



Greater Zion Reopens and Welcomes Visitors to Find Their Space in Southwest Utah

Destination Reopens with Heightened Health & Safety Protocols

St. George, Utah – June 3, 2020 – Greater Zion is reopening after limited closures due to COVID-19 and welcomes visitors to find their space in southwest Utah. With more than 1.5 million acres of terrain, the majority of which is public land and open for exploration, there is an extensive list of places throughout Greater Zion where visitors can stay and recreate. Hotels, outfitters, restaurants, parks and more are serving the public with appropriate social distancing and safety protocols as outlined by the State of Utah.

“The wide open spaces of Greater Zion provide for natural social distancing,” said Kevin Lewis, director of the Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office. “Our corner of southwest Utah welcomes visitors to find what they’ve been missing while staying at home during the coronavirus outbreak. As the region reopens, we encourage guests to find their own personal space and experiences throughout Greater Zion. We are doing this with heightened precautions and enhanced protocols, as the health and safety of our visitors is our number one priority.”

Hotels throughout Greater Zion are open for summer business and offer attractive rates for travelers. Rates in St. George start at \$73 with lodging options in Hurricane starting at \$65 and Springdale properties offering rates starting at \$109. The region also offers several creative, naturally socially distanced lodging options that range from glamping resorts to cabin-like experiences, tiny homes and wagons that are thoughtfully spaced for guest comfort and privacy.

Restaurants in Greater Zion are open for dine-in service, reconfiguring their layouts to accommodate the region’s requirement to have tables spaced six feet from one another to provide physical distancing. Several restaurants also offer great outdoor dining options with Xetava in Kayenta expanding outdoor seating, River Rock Roasting Company in La Verkin providing expansive views of the Virgin River, and Cliffside Restaurant with dining that overlooks St. George and beyond.

State & National Parks

Greater Zion includes the fourth most visited national park in the United States as well as four spectacular state parks. All state parks are open with Zion National Park providing limited services and day use only during this phase of its reopening plan. There is no shuttle access in Zion Canyon, but the canyon is open to provide cars with limited, managed parking. The Visitor Center is not open, but provides a virtual experience. Kolob Terrace road is open. The Kolob Canyons section of the park is closed, as are permitted wilderness activities and the chain section of Angels Landing.

The region’s state parks offer recreation activities which range from water sports to hiking through lava tubes, canyoneering and more at Snow Canyon, Sand Hollow, Quail Creek and Gunlock State Parks. Officials are promoting responsible recreation which means social

distancing, avoiding crowds at trailheads and beach areas, as well as keeping parks and facilities clean.

Outdoor Recreation

The convergence of three geological regions – the Mojave Desert, Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin – has created natural wonders throughout Greater Zion. These layers of geological formations create a playground of unlimited adventures that range from high alpine hiking to biking on desert mesas, plunging deep into the earth's layers while canyoneering or riding atop a sand mountain on a UTV.

Area outfitters will operate this summer to help guests experience these wonders. Many of these experiences include natural social distancing and operators have enacted additional protocols to enhance safety. More private tours will be offered as well as smaller, more intimate experiences. Guests are encouraged to contact individual outfitters to understand specific protocols for various guided outdoor pursuits.

Individuals interested in self-guided recreation can enjoy nearly 300 miles of mountain biking between four distinct landscapes. These trails span desert, urban, mesa and alpine landscapes. Epic vistas keep riders inspired, while slickrock, canyons and sandstone formations offer technical challenges that provide an unforgettable biking adventure.

Off two wheels and on two feet, Greater Zion offers endless trail options for hiking in southwest Utah. Red and orange rocks, mountains, canyons, buttes and gorges scatter the landscape and provide gorgeous views from any trail. Between quick loops or full-day challenges, there are trails for all levels and ages. The region is known for iconic hikes in the national park such as The Narrows and Subway, but Greater Zion provides more options to find space and enjoy less discovered trails. Alternatives to the region's most popular hikes are Snow Canyon Overlook, Water Canyon and The Bowl, aka The Vortex.

Golf is one of the most popular outdoor activities in Greater Zion with 13 public and semi-private courses to choose from. *Golfweek* recently ranked six Greater Zion courses in the list of top courses in Utah on its "2019 Best Courses You Can Play." The golf experience recently got even better with the opening of Copper Rock Golf Course. Manicured green fairways pop against a backdrop of red rock cliffs, coral-colored sand dunes and rugged, black lava rocks at several courses across this unique desert setting. Guidelines for play this summer vary at courses throughout Greater Zion but may include regulations such as single-rider carts, no bunker rakes and flagsticks are not to be touched. Golfers are recommended to double check modified rules and regulations when booking tee times at individual courses.

Easily Accessible

Greater Zion is easily accessible via Interstate 15, and the region's largest city, St. George, is just 90 minutes north of Las Vegas and four hours south of Salt Lake City. Interstate 15 is a major U.S. highway that runs from Southern California to Canada, connecting with Interstate 70 which runs to the East Coast providing a ease of access for road tripping this summer.

St. George Regional Airport (SGU) also provides daily, non-stop service from several U.S. destinations including Salt Lake City, Denver and Phoenix. McCarran International Airport (LAS) in Las Vegas also provides an alternative to those who wish to fly to the region.

For more information on what's open in Greater Zion including lodging options, activities and events, please visit www.greaterzion.com.

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 13 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 & Tourism Office is a transient-room-tax-funded entity of Washington County, Utah.

Regional COVID-19 Updates

For more information on the region's health and safety order, as well as updated coronavirus resources in southwest Utah, please visit www.swuhealth.org/covid.

###

Visit the Greater Zion [media asset](#) portal for high resolution, downloadable images and video of the destination.

Media Contact:

Kristin Yantis, Malen Yantis Public Relations, kyantis@myprco.com or GreaterZionPR@myprco.com, (970) 949-7919.