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Project Characteristics

Applicant: Utah Department of Transportation

Contact: Chris Potter, cpotter@utah.gov, 801-633-6255, 4501 South 2700 West, PO Box 141200, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-1200

Partner Entities: Utah State Scenic Byway Committee, Utah Office of Tourism

Byways Impacted: Statewide | Designation Type: All

Project: Scenic Byways Marketing Plan

Project Abstract

Utah receives more than 20 million domestic visitors annually, but the majority only seek out a handful of the most popular byways near Utah's five national parks. As Utah faces more pressures related to overcrowding, we see scenic byway marketing as a key opportunity to intentionally drive traffic to less-visited parts of the state, thus supporting the small communities who could use a boost from tourism dollars. The Utah Office of Tourism has ongoing, well-defined distribution channels that are ready to support more investment in scenic byways storytelling. New funds from the National Scenic Byway Program will add value by allowing us

to create assets specific to showcasing scenic byways, including a planning microsite, photography and video content creation, and an updated scenic byways guide publication.

Project Narrative

On Utah's designated scenic byways, the world feels grand; its horizons seem infinite. Utah's distinct topography provides the surface for 28 scenic byways, which add up to hundreds of miles of vivid travel experiences wherein the road trip is as memorable as the destination. The Utah Office of Tourism is committed to doing more to encourage visitors to take explorative journeys along these byways by further developing our scenic byway marketing program. We first launched targeted marketing efforts around scenic byways in 2017 — anchored by a scenic byways guide and updated maps. After delivering more than 50,000 Scenic Byway Guides since 2017 and bringing in more than 400,000 pageviews annually to road trip content on VisitUtah.com, we see an opportunity to further build on this strong foundation.

Challenge and Opportunity

Utah's state parks and national parks have seen consistent growth in visitation every year since 2014, with the exception of national parks in early 2020 due to pandemic closures. Still, between 2020-2021, national parks saw a near 45% visitation increase. As Utah faces more pressures related to overcrowding, we see scenic byway marketing as a key opportunity to intentionally drive traffic to less-visited parts of the state, thus supporting the small communities who could use a boost from tourism dollars. Eighteen of our 28 byways are not in a county with a national park — creating a compelling narrative for talking about less-visited areas that are still highly scenic. In many cases, visitors unintentionally miss the scenic routes through the state by favoring the interstate-heavy routes to the most-visited national parks: Arches (I-70) and Zion

(I-15), as auto-recommended by Google Maps. Beyond solely promoting lesser-visitation destinations along the scenic byways, our marketing program would also align with our "Keep Utah Forever Mighty" initiative to educate about sustainable and responsible travel on the roads and the scenic areas and communities surrounding them.

Primary Goal: Driving Economic Strength (E.2(b)(iii)

The Utah Office of Tourism has ongoing, well-defined distribution channels and budgets for our annual marketing campaigns. These strategic campaigns are ready to support more investment in scenic byways storytelling. New funds will add value by allowing us to create assets specific to showcasing scenic byways within our existing distribution plans.

In 2020, travelers spent $7.07 billion in Utah, a 29.8% decline from the 2019 record spending of $10.13 billion. As a result, Utah travel and tourism spending supported 18,800 fewer jobs and generated $255 million less in total tax revenue. As we continue to return to normalcy and once again welcome international travelers, we see strong marketing as a key driver of economic success in Utah, and we want to disperse this visitation to all corners of the state via a scenic byways marketing program.

We are confident in the efficacy of our marketing campaigns to do just that as seen by receiving the U.S. Travel Association's Highest Award for an "Integrated Marketing and Messaging Campaign with a State Marketing Budget More Than $10 Million" in 2021. This campaign tracked $144.9M in estimated hotel revenue, an increase of 18.6% over the 2019 campaign (Source: Adara). SMARI market research tells us the advertising influenced about 920,000 Utah trips and $1.3 billion in visitor spending creating an ROI of $252:$1. Also, ad-exposed travelers' average daily rate for hotel bookings is 36% higher and stays are 17% longer than those not exposed to our advertising.

This effort is also similar in scope to our successful #SheTravelsUtah campaign launched in 2020 around the anniversaries of women's suffrage. This campaign was nested within our larger marketing efforts and included many of the same deliverables we seek to create for our scenic byways marketing program. We tracked $1.7M in hotel revenue from people exposed to this campaign, resulting in an estimated revenue of $23.8M.

Consistent with the past performance of our annual marketing campaigns we know that adding specific content around the benefits of traveling along Utah's scenic byways can generate a strong return on investment for our local communities.

Secondary Goals: (E.2(b)(ii) and (E.2(b)(iv)

While driving economic impact is our primary goal for this effort, we intend for these new creative assets to communicate themes of equity and access, and climate and sustainability via diligent creative choices. Some of the creative considerations we will seek to employ include highlighting the ways those with disabilities can tour Utah scenic byways and participate in accessible-friendly locations along scenic byways.

We will also seek to highlight the ways electric vehicles and charging stations can still be practical in certain remote areas. To the extent certain byways can accommodate electric vehicle charging we will make that known in our communications. An important part of maintaining a sustainable destination is visitor education. In line with our Office's "Keep Utah Forever Mighty" Initiative we intend to communicate how responsible recreation is key to ensuring the beauty of the natural and cultural amenities alongside each byway — such as Leave No Trace.

Project Deliverables and Timelines

To accomplish our goals, we plan to undertake the creation of these project deliverables:

- **Photography.** We need new photography to anchor all of our storytelling, campaign ads, social posts and publication updates. This photography will represent our four main clusters of byways (Northern, Dinosaur Diamond, Southeastern and Southwestern), with a special emphasis on those byways that are adjacent to rural towns most in need of tourism spending. We regularly commission campaign photo shoots within this scope and have a great network of talented photographers.
    - Timeframe: Photoshoot(s): Fall 2023. Images available: December 2023.
- **Microsite**. Website development funds will support new design and development of a scenic byways microsite within VisitUtah.com to be undertaken by our contracted agency, Hanson Dodge. U.S. Travel recently named VisitUtah.com the top state tourism website in 2021. We can build on this strong foundation by creating custom new designs, widgets and maps to better inform travel planning around scenic byways. We plan to execute a compelling landing page (similar to the success of #SheTravelUtah's VisitUtah.com/she) that features mapping, storytelling and highlighting major nearby attractions. This microsite will also have a section dedicated to EV charging, and provide education on safety and proper ways to responsibly recreate in the natural areas surrounding our byways, as well as protecting essential cultural resources. VisitUtah.com receives 10 million page views annually, and this microsite can deliver a compelling experience for prospective visitors.
    - Timeframe: Design and development work executed: July 2023 – April 2024.
- **Scenic Byways Guide.** These funds will enable us to update our existing Scenic Byways Guide publication produced in 2017 to reflect the latest key messaging priorities of our office, incorporate new byways, and to account for the post-Covid reality of destination

crowding. The scenic byways guide has been a sought-after resource for travelers as well as welcome centers around the state. Updates to this guide will focus on pushing the messages of dispersion, integrating new photography and increasing the emphasis on visitor education and responsible recreation. We are also requesting a budget to support the printing of these new guides.

    - Timeframe: Updated and printed: November 2023 – April 2024.

- **Video**. We also want to gather new video content, as video content is an anchor for driving impressions during our marketing campaigns. This video footage will be repurposed into various marketing assets to ensure scenic byway messaging is consistently present in our campaigns. We will also use this new footage to edit short (2:00 - 4:00 minutes) video pieces specific to scenic byways storytelling. We will follow the model of our More Than Just Forests video project which focused on creating inspirational videos to highlight the various national forests throughout Utah. This project was publicly recognized by Google for its YouTube advertising efficacy and has reached more than 3 million viewers on YouTube. These videos will be distributed using existing distribution budget resources, and be optimized for both YouTube viewing and social media distribution on our Instagram and Facebook channels (400K followers combined). Videos will feature the availability of electric vehicles and charging as practical in remote areas. Videos will be created by our contracted production agencies, with whom we've regularly worked with for successful results.

    - Timeframe: Video Shoot: Fall 2023. Video assets available: May 2024.

This timeline will enable us to go to market with this compelling new content starting in May 2024, and we expect to see initial strong results by the end of 2024. We will continue to use this content to market throughout the entirety of 2025-2027 as well.

Major milestones for completion of this marketing program include:

- **June 2023:** Creative brief for photo and video assets distributed to contracted vendors
- **July 2023:** Website development work begins
- **April 2024:** Updated scenic byways guide is re-printed
- **May 2024:** New assets launch in integrated marketing campaigns
- **September 2024:** First-wave results from marketing campaign performance

Defining Success

We intend to demonstrate success in economic impact based on the following metrics:

- **Adara Impact:** Campaign(s) will be monitored for hotel and air travel spending including post-ad exposure and post-website visitation spending. Available: Sept. 2024.
- **Net Economic Impact (NEI):** During and after our marketing campaign flights a contracted programmatic partner will monitor all in-market spend patterns from ad-exposed travelers. Available: Nov. 2024.
- **STR Data:** Utah Office of Tourism will track occupancy and the average daily rates of lodging bookings by travelers into the state. Available: Nov. 2024.
- **Google Analytics:** Track pageviews to our microsite and relevant VisitUtah.com pages on VisitUtah.com for signs of strong content engagement (time on page, interaction with widgets) as an indicator of high intent to travel. Available: Sept. 2024.
- **Guide Requests:** Number of Scenic Byways Guides distributed. Available: May 2025.
- **Video Content Engagement:** Views and video completion rates as an indicator of high intent to travel. Available: Sept. 2024.

Budget Narrative

See complete information on each of these deliverables, including the timeframe within the accompanying Project Narrative.

Activity	**Task**	**Federal Share**	**Applicant Share**	**Total Cost**
Photography	A. Commission photographer via procurement process (funds will cover all travel, photoshoot and editing costs)	$32,000	$8,000	$40,000
Microsite	A. Allocate funds to existing Web Development agency to design update commensurate with budget	$32,000	$8,000	$40,000
Video	A. Commission director and videographer team (funds will cover all travel, photoshoot and editing costs)	$56,000	$14,000	$70,000
	B. Distribute videos via YouTube pre-roll ads and Native placements	$20,000	$5,000	$25,000
State Byways Guide	A. Commission writers	$8,000	$2,000	$10,000
	B. Contract with graphic design firm	$12,000	$3,000	$15,000
	C. Print guides	$40,000	$10,000	$50,000
Total		**$200,000**	**$50,000**	**$250,000**

Deliverables will be executed with support from contracted vendors, either utilizing existing multi-year contracts or following State procurement guidelines to secure new qualified vendors.

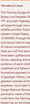
UTAH'S SCENIC BYWAYS

The geographic size of Utah might seem daunting, but time on the road passes quickly when new discoveries punctuate each mile traveled. With intervals and airplanes, the world seems shrinking small. On Utah's designated scenic byways, the world finds growth in breathtaking vistas.

In total, Utah's diverse topography provides the surface for 38 scenic byways, which add up to hundreds of miles of vivid travel experiences whereby the road trip is as memorable as the destination. All of Utah's scenic byways are exploring journeys filled with tombstones, scenic overlooks, museums, local flavors and vibrant communities where you can stop for the night or book up your RV.

DOWNLOAD THE BIGGEST SCENIC BYWAYS GUIDE >>> EXPLORE THE BIGGEST >>>

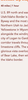
NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS



All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12

UT-Utah, UT-Wayne

Highway 12 from Dixie National to Torrey passes through some of the most spectacular Utah landscapes. Pulsating by the Escalante River, it passes through ancient pueblo and monuments, ponderosa areas and Dixie National Forest. Its 124 miles of scenic beauty is enhanced by the fact that it is difficult not to stop at multiple points along the way to take in the breathtaking panoramas, remarkable sites, and Native American lore. Dagger-shaped stone turrets in an unexpected place, Anasazi ruins, and a scenic loop to acquire loudly hot conditions.



Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway

UT-Uintah, UT-Grand, UT-Emery, UT-Carbon

Utah's Prehistoric Highway through a 200 miles of Native Indian Country through the Ashley National Forest, the Uinta National Forest, and the Dixie National Forest. During a winter visit, Indian Country is a quiet place to explore ancient petroglyphs, ancient dwellings, and Native American culture. Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway passes through

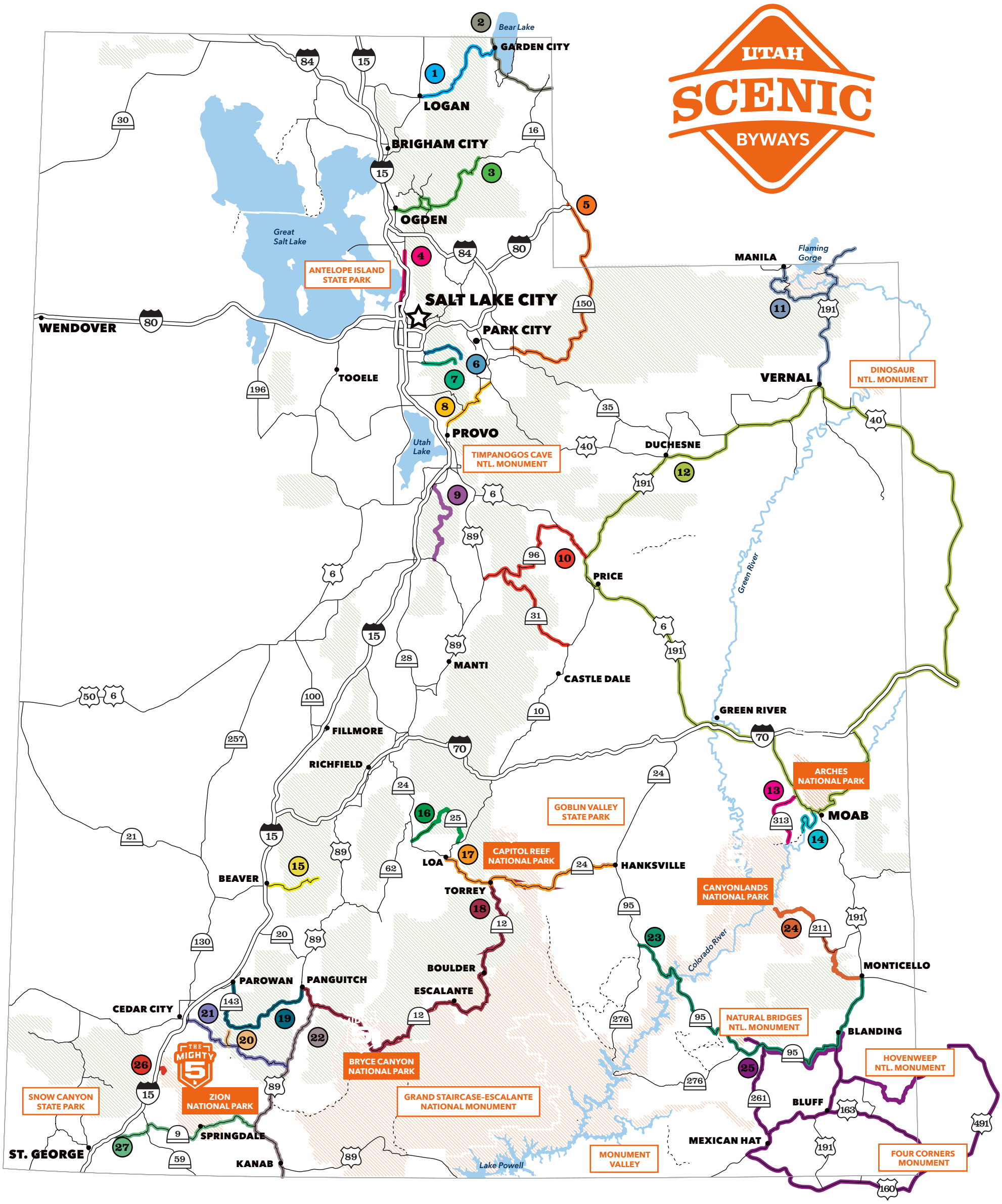
UTAH
SCENIC
BYWAYS

Utah is the place where prehistory intersects with the enduring spirit of the Old West. Wild, adventure-rich places cradle vibrant urban centers. With interstates and airplanes, the world can feel pretty small. On Utah's designated scenic byways, the world feels grand; its horizons seem infinite. As you drive through Utah, you'll inevitably encounter many of the state's scenic byways. In total, Utah's distinct topography provides the surface for 27 scenic byways, which add up to hundreds of miles of vivid travel experiences wherein the road trip is as memorable as the destination. Utah's All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12 headlines the network of top roads thanks to landscapes and heritage unlike anywhere else in the nation.

All of Utah's scenic byways are explorative journeys filled with trailheads, scenic overlooks, museums, local flavors and vibrant communities where you can stop for the night or hook up your RV. Not sure where to start? In the following pages, you'll discover monumental upheavals of exposed rock strata among multiple national and state parks along the All-American Road (pg. 4); dense concentrations of fossils along Dinosaur Diamond (pg. 8); and the blazing red cliffs and deep blue waters of Flaming Gorge–Uintas (pg. 12) — and that's just in the first three highlighted byways. Your journey continues down two dozen additional byways, arranged north to south.

Best of all, these byways access an outdoor adventureland you can hike, fish, bike, raft, climb and explore from sunup to sundown — then stay up to welcome the return of the Milky Way. But get some sleep. There's more road ahead.

Vicki Varela
Managing Director, Utah Office of Tourism, Film and Global Branding



- National Forest
- National Park/Monument
- City
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Interstate

1. Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway
2. Bear Lake Scenic Byway
3. Ogden River Scenic Byway
4. Great Salt Lake Legacy Parkway
5. Mirror Lake Scenic Byway
6. Big Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Byway
7. Little Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Byway
8. Provo Canyon Scenic Byway
9. Nebo Loop National Scenic Byway
10. Energy Loop: Huntington & Eccles Canyon Ntl. Scenic Byway
11. Flaming Gorge–Uintas National Scenic Byway
12. Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway–Ntl. Scenic Byway
13. Dead Horse Mesa Scenic Byway
14. Potash–Lower Colorado River Scenic Byway
15. Beaver Canyon Scenic Byway
16. Fish Lake Scenic Byway
17. Capitol Reef Country Scenic Byway
18. Scenic Byway 12 All-American Road
19. Utah's Patchwork Parkway National Scenic Byway
20. Cedar Breaks Scenic Byway
21. Markagunt High Plateau Scenic Byway
22. Mount Carmel Scenic Byway
23. Bicentennial Highway
24. Indian Creek Scenic Byway
25. Trail of the Ancients National Scenic Byway
26. Kolob Fingers Road Scenic Byway
27. Zion Park Scenic Byway

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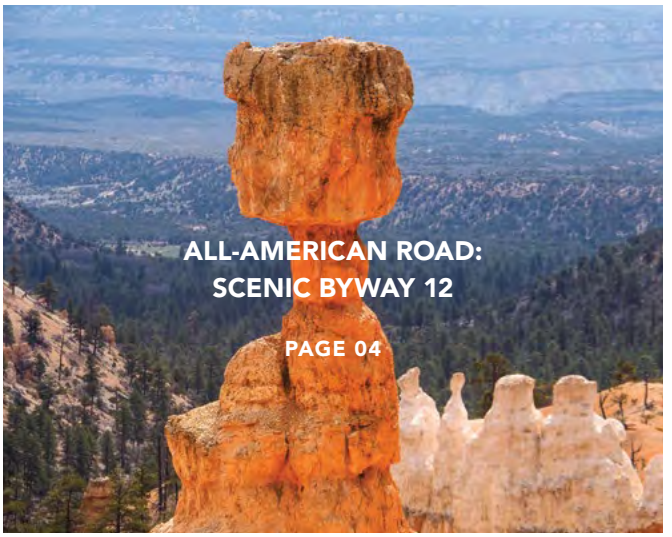
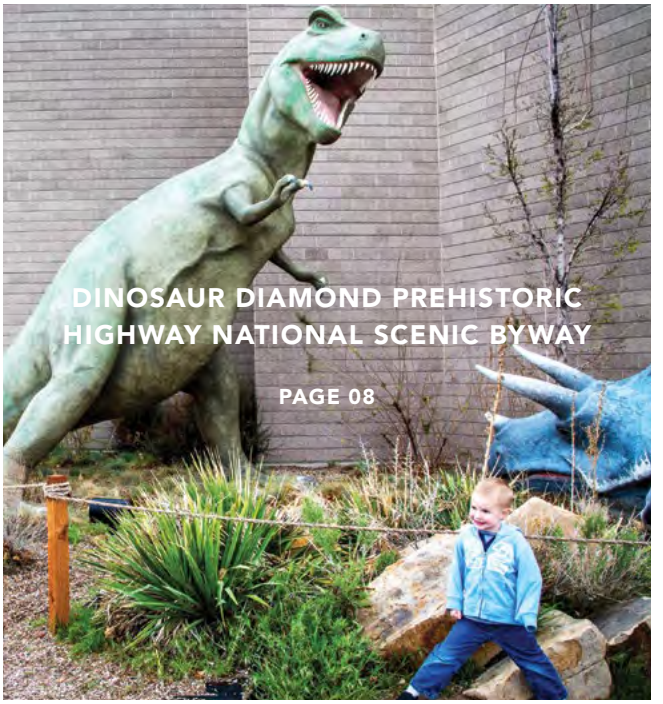


Thor's Hammer, Bryce Canyon National Park | Larry Price



Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum, Vernal | Mark Osler

Look for the Geocaching logo throughout this guide to see how many caches are placed on or near each byway

Flaming Gorge | Dan Ransom

Explore more road trips and itineraries at ***visitutah.com/itineraries***

The Hogsback, All-American Highway: Scenic Byway 12 | Michael Kunde

NORTH TO SOUTH

LOGAN CANYON TO OGDEN RIVER SCENIC BYWAY LOOP 16
GREAT SALT LAKE LEGACY PARKWAY SCENIC BYWAY 20
MIRROR LAKE SCENIC BYWAY 21
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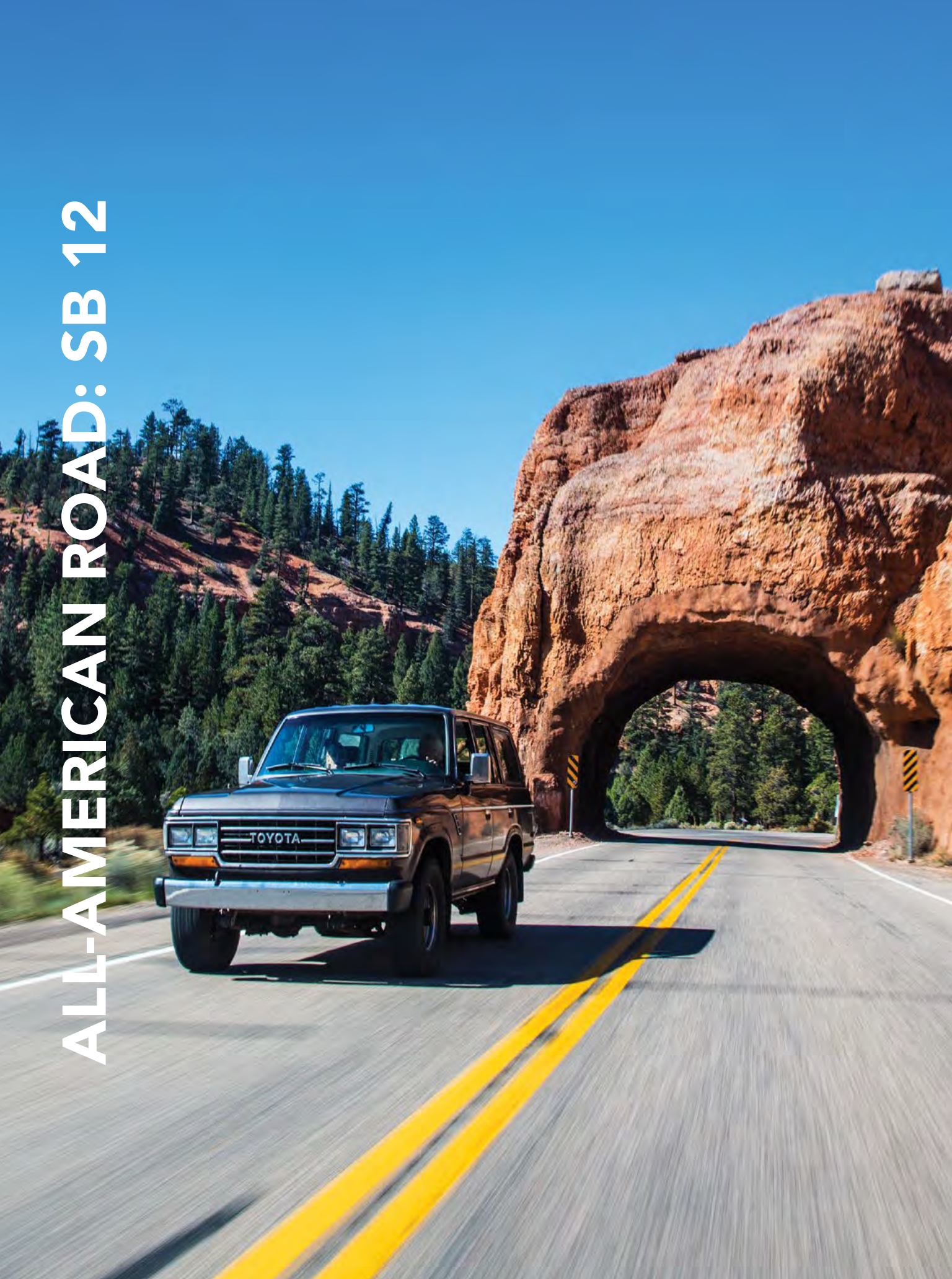
ALL-AMERICAN ROAD: SB 12



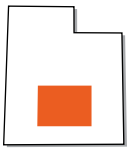
AT A GLANCE: ALL-AMERICAN ROAD: SCENIC BYWAY 12

START: Panguitch or Torrey (S.R. 24, 12)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 2–4

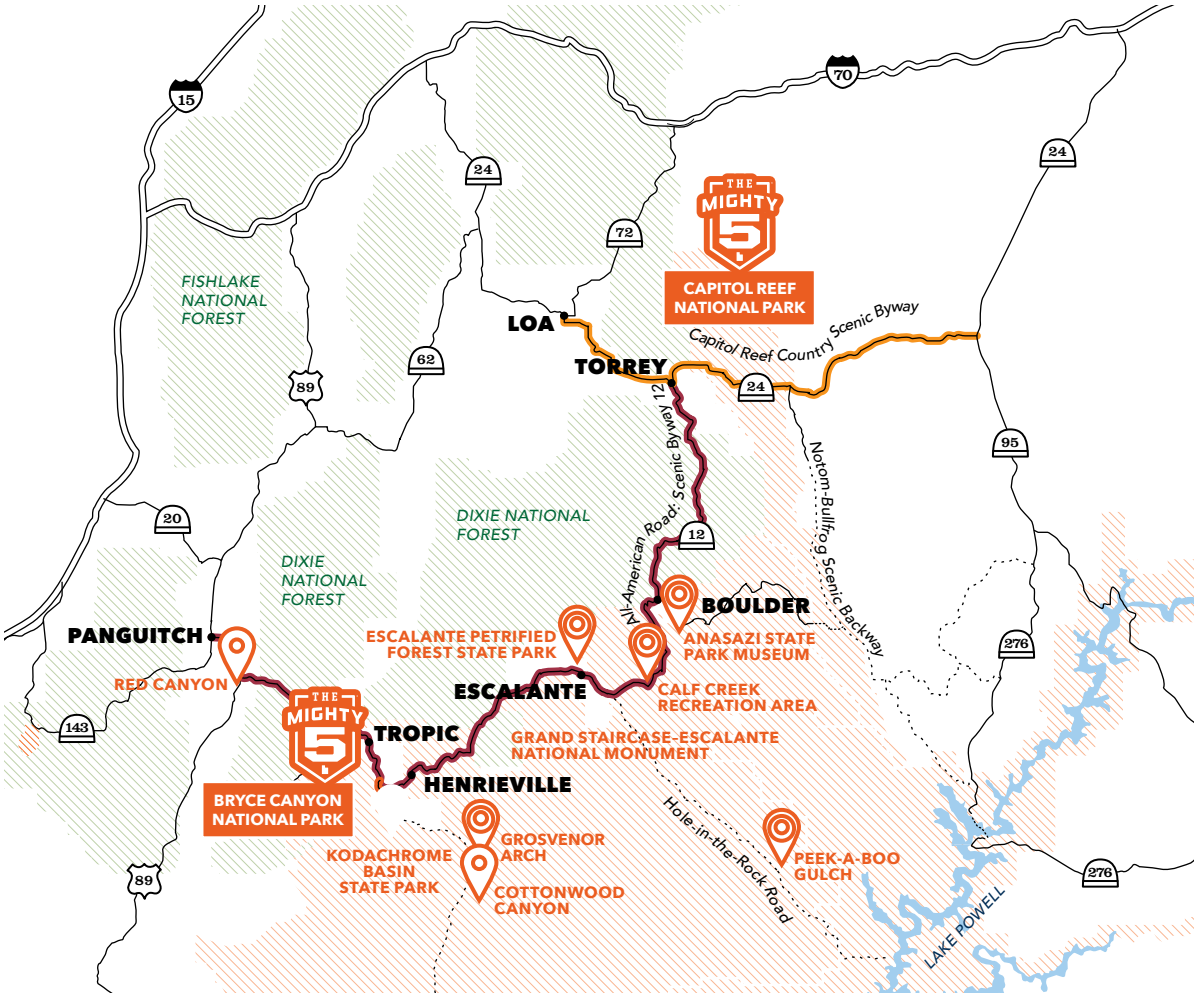
DISTANCE: 119 miles

SCENIC BYWAYS:
Capitol Reef Country (S.R. 24)
All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12



Sometimes you find yourself driving down roads that you can sense are truly special. It is not just the scenery, like the orange hoodoos of Red Canyon or contrasting landscape of alpine and distant sandstone seen from atop Boulder Mountain. It is something about the road itself. It seems to have a history. There's something in the engineering. The way the road connects with the land.

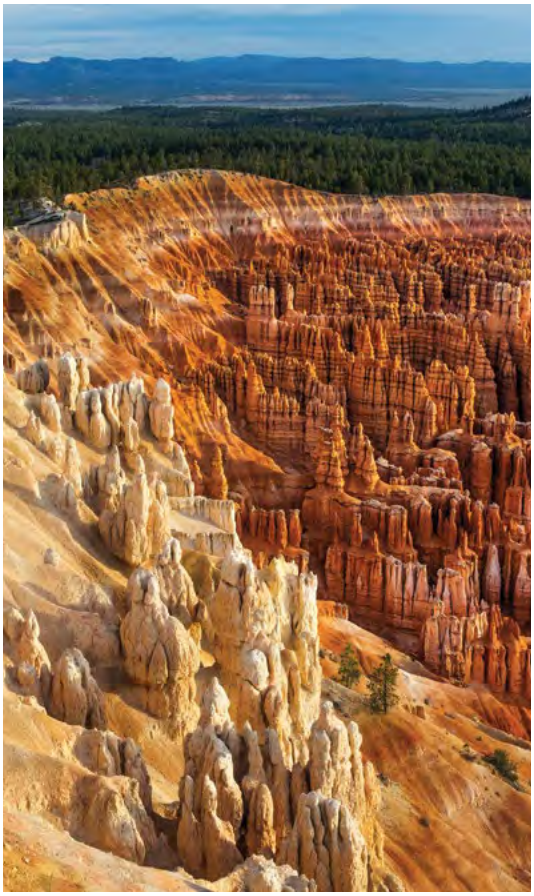
On Scenic Byway 12, discover the vast Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument interspersed with national forest lands and state parks like you've never seen. Introduce yourself to the unique communities of adventurous and welcoming folks who call it home. Uncover a sense of prehistory that strengthens the fabric of this memorable road trip. Whether you long to camp in the backcountry or wish to seek out Zagat-rated organic cuisine, you'll want to slow down and enjoy this journey.



Left: *Red Canyon arch tunnels* | Michael Kunde

Scenic Byway 12 is one of the most fascinating stretches of road you'll ever drive. It's even better when combined with the drive through Capitol Reef National Park. From I-70, take Exit 149 for S.R. 24.

From Hanksville you'll continue west along the Fremont River through Capitol Reef and to the junction with Scenic Byway 12. From there, it's one endlessly scenic route to Panguitch with optional spurs into the Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument — though backcountry enthusiasts with a reliable, high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle could take the really scenic and remote route down the Notom-Bullfrog Scenic Backway to the Burr Trail. Hole-in-the-Rock (Spooky and Peek-a-boo gulch) and Cottonwood Canyon (Grosvenor Arch) offer additional unpaved journeys into the monument with careful planning in the right conditions.



Bryce Canyon National Park | Larry Price

Learn more about Utah's All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12 at ***visitutah.com/american***

DON'T MISS

Torrey
The idyllic and eclectic mountain town has wonderful accommodations at the doorstep to Scenic Byway 12 and Capitol Reef National Park.

Boulder
Incredible outdoor adventure, the Burr Trail, Anasazi State Park Museum and Zagat-rated cuisine at Hell's Backbone Grill lure travelers off the road.

Escalante
An adventure town cradled by the Dixie National Forest, Grand Staircase–Escalante and the Escalante Petrified Forest State Park.

Henrieville-Cannonville-Tropic
Get to know the welcoming people who live among the unparalleled natural beauty of Bryce Canyon, Kodachrome Basin and the Grand Staircase.

Calf Creek Recreation Area
Calf Creek Recreation Area is a premier stop along Scenic Byway 12 in Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument. Lower Calf Creek Falls Trail is an almost 6-mile moderately strenuous round-trip hike to a stunning 126-foot waterfall.

Red Canyon
Cut into the sculpted Claron limestone of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, Red Canyon's most immediately striking natural feature is its variety of weirdly sculpted erosional forms variously described as turrets, hoodoos, pinnacles or spires.

Dixie National Forest
Dixie National Forest, at almost two million acres and stretching from east to west for approximately 170 miles across southern Utah, is the state's largest national forest. Scenic Byway 12 weaves in and out of Dixie National Forest.

Anasazi State Park Museum
The museum is located in Boulder, Utah, on the site of an Ancestral Puebloan habitation that archaeologists believe was occupied between A.D. 1050 and 1175.

Escalante Petrified Forest State Park
This popular state park offers one of Utah's best and most accessible displays of petrified wood — fossilized trees from millions of years ago. The visitor center offers displays of plant and marine fossils, petrified wood and fossilized dinosaur bones.

Kodachrome State Park
Named during the late 1940s by a National Geographic Society expedition in honor of the then revolutionary Kodak film, the park draws visitors fascinated by the area's unusual geological forms, including a series of upright cylindrical chimneys called sand pipes.

The Blues/Powell Point Overlook
This spectacular overlook rests below the delicate pink limestone ledges of Powell Point, rising to an elevation of 10,188 feet and above "The Blues," a badland of gray-green shales deposited some 80 million years ago when the area was covered by an inland ocean.

Boynton Overlook
Offering a bird's-eye view of the riparian area along the twisting Escalante River below, the flowing water and vegetation offer ideal habitat for small birds and animals, including river otters which were reintroduced here in 2005.

The Hogsback
Between Calf Creek Recreation Area and the town of Boulder is an internationally famous stretch of byway known as "The Hogsback." As the asphalt clings to this thin razorback ridge of slickrock, the terrain spills steeply off each side toward winding creeks and canyons below.

All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12, Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument | Larry Price

Calf Creek Falls, Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument | Michael Kunde

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Visitor Services Capitol Reef Country
  (435) 425-3365 | (800) 858-7951
- Visitor Services Bryce Canyon Country
  (435) 676-1160 | (800) 444-6689
- Visitor Services Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument
  (435) 644-1300
- Visitor Services Red Canyon
  (435) 826-5600 | 755 W Main Street, Escalante, UT
- Escalante Ranger District
  (435) 826-5600 | 755 W Main Street, Escalante, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Dixie National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

DON'T MISS

Homestead Overlook
From this 9,400-foot-high vantage point on Boulder Mountain visitors can see the five peaks of the Henry Mountains to the east, the magenta wedge of the Waterpocket Fold below and the striated face of the Kaiparowits Plateau to the west.

Larb Hollow Overlook
Located about 10 miles south of Grover on Scenic Byway 12, this scenic overlook commands a stunning view of southeastern Utah, especially the Waterpocket Fold in Capitol Reef National Park and the Henry Mountains.

Hole-in-the-Rock Road
The 57-mile-long scenic backway is a gravel and dirt road that closely follows the route taken by Mormon pioneers in 1879–80 in an attempt to establish a shortcut across the Colorado River between established communities in the center of the state and the Four Corners area.

Upper Valley Granaries
Tucked into the cliff face above this wayside is a small stone-and-mud-daubed structure constructed by Ancient Puebloans.

Head of the Rocks Overlook
Head of the Rocks Overlook provides expansive views out across the Escalante Canyons where colorful slickrock stretches almost as far as the eye can see.

DINOSAUR DIAMOND

AT A GLANCE: DINOSAUR DIAMOND PREHISTORIC HIGHWAY NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

START: Vernal or Moab

NUMBER OF DAYS: 4–6

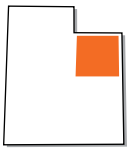
DISTANCE: 500+ miles

SCENIC BYWAYS:

Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway National Scenic Byway (U.S. 191, U.S. 6, I-70, U.S. 40, S.R. 128)

Dead Horse Mesa State Scenic Byway (S.R. 313)

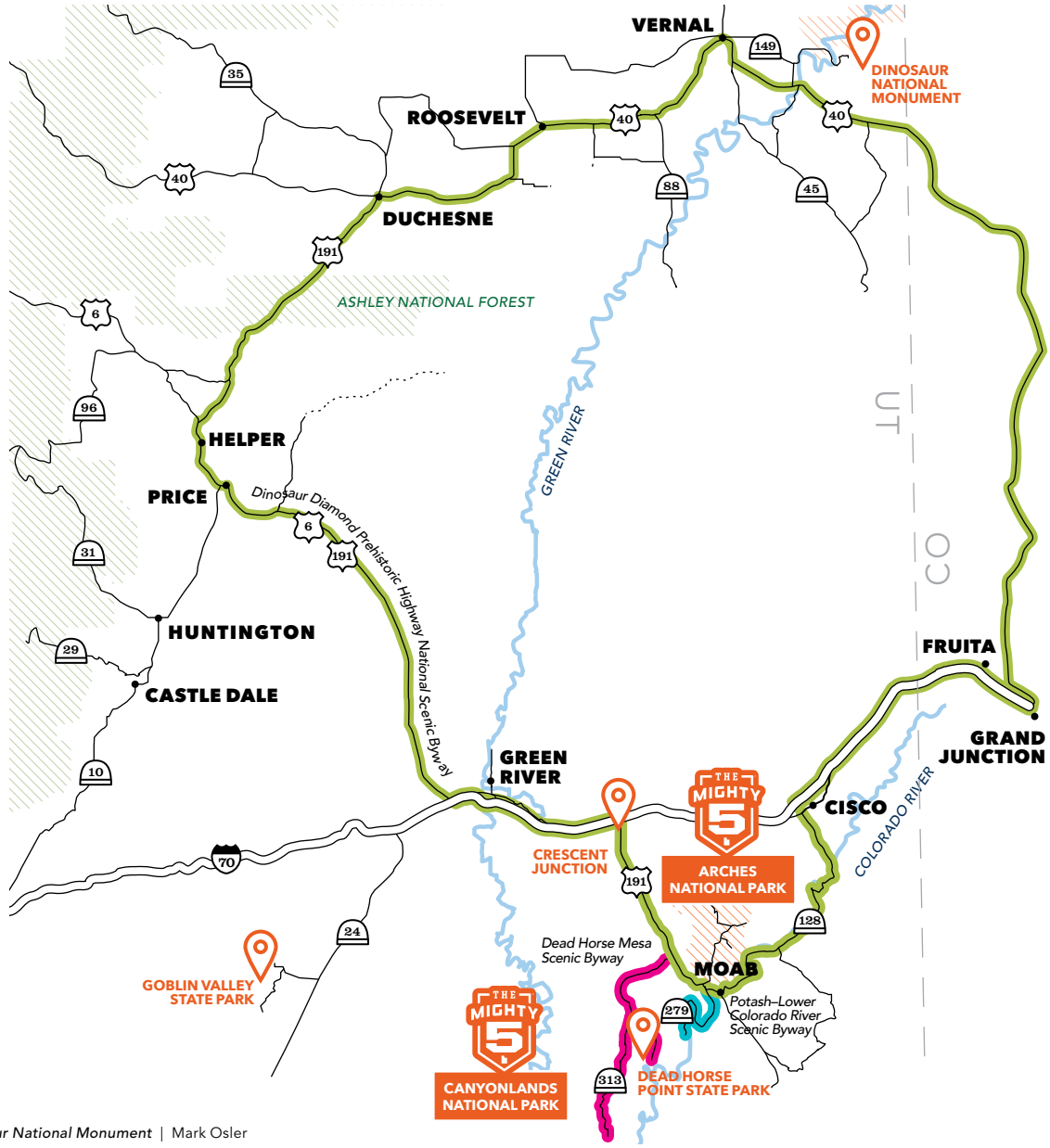
Potash–Lower Colorado River Scenic Byway (S.R. 279)



Audio Tour available for Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway National Scenic Byway at *visitutah.com/scenicbyways*

Let your imagination run wild on this road trip 200 million years in the making. The Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway National Scenic Byway bridges eastern Utah and western Colorado in a real-life "Jurassic Park" along more than 500 miles of beautiful red rock scenery, rugged Book Cliffs and cool waters of the Colorado and Green rivers.

Not only does Utah hold the fossil record of more dinosaur species than any other state, many consider these lands to represent the most complete record of prehistoric life than any other geographic area on the planet. As you drive and hike, you'll discover the prolific fossil record of bones and tracks exposed in the sedimentary record of Mesozoic age. Meanwhile, museums on the Dinosaur Diamond house the world's largest collection of mounted dinosaur skeletons and interpretive sites provide archaeological, cultural and historical information.



Left: *Dinosaur National Monument* | Mark Osler

Hiking near Fisher Towers in Castle Valley | Marc Piscotty

Are you a dinosaur detective? If starting in Moab, visit the Museum of Moab for prehistoric exhibits as well as more recent artifacts from native cultures, the explorations of Spanish missionaries and early settlers. Discover a prolific display of dinosaur tracksites along U.S. 191 of the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway National Scenic Byway while surrounded by amazing red rock scenery. Stops include Mill Canyon, Copper Ridge and Poison Spider.

Also near Moab, plan time to enjoy the photogenic views and sublime dark skies of Dead Horse Point State Park on the Dead Horse Mesa State Scenic Byway, the red rock spires of Fisher Towers and Castle Valley (a popular Hollywood film location) on the byway and a trip down the Potash–Lower Colorado River Scenic Byway for ancient rock art and dinosaur tracks. The Moab area is also home to Arches and Canyonlands national parks.

Continuing northwest along the diamond, plan time for a stop in Sego Canyon for an incredible outdoor gallery of pictographs and petroglyphs spanning 8,000 years of Native American culture. Next, enjoy the green oasis of Green River State Park before taking a turn off the byway to visit the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry. Then stop in Price at the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum to see discoveries unearthed at a local coal mine and three large and impressive dinosaur skeletons in the Grand Jurassic Gallery. This museum also discovered the Utahraptor, the unwitting star of the movie "Jurassic Park."

A marquee destination on the trip is Dinosaur National Monument near Vernal, Utah. Many travelers launch their journey here, inspired by the world-famous Carnegie Quarry's "Wall of Bones," a cluster of 1,500 dinosaur fossils along one magnificent rock spine. Extend the stay with camping at Echo Park, Split Mountain or the nearby Jones Hole Fish Hatchery, and then hike among the serene desert landscape and river raft the adventurous reaches of the monument. Tours and activities at the monument explore the area's fascinating geology, history, wildlife and rugged beauty.

DON'T MISS

Biking and Off-road
Enjoy some of the greatest mountain biking on the planet, no matter your skill level. The Sand Flats Recreation Area includes the renowned 40-mile Slickrock Bike Trail and is part of 8,000 acres of open exploration for motorized and non-motorized users alike. Near Moab there are more than 100 trails labeled with terrain designations of easy, intermediate and difficult.

Hiking
From cool streamside hikes to spectacular sandstone arches, Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway National Scenic Byway-area communities are full of exciting day-hikes. National parks, monuments and state parks offer exceptional hiking trails through a wide variety of terrain.

Climbing and Canyoneering
If you are looking for something even more adventuresome, try climbing or canyoneering. Climbers and canyoneers can scale up or drop into some of the most stunning spots in the southwest. It's incredible even just seeing fearless climbers on the famous Wall Street along the Potash–Lower Colorado Scenic Byway or the narrow spires and chimneys of Fisher Towers.

River Activities
The Green and Colorado rivers are known for an array of single or multi-day raft trips. Canoes, kayaks and paddle boards are perfect for the calm water segments. New to rafting? Local guides will show the way.

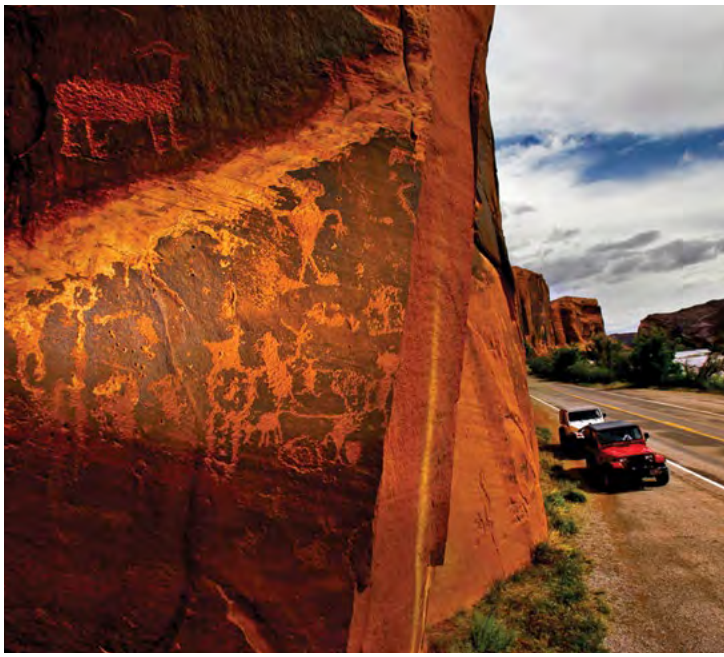
Aerial Activities
Get a bird's-eye view from an airplane, helicopter, hot air balloon or zipline to add a bit of excitement to your adventure. Contact the Moab Information Center for the listing of guides and outfitters.

Night Skies
Away from big cities, the Colorado Plateau is one of the top spots for stargazing and perfect for astronomy lessons. Dead Horse Point State Park is a certified International Dark Sky Park, making it an ideal overnight camping destination (including reservable yurts).

Winter Recreation
These three scenic byways are open all year long and access winter recreation such as snow-dusted red rock landscapes near Moab or cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the nearby national forests.

High Elevation
The byways connect you to the La Sal Mountains attaining heights of nearly 13,000 feet. Spring brings spectacular wildflowers, whispering pines, quaking aspens and bubbling brooks. Summer affords a cool respite from warmer temperatures. Fall is colorful on the mountains, while winter brings solitude, snow, and winter sports.

Paddle boarding the Colorado River in Moab | Photo courtesty of Discover Moab



Petroglyphs along Potash | Barry Gutierrez

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Uintah County Tourism | (435) 781-6767
- Duchesne County Tourism | (435) 722-4598
- Carbon County Tourism | (435) 636-3701
- Emery County Tourism | (435) 636-3701
- Moab Information Center | (435) 259-8825

Uncover the best in dinosaur tourism and Visit Utah's Dino Trekker itinerary at ***visitutah.com/dino*** *or try our Southern Dinos and Goblins Road to Mighty® itinerary at* ***visitutah.com/dinos-goblins***

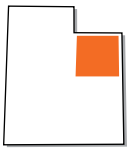
AT A GLANCE: FLAMING GORGE–UINTAS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

START: Vernal (175 miles from Salt Lake City)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 3+

DISTANCE: 125 miles

SCENIC BYWAYS:
Flaming Gorge–Uintas National Scenic Byway (U.S. 191, S.R. 44)

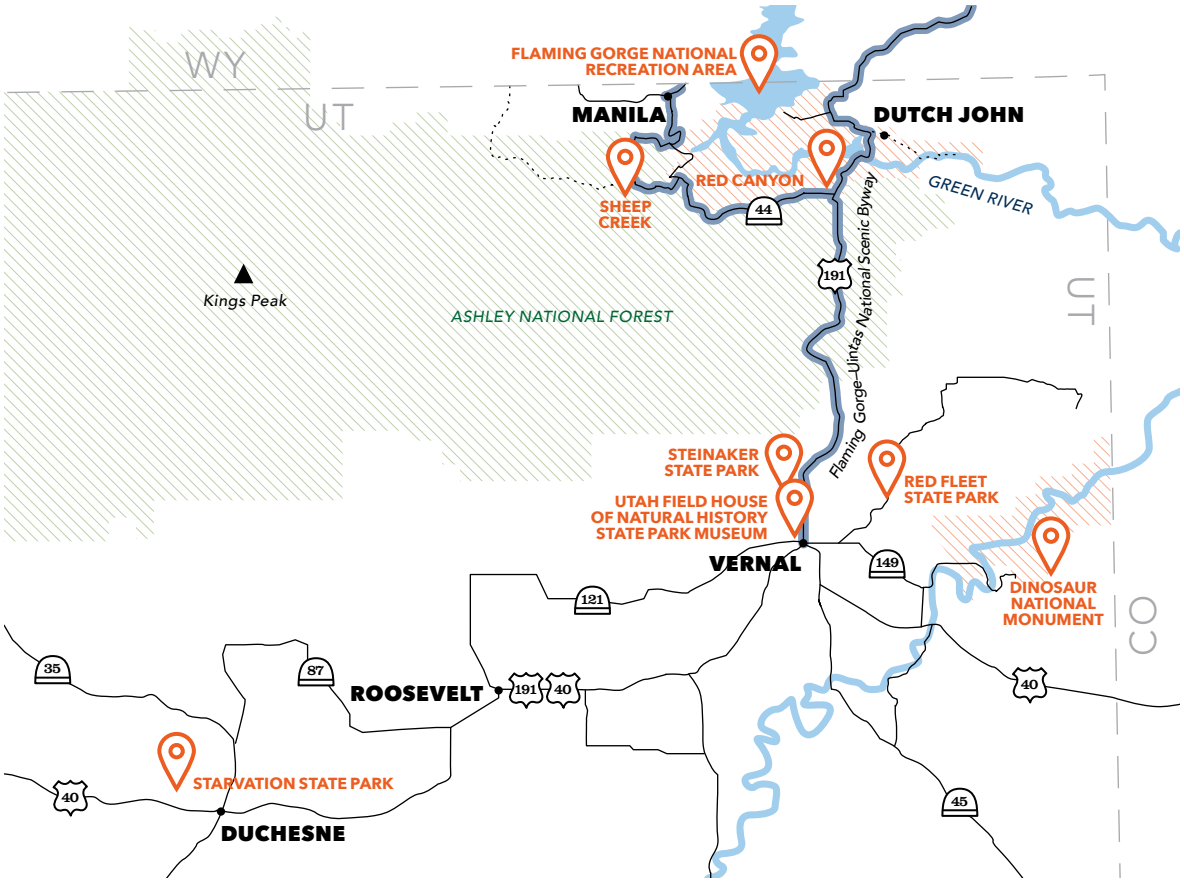


Audio Tour available for Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway at *visitutah.com/scenicbyways*

As you drive the Flaming Gorge–Uintas National Scenic Byway, you will pass through one of the richest areas for wildlife and their fossilized ancestors in the western United States. Pull over at any of the 15 Wildlife Through the Ages interpretive sites and nature trails to explore an unusual diversity of natural ecosystems both past and present. Here you will find stunning landscapes that have been uplifted and carved by the earth's forces, exposing almost seven miles of rock evidence of warm shallow seas along ancient coastlines and Sahara-like dune fields.. The formations exposed comprise 770 million years of geologic history, making it one of the greatest varieties of formations found anywhere.

The backdrops to this unique byway corridor are the majestic peaks of the Uinta Mountains; forests of aspen, ponderosa, and pinyon-juniper; limestone towers and slickrock cathedrals; verdant cottonwood and willow-lined streams; and the blazing red cliffs and blue waters of Flaming Gorge.

Journey through prehistoric landscapes where paleontologists have found dinosaur bones, seashells and shark's teeth. Today, pronghorn antelope ply the sands of primeval seas, colorful song birds fly above the remains of petrified forests, and fish swim among ancient rocks.



Left: *Flaming Gorge* | Dan Ransom

Begin your journey with a visit to prehistoric times at Dinosaur National Monument, where the world-famous Wall of Bones awaits. This is the only place on the planet to see more than 1,500 dinosaur bones along one magnificent rock spine. The monument also offers camping, hiking and river-running amongst the serene desert landscape. Continue unraveling the mysteries of the past at the Utah Field House of Natural History Museum in Vernal. The kids will thank you.

See those mountains on the near horizon? It's time to head up to them through the ancient rocks and present day landscapes of the Ashley National Forest. While the prehistoric life is now seen only in fossils, modern behemoths still exist in the form of Flaming Gorge's famous trophy trout. With eleven state fishing records and some 15,000 trout per river mile, it's no wonder the stunningly beautiful Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area has become America's top trophy fishing destination. Here you will find miles of uncrowded trails, fun-loving guide services, world-class boating and incredible paddling adventures, all among spectacular landscapes teeming with wildlife.

And yes, there's the way the sun catches the red canyon walls and seems to light them on fire that will provide a lasting memory. Flaming Gorge–Uintas National Scenic Byway is a land where amazing outdoor adventures, uncommon geology and visual splendor overflow.

Catching brown trout on the Green River | Sean Slobodan

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Visitor Services Dinoland, Vernal | (435) 781-6765 | 800-477-5558
- Visitor Service Flaming Gorge Country | (435) 784-2318 x 135
- Ashley National Forest
  (435) 789-1181 | 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, Utah
- Make camping reservations for the Ashley National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

A young bighorn sheep

DON'T MISS

Rafting
Don't miss floating down the famous Green River, the local's top pick for family adventure. Seeking a little more whitewater? Crash the rapids on guided trips through Dinosaur National Monument.

Fishing
Whether you are just getting started or a seasoned veteran, there is no end to fishing opportunities along the byway. Enjoy incredible fly-fishing on the river and mountain streams and world-class lake fishing.

Boating
With 91 miles of lake in Flaming Gorge, it is easy to find a spot to call your own. And don't miss the scenic waters of Red Fleet or Steinaker State Parks just outside of Vernal.

Wildlife Watching
Magnificent herds of bighorn sheep and excellent birding make viewing wildlife easy.

Paddling
You'll want to try a few of the paddling routes and come for the annual PaddleFest at Red Fleet State Park in June.

Winter Recreation
Outdoor recreation doesn't end when snow arrives. Groomed snowmobile, cross-country ski and snowshoeing trails await in the nearby national forest.

Dinosaur National Monument
The gateway to the park's prehistory is in the Quarry Exhibit Hall near Jensen, Utah. Here you will uncover the world-famous fossil exhibits that give the park its name.

Utah Fieldhouse of Natural History
Take a virtual tour of our planet's ancient history at this 22,000-square-foot facility in the heart of Dinosaurland. Includes full-size dinosaur replicas, and interactive exhibits.

Flaming Gorge Dam Visitor Center
A great launching point for a visit to Flaming Gorge, plan time for a free guided tour, offered daily mid-April through mid-October.

Red Canyon Visitor Center
Enjoy daily summer programs, a fully accessible interpretive trail and access to longer hiking and biking trails all with amazing overlooks of this scenic reservoir.

Moose Ponds
The easy-to-access pond is an excellent family fishing spot with a surrounding interpretive nature trail.

Sheep Creek Geologic Loop
A 10-mile section of road that takes you through the extreme forces of nature at work along the Uinta Crest Fault with opportunities to glimpse Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

Ute Fire Lookout Tower
The 1937 fire tower is the last of its kind in Utah. See what living in a fire lookout was like, which includes a homing pigeon program that recalls wildland firefighting communications before telephones and radio. Ashley National Forest visitors at Red Canyon Visitor Center can release messages on homing pigeons to the tower.

See more of Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area and its environs at ***visitutah.com/flaming-gorge***

Ute Fire Tower

Boating along Hideout Canyon | Marc Piscotty

LOGAN TO OGDEN LOOP

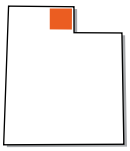
AT A GLANCE: LOGAN CANYON TO OGDEN RIVER SCENIC BYWAY LOOP

START: Logan or Ogden

NUMBER OF DAYS: 2–4

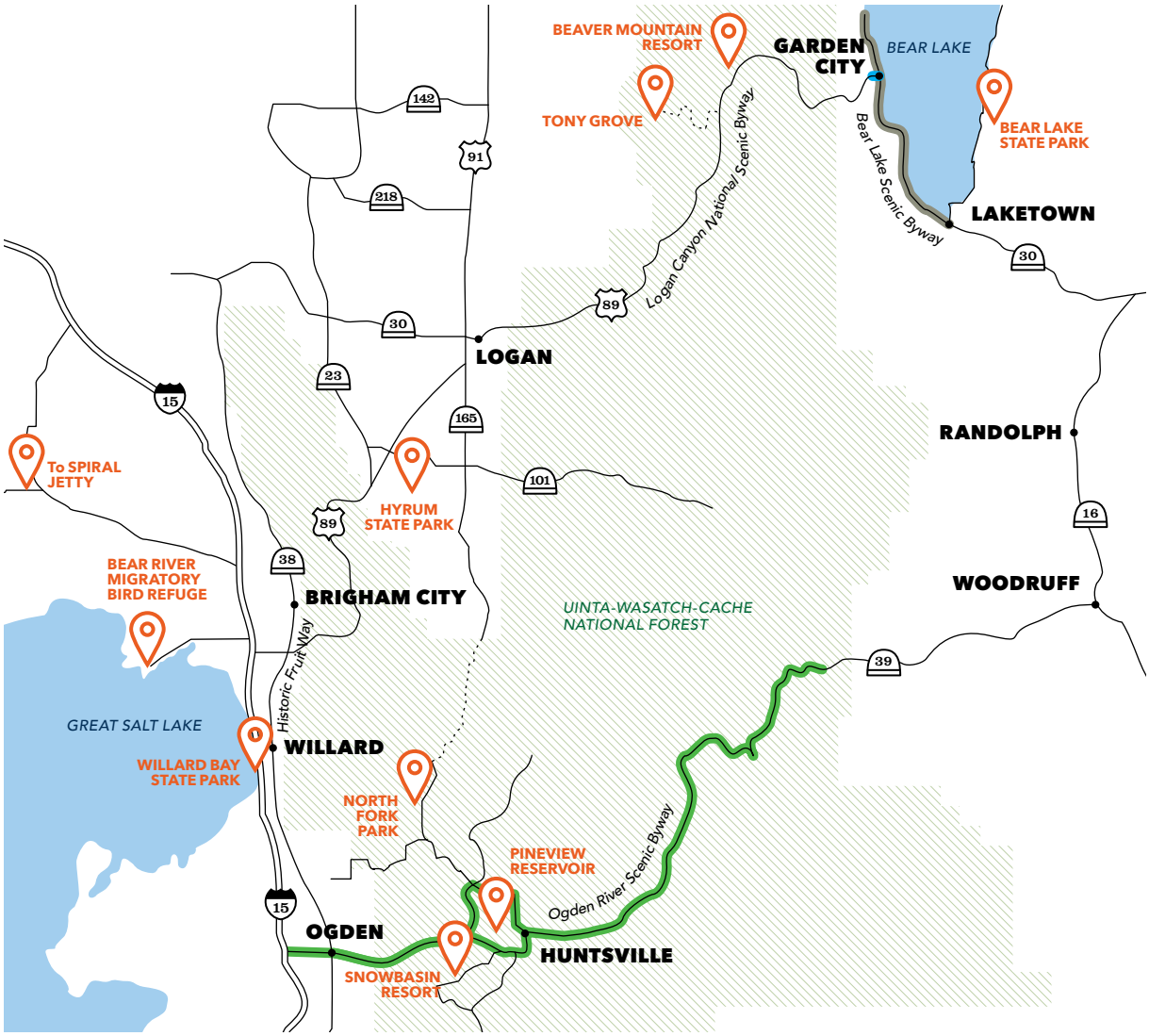
DISTANCE: 100 miles

SCENIC BYWAYS:
Logan Canyon Ntl. Scenic Byway (U.S. 89)
Ogden River Scenic Byway (S.R. 39)
Bear Lake Scenic Byway (S.R. 30)



The top of Utah is a tranquil place, rich in wildlife, natural splendor and cultural amenities. Drive the Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway and Ogden River Scenic Byway, splash in stunning turquoise water, taste the bountiful harvest and experience world-class performing arts. You'll uncover endless outdoor adventure, a certified International Dark Sky Park under a vast field of brilliant stars, fall colors and warm hospitality.

Between Bear Lake and the popular Pineview Reservoir, you can cool off on personal watercraft or luxuriate on sandy beaches and complement your adventure with nights on the town or quiet sunrises in untouched wilderness. So pack your gear. It's time to head to the top of Utah.



Left: *Autumn colors in Logan Canyon* | Steve Greenwood

Start this loop near Brigham City and consider a side trip to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. In the summer and fall, exit at Willard to cruise the Historic Fruit Way before heading up the canyon to Logan. Between the beautiful agricultural lands of Cache Valley and the turquoise waters of Bear Lake lies the 41-mile Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway. This section of historic Highway 89 carves a winding path through 500 million years of breathtaking geology and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest lands before hitting a summit pass approaching 8,000 feet.

Complete the Bear Lake Scenic Byway then continue the back way (S.R. 30 to S.R. 16) to access the Ogden River Scenic Byway (S.R. 39). In the Ogden Valley, make a refreshing stop at Pineview Reservoir or take on a day of lift-served mountain biking at Snowbasin Resort. Check ***udottraffic.utah.gov*** for season road closures.

Discover the very best of the top of Utah at ***visitutah.com/top-of-utah*** *or combine your Northern Utah road trip with the Yellowstone Loop at* ***visitutah.com/yellowstone***

Paddle boarding the "Carribean of the Rockies" | Marc Piscotty

Kids playing in the sand at Bear Lake | Marc Piscotty

American West Heritage Center | Nicole Morgenthau

DON'T MISS

Logan
Stroll through historic downtown Logan for a taste of small-town Americana, visit the Cache Valley Gardeners' Market Saturdays, May–October, or rent horses or ATVs. Additionally, you can take a foodie trek, see a live performance at one of the three historic theaters or take a step back in time at the American West Heritage Center.

Garden City
This gateway to Bear Lake serves up hand-spun raspberry shakes along with small-town charm and access to endless fishing and water sports. Celebrate the famous Raspberry Days harvest in August with pageants, fairs and fireworks.

Huntsville
Experience Pineview Reservoir and Utah's oldest continuously operating saloon.

Ogden
Explore this outdoor recreation mecca with a lively and historic downtown including indoor skydiving and Blue Ribbon fishing on the Ogden River.

Tony Grove Lake
This crown jewel of the Bear River Range features an easy hiking trail at an alpine lake with camping, picnicking and fishing.

Beaver Mountain Resort
Avoid long lift lines and high prices at the longest-running family-owned resort in the nation.

Ogden Valley's North Fork Park
Discover the Milky Way at this certified International Dark Sky Park.

Conestoga Ranch
Glamping! Step back in time and stay in a covered wagon or tent.

Bear Lake State Park
Dubbed the "Caribbean of the Rockies" for its stunning blue water and sandy beaches. Bear Lake offers boating, paddle boarding and swimming. Cabin lodging available.

Beaver Creek Lodge
Enjoy beautiful horseback rides or an off-road adventure in side-by-side RZR vehicles during summer and fall. Rent snowmobiles and enjoy hundreds of miles of riding all winter.

Hyrum State Park
This beautiful 450-acre man-made lake offers boating, year-round fishing, waterskiing, camping and swimming.

Fruit Way
Along U.S. 89 discover fruit stands with the very best in local homegrown fruits, veggies and other products in Northern Utah.

Snowbasin Resort
This world-class, family-friendly ski resort has been the proud host of the 2002 Olympic Games' downhill, combined and super-G races.

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
The 75,000-acre refuge welcomes millions of migrating birds and has miles of driving tours and hiking paths.

Golden Spike National Historic Site
Relive the momentous meeting of the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific railroads and explore the Big Fill Trail.

Willard Bay State Park
Plan time at this freshwater reservoir for fishing, boating, paddleboarding, camping, birding, geocaching and swimming.

Spiral Jetty
The official land art of the state of Utah is 1,500-foot-long coil of 6,650 tons of rock on the northeastern shore of the Great Salt Lake.

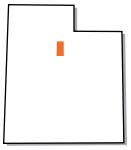
Kayaking the Weber River near Ogden

Summer concert series at Snowbasin Resort

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Visitor Services Box Elder County | (435) 734-3315
- Visitor Services Cache Valley/Logan | (435) 755-1890
- Visitor Services Ogden/Weber | (800) 255-8824
- Logan Ranger District
  (435) 755-3620 | 1500 E. Highway 89, Logan, UT
- Ogden Ranger District
  (801) 625-5112 | 507 25th Street, Ogden, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

GREAT SALT LAKE LEGACY PARKWAY SCENIC BYWAY



START: Layton (S.R. 67)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 1

DISTANCE: 14 miles

Audio Tour available for Great Salt Lake Legacy Parkway Scenic Byway at *visitutah.com/scenicbyways*

This beautiful area connects the Salt Lake City International Airport with views of the world-famous Great Salt Lake. Utah's capital city takes it name for this landmark, which astronauts can see from outer space. Millions of migratory birds enjoy Great Salt Lake as a huge cafeteria as they pass through from South America and Canada each spring and fall. Visitors enjoy the white sand beaches of Antelope Island State Park and, yes, you can float in the Great Salt Lake.

The Great Salt Lake Legacy Parkway Scenic Byway (S.R. 67) passes through Davis county, which offers a lot of fun activities for families. Indoor swimming with stingrays, bumper cars, roller coasters, water parks and miniature golf are just some of the fun things to do. The scenic byway and the trail system along the Great Salt Lake has provided a new way to experience its cultural and ecological importance. It follows thousands of acres of marshland and waterways of the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area and the Legacy Nature Preserve.

THE DRIVE

This byway is just a short drive from Salt Lake City. Traveling northbound on I-15, take Exit 319 and go west. Traveling southbound, take Exit 324.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Davis County Tourism and Events | (801) 451-3237

American avocet | Marc Piscotty

*Plan your trip to Antelope Island State Park at **visitutah.com/antelope***

DON'T MISS

Legacy Parkway Trail
The trail that runs along the highway is a 14-mile multi-purpose asphalt trail. It serves cities from North Salt Lake to Farmington and connects with many city parks and other trails. The Legacy Trail offers incredible views of the Legacy Nature Preserve and west to the Great Salt Lake. Many of the trailheads have interpretive panels spotlighting local history and wildlife.

Antelope Island State Park
Home to a large herd of bison, bighorn sheep, antelope and mule deer. See white sand beaches, miles of trails, pioneer history and millions of birds. There are many events held on the island including the annual bison roundup in October, the Cowboy Legends Poetry and Music Festival during Memorial Day weekend and the annual moonlight bike ride in July.

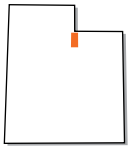
Lagoon Amusement Park
The largest amusement park in the intermountain area. Boasts ten roller coasters — five of which meet unique criteria. This is the place for family fun.

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
This festival celebrates the spring migration of millions of birds to the Great Salt Lake and its ecosystem. Guided field trips to top birding areas, keynote speakers and workshops with live birds make this a popular event. Held the Thursday–Monday after Mother's Day.

SeaQuest Interactive Aquarium
Experience exciting exhibits and activities for families and children of all ages. You'll be able to get wet with the stingrays, feed the toucans, encounter the caimans, marvel at the sharks, take selfies with the snakes and more.

Station Park
Offers an exceptional collection of national brands and specialty shops, including nearby Cabela's, as well as over 20 outstanding restaurants.

MIRROR LAKE SCENIC BYWAY



START: Kamas (S.R. 150)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 1

DISTANCE: 54 miles

Hayden Peak seen from Moosehorn Lake | Steve Greenwood

Wildflower season in the Uintas | Andrew Burr

The quaint mountain town of Kamas is undeniably the Gateway to the Uintas, though Samak Smokehouse may have sneakily staked a share of the claim — you'll note Samak is Kamas spelled backward. There are great places to stop in Kamas to grab a bite to eat before or after your trip, stock up on last-minute supplies for your journey, buy some local artwork or connect with a local guide to learn about the secret "sweet spots" along the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway and surrounding areas. From there, it's all scenic driving all the time on the 56-mile Mirror Lake Scenic Byway, until you're lured from your car. Between beautifully developed campgrounds and endless designated wilderness, you'll find the perfect stop to park your RV or pitch your tent for blissfully cool nights away from it all.

Fish from your choice of hundreds of lakes and streams, take short strolls along the river, jump on a horse or ATV and, with wayfinding skills and the right supplies, climb Utah's loftiest peaks. You won't be alone up here either: In the mighty Uinta Mountains you may see elk, moose or perhaps a bighorn sheep. Your byway journey will end as you step into the "Old West" in the town of Evanston, Wyoming.

THE DRIVE

Kamas is only 45 minutes from Salt Lake City, 55 minutes from Provo and 75 minutes from Ogden. From there, you'll forget about time as you enjoy the drive, watch out for wildlife or scout your trailhead. From Highway 189, take S.R. 32 east to Kamas. The Mirror Lake Scenic Byway (S.R. 150) traces the Upper Provo River as it climbs to 10,700 feet.
Check ***udottraffic.utah.gov*** for seasonal road closures.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Kamas/Park City Visitors Bureau | (435) 649-6100
- Heber-Kamas Ranger District (Kamas Office) | (435) 783-4338 | 50 E. Center Street, Kamas, UT
- Heber-Kamas Ranger District (Heber Office) | (435) 654-0470 | 2460 S. U.S. 40, Heber City, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

Explore some of the popular hikes of the High Uintas at ***visitutah.com/kamas-hikes***

DON'T MISS

Dejoria Center
This events center in the High Star Ranch neighborhood of Kamas offers great concerts and more at the foot of the Uinta Mountains.

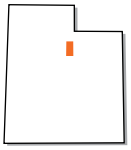
Mirror Lake
The drive's namesake lake is one of the best, with kayaking, fishing, camping and trails — all above 10,000 feet.

Bald Mountain
The 11,943-foot summit is a two-mile, family-friendly hike with panoramic views of the High Uintas.

Christmas Meadows
Enjoy a lush meadow at 8,800 feet with a campground and recreation area surrounded by lodgepole pines and aspen. A great location for wildflower photography.

Rockport State Park
Fish, boat and water ski in summer. During winter, ice fish and access nearby snowmobile trails. Yurt camping available.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON SCENIC BYWAY



START: Salt Lake City (S.R. 190)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 1

DISTANCE: 15 miles

Fly-fishing Big Cottonwood Canyon Creek | Wray Sinclair

Silver Lake Sunrise

DON'T MISS

Hiking & Fishing
Be inspired as you see beautiful vistas, wildflowers or breathtaking autumn leaves on the popular hikes accessed by this byway: Lake Blanche, Lake Florence, Twin Lakes, Lake Mary, Lake Martha, Lake Catherine and Dog Lake. Dogs are not permitted in the canyon.

Brighton Resort
Enjoy the wildflowers, forest and alpine lakes on the national forest during the summer and the 500 inches of winter snowfall that falls on 66 total runs across 1,050 acres and 1,875 vertical feet. Year-round lodging and limited dining.

Solitude Mountain Resort
In the summer, enjoy mountain air, wildflowers and cool evenings alongside lift-served mountain biking and hiking. Come winter, ski or ride 500 inches of annual snowfall, 1,200 acres of terrain, 77 named runs and three bowls. Year-round lodging and dining.

Silver Lake
A boardwalk and trail encompass this picturesque alpine lake, which visitors can access from the Brighton Loop on the scenic byway.

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest is referred to as a "urban forest" due to its close proximity to Salt Lake City. The mountainous terrain provides recreation opportunities for more than a million people in less than a 30-minute drive. Big Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Byway begins at the mouth of the canyon and goes east on S.R. 190. The canyon narrows almost immediately to dramatic alpine scenery as you enter the forest. On this 15-mile scenic byway, visitors can hike through the mining country of the Old West or enjoy rock climbing, wildflower photographing, picnicking, camping or fishing. The major ski resorts of Solitude and Brighton are near the top of the canyon and in the summer months, travelers can continue through to Park City via Guardsman Pass.

THE DRIVE

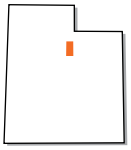
Big Cottonwood Scenic Byway (S.R. 190) is just minutes from downtown Salt Lake City and can be accessed by taking I-215 to 6200 South exit.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
  (801) 999-2103 | 857 West South Jordan, South Jordan, UT
- Public Lands Information Center (inside REI)
  (801) 466-6411 | 3285 East 3300 South, Salt Lake City, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

Discover more of the expansive Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest at ***visitutah.com/uwcnf***

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON SCENIC BYWAY



START: Salt Lake City (S.R. 210)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 1

DISTANCE: 8 miles

Few places so near an urban area are so rich in natural diversity. The granite cliffs are a paradise for both rock climbers and the mountain goats you might see as you drive the byway. Little Cottonwood Canyon is so named because its length and width are "littler" than its big neighbor to the north; however, it is an equally glorious natural playground that features year-round recreation from winter downhill at Alta and Snowbird to summer wildflowers at Albion Basin. At the mouth of the canyon is the site where Mormon pioneers quarried massive granite blocks used to construct the Salt Lake Temple and the LDS Conference Center.

Moose in Albion Basin, Alta | Howie Garber

THE DRIVE

Little Cottonwood Scenic Byway (S.R. 210) begins at the mouth of the canyon and can be accessed by taking I-215 to 6200 South exit. Follow the signs to S.R. 210, which is just minutes from downtown Salt Lake City.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
  (801) 999-2103 | 857 West South Jordan, South Jordan, UT
- Public Lands Information Center (inside REI)
  (801) 466-6411 | 3285 East 3300 South, Salt Lake City, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

DON'T MISS

Rock Climbing & Bouldering
Little Cottonwood Canyon is renowned for its crack climbing on 400-foot granite walls and an array of bouldering routes alongside the highway.

Hiking & Fishing
Albion Basin is famous for it's spring and early summer wildflowers. Trails access high-altitude lakes for fishing. Dogs are not permitted in the canyon.

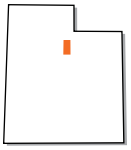
Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort
Want to mountain bike in style? The aerial tram at Snowbird zips visitors to the roof of the Wasatch, Hidden Peak. A mountain coaster, alpine slide, camps, lodging, dining, spa and festivals round out the summer. In winter, explore 3,420 vertical feet and 2,500 acres.

Alta Ski Area
Alta is one of only two resorts in Utah that is strictly ski only (no snowboarding allowed). Check out 116 runs and more than 2,200 acres. Some lodging and dining is available in the summer when the national forest and Albion Basin open up to camping, hiking, wildflowers and exploration.

Mountain biking Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort | Steve Lloyd/Snowbird Resort

Learn about summer activities on the mountain at ***visitutah.com/snowbird-summer***

PROVO RIVER SCENIC BYWAY



START: Provo (U.S. 189)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 1

DISTANCE: 24 miles

DON'T MISS

Timpanogos Cave National Monument
Hike the moderately strenuous trail to three linked and dazzling caverns on the north slope of Mt. Timpanogos.

Deer Creek State Park
Windsurf, boat, fish or zip-line with views of the stunning nearby Mt. Timpanogos. Camping and cabin lodging available.

Jordanelle State Park
Choose between big adventure launched from a full-service marina or a serene retreat to the Rock Cliff Recreation Area. Cabin lodging available.

Wasatch Mountain State Park
Camp, reserve a tee time at one of four 18-hole golf courses or explore miles of mountain trails on foot or ATV. Cabin lodging available.

Homestead Crater
This geothermal spring, hidden within a 55-foot tall limestone rock, is the only warm scuba diving destination in the continental U.S.

Heber Valley Railroad
Utah's only operating historic railroad takes riders through scenic Provo Canyon and the beautiful Heber Valley. Onboard entertainment creates an authentic Western experience.

Sundance Mountain Resort
Nestled in the north fork of Provo Canyon, Robert Redford's Sundance Mountain Resort is home to a year-round mountain community. Visitors and guests can ski, dine, hike, mountain bike, ride horseback or shop.

Stewart Falls
Stewart Fall is a beautiful waterfall on the 12,000-foot Mount Timpanogos. A one-and-a-half-mile hike provides stunning views.

Bridal Veil Falls
A beautiful waterfall that is easily accessible by a trail that connects to the parking lot. The trail to Bridal Veil Falls is open year-round. The Bridal Veil Falls park has picnic tables with barbeque grills.

Provo River Parkway
This popular bikeway runs along the Provo River as it meanders through Provo Canyon and Provo City before ending at Utah Lake State Park.

Mt. Timpanogos seen from the Provo River, Heber Valley | Adam Barker

The Provo River Scenic Byway (U.S. 189) connects the beautiful Heber and Utah valleys through Provo Canyon. There are many opportunities for adventure in the canyon, such as Bridal Veil Falls, Stewart Falls, Sundance Mountain Resort, zip-lines, horseback riding, river tubing and an extensive trail system.

Today, old-world charm blends with off-road adventure or tranquil mornings fishing on the winding middle Provo River between the reservoirs of Jordanelle and Deer Creek state parks. During Labor Day Weekend enjoy the Midway Swiss Days Festival and Soldier Hollow Classic Sheepdog Championship.

THE DRIVE

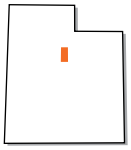
Only 45 minutes from downtown Salt Lake City or Provo, access the Heber Valley from eastbound I-80 to U.S. 189 or drive Provo Scenic Byway through Provo Canyon. Choose the really scenic route (particularly in the fall) by adding the Alpine Loop (S.R. 92) past Sundance Mountain Resort and Timpanogos Cave.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
  (801) 999-2103 | 857 West South Jordan, South Jordan, UT
- Heber Valley Visitors Bureau | (435) 654-3666
- Utah Valley Visitor Center | (801) 851-2100
- Public Lands Information Center (inside REI)
  (801) 466-6411 | 3285 East 3300 South, Salt Lake City, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

Explore more things to do in Provo and the Heber Valley at ***visitutah.com/provo*** *and* ***visitutah.com/heber***

NEBO LOOP NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY



START: Payson/Nephi (FR 15)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 1

DISTANCE: 38 miles

The beautiful Nebo Loop National Scenic Byway provides stunning views of Utah and Nephi valleys while looking up at the tallest peak in the Wasatch Range, the 11,928-foot Mt. Nebo. The 38-mile loop offers multiple picturesque campsites, picnic sites and several waterfalls only a short hike off the road.

Hikes range from the family-friendly stroll to Devils Kitchen Geologic Site to the very strenuous journey to the summit of Mt. Nebo. Beyond hiking, the byway offers stunning scenery the whole route, ideal for photography, fishing, auto touring and horseback riding. The byway has numerous overlooks and wildlife viewing opportunities. Nearby cities of Nephi, Payson, Santaquin and Spanish Fork offer opportunities to stock up on supplies or shop locally.

THE DRIVE

To access from the south, from I-15 at Nephi, take Exit 225 to travel east on state Route 132. Five miles from the Interstate, look for a left turn (north) onto Forest Road 15. Travel north on the byway, following the signs at junctions. The byway ends just outside Payson, from which you can access I-15 again.

To access the byway from the north, from I-15 take Exit 248 in Payson, heading east on 800 South. Turn right onto 600 East, which becomes the Nebo Loop Road (FR 15) into the mountains. Check ***udottraffic.utah.gov*** for seasonal road closures.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Utah Valley Visitors Bureau | (801) 851-2100
- Spanish Fork Ranger District Office
  (801) 798-3571 | 44 West 400 North, Spanish Fork, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Mt. Nebo Wilderness at ***recreation.gov***

Cycling Nebo Loop | Photo courtesy of Payson City

See more images of the Nebo Loop National Scenic Byway at ***visitutah.com/nebo***

DON'T MISS

Grotto Falls Trail
The flat, wide trail makes it a perfect choice for families or novice hikers. This is a beautiful waterfall that cascades into a shallow pool of water surrounded by steep rock walls.

Payson Lakes
Three lakes provide fishing, swimming and boating. Fish for brook trout and rainbow trout. Reservable group areas for weddings, parties and other large gatherings hold up to 100 people.

Historic Payson Lakes Guard Station
This historic building is available to the public as a cabin rental.

Monument Trailhead
Mt. Nebo overlook provides a stunning view of the 11,928-foot Mt. Nebo, the highest peak in the Wasatch Range. The north, south and middle peaks are all visible from different vantage points along the loop. The mountain is a popular, challenging hike that ascends 5,500 feet and takes the better part of a day.

Devils Kitchen Geologic Site
Devils Kitchen resembles Bryce Canyon, bringing the beauty of a national park to Northern Utah. The trail runs through a beautiful forest to the edge of the red rock area, and is more of a stroll than a hike.

Nebo Loop Snowmobile Complex
Access to the Mt. Nebo complex is provided through the Payson and Salt Creek Canyon trailheads. Nebo Loop Snowmobile Complex provides outstanding snowmobiling opportunities December through March. Elevations reach a breathtaking 9,200 feet.

Payson Golden Onion Days
Enjoy the craft fair, Dutch oven cook-off, carnival, live entertainment and parade on Labor Day Weekend.

Nephi
Annual summer events include the Ute Stampede Rodeo and Juab County Fair.

ENERGY LOOP

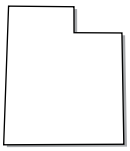
AT A GLANCE: ENERGY LOOP: HUNTINGTON & ECCLES CANYONS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

START: Price, Huntington or Fairview

NUMBER OF DAYS: 2–4

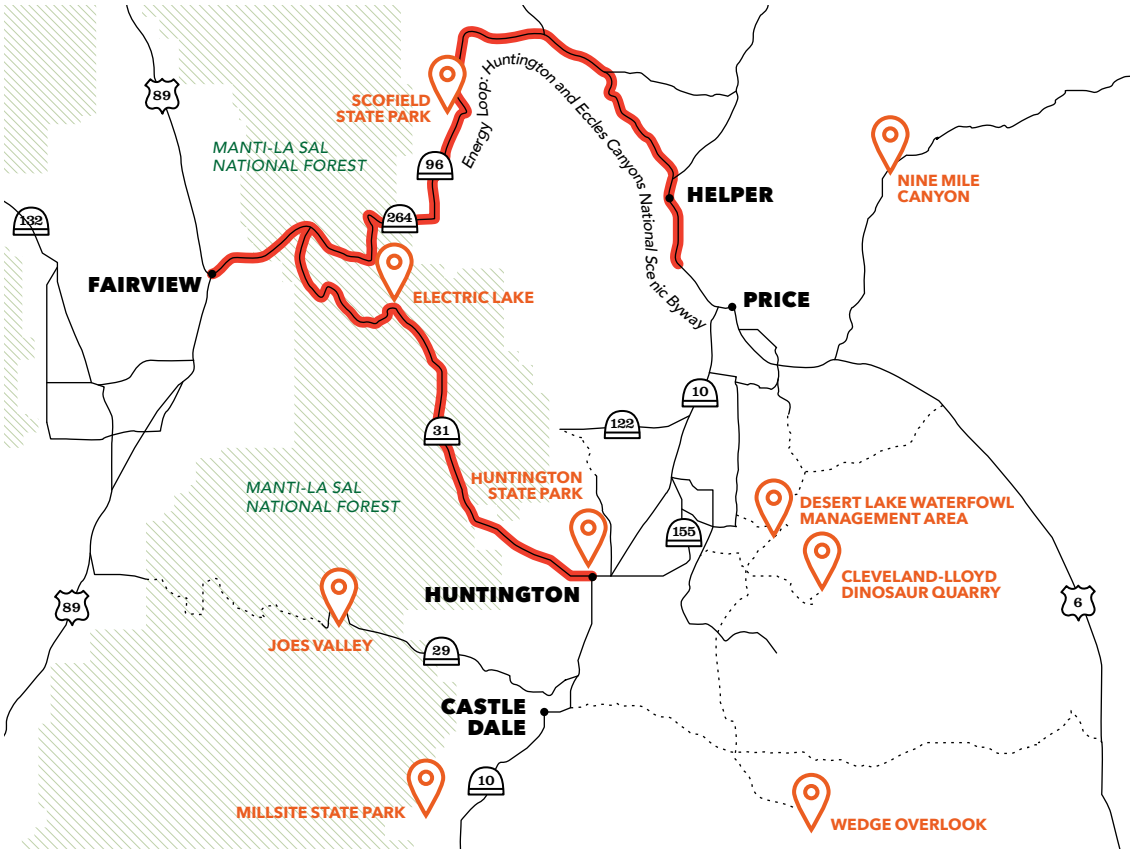
DISTANCE: 138 miles

SCENIC BYWAYS:
The Energy Loop: Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway (S.R. 96, 264, 31, U.S. 6)



Dip into the rich pioneer heritage of the National Mormon Heritage Area or follow in their adventurous footsteps and head straight for the hills. The Energy Loop: Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway (S.R. 96, 264, 31, U.S. 6) carries you over the Wasatch Plateau, capturing Utah's high-alpine experience with 360 degree views including Mount Nebo to the north and the San Rafael Swell to the east. During the fall, contrasting fields of yellow aspens and deep green conifers line the path.

On the other side of the Wasatch Plateau, cool off in sparkling reservoirs then step back in time to explore the ancient landscapes and inhabitants of Utah's Castle Country. You'll see an active dinosaur quarry and an outdoor art museum stretching for miles into one of Utah's wildest places. The Energy Loop will take you through the heart of Utah, a potpourri of outdoor adventure, landscapes and heritage that samples the best lesser-known terrain in Utah.



Left: *Huntington Reservoir* | Jim Urquhart

If coming from the Wasatch Front, head south on I-15 and at Spanish Fork take Exit 257 B-A to U.S. 6, then turn south on U.S. 89. From Fairview, you'll begin the quick ascent up the Wasatch Plateau on S.R. 31, part of the Energy Loop: Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway. The byway is the only paved road across the Wasatch Plateau, which marks the transition from the famous Colorado Plateau (home to The Mighty 5® national parks) to the Great Basin.

On the east side of the plateau, you'll explore spurs along S.R. 10 or scenic backways to the unexpected depth and size of the Little Grand Canyon. Then, make the extended detour up the beautifully paved Nine Mile Canyon to drive and hike among the indigenous rock art of the world's largest outdoor art gallery. Finish up with stops in Price and Helper, or complete The Energy Loop by returning to Fairview on S.R. 96.

DON'T MISS

Fairview City
The Gateway to Skyline Drive, the 75-mile Wasatch Plateau 4×4 road is also a gateway to the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area.

Huntington–Castle Dale
These base camps access Huntington State Park, Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Museum, bouldering at Joes Valley Reservoir and scenic backways through the San Rafael Swell.

Price-Helper
Check out the USU Eastern Prehistoric Museum, the Western Mining and Railroad Museum and Nine Mile Canyon (from Wellington).

Wedge Overlook
The Wedge Overlook provides views of a deep sandstone canyon carved by the San Rafael River known as "The Little Grand Canyon."

Desert Lake Waterfowl Management Area
A great place for bird watching. Desert Lake is an important stop for migrating waterfowl.

Skyline Drive
Skyline Drive (accessed from S.R. 31) is the backbone of the Wasatch Plateau, the dividing line between the Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau, and showcases amazing mountain vistas. South Skyline Drive requires high clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles; north Skyline Drive is suitable for passenger cars.

Huntington Reservoir and Mammoth Discovery Site of 8-8-88
Mud surrounding a 10,000-year-old mammoth acted as a refrigerator, preserving the 90 percent complete skeleton until construction of the high-elevation dam unearthed it on August 8, 1988.

Arapeen Trail System
More than 350 miles of ATV trails. When combined with forest roads, there are more than 1,000 miles available to ATV enthusiasts.

Huntington State Park
A tranquil base camp with leisurely hikes, a beach, grassy campgrounds and great fishing. Partial and limited full hookups available.

Scofield State Park
Camp, boat and fish at this summer and winter recreation destination situated high in the Manti-La Sal Mountains. Large campgrounds include two reservable teepees. The nearby town of Scofield hosts the annual Pleasant Valley Days celebration on or around July 4.

San Rafael Swell | Dean Krakel

Horseback riding Candland Mountain

Snowkiting along Skyline Drive | Jeremiah Watt

DON'T MISS

Electric Lake
A large, high-elevation reservoir along Skyline Drive with good populations of Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Tie Fork Rest Area and Interpretive Site
More than a rest stop, this stop on S.R. 6 commemorates the great railroads that moved coal and other goods through the canyons of eastern Utah. Railroad ties were made from trees cut in Tie Fork Canyon.

Stuart Guard Station Interpretive Site and Visitor Center
This former Forest Service Guard Station on S.R. 31 features stories of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the origins of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Open weekends and holidays.

Non-motorized Trails
Explore the Left Fork of Huntington National Recreation Trail and Fish Creek National Recreation Trail on foot, bike or horseback. The Candland Mountain Trailhead off S.R. 31 is a 5.6-mile connector to Mill Canyon, Flood Canyon and Left Fork of Huntington.

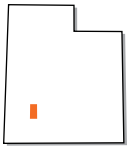
*Learn more about Huntington and Eccles canyons at **visitutah.com/wasatch-plateau***

Joes Valley | Caroline Treadway

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Visitor Services Sanpete County | (435) 839-0457
- Visitor Services Emery County | (435) 381-2600
- Visitor Services Carbon County | (435) 636-3701
- Manti-La Sal National Forest Office
  (435) 637-2817 | 599 West Price River Drive, Price, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Manti-La Sal National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

BEAVER CANYON SCENIC BYWAY



START: Beaver (S.R. 153)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 1

DISTANCE: 17 miles

Tushar Mountains | Photo courtesy of USFS

A fall favorite, the Beaver Canyon Scenic Byway will transport you in time to a view of the west in the late 1800s. You'll drive through the Tushar Mountain Range where you can enjoy OHV riding, backpacking, mountain biking, horseback riding, trout fishing and camping in beautiful pine surroundings with breathtaking vistas. Elk, deer, black bear and cougars live in the Fishlake National Forest as well as wild turkey and mountain goats. Be sure to visit the nearby cities of Beaver, Junction and Marysvale to stock up on supplies or shop locally. In your trip include a visit to the Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum and the Fremont Indian State Park and Museum.

THE DRIVE

Travel on I-15 to the exit for Beaver and head east on S.R. 153, Beaver Canyon Scenic Byway.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Beaver County Travel Council | (435)-438-5438
- Beaver Ranger District
  (435) 438-2436 | 575 South Main Street, Beaver, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Fishlake National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

Read the full story at
visitutah.com/beaver-canyon

DON'T MISS

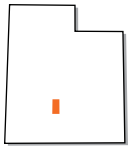
OHV
OHV riding is a very popular recreation activity on the Fishlake National Forest. There are approximately 2,700 miles of trails and roads available for motorized use, including the Paiute ATV Trail System. The Max Reid Trailhead (Paiute 01), a favorite on the Beaver Ranger District, leads to the Silver King Mine interpretive site.

Hiking
The Skyline National Recreation Trail located on the Beaver Ranger District of the Fishlake National Forest was placed on the National Recreation Trail System in 1979. The trail follows the craggy peaks of the Tushar Mountains and gives the experience of being on top of the mountains near the skyline. This trail is a pathway to beautiful mountain vistas and grassy meadows.

Fishing
Beaver Mountain is a popular fishing spot. The Beaver River runs along the scenic byway. Access to the majority of the fishing lakes is via Forest Road 137, which is a gravel road off of S.R. 153. FR 137 branches off the paved highway 10 miles east of Beaver.

Eagle Point Ski Resort
Known as Utah's most secluded resort, Eagle Point is great for getting away from it all. Year-round lodging is available and you can even rent out the entire resort.

FISH LAKE SCENIC BYWAY



START: Cove Fort/Scipio (S.R. 25)

NUMBER OF DAYS: 1

DISTANCE: 13 miles

View of Fish Lake | Photo courtesy of USFS

Want some peace and quiet away from the crowds? Fish Lake Scenic Byway can take you there. Aptly named, the lake boasts excellent fishing, particularly large Mackinaw trout, splake, rainbow trout, and kokanee salmon. Scuba divers also enjoy the lake's waters as it is approximately 127 feet deep. In the winter, ice fishing, snowmobiling and cross country skiing are popular. Horseback riding is also popular. Fish Lake is Utah's largest natural mountain lake and sits at 8,848 feet. Also try fishing Johnson Valley Reservoir, and the nearby towns of Koosharem, Fremont, Loa, Richfield and Bicknell make excellent base camps to Fish Lake Scenic Byway.

THE DRIVE

Thanks to its Central Utah location east of the junction of I-15 and I-70, there are many ways to access the Fish Lake Scenic Byway. Visitors on the All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12 connecting with the Capitol Reef Country Scenic Byway (S.R. 24) can continue west for 20 minutes to access Fish Lake while travelers on I-15 will exit at I-70 if northbound from St. George or U.S. 50 east if southbound from the Wasatch Front. Check ***udottraffic.utah.gov*** for seasonal road closures.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Capitol Reef Country Visitors Bureau | (435) 425-3365
- Sevier County Travel Council | (435) 893-0458
- Fremont River Ranger District
  (435) 836-2811 | 138 South Main Street, Loa, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Fishlake National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

Autumn aspens

Read more about Fish Lake Scenic Byway at ***visitutah.com/fall-oasis***

DON'T MISS

Pando Aspen Tree Clone
Located about one mile southwest of Fish Lake, this stand of trees is believed to be the heaviest organism on Earth at nearly 13 million pounds. The clone spreads over 106 acres, consisting of over 40,000 individual trees.

Piute and Otter Creek State Parks
Nearby state parks offer tranquil base camps not only to Fish Lake but to the extensive Paiute ATV Trail System on the Fishlake National Forest.

Hiking
Explore the Lakeshore National Recreation Trail, Pelican Canyon Trail, Old Spanish Trail, Doctor Creek Canyon Trail and more.

Wildlife Viewing
See elk, deer, bobcat, cougar, bear, golden and bald eagles, osprey, beaver, porcupine, chipmunks, marmots, and several species of upland game birds, song-birds and raptors.

Camping
Try Doctor Creek, Mackinaw, Bowery Creek, Frying Pan, Tasha Equestrian Campground and Piute Campgrounds or the private resorts of Bowery Haven and Fish Lake Lodge-Lakeside Resort.

PATCHWORK PARKWAY

AT A GLANCE: UTAH'S PATCHWORK PARKWAY NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

START: Cedar City or Parowan

NUMBER OF DAYS: 2

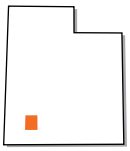
DISTANCE: 97 miles

SCENIC BYWAYS:

Utah's Patchwork Parkway National Scenic Byway (S.R. 143)

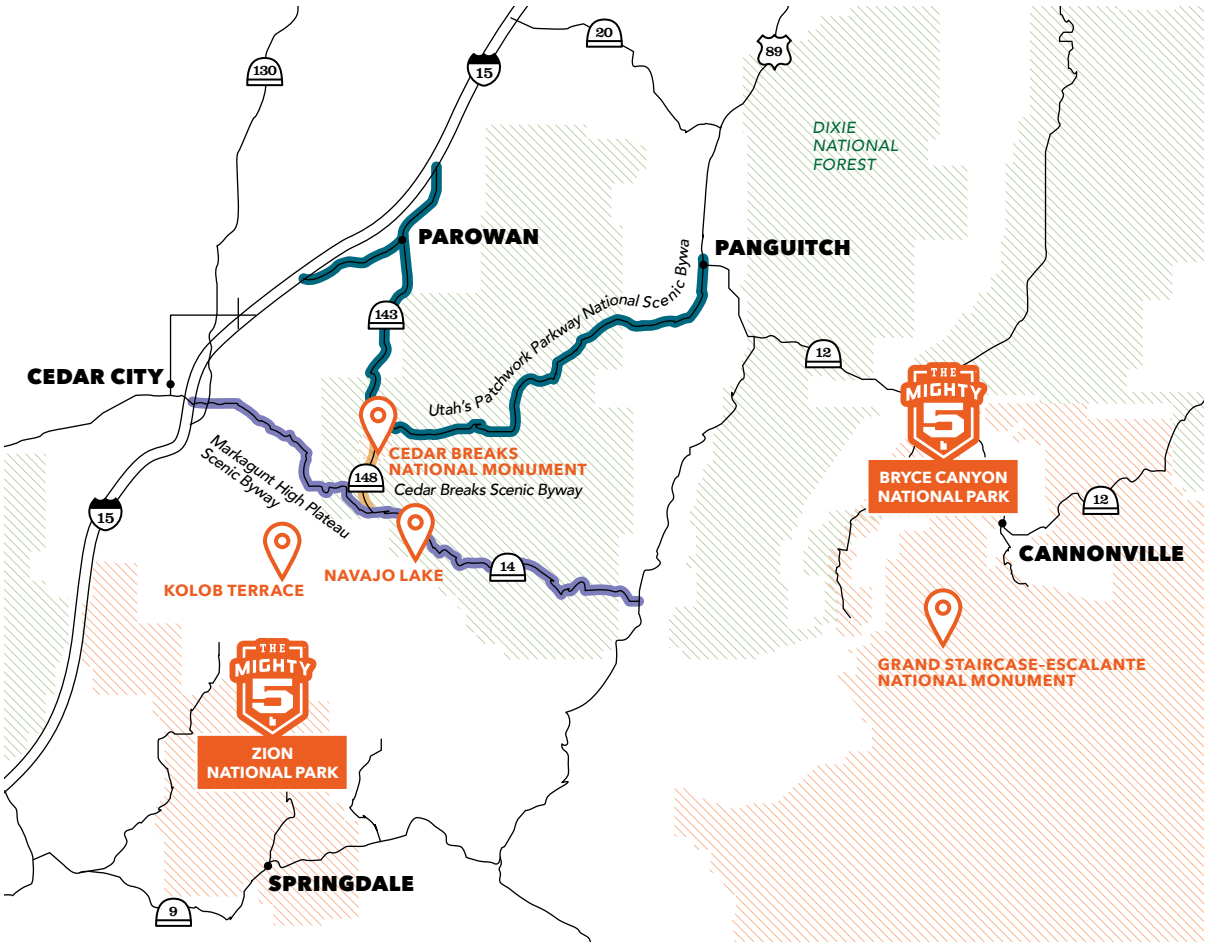
Cedar Breaks Scenic Byway (S.R. 148)

Markagunt High Plateau Scenic Byway (S.R. 14)



Experience diverse colors, cultures and climates as you climb and descend Utah's Patchwork Parkway National Scenic Byway through the Dixie National Forest. Every bend in the road brings into vision a new patch of scenery from colorful rocky cliffs and spires, alpine forests, lush meadows with rambling streams, crystal blue lakes and an unexpected splash of lava fields amidst the towering aspen trees. In 2016, the Active Times on *msn.com*'s Travel Section touted Utah's Patchwork Parkway as one of 16 most beautiful spring scenic drives in the U.S. Its fall foliage is equally radiant with its one-of-a-kind aspen groves whose leaves turn into a glowing orange and vibrant red. A variety of outdoor recreation opportunities to explore wildlife, wildflowers, rock formations, fishing, history and more are abundant throughout the national scenic byway and its communities.

As you continue, the Cedar Breaks Scenic Byway takes you to the visitor center of Cedar Breaks National Monument. Several easy and moderate hikes allow you to view the huge natural amphitheater, which is more than 2,000 feet deep and three miles from rim to rim. Traveling onto the Markaguant High Plateau Scenic Byway will connect you with Navajo Lake. This 3.5-mile-long lake is drained by sinkholes where water from inlets dramatically disappears into the ground. From Markaguant High Plateau Scenic Byway you can also enjoy the Mammoth Cave (a lava tube), Strawberry Point, Zion Overlook and a panoramic view of Kolob Terrace.



Left: *Cedar Breaks National Monument* | Scott Harding

Following ancient routes used by wildlife and Native Americans, Utah's Patchwork Parkway National Scenic Byway crosses a series of plateaus connecting I-15 travelers to Heritage Highway 89. This drive links All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12 and Zion Park Scenic Byway providing travelers with a scenic driving loop connecting three scenic byways, three national parks and one monument. Check ***udottraffic.utah.gov*** for seasonal road closures of the Cedar Breaks Scenic Byway.

Duck Creek

Panguitch Lake | Leah Hogsten

DON'T MISS

Cedar Breaks National Monument
Scenic overlooks and upper rim trails allow visitors to experience the diverse colorful rock spires, alpine forest and lush meadows. Guided ranger tours combined with picnic and camping areas make for a perfect day trip.

Cedar Breaks National Monument Star Parties
Nationally recognized for the park's clear dark night skies, Cedar Breaks allows visitors to see a vast array of stars and galaxies. The National Park Service hosts several guided star parties throughout the summer months.

Cedar Breaks National Monument's Wildflower Festival
This annual festival includes workshops and events in the high-altitude and colorful meadows.

Twisted Forest
Located between Brian Head and Cedar Breaks National Monument, the forest provides two hiking trails where hikers can walk along the rim of Cedar Breaks as well as hike up and down through the Twisted Forest where some of the world's oldest bristlecone pines live.

Brian Head Resort
Enjoy high-altitude year-round recreational opportunities from winter skiing to summer multi-use trails. Brian Head hosts a number of family-fun festival events throughout the summer and fall, such as the mid-September Rocktoberfest, where you can experience autumn colors, live music, beer and German food.

Brian Head Peak
From the peak (elevation 11,300 feet) one can view out over the vast mountain plateaus and canyons into eastern Utah, Arizona and Nevada, as well as experience the downhill Brian Head Peak trail by mountain bike. Brian Head Peak is accessible by a dirt road and only during the summer months.

Parowan Gap
Petroglyphs offer visitors a look back in time of how ancient cultures traveled and used the natural setting of the gap as a calendar system to tell the various seasons of the year. Interpretive events are held throughout the year.

Hidden Haven
Hidden up Parowan Canyon, hike into the canyon forest, which opens up into a haven with a towering canyon waterfall and weeping rock faces from underground springs.

Parowan City
The first Southern Utah settlement has a number of historical parks and museums, as well as a historic downtown and self-guided walking tours.

Quilt Walk Park & Festival
Quilt Walk Park depicts the poignant story of how seven men left Panguitch in March during a blizzard and ended up using quilts to traverse the mountain to Parowan to get supplies for their starving community. An annual festival is held the second week of June.

Panguitch City
Centrally located to over a dozen multi-use trails, this adventure base camp allows hikers, bicyclists, horse and ATV riders easy access to the diverse backcountry of southwest Utah and the Dixie National Forest.

Panguitch Lake
True to its Native American name meaning "Big Fish," the lake provides a fine catch of fish year-round.

Panguitch Valley Balloon Festival
The last weekend in June, the annual Panguitch Balloon Festival showcases over 50 balloons and includes a Balloon Glow event on Main Street.

Dark Skies at Cedar Breaks National Monument

Get to know Cedar Breaks National Monument at ***visitutah.com/cedar-breaks*** *or push yourself on our strenuous Cycling the Road to Mighty® itinerary inspired by the Larry H. Miller Tour of Utah at* ***visitutah.com/tou-itinerary***

Duck Creek Pond in Fall | Craig Primas/Visit Southern Utah

Parowan Gap Petroglyphs | Louis Arevalo

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Visitor Services Bryce Canyon Country | (800) 444-6689
- Visitor Services Cedar City/Brian Head | (435) 784-2318 x135
- Dixie National Forest & Cedar City Ranger District (435) 865-3200 | 1789 North Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Dixie National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS

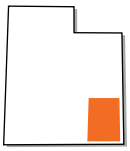
AT A GLANCE: TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

START: Monticello

NUMBER OF DAYS: 3–7

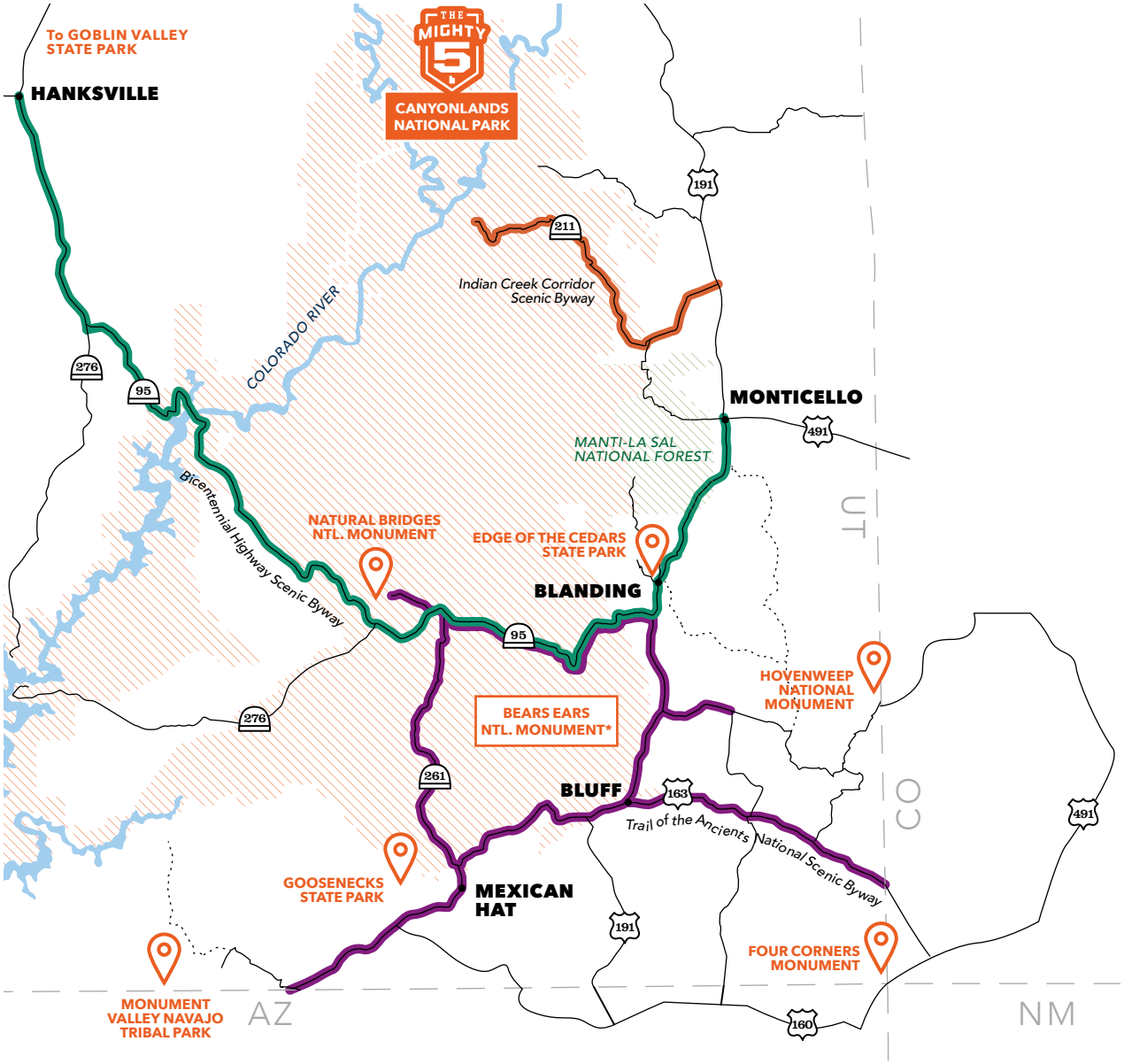
DISTANCE: 400+ miles

SCENIC BYWAYS:
Trail of the Ancients National Scenic Byway (U.S. 191, 163 and S.R. 261, 262)
Indian Creek Corridor Scenic Byway (S.R. 211)
Bicentennial Highway Scenic Byway (S.R. 95)



Just south of Moab and Arches National Park you can travel through time along portions of the dramatic Trail of the Ancients National Scenic Byway, which intersects with Ancestral Puebloan history of the Four Corners area. This is a place where monumental landforms connect with the sky, and vast fields of stars fill the nights.

On your road trip, you'll see evidence of early cultures that built a life in the ruggedly beautiful Canyonlands region, including incredible cliff dwellings. You'll realize this was a very different way of life. In these sparsely populated lands, it is easy to imagine this place before humans. After seeing the Valley of the Gods and massive natural bridges with mythological significance, you'll learn about a more primitive time and place, and maybe learn a little about modern life in the process.



Left: *Hovenweep National Monument* | Barry Gutierrez

*under review

There are many ways to experience this important scenic byway but this tour begins one hour south of Moab in Monticello or the Needles district of Canyonlands National Park. Learn the Ancestral Puebloan history at Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum in Blanding. Explore the ruins of the fascinating Hovenweep National Monument.

Take the scenic drive through Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park then tour the Valley of the Gods. Plan a stop at the remote and spectacular Natural Bridges National Monument. Time permitting, plan hikes to Cedar Mesa, Butler Wash and Comb Ridge. Or return home along the Bicentennial Highway Scenic Byway U.S. 95 to Hanksville through red rock landscapes and beautifully tranquil desert places.

Monument Valley | Michael Kunde

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Utah's Canyon Country Visitor Services
  (435) 587-3235 ext 4139 | (800) 574-4386
- Manti-La Sal National Forest Office
  (435) 637-2817 | 599 W. Price River Drive, Price, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Manti-La Sal National Forest at ***recreation.gov***

DON'T MISS

Newspaper Rock
Native American Indians have been engraving and drawing on Newspaper Rock for more than 2,000 years. Their markings tell stories, hunting patterns, crop cycles, and the mythologies of their lives. It's a great stop on its own or as part of the Indian Creek Corridor Scenic Byway to the Needles District of Canyonlands.

Valley of the Gods
This 17-mile backway at the base of Cedar Mesa is like a mini Monument Valley.

Canyonlands National Park
This national park is a dream come true for day hikers and backpackers. Near Monticello, be sure to visit the famous Needles district on the Indian Creek Corridor Scenic Byway. Adventurous and self-sufficient travelers can explore the rugged and remote Maze district.

Blanding
At Edge of the Cedars, explore a 1,000-year-old Puebloan village and the largest collection of Ancestral Puebloan pottery in the Four Corners region.

Bluff
Take the Bluff History Tour, enjoy local and Native American art, discover the landscape's ancient balance and beauty or launch on the San Juan River.

Mexican Hat
A quaint town lined with red rock ridges and gateway to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park and Valley of the Gods.

Hanksville
Make a supply stop near the scenic headwaters of the Dirty Devil River, Butch Cassidy's Robbers Roost and the Hanksville-Burpee Dinosaur Quarry.

San Juan River and Goosenecks State Park
From the rim, look down 1,500 feet to see this entrenched river meander.

Natural Bridges National Monument
Trails lead to each bridge and a comprehensive trail traverses the canyon bottom. Small archaeological sites are scattered throughout the canyon. Designated the first certified International Dark Sky Park, as well as the first NPS park to be solar powered.

Goblin Valley State Park
Goblin Valley is unlike any other place in the world, and it's a place that captures and stretches the imagination, challenging you with its geologic whimsy. Bring the family and experience this amazing place by hiking, camping and yurts, mountain biking, and exploring the surrounding canyons.

Edge of the Cedars State Park
Explore one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of artifacts from the Ancestral Pueblo, Navajo and Ute people, and Euro-American settlers.

Moki Dugway
One of the most extreme drives in the United States. A mining company constructed the Moki Dugway in the 1950s as a shortcut for transporting uranium. The gravel road is steep and includes a number of switchbacks, but the view is stunning. Not recommended for RVs or trailers.

Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park | Barry Gutierrez

Night sky at Owachomo Bridge, National Bridges National Monument | NPS

Discover more along Utah's Trail of the Ancients at ***visitutah.com/panoramas*** *or set out on our Native Spirit four-day itinerary at* ***visitutah.com/native-spirit***

ZION PARK SCENIC BYWAY

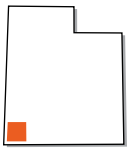
AT A GLANCE: ZION PARK SCENIC BYWAY

START: Cedar City or Springdale

NUMBER OF DAYS: 1–4

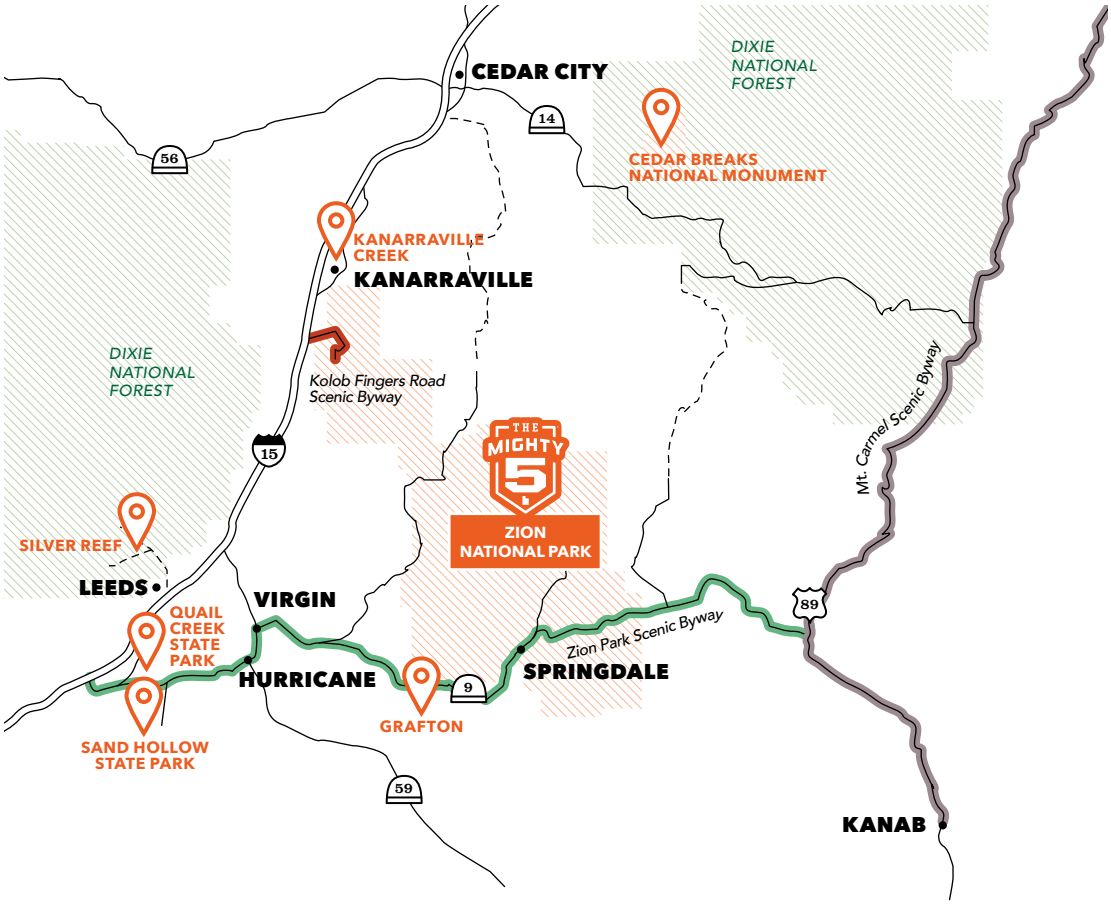
DISTANCE: 175 miles

SCENIC BYWAYS:
Zion Park Scenic Byway (S.R. 9)
Mt. Carmel Scenic Byway (U.S. 89)
Kolob Fingers Road Scenic Byway



Millions annually make a pilgrimage to Zion. It is not a place built by human hands, but human intelligence recognized its intrinsic value and bestowed upon it one of our highest designations: national park. The journey here starts with scenic byways: Zion Park Scenic Byway, Mt. Carmel Scenic Byway and Kolob Fingers Road Scenic Byway.

Zion National Park is a phenomenon of natural history. The Virgin River and its tributaries flow like lifeblood through the wilderness and main canyon. Though the river giveth, it also taketh away, dropping steeply off the plateau and carrying away layers of time as it carves ever deeper into the Earth's crust, slowly, patiently. This wild and and scenic river and the canyons it carves sit at the heart of southwestern Utah's trio of scenic byways. These byways are roads that rise with the sheer canyon walls and carve out their very existence from the sacred stone; they trace ancient riverways past headwaters through pioneer towns alongside alpine forests and down a staircase of sweeping cliffs; and they deliver travelers through lands of singular natural beauty.



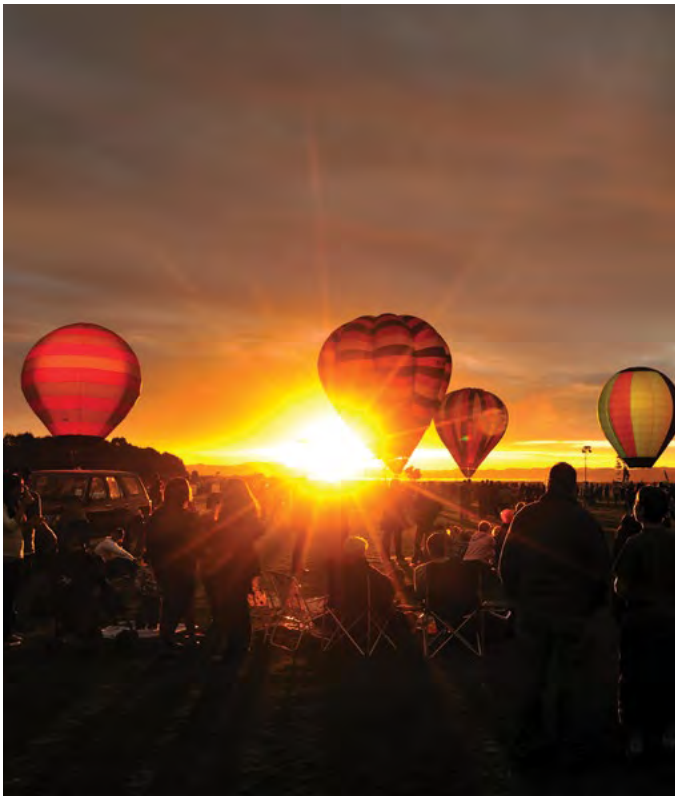
Left: *The Watchman Trail, Zion National Park* | Hage Photo

Though only 5 miles long, Kolob Fingers Road packs in a lot of scenery. Take Exit 40 from Interstate 15 on the northwest side of Zion National Park and proceed up the distinctive red asphalt switchbacks among the park's towering cliffs. While the view at the end is spectacular, there are also options to get out and hike.

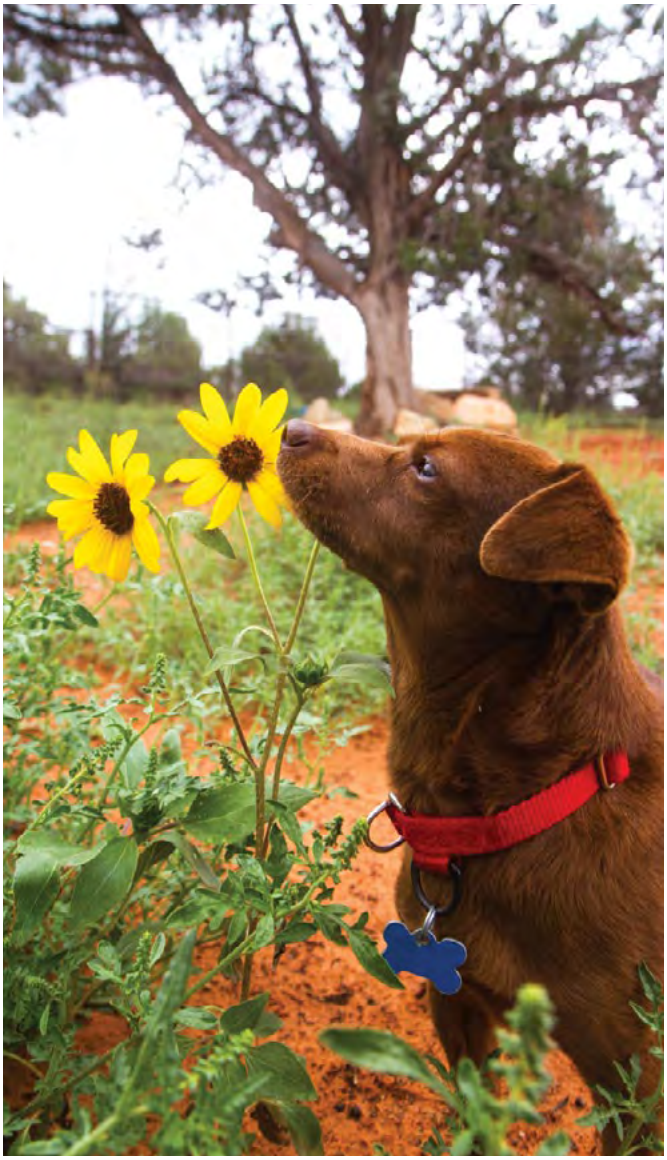
On the south and east side of the park, Zion Park and Mount Carmel scenic byways form a wavy "T" shape, so driving these roads can involve a little backtracking depending on your final destination. Zion Park holds the honor of being a scenic byway that happens to pass directly through Zion National Park — the entrance fee is required even if you're just in it for the road trip (but you'll want to stop and stay awhile). The route (S.R. 9) begins on the west from Washington. It travels 54 miles through small towns and adventurous landscapes before the distinctive formations of Zion National Park appear near Springdale. Zion begs several days of exploration, but the road continues up through the legendary Zion–Mount Carmel Tunnel en route to the junction with U.S. 89. Mount Carmel Scenic Byway's north-south trajectory, which means a dramatic variance in geology and landscape as the 60-mile-long road traverses the Markagunt Plateau through the Sevier River valley descending cliffs of Pink, Gray, White and Vermillion that make up the Grand Staircase.

See the Kolob Canyon Visitor Guide at ***visitutah.com/kolob***

Zion Canyon from above | Visit St. George



Early morning balloon festival | Visit Southern Utah



Best Friends Animal Society, Kanab | Visit Southern Utah

DON'T MISS

Kolob Fingers Road Byway and Hikes
Exit 40 off I-15, 18 miles south of Cedar City, Zion NPS fee applies. The short byway accesses spectacular overlooks and a handful of trails.

State Parks
Boasting some of the warmest waters in the state and a mild winter climate, Quail Creek and Sand Hollow state parks lure boaters, campers and anglers year-round. Sand Hollow is also a top destination for OHV enthusiasts.

Towns of S.R. 9 West of Zion
Gateways to Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, Gooseberry Mesa, Sand Hollow State Park and park trailheads such as Chinle and Eagle Crags.

Grafton Ghost Town and Trail
Forces of nature and tensions with Native Americans forced Mormon pioneer settlers to abandon Grafton after less than a decade. A scenic trail skirts the nearby mesa.

Springdale
Thanks to an international clientèle, Springdale serves up world-class traveler-friendly accommodations, art, spas, dining, coffee, local brewing and outfitting.

Zion Canyon
Ride the multi-passenger shuttle up Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, a beautiful road that follows the North Fork of the Virgin River past historic Zion Lodge and the park's most outstanding scenery.

Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel
The road east from Zion to Mount Carmel Junction, completed in 1930, was considered one of the great engineering accomplishments of its time. Large RVs restricted.

Canyon Overlook
This short but scenic trail runs to a high overlook with commanding vistas of the lower reaches of Zion Canyon. Only 1 mile (1.6 km) round trip, but steep dropoffs demand caution.

East Rim Trailhead
This long trail starts at east entrance and climbs up 1,000 feet onto the rim and through a high ponderosa forest before descending 2,300 feet down to the floor of Zion Canyon.

East Side Lodging
Authentic western destinations east of Zion include a roaming herd of buffalo, farm-to-table dining and a 4,000-acre ranch resort bordering the east boundary of the park.

Dixie National Forest
U.S. 89 skirts the edge of a patch of national forest past the junction with S.R. 14, which accesses high-elevation lakes, streams, trails, and Cedar Breaks National Monument

Pioneer Towns of U.S. 89
Welcoming rural towns in Utah's Kane County offer local rodeos, fairs and access points to the western edge of the Grand Staircase–Escalante.

Geology of U.S. 89
Rocky formations and alpine areas rise and fall along the Markagunt Plateau, Paunsaugunt Plateau, Long Valley and cliffs of many colors.

Kanab
The town is like a Hollywood portrayal of the classic American West with itstowering Navajo sandstone cliffs and vistas of sagebrush. A prime base camp to the southwest.

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary
Best Friends operates the nation's largest sanctuary for homeless animals and provides adoption, spaying/neutering and educational programs. Tours available in Angel Canyon.

North Folk Taylor Creek, Kolob Canyon | NPS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Kolob Canyons Visitor Center | (435) 772-3256
  3752 E Kolob Canyon Rd, New Harmony, UT
- Zion National Park Visitor Center | (435) 772-3256
  1 Zion National Park, S.R. 9, Springdale, UT
- Kanab/Grand Staircase–Escalante
  (435) 644-1300 | 745 E. Highway 89, Kanab, UT
- Dixie National Forest | (435) 688-3246
  345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, UT
- Make camping reservations for the Dixie National Forest and some sites within Zion National Park at ***recreation.gov***

SCENIC BACKWAYS

There's a faster way. There's even a smoother road. In some cases, the pavement simply ends, becoming anything from packed gravel to deep ruts. For some, it's the end of the road. For others, it's just beginning. Utah's Scenic Backways combine paved, winding explorations into narrow canyons or remote landscapes with more adventurous turns down paths known for rough surfaces and extreme grades, all in the pursuit of hidden beauty. On some drives you'll join fellow travelers who've left the main highway behind for more relaxed auto touring, on others you'll find yourself in solitude on a wild and rugged backcountry, where high-clearance, four-wheel-drive and self-sufficiency are your only guests.

Backways North to South

Utah has 58 designated Scenic Backways crisscrossing all corners of the state, which means there is no single, unifying description of the experience ahead. Here is just a sample:

In the west and north of Utah, some backways rise and fall with the isolated mountains of the Basin and Range in Utah's west desert (Silver Island Mountain Loop, Notch Creek) while others climb high into seemingly remote pockets of the mountains of the Wasatch Front, yet offer occasional glimpses back into the populous valley below (Bountiful/Farmington Loop, Willard Peak, Alpine Loop). Other backways push further away from civilization, uncovering hidden oases (Cascade Springs), allowing close glimpses of wildlife (Hardware Ranch, Red Cloud/Dry Fork, and Sheep Creek) or tracking historical routes through valleys and mountain passes (Central Pacific Railroad Trail, Pioneer Memorial, and Pony Express Trail).

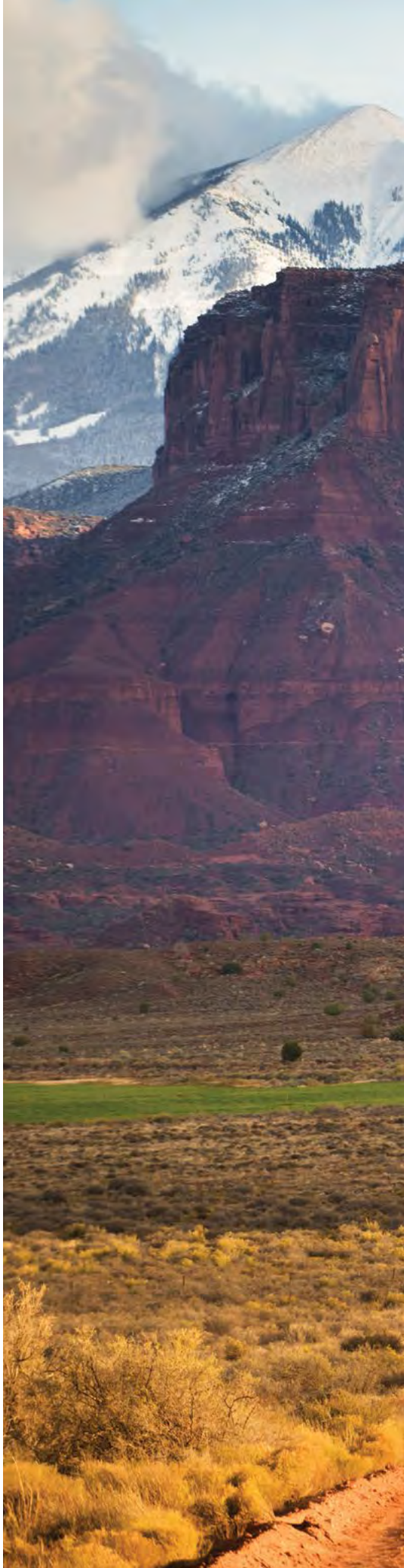
In the central part of the state, drivers of four-wheel-drive, high-clearance vehicles can take on rugged dirt roads traversing ridges and plateaus (White River/Strawberry Road, Skyline Drive) while more casual tourers can explore landscapes of ancient culture and astonishing geology (Nine Mile Canyon, Wedge Overlook/Buckhorn Draw, and Temple Mountain/Goblin Valley Road).

While many visitors know Southern Utah for The Mighty 5® national parks, as accessed from the stunning scenic byways, well-prepared travelers can seek out more remote areas of the region, uncovering solitude within some of Utah's most popular destinations. Some backways carve paths within or near the national parks themselves (Cathedral Valley Road and Notom Road/Burr Trail, Needles/Anticline Overlook, and Kolob Reservoir). Other backways access unexpected beauty in unique ecosystems or monumental landscapes (Mojave Desert/Joshua Tree Road, Elk Ridge Road) while others still are the best and only ways to see deeply hidden pockets of wild and rugged red rock beauty (Hole in the Rock, Cottonwood Canyon and Johnson Canyon), some of which can only be attempted in specially equipped 4x4 vehicles (Lockhart Basin Road).

Planning and Preparedness

Utah's Scenic Backways vary widely in their degrees of difficulty. Backway travel is an adventure to be taken seriously. Visitors will encounter narrow backways, roads in isolated, unpredictable terrain, even roads suitable for any vehicle in good weather but completely impassable in wet or winter conditions. Some are downright dangerous for the unprepared traveler. Plan to be self-sufficient, with water (in summer, a gallon per person per day), food, a spare tire, protection from weather and camping supplies. Since many scenic backways travel through remote areas, travelers cannot count on having cell phone service. Where possible, plan ahead to stop at local visitor centers to ask about current road and weather conditions. All travelers, regardless of where they are going, should have a good road map, including detailed topographical maps. The Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and others offer georeferenced digital maps (PDF) for many areas of the state. When driving, please note that not all intersections are clearly marked. At the very least, all travelers should have a Utah Department of Transportation official highway map.

Read more about Utah's Scenic Backways at ***visitutah.com/backways***



Scenic backway near Moab | Jeff Diener

Red Canyon Visitor Center, Scenic Byway 12 | Scott Markewitz

ANNUAL PARK PASSES

Life's better with a pass. You feel like an insider and, in some cases, you might get the inside track. For fans of The Mighty 5® national parks, national monuments, national recreation areas and Utah State Parks, there's nothing easier than pulling up to the gate and showing off your annual pass for admission. Not only will park rangers and staff know you're a "regular" of the outdoors and historical sites, as you rack up your visits, you'll save money. Learn about the separate passes for national and state parks below, then beginning planning your trip online at ***visitutah.com***.

America the Beautiful National Parks Pass

A pass is your ticket to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites, including Utah's Mighty 5 national parks and many monuments. Each pass covers entrance fees at national parks and national wildlife refuges as well as standard amenity fees (day use fees) at national forests and grasslands, and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A pass covers entrance, standard amenity fees and day use fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle at per vehicle fee areas (or up to four adults at sites that charge per person). Camping and other recreation fees are separate. Children age 15 or under are admitted free. Passes are $80 ($10/seniors or free for current military and U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities, with documentation) and are available in person at a federal recreation site, by phone or online.
More information: ***nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm***

Every Kid in a Park Pass

The Every Kid in a Park Pass is free and valid for the duration of the fourth grade school year though the following summer (September–August). The pass is available for U.S. fourth graders (including home-schooled and free-choice learners 10 years of age). Paper passes can be obtained by visiting the Every Kid in a Park website and can be exchanged for the Annual 4th Grade Pass at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees (day use fee). Paper passes must be printed — digital version of the paper pass (such as on smartphones or tablets) will not be accepted to exchange for an Annual 4th Grade Pass. To get your paper pass, plan your trip and see a PDF list of federal recreation sites that issue passes, start at ***everykidinapark.gov***.

Utah State Parks Annual Pass

This pass is Utah State Park's most popular and is a good all-around choice for those looking to save some money on their adventures. It is good only for day use entrance fees at Utah State Parks for one year from the month it is purchased. Pass cannot be used at the Jordan River OHV Center or at This Is the Place Heritage Park and does not cover the $2 Davis County Causeway fee at Antelope Island State Park. Passes do not provide a discount for camping. $75. Order passes online or find locations to pick up in person at ***stateparks.utah.gov/resources/passes***.

Utah State Parks Annual Pass (Senior)

This pass is good only for day use entrance fees at Utah State Parks for visitors 62 years of age and over. It is good only for day-use entrance fees at Utah State Parks for 1 year from the month it is purchased.

Passes cannot be used at the Jordan River OHV Center or at This Is the Place Heritage Park and does not cover the $2 Davis County Causeway fee at Antelope Island State Park. Passes do not provide a discount for camping. $35.

ON THE ROAD WITH CARLOS BRACERAS

Carlos Braceras is executive director of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) where he previously served as deputy director and chief engineer for 12 years. A native of New Jersey, Braceras has grown to love Utah as his home, enjoying biking and hiking in the beautifully diverse Utah scenery.

The best thing about my job is the regular opportunity it provides me to visit different parts of this great state of Utah, and experience firsthand the extraordinary scenic diversity that exists within our borders. One day I may be driving through the majestic Uintas, enjoying the crisp mountain air and the breathtaking views from towering cliffs, and the very next day I may be in Utah's Dixie, with its red rocks and magnificent vistas. No matter where you are in Utah, a completely new and different geographic experience is just a few hours away — or closer.

During the course of my travels around Utah — in my car, on my bike and on foot — I've been introduced to some hidden gems. For example:

- The Charles Hall Ferry, which is actually an element of S.R. 276 just off the Bicentennial Highway Scenic Byway through the Glen Canyon Recreation Area in southeastern Utah. The ferry takes travelers across Lake Powell from Hall's Crossing to Bullfrog, and is capable of carrying cars, trucks, RVs and trailers. There's nothing else like it in the state of Utah — or anywhere else, when you consider the surrounding scenery.

- Everyone knows about Utah's incredible ski resorts. Winter sports enthusiasts — including me — flock to our resorts every year to take advantage of The Greatest Snow on Earth®. But you may not know that many of those same resorts have a vibrant summer life as well. Sundance, Snowbird and Deer Valley are just three of the resorts that have a full schedule of fun and interesting warm weather activities that you really should check out. Three byways connect you with year-round resorts: Provo Canyon Scenic Byway, Little Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Byway and Big Cottonwood Scenic Byway.

- If you're south of Moab on S.R. 211, the Indian Creek Corridor Scenic Byway, keep an eye out for Newspaper Rock State Historic Monument. A lot of folks miss it as they travel from park to park, but this place is really unique. It's a huge rock covered with petroglyphs carved 2,000 years ago by the Fremont, Navajo, Anasazi and Pueblo people. It's an amazing thing to stand there, 10 or 15 feet away from something that is 2,000 years old. If you haven't seen it, you ought to!

There are plenty of other wonderful and amazing things to see and enjoy here in Utah. At UDOT, we're doing everything we can to give you good, safe roads to travel wherever you go in our state. Please do your part by buckling up, putting your phone down and driving focused, alert and sober. That way we can all enjoy this great and scenically amazing state together!

GEOCACHING

This Visit Utah Geotour includes 145 geocaches throughout Utah. Explore red rock landscapes in the south, dense forests in the center and towering mountains in the north. The west unfolds vast deserts and isolated mountain ranges while the east reveals places once frequented by Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch. You will meet dinosaurs, petroglyphs, pioneers, bison and ancient trees. In contrast, thriving urban settings along the Wasatch Front offer museums, culture, coffee shops, dining and nightlife to accompany your GeoTour.

REWARDS

GeoTour participants can earn a unique patch for each of Utah's 29 counties. To receive a patch, you must find any three of a county's five GeoTour caches. Once you've completed 10 counties, you qualify for the official Visit Utah geocoin (shown below). Remember to log all of your finds with a photo and follow all GeoTour rules. There is a special reward for completing all 29 counties.

For official rules and regulations of the Visit Utah GeoTour, please visit: ***www.visitutah.com/geocaching***

For a complete list of all Visit Utah GeoTour caches, please visit: ***www.geocaching.com/play/geotours/visit-utah***

MORE RESOURCES

Bureau of Land Management
801-539-4001
ut.blm.gov

U.S. Forest Service
801-625-5306
fs.usda.gov

National Park Service
nps.gov/ut

Utah State Parks & Recreation
801-538-7220
stateparks.utah.gov

City and County Visitor and Travel Bureaus
visitutah.com/local-info

Camping Reservations
stateparks.utah.gov/reservations
reserveamerica.com

Accommodations
visitutah.com/stay

Utah Road Conditions
866-511-UTAH, 511 in Utah
commuterlink.utah.gov

National Weather Service
801-524-5133
www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc

Utah Public Safety
801-887-3800 (24 hours a day)

Dial 911 for Emergencies

This guide is a publication of the **Utah Office of Tourism, Film and Global Branding**.

For more trip-planning information, please call (800) 200-1160 or (801) 538-1900 or visit *visitutah.com*

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Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway | Jay Dash