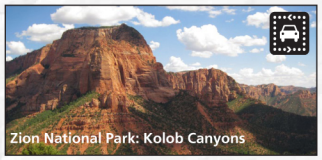
Zion National Park Wilderness

When Zion Canyon is full, explore these other great areas of the park.



KOLOB CANYONS ROAD

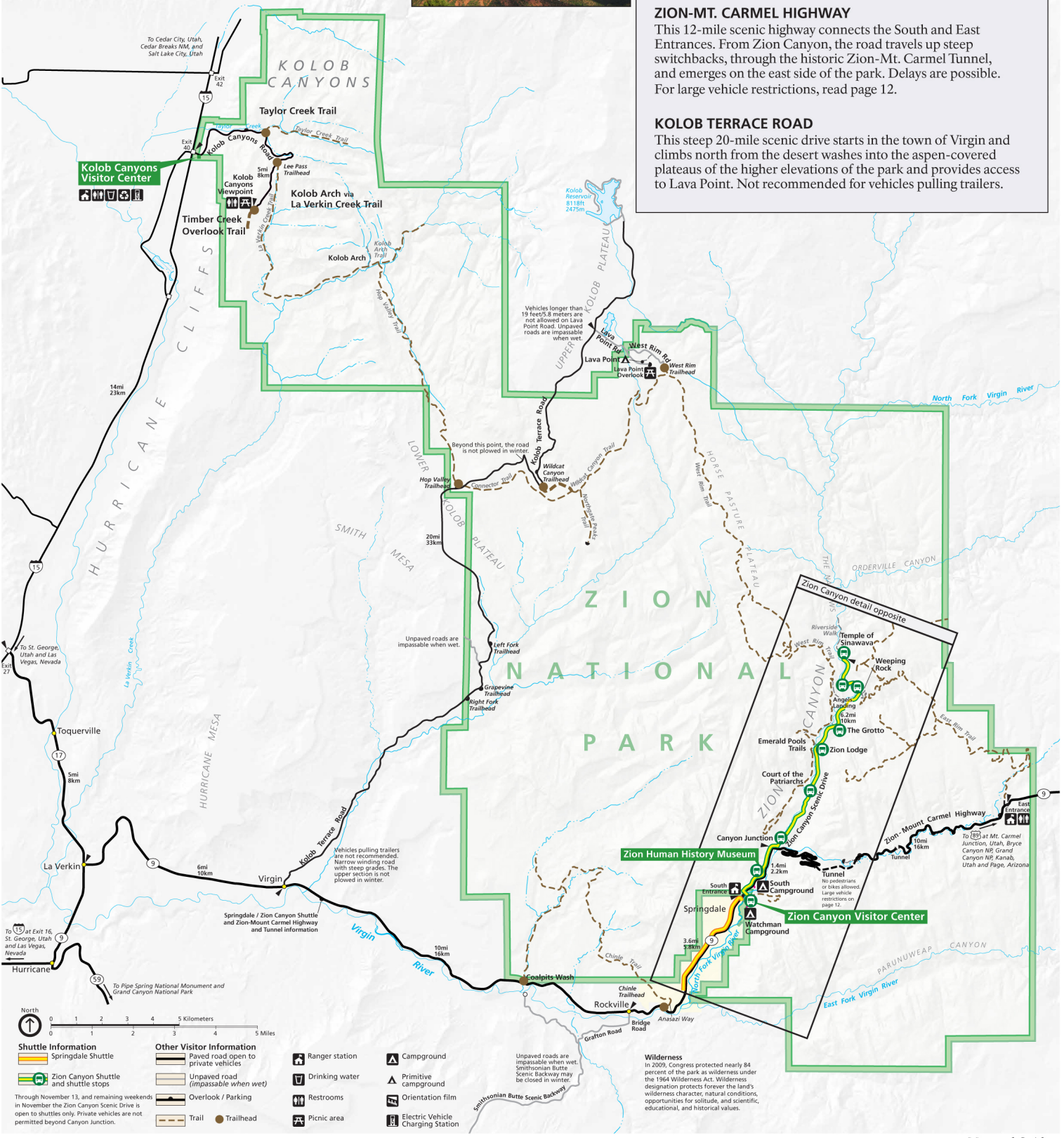
Located in the northwest corner of the park off of Interstate 15, this five-mile scenic drive climbs past the spectacular canyons and red rocks of the Kolob Canyons area and ends at the Kolob Canyons Viewpoint.

ZION-MT. CARMEL HIGHWAY

This 12-mile scenic highway connects the South and East Entrances. From Zion Canyon, the road travels up steep switchbacks, through the historic Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel, and emerges on the east side of the park. Delays are possible. For large vehicle restrictions, read page 12.

KOLOB TERRACE ROAD

This steep 20-mile scenic drive starts in the town of Virgin and climbs north from the desert washes into the aspen-covered plateaus of the higher elevations of the park and provides access to Lava Point. Not recommended for vehicles pulling trailers.



Wilderness

In 2009, Congress protected nearly 84 percent of the park as wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Wilderness designation protects forever the land's wilderness character, natural conditions, opportunities for solitude, and scientific, educational, and historical values.

Zion Canyon Shuttle Map

Plan Your Hike

ZION IN THREE HOURS OR LESS

Riding the shuttle is the easiest way to see some of the park's most beautiful sights in a limited time. A roundtrip ride on the shuttle takes about 80 minutes, and the average wait for a shuttle bus is fifteen minutes or less. Some of the most scenic shuttle stops are the Court of the Patriarchs, the Zion Lodge, and Big Bend. If you are interested in hiking, choose one of the easy hikes. Some easy hikes include Weeping Rock, the Lower Emerald Pool Trail, and the Riverside Walk.

ZION IN MORE THAN THREE HOURS

In addition to riding the shuttle, visit the Zion Human History Museum and watch the park orientation film or attend a ranger-led program. If you are interested in hiking, choose trails based on your ability level from the Hiking Guide. Some moderate hikes include the Emerald Pools Trails and the Watchman Trail. Some strenuous hikes include Observation Point, The Narrows, and Angels Landing.

Zion Canyon is only one small part of Zion National Park. Take a scenic drive to the other areas of the park listed below, or explore the Zion Wilderness. Read page 6 for an area map or pick up a copy of the Wilderness Guide at park visitor centers.

Hiking Guide

Shuttle Stop	Hike / Shuttle Location	Roundtrip	Elevation Change	Description
Easy				
1	**Pa'rus Trail** Zion Canyon Visitor Center	2 hours 3.5 / 5.6 mi / km	50 / 15 ft / m	Paved trail follows the Virgin River from the South Campground to Canyon Junction. Wheelchairs may need assistance.
1	**Archeology Trail** Zion Canyon Visitor Center	0.5 hour 0.4 / 0.6 mi / km	80 / 24 ft / m	Short, but steep. Starts across from the entrance to the visitor center parking lot. Climbs to the outlines of several prehistoric buildings. Trailside exhibits.
5	**Lower Emerald Pool Trail** Zion Lodge	1 hour 1.2 / 1.9 mi / km	69 / 21 ft / m	Minor drop-offs. Paved trail leads to the Lower Emerald Pool and waterfalls. Connects to the Kayenta and Upper Emerald Pool Trails.
6	**The Grotto Trail** Zion Lodge The Grotto	0.5 hour 1.0 / 1.6 mi / km	35 / 11 ft / m	The trail connects the Zion Lodge to The Grotto. Can be combined with the Lower Emerald Pool and Kayenta Trails to create a 2.5-mile loop.
7	**Weeping Rock Trail** Weeping Rock	0.5 hour 0.4 / 0.6 mi / km	98 / 30 ft / m	Short, but steep. Minor drop-offs. Paved trail ends at a rock alcove with dripping springs. Trailside exhibits.
9	**Riverside Walk** Temple of Sinawava	1.5 hours 2.2 / 3.5 mi / km	57 / 17 ft / m	Minor drop-offs. Paved trail follows the Virgin River along the bottom of a narrow canyon. Trailside exhibits. Wheelchairs may need assistance.
Moderate				
1	**Watchman Trail** Zion Canyon Visitor Center	2 hours 3.3 / 4.3 mi / km	368 / 112 ft / m	Moderate drop-offs. Ends at viewpoint of the Towers of the Virgin, lower Zion Canyon, and Springdale.
5	**Sand Bench Trail** Zion Lodge	5 hours 7.6 / 12.2 mi / km	466 / 142 ft / m	Commercial horse trail from March to October. Hike atop a massive landslide under The Sentinel. Deep sand and little shade.
5	**Upper Emerald Pool Trail** Zion Lodge	1 hour 1.0 / 1.6 mi / km	200 / 61 ft / m	Minor drop-offs. A sandy and rocky trail that climbs to the Upper Emerald Pool at the base of a cliff.
6	**Kayenta Trail** The Grotto	1.5 hours 2.0 / 3.2 mi / km	150 / 46 ft / m	Moderate drop-offs. An unpaved climb to the Emerald Pools. Connects The Grotto to the Emerald Pools Trails.
East Side Tunnel	**Canyon Overlook Trail** Zion-Mt.Carmel hwy	1 hour 1.0 / 1.6 mi / km	163 / 50 ft / m	Long drop-offs, mostly fenced. Rocky and uneven trail ends at viewpoint of Pine Creek Canyon and lower Zion Canyon. Parking lot is right-turn only.
See Page 5	**Taylor Creek Trail** Kolob Canyons Road	3.5 hours 5.0 / 8.0 mi / km	450 / 137 ft / m	Limited to 12 people per group. Follows the Middle Fork of Taylor Creek past two homestead cabins to Double Arch Alcove.
See Page 5	**Timber Creek Overlook Trail** Kolob Canyons Road	0.5 hour 1.0 / 1.6 mi / km	100 / 30 ft / m	Follows a ridge to a small peak with views of Timber Creek, Kolob Terrace, and Pine Valley Mountains.
Strenuous				
6	**Angels Landing via West Rim Trail** The Grotto	4 hours 5.4 / 8.7 mi / km	1488 / 453 ft / m	Long drop-offs. Not for young children or anyone fearful of heights. Last section is a route along a steep, narrow ridge to the summit.
7	**Hidden Canyon Trail** Weeping Rock	2.5 hours 2.4 / 3.9 mi / km	850 / 259 ft / m	Long drop-offs. Not for anyone fearful of heights. Follows along a cliff face to the mouth of a narrow canyon.
7	**Observation Point via East Rim Trail** Weeping Rock	6 hours 8.0 / 12.9 mi / km	2148 / 655 ft / m	Long drop-offs. Climbs through Echo Canyon to viewpoint of Zion Canyon. Access to Cable Mountain, Deertrap Mountain, and East Mesa Trails.
9	**The Narrows via Riverside Walk** Temple of Sinawava	up to 8 hours 9.4 / 15.1 mi / km	334 / 102 ft / m	Read page 5 and check conditions at the visitor center before attempting. High water levels can prevent access to The Narrows.
See Page 5	**Kolob Arch via La Verkin Creek Trail** Kolob Canyons Road	8 hours 14.0 / 22.5 mi / km	1037 / 316 ft / m	Limited to 12 people per group. Follows Timber and La Verkin Creeks. A side trail leads to Kolob Arch, one of the world's largest freestanding arches.

Stay on established trails and watch your footing, especially at overlooks and near drop-offs. Avoid cliff edges. Watch children closely. People uncertain about heights should stop if they become uncomfortable. Never throw or roll rocks because there may be hikers below.