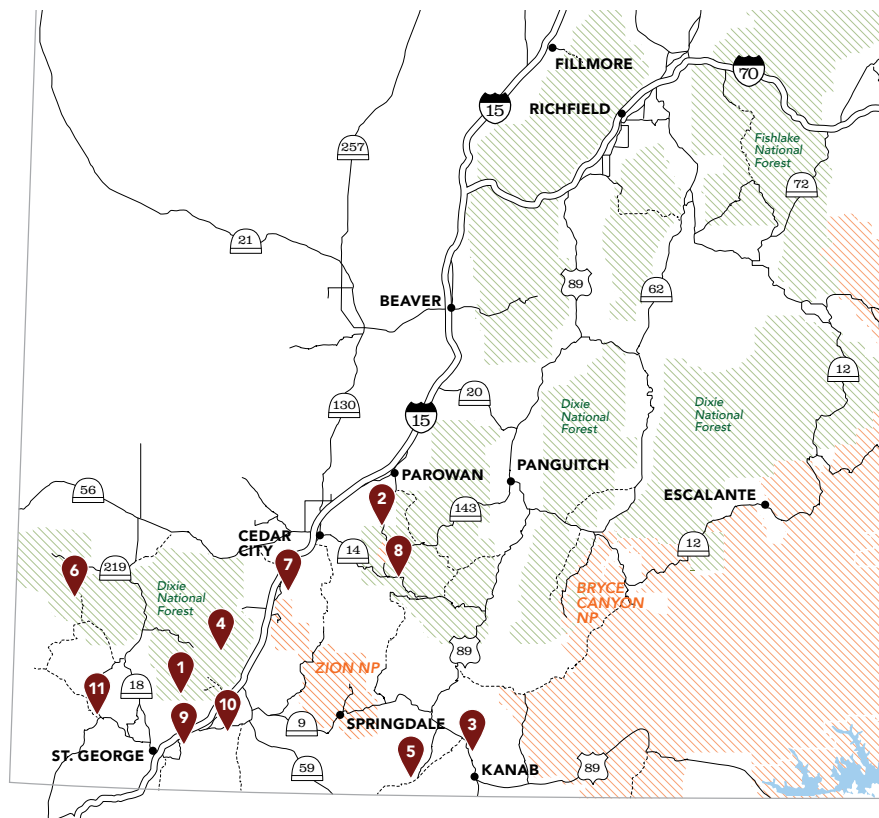


# AWESOME ALTERNATIVES

## TO UTAH'S NATIONAL PARKS

### ZION



Southwest Utah, with the amenity-rich St. George as your base camp, features some of the nation's finest national park experiences — but these parks are not islands. They are surrounded by an exciting array of outdoor recreation and scenic drives to capture your imagination. Explore alpine forests at 10,000 feet or hike among flows of lava, hardened by time. Reservoirs and lakes also abound, part of this land's fascinating human and natural history.

#### WINTER FAVORITES

#### 1 RED CLIFFS DESERT RESERVE

The approximately 45,000 acres of public land feature more than 130 miles of non-motorized recreation trails (hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trail riding). The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve (including the federally designated Red Cliffs National Conservation Area) is located at the transition between three ecosystems: the Mojave Desert, Great Basin and Colorado Plateau. This creates a unique mixture of plants and animals from all of these regions, including plants found nowhere else on earth. Created to protect the desert tortoise, it also provides habitat for other sensitive reptiles, birds and mammals against a backdrop of spectacular scenery.

[redcliffsdesertreserve.com](http://redcliffsdesertreserve.com)

#### 2 BRIAN HEAD SKI RESORT

Brian Head Resort is Utah's premier southern Utah winter resort in the winter. Skiers and boarders who play in the snow at Southern Utah's Brian Head Resort feel like locals. Hailing from Kansas City, owner Big John Grissinger will serve you up a mean mess of ribs. Miles of snowmobile track surrounds the Brian Head ski area and guided tours around the area offer an exciting way to get into all that beautiful country.

[visitutah.com/brian-head](http://visitutah.com/brian-head)

#### 3 BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SHELTER

Nestled in gorgeous Angel Canyon, it's a sight to behold and a place of compassion unlike anywhere else on earth — it's the nation's largest animal sanctuary. With thousands of acres of open space and a delightful creek, it is a miraculous place of love and caring for homeless pets. And 1,700 adoptable pets are eager to show you around their home-between-homes. Here, they're given love, medical care and the chance to be adopted. Free tours of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary are offered daily or explore one of the many walking paths or hiking trails. Volunteers are always needed, and the experience is always a magical one.

[bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org)

#### 4 DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

The Dixie National Forest, with headquarters in Cedar City, occupies almost two million acres and stretches for about 170 miles across southern Utah. You can experience the solitude of hiking in the wilderness, enjoy camping in developed campgrounds, or in the backcountry. The forest is also a prime location for winter activities such as cross-country and downhill skiing opportunities.

## 5 CORAL PINK SAND DUNES STATE PARK

Venture onto a shifting sea of red sand. Changed by winds, these mountains and hills of sand can move as much as 50 feet per year. With areas for off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and those with non-motorized pursuits, the dunes offer adventures for all.

[visitutah.com/coral-pink](http://visitutah.com/coral-pink)

## 6 GUNLOCK STATE PARK

Surrounded by rustic red rock and extinct black lava cinder cones lies the 240-acre Gunlock State Park and Reservoir. The reservoir is two miles long, one-half mile wide, 115 feet deep and offers year-round boating, water sports and quality fishing for bass, crappie and catfish. Facilities include boat launching ramp and pit privies. Camping is allowed but there are few amenities. The park is just 15 miles northwest of St. George. The banks of the reservoir are lined with pine and juniper trees, with a backdrop of red and pink Navajo sandstone cliffs to the west and ancient lava beds to the east.

[stateparks.utah.gov/parks/gunlock](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/gunlock)

## 7 KANARRAVILLE FALLS

Meandering hike through a rugged canyon bottom culminating in a short, but spectacular slot canyon. Located between the entrance to Zion National Park and Cedar City, the Kanarrville Falls hike makes for a great half-day adventure. The moderate hike is dog and kid-friendly with many options to stop and enjoy a picnic lunch along the way.

## 8 MARKAGUNT HIGH PLATEAU SCENIC BYWAY

An amazing, 40-mile journey through the Dixie National Forest, the Markagunt High Plateau Scenic Byway (state Route 14 connects Interstate 15 and Highway 89 through beautiful southwestern Utah. Beginning in Cedar City and climbing steeply through narrow Cedar Canyon and into the Dixie National Forest, catch glimpses of Cedar Breaks National Monument through gaps in the dense aspen, pine, and spruce forest. Use caution when driving in the winter and check conditions.

## 9 QUAIL CREEK STATE PARK

Surrounded by red rock vistas, the park offers excellent camping, boating, kayaking, swimming, sunbathing and fishing. The 40,000 acre reservoir sits in the red desert at the bottom of the 10,000 foot expanse of Pine Valley Mountain and with views toward Zion National Park. The park is easily accessible just 14 miles north of St. George near Interstate 15. The Virgin River feeds the reservoir, where anglers can pursue rainbow trout, bullhead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, and bluegill. There is a fish-cleaning station on site.

[stateparks.utah.gov/parks/quail-creek](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/quail-creek)

## 10 SAND HOLLOW STATE PARK

With wintery mountain ranges visible in the distance, Sand Hollow State Park provides a winter experience and winter getaway simultaneously. Just under 20 miles from St. George, this park is easy to access and offers dunes, red rock formations and outstanding trails of all kinds. In particular, the winter is a great time for off-road adventure in the mild 50 to 60 degrees temperatures. The park offers riders more than 6,000 acres of sand dunes that have open riding as well as technical trails where you can test your skills. There are both full-hookup RV sites and tent camping.

[stateparks.utah.gov/parks/sand-hollow](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/sand-hollow)

## 11 SNOW CANYON STATE PARK

Snow Canyon State Park is a ruggedly beautiful 7,400 acres of black lava-capped cliffs, winding red canyons, soaring sandstone arches, ancient cinder cones, lava caves, sand dunes and scenic overlooks. The park offers abundant opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, wildlife watching, camping and photography. The spectacular vistas have beckoned everyone from Ancestral Puebloans and Paiute Indians to Mormon Pioneers and Hollywood execs — think, “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,” among others.

[visitutah.com/snow-canyon](http://visitutah.com/snow-canyon)

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