



Freedom's Road Newsletter

Written by Freddy Freedom

Bryce Canyon

By Huustin



Ridin' outta Zion, vivid images of God's creations of the Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks were still reflecting back in my mind like lookin' into polished chrome. Bryce Canyon was the next objective to get my undivided attention as I headed west on Route 9 outta Zion. Bryce Canyon would really have to "Cowboy Up" to measure up, that's a fact Jack. *Cowboy up it did!* God was on a roll that day for sure! Bryce Canyon is similar to the Badlands National Park in South Dakota, only magnified a million fold.

My plan was to shoot the super slab, I-15 north, jump on Route 14 at Cedar City headin' east across to 89 then north to 12 heading into Bryce Canyon. It was a relaxing easy ride across 14 and up 89 with a phenomenal mix of amazingly awesome scenery. Just when I figured I had seen the best of best I came to Route 12. Headin' towards Bryce on 12 is an experience I'll never forget. It cuts through the Paunsaugunt Plateau and through the Red Canyon, which is in the Dixie National Forest. Talk about a breath taking, stand on the foot pegs ride, this is it! The spectacular views stretch for hundreds of miles, with something more dramatic, more sensational at every curve of the road. Utah Route 12 has earned its nick name, the "All American Road".

Just before gettin' to Bryce Canyon is Red Canyon National Park, not as well known as Bryce, but positively worth a look see with its blood red "Hoodoo's". Yea, it's a real word for positive, a scientific word as a matter of fact. Hoodoo's, are what the gigantic rock towers are called. Hoodoos, or fairy chimney, as they are sometimes called, protrude from the bottom of an arid drainage basin or badland. They're soft sedimentary rock columns with a huge hunk of hard rock balanced on top.



Bryce Canyon offers every type of camping you can imagine from a private facility $\frac{1}{2}$ mile before the entrance of the park, which is in reality a city all it's own offering cabins, hotels, full RV hookup, modern campgrounds to backcountry backpacking camping. Inside the park there is a lodge and two campgrounds, North and Sunset campgrounds along with 11 backpacking sites. I set up camp in Sunset campground.

Other than a cool name, it's nothing to write home about.

Like all National Parks there's a well maintained road that takes you to all the scenic overlooks and points of interest in the park. It's a self guided tour using maps and signs at all the pull offs to point out and explain the different formations, Hoodoos, wildlife and other things of interest. There are a few short foot trails also. The panoramic views are totally beyond belief! They could have only been created by God. If ya don't get the feeling that something super natural had a hand in creating Bryce Canyon, you're either comatose or dead! The "Road" tour will take a good part of the day. I highly recommend you try the suggested night "Star" tour also. It's the same road and overlooks but ... **WOW!**



After the "Road" tour, to really get a vivid picture and feel for the magnitude of the canyon, you have to get down and personal. There's only one way to do that, schedule a horse ride to the bottom! If this doesn't redline your heartbeat, nothing will! I booked my ride at the lodge, it's the only one allowed in the park, but there some outside the park too. Our guide was Stetson, a local wrangler whose family has lived and ranched the area forever. The path down around and through the canyon is only about two feet wide and twists and turns like a snake on a hot asphalt road! I tried to take pictures but was too worried about where Kimber, my "trusty?????" mule was walking to worry about picture takin'. The guide assured me that O' Kimber knew what she was doing and not to worry. With my heart racing at redline, a lump in my throat, my eyes clenched tight and tears streaming down my face, we forged on! When we got back to the corral and I opened my eyes, everyone congratulated me for hangin' in and told me how spectacular the scenery was. Guess I'll just have to take their word for it. I'm here to tell ya I'll take my iron horse and a wide smooth, flat road any day!

Yeah, Bryce Canyon... yep, I can see the reflection in the polished chrome.

Gas up and check the oil, next stop Moab and The Arches.

Hope to see ya on the road. Upright that is!

Have a question or comment? roadtrippinbyhuustin@gmail.com



Hogs In Ministry

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:13