Individuals or groups who have previously paid an entrance fee must show proof of prior payment.

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.

10. **Monitoring:** The Superintendent shall have the right to monitor permittee's activity for compliance with all aspects of this permit.

11. **Resource Protection Message:**

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- Collecting or removing from the park any natural or cultural resource, or damaging or defacing any natural or cultural resource is prohibited.
- 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.
- Take only pictures - leave no evidence of your visit.
- 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.
- The Permittee shall take adequate measures, as directed and approved by the Superintendent, to restrict and prevent soil erosion on the lands covered hereby and shall so utilize such lands as not to contribute to erosion on adjoining lands.

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