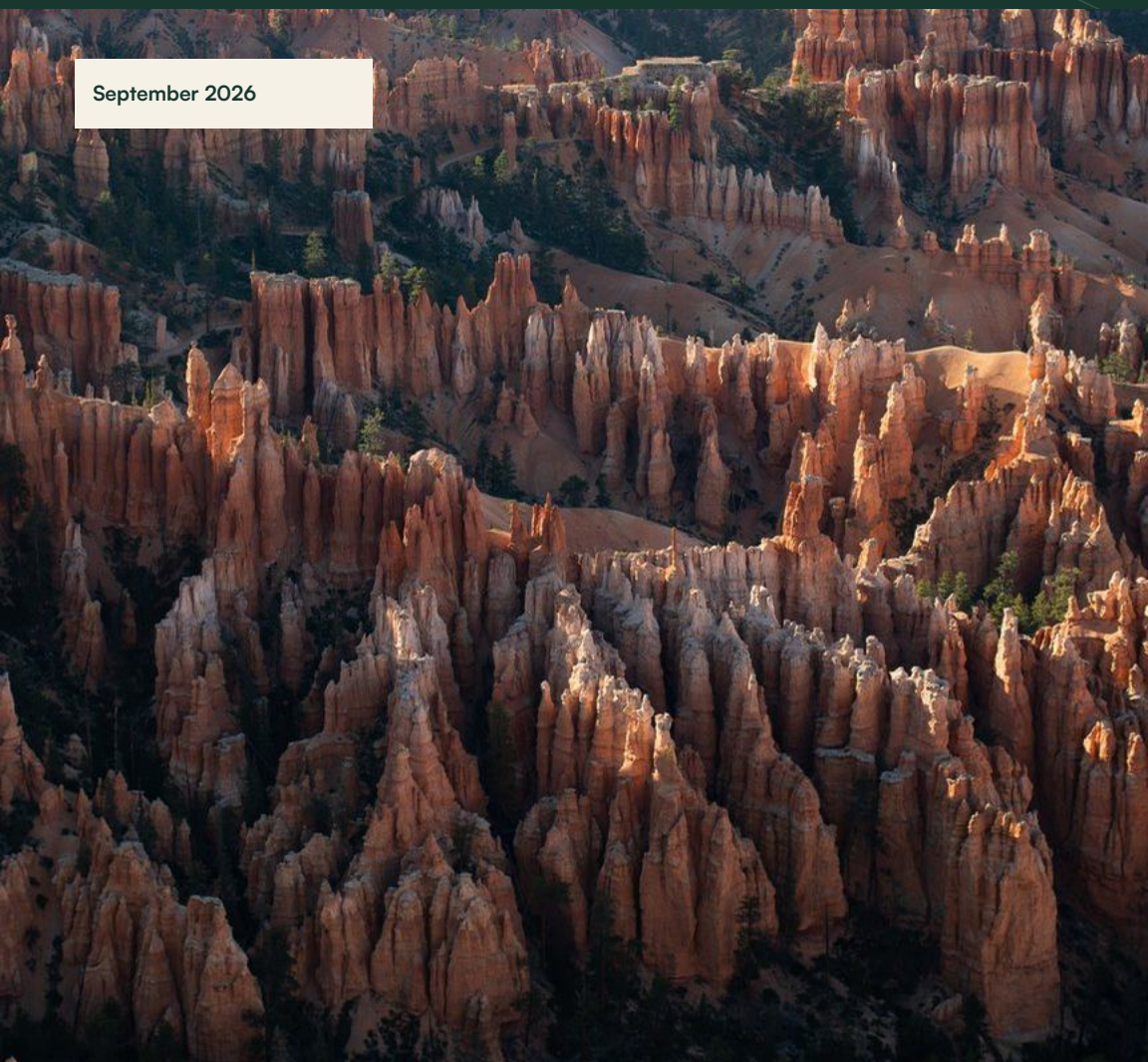


DUCK CREEK VILLAGE INN

FIELD NOTES FROM DUCK CREEK VILLAGE INN

Bryce Canyon from Duck Creek

September 2026



Top 10 things to do at Bryce, in the order the day unfolds.

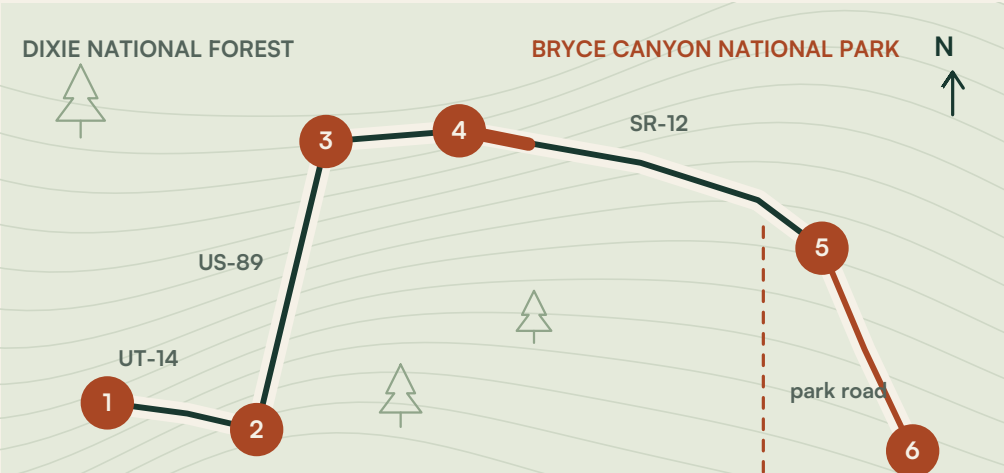
The route and its elevation / Ten stops in order / The day plan / Parking counts / What to check before you go / A mystery gift at check-in



01 / THE DRIVE

Just over an hour up Scenic Byway 12.

Highway 14 east, US-89 north, SR-12 east through Red Canyon, SR-63 south: 49 miles to the visitor center, then 17 more to Rainbow Point.



- 01 Duck Creek Village Inn**
8,455 ft

03 US-89 and SR-12
mile 31 / turn east, low point

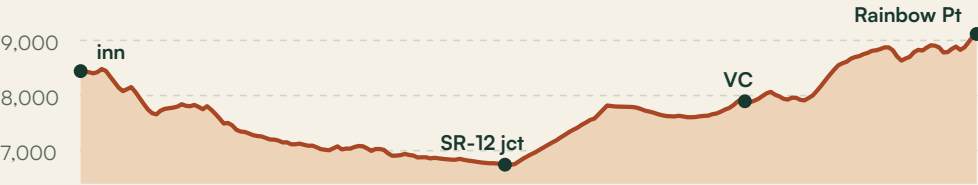
05 Bryce Canyon Visitor Center
mile 49 / 7,894 ft
- 02 Long Valley Junction**
mile 11 / turn north

04 Red Canyon tunnels
mile 36 / two arches, free

06 Rainbow Point
mile 66 / 9,115 ft

Orientation diagram / not to scale. Tap a numbered stop for its map listing.

ELEVATION ALONG THE DRIVE



8,455 ft at the inn, down to 6,745 ft where SR-12 leaves US-89, then up through Red Canyon to 7,894 ft at the visitor center and 9,115 ft at Rainbow Point. USGS 3DEP along the traced route.

Open 24 hours; the shuttle is optional. The park road is plowed, but the section past mile 3 closes for a day or more after storms. Vehicles 23 ft and longer park at the shuttle station.

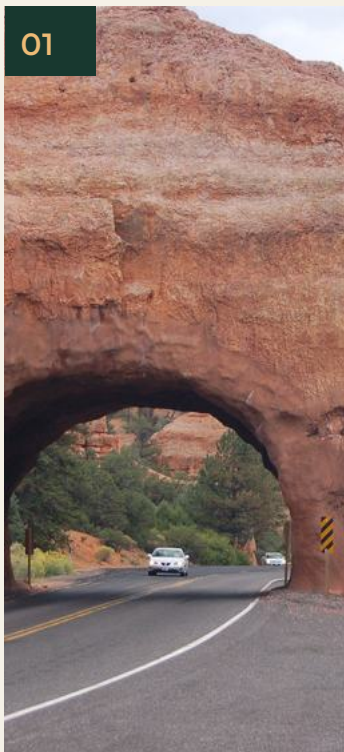
→ Parking and shuttle rules (NPS)

02 / THE TEN STOPS

On the way in.

Two stops before the fee booth, one on the byway and one just past the park turn.

01



The Red Canyon arches

Mile 36 from the inn / free

Four miles onto SR-12 the road threads two arches through a fin of red rock, hoodoos on both sides, no fee booth. Photograph from the pullouts. Forest Service visitor center a mile before.

02



Mossy Cave

0.8 mi round trip / 150 ft

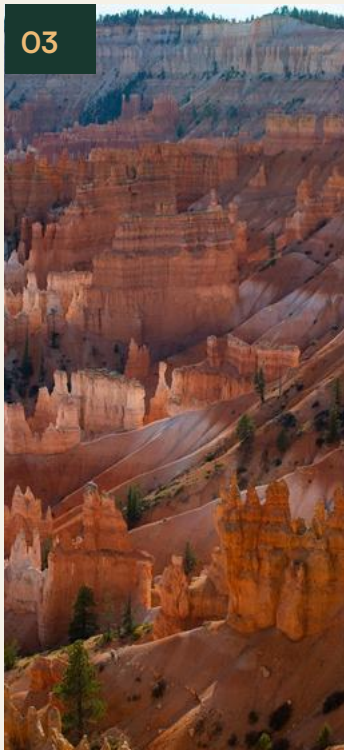
Off SR-12 four miles past the park turn. A short climb to a mossy overhang one way and a waterfall the other. A fee area with no booth: keep your pass in the windshield.

03 / THE TEN STOPS

The famous rim.

The two walks everyone should do, from the same two parking lots.

03



Sunrise Point and the paved rim

0.5 mi one way / 40 ft / dogs OK

The easiest walk in the park, along the rim between the two famous viewpoints with Thor's Hammer below. The only Bryce trail open to leashed dogs. 113 and 115 spaces; both fill by mid-morning.

04



Queen's Garden down, Navajo up

2.9 mi loop / 625 ft / 2 to 3 hours

The park's most recommended first hike. Drop from Sunrise Point to the Queen Victoria hoodoo, climb the Wall Street switchbacks to Sunset Point. Hike it clockwise; Two Bridges side in winter.

04 / THE TEN STOPS

Learn it, then look down on it.

A ranger talk between the hikes, and the two viewpoints the park calls its best.

05



The Hoodoo Geology Talk

Sunset Point / 11 a.m. daily

A ranger explains how 170-plus freeze-thaw nights a year pry limestone into hoodoos, standing on the rim with the evidence behind them. No walking, no ticket, about 20 minutes.

06



Inspiration Point and Bryce Point

Park miles 3 and 5

Three tiers over the Silent City, then the viewpoint the park calls perhaps its most iconic, with Tropic nearly 3,000 ft below. Paria View is a short detour off the same spur.

05 / THE TEN STOPS

The far end of the road.

Run south first while it is empty; every overlook is on your right coming back.

07



Natural Bridge

Park mile 12.25 / 30 spaces

Not a bridge but a window opened by ice in cracks under a hard cap, freeze after freeze. Park-and-look, no trail: the first right-hand pullout on the way back from Rainbow Point.

08



Rainbow Point and the Bristlecone Loop

9,115 ft / 1 mi loop / 200 ft

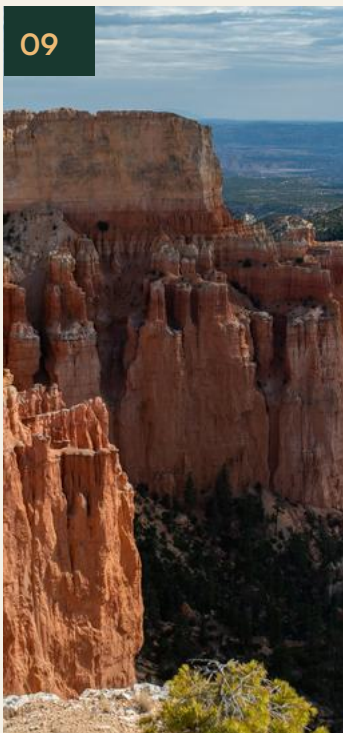
The end of the road, 660 ft above the inn. Yovimpa Point across the lot looks south over the Grand Staircase; the easy loop passes bristlecone pines up to 1,800 years old. No shuttle here.

06 / THE TEN STOPS

The late light and the dark.

When the lots empty out, the park gets better.

09



Paria View for the last light

Off the Bryce Point road / 21 spaces

Faces southeast over a 500-ft amphitheater toward the White Cliffs and Navajo Mountain; the park's own sunset pick. No oversized vehicles, and the road closes for winter.

10



Stay for the stars

Gold Tier Dark Sky Park since 2019

The park is open all night. Sunrise, Sunset and Inspiration Points are the NPS picks; aim for a new moon. Astronomy Festival June 11 to 13, 2026. The drive home is 68 minutes of empty highway.

07 / THE DAY PLAN

How the day flows from the inn.

A summer plan that follows the park's advice to run south first. In spring and fall shift it an hour later.

01 6:30 AM / leave the inn

Red Canyon arches at 7:05 in low light. Sunrise chasers leave 90 minutes before sunrise.

02 7:45 AM / fee station, then south

Straight to Rainbow Point and the Bristlecone Loop while the road is empty, then back north with every overlook on your right.

03 11:00 AM / Sunset Point

The geology talk, then Queen's Garden down and the Navajo Loop up. Lunch at the lodge.

04 3:30 PM / the big viewpoints

Inspiration, Bryce Point, Paria View. Pie on the way out; home by 6:30, or stay for the stars.

Check the morning you go: park alerts and road status (the road past mile 3 closes after storms), the shuttle page, and the forecast. The full guide online shows tomorrow's sunrise time and tonight's moon.

- [Bryce conditions and alerts \(NPS\)](#)
- [2026 shuttle schedule \(NPS\)](#)
- [Bryce Canyon forecast \(NWS\)](#)
- [The full guide online, with sunrise and moon](#)



A little something from the inn

MYSTERY GIFT

Your mountain stay. A little mystery.

Book a stay with Duck Creek Village Inn and receive a MYSTERY GIFT at check-in when you bring this offer or mention it.

- 01 Book your stay at Duck Creek Village Inn.
- 02 Save this page, bring a copy or mention the offer.
- 03 Receive your mystery gift when you check in.



Find your room

Scan or tap to plan your stay

A surprise to start your stay. 815 East Hwy 14, Duck Creek Village, Utah.