

2018 Southern Utah National Parks Tour

11 Day Loop Tour (12 Nights Lodging)

September 11-23, 2018

Total Cost: \$2,000 if 18-24 Paid Participants (includes tour souvenir)
Total Cost: \$1,750 if 25 or more Paid Participants (includes tour souvenir)
Single supplement: \$950 (paid at time of registration)
Deposit: \$550 (paid at time of registration)
Final Payment: \$1,450/\$1200 due by June 15, 2018
Rider limit: 30
Tour Leaders: Ralph & Carol Nussbaum
Tour Rating: Intermediate/Advanced (Read Level of Difficulty below.)

OVERVIEW:

Our tour starts and ends in Cedar City, UT and heads south for a leisurely ride to Springdale where you will be introduced to Utah's magnificent Southwest Color Country. This eleven-day tour will introduce you to several national



parks that will take your breath away and create memories that cannot be taken away. You will visit the flowing mammoth rocks of Zion Nat'l Park where on your day off, you can hike up to Angel's Rest or up the Narrows. We continue our journey to the red and white spires of Bryce Canyon where we will spend another day off the bike hiking into the bright red hoodoo covered canyon. From Bryce we head north on Hwy 12 referred to by some as a journey through time going by Escalante Nat'l Monument in route to Capitol Reef National Park—the land of the sleeping rainbow. After our journey through time we will take the day off to do some exploring of this relatively unknown and hence much quieter park. Our next day's travel will take us to the Rockin' R ranch where we will put on our boots and dance the night away with a local band. Our last two days will be spent working our way

back to Cedar City through beautiful mountains and Cedar Breaks National Park.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: This tour is rated Intermediate/Advanced. Moderate traffic with buses and RV's can be expected while cycling in and around national parks. Some roads have little or no shoulder to ride on. Participants need to exhibit good riding skills and common sense.

WEATHER: Weather in the southern Utah is typically sunny and dry in September/October, but rainstorms are possible. Mornings are expected to be crisp and cool. Temperatures can drop suddenly this time of year so be prepared for possible cold/wet conditions. We will be above 7,000' for much of the tour and climb up to 10,000' at Cedar Breaks. Bring some extra layers.

MEALS: This tour will provide both snacks and lunch on riding days. Breakfast and dinner are your responsibility. Most (not not all) of the hotels offer complementary warm breakfasts. Lunches on the 3 rest days are on your own dime. We will have one group dinner.

LODGING: Quality of lodging ranges from basic to above average. Due to the mileage of the last day hotel cost in Cedar City is covered in the cost of the tour.

ITINERARY:

DAY ZERO - Tuesday, September 11

We will meet in Cedar City, UT at the Best Western Town and Country, 189 North Main for an introductory meeting.

DAY ONE - Wednesday, September 12 - Cedar City to Springdale -- 69 miles, ~3700 ft

Enjoy your first day leisurely riding south out of Cedar City for 13 miles to the quiet town of Kanarrville. We continue south seeing samplings of the magnificent scenery in store for you during the coming days with a short climb up Kolob Canyon. At mile 24 we will ride on I-15 (which has a large shoulder) going downhill for 10 miles. (Those who do not wish to ride on I-15 will have the option of being shuttled for this section). Once we exit I-15 we head for Zion Nat'l Park stopping in Toquerville State Park for lunch before heading east to Springdale, the gateway to Zion National Park.

DAY TWO - Thursday, September 13 - Day off in Zion National Park

Today is one to enjoy of America's most scenic national parks. Bring some good walking/hiking shoes and clamber up to Angel's Landing <http://www.nps.gov/featurecontent/zion/eHike.htm> or <http://www.citrusmilo.com/zionguide/angelslandingpix.cfm> or walk up the Narrows where you find yourself in a narrowing deep sandstone canyon (<http://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/thenarrows.htm>). There are other hikes as well as a very interesting visitor's center.

DAY THREE - Friday, September 14 - Zion Nat'l Park to Mount Carmel --38 miles, ~3000 ft.

Today's ride is low mileage so you can spend the morning sleeping in or perhaps riding through the canyon. This 13.2 mile drive through the park is not open to cars which gives you the opportunity to really enjoy your journey through the Canyon. Relax and enjoy what the music of waters has created for you. Early in the afternoon, we will begin the short ride to Mount Carmel Junction which begins with a short climb. There are two tunnels – one of which requires a shuttle since bikes are not allowed. At the other end is a short hike to a breathtaking view of Zion Canyon. The remainder of the ride goes through some of the most unique sculpted sandstone to be found in the world.

DAY FOUR - Saturday, September 15 - Mt. Carmel to Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park -- 60 mi., ~3500 ft.

Today's route takes us to the "Hoodoos" of Bryce Canyon. The route passes Red Canyon, a former haunt of Butch Cassidy. We will be staying for two nights at Ruby's Best Western right outside the park.

DAY FIVE - Sunday, Sept. 16 - Day off to explore Bryce Canyon

Bryce is the park of the grey hoodoos and bright red rock that is so striking you won't believe it's real. Again, a wonderful day to put on the hiking/walking shoes and explore its amazing beauty (<http://www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/index.htm>).

DAY SIX - Monday, September 17 - Bryce Canyon to Boulder—75 mi., ~4400ft.

This day with a nice downhill with gorgeous views of Bryce Canyon. Then we start riding through Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument through the towns of Tropic, Cannonville, Henrieville, Escalante before getting to our beautiful lodge in Boulder.

DAY SEVEN - Tuesday, Sept. 18 - Boulder to Torrey (Capital Reef) -- 38 mi., ~3500 ft.

Though a short day we have a pretty good climb continuing along Escalante National Monument we will find ourselves in one of the most remote towns in the US at the entrance to Capitol Reef National Park. This remote national park is often overlooked but you will find yourself enthralled by its amazing sculptured rock formations and natural bridges.

DAY EIGHT - Wednesday, Sept. 19 - Day off to explore Capitol Reef National Park

Definitely the least well know of Utah's major national parks, Capitol reef offers some of the nicest hiking in any of the parks we are visiting on this tour. <http://www.nps.gov/care/planyourvisit/index.htm>

DAY NINE - Thursday, September 20 - Torrey to Antimony -- 72 miles, 2300 ft.

Today we travel from Utah sandstone country and into the old west. The terrain is high desert and prairie, ending with a night's stay on a working ranch – the Rockin' R Ranch. A special evening of music by a local band has been arranged for our enjoyment.

DAY TEN - Friday, September 21 - Antimony to Panguitch -- 59 miles, ~1500 ft.

Today's ride is the most relaxing of the tour. The scenery is pleasant so it is a good day to relax and enjoy the ride.

DAY ELEVEN - Saturday, September 22 - Panguitch to Cedar City – 57 miles, ~4000 ft.

Today's route is a true climax to the tour! We ride from farmlands to green meadows below Panguitch Lake; then up to and around the lake; through groves of aspen; to the breathtaking Cedar Breaks National Park. Then a quick stunning descent back to Cedar City. The stay at the Best Western in Cedar City is included in this tour so plan on returning home on Sunday, September 23rd.

DAY TWELVE - Sunday, September 23 - Cedar City

Say farewell to your friends after breakfast and enjoy your trip home!

Detailed route maps, cue sheets and GPS files will be provided in advance to tour participants. For more information contact Ralph or Carol @ RENussbaum@outlook.com.

2018 SOUTHERN UTAH NATIONAL PARKS TOUR

