

CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

2023 Operating Plan for Commercial Guided Hiking Tours

1. Authorized Use:

Interpretive Service: This commercial service is defined as natural or cultural resource information provided by a designated leader to a specified group of people. At a minimum Cedar Breaks requires all permittees to communicate the resource protection messages identified in Special Condition 6 to every group as part of the interpretive service. Permittees may expand on the information provided to the group to enhance their understanding and enjoyment of the park.

Hiking groups consist of no more than 15 people, including group leaders.

Unauthorized Use:

Public Use Obstruction: Permitted groups are sharing visitor facilities with the general public. This permit does not convey any priority use of trails, overlooks or any park facility. Permittees should advise clients to stay on trails, walk single file, and allow the public to pass. The use of tripods on trails is prohibited by permittees or clients. Monopods are allowed.

Designated Trails: Commercial hiking activities are prohibited in all areas of Cedar Breaks National Monument except for the following designated trails:

1. Alpine Pond Trail
2. South Rim Trail (Spectra Point and Ramparts Overlook)
3. Campground Trail
4. Those sections of the Rattlesnake Creek Trail within Cedar Breaks National Monument
5. The Sunset Trail

2. Operational Requirements: 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 #9).

Group leaders should be aware of current local conditions.

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

Parking and stopping along park roads is prohibited (including Sunset View) except for the following parking areas: North View Overlook Parking Area, Alpine Pond Trail Head Parking Area, Chessman Ridge Parking Area, Point Supreme Campground Picnic Area, and Point Supreme Information Center Parking Area. There shall be no interference with pedestrians or other traffic in the park.

Vehicles must not idle their engines when parked. Idling vehicles create unacceptable amounts of noise and air pollution within Cedar Breaks National Monument.

Group leaders must register their group and identify which trail they will be walking at the Fee Booth on the day of the trip, using the preprinted form. (See Attachment E).

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3. **Trip Itineraries:** The permittee shall provide the superintendent with the full calendar year’s trip itineraries and required information prior to the start of the tour season. (See Trip Itinerary, Attachment C.) A company brochure with marked or highlighted tour dates is acceptable.
4. **Speed Limits:** The speed limits posted in the park must be obeyed at all times.

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 (i.e. restoration areas, construction zones) may be closed or restricted by the posting of appropriate signs.

Point Supreme Overlook Closed and Under Construction for the 2023 season

Work will continue through the 2023 season. This overlook will be closed and completely blocked from visitor access once construction of the park's new visitor contact station begins. All CUA holders will need to utilize the remaining viewpoints. South Rim Trail does not have enough parking for large groups, few parking spots for visitors only to access the South Rim Trail. Visitor services that were formerly at The Point Supreme Overlook location will be moved to the North View Overlook.

Commercial Activities are prohibited in the following areas: in the park administrative offices area, employee housing areas, maintenance areas, behind locked gates, within 500 feet of water tanks, areas behind fences, service roads, and other areas closed to the general public.

6. **Resource Protection Message:** All permittees are required to communicate the following messages to clients receiving interpretive service:
 - Current local conditions (i.e. weather, any public safety messages, any current environmental hazards (i.e. icy trails). Group leaders may obtain this information at the monument’s information center or by checking online.
 - 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 in order 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 (36CFR 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 packed out and 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.

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7. **Accidents/Injuries/Illness:** All accidents involving property damage, injuries, and/or medical problems should be reported to the park immediately at the Point Supreme Information Center or by calling (435) 772-3322. All such information must also be relayed by the permittee to the CUA program manager within 24 hours via email to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov.
8. **Safety Notice:** Permittee shall make available to all participants of tours a general safety notice addressing all aspects of hiking safety. Information contained in this notice shall include, but not be limited to, hiking safety and resource protection. Leaders should remind participants that they are at over 10,000 feet elevation and participants may tire easily. Participants should be advised to drink lots of water, eat snacks, and wear hats. Wearing sunscreen is an absolute must as high elevation ultraviolet rays can cause sunburn in minutes. The best way to prevent sunburn is to minimize sun exposure. The safety notice shall advise hikers that information on the park, including safety information, is available at the information center during normal working hours. Additional information that could be included is location of comfort stations and other information deemed necessary and appropriate by the permittee. The National Park Service reserves the right to review safety information. A copy of the notice shall be provided to the superintendent prior to the start of the operating season.

Each tour associated with the permit shall carry and maintain a kit for emergency medical care. The kit shall be of sufficient size for the number of persons in the group and the nature of the activity.

Tours operating during hours of darkness shall be equipped with a minimum of one flashlight.

9. **Entrance Fees:** Each time permittees enter the park, they must identify themselves, show a copy of the CUA, and state that they are accompanying clients. This process enables the Cedar Breaks personnel to verify that you are on the approved list for commercial activities. The entrance fees per person are \$10.00 each (subject to change). Guides and drivers are exempt from paying entrance fees when facilitating a commercial activity and may not use personal passes to admit clients. **Individuals or groups who have previously paid the entrance fee must show proof of prior payment.** Individuals who previously entered on a commercial bus shall be required to pay the per person entrance fee. Passengers may use annual or lifetime federal recreational land passes according to the parameters of the pass. No fee will be collected from an empty vehicle entering the Park for the purpose of picking up passengers.
10. **Monitoring:** The superintendent shall have the right to monitor permittee's activity for compliance with all aspects of this permit. Drivers and Guides shall carry a copy of the approved CUA and present it to any park official upon request. Monitoring of permitted activities may occur at the parks discretion. Monitoring costs would vary depending on park staff involved. A Park Ranger would cost approximately \$50.00 per hour for a minimum of three hours monitoring.
11. **Soil Erosion:** The Permittee shall take adequate measures, as directed and approved by the Superintendent, to restrict visitor movements to approved trail and their surfaces and prevent soil erosion on the lands covered hereby and shall so utilize such lands as not to contribute to erosion on adjoining lands.
12. **Driver & Guide 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

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violations can result in punitive action (fine, revocation of permit and or arrest) against both the representative (guide), and the permittee.

The individual designated as the leader shall be certified in CPR and First Aid.

- 13. Company Liability:** Permittees are responsible for the conduct of their group. Incidence of graffiti, feeding of wildlife, or littering will result in revocation of permit.

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