



1 - 13 NOVEMBER 2026

Utah's Mighty Five

A Family Road Trip

4 adults · 2 children (9 & 4)

Salt Lake City → Moab → Torrey → Bryce Canyon → Zion → Las Vegas

THE ROUTE

Thirteen Days

Salt Lake City → Moab → Torrey → Bryce Canyon → Zion → Las Vegas. Four nights in Moab, two in Torrey, two at Bryce Canyon, three in Springdale and a final night in Las Vegas — with the driving legs getting shorter as the trip goes on.

1	Sunday 1 November	Wheels Up, Red Rock Down
2	Monday 2 November	Arches, Before the Crowds
3	Tuesday 3 November	Canyonlands from the Sky
4	Wednesday 4 November	Moab, At Your Own Pace
5	Thursday 5 November	West to Capitol Reef
6	Friday 6 November	Orchards and Narrow Places
7	Saturday 7 November	Byway 12 to the Hoodoos
8	Sunday 8 November	Into the Amphitheatre
9	Monday 9 November	Down to Zion
10	Tuesday 10 November	The Canyon Floor & The Narrows
11	Wednesday 11 November	Kolob Canyons
12	Thursday 12 November	Canyon to Casino
13	Friday 13 November	Home via SeaTac

Booked flights. Delta 1016 flies SEA → SLC on 1 November (9:42am–12:50pm). Alaska 664 flies LAS → SEA on 13 November (10:42am–1:35pm). **The return lands at SeaTac, not Paine Field.**

Wheels Up, Red Rock Down

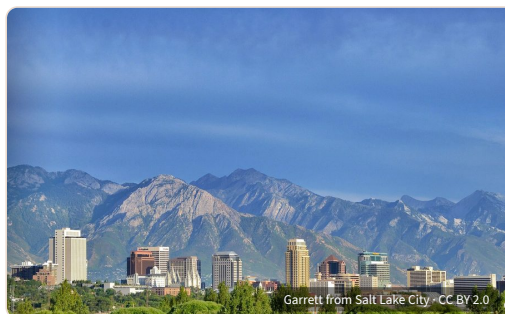
Daylight saving ended at 2am this morning. Delta 1016 lands in Salt Lake City at 12:50pm; collect the Alamo van and drive straight to Moab.

✈ DL 1016 · SEA → SLC

🕒 9:42am → 12:50pm

🏠 Homewood Suites Moab · night 1 of 4

🌅 Sunset ~5:20pm



Garrett from Salt Lake City · CC BY 2.0

Delta 1016 to Salt Lake City

Fly Delta Comfort Classic from Seattle at 9:42am, arriving Salt Lake City at 12:50pm. The booked Alamo Ford Transit Wagon is collected at SLC.

✈ DL 1016 · Sun 1 Nov · SEA 9:42am → SLC 12:50pm

📧 Confirmation: in email

🚗 Alamo · pickup listed 12:00pm — call if delayed · confirmation in email

Break at Green River

Roughly two-thirds of the way to Moab, Green River is the natural place to stop, stretch small legs and eat before the last hour. There is very little between here and Moab after dark.

🍴 Tamarisk Restaurant · 1710 E Main St · comfort food, Navajo taco salad, great pie · open 7am–9pm daily

🛢 Fill the tank — fuel is dearer in Moab



James St. John · CC BY 2.0



j.a.woodhouse · CC BY 2.0

Arrive Moab

Four nights in one place is a genuine luxury on a road trip. The booked Homewood Suites is on Main Street in the center of Moab — studios with kitchenettes, so breakfast and snacks can be handled in-room.

🏠 Homewood Suites · 132 N Main St · check-in 3:00pm

🕒 Confirmation: in email (two reservations, 6 guests)

★ EV charging on-site; parking height restrictions apply

Arches, Before the Crowds

No timed-entry reservation is needed in 2026 — the system was scrapped. That is not a reason to sleep in.

 ~10 min to park gate

 Green + one amber

 58–61°F / 35°F night

 No railings at viewpoints



The Windows & Turret Arch

The single best value in the park for small legs: three enormous arches within a few hundred flat yards of the car park. Start here and everyone gets a win before the day has properly begun.

 Green · 0.5 mi flat gravel loop

 Turret Arch framed through North Window is the classic shot

Double Arch

Directly opposite the Windows. Two spans rising from a single point of rock, and a short scramble up into the bowl beneath them that children invariably love more than the view itself.

 Green · 0.5 mi, slight scramble at the end



Landscape Arch

The longest span in North America, and the most achievable of the trip's ambitious walks — 1.6 miles there and back on flat gravel. Treat the walk as the destination and turn back whenever it stops being fun.

 Amber · 1.6 mi flat · budget double the posted time

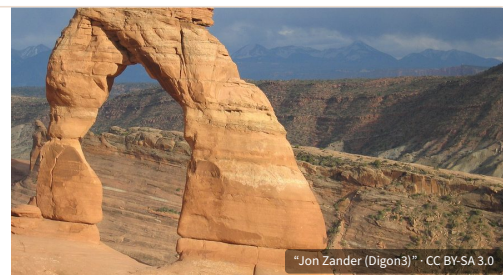
 Devils Garden car park fills early

Delicate Arch — Lower Viewpoint

The full hike is three miles across open slickrock with an exposed ledge, which rules it out as a family. The Lower Viewpoint delivers the same icon for a flat five-minute stroll.

 Green to the viewpoint · the full trail is a red for this group

 Late afternoon light turns the arch properly orange



Sand Dune Arch

A slot in the fins holding a floor of deep, soft red sand. Shaded, sheltered and effectively a natural sandpit — the four-year-old may well rate this above every arch in the park.

 Green · 0.3 mi · shoes will fill with sand, and that is fine

Canyonlands from the Sky

Island in the Sky sits on a mesa 6,000 feet up, with the Colorado and Green rivers carving the world apart below.

 ~40 min each way

 55–58°F · windy

 Windproof shell — exposed mesa

 Unfenced drops throughout



Mesa Arch

A half-mile loop to an arch perched directly on the cliff edge, framing a hundred miles of canyon. The most famous sunrise shot in Utah, and entirely manageable at any hour.

 Green · 0.5 mi loop

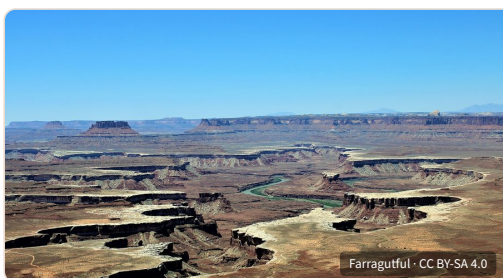
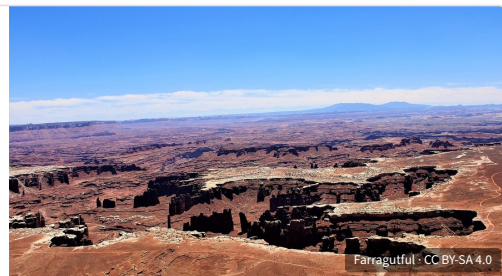
 The drop behind the arch is sheer and unfenced — hold hands

Grand View Point

The end of the road and the biggest view in the park. The overlook by the car park is plenty; the rim trail beyond it adds exposure without adding much scenery for this group.

 Overlook green · rim trail amber, and skippable

 Reliably the windiest stop of the day



Green River Overlook

A thirty-second walk from the car to one of the great river views of the American West. Minimal effort, maximum payoff — useful currency mid-afternoon.

 Green · essentially roadside

Dead Horse Point State Park

Caught on the way back to Moab. A gooseneck bend of the Colorado 2,000 feet below, and arguably a finer view than anything inside the national park proper.

 Use the free Every Kid Outdoors 4th-grade pass — obtain and print it after Sep 1

 Time it for late afternoon light on the drive home



Moab, At Your Own Pace

A deliberate gap in the itinerary. Four days in, small legs need one morning that asks nothing of them.

 Optional

 Moab · last night here

 Flex day — decide at breakfast



Highway 128 along the Colorado

If the day wants a drive rather than a hike, this is the one: the river on one side, red walls on the other, and pull-offs whenever someone wants out. No commitment required.

 As far as Castle Valley and back is about 90 min

 The light is best late in the afternoon

Fisher Towers

Improbable dark spires rising straight out of the desert floor, an hour up Highway 128. Walking the first few hundred yards of the trail is enough to feel the scale of them.

 Green for the first stretch · the full trail is long and exposed



Or simply go back to Arches

There is no shame in repeating a hit. A second run at the Windows or Sand Dune Arch with no schedule attached is often the fondest memory of a trip like this.

 Your park pass is already paid — re-entry costs nothing

West to Capitol Reef

The quietest of the five parks, and the one most people drive straight past.

 2.5 hrs · 145 mi

 Skyview Hotel Torrey · 2 nights

 52–56°F / 28°F night

 Gloves at breakfast



The Scenic Drive

Ten paved miles into the Waterpocket Fold, a hundred-mile wrinkle in the earth's crust. Done entirely from the car with short stops, which suits an afternoon that follows a morning of driving.

 Skyview Hotel · 876 W SR-24 Torrey · check-in 3pm (desk closes 10pm)

 Self-pay fee station on the Scenic Drive

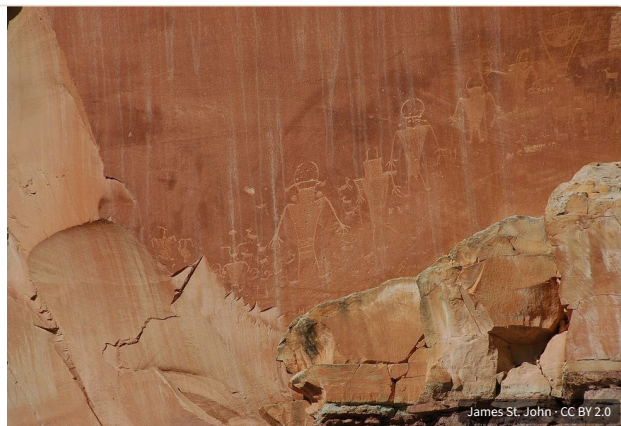
 Allow 60–90 min with stops

The Petroglyph Boardwalk

A flat boardwalk beneath a cliff carved with Fremont figures a thousand years old — bighorn sheep, and human shapes with broad shoulders and headdresses. Genuinely gripping for a nine-year-old.

 Green · flat boardwalk, fully accessible

 Bring binoculars if you have them — some panels are high up



Orchards and Narrow Places

The Gifford House opens at 9am and closes for the season the Saturday after Thanksgiving — your visit is comfortably inside the window. Arrive early: pies sell out by noon.



One amber, one green



Gifford House pie!



52–56°F



All in-park



Bob Palin · CC BY-SA 2.0

Hickman Bridge

A 133-foot natural bridge reached by 1.8 miles of trail with a 400-foot climb, all of it front-loaded in the first ten minutes. Reaching the first viewpoint and turning back is a perfectly good result.



Amber · 1.8 mi · pick your turnaround before you start



The climb is the hard part and it comes first

The Fruita District & Gifford House

A green valley of historic orchards, a one-room schoolhouse and grazing mule deer, hemmed in by red cliffs. The Gifford House bakes fresh fruit pies daily — apple, peach, cherry, mixed berry and strawberry rhubarb — in what may be the most unlikely bakery in the national park system. Arrive before noon or they will be gone.



Gifford House · open 9am–4:30pm · closed 12–12:45 for lunch · pies sell out early



Green · flat throughout



Yes, you can eat pie for breakfast at a national park



bobistraveling · CC BY 2.0



Chris Light · CC BY-SA 4.0

Capitol Gorge

At the end of the Scenic Drive, a flat walk into a canyon narrow enough to touch both walls, past pioneer names scratched into the rock in the 1880s.



Green · 1 mi flat, hard-packed sand



Never enter if rain threatens — this is a flash flood channel

Byway 12 to the Hoodoos

One of the most spectacular drives in America, ending 8,000 feet up at the rim of Bryce Canyon — and at the booked Best Western Plus two miles from the main entrance.

 2.5 hrs · 110 mi

 Best Western Plus Bryce Canyon Grand

 45–50°F / 22°F night

 Full winter kit from here



Scenic Byway 12

The road climbs from desert through Escalante to alpine forest, including the Hogback — a ridge with the ground falling away on both sides at once. Allow far longer than the mileage suggests. Boulder, midway along, is a noted food stop in summer — the Burr Trail Grill and Hell's Backbone Grill — but both close for the season before November.

 Stop at Head of the Rocks Overlook

 Patchy signal — download maps before leaving Torrey

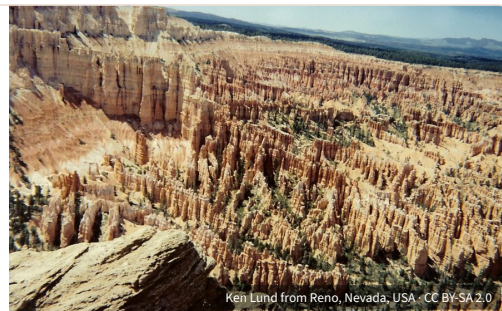
 Pack lunch — Boulder's restaurants are seasonal and shut by November

Sunset at the rim

Arrive in time to walk from the lodge to Sunset Point for the last hour of light, when the hoodoos turn from orange to deep red and the temperature drops like a stone.

 Coats, hats and gloves — it is 22°F overnight up here

 Book Main Lodge, Suites or Sunset Motel — see the warning opposite



After dark — the night sky

Bryce Canyon is an International Dark Sky Park, and November's clear, cold air makes it one of the best months to see the stars. Orion, the Pleiades and the winter Milky Way are all up. Ranger-led telescope programs run occasionally in winter — check the visitor centre on arrival. For a guaranteed experience, Dark Ranger Telescope Tours operates private evening sessions just outside the park at 7:30pm.

★ Sunset Point and Inspiration Point offer wide-open sky with nearby parking

 Dark Ranger Telescope Tours · darkrangertele scopetours.com · book ahead

 It is below freezing — thermal layers, gloves, hat, hand warmers

Into the Amphitheatre

The largest concentration of hoodoos anywhere on earth, and the coldest day of the trip. The 2026 park shuttle ends October 18, so drive yourselves and check winter road and trail status.



Use your own vehicle



Traction if icy



45–50°F / 22°F



Winter closures possible



Thor's Hammer

The single most recognisable hoodoo in the park, visible from the rim just below Sunset Point. No descent required to see it properly.



Best light early, before the amphitheatre flattens out

Rim Trail: Sunrise to Sunset

A flat, paved half-mile between the two great viewpoints, with the entire amphitheatre on your left the whole way. The best hoodoo-per-step ratio in Utah.



Green · 0.5 mi paved, but icy in November



Microspikes are not optional here — the paving ices over



Queen's Garden — partway

The gentlest way down among the hoodoos. Descending is easy and the climb back out is the problem, so go partway and turn round while everyone is still cheerful.



Amber · 1.8 mi full · turn back at will



Wall Street on the Navajo Loop shuts for winter

Mossy Cave

Outside the main amphitheatre on Highway 12, a short flat walk to a grotto that grows icicles by November, plus a small waterfall. A completely different feel from the rim.



Green · 0.8 mi · 15 min drive from the lodge



Down to Zion

A 4,000-foot descent from the hoodoos to the canyon floor — and into two booked SpringHill Suites covering the full three-night Zion stay for all six travelers.

 ~3 hrs · 165 mi

 SpringHill Suites · 3 nights

 62–65°F · warmest park

 2 suites · 6 guests



Ken Lund · CC BY-SA 2.0

The Road to Zion

The expected Ford Transit (about 97 inches across the mirrors) is too wide for the Zion–Mount Carmel tunnel road, so the default route runs Bryce → Panguitch → UT-20 → I-15 → Springdale (about 3 hours). If the van measures 94 inches or less at pickup, the classic approach returns: a mile-long 1930 tunnel and tight switchbacks down onto the canyon floor.

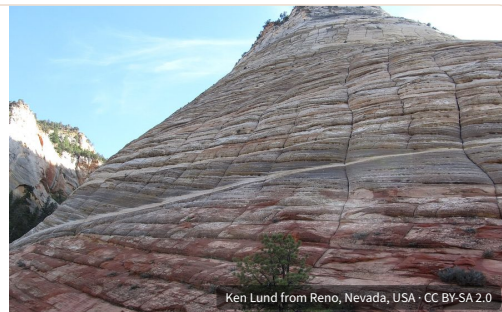
 Tunnel road only if the van measured 94" or less; never turn west onto UT-9 at Mount Carmel Junction

 If UT-20 is snowy, use the longer, lower route via Kanab and Hurricane (~3.5 hrs)

Checkerboard Mesa

On the tunnel-road alternative only (van 94 inches or less): just inside the east entrance, a dome of sandstone cross-hatched into a perfect grid by wind and frost. Visible from a pull-off — no walking required.

 Roadside pull-off on the left as you enter



Ken Lund from Reno, Nevada, USA · CC BY-SA 2.0



Vulturesong · CC0

Pa'rus Trail

A flat, paved 1.7-mile path along the Virgin River from the visitor centre. Gentle enough to end a driving day on, and the only trail in the canyon where bicycles and pets are allowed.

 Green · paved and flat throughout

 The Watchman at sunset from the bridge

The Canyon Floor & The Narrows

Take the Springdale shuttle or walk to the visitor center, then transfer to the park shuttle. Canyon service starts 7:00am; the last return leaves Temple of Sinawava at 6:15pm.



Canyon shuttle 7am–6:15pm



Narrows: ages 8+



Kid's drysuit \$59



Flow + flood + algae check



John Manard · CC BY-SA 2.0

Court of the Patriarchs

Three sandstone peaks named for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, reached by a viewpoint a hundred yards from the shuttle stop. A quick, high-reward stop early in the day.



Shuttle stop 4



Green · 100 yards uphill

Lower Emerald Pool

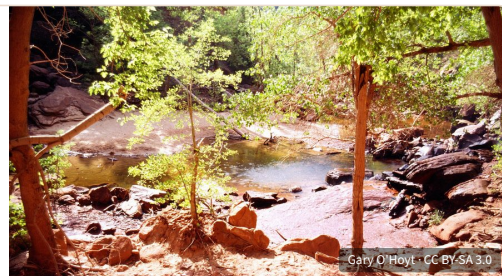
A paved trail from the lodge to a pool beneath a dripping overhang — you walk behind the waterfall itself. The lower pool is the family one; the upper trails get rough.



Green to the lower pool · 1.2 mi return



The rock behind the falls stays slick year-round



Gary O'Hoyt · CC BY-SA 3.0



John Manard · CC BY-SA 2.0

Riverside Walk — and the split

A flat, paved mile at the very end of the canyon, tracing the Virgin River between thousand-foot walls to the mouth of the Narrows. Where the pavement stops, the river becomes the trail — and that is where this group divides in two.



Green · 2 mi return, paved



Shuttle stop 9 — the last one



Pavement's end is the turnaround for the 4-year-old

Into the Narrows — one adult, one 9-year-old

Bottom-up from the Temple of Sinawava needs no permit, and you turn back whenever you like. But every drysuit in Springdale starts at age 8: the wrist and ankle gaskets must seal snugly or the suit floods, which in 40°F water is a hypothermia risk rather than a comfort one. The 9-year-old can be outfitted. The 4-year-old cannot — anywhere in town.



Bottom-up route: no permit needed; posted closure controls



Mystery Falls is a conservative turnaround



Check USGS flow, NWS flash-flood risk and NPS cyanobacteria advisory



Never drink river water, even filtered; avoid head submersion



Do not plan around the last 6:15pm shuttle



Jon Sullivan · Public domain

Kolob Canyons

Veterans Day is fee-free and the main canyon will be crowded, so the default is Kolob Canyons, a quieter corner of Zion reached off I-15 (about an hour each way). The east side is the option only if the van measured 94 inches or less at pickup.

 SpringHill · night 3 of 3

 Kolob: green · east side adds one amber

 Veterans Day · busy

 Bighorn (east side)



Kolob Canyons Road

Five paved miles climbing into the finger canyons of Zion's northwest corner, with red cliffs rising straight out of the road, then the short Timber Creek Overlook Trail at the end for a big view. Start at the Kolob Canyons Visitor Center at I-15 exit 40; the road can close for snow at the top.

 Green · Timber Creek Overlook ~1 mi round trip, gentle climb

 Leave about 8:30am · back in Springdale by mid-afternoon

Canyon Overlook Trail (if the van fits)

Only if the van measured 94 inches or less: a mile of rock steps and ledges to a view straight down the length of Zion Canyon. The best view-to-effort ratio in the park — but there are unfenced sections and it demands a hand held throughout.

 Amber · 1 mi · steps and drop-offs

 Hold hands on the exposed sections — no railings

 Park at the tunnel's east end; the small car park fills fast



Slickrock country (if the van fits)

The east side is a different park altogether: open domes of pale cross-bedded sandstone instead of a deep canyon. Easy scrambling on gentle rock, with the car never far away.

 Green · wander as far as suits

 Grippy shoes — slickrock is anything but

Desert bighorn sheep (if the van fits)

On the east-side option, the east side holds Zion's best-established bighorn herd, and they are often right beside the road. Rams carry the heavy curled horns; drive slowly and scan the slopes.

 Early morning and late afternoon are best

 Stay in the car when they are close to the road



Canyon to Casino

Check out, then leave Springdale by 1:30pm Mountain Time for the 6:00pm show. Las Vegas is one hour behind, but I-15 traffic, parking and casino navigation consume the apparent gain.

 Leave Springdale by 1:30pm MT

 Tournament of Kings 6:00pm

 Holiday Inn Express SW

 Vegas is 1 hour behind Utah



Into Las Vegas

The drive drops out of red rock into open desert and then Las Vegas. Check in at the booked Holiday Inn Express & Suites Las Vegas SW–Spring Valley by 3pm if possible, then allow time to reach Excalibur for the 6:00pm show.

 Holiday Inn Express SW · 6 guests · confirmation in email

 Check-in 3:00pm · check-out 11:00am

 Hotel is off-Strip — arrange parking, taxi or rideshare to Excalibur

Tournament of Kings

Dinner and a jousting tournament in a castle arena, eaten with your hands, with horses at full gallop a few feet away. Ages three and over need a full ticket, so all six travelers need paid seats.

 6 tickets confirmed · confirmation in email

 Thu 12 Nov · 6:00pm · Excalibur Hotel & Casino

 Dinner included

 Digital/mobile tickets required for entry — download before leaving the hotel



Home via SeaTac

The booked return is Alaska 664 from Las Vegas to Seattle. It lands at SeaTac, not Paine Field, so allow for the longer drive home.

✈ AS 664 · LAS → SEA

🕒 10:42am → 1:35pm

🚗 Return Alamo by 12:00pm

✉ Confirmation: in email



Alaska 664 · LAS → Seattle

Depart Las Vegas at 10:42am and land at SeaTac at 1:35pm on Alaska 664, a Boeing 737. All four travelers are booked in Premium Class. Because the flight leaves before the rental's listed noon return time, return the van before airport check-in.

✉ Confirmation: in email

🚗 Alamo return: LAS · booked for noon, but return before the 10:42am flight

⚠ Arrival is SEA, not PAE — plan the longer drive home

Booking & Lodging

Twelve nights. Bryce is the competitive in-park booking; the complete three-night Zion stay is confirmed at SpringHill Suites in Springdale for all six travelers.

#	DATE	BASE	PROPERTY	BOOKING
1	Sun 1 Nov	Moab	Homewood Suites by Hilton	hilton.com
2	Mon 2 Nov	Moab	same	—
3	Tue 3 Nov	Moab	same	—
4	Wed 4 Nov	Moab	same	—
5	Thu 5 Nov	Torrey	Skyview Hotel	skyviewtorrey.com
6	Fri 6 Nov	Torrey	same	—
7	Sat 7 Nov	Bryce	Best Western Plus Bryce Canyon Grand	marriott.com
8	Sun 8 Nov	Bryce	same	—
9	Mon 9 Nov	Springdale	SpringHill Suites — 2 suites	marriott.com
10	Tue 10 Nov	Springdale	same	—
11	Wed 11 Nov	Springdale	same	—
12	Thu 12 Nov	Las Vegas	Holiday Inn Express SW-Spring Valley	ihg.com

TWO BOOKING TRAPS

1. Bryce lodging is confirmed off-park. The two Best Western Plus rooms are roughly two miles from the main entrance. The Lodge at Bryce Canyon building-season warning no longer applies. Note that a **\$10 resort fee per room** is due directly at the property.

2. Zion lodging is outside the park. The two SpringHill Suites cover all six travelers through Thursday morning, but they do not include Zion Lodge vehicle access. Use the Springdale shuttle or walk to the visitor center, then transfer to the park shuttle while the Scenic Drive is shuttle-only.

Also book ahead: Tournament of Kings at Excalibur (6:00pm, Thursday 12 November), the one-way SLC → LAS rental SUV, and **Dark Ranger Telescope Tours** at Bryce (7:30pm, darkrangertele scopetours.com — November sessions book up).

Budget & Weather

CATEGORY	ECONOMICAL	COMFORT
Flights — 6 people (4 booked + 2 TBD)	\$2,050	\$3,000
Rental van — one-way, 12 days	\$750	\$1,100
Fuel — ~1,000 miles	\$200	\$250
Lodging — 12 nights / rooms for 6	\$3,200	\$4,800
Food — 13 days / 6 people	\$2,250	\$3,375
Tournament of Kings — 6 tickets	\$465	\$690
Every Kid Outdoors 4th-grade pass	Free	Free
Activities & extras	\$375	\$1,050
Total	~\$9,290	~\$14,265

Planning ranges, not quotes. Excludes souvenirs and insurance. Vegas resort and parking fees add \$50–75.

Temperatures & what to wear

Elevation decides clothing, not the calendar — a 45°F swing across the trip. **Pack for Bryce and shed layers everywhere else.**

STOP	DATES	ELEVATION	DAY / NIGHT	WEAR
Moab	1–4 Nov	4,000 ft	58–61°F / ~35°F	T-shirt + fleece; hard frost at dawn
Island in the Sky	3 Nov	6,000 ft	55–58°F / ~33°F	Add a windproof shell
Torrey	5–6 Nov	5,400–6,800 ft	52–56°F / ~28°F	Gloves at breakfast, shirtsleeves by noon
Bryce Canyon	7–8 Nov	8,000–9,000 ft	45–50°F / ~22°F	Full winter kit + microspikes
Zion	9–11 Nov	4,000 ft	62–65°F / ~39°F	Warmest park; fleece early
Las Vegas	12 Nov	2,000 ft	~70°F / ~50°F	One tidy outfit each for the show



PACKING LIST

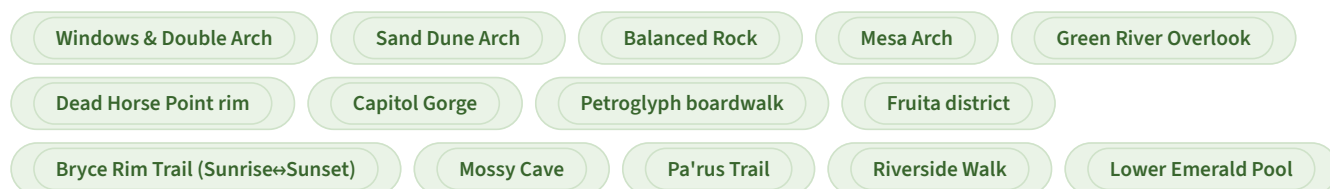
Microspikes (essential at Bryce, not optional) · insulated coats, hats, gloves, thermal base layers, two pairs of warm socks each · waterproof boots · head torches (sunset 5:20pm) · **ear defenders** for the show · sun cream · offline maps — signal is patchy in every park · snacks.

Children run colder than adults at viewpoints. The wind at Bryce Point and Grand View ends a four-year-old's patience faster than any hike.

Hiking with a 4-year-old

The four-year-old walks everything — there is no carrier on this trip, and that is the single biggest constraint on the itinerary. **Budget roughly double the posted time on anything rated moderate, agree a turnaround point before setting off, and treat the trail itself as the destination rather than the endpoint.** Snacks and frequent stops do more work than distance targets.

● Green — both children walk comfortably



● Amber — ambitious on small legs; pick a turnaround

- **Landscape Arch** — 1.6 mi, flat gravel — the most achievable of these.
- **Canyon Overlook** — 1 mi, steps and unfenced sections — hold hands throughout.
- **Hickman Bridge** — 1.8 mi, ~400 ft climb, front-loaded. First viewpoint is a fair result.
- **Queen's Garden** — 1.8 mi, 320 ft. Descending is easy; the climb out is the problem.
- **Grand View Point** — 2 mi, exposed edges. The overlook alone is plenty.
- **The Narrows, bottom-up — 9-year-old only** — No permit needed; turn back whenever you like. Needs a rented drysuit, and **those start at age 8**. See the box below.

● Red — skip, or one adult with the 9-year-old

- **Delicate Arch full hike** — 3 mi, 480 ft, exposed slickrock ledge. Do the Lower Viewpoint instead.
- **Angels Landing** — Chains and sheer drops; permit lottery. Adults only.
- **Navajo Loop full circuit** — Wall Street shut for winter anyway.
- **The Narrows for the 4-year-old** — No drysuit in Springdale fits under-8s. Riverside Walk gives the same scenery, dry.



THE NARROWS — WHAT ACTUALLY WORKS

Every drysuit rental in Springdale starts at age 8. The wrist and ankle gaskets must seal snugly or the suit floods, and in water in the low 40s°F that is a hypothermia risk rather than a comfort one. Your 9-year-old can be outfitted; **your 4-year-old cannot**, at any shop in town.

The split: one adult takes the 9-year-old upstream in drysuits. The other walks the paved **Riverside Walk** with the 4-year-old and turns back where the pavement ends — same canyon, same thousand-foot walls, dry and warm. Swap over at the pavement's end.

Rent from Zion Outfitter (7 Zion Park Blvd, daily 7am–9pm): Kid's Drysuit Package **\$59**, ages 8–14. Kid's drysuits **cannot be reserved** — book a Dry Bib Package at the same price and swap on arrival, and collect the evening before from 4pm. Alternatives: Zion Adventures (36 Lion Blvd, Kokatat suits, from \$79) and Zion Guru (1013 Zion Park Blvd).

Will it be open? The Narrows shuts above **150 CFS** or on a Flash Flood Warning. Flow alone is not permission to enter: posted NPS closures and the flash-flood forecast control. Across 2015–2025, 1–13 November ran a median of **48 CFS** and broke 150 on just **1 day in 143**. Also check the NPS cyanobacteria advisory: never drink river water even after filtering or boiling, avoid visible scum and head submersion, and keep water out of eyes, nose and mouth. Check gauge 09405500 at waterdata.usgs.gov the morning you go.

And repeat this daily: most Utah overlooks have **no railings at all**. Mesa Arch, Grand View Point, the Bryce viewpoints and Canyon Overlook every one of them needs a hand held.

Eating & Final Checks

Green River	Tamarisk Restaurant (1710 E Main St, 7am–9pm daily — comfort food, Navajo taco salad, pot roast, excellent pie)
Moab	Moab Diner (kid-proof, cheap, open late) · Trailhead Public House (best burger, rooftop) · Cactus Jacks (breakfast) · The Broken Oar (nicer dinner)
Torrey	The Wild Rabbit Café (breakfast, doughnuts, closes 2pm) · Rock Reef Café · Capitol Reef Resort restaurant. Small-town hours shrink in November — ring ahead.
Bryce	Lodge dining room (most convenient) · Bryce Canyon Pines (big portions, homemade pies) · Ebenezer's Barn & Grill (likely closed in November — call first)
Zion / Springdale	Oscar's Café (the go-to) · The Park House Café (best breakfast, closes 2pm) · Camp Outpost
Las Vegas	Dinner is built into the Tournament of Kings ticket.

Confirmed for these dates

Fourth-grade pass trip. The free **Every Kid Outdoors** pass is a core reason for this itinerary. Obtain the 2026–27 pass at everykidoutdoors.gov after **1 September 2026**, print the paper voucher, and bring the fourth grader to each entrance. It covers the family in one private vehicle at the five federal national parks. It does **not** cover Dead Horse Point State Park.

- **Arches needs no timed entry in 2026** — the reservation system was scrapped. Still arrive before 8am; Delicate Arch and Devils Garden car parks fill.
- **The Zion shuttle runs through 28 November.** From Oct. 25–Nov. 28, canyon service starts at the Visitor Center at **7:00am**; last outbound is 5:00pm and the last return leaves Temple of Sinawava at **6:15pm**. SpringHill Suites guests use the Springdale town shuttle (from 8:00am) or walk to the visitor center. Private vehicles cannot use Zion Canyon Scenic Drive while shuttle service is active, even before or after shuttle hours.
- **Gifford House is open** (9am–4:30pm daily, closed 12–12:45pm lunch) until the Saturday after Thanksgiving (28 Nov). Arrive before noon for pie — they sell out early.
- **Bryce shuttle service ends 18 October.** Drive your own vehicle on 7–8 November. Winter storms can temporarily close the road beyond about Mile 3; check road and trail status each morning.
- **Wall Street (Navajo Loop) commonly shuts for winter** because of ice and rockfall. Two Bridges may remain available, but posted closures control.
- **Daylight saving ends 2am Sunday 1 November** — the morning you fly. Sunrise ~7:10am, sunset ~5:20pm.
- **Veterans Day is Wednesday 11 November**, your second Zion day — expect crowds.
- **Tournament of Kings** runs 6:00pm and 8:30pm on 12 Nov; dark Tuesdays only. Ages 3+ need a full ticket.



RE-VERIFY BEFORE BOOKING

Operating seasons and published schedules are confirmed above. **Not** confirmed, and needing a live check: real-time room availability, seat inventory and actual fares for these specific dates. **Every price in this guide is an estimate.** Re-check closer to the date: Bryce is now off-park (Best Western Plus); the Zion shuttle end date, Tournament of Kings showtimes, and any winter trail closures at Bryce.