

DAY 1 of 13 · SUN, NOV 1

Fly SEA → SLC, Drive to Moab

Moab · Mountain Time

DRIVE

Drive to Moab: 235 mi, ~3.75 hrs

LODGING

Homewood Suites by Hilton Moab, 132 N Main St, Moab, UT 84532

TIMED STOPS

- Tamarisk Restaurant, Green River — ~5:00–6:00 PM (~1 hr)

THE PLAN

- Delta 1016 · SEA 9:42 AM → SLC 12:50 PM. Daylight saving ended at 2 AM, so the clocks are already on standard time.
- Collect the van and be rolling by ~2:00 PM. Measure its width across the mirrors before leaving the lot (it decides the Zion plan; see Springdale). The pickup is listed for noon, so call Alamo if the flight is late.
- Dinner in Green River (~5:00 PM), then the last hour into Moab in the dark (arrive ~7:00 PM).
- Homewood Suites, 132 N Main St. Check-in from 3 PM.

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Moab guide, Weather Backup Plans: Wind or cold on the mesa; Rain; Snow or ice on the park roads.

DAY 2 of 13 · MON, NOV 2

Arches, Before the Crowds

Moab · Mountain Time

LODGING

Homewood Suites by Hilton Moab, 132 N Main St, Moab, UT 84532

TIMED STOPS

- The Windows & Turret Arch — 8:30–9:30 AM (~1 hr)
- Double Arch — 9:30–10:15 AM (~45 min)
- Landscape Arch via Devils Garden — 10:45 AM–12:30 PM (~1.75 hrs)
- Delicate Arch Lower Viewpoint — 2:00–2:45 PM (~45 min)
- Sand Dune Arch — 3:15–4:00 PM (~45 min)

THE PLAN

- Leave the hotel by 8:00 AM. There's no timed entry in 2026, but the parking lots fill.
- Windows → Double Arch → Landscape Arch → Delicate Arch Lower Viewpoint → Sand Dune Arch
- Pack lunch and water; there's no food in the park.
- Head back by 4:30 PM; sunset ~5:15 PM.

HEAD BACK BY 4:30 PM

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Moab guide, Weather Backup Plans: Wind or cold on the mesa; Rain; Snow or ice on the park roads.

DAY 3 of 13 · TUE, NOV 3

Canyonlands — Island in the Sky

Moab · Mountain Time

LODGING

Homewood Suites by Hilton Moab, 132 N Main St, Moab, UT 84532

TIMED STOPS

- Mesa Arch — 9:30–10:30 AM (~1 hr)
- Grand View Point — 11:00 AM–12:00 PM (~1 hr)
- Green River Overlook — 12:45–1:15 PM (~30 min)
- Dead Horse Point State Park — 2:30–4:00 PM (~1.5 hrs)

THE PLAN

- Leave by 8:30 AM, ~40 min to the visitor center.
- Mesa Arch → Grand View Point → Green River Overlook → Dead Horse Point State Park on the way home
- Windy and exposed: shells, hats and gloves. Unfenced drops everywhere, so hold hands at every overlook.
- Head back by 4:30 PM.

HEAD BACK BY 4:30 PM

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Moab guide, Weather Backup Plans: Wind or cold on the mesa; Rain; Snow or ice on the park roads.

DAY 4 of 13 · WED, NOV 4

Moab Flex Day

Moab · Mountain Time

LODGING

Homewood Suites by Hilton Moab, 132 N Main St, Moab, UT 84532

TIMED STOPS

- Highway 128 along the Colorado — flexible (~1.5 hrs round trip)
- Fisher Towers — optional (~1.5 hrs)
- Or go back to Arches

THE PLAN

- A deliberate gap. Decide at breakfast; don't fill it in advance.
- Weather recovery day, a repeat favorite, Highway 128 along the river, or a slow morning in the suite.
- Last night in Moab: pack the van tonight for an 11 AM checkout.
- Hint: As far as Castle Valley and back is about 90 minutes. The light is best late in the afternoon.

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Moab guide, Weather Backup Plans: Wind or cold on the mesa; Rain; Snow or ice on the park roads.

DAY 5 of 13 · THU, NOV 5

Moab → Torrey & Capitol Reef

Torrey · Mountain Time

DRIVE

Drive to Torrey: 145 mi, ~2.5 hrs

LODGING

Skyview Hotel, 876 W SR-24, Torrey, UT 84775

TIMED STOPS

- The Petroglyph Boardwalk — 11:45 AM–12:30 PM (~45 min)
- The Scenic Drive — 1:30–3:30 PM (~2 hrs)

THE PLAN

- Homewood checkout by 11:00 AM; leave Moab ~9:00 AM to arrive by ~11:30 AM.
- Picnic lunch, then the Scenic Drive and the Petroglyph Boardwalk.
- Skyview check-in from 3:00 PM. The front desk closes at 10 PM, so arrive well before.
- Head back by 4:30 PM; sunset ~5:15 PM.

HEAD BACK BY 4:30 PM

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Torrey guide, Weather Backup Plans: Rain or flash-flood warning; Scenic Drive closed; Cold, windy morning.

DAY 6 of 13 · FRI, NOV 6

Capitol Reef — Pie, Hickman Bridge & Capitol Gorge

Torrey · Mountain Time

LODGING

Skyview Hotel, 876 W SR-24, Torrey, UT 84775

TIMED STOPS

- Gifford House & the Fruita District — 9:30–10:15 AM (~45 min)
- Hickman Bridge — 10:45 AM–12:30 PM (~1.75 hrs)
- Capitol Gorge — 2:00–3:30 PM (~1.5 hrs)

THE PLAN

- Gifford House opens at 9:00 AM. Be there by ~9:30, because pies sell out by noon.
- Hickman Bridge (as far as is fun) → Fruita orchards → Capitol Gorge
- Everything today is inside the park, within ~20 min of the hotel.
- Head back by 4:30 PM.

HEAD BACK BY 4:30 PM

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Torrey guide, Weather Backup Plans: Rain or flash-flood warning; Scenic Drive closed; Cold, windy morning.

DAY 7 of 13 · SAT, NOV 7

Torrey → Bryce on Scenic Byway 12

Bryce Canyon · Mountain Time

DRIVE

Drive to Bryce Canyon: 110 mi, ~2.5 hrs

LODGING

Best Western Plus Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel, 30 N 100 E, Bryce Canyon City, UT 84764

TIMED STOPS

- Scenic Byway 12 & the Hogback — 10:00 AM–2:30 PM (driving + stops)
- Head of the Rocks Overlook — ~12:30 PM (~30 min)
- Sunset Point — 4:30–5:30 PM (~1 hr)
- After dark — the night sky (optional)

THE PLAN

- Skyview checkout by 11:00 AM; leave Torrey ~10:00 AM with a packed lunch and a full tank.
- Boulder Mountain → Hogback → Head of the Rocks Overlook → Escalante → Bryce
- Best Western check-in from 4:00 PM.
- Sunset Point for the last light (~5:15 PM), then stars after dinner.

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Bryce Canyon guide, Weather Backup Plans: Snow or road closure past Mile 3; Icy trails; Snow on UT-20 on Nov 9 (to Springdale).

DAY 8 of 13 · SUN, NOV 8

Into the Amphitheater

Bryce Canyon · Mountain Time

LODGING

Best Western Plus Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel, 30 N 100 E, Bryce Canyon City, UT 84764

TIMED STOPS

- Thor's Hammer & Sunset Point — 9:00–9:30 AM (~30 min)
- Rim Trail: Sunset to Sunrise Point — 9:30–10:30 AM (~1 hr)
- Queen's Garden — partway — 10:45 AM–12:15 PM (~1.5 hrs)
- Mossy Cave — 2:00–3:00 PM (~1 hr)

THE PLAN

- The park shuttle ended Oct 18, so drive the van into the park.
- Thor's Hammer → Rim Trail (Sunset to Sunrise Point) → Queen's Garden partway → Mossy Cave
- After storms, the main road may close past ~Mile 3. Traction (if the forecast calls for it) on the Rim Trail.
- The coldest day of the trip: thermal layers, hand warmers, a flask.

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Bryce Canyon guide, Weather Backup Plans: Snow or road closure past Mile 3; Icy trails; Snow on UT-20 on Nov 9 (to Springdale).

DAY 9 of 13 · MON, NOV 9

Bryce → Springdale via I-15

Springdale · Mountain Time

DRIVE

Drive to Springdale: 165 mi, ~3 hrs

LODGING

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Springdale Zion National Park, 1141 Canyon Springs Rd, Springdale, UT 84767

TIMED STOPS

- Pa'rus Trail — 3:45–5:15 PM (~1.5 hrs)

THE PLAN

- Best Western checkout by 11:00 AM; leave Bryce ~10:30 AM with a full tank.
- Route via Panguitch, UT-20 and I-15 (not the Zion–Mount Carmel tunnel, unless the van measured 94" or less at pickup; the default route assumes it is too wide).
- SpringHill check-in from 3:00 PM, then the Pa'rus Trail at sunset.
- It's the warmest stop of the trip (low 60s°F by day); the winter layers can come off.

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Springdale guide, Weather Backup Plans: Narrows closed, high flow, or flash-flood risk; Rain; Snow on the Kolob Canyons Road.

DAY 10 of 13 · TUE, NOV 10

Zion Canyon & the Narrows Split

Springdale · Mountain Time

LODGING

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Springdale Zion National Park, 1141 Canyon Springs Rd, Springdale, UT 84767

TIMED STOPS

- Court of the Patriarchs — 8:15–8:45 AM (~30 min)
- Lower Emerald Pool — 9:00–10:30 AM (~1.5 hrs)
- Riverside Walk — and the split — 11:30 AM–4:30 PM

THE PLAN

- On a 7:00–8:00 AM park shuttle. The Springdale shuttle doesn't start until ~8 AM, so walk or drive the van to the Visitor Center (park in the large-vehicle lot).
- Court of the Patriarchs → Lower Emerald Pool → Riverside Walk → the split at the Narrows
- Mandatory morning checks for the Narrows (below). Any red flag: everyone does the Riverside Walk.
- Narrows turnaround 2:00 PM; everyone on a shuttle out by ~4:30 PM. The last return (6:15 PM) is not a plan.

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Springdale guide, Weather Backup Plans: Narrows closed, high flow, or flash-flood risk; Rain; Snow on the Kolob Canyons Road.

DAY 11 of 13 · WED, NOV 11

Kolob Canyons · Veterans Day

Springdale · Mountain Time

LODGING

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Springdale Zion National Park, 1141 Canyon Springs Rd, Springdale, UT 84767

TIMED STOPS

- Kolob Canyons Road — 9:30–11:00 AM (~1.5 hrs)
- Timber Creek Overlook Trail — 11:00 AM–12:00 PM (~1 hr)
- Alternative if the van measured 94" or less: the East Side

THE PLAN

- Fee-free day; the main canyon will be crowded. Kolob Canyons is a quieter corner of Zion, reached by car off I-15. Leave ~8:30 AM (~1 hr each way).
- Kolob Canyons Road (5 mi scenic drive) → Timber Creek Overlook → picnic
- Back in Springdale by mid-afternoon; pack the van tonight for an 11 AM checkout and a 1:30 PM departure tomorrow.
- For the kids: Kinsley can compare these cliffs with the main canyon's; Peter can watch for the pull-off where the road ends.

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Springdale guide, Weather Backup Plans: Narrows closed, high flow, or flash-flood risk; Rain; Snow on the Kolob Canyons Road.

DAY 12 of 13 · THU, NOV 12

Springdale → Las Vegas & Tournament of Kings

Las Vegas · Pacific Time (1 hr behind Utah)

DRIVE

Drive to Las Vegas: 160 mi, ~2.75 hrs

LODGING

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Las Vegas SW—Spring Valley, 6220 S Rainbow Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89118

TIMED STOPS

- Tournament of Kings at Excalibur — 6:00–7:30 PM (~1.5 hrs)

THE PLAN

- SpringHill checkout by 11:00 AM. Last lunch in Springdale, then leave by 1:30 PM MT.
- Holiday Inn Express check-in from 3:00 PM (Pacific): drop the bags, change, regroup.
- Rideshare from the hotel at ~4:45 PM PT (two cars for six). The hotel is off-Strip, and the van probably won't fit casino garages.
- Tournament of Kings at 6:00 PM. Download all six mobile tickets before leaving the hotel.

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Las Vegas guide, Weather Backup Plans: Wind or dust storm on I-15; Delays on I-15 through the Virgin River Gorge; Rain in Las Vegas.

DAY 13 of 13 · FRI, NOV 13

Fly LAS → SEA

Las Vegas · Pacific Time (1 hr behind Utah)

LODGING

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Las Vegas SW–Spring Valley, 6220 S Rainbow Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89118

THE PLAN

- Leave the hotel by ~7:45 AM PT. Return the van well before the flight, even though the booking says noon.
- Alamo return at the LAS Rent-A-Car Center, then the shuttle bus to the terminal (allow 20–30 min).
- Alaska 664 · LAS 10:42 AM → SEA 1:35 PM. It lands at SeaTac, not Paine Field, so plan the drive home.

IF THE WEATHER TURNS

See Las Vegas guide, Weather Backup Plans: Wind or dust storm on I-15; Delays on I-15 through the Virgin River Gorge; Rain in Las Vegas.