

**ZION NATIONAL PARK  
COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM**

**2025 OPERATING PLAN FOR  
TRANSPORT (NON-TOUR):  
COMMERCIAL SHUTTLE SERVICE**

**1. Authorized Use:**

Commercial Shuttle Service is authorized for the point-to-point pick-up and drop-off of passengers in Zion National Park at authorized trailheads. Shuttle Services also includes the transportation of park visitors through the boundaries of the park area to access trailheads outside of park boundaries. Providing shuttle service *inside* the park to areas not authorized below is a violation of this permit.

**Authorized Trailheads:**

| Authorized Wilderness/Canyoneering Trailheads   | Authorized Frontcountry Trailheads   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lee Pass (La Verkin Creek)</li><li>• Hop Valley</li><li>• Wildcat Canyon</li><li>• West Rim via Lava Point</li><li>• East Rim</li><li>• Stave Spring</li><li>• Left Fork of North Creek (Subway - Hiking Bottom-Up) *</li><li>• Wildcat Canyon (Subway - Canyoneering Top-Down) *</li><li>• Pine Creek *</li><li>• Mystery Canyon *</li></ul> <p>Trailhead marked with an asterisk (*) require a canyoneering or wilderness hiking permit. Shuttle drivers must verify clients hold a valid permit in order to provide transportation to these trailheads.</p> <p>All overnight backpacking in the park requires a Wilderness Permit.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canyon Overlook</li><li>• Emerald Pools *</li><li>• Riverside Walk (Narrows - Hiking Bottom Up) *</li><li>• West Rim via The Grotto to Scout Lookout *</li><li>• West Rim via The Grotto to Angels Landing (Hiking Permit Required) *</li></ul> <p>Trailhead marked with an asterisk (*) located on the scenic drive are authorized only during the non-park shuttle operation season.</p> |

As per United States Code 16-5966 (USC 16-5966)

(c) LIMITATIONS.— Any authorization issued under this section shall be limited to—

(2) the incidental use of resources of the unit by commercial operations which provide services originating and terminating outside of the boundaries of the unit. And as per NPS policy (Management Policies 2006) 10.3.3 Limitations - the incidental use of resources of the unit by commercial operations that provide services originating and terminating outside of the boundaries of the park unit.

Must not transport groups over 12 people to trailheads that will lead to wilderness areas.

Shuttle services or business limited to and/or focused upon Zion National Park (In-Park) are not authorized by this permit.

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Only services defined above may occur under this authorization.

**Unauthorized Uses:**

A Commercial Use Authorization does not authorize permittees to facilitate any activities or actions that are prohibited in the park. As such river tubing and associated transportation is prohibited in the park. For more information on park regulations visit: <http://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm>. Permit violations can result in punitive action (fine, revocation of permit and or arrest) against both the representative (guide/driver), and the permittee.

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

Public Use Obstruction: Permitted groups are sharing visitor facilities with the general public. This permit does not convey any priority use of any park areas including roadside pullouts, parking areas, picnic areas, etc. Permittees are responsible for the conduct of their clients. Shuttle Services must not interfere with the general visiting public.

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

The driver of the vehicle shall be responsible for complying with the requirements of this permit, and ensuring that all passengers are familiar with the safety notice (see Special Condition #7). Gear may be tied to the top of the vehicle, carried inside of the vehicle, or transported in a trailer, but shall not be attached to the sides of the vehicle.

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

3. **Driver Requirements and Responsibilities:**

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

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

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**Acknowledgement of Permit Conditions:** All guides and drivers are required to submit an online acknowledgement of CUA permit conditions before shuttling visitors into Zion National Park. This form is available online by visiting: [2025 Zion Commercial Shuttle Service Conditions Acknowledgment Form](#)

**4. Speed Limits:**

Permittee and permittee's employees must follow all applicable traffic laws and posted speed limits throughout the park. Operating a vehicle at a speed in excess of the speed limit is prohibited.

**The passing of motor vehicles is prohibited throughout the park.**

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

During the park shuttle operation season (including limited holiday service) the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is restricted to pedestrians, bicyclists, park shuttle buses, private vehicles driven by Lodge guests with lodging reservations, and 16+ capacity passenger buses with lodge activity reservations. Travel in Zion Canyon above the Lodge is restricted to all motor vehicles except Zion National Park shuttle buses and administrative traffic. Permittee's vehicles that do not meet the above criteria are prohibited from traveling on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive (unless in possession of overnight lodging reservations as stated above, a valid Red Permit must be displayed and visible in windshield). For more information on the park's shuttle system visit: <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/zion-canyon-shuttle-system.htm>

Additional closed areas: Behind the administrative offices, in the employee housing areas, behind locked gates, near water tanks, beyond fences, on service roads, or in construction areas. Addition official seasonal or emergency closures of roads, trails, or public areas must be observed by permittee.

**6. Accidents/Injuries/Illness:** All accidents involving property damage, injuries, and/or medical problems should be reported to the park immediately at a ranger contact station or by calling (435) 772-3322. All such information must also be relayed by the permittee to the Commercial Services Office within 24 hours via email to [zion\\_commercialservices@nps.gov](mailto:zion_commercialservices@nps.gov).

**7. Safety Notice:** Permittees must post a **safety notice** and advise all participants to read this notice (and/or provide a safety talk before activities begin). Information contained in this notice must include, but not be limited to, water safety, environmental hazards (weather, floods, sun, temperature, etc.) and resource protection. Leaders should remind participants that heatstroke is a real danger in the desert. Participants should be advised to drink lots of water, eat snacks, and wear hats/sunscreen to minimize sun exposure. Safety information and weather conditions are available at park visitor centers and by visiting [www.nps.gov/zion](http://www.nps.gov/zion)

Each vehicle must carry and maintain a kit for emergency medical care. The kit must be appropriate for group size and the nature of the activity and include a flashlight.

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

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**9. Resource Protection Message:**

- Collecting or removing from the park any natural or cultural resource, or damaging or defacing any natural or cultural resource is prohibited.
- All food scraps (fruit peels, nut shells, etc.) are considered trash and must be disposed of properly. It is a violation to feed the wildlife, including squirrels.
- Take only pictures - leave no evidence of your visit.
- Vehicles must not idle their engines when parked. Vehicles that sit with engines idling create unacceptable amounts of noise and air pollution within Zion National Park.
- The Permittee shall take adequate measures, as directed and approved by the Superintendent, to restrict and prevent soil erosion on the lands covered hereby and shall so utilize such lands as not to contribute to erosion on adjoining lands.

**10. Entrance Fees:**

Each time permittees enter the park, they must identify themselves at a park entrance station or at the Kolob Visitor Center and must present a valid Commercial Use Authorization Permit (in its entirety) to park staff. This will enable park personnel to verify that you are on the approved list for commercial activities.

Fee Schedule (subject to change):

- (a) Per the National Park Service Director's Order #22, and Reference Manual #22 Subsection 9.4.2 Parks that issue and charge for Commercial Use Authorizations (CUAs) will collect the \$20.00 per person fee for each client at entry. (children 15 and under are free)

Reference Manual #22

**8.1 Pass Basics**

- Must be signed by the pass holder and punched with an expiration date (where applicable) to be valid.
- Allow the pass holder and three adults (16 and older) where per-person fees are charged.
- Must be signed by the pass holder and punched with an expiration date (where applicable) to be valid.
- Are non-transferable.
- Require pass holder identification and verification.
- Must be in possession of the pass holder to gain entry.
- Are not valid for commercial use (except as described in Chapter 9, How to Charge Groups: Commercial and Non-Commercial).

RM 9.4.2 Parks that issue and charge for Commercial Use Authorizations (CUAs) for activities such as biking, horseback riding, fishing, or other activities should collect the per person fee for each client at entry. If any member of the group has a pass, entry is good for the pass holder plus three others. There is no upper limit on the amount of per person fees collected from a CUA group. Road-based commercial tour CUAs entering the park may not use passes.

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8.1.1 Pass Verification

- When a visitor presents a pass for entrance, request a valid form of photo identification, such as a passport or driver's license, with the visitor's signature. Note that you are confirming the owner of the pass, not checking for eligibility when a visitor presents a pass. Compare the name and signature on the pass against the name and signature on the photo identification. Verify that the name and signature on the identification matches the name and/or signature on the pass. The name and signature on the pass should match the identification.

8.1.2 Passes are Non-Transferable.

- Entrance passes are not transferable from one person to another, regardless of their relationship.

8.1.4 Pass Holders Who Arrive Without a Pass

- Pass holders must have the actual pass with them to gain entrance to a park. Do not allow entry to pass holders if they have forgotten their pass, lost their pass, or had their pass stolen. Do not accept a photocopy or electronic image of a pass, a confirmation letter, a credit card statement, or receipt for a pass purchase. In these situations, the visitor must pay the entrance fee or purchase a new pass.

(b) Further Clarification (park specific policy)

Either CUA holders or individual clients can pay for the \$20.00 per person entrance fee when entering the park. Clients purchasing a \$20.00 individual pass are able to use the pass to upgrade to a \$35.00 Automobile pass at a later time when entering the park as a private individual (or private group such as a family unit traveling in the same vehicle). The \$35.00 Automobile pass is NOT available for purchase to commercial entities or their clients while in a commercial group. Dropping off clients at the pedestrian entrance to purchase a \$35.00 Automobile pass and picking up at the flagpole is a violation of this CUA. (see Condition #1. Authorized Use)

CUA clients may purchase annual or lifetime federal recreational land passes upon entry to the park while in a commercial vehicle. These passes MUST be signed by the passholder at the time of purchase. CUA holders and/or guides are not permitted to use personal, or unsigned passes for commercial entry into the park.

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

(c) Tunnel permit fees are required for any vehicle driving through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway Tunnel that is 7 feet 10 inches (2.4 meters) in width or wider including mirrors, awnings, and jacks, and/or 11 feet 4 inches (3.4 meters) in height or higher is required to have a tunnel permit for traffic control at the tunnel. Vehicles over 13 feet 1-inch tall, single vehicles over 40 feet long, combined vehicles over 50 feet long, all bicycles, and pedestrians are prohibited from entering the tunnel. Pay \$15.00 for the tunnel permit at the entrance station before proceeding to the tunnel. Your tunnel permit is good for two trips through the tunnel for the same vehicle and same group within seven days of purchase.

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