



2026 FIELD EDITION

SOUTHWESTERN UTAH
THREE ROUTE PROFILES
AUGUST 2026

ZION

National Park

Three different days in one red-rock destination

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USE THIS LIKE A FIELD CARD.

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SOUTHWESTERN UTAH

THREE ROUTE PROFILES

SHUTTLE + WILDERNESS + HIGH COUNTRY

2026 FIELD EDITION

SECTION 01 / FIELD ORIENTATION

SOUTHWESTERN UTAH
PARK OVERVIEW
AUGUST 2026

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PHOTO: "JON ZANDER(DIGON3)" / CC BY-SA 3.0 / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ORIENTATION



Zion National Park

A DESTINATION WITH THREE DIFFERENT DAYS

ORIENTATION BRIEF

Zion is easier to understand as a set of distinct experiences than as one continuous checklist. Use the canyon corridor for shuttle-served day access, the wilderness section for permit-bound water and backcountry travel, and the high-country section for scenic driving, camping, and seasonal access decisions.

01

Use the linked official pages for current conditions, schedules, permits, weather, and road restrictions.

[SOUTHWESTERN UTAH](#)

[THREE ROUTE PROFILES](#)

[SHUTTLE + WILDERNESS + HIGH COUNTRY](#)

[2026 FIELD EDITION](#)

SCENES WORTH WAITING FOR

ZION CANYON

Let the shuttle corridor set the pace before choosing the day's walks.

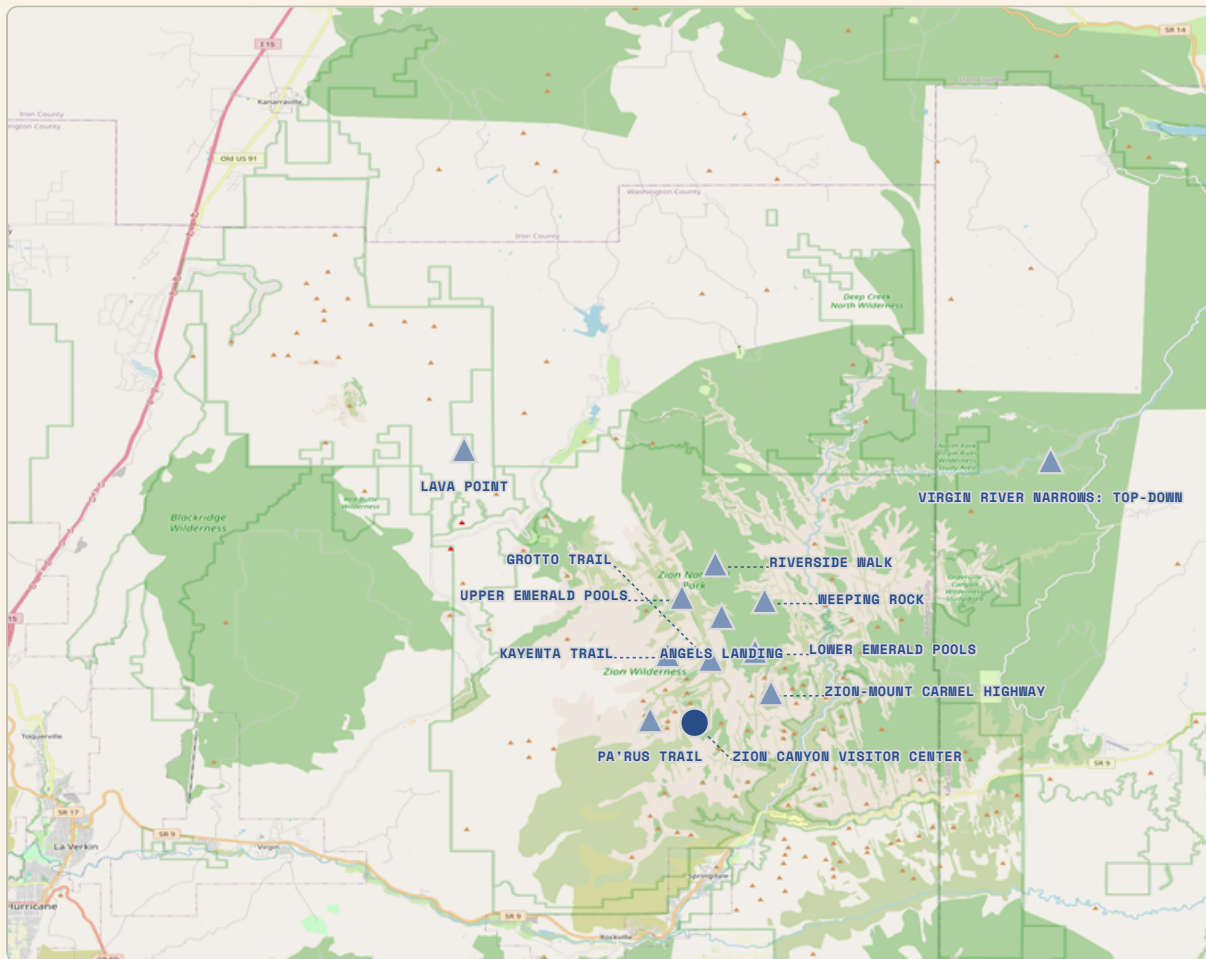
THE NARROWS

Treat water, weather, permits, and transportation as part of the route.

HIGH COUNTRY

Choose the scenic drive only after current access and vehicle conditions are checked.

WHERE YOU ARE



MAP DATA © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS (ODBL) · PLACE AND ACCESS REFERENCES: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

PRE-TRIP PLANNING

Before You Arrive

CHOOSE THE DAY'S ROUTE PROFILE FIRST

Zion is easier to understand as a set of distinct experiences than as one continuous checklist. Use the canyon corridor for shuttle-served day access, the wilderness section for permit-bound water and backcountry travel,

and the high-country section for scenic driving, camping, and seasonal access decisions.

Before departure, use the current official conditions, shuttle, permit, fire-restriction, and road-restriction pages linked in this guide. This edition keeps those links visible because live operating details are date-sensitive.

PERMITS & BACKCOUNTRY

BACKCOUNTRY PERMIT: NPS Wilderness Desk / official permit pages

BOOKING WINDOW: Current permit and lottery processes are date-sensitive.

CELL SERVICE

Connectivity is not treated as a guaranteed route service in this edition.

SIGNAL FOUND AT: Use official visitor and lodging information points when available.

DEAD ZONES: Plan for offline access to maps, permits, and emergency information.

OFFLINE TOOLS: Download the official NPS information you need before leaving service.

MONTHLY CONDITIONS

Crowd scale: ● = 1/4 → ●●●● = 4/4

MONTH	ACCESS	WEATHER	CROWDS	NOTES
JANUARY	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Retained as a twelve-month planning index; current operating details must be rechecked before Gate 3.
FEBRUARY	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Retained as a twelve-month planning index; current operating details must be rechecked before Gate 3.
MARCH	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Transition period; spring runoff begins, significantly increasing Virgin River flow rates; park shuttle bus operations resume (starts March 2 historically, resumes March 7, 2026).
APRIL	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Spring conditions; peregrine falcon nesting begins on canyon cliffs, resulting in selective rock climbing route closures; Zion-Mount Carmel Highway reopens after winter/spring construction (April 27).
MAY	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Warm spring conditions; active bicycle and e-bike travel on Pa'rus Trail and Zion Canyon Scenic Drive (recorded May 10, 2024); peregrine falcon nesting climbing closures continue.
JUNE	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Summer conditions; high temperatures; vehicle size and weight restrictions go into effect on Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway (June 7, 2026); Stage 2 fire restrictions are typically implemented (posted May 22, 2026).
JULY	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Hot summer conditions; monsoon season begins (news release July 29, 2026), bringing severe afternoon thunderstorms, rapid water temperature drops, and extreme flash flood risks; Dalton's Wash air telemetry records high temperatures and low relative humidity (July 31).
AUGUST	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Hot summer conditions; active monsoon season with severe flash flood risks; Dalton's Wash air telemetry records peak high temperatures (August 1-3).
SEPTEMBER	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Retained as a twelve-month planning index; current operating details must be rechecked before Gate 3.
OCTOBER	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Retained as a twelve-month planning index; current operating details must be rechecked before Gate 3.
NOVEMBER	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Retained as a twelve-month planning index; current operating details must be rechecked before Gate 3.
DECEMBER	Recheck current conditions	Seasonal conditions vary	●●○○	Retained as a twelve-month planning index; current operating details must be rechecked before Gate 3.

ITINERARIES

DAY PLANS

Three ways to use Zion

SCENIC CANYON DAY

Choose this frame for a first visit, a family day, or a short visit. Stage the day through the Visitor Center or Springdale transit system, then select a small set of shuttle-served walks rather than trying to treat every stop as a required destination. Riverside Walk, Emerald Pools, Weeping Rock, and The Grotto make a flexible canyon sequence.

NARROWS WILDERNESS THROUGH-HIKE

Choose this frame only when the group has the required permit, the physical preparation, the water-safety plan, and

transportation to the top-down trailhead. The 16-mile through-hike is materially different from the bottom-up canyon experience.

KOLOB TERRACE HIGH-COUNTRY DAY

Choose this frame when scenic driving or primitive camping is the point of the visit. Check the current road, fire, weather, vehicle-size, and seasonal conditions before leaving the main canyon area.

The three frames are editorial planning contexts, not live navigation instructions.

ROAD-TRIP DESTINATION SPINE

North to south: the places to stop, reset, resupply, or slow down. Use the zone chapters for the deeper read.

01 Riverside Walk

TRAIL · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT

Included in the approved Zion destination package.

02 Lower Emerald Pools

TRAIL · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT

Included in the approved Zion destination package.

03 Upper Emerald Pools

TRAIL · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT

Included in the approved Zion destination package.

04 Kayenta Trail

TRAIL · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT

Included in the approved Zion destination package.

05 Grotto Trail

TRAIL · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT

Included in the approved Zion destination package.

06 Weeping Rock

TRAIL · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT

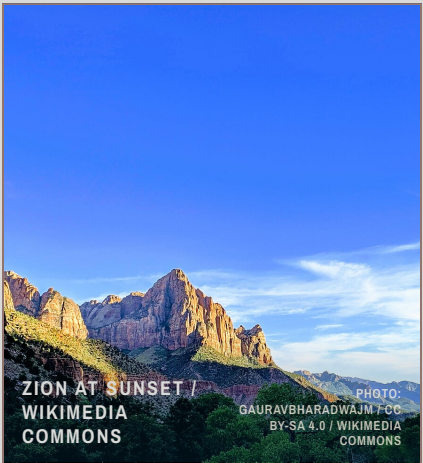
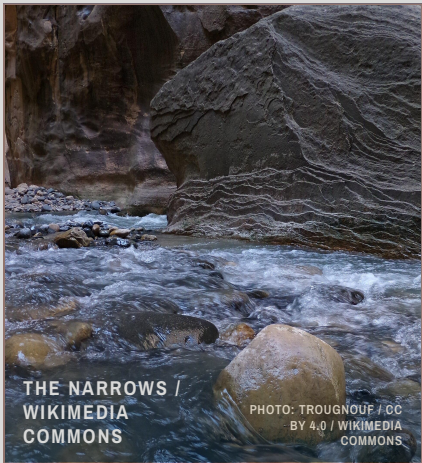
Included in the approved Zion destination package.

ROAD-TRIP DESTINATION SPINE — CONTINUED

07 Pa'rus Trail TRAIL · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT Included in the approved Zion destination package.	08 Virgin River Narrows: Top-Down ROUTE · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT Included in the approved Zion destination package.
09 Angels Landing TRAIL · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT Included in the approved Zion destination package.	10 Lava Point CAMPGROUND · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT Included in the approved Zion destination package.
11 Zion-Mount Carmel Highway ROAD CORRIDOR · ROUTE HIGHLIGHT Included in the approved Zion destination package.	

THREE WAYS TO DO THIS PARK

SCENIC 1 day Scenic canyon day — Day hikers, families, and general visitors using the shuttle-served canyon corridor.	WILDERNESS 1 day Narrows wilderness through-hike — Strenuous single-day or multi-day backcountry travelers with permits and self-arranged transportation.	HIGH-COUNTRY 1 day Kolob Terrace high-country day — Scenic drivers and campers checking seasonal access and vehicle constraints before departure.
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WHERE TO SLEEP

CAMPING & LODGING

Lodging and base-camp links

Each lodging record carries an official booking or information link. The guide identifies the lodging option and its planning context without making a separate private manager identity a requirement. Use the

linked official or operator-facing page to confirm current availability, facility details, and restrictions.

The inventory includes Zion Lodge, Watchman Campground, South Campground, Lava Point Campground, and the Springdale lodging records identified through the current UDOT traveler-resource source.



ZION NATIONAL PARK / SPRINGDALE

Zion Lodge

LODGING

[Official Link](#)

Cabin and hotel room lodging inside the park; includes shuttle stop #5 access, food service, gift shop, and free public WiFi.

OPEN [Confirm current season and availability](#)

BOOK VIA [Use official information or booking link](#)

WEBSITE

BOOK

ZION NATIONAL PARK / SPRINGDALE

Watchman Campground

CAMPGROUND

[Official Link](#)

Tent and RV sites; Stage 2 fire restrictions apply (campfires and charcoal fires prohibited).

OPEN [Confirm current season and availability](#)

BOOK VIA [Use official information or booking link](#)

WEBSITE

BOOK

ZION NATIONAL PARK / SPRINGDALE

South Campground

CAMPGROUND

[Official Link](#)

Tent and RV sites; Stage 2 fire restrictions apply (campfires and charcoal fires prohibited).

OPEN [Confirm current season and availability](#)

BOOK VIA [Use official information or booking link](#)

WEBSITE

BOOK

ZION NATIONAL PARK / SPRINGDALE

Lava Point Campground

CAMPGROUND

[Official Link](#)

Primitive high-elevation campground located off Kolob Terrace Road.

OPEN [Confirm current season and availability](#)

BOOK VIA [Use official information or booking link](#)

WEBSITE

BOOK

FULL LODGING INVENTORY

NAME	TYPE	REGION	OPEN	RATE	NOTES
ZION LODGE Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Cabin and hotel room lodging inside the park; includes shuttle stop #5 access, food service, gift shop, and free public WiFi.
WATCHMAN CAMPGROUND Official information Official Link	Campground	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Tent and RV sites; Stage 2 fire restrictions apply (campfires and charcoal fires prohibited).
SOUTH CAMPGROUND Official information Official Link	Campground	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Tent and RV sites; Stage 2 fire restrictions apply (campfires and charcoal fires prohibited).
LAVA POINT CAMPGROUND Official information Official Link	Campground	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Primitive high-elevation campground located off Kolob Terrace Road.
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS SPRINGDALE - ZION NATL PARK AREA Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Private town lodging at 1215 Zion Park Boulevard; equipped with Electric Level 2 EV charging.
HAMPTON INN & SUITES SPRINGDALE - ZION NATL PARK AREA Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Private town lodging at 1127 Zion Park Boulevard; equipped with Electric Level 2 EV charging.
SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT SPRINGDALE - ZION NATL PARK AREA Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Private town lodging at 1141 Canyon Springs Road; equipped with Electric Level 2 EV charging.
ZION CANYON LODGE Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Private town lodging at 990 Zion Park Blvd; equipped with Tesla Destination Level 2 EV charging.
DRIFTWOOD LODGE Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Private town lodging at 1515 Zion Park Boulevard; equipped with Electric Level 2 EV charging.

NAME	TYPE	REGION	OPEN	RATE	NOTES
BEST WESTERN PLUS ZION CANYON INN & SUITES Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Private town lodging at 668 Zion Park Blvd; equipped with Electric Level 2 EV charging.
FLANIGAN'S INN & HOTEL ZION NATIONAL PARK Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Private town lodging at 450 Zion Park Blvd; equipped with Tesla Destination Level 2 EV charging.
CLIFFROSE LODGE & GARDENS Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Private town lodging at 281 Zion Park Blvd; equipped with Tesla Destination Level 2 EV charging.
CABLE MOUNTAIN LODGE Official information Official Link	Lodging	Zion National Park / Springdale	Confirm current season and availability	—	Private town lodging at 147 Zion Park Blvd; equipped with Tesla Destination Level 2 EV charging.

SECTION 04A / ZONE GUIDE

SOUTHWESTERN UTAH
ZION CANYON SCENIC DRIVE
AUGUST 2026

ZION CANYON SCENIC DRIVE

PHOTO: "JON ZANDER(DIGON3)" / CC BY-SA 3.0 / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Start with the shuttle rhythm, then choose a small set of canyon walks.



“ Shuttle-served canyon access, short walks, and the park's primary day-use corridor.

Zion Canyon Scenic Drive

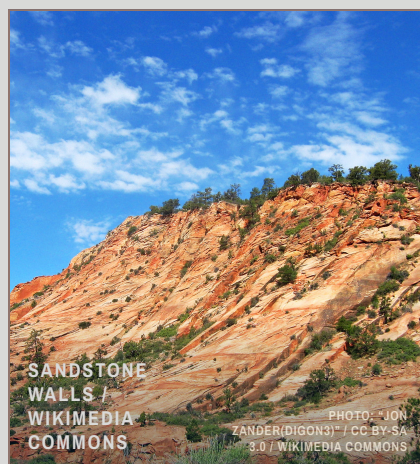
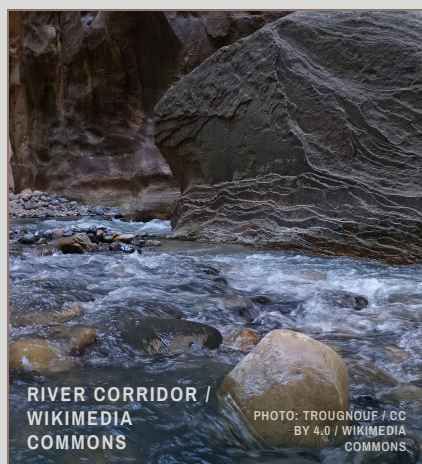
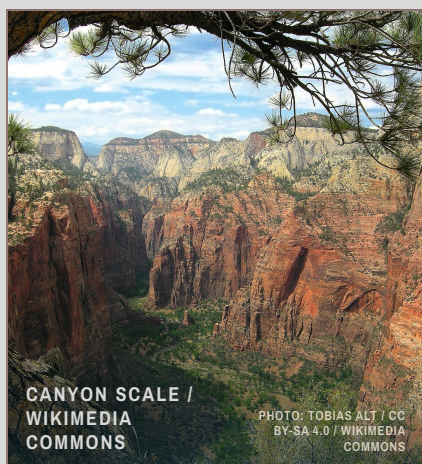
START WITH THE SHUTTLE RHYTHM

The canyon day works best when it is organized around the shuttle corridor rather than a parking-first itinerary. NPS identifies nine canyon shuttle stops from the Visitor Center to the Temple of Sinawava, including the Zion Lodge, The Grotto, Weeping Rock,

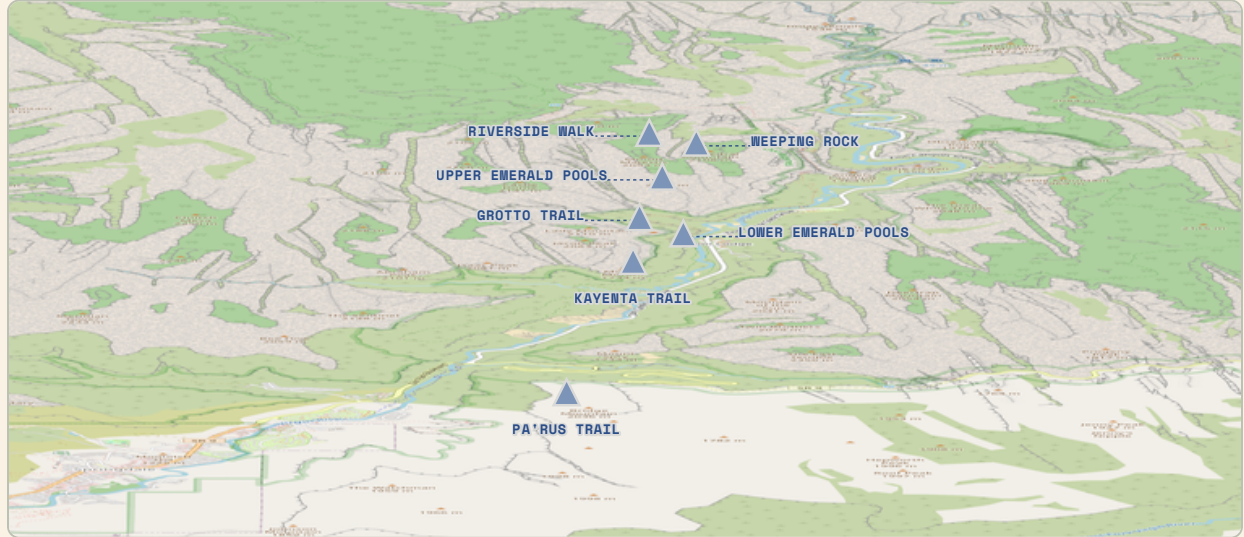
and Temple of Sinawava stops. Springdale's free town shuttle adds a separate way to reach the pedestrian and bicycle entrance.

Riverside Walk, Emerald Pools, Kayenta, Grotto Trail, Weeping Rock, and Pa'rus Trail form the practical day-use spine in this edition. The Pa'rus Trail is the exception for pets and service animals in training; bicycles must yield to shuttles on the connected Scenic Drive, and e-bikes are not carried on shuttle bicycle racks.

Parking is limited. If park stalls are full, use the official Springdale parking and transit information rather than treating an improvised roadside space as a plan.



ZION CANYON SCENIC DRIVE MAP



MAP DATA © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS (ODBL) · PLACE AND ACCESS REFERENCES: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAILS & ROUTES – ZION CANYON SCENIC DRIVE ✓ Consensus pick ◆ Hidden gem ▲ Heads-up © Reservable • Dogs OK ■ Big-rig access

TRAIL	DISTANCE	GAIN	TIME	LEVEL	SEASON	CROWDS	THE TAKE
Riverside Walk ▲ Wheelchair accessible with assistance; trail access conditions can change.	1.0 mi one way	154.2 ft	NPS does not publish a fixed hiking time	EASY-ACCESS CANYON WALK	Check current conditions	Vari-able	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.
Lower Emerald Pools ▲ Trail access and shuttle operations are date-sensitive.	0.6 mi one way from Shuttle Stop 5	131.1 ft	NPS does not publish a fixed hiking time	EASY CANYON TRAIL	Check current conditions	Vari-able	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.
Upper Emerald Pools ▲ Upper Emerald Pools is reached through the Emerald Pools trail system.	0.3 mi one way	75.8 ft	NPS does not publish a fixed hiking time	MODERATE ROUTE CONTEXT IN THE CURRENT SHUTTLE GUIDE	Check current conditions	Vari-able	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.

TRAIL	DISTANCE	GAIN	TIME	LEVEL	SEASON	CROWDS	THE TAKE
Kayenta Trail ▲ The route connects the Grotto area toward Zion Lodge and the Emerald Pools system.	0.9 mi one way	204.1 ft	NPS does not publish a fixed hiking time	MODERATE	Check current conditions	Vari-able	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.
Grotto Trail ▲ Trail access conditions can change.	0.5 mi one way	49.0 ft	NPS does not publish a fixed hiking time	EASY CANYON WALK	Check current conditions	Vari-able	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.
Weeping Rock ▲ Area currently closed due to rockfall; verify the current conditions page before planning.	0.4 mi one way	98 ft	15-45 minutes	SHORT BUT STEEP	Check current conditions	Vari-able	Currently closed due to rockfall.
Pa'rus Trail ▲ Paved path with minimal elevation; cyclists must follow current park rules.	1.6 mi one way	151.7 ft	NPS does not publish a fixed hiking time	MOST ACCESSIBLE TRAIL IN THE PARK; ASSISTANCE MAY BE NEEDED	Check current conditions	Vari-able	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.

SECTION 04B / ZONE GUIDE

SOUTHWESTERN UTAH
ZION WILDERNESS
AUGUST 2026

ZION WILDERNESS

The permit boundary changes the day; water and weather are part of the route.

PHOTO: TOBIAS ALT / CC BY-SA 4.0 / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



“ Permit-bound canyon travel, water hazards, and longer backcountry itineraries.

Zion Wilderness

THE PERMIT BOUNDARY CHANGES THE DAY

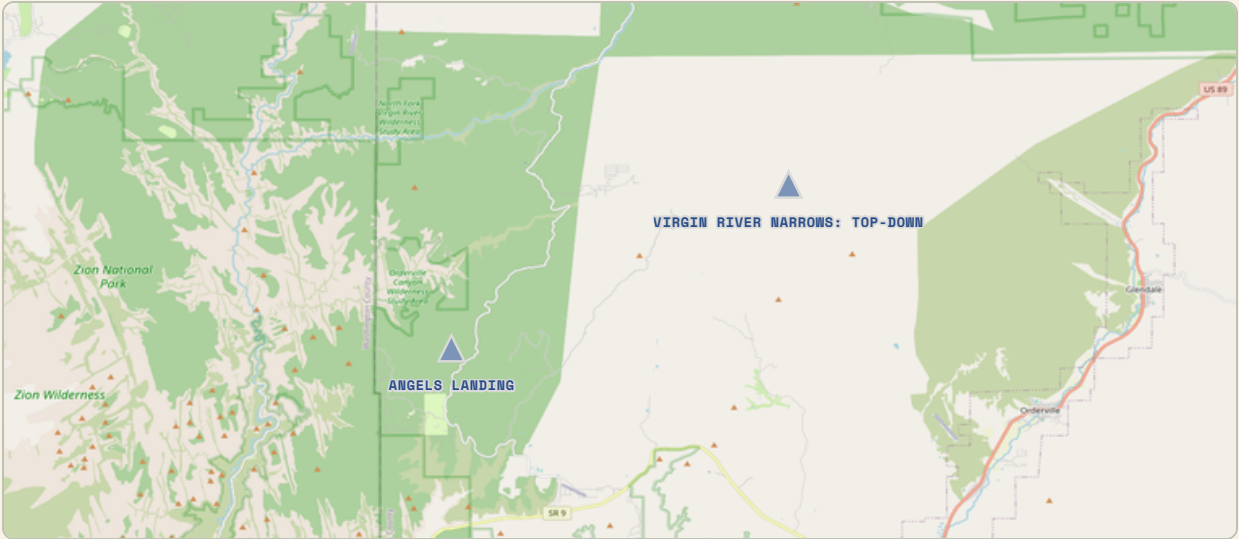
The Narrows is not one identical experience. A bottom-up day from the canyon is distinct from the 16-mile top-down through-hike from Chamberlain’s Ranch. The top-down route requires a wilderness permit, in-person permit administration, and transportation arranged to the trailhead outside the park. The bottom-up route is treated separately in the official permit guidance.

Water is part of the route, not a footnote. The current conditions evidence warns about toxic cyanobacteria in the Virgin River and park streams and advises visitors not to submerge their heads in or filter drinking water from still or moving natural water. Weather can change the risk quickly, especially during monsoon season.

Angels Landing is another permit-bound experience. Everyone hiking the route needs the required permit, and the controlling NPS page should be used for the current lottery and permit process.



ZION WILDERNESS MAP



MAP DATA © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS (ODBL) · PLACE AND ACCESS REFERENCES: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAILS & ROUTES – ZION WILDERNESS

✓ Consensus pick ◆ Hidden gem ▲ Heads-up ◎ Reservable ● Dogs OK ■ Big-rig access

TRAIL	DISTANCE	GAIN	TIME	LEVEL	SEASON	CROWDS	THE TAKE
Virgin River Narrows: Top-Down ▲ Wilderness permit required; arrange transportation to Chamberlain's Ranch.	Approximately 16 mi one way, top-down	Not stated on the verified top-down source page	All-day through-hike; overnight option exists	STRENUOUS RIVER ROUTE	Check current conditions	Vari-able	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.
Angels Landing ▲ Permit required beyond Scout Lookout; start at The Grotto shuttle stop for most of the year.	5.4 mi round trip	1,488 ft	About 4 hours for most hikers	STRENUOUS	Check current conditions	Vari-able	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.

SECTION 04C / ZONE GUIDE

SOUTHWESTERN UTAH
KOLOB TERRACE AND EAST ENTRANCE
AUGUST 2026

KOLOB TERRACE AND EAST ENTRANCE

PHOTO: MICHAEL GÄBLER / CC BY 3.0 / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A conditional high-country day for travelers willing to check access first.



“ High-country access, scenic driving, vehicle constraints, and seasonal conditions.

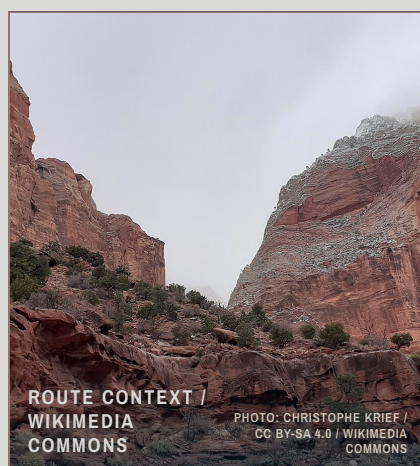
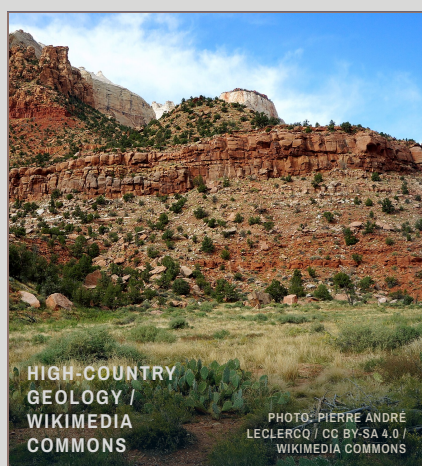
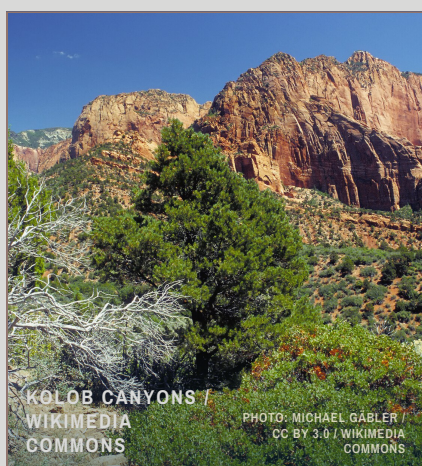
Kolob Terrace and East Entrance

SCENIC DRIVING WITH REAL CONSTRAINTS

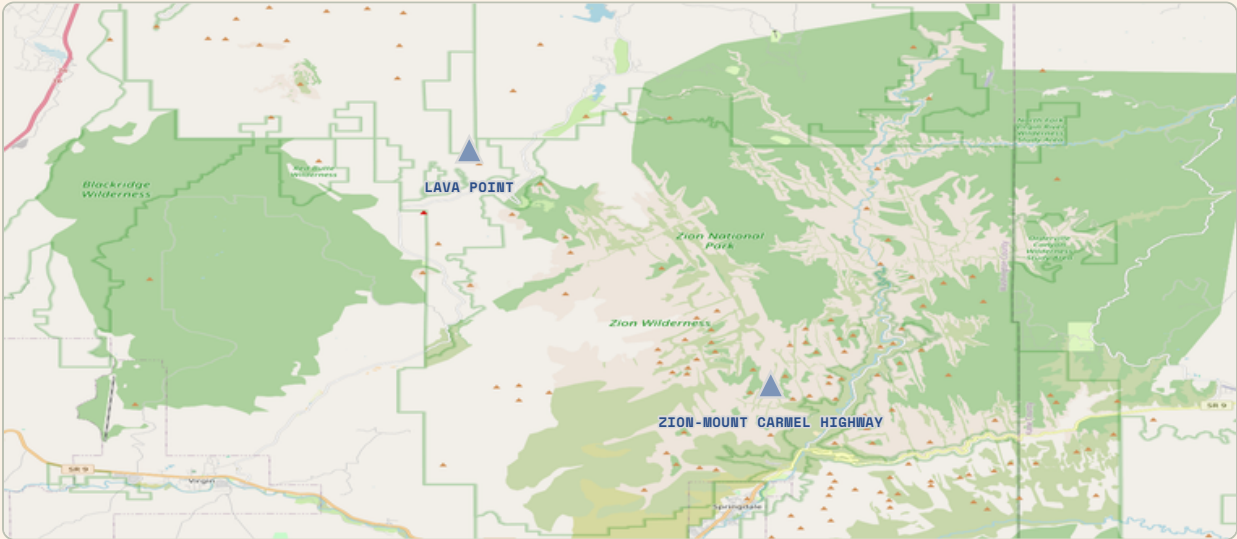
The high-country day is for travelers who are comfortable checking access before committing to a remote corridor. UDOT restrictions apply to oversized or overweight vehicles on the Zion-Mount Carmel Highway, and vehicles over the posted limits cannot travel between Canyon Junction and the East Entrance without the applicable tunnel restriction process. Use the current posted dimensions and permit conditions; do not infer suitability from a general vehicle category.

The Gate 1 package also records the 2026 Stage 2 fire notice for the covered campgrounds and picnic areas. Open fires, campfires, and charcoal fires were prohibited in that notice; petroleum and liquid-propane stoves remained subject to its conditions. The official conditions and fire-restriction pages control any current trip.

Lava Point is included as a primitive high-elevation campground option in this destination package. The route remains seasonal and weather-sensitive, so the high-country day should be planned as a conditional choice rather than a guaranteed open loop.



KOLOB TERRACE AND EAST ENTRANCE MAP



MAP DATA © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS (ODBL) · PLACE AND ACCESS REFERENCES: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAILS & ROUTES – KOLOB TERRACE AND EAST ENTRANCE

✓ Consensus pick ◆ Hidden gem ▲ Heads-up © Reservable ● Dogs OK
■ Big-rig access

TRAIL	DISTANCE	GAIN	TIME	LEVEL	SEASON	CROWDS	THE TAKE
Lava Point ▲ The road and campground can be inaccessible in winter; check current NPS conditions.	High-country access point and campground	Not applicable to this waypoint	Plan as part of a conditional high-country day	SEASONAL SCENIC ACCESS	Check current conditions	Variable	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.
Zion-Mount Carmel Highway ▲ Check current UDOT tunnel and road restrictions before departure.	Road corridor	Not applicable to this waypoint	Scenic drive; allow time for current restrictions and vehicle checks	VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS APPLY	Check current conditions	Variable	Route profile and access notes are source-bound to the official NPS page.

WHAT TO DO

ACTIVITIES

What To Do

START WITH THE EXPERIENCE, NOT A CHECKLIST

Zion's official activity inventory is much larger than the two headline hikes. A first visit can stay in the canyon with shuttle-served walks, the Pa'rus Trail, ranger programs, the Human History Museum, the Nature Center, and Junior Ranger activities. A quieter day can lean toward birding, sunrise or sunset viewing, or stargazing. A more technical trip moves into permit-bound wilderness activities such as The Narrows, The Subway, canyoneering, climbing, or overnight backpacking.

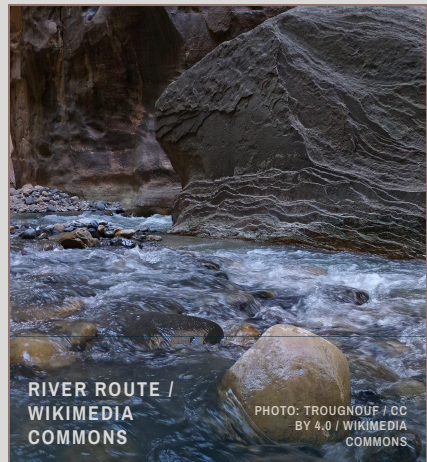
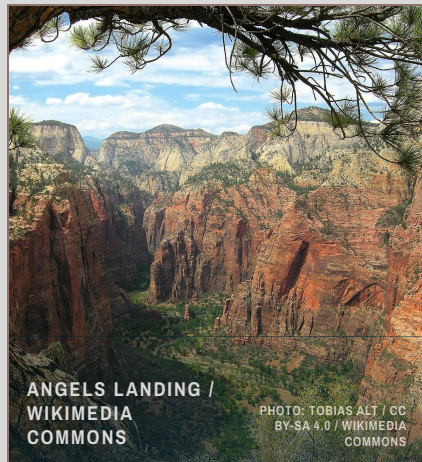
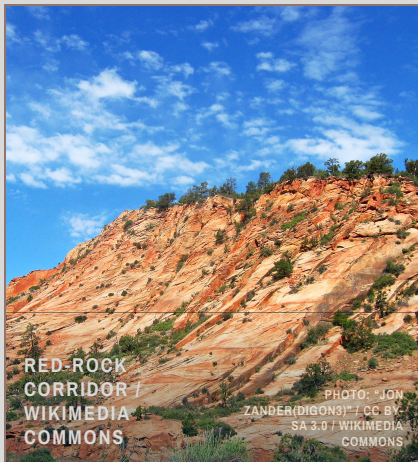
MATCH THE ACTIVITY TO THE ROUTE PROFILE

Use the Zion Canyon section for short walks, interpretation, cycling, and ranger-led programs. Use the Wilderness section

for activities that require permits, technical preparation, water judgment, or transportation beyond the canyon corridor. Use the high-country section for Kolob Canyons and the longer scenic-drive frame. The official link on each activity card is the next step for current rules, access, and preparation.

THE USEFUL PLANNING DISTINCTION

The Narrows is not interchangeable with a canyon overlook; Angels Landing is not interchangeable with a casual trail stop; and a ranger program is not interchangeable with a fixed attraction schedule. Each has a different planning burden. That distinction is the reason the guide shows activities as a structured inventory instead of hiding everything inside a short list of highlights.



HIKING

Canyon hiking and short walks

NPS identifies Zion Canyon trails ranging from short walks to strenuous adventures; use the trail and current-access pages to choose within the group's ability.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

BICYCLING

Pa'rus Trail and canyon bicycling

Bicycling is permitted on the Pa'rus Trail and park roadways, with route-specific rules; cyclists must yield to shuttle buses on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

RANGER PROGRAM

Ranger-led walks, talks, and programs

Free ranger-led walks, talks, tours, and activities cover Zion landscapes, plants, animals, and history; current programs and locations change by season.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

FAMILY LEARNING

Zion Junior Ranger

The Zion Junior Ranger program is open to visitors ages four and older, with booklets available at visitor centers and selected park locations.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

INTERPRETATION

Human History Museum and Zion Nature Center

The Human History Museum and Zion Nature Center add interpretation to a canyon day; confirm current building hours and access before planning around a program.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

PERMIT BOUND HIKE

Angels Landing

Angels Landing is a permit-bound hike; use the current NPS page for the applicable lottery and permit process before treating it as a day plan.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

RIVER HIKE

The Narrows

The Narrows can be approached from the bottom up or as a permit-bound top-down trip; water, weather, and current conditions shape whether the route is appropriate.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

BACKPACKING

Zion Wilderness backpacking

Overnight wilderness trips require advance planning and permits; NPS provides route, permit, and wilderness-planning information for backpackers.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

PERMIT BOUND CANYONEERING

Canyoneering

Canyoneering is a distinct wilderness activity with technical, route, and permit considerations; use the NPS activity page before selecting a route.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

CLIMBING

Rock climbing and bivouacs

Zion climbing includes route and permit rules, with seasonal closures that can protect nesting raptors; check the current NPS climbing and closure pages.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

SCENIC AREA

Explore Kolob Canyons

Kolob Canyons in the northwest corner of Zion offers a different high-country canyon setting from the main canyon; treat it as a separate route profile.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

RIVER TRIP

Virgin River trips

River trips in Zion are governed by park rules and river conditions; the current NPS page identifies when floating or boating is permitted.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

PERMIT BOUND HIKE

Left Fork (The Subway)

The Subway is a permit-bound Left Fork route with a distinct route profile; use the current NPS page for the permitted approach and preparation requirements.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION

Birding

Zion's birding inventory and visitor-center checklists offer a lower-impact way to spend time in the park beyond the headline hikes.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

LANDSCAPE VIEWING

Sunrise and sunset viewing

Sunrise and sunset change the color and contrast of Zion's cliffs; use the official guidance to choose a legal, safe viewing location rather than stopping wherever a shoulder appears convenient.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

NIGHT SKY

Stargazing

Stargazing is a route-independent evening activity that works especially well as a deliberate high-country or base-camp add-on; use current NPS guidance for locations and conditions.

[OFFICIAL INFORMATION](#)

EAT & RESUPPLY

FOOD & SUPPLIES

Eat & Resupply

KEEP THIS EDITION SOURCE-BOUND

This production test does not invent a restaurant or grocery inventory. Use the official park, Springdale, and lodging links in

the guide to confirm current food, supply, and service options near the route profile you choose.

That boundary keeps the destination guide useful without turning a date-sensitive local business list into a false promise.



FIELD NOTES

PRACTICAL DETAILS

Field notes worth carrying

Zion's infrastructure and landscape are part of the story. NPS records a 1995 landslide that blocked the Virgin River, damaged the road, and stranded visitors at Zion Lodge; a 2010 rainfall event that increased river flow and undercut the Scenic Drive; and an average sediment load that is concentrated during

flash floods. Those facts explain why water, weather, transit, and route access appear alongside the destination highlights.

The package also preserves the NPS condor-recovery context and seasonal raptor climbing closures as source-bound field notes. These are supporting context, not a substitute for the current conditions pages.



KEY DRIVE TIMES

FROM	TO	TIME	NOTES
Springdale	Zion Canyon Visitor Center	Check current route conditions	Use the current NPS and UDOT links before departure.

QUICK-SCAN LINKS



Scans directly to the
official source



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Riverside Walk
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Lower Emerald Pools

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Upper Emerald Pools

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Kayenta Trail

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Grotto Trail

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Weeping Rock

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Pa'rus Trail

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Virgin River Narrows: Top-Down

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Angels Landing

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Lava Point

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official source



Zion-Mount Carmel Highway

Scans directly to the
official source

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

DEPARTURE BRIEF

Twelve-month planning frame

Zion's seasonality should be used to choose a planning posture, not to promise a fixed operating calendar. Winter months require attention to freezing conditions and trail hazards; spring brings runoff and a changing shuttle rhythm; summer brings heat, fire

restrictions, and monsoon flash-flood risk; autumn transitions toward cooler conditions and changing transit schedules.

The current 2026 shuttle notice and current NPS conditions pages are the controlling links for this edition. The month-by-month records retain a full annual index while marking details that require a Gate 3 freshness check.



PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Recheck official conditions, shuttle, permit, fire, and road-restriction pages.
- ☐ Carry offline copies of the official information needed for the chosen route profile.
- ☐ Match the day's plan to the current access and permit status.



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MORE FROM ADVNTR ROAD

North Cascades National Park

The American Alps. Dramatic peaks, remote backcountry.

Mount Rainier National Park

The volcano that dominates the horizon from three states.

Olympic National Park

Coast, rain forest, and the mountains in between.