

SOUTHWESTERN UTAH REGIONAL MAP

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“My place of refuge is a wilderness canyon in southern Utah. Its scale is exactly right. Smooth curves of sandstone embrace and cradle me. From the road, I cross a mile of slickrock terrain to reach the stream. This creek runs year-round, banked by orchids and ferns. Entering the tangle of greenery, I rediscover paradise. The canyon is a secret, a power spot, a place of pilgrimage ... This wilderness canyon made me whole. It still can restore me to wholeness when the stress of my life pulls me thin. It bestows peace of mind that lasts for months ... These landscapes nourish and teach and heal. They help keep us sane, they give us strength, they connect us to our roots in the earth, they remind us that we share in the flow of life and death.

— Stephen Trimble, Writers of the West Speak on Behalf of Utah Wilderness



SOUTHWESTERN UTAH IS SHEER SUBLIMITY.

“Ecology has a synonym,” said John Steinbeck, “which is all.” Here, in the desert southwest, ecosystems collide and give rise to a ecologies that haunt the imagination. Mythology is born in these rocks and breathes whimsy into already supernatural geology: monoliths, hoodoos, slots, dunes and cones, sure. But what spirits inhabit them? What, then, is “all,” but the traveler’s experience in southwest Utah?

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Stunning Angel Canyon is an ideal place for people who love nature as much as they love animals. Best Friends is a nonprofit, no-kill animal sanctuary on 20,000 acres of land open to year-round guided tours, adoptions and volunteer opportunities. On any given day, the sanctuary is home to about 1,600 rescue animals, mostly dogs and cats, but also horses, burros, birds, rabbits, goats, pigs and more. Daily tours are free and take approximately an hour and a half and there’s a \$5 vegan buffet on the grounds. Book lodging in advance.

My notes: _____

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK \$ ⓘ ▲

Water and wind over millions of years of freezes and thaws carved endless fields of towering orange hoodoos, narrow fins and natural bridges from the high-elevation plateau. Hiking in Bryce Canyon is the best way to immerse yourself in the amazing geography while magic hour sunlight, full moon exploration and stargazing insist on an extended stay. Winter snowfall brings a whole new array of outdoor activities. The fee is good for a week and includes use of the shuttle available May–Oct. Lodging with advance reservations. Visitor center open daily, extended summer hours.

My notes: _____

CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT \$ ⓘ ▲

Hidden within the mountains above Cedar City is the brilliant geology and vibrant alpine environment of a natural amphitheater known as the “Circle of Painted Cliffs.” Cedar Breaks plunges 2,000 feet through colorful eroded limestone, shale and sandstone and offers hikes for all levels, wildlife viewing, sunrises, sunsets, pristine dark skies and camping—all at a breathtaking 10,000 feet above sea level. A handful of scenic byways converge in this area—seek them out! Open daily; S.R. 148 closes in winter.

My notes: _____

CORAL PINK SAND DUNES STATE PARK \$ ⓘ ▲

Explore flowing sand dunes formed by the continual erosion of the nearby Navajo sandstone cliffs. Walk among juniper, piñon and ponderosa pines or come prepared for the dunes’ main attraction: More than 2,000 acres of sand are open to OHVs. Four-wheelers can check out the Sand Highway, a one-way narrow trail in a small canyon on the boundary of the dunes, and the South Boundary Trail. Open year-round during daylight hours.

My notes: _____

FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK & MUSEUM \$ ⓘ ▲

Large outcroppings of lightly colored rock line rugged Clear Creek Canyon and the Interstate. Even with the freeway, it’s a secluded place. When road crews built I-70 through Central Utah, they uncovered one of the largest-known Fremont culture villages to date. Today, a well-curated museum showcases the incredible discovery and hiking trails explore the canyon’s petroglyphs and pictographs. A campground offers tranquil nights beneath pristine dark skies and teepee rentals.

My notes: _____

GRAND STAIRCASE–ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT ⓘ ▲

GRAND STAIRCASE
The allure of the Grand Staircase region is phenomenal. A sequence of brightly colored cliffs mark the transitional “step” zone between Bryce Canyon National Park and the Paunsaugunt Plateau. Rugged and remote, Grand Staircase contains the most extensive network of slot canyons in Utah. There are also abandoned old Western movie sets. Start at the Kanab Visitor Center for recommendations or stop by Big Water Visitor Center and dinosaur museum on your way to Lake Powell, Antelope Canyon and Glen Canyon Dam. No fees to enter the monument but permits are required for overnights and most slot canyons require advanced skills or expert guides. All camping is primitive, no hook-ups.

KAIPAROWITS PLATEAU

The 1,600-square-mile Kaiparowits Plateau features unique sedimentary rock formations containing an unbroken record of fossils spanning 30 million years. Highlights include Kodachrome Basin State Park—area formations and Grosvenor Arch along the rugged and unpaved Cottonwood Canyon Road (impassable when wet and never suitable for RVs or trailers). Well-prepared visitors will find a vast and pristine backcountry. Visitors to the backways should carry plenty of water and provisions and be self-sufficient. No fees. Start at the Cannonville visitor center to gather information. All camping is primitive, no hook-ups.

My notes: _____

If ecology is the relationship between the physical environment and living things, then the traveler is ecology at its finest. You are a living thing with an awareness heightened by the sheer sublimity of this place. You reach for physical heights only to peer into the spaces where time writes its stories. You long to descend again, to become part of the story.

KOLOB CANYONS \$ ⓘ

The rugged Kolob Canyons of Zion National Park are about an hour away from the main canyon and offer mostly longer, more strenuous trails including backcountry options to slot canyons, red rock cliffs and one of the longest natural arches in the world. The 5-mile scenic Kolob Fingers Road Scenic Byway alone is worth the visit. There are no services or campgrounds at Kolob’s visitor center, so carry in water for day hikes. Cedar City is also a good place to start or find lodging. Zion’s standard park fees apply, good at all entrances. Check for winter closures.

My notes: _____

MANTI TEMPLE

Perched atop a rising knoll known as Temple Hill, the Manti Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints stands as a testament to the faith of the Scandinavian Mormon settlers who financed and built it. While the gothic and French revival structure is not open to the public, visitors can explore the expansive grounds of Temple Hill, the 2.5 acres of the nearby Pioneer Heritage Gardens or stop by in summer for the Mormon Miracle Pageant. Nearby Ephraim and Salina offer addition restaurants, galleries and accommodations, plus access to Palisade State Park and the ATV, hiking and horse trails of the Manti-La Sal National Forest and Wasatch Plateau.

My notes: _____

RED CANYON ⓘ ▲

A fin of red rock juts out from the forest and the road passes directly through it: Red Canyon is one of the most distinctive stretches of driving on the All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12. The interpretive visitor center is the first stop for exploring this popular section of the Dixie National Forest, known for interesting hiking, primitive camping, ATV, road cycling and iconic mountain biking trails that wind through hoodoos and vistas like nearby Bryce Canyon National Park. Check out nearby Panguitch for history and a bite to eat.

My notes: _____

SNOW CANYON STATE PARK \$ ▲

At the confluence of the Mojave Desert, Great Basin and Colorado Plateau, Snow Canyon is perfect for any type of outdoor adventure — and photo opportunities. Cut by water and sculpted by wind and time, the Navajo sandstone cliffs share the same history and geology as Zion National Park to the east and is part of the larger Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. This place could be a national park. Families, hikers, cyclists and rock climbers alike find canvas for their adventures. Twenty minutes from amenity-rich St. George, a great base camp for Southern Utah explorations.

My notes: _____

TERRITORIAL STATEHOUSE STATE PARK MUSEUM \$ ⓘ

Under the direction of leader Brigham Young, Latter-day Saints built the Territorial Statehouse in 1855 (now on the National Register of Historic Places) to serve as Utah’s capitol building in the newly appointed U.S. territory, but it only held the legislature for one full session before returning to Salt Lake City. Exploring the exhibits, visitors will get a feeling for the life of early pioneers. Engage the knowledgeable staff and explore the All-American Rose Society Garden before settling in for a picnic. About two hours from Salt Lake or St. George. Also near historic Cove Fort.

My notes: _____

TOPAZ MUSEUM

The Topaz Museum on Delta’s main street is no less an anomaly in its space than the nearby Japanese internment camp it commemorates (10000 West 4500 North). The modern, austere lines of the museum exterior give way to a thoughtful procession of five distinct interior spaces. 55 West Main. Donations encouraged. Delta is a gateway to the Great Basin National Heritage Area and Utah’s fascinating West Desert.

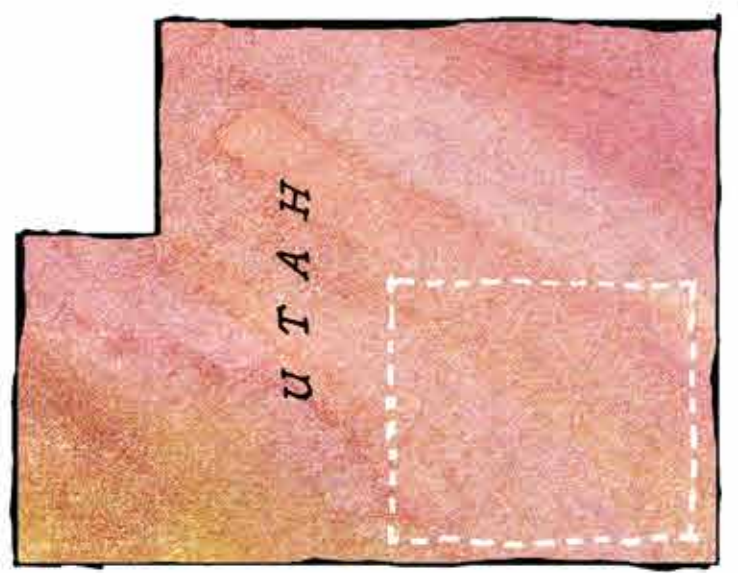
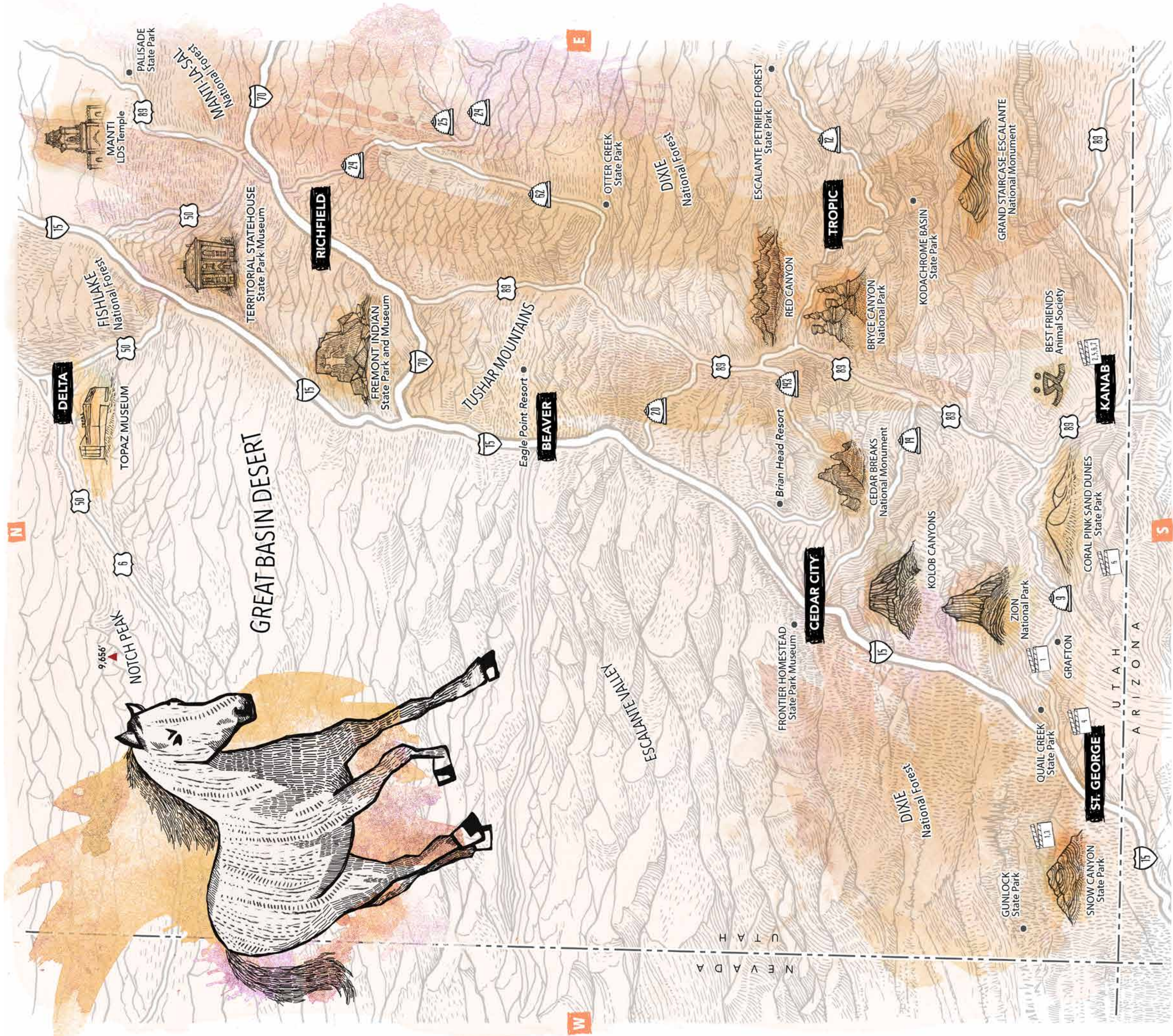
My notes: _____

ZION NATIONAL PARK \$ ⓘ ▲








The allure of Zion becomes abundantly clear from the moment you pass through the park’s gates — sooner, even. The soaring vermilion cliffs and verdant valleys of Zion are a postcard backdrop to the gateway town of Springdale. To truly experience the park, consider planning extra days with nights for stargazing and make an effort to take in other special places around the national park. Come prepared for safe outdoor recreation and take time to reflect on the intricate mysteries of Zion. Lodging along S.R. 9 and nearby St. George. Reserve camping in advance. Open daily.

My notes: _____

SOUTHWESTERN UTAH



FILMED IN UTAH: Some of our favorite movies have scenes filmed in the iconic Utah landscape. Go see for yourself!
 More info at film.utah.gov/filmed-in-utah

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|  | Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid
1969 Snow Canyon State Park,
Zion National Park, Grafton ghost town |  | Gunsmoke
1955–1975 Kanab |
|  | The Outlaw Josey Wales
1976 Kanab |  | Westworld
2018 Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park,
Kanab |
|  | Romancing the Stone
1984 Snow Canyon State Park |  | Greatest Story Ever Told
1965 Kanab |
|  | The Electric Horseman
1979 St. George | | |