

2-Day Bryce Canyon Itinerary

Sunrise over the hoodoos, the park's best hike, and the 18-mile scenic drive most visitors skip — Bryce is small, and two days is genuinely enough.

QUICK FACTS BEFORE YOU GO

- **Entrance fee:** \$35/vehicle, valid 7 days. Card only — no cash.
- **The shuttle is optional.** Unlike Zion, you can drive the whole scenic road year-round.
- **Elevation:** the rim runs 8,000–9,115 ft. Altitude is what catches people out.
- **Best hike:** Queen's Garden–Navajo Combination — 2.9 miles, 625 ft, 2–3 hours
- **Gateway airports:** Las Vegas or Salt Lake City, both ~4 hrs · Cedar City ~1.5 hrs
- **From Zion:** about 1.5–2 hours east

▲ TRAIL CLOSURE — CHECK BEFORE YOU GO

Heavy rainfall on July 29, 2026 caused extensive damage to the Wall Street side of the Navajo Loop, and it remains closed while repairs are underway. The Two Bridges side is open, so this loop still works — this itinerary routes you that way.

DAY 01

The Amphitheater

Sunrise, the best hike in the park, and the rim at golden hour

1 Sunrise at Sunrise Point

The amphitheater faces east, so first light hits the hoodoos straight on. Park at the lodge and walk over. Bring coffee and a jacket — it's cold at 8,000 feet even in summer.

ARRIVE 30 MIN BEFORE SUNRISE

2 Queen's Garden to Navajo Loop

The park's own most-recommended hike. Descend Queen's Garden from Sunrise Point, walk the amphitheater floor past Queen Victoria, then climb the Navajo switchbacks to Sunset Point.

DON'T MISS • 2.9 MI • 625 FT • 2–3 HRS

3 Rim Trail Back to Sunrise Point

A flat, paved half mile along the rim with the amphitheater open below you the whole way.

EASY ADVENTURE • 0.5 MI • PAVED

4 Lunch at Bryce Canyon Lodge

The historic dining room, or sandwiches from the General Store next door. Eat inside the park — driving out costs you half an afternoon.

5 Inspiration Point & Bryce Point

Two short drives, two completely different angles on the same bowl of hoodoos. Bryce Point is the highest viewpoint in the amphitheater.

~10 MIN BETWEEN THEM

6 Sunset at Inspiration Point

The viewpoints face east, so you won't watch the sun drop into the canyon. What you get is the last light climbing back up the hoodoos. Rangers point people here or to Paria View.

BEST PHOTO SPOT

7 Stargazing

Some of the darkest skies in the country, with night sky ranger programs through the season. This is half the reason to sleep at the park rather than day-tripping from Zion.

DON'T MISS

PRO TIP

Everyone photographs the hoodoos from the rim. The hike is what changes the trip — walking down among them is the only way to understand the scale.

DAY 02

The Scenic Drive

Eighteen miles most visitors never drive

1 Pack a Lunch First

There's no food anywhere past the amphitheater. Grab sandwiches from the General Store before you head south.

~15 MIN

2 Drive Straight to Rainbow Point

Eighteen miles to the end of the road, about 40 minutes without stopping. Drive it in one go, then work the viewpoints on the way back — every pullout is on the right heading north, so you never cross traffic.

9,115 FT • HIGHEST POINT IN THE PARK

3 Yovimpa Point & Picnic

A short walk from Rainbow Point with a view south across the Grand Staircase. Picnic tables and the best lunch spot in the park.

FAMILY FAVORITE

4 Work Back Through the Viewpoints

Agua Canyon, Ponderosa Canyon, Natural Bridge, and Farview Point. Natural Bridge is a genuine arch a few steps from the parking area and the standout of the four.

~2 HRS WITH STOPS

5 Mossy Cave or Fairyland Point

Two things almost nobody does. Mossy Cave sits outside the main entrance on Highway 12 — a short walk to a waterfall. Fairyland Point is before the fee booth and the quietest amphitheater view in the park.

ASHLEY'S PICK

6 Depart, or on to Capitol Reef

Salt Lake City and Las Vegas are both about four hours. Or keep going east on Scenic Byway 12 toward Capitol Reef — roughly 2.5 hours, and one of the best drives in the country.

DEPART

PLANNING NOTES

- **The shuttle doesn't go south.** It serves the amphitheater viewpoints only — Day 2 needs your own vehicle.
- **The shuttle runs one direction.** Board at Bryce Point and you go straight back to Inspiration Point; board at Inspiration and you ride the whole loop first.
- **Altitude is real here.** Drink more water than you think and take the climb out of the amphitheater slowly.
- **Bryce Canyon Lodge books 13 months ahead** and fills fast.
- Oversized vehicles aren't permitted in the Sunrise and Sunset Point lots while the shuttle is running.

Map This Route

Scan the QR code below to open the live, interactive Google My Map with every stop from both days — color-coded by day, with driving directions built in. Tap any pin for details, and use the layers menu to toggle each day on or off.



SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA

● DAY 1 – THE AMPHITHEATER ● DAY 2 – THE SCENIC DRIVE

BEFORE YOU GO OFFLINE

Cell service is patchy in the park and gone entirely along the southern scenic drive. Open this map and download it for offline use before you leave Bryce Canyon City.

Where to Stay & What to Pack

Bryce Canyon City

Right outside the entrance, with the most options and the shuttle terminal. The practical base for a two-day trip.

The Lodge at Bryce Canyon

The only lodging inside the park, a hundred yards from the rim and walking distance to both Sunrise and Sunset Points. Reservations open 13 months ahead and go quickly. The rooms are dated — you're paying for the location.

Tropic

About 15 minutes east on Highway 12, quieter and usually cheaper. Handy if you're continuing toward Capitol Reef.

WHAT TO PACK

A warm layer for sunrise even in July — the rim sits at 8,000 feet and mornings are cold year-round. Broken-in shoes for the amphitheater switchbacks, sun protection, and more water than you'd bring at lower elevation. Full gear guide with 70+ picks on the website.

Bryce Canyon National Park — *the largest collection of hoodoos on earth*

Small park, short hikes, and a night sky worth staying up for.

STEALTHEITINERARY.COM

Steal the research. Keep the adventure.