

# Zion National Park

## Winter Information Sheet

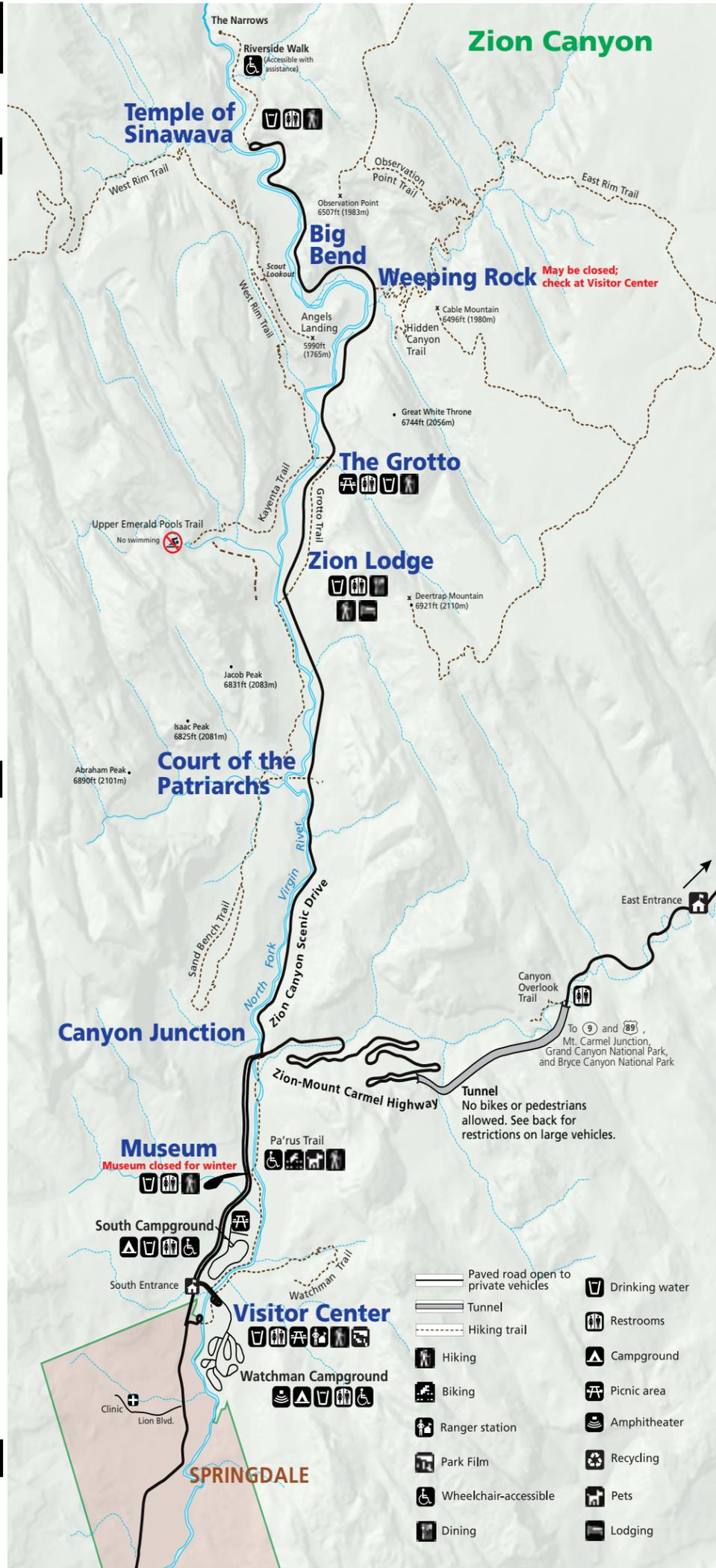
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



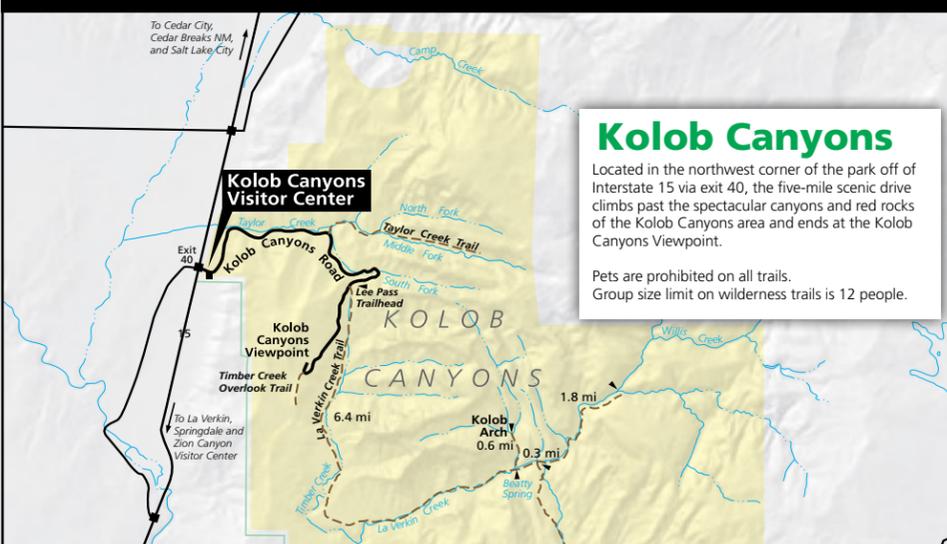
### Zion Canyon Hikes

Hike Location	Round Trip Average Time	Elevation Change	Description
<b>Easy</b>			
<b>Pa'rus Trail</b> Zion Canyon Visitor Center	2 hours 3.5 mi / 5.6 km	50 ft / 15 m	Paved trail follows the Virgin River from the South Campground to Canyon Junction. Wheelchairs may need assistance.
<b>Archaeology Trail</b> Zion Canyon Visitor Center	0.5 hour 0.4 mi / 0.6 km	80 ft / 24 m	Short, but steep. Starts across from the entrance to the Visitor Center parking lot. Climbs to the outline of a prehistoric structure. Trailside exhibits.
<b>Lower Emerald Pool Trail</b> Zion Lodge	<b>TRAIL CLOSED</b> See Visitor Center for current status of this closure		
<b>The Grotto Trail</b> Zion Lodge The Grotto	0.5 hour 1 mi / 1.6 km	35 ft / 11 m	This short trail follows the roadway, connecting the Zion Lodge to The Grotto. This trail is great for wildlife viewing. It is located behind the shuttle station area.
<b>Weeping Rock Trail</b> Weeping Rock	<b>TRAIL CLOSED</b> See Visitor Center for current status of this closure		
<b>Riverside Walk</b> Temple of Sinawava	1.5 hours 2.2 mi / 3.5 km	57 ft / 17 m	Minor drop-offs. Paved trail follows the Virgin River along the bottom of a narrow canyon. Trailside exhibits. May be icy. Wheelchairs may need assistance.
<b>Moderate</b>			
<b>Watchman Trail</b> Zion Canyon Visitor Center	2 hours 3.3 mi / 5.3 km	368 ft / 112 m	Minor drop-offs. Ends at viewpoint of the Towers of the Virgin, lower Zion Canyon, and Springdale. May be muddy and icy.
<b>Sand Bench Trail</b> Zion Lodge	5 hours 7.6 mi / 12.2 km	466 ft / 142 m	Hike atop a massive landslide under The Sentinel. Minor drop-offs. May be icy. Commercial horse trail from March to October.
<b>Kayenta Trail</b> The Grotto	1.5 hours 2 mi / 3.2 km	150 ft / 46 m	Moderate drop-offs. An unpaved climb to the Emerald Pools. Connects The Grotto Trail to the Upper Emerald Pool Trail.
<b>Upper Emerald Pool Trail</b> via Kayenta Trail	1 hour 1 mi / 1.6 km	200 ft / 61 m	Minor drop-offs. A sandy and rocky trail that climbs to the Upper Emerald Pool at the base of a cliff. No swimming is allowed.
<b>Canyon Overlook Trail</b> Zion-Mt Carmel Hwy	1 hour 1 mi / 1.6 km	163 ft / 50 m	Long drop-offs, mostly fenced. Rocky and uneven trail ends at viewpoint of Pine Creek Canyon and lower Zion Canyon. May be snow covered and icy.
<b>Taylor Creek Trail</b> Kolob Canyons Road	3.5 hours 5.0 mi / 8.0 km	450 ft / 137 m	Limited to 12 people per group. Follows the Middle Fork of Taylor Creek past two homestead cabins to Double Arch Alcove.
<b>Timber Creek Overlook Trail</b> Kolob Canyons Road	0.5 hour 1 mi / 1.6 km	163 ft / 50 m	Follows ridge to views of Timber Creek, Kolob Terrace, and the Pine Valley Mountains.
<b>Strenuous</b>			
<b>Angels Landing via West Rim Trail</b> The Grotto	4 hours 5.4 mi / 8.7 km	1488 ft / 453 m	Long drop-offs. Not for young children or anyone fearful of heights. Last section is a route along a steep, narrow ridge to the summit. Often snow covered and icy.
<b>Hidden Canyon Trail</b> Weeping Rock	<b>TRAIL CLOSED</b>		
<b>Observation Point via East Rim Trail</b> Weeping Rock	<b>TRAIL CLOSED</b>		
<b>The Narrows via Riverside Walk</b> Temple of Sinawava	8 hours 9.4 mi / 15.1 km	334 ft / 102 m	Check conditions at the Visitor Center before attempting. Dry suits are needed for day hike in winter. High water levels can prevent access.
<b>Kolob Arch via La Verkin Creek Trail</b> Kolob Canyons Road	8 hour 14 mi / 22.5 km	1037 ft / 316 m	Limited to 12 people per group. Follows Timber and La Verkin Creeks. A side trail leads to Kolob Arch, one of the world's largest arches.

Stay on established trails and watch your footing, especially at overlooks and near drop-offs. Avoid cliff edges. Watch children closely. People uncertain about heights should stop if they become uncomfortable. Never throw or roll rocks because there may be hikers below.



### Kolob Canyons



## Contact Information

**Mailing Address**  
1 Zion Park Blvd.  
State Route 9  
Springdale, UT 84767

**Website**  
www.nps.gov/zion

**E-mail**  
zion\_park\_information@nps.gov

**Social Media**  
www.facebook.com/zionnps  
www.twitter.com/zionnps  
www.instagram.com/zionnps

**Park Information**  
(435) 772-3256

**Emergencies**  
911 or (435) 772-3322



## Please Take the Zion Pledge

The Zion National Park Pledge is a personal promise you can make to protect yourself and the park. Please share your #ZionPledge story on social media and encourage family and friends to do the same.

To be a good steward and help protect myself and Zion National Park, I pledge to:

- Plan ahead and prepare by reading and following the information provided by the park.
- Keep personal food away from all wildlife, and never approach or touch a wild animal.
- Protect the canyon walls, rocks, and trees from graffiti and vandalism.
- Preserve the park scenery by not collecting wildflowers, rocks, or plants.
- Never enter a narrow canyon when there is a

potential for flash flooding.

- Be ready to pack out my human waste, toilet paper, and diapers from trails and river corridors.
- Stay on established trails to protect vegetation and fragile cryptobiotic soils.
- Leave rocks as I find them and not stack rock cairns or build river dams.
- Protect the natural sounds of the canyon by talking softly and using headphones for music.
- Recycle what I can and dispose of my trash and food appropriately.
- Park in designated areas and avoid blocking traffic.
- Share what I've learned about stewardship by nicely asking people to follow the Zion Pledge if they are not.

## Getting Around

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



### DRIVING

Park roads are used by vehicles, bicycles, walkers, and even wildlife. Obey posted speed limits. Unless otherwise posted, the maximum speed limit is 35 mph. Seat belts or child safety seats are required for all occupants of a vehicle. Please turn off your engine when your vehicle is stopped.



### ZION CANYON SHUTTLE

Shuttles will not be running December 2 - December 21 and January 1-February 15. Due to anticipated overcrowding, mandatory shuttles will be running December 22-31.



### BICYCLING

Bicycles are welcome on the Pa'rus Trail, but are illegal on all other trails. Shuttles, when running, can accommodate 2-3 bikes on the front rack, but not fat tires. Bicyclists must pull over and stop to allow shuttle buses to pass. Bicycles are not allowed through the Zion-Mount Carmel Tunnel.

## For Your Safety

Whether hiking, climbing, or driving, your safety depends on your good judgment, adequate preparation, and constant awareness. Your safety is your responsibility.



### STEEP CLIFFS

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



### WATER

The desert is an extreme environment. Carry enough water (one gallon per person per day) and drink it. Water is available at visitor centers, campgrounds, Zion Lodge, and most shuttle stops. Do not drink untreated water.



### SNOW & ICE

Nearly half of the annual precipitation in Zion Canyon falls between the months of December and March. Roads are plowed, but trails may be

closed due to unsafe conditions. Snow and ice accumulates on trails, cliffs, and buildings, so be sure to pay attention to your surroundings. Watch for falling ice. Snow spikes and winter gear are recommended. Your safety is your responsibility.



### HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia occurs when the body is cooled to dangerous levels. It is responsible for the greatest number of deaths among people engaging in outdoor activities. It is a hazard in narrow canyons because immersion in water is the quickest way to lose body heat. To prevent hypothermia, avoid cotton clothing (it provides no insulation when wet), and eat high energy food before you are chilled. Signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, stumbling and poor coordination, fatigue and weakness, and confusion or slurred speech. If you recognize any of these signs, stop hiking and immediately replace wet clothing with dry clothing. Warm the victim with your own body and a warm drink, and shelter the individual from breezes. A pre-warmed sleeping bag will also prevent additional heat loss.

## Other Information



### PETS

Pets are not allowed on any trails except the Pa'rus Trail. Working service dogs are permitted on all trails. Emotional support animals are considered pets by the National Park Service and are therefore not allowed. Pets are not allowed on shuttle buses.



### DRONES

Launching, landing or operating unmanned aircraft within the boundaries of Zion National Park is prohibited.



### RECYCLING

Please recycle! Commingled recycling bins are located in the Visitor Center Plaza near the flagpole, at the Grotto, at the Watchman Campground, and the Kolob Canyons Visitor Center. Plastic, metal, paper, and glass are recyclable.



### RESTROOMS

"Go Before You Go." Use restrooms at the trailheads or be prepared to remove your human waste. Disposable bags are available at local shops and in park stores.

## Large Vehicles



The Zion - Mt. Carmel Tunnel connects Zion Canyon to the east side of the park. It was built in the 1920s when large vehicles were less common. Vehicles 11'4" tall or taller, or 7'10" wide or wider, require one-lane traffic control through the tunnel. Large vehicles cannot travel in a single lane through the tunnel. Nearly all RVs, buses, trailers, fifth-wheels, dual-wheel trucks, campers, and boats require traffic control.

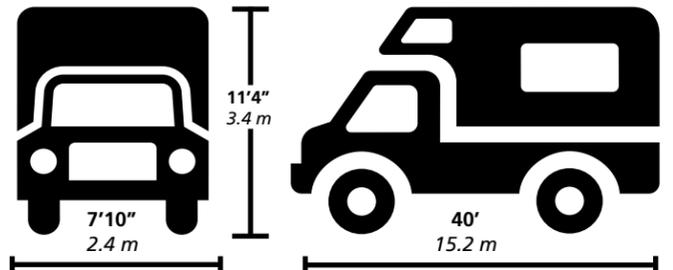
During the winter months, and particularly after snow fall, lingering patches of snow make driving more challenging for larger vehicles to negotiate the many switchbacks on the East Side of the park. Be aware of the inherent risks associated with winter conditions and plan accordingly.



### TUNNEL TRAFFIC CONTROL

Visitors requiring traffic control through the tunnel must pay a \$15 fee per vehicle in addition to the entrance fee. Pay this fee at the park entrance station before driving to the tunnel. The fee is valid for two trips through the tunnel for the

Vehicles 11'4" (3.4 m) tall or higher and 7'10" (2.4 m) wide or more, including mirrors, awnings, and jacks, will require traffic control in the tunnel. Single-axle vehicles may not exceed 40' in length.



same vehicle during a seven-day period. Rangers will stop oncoming traffic so that you may drive down the center of the road in the tunnel. We apologize for any delays associated with this safety precaution.

Large vehicles may only travel through the tunnel from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, November 3 to March 1.



### PROHIBITED VEHICLES

Vehicles not permitted in the tunnel include the following:

- Vehicles over 13'1" tall
- Semi-trucks and commercial vehicles
- Vehicles carrying hazardous materials
- Vehicles weighing more than 50,000 lb.
- Combined vehicles or buses over 50 ft.

Bicycles and pedestrians are also not permitted in the tunnel and must obtain a ride.

Hitchhiking is permitted. Rangers are not allowed to provide or arrange for transport through the tunnel.

## Camping



Zion National Park has three campgrounds. South and Watchman Campground are in the main canyon. Lava Point Campground is accessed by the Kolob Terrace Rd. The South Campground and Lava Point Campground are both closed for the winter season. South Campground will reopen March 6, 2020, available by reservation only. Watchman Campground is currently open

with first-come first-serve sites. Reservations will be required starting February 28, 2020. To make a reservation, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777. Reservations for South Campground can be made 14 days in advance of arrival date, reservations for Watchman Campground can be made 6 months ahead. Reservations are required. Camping is permitted in designated campsites only; camping is not permitted in parking areas or pullouts.

## Hours of Operation

Hours are subject to change. See website or Visitor Center for most up to date information.

	December 1 to March 13	Utah is in the Mountain Time Zone. California and Nevada are in the Pacific Time Zone, one hour earlier than Utah.
Zion Canyon Visitor Center and Park Store	8:00 am to 5:00 p.m.	Arizona is in the Mountain Time Zone, but does not observe daylight-saving time.
Zion Canyon Wilderness Desk	8:00 am to 4:30 pm	
Zion Human History Museum	Closed	
Kolob Canyons Visitor Center and Park Store	8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Closed Christmas day	

## Did you know?

Zion is Utah's first national park. Before it was a national park, Zion was designated as a national monument known as Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909.

## Ranger-led Programs



Enhance your understanding and enjoyment of Zion National Park by participating in a free ranger-led program. Program schedules are based on ranger staffing and availability.

- Check park information centers and bulletin board for times, places, subjects, and information about programming.
- Topics include geology, plants, animals, human history, and more.
- Junior Ranger handbook: Visitors ages 4 and older can earn a badge by completing the Junior Ranger handbook. The handbook is available for free at information centers within the park.

## Support Zion Forever Project



Zion National Park's nonprofit partner, The Zion Forever Project, makes it possible for you to experience and enjoy the park in a more meaningful way. ZFP addresses a stronger sense of stewardship and responsibility that falls on all of us to protect and sustain the park for future generations.

Whether you simply round up your change at the sales counter or make a large contribution to a specific park project listed in our Field Guide to Park Project Priorities, you will make a difference now and forever. You can find the Field Guide online at [www.zionpark.org/projects](http://www.zionpark.org/projects).

## Emergencies



For 24-hour emergency response, call 911 or 435-772-3322. The Zion Canyon Medical Clinic is located in Springdale near the south entrance to the park. For hours, please call 435-772-3226. Additional medical clinics are located in Hurricane. The nearest hospitals are in St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab.