

Bryce Canyon National Park

2-Day Deluxe Itinerary

Editor's Note

Bryce Canyon is a relatively small national park that packs a big punch. It's home to the world's largest concentration of hoodoos - sandstone pillars - that create a fantastical landscape that looks like something from an alien planet.

The canyon is named after Ebenezer Bryce, who settled nearby in 1870. He famously said of Bryce Canyon that "it's a hell of a place to lose a cow." That's no doubt true - but these days it's become very popular.

With popularity comes people. It can be difficult to know the best way to beat the crowds, the best hikes to do, and the best places and times to view the hoodoos.

This is what this itinerary planner is here for.

Follow this detailed plan, while making choices along the way, and you will have the perfect 2-day itinerary tailored to your needs and comfort level but without the stress and hassle of planning from scratch.

Enjoy your trip to Bryce Canyon!

James

James Ian
Founder



Parks Collecting



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- P1. Park Overview
- P3. Tips For Visiting Bryce Canyon
- P4. How to Use This Itinerary Planner
- P6. Itinerary Updates
- P7. Day One Schedule At A Glance
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- P28. Day Two Detailed Itinerary
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Bonus Extras

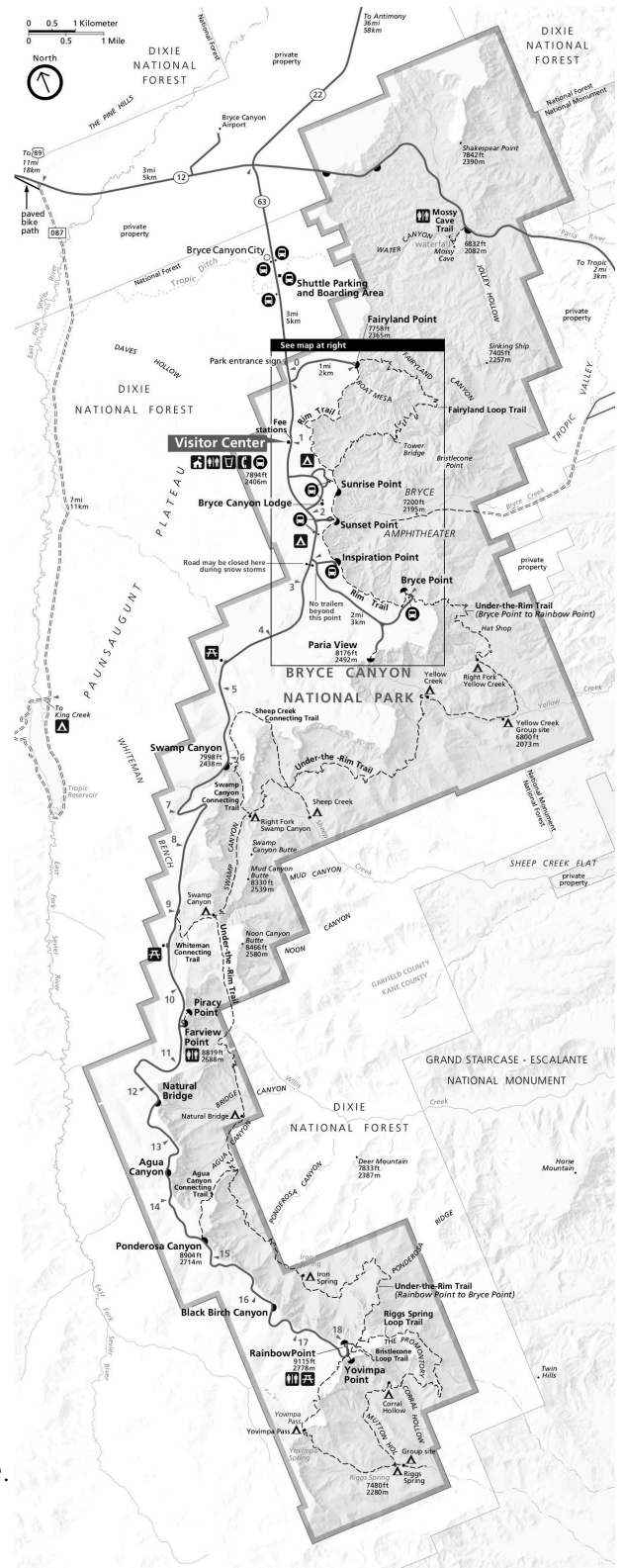
- Accommodations Guide
- Dining Guide
- Shuttle Guide

PARK OVERVIEW

Getting Your Bearings

Bryce Canyon, which is technically not a canyon at all since it's not carved by water, is a relatively small national park that's easy to get around. The main gateway town is Bryce Canyon City, which consists of little else other than services for visitors to the park.

The main section of the national park is Bryce Amphitheater, also called the "Silent City". This is a large 'bowl' that has the most - and arguably the best - hoodoos. The Visitor Center and in-park lodging are on the rim here. The only road through the park continues for another 18 miles to Rainbow Point.





TIPS FOR VISITING

Entrance Fee

Visit the [NPS website](#) for the latest fees. If you plan to visit more than a couple of parks in a year, I recommend buying an [America The Beautiful Pass](#).

Getting There

The major gateway city is **Bryce Canyon City**, and this is where this itinerary assumes you are based. The nearest airport, the small Cedar City Regional Airport, which has connections to Salt Lake City, is 1 hour 45 minutes away. The nearest major airports are Las Vegas Harry Reid International Airport and Salt Lake City International Airport, both about 4.5 hours away.

[>>> Click here to book your flights](#)

[>>> Click here to book your rental car](#)

Most people combine a trip to Bryce Canyon with Zion National Park as well, which I recommend. You can just focus on those two parks, include them in an epic road trip around Utah's Big Five national parks, or add on the Grand Canyon. I suggest starting in Bryce Canyon National Park. From Bryce Canyon, drive south to Zion and enter the park at the East Entrance. At the end of your trip to Zion, you can drive to Las Vegas or the Grand Canyon.

If you're visiting Zion National Park and/ or Grand Canyon National Park as well, you can get my **Zion Itinerary** and **Grand Canyon Itinerary** at a 20% with discount code BRYC.

Getting Around

You'll need a vehicle to get to the park. From Bryce Canyon City, you can take the free shuttle when it's operating, but this itinerary mostly starts before the first shuttle of the day, so it's best to drive to Bryce Amphitheater, park there, and then walk or take the shuttle around that area. Read the [Shuttle Guide](#) for more information. When you go to Rainbow Point, you can take the shuttle tour or drive. You do not need a high clearance vehicle or 4WD/ AWD for any of the places on this itinerary and you can drive it in an RV or with a trailer.

However, there are some **parking restrictions for longer vehicles**. Vehicles longer than 20 feet cannot park at the Visitor Center 1-hour Parking Lot, Sunrise Point, Bryce Lodge, Sunset Point, Inspiration Point, or Bryce Point during shuttle hours. They are also prohibited from parking at Paria View at all times because the parking lot is too small. You can park at the Visitor Center Additional Parking Lot, the Shuttle Station Parking Lot in Bryce Canyon City, or at your accommodation.

HOW TO USE THIS ITINERARY

This itinerary planner is designed to balance taking away the overwhelm with still giving you the freedom to **create an itinerary that suits your interests** and comfort level.

Please read all this information carefully so you can take full advantage of the itinerary planner.



Hikes

Where appropriate, several hike options are given, based on varying levels of difficulty and interest. In this case, you can **choose the hike** that best suits you.



Description

Includes **don't-miss sights and sites**. Where this includes wildlife, keep in mind that although these are common places to see wildlife, wild animals don't always show up on cue, so I can't promise you will see any animals.



Meals

Meal suggestions are given. Detailed options are provided in the [Dining Guide](#).



Driving Directions

Detailed **driving directions** are provided for each day. I have indicated where a road is closed to RVs and/ or trailers.



Things To Note

Includes any warnings, **important information**, considerations or closures.



Highlights

There are great views throughout the park, but these are especially **famous viewpoints and/ or sights**.



Less-Active Options

To really get the most out of the national parks, you need to leave the roads, but that doesn't mean you can't have an awesome time if you can't or prefer not to hike.

Non-hiking options are great for those with **limited mobility or fitness**.

Some of these suggestions involve no walking at all, while others may involve short distances on flat or mostly flat paths.



Accommodations

This itinerary is based around you staying in nearby **West Yellowstone**.

Accommodation options in West Yellowstone are provided in the [Accommodations Guide](#). However, I recommend staying inside the park if possible and you will also find all of the national park lodges and campgrounds in the [Accommodations Guide](#). I also list some places to stay near the other park entrances.

If you do stay somewhere other than West Yellowstone, read the **Adjusting Your Schedule** section so you can easily adapt your schedule based on where you stay.



Recommended

This symbol indicates that this is my **recommended choice**. However, you can still choose whichever option best suits your comfort level and interests.



The itinerary is timed for the best hiking conditions, the best chance of getting a parking space, and the best chance of shorter lines at the shuttle.

Consequently, the itinerary has you **getting up early** in the morning. Bryce Canyon is very popular and by getting into the park early, you will avoid having to wait in line to get through the park entrance. This is also the best light for photos. The national parks are more popular than ever, so the earlier you get there, the better, so if you started even earlier, that would be even better.

The itinerary has a detailed breakdown of suggested **activities**, with **alternatives** or **flexible options** in the morning and afternoon. Each of the alternate options take about the same length of time, so you can choose one, then move on to the next activity no matter which option you chose.

You can do the days in either order, but I strongly suggest **sticking to the order of events** in the schedule both days. They are arranged and timed intentionally so that you get the most out of your trip.

Note that the **maps** here are designed to give you an overview of the park and where to go, but are no replacement for a detailed map, especially of the hiking trails. You can pick up maps at a Visitor Center or buy a very detailed printed topographic map there or before you go.

If you're coming straight from, or going to, Zion National Park, see the **Adjusting Your Schedule** section for how to do this.



ITINERARY UPDATES

This itinerary is reviewed annually, but is not updated in real time, throughout each year. However, I want you to have the best trip possible and for this itinerary to be as useful as possible. So, I do provide updates on changing conditions such as road works, facilities closures, trail closures, etc. that may affect part of this itinerary.

[CHECK FOR ITINERARY UPDATES HERE](#)

I update this regularly, so I recommend checking frequently, especially as your trip gets closer.

THE DAY BEFORE



You will arrive in Bryce Canyon City (or wherever your accommodation is).

Check the [Accommodation Guide](#) to find a place to stay in Bryce Canyon City or nearby.



Use the [Dining Guide](#) to find somewhere for dinner in Bryce Canyon City or near your accommodation.

Pick up a picnic lunch for tomorrow if you want to have a picnic.



DAY 1 AT A GLANCE

Today you're going to see the incredible "Silent City", Bryce Amphitheater. Choose from a couple of hikes below the rim or spend the morning on the rim. In the afternoon, you'll Create Your Own Adventure by choosing one or more fun activities in and around the park.

OPTION A** [P.8,9-11]

7:15AM: Leave Bryce Canyon City
7:30AM: Arrive **Sunrise Point**
7:45AM: **Queens Garden-Navajo Loop** Hike
10:15AM: Arrive **Sunset Point**.

OPTION B [P.8,15-18]

7:00AM: Leave Bryce Canyon City
7:15AM: Arrive **Sunrise Point**
7:30AM: **Figure 8 Hike**
12:00PM: Arrive **Sunset Point**.
12:15PM: Walk to Lodge
12:30PM: Lunch

OPTION C [P.19-21]

8:30AM: Take **shuttle** to Bryce Point
9:00AM: **Bryce Point**
9:15AM: Shuttle to Inspiration Point
9:30AM: **Inspiration Point**
10:00AM: Shuttle to Sunset Point
10:15AM: **Sunset Point**
10:45AM: Walk to Sunrise Point
11:15AM: **Sunrise Point**
11:30AM: Walk to Lodge
11:45AM: Lunch



OPTION A1 [P.12-13]

10:30AM: **Rim Trail** to Inspiration Point
11:00AM: **Inspiration Point**
11:30AM: Rim Trail to Bryce Point
12:10AM: **Bryce Point**
12:20PM: Shuttle to Lodge
12:30PM: Lunch

OPTION A2 [P.12, 14]

10:30AM: Take **shuttle** from Sunset Point to Visitor Center
11:00AM: Shuttle to Bryce Point
11:15AM: **Bryce Point**
11:30AM: Shuttle to Inspiration Point
11:45AM: **Inspiration Point**
12:15PM: Shuttle to Lodge
12:30PM: Lunch

Create Your Own Adventure [P.22-24]

- Option 1:** Horseback Riding
- Option 2:** Canyoneering
- Option 3:** Virtual Reality Experience
- Option 4:** Helicopter or Small Plane Scenic Flight
- Option 5:** UTV / ATV Tour
- Option 6:** Cycling
- Option 7:** Wildlife Museum
- Option 7:** Ranger Programs
- Option 8:** Observation Point and Bryce Point*

Get a picnic lunch for tomorrow if choosing Option C

5:30PM: Dinner

EVENING OPTIONS [P.25-26]

Sunset: Paria View
7:00PM: Ebenezer's Barn & Grill western show
9:00PM: Ranger Evening Program

Time varies: Night sky star gazing
Time varies: Constellation Tour
Time varies: Full Moon Hike

* **Bryce Point** and **Observation Point** are viewpoints not to be missed. If you chose Option B and therefore didn't go there in the morning, definitely go to those viewpoints in the afternoon.



DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM

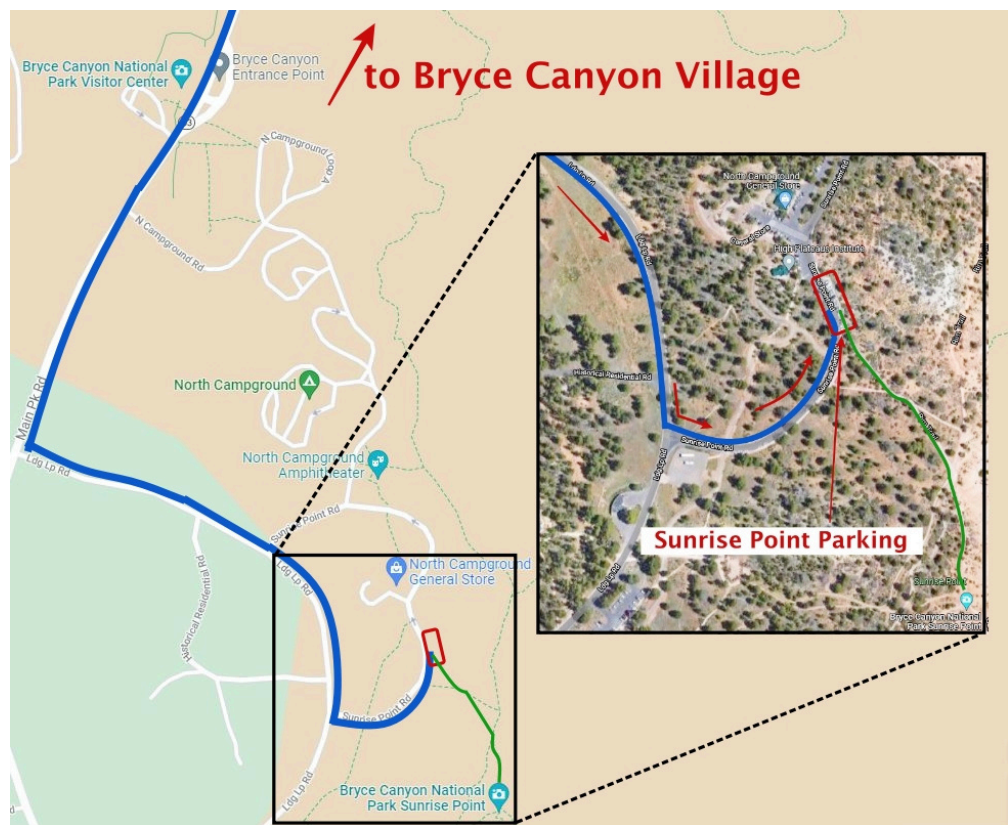


DIRECTIONS: Bryce Canyon City - Sunrise Point (or Visitor Center Additional Parking)

Drive south along the main road UT-63 and enter the national park after about 2.5 miles (5 minutes). From the entrance station, continue straight past the Visitor Center for 0.5 miles. Turn left on to Lodge Loop Road, then after another 0.5 miles, turn left on to **Sunrise Point Road**. There is

a small parking area on the right side about 0.2 miles along the road.

If this parking is full, continue along Sunrise Point Road. It loops



back to Lodge Loop Road. Turn right and then right again when you get to the Main Park Road. Take the first right (0.3 miles along) on to North Campground Road. The Visitor Center Additional Parking area (which does not have a one-hour limit) is the first road on the left, soon after.

If you want to go straight to the **Visitor Center Additional Parking** (which you'll have to if you have a vehicle 20 feet or longer), take the first left after the Visitor Center. This is North Campground Road. Take the first left into the parking lot.



DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM



Option A: Queen's Garden-Navajo Loop + Bryce Amphitheater

This morning you'll venture down into the canyon on the most famous trail, then walk or take the shuttle along the rim to see the canyon from above.



Breakfast

Have breakfast at your hotel or campground before leaving.



If you decide to get up for the **sunrise**, you could see the sunrise from Sunrise Point, have breakfast at the lodge and then start the hike a little later. Check the [time of the sunrise](#) during your visit.



Queen's Garden - Navajo Loop

This is THE classic Bryce Canyon hike. It passes through 3 tunnels cut through sandstone fins, reaches the canyon floor, takes in the most famous hoodoos, and emerges dramatically via steep switchbacks in a narrow part of the canyon.



The trail starts at **Sunrise Point**. There is a small parking area at Sunrise Point. I recommend driving there (unless you are staying inside the park, in which case you could walk there), as the shuttle doesn't start this early. And it's best to get an early start. However, if you'd prefer to take the shuttle, get the first shuttle and get off at the Sunrise Point stop.

From the parking area, it's a short walk to Sunrise Point. If the parking area is full, you can park at the main Visitor Center Additional Parking Lot and walk from there (20 minutes).

This hike can also be done in the reverse order starting at Sunset Point; However, it's best done in this direction because you get better views of Bryce Amphitheater, since the Queen's Garden trail has open views (vs. the closed, narrow canyon and switchbacks on the Navajo Trail), and the descent is less steep and therefore safer.

DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM



Sunrise Point 7:30AM

First up, enjoy the view from **Sunrise Point**. Sunrise Point is the northernmost of the four major viewpoints that overlook the iconic Bryce Amphitheater. There's a 360° view, so, despite its name, this is also a good place to see the sunset. This will be your first view of Bryce Amphitheater and it is truly breathtaking. Take some time to soak it in before starting on the Queen's Garden Trail.

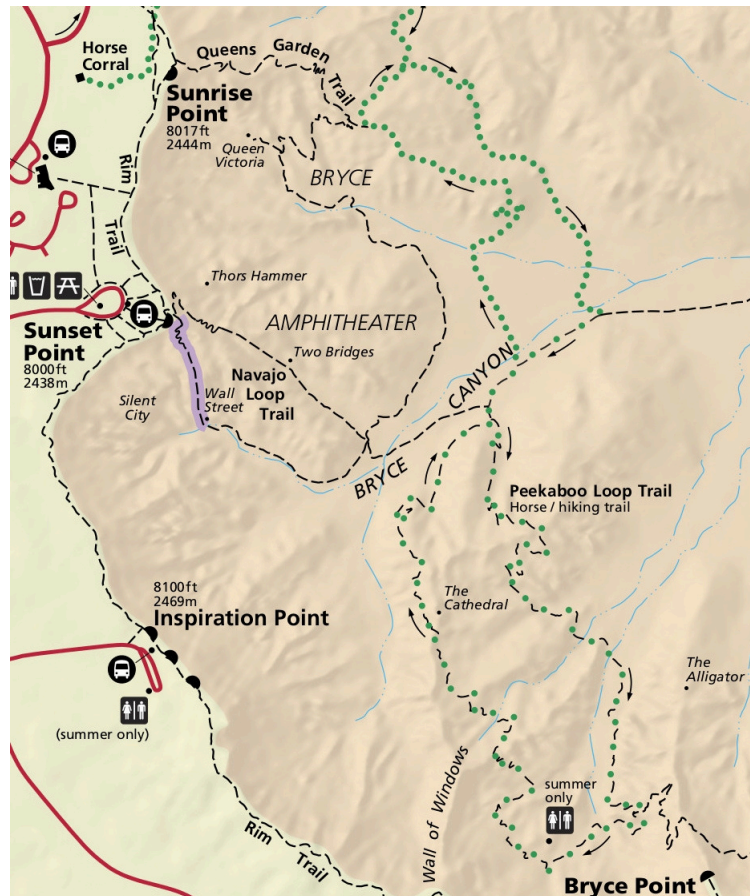


Queen's Garden-Navajo Loop 7:45AM

The 2.9-mile, moderate trail has a great combination of the open views and cool hoodoos on the Queen's Garden Trail and the dramatic switchbacks on the Navajo Trail.

The trail starts down a wide, not too steep trail with great views of the hoodoos and ridges in the canyon. After 0.5 miles, the trail heads down a series of wide switchback and then turns to the right, descending along a ridge. At 0.7 miles, it passes a horse trail on the left, then soon after goes down more switchbacks. You'll pass through three tunnels cut into sandstone fins that cross the trail.

At 0.9 miles, you'll come to a side spur trail (0.1 miles round trip) on the right. This goes into the middle of Queen's Garden to the Queen Victoria



DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM



hoodoo. Fortunately, there's a small sign with a photo of Queen Victoria to help you identify the hoodoo. When you see the photo, it actually does look like Queen Victoria standing in profile on top of a pedestal.



Back on the main trail, continue along the floor of the canyon, through some pine tree and past more hoodoos. You'll come to the well-signed junction with the Navajo Loop Trail 1.75 miles into the hike.

The two sides of the Navajo Loop run roughly parallel to each other, and you can take either of them back to the rim. A hard right is the Two Bridges trail. The next right is the Wall Street option. Off to the left is the Peekaboo Trail. Most people choose to go up the Wall Street section. This has the most dramatic switchbacks, although the Two Bridges trail also has some steep and narrow switchbacks.



When you get to the top of the rim at Sunset Point, if you climbed up Wall Street, it's worth going down (yes, I know, you just came up!) the Two Bridges Trail just for a bit. This top section (before the Two Bridges switchbacks) has the best view of the famous Thor's Hammer hoodoo.



If Wall Street is open, I recommend going up that. However, the Wall Street section is closed in winter, so Two Bridges is the only option. It's still great!



Sunset Point 10:15AM

This is another of the four major viewpoints of Bryce Amphitheater and you will want to take some time to soak in the splendor, and see where you just hiked.

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM



Bryce Amphitheater

You'll spend the rest of the morning along the Rim Trail at Bryce Amphitheater and see the other 2 of the 4 most famous viewpoints in the park. You can either walk along the Rim Trail to them (and then catch the shuttle back - Option A1) or, if you've had enough walking for a while, catch the shuttle to each of the viewpoints (Option A2).



This itinerary doesn't include an option for driving to the viewpoints because, even though there are small parking areas at both viewpoints, but they are usually full 10:00AM - 3:00PM. In addition, there are parking restrictions for longer vehicles when the shuttle is running (See Getting Around section P3.)

Option A1: Walk Rim Trail



Rim Trail to Inspiration Point 10:30AM

The Rim Trail extends along the rim of Bryce Amphitheater for 5.5 miles from Fairyland Point to Bryce Point. The section between Sunset Point and Bryce Point is not flat.

When you get to the rim from the Navajo Loop Trail, rather than going right to get back to Sunrise Point and complete the loop, turn left. This will take you to the third major viewpoint, Inspiration Point. There is a moderate incline.



Inspiration Point 11:00AM

The views of Bryce Amphitheater from here are stunning. Along with Bryce Point, Inspiration Point provides a birds-eye view of Bryce Amphitheater. Soak in panoramic views of the largest collection of hoodoos in the world!

There are actually three viewpoints here over three levels. The views at the top level are the best. The climb to the top level is the steepest part of the Rim Trail you'll walk this morning. Spend some time exploring the different viewpoints and enjoying the breathtaking views.



There are pit toilets at the parking area.



DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM



Rim Trail to Bryce Point 11:30AM

Continue along the Rim Trail for another 1.5 miles to Bryce Point. It's a fairly easy walk, with some up and down, but nothing too major.



Bryce Point 12:10PM

This is perhaps the most iconic of the park's viewpoints. The Southern Paiutes people call it "Red Rock Standing Like a Man in a Hole". Looking north, you can see the full length of Bryce Amphitheater's Silent City. Look out for Inspiration, Sunset, and Sunrise Points. You can also see the Wall of Windows near Inspiration Point and the flat top of Boat Mesa in the distance. Look east and on a clear day you can see the town of Tropic in the Paria Valley nearly 3,000 feet below.



Bryce Canyon Lodge 12:20PM

Take the next shuttle and get off at Bryce Canyon Lodge.



Lunch 12:30PM

Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for lunch at Bryce Canyon Lodge.



DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM

Option A2: Shuttle along Bryce Amphitheater



Shuttle to Bryce Point 10:30AM

From Sunset Point, the shuttle only goes in one direction AWAY from Bryce and Inspiration Points. Take the shuttle and get off at the Visitor Center (3 stops), then change to another shuttle going in the opposite direction. Get off at Bryce Point (2 stops). See the [Shuttle Guide](#) for a map and more details.



Bryce Point 11:15AM

This is perhaps the most iconic of the park's viewpoints. The Southern Paiutes people call it "Red Rock Standing Like a Man in a Hole". Looking north, you can see the full length of Bryce Amphitheater's Silent City. Look out for Inspiration, Sunset, and Sunrise Points. You can also see the Wall of Windows near Inspiration Point and the flat top of Boat Mesa in the distance. Look east and on a clear day you can see the town of Tropic in the Paria Valley nearly 3,000 feet below.



Shuttle to Inspiration Point 11:30AM

Take the next shuttle and get off at Inspiration Point.



Inspiration Point 11:45AM

The views of Bryce Amphitheater from here are stunning. Along with Bryce Point, Inspiration Point provides a birds-eye view of Bryce Amphitheater. Soak in panoramic views of the largest collection of hoodoos in the world!

There are three viewpoints over three levels. The views at the top level are the best and worth the walk if you can. Spend some time exploring the different viewpoints and enjoying the breathtaking views.



Shuttle to Bryce Canyon Lodge 12:15PM

Take the next shuttle and get off at Bryce Canyon Lodge.



Lunch 12:30PM

Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for lunch at Bryce Lodge.

DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM

Option B: Figure 8 Hike



If you feel like a longer hike in the canyon with more time among the hoodoos, then this is the hike for you.

The Figure 8 hike combines the Queen's Garden-Navajo Loop Trail and the Peekaboo Trail. It is an awesome hike, but is 6.4 miles in total and rated as moderate-strenuous due to its length and the elevation change. If you like to hike and have the energy, I recommend it, as it gives you a lot of time among the hoodoos.



Breakfast

Have breakfast at your hotel or campground before leaving.



If you decide to get up for the **sunrise**, you could see the sunrise from Sunrise Point, have breakfast at the lodge and then start the hike a little later. Check the [time of the sunrise](#) during your visit.



Sunrise Point 7:15AM

The trail starts at Sunrise Point. There is a small parking area at Sunrise Point. I recommend driving there (unless you are staying inside the park, in which case you could walk there), as the shuttle doesn't start this early. And it's best to get an early start. However, if you'd prefer to take the shuttle, get the first shuttle and get off at the Sunrise Point stop.



From the parking area, it's a short walk to Sunrise Point. If the parking area is full, you can park at the main Visitor Center Additional Parking Lot and walk from there (20 minutes).



First up, enjoy the view from **Sunrise Point**. Sunrise Point is the northernmost of the four major viewpoints that overlook the iconic Bryce Amphitheater. There's a 360° view, so, despite its name, this is also a good place to see the sunset. This will be your first view of Bryce Amphitheater and it is truly breathtaking. Take some time to soak it in before starting on the Queen's Garden Trail.

DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM

Queen's Garden Trail 7:30AM



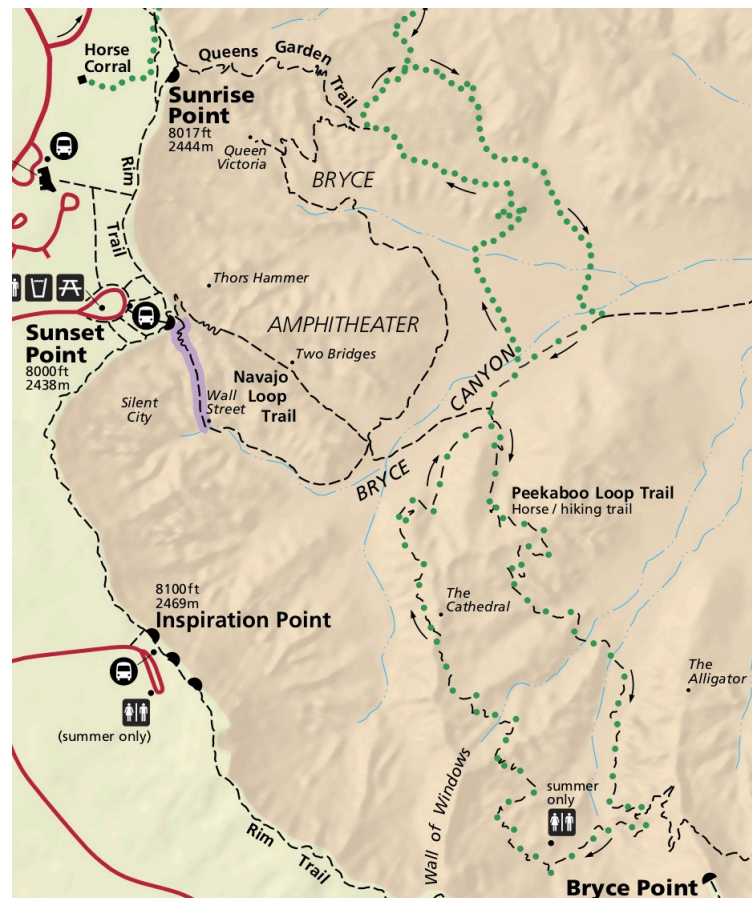
The trail starts with the Queen's Garden section. From Sunrise Point, you'll head down a wide, not too steep trail with great views of the hoodoos and ridges in the canyon. After 0.5 miles, the trail heads down a series of wide switchback and then turns to the right, descending along a ridge. At 0.7 miles, it passes a horse trail on the left, then soon after goes down more switchbacks. You'll pass through three tunnels cut into sandstone fins that cross the trail.

At 0.9 miles, you'll come to a side spur trail (0.1 miles round trip) on the right. This goes into the middle of Queen's Garden to the Queen Victoria hoodoo. Fortunately, there's a small sign with a photo of Queen Victoria to help you identify the hoodoo. When you see the photo, it actually does look like Queen Victoria standing in profile on top of a pedestal.



Back on the main trail, continue along the floor of the canyon, through some pine trees and past more hoodoos. You'll come to the well-signed junction with the Navajo Trail and Peekaboo Trails 1.75 miles into the hike.

The Two Bridges and Wall Street trails (the sides of the Navajo Loop) are on the right. Take the left trail on to the Peekaboo Trail.





DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM

Peekaboo Loop Trail



You'll cross a wash before the trail turns left and goes through some trees and scrub for about 0.25 miles. You'll then come to another junction. The horse trail is on the left. Don't take this - turn right and a very short distance further on is the start of the Peekaboo Loop 2.0 miles into the hike. Turn left so that you hike the loop in a clockwise direction.

The trail climbs out of Bryce Canyon to the top of ridge. You'll see Boat Mesa and Fairy Castle Rock and have expansive views at the top of the ridge of hoodoos and fins in Peek-a-Boo Canyon. The trail then zig-zags down the ridge, goes through a tunnel and crosses Peek-a-Boo Canyon's wash at 2.8 miles. You'll then climb up Peek-a-Boo Canyon for great views of the Wall of Windows and more hoodoos.

At 3.2 miles, you'll come to a junction with the trail to Bryce Point on the left. Go right/ straight to continue on the loop. Soon after, you'll pass a horse corral, watering trough and pit toilets (summer only). At 3.5 miles the trail passes directly beneath the Wall of Windows before climbing through a labyrinth of hoodoos and passing through another tunnel to the top of a ridge. You'll soon see The Cathedral on your right.

The trail then descends down some switchbacks to the end of the Peek-a-Boo Loop at 4.75 miles. Turn left towards the Navajo Trail and then left almost immediately after at the junction with the horse trail. Another 0.25 miles and you'll reach the 4-way junction with the Navajo Trail and the Queen's Garden Trail.

Navajo Trail

There are two different ways to do the Navajo Trail (the two sides of the Navajo Loop) that run roughly parallel to each other. The first left is the Wall Street section. The next right is the Two Bridges trail. Off to the far right is the Queen's Garden Trail, which you came down. Most people choose to go up the Wall Street section. This has the most dramatic switchbacks, although the Two Bridges trail also has some steep and narrow switchbacks.



DAY 1

MORNING: 7:15AM - 1:30PM



Navajo Trail

When you get to the top of the rim at Sunset Point, if you climbed up Wall Street, it's worth going down (yes, I know, you just came up!) the Two Bridges Trail just for a bit. This top section (before the Two Bridges switchbacks) has the best view of the famous Thor's Hammer hoodoo.



If Wall Street is open, I recommend going up that. However, the Wall Street section is closed in winter, so Two Bridges is the only option. It's still great!

The Peekaboo Loop is shared with horses.



Sunset Point 12:00PM

This is another of the four major viewpoints of Bryce Amphitheater and you will want to take some time to soak in the splendor, and see where you just hiked.



Bryce Canyon Lodge 12:15PM

Walk to nearby Bryce Canyon Lodge.



Lunch 12:30PM

Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for lunch at Bryce Canyon Lodge.



DAY 1

MORNING: 8:30AM - 1:30PM



Option C: Rim Trail at Bryce Amphitheater

Choose this option if you don't want to hike down into the canyon. You'll get a later start, and take the shuttle most of the way, with an option for some easy walking along part of the Rim Trail.



Breakfast

Have breakfast at your hotel or campground before leaving.



If you decide to get up for the **sunrise**, you could see the sunrise from Sunrise Point, have breakfast at the lodge and then start the itinerary. Check the [time of the sunrise](#) during your visit.



Rim Trail

The Rim Trail extends along the rim of Bryce Amphitheater for 5.5 miles from Fairyland Point to Bryce Point. There is some elevation change along the trail.



The section between Sunset Point and Sunrise Point is paved and mostly flat, so this is a good section to walk. Pets are allowed in this section (only). However, if you feel like walking more of the trail, then you can do that, of course. It is mostly downhill from Bryce Point, so if you start there, you can walk and then just hop on the shuttle if you get tired.



Shuttle to Bryce Point 8:30AM

Take the shuttle from your accommodation or the shuttle parking in Bryce Canyon City and get off at Bryce Point. See the [Shuttle Guide](#) for a map and more details.



Bryce Point 9:00AM

This is perhaps the most iconic of the park's viewpoints. The Southern Paiutes people call it "Red Rock Standing Like a Man in a Hole". Looking north, you can see the full length of Bryce Amphitheater's Silent City. Look out for Inspiration, Sunset, and Sunrise Points. You can also see the Wall of Windows near Inspiration Point and the flat top of Boat Mesa in the distance. Look east and on a clear day you can see the town of Tropic in the Paria Valley nearly 3,000 feet below.



DAY 1

MORNING: 8:30AM - 1:30PM



Shuttle to Inspiration Point 9:15AM

Take the next shuttle and get off at Inspiration Point.



Inspiration Point 9:30AM

The views of Bryce Amphitheater from here are stunning. Along with Bryce Point, Inspiration Point provides a birds-eye view of Bryce Amphitheater. Soak in panoramic views of the largest collection of hoodoos in the world!

There are three viewpoints over three levels. The views at the top level are the best, but the climb to here is somewhat steep, so just walk to the areas you are comfortable getting to. Spend some time exploring the different viewpoints and enjoying the breathtaking views.



Shuttle to Sunset Point 10:00AM

Take the next shuttle and get off at Sunset Point.



Sunset Point 10:15AM

This is another of the four major viewpoints of Bryce Amphitheater and you will want to take some time to soak in the splendor. The Navajo Loop Trail starts here, and if you want a short walk below the rim, head down the Two Bridges Trail just for a bit. This top section (before the switchbacks) has the best view of the famous Thor's Hammer hoodoo.



Walk to Sunrise Point 10:45AM

The section of the Rim Trail between Sunset Point and Sunrise Point is paved and mostly flat, so this is a good section to walk. There are benches along the way to sit, rest and enjoy the views. Pets are allowed in this section (only). However, if you prefer not to walk, you can take the shuttle.

Keep an eye for the Limber Pine trees along the rim that have several feet of exposed roots. You can clearly see just how much the rim has eroded since they initially grew!



DAY 1

MORNING: 8:30AM - 1:30PM



Sunrise Point 11:15AM

Sunrise Point is the northernmost of the four major viewpoints that overlook the iconic Bryce Amphitheater. There's a 360° view, so, despite its name, the views here are great any time of day. This is the start of the Queen's Garden Trail.

If you feel up for it, you could walk down the trail a little way and then return to the rim. You have plenty of time for lunch, so if you start lunch a little later, that's no problem.



Bryce Canyon Lodge 11:30AM

Walk to nearby Bryce Canyon Lodge.



Lunch 11:45AM

Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for lunch at Bryce Canyon Lodge.



DAY 1

AFTERNOON: 1:30PM - 5:30PM



Create Your Own Adventure

You have the rest of your final afternoon free to create your own adventure. There are plenty of additional activities to choose from, including:



Horseback Riding

Riding a horse down into Bryce Canyon, surrounded by the hoodoos is a super cool experience. Choose from:

- 1.5-2 hours leaving at 2:00PM
- 3 hours leaving at 1:00PM (on the Peekaboo Trail). If you want to do this, you could plan for a picnic lunch on the go and spend a little less time at each of the viewpoints in the morning to finish a little earlier.

Check in is at the horse corral near the Lodge 30 minutes beforehand. Book in advance with [Canyon Rides](#).



Canyoneering

The area surrounding Bryce Canyon and nearby Zion Canyon is riddled with narrow slot canyons. Exploring these narrow canyons usually involves rappelling, hiking, and scrambling through them. It's lots of fun if you like adventure! There's a half-day option to explore Via Ferrata. It leaves at 2:00PM from Moqui Cave, which is about 1 hour and 15 minutes away. If you want to do this, head to Bryce Canyon City after your morning in Bryce Canyon and have lunch on the go to ensure you get there in time.

Learn more about this [canyoneering trip](#).



Virtual Reality Experience

Ruby's Inn in Bryce Canyon City offers a Virtual reality (VR) show. Watch *Soaring Southern Utah* and/ or *Montezuma's Treasure Ride* wearing VR goggles and sitting in a chair that moves to simulate motion. Kids (and kids-at-heart) will love it.

learn more and reserve a spot for the [VR show](#).



DAY 1

AFTERNOON: 1:30PM - 5:30PM



Helicopter or Small Plane Scenic Flight

Ruby's Inn also operates Bryce Canyon Airlines & Helicopters. There's a range of small plane and helicopter scenic flights available.

Check [Ruby's website](#) for details.



UTV / ATV Tour

Ruby's offers guided ATV tours from late March to the end of October. Check details on [their website](#).

[Bryce Canyon ATV Adventures](#) also offer 1-hour, 3-hour and all-day guided ATV tours. They also offer ATV rentals if you'd prefer to head off on your own.

[Bryce Wildlife Adventure](#) also offer ATV rentals.



Cycling

Riding a bicycle or an ebike is a great way to explore the national park. You can rent a bicycle in Bryce Canyon City and ride into the park. There is a shared use path that you can safely and legally cycle on. It's 5 miles from the Shuttle Station in Bryce Canyon City to Inspiration Point. It's a steady climb up to Inspiration Point. If you prefer to skip the uphill effort, you could put your bicycle on the front of a shuttle to Inspiration Point then ride back to Bryce Canyon City – it's downhill most of the way!

Read more on the [NPS Cycling webpage](#). Rent bikes at [Ruby's Inn](#) or from [Bryce Canyon Scenic Tours](#).



Wildlife Museum

This 'museum' has thousands of stuffed animals from around the world, many posed in different dioramas depicting their natural habitat. It's kind of hokey, but if it's rainy or your kids are bored, it's worth a stop in.

See more details and get tickets on the [Bryce Wildlife Adventures](#) website.



DAY 1

AFTERNOON: 1:30PM - 5:30PM



Ranger Programs

There are several programs throughout the day in the main season. A highlight is the Hoodoo Geology Talk at Sunset Point at 2:00PM.

Check the [NPS Ranger Programs](#) webpage for more details of this and other programs.



Observation Point & Bryce Point

If you chose Option B in the morning, you won't have been to Inspiration Point and Bryce Point. These are two of the four main viewpoints along Bryce Amphitheater (Sunrise and Sunset Points are the other two) and they really aren't to be missed. You can either walk along the Rim Trail or take the shuttle. Refer to P12-14 for details on how to do this.



Dinner 5:30PM

Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for dinner.



DAY 1

EVENING

There are several different things you can do in the evening at and near Bryce Canyon.



Sunset at Paria View

Paria View is the top spot for sunset because it faces the sun. There's a very prominent castle-like hoodoo that is especially photogenic in the Golden Hour before sunset. Keep an eye for Peregrine Falcons here, too. In late afternoon, you may also see mule deer, elk and even pronghorn antelopes in the nearby meadows.



Vehicles 20 feet and over are not permitted at Paria View because the parking area is too small. If you have a long vehicle, head to one of the other viewpoints for sunset. See P3 for more parking information.



Ebenezer's Barn and Grill 7:00PM

For a fun evening out, head to Ebenezer's Barn in Bryce Canyon City. They do a traditional western cookout, and it's a well-oiled machine. Dinner is followed by a western show with country and western music. It's a great family night out. It runs in the peak season only.

Check [Ebenezer's website](#) for details and to make reservations.



Evening Programs 9:00PM

The NPS offers evening programs at the outdoor theater south of the North Campground in summer. They're typically from 9:00PM – 9:45PM. Check at the Visitor Center or the [NPS online Calendar](#) for topics during your visit.



Night Sky

Bryce Canyon National Park is a certified International Dark Sky Park (IDSP). On a moonless night, you can see up to 7,500 stars in the sky (compared with an average 2,500 in most places). You'll see the most stars when the sky is darkest, which is generally the week of the new moon and the week prior to the new moon.

If you don't have your own telescope, there are a couple of ways to enjoy the starry spectacle:



DAY 1

EVENING



(a) Evening programs are sometimes followed by stargazing programs. The NPS offers about 100 astronomy programs a year, presented by their astronomy rangers and volunteers. Program topics may include the life cycles of stars, space exploration missions, the stories written in the constellations, etc.

Visit the [NPS Ranger Programs page](#), their online calendar, or ask at the Visitor Center to see what is available when you're there.

(b) Dark Rangers organize professional telescope tours at their observatory outside the western boundary of the national park. Check the [Dark Rangers](#) website for details.



Constellation Tours

The NPS also offers Constellation Tours 9:00PM, 9:30PM and 10:00PM on Thursday - Saturday nights, Memorial Day through September 30 and on Saturday nights only October 1 - Memorial Day.

The tours last 15-20 minutes. Rangers with lasers point out constellations in the night sky and discuss the science and cultural history of astronomy. Check at the Visitor Center for availability, start times, and location and to sign up (registration is necessary).



Full Moon Hikes

The NPS also offers 1- 2-mile/ 2-3-hour Full Moon Hikes (1-2 consecutive nights each month). The mix of shadows and moonlight cause the hoodoos to take on spooky personalities.

The hike is popular, and spaces are limited, so you need to enter a lottery at the Visitor Center on the same day as the hike. The lottery drawing is held at 4:00PM at the Visitor Center, so you need to be at the Visitor Center by 4:00PM to be included in the lottery. Check the [NPS Full Moon Hike](#) website for more details.



DAY 2 AT A GLANCE

You'll start the day with a trip to a lesser-visited section of the park, then head along the Scenic Drive to/ from Rainbow Point, either in your own vehicle or on a shuttle tour. In the afternoon, you'll discover the Fairyland section of the park.

[P.28-29]

7:30AM: Drive to Mossy Cave trailhead
7:45AM: Hike to **Mossy Cave**

OPTION A [P.30-33]

8:15AM: **Drive** to **Rainbow Point**
9:00AM: Arrive Rainbow Point
9:15AM: Bristlecone Loop hike
10:15AM: Yavimpa Point
10:30AM: Leave Rainbow/ Yavimpa Points
10:35AM: Blackbirch Canyon
10:40AM: Leave Blackbirch Canyon
10:43AM: Ponderosa Canyon
10:50AM: Leave Ponderosa Canyon
10:53AM: Agua Canyon
11:00AM: Leave Agua Canyon
11:04AM: Natural Bridge
11:10AM: Leave Natural Bridge
11:14AM: Farview Point. Hike to Piracy Point
11:35AM: Leave Farview Point
11:42AM: Swamp Canyon Overlook
11:50AM: Leave Swamp Canyon Overlook
12:00PM: Visitor Center Additional Parking Lot. Shuttle or walk to Lodge
12:30PM: Lunch

OPTION B [P.34]

8:15AM: Return to accommodation
9:00AM: **Shuttle** tour to **Rainbow Point** scenic drive
12:00PM: Get off at Bryce Lodge. Lunch

OPTION C* [P.35-37]

8:15AM: Return to accommodation
9:00AM: **Shuttle** tour to **Rainbow Point** scenic drive
12:00PM: Get off Rainbow Point shuttle at Fairytale Point. Picnic lunch
1:00PM: Start **Fairyland Loop hike**
3:30PM: Arrive Sunrise Point. Take shuttle to Visitor Center
3:45PM: **Visitor Center**
4:30PM: Shuttle to Bryce Canyon City
4:45PM: **Old Bryce Town**

OPTION A [P.38-40]

1:45PM: Walk to Sunrise Point
2:00PM: Start **Fairyland Loop Trail** (first section is along Rim Trail)
3:15PM: Arrive Fairyland Point. Continue Fairyland Loop Trail into canyon
5:45PM: Arrive Sunrise Point. Shuttle to vehicle

OPTION B [P.41-43]

2:00PM: Shuttle to Visitor Center
2:15PM: **Visitor Center**
3:15PM: Drive to Fairyland Point
3:30PM: Enjoy the view at **Fairyland Point**. Optional short hike below the rim
4:15PM: Drive Bryce Canyon Village
4:30PM: **Old Bryce Town**

5:30 | 6:00PM: Dinner

* Option C has you eliminate the Rim Trail section of the loop, shortening the hike by 2.7 miles. This is only possible with Option C (Rainbow Point shuttle), as the regular shuttle doesn't go to Fairytale Point.



DAY 2

EARLY MORNING: 7:30AM - 8:45AM



Mossy Cave

You'll start this morning with a short hike to Mossy Cave and Water Canyon.



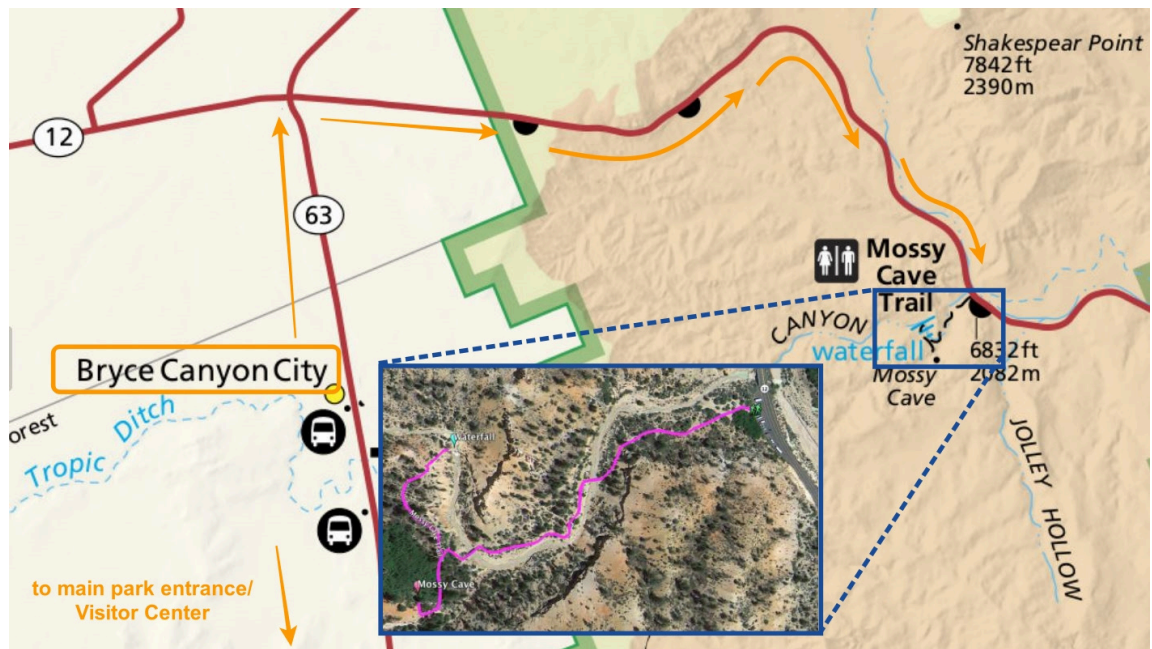
Breakfast

Have breakfast at your hotel or campground before leaving.



DIRECTIONS: Bryce Canyon City - Mossy Cave Trailhead

Drive in the direction away from the park's main entrance on UT-63 for about 1.5 miles until you come to the intersection with UT-12. Turn right on to UT-12 at the Welcome to Bryce Canyon Country Circle. Drive for 3.7 miles and you'll come to Mossy Falls Trailhead. There's a small parking area on the right side of the road immediately after crossing a small bridge.



Mossy Cave 7:45AM

Mossy Cave is a quiet area of the park that's a lovely way to start your day. It's an easy 0.4-mile each way trail, suitable for most levels of fitness. It's

DAY 2

EARLY MORNING: 7:30AM - 8:45AM



Mossy Cave 7:45AM

one of the only hikes in Bryce Canyon National Park that begins with a climb and ends with a descent.



The trail goes past a few hoodoos and windows, so it gives you a chance to see some hoodoos up close without needing to hike below the rim of the main canyon.

Near the end, the trail splits in two. To the right, a short trail goes into Water Canyon to a small but lovely waterfall. This 'canyon' is actually an irrigation ditch carved by Mormon pioneers in the early 1890's. It's called the Tropic Ditch because it still feeds water to the town of Tropic!

The short trail to the left at the fork goes to Mossy Cave, a sheltered overhang with water often dripping from the top. The area is filled with mosses in the summer (hence the name) and icicles in the winter.



This itinerary has you going here first thing in the morning. This area has become more popular in recent years, and the small parking lot is invariably full between 10:00AM and 6:00PM. You should have no trouble getting a parking spot this time of the day, but if the parking lot full, you'll have to skip this and try at the end of the day instead. Do not park on the side of the road. It's dangerous to walk along this road, and vehicles that park on the shoulder of the road are often ticketed.



DAY 2

MORNING: 8:15AM - 1:45 | 2:00PM



OPTION A: Rainbow Point Scenic Drive - self drive

Rainbow Point Scenic Drive 8:15AM



The scenic drive goes for 18 miles from the park entrance along the rim of the canyon to Rainbow Point, where it dead ends. The first 3 miles are the Bryce Amphitheater. The remaining 15 miles are the Southern Scenic Drive, and this is where you'll spend the rest of the morning.

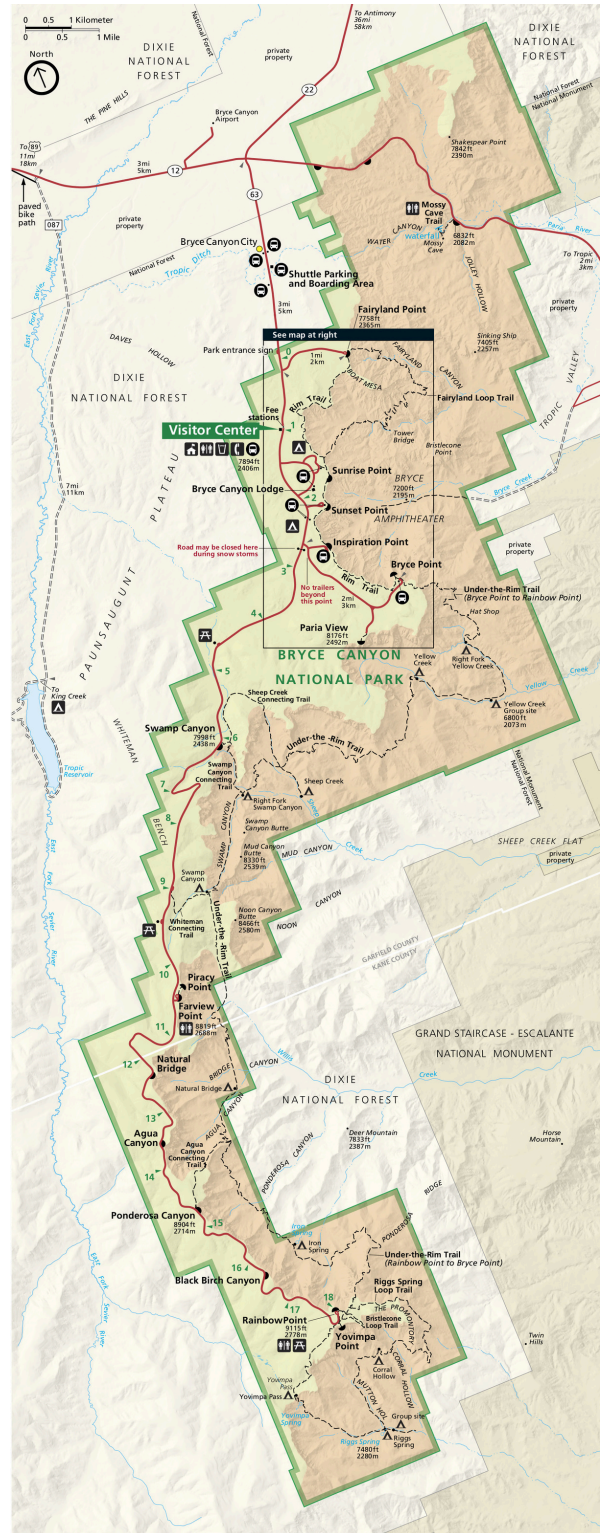


There are nine viewpoints along the way. The NPS advise everyone to drive out to Rainbow and Yovimpa Points first and then stop at the viewpoints on the way back. That way you're on the right side of the road, and you can safely pull in and out without needing to cross the road or traffic.



There are no vehicle restrictions on this road.

The road is open all year, but the 15-mile Southern Scenic Drive section may be temporarily closed in winter due to wintery conditions. Check the [NPS Current Conditions](#) webpage before setting out.





DAY 2

MORNING: 8:15AM - 1:45 | 2:00PM



DIRECTIONS: Mossy Cave Trailhead - Rainbow Point

Return the way you came, driving for 3.7 miles on UT-12 then turning left at the Welcome to Bryce Canyon Country Circle on to UT-63. Keep driving straight, through Bryce Canyon City and through the park's main entrance gate. Keep going straight for another 18 miles until you come to the end of the road.



Rainbow Point 9:00AM

There are two viewpoints and a short hike at the end of the road. Restrooms are available here.

At more than 9,100 feet in elevation (1,100 feet higher than Bryce Amphitheater), Rainbow Point is the highest point in the park.

Looking north, you can clearly see the pink cliffs that the hoodoos form from. These Pink Cliffs are one of the steps in the Grand Staircase.



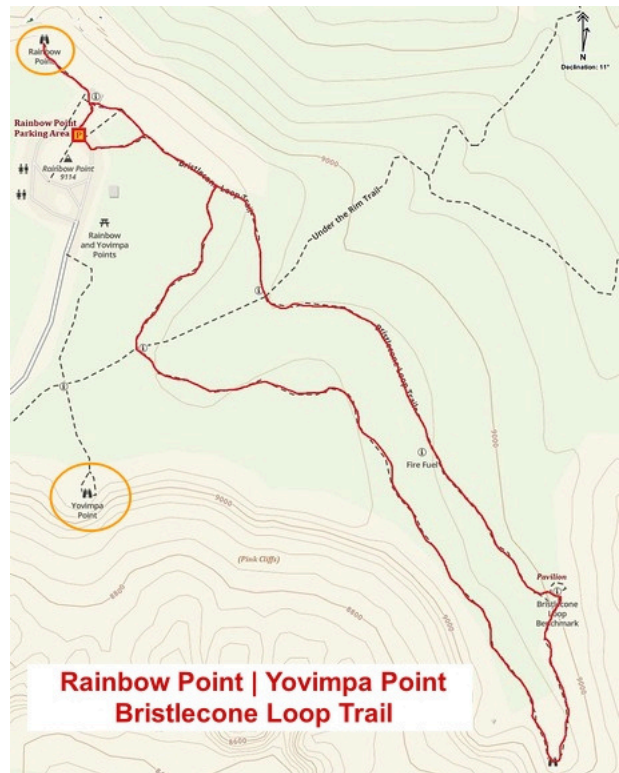
Bristlecone Loop 9:15AM

You'll see a trailhead for this trail nearby. It's an easy, mostly flat 0.8-mile loop through spruce, fir forest and pine forests. You'll pass by Bristlecone Pines up to 1,800-years-old. The forest is home to plenty of birds including cheeky ravens and Steller's Jays, as well as squirrels and chipmunks.



Yovimpa Point 10:15AM

The other lookout in the area, a short walk away, faces south. This is a great place to get a perspective of the Grand Staircase. The different steps in the Grand Staircase are named for the dominant color of rock. The top step is the Pink Cliffs you're standing on. Directly below you are the Grey Cliffs. The White Cliffs are below that – you can



DAY 2

MORNING: 8:15AM - 1:45 | 2:00PM



Yovimpa Point 10:15AM

see Molly's Nipple in the distance. If you look even further, near the horizon, you can see some red rock beneath the White Cliffs. These are the Vermilion Cliffs. Below them (out of sight) are the Chocolate Cliffs.

Can you see tree-covered hills on the horizon? That's the Kaibab Plateau AKA the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.



Ponderosa Canyon 10:45AM

Ponderosa Canyon is named after the huge Ponderosa Pines on the canyon floor. Some of them are more than 5 feet in diameter and more than 150 feet tall!

From here you can see canyons through the Grey Cliffs and White Cliffs. You may notice that the Grey canyons are wider and less deep. This is because the White Cliffs experience more flash floods.



Agua Canyon 10:55AM

There are two prominent hoodoos here. The taller one on the left is called "The Hunter" and the smaller one on the right is called "The Rabbit" or "The Backpacker". You may struggle to see why – many of the hoodoos were given names before they eroded into unrecognizability. In the distance, you can see Navajo Mountain.

Keep a look out for a California Condor. These enormous birds disappeared from the area many years ago, but have recently been reintroduced.



Natural Bridge 11:05AM

The highlight here is the eponymous red-colored natural arch. This is how hoodoos start – eventually the top of the arch will collapse and the two sides will become hoodoos. There's also a small stand of Quaking Aspen in the southern corner of the parking lot.



DAY 2

MORNING: 8:15AM - 1:45 | 2:00PM



Farview Point 11:15AM

There are more great views of the Grand Staircase from here. From north to south you can see: the Aquarius Plateau (Pink Cliffs), the Kaiparowits Plateau (Grey Cliffs), Molly's Nipple (White Cliffs), and even glimpses of the Kaibab Plateau/ North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Keep an eye for Osprey. A pair of them nest at Tropic Reservoir and can often be seen flying here.

There are pit toilets available here.



Piracy Point 11:20AM

A very short (0.15 -mile), flat but unpaved trail leads from the Farview parking lot to Piracy Point.



From this point, you can start to see the Rainbow Point amphitheater.



Swamp Canyon 11:40AM

This is a relatively small canyon bound on both sides by fins and hoodoos. The canyon gets its name because of the 'wetland' created by two tiny streams and a spring. There is water year-round, so grasses, irises, and willows grow there.



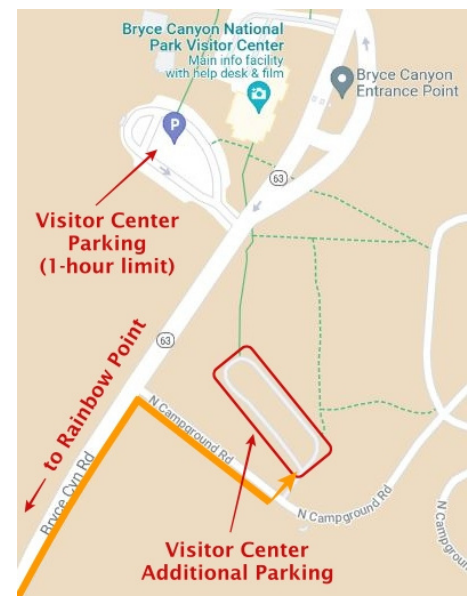
Lunch 12:30PM

Drive to the Visitor Center Additional Parking Lot and walk from there to Bryce Lodge. Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for lunch at Bryce Lodge.



DIRECTIONS: Swamp Canyon - Visitor Center Additional Parking

Keep going straight along the main road for 5 miles. Turn right on to North Campground Road, then the first left into the Additional Parking lot. If you pass the Visitor Center, you've gone too far.





DAY 2

MORNING: 8:15AM - 1:45 | 2:00PM

Option B: Rainbow Point Scenic Drive - shuttle tour

Rainbow Point Scenic Drive 9:00AM

The scenic drive goes for 18 miles from the park entrance along the rim of the canyon to Rainbow Point, where it dead ends. The first 3 miles are the Bryce Amphitheater. The remaining 15 miles are the Southern Scenic Drive, and this is where you'll spend the rest of the morning.



If you prefer not to drive yourself, an alternative is to take a **shuttle tour**. Free 3-hour tours leave twice a day, 9:00AM and 1:30PM.



You can take the 9:00AM tour on this itinerary (If you can only get an afternoon tour, just reverse the AM and PM of this itinerary). The tour stops at Yovimpa Point and Rainbow Point, Agua Canyon, Natural Bridge and Farview Point. Refer to P31-33 for more information about those points (though you will get more information on the tour).

You can make reservations up to 7 days in advance in person at the shuttle office at Ruby's Inn, Ruby's Inn Campground, the Shuttle Parking and Boarding Area or by calling 435-834-5290 (I recommend calling as soon as possible).

You can board at Ruby's Inn, Ruby's Campground, Shuttle Parking and Boarding area, Bryce Canyon Lodge, North Campground and Sunset Campground.



The final stop on the tour is Fairyland Point. If you choose option B in the afternoon, you can skip going there in the afternoon and add in another activity from the Create Your Own Adventure.

The shuttle tour only runs in shuttle season. See the [Shuttle Guide](#) for more details.



Lunch 12:00PM

Get off the shuttle at Bryce Lodge. Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for lunch at Bryce Lodge.



DAY 2

ALL DAY: 8:15AM - 5:00PM

Option C: Rainbow Point Scenic Drive shuttle tour + Fairyland Loop hike to Sunrise Point

Rainbow Point Scenic Drive 9:00AM

The scenic drive goes for 18 miles from the park entrance along the rim of the canyon to Rainbow Point, where it dead ends. The first 3 miles are the Bryce Amphitheater. The remaining 15 miles are the Southern Scenic Drive, and this is where you'll spend the rest of the morning.



It's possible to drive, but with this option, you'll take a shuttle tour. This has an advantage of getting to you to Fairyland Point without driving yourself, so you can skip the Rim Trail section of the Fairyland loop in the afternoon.



Free 3-hour tours leave twice a day, 9:00AM and 1:30PM.

You will take the 9:00AM tour on this itinerary. The tour stops at Yovimpa Point and Rainbow Point, Agua Canyon, Natural Bridge and Farview Point. Refer to P31-33 for more information about those points (though you will get more information on the tour).

You can make reservations up to 7 days in advance in person at the shuttle office at Ruby's Inn, Ruby's Inn Campground, the Shuttle Parking and Boarding Area or by calling 435-834-5290 (I recommend calling as soon as possible).

You can board at Ruby's Inn, Ruby's Campground, Shuttle Parking and Boarding area, Bryce Canyon Lodge, North Campground and Sunset Campground.

The final viewpoint on the tour is Fairyland Point. Get off the shuttle here.



The shuttle tour only runs in shuttle season. See the [Shuttle Guide](#) for more details.



Lunch 12:00PM

Have a picnic lunch at Fairyland Point. There are no facilities here, so you'll need to rough it a bit.



DAY 2

ALL DAY: 8:15AM - 5:00PM

Fairyland Loop Trail 1:00PM



This hike takes you into Fairyland! The hike into Fairyland and Campbell Canyons is many people's favorite hike in the entire national park. It's also much less crowded than the Queen's Garden, Navajo and Peekaboo Trails. The hoodoos here have been described as "Queen's Garden on steroids". The trail will let you see hoodoos up close from many different vantage points, and take you from gray bristlecone trees to pinion pine forests. The hoodoos in Fairyland Canyon are among the youngest in the national park, while those in Campbell Canyon are among the oldest.

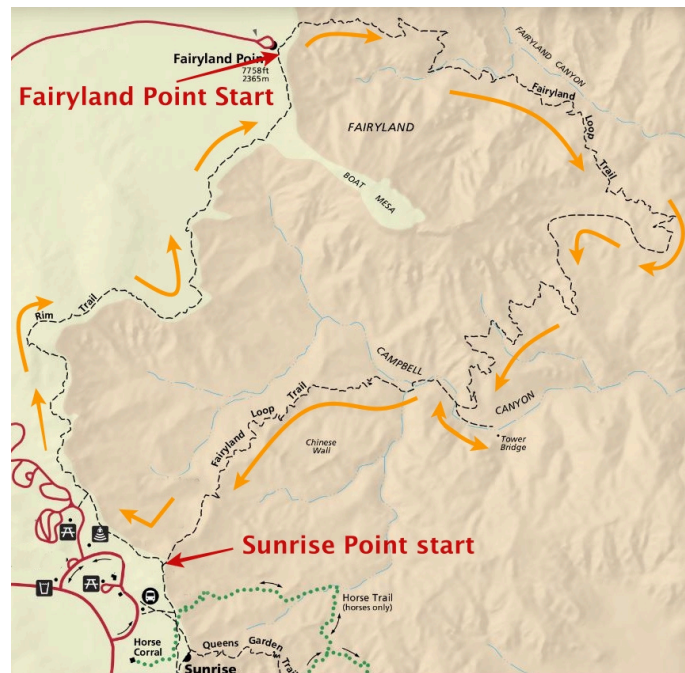


The Fairyland Loop Trail is considered strenuous due to its elevation change and length. The whole loop is 8.4 miles, but by starting here and ending at Sunrise Point, connecting with a shuttle there, you'll eliminate 2.7 miles along the Rim Trail, making it a more manageable 5.7 miles.

Doing the hike in the afternoon means it will be hot in summer, but the light will be behind you for most of the way, which is better for photos. The trail is well maintained and not used by horses.



From Fairyland Point, the trail descends into Fairyland Canyon then follows Fairyland Canyon until it reaches the south side of Boat Mesa. The trail circles wide around the base of Boat Mesa before leaving Fairyland Canyon. It climbs up the ridge that separates Fairyland and Campbell Canyons. There are more beautiful views from the top of the ridge.



After the trail descends into Campbell Canyon, a 200-yard side spur trail takes you to Tower Bridge, a large hoodoo flanked by two natural arches, set within the eroding fin of



DAY 2

ALL DAY: 8:15AM - 5:00PM



rock. The next 0.5 miles is the steepest part of the trail, as it climbs back up to the rim. You'll pass Chinese Wall, a tall line of hoodoos that sit in a row atop a small ridge, looking like they were built there intentionally. The trail continues to climb until you reach the rim near Sunrise Point.

Soon after arriving at the rim, you'll come to a fork. Turn left to get to Sunrise Point and the shuttle. Take the next shuttle on stop to the Visitor Center.



Visitor Center 3:45PM

The Visitor Center has exhibits on local geology, wildlife, star gazing, and historic and prehistoric culture. There's a 20-minute informational video shown on the hour and half hour that's worth watching. There's also a bookstore. Check to see if there are any ranger programs on – they often hold short informational talks there.

When you're ready, take the next shuttle to Bryce Canyon City. Get off at Old Bryce Town.



Old Bryce Town 4:45PM

This is a 'ye olde towne' area opposite Ruby's Inn. It's cute for a wander around and there are some shops to explore. Get an Old West Photo taken in full old western wear in front of an old western backdrop. Enjoy an ice cream or another sweet treat. Check out the Canyon Rock Shop.



Dinner 5:30PM

Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for dinner.

That's the end of your Bryce Canyon itinerary. From here, it's:

- 1 hour 45 minutes to Zion National Park
- 2 hours 40 minutes to Page
- 3 hours 50 minutes to Salt Lake City
- 4 hours to Las Vegas
- 4 hours 10 minutes to Moab
- 5 hours to Grand Canyon Village



DAY 2

AFTERNOON: 1:45PM - 6:00PM



Option A: Fairyland Loop

This afternoon, you'll head down into Fairyland and Campbell Canyons for a long but breathtaking hike that is many people's favorite hike in the entire national park. It's also much less crowded than the Queen's Garden, Navajo and Peekaboo Trails.

Start by walking from the Lodge to Sunrise Point.

Fairyland Loop Trail 2:00PM



This hike takes you into Fairyland! The hoodoos here have been described as "Queen's Garden on steroids". The trail will let you see hoodoos up close from many different vantage points, and take you from gray bristlecone trees to pinion pine forests. The hoodoos in Fairyland Canyon are among the youngest in the national park, while those in Campbell Canyon are among the oldest.



The Fairyland Loop Trail is considered strenuous due to its elevation change and length. It's 8.4 miles (5.7 miles in the canyon and 2.7 miles along the Rim Trail). However, if you like to hike, you won't regret it. Doing the hike in the afternoon means it will be hot in summer, but the light will be behind you for most of the way, which is better for photos. The trail is well maintained and not used by horses.

There are **two options**:

(a) Start at Sunrise Point. This has the advantage of your car already being parked there. It has the disadvantage of starting with the easy Rim Trail and ending with the steepest section.

(b) Alternatively, you could drive to Fairyland Point (have lunch in Bryce Canyon City beforehand) and hike the steep canyon section first and end with the easier Rim Trail. This makes the most sense in terms of hiking, but the disadvantage to this is that the parking area at Fairyland Point is not that big and there is a chance it will be full.

This is why I have recommended starting at Sunrise Point – but if you

DAY 2

AFTERNOON: 1:45PM - 6:00PM

prefer to try and start at Fairyland Point, go for it! Note that the short road to Fairyland Point is closed in winter.



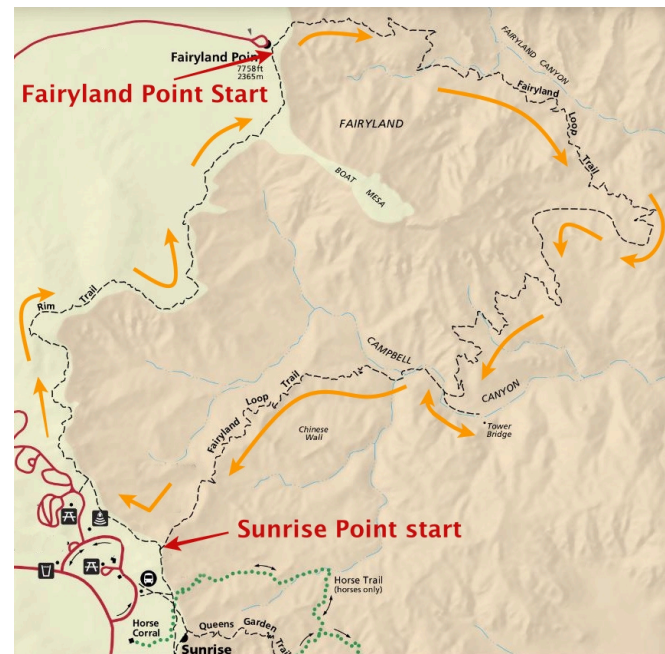
Fairyland Loop Trail

From Sunrise Point, head north along the Rim Trail (the canyon is on your right). Follow the Rim Trail for 2.7 miles to Fairyland Point. This area is especially beautiful in spring when the wildflowers bloom.

From Fairyland Point, the trail descends into Fairyland Canyon then follows Fairyland Canyon until it reaches the south side of Boat Mesa.

The trail circles wide around the base of Boat Mesa before leaving Fairyland Canyon. It climbs up the ridge that separates Fairyland and Campbell Canyons. There are more beautiful views from the top of the ridge.

After the trail descends into Campbell Canyon, a 200-yard side spur trail takes you to Tower Bridge, a large hoodoo flanked by two natural arches, set within the eroding fin of rock. The next 0.5 miles is the steepest part of the trail, as it climbs back up to the rim. You'll pass Chinese Wall, a tall line of hoodoos that sit in a row atop a small ridge, looking like they were built there intentionally. The trail continues to climb until you reach the rim near Sunrise Point.



The next 0.5 miles is the steepest part of the trail, as it climbs back up to the rim. You'll pass Chinese Wall, a tall line of hoodoos that sit in a row atop a small ridge, looking like they were built there intentionally. The trail continues to climb until you reach the rim near Sunrise Point.

If you started at Sunrise Point, turn left to get back there. If you started at Fairyland Point, turn right to continue along the Rim Trail for 2.7 miles until you get back to Fairyland Point.



DAY 2

AFTERNOON: 1:45PM - 6:00PM



Shuttle to accommodation/ vehicle 5:45PM

Walk to the shuttle stop and take the shuttle to your accommodation or vehicle. Check the [Shuttle Guide](#) to make sure you don't miss the last shuttle!



Dinner 6:00 | 6:30PM

Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for dinner.

That's the end of your Bryce Canyon itinerary. From here, it's:

- 1 hour 45 minutes to Zion National Park
- 2 hours 40 minutes to Page
- 3 hours 50 minutes to Salt Lake City
- 4 hours to Las Vegas
- 4 hours 10 minutes to Moab
- 5 hours to Grand Canyon Village



DAY 2

AFTERNOON: 2:00PM - 5:30PM

Option B: Fairyland Point & Old Bryce Town

If you don't want to do a long hike, then this option is for you. You'll spend some time in the Visitor Center, go to the beautiful Fairyland Point viewpoint and explore Old Bryce Town.



Visitor Center 2:15PM

Take the shuttle to the Visitor Center.



The Visitor Center has exhibits on local geology, wildlife, star gazing, and historic and prehistoric culture. There's a 20-minute informational video shown on the hour and half hour that's worth watching. There's also a bookstore. Check to see if there are any ranger programs on – they often hold short informational talks there.

When you're ready, walk or take the shuttle to your vehicle. You'll drive to your next destination.



Fairyland Point

This is the northern-most viewpoint in the national park. It's reached down a side road, away from the often-crowded Bryce Amphitheater. It overlooks the beautiful Fairyland Canyon. The hoodoos here are the youngest in the national park and will become even more 'pillar-like' as they erode more. The viewpoint is surrounded by ponderosa pine forest where you may see wild turkeys, deer and chipmunks.

You can stay at the top, but if you are feeling a little energetic, head down the Fairyland Loop Trail for as far as you feel comfortable, then head back. If you do this, just adjust your timing for the rest of the afternoon.



The road to Fairyland Point is closed to vehicles in winter to provide for winter activities like cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. If you're visiting in winter, either skip this completely or swap it out for some winter hiking, snow shoeing or skiing.



DAY 2

AFTERNOON: 2:00PM - 5:30PM



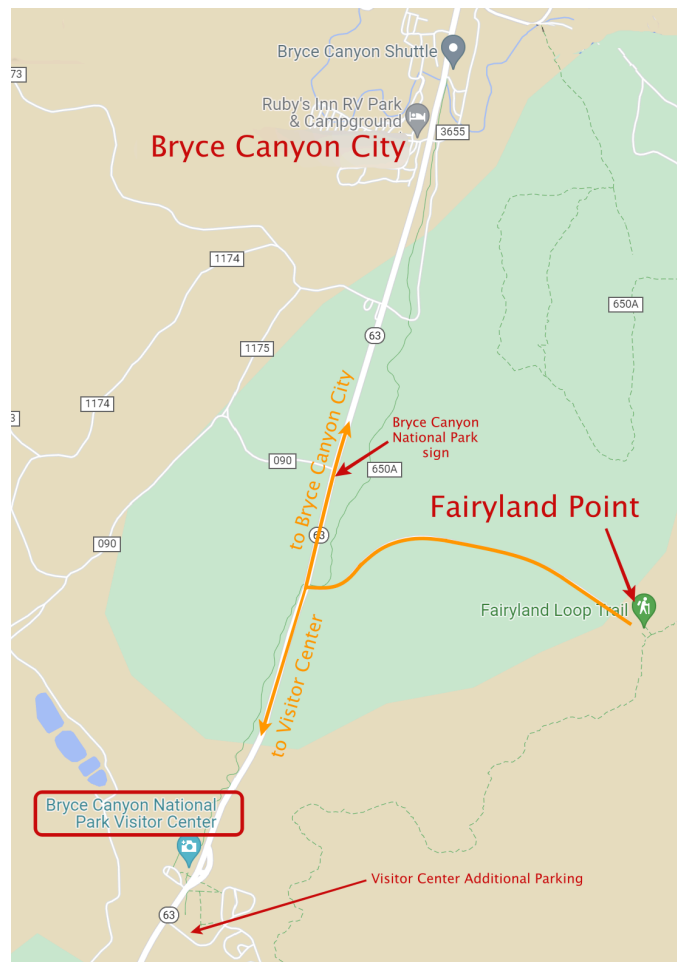
If you took the shuttle tour in the morning, you'll have already been to Fairyland Point, as it's included on the shuttle tour. You can either go back and spend more time there - and even go for a short hike along the Fairyland Loop trail - or skip this and do an activity from the Day 1 *Create Your Own Adventure* options.



DIRECTIONS: Visitor Center - Fairyland Point

Turn right out of the Visitor Center Additional Parking Lot on to North Campground Road. Then turn right on to Bryce Canyon Road. You'll pass through the park entrance. Take the first right after the entrance station, 0.7 miles down the road. This is the Fairyland Spur Road. Fairyland Point is at the end of the road, one mile away.

If you're coming from Bryce Canyon City, the Fairyland Road is on the left 0.3 miles after the Bryce Canyon National Park sign.



Old Bryce Town 4:30PM

Head to Bryce Canyon City for the rest of the afternoon.

You can park at the shuttle parking lot or your accommodation.

Old Bryce Town is a 'ye olde towne' area Opposite Ruby's Inn. It's cute for a wander around and there are some shops to explore. Get an Old West Photo taken in full old western wear in front of an old western backdrop. Enjoy an ice cream or another sweet treat. Check out the Canyon Rock Shop.



DAY 2

AFTERNOON: 2:00PM - 5:30PM



DIRECTIONS: Fairyland Point - Bryce Canyon City

Head back the way you came. Turn right on to Bryce Canyon Road. This takes you straight into Bryce Canyon City.



Dinner 5:30PM

Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for dinner.

That's the end of your Bryce Canyon itinerary. From here, it's:

- 1 hour 45 minutes to Zion National Park
- 2 hours 40 minutes to Page
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ADJUSTING YOUR SCHEDULE

The schedule is based on a stay in **Bryce Canyon City**. This area has the most accommodation options and is close to the park entrance but there are other places to stay in and around the park. If you stay in or near these places, adjust the schedule as follows:

Staying inside the park

DAY ONE: Options A and B: Walk to Sunrise Point; Option C start 15 minutes later

DAY TWO: Keep the same

Staying on Highway 12

DAY ONE: Start 5 minutes earlier

DAY TWO: Start 5 minutes later

Staying in Tropic

DAY ONE: Start 15 minutes earlier

DAY TWO: Start 10 minutes later

Staying on Highway 89

DAY ONE: Start 20 minutes earlier

DAY TWO: Start 5 minutes later

Staying at Zion National Park

I don't recommend staying in Zion National Park and visiting Bryce Canyon each day as it adds a lot of unnecessary drive time to your trip. Most people visit the two parks on the same trip, and I recommend this, but it's best, if at all possible, to stay at each of them separately. However, if you decided to stay near Zion:

DAY ONE: Start 1 hour 45 minutes earlier

DAY TWO: Start 1 hour 45 minutes earlier

COMBINING THIS ITINERARY & A TRIP TO ZION NATIONAL PARK

This itinerary can be easily combined with a [Zion National Park itinerary](#).

Going to Zion after Bryce Canyon

Zion National Park is less than 2 hours away. If you plan to leave directly for Zion, you can skip Old Bryce Town in Options B and C and get there in time for dinner. If you choose Option A, head straight there and arrive for a late dinner or grab something quick for dinner on the way there. Alternatively, you could swap the 2 days around and finish your Adventure earlier so you can leave for Zion earlier.

Coming from Zion before Bryce Canyon

You can easily leave Zion at the end of that itinerary and arrive to Bryce Canyon National Park in time to pick up this itinerary. Refer to the Zion itinerary for adjustment suggestions.



USEFUL LINKS

These links are all available in the actual itinerary, but here they are all together as a useful planning and preparation resource.

Bonus extras (Accommodation Guide, Dining Guide, Shuttle Guide)

<https://parkscollecting.com/bryce-canyon-bonus-extras-xh74lk03b/>

Itinerary Updates

<https://parkscollecting.com/itinerary-updates-f6x9m2/>

Bryce Canyon National Park Entrance Fee

<https://www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/fees.htm>

Annual Pass: [America The Beautiful Pass](#)

Zion National Park Itineraries (use code BRYC for a 20% discount)

<https://parkscollecting.com/zion-itinerary/>

Grand Canyon National Park Itineraries (use code BRYC for a 20% discount)

<https://parkscollecting.com/grand-canyon-itinerary/>

Ranger Programs

<https://www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/ranger-programs.htm>

Bryce Canyon Horse Rides

<https://www.canyonrides.com/bryce-canyon-horseback-riding/>

Current Park Conditions

<https://www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>

Sunrise and Sunset Times

<https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/@5535938>

Book Flights: [Skyscanner](#)

Camper Van Rentals: [Escape Campervans](#)

Accommodations

[Hotels and motels](#)

[Vacation rentals](#)

[Campspot](#)

[Campnab](#)

Travel Insurance: [Travelex](#)

Packing Lists: <https://parkscollecting.com/packing-lists/>



TRIP NOTES

PARKS COLLECTING

PARKS COLLECTING

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