



Five Tips for Maximizing Greater Zion Vacation Experience

Plan Ahead When Visiting Zion National Park and Greater Zion this Summer and Beyond

St. George, Utah – June 7, 2021 – Greater Zion in southwest Utah offers more than 2,400 square miles of adventure and inspiration. Data shows that more people than ever are visiting national parks. With Zion National Park, four state parks and unlimited outdoor pursuits, Greater Zion has experienced an influx of visitors over the last two years. As vacationers plan future visits to the region, the Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office (GZCTO) has developed five key tips to help travelers maximize their vacation experience.

“As the Greater Zion region becomes more and more popular, we want to provide our visitors with some helpful tips so they can have the vacation experience they’ve envisioned,” said Kevin Lewis, director of the GZCTO. “Often times, this really comes down to planning ahead. We welcome last minute visits, but to really enjoy the area and experience the best of Greater Zion, it pays to plan ahead.”

1. **Book in Advance.** To ensure priority lodging, activity, and dining reservations, vacationers are advised to plan ahead. Many hotels and outfitters are selling out weeks in advance so travelers are recommended to secure reservations at least three weeks – if not a month – from their vacation.
2. **Be Prepared & Know Before You Go.** Research trail closures, activity permits, state park boating rules/regulations and other advisories that may impact a vacation. GreaterZion.com provides a helpful list of regional updates and travelers planning to visit the national park can visit nps.com/zion for the latest information.

In addition, be prepared for the elements. Plan activities early or late in the day and be sure to pack plenty of water when exploring the trails of Greater Zion. A hat and sunscreen also are recommended.

3. **Hire Local Experts.** Greater Zion is filled with amazing outfitters who can take travelers to little known areas of the region or maximize their experience in popular spots. For example, Yankee Doodle Canyon is a popular spot for canyoneering, but some guides will take clients to even more spectacular spots that aren’t on a map – they often will ask clients to turn off their phone GPS to keep these locations undiscovered.

Guides not only allow travelers to try something new but they also provide local insight into the history of the region, trail lore and fun facts about Greater Zion. From canyoneering to hiking, mountain biking and OHV guides, there is an expert to help travelers try something new or get more out of their vacation experience. A list of outfitters and the types of guiding experiences they offer are available on the [Greater Zion website](#).

4. **Escape the Crowds.** Zion National Park is the third most visited park in the United States, but it’s only one part of the Greater Zion experience. For an even greater experience, guests are encouraged to visit the national park but spend more time exploring the surrounding area. Greater Zion also offers four state parks, hiking and canyoneering as well as reservoirs for boating, Sand Mountain for OHV, 13 golf courses and so much more.

There are miles of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land to explore as well that don't require a fee to access such as Joshua Tree National Landmark just southwest of St. George, featuring the Dr. Seuss-like cactus tree. Water Canyon on the back side of Zion National Park also is located on BLM land with amazing views, great hiking and hidden arches and rock formations.

If you visit the national park, consider exploring some of the lesser-known areas such as Kolob Terrace and Kolob Canyons. Angels Landing and The Narrows are bucket list hikes but check out alternatives like Taylor Creek or West Rim Trail. A trail guide for hikes in and outside of the park is available at trails.greaterzion.com. The site not only provides hiking recommendations, but insights on bike, OHV and horseback riding trail options.

Consider accessing the national park during alternative times. Historically, morning and late afternoon have been busier times to access Zion Canyon. Look at alternative times of day and consider a mid-week visit to experience the park.

5. **All Things Local.** Take time to get to know the communities that make up Greater Zion such as St. George, Hurricane, Springdale and La Verkin. Explore local museums, visit historical sites or attend a musical theater performance. There also are local events such as Saturday farmers' markets in both St. George and Hurricane or the Saturday Market at Tuacahn Center for the Arts in Ivins, as well as live evening theater at Tuacahn, community venues or St. George Musical Theater.

Once in the area, use the Greater Zion app which provides current national park conditions and travel insights. This app is connected to sensors inside the national park for live data and visitor tips for navigating entrance stations, parking and shuttle services. Travelers can glimpse the level of visitation at park entrances, estimated wait times and resources to plan adventures. Real-time data allows travelers to optimize their days and times when visiting the park and popular trails. To download, www.greaterzion.com/app.

To plan a visit to Greater Zion or for more information, visit GreaterZion.com.

Conveniently located in Southwest Utah, Greater Zion is easily accessible with major access points along the I-15 corridor. The region is located approximately 100 miles north of Las Vegas and 300 miles south of Salt Lake City. St. George Regional Airport (SGU) is located six miles southeast of St. George and offers daily roundtrip flights via United Airlines, American Airlines and Delta Air Lines. The airport offers non-stop flights to and from key hubs such as Salt Lake City, Denver, Phoenix, and Dallas/Ft. Worth. Another option to access the Greater Zion region is McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, a short 90-minute drive from the destination.

About Greater Zion

Greater Zion is a destination that offers more than 2,400 square miles of adventure and inspiration. Zion National Park, the third 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. For more information, please visit GreaterZion.com.

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