



Utah's Greater Zion is a Mountain Biking Destination on the Rise

St. George, Utah – 2019 – With nearly 300 miles of mountain biking between four distinct landscapes, Greater Zion has quickly become one of the best mountain biking destinations in North America. Year-round access, exceptional current terrain and an expanse of undiscovered riding options that feed a continually growing trail system provide endless thrills for mountain bikers of all skill levels.

Greater Zion offers more than 40 mountain biking trails across desert, urban, mesa and alpine landscapes, as well as the only year-round bike park in Utah. With 300 days of sunny skies a year and temperatures generally ranging from the mid 50s to low 80s, with alpine areas offering respite on warmer days, it's always a good day to ride. Epic vistas keep riders inspired while slickrock, canyons and sandstone formations offer technical challenges that provide an unforgettable biking experience. Greater Zion also plays host to several destination mountain biking events including Red Bull Rampage, True GRIT Epic and 25 Hours in Frog Hollow, among many others.

Greater Zion's mountain bike friendly culture was kickstarted in the early 90s by Rockville-based twins Morgan and Mike Harris who pioneered the world-class Gooseberry Mesa trail system. Having explored the Mesa for most of their life, the brothers recognized that the giant playground of slickrock was exceptional mountain biking terrain. The Harrises established the first trail on Gooseberry Mesa in 1996, which has since sparked inspiration in locals. Growth continues from Greater Zion's residents who got hooked on the sport and have taken over trail expansion efforts that have led to the current passion for mountain biking in the area.

Although riders can't go wrong with any trail in the area, a few have become bucket-list adventures, with new rides being added to the list regularly. With more than 20 miles of trails offering slickrock, twisty singletrack and gorgeous views, Gooseberry Mesa is legendary. Recognized as a National Recreational Trail in 2006, Gooseberry Mesa continues to attract bikers from all over the world. The Whole Guacamole is another popular mesa trail system, located near Zion National Park, with sweeping views of the park. Trails include the shorter Guacamole, the 11-mile Whole Guacamole loop that alternates between slickrock and singletrack, and the Holy Guacamole extension with more technical riding. Convenient to St. George, The Barrel Roll is a three-mile loop with fun, rolling singletrack; a short, technical section; and amazing views of the red Navajo cliffs and Pine Valley Mountains. Advanced riders can choose to add the connected Precipice or Sidewinder trails to their Barrel Roll ride.

Greater Zion has a number of bike friendly lodging options including Gooseberry Lodges and Gooseberry Yurts. Tailored to mountain bikers, [Gooseberry Lodges](#) offer modern rental cabins complete with bike storage, wall-mount bike workstations and bike washing stations. Located a short 10 minutes from world-class trails, each cabin has a kitchenette, full bathroom and free Wi-Fi. Another option is [Gooseberry Yurts](#), which provides three "glamping" yurts located on the North Rim of Gooseberry Mesa, looking down on Red Bull mountain. The yurts are comfortably stocked with bunk beds, lanterns, cook stoves and a wood stove for heat.

Bikers looking for local knowledge can find an assist from a number of area bike shops and outfitters, offering everything from guided trips to gear. Riders looking for the inside track on new terrain should consider a group ride with local bike shop, Over the Edge. Every Saturday morning the shop coordinates a free group ride to various locations throughout the area. Riders of all ages and experience levels who are looking for more extensive biking tours can choose from a multitude of local guides offering everything from family friendly adventures to custom multiday high-adrenaline tours.

For more information on mountain biking in this wonderland, visit GreaterZion.com for an [interactive trail map](#), lodging options, outfitters and guides, and more.

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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