

ZION Adventurefest and Car Camp

September 8-12, 2010

Trip Leader : Klaus Gerhart

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Holy Smokes is Zion AWESOME! Angel's Landing (5mi, 1488+, 4hrs, Strenuous), The Narrows (16mi, 12hrs, Very Strenuous), The Subway (9.5mi, 7hrs, Technical/Strenuous), Observation Point (8mi, 2148+, 5hrs, Strenuous), Kolob Arch (14mi, 8hrs, Strenuous) ... and a bunch of other amazing hikes and scenic wonders. I plan on filling our days from sunrise to sunset with everything I can squeeze in!



The Narrows

The Virgin River has carved a spectacular gorge in the upper reaches of Zion Canyon. 16 miles long, up to 2000' deep and at times only 20-30 feet wide. Walking in the shadow of its soaring walls, sandstone grottos, natural springs, and hanging gardens can be an unforgettable wilderness experience. It is not,



however, a trip to be underestimated. Hiking the Zion Narrows means hiking in the Virgin River. At least 60% of the hike is spent wading, walking, and sometimes swimming in the stream. There is no maintained trail; the route is the river. The current is swift, the water is cold, and the rocks underfoot are slippery. Flash flooding and hypothermia are constant dangers. Walking the entire length of the Narrows can be a grueling experience. Under favorable conditions the 16-mile route takes an average of 12 hours. Even for well-conditioned hikers, this makes for a long and strenuous day. (Woohoo!)

The Subway

The mystical journey through the Left Fork of North Creek involves route finding, plunging cautiously into chilly pools then sloshing, sometimes frantically, through frigid water over and through difficult obstacles. The narrow Subway section of this hike forces hikers through a unique tunnel sculpted by the creek. Churning water chisels the rock floor, forming shallow potholes that fill to the brim with frosty water. (ACA Canyon Rating 3B III) This is a technical canyon where rappelling and down-climbing skills are required. Swimming is usually required through at least three pools of cold water and there are usually four obstacles that must be down-climbed with the use of a rope. (Woohoo!)

Kolob Arch

Kolob Arch flaunts one of the longest spanning freestanding arches in the world; 287.4'. The trip can be done as a long day hike; 14mi round trip; 12 hours. This is a strenuous hike with much of the path soft sand, several stream crossings and full sun exposure during most of the hike. (Woohoo!)

Angels Landing

Steep trail climbs Walter's Wiggles past Scout Lookout, with spectacular views of Zion Canyon.

Strenuous, 5 miles/4hours round trip, climbs 1,488 ft. Warning! Steep cliffs. Not for anyone fearful of heights or young children. Last .5mi follows steep, narrow ridge; chains have been added.



Observation Point

High on the east rim, the trail ends on a slender peninsula overhanging the valley floor offering spectacular views on three sides. Strenuous 8mi/5hrs round trip, climbs 2,148 ft. Warning: Steep Cliffs! Not for anyone fearful of heights.

Our Campsite

Watchman Campground is located near the park's south entrance near the town of Springdale. The campground is a short walk from the park's main Visitor Center and the Zion Canyon Shuttle System. The canyon is only accessible by shuttle bus. Our Group Campsite is Site E002. 25 maximum occupants, 6 maximum vehicles (we'll work it out). No RV's, pop-ups, vans, cab-overs ... only tents. No pets. No electricity or generators. Flush toilets, picnic tables, campfire rings. No showers but there are pay showers nearby in Springdale.

The Shuttle Bus

The Zion Canyon route starts at the visitor center and goes up the six-mile-long Zion Canyon Scenic Drive. A round trip lasts 90 minutes and takes you to most trailheads. Buses run from dawn to after dark as often as every seven minutes.

Weather

End of Summer: Days are hot but overnight lows are comfortable. Possibilities of afternoon thunderstorms. Normal daily high 91F; normal daily low 60F; extreme high 110F; extreme low 33F. The average precipitation is only four days of rain for the entire month of September. Be prepared for a wide range of weather conditions. Temperatures vary with changes in elevation and day/night temperatures may differ by over 30F.

Carpooling & Food Groups

Carpooling is mandatory for this trip. Besides all the normal reasons (gas costs are shared, carbon footprints, company on a 7-hour drive), there's also limited parking!

Food Groups are going to be important for this trip as well. I'm not going to mandate that you only eat and cook with your carpoolers, but you must agree to bring only ONE big cooler for the three of you, and share ONE camp stove between you. This will make it MUCH easier to get 3 people and their gear into ONE car. You don't really have to buy in advance for all your weeks' meals. There are restaurants, grocery stores and ice within 5 minutes of our campground, so plan on only bringing a few meals' worth of stuff for each of you. My experience on long trips like this is that things get very UN-fresh and spoil quickly.

National Park Fees (Entrance)

All park visitors are required to show/purchase a recreational use pass or National Parks Pass upon entering Zion National Park. Weekly Zion passes are \$25/vehicle, are non-transferable and are valid for 7 consecutive days, including the date of purchase. (I believe the America The Beautiful, Interagency

Great Outdoors Los Angeles

National Parks Pass is about \$80 and is good for all National Parks, National Monuments and National Forests for a year ... a GOOD DEAL!

Directions

I-15 North through California, Nevada, Arizona and into Utah (about 350 miles); Exit UT-9 East (Exit 16) .. about 32 miles to Zion National Park's south entrance.

Itinerary

Wednesday: Arrive anytime after 11:00am

5:00pm(ish) Welcome Tea!

Dinner on your own or in your group

Evening Campfire

Thursday: The Narrows

A: Moderate:

Breakfast on your own, free shuttle to Virgin River, go up as far as you like, come back same way, take shuttle back to Visitor's Center/campground .. spend afternoon exploring some of the other stops the shuttle makes. Dinner on your own. Campfire or Games. Buddy-up .. it's a lot more fun to do this stuff with a partner or a small group.

B: Very Strenuous

(permit limits us to 12 of the fittest)

6:00am Breakfast & Coffee

7:15am leave for Outfitter

7:30am Bus (\$30) departs for put-in

9:20am Arrive at Chamberlain's Ranch (BRING LUNCH)

8:00pm Shuttle back to Camp

8:45pm Figure out Dinner!

Friday: TBD

Saturday: TBD ... Angel's Landing in the A.M.

Sunday: Breakfast on your own

11:00am Check-out of campsite

Note about itinerary: We'll fill our days with awesome hikes .. some challenging, some simply scenic. We'll do breakfasts on our own, or in our food groups; lunches will probably be packed and taken on our hikes; dinners we'll try to do together, maybe a restaurant one night .. try to squeeze in a potluck; campfires will happen when it gets dark. I'm leaving the schedule pretty open because there's tons to do and see in Zion. One of the things I'm trying to arrange (which I won't be able to arrange till the day before) is The Subway. It requires a permit and the numbers are limited. I'll figure it out when I get there and based on the number of permits I get and the day it's good for, we'll determine who has interest and who's capable/experienced enough to tackle it.

Tips

We'll probably do a couple of campfires, so plan on buying a bundle of firewood in Springdale at some point .. no need to burden your cars with it.

Bring (or buy there) one potluck item per person which will serve 4-6 people, and serving utensil for it.

Bring Cup/Bowl/Plate/Knife/Fork/Spoon/Napkin etc

Trail Shoes/Boots, Daypack, Hydration Bladder, Sun Protection, Warm Layer, Dry Socks, Headlamp, TP, Snacks, Bug Spray, etc will make your hike more comfortable and safe.

I'll be supplying some snacks and sodas for Tea, feel free to bring wine or beer.





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Make check payable to **Great Outdoors** and mail to:
Klaus Gerhart, 427 S Serrano Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020
Phone: 323-493-0104

Name (*please print*) _____

Registration Fee

Address _____

Member

\$49

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GO Member # _____ Chapter: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Non-member

add

\$20

Emergency contact: _____

includes 1-year
membership!

Relationship: _____ Phone #: _____

Total Enclosed _____

Medical Insurance Carrier: _____

Group/Policy # _____

Physician: _____

Please note: There are no
cancellations unless approved on a
per-case-basis by the primary trip
leader.

Physician's Phone #: _____

I am carpooling with _____

I need a ride? Yes or No I Can offer a ride? Yes or No

I can be ready
to leave around:

I plan to
leave around:

For trip leader's use

Date: _____

Check#: _____

Amount: _____

WAIVER OF LIABILITY, MEDICAL RELEASE AND ASSIGNMENT

I am aware that my participation in the GREAT OUTDOORS may include potentially hazardous activities, and I am voluntarily participating in these activities with that knowledge and understanding that I will use my best judgment to avoid injury to myself and others. I agree to follow the directions of the trip leader and abide by the rules of the facility I am using. I hereby release GREAT OUTDOORS, including its officers, trail or trip leaders, agents or other persons working with GREAT OUTDOORS from any liability for injuries, physical or mental, which I may suffer by reason of any participation in these activities. I recognize in waiving this liability that I am assuming sole responsibility for my actions and cannot blame any injuries on any other persons connected with GREAT OUTDOORS.

I hereby agree to assume full financial responsibility for any bills incurred by me for medical treatment as the result of my participation in this GREAT OUTDOORS activity. In the event that I am unable to consent to medical care, I hereby authorize the trip leader to consent to emergency medical treatment for me, including hospitalization and surgery, as may be best determined under the circumstances.

Signature _____ Date _____

In case of emergency contact _____

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Medical Insurance Carrier _____ Group/Policy No. _____

Individual travel and accident insurance is available from your local travel agent.

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