

Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales

Angel's *Be Alive!*



Bryce Canyon National Park – Utah

Bryce Canyon National Park

Highway 63
Bryce Canyon, Utah 84764
Coordinates: N37°34.99968,
W112°13.00188

Highlights: Spectacular views, hiking, horseback riding, and stargazing.

Programs/Activities: Park rangers and volunteers conduct interpretive activities, including hikes, walks, geology talks and evening slide programs from late spring through early fall. Check at the park visitor center or Bryce Canyon Lodge for daily schedules.

Food: There are only three or four places to eat, so make sure to stop by "The Pines."

Operating Hours: The park is open 24 hours every day of the year, although the Lodge is open April through October. There may be temporary road closures during and shortly after winter snowstorms until plowing is completed and conditions are safe for visitor traffic. Road maintenance may require brief closures of individual areas at other times.

Fees: \$25 per car (currently).

Other Local Attractions:

- 5 miles from scenic flights, helicopter and plane tours
- 10 miles from Grand Staircase-Escalante
- 87 miles from Zion National Park

Best Option:

Best Option: From Los Angeles take the 210, 10, or 60 east to 15 north toward and past Las Vegas. Continue going north; you will pass through Arizona. Continue north on 15 until exit 95 for UT-20 toward US 89 Panguitch/Circleville. Turn right onto UT-20 east, then turn right onto US-89 south. Turn left onto UT-12 east. Turn right onto UT-63 south. Bryce Canyon is located in south-central Utah, approximately 85 miles northeast of Zion National Park.



Angel Jr., Angel and Aden wait for the park shuttle by the visitor center.

Hello again, everyone!

Wow, do we have an adventure for you this month! We traveled outside our Golden State, through the Silver State (Nevada), across the north tip of the Grand Canyon State (Arizona) and continued up to a gorgeous place named after a Mormon pioneer, Ebenezer Bryce. Do you know our destination yet?

We went to Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah. This place is *amazing!* My wife, Cathy, and I always said, "When the boys are old enough we should go to Bryce Canyon." So, now that our boys are 11 and 9, it was a good time to go. The trip was absolutely worth the wait!

Bryce Canyon became a national park in 1928. Small by National Park standards, the 56.2 square miles of Bryce Canyon National Park occupy the eastern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in south-central Utah. The park is not a canyon. Rather, it is a spectacular series of more than a dozen amphitheatres, each of which is carved at least 1,000 feet into the limestone of the Paunsaugunt Plateau.

Day Hikes:

The easiest trail is the half-mile (one way) section of Rim Trail between Sunset and Sunrise Points. Other sections of the Rim Trail (which extends 5.5 miles between Fairyland and Bryce Points) have steeper terrain. The Fairyland Loop (8 miles round trip), Peekaboo Loop (4.8 or 5.5 miles round trip), Queen's Garden (1.7 miles round

trip) and Navajo Loop (1.5 miles round trip) trails wind down through the rock formations along steep grades. The Peekaboo Loop Trail also serves as a horse trail.

We stayed in Bryce Canyon for seven days. If you ever seen the movie *Cars*, that is what Bryce Canyon resembles. We began our first hike of the trip, Navajo/Queens Trail, the most popular trail recommended by a friendly Park Ranger. If you start at the Queen's site and hike down, it is gorgeous; however, when you get to the other side coming back up the Navajo side, you will be going up some very, very steep switchbacks, that was the most difficult section of the trail.

On the last day, we hiked this trail one more time, and this time we started on the Navajo side and walked down the switchbacks and back up on Queen's trail. That was so much easier. Nonetheless, there were amazing views either way. This place is breathtaking!

We rented ATVs right outside the Canyon and took a few hours riding in the area next to Bryce Canyon to see all of nature's beautiful trees and landscapes.

On another day, we took a horseback-riding tour for a half-day that we had set up in advance. We were given a short safety class and told not to be alarmed, that each horse was going to walk very close to the edge of the trail. The instructors joked and said this was so we could get a good look over the edge!

The tour used horses and mules; they were all very beautiful and well-kept animals. We loved the horses and

mules. Everything was so relaxing; I felt bad for all the people hiking, but hey we already did our hiking. This was one of the best experiences on the trip.

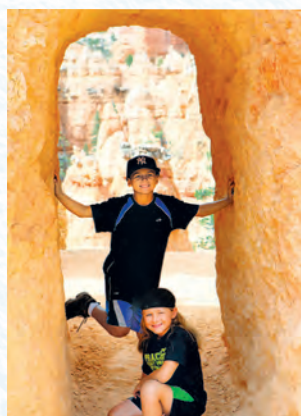
This was one of the best *Be Alive!* adventures to date. If you ever get a chance to visit Utah, I would recommend this area. Bryce Canyon rocked!

Of course, in a place this big with this much sun, always bring plenty of water, sunscreen and some snacks. Please send me your photos to agomez@cityemployeesclub.com

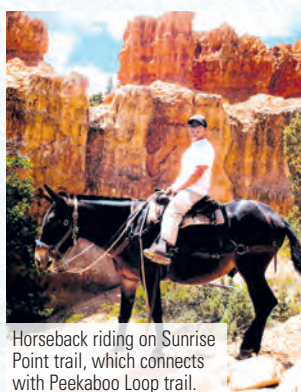
**As always, *Be Alive!*,
Angel**



Near the waterfall next to Mossy Cave off Highway 12 just north of Bryce Canyon National Park. From left: Angel Jr., Angel and Aden with *Alive!*



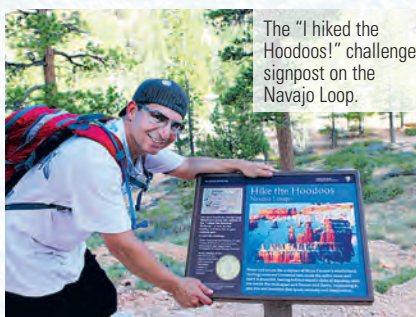
On the Fairyland Point trail, Angel Jr. and Aden enjoy some shade.



Horseback riding on Sunrise Point trail, which connects with Peekaboo Loop trail.



In front of National Park entrance, Kathy and Angel are enjoying the trip.



The "I hiked the Hoodoos!" challenge signpost on the Navajo Loop.



Riding an ATV just outside the park. Aden loves ATVs.



On the Queen's Garden trail, Aden, Kathy, and Angel Jr. In front of the Hoodoos.