



Bryce Canyon National Park

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Best Hikes

- ➔ Fairyland Loop Trail (p112)
- ➔ Peekaboo Trail (p116)
- ➔ Navajo Loop Trail (p114)
- ➔ Queen's Garden Trail (p112)
- ➔ Rim Trail (p115)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Sunset Campground (p123)
- ➔ Bryce Canyon Lodge (p124)
- ➔ Bryce Canyon Resort (p125)

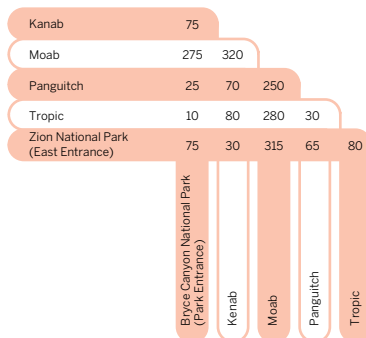
Why Go?

These sights are nothing short of otherworldly. Repeated freezes and thaws have eroded soft sandstone and limestone into a landscape that's utterly unique: sandcastle spires known as hoodoos, jugged fins, windows and deep narrows. Though it's the smallest of southern Utah's national parks, Bryce Canyon stands among the most prized.

Not actually a canyon, Bryce comprises the eastern edge of an 18-mile plateau. Its Pink Cliffs mark the top step of the Grand Staircase, a giant geologic terrace reaching to the Grand Canyon. Trails descend through 1000ft amphitheaters of pastel daggers into a maze of fragrant juniper and sculpted high-mountain desert.

High altitude means cooler temperatures than other Utah parks. Clean, dry air also means excellent visibility, reaching all the way into the Andromeda Galaxy 2.2 million light-years away.

Driving Distances (miles)



Note: Distances are approximate

Entrances

The park's sole vehicle entrance is 3 miles south of Utah Hwy 12, via Hwy 63. The park gate is always open, though entrance booths are not staffed at night.

The entrance fee is \$30 for a vehicle and \$15 for a motorcycle, cyclist or pedestrian, valid for seven days.

Bryce Canyon is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Because of severe traffic issues, the park has implemented parking restrictions on RVs and trailer vehicles in high season. Those affected should check the park website for details on any restrictions between May and September.

Compared with the vast landscape that surrounds it, the park is relatively small, at 16 miles long and 4 miles across at its widest point.

DON'T MISS

- Best short canyon hike: Navajo Loop Trail (p114)
- Best colors: Bryce Amphitheater at sunrise (p120)
- Best long hike for solitude among the amphitheaters: Fairyland Loop Trail (p112)
- Most stunning hoodoos: Silent City from Inspiration Point (p121)
- Best overlooked sight: 1600-year-old trees on Bristlecone Loop Trail (p120)
- Best nightlife: night-sky programs offer stargazing with telescopes and expert insight (p123)

When You Arrive

- As you approach, tune your radio to AM 1590 for current general park information.
- The entrance booth distributes park brochures with a driving map and facilities information along with the park newspaper, the *Hoodoo*, which gives current information about opening hours, ranger-led activities, hiking trails, backpacking and shuttle information.
- Take advantage of the Bryce Canyon Shuttle, a free service that operates between Ruby's Inn and Bryce Point, with buses every 15 minutes between 8am and 8pm in high season.
- Hydration stations throughout the park offer free water-bottle refills.
- Backcountry permits for overnight travel are issued at the visitor center on a first-come, first-served basis.

PARK POLICIES & REGULATIONS

It's important you don't feed wild animals. Pets must be on a leash and are only allowed on paved surfaces (roads, parking lots, paved scenic overlooks and the Rim Trail between Sunset and Sunrise Points). They are not allowed on unpaved trails or in public buildings.

Fast Facts

- Area: 56 sq miles
- Elevation: 7894ft to 6600ft
- Average July temperatures: high 80°F (27°C), low 46°F (8°C)
- Oldest residents: the park's bristlecone pines are up to 1600 years old
- When to go: from May through September, the park's sole road and scenic overlooks can get crowded. For solitude, hike off-hours or seek less-traveled trails under the rim.

Reservations

Reservations may be made up to six months in advance for North Campground (RV reservations on 13 sites) and Sunset Campground (reservations on 20 tent sites). Otherwise, it's a first-come, first-served basis.

Resources

- **Bryce Canyon National Park** (www.nps.gov/brca)
- **Bryce Canyon Natural History Association** (www.brycecanyon.org)