

Sight Seeing - Grand Canyon to Las Vegas via Monument Valley; Page; Bryce Canyon 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, 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. Usually you will find Native American Artists there also and they are usually willing to **negotiate about 20% to 25% off the asking price for the art**. If the jewelry is plastic it may be from China.



Continuing on 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 US Post Office, wonderful museum of Indian Art from the region and a good restaurant - the **Navajo Taco** – is a local specialty! It is operated by knowledgeable staff that can enhance your understanding of the Native American culture. They also have a wonderful gift shop with great prices. www.camerontradingpost.com.

Driving to Monument Valley

Continue on AZ Highway 89 North to AZ Highway 160 North. You will shortly enter Tuba City. There is an interesting museum in Tuba City dedicated to the “**Code Talkers**”, a group of Native Americans that were part of a special task force in World War II. There is also a very interesting Native American Cultural Museum there. If you are interested in the Native American Cultural this would be a great addition to the day’s activities. www.discovernavajo.com/museums.aspx.

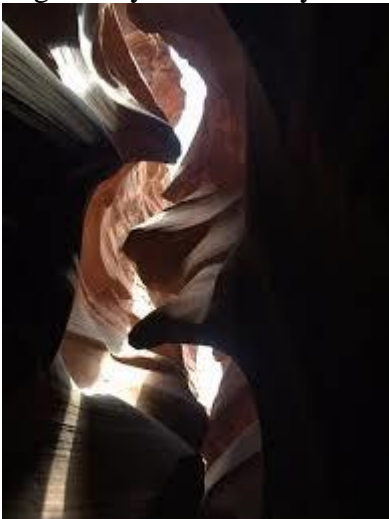


Continuing on AZ Highway 160 North you will come to the intersection for AZ 163 North which will take you into Kayenta, which has most of the lodging for Monument Valley. The entrance to Monument Valley is about 25 miles North in Utah. Monument Valley is part of the Navajo Nation. Admission is \$40.00 and while they do offer tours for a lot more money, you can see most of the formations on your own. Most of our Cowboy movies have been filmed in this area.

Located just a couple of miles from Monument Valley is **Gouldings Lodge** (on the other side of the road). It is where **John Wayne** and most of the “Drug Store Cowboys” stayed when making movies. They have an excellent museum (free) and the **food and accommodations** are the best value and the best quality in the area. Take a look at www.gouldings.com. They also offer the **best tour of Monument Valley**. There is also a stable for **horseback riding** although I prefer the horseback riding at Bryce Canyon.

Driving To Page

Note: **Driving to Page** there are two beautiful canyons that are not very well known. **Secret Canyon** (below) and **Water Holes Canyon** are both just a few miles south of Page. They are slot canyons with very few people; they are real **hidden treasures**.



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 a small sign 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.

Dinning in Page is somewhat limited. Check out **Big John's Bar B-Q** (with Country Band). www.bigjohnstexasbbq.com. Also **Into the Grand** – With Dinner and **Native American entertainment** is very popular. High marks on Trip Advisor. www.intothegrand.com.



For accommodations the **Best Western** is very nice; Also the lodge on Lake Powel is wonderful with great rooms and competitive prices www.lakepowel.com. Take a **sunset cruise** on the lake!

Weekends are packed; reserve early!



Antelope Canyon is just a short distance from downtown Page. This is a spectacular Canyon, carved out of limestone provides a very unusual experience. You will walk through majestic walls of sculpted rock as the sun provides dramatic views in every direction.

We suggest you use **Antelope Canyon Tours** ; you will find them at www.antelopecanyon.com. The best time to go is around 9:30am to 11:30am, however there is little difference in the experience regardless of the time of day. **Reservations are a must from April through October.** **Another Antelope Tour operator – Ken's Tours takes walk ins but you must get there early; Around 7:00am to 7:30am to get a tour. Cost is about \$35.00pp.** www.lowerantelope.com.

If you are interested in a tour or accommodations on Lake Powell take a look at; www.lakepowell.com. We would suggest one of the shorter boat tours; either the 1 ½ hour or 3 hour tour. Most of the boat tours only have water and Lemonade. We find a deli and take a picnic lunch. You can order ahead at www.biglaketradingpost.com. You can also rent your own boat or other water craft at their marina. **Sunset** is a great time to go out on the lake.



There is a real treat in **Kanab** on the way to Bryce and Zion. There is a western movie set that offers great chuck wagon lunches and dinners with a western show (at great prices). See their web site www.littlehollywoodmuseum.org. Get many great comments on this little gem. It is not open every day. Call for reservations: (435-689-0706) Lunch is usually around 1:00 to 2:00pm.



If your time is very limited a good place to stay which is just about half way between Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion Canyon National Park is **Mt. Carmel Junction, Ut**. A very pretty little town located approximately one hour from both parks. For a great meal we suggest the **Soup Town Café**, Orderville, (4 KM). Motels here have very good rates and only a short distance to the parks. Staying here you can see both parks in a day but I would suggest a longer stay. One night in both parks would give you a much better experience.



On to Bryce Canyon..

Watch speed limits; there is a lot of traffic with motorcycles, travel trailers and recreational vehicles. Don't be the fastest car on the road.

You will get a ticket; there are a lot of speed traps and Utah is very strict on speed limits.



Heading to Bryce you are in for a real treat. Take UT Highway 89 North. Highway 89 will take you to Bryce Canyon. If you are going to bypass Bryce Canyon take Highway 9 to Zion Canyon. 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. One very special program offered by the park service at Bryce is the “**Night Sky Program**” (selected nights). They have some high powered telescopes and the rangers present a wonderful program for all ages. Visit the park official web site for more information. www.gov/brcal/. Take a look at all the programs.

A great way to see Bryce Canyon is via the Rainbow Point Tour. It is a free 3 hour tour offered by the park (seasonal). You see all the sites and don't have to do any driving. It departs at 9am and 12:30pm (peak season) and you must make a reservation. The number is 435-834-5290. They pick up at all the major hotels; ask at the concierge desk for help.

We like Rubys Inn for lodging and dinning. www.rubysinn.com. For a fun evening take a look at their “**Ebenezer's Bar and Grill**”. I would **suggest booking in advance**. Go to their web site. And click on the “Dinning”: drop down for information. Fun evening!! Ruby's Buffet is also very good if you want to do something else after dinner.(Seasonal).



Ruby's Inn also offers **Horseback Riding** in Bryce Canyon and a **seasonal Rodeo**. Check their web site for details.

There is quite a nice selection of site **seeing options** in Bryce Canyon.. You can find more information on these opportunities at www.brycecanioncounty.com.

GREAT SIDE TRIP

Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument Many visitors miss this beautiful part of the southwest which is only 20 minutes from Bryce Canyon on scenic UT 12 Highway. It offers some of the most scenic wonders in the area. www.utah.com/grand-staircase-escalante.com.



Escalante – Grand Staircase

Zion National Park



Zion National Park is about 2 hour's drive from Bryce taking UT 89 South to UT 9 west. A beautiful little town, Springdale, is surrounded by Zion National Park. Springdale has several nice motels and a couple of good places to eat.



“River Walk”

The Best Western Zion Park Inn is beautiful and well appointed; www.zionparkinn.com and the Desert Pearl Inn is very nice (435) 772-888. If you would like to **save some money on your room** we suggest staying in nearby **St. George**. It offers many hotels and a lot of night life. For breakfast or lunch try the **The Park House** or **Café Soleil** and for dinner the **Bit and Spur & Oscar's** are very good. Dinner - Fine Dining – **Kings Landing** – excellent! www.klbzion.com.

One of my favorite hikes in all the National Parks is the **River Walk** in Zion. It is very unique and not to be missed. The trail actually crosses the river if you follow it to a section called **The**

Narrows you will feel the walls of the canyon close in. 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. From Zion you will head to Interstate 15 South and will be approximately 2 ½ hour's drive to Las Vegas. If you have a little extra time drive around St. George and surrounding areas are very beautiful. Zion also has some guided tours available. www.zionadventures.com has a good selection. As with all of our parks, Zion has a great shuttle bus service throughout the park.

Information on the River Walk - <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/thenarrows.htm>
For complete information on Zion go to www.gov/zion/. Travel time to Las Vegas is 2 ½ hours.

We hope you found this information helpful. Please send me any trip notes below; positive or negative so I can make improvements to the information I send out to others.



**Please observe all posted speed limits and watch for animals; particularly after sundown!
Comments and/or Pictures are always appreciated; Enjoy the journey!**



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