

Driving & Flights Guide

Fly Seattle to Salt Lake City, drive 815 miles through five stops, fly home from Las Vegas

The route at a glance

Date	Drive	Miles	Hours
Sun Nov 1	Salt Lake City airport to Moab	235	3.75
Thu Nov 5	Moab to Torrey	145	2.5
Sat Nov 7	Torrey to Bryce Canyon	110	2.5
Mon Nov 9	Bryce Canyon to Springdale	165	3
Thu Nov 12	Springdale to Las Vegas	160	2.75

About 815 miles in all. Hours are driving time without stops; the stop notes below say when to leave.

- **Time zones:** daylight saving ends at 2 AM on Nov 1, so the whole Utah leg runs on Mountain Standard Time. Las Vegas (Nov 12–13) is Pacific, **one hour behind**.
- **Sunset ~5:15–5:25 PM** in Utah, and ~4:35 PM (Pacific) in Las Vegas. Plan to be off trails and off unfamiliar roads by dark.

Flights

	Date	Flight	Times
Out	Nov 1	Delta 1016	SEA 9:42 AM to SLC 12:50 PM
Home	Nov 13	Alaska 664	LAS 10:42 AM to SEA 1:35 PM

- Out: Daylight saving ended at 2 AM, so the clocks are already on standard time.
- Home: It lands at SeaTac, **not Paine Field**, so plan the drive home.
- Print the Every Kid Outdoors voucher (paper only)
- Download offline maps and the NPS app's offline content for all five parks
- Confirm Alamo will hold the van for a 12:50 PM arrival
- Check the additional adults' flight times line up with the van pickup

The van

Alamo Ford Transit Wagon (or similar), picked up at SLC on Nov 1 and dropped at LAS on Nov 13.

- The pickup is listed for noon, but DL 1016 lands at 12:50 PM. Call Alamo if the flight is late.
- Return at LAS **before** the 10:42 AM flight, even though the booking says noon.
- **At pickup, measure the width across the mirrors.** 94" (7'10") or less: the van may use Zion's tunnel road, so Nov 9 can go through the tunnel and Nov 11 can be the east side (both alternatives are in the Springdale plan). Over 94": keep the I-15 / Kolob Canyons plan. Height must also be under 11'4".

Salt Lake City airport to Moab

Sun Nov 1 · 235 mi · about 3.75 hrs

Route and road notes

- **Delta 1016** lands at SLC at **12:50 PM**. Follow the Rental Car signs to Alamo for the Ford Transit Wagon.
- Route: I-15 S › US-6 E through Price › I-70 E at Green River › US-191 S to Moab.
- Sunset is ~5:20 PM, so the last hour or more is in the dark. US-191 has deer; take it steady.

The travel day

- **Delta 1016 · SEA 9:42 AM › SLC 12:50 PM.** Daylight saving ended at 2 AM, so the clocks are already on standard time.
- Collect the van and be rolling by ~2:00 PM. The pickup is listed for noon, so call Alamo if the flight is late.
- Dinner in Green River (~5:00 PM), then the last hour into Moab in the dark (arrive ~7:00 PM).
- Homewood Suites, 132 N Main St. Check-in from 3 PM.

Moab to Torrey

Thu Nov 5 · 145 mi · about 2.5 hrs

Route and road notes

- US-191 N › I-70 W › exit 149 to UT-24 W through Hanksville › Torrey.
- **Fuel:** fill in Moab or Green River. Hanksville is the only stop on UT-24 and has limited services.
- The road crosses open desert, then enters Capitol Reef from the east along the Fremont River. You'll pass the park on the way in.

The travel day

- Homewood checkout by 11:00 AM; leave Moab ~9:00 AM to arrive by ~11:30 AM.
- Picnic lunch, then the Scenic Drive and the Petroglyph Boardwalk.

- Skyview check-in from 3:00 PM. The **front desk closes at 10 PM**, so arrive well before.
- Head back by 4:30 PM; sunset ~5:15 PM.

Torrey to Bryce Canyon

Sat Nov 7 · 110 mi · about 2.5 hrs

Route and road notes

- From Torrey, **UT-12 S** over Boulder Mountain › Boulder › the Hogback › Escalante › Tropic › UT-63 to Bryce Canyon City.
- Boulder Mountain tops out above 9,000 ft. **Check [UDOT Traffic](#) before leaving**; UT-12 can be wintry even when Torrey is clear.
- Signal is patchy to none. Download offline maps in Torrey.

The travel day

- Skyview checkout by 11:00 AM; **leave Torrey ~10:00 AM** with a packed lunch and a full tank.
- Boulder Mountain › Hogback › Head of the Rocks Overlook › Escalante › Bryce
- Best Western check-in from 4:00 PM.
- **Sunset Point for the last light (~5:15 PM)**, then stars after dinner.

Bryce Canyon to Springdale

Mon Nov 9 · 165 mi · about 3 hrs

Route and road notes

- Tunnel road or I-15: follow the van-width decision made at pickup (see The van).
- Route: UT-12 W › US-89 N to Panguitch › UT-20 W › I-15 S › exit 16 › UT-9 E through Hurricane and La Verkin › Springdale. **Check the route in Maps, and never turn west onto UT-9 at Mount Carmel Junction.**
- **If UT-20 is snowy** (summit ~7,900 ft): US-89 S through Mount Carmel Junction (stay on US-89) › Kanab › US-89A › AZ-389 › UT-59 › Hurricane › UT-9 E to Springdale. Longer (~3.5 hrs), but lower.
- The van **may** enter by the South Entrance in Springdale and park in the large-vehicle lot by the Visitor Center.
- **If the van measured 94" or less across the mirrors at pickup**: take the classic way instead. US-89 S › UT-9 W at Mount Carmel Junction › east entrance › Checkerboard Mesa › the tunnel › switchbacks › Springdale (72 mi, 1.5–2 hrs).

The travel day

- Best Western checkout by 11:00 AM; **leave Bryce ~10:30 AM** with a full tank.

- SpringHill check-in from 3:00 PM, then the Pa'rus Trail at sunset.
- It's the warmest stop of the trip (low 60s°F by day); the winter layers can come off.

Springdale to Las Vegas

Thu Nov 12 · 160 mi · about 2.75 hrs

Route and road notes

- UT-9 W › I-15 S at exit 16 › through the Virgin River Gorge › Las Vegas › I-215 W › Rainbow Blvd.
- **Leave Springdale by 1:30 PM Mountain Time.** Las Vegas is on **Pacific Time, one hour behind**, but I-15 traffic, parking and casino navigation eat the gain.
- Fill up in St. George or Mesquite.

The travel day

- SpringHill checkout by 11:00 AM. Last lunch in Springdale, then **leave by 1:30 PM MT.**
- Holiday Inn Express check-in from 3:00 PM (Pacific): drop the bags, change, regroup.
- **Rideshare from the hotel at ~4:45 PM PT** (two cars for six). The hotel is off-Strip, and the van probably won't fit casino garages.
- Tournament of Kings at **6:00 PM**. Download all six mobile tickets **before** leaving the hotel.

Fuel, services and signal

Fill up whenever the tank is half empty. Services are sparse on:

- I-70 between Green River and Salina
- UT-24 through Hanksville
- UT-12 between Escalante and Tropic

Signal

Patchy or none on UT-12, inside Capitol Reef and in most of Canyonlands. Download offline Apple/Google maps for southern Utah before Nov 1.

Fuel notes by stop

Moab: Moab has plenty but is pricier than Green River.

Torrey: Fill up in Torrey before the Byway 12 drive. UT-12 has few stations, and services in Boulder are limited out of season.

Bryce Canyon: Bryce Canyon City has a general store and gas year-round, but a small one. Tropic has a little more.

Springdale: Springdale has stations; fill up before leaving for Las Vegas on Nov 12.

Las Vegas: Refuel before the Rent-A-Car Center; stations near the airport are pricier.

Park entry and passes

Kinsley's **Every Kid Outdoors** pass covers everyone in the van at all five national parks.

- It must be the **printed paper voucher**; a phone screenshot is not accepted.
- Kinsley must be present.
- It does **not** cover Dead Horse Point State Park (pay at the gate).
- Nov 11 (Veterans Day) is fee-free anyway, so expect crowds.

Zion shuttle and the van

- **Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is shuttle-only:** no private cars, even before or after shuttle hours.
- **Park shuttle (from the Visitor Center):** first departure 7:00 AM, last outbound 5:00 PM, **last return from Temple of Sinawava 6:15 PM**. Don't plan around the last bus.
- **Springdale shuttle:** starts ~8:00 AM; last return from Zion Canyon Village ~6:00 PM.
- The east side (Canyon Overlook, Checkerboard Mesa) is **off-limits to the van** unless it measured 94" or less at pickup; see above.

Fly home: Las Vegas to Seattle

- **Leave the hotel by ~7:45 AM PT.** Return the van well before the flight, even though the booking says noon.
- Alamo return at the [LAS Rent-A-Car Center](#), then the shuttle bus to the terminal (allow 20–30 min).