

## 5

## Where to Stay, Camp & Eat in Zion

Lodging, dining, and camping choices inside the park are limited to Zion Lodge and the three National Park Service campgrounds, which are wonderful and allow you to spend the most time possible in the park, enjoying changing angles of the sun's rays on the rocks. In addition to using the park's lodging, dining and camping options, you'll probably head to the nearby gateway communities for at least some of your dining and lodging, and possibly camping. Generally, the further you get from the park entrances, the less expensive your lodging will be. Outside the park, you'll find choices to suit almost every taste.

### 1 Where to Stay

Pets are not accepted unless otherwise noted. Room tax adds 11.5%.

#### INSIDE THE PARK

**Zion Lodge** ★★★ This handsome lodge was built in 1925 by the Union Pacific Railroad, destroyed by fire in 1966, rebuilt the following year, and restored to its historic appearance in 1991. The only lodging within the park boundaries, Zion Lodge offers several types of accommodations. Situated in a valley with spectacular views of the park's rock cliffs, the charming and genuinely historic cabins are our first choice here because they seem to perfectly fit the national park ambience. Each cabin has a private porch, stone (gas-burning) fireplace, two double beds, and pine board walls. The comfortable motel units are good for those who prefer more modern accommodations, with two queen-size beds, a private porch or balcony, and all the usual amenities except televisions. Roll-aways and cribs are available in the motel rooms but not the cabins. The motel suites, very plush and spacious, have one king-size bed, a separate sitting room with a queen-size hide-a-bed, and a refrigerator.

Ranger programs are offered in the lodge auditorium. A gift shop sells everything from postcards and T-shirts to top quality

## 76 CHAPTER 5 · WHERE TO STAY, CAMP &amp; EAT IN ZION

silver-and-turquoise American Indian jewelry. The lodge fills quickly during the summer, so make reservations as far in advance as possible.

Zion National Park, UT. ☎ **435/772-3213**. Fax 435/772-2001. Information and reservations: Xanterra Parks & Resorts, 14001 E. Iliiff Ave., Suite 600, Aurora, CO 80014. ☎ **888/297-2757** or 303/297-2757. Fax 303/297-3175. [www.zionlodge.com](http://www.zionlodge.com). 121 units. Mid-Mar to Nov: Motel rooms \$120–\$125 double; cabins \$128–\$133 double; suites \$143–\$148 double. Discounts and packages available in winter. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see the Red Rock Grill, under “Where to Eat,” later in this chapter). *In room:* A/C.

## OUTSIDE THE PARK

See chapter 9, “Nearby Things to See & Do,” for a discussion of things to see and do in these gateway communities.

## SPRINGDALE & VIRGIN

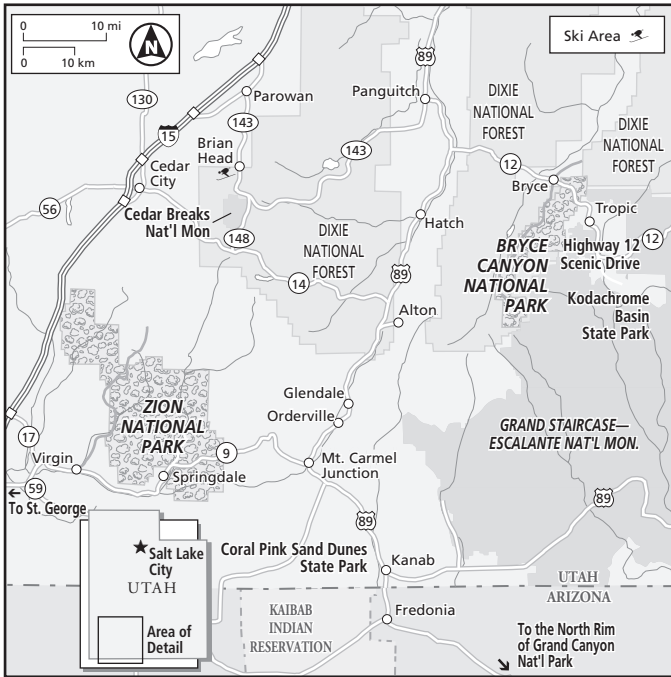
For additional information about the area contact the **Zion Canyon Chamber of Commerce**, P.O. Box 331, Springdale, UT 84767-0331 (☎ **888/518-7070**; [www.zionpark.com](http://www.zionpark.com)).

**Best Western Zion Park Inn** ✨ This is a good choice for those who are seeking an upscale, reliable, chain motel, with no surprises. Rooms in the handsome two-story complex are tastefully appointed in Southwest style, with two queens or one king-size bed. The grounds are beautifully landscaped, with phenomenal views of the area’s red rock formations.

1215 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 800), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ **800/934-7275** or 435/772-3200. Fax 435/772-2449. [www.zionparkinn.com](http://www.zionparkinn.com). 120 units. Apr–Oct \$95–\$109 double, \$115–\$160 suite or family unit; Nov–Mar \$62–\$72 double, \$85–\$125 suite or family unit. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Small pets accepted, for an extra fee of \$25, with management approval. **Amenities:** Restaurant; deli; heated outdoor swimming pool (open Apr–Oct); putting green; volleyball and badminton courts; basketball hoop; Jacuzzi; liquor store; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV w/pay movies, dataport, coffee maker, hair dryer, iron.

**Canyon Ranch Motel** Consisting of a series of two- and four-unit cottages set back from the highway, this motel’s buildings have the look of 1930s-style cabins on the outside while providing modern motel rooms inside. Rooms are either new or newly remodeled, and options include one queen- or king-size bed, two queen-size beds, or one queen and one double. Some rooms have showers only, while others have shower/tub combos. Room 13, with two queen-size beds, offers spectacular views of the Zion National Park rock formations through its large picture windows; views from most other rooms are almost as good. The units surround a lawn with trees and picnic tables.

## Gateways to Zion & Bryce Canyon



668 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 175), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 435/772-3357. Fax 435/772-3057. [www.canyonranchmotel.com](http://www.canyonranchmotel.com). 21 units. Rates per room (up to 5 people): Apr–Oct \$68–\$88; Nov–Mar \$48–\$68. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted at management discretion (\$10 per pet). **Amenities:** Outdoor pool; Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, TV, kitchenettes available in some units.

**Cliffrose Lodge & Gardens** ★ With delightful river frontage and 5 acres of lawns, shade trees, and flower gardens, the Cliffrose offers a beautiful setting just outside the entrance to Zion National Park. The architecture is southwestern adobe style, with redwood balconies, and the outdoor rock waterfall Jacuzzi is a delight, especially in the evening. Modern, well-kept rooms have all the standard motel appointments, with unusually large bathrooms with shower/tub combinations. We especially like the four new and very luxurious Canyon View Suites, completed in early 2003, which sleep up to 6 guests each. On the lawns, you'll find comfortable seating, including a lawn swing. There is also a playground.

## 78 CHAPTER 5 · WHERE TO STAY, CAMP &amp; EAT IN ZION

281 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 510), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 800/243-8824 or 435/772-3234. Fax 435/772-3900. www.cliffroselodge.com. 40 units. Summer \$119–\$189 per unit. Rates 20%–40% lower in winter, except holidays. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Large outdoor heated pool; Jacuzzi; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV.

**Desert Pearl Inn** ✨ This commanding property offers luxurious and comfortable accommodations with beautiful views of the area's scenery from private terraces or balconies. Spacious rooms are decorated in modern Southwest style, with either two queens or one king bed. The grounds are nicely landscaped. Plans call for construction of a restaurant and additional units.

707 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 888/828-0898 or 435/772-8888. Fax 435/772-8889. www.desertpearl.com. 60 units. \$78–\$125 double. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Huge outdoor heated pool; Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, fridge, minibar.

**Driftwood Lodge** Beautiful lawns and gardens enhance this attractive, well-kept motel—a quiet, lush complex perfect for sitting back and admiring the spectacular rock formations that practically surround the town. The spacious rooms have white walls and light wood-grain furnishings; all have patios or balconies. Most standard rooms have two queen-size beds; others have one king. The two family suites each have one king-size and two queen beds. In 2002, new “king suites” were constructed, with a separate sitting room, king-size bed, and a microwave.

1515 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 98), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 888/801-8811 or 435/772-3262. Fax 435/772-3702. www.driftwoodlodge.net. 42 units. Apr–Nov \$82–\$96 double, \$102–\$110 family unit, \$109–\$119 king suite; Dec–Mar \$72–\$86 double, \$92–\$100 family unit, \$99–\$109 king suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted at management's discretion, \$10 fee. **Amenities:** Convenience store with soup, snacks, and drinks; outdoor heated pool; Jacuzzi; art gallery; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge.

**El Rio Lodge in Zion Canyon** ✨ *Finds* Our choice when we're running low on cash, the El Rio is a pleasant mom-and-pop operation with one suite, five rooms upstairs, and five downstairs, all offering private bathrooms and tub/shower combos. The motel was built in the early 1960s, and although small, the rooms are clean and comfortable, with light-colored walls and simple but attractive decor. The upstairs rooms have two double beds, with an outdoor walkway and porch affording terrific views of Zion Canyon. The downstairs rooms each have one queen bed. The suite has its own private parking area, plus a refrigerator, microwave, extra-large bathroom, and use of a private yard, which has a table and chairs and

## WHERE TO STAY 79

great views of the rock walls of Zion Canyon. Although there are no phones in the rooms, a public phone is available outside.

995 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 204), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 888/772-3205 or 435/772-3205. Fax 435/772-2455. www.elriolodge.com. 11 units. Summer \$48–\$53 double, \$60 suite. Lower rates in winter. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted for a \$10 fee. *In room:* A/C, TV, no phone.

**Flanigan's Inn** ✨ ✨ A mountain-lodge atmosphere suffuses this very attractive complex of natural wood and rock, which is set among trees, lawns, and flowers just outside the entrance to Zion National Park. This is a place where you might actually want to spend time relaxing, unlike some other lodgings in the area, which are simply good places to sleep at the end of long days spent exploring Zion. Parts of the inn date to 1947, but all rooms have been completely renovated. Rooms have a Southwest decor, wood furnishings, and local art. One room has a fireplace; other units have whirlpool tubs and bidets. Flanigan's has its own nature trail leading to a hilltop vista. Rooms are often booked 3 to 4 months in advance during the summer, so reserve early. You can get a therapeutic massage or a rejuvenating facial or relax in an aromatic bath in the full-service spa. From November through May, the inn offers spa packages, which include lodging, meals, and a range of activities and spa treatments. The entire inn is non-smoking. 428 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 100), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 800/765-7787 or 435/772-3244. Fax 435/772-3396. www.flanigans.com. 34 units. Mid-Mar to Nov and holidays \$79–\$199 double, \$109–\$209 suites; Dec to mid-Mar (except holidays) \$49–\$79 double, \$79–\$139 suite. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see the Spotted Dog Café under "Where to Eat," later in this chapter); outdoor heated pool; outdoor hot tub; full-service spa. *In room:* A/C, TV, units with kitchenettes available.

**Harvest House Bed & Breakfast at Zion** Personal touches and yummy breakfasts make this B&B a good alternative to a standard motel. This Utah territorial-style (a style similar to Victorian) house was built in 1989 and has a cactus garden out front and a garden sitting area in back, with a koi (Japanese carp) pond and spectacular views of the park. Rooms are charming, comfortable, and quiet, with private bathrooms; they're furnished with an eclectic mixture of contemporary and wicker items, and original art and photography dots the walls. One upstairs room faces west and has grand sunset views, while the other two have private decks facing the impressive formations of Zion. The downstairs suite can accommodate up to five adults.

The gourmet breakfasts are sumptuous yet low fat, and include fresh-baked breads, fresh-squeezed orange juice, granola, fruit, yogurt, and a hot main course that changes daily.

## 80 CHAPTER 5 · WHERE TO STAY, CAMP &amp; EAT IN ZION

29 Canyon View Dr. (P.O. Box 125), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 435/772-3880. Fax 435/772-3327. www.harvesthouse.net. 4 units. \$80–\$110 double. Rates include full breakfast. DISC, MC, V. Children over 6 welcome. **Amenities:** Outdoor Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, no phone.

**Terrace Brook Lodge** Reasonable rates for clean, well-maintained rooms are what you'll find here. This comfortable, older motel has Southwest decor with light wood furnishings. Four rooms have showers only; the rest have shower/tub combos. There are two barbecue and picnic areas.

990 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 217), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 800/342-6779 or 435/772-3932. Fax 435/772-3596. www.terracebrooklodge.com. 26 units. \$49–\$63 double; \$79–\$94 suite. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor pool. *In room:* A/C, TV, 10 units have phones.

**Under the Eaves Bed & Breakfast** ✨ English owners Steve and Deb Masfield have furnished this lovely 1929 home with many family antiques, creating an inn that is both attractive and comfortable. We especially enjoy the historic ambience. On the first floor there are two cheerful rooms, decorated in early-20th-century style. Each has one double bed and a private sink, and they share a bathroom (shower only). Upstairs is a 1,100-square foot suite with a vaulted ceiling, a wood-burning stove, its own kitchen, and a claw-foot tub in the bathroom. There is a queen bed and two single beds, and windows reveal the gardens and the national park. The cute Garden Cottage, which was moved here from inside the national park, contains two small but comfortable rooms, each with one queen-size bed. In the backyard is an attractive garden area with seating and a gas barbecue. The staff can make appointments for massages and facials (not associated with the hotel) for an additional fee. Breakfast generally includes home-baked breads, fresh fruit, and a hot main dish such as omelets or pancakes.

980 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 29), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 435/772-3457. Fax 435/772-3324. www.under-the-eaves.com. 6 units (2 with shared bathroom). Apr–Oct \$70–\$135 double. Lower rates off-season. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. *In room:* A/C, no phone.

**Zion Park Motel** This economical motel, which has recently been remodeled, offers comfortable, attractively furnished rooms with showers or shower/tub combos. The family suites sleep six. A self-service laundry, a small but well-stocked grocery store with camping supplies and an ATM, and a restaurant are adjacent. There is also a picnic area and playground on the premises.

855 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 365), Springdale, UT 84767. ☎ 435/772-3251. www.zionparkmotel.com. 21 units. \$59–\$69 double; \$79–\$119 family suite. AE, DISC,

MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor heated pool; picnic area; playground. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, microwave, full kitchens in 2 units.

### NEAR THE EAST ENTRANCE TO ZION NATIONAL PARK

Although there is no town directly outside the east entrance to Zion National Park, there are several businesses that provide visitor services. About 13 miles east of the east entrance, at the junction of Utah 9 and U.S. 89, is Mt. Carmel Junction, at an elevation of 5,191 feet. The town is 73 miles southwest of Bryce Canyon National Park, and 17 miles northwest of Kanab.

For area information, contact the **Kane County Visitors Center**, 78 S. 100 East, Kanab, UT 84741 (☎ 800/733-5263 or 435/644-5033; www.kaneutah.com).

**Best Western Thunderbird Resort** ⚡ A two-story motel with Southwest decor, the Thunderbird offers quiet, spacious, comfortable rooms, with king or queen beds, wood furnishings, photos or artwork depicting area scenery, and a balcony or patio. The lodging has a gas station and a convenience store on the premises.

At the junction of Utah 9 and U.S. 89 (P.O. Box 5536), Mt. Carmel Junction, UT 84755. ☎ 888/848-6358 or 435/648-2203. Fax 435/648-2239. www.bwthunderbird.com. 61 units. May–Oct \$88 double, \$103 suite; Nov–Mar \$51 double, \$63 suite; Apr \$65 double, \$79 suite. Closed Christmas Day. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Small pets accepted with a \$5 fee. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see “Where to Eat,” below; large outdoor heated pool; 9-hole golf course (\$10 for 9 holes, \$18 for 18); Jacuzzi; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV.

**Golden Hills Motel** The recently redecorated rooms at this economical, well-maintained motel are simply and comfortably furnished, and many have lovely views of the East Fork of the Virgin River. Suites and family units are large and especially attractive. There are complimentary coffee and tea in the morning and a gift shop with snacks.

At the junction of Utah 9 and U.S. 89 (P.O. Box 34), Mt. Carmel Junction, UT 84755. ☎ 800/648-2268 or 435/648-2268. Fax 435/648-2558. www.goldenhillsmotel.com. 32 units. May–Oct \$43–\$46 double, \$72–\$80 suite; Nov–Apr \$28–\$34 double, \$49–\$59 suite. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted at management’s discretion. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see “Where to Eat,” below); outdoor heated pool; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV.

**Mukuntuweep RV Park & Campground** (Value) If you don’t need anything more than a bed with a roof over it, this is the place to come. This attractive compound offers bargain rates for six basic but comfortable log cabins, a hogan (a traditional Navajo dwelling),

## 82 CHAPTER 5 · WHERE TO STAY, CAMP &amp; EAT IN ZION

and a teepee, all of which share the campground's bathhouse. Views of the surrounding rocks are grand. Across the street, under the same management, are a store, a restaurant (see "Zion Mt. Carmel Restaurant" under "Where to Eat," later in this chapter), a curio shop, and a gas station. There is also a fishing pond and a playground on the property.

About ¼ mile east of the east entrance to Zion National Park on Utah 9 (P.O. Box 193), Orderville, UT 84758. ☎ 435/648-3011. [www.xpressweb.com/zionpark](http://www.xpressweb.com/zionpark). \$25 double; campsites \$15–\$19. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Game room. *In room:* No private bathrooms, no phone.

**Zion Ponderosa Ranch Resort** *(finds)* Located in a quiet, picturesque area just outside the park, this lodge is a great choice for those who will be spending more than a few days in the area and want everything that a full-service resort has to offer. Lodging is in comfortable but basic cabins, or you can camp. The large cabins have TVs, while smaller cabins do not, and there are no telephones (except in the largest unit). Some of the cabins have air-conditioning. The main reason to be here is for the activities. You can partake of a myriad of activities—mountain biking, horseback riding, skeet and trap shooting, fishing, rappelling, climbing and more. A summer day camp keeps kids busy for up to 7 hours while adults tackle other activities. Rates include all activities and meals, and vary based on the type of cabin you choose; there are discounts for children. In the off-season, you can just rent the lodgings or camp without buying a complete package.

2 miles east of the Zion National Park east entrance, then 5 miles north on North Fork Rd. (P.O. Box 5547), Mt. Carmel, UT 84755. ☎ 800/293-5444 or 435/648-2700. [www.zionponderosa.com](http://www.zionponderosa.com). 28 cabins. \$65–\$239 per person, all-inclusive lodging packages. \$65 per person, all-inclusive camping packages. DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor heated pool; tennis courts; outdoor Jacuzzi; sports equipment. *In room:* Few TVs, no phone.

## 2 Camping

Pets are accepted at all campgrounds listed here, but they must be leashed.

### INSIDE THE PARK

The two developed **national park campgrounds** in Zion Canyon are the best places to camp while visiting the park, if you can find a site. Both of the park's main campgrounds—**South** ⚡⚡ and **Watchman** ⚡⚡⚡—are located just inside the park's south entrance. They have paved roads, well-spaced sites, lots of trees, and that national



park atmosphere that you came here to enjoy. There are restrooms with flush toilets, and sites for those with disabilities. Although there are no RV hookups at South Campground, electric hookups are available in two loops in Watchman. **Lava Point**, a free primitive campground with six sites, is located on the Kolob Terrace. It has fire grates, tables, and vault toilets, but no water.

Reservations for Watchman Campground can be made through the park website ([www.nps.gov/zion](http://www.nps.gov/zion)) or at <http://reservations.nps.gov>, or check with park offices for current reservation phone numbers. A fee in addition to campsite costs will be added. Some campers without reservations stay at nearby commercial campgrounds their first night in the area, then hurry into the park to South Campground the next morning, circling like vultures until a site becomes available.

There are no showers in the national park, but the commercial campgrounds listed below offer showers, for a fee, to those camping in the park.

## OUTSIDE THE PARK

Just outside the east and south park entrances are commercial campgrounds with hot showers and RV hookups. Keep in mind that the park's visitor center, campgrounds, and most of its developed attractions are closer to the south entrance than to the east.

**Mukuntuweap RV Park & Campground**, located about a quarter mile east of the east entrance to Zion National Park on Utah 9 (P.O. Box 193), Orderville, UT 84758 (☎ 435/648-3011; [www.xpressweb.com/zionpark](http://www.xpressweb.com/zionpark)), has some shade trees, grassy tent sites, a fishing pond, a playground, and a game room, plus great views of the surrounding rocks.

**Zion Canyon Campground** (RV) is on Zion Park Boulevard a half mile south of the park's south entrance (P.O. Box 99), Springdale, UT 84767 (☎ 435/772-3237; fax 435/772-3844; [www.zioncamp.com](http://www.zioncamp.com)). Although quite crowded in summer, the campground is clean and well maintained, with tree-shaded sites and grassy tent areas. Some sites are along the Virgin River, and the campground has free cable TV hookups, a swimming pool, a game room, a playground, and a store. Dogs are permitted at RV sites but not tent sites. A Quality Inn (42 units) opened on the grounds in 2003 at 479 Zion Park Blvd. (☎ 435/772-3237; fax 435/772-3844).

In addition to the two commercial campgrounds discussed here, there is also camping at Cedar Breaks National Monument and Snow Canyon State Park (see chapter 9, "Nearby Things to See & Do").

## 84 CHAPTER 5 · WHERE TO STAY, CAMP &amp; EAT IN ZION

Amenities for Each Campground, Zion National Park													
CAMPGROUND	ELEV.	TOTAL SITES	RV HOOKUPS	DUMP STATION	TOILETS	DRINKING WATER	SHOWERS	FIRE PITS/GRILLS	LAUNDRY	PUBLIC PHONE	RESERVE	FEES	OPEN
Lava Point	7,900	6	0	no	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	Free	May–Oct
South	4,000	126	0	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	\$16	Apr–Sept
Watchman	4,000	168	90+	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	\$16–\$20	Year-round
Mukuntuweap	6,000	150	30	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	\$15–\$19	Year-round
Zion Canyon	3,800	220	102	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	\$20–\$30	Year-round

### 3 Where to Eat

Those looking for picnic supplies won't find any stores inside Zion National Park, but Springdale, just outside the park's south entrance, has several stores. There's also a small store just outside the east entrance to the park. See the Fast Facts entry for "Supplies" in chapter 3, "Exploring Zion National Park."

#### INSIDE THE PARK

**Red Rock Grill** ★★ AMERICAN The restaurant's decor—handsome rock and a waterfall—competes for your attention with the spectacular rock formations visible through the dining room's large windows (these are the rocks that the restaurant's name refers to). Although the menu changes periodically, it's likely to include an excellent slow-roasted prime rib, grilled or blackened rib-eye steak, sliced duck breast, and the very popular Utah red trout, boneless, broiled, and glazed with herb-scented butter. If you can't make up your mind, choose the prime rib and Utah red trout combo—a half-pound of prime rib with a 5-ounce trout fillet. The menu usually also includes several chicken dishes, pasta, and vegetarian items. We heartily recommend the lodge's specialty ice creams and other desserts, such as the peanut butter pie. At lunch you'll usually find grilled trout, several dinner salads, and burgers and sandwiches. The usual American selections are offered for breakfast in addition to an excellent breakfast buffet. The restaurant will pack lunches to go and offers full liquor service.

Zion Lodge, Zion National Park. ☎ 435/772-3213. www.zionlodge.com. Dinner reservations required in summer. Breakfast \$3.75–\$6.95; lunch \$4.95–\$6.75; main dinner courses \$9.95–\$20. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Daily 6:30–10am, 11:30am–3pm, and 5:30–9pm.

**Zion Lodge's Castle Dome Cafe** *Kids* SNACK BAR Located at the north end of the lodge, this simple fast food restaurant offers an outdoor dining patio serving burgers, deli sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza, ice cream, frozen yogurt, and similar fare. No alcoholic beverages are served.

Zion National Park. ☎ 435/772-3213. \$3–\$8. No credit cards. Summer daily 7am–9pm; shorter hours the rest of the year.

#### OUTSIDE THE PARK

##### SPRINGDALE & VIRGIN

**Bit & Spur Restaurant & Saloon** ★★ MEXICAN/SOUTHWESTERN Rough wood-and-stone walls and an exposed beamed

## 86 CHAPTER 5 · WHERE TO STAY, CAMP &amp; EAT IN ZION

ceiling give this restaurant the look of an Old West saloon, but it's an unusually clean saloon that also has a family dining room, patio dining, and original oil paintings on the walls. The food here is also a notch or two above what might be expected; closer to what you'd find in a good Santa Fe restaurant. The menu includes Mexican standards such as burritos, flautas, chiles rellenos, and a traditional chile stew with pork and rice, but you'll also find more exotic creations, such as *pollo relleno*—a grilled breast of chicken stuffed with cilantro pesto and goat cheese, served with pineapple salsa. Also good are the deep-dish chicken enchilada, with scallions, green chilies, and cheese; and the Moroccan spiced lamb—a braised lamb shank with a sweet tamarind glaze, served with black-eyed pea ragout, and rice. Several vegetarian items are also available. The Bit & Spur has full liquor service and an extensive wine list.

1212 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. ☎ 435/772-3498. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$8.50–\$20. AE, DISC, MC, V. Feb–Nov daily 5–10pm (bar open until midnight); Dec–Jan Thurs–Mon 5–10pm. Closed Christmas Day.

**Panda Garden** CHINESE Chinese art, soft music, and green plants create a pleasant ambience in this large, open room. You can sit inside or on the patio. The lunch menu offers a wide variety of items including chow mein (chicken, pork, or beef) and sweet and sour pork or chicken. You can also get hot and spicy choices such as Hunan beef and Yu-shang shrimp. The dinner menu lists more than 50 Chinese dishes, with a dozen seafood choices plus numerous beef and chicken selections. Chef's specials include Triple Delight—gan-shiao spicy shrimp, Mandarin duck, and house pan-fried noodles; and New York steak Chinese style—a 10-ounce steak cooked in a very hot wok with fresh vegetables, all in a rich broth. Beer is served.

805 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. ☎ 435/772-3535. Lunch \$4.95–\$6.95; dinner \$7.25–\$19. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily noon–11pm. Closed Nov–Feb.

**Spotted Dog Café** ♡ AMERICAN/REGIONAL With a greenhouse/garden look, this restaurant makes the most of the area's spectacular scenery, with large windows for inside diners plus an outdoor patio. The menu changes seasonally and emphasizes fresh local ingredients and herbs from the inn's garden whenever possible. Breakfast features homemade granola, fresh fruits and juices, and various egg dishes, including trout and eggs and wonderful omelets such as smoked salmon and brie. Dinner selections in spring are likely to include fresh vegetable and lamb dishes; in summer look for innovative salads and light entrees, such as local red trout and mesquite

roasted chicken; during fall and winter you can expect rich sauces, black Angus beef, pork, wild game, and scrumptious desserts. There is an excellent 2,000-bottle wine cellar; microbrewery draft beers are also available along with complete liquor service.

At Flanigan's Inn, 428 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. ☎ 435/772-3244. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$9.95–\$24. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily 7am–11:30am and 5–10pm; reduced hours in winter.

**Zion Park Gift & Deli** ✨ *Value* SANDWICHES This is our choice for a top quality deli-style sandwich at an economical price. You can eat at one of the cafe-style tables inside or on the patio outside, or you can carry your sandwich off on a hike or to a national park picnic ground. All baked goods, including the excellent sandwich breads and sub rolls, are made in-house. In typical deli style, you order at the counter and wait as your sandwich is prepared with your choice of bread, meats, cheeses, and condiments. This is also a good breakfast stop for those who enjoy fresh-baked cinnamon rolls, muffins, banana nut bread, and similar goodies, with a cup of espresso. Locally made candy and 16 flavors of ice cream and frozen yogurt are also offered. No alcohol is served.

866 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. ☎ 435/772-3843. \$5–\$10. AE, DISC, MC, V. Summer Mon–Sat 8am–9pm; reduced hours in winter.

**Zion Pizza & Noodle** ✨ *Kids* PIZZA/PASTA A favorite of both locals and visitors, and one of the most recommended restaurants in town, this busy cafe is the place to come for good pizza and pasta in a somewhat funky atmosphere—it's located in a former church with a turquoise steeple. The dining room has small, closely spaced tables and black-and-white photos on the walls. Patrons order at the counter and help themselves to soft drinks while waiting for their food to be delivered. The 12-inch pizzas, with lots of chewy crust, are baked in a slate stone oven. They're very good, but we were initially put off by all the oddly topped specialty pies, such as the Southwest burrito pizza and barbecue chicken pizza. But have no fear—you can get a basic cheese pizza or add any of the roughly 15 extra toppings, from pepperoni to green chilies to pineapple. The menu also offers a variety of pastas, such as penne pasta with grilled chicken, broccoli, carrots, fresh cream, and cheese; plus calzones and stromboli. Take out and delivery service are provided. Beer and wine are available.

868 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. ☎ 435/772-3815. www.zionpizzanoodle.com. Reservations not accepted. Entrees \$9.95–\$12. No credit cards. Daily from 4pm; call for winter hours.

**OUTSIDE THE EAST ENTRANCE TO ZION NATIONAL PARK**

**Golden Hills Restaurant** AMERICAN This is a simply but attractively decorated family-style restaurant, where you'll find made-from-scratch breads, pies, and soups. We especially like the casual, homey atmosphere here. Breakfasts include the usual egg and pancake offerings; lunch is burgers and sandwiches, a soup and salad bar, plus scones with butter and honey. For dinner you can get steak, chicken, fish, pork, and pasta. We especially recommend the country-fried steak and cream of broccoli soup. Beer and wine are served.

At the junction of Utah 9 and U.S. 89 at the Golden Hills Motel. ☎ 435/648-2602. Reservations not accepted. Lunch \$3.25–\$5.25; dinner \$7.95–\$17. MC, V. Summer daily 7am–10pm; winter daily 8am–8pm.

**Thunderbird Restaurant** AMERICAN This spacious restaurant offers both booths and tables in a comfortable, Southwest setting. The decor is simple and attractive, in pastels with wood accents. The breakfast menu includes pancakes, French toast, cereal, fruit, breads, numerous egg dishes, and even a hearty steak and eggs platter. Lunch consists of a wide variety of sandwiches and burgers. Dinner entrees include steak, seafood, and chicken, plus the popular country-fried steak. The restaurant has great homemade pies, breads, and soups, and a soup and salad bar is open at dinner during the summer. Beer and wine are served.

At the junction of Utah 9 and U.S. 89 in the Best Western Thunderbird Resort. ☎ 435/648-2203. Reservations not accepted. Lunch \$4.95–\$8.25; dinner entrees \$8.95–\$18. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Summer daily 7am–10pm; winter daily 7am–8pm. Closed Christmas Day.

**Zion Mt. Carmel Restaurant** AMERICAN/MEXICAN This down-home coffee shop offers great homemade pies, spicy New Mexico-style Southwest dishes, shakes and sundaes, and burgers and sandwiches. Locals love the green chile beef and bean burrito, and the enchilada-style burrito, which is smothered with chile sauce. The breakfast menu includes the standards: ham and eggs, omelets, pancakes, and French toast. No alcoholic beverages are served.

A quarter mile east of the east entrance to Zion National Park (P.O. Box 193, Orderville, UT 84758). ☎ 435/648-3012. Breakfast \$3.25–\$5.95; sandwiches \$3.50–\$5.50; Mexican dishes \$2.95–\$7.95. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily 9am–5pm.