



## 5. West Rim

**OVERVIEW: FULL-DAY/OVERNIGHT:** A MAJESTIC TOUR OF BOTH THE GEOLOGY AND THE ECOLOGY OF ZION. THE MOST POPULAR BACKPACKING ROUTE IN ZION, THIS TRAIL BEGINS HIGH IN THE ALPINE DESERT PINES OF LAVA POINT AND MEANDERS 3,300 FEET DOWN 14 MILES TO THE FLOOR OF ZION CANYON, HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

**TRAILHEAD: FROM SPRINGDALE** Drive west on SR 9 through Rockville and into Virgin. Turn right on the Kolob Terrace Road, just before the Zion River Resort. Drive north for 23 miles until you reach the posted dirt road to Lava Point. Turn right. Follow the posted signs to the West Rim Trailhead. The conditions of the lower reaches of this road are often poor; high-clearance vehicles recommended. If you do not have the luxury of two vehicles, you must hire a shuttle...OR HIKE BACK UP TO YOUR CAR!

**MILEAGE:** 14.4 miles (23.2 km), one-way

**ELEVATION LOSS:** 3,302 FEET (1,004 METERS)!!!  
**APPROXIMATE HIKE TIME:** 6 - 9 HOURS ONE-WAY  
**DIFFICULTY:** Cardiovascularly moderate, but your knees take a pounding descending 3,300 vertical feet.

**BEST TIMES OF DAY:**  
**SUMMER:** Hit the trail between 5 & 6 AM. Backpackers and spring/fall day hikers can afford a later start, but may still want to get out early to catch the nice temperatures.  
**BEST TIMES OF YEAR:**  
**AUTUMN / LATE SPRING:** Best time. **SUMMER:** Scaring temperatures and a busy trail. **WINTER:** Access is impossible without skis or snowshoes.  
**CROWDS:** 1/5 - 3/5

**WATER SOURCES:** Sawmill Springs, Potato Hollow and Cabin Springs. Check at the Visitor's Center for up-to-date information. Purify all water.

**CAMPING:** Camping on the West Rim is restricted to 9 designated sites. Camping permits need to be obtained at a Zion Visitor's Center.  
**CHECK IT OUT:** Near the end of the trail check out Angels Landing; the summit is a short, but steep, half-mile scramble away.

## 6. Northgate Peaks

**OVERVIEW: HALF-DAY HIKE:** CASUALY STROLL THROUGH COOL ALPINE DESERT TO A GREAT VIEW. TAKE A PICNIC LUNCH!  
**TRAILHEAD: FROM SPRINGDALE** Drive west on SR 9 through Rockville and into Virgin (15 minutes), 1/4 mile before the Zion River Resort, turn right on the Kolob Terrace Road. Drive north for 16 miles until you reach the posted Wildcat Canyon trailhead (on your right). **MILEAGE:** 4.2 miles (6.8 km), round-trip

**ELEVATION GAIN:** 100 FEET (30 METERS)  
**APPROXIMATE HIKE TIME:** 2 - 3 HOURS, ROUND-TRIP  
**DIFFICULTY:** CASUAL  
**BEST TIMES OF DAY: SUMMER:** Hikes are great all day; noontime hikes are best in spring or fall. The high elevation and exposed lookout at Northgate Peaks often create cool breezes.

**BEST TIMES OF YEAR: APRIL - OCTOBER.** The Peaks provide a cool respite from Zion Canyon, with stunning scenery to boot.  
**NOVEMBER - MARCH:** The trail is often covered in snow and/or ice. Check conditions before going in winter or early spring.  
**CROWDS:** 1/5

**WATER SOURCES:** No water sources along this trail.  
**CAMPING:** After the Northgate Peaks trail splits off from the Wildcat Canyon and Subway trails, it follows a shrinking "peninsula" out to the lookout. This peninsula and the valley beyond it have an "open camping" designation; backpackers may camp anywhere at least 200 yards away from all trails and water sources. A permit is required to camp in this area.  
**CHECK IT OUT:** Give a hug to a Ponderosa pine tree to decide whether the bark smells like butterscotch or vanilla.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** Northgate Peak Trail is a great introduction to the Kolob Terrace and a reasonable hike for most families.

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## 7. Subway Bottom - Up

**OVERVIEW: FULL-DAY HIKE:** FROM THE TRAILHEAD, HIKERS DROP INTO THE LEFT FORK OF NORTH CREEK VIA STEEP SWITCH BACKS INTO A WIDE, SCENIC CANYON. NAVIGATING UP CANYON, HIKERS ENCOUNTER A GRADUALLY NARROWING CANYON UNTIL KETHOLE FALLS IS REACHED, AN INCREDIBLY SCULPTED SECTION OF CANYON WITH DISTINCT TUNNEL-LIKE FEATURES.

**TRAILHEAD:** LEFT FORK TRAILHEAD ON KOLOB TERRACE ROAD. YOU MUST HAVE A BACKCOUNTRY PERMIT TO PARK AT THIS TRAILHEAD.

**MILEAGE:** 7 miles (11.3 km), round-trip  
**ELEVATION GAIN:** 1000 FEET (300 METERS)  
**APPROXIMATE HIKE TIME:** 6 - 10 HOURS, ROUND-TRIP  
**DIFFICULTY:** STRENUOUS, WITH OFF-TRAIL HIKING, NAVIGATION, AND STREAM CROSSINGS.

**BEST TIMES OF DAY:** START EARLY IN THE SUMMER TO AVOID A BLISTERING HOT HIKE BACK TO THE CAR.

**BEST TIMES OF YEAR: AUTUMN/EARLY SUMMER:** GREAT TEMPERATURES. **SUMMER:** HIKING CAN BE HOT, BRING PLENTY OF FOOD AND WATER.

**CROWDS:** 2/5  
**WATER SOURCES:** LEFT FORK. PURIFY ALL WATER BEFORE DRINKING.

**CHECK IT OUT:** ABOUT HALFWAY TO THE SUBWAY, GRAY BOULDERS NEAR THE WATER ARE COVERED IN INTERESTING DINOSAUR TRACKS.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** RESERVATIONS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND MAY BE MADE UP TO 3 MONTHS IN ADVANCE VIA A LOTTERY SYSTEM ON THE ZION NATIONAL PARK WEBSITE. LAST MINUTE PERMITS MAY BE AVAILABLE AT THE WILDERNESS DESK, BUT OFTEN SELL-OUT VERY QUICKLY. HAVE A DETAILED ROUTE DESCRIPTION AND TAKE NOTE OF THE SWITCHBACKED EXIT ON THE WAY AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR DAY SO YOU DON'T MISS IT ON YOUR RETURN.

\*THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN DESCENDING THE TOP-DOWN SUBWAY AS A SELF-GUIDED ADVENTURE CAN CONSULT A ZION ADVENTURE COMPANY OUTFITTER ABOUT OUR SUBWAY GROUND SCHOOL.

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**MILEAGE:** 14.4 miles (23.2 km), one-way

**ELEVATION LOSS:** 3,302 FEET (1,004 METERS)!!!  
**APPROXIMATE HIKE TIME:** 6 - 9 HOURS ONE-WAY  
**DIFFICULTY:** Cardiovascularly moderate, but your knees take a pounding descending 3,300 vertical feet.

**BEST TIMES OF DAY:**  
**SUMMER:** Hit the trail between 5 & 6 AM. Backpackers and spring/fall day hikers can afford a later start, but may still want to get out early to catch the nice temperatures.  
**BEST TIMES OF YEAR:**  
**AUTUMN / LATE SPRING:** Best time. **SUMMER:** Scaring temperatures and a busy trail. **WINTER:** Access is impossible without skis or snowshoes.  
**CROWDS:** 1/5 - 3/5

**WATER SOURCES:** Sawmill Springs, Potato Hollow and Cabin Springs. Check at the Visitor's Center for up-to-date information. Purify all water.

**CAMPING:** Camping on the West Rim is restricted to 9 designated sites. Camping permits need to be obtained at a Zion Visitor's Center.  
**CHECK IT OUT:** Near the end of the trail check out Angels Landing; the summit is a short, but steep, half-mile scramble away.

## 8. Coal Pits Wash

**OVERVIEW: HALF-DAY/MULTI-DAY HIKE:** A LENGTHY BACKCOUNTRY DRIVE, REACHING FAR BACK BEHIND THE TOWERS OF THE VIRGIN TO THE FOOT OF THE BISHOPIC. PERFECT FOR A SHORT MORNING HIKE OR A MULTI-DAY WINTER ADVENTURE.

**TRAILHEAD: FROM SPRINGDALE:** DRIVE WEST ON SR 9 PAST ROCKVILLE. A FEW MILES PAST ROCKVILLE, LOOK FOR A SIGN FOR "COALPITS WASH" ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE. TURN IN TO THE DIRT PARKING LOT AND FIND THE TRAILHEAD AT THE CATTLE GATE.

**MILEAGE & ELEVATION GAIN:**  
• 2.8 miles (4.6 km) / 534 feet (162 m), round-trip, to Chinle Trail  
• 16 miles (25.7 km) / 1050 feet (319 m), round-trip, to head of Coalpits Wash

**APPROXIMATE HIKE TIME:**  
• 1.5 - 3 hours, round-trip, to Chinle Trail  
• 8 - 10 hours, round-trip, to head of Coalpits Wash

**DIFFICULTY:** EASY - MODERATE  
**BEST TIMES OF DAY: SUMMER:** DURING SUMMER MONTHS, MIDDAY TEMPERATURES CAN BE BRUTAL. HIKE EARLY IN THE MORNING OR IN THE EVENING.

**AUTUMN & SPRING:** TRAIL IS COMFORTABLE MOST OF THE DAY.  
**WATER SOURCES:** UPPER REACHES OF COALPITS WASH OFTEN FLOW WITH WATER, BUT THIS IS NOT RELIABLE. CARRY YOUR OWN WATER FOR THIS HIKE. CHECK WITH THE WILDERNESS DESK FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. PURIFY ALL WATER BEFORE DRINKING.

**CAMPING:** THE LOWER SECTION OF THIS TRAIL (BELOW THE INTERSECTION OF COALPITS & SCOGGINS WASHES) IS CLOSED TO CAMPING. THE UPPER PORTION OF THE TRAIL, HOWEVER, IS AN "OPEN CAMPING" DESIGNATION; GOOD CAMP SPOTS ARE FOUND HERE. PLEASE CAMP AT LEAST 200 YARDS AWAY FROM ANY TRAIL OR WATER SOURCE. OVER-NIGHT BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY ZION VISITOR'S CENTER.  
**CHECK IT OUT:** NEAR THE STEEP SLOPES OF THE LONG FIN REACHING OUT FROM THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE (TO THE NORTH), LOOK FOR RUINS OF AN OLD OIL WELL.

## 9. Chinle Trail

**OVERVIEW: HALF-DAY/FULL-DAY HIKE:** FOLLOW DRY WASHES AND OLD TIEP ROADS THROUGH A PRIVATE SUBDIVISION FOR JUST OVER A MILE, EVENTUALLY REACHING THE PARK SERVICE GATE. FROM THE GATE, THE TRAIL NARROWS AND MEANDERS ACROSS DESERT FLATS UNDER THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH FACE OF MOUNT KINESAWA, CROSSING NUMEROUS SMALL DRAINAGES ALONG THE WAY.

**TRAILHEAD: FROM SPRINGDALE:** FOLLOW THE MAIN ROAD (SR 9) WEST OUT OF TOWN, TURN RIGHT, INTO THE ANASAZI PLATEAU SUBDIVISION. AS YOU DRIVE UP THE HILL, TAKE A SHARP RIGHT TURN OVER A STEEP RISE (EASY TO MISS) TO FIND THE PARKING LOT BELOW. FOLLOW THE TRAIL FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE LOT. PARKING IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE SUBDIVISION!

**MILEAGE & ELEVATION GAIN:**  
• 6.8 miles (11.0 km) / 390 feet (119 m), round-trip, to Huber Wash  
• 16.2 miles (26.0 km) / 390 feet (119m), round-trip, to Coalpits/Scoggins Trail

**APPROXIMATE HIKE TIME:**  
• 3 - 5 hours, round-trip, to Huber Wash  
**CONTINUATION FROM CHINLE TRAIL:**  
• 8 - 10 hours, round-trip, to Coalpits / Scoggins Trail

**DIFFICULTY:** EASY.  
**BEST TIMES OF DAY: SUMMER:** MIDDAY TEMPERATURES CAN BE BRUTAL. HIKE EARLY IN THE MORNING OR IN THE EVENING.

**AUTUMN/SPRING:** THE TRAIL IS COMFORTABLE MOST OF THE DAY.  
**BEST TIMES OF YEAR: LATE AUTUMN - EARLY SPRING**

**WATER SOURCES:** NO RELIABLE WATER SOURCES.  
**CAMPING:** SEE COALPITS WASH #8.  
**CHECK IT OUT:** BRILLIANT EXPOSED PURPLE, RED, WHITE, AND GREEN CLAY LAYERS CREATE A "MOJAVE DESERT"-ISH LANDSCAPE AT THE FOOT OF MOUNT KINESAWA.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** THE CHINLE AND COALPITS/SCOGGINS TRAILS PROVIDE GREAT ROUTES FOR WINTER BACKPACKING!  
\*CHINLE IS THE PLACE FOR SPRING WILDFLOWERS, FEB - MAY.

## 10. The Narrows Hike

**THE GRANDFATHER OF ALL SLOT CANYONS.** THE ZION NARROWS IS THE NARROWEST SECTION OF ZION CANYON, AND ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR SLOT CANYONS IN ZION NATIONAL PARK. THIS SECTION OF THE VIRGIN RIVER HAS BECOME WORLD FAMOUS FOR ITS SCULPTED SANDSTONE WALLS AND BREATHTAKING VIEW. SECTIONS OF THE 2000 FOOT HIGH CLIFFS NARROW DOWN TO JUST 20 - 30 FEET WIDE. YOU WILL HIKE UPSTREAM, CROSSING BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE VIRGIN RIVER, THROUGH ANKLE TO WAIST DEEP WATER. MANY AMBITIOUS VISITORS WISH TO REACH "WALL STREET," A 2-MILE SECTION OF CANYON WHERE THE WALLS NARROW TO 22 FEET AND THE WATER SPANS FROM WALL TO WALL.

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**APPROXIMATE HIKE TIME:** 6 - 9 HOURS ONE-WAY  
**DIFFICULTY:** Cardiovascularly moderate, but your knees take a pounding descending 3,300 vertical feet.

**BEST TIMES OF DAY:**  
**SUMMER:** Hit the trail between 5 & 6 AM. Backpackers and spring/fall day hikers can afford a later start, but may still want to get out early to catch the nice temperatures.  
**BEST TIMES OF YEAR:**  
**AUTUMN / LATE SPRING:** Best time. **SUMMER:** Scaring temperatures and a busy trail. **WINTER:** Access is impossible without skis or snowshoes.  
**CROWDS:** 1/5 - 3/5

**WATER SOURCES:** Sawmill Springs, Potato Hollow and Cabin Springs. Check at the Visitor's Center for up-to-date information. Purify all water.

**CAMPING:** Camping on the West Rim is restricted to 9 designated sites. Camping permits need to be obtained at a Zion Visitor's Center.  
**CHECK IT OUT:** Near the end of the trail check out Angels Landing; the summit is a short, but steep, half-mile scramble away.

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## Narrows Rental Packages

**Warm - Water Package**  
MAY - OCTOBER

**INCLUDES**  
• PRE-TRIP ORIENTATION • WAIVES  
• NEOPRENE SOCKS • STICK

First Day ... \$25.00 / person  
Additional Day ... \$12.50 / person

**Cold - Water Package**  
OCTOBER - APRIL

**INCLUDES**  
• PRE-TRIP ORIENTATION  
• RAINPANTS/SUIT • SHOES  
• NEOPRENE SOCKS • WALKING STICK

First Day ... \$55.00 / person  
Additional Day ... \$27.50 / person

## Guided Narrows

**FULL DAY: 4 - 7 HOURS**  
EXPLORING THE NARROWS WITH A GUIDE ALLOWS OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE FLORA, FAUNA, GEOLOGY, LOCAL HISTORY, AND NUANCES OF THE BOTTOM-UP DAY HIKE ROUTE.

**TRIP INCLUDES**  
• APPROPRIATE NARROWS RENTAL PACKAGE • PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

**Warm-Water Trip**  
MAY - SEPTEMBER

2+ People ... \$169 / person  
One Person ... \$329 / person

**Cold-Water Trip**  
OCTOBER - APRIL

2+ People ... \$189 / person  
One Person ... \$349 / person

## 10a. Narrows "Thru - Hike"

**OVERVIEW: FULL-DAY/MULTI-DAY HIKE:** FROM CHAMBERLAIN'S RANCH, THE RIVER SLOWLY SLICES INTO THE EARTH, SINKING DEEPER AND DEEPER BELOW THE STONE WALLS ON EITHER SIDE. GRADUALLY, THE SHORELINES GROW SMALLER, THE WALLS GROW TALLER, AND YOU FIND YOURSELF IN AN ENORMOUS HOLLOW OF BEAUTIFULLY CARVED STONE.

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**CROWDS:** 1/5 - 3/5

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**AUTUMN / LATE SPRING:** Best time. **SUMMER:** Scaring temperatures and a busy trail. **WINTER:** Access is impossible without skis or snowshoes.  
**CROWDS:** 1/5 - 3/5

**WATER SOURCES:** Sawmill Springs, Potato Hollow and Cabin Springs. Check at the Visitor's Center for up-to-date information. Purify all water.

**CAMPING:** Camping on the West Rim is restricted to 9 designated sites. Camping permits need to be obtained at a Zion Visitor's Center.  
**CHECK IT OUT:** Near the end of the trail check out Angels Landing; the summit is a short, but steep, half-mile scramble away.

**TRAILHEAD: FROM SPRINGDALE** Drive west on SR 9 through Rockville and into Virgin. Turn right on the Kolob Terrace Road, just before the Zion River Resort. Drive north for 23 miles until you reach the posted dirt road to Lava Point. Turn right. Follow the posted signs to the West Rim Trailhead. The conditions of the lower reaches of this road are often poor; high-clearance vehicles recommended. If you do not have the luxury of two vehicles, you must hire a shuttle...OR HIKE BACK UP TO YOUR CAR!

**MILEAGE:** 14.4 miles (23.2 km), one-way

**ELEVATION LOSS:** 3,302 FEET (1,004 METERS)!!!  
**APPROXIMATE HIKE TIME:** 6 - 9 HOURS ONE-W