



Geological Wonders & Adventures Abound in Greater Zion's Five National and State Parks

St. George, Utah – 2019 – The convergence of three geological regions – the Mojave Desert, Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin – has created several natural wonders throughout Greater Zion. These layers of geological formations create the most visited national and state parks in Utah. These protected lands offer visitors an opportunity to commune with nature and enjoy the beauty of what the region has to offer.

Greater Zion includes the fourth most visited national park in the United States as well as four spectacular State Parks in the region. Greater Zion is home to Utah's first national park – Zion – and its youngest state park – Sand Hollow. The region is anchored by the national park, but there are so many additional experiences to have from water sports to hiking through lava tubes, canyoneering and more at the state parks.

Zion National Park

Zion National Park is one of the most magnificent wonders in the world, yet it's one of the easiest to access. The name Zion means a place of peace and refuge. With 146,000 acres of cliffs, canyons and diverse plant and animal life, the park is aptly named. The park is distinguished by Zion Canyon's massive sandstone walls. A complimentary shuttle system makes it easy for visitors to experience the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive that cuts through its main section, leading to forest trails along the Virgin River.

Zion features iconic hikes like Angels Landing, Observation Point and The Narrows, a popular wading hike. However, there are lesser known, less crowded, and even more stunning, hikes found throughout the park. Canyon Overlook is a relatively short, but picturesque, trail that provides stunning views of the Route 9 switchbacks, Bridge Mountain, the East Temple and the Pine Creek stream far below. In the Kolob Canyons section of the park, North Guardian Angel has been noted as one of the "top 100 desert peaks to do."

For travelers wishing to stay and play in the park, there is the Zion Lodge with its national park architecture that blends into the surrounding canyon walls. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Zion Lodge offers 76 hotel rooms, six suites and 40 historic cabins, originally designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood in the 1920s. After a fire in 1966, the lodge was rebuilt in 100 days.

- **Park Hours:** The park is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Some services and facilities may close or reduce hours during various times of year.
 - Zion Canyon Visitor Center – 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Zion Canyon Wilderness Permit Desk – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Zion Forever Park Store – 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Zion Human History Museum – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Kolob Canyons Visitor Center – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Shuttles operations begin in the summer starting at 6 a.m. daily to access the Canyon Loop Route.
- **Fees:**
 - \$35 private vehicle, valid seven days
 - \$30 motorcycle, valid seven days
 - \$20 per person, valid seven days (bicyclists, hikers and pedestrians)

- Non-commercial Organized Groups
 - \$35 non-commercial vehicles with a capacity of 15 or less
 - \$20 per person in non-commercial vehicles with a capacity of 16 or greater
- Commercial Tours
 - \$35+: Up to 6 Passengers (\$35 + \$15 per passenger not to exceed \$70)
 - \$70: 7-15 Passengers
 - \$80: 16-25 Passengers
 - \$190: 26+ Passengers
- \$80 interagency annual pass; \$60 Zion annual pass
- Free annual pass for active military (with valid CAC Card)

State Parks

The four Utah State Parks in Greater Zion offer distinctive experiences and just as much beauty as the national park. From water sports where divers can go deep to explore a sunken Reinell boat to hiking in lava tubes, there are unlimited adventures for those seeking adrenaline-pumping activities or to simply sunning on the red sand banks of a reservoir.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary, [Snow Canyon State Park](#) is notorious for its unique geologic features such as ancient lava flows, sand dunes, petrified dunes, and deep red sandstone cliffs. Originally called Dixie State Park, Snow Canyon was established in 1959 as one of Utah's earliest state parks. Visitors can explore on foot, bike or horseback the more than 38-miles of trail found throughout this picturesque park. Hike to the top of the Snow Canyon Cinder Cone, try the Arch Canyon canyoneering route or simply build a sand castle on the sand dunes. Explore the park by night on a moonlit hike or stargaze at the dark skies above. Park rangers also encourage visits to learn more about the heritage of the area, which is captured in many trail names like Johnson Canyon Trail and Pioneer Names, or learn about the different rock formations visible in the area, including Kayenta and Navajo Sandstone, as well as basalt.

- Park Hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily
- Fees:
 - \$10 day use (up to eight people)
 - \$5 day use for seniors 62+ (must be Utah resident with a valid driver's license)
 - \$5 pedestrian/cyclists
 - \$3 per person commercial use or vehicles with nine or more people
 - \$20 non-hookup camping sites
 - \$25 hookup camping sites
 - \$60 Lower Galoot Day Use Area
 - \$3 per person for Cottontail Group Campground and \$4 per person for the Quail Group Campground (plus refundable cleaning deposit)

From one of the oldest to the youngest state park in the Utah system, [Sand Hollow](#) offers a unique juxtaposition with its brilliant blue reservoir for boating, fishing and diving, and acres of adventures on the dunes of Sand Mountain. The sprawling 20,000-acre park rivals Utah's two largest state parks. A favorite destination for local off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, Sand Mountain provides 16,000 acres of perfectly sculpted dunes. The red sand is an amazing backdrop for Sand Hollow Reservoir for recreational boating, fishing and diving in the middle of the desert. The reservoir also features underwater wrecks for diving enthusiasts including an old Volkswagen bus and a Cessna 320-twin engine plane.

- Park Hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. (April through September), 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (October through March)
- Fees:
 - \$15 day-use per vehicle (up to eight people)
 - \$10 per day per vehicle for seniors 62+
 - \$5 per person, walk in
 - \$75 Annual Pass
 - \$35 Senior Adventure Pass (Annual)
 - \$150 group day use at Cotton Tree Cove

- Camping fees range from \$25 per night for primitive areas to \$95 per night for the Sandpit Campground group sites
- \$15 five-day drone permit

[Quail Creek State Park](#) features some of the warmest water in the state for recreational boating, fishing, hiking and exploration. The warm water also makes the park a popular spot for stand-up paddleboard enthusiasts and kayakers.

- Park Hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Fees:
 - \$15 day-use per vehicle (up to eight people)
 - \$10 per day per vehicle for seniors 62+
 - \$25 per night for main campground
 - \$5 five-day drone permit

[Gunlock State Park](#) is a unique combination of many of the state parks found throughout Greater Zion, as it includes a 266-acre reservoir surrounded by rustic red rock and extinct, black lava, cinder cones. The park is known for its tranquil waters for boating, fishing and swimming. However, the park comes to life every few years when the spring runoff fills the reservoir which overflows to create waterfalls over red rock ledges. The waterfalls are accessed by a short hike.

- Park Hours: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Fees:
 - \$10 day use per vehicle
 - \$5 per day per vehicle for seniors 62+
 - \$75 Annual Pass
 - \$35 Senior Adventure Pass
 - \$20 per night for camp sites
 - \$15 five-day drone permit

For more information on lodging, activities and dining throughout Greater Zion, please visit GreaterZion.com or call (435) 634-5747.

About Greater Zion

Located in the southwest corner of Utah, Greater Zion is a destination that offers more than 2,400 square miles of adventure and inspiration. Zion National Park, the fourth most visited National Park in the United States, is the premier attraction, but Zion is only the beginning. Four state parks and a multitude of year-round recreational lands set the stage for a burgeoning mountain biking scene, some of the best off-highway vehicle riding in the country, scenic and challenging play at 12 top-rated golf courses, world-class cultural performances at Tuacahn Center for the Arts and so much more. The vibrant communities of St. George, Springdale, Hurricane, Ivins and towns in between offer a wide range of lodging options, dining experiences and access to outdoor pursuits through local outfitters and tour companies. Home to the 2021 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championships, Greater Zion also is a world-class destination for sporting events, conferences and meetings. The Greater Zion Convention and Tourism Office is a transient-room-tax-funded entity of Washington County, Utah. For more information, please visit GreaterZion.com.

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