

Hiking Bryce and Zion National Parks

Southern Utah

November 14 - 17, 2008 (Friday - Monday)

Sometimes you just want to fit as much hiking into a vacation as you can. One of the best places to do this is in Southern Utah - home to some of the most striking landscapes and well known national parks in the country. We've picked some of the best trails in two of the most spectacular parks - Zion and Bryce. Zion National Park, located at the junction of the Colorado Plateau, Great Basin and Mojave Desert provinces, is known for its sculpted canyons and soaring cliffs. Nearby Bryce Canyon is a testament to the erosive power of ice and rainwater, carving its colorful limestone into windows, fins, and soaring spires called hoodoos. On this hiking-packed trip you will gain a new appreciation of the diversity and beauty of the geology of southern Utah.

Our trip begins at 11 am at the airport in Las Vegas, Nevada on November 14th. We'll have brief introductions and then get into our van for the 2.5 hour drive to Zion National Park. This afternoon we'll have a shorter warm-up hike, the Emerald Pools Trail System, a 3-mile classic hike through breathtaking scenery of pools, waterfalls, and monoliths. Saturday we will hike to Observation point, a steep trail that passes Weeping Rock and then climbs through Echo Canyon. From there we will decide whether to continue on to Deertrap or Cable Mountain, creating a 10-mile round trip hike. Sunday we will get up early and drive to Bryce (about 2 hours) and after peering over the breathtaking rim of the Canyon, will begin our hike on the Peekaboo Loop. In contrast to climbing out of Zion Canyon, on this we'll start by descending into Bryce Canyon. This 6-mile trail follows a loop around a major formation with constantly changing views and provides an excellent opportunity to see hoodoos from the bottom up and from every possible angle. We'll return to Zion for the night. Our final hike on Monday is undoubtedly one of the classic hikes in Zion: Angels Landing. This trail switchbacks up the side of a cliff and then follows a narrow ridge (there are chains there to hang onto) out to a fantastic overlook high above Zion Canyon. We'll plan to leave Zion by 1:30pm, arriving back in Las Vegas by 4 p.m. and you can fly out anytime after 5:30 p.m. that day.

This trip is for women who are in good physical condition and looking for adventurous day-hiking and lots of it. You can also learn about the area's geology and natural history. November is a great month to visit southern Utah: although the weather can be variable, the cooler weather is ideal for hiking and there are fewer visitors. Our accommodations will be at Zion National Park Lodge, double occupancy rooms. We'll eat breakfasts and dinners in restaurants and enjoy picnic lunches along the trail.

To reserve a place on this adventure, please send your deposit of \$200 or the full trip fee of \$975 (deduct \$50 if you register by 7/14) to our office, or call to register by phone. The fee includes all transportation during the trip; three nights double occupancy lodging; meals from dinner on Friday through lunch on Monday; guide services; and park entry fees. The trip fee does not include transportation to Las Vegas, alcoholic beverages, or guide gratuities. Three months before the trip we'll send you information to help you prepare for your journey, including a detailed packing list, conditioning suggestions, and bibliography. Please call us with any questions you might have; we'd be delighted to welcome you to the beauty of southern Utah's canyon country!

A d v e n t u r e s i n G o o d C o m p a n y

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