

DUCK CREEK VILLAGE INN

A visitor's field guide

Duck Creek Village

SEPTEMBER 2026

The mountain, at your pace.

Lakes & trails / ATV country / National parks / Local tables

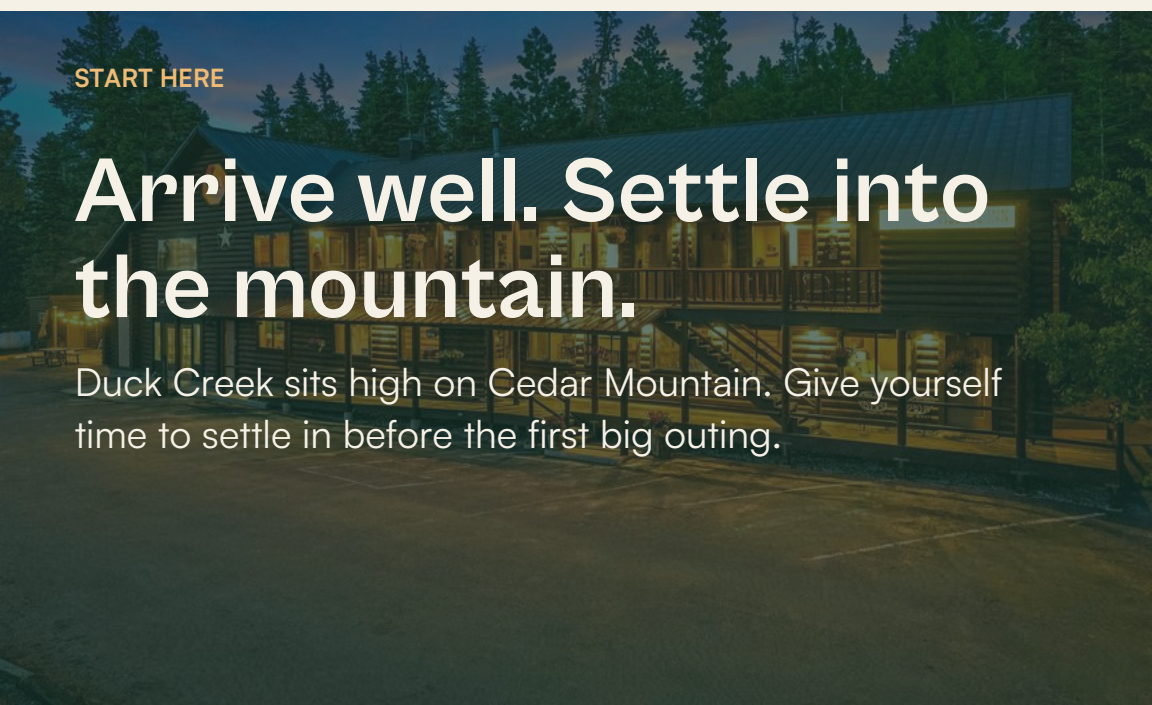


Make it your kind of stay.

Leave a day for the mountain. The parks are extraordinary, but so are the quiet mornings right here: aspens reflected in still water, a picnic beside Navajo Lake, a forest road with no need to hurry.

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Tap a chapter or use your PDF reader's bookmarks. Save this guide before leaving Wi-Fi. Links and QR codes need a connection; the pages and included ATV maps work offline.

**START HERE**

Arrive well. Settle into the mountain.

Duck Creek sits high on Cedar Mountain. Give yourself time to settle in before the first big outing.

Find your base

Duck Creek Village Inn

815 East Hwy 14

Duck Creek Village, Utah 84762.

Save the address and your arrival instructions before the drive.

Make the last stop count

Stock up on picnic food, drinking water and fuel before heading up the mountain. Check village business hours; late-night choices are limited.

Take the paved approach

UT-14 connects Cedar City and US-89 at Long Valley Junction. Check UDOT for the highway and the Forest Service for side roads. Follow posted closures over app shortcuts.

Start gently at altitude: unpack, add a layer, then take a short pond-side pause.

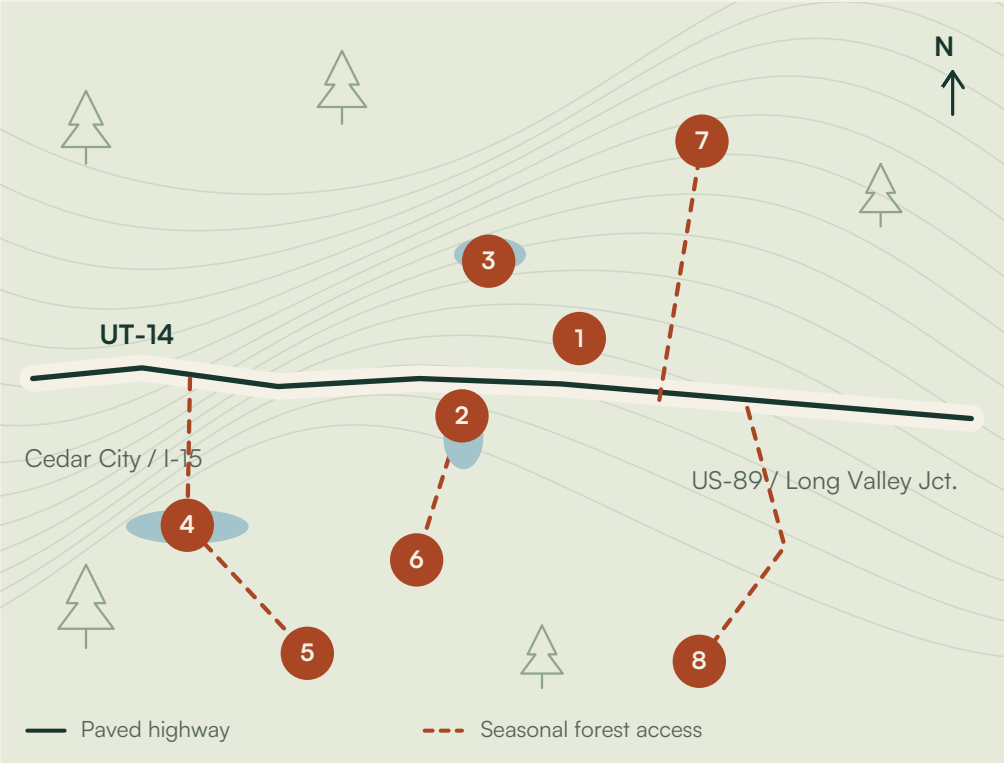
→ [Directions to the inn](#)

→ [Live highway conditions](#)

Orientation map / not to scale

Small village. Big backyard.

Use the highway as your anchor, then choose one area to explore.



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 01 Duck Creek Village Inn | 02 Duck Creek Pond |
| 03 Aspen Mirror Lake | 04 Navajo Lake |
| 05 Cascade Falls | 06 Duck Creek Ice Cave |
| 07 Mammoth Cave | 08 Strawberry Point |

Tap a numbered stop for its map listing.

Pins show relative areas, not trailheads or legal riding routes. Use the linked place listings and local signs for the final approach. Forest roads can be snowy, muddy or closed.

01 / CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE

Two quiet waters.

The easiest way to feel you have arrived.



Duck Creek Pond

Make this your first-hour stop: water, birds and a little room to breathe after the drive. Choose a shore spot that suits your footing; there is no need to turn it into a long walk.



Aspen Mirror Lake

A short forest approach leads to a small lake framed by aspens. Calm air gives the best chance of reflections. Pack a light picnic and leave time to sit; roots and natural surfaces need attention.

Our pick: Aspen Mirror for a slow morning; the pond when you have an hour before the next plan.

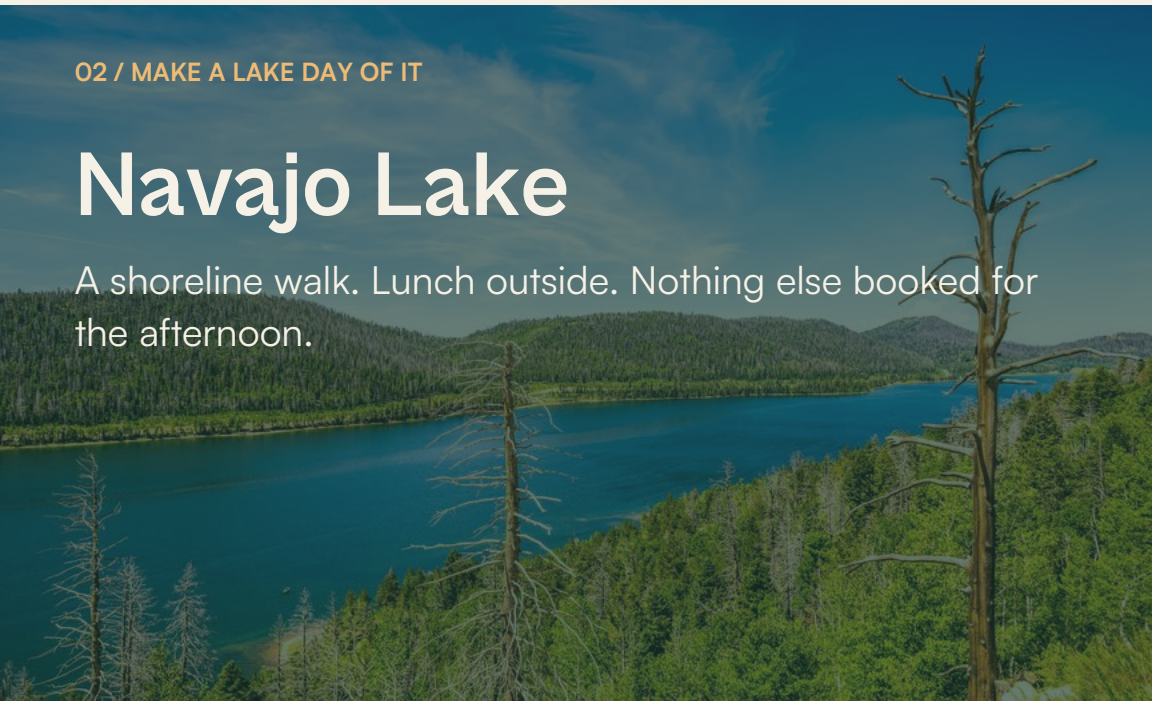
→ [Duck Creek Pond](#)

→ [Aspen Mirror Lake](#)

02 / MAKE A LAKE DAY OF IT

Navajo Lake

A shoreline walk. Lunch outside. Nothing else booked for the afternoon.



Choose your pace

Walk a short section of shore, find an established picnic spot, or plan time on the water. Arrange rentals before going; availability changes with the season.

For a longer outing

The Navajo Lake Loop offers a longer walk or mountain-bike outing. Choose a section, save the trail map and turn back with energy left for the rest of the day.

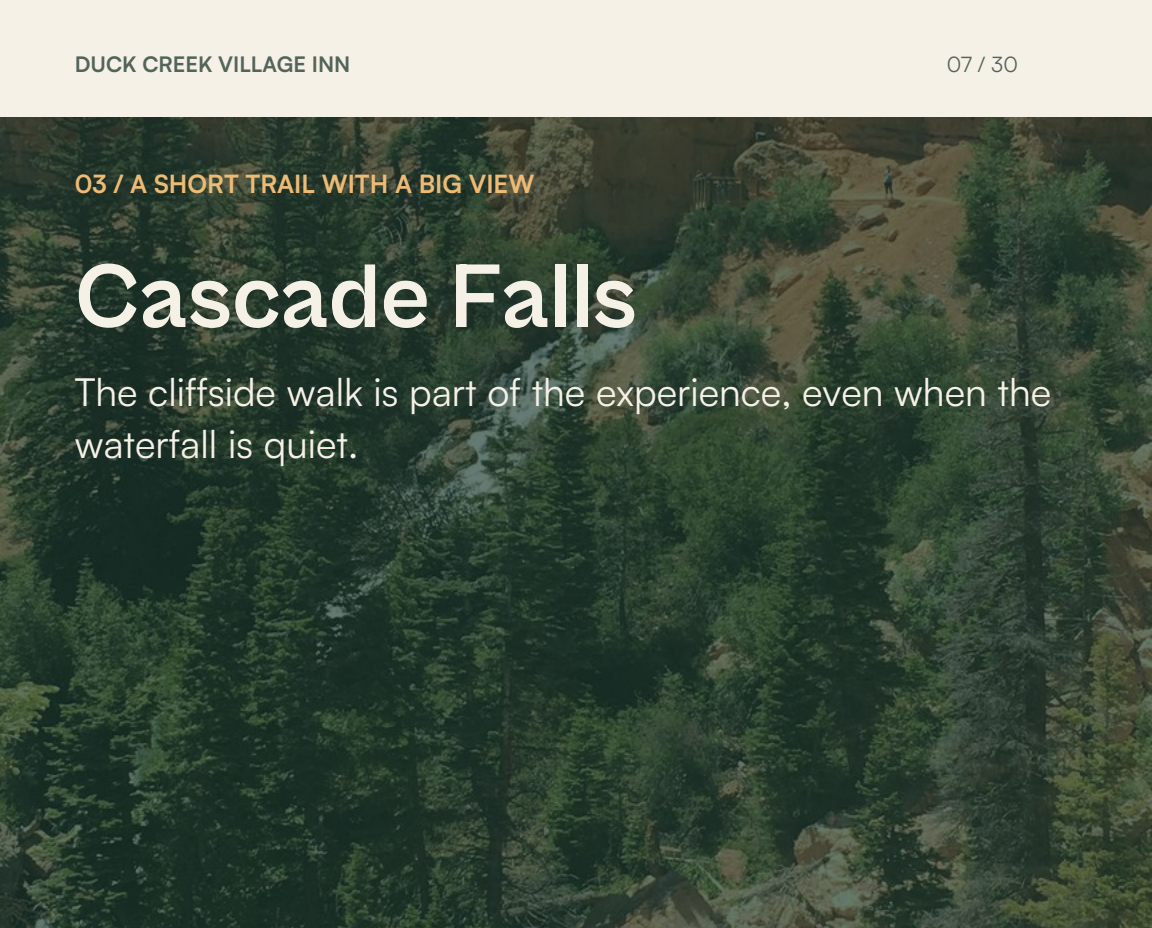
Pack the lake essentials

Bring water, sun protection and a warm layer. For paddling, wear a properly fitted life jacket and check wind and weather. Anglers should check Utah licensing and the rules for this water.

Pair it with Cascade Falls when roads and weather allow. A picnic is a better anchor than a packed schedule.

→ [USFS Navajo Lake](#)

→ [Utah fishing information](#)

An aerial photograph of a lush green forested canyon. A waterfall is visible in the upper right, cascading over rocks. A dirt trail winds through the trees. In the upper right, a small wooden structure and a person can be seen on a higher elevation.

03 / A SHORT TRAIL WITH A BIG VIEW

Cascade Falls

The cliffside walk is part of the experience, even when the waterfall is quiet.

Allow a morning outing

Allow time for a roughly 1.2-mile (1.9 km) out-and-back walk. The path follows the cliff to water emerging from an underground passage connected to Navajo Lake.

Know the terrain

Expect steps, uneven ground and exposed edges. Wear shoes with grip, keep children close, and turn around if the surface or weather is wrong for your group.

Check access and flow

The approach uses forest roads. Snow and mud can delay access; the waterfall's flow varies with lake and seasonal conditions. Canyon views remain the reason to take your time.

Best pairing: walk first, picnic at Navajo Lake second. Bring lunch from the village.

→ [Cascade Falls trail details & map](#)

04 / BELOW THE FOREST FLOOR

Beneath the forest floor.

Two different cave experiences. Choose by comfort and current access.



Mammoth Cave

An undeveloped lava tube with darkness, rough rock and low passages. Carry a light for every person plus a spare; wear sturdy shoes and a warm layer. Check the current bat-protection closure before entry.



Duck Creek Ice Cave

A small cold-trap chamber reached by an awkward, often slippery descent. Ice can melt by late summer. You can enjoy the setting without climbing down; keep both hands free if you enter.

Caves are optional adventures, not easy walks for everyone. Respect gates, avoid disturbing bats and leave rock and ice in place.

→ **Cave access & preparation**

→ **Utah Geological Survey: ice caves**

05 / THE EDGE OF THE PLATEAU

Views worth slowing down for.

Choose an overlook or a trail section, then leave the afternoon open.

Strawberry Point

Follow the forest road south to a viewpoint over pink, orange and pale cliffs. Confirm road conditions and vehicle suitability before setting out, and leave daylight for the return drive.

Virgin River Rim Trail

This is a long trail system, not a casual loop. Choose a specific trailhead and an out-and-back section that suits your group; carry an offline map and agree on a turnaround time.

For hikers and cyclists

Know the permitted uses of your chosen trail, yield to other users and avoid wet surfaces. A lake walk is a good alternative when high-country trails are muddy. If storms build, head back to shelter.

A clear morning is a better time for exposed viewpoints than a stormy afternoon.

→ [Compare local hikes](#)

→ [Dixie National Forest conditions](#)

ATV / UTV COUNTRY

Take the forest route.

Make a day of the Markagunt trail system, with a plan that fits the machine and the least experienced rider.

Start with a local briefing

A rental operator can match your group to an appropriate route and explain current access. Ask about vehicle width, trail difficulty, fuel range, helmets, pickup and the return time.

Choose one outing

Discuss a village-area ride, the Mammoth Cave area or a longer plateau outing. These are planning ideas, not confirmed open routes. Agree on actual route numbers before leaving.

Save the maps first

The next pages include a Duck Creek-area detail and the full Markagunt system. Save the current Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) too; it identifies designated motorized routes and restrictions.

Before every ride, check current Forest Service closures and the MVUM. Confirm permitted routes and road crossings for your exact vehicle.

→ **Local rental planning**

→ **USFS maps & guides**

ATV / BEFORE YOU SET OFF

The five-minute ride briefing.

Sort the important details before the engine starts.



Education & paperwork

Check Utah's current adult or youth OHV education requirements. Confirm registration and any nonresident permit needed for the machine; ask the rental company what it supplies.



People & equipment

Wear a helmet and eye protection, use the vehicle's restraints, and carry water, layers, a first-aid kit and a charged phone. Follow age, seating and manufacturer limits.



Route & turnaround

Confirm width limits, surface, difficulty, closures and fuel range. Agree on a return time and share the route with someone staying behind. Cell service can be patchy.



On the trail

Stay on designated open routes. Slow down around cabins, walkers and wildlife. Keep dust down, leave gates as found and carry all litter out.

Do not assume a highway or village street permits your ATV. Street-use rules depend on the vehicle and the road.

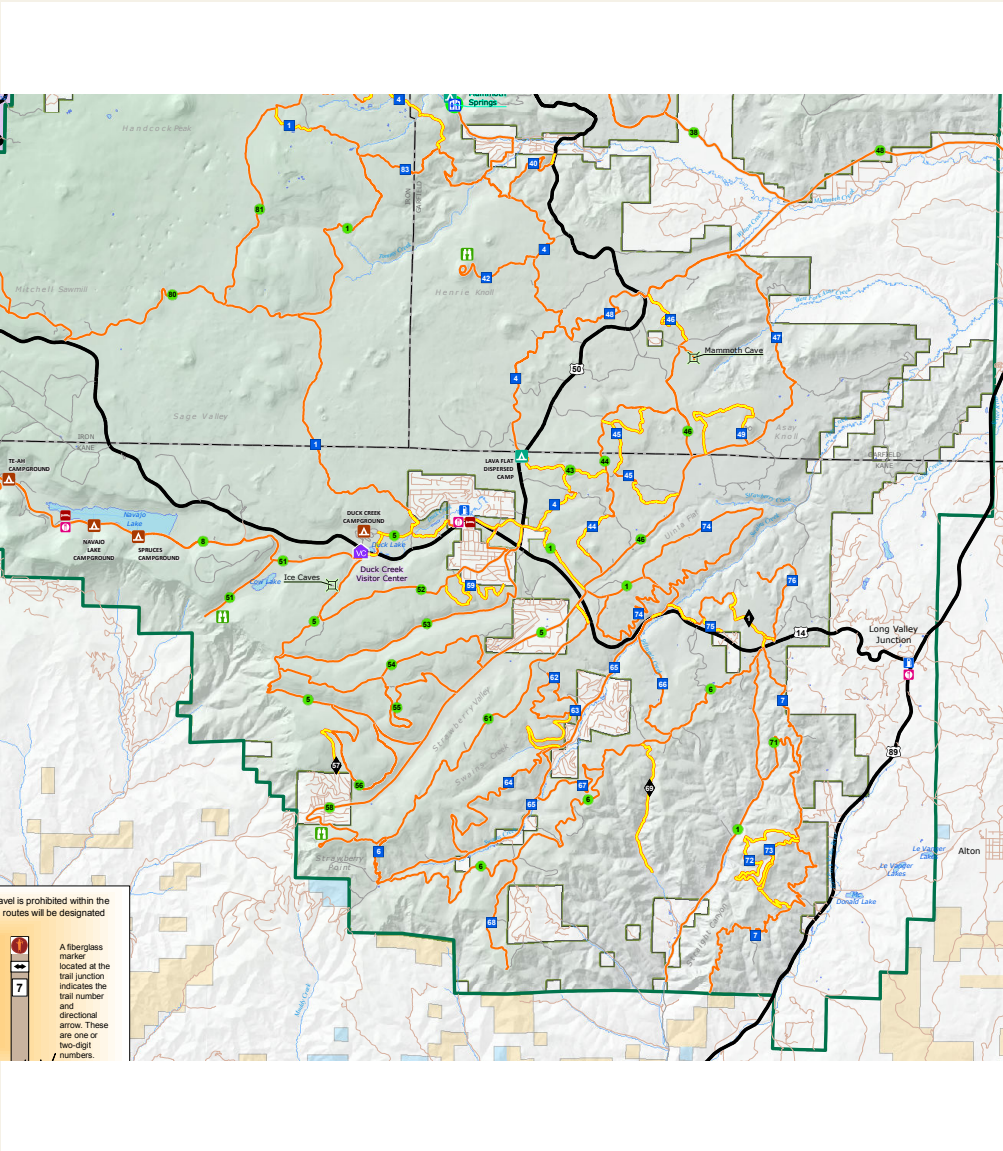
→ [Utah OHV education](#)

→ [Utah registration & permits](#)

ATV MAP / THE LOCAL AREA

Duck Creek & the southern trails

A closer view of the village, Navajo Lake, Mammoth Cave and Strawberry Point areas.



Source: USDA Forest Service / Markagunt OHV System

Pinch to zoom. Source labels remain in English.

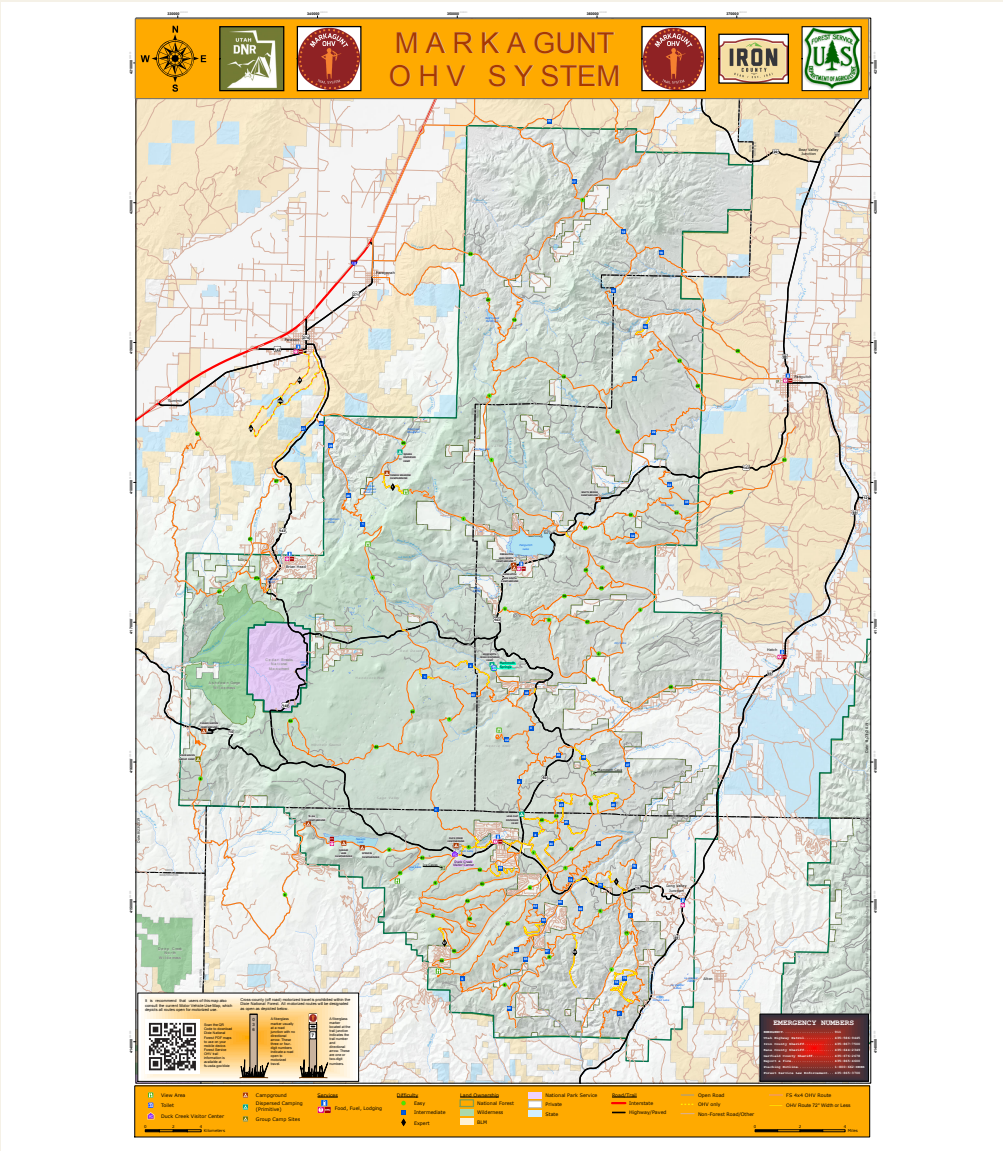
2019 planning map. Pair it with the current MVUM and closures. A detailed legend follows the full-system map.

→ **Full-size official map**

ATV MAP / THE WHOLE SYSTEM

The Markagunt at a glance.

Keep the wider trail network in context. Zoom in for original route labels and symbols.



Source: USDA Forest Service / Markagunt OHV System

Pinch to zoom. Source labels remain in English.

Original map and legend reproduced together. The source map is dated 2019; it is not a live trail-status map.

→ **Latest USFS maps & guides**

ATV / READ THE MAP

Know what the lines mean.

Use the original legend and match it to the signs on the ground.

Difficulty



Green circle: easy. Blue square: intermediate. Black diamond: expert. Conditions can make any route harder; choose for the least experienced rider.

Roads are not interchangeable

The source distinguishes open roads, OHV-only routes, non-forest roads, paved highways and 4x4 routes. Width limits apply to some routes, including the marked 72-inch-or-less category.

Boundaries matter

Private property, wilderness and national park land appear beside national forest routes. A line near a destination does not establish public access or a legal connection.

Save both maps

Keep the recreation map for context and the current MVUM for designated motorized use. Check the latest Forest Service closure notices, posted signs and rental guidance before every ride.

Route labels on the reproduced map stay in English so they match the original. The map cannot show your live position.

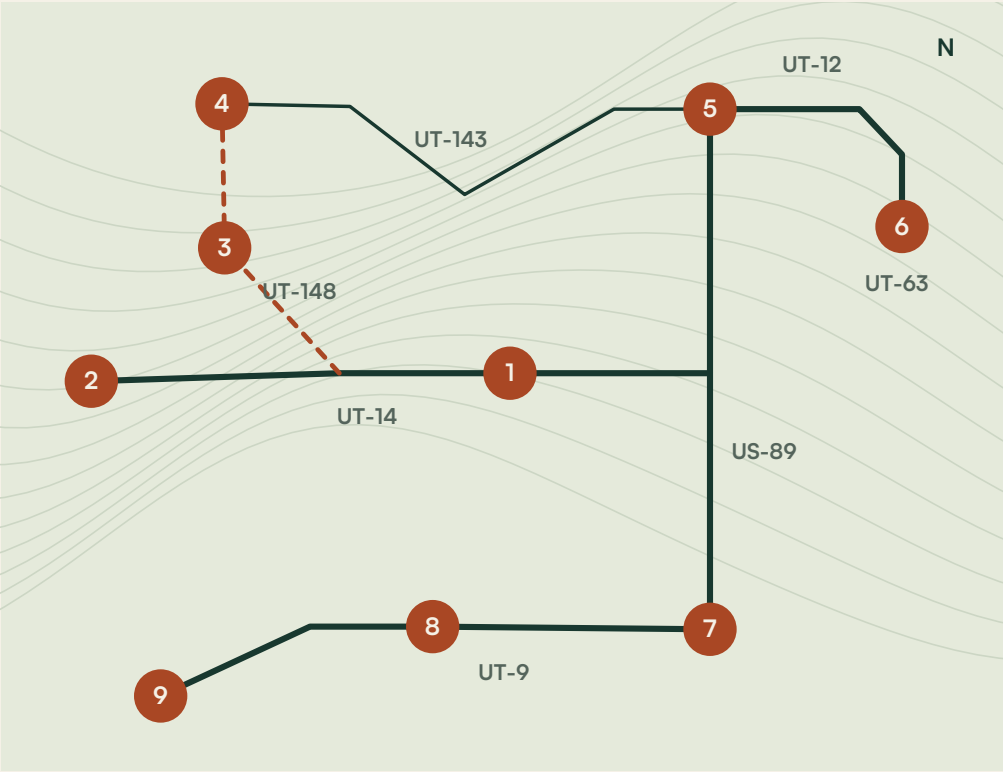
→ [Download the source map](#)

→ [Current forest alerts](#)

Orientation map / not to scale

One base. Different horizons.

Choose a park for the day. Keep another day for the mountain.



- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Duck Creek Village | 2 Cedar City | 3 Cedar Breaks |
| 4 Brian Head | 5 Panguitch | 6 Bryce Canyon |
| 7 Mt. Carmel Jct. | 8 Zion east entrance | 9 Zion Canyon Visitor Center |

Bryce: UT-14 east > US-89 north > UT-12 > UT-63.

Zion: UT-14 east > US-89 south > UT-9 west.

Cedar Breaks: UT-14 west > UT-148, when open.

A road-network sketch, not a distance map. UT-148 is seasonal. Zion's east entrance is not the main canyon visitor center; continue on UT-9 for the shuttle hub.

06 / HIGH-COUNTRY RED ROCK

Cedar Breaks

A vast amphitheater, a high rim and a very different kind of mountain day.

Start with the overlooks

Begin with the red-rock overlooks, then try a section of the paved, accessible Sunset Trail. The full return walk is two miles (3.2 km); choose a shorter turnback if you prefer.

Bring the extra layer

The rim is over 10,000 feet (3,000 m). Wind, cooler air and exposed trails make warm clothing useful even on a summer trip.

Plan around seasonal access

UT-148 closes to through traffic in winter. Check the park's current conditions for roads, facilities and trails; summer plans do not translate directly into winter access.

Our pick: give the overlooks your attention before adding another destination.

→ [Cedar Breaks current conditions](#)

→ [Cedar Breaks accessibility](#)



07 / GIVE IT A FULL DAY

Bryce Canyon

Hoodoos from above, or a walk down among them. Both make a memorable day.

A first-visit plan

Start at the Bryce Amphitheater. The rim around Sunrise and Sunset Points gives a strong introduction; choose a below-rim trail only if conditions and energy suit.

Make the return climb part of the plan

Every descent means climbing back out at altitude. Carry water and sun protection. Ice and snow can make familiar trails much more demanding.

Keep room around the main outing

Allow time for the entrance, parking or seasonal shuttles, and lunch. Check fees, trail closures and the park map before leaving Duck Creek.

Use UT-14 east, US-89 north, UT-12 and UT-63. Plan to your destination inside the park, not just its boundary.

→ [Bryce trip planning & maps](#)

→ [Bryce current conditions](#)

08 / CHOOSE YOUR PART OF THE PARK

Zion

Sandstone country deserves a day of its own.

East side or main canyon?

The drive from Duck Creek approaches on UT-9 through the east entrance. For the main canyon shuttle hub, continue through the park to Zion Canyon Visitor Center.

Build around one experience

Choose east-side scenery or a main-canyon outing. During shuttle season, private vehicles cannot use Zion Canyon Scenic Drive; allow time for parking and the shuttle.

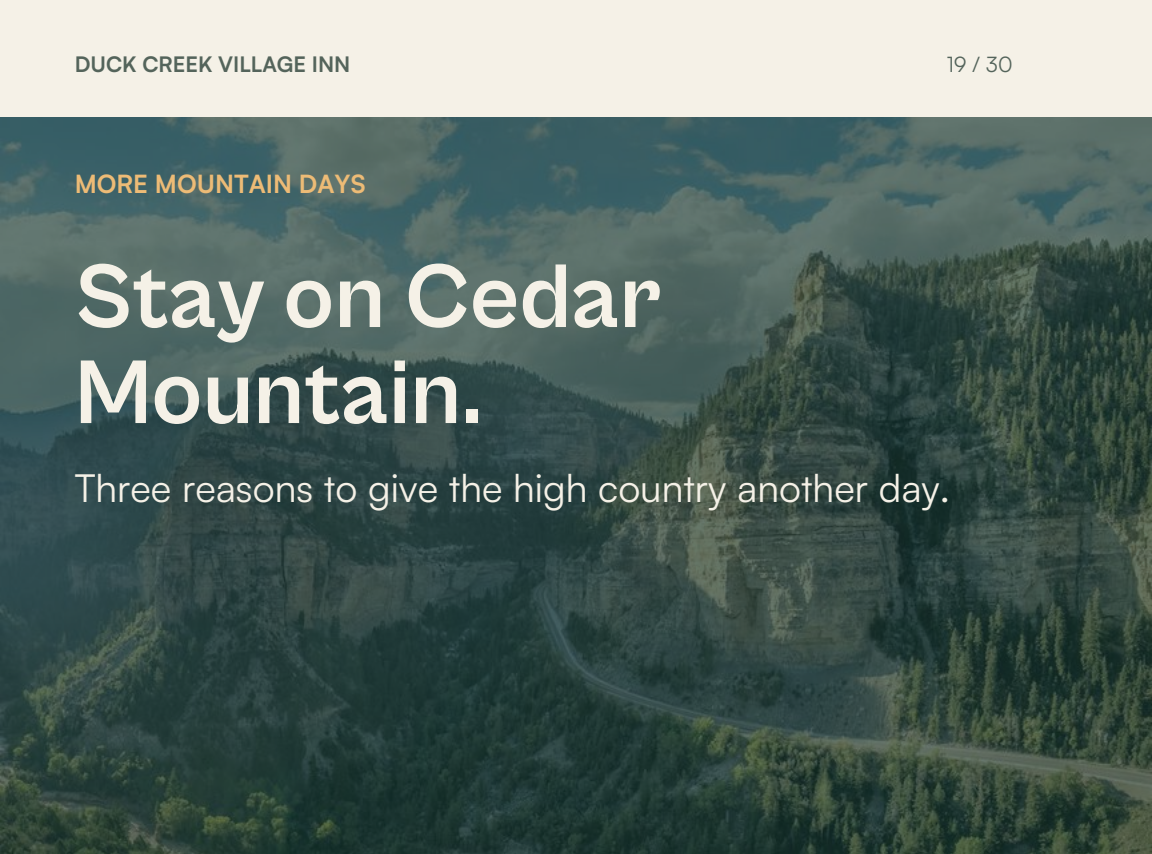
Check the plan, not just the weather

Confirm current shuttle times, trail conditions and any hike permits. Angels Landing requires a permit; Narrows plans need a separate check of flow, weather and flood risk.

The east entrance is not the shuttle hub. Pack food and water, and confirm your village dinner plan before a late return.

→ [Zion shuttle information](#)

→ [Zion conditions & alerts](#)



MORE MOUNTAIN DAYS

Stay on Cedar Mountain.

Three reasons to give the high country another day.

Brian Head

Skiing and snowboarding shape winter; summer brings a different activity calendar. Check the resort's current operations before driving over, especially for lifts, lessons and rentals.

Panguitch Lake

An alternative lake outing for a shoreline pause or a fishing plan. Check road access and current fishing regulations before you go. Pack lunch and leave room for the drive.

Highway 14

Stop at established pullouts for forest and volcanic scenery. When the trail is clear, the short Bristlecone Pine loop near mile marker 17 adds ancient trees and a viewing deck.

A flexible local day is useful between two national park days.

→ [Brian Head Resort](#)

→ [Highway 14 guide](#)

THE HOURS BETWEEN OUTINGS

Look a little longer.

Some of the best moments do not need a trail name.

Morning reflections

Try a calm morning at Aspen Mirror Lake. Walk quietly, keep to existing paths and let the light do the work.

Wildlife, on its terms

Watch birds by the water and scan forest edges from a distance. Give animals space, never feed them and keep food secured. A wildlife sighting is a possibility, not a promise.

After dark

On a clear night, choose a safe, permitted place away from bright lights. Bring a warm layer and a small red-light torch, check the moon phase, and respect guests and neighbors.

Our favorite extra: one unscheduled evening with dinner already sorted.

→ **Wildlife & responsible viewing**

AT THE VILLAGE TABLE

Build the day around a good meal.

A short list to match the moment. Tap through for current menus and hours.

Ground & Toasted

Coffee, toast and fresh bread for a relaxed morning in the village. Pick up a loaf for later, and check opening days before counting on breakfast ahead of an early departure.

Aunt Sue's Chalet

Homestyle cooking, breakfast and pie on Movie Ranch Road. Choose it when the group wants to sit together over a proper meal before heading out or after a day on the mountain.

Hot Mama's Pizza & Brew

Pizza night after the lake or a forest ride. A casual village meal keeps the evening easy; check directly for the current menu, opening days and takeout options.

DC Pub & Grill

A family-friendly pub and grill for burgers, sandwiches and drinks after the trail. Choose the Duck Creek location when checking the menu; the operator also has a Cedar City restaurant.

Village hours change by day and season. For early park starts, buy breakfast and picnic supplies the day before.

→ **Menus, maps & restaurant contacts**



THE FIRST STAY / THREE NIGHTS

A little local. A little grand.

An arrival afternoon, two full days and a gentle departure.

01 Arrival / settle into the village

Check in, pause at Duck Creek Pond and eat locally. Leave caves and forest roads for a fresh start.

02 Day 1 / the lake and forest

Walk Cascade Falls if access is good, then picnic at Navajo Lake. Swap in Aspen Mirror Lake for a shorter, gentler plan.

03 Day 2 / one national park

Choose Bryce or Zion. Plan the main outing first and allow time for parking, shuttles where needed and the return drive.

04 Departure / one last pause

Coffee, a short walk or a scenic pullout along your onward route. Keep it easy enough to leave on time.

Want an ATV day? Replace the local lake day with a rental and route briefing; keep the park on its own day.

→ [More trip-planning ideas](#)

WITH MORE TIME / FIVE FULL DAYS

Give each day room to breathe.

Use these as day ideas, then reorder for the forecast and open roads.

01 01 / the village & quiet lakes

Duck Creek Pond, Aspen Mirror Lake and a relaxed lunch. Settle in before the bigger days.

02 02 / Bryce Canyon

A full day for the amphitheater and one main walk. Keep the evening simple.

03 03 / an ATV adventure

Complete the briefing, choose a suitable open route and return with time to spare. Prefer walking? Choose Navajo Lake and Cascade Falls.

04 04 / Zion

Choose the east side or main canyon, with the shuttle and parking plan sorted before departure.

05 05 / Cedar Breaks & a slow finish

Visit the high overlooks when open and weather allows. Save time for the lake or viewpoint you wanted to revisit.

This is a fair-weather outline. Move the exposed or higher-elevation day when storms, snow or fatigue change the plan.

→ **Adapt your itinerary**

FOUR WAYS TO KNOW THE MOUNTAIN

Let the season choose the details.

The same place, with a very different rhythm.



Summer / lakes & long evenings

Plan walks early, pack for afternoon storms and keep a layer for after sunset. Forest access depends on snowmelt and current conditions.



Fall / aspens & quieter pauses

Look for color around the lakes and along open roads. Timing varies each year; shorter days and early snow favor flexible plans.



Winter / snow & warm returns

Shift toward Brian Head, guided snow recreation or a quiet mountain stay. Many summer roads and trailheads are inaccessible by car.



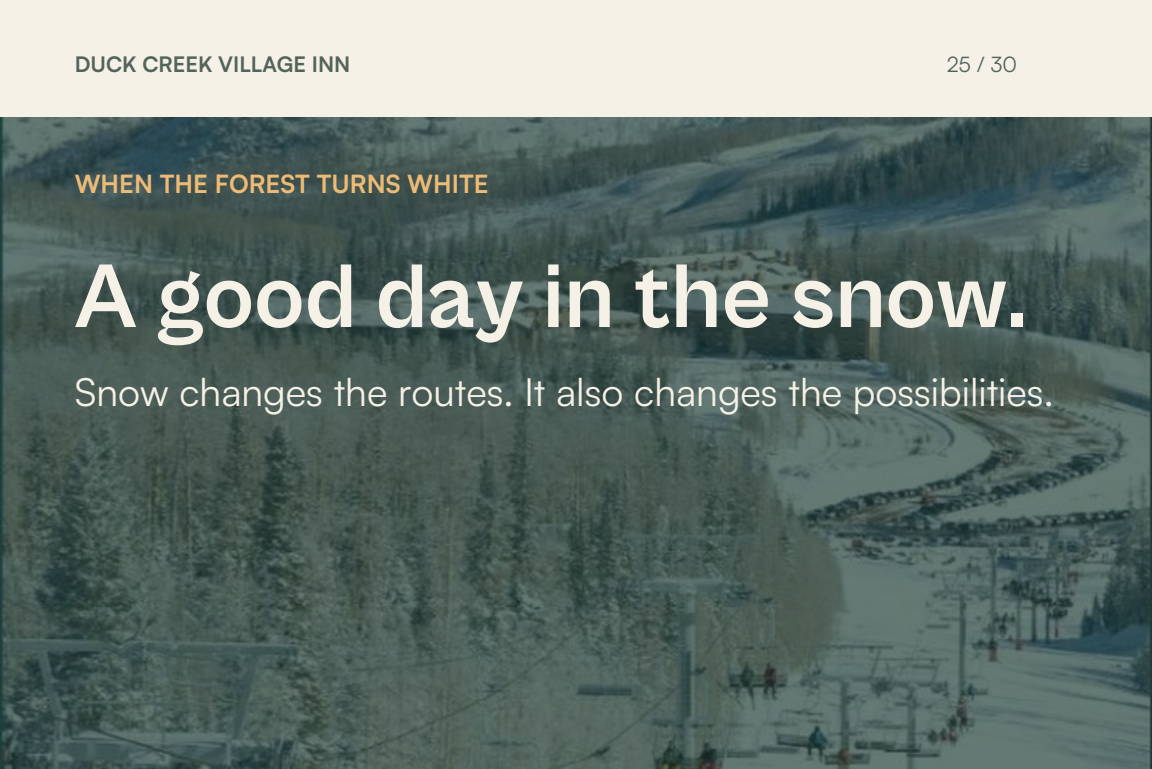
Spring / keep your options open

Expect thaw, mud and lingering high-country snow. A warm afternoon in the village does not mean a forest road or trail is ready.

Check the forecast for the actual destination. Cedar Breaks, Duck Creek and Zion can feel like different seasons on the same day.

→ **Weather forecasts**

→ **Forest conditions**



WHEN THE FOREST TURNS WHITE

A good day in the snow.

Snow changes the routes. It also changes the possibilities.

A Brian Head day

Check lift operations, lessons, equipment and the road forecast. Reserve the parts you need and leave time for a careful drive back.

Snowshoe, ski or snowmobile

For quieter trails, check Deer Hollow for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. For snowmobiling, arrange a local route briefing. Winter designations differ from summer routes; use a winter map and check grooming.

A weather-wise return

Carry winter clothing and vehicle supplies. Check UDOT, obey traction requirements and avoid unplowed shortcuts. Ask about parking and access for your exact lodging.

For backcountry snow travel, check the Utah Avalanche Center forecast and have the training and carry the equipment your route requires.

→ [Winter recreation planning](#)

→ [Utah Avalanche Center](#)

THE SMALL THINGS THAT SAVE THE DAY

Pack once. Enjoy the day.

A useful core kit for the car and your day bag.



Every outing

Water, food, sun protection, a warm layer, a rain layer, shoes with grip, personal medication and a small first-aid kit.



Maps & power

Download the actual route map, save important addresses and carry a charged battery pack. Tell someone your plan and return time when heading beyond reliable service.



Roads & supplies

Check fuel, tires and the day's access before leaving. Buy picnic food ahead and confirm dinner hours. Carry out everything you bring in.



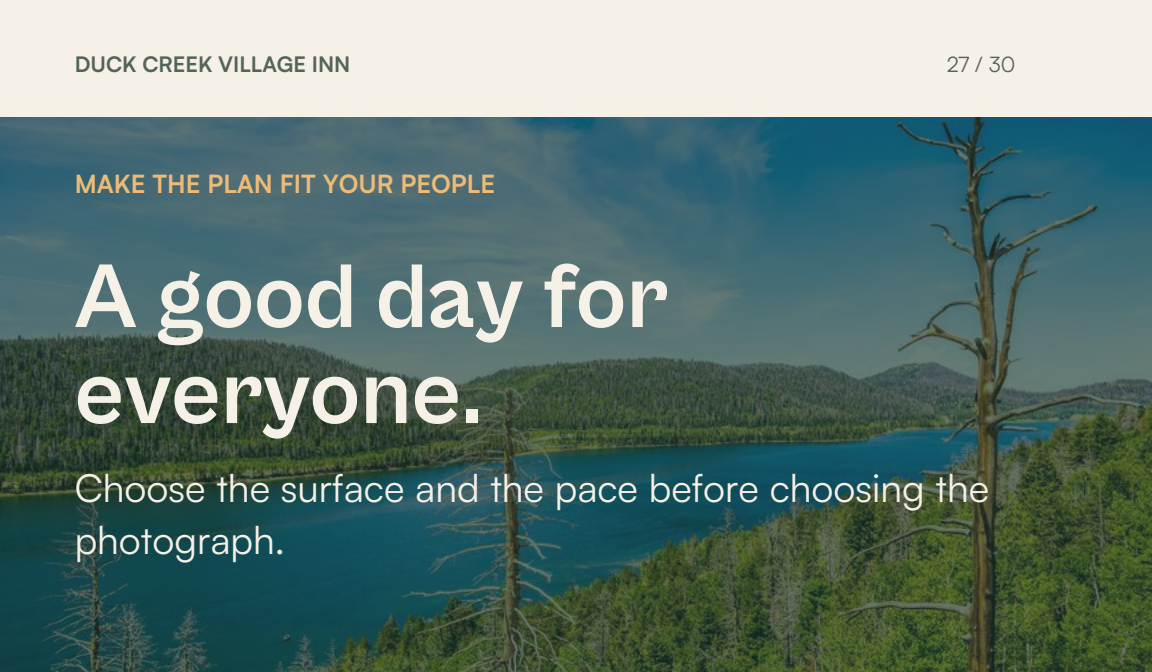
If plans change

Turn around early for storms, difficult surfaces or a tired group. For an emergency, call 911 and give your location, route or trail number and the nature of the problem.

Highway conditions: UDOT. Forest access and fire restrictions: Dixie National Forest. Park trails and shuttles: the relevant NPS site.

→ **Call 911 in an emergency**

→ **Utah highway conditions**



MAKE THE PLAN FIT YOUR PEOPLE

A good day for everyone.

Choose the surface and the pace before choosing the photograph.

With children

Short lake outings and established viewpoints make flexible starts. Keep children close around water, traffic and drop-offs. Caves, cliffside trails and OHVs need a separate suitability check.

With limited mobility

Cedar Breaks offers the paved, accessible Sunset Trail when seasonal access allows. For every outing, confirm parking, grades, surfaces and toilets with the land manager; a short walk can still include steps.

With a dog

Check rules for each destination; national park trail restrictions differ from national forest rules. Use a leash where required, carry waste out, bring water and never plan to leave a dog in a hot car.

For fishing, fires, boating and motorized travel, check the current activity rules as well as access. Keep wildlife and the next visitor in mind.

→ **Zion accessibility**

→ **Bryce accessibility**

SAVE THESE / LOCAL & ATV

Useful links, right where you need them.

Primary trip resources reviewed for this September 2026 edition. Recheck before each outing.

Dixie National Forest

Recreation information, temporary closures, forest-road conditions and fire restrictions.

USFS maps & guides

Current motor-vehicle use maps and the Markagunt OHV recreation map. Download before losing service.

Utah Outdoor Recreation

OHV education, registration, nonresident permits and riding rules.

Utah DWR & UDOT

Fishing licenses and water-specific regulations; highway weather, incidents and restrictions.

- **Forest alerts**
- **Forest maps / MVUM**
- **Utah OHV education**
- **Permits & registration**
- **Utah fishing**
- **UDOT traffic**

Map reproduction: USDA Forest Service, Markagunt OHV System, dated August 23, 2019. The orientation diagrams in this guide are planning sketches.

SAVE THESE / PARKS & YOUR STAY

The details that change.

Use these links for fees, access, trails, shuttles, weather and current operations.

Cedar Breaks, Bryce & Zion

The National Park Service is the source for current conditions, park maps, accessible facilities and activity permits.

Brian Head & winter travel

Check resort operations and the highway before a mountain outing. For backcountry snow travel, use the current avalanche forecast.

Duck Creek Village Inn

815 East Hwy 14

Duck Creek Village, Utah 84762.

Save your booking confirmation and the inn's arrival instructions.

+1 435-990-5488

→ **Cedar Breaks conditions**

→ **Bryce planning**

→ **Zion conditions**

→ **Brian Head operations**

→ **Utah Avalanche Center**

→ **Inn directions & contact**

Photography: existing Duck Creek Village Inn website collection.
Editorial design and orientation diagrams prepared for the inn.
Business hours, access and conditions can change after publication.



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.](#)