



Wilderness Guide

Current Operating Hours

Wilderness staff will be available from 8:00am - 4:30pm daily via email, to answer questions and convert backpacking reservations to permits.

The north guest window of the Zion Canyon Visitor Center will be open from 8:00am - 4:30pm daily to obtain canyoneering and overnight climbing permits.



Wilderness Permits cannot be obtained at the Kolob Canyons Visitor Center.

The Official Wilderness Guide of Zion National Park

Modifications During COVID-19

In compliance with Coronavirus Protective Guidelines, and following recommendations from the Utah Health Department and Utah Division of Water Quality, temporary modifications have been made to the Zion Wilderness permit operation. We hope these efforts help reduce the spread of the virus while still allowing you to complete your Wilderness trip.

Anticipate your travel needs. Bring a face mask to wear in public places. Effective July 3, 2020, face coverings are required within the town of Springdale in retail and commercial establishments, restaurants while waiting to be seated and served, and at community gatherings. Pack hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Keep these within reach.

Regularly check the park website for important safety alerts and current information on modified park operations. Check state and local public health websites for current information before you travel.



PREPARE AND PLAN AHEAD

Traveling into the wilderness, even on short trips, can be challenging and risky and requires careful planning before you begin. Each year, people are injured or die while exploring the park. Your safety depends on your own good judgment, adequate preparation, and constant observation.



LEAVE NO TRACE

We are all in this together. Plan ahead, practice social distancing, and be considerate of those around you. Be kind to park staff during these challenging times. Help them do their job by doing

your part to take care of each other and our beloved outdoor places. Please do your part to reduce potential accidents that could add to the stress of first responders and medical professionals. As much as possible, stick to activities and areas that are within your abilities.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces. In designated camping areas, camp only within the previously disturbed area. In at-large camping areas campsites should be 200 feet from all streams and trails, ¼ mile from natural springs, and out of sight of all trails. Travel on well-established trails. If you must leave the trail, avoid stepping on biological soil crusts; which can take decades to regrow and can be destroyed by a single step.

Contact Information

Zion National Park Superintendent
Jeff Bradybaugh

Park Information
435 772-3256

Website
www.nps.gov/zion

E-mail
zion_park_information@nps.gov

Lost and Found
Report at any visitor center

Wilderness Desk
435-772-0170

Park Emergencies 911 or 435 772-3322

Be prepared to pack out human waste, toilet paper, and hygiene products. Cut the elastic before disposing of used face masks. Carry out all trash including food wrappers, apple cores, fruit peels, nut shells, and toilet paper. Dispose of all waste in a proper trash can or dumpster. Recycle the rest.

Leave what you find. Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them. Protect the park from graffiti and vandalism. Do not build or destroy rock cairns that are used to mark trails and routes. Leave the park in a natural state for others to enjoy.

Extremely dry conditions exist and campfires are never allowed. Please do all you can to help us protect the Wilderness

from human caused wildfires. Please be cautious with any ignition sources, including camp stoves. Careless use of camp stoves has caused large wildfires in the Zion Wilderness in the past.



Store food and trash responsibly

Wilderness Reservations & Permits



Wilderness Permits are required for all overnight trips, including climbing bivouacs, all through-hikes of The Narrows and its tributaries, all canyons requiring the use of descending gear or ropes, and all trips into the Left Fork of North Creek (The Subway). All permits, including those with reservations and those awarded through the lottery, must be obtained before each trip.

ONLINE CALENDAR RESERVATIONS

Make a reservation for your trip by going to <https://zionpermits.nps.gov/>. At the bottom of the page and select Zion Wilderness Reservations Login then click Create Account and enter your information. If you an existing account, log in.

On a cell phone: Tap the three bar Menu icon at the top of the page, then tap on Wilderness Reservations. From the drop down list, select Reservations, and then select your trip category.

On a desktop: In the information bar, hover your mouse over Wilderness Reservations, then hover over Reservations, and then click on your trip category. Carefully read through and complete your wilderness reservation application. You will be required to pay a non-refundable \$5.00 reservation fee. This reservation is NOT your permit.

BACKPACKING PERMITS

The day BEFORE your trip, convert your reservation into a permit online by contacting: zion_park_information@nps.gov. Please use “Wilderness Permit - (name and date of trip)” in the subject line of the email to ensure a quick response from our team.

LAST MINUTE DRAWING RESERVATIONS (CANYONEERING)

Visitors can apply for the Last Minute Drawing for canyoneering day trips. When a canyon is fully booked online, the Last Minute Drawing becomes an option. Individuals can submit an application for the Last Minute Drawing to obtain any remaining reservations for permits. The Last Minute Drawing is limited to one request per individual per canyon. You must be 18 years of age to apply. Applications are completed online at <https://zionpermits.nps.gov/>.

On a cell phone: Tap the three bar Menu icon at the top of the page, then tap on Wilderness Reservations. From the drop down list, select Last Minute Drawing.

On a desktop: In the information bar, hover your mouse over Wilderness Reservations, then click on Last Minute Drawing. Entries can be submitted as early as one week prior to a trip date until two days before at noon MT. The drawing is held at 1:00 pm MT, two days before a trip date. Applicants will be sent a notification email with information about the status of their request.

WALK-IN PERMITS

Any slot canyon or climbing permits not taken through the reservation system are available as walk-in permits. Wilderness campsites, climbing areas, and slot canyons that are not listed in the reservation system are available as walk-in permits. Plan ahead and obtain a reservation to avoid any disappointment.

ZION EXPRESS MEMBERSHIP

Zion Express Membership allows visitors who regularly visit the park, and are familiar with the park resources to obtain a login account to create online reservations and convert them into Wilderness Permits from home. To become a member, applicants must apply at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center Wilderness Desk. (Membership cannot be obtained in the Kolob Canyons.)

There is no cost for enrollment. Membership is valid for the remainder of the current year and for the next two calendar years. Memberships may be cancelled due to violating any regulations.

GROUP SIZE LIMITS

Large groups result in larger impacts. All groups traveling into the Zion Wilderness must follow the group size limit for that area. These limits apply to all trips into the park’s wilderness including trips that do not require a permit. Wilderness trails have a group size limit of 12, but many canyoneering areas are limited to 6.

Group size limits are strictly enforced. Permits will be denied and violators will be cited if limits are exceeded. Groups are limited to a maximum of 6 or 12 people that share the same affiliation (e.g., club, scout troop, colleagues, family, and friends). Groups that exceed these limits may not split up and visit the same drainage, route, or wilderness trail on the same day, but may split up and visit different areas.

Group size limits do not apply to most trails in Zion Canyon, including the Emerald Pools Trails, Angels Landing, Riverside Walk, Watchman Trail, and The Narrows below the junction with Orderville Canyon.

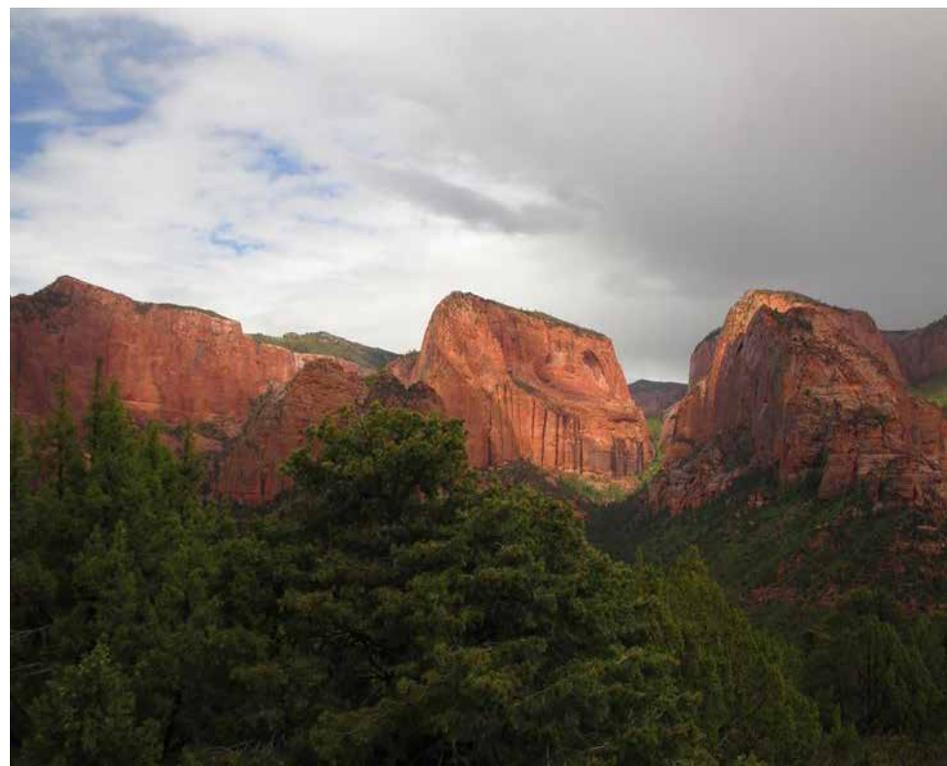
GUIDED ACTIVITIES

Structured and/or formally guided activities facilitated by educational, commercial, or similar organizations are authorized to occur only on frontcountry trails. Such activities are not authorized to take place in park wilderness areas (Primitive and Pristine Zones).

Wilderness Permit Fees

Fees are non-refundable and based on group size.

- \$15.00 for 1 to 2 people
- \$20.00 for 3 to 7 people
- \$25.00 for 8 to 12 people



Wildlife



You may encounter wildlife while in the wilderness. Be aware that wild animals can be unpredictable. Do not approach or attempt to move sick or injured wildlife. Please send an email to zion_park_information@nps.gov to report any encounters with aggressive, sick, or injured animals.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

Respect wildlife. Please keep all animals wild and healthy by viewing them from a safe distance. Do not feed or touch wildlife. Store food and trash in animal proof containers.

MOUNTAIN LIONS

Mountain lions are wild animals and can be dangerous. They have been seen in the park. Though an attack is unlikely and the park has never had a reported attack on people or pets, mountain lions have attacked in other wilderness areas.

- Watch children closely, and never let them run ahead or lag behind.
- Solo hiking is not encouraged.
- Never approach a mountain lion. Most will avoid confrontation. Always give them a route to escape.
- Do not run. Try to look large and put your arms up.
- If a mountain lion approaches, wave your arms, shout, and throw rocks or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back.



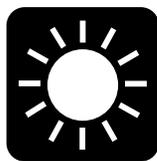
Flash floods can be extremely violent. The strength of the water can tumble logs and large boulders. A hiker caught in a flash flood like this would not survive.

Climate

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (°F)												
Average high	54	59	66	75	86	95	100	99	91	79	64	54
Average low	30	34	39	45	54	63	70	68	61	48	37	30
Record high	73	90	91	95	106	114	115	111	110	99	86	81
Record low	-15	0	10	21	19	36	41	36	33	18	6	-5
Days above 100°F	0	0	0	0	0	6	16	10	2	0	0	0
Days below 32°F	20	13	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	18
Precipitation (inches)												
Average	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.3	0.7	0.3	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.6
Record high	9.3	6.7	7.1	5.4	3.0	4.0	4.9	5.1	6.7	5.5	4.0	4.7
Record daily snowfall	12.5	8.0	7.2	4.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	4.5	8.0
Days with thunderstorms	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	5.0	14.0	15.0	5.0	2.0	0.0	0.0

Temperatures at higher elevations, including the Kolob Canyons area of the park, may be 5 to 10 degrees cooler than Zion Canyon.

Weather



SPRING

As the park warms, more areas of the wilderness become accessible. One of the first areas without snow is the Southwest Desert of the park. La Verkin Creek is often snow free by mid-March, and the East and West Rims are usually snow free by late April. In an average year, high water due to snow melt makes The Narrows impassable until late May.

SUMMER

Zion National Park is hot through the summer months with temperatures regularly exceeding 100°F. Even higher

elevation areas such as the Kolob Canyons and West Rim can see high temperatures in excess of 90°F. Visitors must pay constant attention to the possibility of thunderstorms and lightning. The park typically experiences a monsoon season from mid-July through mid-September with an increased risk of severe thunderstorms and dramatic flash flooding.

FALL

The brilliant autumn colors and cooler temperatures can make the fall an ideal time for backpacking trips in the park. Canyoneering trips through The Narrows and other slot canyons are

best if completed prior to mid-October when cooler temperatures may require wetsuits and other specialized gear.

WINTER

Much of Zion National Park is snow-covered through the winter months. All trails, even at lower elevations, can be ice-covered and traction devices are highly recommended. In winter, sections of the Kolob Terrace Road are not plowed. Snow causes closures of the Kolob Terrace Road near the Hop Valley Trailhead throughout the winter, as well as periodic closures of the Kolob Canyons Road. Recreational use is limited to skis and snowshoes.

Flash Floods



All narrow canyons are potentially hazardous. Flash floods, often caused by storms miles away, are a real danger and can be life threatening. By entering a narrow canyon you are assuming a risk.

During a flash flood, the water level rises within minutes or even seconds. A flash flood can rush down a canyon in a wall of water 12 feet high or more.

BE PREPARED

Before starting your trip, pay close attention to the weather forecast and the Flash Flood Potential Rating for the park. If bad weather threatens, do not enter a narrow canyon. Whether hiking, climbing, or canyoneering, your safety depends on your own good judgment, adequate preparation, and constant attention to your surroundings. Your safety is your responsibility.

FLASH FLOOD POTENTIAL RATINGS

In the summer, the National Weather Service issues a daily Flash Flood Potential Rating for multiple areas in Utah. Zion has worked in partnership with the National Weather Service to create specific Flash Flood Potential Ratings for Zion National Park's unique environment and terrain. These flash flood ratings predict the severity of the flooding can occur within the park.

- Not Expected: Flash flooding is not expected.
- Possible: Some slot canyons may experience flash flooding.
- Probable: Some slot canyons, dry washes and small streams are expected to experience flash flooding.
- Expected: Many slot canyons, dry washes, and small streams are expected to experience flash flooding.

Watch for these indications of a possible flash flood:

- Any deterioration in weather conditions
- Build up of clouds or sounds of thunder
- Sudden changes in water clarity from clear to muddy
- Floating debris
- Rising water levels or stronger currents
- Increasing roar of water up-canyon

If you observe any of these signs, seek higher ground immediately—even climbing a few feet may save your life. Remain on high ground until conditions improve. Water levels usually drop within 24 hours. Flash floods can occur in the park during periods of low flash flood potential. A moderate or higher flash flood potential is a serious cause for concern. Slot canyons will be closed if a Flash Flood Warning is issued. The canyons will reopen two hours after the Flash Flood Warning has been lifted.

Transportation



ZION CANYON SHUTTLE (TICKETS REQUIRED)

Park shuttles are operating, but shuttle capacity is reduced due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Tickets are required and must be booked in advance on [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Private vehicles are not allowed on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive.



AUTOMOBILES

Park in designated lots. Pedestrians must use established walkways. Pull-outs along State Route 9 should not be used as shuttle access parking. Private vehicles are not permitted on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive during most of the year. The Zion Mt. Carmel Highway and other park roads are open to private vehicles.

PRIVATE TAXIS

You may choose to complete your hike at a different location from your starting point. Other shuttle and taxi services are available.



BICYCLES

Bicycles are not permitted in the wilderness. Bicycles may travel on roadways and on the Pa'rus Trail. Shuttles will not pass moving bicycles. Bicycles must pull over to allow a bus to pass. Do not pass a moving shuttle. Shuttles have racks for bicycles. Bicycles are not permitted in the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel.



OTHER VEHICLES

All off-road vehicle use is prohibited. Access through the park to private property by snowmobile is allowed.

Safety



STEEP CLIFFS

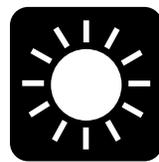
Falls from cliffs near trails and routes have resulted in deaths. Loose sand or pebbles on stone are very slippery. Be careful of edges when using cameras or binoculars. Never throw or roll rocks, as there may be hikers below you. Trails can be snow and ice covered in winter.

- Stay on the trail.
- Stay back from cliff edges.
- Observe posted warnings.
- Please watch children.



WATER

The desert is an extreme environment. Carry one gallon per person per day and drink it. Water is available at visitor centers, campgrounds, and the Zion Lodge. Water flow at natural springs can vary; check for information at visitor centers. Do not drink untreated water. Water collected in the wilderness is not safe to drink without treatment.



HEAT EXHAUSTION

Heat exhaustion occurs when the body loses more fluid than is taken in. Signs of heat exhaustion can include nausea, vomiting, fatigue, headaches, pale appearance, stomach cramps, and cool clammy skin. If a member of your party begins to experience any of these symptoms, stop your hike immediately. Find a cool, shady area and rest. It is important to drink fluids, but it is also important to eat salty foods. If heat exhaustion symptoms persist, seek medical help.

Heat stroke is an advanced stage of heat exhaustion. It is the body's inability to cool itself. Symptoms can include confusion, disorientation, behavior changes, seizures, and an inability to sweat. If you believe that a member of your party is suffering from heat stroke, it is imperative to cool them and obtain immediate medical assistance.



HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia occurs when the body is cooled to dangerous levels. It is the number one killer of outdoor recreationists, even in summer, and it usually happens without the victim's awareness. It is a hazard in narrow canyons because immersion in water is the quickest route to body heat loss. To prevent hypothermia, avoid cotton clothing (it provides no insulation when wet) and eat high-energy food before you are chilled. The signs of hypothermia include:

- Uncontrollable shivering
- Stumbling and poor coordination
- Fatigue and weakness
- 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 help prevent further heat loss.



PETS

Pets are not allowed on wilderness trails or on the shuttle buses. Even well-behaved pets may disrupt wildlife and other visitors. Do not leave pets in vehicles. Boarding kennels are available in Rockville, Kanab, Hurricane, St. George, and Cedar City.



FIREARMS

It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable Utah, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in Zion National Park, which are posted with signs. The discharge of firearms and hunting within the park are prohibited.



DRONES

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



How the Shuttle Works

TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE FROM [WWW.RECREATION.GOV](https://www.recreation.gov)

- Seating has been reduced and no standing is allowed.
 - **You must have a shuttle ticket to board the bus.**
 - A ticket is valid only for the date purchased.
 - The assigned boarding time for Stop 1/ Visitor Center is on the ticket.
 - Stops 5, 6, 8, 9 can be boarded any time (w/ same day ticket).
 - Stops 2, 3, 4, and 7 are out of service.
 - Do not return to the Visitor Center until you are done in the canyon for the day. **Once you have returned to the Visitor Center your shuttle ticket is expired.**
 - Tickets cost \$1.00 and sell out quickly.
 - Children under 2 who sit on an adult's lap do not need a ticket.
 - Shuttle tickets are not included in your park entrance fee.
 - A shuttle ticket does not guarantee parking in the park.
- Last bus leaves the Temple of Sinawava at 7:15 p.m. and only holds 33 people. **DO NOT WAIT FOR THE LAST SHUTTLE.**

Emergencies

911

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. Other medical clinics are located in Hurricane. The nearest hospitals are in St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab.

Backpacking



Zion National Park has a number of trails in a variety of landscapes for backpackers to explore.

Online reservations can be made for backpacking sites. These sites are booked through Calendar Reservations. Reserve as soon as possible as sites go quickly. Wilderness sites are in high demand and are often booked for several days. If you do not have a reservation, have a backup plan.

When planning your trip, consider your interests, time, and ability. There is no perfect trail. Use the Wilderness Guide, other guidebooks, and topographic maps to plan the best trip for you during your visit. Refer to the map for campsite locations.



NO CAMPFIRES

Extremely dry conditions exist and campfires are never allowed. Please do all you can to help us protect the Wilderness from human caused wildfires.

Please be cautious with any ignition sources, including camp stoves. Careless use of camp stoves have caused large wildfires in the Zion Wilderness in the past.



West Rim Trail

WEST RIM TRAIL

There are only nine campsites along the West Rim Trail. They are filled most days so if you do not have a reservation, have a back up option.

Late spring and fall are ideal times for hiking the West Rim. Temperatures are usually ten to fifteen degrees cooler than Zion Canyon. The trail is typically snow covered from December through April.

The West Rim Trail traces a series of canyon rims with panoramic views. A difficult but rewarding one-night backpacking trip can be accomplished by hiking from The Grotto to one of the campsites near Cabin Spring. The trip is five miles one way, with 2,500 feet of elevation gain. A more moderate one-night trip descends from Lava Point to campsites near Potato Hollow. Water may be available at Cabin, Potato Hollow, and Sawmill Springs, but is not guaranteed.

EAST RIM TRAIL

This trail begins at the east entrance of the park and climbs 1,000 feet onto the plateau with views into Jolley Gulch and several small canyons. There are sweeping views of the surrounding terrain before entering a high desert ponderosa forest. **The East Rim Trail from Weeping Rock through Echo Canyon is closed indefinitely. East Rim at-large camping is only accessible from the eastside trailheads.** Water may be available at Stave Spring.

SOUTHWEST DESERT

The Chinle Trail crosses the open desert as it winds toward the base of Mount Kinesava. The trail offers spectacular views of the West Temple and Mount Kinesava. The Chinle Trail can be very hot in the summer, but mild in the spring and fall. Coalpits Wash has no developed trail, but there is a well-worn path to the junction with Scoggins Wash. Water may be available at Coalpits Spring.

LA VERKIN CREEK TRAIL

Spring and fall are ideal seasons for hiking in La Verkin Creek. Temperatures are typically 5 to 10 degrees cooler than Zion Canyon. Trails in the Kolob Canyons area of the park are frequently snow covered in winter.

The La Verkin Creek Trail begins at the Lee Pass Trailhead and descends past the soaring red peaks of the Kolob Canyons. The trail follows the creek downstream until it reaches La Verkin Creek, where the trail starts to gain elevation. As the canyon narrows, you receive stunning

views of the surrounding cliffs. The trail from Lee Pass to Kolob Arch is seven miles. Water may be available at Beatty Spring.

EXTENDED TRIPS

Trips up to 36 miles in length can be made in Zion National Park's wilderness by combining the La Verkin Creek, Hop Valley, Wildcat Canyon, and West Rim Trails. **At this time it is not possible to connect the West Rim and East Rim trails.** These routes cross several roads, so many variations to your trip are possible. A vehicle shuttle may be necessary. Backpackers that intend to camp in multiple locations need to make a separate reservation for each.

WATER AVAILABILITY

Cyanobacteria of the genus *Microcoleus*, *Tychonema*, and *Nostoc* have been found in the North Fork of the Virgin River, North Creek, and La Verkin Creek. Standard recreational water filtration and disinfection techniques will not remove the toxins.

Backpackers should plan to pack enough water for everyone in their group for the duration of their trip.



Stock Use



Horses traditionally have been used to explore Zion National Park. Stock animals that are allowed include horses, mules, and burros. Llamas, dogs, goats, camels, and others are not allowed.

Permits are not required for day trips. However, stock are prohibited during spring thaws, unusually wet periods, or times when their use would cause trail damage. Maximum group size is six animals.

TRAILS

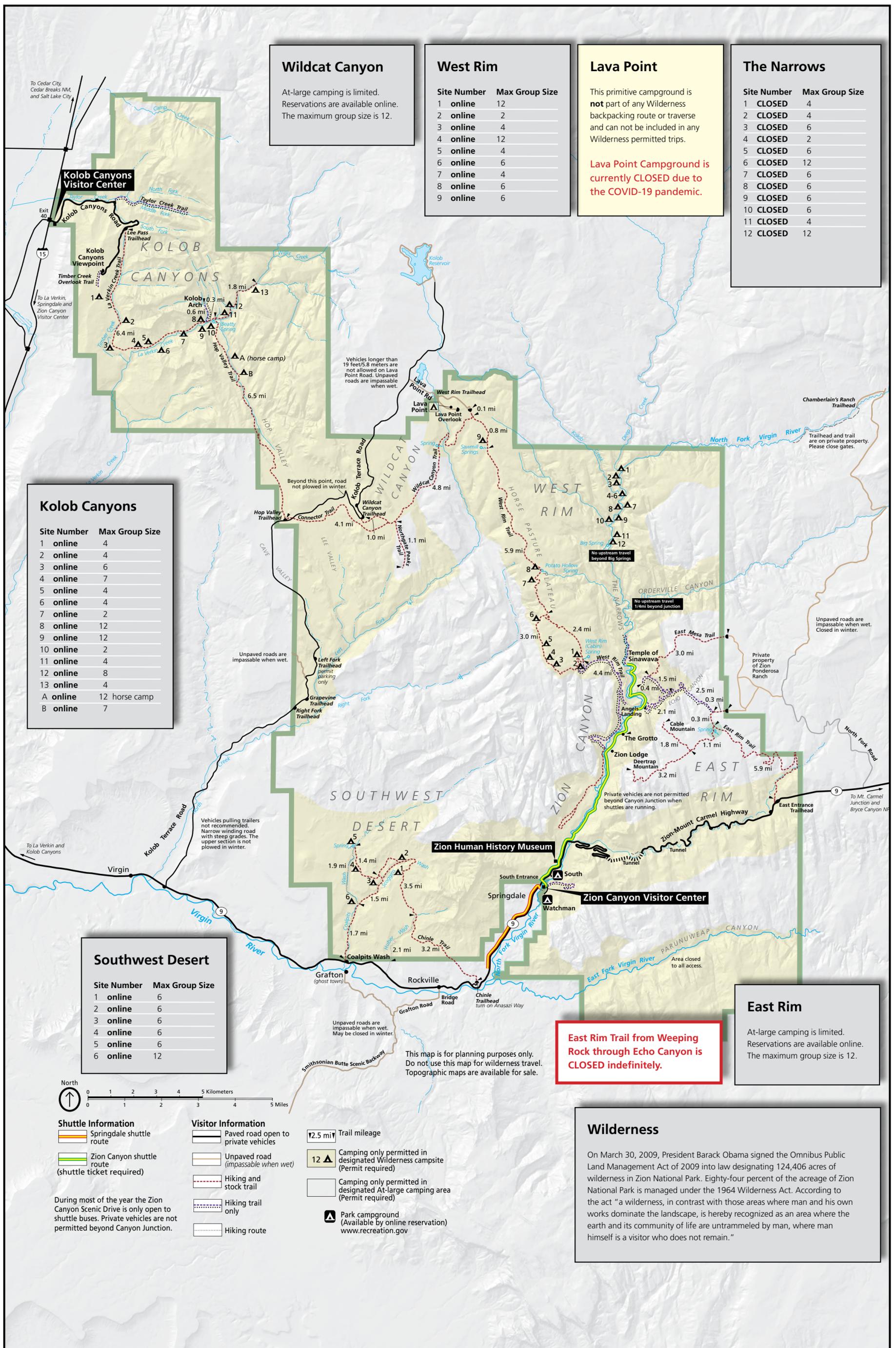
Stock animals must remain on trails. Free trailing or loose herding is not allowed. Maintain a slow walk when passing hikers. Stock must be kept at least 200 feet from drainages, when not being watered or ridden. Check the map for trails open to stock use. Off-trail use is permitted only in Lower Coalpits Wash from the trailhead to the junction with Scoggins Wash, in Scoggins Wash, and in Huber Wash.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

The only overnight stock camp is Hop Valley Site A and your stay is limited to one night. A permit is required. Stock must be hobbled or tethered to reduce damage to vegetation.

To reduce the spread of noxious and exotic weeds, stock must be fed certified weed-free hay for 24 hours prior to the trip.

Zion National Park



Wildcat Canyon

At-large camping is limited. Reservations are available online. The maximum group size is 12.

West Rim

Site Number	Max Group Size
1	online 12
2	online 2
3	online 4
4	online 12
5	online 4
6	online 6
7	online 4
8	online 6
9	online 6

Lava Point

This primitive campground is **not** part of any Wilderness backpacking route or traverse and can not be included in any Wilderness permitted trips.

Lava Point Campground is currently CLOSED due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Narrows

Site Number	Max Group Size
1	CLOSED 4
2	CLOSED 4
3	CLOSED 6
4	CLOSED 2
5	CLOSED 6
6	CLOSED 12
7	CLOSED 6
8	CLOSED 6
9	CLOSED 6
10	CLOSED 6
11	CLOSED 4
12	CLOSED 12

Kolob Canyons

Site Number	Max Group Size
1	online 4
2	online 4
3	online 6
4	online 7
5	online 4
6	online 4
7	online 2
8	online 12
9	online 12
10	online 2
11	online 4
12	online 8
13	online 4
A	online 12 horse camp
B	online 7

Southwest Desert

Site Number	Max Group Size
1	online 6
2	online 6
3	online 6
4	online 6
5	online 6
6	online 12

East Rim Trail from Weeping Rock through Echo Canyon is CLOSED indefinitely.

East Rim

At-large camping is limited. Reservations are available online. The maximum group size is 12.

Wilderness

On March 30, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 into law designating 124,406 acres of wilderness in Zion National Park. Eighty-four percent of the acreage of Zion National Park is managed under the 1964 Wilderness Act. According to the act "a wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."



- Shuttle Information**
 - Springdale shuttle route
 - Zion Canyon shuttle route (shuttle ticket required)
- Visitor Information**
 - Paved road open to private vehicles
 - Unpaved road (impassable when wet)
 - Hiking and stock trail
 - Hiking trail only
 - Hiking route
- Trail Mileage**
 - 2.5 mi
- Camping**
 - Camping only permitted in designated Wilderness campsite (Permit required)
 - Camping only permitted in designated At-large camping area (Permit required)
 - Park campground (Available by online reservation) www.recreation.gov

This map is for planning purposes only. Do not use this map for wilderness travel. Topographic maps are available for sale.

During most of the year the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is only open to shuttle buses. Private vehicles are not permitted beyond Canyon Junction.

The Narrows



The Virgin River has carved a spectacular gorge in the upper reaches of Zion Canyon: 16 miles long, up to 2,000-feet deep, and at times only 20 to 30-feet wide. The Narrows, with its soaring walls, sandstone grottos, natural springs, and hanging gardens can be an unforgettable wilderness experience.

The Narrows is not a hike to be underestimated. Hiking The Narrows means hiking in the Virgin River. At least 60 percent of the hike is spent wading, walking, and sometimes swimming in the river. There is no maintained trail because the route is the river. The current is swift, the water is cold, and the rocks underfoot are slippery. Flash flooding and hypothermia are constant dangers. Good planning, proper equipment, and sound judgment are essential for a safe and successful trip. Your safety is your responsibility.

TOXIC CYANOBACTERIA BLOOM IN THE VIRGIN RIVER

Cyanobacteria of the genus *Microcoleus*, *Tychonema*, and *Nostoc* have been found in the North Fork of the Virgin River, North Creek, and La Verkin Creek. Colonies of cyanobacteria can be red, yellow, tan, green, brown, or black in color. It produces the cyanotoxin called anatoxin-a, which impacts

the nervous system. Cyanotoxin levels detected in the water after recreational disturbance of bacterial growth in the North Fork of the Virgin River are currently much greater than the Utah Department of Water Quality and Utah Department of Health (DWQ/DOH) recommended danger advisory threshold, which is 90 micrograms per liter. Therefore, the National Park Service recommends avoiding contact with North Fork of the Virgin River until further notice.

GROUP SIZE LIMIT

Large groups produce increased impacts on the wilderness. Group size is limited to a maximum of 12 people sharing the same affiliation (e.g., school, club, scout troop, family, and friends) in the same drainage, route, or wilderness trail on the same day. The group size limit from the Junction of Orderville Canyon to Chamberlin Ranch is 12. Group size limits are strictly enforced. Permits will be denied and violators cited if limits are exceeded.

WHEN TO HIKE THE NARROWS

Entering The Narrows is safest when the forecast has little chance of rain and the river is low, clear, and relatively warm. Conditions change from day to day and are impossible to predict. Check the Zion Canyon Visitor Center for the latest weather forecast and possible advisories. Permits are not issued when the flow is



Cyanobacteria colonies like this will grow on rocks, sticks, and sand. Note the ribbed texture.

120 cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater. Flash floods can occur any time, but are more common in mid-summer and early fall. From November through May, trips through The Narrows require wetsuits, or even drysuits, and special cold weather preparation. Icefall is common in the Winter. Spring snowmelt frequently causes the river to run at dangerously high levels from March to early June.

FOOTWEAR

Hiking The Narrows is like walking on slippery bowling balls. It requires balancing on algae-coated rocks in a swiftly flowing river. Sturdy footwear is essential. Hiking boots with good ankle support are best. Sandals and bare feet are not appropriate. Inappropriate footwear often results in twisted ankles and crushed toes.

CLOTHING

Even in summer The Narrows can be cool. The water is cold, breezes blow steadily, and very little sunlight penetrates to the canyon floor. Take extra warm clothing. Clothing made of wool or synthetic fibers has the best insulation.

DRINKING WATER

Untreated water from the river and its springs is not safe to drink. It has passed over rangeland and may be contaminated with illness-causing bacteria. Treat the water you collect by filter, tablets, or by boiling. Hikers are encouraged to carry in all of their water. Drink one gallon of water per person per day.

FALLS

Even the most experienced hikers fall in The Narrows. Pack a walking stick for additional stability. It is also a good idea to waterproof your belongings.

WATER DEPTH

The water level varies in The Narrows. Under ideal conditions, when flow is less than 70 cubic feet per second, most crossings are around knee-deep. Higher flows mean higher water, a stronger current, and may require wading in waist-deep water. Be prepared to swim. Even when the river is low, chest-deep holes exist. When possible, help the park protect fragile vegetation in The Narrows and hike in or near the river.

DAY HIKE FROM THE BOTTOM AND BACK

To experience The Narrows, start at the Temple of Sinawava, hike one mile to the end of the Riverside Walk and wade into the river. In less than a mile, you will be hiking in one of the narrowest sections of the canyon. There is not a formal destination, and you will return the same way you came. Some hikers try to reach Orderville Canyon, a tributary roughly two hours upstream from the end of the trail. Travel upstream beyond 1/4 mile into Orderville Canyon or beyond Big Spring is prohibited. No permit is required for this day hike. Groups size limits apply beyond the junction with Orderville Canyon.



NPS/MARC NEIDIG

Canyoneering



Canyoneering combines route finding, rappelling, problem solving, hiking, and swimming. Zion National Park is one of the premier places in the country to participate in this exciting activity. With dozens of different canyons to explore, some barely wide enough for a human to squeeze through, the park offers opportunities that range from trips for beginners to experiences requiring advanced technical skills.

MINIMUM IMPACT CANYONEERING

Travel on durable surfaces, like slickrock, river bottoms, or drainages. Avoid steep, sandy, or erodible slopes.

Carry solid waste disposal bags and pack out everything, including toilet paper. Don't bury it, burn it, or leave it.

Prevent bottlenecks. If a faster group catches up to you, allow them to pass.

Avoid bolting. Bolts should only be placed as a last resort. Only use a bolt if there are no other safe options for creating an anchor. If bolts are used, they should be placed so that they will last for many years and will avoid scarring on the rock caused by rope pulls.

BACKUP EQUIPMENT

The ability to stop, move up, or down while hanging mid-rope is a lifesaving skill that must be learned before you need it. Can you create extra friction? Do you have a way to ascend your rope? Can you belay the less experienced members of your group?

UP-TO-DATE WEATHER & FLASH FLOOD POTENTIAL

Carefully evaluate the forecast and flash flood potential before entering a narrow canyon. Remember that a 30 percent chance of rain means that 30 percent of the forecasted area is expected to receive measurable precipitation.

Continuously evaluate weather conditions. If bad weather threatens, avoid traveling in a slot canyon. If you are in a slot canyon, find higher ground and wait for conditions to improve.

MAP AND ROUTE DESCRIPTION

You must have and use them. Carefully assess your location before beginning your first rappel. Once you pull your rope, you are committed to the canyon you are in. So be sure it is the canyon you intended.

ANCHOR EQUIPMENT

Inspect webbing and anchors at every rappel. Can you replace webbing if it is worn? Can you create a new anchor if needed?

EXTRA CLOTHING

Bring extra layers in case of a late exit or an unexpected night in the canyon.

EXTRA FOOD

Food keeps your energy up and helps you stay warm if you remain out overnight.

WATER

Drink a minimum of one gallon per person per day.

FLASHLIGHT / HEADLAMP

Every week, canyoneers spend unintended nights camped in the wilderness of the park. A headlamp could make the difference between spending the night in the canyon and making it out.

HELMET

Helmets can prevent severe injuries.

FIRST AID KIT

Even a minor injury can cause major problems in the wilderness. Remember, even the most reliable cell phones and GPS units rarely work in the narrow canyons of Zion National Park. Rescue is not guaranteed and usually requires significant time to complete.

Climbing



Zion National Park's 2,000-foot sandstone cliffs are world renowned for their big wall climbs. Due to their difficulty, most routes in the park are not recommended for inexperienced climbers and require significant preparation. There are few top roping areas and no sport climbs. Permits are not required for day climbs, but they are required for all overnight use. It is illegal to camp at the base of the wall or in your vehicle.

ROUTE CLOSURES

Some rock formations and routes are closed to climbing from March through August each year to protect nesting peregrine falcons. Some areas that are commonly closed include the Great White Throne, Cable Mountain, Court of the Patriarchs, and Angels Landing. Please visit <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/climbing.htm> for current closure information.

MINIMUM IMPACT CLIMBING

Many of the park's routes are now going clean. Avoid using pitons and hammers where they are not needed. Excess bolting is discouraged and the use of power drills to place bolts is prohibited. When approaching a climb, please use established trails. Avoid climbing directly above trails where hikers may be hit by dislodged rocks. Tube or bag human waste and carry it out. Do not drop your waste.



Canyoneering Safety



ALWAYS HAVE A PLAN B

There is no substitute for planning ahead, taking the proper equipment, having the right skills, and using sound judgment. Be prepared to take care of yourself and your group by resolving any difficulties that may arise. Rescue is not a certainty. If rescue is possible, it will take hours or days to remove an injured hiker from the wilderness.

ENGLESTEAD CANYON

September 3, 2017, a male was descending Englestead Canyon with a group. The first rappel in this canyon is approximately 300 feet. On this rappel, he lost control approximately 70 feet off the ground and fell to the canyon floor where he was fatally injured. This individual was descending on a single strand of rope, using a new 8.3 mm rope. He was descending on an ATC device without a belay or a backup. He was reported to be an experienced canyoneer. Understand your system, forces, and the variables that will change your descent. Are you taking shortcuts? Will your descent system stop you if you are unable to stop yourself? Are you positive you possess and are employing the skill to safely complete the canyon you are attempting? Know how to tie a hands free backup. Make safety your number one priority.



LOWER ECHO CANYON

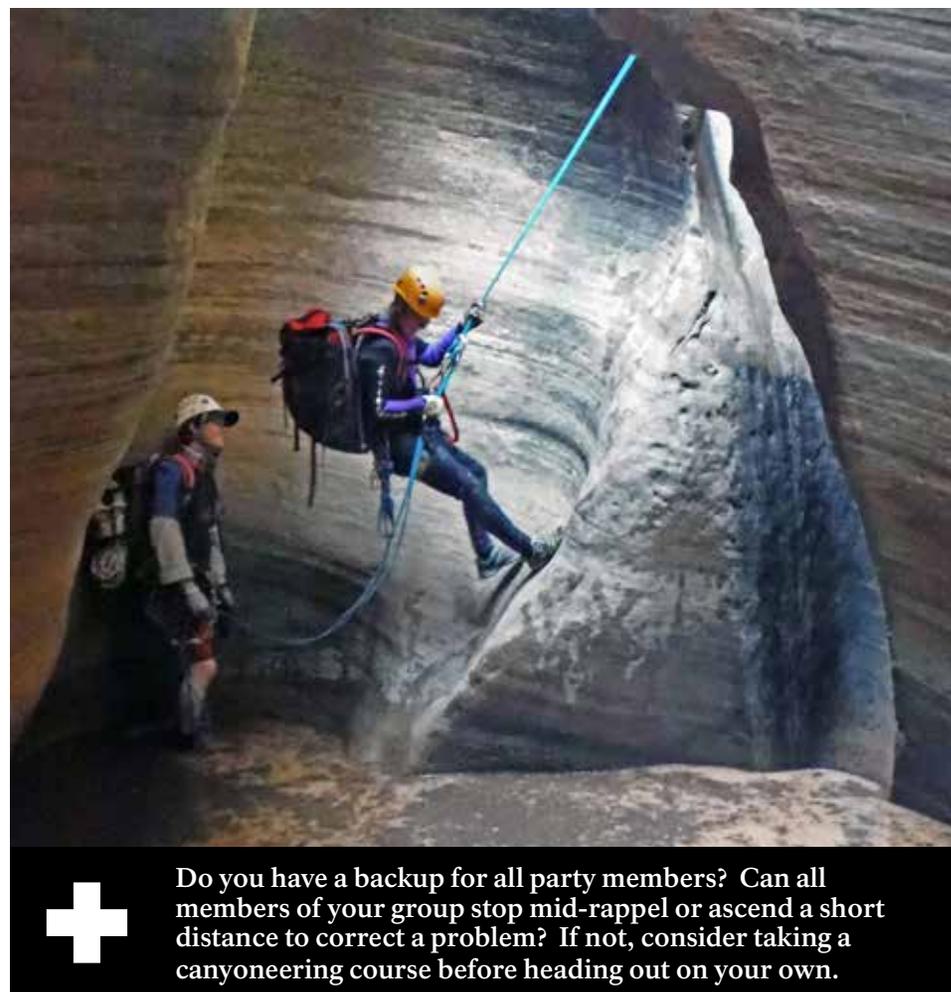
September 6, 2016, two males attempted to descend Middle Echo Canyon, but did not look at their route description until they descended into Lower Echo Canyon. They continued through the canyon, even though the features did not meet the route description. By the time they looked at their route description, they were already too committed to exit Lower Echo Canyon. Eventually, they emerged at the top of Weeping Rock, a drop more than 10 times higher than the largest rappel in Middle Echo (this rappel is not permitted). Luckily, they were able to call down for help. These canyoneers spent the night at the top of Weeping Rock where they were rescued the next day, after being stranded for approximately 15 hours. Even heavily traveled canyons in the park are routes, not maintained trails. Do you have a map and a route description? Are you confident in your ability to use them? When you enter a canyon and pull your rope after your first rappel, you are committed. You must complete the canyon whether you intended to or not, regardless if you are prepared for the canyon you are descending.

PINE CREEK CANYON

On November 15, 2014, a group of three was rappelling through Pine Creek Canyon. A member of the party jumped off an obstacle about five feet high into a pool of water. He believed that the pool was deep enough to cushion his fall, but landed on a hidden ledge. The 36-year-old man suffered from a significant lower leg injury. The patient was less than half a mile from a road, but the technical rope rescue necessary to extract him from the canyon required six hours and 14 rescuers. Lower leg fractures are the most common injuries suffered in the wilderness. The most common cause of lower leg injuries is jumping. Do not jump. Bring a rope and use it.

THE NARROWS

On the morning of September 27, 2014, two men hiked into the lower end of The Narrows. There was a 90% chance of rain that day, and the flash flood potential rating indicated that flash flooding was expected. Heavy rain began mid-morning and lasted through most of the day. The volume of the river increased to 40 times its early morning flow. The men were trapped on separate sand bars 200 feet apart. One of the men somehow survived a swim to the end of the Riverside Walk. The other man was killed by the flood.



Do you have a backup for all party members? Can all members of your group stop mid-rappel or ascend a short distance to correct a problem? If not, consider taking a canyoneering course before heading out on your own.

Always check the weather before your trip. If bad weather threatens, do not enter a canyon. If you observe any signs of a possible flood, climb to high ground and remain there until water levels drop.

REFRIGERATOR CANYON

On September 20, 2014, a group of eight people, including a thirteen-year-old boy, attempted the Refrigerator Canyon route. The boy attempted to rest by tying off his rappel device when he was about 40 feet off of the ground. He lost control while completing the tie off and fell 20 to 40 feet. A prussic caught

him before he impacted the ground, but he still suffered back and chest injuries. The boy's prussic backup prevented more serious injuries. Do you have a backup for all party members? Can all members of your group stop mid-rappel or ascend a short distance to correct a problem? If not, consider taking a canyoneering course before heading out on your own.



Protect the Zion Wilderness



HUMAN WASTE

With the ever growing increase of visitation and recreational use in Zion National Park, anyone

with a permit must pack out all solid human waste, toilet paper, diapers, and personal hygiene products.

An environmentally friendly human waste disposal bag, complete with use and disposal instructions, is available for sale in the Zion Forever Park Store and at many local outfitters.

The bag-within-a-bag design and interlocking closure securely contains waste and odor, while the blend of polymers breaks down the waste and transforms it into a deodorized gel. The contents of the disposal bag are safe for landfills and may be deposited in the trash. Use of this waste disposal system is required for all Wilderness permit holders.



Left Fork (The Subway)



Zion National Park continues to work closely with the Utah Health Department and Utah Division of Water Quality

to assess the risk and better understand the conditions of the cyanobacteria that produce toxins in the Left Fork of North Creek. At this time, permits are not available for the top-down canyoneering route.

FROM THE BOTTOM AND BACK

This strenuous 9-mile round-trip hike requires route finding, stream crossing, and scrambling over boulders. Permit holders are encouraged to obtain a detailed route description for this area. The Left Fork of North Creek (The Subway) is a day-use area only. This hike begins and ends at the Left Fork Trailhead on the Kolob Terrace Road. A Wilderness Permit is always required for this area.



DON'T FORGET!

- HIKING BOOTS w/ ANKLE SUPPORT
- WALKING STICK
- SHORTS FOR HIKING
- EXTRA CLOTHES - DRY, WARM
- EXTRA FOOD + WATER
- FLASHLIGHT/HEADLAMP w/ BATTERIES
- FIRST AID KIT
- PLASTIC BAGS FOR WATERPROOFING GEAR
- HUMAN WASTE DISPOSAL BAG
- TRASH BAGS FOR TOILET PAPER + FOOD
- SUNSCREEN, SUNGLASSES, + HAT
- TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
- ACCURATE WEATHER + FLASH FLOOD POTENTIAL FORECAST

Maps & Guides

ZION FOREVER PROJECT

Books and maps are available at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center Park Store, managed by the Zion Forever Project, the official nonprofit partner of Zion National Park. All purchases support scientific, educational, historical, and interpretive activities in the park.

AREA GUIDES

***Zion Adventure Guide* by Greer Chesher**

A ranger approved guide for both new and experienced visitors.

***Zion Climbing* by Bryan Bird**

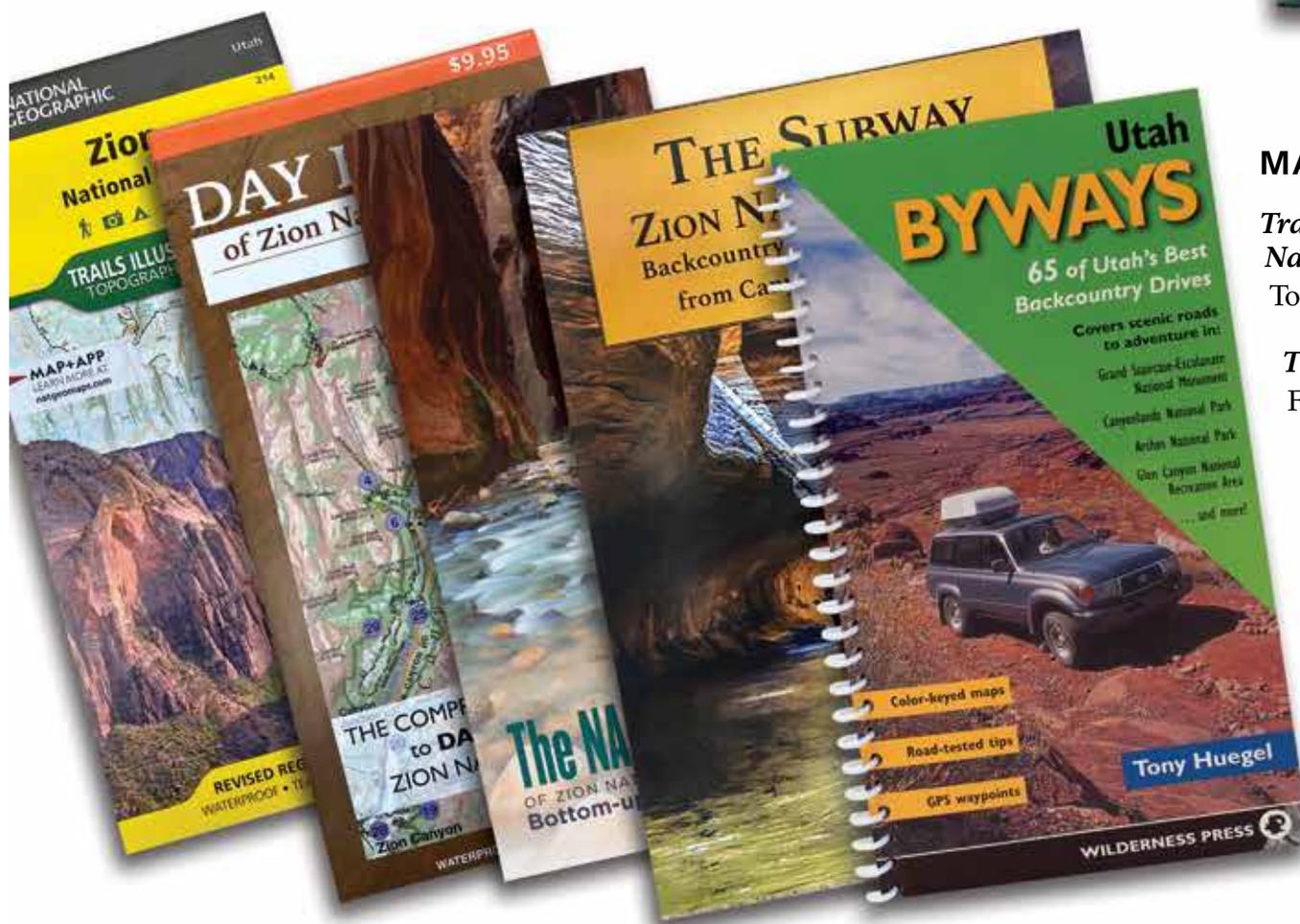
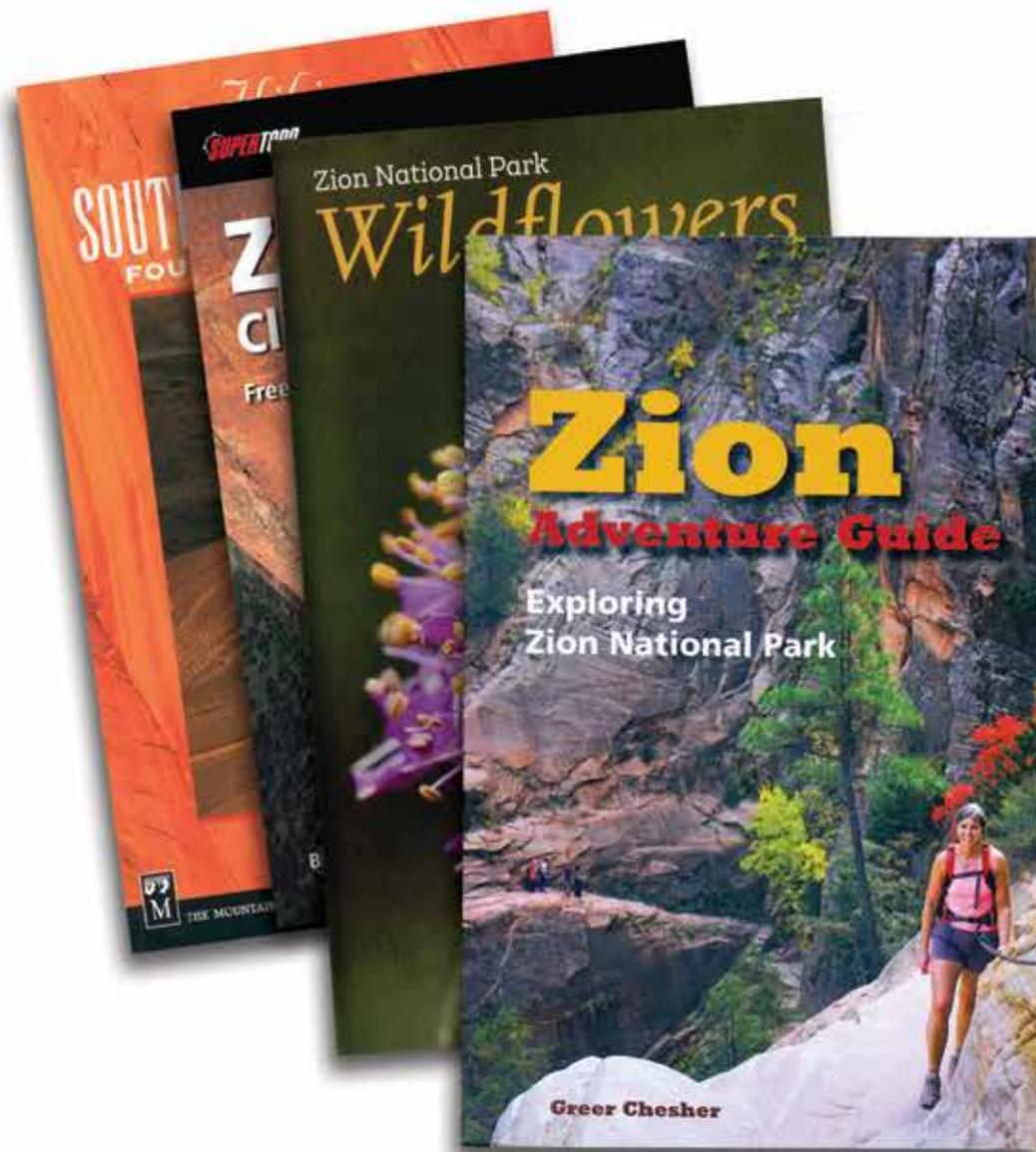
An information guide for all climbers who come to Zion.

***Hiking the Southwest's Geology* by Ralph Lee Hopkins**

Includes 50 hikes and trails found throughout the four-corners region.

***Wildflowers* by Lara J. Schrage and Daniel P. McConnell**

Discover wildflowers found in and around Zion National Park.



MAPS

Trails Illustrated Map of Zion National Park

Topographic, waterproof and tear resistant

The Narrows of Zion National Park

From the bottom-up, day hike guide

The Subway: Zion National Park

Wilderness canyoneering routes
(Permit required for hike)

Utah Byways

65 of the best Utah backcountry
Drives

Day Hikes of Zion National Park

The comprehensive guide to day
hikes in Zion National Park



**ZION NATL PARK
FOREVER PROJECT**

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