

Driving from the Grand Canyon to Las Vegas via Page, Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park

When you leave the Grand Canyon headed to Bryce Canyon there are many places you will want to consider stopping along the way. First are the viewpoints as you head out on Highway 64 headed to the East Exit of the park. The main viewpoints with wonderful views are: Grand View Point, Moran Point, Lipan Point and Navajo Point. Then you will want to stop at the "Watchtower", a grand stone tower at the east exit which you can climb up 30 feet to the top of for one final spectacular view before departing the park. Please watch the speed limit, which is 45 MPH along most of Highway 64.

Just after leaving the park after about 15 to 20 minutes you will see a sign that says "**Little Colorado** Scenic View; it is beautiful. Continuing on and getting onto 89 North you will come to Cameron. The **Cameron Trading Post** is one of the oldest trading posts still operating. Established when the common ground of culture, art, and community met and flourished. Today it includes a wonderful museum of Indian Art from the region, a good restaurant (the **Navajo Taco – order a small one** - is a specialty) and it is operated by knowledgeable staff that can enhance your understanding of the Native American culture. They also have excellent lodging at reasonable rates. www.camerontradingpost.com.

Heading on to Page you will want to make a stop at **Horseshoe Bend Lookout**. It is not easy to find, but it is a jewel. There is no signage from the south. You will come to a sign that says "Welcome to Page". Just a few minutes past this sign you will see a dirt road on the left side of the road. This is the road you want. You will find a parking lot and a path leading you to Horseshoe Bend Lookout. It is roughly 1.5 miles round trip by foot. There is a gentle slope. There is no shade so use your sun screen and always carry water. If you come to a right turn that says highway 98 you will have passed the turn you need to take for this hidden Gem!!

If you have a morning in Page, **Antelope Canyon** is breathtaking. The best time to go is around 9:30AM to 11:30AM as it is all about the sunlight as you walk through this treasure. Just a short distance from downtown Page, Antelope Canyon is one of the most unique experiences you will encounter on your holiday in America. This has fabulous opportunities for those that love photography. It is a spectacular canyon carved out of limestone that provides a very unusual experience. You will walk through majestic walls of sculpted rock as the sun provides dramatic views in all directions. This is a living work of art. We suggest the best way to view this is by going on a tour provided by Antelope Canyon Tours. It is a very well established and well operated company and the price is very reasonable. You can find them at tours@antelopecanyon.com. If you are interested in a tour on Lake Powell or renting a houseboat go to www.lakepowell.com. The 1 ½ hour Antelope Canyon cruise is beautiful and there are many other cruises offered.

Dinning in Page is somewhat limited. For breakfast you might want to try the **Ranch House Grill**; for lunch the **Fiesta Mexicana** or **Dambar & Grill**, or just for dinner, **Ken's Old West** is your best choice. Locals frequent the Windy Mesa, a casual lounge with pool and occasional music on weekends. There is also the **Gunsmoke** Salon with entertainment on most weekends. For accommodations there is a wide selection to choose from. The Best Western is a good property at reasonable rates (928) 645-2466 and for the budget minded there is a Motel 6 (928) 645-5888.

Driving directions from Page to Bryce Canyon are as follows: North on Loop 89 (N. Lake Powell Blvd); Continue onto US 89 – 72 miles; Turn Right onto US 89 (100 St. E. South 100 E.) 0.3 miles; Continue onto US 89 (E. Center St.) 0.9 miles; Continue onto US 89 – 59 miles; Turn Right onto UT -12, 13.6 miles; Bear Right onto UT -63, 5.0 miles. You are at Bryce Canyon. Check the time. Arizona does not observe Daylight savings time. You will find times zones change as you go through Indian Reservations and Utah is one hour ahead of us. If you are hungry on the way, there is a great little restaurant in **Kanab**, a little over half way from Page to Bryce and has a

couple of great family eateries; **Madrass** serves breakfast all day and they have really good Prime Rib. For some great Mexican Food we recommend **Nedra's Café**.

There are two very beautiful trails for seeing **Bryce Canyon**. Navajo Loop Trail begins at Sunset Point and travels down into the main amphitheater. This is one of the more popular trails and extra caution is advised. The **Navajo Loop** is 1.3 miles (2.16 KM) and takes visitors to Two Bridges, Thors Hammer and Wall Street. This is one of the few "slot" canyons in Bryce Canyon and is considered a moderate hike. This may also be combined with the Queens Garden Trail, which will create a second loop. **Queens Garden** Trail is 2.7 miles for a combined 4 miles for the Navajo Loop Trail and Queens Garden Trail. Inquire upon arrival as to the condition of trails. The best place for dinner is **Bryce Pines Inn**. Also if you would like an evening of entertainment and a western theme cookout, take a look at the evening at **Ebenezer's** offered by Ruby's Inn at www.rubysinn.com There is horseback riding and some guided tours available at Bryce Canyon. One very special program offered at Bryce Canyon is the "**Night Sky Program**". They have some high powered telescopes and the rangers present a wonderful program for all ages. Visit the park's official web site for more information. www.gov/brca. Take a look at all the programs.

Heading to Zion, about 2 hours drive from Bryce; you will pass through Springdale, surrounded by **Zion National Park**. It has several nice motels and a couple of good places to eat. The Best Western Zion Park Inn is beautiful and well appointed; www.zionparkinn.com and the Desert Pearl Inn is very nice (435) 772-8888. For breakfast or lunch try the **Spotted Dog** or **Café Soleil** and for dinner either the **Bit** and **Spur** or **Oscars** are very good. One of my favorite hikes in the National Parks is the **Riverside Walk** in Zion. It is very unique and not to be missed. The trail actually crosses the river if you follow it to the end in a section called **The Narrows**. You can rent water shoes as well as dry suits (if the river is high) for crossing the river. Zion is a very beautiful park. Plan to take several hours to explore it. Zion also has guided tours available. www.gov/zion.

From Zion you will head to Interstate 15 South and will be approximately 2 ½ hours drive to Las Vegas. If you have a little extra time drive around St. George and surrounding areas are very beautiful. A few thoughts on **Las Vegas** are as follows: Most tourists want to stay on the "Strip" which is world famous for the excitement of the night life and driving up and down the strip at night is an exciting experience. Just like any big city it is important to stay on the main streets in the evening when walking around. If you plan to go to a show there are a couple of web sites that offer **discount show prices**. If you are planning ahead, go to www.goldstar.com. If there is a special show you want to see, you may want to book it in advance as some of the more popular shows do sell out, especially on weekends. For discount tickets upon arrival in Las Vegas give www.tix4tonight.com a try. They have locations around town and it is best just to go to one of the locations and see what is available while you are in town.

If you are going to be in Las Vegas for a few nights, you might want to go downtown in the evening and see the "**Freemont Street Experience**." It is a light and sound show that travels several city blocks which has been made into a mall. It is fun if you have a little extra time in the evening. The show is every hour, late into the night.

Please observe all posted speed limits. They are STRICTLY enforced. Watch carefully for animals, particularly when driving at night. There are many big animals around at night!!

Any comments on your holiday and/or pictures are always appreciated; enjoy the journey!

Happy Trails,
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