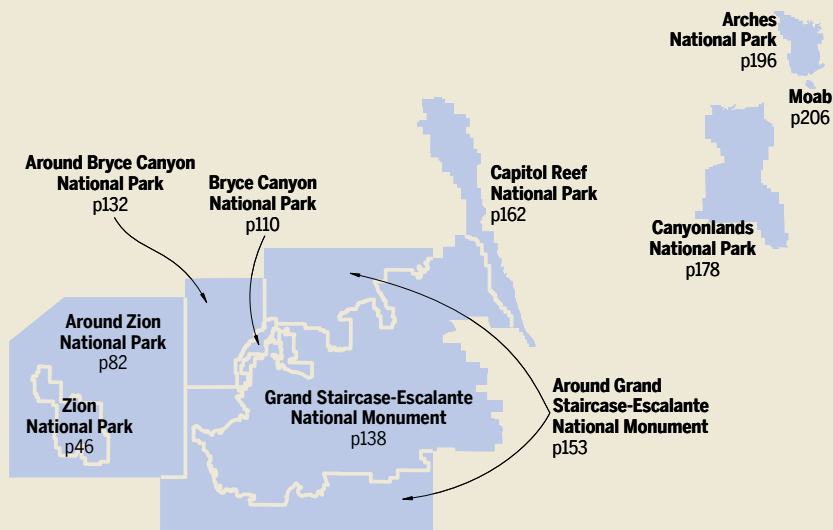




Zion & Bryce Canyon

NATIONAL PARKS



Christopher Pitts, Greg Benchwick

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Zion & Bryce
Canyon National Parks .. 4

Zion & Bryce Canyon
National Parks Map 6

Zion & Bryce Canyon
National Parks' Top 15 ... 8

Need to Know 16

If You Like..... 18

Month by Month..... 21

Itineraries 24

Activities 28

Travel with Children.... 39

Travel with Pets 43

ON THE ROAD

**ZION NATIONAL
PARK..... 46**

Day Hikes..... 52

Other Activities 68

Sights..... 75

Sleeping..... 76

Eating..... 78

**AROUND ZION
NATIONAL PARK ... 82**

Springdale..... 83

St George..... 90

Snow Canyon
State Park 94

Pine Valley Mountain
Wilderness Area 95

Cedar City 95

Highway 14 97

Cedar Breaks
National Monument..... 98

Along Highway 89 98

Las Vegas..... 99

**BRYCE CANYON
NATIONAL PARK ... 110**

Day Hikes..... 114

Overnight Hikes 119

Other Activities 122

Festivals & Events 125

Sleeping..... 125

Eating..... 128

**AROUND BRYCE
CANYON NATIONAL
PARK..... 132**

Tropic 133

Red Canyon..... 134

Panguitch 135



ZION NATIONAL PARK P46



PRAIRIE DOGS P124



Contents

UNDERSTAND

GRAND STAIRCASE– ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT 138

Day Hikes.....	142
Overnight Hike	146
Driving	147
Other Activities	152
Sleeping.....	152

AROUND GRAND STAIRCASE– ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT 153

Kodachrome Basin State Park	154
Escalante.....	154
Boulder	156
Kanab.....	157
Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park.....	160

Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area	160
--	-----

CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK .. 162

Day Hikes.....	165
Other Activities	170
Sights.....	173
Sleeping & Eating.....	174

AROUND CAPITOL REEF.....176

Torrey.....	176
Goblin Valley State Park ..	177

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK ...178

Day Hikes.....	182
Driving	189
Other Activities	191
Sights.....	193
Sleeping & Eating.....	194

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK..... 196

Day Hikes.....	200
Other Activities	205
Sleeping.....	205

MOAB.....206

Sights.....	207
Activities	207
Festivals & Events	217
Sleeping.....	217
Eating	220
Drinking & Nightlife... ..	223
Entertainment.....	224

The Parks Today	226
History	228
Geology	238
Wildlife.....	245
Conservation.....	255

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Clothing & Equipment	258
Directory A–Z	260
Transportation	267
Health & Safety	272

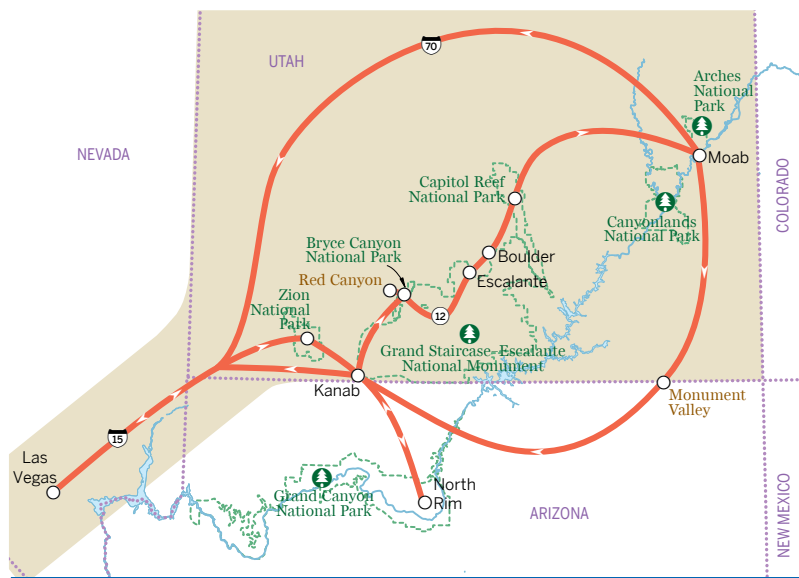
SPECIAL FEATURES

Travel with Children... ..	39
Travel with Pets	43
Wildlife.....	245
Clothing & Equipment.....	258



ANGELS LANDING P54

Itineraries



2
WEEKS

Southern Utah's Parklands

See the best of Utah's parks, with possible detours to the Grand Canyon and Monument Valley.

Start off your trip with a bang in **Las Vegas**, but move on to **Zion National Park** by the second night so you can get an early start the next morning. See the highlights that day; the next morning hike Angels Landing and spend an afternoon in East Zion. Base yourself for the next two nights in **Kanab**, and detour for panoramic overlooks at the Grand Canyon's **North Rim**. Travel north to say hello to hoodoos in **Bryce Canyon National Park** and **Red Canyon**. Begin your drive down scenic **Hwy 12**, basing yourself in **Escalante** or **Boulder**, and squeeze through the slot canyons of **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**. Continue down Hwy 12 to crack the geologists' code and go fruit-picking in the orchards of **Capitol Reef National Park**. Drive to **Moab** and spend three days in Arches, Canyonlands and on the mountain bike trails around town. It's a 6½-hour drive back to Vegas on the interstate or, if you want to take the scenic route, nine hours via cinematic **Monument Valley** in Arizona.

7
DAYS

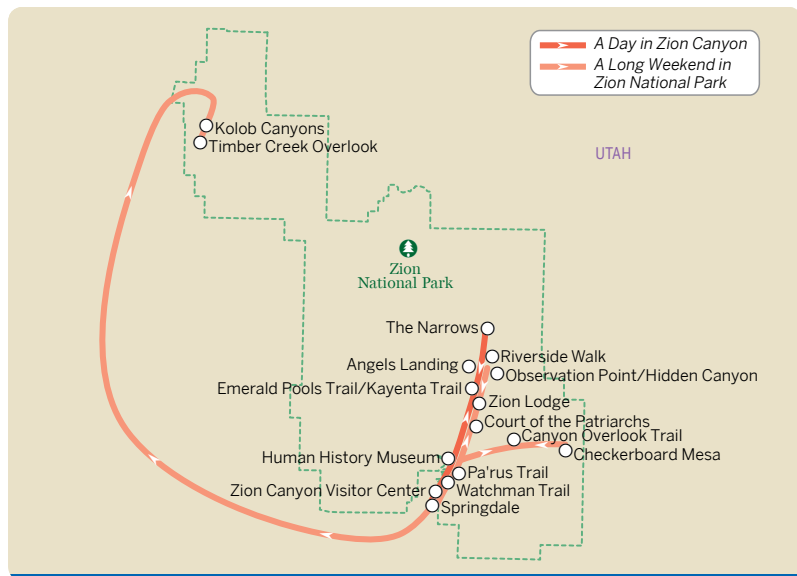
A Week in Moab

Make the most of a week in the Moab area, visiting Arches and Canyonlands, interspersed with all the adventure sports for which the region is known.

On your first day visit **Arches National Park**, following our one-day itinerary. On your second day, load up with plenty of water and drive south to the Canyonlands' **Island in the Sky**, a 6000ft flat-topped mesa. Follow the Grand View Point Scenic Drive, picnic at the White Rim Overlook and try out some of the day hikes in the area. On the way back to Moab, stop at **Dead Horse Point State Park** (time it for sunset), taking in the spectacular views of the horseshoe bend of the Colorado River some 2000ft below.

Day three is devoted to the **Needles** area of the Canyonlands, named for the giant spires that rise from the desert. Hikes are longer here, and experienced backpackers will want to consider an overnight trip on the Chesler Park Loop (also doable in a long day). Devote day four to quintessential **Moab**: mountain biking. Good trails include Dead Horse Point for novices, Klondike Bluffs for intermediate riders and the famed Slickrock Trail for the hardcore who have already broken a bone or two. Scale back the adventure on day five and take a leisurely drive up into the aspens and firs of the high country on the **La Sal Mountain Loop Road**; picnic at Warner Lake. Alternatively, explore another of Moab's scenic byways, such as Potash Rd, where you'll find petroglyphs, dinosaur tracks and climbers.

Day six, get up early to take a full-day river trip; reserve well in advance to avoid disappointment. White-water lovers will gravitate toward **Westwater Canyon** (class III and IV). If you don't like navigating rapids, take a leisurely canoe, kayak or float along flatwater stretches. Also consider an overnight trip – this will give you a chance to experience the epic Cataract Canyon (class V) on a high-speed raft. On your last day, make it special and sign up for a canyoneering or rock-climbing trip out in the desert, or take a horseback ride in the La Sal Mountains.



1 DAY

A Day in Zion Canyon

One day in Zion? It's not much, but a ride on the shuttle and a willingness to get your feet wet will give you a feel for this unique landscape.

Start early at the park's **visitor center** to get oriented and browse the introductory signage outside. Hop on the free shuttle, stopping off at Zion's **Human History Museum**. Ride the shuttle all the way up canyon to the Temple of Sinawava. Follow **Riverside Walk** and, if you're ready to get wet, plunge into the Virgin River and continue up the **Narrows** until your stomach begins to grumble. Picnic on the riverbank or catch the shuttle heading back down the canyon and have lunch beneath the giant cottonwood tree outside **Zion Lodge**. Hike the **Emerald Pools Trail** in combination with the quieter Kayenta Trail. Hop back on the shuttle, stopping at the **Court of the Patriarchs**. Hop off at Canyon Junction and follow the **Pa'rus Trail**, ideally around sunset. Alternatively, climb the peaceful hilltop **Watchman Trail**, which starts near the visitor center. Head back to **Springdale** for a hearty dinner and a peek at a galaxy or two.

3 DAYS

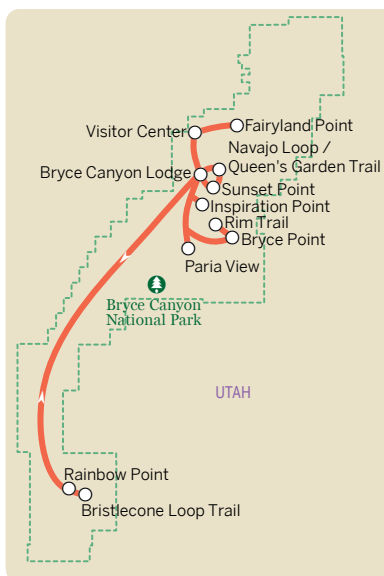
A Long Weekend in Zion National Park

A long weekend is more like it: you'll be able to hit all the highlights as well as get off the beaten track.

On your first day, explore Zion Canyon, making time for the **Riverside Walk**, lunch by **Zion Lodge** and the **Emerald Pools Trail**.

Day two, get an early start on the hike up to **Angels Landing**, which will probably take most of the morning. Alternatively, try less-crowded hikes like **Observation Point** or **Hidden Canyon**. After a picnic with high-altitude views, return to your car and drive Hwy 9 through the Zion-Mt Carmel Tunnel to East Zion and Checkerboard Mesa. There's no end to the exploring here: go off trail and wander the slickrock, or hike the short but fun **Canyon Overlook Trail**. Return to **Springdale** for dinner.

On day three, sign up for a canyoneering trip, or head to the more remote **Kolob Canyons** up I-15. Explore the magnificent finger canyons, hiking up the Taylor Creek Middle Fork to an old cabin or two. Have lunch on the trail before continuing on to the magnificent **Timber Creek Overlook** at the end of the road.



1 DAY A Day in Bryce Canyon

Let your imagination run wild as you visit the planet's epicenter of hoodoos – unusual 'fairy chimneys' shaped by erosion. With a day to spare, tack on the Fairyland Loop hike or a visit to Mossy Cave.

See the free film and pick up information at the **visitor center**. Drive **Bryce Canyon Scenic Drive** all the way out to **Rainbow Point**. Hike the short **Bristlecone Loop Trail**, with its awesome vistas and ancient trees. Return along the Scenic Drive, stopping at the major sights along the way. Grab lunch at **Bryce Canyon Lodge** or snacks at the general store. Head to **Sunset Point** to glimpse the towering eroded hoodoos of Bryce Amphitheater. Descend into the canyon on the **Navajo Loop** and/or **Queen's Garden Trail**. Head down to **Inspiration Point** and **Bryce Point** by car or shuttle. Stroll along the **Rim Trail** and watch the light play on the hoodoos. Alternatively, drive to **Paria View** to watch the sunset. To really escape the crowds, detour out to serene, largely untrammeled **Fairyland Point**.



1 DAY A Day in Arches National Park

Small in size but packed with over 2000 natural arches, this is a great park to explore, with plenty of opportunities to wander beyond the main sights for once-in-a-lifetime views of an enthralling geological process.

Get up early to beat the heat and stop at the **visitor center**. Take the park's **Scenic Drive**, which passes all the major sights. Walk among sandstone monoliths on the **Park Avenue Trail**, a highly trafficked trail best visited in the morning. Don't miss the viewpoint turnout where you can spy on the **Three Gossips**. Gawk at **Balanced Rock**, then stroll beneath natural arches off **Windows Road**. Pause for 360-degree views and a geology lesson at **Panorama Point**. Visit famous **Delicate Arch** at road's end; have a tailgate picnic afterward. With advance reservations, you can take a ranger-guided hike in the **Fiery Furnace**. With more energy to burn, hike to more arches from the **Devils Garden**. For solitude and sunsets, take Salt Valley Rd out to the **Klondike Bluffs**. Spend the evening eating, drinking, shopping and wandering around downtown **Moab**.

Behind the Scenes

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Greg Benchwick

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Cover photograph: Hikers on the Navajo Loop Trail, Bryce Canyon National Park, Danita Delimont Stock/AWL ©

THIS BOOK

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Index

4WD, *see* four-wheel driving

A

accessible travel 260
accommodations 260-1, *see also individual locations*
activities 21-3, 261, *see also individual activities*
air travel 267
alcohol 263
altitude sickness 273
amusement parks
 Moab Giants 207
 Stratosphere Thrill Rides 104
Angels Landing hike 9, 54-6, **53, 8-9**
animal bites 273-4
animals, *see* wildlife, *individual species*
Arches National Park 12, 196-205, **198-9, 12, 241**
 accommodations 204
 children 204
 driving distances 196
 driving tours 204-5, **205**
 geology 244
 highlights 198-9
 hiking 196, 200-3, **202**
 internet resources 197
 ranger programs 203-4
 regulations 197
 rock climbing 203
 tourist information 204
 travel within 204
Arches Scenic Drive 202-3, **203**
ATMs 263-4
Aztec Butte Trail
 hike 182-3, **184**

B

backpacking 29-30
backpacks 259
Balanced Rock
 hike 204, **201**
Bears Ears National Monument 194, 226-7
beavers 246
Best Friends Animal Sanctuary 158
bicycling, *see* cycling, *mountain biking*
Big Spring Canyon Overlook drive 190-1
Big Water 159
bighorn sheep 20, 245, 248, **248**
birds 246-50, **248, 249**
bird-watching 211
books 226, 250
 environment 255
 geology 239, 242, 243
 history 231, 233, 234, 236, 237
 Native American 229
 rock art 228
 wildlife 245
Boulder 156-7
Boulder Mail Trail hike 146-7, **147**
breweries
 Moab Brewery 223
 Zion Canyon Brew Pub 90
bristlecone pines 253
Bryce Canyon
 City 126-9
Bryce Canyon Half Marathon 125
Bryce Canyon National Park 11, 110-29, **112-13, 11, 23, 130-1**
 accommodations 125-8
 climate 132
 cycling 124
 driving 122-3, **123**
 driving distances 110
 festivals & events 125

food 128-9
geology 242-3
highlights 112-13
hiking 110, 114-22, **115**
horseback riding 124
internet resources 111
pets 129
ranger programs 124-5
regulations 111
tourist information 129
travel seasons 132
travel within 129
wildlife watching 124
Buckskin Gulch to White House Hike 161
Burr Trail drive 147-8
bus travel 267-8
business hours 265
Butch Cassidy 137

C

Cable Mountain Trail
 hike 62, **61**
camping 261
 Arches National Park 220-1
 Bryce Canyon National Park 126-7
 Canyonlands National Park 220-1
 Capitol Reef National Park 174-5
 Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument 150-1
 Moab 217-18, 220-1
 Panguitch 136
 Zion National Park & around 74-5
canoeing 35-6
canyoneering 12, 18-19, 30-2, **33**
 equipment 86, 259
 Goblin Valley State Park 177
 Moab 216-17
 Zion National Park 71

Canyonlands National Park 11, 178-95, **180-1, 11, 38, 240**
 accommodations 194-5
 children 191, 192-3
 driving 189-91, **191**
 driving distances 178
 food 194-5
 geology 244
 highlights 180-1
 hiking 178, 182-9, **184, 187, 188**
 internet resources 179
 mountain biking 191, 192
 regulations 179
 sights 193-4
 tourist information 195
 travel to/from 195
 travel within 195
Canyon Overlook
 hike 60-1, **61**
Canyon Rims drive 212-13
Capitol Gorge
 hike 165-6, **165**
Capitol Reef National Park 13, 162-77, **164, 13**
 accommodations 162, 174-5
 cycling 173
 driving distances 162
 fishing 173
 food 174-5
 four-wheel driving 173
 geology 243
 highlights 164
 hiking 165-70, **165, 169**
 horseback riding 173
 internet resources 163
 rock climbing 173
 sights 173-4
 swimming 173
 tourist information 175
 tours 170
 travel within 175-6
car travel 268, 268-70, *see also* drives, *motorcycle travel*

casinos 99-103
 Cave Spring Trail hike
 187-9, **187**
 Cedar Breaks National
 Monument 98
 Cedar Canyon 97
 Cedar City 95-7, **96**
 cell phones 16, 265
 Chesler Park Loop & Joint
 Trail hike 188, **188**
 children, travel with 39-42
 Arches National Park
 204
 Canyonland National
 Park 191, 192-3
 Zion National Park 72-4
 chipmunks 245-6, 248
 climate 21-3, 261-2
 climate change 256
 climbing, *see* canyoneer-
 ing, rock climbing
 clothing 258
 Cohab Canyon
 hike 167-8, **165**
 conservation 255-6
 Coral Pink Sand Dunes
 State Park 160
 Cottonwood Canyon
 Road drive 148, **148**
 courses 71, 152
 Coyote Buttes North
 hike 160-1
 Coyote Buttes South
 hike 161
 credit cards 264
 cryptobiotic crusts 256
 cycling 20, 32, 268, *see*
also mountain biking
 Bryce Canyon National
 Park 124
 Capitol Reef National
 Park 173
 Cedar City 95
 children, with 40
 Grand Staircase-
 Escalante National
 Monument 152
 Red Canyon 135
 safety 277
 Snow Canyon State
 Park 94
 Zion National Park 71-2

D
 day hikes, *see also* hiking,
 overnight hikes
 Angels Landing 9, 54-6,
53, 8-9
 Aztec Butte Trail
 182-3, **184**
 Balanced Rock 204, **201**
 Cable Mountain
 Trail 62, **61**
 Canyon Overlook
 60-1, **61**
 Capitol Gorge 165-6, **165**
 Cave Spring
 Trail 187-9, **187**
 Chesler Park Loop &
 Joint Trail 188, **188**
 Cohab Canyon
 167-8, **165**
 Coyote Buttes
 North 160-1
 Coyote Buttes South 161
 Delicate Arch
 202, **201, 241**
 East Mesa Trail 61-2, **61**
 Emerald Pools 53-4, **53**
 Escalante River Natural
 Bridge 142, **144**
 Fairyland Loop Trail 11,
 114, **115, 11**
 Grand View Point Trail
 186, **184**
 Grand Wash 165, **165**
 Grotto Trail 54, **53**
 Hickman Bridge
 166-7, **165**
 Hidden Canyon Trail
 56-7, **53**
 Kanarra Creek 67-8
 Landscape Arch
 200-1, **201**
 Lathrop Canyon
 183-4, **184**
 Lower Calf Creek Falls
 143-4, **144**
 Lower Hackberry Canyon
 146, **144**
 Mesa Arch 184-6, **184**
 Narrows, the (bottom
 up) 9, 60, **9**
 Navajo Loop-Queen's
 Garden Combination
 Trail 115-16, **115**
 Navajo Loop Trail 116-17,
115, 131
 Neck Spring 183, **184**
 Northgate Peaks Trail
 62-4, **63**
 Observation Point 57-8

Pa'rus Trail 52
 Peekaboo Loop Trail
 118-19, **115**
 Pothole Point Trail
 189, **187**
 Queen's Garden Trail
 114-15, **115**
 Rim Overlook & Navajo
 Knobs 168-70, **165**
 Rim Trail 117-18
 Riverside Walk 58
 Sand Dune & Broken
 Arches 201-2, **201**
 Slickrock Trail 186-7, **187**
 Slot Canyons of Dry
 Fork/Coyote Gulch 19,
 144-5, **144, 19**
 Subway, the 64-5,
63, 37
 Taylor Creek Middle Fork
 65-7, **67**
 Timber Creek Overlook
 67, **67**
 Upheaval Dome Overlook
 Trail 186, **184**
 Upper Calf Creek Falls
 143, **144**
 Watchman Trail 53, **53**
 Weeping Rock Trail 56
 West Rim Trail 55, **55**
 Willis Creek 145-6, **144**
 Windows, the 203, **201**
 Wire Pass to Buckskin
 Gulch Hike 161
 Dead Horse Point State
 Park 19-20, 192, **19**
 dehydration 40, 274
 Delicate Arch hike 202,
201, 241
 disabilities, travelers
 with 260
 Dixie National Forest 156
 dog-friendly areas 44
 drinking 263, 274, *see also*
individual locations
 driver's licenses 269
 drives 18, *see also* car
 travel, four-wheel driv-
 ing, motorcycle travel
 Arches Scenic Drive
 202-3, **203**
 Big Spring Canyon
 Overlook 190-1
 Bryce Canyon Scenic
 Drive 122-3, **123**
 Burr Trail 147-8
 Canyon Rims 212-13
 Colorado River Scenic
 Byway (Hwy 128)
 211-12

Cottonwood Canyon
 Road 148, **148**
 Grand Staircase-
 Escalante National
 Monument 147-52
 Grand View Point Scenic
 Drive 189-90, **191**
 Highway 12 Scenic
 Byway 13, 155, **13**
 Highway 24 170-1, **171**
 Hole-in-the-Rock Road
 149-50, **149**
 Hurrh Pass 212
 Kolob Terrace Road 64
 La Sal Mountain Loop
 Road 212
 Moab 211-13
 Potash Road 212
 Skutumpah & Johnson
 Canyon Roads 150-2
 Upheaval Dome Scenic
 Drive 190, **191**
 Zion Canyon Scenic
 Drive 68-9, **69**
 Zion-Mount Carmel
 Highway (Highway 9)
 73, **73**

E
 eagles 20, 248, 250, **248**
 East Mesa Trail hike
 61-2, **61**
 Emerald Pools
 hike 53-4, **53**
 emergencies 17
 environmental issues 215,
 226-7, 255-6
 equipment 259
 Escalante 154-6
 Escalante Petrified Forest
 State Park 154
 Escalante River Natural
 Bridge hikes 142, **144**
 events, *see* festivals &
 events
 exchange rates 17

F
 Fairyland Loop hike 11, 114,
115, 11
 festivals & events 21-3,
see also individual
locations
 film locations 20, 158, 207
 films 226
 fishing 36-7, 173
 floods 71, 275-6
 food 262-3, *see individual*
locations

four-wheel driving 37-8
 Capitol Reef National Park 173
 Hell's Backbone Rd 156
 Island in the Sky 191
 Moab 216
 Needles, the 192
 Old Sheffield Rd 156
 Smoking Mountain Rd 156
 Fremont Petroglyphs 174
 frogs 247, 248, 250
 Fruita Historic District 173-4

G

galleries, *see* museums & galleries
 geology 238-44
 Glendale 98
 Goblin Valley State Park 177
 Grafton Ghost Town 83
 Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument 138-52, **140-1**, **241**
 accommodations 152
 climate 153
 cycling 152
 driving 138, 147-52, **150**, **151**
 driving distances 138
 geology 243
 highlights 140-1
 hiking 138, 142-7, **144**, **147**
 internet resources 139
 regulations 139
 tourist information 152
 travel seasons 153
 travel to/from 152
 travel within 152
 Grand View Point Scenic Drive 189-90, **191**
 Grand View Point Trail hike 186, **184**
 Grand Wash hike 165, **165**
 Grotto Trail hike 54, **53**

H

hanging gardens 15, 56, **15**
 health 272-7
 heatstroke 274
 Hickman Bridge hike 166-7, **165**
 Hidden Canyon Trail hike 56-7, **53**
 Highway 12 Scenic Byway 13, 155, **13**

Highway 14 97-8
 Highway 24 170-1, **171**
 Highway 89 98-9
 hiking 18, 29-30, *see also* day hikes, overnight hikes
 Arches National Park 196, 200-5, **202**
 Bryce Canyon National Park 110, 114-22, **115**
 Canyonlands National Park 178, 182-9, **184**, **187**, **188**
 Capitol Reef National Park 165-70, **165**, **169**
 children, with 40
 East Zion 60-2, **61**
 equipment & clothing 258-61
 Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument 138, 142-7, **144**, **147**
 Kodachrome Basin State Park 154
 Kolob Canyons 65, **67**
 Kolob Terrace Road 62-5, **63**
 Moab 209-11
 Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area 160
 Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area 95
 Red Canyon 134
 Snow Canyon State Park 94-5
 Zion Canyon 52-60, **53**, **55**, **59**
 history 228-37
 hitchhiking 270-1
 Hole-in-the-Rock Road 149-50, **149**
 holidays 265
 horseback riding 15, 35, 44, 277, **15**
 Boulder 157
 Bryce Canyon National Park 124
 Capitol Reef National Park 173
 children, with 40-1
 Moab 216
 Red Canyon 135
 Tropic 133
 Zion National Park 72
 Horseshoe Canyon 194
 hot-air balloons 135
 Hurrah Pass 212
 hydration 273
 hypothermia 274

I

Inspiration Point 123, **130**
 insurance 263
 internet access 263
 Island in the Sky 182-6, 189-95, **184**
 itineraries 24-7

J

junior ranger programs, *see* ranger programs

K

Kanab 157-60
 Kanarra Creek hike 67-8
 kayaking 35-6
 Keyhole Canyon 71
 Kodachrome Basin State Park 154
 Kolob Terrace Road 64

L

La Sal Mountain Loop Road 212
 La Verkin Creek Trail to Kolob Arch hikes 66, **66**
 Landscape Arch hike 200-1, **201**
 Las Vegas 10, 99-109, **100-1**, **10**
 accommodations 104-6
 activities 104
 drinking & nightlife 107-9
 entertainment 109
 food 106-7
 internet access 109
 medical services 109
 sights 99-104
 tourist information 109
 tours 104
 travel to/from 109
 travel within 109
 Lathrop Canyon hike 183-4, **184**
 legal matters 263
 LGBTQ+ travelers 263
 lightning 277
 liquor laws 263
 Lower Calf Creek Falls hikes 143-4, **144**
 Lower Hackberry Canyon hike 146, **144**

M

Many Pools trail hike 76
 maps 258-9
 Maze, the 193-4
 measures 260

Mesa Arch hike 184-6, **184**
 Moab 206-24, **208**, **210**
 accommodations 206, 217-22
 activities 207-17
 canyoneering 216-17
 drinking & nightlife 223
 driving 211-13, 216
 driving distances 206
 emergencies 224
 entertainment 224
 festivals & events 217
 food 222-3
 highlights 208
 hiking 206-11
 horseback riding 216
 internet access 224
 mountain biking 10, 206, 207-8, **10**
 pets 218
 rafting 213-16
 rock climbing 216-17
 sights 207
 tourist information 224
 travel to/from 224
 travel within 224
 Moab Folk Festival 23
 Moab Music Festival 22-3
 mobile phones 16, 265
 money 16, 263-5
 Monument Valley 213
 Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park 213
 Mormons 231-4
 motorcycle travel 268-70
 mountain biking 18, 32, *see also* cycling
 Canyonlands National Park 191, 192
 children, with 40
 Dead Horse Point State Park 192
 Dixie National Forest 124
 equipment 261
 Kodachrome Basin State Park 154
 Moab 10, 206, 207-8, **10**
 Red Canyon 134
 Springdale 83
 St George 91
 mountain lions 245, 276-7
 mule deer 245, 248, **248**
 museums & galleries
 Anasazi State Park Museum 156
 Brigham Young Winter Home 91

museums & galleries *continued*
 Bryce Wildlife Adventure 134
 Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum 91
 David J West Gallery 88
 De Zion Gallery 88
 Dinosaur Discovery Site 91
 Frontier Homestead State Park Museum 95
 Human History Museum 75
 Jacob Hamblin Home 91
 LaFave Gallery 88
 Little Hollywood Land Museum 158
 Maynard Dixon Living History Museum 98-9
 Moab Museum of Film & Western Heritage 207
 Mob Museum 103
 Museum of Moab 207
 National Atomic Testing Museum 103
 Neon Museum – Neon Boneyard 104
 Pinball Hall of Fame 104
 St George Children's Museum 91
 Worthington Gallery 88
 Mystery Canyon 71

N

Narrows, the 9, 58-60, **59**, **9, 80**
 equipment 86
 national monuments
 Bears Ears National Monument 194
 Cedar Breaks National Monument 98
 Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument 138-52, **140-1, 241**
 Natural Bridges National Monument 213
 national parks
 Arches National Park 12, 196-205, **198-9, 12, 241**
 Bryce Canyon National Park 11, 110-29, **112-13, 11, 23, 130-1**
 Canyonlands National

Park 11, 178-95, **180-1, 11, 38, 240**
 Capitol Reef National Park 13, 162-77, **164, 13**
 Zion National Park 8-9, 46-79, 52-70, **48-9, 8-9, 23, 28, 36, 42, 80**
 Native American sites
 Anasazi State Park Museum 156
 Calf Creek 145
 Highway 24 171
 Horseshoe Canyon 194
 Newspaper Rock 190
 Parowan Gap 99
 Potash Road 212
 Sacrifice Rock 77
 Natural Bridges National Monument 213
 Navajo Loop–Queen's Garden Combination Trail hikes 115-16, **115**
 Navajo Loop Trail hike 116-17, **115, 131**
 Neck Spring hike 183, **184**
 Needles, the 185, 186-9, 190-1, 192-3, **187, 241**
 Newspaper Rock 190
 Nippletop hike 76
 Northgate Peaks Trail hikes 62-4, **63**

O

Observation Point hike 57-8
 opening hours 265
 Orderville Canyon 71
 overnight hikes, *see also*, day hikes, hiking
 Boulder Mail Trail 146-7, **147**
 Buckskin Gulch to White House Hike 161
 Island in the Sky 185
 La Verkin Creek Trail to Kolob Arch 66, **66**
 Narrows, the 9, 58-9, **59, 9**
 Needles, the 185
 Riggs Spring Loop Trail 121-2, **121**
 Trans-Park Connector 70, **70**
 Under-the-Rim Trail 119-21, **119**
 Upper Muley Twist Canyon 168-9, **169**

P

Panguitch 135-7
 Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area 160-1
 Parowan Gap 99
 Pa'rus Trail hike **52, 53**
 passports 264
 Peekaboo Loop Trail hike 118-19, **115**
 petroglyphs, *see* rock art
 pets, travel with 43-4, 78, *see also individual parks*
 photography 34
 Pine Creek Canyon 71
 Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area 95
 planning
 budgeting 17
 calendar of events 21-3
 children, travel with 39-42
 entrance fees 16
 internet resources 17
 itineraries 24-7
 parks basics 16-17
 parks rules 17
 pets, travel with 43-4
 travel seasons 16, 21-3
 plants 251-4, 276-7
 poison ivy 277
 politics 226-7
 population 227
 porcupines 246
 postal services 265
 Potash Road 212
 Pothole Point Trail hike 189, **187**
 potholes 247
 prairie dogs 20, 124, 246
 pronghorn antelope 248, **248**
 public holidays 265

Q

Queen's Garden Trail hike 114-15, **115**

R

rabies 273
 rafting 15, 20, 35-6
 Moab 213-16, **15, 33**
 ranger programs 39-40
 Arches National Park 203-4
 Bryce Canyon National Park 124-5

Canyonlands National Park 191-2
 Capitol Reef National Park 173
 Zion National Park 72-4
 Red Canyon 134-5
 Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area 103-4
 rental cars 269-70
 Riggs Spring Loop Trail hikes 121-2, **121**
 Rim Overlook & Navajo Knobs hike 168-70, **165**
 Rim Trail hike 117-18
 ringtail cats 246
 Riverside Walk hike 58
 rock art 230
 books 228
 Fremont Petroglyphs 174
 Horseshoe Canyon 194
 Newspaper Rock 190
 Parowan Gap 99
 South Gate Petroglyphs 77
 rock climbing 14, 18-19, 32-5, **14**
 Arches National Park 203
 Capitol Reef National Park 173
 Moab 216-17
 Red Rock 104
 Snow Canyon State Park 94-5
 Zion National Park 72, **80**
 RV travel 271

S

safety 71, 265, 272-7
 Sand Dune & Broken Arches hike 201-2, **201**
 scorpions 273
 senior travelers 262
 Shelf Canyon hike 76
 skiing 38, 98, 125
 Skutumpah & Johnson Canyon Roads 150-2
 skydiving 217
 sleeping bags 259
 Slickrock Trail hike 186-7, **187**
 Slot Canyons of Dry Fork/Coyote Gulch hikes 144-5, **144, 19**
 Smith, Joseph 231, 234
 Smithsonian Butte Backcountry Byway 87

smoking 260
 snakes 251, 273
 Snow Canyon State
 Park 94-5
 Southwest Desert 76
 spas 83
 spiders 273-4
 Springdale 83-90, **84**
 squirrels 245-6, 248, **248**
 St George 90-4, **92**
 St George Marathon 91
 state parks & nature
 reserves
 Coral Pink Sand Dunes
 State Park 160
 Dead Horse Point State
 Park 192
 Escalante Petrified
 Forest State Park 154
 Goblin Valley State
 Park 177
 Kodachrome Basin State
 Park 154
 Red Rock Canyon
 National Conservation
 Area 103-4
 Snow Canyon State
 Park 94-5
 Springs Preserve 103
 stings 273-4
 stoves 259
 students 262
 Subway hike 64-5, **63, 37**
 Sundance Film Festival 21
 swimming 20, 36, 173

T
 tamarisk 215
 Taylor Creek Middle Fork
 hike 65-7, **67**
 telephone services 265
 tents 259
 Timber Creek Overlook
 hike 67, **67**
 time 265-6

tipping 264-5
 Toadstools 160
 Torrey 176-7
 tortoises 20, 56
 tourist information 266,
*see also individual
 locations*
 tours 271
 Boulder 156-7
 Capitol Reef National
 Park 170
 Escalante 154-5
 Kanab 158
 Las Vegas 104
 rafting 214
 Springdale 83-5
 Zion National Park 74-5
 train travel 268
 Trans-Park Connector hike
 70, **70**
 transportation 267-71
 to/from parks 267-8
 travel within parks
 268-71
 Tropic 133-4
 tubing 36, 83

U
 Under-the-Rim Trail hike
 119-21, **119**
 Upheaval Dome Overlook
 Trail hike 186, **184**
 Upheaval Dome Scenic
 Drive 190, **191**
 Upper Calf Creek Falls hike
 143, **144**
 Upper Muley Twist Canyon
 168-9, **169**
 Utah Shakespearean
 Festival 22, 95

V
 vacations 265
 viewpoints 19

Arches National Park 196
 Canyonlands National
 Park 178
 Capitol Reef National
 Park 162
 La Verkin Overlook 83
 visas 264
 volunteering 266

W
 Watchman Trail hike 53, **53**
 water purification 274
 Wave, the 160, **14, 240**
 weather 21-3
 weddings 105
 Weeping Rock Trail hike 56
 weights 260
 West Rim Trail hike 55, **55**
 White Rim Rd 191
 white-water rafting, *see*
 rafting
 wildflowers 254
 wildlife 20, 245-54, **248-9**
 amphibians 247, 248,
 250
 beavers 246
 bighorn sheep 245
 chipmunks 245-6, 248
 fish 251
 lizards 250-1
 mountain lions 245,
 276-7
 mule deer 245, 248, **248**
 porcupines 246
 prairie dogs 20, 124, 246
 ringtail cats 246
 snakes 251, 273
 squirrels 245-6
 tortoises 20, 56
 wood rats 246
 wildlife reserves 158
 Willis Creek hike
 145-6, **144**

Windows, the hike
 203, **201**
 Wire Pass to Buckskin
 Gulch Hike 161
 wood rats 246
 work 266

Z
 Zion Canyon Scenic Drive
 68-9, **69**
 Zion Half Marathon 86
 Zion Lodge 76
 Zion-Mount Carmel
 Highway (Highway 9)
 73, **73**
 Zion National Park 8-9, 46-
 79, 52-70, **48-9, 8-9,**
23, 28, 36, 42, 80
 accommodations 74-5,
 76-8, 89
 canyoneering 71
 children 72-4
 classes 74-5
 climate 82
 cycling 71-2
 driving 64, 68-9, 73,
69, 72
 driving distances 46
 food 78
 geology 242
 highlights 48-9
 hiking 46, 50-68, 70, **53,**
55, 59, 61, 63, 66,
67, 70
 horseback riding 72
 internet resources 47
 pets 78
 rock climbing 72
 sights 75-6
 tourist information 79
 tours 74-5
 travel seasons 82
 travel within 79



LONELY PLANET **IN THE** WILD

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We share the best on our Facebook page every week!

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- BART station
- Border crossing
- Boston T station
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/Muni station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/SkyTrain station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

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