Exploring National and State Parks in Southern Utah and Vicinity

Course Description

This 4-week course will cover national and state parks in southern Utah, northwestern Arizona and southeastern Nevada (Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, and Zion), national monuments in Utah, SE Nevada, and northern Arizona and include a few Utah state parks (Fremont Indian State Park, Kodachrome Basin State Park, Snow Canyon State Park, etc.). The course will include recommendations on exploring the best of each area.

Each week we will cover the following:

- History and overview of the parks and monuments
- Geology of the parks and monuments
- Highlights of each area
- Insider tips

October 26, 2026 – Southwestern Utah – Introduction to course, Zion National Park, Snow Canyon State Park, Red Cliffs National Conservation Area

November 2, 2026 – Southeastern Nevada – – Explore parks around Mesquite and Las Vegas, Nevada including Gold Butte National Monument, Valley of Fire State Park, Lost City Museum, Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, Red Rock National Conservation Area

November 9, 2024 – Central Utah – Fremont Indian State Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Goblin Valley State Park, Kodachrome Basin State Park, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

November 16, 2024 – Northern Arizona – Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Pipe Springs National Monument, Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument

Diana Hawks (tdhawks@infowest.com) has an associate's degree in Geology from Ricks College and a BS and MA in Prehistoric Archaeology from Brigham Young University. She has worked as an archaeologist and team leader since 1975, with private companies and the Bureau of Land Management for 27 years. In retirement she works part-time for Road Scholar as an educator on bus tours to the national and state parks of southern Utah and northern Arizona. She thoroughly enjoys teaching archaeology and exploring classes at the Institute for Continued Learning.