

**ZION NATIONAL PARK
COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM**

**2025 OPERATING PLAN FOR
MOTORCYCLE/SCOOTER:
COMMERCIALLY GUIDED MOTORCYCLE TOURS**

1. Authorized Use Defined:

Pass Through Only: Continuation of one-way regional (southwestern Utah and northern Arizona) leader accompanied motorcycle tours through designated portions of Zion National Park, including Kolob Canyons. Said motorcycle tours within Zion National Park are contingent upon conformance with, and subject to, all conditions included herein. No motorcycle activities or business limited to and/or focused upon Zion National Park are authorized by this permit. Only services defined above may occur under this authorization. The maximum commercial motorcycle group limit is 18 participants including guides (support vehicle not included).

Please note that notification for group size limits was issued in 2020, and for the 2021, 2022, 2023, and the 2024 operating seasons the park implemented a maximum commercial motorcycle group limit of 18 participants including guides (support vehicle not included). Continued monitoring of this activity's compliance with the Zion National Park's 2010 Soundscape Management Plan will occur during 2025. This activity may be eliminated as a recreational opportunity in the future if conditions prove to violate sound ordinance (or other) regulations, laws, or policies.

2. Authorized Use Areas Defined:

Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway (NPS Route 10) through Zion National Park, which connects sections of Utah State Route 9, and associated park facilities in Zion National Park; and those portions of the Kolob Terrace Road between the Town of Virgin and the Kolob Reservoir within Zion National Park.

Roadways Only: In accordance with 36 CFR § 4.10, motorcycle use within Zion National Park is prohibited except on established paved roads and parking areas.

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.

Only services defined above may occur under this authorization.

3. Unauthorized Use Defined:

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 park trails, roadside pullouts, parking areas, picnic areas, etc. Permittees are responsible for the conduct of their clients. Tours must not interfere with the general visiting public.

Initials

Commercially Guided Motorcycle Tours updated 11/06/2024.

Date

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MOTORCYCLE/SCOOTER:
COMMERCIALLY GUIDED MOTORCYCLE TOURS**

Parking and stopping along park roads is prohibited except at designated paved parking areas or pull-offs. All vehicles and bicycles must be kept on established roadways. Parking and stopping in shuttle bus stops is prohibited during the shuttle season.

Laws and Policies: A Commercial Use Authorization does not authorize permittees to facilitate any activities or actions that are 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), and the permittee.

This authorization does not allow guided hiking, interpretive, or instructional services on park trails. Leading interpretive talks or walks under this authorization is a violation of this permit and may result in revocation of permit privileges.

Soundscape Management: Commercial motorcycle tours are not authorized to have modified exhausts or any other modification that increases the noise level over factory specifications. Motorcyclists are not authorized to amplify sounds from integrated (or other) radio/music systems.

4. Guide Requirements:

An employee of the permittee designated as a tour leader (guide) shall ride at the rear of the group to assist with motorcycle adjustments and other touring concerns. Tour leaders shall brief the participants of each ride on safety concerns relevant to each day's ride on the morning of that riding day. Tour leaders shall be well acquainted with park regulations and support compliance with said regulations.

Acknowledgement of Permit Conditions: All guides and drivers are required to submit an online acknowledgement of CUA permit conditions before leading and/or driving tours into Zion National Park. This form is available online by visiting: [2025 Zion Commercial Motorcycle Tours Conditions Acknowledgment Form](#)

Medical Certifications: All tour leaders (guides) must have a valid driver's license and current medical certifications at minimum in basic first aid and CPR. These certifications must be on file with the Commercial Services Office. It is the permittees responsibility to keep this information up to date.

Guides are responsible for making sure clients have sufficient drinking water and nourishment for the duration of the planned activity and related weather conditions.

5. Speed Limits, parking, and vehicle requirements:

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.**

Initials

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Date

ZION NATIONAL PARK
COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM

2025 OPERATING PLAN FOR
MOTORCYCLE/SCOOTER:
COMMERCIALLY GUIDED MOTORCYCLE TOURS

Parking and stopping along park roads is prohibited except at designated parking areas or pull-offs. All vehicles must be kept on established roadways, and there shall be no interference with pedestrians or other traffic in the park.

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

Support Vehicle: A support vehicle shall accompany each tour and be accessible to the needs of the motorcycle riders. Support vehicles will be prohibited from traveling up the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive during shuttle operation season. All support vehicles used during the provisions of this service must have company identification visible on the driver's side of the vehicle.

6. Closures and Public Use Limits:

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 Area Closures: Behind administrative offices, employee housing areas, behind locked gates, near water tanks, beyond fences, on service roads, and in construction areas. Any addition official seasonal or emergency closures of roads, trails, or public areas must be observed by permittee.

7. Accidents/Injuries/Illness:

All accidents involving property damage, injuries, and/or medical problems must 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.

8. Resource Protection:

All permittees are required to communicate the following messages to clients.

- Group leaders should be aware of current local conditions, flood levels, and flash flood warnings. This information can be obtained by stopping at the Visitor Center.
- Collecting or removing from the park any natural or cultural resource, or damaging or defacing any natural or cultural resource is prohibited.
- Stay on the road in order to protect delicate vegetation and soils.
- Take only pictures - leave no evidence of your visit.
- 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.

_____ Initials

Commercially Guided Motorcycle Tours updated 11/06/2024.

_____ Date

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COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM**

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MOTORCYCLE/SCOOTER:
COMMERCIALLY GUIDED MOTORCYCLE TOURS**

- Smoking on trails and roadways is highly discouraged. Smokers must use caution when smoking to prevent igniting a wildfire. Cigarette butts are trash and must be packed out for proper disposal. Trip leaders/guides should check fire conditions for current restrictions.

9. Safety Precautions:

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.

The permittee shall make helmets available to each of its riders free of cost.

Tour Leaders: An employee designated as a tour leader and/or support vehicle must ride at the rear of the group to assist with bike adjustments and other touring concerns. Tour leaders shall brief the participants of each ride on safety concerns relevant to each day's ride on the morning of that riding day.

Each guide 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.

10. Camping:

If the permittee requires camping within the park, reservations must be made through <http://www.recreation.gov> or by calling 877-444-6777. Permittee groups are limited to Group sites in the E Loop of Watchman Campground and group sites A, B, C and D in the South Campground. Each company regardless of the number of CUA permits held is restricted to one group site per campground, per night. **Group campsite maximum capacities are strictly enforced. Arriving with a group beyond the maximum capacity for the site reserved will result in the cancellation of your reservation.**

Permittee's groups of 6 or less people may reserve one individual campsite at either campground per night, per company.

Group size is defined by the itinerary the group is traveling on. Splitting of groups is not permitted.

Violations of camping regulations will be considered a violation of this permit and may lead to the revocation of your company's campsite reservations and/or Commercial Use Authorization.

11. Monitoring:

The Superintendent shall have the right to monitor permittees activity for compliance with all aspects of this permit.

_____ Initials

Commercially Guided Motorcycle Tours updated 11/06/2024.

_____ Date

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12. Entrance Fees:

Entrance Fees: Each time a permittee enters 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 full) to park staff (and must be able to present to park staff upon request at other park locations). This will enable park personnel to verify holders 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) should collect the per person fee for each client at entry.

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 entry to one vehicle only, including motorcycles.
- 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.

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.

_____ Initials

_____ Date

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COMMERCIALLY GUIDED MOTORCYCLE TOURS**

- 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 \$30.00 per motorcycle entrance fee when entering the park. Clients purchasing a \$30.00 motorcycle pass are able to use the pass to upgrade to an Annual or Lifetime pass at a later time when entering the park as a private individual (or private non-commercial group, such as a family unit traveling in the same vehicle or motorcycle). 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 or motorcycle. 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.

No fee will be collected from permittee's support vehicle entering the Park for the purpose of facilitating a Commercial Motorcycle Tour.

(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.

Initials

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