

# The Hoodoo

Bryce Canyon  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



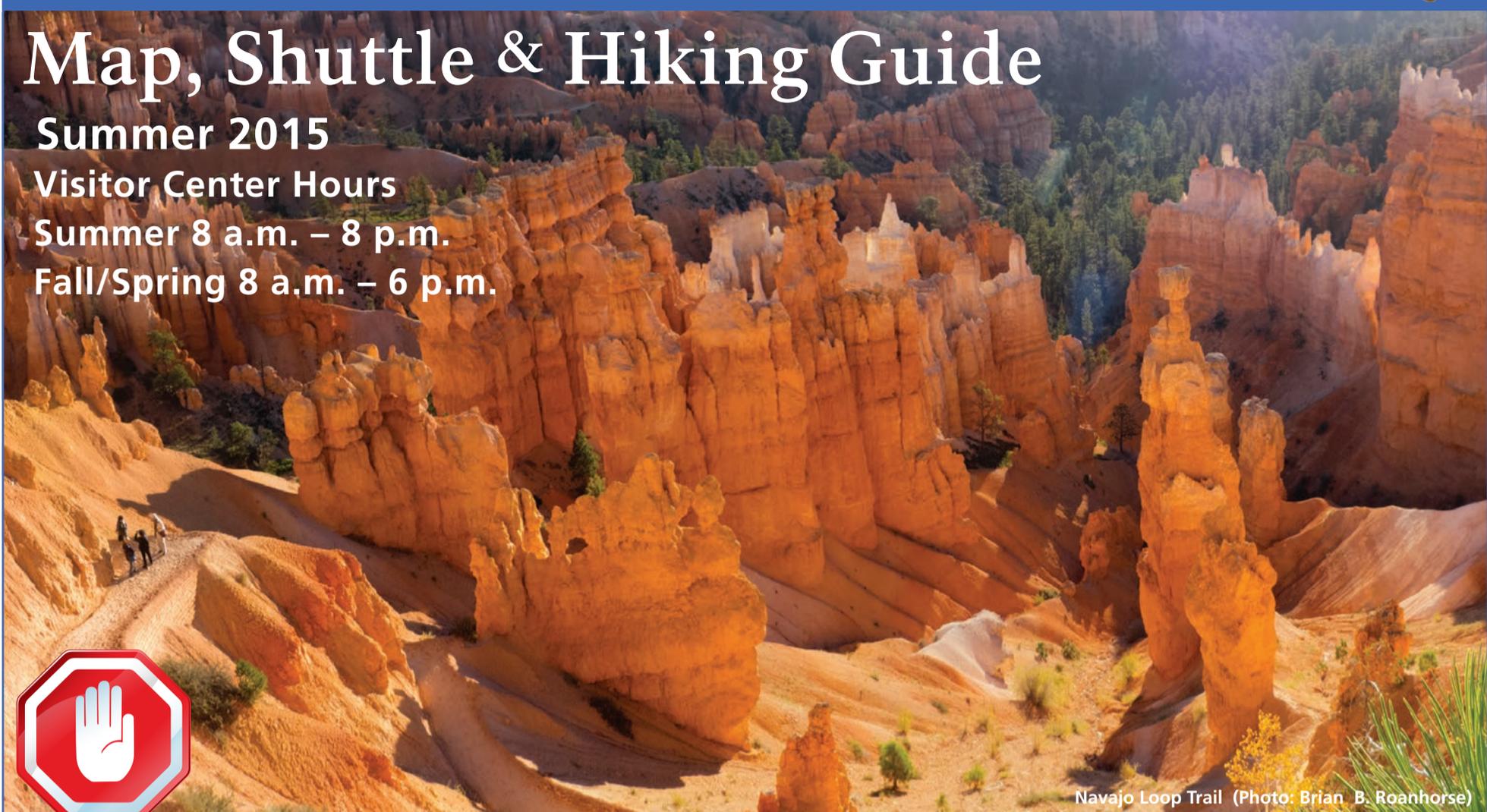
## Map, Shuttle & Hiking Guide

Summer 2015

Visitor Center Hours

Summer 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Fall/Spring 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Navajo Loop Trail (Photo: Brian B. Roanhorse)



Questions? Bring this newspaper to the Visitor Center Desk!

### Getting Around the Park



**Where is the best overlook?** There are 14 viewpoints along Bryce Canyon's 18-mile scenic drive (one-way distance) and everybody determines his or her favorite for a multitude of reasons. For every 15 minutes you extend your visit, you can see another overlook! If you stop at all the viewpoints, it could take as little as 3-4 hours.

Our most famous views, best accessed using the Bryce Canyon Shuttle, are found in Bryce Amphitheater, including Sunrise, Sunset, Inspiration and Bryce points. The southern overlooks feature beautiful, though

smaller, amphitheatres and/or long-distance, panoramic views across the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. From many of the park's overlooks you can see over 100 miles (160 km) on a clear day!

Since all the viewpoints are on the left side of the road as you drive south towards Rainbow Point, we recommend stopping at the viewpoints as you drive north on your return trip. This way, each stop will be an easier and safer right turn.

#### Have Less Than 4 Hours?

##### Visitor Center

Stop at the Visitor Center for information, museum exhibits, and a 22-minute award-winning orientation film, shown daily 8:00 a.m. to closing, on the hour and half hour.

##### Tour Our Famous Viewpoints

Between 8 a.m. & 7 p.m., ride the shuttle to Bryce, Inspiration, Sunset and Sunrise Points first. If you have more time, use your car to visit overlooks in the southern portion of the park.

##### Short Walk

Hike a short segment of the Rim Trail or select one of the hikes from the "Easy to Moderate" group in the hiking table on page 7.

#### Enjoy a Complete Day

##### Short Walks and Day Hikes

Bryce is best experienced from its trails. Select one of the combination loops from the "Moderate" or "Strenuous" groups in the hiking table on page 7.

##### Ranger Programs

Attend a free Ranger Program to learn more about the natural and cultural history of this region. Check at the Visitor Center for the current program schedule.

##### Horseback Ride

Take a horse ride into Bryce Canyon. Wranglers lead 2-hour and half-day rides daily. Inquire at Bryce Canyon Lodge.

#### What's Inside

##### EMERGENCY INFORMATION PAGE 3

Accessibility . . . . .	2
Air Quality/Solar Power. . . . .	9
Geology . . . . .	8
Hike the Hoodoos! . . . . .	4
Hiking Guide. . . . .	7
Information & Services . . . . .	2
Lightning . . . . .	10
Natural History Association . . . . .	11
Nearby Attractions . . . . .	12
Night Skies . . . . .	5
Partners & Donors. . . . .	11
Park Map . . . . .	6,7
Park Profile . . . . .	4
Prescribed Fire . . . . .	10
Ranger Programs . . . . .	3
Safety . . . . .	3
Shuttle . . . . .	5
Volunteers . . . . .	11
Weather . . . . .	10
Wildlife . . . . .	8

## BREAKING NEWS

- **Hydration Stations**  
See page 5 for info.
- **Safety First!**  
Turn to page 3.
- **Hoodoo You Love?**  
Find out on page 11.
- **Solar Power**  
Coming to our Visitor Center in 2015 - see page 9.
- **Hike the Hoodoos!**  
See page 4 for program rules.
- **Hoodoos: How Long Will They Stand?**  
See page 8.

**Construction Alert!**  
Several projects will be in progress this summer that may impact your visit (including some temporary closures). Stop at the Visitor Center for information.



## Information and Services (Click or tap on icons for more information.)



**Visitor Center** In summer, open 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Information, museum, publications, an award-winning film, backcountry permits, and lost-and-found services are available here.

**Emergencies**

24-hour emergency response, call 911 or 435 676-2411. Garfield Hospital, 435 676-8811, and Clinic, 435 676-8842 are in Panguitch.



**Accessibility** Restrooms: the Visitor Center, Sunset Point, Bryce Canyon Lodge, and General Store are fully accessible. Sunset Campground has two sites reserved for people with accessibility needs. The ½-mile section of Rim Trail between Sunset and Sunrise points is paved and mostly level. Inquire at the Visitor Center for information on accessible ranger-led programs, and to obtain an Access Guide.



**Restrooms** Available year-round at the Visitor Center, North Campground, Mossy Cave Trail, and Sunset, Farview, and Rainbow points. Restrooms are also available April - October at Bryce Canyon Lodge, General Store, Sunset Campground, Inspiration Point, and Peekaboo Loop.



**Telephone & Wireless Service** Public pay phones are available year-round in Bryce Canyon City. Wireless carriers have towers in the region, however service is not always available in many areas within the park.



**Wireless Internet (WiFi)** Free wireless Internet access is available year-round at the Visitor Center or seasonally for lodge guests at the Bryce Canyon Lodge lobby (password required).



**Post Office/ATM/Internet** Ruby's Inn has a post office open Mon-Sat (Bryce, UT 84764), an ATM, and free (with password) WiFi. Personal mail or packages addressed to park visitors cannot be delivered to the park.



**Pets** Pets must be leashed; you are required to clean up after your pet. Pets are permitted at park viewpoints, campgrounds, and on paved surfaces or paved trails. Pets are not permitted in buildings or on unpaved surfaces including all trails below the rim.



**Horseback Riding** Wranglers lead two hour and four hour horse and mule rides Spring - October (weather and trail conditions permitting). For same-day reservations, inquire at Bryce Canyon Lodge or call 435 834-5500. For advance reservations: Canyon Trail Rides, P.O. Box 128, Tropic, UT 84776; 435 679-8665. Information: [www.canyonrides.com](http://www.canyonrides.com).



**Entrance Fees** Private Vehicle: \$25\* per vehicle, valid for seven days in Bryce Canyon National Park.  
**Individual:** \$12\* per person (pedestrian, bicycle, motorcycle, and organized group), valid for 7 days in Bryce Canyon National Park.  
**Bryce Canyon Annual Pass:** \$30\*, valid for one year from date of purchase at Bryce Canyon National Park only.  
**Commercial Tours:** Ask for rates.  
**Interagency Annual Pass:** \$80, valid for one year from date of purchase in all federal fee areas.  
**Interagency Senior Pass:** \$10 lifetime pass for U.S. residents 62 or older.  
**Interagency Access Pass:** Free lifetime pass for U.S. residents who are permanently disabled.  
**Annual Pass - Military:** Free pass valid one year to active U.S. military and dependents.  
\*See note at the bottom of this column.



**Camping** North Campground: Open all year, 101 campsites (only one loop open in winter). Available first-come, first-served Oct - early May. RV sites may be reserved early May - late Sept by calling 877 444-6777 or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Reservations can be made up to 240 days in advance.  
**Sunset Campground:** Open late spring to early fall, 102 campsites. 20 tent sites are available for reservation up to six months in advance, all others first-come, first served.  
**Fees:** Camping is \$15\* a night per campsite (half price for Interagency Senior and Access pass holders).  
**Group Campsite:** One site available by reservation only. Group size is limited to 7-30 people and 8 vehicles. Cost is \$55-\$100 per night, dependent upon group size. Campsite may be reserved by calling 877 444-6777 or online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).  
**Dump Station:** No hookups are in the park, but a fee-for-use dump station is available in summer near North Campground.  
**Other Campgrounds:** For camping reservations in nearby federal lands (National Parks, US Forest Service, BLM), call 877 444-6777 or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Public campgrounds are also available on Utah State Park lands nearby ([stateparks.utah.gov/reservations](http://stateparks.utah.gov/reservations) or call 800 322-3770). Private campgrounds with showers and hookups are available outside the park.



**Picnic Areas** Picnic areas are available year-round at Sunset Point, the General Store, Rainbow Point, and Mile 4.5 of the park road, and from April - October at the south end of North Campground. Water is available seasonally at all of the above locations except Mile 4.5 and Rainbow Point. Fire grates are available only at the North Campground Picnic Area.

**\*NOTE:** At press time, a proposal to increase entrance and camping fees was still awaiting Washington, D.C. approval. If approved, increases could take effect as early as May 2015.



**Lodging** The Lodge at Bryce Canyon: Open March 27 - November 7, 2015. Cabins, motel rooms and suites, a restaurant, and gift shop. For lodging reservations, write to: The Lodge at Bryce Canyon, P.O. Box 640041, Bryce Utah 84764, call 877-386-4383; or visit [brycecanyonforever.com](http://brycecanyonforever.com).  
**Other Lodging:** Available near the park entrance in Bryce Canyon City and in Tropic, Cannonville, Bryce Junction, and Panguitch, UT.



**Food Services** The Lodge at Bryce Canyon: Open March 27 - November 7, 2014. Dining room serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Valhalla Pizzeria is open mid-May to mid-October. The General Store, open late March to early November, has groceries, quick meals, and camper supplies.  
**Other Food Services:** Restaurants are available near the park entrance and in Tropic, Bryce Junction, and Panguitch, UT.



**Showers & Laundry** Coin-operated shower and laundry facilities are available at the General Store, open late March - early November, and outside the park at some nearby establishments.



**Bicycles** Bicycles are restricted to paved roadways in the park. The nearby Dixie National Forest has a paved bicycle path through Red Canyon, and many miles of challenging and spectacular mountain bike trails. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument has countless miles of dirt roads suitable for mountain biking.



**Recycling** Recycling bins are located at the entrance to Sunset & North campgrounds, Sunset Point, Visitor Center, General Store and Bryce Canyon Lodge. Now accepting aluminum cans, plastic (#1-7), cardboard, tin, and glass. Receptacles for recycling small propane cylinders are available at North Campground, Sunset Campground, and the General Store.



**Backcountry Hiking** Bryce Canyon has two trails designated for overnight hiking: the 9-mile Riggs Spring Loop, and the 23-mile Under-the-Rim Trail. Backcountry permits are on a first-come, first-served basis; fees range from \$5 - \$15\* depending upon group size. Permits may be purchased at the Visitor Center from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily. There are two group sites available with a limit of 15 people per site. For detailed information scan the QR Code at right to download a pdf copy of the backcountry planner to your smart phone or tablet, or obtain a copy from the Visitor Center.



**Please Do Not Feed Wildlife. Learn Why on Page 9.**



## Emergencies Call 911 or 435-676-2411

24-hours a day or contact a Park Ranger

### Park Headquarters

435 834-5322

Fax 435 834-4703

Lost & Found: 435 834-4736

### Mailing Address

PO Box 640201

Bryce, Utah 84764-0201

### Web

Website: [www.nps.gov/brca](http://www.nps.gov/brca)

Twitter: [brycecanyonNPS](https://twitter.com/brycecanyonNPS)

Facebook: [facebook.com/BryceCanyonnps](https://facebook.com/BryceCanyonnps)

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Travelers Information Stations: Tune radio to 1610 AM for park and shuttle information

## Ranger Cindy's Safety Tips



How can you stay safe at Bryce?

Fortunately, Bryce averages less than 1 fatality per year. In order of decreasing occurrence, fatalities are caused by:

- Heart attacks
- Falling off cliffs
- Lightning
- Vehicle accidents

Unfortunately, hundreds of serious injuries have also needlessly occurred, often from ignoring park safety warnings.

### Top 10 Safety Tips

#### #10 Drive Safely

- Obey posted speed limits (15 to 45 mph).
- Wear seat belts.
- Do not pass on a double yellow line.
- Watch for Wildlife!
- Stop in pullouts, never in the road.
- Reduce speed on wet or icy roads.

#### #9 Do Not Climb the Rock Formations

The rock at Bryce forms crumbly cliffs and steep gravelly slopes. Hand and toe holds support nothing heavier than chipmunks. Climbing the rocks and sliding on the slopes is not only illegal but also dangerous.

#### #8 Don't Feed Animals

Fed animals become aggressive. Even small animals can inflict bites requiring stitches and worse yet transmit disease. Watch wildlife from a distance and discourage animals that approach you.

#### #7 Thunderstorms and Other Extreme Weather

At Bryce it is possible for the difference between the daily high and low to be as much as 50° F / 27° C! Lightning is a year-round danger – especially during summer storms! If you can hear thunder, lightning is within 10 miles (16 km) and you need to seek the shelter of a building or your vehicle *immediately*. See page 10 for more information.

#### #6 Stay Hydrated

Drink one quart / liter every 1-2 hours. A well-hydrated body is better able to regulate body temperature and is more resistant to heat exhaustion. Sunburns also lead to dehydration. Wear a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses to protect from the sun overhead and reflected UV light. *Hydration Stations to fill your water bottles are found in several locations in the park - see page 5 or look for this symbol  on the map in this newspaper.*

#### #5 Stay on the Trail

Stay on designated trails and away from cliff edges where footing can be tricky. Even on seemingly gentle slopes, it can be impossible to keep your footing. Bring the maps on page 6 and 7 to avoid getting lost.

#### #4 Avoid Over-exertion

Park elevations reach 9115 ft (2778 m) subjecting you to 70% of the oxygen you might be used to at sea level. Bryce's trails start at the top which means all returns will be uphill. Turn back **BEFORE** you become tired. Know and respect your own physical limitations.

#### #3, #2, & #1 Choose Good Footwear

Wear hiking boots with good ankle support and "lug" traction. Sport-sandals & "trainers" are NOT safe hiking footwear. Wearing shoes or boots not designed for hiking is the **NUMBER ONE** cause of rescues and injuries that require hospital visits at Bryce Canyon National Park.

## Ranger-led Activities

Check at the Visitor Center for program locations and start times!



**Geology Talk** Hoodoos, ancient lakes and something called frost wedging? Geologists have spent years studying the unique story of Bryce Canyon. Spend a half hour with a ranger as we discuss the current scientific explanation behind Bryce Canyon's unique geologic history. **Sunset Point Duration: 30 minutes** 



**Rim Walk** Great views, plant and wildlife stories, a touch of geology, a smattering of cultural history – what more could you want? Join a park ranger for an overview of Bryce Canyon as you stroll along the rim of the Bryce Amphitheater. Daily in the late afternoon June – September, check at the Visitor Center for start times. **1 mile, Duration: 1.5 hours** 



**Evening Program** Bryce Canyon's diversity comes to life during ranger programs at the Bryce Canyon Lodge, Visitor Center auditorium, or North Campground Outdoor Theater (weather permitting). Auditoriums are wheelchair accessible, access to the North Campground Outdoor Theater may require additional assistance. **Duration: 1 hour** 



**Astronomy Programs** Join park rangers and volunteers to learn about the heavens, and view Bryce's night skies through telescopes (weather permitting). Ask at the Visitor Center or look on page 5 for additional information. **Duration: 2 hours** 



**Full Moon Hike** Group size is limited to 30 people; *tickets are distributed via lottery the day of the hike - check at the Visitor Center or our website for details.* Hiking shoes or boots with good traction are **REQUIRED** - no exceptions. **1.5 to 2 miles, Duration: 2 to 2.5 hours**



**Canyon Hike (June – August)** Join a park ranger for a hike down into the heart of the Bryce Amphitheater. Enjoy face-to-face encounters with hoodoos. Immerse yourself in a labyrinth of breathtaking views and engaging stories about all that surrounds you. Offered occasionally – inquire at Visitor Center. **Length: 1.5 to 2 miles**



**Kids Programs (June – August)** While most of Bryce Canyon's ranger programs are family-friendly, some may be too technical for younger children. However, these are fun for kids and parents alike. Rangers present a wide range of programs appealing to a variety of interests. Most Kids Programs, offered occasionally, require reservations – inquire at the Visitor Center. **Duration: 1 hour**



### Become a Junior Ranger!

Attending a ranger program is the #1 requirement toward completion of your Junior Ranger workbook. Ask how you can become a Bryce Canyon Junior Ranger at the Visitor Center and, while you are there, check the schedule of upcoming ranger programs.



**Please Do Not Feed Wildlife. Learn Why on Page 9.**



## I Hiked the Hoodoos Program

Hiking is great exercise and Bryce Canyon's "I Hiked the Hoodoos!" program is not just hiking, it's also a scavenger hunt intended to encourage children to enjoy the great outdoors. Searching for special benchmarks gives them the incentive to earn a reward for their efforts. Follow the instructions below so they can earn the reward while hiking some of the park's most beautiful trails. One possible route is the famous Queens/Navajo Combination Loop – a three mile hike that includes two benchmarks along the way (you *must* find both!). Detailed hiking information can be found on page 7.

### "I Hiked the Hoodoos" Program Rules

1. In order to qualify for the reward you must hike a minimum of three miles/4.8 km (see chart at right with the qualifying distance for each benchmark found) or find at least 3 benchmarks AND complete the requirements in #2 below.

2. Each individual seeking the reward **MUST HAVE:**

a.) Either a pencil rubbing of each qualifying benchmark or, b.) a photograph of them standing next to the benchmark.

3. Only special "I Hiked the Hoodoos" benchmarks qualify for the reward. USGS benchmarks found at various locations within the park do not qualify.

4. Please, only one (1) reward per person.

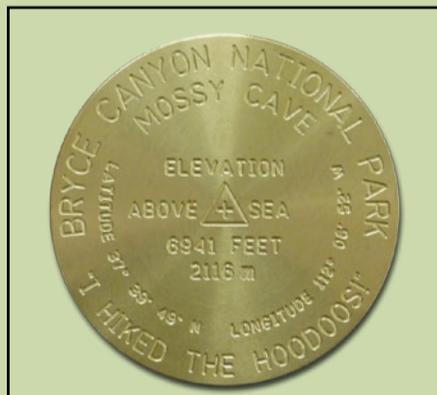
Benchmark	Distance	
	miles	km
Mossy Cave	0.8	1.3
Rim Trail	2.5	4.0
Tower Bridge	3.0	4.8
Queens Garden	1.8	2.9
Navajo Loop	1.3	2.2
Peekaboo (from Sunset Point)	2.4	3.9
Wall of Windows (from Bryce Point)	1.6	2.6
Sheep Creek	4.0	6.4
Bristlecone Loop	1.0	1.6

Trail difficulty: **Easy**, **Moderate**, **Strenuous**

*Note: In order to qualify for the reward it may be necessary to hike more than one trail to obtain the number of benchmark rubbings or photos needed to complete the minimum distance requirement (for example: Queens Garden + Navajo Loop or Mossy Cave + Bristlecone + Navajo Loop).*



Nine special benchmarks like the one pictured at right may be found in the park along trails in the table. Look for signs similar to the photo above (Tower Bridge and Swamp Canyon benchmarks are mounted on posts on the trail, not on the signs).



## Park Profile



**Established** 1923 as Bryce Canyon National Monument administered by the U.S. Forest Service; Congress passed legislation in 1924 to create the national park and, in 1928, Bryce Canyon National Park was officially established.

**Significance** Established to preserve and protect outstanding scenic and scientific values. Best known for the beautiful and bizarre rock spires called hoodoos and the dark night sky.

**Hoodoo** [hoo'doo] n. 1. A pinnacle or odd-shaped rock left standing by the forces of erosion. 2. v. To cast a spell or cause bad luck. 3. Voodoo.

**Elevation/Size** Lowest: 6,620 feet (2018 m) Yellow Creek. Highest: 9,115 feet (2778 m) at Rainbow Point. Area: 55 square miles (35,835 acres)

**Name** Ebenezer and Mary Bryce lived in the area from 1875-1880 and aided in the settlement of southwestern Utah and northern Arizona.

**Humans** Archaeological studies indicate Ancestral Puebloans probably lived in the area from 2,000 years ago, followed by the Fremont Culture through the 1200s. This region remains the ancestral homeland of the Southern Paiute. Mormon settlers arrived in the 1870s. Park visitation in 1929 was 22,000; last year it was 1.4 million.

**Plant Life** More than 400 native plant species live in the park. Pinyon pine and juniper grow among the hoodoos at low elevations; ponderosa pine forests dominate the plateau top; fir and aspen thrive at the highest elevations. Bristlecone pines, some more than 1,600 years old, live at various elevations throughout the park.

**Animal Life** Utah prairie dogs, a federally threatened species, can be seen in open meadows. Mule deer and pronghorn (mistakenly known as Antelope) are the most common large mammals seen. Mountain lions and black bears live in the park, but are rarely seen. Over 200 species of birds visit Bryce.

**Bryce Canyon Lodge** Designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood and built in 1924, it is a National Historic Landmark. Of the four lodges in the Union Pacific Loop Tour (Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, Zion, and Grand Canyon-North Rim), the Bryce Canyon Lodge is the only original of these structures still standing.

Help keep Bryce Canyon's skies clear....



NPS Photo: Brian Roanhorse



**Please Do Not Feed Wildlife. Learn Why on Page 9.**



## Hydration Stations



**Essential** Bryce Canyon's high elevation and semi-arid climate, combined with physical exertion, require that you need to increase your normal daily water intake while visiting here. In fact, dehydration is one of the most common safety issues for visitors to the park, so drink lots of water!

**Reduce-Reuse-Recycle** Single-use plastic water bottles litter our trails and parking lots, fill up our landfills, and clog the world's waterways and oceans. The best solution to protect our planet is to use refillable water bottles or, if you have purchased bottled water, refill and reuse those bottles before recycling them.

**Fill 'er Up** Bryce Canyon National Park, in association with the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association and other partners, has installed stations to refill your water bottles at convenient sites within the park. Bryce Canyon consistently ranks among the "Best Quality Water" in Utah. Hydration stations to fill your water bottles may be found at the following locations: Visitor Center, General Store, Sunrise Point parking area (in front of the High Plateaus Institute), Bryce Canyon Lodge, and Sunset Point. Reusable water bottles are available for purchase at the Visitor Center bookstore, General Store, Bryce Canyon Lodge gift shop, and in Bryce Canyon City.



## Bryce Canyon Shuttle



### FREE SHUTTLE! Bryce Amphitheater Route

The Bryce Canyon Shuttle is voluntary. Riding the shuttle reduces traffic, conserves fuel, saves time, money, and helps protect the planet! Shuttle buses are fully accessible. Pets are not allowed.

**2015 Season: April 24 – September 30**

**Hours:**

- 8 am – 7 pm April 24 – May 17
- 8 am – 8 pm May 18 – September 7
- 8 am – 7 pm September 8 – September 18
- 8 am – 6 pm September 19 – September 30

**Bus Interval:**

Approximately every 10 – 15 minutes.

LAST BUS	Enters Park	Leaves Bryce Pt.	Leaves Park
Apr 24 – May 17	6:10 pm	6:22 pm	6:45 pm
May 18 – Sep 7	7:10 pm	7:22 pm	7:45 pm
Sep 8 – Sep 18	6:10 pm	6:22 pm	6:45 pm
Sep 19 – Sep 30	5:10 pm	5:22 pm	5:45 pm

(Note: All times are approximate and subject to change.)

**Rainbow Point Tour:** In addition, two free round-trip tours to Rainbow Point are offered most days, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. For further information, inquire at the Shuttle Boarding Area outside the park or at the Visitor Center.

*For tour reservations call 435-834-5290.*

## Starry Nights

### Bryce Canyon Summer/Fall Night-Sky Programs

Bryce Canyon National Park celebrates the night sky throughout the summer and into fall. When offered, astronomy nights will feature either one or two one hour multimedia shows, each with different night-sky related topics. Check at the Visitor Center for locations, times and dates.

After the indoor presentations, it's out to the telescopes to enjoy the real sky! Remember to bring warm clothes. Even in August, temperatures may dip down as low as 40° F / 4° C!

Though the multimedia shows are never cancelled, stargazing is weather-dependent.

## Astronomy Festival June 2015

Join us for our 15th Annual Astronomy Festival from June 17 - 20, 2015. Bryce Canyon National Park and the Salt Lake Astronomical Society will welcome a special guest as the festival's keynote speaker. Other special guests, along with Bryce Canyon's Park Rangers, will present a full slate of programs on the other nights during the festival. Each night's programs are followed by stargazing with telescopes!



**Please Do Not Feed Wildlife. Learn Why on Page 9.**



## Most Popular Viewpoints on the 16 Mile Scenic Drive



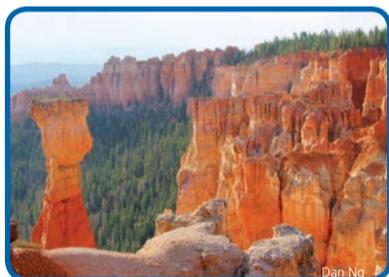
Visitor Center



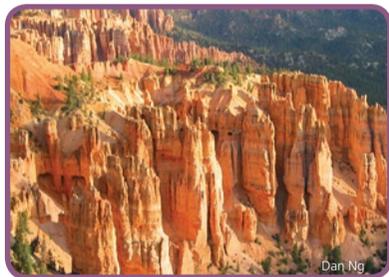
Swamp Canyon



Natural Bridge



Agua Canyon

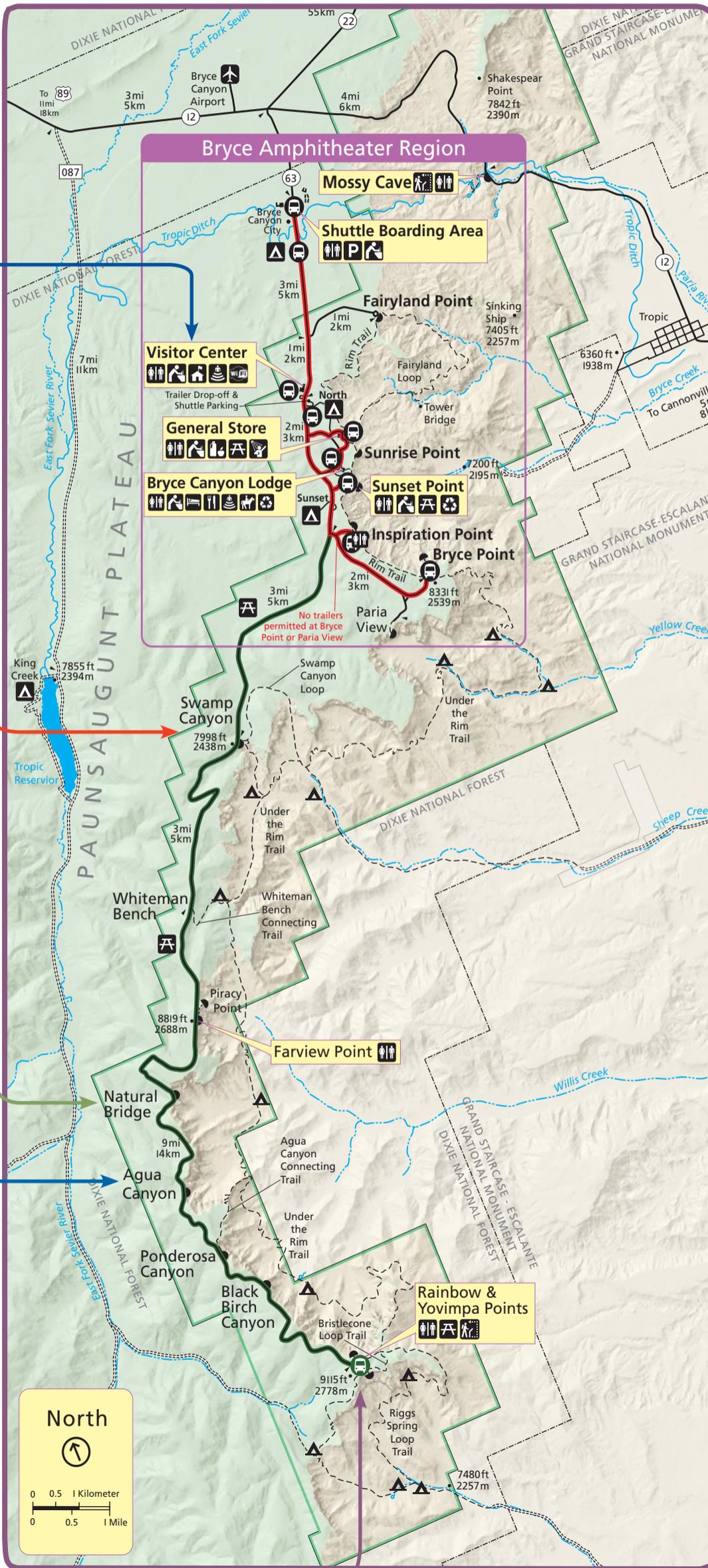


Rainbow Point



Yovimpa Point

## Bryce Canyon National Park



- Shuttle Route & Stop
- Rainbow Point Shuttle
- Unpaved Road
- Scenic Overlook
- Distance Indicator
- Hiking Trail
- Horse Trail
- Horse & Hiking Trail
- Nature Trail
- Water Filling Station
- Recycling
- Auditorium or Outdoor Theater
- Showers & Laundry
- Campground (car)
- Campsite (backpack)

## Hiking Safety & Reminders...

**CAUTION!** Rocks occasionally fall on most hiking trails. If you see or hear active rockfall, leave the area.

Wear hiking boots with lug soles and ankle support.

Carry plenty of water; drink a quart/liter for every 2 to 3 hours of hiking. Park elevations reach over 9115 feet (2778 m). Even mild exertion may leave you feeling light-headed and nauseated. Know and respect your own physical limitations.

Trails with this symbol are used by horses Apr-Oct. Horses have right-of-way. Stand on uphill side of trail to let horses pass. Give them warning of your presence.

Be respectful of others; keep noise levels down. Talk, don't shout.

Stay on maintained trails. Do not take short cuts.

Do not throw anything, anywhere, at any time.

Pack out all trash including tissue paper and cigarette butts.

**Do not feed the wildlife.**

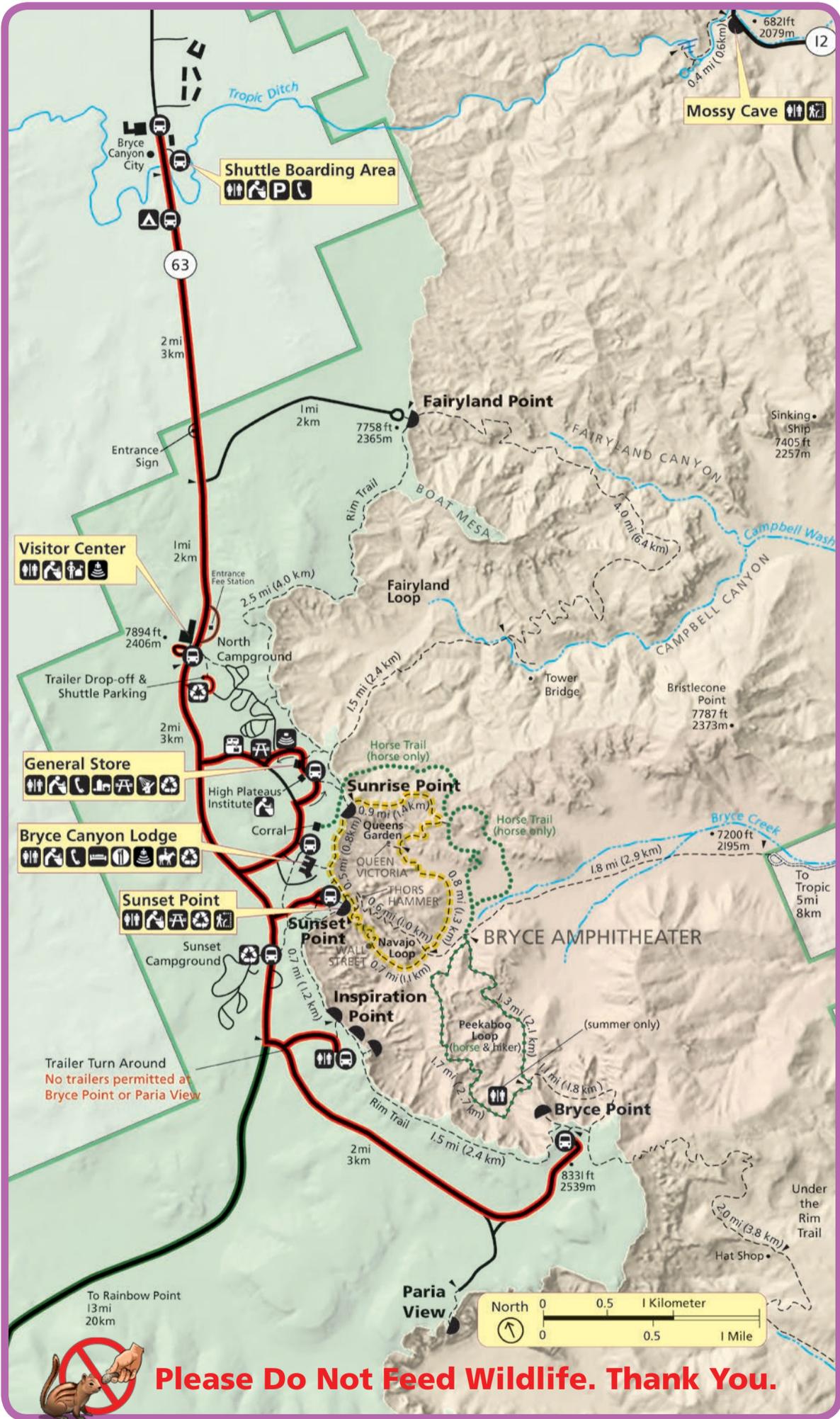




## Hiking Trail Guide

Bryce Canyon has 8 different day-hiking trails. Because many of these trails are interconnected, our most popular hikes are combinations of two or more of these basic trails. If you can only do one hike, the Queen's/Navajo Combination Loop might be the best choice.

### Bryce Amphitheater Region



Trail Name	Starting Location	Round Trip Est. Time	Elevation Change	Description
<b>Mossy Cave*</b>	Hwy 12 North end of park	0.8 mi 1.3 km 1 hour	200 ft 61 m	Streamside walk up to a mossy overhang and small waterfall. (Waterfall flows May-October.)
<b>Sunset to Sunrise</b>	Sunset Point (not a loop)	1.0 mi 1.6 km 1 hour	34 ft 10 m	Outstanding views of hoodoos from above. Rim Trail is paved and fairly level between Sunset and Sunrise Points, and open to pets.
<b>Rim Trail*</b>	Anywhere along rim (not a loop)	1.0-11.0 mi 1.6-17.7 km (you pick start and end points)	1177 ft 359 m	Outstanding views of hoodoos from above. Trail is paved and fairly level between Sunset and Sunrise Points.
<b>Bristlecone Loop*</b>	Rainbow Point	1.0 mi 1.6 km 1 hour	200 ft 61 m	Hike through spruce-fir forests to cliffs with bristlecone pines and expansive vistas.
<b>Queens Garden*</b>	Sunrise Point (not a loop)	1.8 mi 2.9 km 1-2 hours	357 ft 109 m	The least difficult descent into the canyon. See Queen Victoria at the end of a short spur trail.

Trail Name	Starting Location	Round Trip Est. Time	Elevation Change	Description
<b>Navajo Loop*</b>	Sunset Point	1.3 mi 2.2 km 1-2 hours	550 ft 168 m	See Wall Street, Two Bridges, and Thors Hammer on this short but steep trail. <i>Clockwise direction recommended.</i>
<b>Queens/Navajo Combination Loop*</b>	Sunset or Sunrise Pt.	2.9 mi 4.6 km 2-3 hours	600 ft 183 m	Combine two trails described above with the Rim Trail to form a loop. <i>Clockwise direction recommended.</i>
<b>Tower Bridge*</b>	North of Sunrise Point (A portion of the Fairyland Loop - not a loop)	3.0 mi 4.8 km 2-3 hours	802 ft 245 m	See Bristlecone Pines and the China Wall. A shady ¼-mile spur trail leads to the bridge.
<b>Hat Shop</b>	Bryce Point (not a loop)	4.0 mi 6.4 km 3-4 hours	1075 ft 328 m	Descend the Under-the-Rim Trail to see a cluster of balanced-rock hoodoos.
<b>Sheep Creek/Swamp Canyon Loop*</b>	Swamp Canyon	4.0 mi 6.4 km 3-4 hours	647 ft 198 m	Start at Swamp Canyon viewpoint for a beautiful hike through a section of Bryce Canyon's backcountry. Good route-finding skills a must.

Trail Name	Starting Location	Round Trip Est. Time	Elevation Change	Description
<b>Fairyland Loop*</b>	Fairyland Point or north of Sunrise Point	8.0 mi 12.9 km 4-5 hours	1716 ft 523 m	See the China Wall, Tower Bridge and tall hoodoos on this picturesque, less-crowded trail.
<b>Peekaboo Loop*</b>	Bryce Point	5.5 mi 8.8 km 3-4 hours	1571 ft 479 m	Steep but spectacular hike through the heart of Bryce Amphitheater. See the Wall of Windows.
<b>Navajo/Peekaboo Combination Loop*</b>	Sunset Point	4.9 mi 7.8 km 3-4 hours	1581 ft 482 m	Combine Navajo and Peekaboo Loop Trails into a mini figure-8.
<b>The Figure 8 Combination*</b>	Sunrise or Sunset Point	6.4 mi 10.2 km 4-5 hours	1631 ft 497 m	Combine Queens Garden, Peekaboo Loop and Navajo Loop into one ultimate hike!
<b>Bryce Amphitheater Traverse*</b>	Bryce Point (May to Oct during shuttle operations)	4.7 mi 7.5 km 3-4 hours	1010 ft 308 m	Descend from Bryce Point. Turn left (clockwise) on Peekaboo Loop to canyon floor and climb Queens Garden Trail to Sunrise Point. Hike or ride shuttle back.

### ...Hiking Safety & Reminders (continue)

Pets are not permitted on any unpaved surface or trail, including all trails below the rim.

Uphill hikers have the right of way.

Remember, you are entering a wild setting. Ultimately, you are responsible for your safety and the safety of those around you.

Take what you bring; leave what you find.

In order to reduce the environmental impact of single-use plastic bottles Bryce Canyon National Park has water filling stations available in the following locations: Visitor Center, General Store, High Plateaus Institute (Sunrise Point), Bryce Canyon Lodge, and Sunset Point.



\*Trails marked with an asterisk(\*) are part of the "Hike the Hoodoos!" adventures described on page 4.

Reusable water bottles are available for purchase at the Visitor Center bookstore, General Store, and The Lodge Gift Shop.



## Bryce Canyon Geology with Dr. Larry Davis



**Bryce Canyon National Park**, in association with the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, last year welcomed Dr. Larry Davis as the park's first Geoscientist-in-Residence. Dr. Davis is now serving as the park's education specialist. Formerly a professor at College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University in Minnesota, Dr. Davis will be helping to expand our – and, in turn, your – knowledge of Bryce Canyon's geology, as well as that of the surrounding area.

**Hoodoos: How Long Will They Stand?** On President's Day, 2014, a visitor to Bryce Canyon National Park was walking the Mossy Cave Trail and took a photo of the hoodoo/fin called 'The Turtle'. A photo taken of "The Turtle" on President's Day, 2015, illustrates the dynamic processes of weathering and erosion at Bryce Canyon National Park. The head of "The Turtle" was gone! No one reported the actual breaking away of the "head," but the evidence is clear and supports the fact that Bryce Canyon National Park is a constantly changing landscape. Thanks to the interest shown by some of our visitors, we have been able to narrow down the time period that 'The Turtle' lost its head.

Flowing rivers carve canyons and two famous examples would be the Virgin River shaping Zion National Park and the Colorado River sculpting Grand Canyon National Park. But, gazing into the amphitheater of Bryce Canyon National Park one has to wonder, "where is the river?" The answer is, "there is no river and Bryce Canyon is not a true canyon in the geological sense. Rather, Bryce Canyon is an eroding, retreating plateau margin, which is a bit of a tongue twister and doesn't fit well on a t-shirt. So, what formed the fanciful and whimsical shapes we see at Bryce Canyon National Park? The hoodoos of Bryce Canyon National Park formed in the Claron Formation, limestone deposited in an ancient lake system 30-50 million years ago. With uplift of the Colorado Plateau, a series of parallel fractures cut across the Claron Formation. It is along these fractures that the processes of weathering and erosion occur. The principle form of weathering is a process known as freeze-thaw. Water gets into small cracks and freezes at night. The expansion of the freezing water widens the crack. The following day, the ice melts and water seeps further into the crack and the process begins again. There are approximately 200 days of freeze-thaw at Bryce Canyon each year, and the process goes mostly unobserved. In summer, monsoonal rains remove the products of weathering during flash-flooding events. Over the millennia, the fantastically-shaped fins and hoodoos have formed.

As visitors walk the trails in the Bryce Canyon National Park, they will notice small pieces of rock which have broken off the fins and hoodoos along the trail. Visitors often ask, "How long will a hoodoo remain standing? When will Thor's Hammer topple over?" The answer is always a rather vague, "someday." Seldom will visitors, or even people living and working in the park, ever witness the natural collapse of these seemingly permanent structures.

The moral of the story: return to Bryce Canyon National Park often. Take lots of photos of your favorite hoodoos and record the changes that occur year after year. Be an eyewitness to Mother Nature at work in one of the most beautiful national parks in North America.

Learn more about Bryce Canyon's geology by visiting our website at [www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/brochures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/brochures.htm) or scan the QR Code at right with your tablet or smart phone.



On September 12, 2014, when this photo was taken, the head of 'The Turtle' was still there . . .

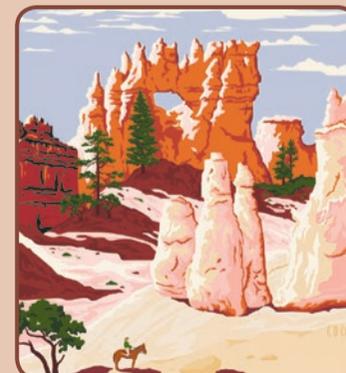


. . . six weeks later, the head is missing. Wouldn't it be fun to find photos taken between those dates to narrow things down even more? Do you have a photo of 'The Turtle' that was taken between September 12, 2014 and October 25, 2014? Let us know if you do!

Bryce Canyon National Park says "Thank you!" to visitors Ed Lamborn (top) and Kevin Crystal (bottom) for allowing us to use their photographs.

## 5th Annual Bryce Canyon Geology Festival July 31 – August 1, 2015

Join us for the fifth edition of this annual event celebrating the geology and paleontology of Southern Utah. Special guest speakers, displays, guided hikes and tours, and other adventures are all part of this fun-for-the-whole-family two-day event! Check our website at [www.nps.gov/brca](http://www.nps.gov/brca) for more information.



**Please Do Not Feed Wildlife. Learn Why on Page 9.**



## Ranger Kevin's *Wild Side of Bryce Canyon*



### Utah Prairie Dog



**A Rare Breed** Of the five species of North American prairie dogs, the Utah Prairie Dog has, historically, had the smallest population and territory. With a population estimated to be nearly 100,000 at the turn of the 20th Century, less than 7,000 remain today. Stressors such as disease and habitat loss from development and agricultural practices have contributed to their decline. Because of this, Utah Prairie Dogs are a federally-listed *threatened species*.

**Good Neighbors** Biologists refer to some animals as “keystone species” if their activities have a positive impact on the local ecosystem. Biologists have determined that the nutrient cycling, soil aeration, and other activities of prairie dogs support more than 150 vertebrate species.

**Talk, Talk, Talk** Prairie dogs have one of the most extensive vocabularies in the animal kingdom. Variations in their “bark” can communicate information about approaching predators, including what type of animal it is, the direction it is coming from, and more.

## Keep Them Wild!

Feeding wild animals is a sad example of how good intentions can unwittingly cause serious harm.



- When animals are fed they instinctively will look for handouts and frequent areas where there are humans. At Bryce Canyon, humans and animals are often found near parking lots, and many squirrels and chipmunks are lost each year when run over by cars.

- Their digestive systems are adapted to specific types of food. Feeding wildlife chips and other snack foods is unhealthy and may lead to a shortened life for the animal.

- Fed animals teach offspring to beg for food. The young animals may never learn the necessary skills to find natural foods and grow up totally dependent on humans for survival.

- An animal may not be able to tell the difference between the tip of your finger and a peanut. An animal as small as a chipmunk can inflict a painful bite requiring stitches and, more importantly, that same bite could transmit a potentially fatal disease.

- Be responsible. Learn to be a real friend to wildlife by not trying to befriend animals with food.

## Powered By The Sun

**Green Power** Construction began in early May on Bryce Canyon National Park's new high tech solar array. The system uses Concentrating Photovoltaic (CPV) technology, a design concept that only needs a small patch of ground to provide the amount of electricity that was previously attainable only by installing much larger systems. By providing electricity to the park's Visitor Center/Administration building, annual utility savings are expected to be approximately \$40,000. Once up and running, the building will be “off of the grid” on most days. By not needing electricity from sources generating power from fossil fuels, the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) offset will be more than 304 tons per year, a number equivalent to taking 65 automobiles off of our highways.



Artist's conception of how the solar arrays will look following installation just west of the Visitor Center.

**Wildlife Friendly** The towers track the Sun as it moves across the sky and, thanks to their small size, no permanent shade will be created. This means that native vegetation will still flourish and provide habitat for birds as well as both small and large mammals that are resident in the park.

## Ranger Jim's *Air Quality at Bryce Canyon*



Navajo Mountain, more than 80 miles away from Bryce Canyon, seen on a hazy day and a clear day.

**How Clear Is Our Air?** New for 2015! Join a member of Bryce Canyon National Park's resource management staff to learn about air quality and climate at Yovimpa Point. This special program will use data collected at the park, results of analyses conducted by the National Park Service, and the latest science on air quality and climate. Check at the Visitor Center for days and times for this exciting new program.

**You Can See (Almost) Forever** Both local and distant air pollutant sources affect air quality and visibility in Bryce Canyon National Park. Visibility has been identified as the most sensitive air resource in the park. Although visibility in the park is still superior to that in many parts of the country, visibility in the park can be degraded by light-scattering pollutants such as suspended dust and emissions from power plants and vehicles. On a clear day at Bryce Canyon, you can see over 150 miles and even recognize landforms in Arizona! From several of the park's viewpoints you can usually see Navajo Mountain, more than 80 miles away.

**Future Visions** Bryce Canyon's visibility monitoring program has documented degraded visibility due to fine particle pollution. In general, the visibility in Bryce Canyon is improving on the clearest days, but not improving on the haziest days.



**Please Do Not Feed Wildlife. Read above.**



## Fire: A Burning Issue

**It's Natural** Primarily caused by lightning strikes, low intensity fires maintained healthy forests throughout the American West for centuries. Studies conducted in the area in and around Bryce Canyon show that, historically, fires occurred every 14 years on average. These low intensity fires would clear dangerous underbrush and ground clutter, burn dead trees, and leave the healthiest trees in the forest still standing. With settlement in the West, fire suppression interrupted this natural cycle.

**How Do We Know** Forest managers can study both the trees themselves, as well as look at the soil below the surface to determine fire frequency. For example, trees that survive a fire will have a scar in the rings each time a fire takes place. Trees less than a century old generally have few scars, while older trees will have an abundance of scars prior to the most recent 100 years when fires were actively suppressed for fear of catastrophic wildfire.

**Managing Fire** There are two primary techniques employed by fire managers to help carefully restore fire benefits to the park's forests: Prescribed fires and managed natural fires. Prescribed fires are ignited by foresters in areas that have not burned in many years and have become overgrown. When lightning starts a fire naturally, under strict safety prescriptions, fire managers may chose not to put it out. In an area that would benefit from fire, fire behavior is carefully monitored to meet ecological objectives.

**Healthy Forests, Healthy Life** The healthier forest that results from these fire management practices helps protect the park's buildings from high severity fire, increases visitor safety, and improves habitat for wildlife species that make Bryce Canyon National Park their home.



## When Thunder Roars Go Indoors!

**Lightning Is Serious Business** Summer storms at Bryce Canyon bring lightning, a powerful force which can and does kill. Take a look along the canyon's edge, and you'll soon spot one of the countless trees that have been struck. Don't let that be you! Here at Bryce Canyon, lightning has claimed the lives of four visitors in the past 23 years. Six other visitors have been seriously injured by lightning strikes. Though most common in July, August, and September, thunderstorms can happen any time of the year

**Where is it Safe?** The safest place to be is in an enclosed building with walls, roof, and floor (such as the Visitor Center). The next best place is in an enclosed vehicle. If you can't get to a safe location, avoid the most dangerous places and activities, including higher elevations, wide-open areas, tall isolated objects, water-related activities and open vehicles. **Do not go under trees to keep dry during thunderstorms!**

### When Thunder Roars Go Indoors!

If you hear a clap of thunder, a thunderstorm is within 10 miles (16 km). Do not wait, this is Mother Nature warning you that you need to IMMEDIATELY SEEK SHELTER and DO NOT go back outside until at least 30 minutes after hearing the sound of thunder.



A bolt of lightning contains about a billion volts and can reach 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit! This photo was taken near Sunset Point.



## Weather & Climate

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Temperature (°F)</b>												
Average High	37	38	45	54	64	75	80	77	70	58	45	36
Average Low	15	17	23	29	37	45	53	50	42	32	23	15
Record High	59	64	67	75	85	92	98	90	86	79	68	60
Record Low	-26	-26	-11	-3	13	21	28	23	16	0	-12	-23
<b>Precipitation (in)</b>												
Normal H <sub>2</sub> O	1.8	1.4	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.6	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.3	1.2
Maximum H <sub>2</sub> O	7.4	6.0	4.9	5.8	3.5	3.3	5.7	7.7	5.4	6.4	7.3	3.7
24 Hour Maximum H <sub>2</sub> O	3.3	2.3	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	2.2	2.1	2.6	1.4	3.3
Normal Snowfall	17	18	17	8	2	0.1	0	0	0.1	3	10	14
Maximum Snowfall	82	55	48	62	18	2.5	Trace	Trace	2	16	36	50
Days with Measurable Precip.	6	6	7	5	5	4	7	10	7	5	5	5
Thunderstorms	0	0	0	1	3	2	11	12	4	1	0	0

In more ways than one, Bryce Canyon is one of the coolest places to be in southern Utah during the summer months. Daytime temperatures typically range from 70 to 80°F (21 to 27°C), cooling to below 60°F (17°C) at night. Though June is normally one of the driest months of the year, brief snowstorms have occurred many times in the past. As you can see on the chart at left, nighttime temperatures below freezing, though rare, have happened in the past. July, August, and early September is the rainy season here at Bryce Canyon, and afternoon thunderstorms occur most days (if you have not already, *please* read the section on lightning safety above!).



**Please Do Not Feed Wildlife. Learn Why on Page 9.**



## Bryce Canyon Natural History Association

### Providing Memories, Inspiring Stewardship

The Bryce Canyon Natural History Association (BCNHA) is the educational nonprofit partner assisting Bryce Canyon National Park and Dixie National Forest in furthering their scientific, educational, historical, and interpretive activities.

Since 1961, BCNHA has provided over six million dollars in support. This has been accomplished in part by creating educational publications and interpretive materials available for purchase or free distribution, and supporting popular interpretive activities like the Junior Ranger Program, Adopt-a-Prairie Dog Program and numerous special events and festivals.

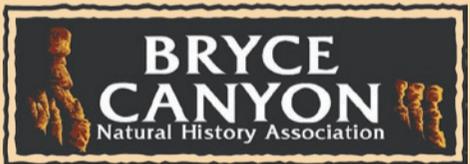
### You Can Make a Difference

You can preserve and protect the park for future generations by becoming a BCNHA member today!

Your tax deductible membership dues will support the work of BCNHA. Members receive a 15% discount in BCNHA stores and online, a one time free gift, and discounts at most cooperating association bookstores in national parks and other public lands across the country.



Ask about membership at the Visitor Center, call us at 888-362-2642 or visit [www.brycecanyon.org/membership](http://www.brycecanyon.org/membership)



P.O. Box 640051, Hwy 63, Bryce, UT 84764-0051  
888-362-2642  
[www.brycecanyon.org](http://www.brycecanyon.org)

### Enhance Your Visit

You'll find an outstanding selection of Bryce Canyon publications and products at our stores that will help you further explore and appreciate this premiere geologic and recreational gem.



BCNHA Store at the Visitor Center  
IT'S MORE THAN JUST BOOKS!

- water bottles
- maps, calendars
- DVD's & CD's
- clothing, hats
- junior ranger gear
- tote bags
- games
- magnets
- puzzles
- t-shirts
- cuddly animals
- & more

Bryce Canyon Natural History Association  
**FREE GIFT**  
Present this coupon at the visitor center cash register to receive your free gift.  
One gift per coupon

### Stay Connected to Your Park! Follow us at:



## Thank You to Our Donors & Partners

Bryce Canyon National Park is grateful to its generous donors and partners who help improve park programs and services.

Since 1961 the **Bryce Canyon Natural History Association** has contributed more than \$6 million by providing the park with funds that support:

- The Junior Ranger Program
- This Hoodoo newspaper and other publications
- The Geology Festival, Astronomy Festival and other special events and interpretive programs
- A full-time Education Outreach Specialist and, new in 2014, the Geoscientist-in-Park

Since 2008, the **Geologic Society of America** has funded two Geoscientist-in-Park interns. These interns assist with:

- Research
- Present public geology programs each summer
- Provide training for park staff on the geology of the Colorado Plateau

**Thanks! We couldn't do it without you!**

## Volunteers

**Volunteers in Parks** Last year, more than 200 volunteers donated over 20,000 hours to Bryce Canyon National Park! If you've got time and talents to share, why not become a Volunteer-In-Park (V.I.P.)?

For more information, log on to: [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov)



# Hoodoo You Love?

Bryce Canyon National Park works with our local partners to help create memories that last a lifetime. For example, if you've hiked a trail or attended a ranger program, then you have benefited from the Dollar Donation Program, a partnership between the park, Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, Ruby's Inn Resort, Forever Resorts, and visitors like you.

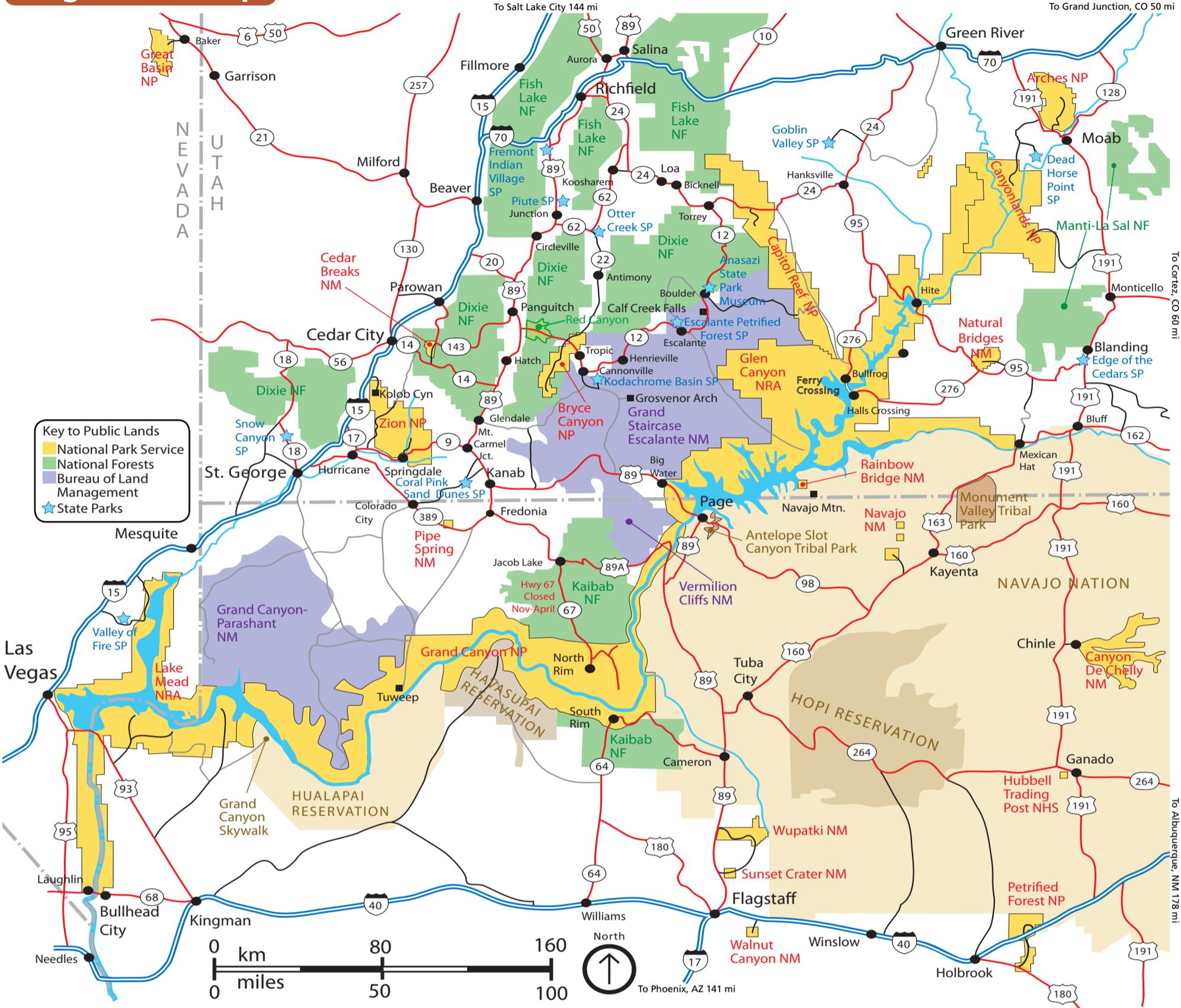
Funds from the Dollar Donation Program help to support Bryce Canyon National Park in many ways, including: visitor information and exhibit panels, trail maintenance and restoration, summer ranger programs, special events, wildlife research, search and rescue equipment, free publications, and more.



**Please Do Not Feed Wildlife. Learn Why on Page 9.**



## Regional Map

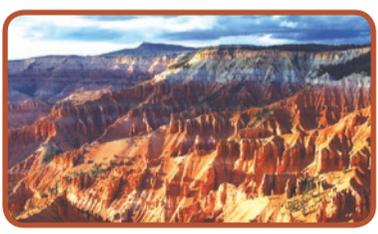


### Driving Distances

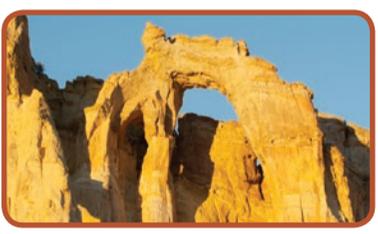
	Miles	Hours		Miles	Hours		Miles	Hours		Miles	Hours
Arches NP (via US 89 & I-70)	270	5	Cortez, CO (thru Page)	357	8	Kanab	80	1½	Panguitch	25	½
Arches NP (via UT-12)	249	6	Death Valley NP (Furnace Cr.)	392	7	Kodachrome Basin SP	25	¾	Salt Lake City	260	4½
Boulder (Anasazi SP)	80	2	Escalante	50	1½	Lake Powell (Page, AZ)	150	3	Tropic	11	½
Capitol Reef NP (via UT-12)	120	3	Grand Canyon NP (North Rim)	160	3½	Las Vegas	270	4½	Yosemite NP (via Tioga Road)	610	11½
Cedar Breaks NM	56	1½	Grand Canyon NP (South Rim)	300	5½	Monument Valley (via Page)	275	6½	Yosemite NP	738	13
Cedar City	80	1¾	Great Basin NP	199	4	Monument Valley (via Cap Reef)	313	7½	Zion NP (East Entrance)	78	1½



**Capitol Reef National Park**  
121 miles northeast via UT 12 & 24  
Visitor Center: 435-425-3791  
www.nps.gov/care



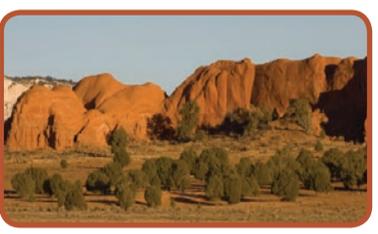
**Cedar Breaks National Monument**  
83 miles west via UT 12, US 89 & UT 14  
Headquarters: 435-586-9451  
www.nps.gov/cebr



**Grand Staircase-Escalante N.M.**  
South and east via UT 12 & US 89  
Cannonville: 435-679-8981  
Kanab: 435-644-4600  
www.ut.blm.gov/monument



**Red Canyon/Scenic Byway 12**  
124-mile route between US 89 & UT 24  
www.scenicbyway12.com/



**Kodachrome Basin State Park**  
25 miles southeast via UT 12 and Cannonville to Kodachrome Way  
Headquarters: (435) 679-8562  
stateparks.utah.gov/



**Please Do Not Feed the Wildlife. Learn Why on Page 9.**

