

# Zion Information Guide

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Hiking Guide

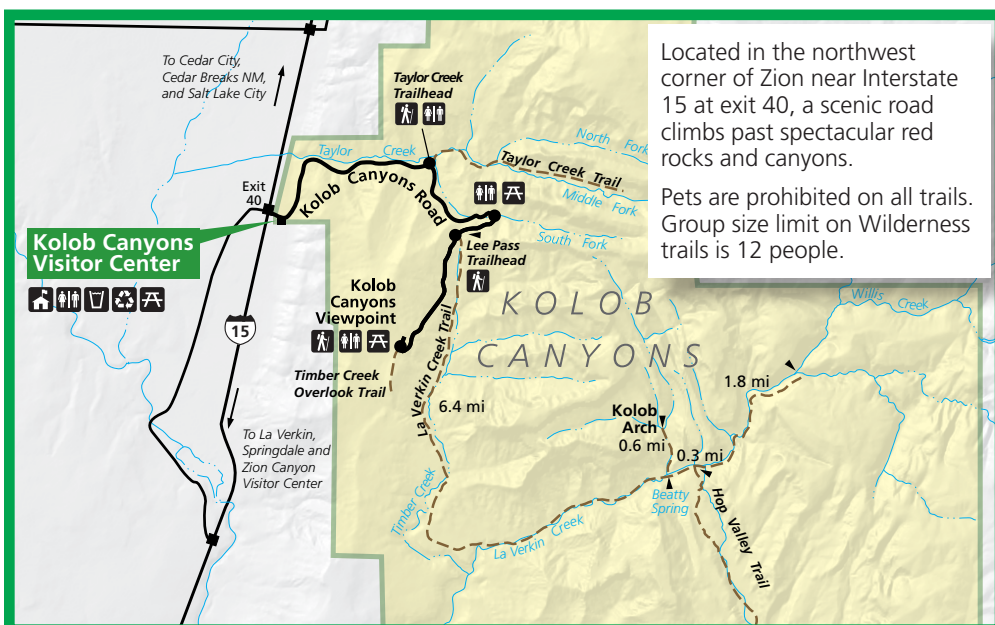
Shuttle Stop	Hike Location	Round Trip Average Time	Elevation Change	Description
<b>EASY</b>				
1	<b>Pa'rus Trail</b> Visitor Center Canyon Junction	2 hours 3.5 mi / 5.6 km	50 ft / 15 m	Paved trail follows the Virgin River from the Visitor Center to Canyon Junction.
5	<b>The Grotto Trail</b> Zion Lodge The Grotto	0.5 hour 1 mi / 1.6 km	35 ft / 11 m	This short trail parallels the roadway, connecting the Zion Lodge to the Grotto. It is located behind the shuttle stop.
9	<b>Riverside Walk</b> Temple of Sinawava	1.5 hours 2.2 mi / 3.5 km	57 ft / 17 m	Paved trail follows the Virgin River in a deep canyon. First 0.4 miles is wheelchair accessible but may be sandy.
<b>MODERATE</b>				
East Side	<b>Canyon Overlook</b> East side of Zion Tunnel	1 hour 1.0 mi / 1.6 km	163 ft / 50 m	Minor drop-offs and handrails. Ends at a viewpoint of lower Zion Canyon. Parking is limited.
1	<b>Watchman Trail</b> Zion Canyon Visitor Center	2 hours 3.3 mi / 5.3 km	368 ft / 112 m	Minor drop-offs. Ends at viewpoint of the Towers of the Virgin, lower Zion Canyon, and Springdale.
4	<b>Sand Bench Trail</b> Court of the Patriarchs	3 hours 4 mi / 6.4 km	466 ft / 142 m	Hike atop a massive landslide under The Sentinel. Minor drop-offs. Commercial horse trail from March to October.
6	<b>Kayenta Trail</b> The Grotto	1.5 hours 2 mi / 3.2 km	150 ft / 46 m	Moderate drop-offs. An unpaved climb to the Emerald Pools. Connects the Grotto to the Emerald Pools Trails.
6	<b>Lower Emerald Pool</b> The Grotto (via Kayenta Trail)	1.5 hours 2 mi / 3.2 km	150 ft / 46 m	Moderate drop-offs. An unpaved descent which leads underneath the Middle Emerald Pools to the Lower Emerald Pool. <b>No swimming.</b>
6	<b>Middle Emerald Pools</b> The Grotto (via Kayenta Trail)	1.5 hours 2.2 mi / 3.5 km	150 ft / 45 m	An unpaved climb to a sandstone ledge that parallels the lower trail at a higher elevation. <b>No swimming.</b>
6	<b>Upper Emerald Pool</b> The Grotto (via Kayenta Trail)	2 hours 3 mi / 4.8 km	200 ft / 61 m	Minor drop-offs. A sandy and rocky trail that climbs to the Upper Emerald Pool at the base of a cliff. <b>No swimming.</b>

## STRENUOUS

6	<b>Scout Lookout via West Rim Trail</b> The Grotto	3 hours 4.2 mi / 6.2 km	1000 ft / 305 m	Long drop-offs. Not for young children or anyone afraid of heights. <b>Hikers need a permit to go to Angels Landing. Use QR code on back to apply.</b>
9	<b>The Narrows</b> (via Riverside Walk) Temple of Sinawava	Up to 8 hrs 9.4 mi / 15.1 km	334 ft / 102 m	You are responsible for checking weather, water levels, and flash flood potential before attempting. This hike is in the river and subject to dangerous flash floods. Out and back hike.

## KOLOB CANYONS HIKING TRAILS

<b>Timber Creek Overlook Trail</b> Kolob Canyons Road	1 hour 1 mi / 1.6 km	100 ft / 30 m	Follows a ridge to views of Timber Creek, Kolob Terrace, and the Pine Valley Mountains.
<b>Taylor Creek Trail</b> Kolob Canyons Road	3.5 hours 5.0 mi / 8.0 km	450 ft / 137 m	Maximum 12 people per group. Follows the Middle Fork of Taylor Creek past two homestead cabins to Double Arch Alcove.
<b>Kolob Arch via La Verkin Creek Trail</b> Lee Pass	8 hours 14 mi / 22.5 km	1037 ft / 316 m	Maximum 12 people per group. Trail follows Timber and La Verkin Creek. A side trail leads to Kolob Arch.



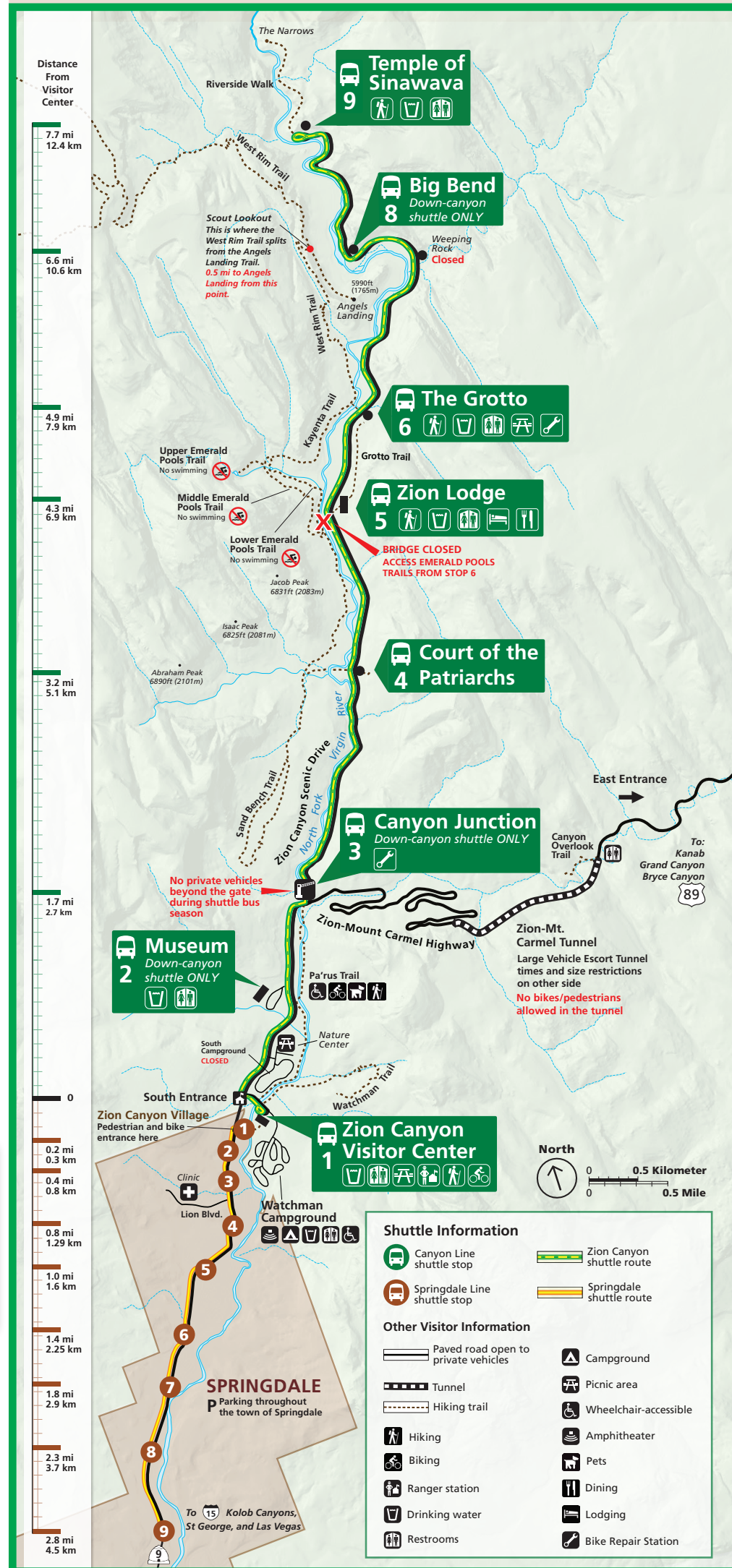
## Zion Shuttle

For most of the year, the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is open to shuttle buses only. Private vehicles are not allowed on the Scenic Drive beyond Canyon Junction during the shuttle bus season. Bicycles and E-bikes must pull over and stop to allow shuttles to pass.

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE	September 16 to November 2	November 3 to December 1	December 21 to December 30
<i>Subject to change. Check website for current hours</i>			
First bus into the canyon from the Zion Canyon Visitor Center	7:00 a.m.	7:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Last bus into the canyon from the Zion Canyon Visitor Center	5:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Last bus out of the canyon from Temple of Sinawava	7:15 p.m.	6:15 p.m.	5:45 p.m.

*No shuttle service December 2-20*

Town of Springdale Shuttle	September 16 to November 2	November 3 to December 1	December 21 to December 30
First bus from Springdale Stop #9	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Last bus leaves Zion Canyon Village	7:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.



## Contact Information

### Mailing Address

Zion National Park  
1 Zion Park Blvd.  
Springdale, UT 84767

### Social Media



Search @zionnps

### Wilderness Information

(435) 772-0170

Free WiFi is available at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center and the Zion Lodge. Do not expect data or cell connection in most areas of Zion Canyon, on trails, or in Wilderness.

### Park Information

(435) 772-3256

### Website

www.nps.gov/zion

### E-mail

zion\_park\_information@nps.gov

### Traffic and Parking Updates

www.twitter.com/zionnps

1610 AM Radio



## 24-HOUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE: CALL 911

Park emergencies: call 435-772-3322 (daylight hours)

# 911

Emergency care, medical clinics, and pharmacies are located in the City of Hurricane about 30 minutes from Zion. The nearest hospitals are in St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab.

## Getting Around

To protect Zion landscapes, plants, animals, and history, park only in designated spaces. For your safety, park rangers enforce laws against alcohol and drug-related driving offenses, including open container violations. For Utah road conditions, please call 866-511-8824.



### SPRINGDALE SHUTTLE

For part of the year, you can ride a free shuttle in the town of Springdale.

If it is running during your visit, park at your hotel or an approved parking area, and ride to the park entrance.

### ZION CANYON SHUTTLE

During much of the year, the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is only accessible by shuttle bus. Check the shuttle schedule on the front of this sheet to see when the shuttle is running.

The buses have room for backpacks, climbing gear, and normal bicycles (E-Bikes do not fit). While in Zion Canyon you may get on and off the shuttle as often as you like. Only service dogs are permitted on the shuttles. If you have accessibility needs, please speak to a ranger at the Visitor Center.

Visitors must comply with all rules regarding riding the shuttles.



### CYCLING (E-BIKES AND BICYCLES)

Cycling is permitted on all public park roads and on the Pa'rus Trail.

Cyclists must ride single file and stop to let shuttle buses pass. Do not pass a moving shuttle bus. Each shuttle bus has a rack for bicycles. All other park trails, off-trail routes, and the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel are closed to cycles. Only class 1 pedal-assist E-bikes are allowed and must follow all of the same rules as bicycles.



### DRIVING

Drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and wildlife all share park roads.

- 35 mph is the speed limit unless otherwise posted.

- Wear a seat belt and use a child safety seat if appropriate.

- Turn off your vehicle if you are stopped (do not idle).

- For most of the year, Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is only open to shuttle buses or with a special permit. Your park entrance pass is not a permit.



### PARKING

Available on a first-come-first served basis.

If you are driving an RV or other large vehicle, use the Oversize Vehicle Lot near Zion Canyon Visitor Center. If your vehicle will fit through our tunnel without a permit (see below) you cannot use this lot.

There is paid parking in Springdale.

## Your Safety Is Your Responsibility



### HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia occurs when the body is cooled to dangerous levels. It is responsible for the

greatest number of deaths among people engaging in outdoor activities. It is a hazard in narrow canyons because immersion in water is the quickest way to lose body heat. To prevent hypothermia, avoid cotton clothing (it provides no insulation when wet), and eat high energy food before you are chilled.

The signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, stumbling and poor coordination, fatigue and weakness, and confusion or slurred speech. If you recognize any of these signs, stop hiking and immediately replace wet clothing with dry clothing. Warm the victim with your own body and a warm drink, and shelter the individual from breezes. A pre-warmed sleeping bag will also prevent additional heat loss.

### ELEVATION

Elevation in Zion ranges from 4,000-8,000 feet (1,220 - 2,440 meters) above sea level. If you live near sea level, take it easy on your hike until you know how the elevation is going to affect you.

### SNOW & ICE

Nearly half of the annual precipitation in Zion Canyon falls between the months of December and March. Roads are plowed, but trails may be closed due to unsafe conditions. Snow and ice accumulates on trails, cliffs, and buildings, so be sure to pay attention to your surroundings. Watch for falling ice. Snow spikes winter gear are recommended. Your safety is your responsibility.

### PREVENT DEHYDRATION

As you hike you lose water and salt through sweating. Carry water, at least one gallon per person per day. Water is available in the park's developed areas. Do not drink untreated water from springs. Your body needs a healthy level of salt to function so eat a few salty snacks, like a handful of salted peanuts, when you drink water.

### STEEP CLIFFS

Falls from cliffs on trails have resulted in death. Loose sand or pebbles on stone are very slippery. Be careful of edges when using cameras or binoculars. Never throw or roll rocks because there may be hikers below you. Stay on the trail and away from cliff edges. Observe posted warnings and please watch children.

## Flash Flood Danger



All narrow canyons are potentially hazardous. Flash floods, often caused by storms miles away, are a real danger and can be life-threatening. You are taking a risk when entering a narrow canyon. Your safety is your responsibility. Watch for indications of a possible flash flood. During a flash flood, the water level rises very quickly.

A flash flood can rush down a canyon in a wall of water over twelve feet high. If you observe any of these signs, seek higher ground immediately:

- Deterioration in weather conditions.
- Clouds or thunder.
- Sudden changes in water clarity from clear to muddy.

## Permits & Reservations



### CAMPING

You need a reservation to camp in any of the park's campgrounds.

To make a reservation, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777.

Camping is not allowed in parking areas or pullouts.



### CAMPFIRES

Campfires are only allowed in metal campground fire rings.

Sometimes, especially during the summer, campfires are not allowed due to the risk of wildfire.

If conditions permit building a fire, clear debris and only leave when the fire is out cold. Fires are never allowed in Wilderness.

Statewide fire updates at [utahfireinfo.gov](http://utahfireinfo.gov)

### PERMITS

You need a permit for activities including but not limited to: hiking to Angels Landing, backpacking, canyoneering, climbing bivy camping, and hiking some Wilderness routes.



Scan this QR code to learn about permits. Use free WiFi at a visitor center or Zion Lodge. You can only apply for Angels Landing permits online by 3pm, and using this link takes you to a webpage with more information.

Remember to carry your permit and photo ID with you on your trip. Permits are non-transferable.

## Zion Tunnel: (Oversize Vehicles, RVs, Large Trailers)

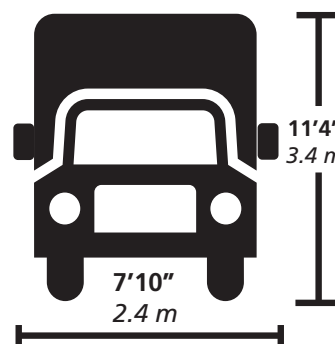


The Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel connects Zion Canyon to the east side of the park. It was built in the 1920s when large vehicles were less common. Nearly all RVs, buses, trailers, fifth-wheels, dual-wheel trucks, campers, and large boats require one-way traffic control.

### ONE-WAY TRAFFIC CONTROL

Oversize vehicle drivers pay \$15 per vehicle (includes two tunnel pass-throughs within 7 days). Rangers will stop oncoming traffic so that you may drive down the center of the road in the tunnel.

- Vehicles 11 feet 4 inches (3.4m) and taller up to 13 feet 1 inch (4m).
- Vehicles 7 feet 10 inches (2.4m) and wider - including mirrors, awnings, and jacks.



### TUNNEL HOURS

- 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Starting in mid-2026, oversize vehicles will be rerouted off the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway.



### PROHIBITED IN THE TUNNEL

- No vehicles over 13 feet 1 inch (4m) tall
- No semi-trucks and commercial vehicles (e.g. box trucks)
- No vehicles carrying hazardous materials
- No bicyclists or pedestrians
- Bicyclists and pedestrians cannot get a ride at the tunnel. Hitchhiking is only permitted in pullouts. Rangers are not allowed to give or arrange for transport through the tunnel.

## Ranger-led Programs



Learn about Zion by participating in a free ranger-led program.

Program schedules are based on ranger availability. Free, advanced reservations may be required and can be made at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center.

Check park visitor centers and bulletin boards for times and information about programs. Topics include geology, plants, animals, human history, and more.

Visitors ages 4 and older can earn a badge by completing the Zion Junior Ranger book. The book is available for free at park visitor centers.