

Southern Utah VACATION Guide

Southern Utah
NEWS

Be our Guest



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Be our guest in southern Utah

By Neal Brown

When my wife and I were thinking of themes for this year's vacation guide, we filtered through around thirty-four different ideas, and then "Be Our Guest" came to mind. I'll take credit for it, even though it was definitely her idea, but it seems to fit perfectly for anyone traveling in, up, down or around Kane County, because one thing we want everyone to feel, is welcome. The land, the skies, the water, the air, the establishments and most importantly, the people, all welcome our guests with open arms and a kind smile.

The term "be our guest" definitely conjures up memories from when I was a kid singing the song from the Disney show Beauty and the Beast, and the song opens with the lines:

"It is with deepest pride and greatest pleasure that we welcome you tonight

And now we invite you to relax

Let us pull up a chair as the dining room proudly presents ..."

But instead of your dinner, as the song says, I'd like to say, southern Utah. And so, the Southern Utah News team would like to say, be our guest, and put our canyons to the test! After you're done putting our



landscapes to the test and enjoy a nice meal from one of our many tasty foodie stops, we invite you to relax and be our guest!

Jeff Cox rappels down a narrow mossy canyon near Zion National Park.
Photo: Barry Glazier

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About the front page photographer & photo



A carefree childhood amongst the rolling landscape of Iowa, ignited David Swindler's passion for the wild and his unquenchable thirst for exploration. David realized that he is happiest when surrounded by nature. At age ten, he saw the Grand Canyon for the first time and that experience changed him forever. "My grandpa and I were camped at the edge of the North Rim. I got out of the tent at night and saw the Milky Way for the first time. I think all I managed to say for the next 30 minutes was WOAHH ... while my jaw was hanging open. It's impossible to describe how one feels when they see the Milky Way for the first time. Any words feel like an understatement." Trained as a classical pianist, David has always been artistic. But his engineering background in optics and photolithography give him an edge in understanding the technical aspects of photography. When

on tour with David, you can expect in-depth discussions on composition, photographic techniques and post-processing tricks. Yet the real gem is his boundless energy and infectious enthusiasm for exploring the great outdoors! Learn more about Action Photo Tours at www.ActionPhotoTours.com. Years ago I was at the Wave with some Action Photo Tours clients. That's when I saw Evelyn and her friend walking into the Wave. She came up to me and asked if I would take a photo of them surfing the Wave. She then launched into a discussion telling me exactly how to take the photo: shoot in aperture control mode, ensure the exposure is good, don't cut off any body parts, etc. I remember smiling and just nodding my head. But then her friend Eric came over and told her, "I think he is a photographer." We all had a good laugh. I ended up getting her email address and the rest is history! It's always great to remember that amazing day at the Wave. Last year we scored permits to the Wave and went back to relive those memories. I had envisioned getting some shots of Evelyn walking the Wave in her flowing red dress. Fortunately, on the day we visited there was enough wind in the right direction to blow her dress. I found a more unique angle to shoot from and caught her in action. At Action Photo Tours, we love taking photographers to the Wave and finding interesting photographic opportunities.

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2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See the Kane County Office of Tourism website at visitsouthernutah.com or call 1-800-SEE-KANE (1-800-733-5263) for updates and details.

APRIL

- 23 • KTX Half Marathon Trail race beginning at the Mansard trailhead and finishing at Jacob Hamblin Park. www.ktxraces.com
- 20-23 • Kanab's Red Rock ATV Jamboree Four days of trail riding. Jacob Hamblin Park. www.kanabatvjamboree.com
- 21-24 • Kanab Film Festival At the Kanab Center

MAY

- 7 • Kanab 10K Race begins at 7 am at Moqui Cave and ends at the Kanab Center.
- 13-14 • Ragnar Relay Trail Races. Held at Zion Ponderosa Resort.
- 15 • Opening of North Rim of the Grand Canyon Highway 67 opens (road to the North Rim).

JUNE

- 4 • National Trails Day. Help repair your favorite hiking trail.
- 16-18 • Jacob Hamblin Days Ranch Rodeo Featuring everything from mutton busting to wild steer rides. Contact: John Reese 644-2420

JULY

- 4 • Independence Day Celebration in Kanab. Breakfast, parade, street fair, BBQ dinner, entertainment, dance and fireworks.
- 24 • Pioneer Day Celebration
- 24-25 • Duck Creek Days Arts & Crafts Festival Games, art, craft and food booths. Live entertainment. www.duckcreekvillage.com.
- 28 - 30 • Kanab Writers Conference Writers convene at the Kanab Center. www.kanabwritersconference.com

AUGUST

- 6-13 • Kane County Fair in Orderville. County Fair with livestock shows, arts & crafts, produce, games & entertainment, golf tournament, horse show and 5K walk/run. www.thekaneountyfair.com
- 19-20 • Western Legends Heritage & Music Festival Celebrating the culture of the Old West. Street Fair with art and food vendors, live music, evening entertainment. Saturday High Noon Parade. www.westernlegendsroundup.com

SEPTEMBER

- 2-3 • Rutan Fly-in Pilots race their Canard planes at Kanab City Airport.
- 10 • Kansas City Barbeque Association Competition The best BBQ grillers will convene in Kanab and smoke up the town. Kanab Center.
- 16-17 • Reel Deal Fishing Tournament Held over two days at Jackson Flat Reservoir.
- 18-24 • Grand to Grand Ultra Marathon Six day, 170 mile self-sufficient foot race from the Grand Canyon North Rim to Grand Staircase. www.g2gultra.com
- 23-24 • Glendale Apple Festival Fun weekend. Archery, games, and apples of course.
- 23-24 • Mt. Carmel Car Show - Thunderbird Resort & Golf Course at Mt. Carmel Jct.
- 28-Oct 1 • Grand Circle Trailfest

OCTOBER

- 8-10 • Kanab Hammerfest Blacksmithing Extravaganza at Blacksmith Adventures.
- 8 • Wheels Up Kanab Skateboard and scooter competition - Kanab Skatepark
- 15 • Closing of North Rim-Grand Canyon Highway 67 to stay open as long as weather allows.
- 15 • Red Rocktoberfest Canyon to Canyon Art Walk Art, music, food, Downtown Kanab
- 31 • Halloween Spooktacular Kanab Center
- 31 • Village Halloween Trunk or Treat 4-5 pm, Duck Creek Village

NOVEMBER

- 25 • K-Town 5K Turkey Trot 7 am, Sherry Belle Trail, Jackson Flat Reservoir
- 26 • Christmas Light Parade 5 pm, Downtown Kanab

DECEMBER

- 3-4 • Christmas Festival Annual Dinner and Concert by Symphony of the Canyons on Friday evening. Entertainment, decorated trees, vendor booths and more on Saturday at the Kanab Center.

For more information on events in Kane County, Kanab and southern Utah, go to www.visitsouthernutah.com

Be our guest in Kanab

By Dixie Brunner

Make Kanab the hub for your southern Utah/northern Arizona vacation plans. Modern conveniences and close proximity to four national parks and a multitude of other scenic sights make it the logical base for your southern Utah travel adventure.

Here are suggestions on how to make the most of your vacation! • Go take a hike! There are so many amazing trails – you'll have to return many times just to catch them all. • Visit the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. • Eat at one of Kanab's great restaurants. The town is rapidly gaining a reputation as a foodie destination! • Take a tour of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. It is the largest no-kill animal sanctuary in the world! Stay another day to volunteer to help with the animals! • Take a river rafting trip down the Colorado River. • Ride a bike on a local scenic byway. • Challenge your photography skills, and try to capture the red rock and intricate geological patterns on nearby mountains. • Visit Bryce Canyon National Park. • Take a dip in Lake Powell to cool off. • Visit Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park. • Take in the wonders of Zion National Park. • Get a historic glimpse back into this area's past by visiting Pipe Spring National Monument. • Experience Toroweap, the quiet Grand Canyon view. • Do the Michaelangelo thing,

and try to capture scenic views on an artist's canvas. • Hot day? Head for cool, refreshing Cedar Mountain. Cool forests, astounding scenic views and

Navajo Lake beckon you. • Want a taste of the Old West? Take in movie or film-making areas such as Parry Lodge or Frontier Movie Town, and see

western sets and movie memorabilia. • Stop by Moqui Cave and see the largest collection of dinosaur tracks in southern Utah. While there, check out their fluorescent mineral display, and collection of Native American artifacts. • Tour the historic Heritage House on Main Street in Kanab. • Stop in at the Old Rock Church in Mt. Carmel and learn the fascinating history of this area. • Check out Cedar Breaks National Monument. The red rock spires resemble Bryce, and for those with stars in their eyes, it was recently named a dark sky destination. • Take an off-road guided tour to see some incredible sights. • Are you a golfer? Play nine holes at the scenic Thunderbird Golf Course in Mt. Carmel. • Stop by any of the visitor centers of the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument. Each one has a different theme. • Visit the Kane County Information Center to get additional recreational ideas, hiking maps and great activities to attend. • Extend your stay, and take in more of the dramatic scenery and great history by touring Scenic Byway 12. Garfield and Wayne Counties are remote gems, with great early pioneer settlement history and scenery.

• Read the local newspaper – we work hard producing it every week! Out-of-state and online subscriptions are available at www.sunews.net.



Harry Barber leaps to safety across a rocky divide near Kanab.
Photo: Harry Barber

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bestfriendsroadhouse.org

The most playful sandbox around

By Dixie Brunner

Make a trip to the extraordinary Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park – there's so much to do!

Hiking, sightseeing and four-wheel adventure can all be part of your park experience. Grown-ups and kids alike will enjoy playing in the sand and wandering the seemingly endless

The sand formed into a dune system as a result of wind deposits rising from the hot, lower elevations. The pink sand, contrasted against the steep red cliffs and outcroppings of southern Utah, offers visitors a visual delight. In Kane County's movie-making days, a Hollywood production company thought Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park resembled Egypt, and it was selected as location for filming *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. All film extras were locals, with the only imported actors being the camels!

The sand dunes and wind-whipped trees of Coral Pink offer a feeling of being somewhere else. But before you think it's a mirage, check the map – you're in the heart of southern Utah! The park features a 22-unit campground, along with modern restrooms, hot showers and a sewage disposal station. Reservations for

group and individual campsites may be made from three to 120 days in advance. All campsites have pull-through parking, a barbecue grill and a picnic table. If day use is your plan, the park is open from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Coral Pink Sand Dunes has over 3,700 acres of play area for off-highway enthusiasts. Hundreds of miles of trails and several developed four-wheel roads are on BLM land adjacent to the park as well. There are no developed hiking trails within the park, but several are easily accessible on adjacent lands.

The South Fork Indian Canyon petroglyphs trailhead lies four miles northeast of the park. Harris Mountain is north of the park and offers views of the sand dunes and Zion National Park, while the Moquith Mountains form the east boundary of the park. From dune vantage points, you can see Kanab Canyon and the Grand Canyon North Rim. Nearby is a dinosaur track sight, but you must have four-wheel drive to visit!

Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park welcomes you for a unique opportunity in the incredible place which is southern Utah.



Grand to Grand runner toughs it out during one of the hardest stretches of the race in the dreaded Coral Pink sand dunes portion. Photo: Eric C.

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Be our guest to the best view of the Grand Canyon

By Dixie Brunner

One of the greatest attractions in the world turned 100 years old a few years ago!

It was Feb. 26, 1919, when the Grand Canyon was designated a national park, becoming one of the great attractions for those seeking to view awe-inspiring vistas, remote adventures or spiritual solace. Located in northwest Arizona just south of the Utah state line, the world's largest gorge has a North Rim and South Rim, separated by the Colorado River that helped carve its wonders of canyons, cliffs and grottos. The Grand Canyon is on everyone's bucket list! How do you describe one of the seven wonders of the world? The Canyon's matchless beauty and grandeur go far beyond the shallow human ability to describe.

The best-kept secret of the Grand Canyon adventure is to experience it at the North Rim! It's a visitor's dream come true, with incredible views, improved hiking trails and great facilities. The North Rim's popularity is growing, but the opportunities to take in a quiet hike or a scenic vista alone are still there. When approaching the northern canyon access, you travel through the scenic Kaibab Plateau-North Rim Parkway,

driving through the gentle green forests, which rise dramatically to 9,000 feet in elevation. The Kaibab, which the Paiute Indians called "the mountain lying down," changes from life zones of the Sonoran desert zone at one extreme, to the frosty climate

of the sub-alpine zone nearer the canyon. Dense pine forests of the high Kaibab Plateau end abruptly at the canyon's edge. Campgrounds and lodges are available at the park, but they can wait – the Canyon is beckoning! At the first overlook you

are rendered breathless with the panoramic view. The rugged, restless collection of colors and canyons, buttes and mesas, as well as wildlife and vegetation, stimulate emotions. The Canyon offers a multitude of moods, appearing different with every passing minute of every single day. Each of the well-maintained overlooks provide a different view of the canyon and the Colorado River glimpsed below. Those catching a sunset or sunrise are in for a truly inspiring sight.

My own favorite North Rim activity is to sit on a rocking chair on the patio behind the Grand Canyon Lodge. The panoramic view is humbling and awesome. Watch the clouds drift lazily across the huge expanse, casting different light and shadows on the mesas and canyons. If you get lucky, you might see an approaching storm and the lightning playing across the stony maze in front of you. It's a stunning visual experience.

Whichever way you choose to explore, immerse yourself in the adventure that is the Grand Canyon. The trip will offer you a spiritual experience. With plenty of time and access to meditate on its awesome beauty, one leaves the Canyon feeling more bonded and in tune with the natural wonder. Treat yourself at Grand Canyon North Rim!



Be our guest and take in the solitude and vastness of the Grand Canyon from the North Rim. Photo: Steve Williams.



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Always welcome at Lake Powell

By Neal Brown

Lake Powell holds a special place in my heart, and as special as it is to me, it's even more special to hear my children gain a greater appreciation for its natural beauty and wonder. The other day, my daughter mentioned how she misses Lake Powell and can't wait to go back. I wonder how many times she's said she misses her dad? Nonetheless, it made me proud that it was on her mind. The lower water levels make certain parts of the lake look a bit different than in years past, but it just means a little more planning before you get there.

If you have a boat or jet ski, Lake Powell is as wonderful as before. The bath-water like temperature in summertime is as fresh as a daydream in winter, and you won't want to leave. The recreation opportunities still abound, whether it's cliff-jumping off a towering ledge, kayaking through a remote lonely canyon or star gazing at the Milky Way.

I invite you to explore the special place of Lake Powell and see if it doesn't mesmerize you like it has me, and like it has my daughter, and like it has millions of other visitors who make it an annual event to visit.



Lake Powell is so inviting, you'll always be welcome for a refreshing dip, even if it's a little low this year. Photo: John Slot

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Small town hospitality, big time Kanab dreams

By Neal Brown

The 4th of July represents what is truly great about America, and that's never truer than spending the holiday in small town America, like Kanab, Utah. It's fun to see the streets lined with friends and family, tourists and transients. Whether you recognize someone or not, it feels like they are connected to you, and after sharing an Independence Day in Kanab, you are connected. There's a bond shared through the celebration of freedom and the safety that we all enjoy walking the streets during the parade, getting candy thrown at us, getting water sprayed on you and smiling through it all in the dry desert heat. While the parade may seem short compared to big city parades, the after-parade activities abound.

Jacob Hamblin Park, just a few blocks north of Main Street, shines bright as one of the best parks in southern Utah. Tucked under the rising red plateaus, it provides the perfect backdrop for a fireworks show like nothing you've ever experienced before. It's no wonder the grassy park fills up right before dusk as the residents claim their spot for the fantastic fireworks show.

Visitors from all over the world come to Jacob Hamblin Park to take a

load off, unwind and hit refresh, whether it's for a quick picnic lunch, or a day of getting rejuvenated before they're off on their next adventure. I have talked to many such people, who are astounded at the beauty and the activities that the park has to offer. One woman from Sweden told me they didn't have anything like this where she lived. She couldn't believe the playground structure, the splash pad feature and the enticing outdoor swimming pool right next door to the park.

The new skate park stays full all day as kids take in the last bit of sunlight before the sun goes down and the 4th of July show begins. It's not uncommon to have



Fireworks in Kanab is a highlight of the 4th of July. Photo: Raven Chavez

kids from all over southern Utah, including Cedar City, St. George and Mesquite, Nevada, travel to spend the day skating the unique pump track around the skate park. It feels different, and that's because it is.

It's hard to put your finger on exactly why Kanab has that different feel to it. When you start engaging with the locals, you'll start to understand what makes Kanab the unique place it is. It's the people that make Kanab what it is, and the diversity among the community is ever present. Whether it's talking to Barry Glazier at Glazier's Market, Victor Cooper at Rocking V Cafe, Chef Shon at Sego Restaurant or Rosa at Escobar's Mexican Restaurant, the love for Kanab radiates off all of them. As you feel that love, and build connections with one another, you'll get hooked on what makes Kanab so great: the people. It's refreshing to feel it, and it's addicting, which is why most people you see at the 4th of July parade in Kanab, are repeat offenders, and we hope you'll become one, too.

Kanab welcomes you to be our guest as you spend whatever time you have in our neck of the woods. We hope you enjoy it and treat it as well as we try to treat it.

City of Kanab

KANAB 150

A Western Classic

Balloons & Tunes Roundup – February
 Kanab KTX Half Marathon – April
 Kanab's Red Rock ATV Jamboree – April
 Kanab Film Festival – April
 Kanab 10K Mother's Day Weekend – May
 Jacob Hamblin Days – June
 July 4th Celebration – July
 Kanab Music Festival – July
 Kansas City Barbeque Competition – August
 Western Legends – August
 Reel Deal Fishing Tournament – September
 Grand to Grand Ultra – September
 Kanab Hammerfest – October
 Sighthound Shivoo – October
 Canyon to Canyon Art Walk/Red Rocktoberfest – October
 Rocky Mountain Pro Rodeo Finals – November

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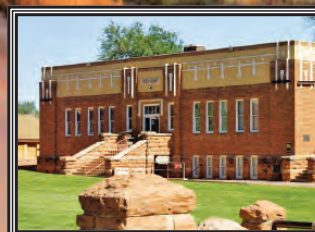
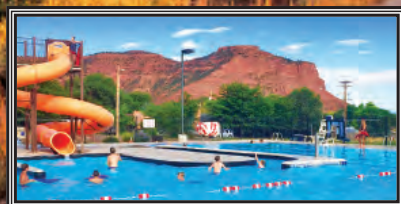
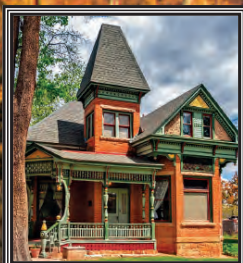
- Hiking Trails
- Biking Trails
- OHV Trails
- Skate Park/Pump Track
- Jackson Flat Reservoir
- Jacob Hamblin Park



SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

- The Splash Pad
- Cowboy Watering Hole Pool
- Heritage House Museum
- Heritage Museum

kanab.utah.gov



We invite you to Zion National Park

By Dixie Brunner

Few Zion National Park visitors will challenge the statement that its magnificent rock formations are incredible! Sights such as the intriguing Narrows, Virgin Towers, Temple of Sinawava, Checkerboard Mesa, Angel's Landing or Great White Throne often bring tears to those contemplating their awesome beauty.

Long before its official designation as Mukuntuweap National Monument on July 31, 1909, by President William Howard Taft, Zion was a frequent home to the Paiute Indians. The Virgin River had a hand in the creation of Zion. Slicing canyons as deep as 3,000 feet in some places, the river left buttes and mesas standing as lone islands rising up from the valley floor.

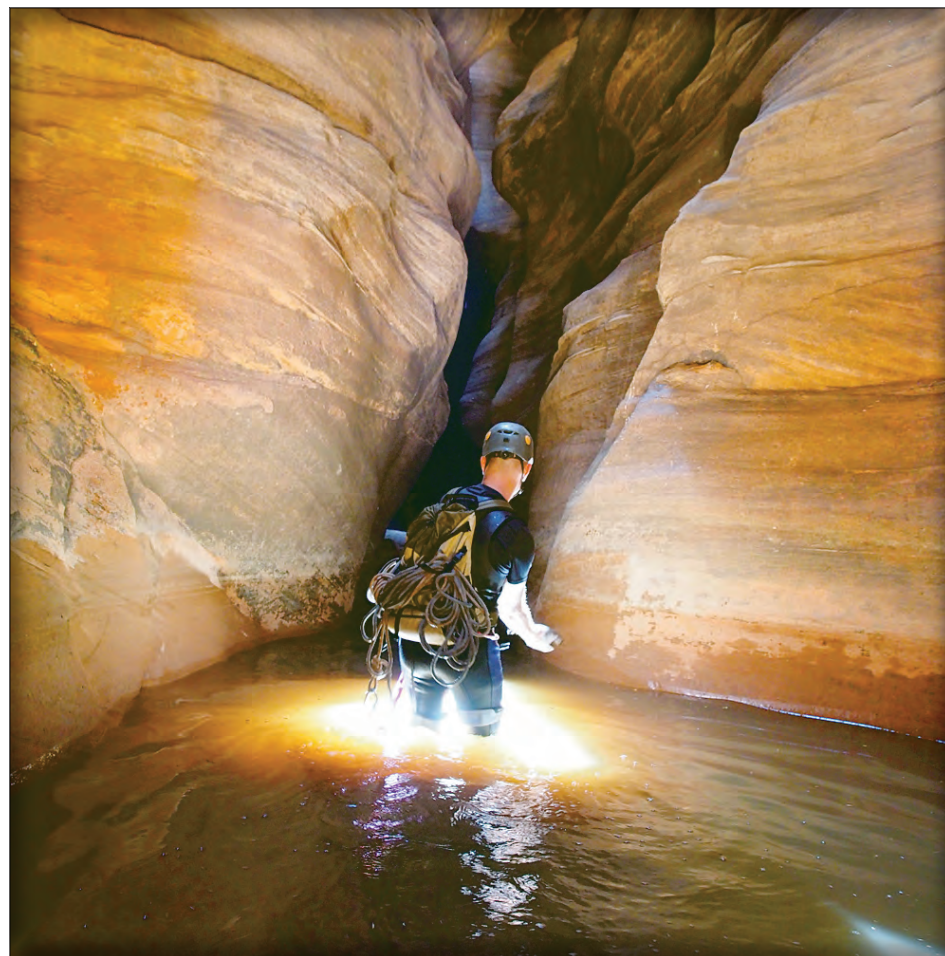
Unlike many of the west's great scenic attractions, a majority of Zion is seen from the floor of the canyon rather than the rim. When hiking its trails, Zion surrounds you with grandeur. Hiking trails come in a variety of lengths (some with wheelchair access), offering novice to expert hikers the opportunity to see and experience the park.

Some longer hikes require permits, so check with park personnel concerning long hikes. There are serious dangers associated with flash floods in some of the narrow slot canyons, so also check weather reports before undertaking those amazing adventures.

Hiking isn't the only way to experience Zion. You can ride a bike, climb, horse-ride, take a guided tram tour or drive, with each offering a different, yet unique, perspective. The drive through the mountain tunnel, and down the dizzying switchbacks is a remarkable and sometimes nail-biting treat.

A visitor center, shuttle system, lodge and campgrounds are located inside the park, with services and accommodations outside both entrances as well. Highway 9 exits Zion's east entrance and takes tourists on a scenic trip to Mt. Carmel, Bryce Canyon National Park and beyond.

The park was named and established as Zion National Park in 1919, and has become internationally known for its majestic towering rock mountains which rise to awe-inspiring heights. Zion is a lush green oasis, surrounded by startling sentinels of stone. With sheer, milky-white cliffs and pristine,



A slot canyon in Zion is a magical way to unwind on a hot day.
Photo: Jill Williams

EAST ZION

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Tree hides among the cliffs of Zion.
Photo: Judy Kiel



Towering thrones of Zion National Park viewed from the tunnel window on the drive into the park. Photo: Judy Kiel

curtained waterfalls, Zion, simply put, is one of the most beautiful places in the west.
When looking at the steep, stone mountains, you are struck with a feeling of something much older and more important than humans. It took Mother Nature roughly 250 million years to create this scenic wonderland, and she's not done yet!

Layers of sedimentary rock make up the surrounding mountains. With each layer deposited, the weight of the new material pushes down the old.
The park became popular, with visitation numbers around 1,000 annually by 1919, when many of those tourists arrived by horseback or stagecoach. Last year, the park logged in an amazing 5.1 million visitors from all over the world. The majority of park visitors come during the spring and fall, with lowest visitation during the months of December to March.
Zion National Park has seen substantial changes in its 100 plus years of existence. Two major changes that affected park visitation the most were probably when they established the lodge, as well as when

the tunnel was completed. The lodge was completed in 1926. The first homesteader to hang his hat at Zion was Isaac Behunin in 1861. While life was difficult for the pioneer, Behunin was appreciative of its beauty. "A man can worship God among these great cathedrals," said Behunin, "as well as in any man-made church – this is Zion."



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Be our guest and discover Bryce Canyon

By Dixie Brunner

As you approach Bryce Canyon National Park, you get the overwhelming feeling that you are about to see something very special. You can't wait to get there!

But relax and enjoy the journey. As with most travels in southern Utah, getting there is equally satisfying as the destination – and taking a hike and viewing the strange rock formations is the best way to explore Bryce!

For the small price of a day visitor's pass or an National Parks Pass, you can explore the odd natural wonder that is Bryce National Park!

A year round visitor and natural history center adjacent to the park entrance can help visitors plan their Bryce tour. Daily ranger talks and current schedules for various park activities are posted there. There is also a display of indigenous animals you might see in the park.

While riding the free shuttle is encouraged, limited driving is allowed.

The roads winding up to the scenic overlooks present a visual treat themselves. You begin to see the oddly-shaped hoodoos, as you pass

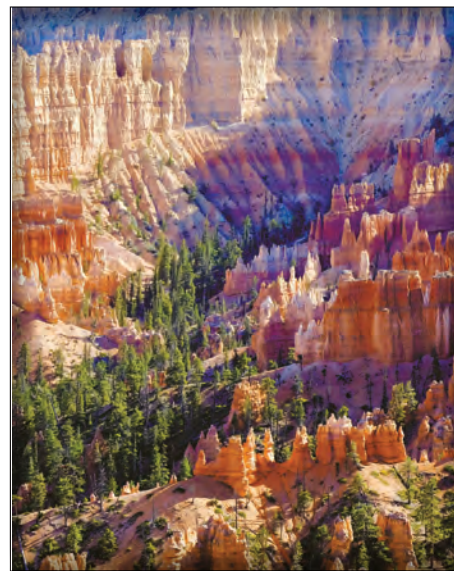
through Red Canyon with two stone archways welcoming your arrival.

Red stone spires jab at the azure-blue Utah sky, like an accusing old man's fingers. An eerie feeling takes hold as the towering rock pillars beckon. Peer over the canyon rim, and you're treated to a dramatic, breathtaking landscape vista, far beyond that of normal, descriptive vocabulary.

The geological wonder known as Bryce Canyon National Park is a testament to Mother Nature having final say when it comes to creating a place of color, texture and beauty. Its spires, rocky temples and pillars, arranged within a huge amphitheater of red rock, seem like they've been placed to stimulate people's imaginations.

Bryce's allure is undeniable, from the minute you first glimpse the unusual sculptured, multi-colored pinnacles from along the canyon's edge. The bizarre formations are nestled in 12 huge bowls sinking deep into the red southern Utah earth. The stone spires of Bryce are actually products of erosion. The effects of wind, weather and time on sedimentary rock, such as lime and sandstone, have carved the stone sculptures.

The Rim Trail is very popular because it runs around the top, connecting you with all the scenic overlooks, from Fairyland to Bryce Point. The great part about this trail is you can choose how far you want to go – 0.5-5.5 miles one way, offers



Bryce Canyon offers many easy hikes the whole family can enjoy.

Photo: Jerry Melrose

you some options on how far is a good thing. But you must explore Bryce more – the many hiking trails leading to the canyon floor also demand your attention! The only question is how to get down. Some choose to rent horses to make the trip, while many opt to walk. Explore the beautiful scenic attractions of Bryce!

The gradual descent into Bryce Canyon offers a giant fantasy close-up view of the orange formations. Upon reaching the canyon floor you stare up at the red spires stretching over 1,000 feet into the air and feel very small.

Each season and every passing moment offer a different view of Bryce. The master artist of time provides a different perspective, as lighting creates changing magical effects. The view confirms what you already knew to be true – Bryce Canyon is an enchanted place.

Enhance your visitor experience by taking a moonlit-guided hike, geology talk or telescope stargazing! Renowned for its stunning dark skies, a whole new life of adventure happens during the evening due to low light pollution. Become star struck!

Explore the beautiful scenic attractions of Bryce!

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Photo by Barry Glazier

The perfect stargazing experience

By Rich Csenge, President, Stellar Vista Observatory

One measure of rural Utah's outstanding quality of life is its clear night sky, glistening with thousands of stars and the Milky Way. In much of southern Utah, starry nights punctuated by the moon and planets are as visible today as when pioneers began settling the area. It's an enviable source of continuing natural wonder that has largely vanished across more populous regions of our country. As Utah cities and towns grow larger, wise outdoor lighting choices point the way to preserving this inspiring heritage. The natural darkness of rural southern Utah sets the stage for an enriching experience of humanity's place in the Cosmos.

Why are southern Utah night skies so clear? Several factors include the dry climate, high elevation, even higher mountains and plateaus buffering the light pollution spreading out from large cities along the I-15 corridor and Wasatch Front, and a growing awareness of the value that preserving this matchless legacy resource brings to the region.

For these reasons in 2019, local residents founded the 501C-3 nonprofit Stellar Vista Observatory (SVO) dedicated to the creation of an educational astronomical observatory for public enjoyment of southern Utah's world class starry nights. The organization enjoys strong support for its efforts to draw attention to and preserve the visibility of southwest Utah's starry skies for present and future generations.

When operational, Stellar Vista Observatory will be the largest public facility of its kind within a 300 mile radius, attracting students, residents and visitors to enjoy stunning views of the planets, stars, clusters, nebulae and distant galaxies. The design includes large pier-mounted large telescopes plus a range of portable scopes, a classroom/theater, an outdoor amphitheater for guided constellation viewing and star parties, gift shop and more.

In addition to hosting star parties, SVO produces authoritative weekly sky reports published in regional newspapers around southern Utah. SVO also brings attention to, and works to preserve Kanab's star filled night skies with its "Discover the Night Sky" telescope and binocular lending program, created through a grant from the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. Easy-to-use portable telescopes and tripod mounted binoculars are loaned to families and individuals in Kane County. "To witness the infinity, eternity and immortality of the physical universe is incredibly inspiring", says Rich Csenge, coordinator for the project and founder of the nonprofit. Maybe you'll want to request one of our astronomy kits for your family to enjoy? They're fun, they're inspiring,



Two love birds find time to kiss under the Milky Way in Kanab. Photo: Stacy Cox

and they're free! To reserve your kit, visit <https://stellarvistaobservatory.org/discover-the-night-sky/>.

Kanab is one of just four rural communities in the state of Utah that have enacted night sky friendly outdoor lighting ordinances to protect the outstanding clarity of southern Utah's starry nights. With its full range of visitor services including vacation rentals, B&B's, hotels and restaurants, and its close proximity to federally managed parks, forests, monuments and public lands, Kanab offers outstanding prospects as a home base for astro-tourists. If you've had a memorable experience stargazing in Kanab, please take a moment to write a note to Kanab City Mayor Johnson to let him know how much you enjoyed it!

According to Utah Governor Spencer Cox, "Dark skies are integral to the well-being of many animal and plant species, and they have positive health impacts on humans ... and the implementation of dark sky practices in land use, construction, utilities and other aspects of community life actively promotes local governance, reduces energy-costs and preserves Utah's Western lifestyle."

Utah leads the world in the number of state and national parks which have received certification from the International Dark Sky Association as "Dark Sky Parks". Twenty-three state and five national parks in Utah now hold this distinction! Visit <https://www.darksky.org/> to learn more.

A community's outdoor lighting

choices can have a big impact on the visibility of the night sky in the parks. Shielding of outdoor lights eliminates wasted light shining upward into the sky. Instead, light is focused on the ground where we live, work and play. When light pollution and glare are reduced, public safety increases, saving energy and lowering electric bills. Fully shielded fixture designs are readily available at competitive prices, providing enhanced visibility while preserving starry skies above. For a list of accredited fixtures, visit <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-for-industry/fsa/fsa-products>.

To learn more about SVO's plans to build an educational astronomical observatory in the Kanab City area for public enjoyment of the night sky, visit: www.stellarvistaobservatory.org.

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Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

By David Hercher, BLM

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument spans across nearly 1.87 million acres of America's public lands in southern Utah. From its spectacular Grand Staircase of cliffs and terraces, across the rugged Kaiparowits Plateau to the wonders of the Escalante River Canyons, the Monument is a diverse geologic treasure speckled with monoliths, slot canyons, natural bridges and arches. Due to its remote location and rugged landscape, the monument was one of the last places in the continental United States to be mapped.

The Monument is also an outstanding biological resource, spanning five life-zones - from low-lying desert to coniferous forest. Deep within this vast and austere landscape, the Anasazi and Fremont cultures made contact in the period AD 950-1100, leaving behind rock art panels, occupation sites, campsites and granaries.

Stepping further back in time, fossil excavations have yielded more information about ecosystem change at the end of the dinosaur era than any other place in the world. The Monument's size, resources and remote character provide extraordinary

opportunities for geologists, paleontologists, archeologists, historians and biologists in scientific research, education and exploration. This unspoiled natural area remains a frontier with countless opportunities for quiet recreation and solitude.

On September 18, 2021, the Monument celebrated its 25th anniversary as the first national monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Today, the

Monument continues to evolve as a place of cultural, paleontological, ecological and geographic discovery, as managers work to retain traditional resource values, while preserving important monument objects of value for the benefit of generations.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is becoming a very popular outdoor recreation location. Visitation to the monument dramatically increased during the pandemic, when

Americans headed outdoors and rediscovered BLM-managed public lands, not only in southern Utah, but throughout the west. The number of visitors has doubled in the last 20 years and today, more than 1.4 million people come to enjoy the beauty of the monument. Before visiting Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, ensure you are prepared with the most up-to-date information about the area by calling or stopping one of the monument visitor centers.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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A hint of winter hides from the sun on the GSENM. Photo: Harry Barber



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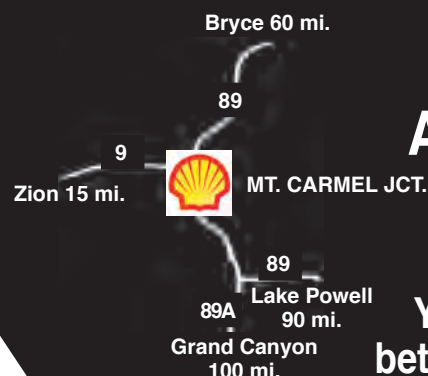
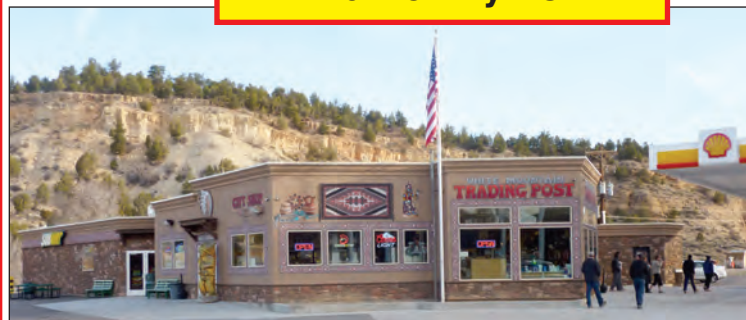
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You're more than invited to Best Friends

By Barb Williamson

The red rock canyon walls and open vistas surrounding Kanab just make you want to explore. It seems like at every turn there is a canyon drawing you in, or a bluff that makes you crane your neck to see what is at the top. Hidden or in plain sight, the unique geology of Kanab and Kane County seems to will magic into reality. And in the middle of all this is Angel Canyon, home to the nation's largest no-kill refuge for homeless pets.

The animals come to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary from animal shelters and rescue groups across the country for special care and training so they can be ready to be adopted into a loving home. Best Friends Animal Society is a leading force in the national effort to take this country – No-Kill by 2025 – saving every dog and cat in a shelter who can be saved. It means healing the animals that can be healed, treating behaviors that can be treated and prioritizing safety and a high quality of life for both pets and people in our communities.

When you visit the Sanctuary and

witness the lifesaving love of volunteers and caregivers for the animals, it will refresh your soul. Whether you only have time for the Grand Tour to get a big-picture look at the Sanctuary, which sprawls along a six-mile road, or you have time for the focused tours in different parts of the Sanctuary, or you do hands-on volunteering, it is sure to be a one-of-a-kind experience. Being

that person who gets a shy dog to take a treat for the very first time; brushing a cat who is finally relaxed enough to sunbathe after being rescued from a bad situation; finding the “sweet scratch spot” on a potbellied pig’s side that makes the pig lay down in joy and beg for a belly rub; wandering through the Gratitude Garden to the meditative labyrinth walk; or eating a

plant-based lunch on the deck at Angel Cafe that overlooks Angel Canyon, you will find yourself recharged.

And at the end of your Best Friends day, what could be better than spending the night at Best Friends Roadhouse and Mercantile in Kanab? The Roadhouse is the premier pet-centric accommodation and your stay helps support Best Friends’ lifesaving work. If you are traveling with your pet, the Roadhouse friendly ambassadors can help arrange a pet sitter while you are touring or volunteering at the Sanctuary. Or they can arrange a slumber party with a Sanctuary cat or dog to make your evening extra special. Visit www.bestfriendsroadhouse.org to find out more.

While planning your Kanab getaway, go to www.bestfriends.org to secure your spot on one of the free Best Friends tours and/or register to volunteer at the Sanctuary (openings fill up fast).

Don't be surprised if you find yourself planning your next trip back to Best Friends and Kanab before you go home.



These adorable puppies are waiting to be adopted at Best Friends. Photo: Best Friends

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Hosting a pet from Best Friends Animal Sanctuary overnight is a simple way to spend some quality time with an adoptable dog or cat without a long-term commitment. You get cuddles and snuggles; they get to experience a homelike environment. In the morning, you return the pet to the Sanctuary. Easy peasy. (Though we can't promise your heartstrings will remain unaffected.)

Learn more: bestfriendsroadhouse.org



Invigorating run down the Colorado River

By Dixie Brunner

Picture yourself floating lazily down the river with sheer canyon walls towering thousands of feet overhead, reflecting in the crystal clear water you glide upon. Peace and tranquility envelope you with each winding turn of the river, putting more distance between you and the hectic lives you left behind.

And then ... you hear the roar!

You look ahead at a wall of roiling water, so huge you cannot see beyond. It seems impossible the raft on which you're riding can make it through the turbulent water ahead!

Grand Canyon Expeditions has been providing once-in-a-lifetime experiences for worldwide visitors for nearly 50 years. The eight or 14-day river adventures are all-inclusive, with all meals, bedding and round-trip transportation from Las Vegas furnished.

"A Canyon trip offers serenity and excitement," explains owner Marty Mathis. "It's getting back to nature, starlit nights, history. The Canyon is a magical life-changing experience."



Daniel and Andrea Gilberg float down the lovely Colorado River in a dual kayak. Photo: Andrea Gilberg



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A young boy with blonde hair, wearing a black baseball cap, a yellow life vest over a grey t-shirt, and black shorts, is paddling a green kayak on a river. He is smiling at the camera. The river is calm, reflecting the surrounding landscape. In the background, there are massive, layered red rock cliffs that rise steeply from the water's edge. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and scenic, capturing a moment of outdoor recreation in a natural setting.



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The search for Montezuma's Treasure resumes

By Dixie Brunner

Freddie Crystal in 1914, thought he had found the location of the famed Montezuma's Gold. (The Aztec Indian treasure Montezuma's followers supposedly buried to prevent it from falling into the hands of Cortez and his Spanish conquistadors.)

Freddie was staying at a nearby Johnson Canyon ranch at the time, and was convinced he knew the location of the famed gold. Crystal said Indian petroglyphs marked the way to a buried tunnel and secret room inside of a mountain with a great hoard of Aztec gold, silver and jewels. He disappeared for a few years, returning with a map he claimed to have found in a Spanish monastery. The map showed four mountains to the north, one mountain in each of the other three directions, a cliff with stairs, a duck petroglyph symbol and a canyon with four side branches. One of the branches was marked as the buried treasure site. After a great deal of searching, Crystal and his entourage found another map directing them to White Mountain. As the group entered the canyon, Crystal pointed out matching clues ... the duck petroglyphs and the cliff stairs were both there. They were sure they had

found the lost treasure! The group was so excited they began digging immediately. After two days of back-breaking excavation, they discovered a man-made stone wall built of blue limestone rock.



Some say the real treasure is the landscapes you can get lost in, like the Wave. You'll have to come find the treasure for yourself. Photo: Charlotte Berry

News of the discovery rocked Kanab! The townspeople were in a frenzy. An organized group of diggers set up a tent city on the flat terrain beneath the mountain's slope. The workers pushed through the stone wall and found to their excitement, a tunnel. The 160 foot tunnel was treacherous with cave-ins, but Crystal and his group worked diligently. The party found pottery shards, deer and rabbit bones, and just as the map said, a large room!

Unfortunately, the room was empty. There was no gold, jewels or treasure... only dust.

Many more tunnels leading in other directions were found, and the searchers kept on looking for the treasure to no avail. After a two year effort, Crystal gave up his treasure hunt and disappeared completely. Interest in the treasure waned, and Kanab folk returned to their ordinary lives without finding the phenomenal gold stash.

The tunnel and treasure room still exist today. Occasionally you hear of somebody who thinks they know the gold's real location, but Kane County's primary treasure is lingering longer and enjoying the spectacular scenery.

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Lone Rock is not so lonely anymore



A group of hikers headed to Lone Rock after parking on the beach. The water levels at Lake Powell have drastically changed the landscape. Photo: Phil Clark

By Phil Clark

The last time I went around the rock monolith known as Lone Rock was in a kayak. This time it was on foot, with a group of friends, some of whom I'd kayaked with. What a difference a few months makes! Lone Rock is not alone these days.

It had been something I wanted to do for some time, since I'd never known Lone Rock without water around it. I wanted to walk all the way around the butte, if for no other reason than to be able to say that I did.

We drove as far down the dunes of Lone Rock Beach as we could and hiked from there, making a bee-line to the rock. We had heard that the ground was muddy and others who had tried to hike there ended up in knee-deep mud, but not today.

On the north side it was mostly dry and relatively solid, so we made our way around the north side. On the south side of Lone Rock we could still see mud flats, with expanses of standing water, so we avoided those areas for now, keeping to higher ground. There were some soft areas, but they were easily avoided. We used our hiking sticks to test the ground if we weren't sure how solid it was. Some places were somewhat solid at first, but if we moved our feet much, it would get soft and sticky. Best to just keep moving. Certainly not suitable for a vehicle.

Wahweap Creek was flowing clear and shallow through the mud and silt. Walls of silt collapsed as the creek undermined the walls. On the other

side of the creek was the base of Lone Rock. We looked for a way across and after some looking, found a make-shift bridge of driftwood that others had built. It looked precarious, but it was more solid than it first appeared.

Once across the creek, we made our way to the base of Lone Rock and found it amusing to touch the rock while standing on land, for the first time. It was surreal. None of us had known Lone Rock as a monolith without water around it. It had always been an island.

We continued hiking around the rock, finding some boulder covered slopes and slickrock to traverse. At first we were in shadows and it was cold. Soon we were bathed in sunlight again. We found a boulder where someone had scrawled "Lone Rock" and couldn't help ourselves from taking a group shot.

As the water that filled Lake Powell recedes, it exposes things that others lost: a mask and snorkel lay face down in the mud; a cable sticking out of the dried mud, connected to a small anchor, that got away from its boat; a hundred feet or so of thick steel cable half buried in the sand long ago abandoned. I thought of what stories might be attached to these objects. I thought of how much more litter the ground as the water recedes.

On the way, the patterns in the silty mud kept drawing attention. It was as if nature itself was making art. Sometimes there was a clump of pinon pine cones, coming from far away to ac-

cent the geometric patterns. Even the pattern of driftwood and other flotsam was intricately laid down as if by an artist larger than any of us. My mind wandered to a kayaking outing where we floated our way up a side canyon with the kayak cutting through a layer of driftwood on the surface. Now I was standing on that driftwood.

As we rounded to the south side, it was easier to keep out of the mud flats. There were boulders scattered from rockfalls of time past and slickrock to provide solid ground. We had gained some elevation now and could see even better what lay to the south. Below us was one of the 'lagoons' of trapped

water in a mud flat. Great for reflection photos and a nightmare to cross. Beyond, we could still see the edge of the water level in the reservoir. Lone Rock beach was almost deserted.

We continued circumnavigating Lone Rock. Before we knew it, we were all the way around and ready to head back to our vehicles. We couldn't have had a better day. Highs in the 40s with no wind in January. On our way back, some speculated and wondered if we'd ever see Lone Rock as an island again. No one knows for sure. What we knew though, was that we had a fun, relatively easy hike and did something none of us had ever done before.



Phil Clark hikes up and touches Lone Rock for the first time. Photo: Phil Clark

A hike through Coyote Gulch, be our guest

By Phil Clark

I called my brother, Martin, one day in 1990, and told him that I had heard of a great backpacking trip to do and asked if he was interested. He hadn't yet been to the Page area and we had backpacked many times before. I told him about the majestic canyons of red sandstone, cottonwood trees that are pale green in the spring and the wildflowers, springs and rock formations along Coyote Gulch. It didn't take much convincing.

Martin and his childhood friend, Carl, drove from Albuquerque one weekend to meet in Page. Even though they were not new to backpacking, neither Martin nor Carl had been backpacking in canyon country. We were all looking forward to the exploration of a new place.

I had explored some of the other canyons in the Escalante drainage before and had been using the only available guidebook at the time, *Hiking the Escalante* by Rudi Lambrechtse, 1985 edition, to help us explore. This, of course, was way before the internet, geotagging, instagram and all the ways that nowadays the entire planet knows about these beautiful and fragile places. The guidebook has the following in the publisher's note: "There are many conflicting opinions on how to write a wilderness guide. Some say that there should be no guides or even maps. 'Let the hikers wander and enjoy the adventure of finding their own way and discovering the beauties for themselves.'" On the other end of the spectrum are those who "would want every step and corner described." My preference is the former.

We hung out at my duplex for the evening and had dinner and talked while we got last minute gear ready for the trip. It was so good to see both of them again.

We left early the next morning to make the drive out to Coyote Gulch. Cottonwood Wash Road was dry and open so I showed them part of what I considered my 'back yard'. We did a quick jaunt into Cottonwood Wash Narrows to stretch our legs and I told them that canyons are what really gets me going. Some canyons are so narrow one cannot fit sideways.

We drove on to Escalante and visited my friend, Bill, at his house. We worked together at Glen Canyon NRA at the time. He was the seasonal Ranger for the Escalante Subdistrict and practically knew the area by memory. Bill and I had hiked before but couldn't join us this time. I introduced him to my brother and his friend. We talked about places to camp and get water in the canyon. There is always the stream in Coyote Gulch, he said but there were also some springs that he'd drank from for years without incident. Water is always the crucial element



The bridge of Coyote Gulch is a wonderful frame for a majestic photograph setting. Photo: Phil Clark

in a backpacking trip and spring water sounded a lot better than creek water. He did say to treat when in doubt. Coyote Gulch, he said, was a flowing creek about two miles from the trailhead and would continue to have water all the way to "The Reservoir" as referred to Lake Powell. Back then, the lake came quite a bit up the canyon since it was within 25 feet of "full pool". We thanked him for the advice and recommendations. I wished he could have gone with us. To this day he is still a nimble canyoneer.

We followed the guidebook directions to the trailhead. There were few signs then. The guidebook instructions were to use the "road log for the exact mileage. The signed trailhead appears shortly after a stock corral on the left". The guidebook's mileage log started at the start of Hole in the Rock road. We zeroed out the trip odometer as we turned off of the state highway. The book said the trailhead was 34.7 miles away, with a notation that "the road becomes quite curvy for the next two miles". Sometimes the guide would note a difference in the color of the road as it had been cut from native rock and dirt.

While we were not just wandering in the desert exploring new things, it was good that the book left many things for the reader to discover. We drove down the road until the end, a sandy area that required four wheel drive. Eager to start exploring, we checked that we left with enough water to make it to camp. My brother and I used to hike

and backpack often. We had fun and saw some great things together. I was glad he could do this trip.

The first mile had little resemblance to a canyon and was more of a walk across the sand and brush. Luckily it was mostly flat since sand makes for hard hiking. It wasn't that long until we started meeting the creek, which seemed to surface from the ground and start flowing through the sand. A couple of bends further, and we meet the Glen Canyon NRA boundary. Felt kind of funny to about to be recreating where I worked. We passed through a wood and wire "hiker's maze" and continued to follow the canyon.

Downstream the walls got taller and the canyon became narrower. We

started to see seeps of water coming out of seams in the rock walls of the canyon. The seams are a weak layer in the sandstone and water can find its way through. The seeps provide water for a variety of plants. Often maidenhair fern arc out above the drops or streams of water coming out of the rock, forming a hanging garden. That day we saw a scarlet penstemon, the blooms of which make me think of shooting stars. As we sat down to change into sandals, we heard some frogs croaking. Not long afterwards, we saw Jacob Hamblin Arch, also known as Lobo Arch. The guidebook says Lobo Arch was named for the last of the grey wolves that used to inhabit in the Escalante region.



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11:30 am - 9:00 pm
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We found our first camp in a deep alcove, above the drainage. It is so deep that we didn't bother putting up tents as the cliff across from us was framed in the arch-like alcove. It might have been a good idea to have put up the tents because that night there was a constant wind that swirled in the alcove. I suppose we should have known, since wind helps form alcoves. Hoping to continue to hear the frogs, we didn't hear much out of the local wildlife that night. Perhaps they don't like wind either.

Groggy with poor sleep, we woke up to a sky with some wispy, non-threatening clouds, framed by the canyon walls. The wind had stopped. The birds greeted the morning sun. The indirect light on the canyon walls gave it depth and intrigue. We had a wide view of the creek below and no one else was in sight. No other human sounds at all. Until... we heard a very loud roar approach and seemingly follow the Coyote Gulch from the air. An F-16 flew above the canyon some 500 feet above the ground. Once, flying across the park for work, I saw a B52 flying so low below that it looked like a small plane from our altitude. Back then, perhaps the military thought that the odds are good that there would be no one there and flying so low wouldn't bother anyone. We held our ears closed. The jet was very low to the ground and we could

see it as it zoomed upstream towards the Kaiparowitz Plateau.

The wind made a casualty of my stove in the morning. The blown sand made its way inside the plunger assembly. The sand broke the O-ring seal and wouldn't pump up the white gastank. We managed to get breakfast going with my brother's stove as he had a French butane stove that used cartridges instead of white gas.

We hiked down the canyon a little further and were greeted by a huge arch in the river. Coyote Bridge spans the canyon, having been formed by the creek itself. That's the difference between an arch and a natural bridge. A natural bridge has a watercourse flowing under it. An arch is formed by wind and freeze/thaw cycles and not by flowing water. We walked by the bridge, looking relatively insignificant to the impressive formation. The greenery of an early spring cottonwood contrasts against the red rock of the bridge.

Sanitation back then wasn't much of an issue. There were so few people that human waste decomposed easily. At some locations in the canyon, there were simple pits covered by a simple wood seat, in a private setting. One thing about being in a canyon, the views from latrines sometimes are beautiful. Nowadays, backpackers in Coyote Gulch are expected to haul out their own waste.

Soon, we see Stevens (Skyline) Arch above us, towering above the canyon, deep red against the blue sky. Hiking in southern Utah, a person learns about the different geologic layers. Each layer is a different type of stone, some smoother and more easily eroded, others more solid, making ledges and 'shelves'. Downstream of the bridge we find a small spring coming out between the softer reddish Navajo sandstone and purplish, denser Kayenta layer. It was sweetish water, dripping out of the moss covered shelf. Topping off our water supply, we continued downstream. Soon, we found a series of Kayenta layers to descend, much like a natural staircase. As we arrived to a large flat area, we looked back to see a waterfall falling over the purple shelves.

The canyon starts winding back and forth into the Kayenta. It seemed difficult to keep track of direction inside the canyon, but then, it doesn't seem to matter since the only route is down the canyon. Often when there was a 90 or 180 degree turn in the creek, the outer wall would be hollowed out by historic flash floods. Passing another series of stone 'stairs' and waterfall, we couldn't help but stick our heads under the water and splash our feet. By then it was getting hot and the water felt so good!

We picked out a campsite nearby

and set our packs down. We would set up camp after we continued down the canyon until we could see, or get close to, Lake Powell. Soon we saw the tell-tale 'bathtub ring' of the reservoir, showing that we had entered below 'full pool'. Edward Abbey called this part of a canyon the 'dead zone' where not much actually lives. The closer we got to the lake, the muddier it got. We decided it was far enough and headed back to set up camp and have some food. Our meal consisted of a long-time backpacking meal, from a four decades old Sierra Club cookbook. Alpine Spaghetti is made with dry spaghetti and a dry version of pesto with dried basil, garlic and chopped nuts, reconstituted with olive oil in the cooked spaghetti. As we ate spaghetti in the wilderness we were serenaded by frogs, toads, crickets, cicadas and other creatures make music to the gentle gurgles of the creek.

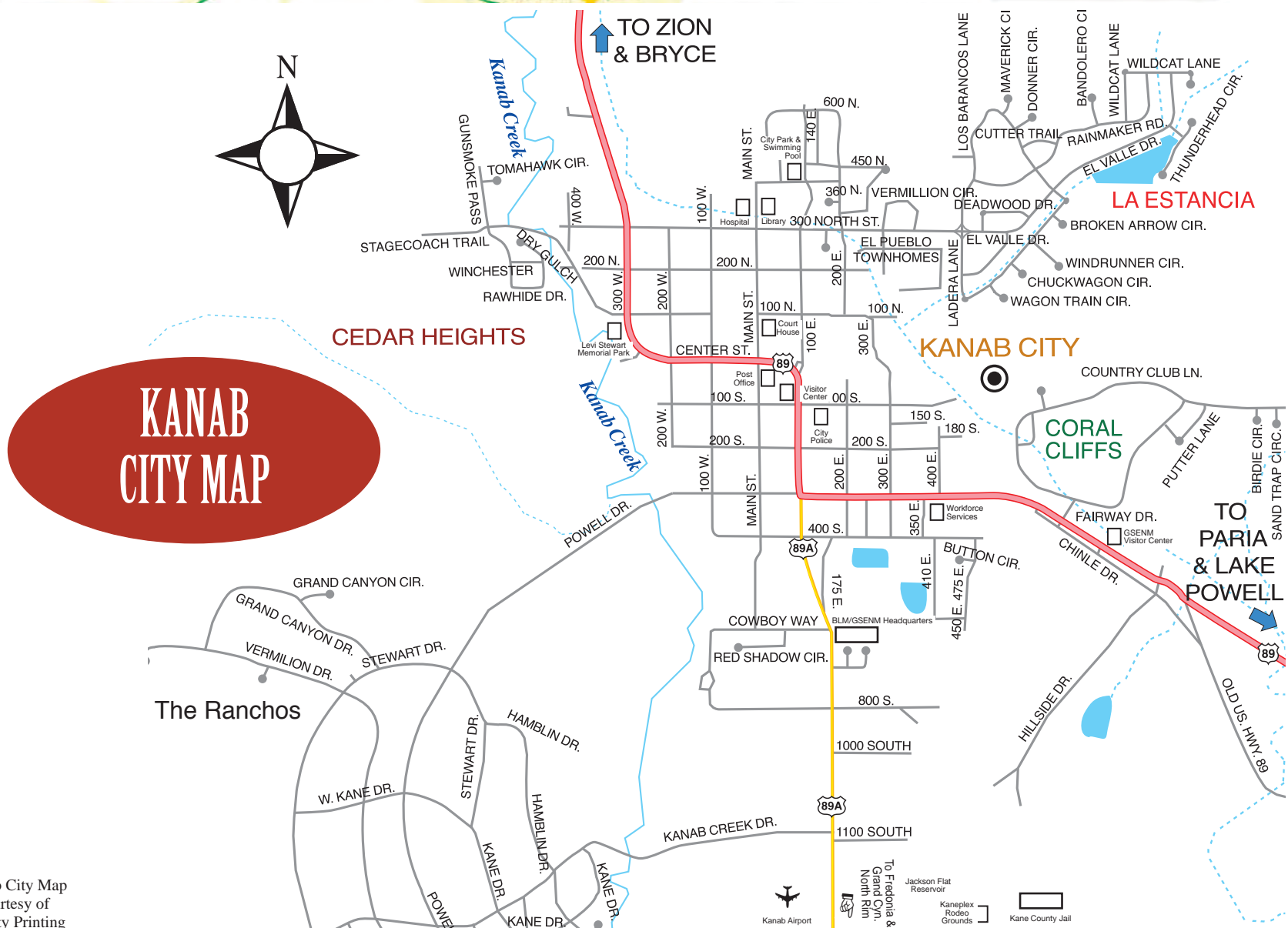
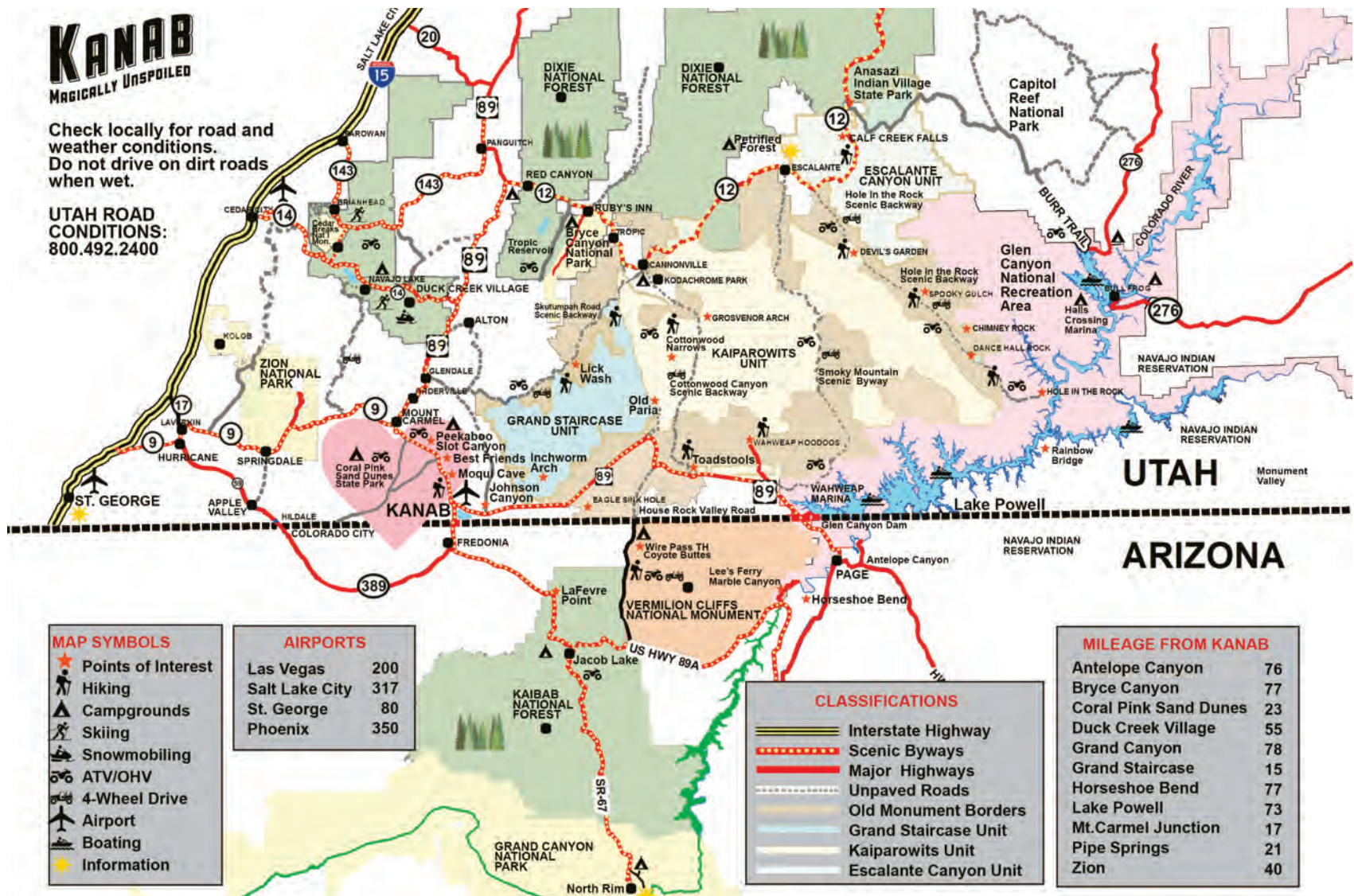
My brother and his friend were amazed by the beauty of the trip. We knew that in the morning we would be hiking back out the way we came. The views would be different going back. Often things are even more interesting that way. Until then, we talked until we were too tired to talk anymore and bid each other good night. A sliver of the Milky Way passed over us as we slept.

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Top 5 hiking trails in Kanab

By Harry Barber

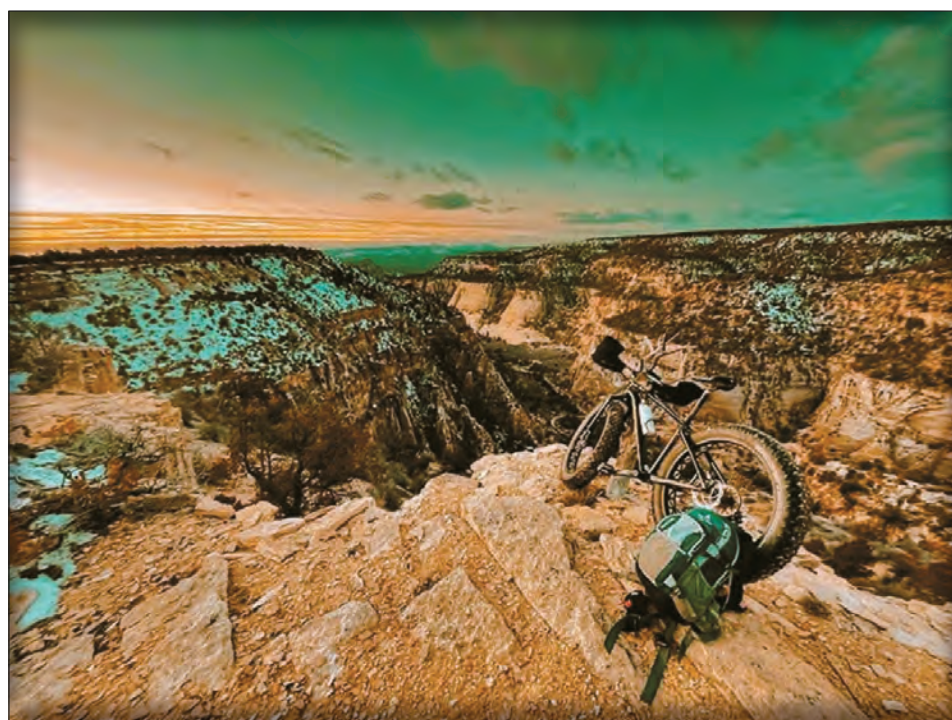
There are many trail opportunities to choose from on public lands in the Kanab area. Depending on what it is you want to do, I suggest you drop by a Kane County or Bureau of Land Management Visitor Center and talk to a knowledgeable employee about your desired trail use. I like to use the trails as a way to get into an area, and then push on to explore even further. A word of caution – do not do something you are not comfortable with. Mother nature can be fickle out here in the desert, so it is important that you know your limitations, be prepared and travel with a friend if feasible. At the very least, make sure somebody knows where you are going and when you expect to be back. These trails are incredible, but can also become dangerous, so take precautions to ensure you have a great hike!

Personally, my vice is mountain biking, hiking and trail running – so my focus here will be on five trails that I frequent.

Bunting Trail- (Hike/Run) Are you

looking for steep? You found it! Located west of The Ranchos subdivision, the trail starts off as a rolling trail following the wash bottom. The trail can be used to access a cool set of dinosaur tracks. Beyond the junction of the Bunting Trail with the wash that accesses the dinosaur track site, the Bunting Trail begins a steep upward ascent. As you continue climbing right through the rim of the mesa, an amazing view awaits your arrival. The trail, particularly the last quarter mile, contains a lot of loose rock. The rock, combined with the steep nature of the trail, makes this a challenging climb. You will gain about 1,200 feet in elevation. From the trailhead to the rim and back again will give you about 3.2 miles of calories burned. And although this does not seem like a lot, what you lack in miles you will make up for in painful elevation gains!

Greenhalgh Trail- (Hike/Run/Horse) This trail is located in Trail Canyon, north of town just off Highway 89. The trail can be accessed by parking at the ATV bridge that spans



Hiking below Flag Point, located in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Photo: Harry Barber



One of the many exploration caves that can be found around Kanab and Kane County. Photo: Norman McKee

Kanab Creek and walking to the trailhead from there. Named after the Greenhalgh brothers, Harry and Wilford, the trail is moderately steep and offers great views of the surrounding area. A few years ago, the BLM worked with the American Conservation Experience (ACE) to make trail improvements for a safer user experience.

Mansard Trail- (Hike/Run) In the last several years, the BLM has made improvements to the trail using the ACE crews. The trail is also used as part of the G2G Ultra Marathon race and will get your heart pounding as you make your way up through the switchbacks on your way to the rim, where once again – amazing views await your arrival. This trail will lead you to an alcove containing an incredible petroglyph panel. Please be respectful of the panel by not touching or walking on it. From the trailhead to the panel and back again will be about five to six miles.

Cottonwood Trail- (Hike/Run/Horse) The trail is mostly rolling with some moderately steep grades. The trail generally follows the base of the Vermilion Cliffs west of town. There are some great views of the Arizona Strip to the south. You will be under the rim of the Bunting Mesa with opportunities on occasion to spot desert bighorn sheep. The trail offers a challenge if you take it all the way to Cottonwood Canyon, as you will be putting nearly 10 miles on your kicks before you return to where you started.

Catstair Canyon- (Hike) Catstair is the family-friendly trail. This is one of my go-to trails when the grandkids visit. The trail offers an opportunity to hike a narrow canyon bordering on being a slot canyon. The hike to the pile of old cars used for rip-rap against the highway is fairly short but offers plenty for kids to see. The hike from the trailhead to the old cars and back is about one mile.



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Top 10 things to know when hiking Kane County

By Katie Wallace

1. Our County is Giant

4,109 square miles, to be exact. Response times can take many hours. Helicopters are not always available and sometimes cannot fly due to adverse conditions. If you get into trouble, be prepared to wait for some time for help to arrive.

2. Drink Water

Southern Utah is a very dry place. What feels like "a lot" of water to you may still be inadequate. Plan on 3L per day in the winter and up to 6L (that's a gallon and a half!) on triple-digit summer days. Heat exhaustion is a contributing factor to a large number of SAR incidents in our county. Make sure your pooch has enough water, too.

3. Eat Something

Preferably something salty. Drinking all that water without snacking can mess with your electrolyte balance and make your situation worse. Electrolyte drinks like Gatorade can be part of your water intake, but make sure you

also eat real food. It makes a big difference in your ability to absorb water appropriately, gives you energy, and in winter conditions, will raise your ability to create internal heat.

4. Pay Attention

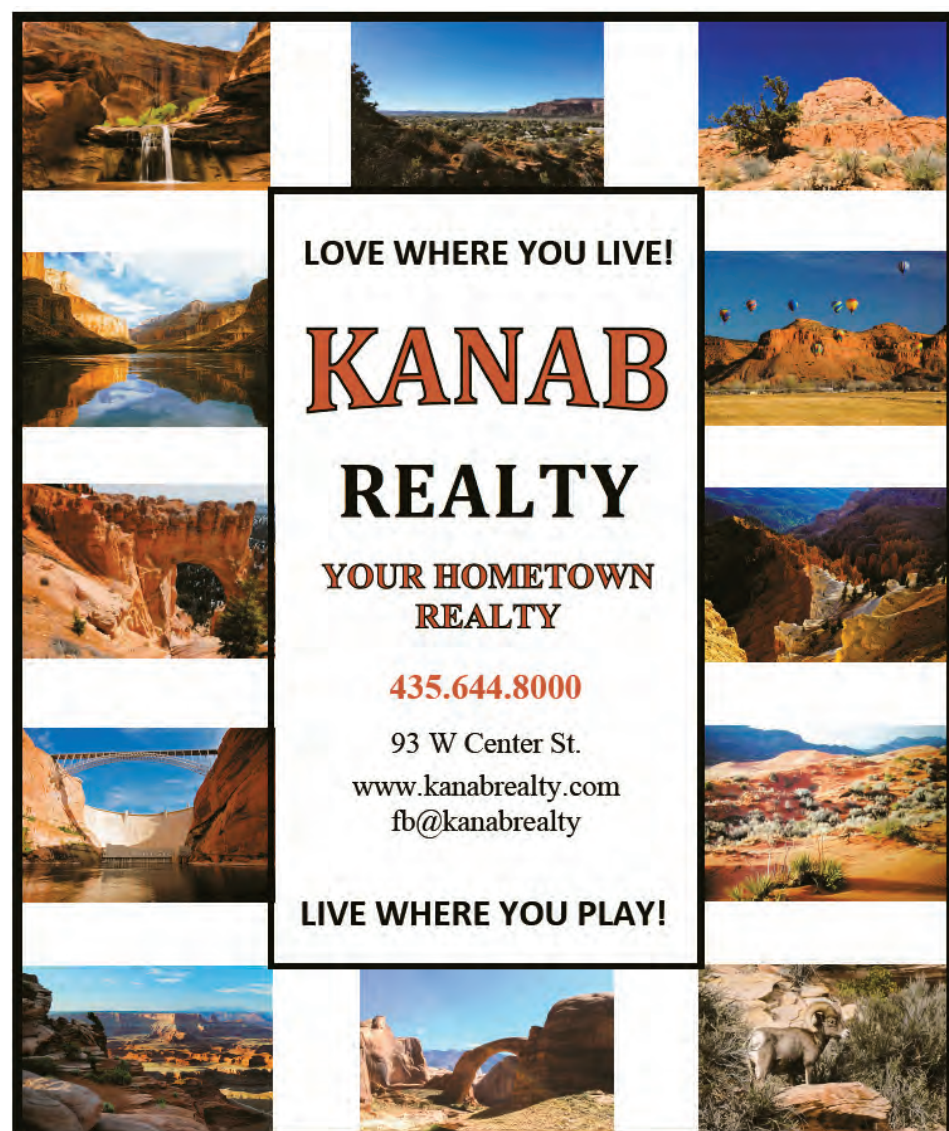
It is easy to get turned around in places where landmarks all look similar to one another and where there are few trails. We have a fair amount of folks get lost each year. Map apps on your phone are a great aid, but don't forget that your battery can die or you can break or lose your phone. In addition to looking down at your screen, make sure you look UP at your surroundings and take note of important features.

5. Dress in Layers

A hot t-shirt day can quickly turn to a shivery evening as soon as the sun goes behind a ridge. Likewise, a chilly morning can quickly morph into a swelterfest. Start with a lightweight shirt, followed by a slightly heavier shirt, followed by a thicker shirt, etc. A pair of gloves and a warm hat weigh almost



Kane County Search & Rescue team in front of a helicopter used for saving lost, injured or incapable hikers. Photo: Katie Wallace



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nothing, take up virtually no space in your gear and can make a world of difference in your comfort. With little shade, consider covering your skin with long pants and sleeves and a sun hat.

6. Be Wary of Muddy Roads

We have the most amazing geological resources in our county, including world-class sticky mud. Many of our roads become impassable in wet conditions. If you don't believe us, stop into Ramsay's and look at their wall of towing photos.

7. Learn About Flash Floods

If you're not from around here, you might not be aware that we get the majority of our precipitation in great thunderous storms called monsoons, which typically take place in July and August. Don't enter canyons or washes, including with your car, during active monsoonal activity. Check the weather before you go and keep eyes on the sky, not only in your immediate area, but the area upstream of you.

8. Tell Someone Your Plan

Cell signal is notoriously poor throughout our county, especially down in canyons. You might also consider bringing an emergency satellite device.

9. Look Out For Each other

There are, no doubt, countless rescues by good samaritans each year that we never hear about. Be on the lookout for others who might need help. You never know when building up some good rescue karma might help you.

10. Be Respectful to the Locals

Leave all artifacts, such as arrowheads. Don't carve or draw on, or touch petroglyphs, pictographs, dinosaur tracks, or historic pioneer signatures. Obey "no trespassing" signs. We welcome you to our beautiful corner of the world and hope you'll take great care of it ... and of yourselves!

Kane County Tidbits

- Kane County was named after "a friend of the Mormons," Thomas L. Kane, a non-Mormon man.
- Kane County contains 4,373 square miles; 3,718 of it is federal BLM land.
- The state owns 437 square miles, while only 218 square miles of the county is privately owned.
- The land size of Kane County is larger than the states of Delaware, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia combined.



Kane County rescue squad near Kodachrome Basin. Photo: Katie Wallace



A hiker finds herself deep in Peekaboo slot canyon in Kane County. Photo: Lois Webb

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100 mile cattle drive from Bryce to Grand

By Jerry Melrose

Driving some 740 fully-vaccinated and pregnant cows from their summertime grazing rotation through 20 different National Forest pasture permits near Bryce Canyon National Park to Grand Canyon's north rim is a formidable task supervised by Alton-based Heaton Livestock Co. Manager and trail boss, Kevin Heaton.

"These marathon runners run rim-to-rim (of the Grand Canyon)," he poetically points out. "And literally, we run our cows rim-to-rim, and we can see the pinks of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, to Alton, and down through here, and end-up to where Kanab Creek dumps into the Colorado River. So, pretty amazing!"

Kevin, along with his other fifth-generation cousins Wade and Andy, who including their sixth's up-and-comers, are owners of their family's sustainability-conscious beef operation. "The overgrazing of 80-90 years ago is a thing of the past. If you think about it, we're actually collecting solar energy from the sun through grass, and it's like 'up-cycling' in the form of grass. The cows forage grass humans can't consume on range ground, digest that and turn it into highly-digestible beef (protein!). If we overgraze, it's definitely going to be less grass. We try to keep the 'solar panel' so that it makes us sustainable."

Once on the 12 BLM-allotted parcels along the Arizona Strip in sight of Mt. Trumbull, the cow's nine-month gestation will yield its springtime harvest. Kevin notes, "They calve-out unassisted. We help our first-calf heifers. But other than that, they calve-out in the sagebrush and amongst the coyotes; and they fight them off. We tend to have less disease problems that way, as far as calf scours and things like that." As the season progresses, they'll all be trucked on up to the fertile green high country.

Traversing through the deep sands of Peekaboo Canyon and crossing Highway 89 early afternoon on

Wednesday, November 3, the third day of a more than 100-mile trek (perhaps the longest one of its kind left in America), the cattle drive persevered on toward Pink Coral Sand Dunes State Park before settling in at a most-welcoming water tank and corralling for the night. The next day, they continue west just beyond the park, and following a mid-day two-hour-long respite while feeding, they arrive for their overnight at the four large plastic tubs of fresh water set in place and tanker-truck poured in by Andy Heaton.

As Andy relates things, "My grandpa and his brothers, at first they had a sheep ranch. And they would trail their sheep from between Alton and Hatch, meeting up at Tropic Reservoir, all the way down to the north rim of the Grand Canyon. And then, they transitioned to cattle. So, they've been doing this drive for a long time, with multiple species. And they've used primarily the same route to come down through here."

"Now, we come down through four mile from Alton, down to the elbow, the turnoff at the junction where you go to Johnson Canyon, and over to the Glendale Bench, and you go down four mile to Kanab Creek, and then come over to here, which is Coral Pink Sand Dunes. And then, go on to Cane Beds, and then drop and go straight south, so it crosses under Highway 389 through a tunnel, and then, go straight down to, basically, the north rim of the Grand Canyon."

"Takes about 10 days; 11 days, now, doing cattle, and most of the time 'no showers,' and sleeping in sleeping bags. Tracy (the mother of their six children) and I, a couple of times have woken up with six-inches of snow on our sleeping bags. Wow!" Then, in spirit of that rambunctious Old West romance, he exclaims, "And it's a lot of fun!"

That multi-generational spirit of Heaton Family participation prevails to this present day through the active

cooperative contributions from their offspring. Wade and Julie have Brooke, Braxton, Brittny, Bret and Brandt. Andy and Tracy have Cole and Bronx. And that goes for their local Long Valley drovers, too. Glendale's Jason and Carlia Bauer have Sadie and Chet. Orderville's Braden and Cheyenne Jackson have Tyree and Lafe.

Prior to the prolonged drought and

COVID-related considerations of the past two years, many a European dude slapped-down cold, hard cash for the opportunity to live their 'Cowboy Dream,' only to realize three days later, as Wade Heaton confides, "the work is hard", and the nighttime weather cold. But, it's a good dream that still, thankfully, persists in adventurous hearts.



Believed to be one of the longest cattle drives left of its kind in the US. Photo: Jerry Melrose



Heaton Livestock's Manager and Trail Boss on this cattle drive from rim-to-rim, Bryce Canyon-to-Grand Canyon, slinging a lariat. Photo: Jerry Melrose

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Long Valley – A history like no other

Amidst the beauty of these southern Utah canyons, you'll discover charm in the small, rural communities of Long Valley. The communities north of Kanab have existed through the years mainly due to the vision, devotion and hard work of generations of people who settled the area, raised their families, and built lasting communities.

The history of southern Utah is filled with historic accounts of pioneers who braved hostile conditions to establish new settlements. The towns of Long Valley were founded in the mid-1800s by Mormon settlers, dedicated to building united and self-sufficient communities. Through their ingenuity and commitment, they laid a strong foundation for the rural way of life, which is still proudly celebrated today.

Agriculture has been a mainstay to this area's survival and independence. Ranches and family farms spread out along the valley and into the canyons, and backyards are filled with gardens and fruit trees, many planted by early settlers.

Glendale's Annual Apple Festival, held each fall, celebrates the harvest and honors the pioneers who planted



the first orchards. Picking an apple from a tree planted so long ago, is truly holding history in the palm of your hand.

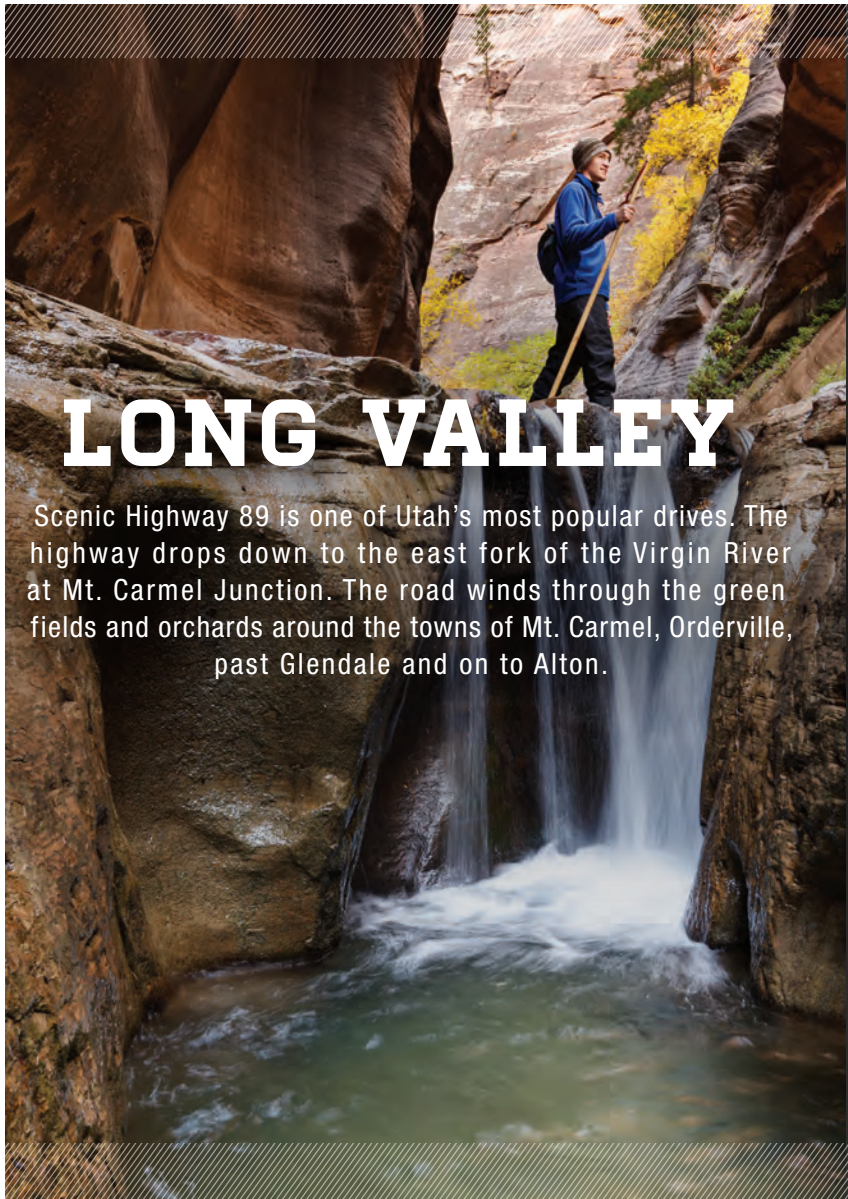
For the pioneers, sharing their knowledge, tools, skills and the foods that they grew helped the community survive. That spirit of community remains strong. Knowledge and new ideas are shared in workshops that cover a range of topics from sustainable farming to grazing management.

Long Valley's strong agricultural base is always evident, but never more so than during the Kane County Fair in August. Old-time fun and games, exhibits of fruits and vegetables, arts and crafts, great entertainment, and livestock and small animals raised by community youth in 4H and FFA, offer a glimpse at a wonderful way of life and a rich agricultural heritage.

Rural America offers a peaceful enchantment rarely found in today's world. With history, beautiful surroundings, friendly people and amazing food to share, rural America is alive and well in Long Valley!

Stop and visit – residents want to share their favorite hikes, best fishing spots and stories of their next of kin!

The Virgin River flowing through Orderville in the fall. Photo: Barry Glazier



LONG VALLEY

Scenic Highway 89 is one of Utah's most popular drives. The highway drops down to the east fork of the Virgin River at Mt. Carmel Junction. The road winds through the green fields and orchards around the towns of Mt. Carmel, Orderville, past Glendale and on to Alton.

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— Kane County, Utah —

Award winning Robert Goldman at Maynard Dixon Studio

By Paul Bingham

Oil Painters of America names Robert Goldman First Place for his painting "Southern Utah Fall" In their annual Showcase Award Winners. The painting will be featured in Robert's annual exhibition at the "Maynard Dixon Country Revisited" showing, beginning May 14, 2022, and continuing through September.

This annual showing will feature 26 new images depicting Utah and Arizona where Maynard Dixon lived and worked. For his fourth solo show at the Maynard Dixon Legacy Museum, it seems fitting to revisit locations from earlier shows and to feature new scenery. The paintings in this show include areas in southern and central Utah and northern Arizona.

In early October 2021, a painting trip with members of Plein Air Painters of America in southern Utah resulted in several new paintings. Later that month his fellow artist Ray Roberts painted in the same areas of Utah and also visited the Vermilion Cliffs where the sunrises and sunsets are quite spectacular.

We have been so pleased to sponsor Robert during the last three years. When we began in 2019, the Grand Canyon anniversary was a natural.

Now success has caused us to repeat. Maynard Dixon Country is the name established in 2000, when our journey here began.

We asked Robert a few interesting

questions about his art.

When did you first know you wanted to be an artist?

I knew I wanted to be an artist at the age of eight. I thought that maybe

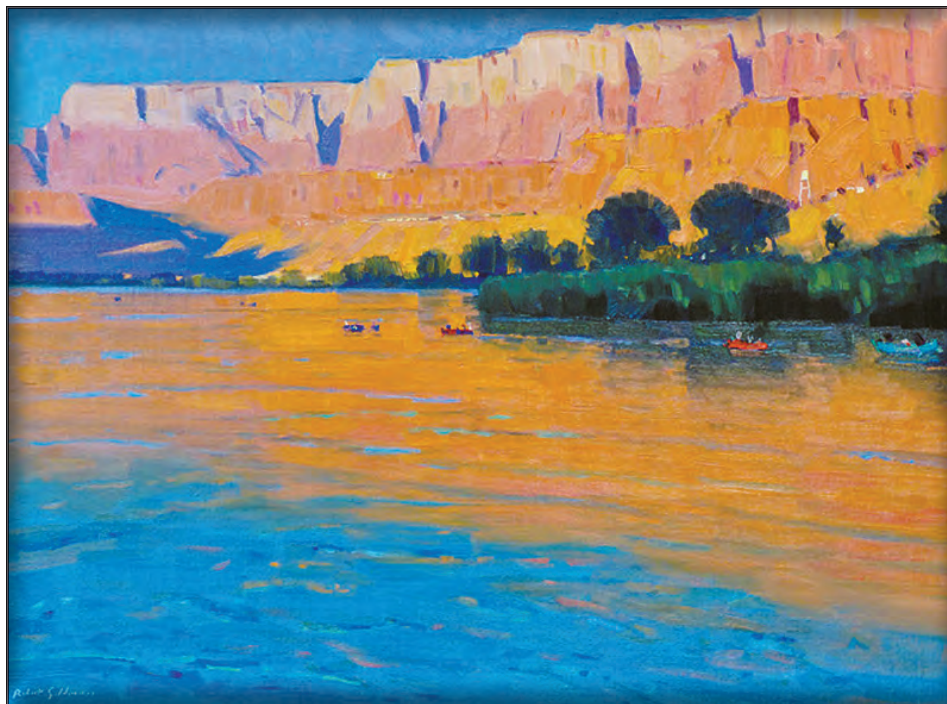
by the time I was 65 years old I would amount to something because I heard artists usually hit their peak in later years.

Who was the first artist you knew about or remember?

Our mom was an aspiring artist, so I guess that was where the idea originally came from. I have an older brother and sister, and a younger brother. Danny was the oldest and was working on his MFA at UCLA. My younger brother Ken and I both looked up to him as a role model. Our mom always emphasized the importance in being an artist. At the ages of 12 and 13, our mom took us to her life drawing sketch group taught by an artist named Sheldon Schoneberg. That was the first time we experienced a real artist's studio (model and all).

Tell us about your first encounter with a paint brush.

My first encounter with paint was not with a brush, but with my fingers smearing paint around in nursery school. I loved playing with the paint and was intrigued by all the color combinations I could come up with. It was 1968 when I painted my first outdoor oil painting, which was a modest 48x48 inch painting. I had no clue what I was in for at that time, and now if I do a



A Robert Goldman special, highlighting river runners on the Colorado River. Photo: Paul Bingham

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12x16 outdoors it feels large to me.

What was your family most interested in for you to be when you grew up?

We were encouraged to follow our artistic interests, but my father had other ideas. Knowing full well the challenges an aspiring artist faces, he did his best to encourage my brother and I to eventually take over the family garment manufacturing business. Art proved to be the more compelling choice for us.

Who is your most interesting mentor or teacher?

I have always felt that there was so much to learn in the field of art, so I have a very long list of artists that have helped me along the way. My brother Ken encouraged me to join him at San Diego City College to study commercial art with Harvey Adams. Because of this valuable and practical training, I was able to get a job at an ad agency doing production art, airbrush touch

up work, architectural illustration, some product illustration. Ken and I also used this training to complete numerous mural projects in Arizona and San Diego. The commercial art class portfolio helped me get into the Art Center College of Design with advanced standing (started in the sixth semester). Ray Vinella, Taos, N.M., was the first teacher to show me the basics of outdoor on the spot painting. From there I continued to study with artists who specialized in landscape painting. It was an honor to be able to study with Wolf Kahn and Wayne Thiebaud who stressed the importance of painting with a reverence for the artists that came before us and to also stay in the moment and reflect a contemporary attitude. Along with landscape painters Matt Smith and Phil Starke, plus Bill Anton and Ned Jacob, the artist who has had the greatest influence on me has been my Art Center colleague Ray Roberts.

Why did you choose bright contrasting colors for your palette?

As far as I can remember, the complementary combination of blue and orange seemed to play a prominent role in my work. Perhaps it is my way of expressing internal emotions. Over the years my interest in relatively strong color has continued. I have introduced more subtlety using greys, tints and some muted tones to set off the stronger chromatic range, but there is a certain level of color that I am comfortable with, and if the painting does not have at least a hint of strident color, then I feel that the painting is incomplete.

Academics aside, where did you find your most challenging quest?

I have always welcomed challenges and the desire to fulfill my goals and visions. That mindset requires perseverance which is one quality I was born with. As a kid there was a swimming

competition to see who could swim the most laps and I did not quit until there were no other swimmers. Art in general has been my most challenging quest because it requires belief in one's self and the ability to fulfill your vision.

All art, abstract, modern or representational: if you could own any art, who, what would it be?

I have a wide range of interests when it comes to the appreciation of art. Any style is good as long as it represents the best example of that genre.

How do you want to be remembered fifty years from now?

I hope to be remembered as someone who felt deeply about the visual world and left some beauty for future generations to appreciate.

The Maynard Dixon Legacy Museum hours are daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and is located at 2200 South State Street in Mt. Carmel.



The painting entitled Southern Utah Fall took first place in the Oil Painters of America Annual Showcase. Goldman's exhibition will be highlighted at the "Maynard Dixon Country Revisited" showing, beginning May 14, 2022, and continuing through September. Photo: Paul Bingham

Why we love guiding people

By Tiffany Unsworth

Jim Spielman grew up in Buffalo, New York, always surrounded by the sounds of street cars and city life. He had never experienced the feeling of being completely immersed in nature. Not, that is, until he came to Kanab. We had the opportunity to guide Jim and his wife Joan to many beautiful areas, but one spot stands out.

Cory Unsworth, co-owner of Kanab Tour Company, took Jim and Joan to a remote peak where nothing man-made could be seen. The opportunity to sit in an off-road vehicle and climb mountains was a thrilling prospect to them. Jim suffers from peripheral neuropathy, a condition that requires him to use a cane or walker, and he simply can't get out on the trails on foot. Therefore, he couldn't stop smiling as they ascended the red cliffs.

Cory stopped the vehicle, and the group just sat in silence for a few moments.

"What is this?" Jim asked, referring to the stillness that was all around them. "I've never experienced anything like this before." From the time he was a little boy, he couldn't remember being surrounded by natural silence and peace. He had never gone up a

mountain before because he physically couldn't. Never breathed in the clear, fresh air that can only be found in places remote.

And something happened to Jim in that moment. He was refreshed. He was renewed. His disability didn't go



A look back at the mysterious Peekaboo Canyon. Photo: Barry Glazier

away, but inside, he experienced a healing change. And we felt grateful, so grateful, to witness that change.

That experience, and many more of a similar nature, have reaffirmed to us the power that is found in this beautiful place. Guiding people to beautiful places is more than a business for us. It is a life mission. We strongly feel, because we have seen it a myriad of times, that getting outside changes people. It blesses relationships. It helps visitors clear their heads. It often causes us to rethink our purpose and direction. And, let's face it, it is really fun.

Why would a guest to this area consider a guided experience? A few reasons come to mind:

- We can keep you safe. Our off-road vehicles and driving experience allow

visitors to enjoy the scenery and not the mechanics of getting from here to there.

- We have knowledge of the area. You can maximize your precious vacation time by hiring someone who can teach you along the way and make sure you hit all of the highlights!

- We help you make memories. We are here to ensure that you take home treasured experiences and photographs of a time when you felt like you were on top of the world. And, considering our current world conditions, we could all use memories like that.

Whether you choose Kanab Tour Company or one of the many wonderful guiding outfits in the area, we know that you will find the secrets nature has held for us all along: "When you get outside, you are healed inside."



A starry night with a towering hoodoo watching over the land. Photo: Ken Koontz



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Jackson Flat Reservoir has something for everyone

By Kelly Brown

What was once a lonely body of water surrounded by sagebrush, cactus and not much else, Jackson Flat Reservoir is now a thriving destination that has something fun to do for all. Go walking, biking or even longboarding on the Sherry Belle Trail. There is more than three miles of asphalt trail that circles the reservoir with two detours that take you close to the water's edge.

Don't forget the newly constructed connector trail that turns off the main trail and takes you into the town of Kanab.

KCWCD has partnered with Kane County, Kanab City and the Kanab High School cross country program to host the annual Turkey Trot 5K Race that occurs every Thanksgiving morning.

Try your hand at Kanab's local fishing hole. Maybe you'll get lucky and reel in the Utah state record largemouth bass, or maybe just think of the next great fishing story on your way home to tell the grandkids. Jackson Flat Reservoir is regularly stocked with rainbow, brown and brook trout. There is also a healthy population of largemouth bass and sunfish. Someone even pulled out a 25-pound catfish recently.

Each year KCWCD and Kane County hosts The Reel Deal Fishing Tournament, where competitors have two days to reel in the heaviest combined hauls within the Utah state catch limits and are awarded with cash prizes.

If handling slimy fish isn't your thing, rent a kayak or paddleboard and get out on the open water, where you

will be awed by the views of blue water and red cliffs. Kanab City celebrated 150 years by bringing in Nitro Circus and Adventure Tour Company where the community launched kayaks and paddleboards for free. Those who dared were launched into the air off the Nitro Circus blob and splashed into the water below.

Not everything happening at the reservoir is so extreme. For those seeking something more leisurely, there are several groups of people who go bird watching at different times of the year. Since the creation of the reservoir, a large variety of different birds have been spotted including eagles, pelicans, ducks, etc. Who knows, you may spot a rare bird you've never seen before while it passes through during its migration.

Tired of heating up your lunch at the office or going home to eat your leftovers from last night's dinner? Pack a lunch and take it to the outdoor pavilion for a picnic. The kids get done early with their lunch? Let them wander over to the newly constructed sand volleyball court or play on the monkey bars that were just installed. The bars are part of a street workout calisthenics circuit that includes bars for dips, push-ups, pull-ups and many other exercises. There is even a battle rope, punching bag and weights for Olympic lifts.

This summer, Jackson Flat Reservoir will play host for the Street Workout World Cup, where international athletes will come from all over the globe to compete for handsome cash prizes. As part of this event, the



Jackson Flat Reservoir has activities for the whole family. The KCWCD disc golf course is a state of the art popular course in southern Utah. Photo: Kelly Brown

athletes will hold a clinic for the community to teach basic movements that assist in learning the skill and to demonstrate the intended use of the equipment.

If you still have not found anything on the list of many things to do at Jackson Flat Reservoir, dust off your old frisbee and come out to play a round of disc golf on the 18-hole course. Players are sure to have a great time, as there are plenty of water hazards to throw around and over if the water level is high enough. If you throw a great shot, you are sure to be thrilled as you watch the disc fly over the

water and land safely in-bounds. If you shank one and it goes in the water, it's a good laugh with family and friends and gives you an opportunity to cool off while swimming to retrieve your disc.

Kanab Disc Golf Course will host the Fourth Annual Kanab Campout in 2021, which will attract both amateur and professional players from the neighboring states of Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and even California. The course is free to play and is surely a good time.

The Jackson Flat Reservoir has something for everyone to enjoy.



The Kane County Water Conservancy District along with Kanab City sponsors many activities throughout the year at the Jackson Flat Reservoir. One of them featured the blob where kids fly high bouncing off the blob. Photo: Andrea Gilberg

Experience southern Utah wildlife...

By Jeremy Houston

While “Roaming” around and guiding ATV tours for the many folks that come to visit Kanab, I am often asked about the wildlife here. People want to know what kind of animals are native to the area. As a wildlife photographer, this question is easy to answer. They are often amazed at the diversity of species the area holds. Because I am partial to mule deer, I like to steer the conversation toward a picture of a large buck or two, and in some cases I can show them the exact spot where the picture was taken.

It doesn't matter what time of year it is, there is always something to photograph. With the creation of the Jackson Flat reservoir, wintertime has become fun. I don't have to go far to find plenty of feathered friends. Eagles, Canadian geese, great blue herons and many species of ducks fill the reservoir with what seems like an unending supply of photograph worthy subjects. Early spring is a good time to find one of the cutest things you'll ever see, a newborn desert bighorn sheep. They can be found in multiple areas, perhaps the best place to see them is the eastern side of Zion National Park. Spring and summer are a great time to find several big game animals such




as mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope and the occasional black bear. I'll never forget a remarkable day of seeing all of the before mentioned animals near Tropic Reservoir. Late summer is the time for mule deer bucks with velvet


covered antlers and rutting desert bighorn rams. September and October is for elk. The sound of a bull elk bugle is simply magical! November and December is for the mule deer rut, and hopefully we get some good snowfall

to make for serene winter pictures. The southern Utah landscape provides dramatic and vibrant colors lending to depth and beauty unique to the area. Here are a few of my favorite pics all within a 40 mile radius of Kanab






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(photos by Jeremy Houston)



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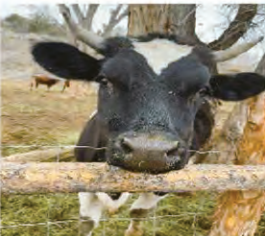
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~ Between Zion, Bryce and North Rim Grand Canyon National Parks ~

Enjoy the journey #beyondbryce on Hwy 12 to Escalante

By Neal Brown

Bryce Canyon is a destination mecca with its impeccable views, morning sunsets, hoodoos galore and colors you can't even dream up, but the one downside is, it also comes with lots of people. A little farther beyond Bryce is Escalante and Boulder, a drive on Hwy 12 through the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument is worth everyone's time. As you approach some of the most stunning views in southern Utah, you'll be amazed that you didn't make this drive sooner.

My favorite drive in all of southern Utah, in fact my favorite scenic drive I've ever been on, is Hwy 12 from Boulder to Escalante along the hogback. Riding atop the towering ridges, with miles and miles of untouched land cascading through your window, it makes you want to jump out and give the land

a hug. And since you can't, it leaves you with a feeling of I owe you one, or an IOU for the next time you return.

One of the best parts of the drive through Escalante and Boulder, is the incredible food that awaits you after a wonderful day enjoying the land. Whether its King's Mesa pizza at Escalante Outfitters or the giant western burger at Circle D Eatery or the Nemo Burger at Nemo's drive in, you'll find exactly the thing that quenches your hunger. You'll never go wrong, staying at the relaxing Canyon Country Lodge to end the night either.

If you plan to stay a little longer in southern Utah, a trip to #beyondbryce is worth every penny. It will be something to write home about in a world where more driving and adventuring is being done than ever before.

Hole in the Rock is a narrow and steep crevice in the western rim of Glen Canyon, in southern Utah. Together with another canyon on the eastern side of the Colorado River, it provided a route through what would otherwise be a large area of impassable terrain. In the fall of 1879, the San Juan Expedition of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was seeking a route from south-central Utah, to their proposed colony in the far southeastern corner of the state. They found Hole in the Rock, a narrow, steep and rocky crevice and sandy slope that led down to the river. It provided a great route for the expeditions.

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Hole in the Rock lookout with Lake Powell in the background. The Hole in the Rock hike can be accessed right outside Escalante. Photo: Ken Koontz

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Reflection Canyon in Lake Powell. Photo: David Swindler



Still standing. Photo: Jeremy Houston



Calf Creek Falls, a beautiful place to relax in the cool water. It's a 3 mile hike, located between Boulder and Escalante. Photo: Ken Koontz

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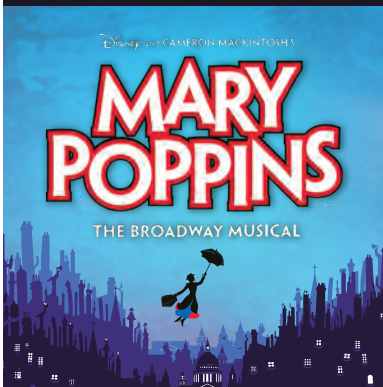
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