

Southern Utah Itinerary

Thought it would be best to list the itinerary, that way one can find the campgrounds along the way. I don't know how long you plan on being there, but if you want to see a lot, this is a very good and efficient itinerary to follow. If not already members, recommend you join Passport America, or something like that. Your first few nights will pay for your membership fee. I will try and identify the campground mentioned if they are Passport America with a PA. Consider all the campgrounds mentioned as OK or nice, unless I make specific comments about them.

We traveled out on I-40. Spent the nights at Heritage Inn Campground Brinkly AR, Double D RV Park in Texola OK, and Enchanted Trails RV Park (PA) in Albuquerque NM. Did not like Enchanted or any other campground we found in Albuquerque, except for the KOA. We will stay in the KOA in the future. We began our sight seeing on I-40 at the Painted Desert/Petrified Forest National Park and stayed in the KOA at Holbrook. There is also a very nice campground, Meteor Crater RV Park (PA), about 25 miles west of there if you want to drive back to the NP. From there we traveled to Flagstaff and turned north to the Grand Canyon. They have a very nice campground just inside the East Entrance, but no hookups and now limited to 30 feet maximum. From there on to Monument Valley. On the way tour Canyon de Chelly National Monument. They have a nice campground, but no hookups. At Monument Valley, stay at Gouldens. It is all red dirt and dust, but full hookups. Ask for site number 34, but they all have scenic settings.

Note: If you go to Page, AZ, you need to camp at Lee's Ferry Crossing and enjoy the views in that area. In Page, stay at the Wahweap Campground on Lake Powell.

From Monument Valley, we headed north into Utah on US-191. First stop is Bluff, stay at Cotton Wood RV Park. However, on our 2016 trip we stay at Cottonwood and like it best. Tour Goose Neck SP, The Valley of the Gods, Moki Dugway (part of U-261 about 1/2 mile past the Valley of the Gods road). If in Mexican Hat around meal time, there is a restaurant there with a swinging grill that serves great steaks. From there go on to Blanding and stay at Blue Mountain RV Park and tour National Bridges NM. You can tour Canyonland NP from here or go to Mountain View RV Park in Monticello. From there to Moab. Stay at Spanish Trail RV Park or Moab Rim CG. We were not impressed with CG's in Moab. You may want to check them out when you get there. Be sure to take the drive up U-128 along the Colorado River and back. If you want dry camping, there are many campgrounds along the river. Tour Arches NP. From Moab we went to Dead Horse Point SP. CG is very nice but was 20 amp only. This CG will be full most of the time and not but a few sites will accommodate a large motorhome. Toured rest of Canyonlands NP. If you have four wheel drive, be sure to take at least part of **Shafer Trail** in Canyonlands NP, if not rent a Jeep in Moab.

Headed to north on U-191, west on I-70 and south on U-24 to Capitol Reef NP via Goblin Valley SP. We spent two nights in Capitol Reef NP campground before going to Torrey. Stayed at Wonderland RV Park in Torrey, very nice CG. Take day trip to Fish

Lake and do day trip over Boulder Mountain to Escalante. Torrey is just below Capitol Reef NP. Torrey is a very good place to rest up and just enjoy the surroundings in this small rural town. We spent four nights there. Do **not** eat at the Wonderland Inn restaurant. The food is microwaved frozen dinners.

From Torrey, we took U-12 down to Bryce Canyon NP and stayed at Ruby's Inn Campground. This takes you down to through Escalante. This is a 65 mile drive across Boulder Mountain at about 11,000 feet elevation and through the Escalante National Monument. Boulder Mountain is the highest "forested" mountain in North America. The road has many 8% & 10% grades, a couple of 12%, and one 14% grade. Plus, in the middle of the Escalante Monument, there is about a one mile stretch of road that is nothing but S curves on the top of a 40-50 foot wide ridge with extreme drop offs on both sides--and no guard rails. It is called the Hog Back. You will need reservations at Ruby's!! If no reservations, you may get in, but without sewage hookup. A prettier place is on down the road a few miles in Red Canyon, but I don't think they have hookups. Also, there is a Red Canyon RV Park on down a few more miles going west on U-12. But, Ruby's is the hub of everything at Bryce. The campground can be very dusty from white rock, like many KOA's. There is a KOA in Cannonville before you get to Bryce, we did not stay there, but it might be better than Ruby's. While in this area drive over to Panguitch Lake. The Panguitch Creek is green and flows from the lake into the Virgin River.

From Bryce, we stayed at the Bryce-Zion KOA in Glendale. From here take a day trip over to Cedar City. They have a Walmart and many restaurants. **Be sure to stop by Cedar Breaks NM.** Cedar Breaks also has a very nice campground, but no hookups. We would have stayed there, but the weather was way below freezing at night. It should be cool enough while you are there to do without A/C. From here we went on into Zion NP and stayed at the Zion River Resort RV Park. The Zion campgrounds were full and we found an opening in the Zion River Resort RV Park so that is where we stayed. It is crowded!! Be sure to visit the Western part of Zion NP, off I-15.

From Zion we went to Mesquite, NV and stayed at the Casablanca Casino RV Park--all pavement. They have a great pool area. There are other RV Parks in Mesquite. Almost all the casinos have one. From Mesquite we went to the Valley of Fire State Park about 60 miles north of Las Vegas off I-15. To get there you drive through the Virgin River Gorge. It is the most expensive stretch of Interstate per mile of all the interstate highways. **The Valley of Fire is a MUST See.** They have two campgrounds and one has 50 Amp hookups. CG A does have bathhouses. From Valley of Fire to Vegas. Sam's Town RV Park is about as good as it gets in Vegas. Nothing to brag about, and is an almost all paved parking lot. Actually, we prefer to stay in the Nellis RV Park which is on the north side of Sam's Town and belongs to Sam's Town. There was one being remodeled near there that looked better. From Vegas we went to Phoenix and stayed at the Good Life RV Resort (PA) in Mesa. Great RV Park.

Note: Since Martha & I had spent about a week at the Grand Canyon, Page AZ, and the Lake Powell area, the above itinerary does not include Page and Lake Powell.

If you travel out or back on I-10 and go through Fort Stockton, TX, stop overnight and eat at **K-Bob's Steak House**. Best meal we had while on our trip and they also have a great salad bar. Lower priced than most chain steak houses.