

Avoid Flash Flood

Flash floods are uncommon, but deadly. Dry periods, which bake the plateau like a clay pot, or multiple days of continuous rain, which saturate the plateau, create perfect conditions for flooding. Both can produce run-off and extremely high water levels. During an actual "flash," a sudden build-up of rushing water carrying rocks, logs, and other debris can consume narrow canyons like Orderville with little warning. The high debris load of such a "roll through" is powerful and deadly. Education and good decision-making are imperative to managing the risk of flash flood. Please be safe, and remember:

1. If floods are predicted, **do not hike** in the Narrows or other slot canyons.
2. If you experience heavy rain, if the river color changes, or if water flow and depth increase while hiking, **seek high ground**, 6+ feet above river level.
3. If conditions subside, hike down-canyon to the next high ground area. If conditions worsen, **stay put** until high water passes. This may take 24 or more hours.
4. Hike out **only** when water has receded.
5. If in doubt, **stay put**. You can not out-run or out-swim a flood.
6. Make note of high ground locations while hiking!
7. If you cannot get out, help cannot get in. **Do not expect a rescue.**
8. **Bring extra food and clothing** in case of a forced overnight.
9. **Your safety is your responsibility!**

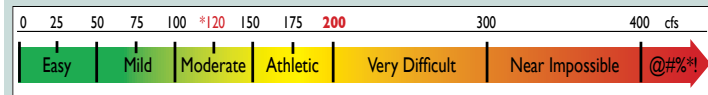
Seasonal Comparison

MONTH OF YEAR >>BEST<<	WATER FLOW 1=LEAST 10=MOST	WATER TEMP (°F)	TRAFFIC 1=LEAST 10=MOST	FLOOD DANGER 1=LOW 10=HIGH	BOTTOM UP OPEN?	TOP DOWN OPEN?
JAN	2 - 4	40° - 45°	1	1 - 2	MOSTLY	RARELY
FEB	2 - 4	40° - 45°	1 - 2	1 - 2	YES	RARELY
MAR	3 - 7	40° - 45°	3 - 5	1 - 2	YES	RARELY
APR	4 - 10	45° - 50°	4 - 6	3 - 4	MOSTLY	SOMETIMES
>>MAY<<	3 - 7	50° - 55°	5 - 7	3 - 4	YES	MOSTLY
>>JUNE<<	2 - 4	55° - 60°	6 - 8	3 - 4	YES	YES
JULY	1 - 3	60° - 65°	7 - 10	5 - 8	YES	YES
AUG	1 - 4	60° - 65°	7 - 10	5 - 10	YES	YES
>>SEP<<	2 - 4	55° - 60°	5 - 8	5 - 10	YES	YES
>>OCT<<	2 - 3	50° - 55°	4 - 7	3 - 4	YES	YES
NOV	2 - 3	45° - 50°	3 - 5	1 - 2	YES	MOSTLY
DEC	2 - 4	40° - 45°	2 - 3	1 - 2	YES	SOMETIMES

Dry pant /suit recommended at water temperatures below 55°F.

Safe River Hiking Flow Rate

The US Geological Survey monitors the Virgin River and measures water volume in CFS, cubic feet per second. The CFS of the Virgin River fluctuates over time due to rains and snow melt. Use the chart below to estimate the hike-ability of the river today. Ninety-percent of the year the Virgin River flows less than 75 CFS, making it hike-able for any person weighing 50 pounds or more.



*Zion National Park does not issue Thru-Hike permits when flows exceed 120 CFS, nor do they recommend hiking from the Bottom-Up when flows are greater than 140 CFS.

Leave No Trace ®

- Please be low-impact in this fragile environment. Don't bust the crust!
- Carry-out everything you bring in, including your poop.
- Avoid short-cutting social trails and stay in or along the river.
- Leave everything as you find it. No rock collecting or name carving.
- This map is for reference only and not meant to replace good decision making!
- Learn about local ethics before hiking.
- Hypothermia is a risk anytime of year. Don't get caught cold!
- Be aware. Be open minded. You are one of thousands of Narrows hikers.

What To Bring

At right is a rough list for day-hikers. Seasonal changes can make for longer and more detailed equipment lists. Campers should include these items and already be experienced enough to pack for overnight exposure. Campfires are forbidden; use contained fuel stoves for cooking. All water, including springs, must be filtered. **Cellular and satellite phones do not work in the canyon.** Always check flood potential with the Zion Backcountry desk or Zion Adventure Company.

- Sunscreen, SPF 30 or greater
- Warm hat and gloves, September - May
- Warm layer or jacket anytime of year
- Non-cotton layers anytime of year
- River shorts or bathing suit, May-September
- Dry pants or dry suit, October-May
- Sturdy 5.10 Canyoneer Footwear
- Wood walking stick or sacrificial ski poles
- Day pack or hydration pack
- At least 2 liters of water per person per day
- Food & nutritional snacks
- Trash bags for your garbage
- Poop bag, Restop® or WAG-BAG®
- Zip-locks and drybags for food, wallet, etc
- Camera with double-layer waterproofing
- Leave cell phone and Blackberry® behind
- Journal, sketch pad, diary

Getting To Chamberlain's Ranch

Exit Zion National Park, driving East on State Route 9. 2.5 miles after leaving the East Entrance, turn left on North Fork Road. After 5 miles, the pavement ends at Ponderosa Resort. Continue on a rough, unmaintained, dirt road for another 13 miles to a bridge. Turn left at T, then drive 1/4 mile to Chamberlain's Ranch main gate. Enter and close gate. This and the first 3 miles of the hike are private property. Please do not defecate, collect walking sticks, or disturb this property (locally enforced). North Fork Road is impassible after heavy rains, even with 4-wheel drive. Even in good conditions, cars with low clearance may not survive the ruts and rocks. It is worth hiring a trailhead shuttle to avoid the three-hour round-trip to retrieve your car after the 16-mile hike.

Shuttle Reservations: 435.772.1001

Reserve Your Gear Today

- ▶ 36 Lion Blvd. at the corner of Zion Park Blvd. Across from the Quality Inn and RV Park Springdale, UT 84767-0523
- ▶ Biking, Hiking, Climbing, and Canyoneering Trips
- ▶ Narrows Outfitting and Trip Panning
- ▶ Rentals and Sales of Canyon and Climbing Gear
- ▶ March - October, Open 8am - 8pm
- ▶ November - Feb., Open 9am - 12pm, then 4pm - 7pm
- ▶ Reservations Call: 435-772-1001 Email: info@zionadventures.com



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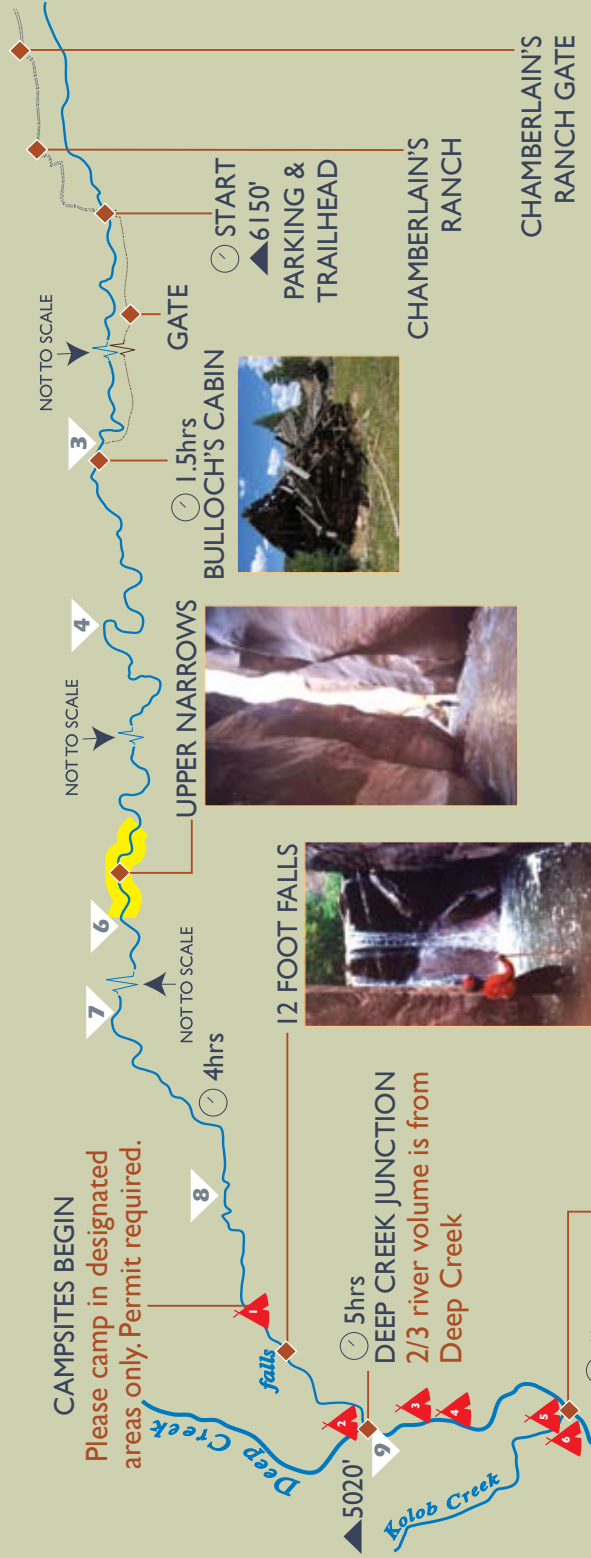
ZION NARROWS

Reference Map and Trip Planner

Spring break Bottom-Up hikers enjoying the beginning of Wall Street, ten minutes north of Orderville Canyon.



Virgin River Narrows Top-Down Thru-Hike



Bottom-Up Day-Hike



1 Mileage from start

◆ Point of interest

— No high ground

▲ Designated camp site, permit required

👤 Possible deep pool, changes seasonally

🕒 Estimated hiking time from start
Fastest ~ 7 hours, Slowest ~ 24 hours



NOTE:
Permits and human waste carry-out bags are required to hike Top-Down. Maximum group size is 12 persons.

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