

Zion and Bryce Canyon



Actually this vacation started in Las Vegas and continued to Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park. This was a most unusual mix of man's best architectural wonders and some of nature's most magnificent splendor. Las Vegas is a fantasy world created in the middle of a desert that lights up the sky. From the clinking of slot machines at the airport to the glitz and advertising that promises everyone pleasure, Las Vegas is a destination not to be missed. This is a place better known as "Sin City". It pulls you in and around the casinos where the gambling has high stakes for everyone. Here every hotel seems to out do another as they take you into the world of magical wonders. You can ride a gondola in Venice, a roller coaster in New York, or see the city from the top of the Eiffel tower in Paris or even feel the power of a monsoon rain in the Middle East. The night offers unlimited shows from Burlesque to Broadway hits. You can feel the pulse of excitement everywhere as you watch the frenzy of hungry tourists all clamoring together for a good time. Everything in Las Vegas is designed to take you away from reality and into a world of imagination that only money can buy. Yes, in this city...the party never stops and the lights never go out. It's something so unique that it must be experienced to be believed. But my heart always feels more relaxed when I am away from the madding crowds. We took the second half of our vacation in nearby Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon. WOW, two more opposite worlds cannot exist. This whole area is called the Colorado Plateau. It is an area of the earth's surface formed millions of years ago from the natural forces of wind and water. Layers and layers of sediment gathered and then turned into rock that then was forced high into the sky. Changes are continual even today. Here we were surrounded by nature so magnificent that it seems to burst forth and demand reverence. The bold colors in the layers of mountain rock form cliffs that create natural sanctuaries. In almost every direction there are unending sights to see, trails to climb and wonders to behold. In Zion National Park we hiked up a river and into an area called "The Narrows". Here we looked like ants against the 1500 foot side walls of ever changing shapes. Another trail took us high up the cliffs and into secret locations of waterfalls and emerald green pools. This too, takes you away from reality and into a world of total awe. Zion National Park is a must to explore. Bryce Canyon is again one of nature's masterpieces. It looks like a big deep canyon nestled into a relatively small area where there are hundreds of hoodoos of all shapes and sizes. The pinnacles and spires jut up from depths far below and look like steeples, each one with a separate personality and story to tell. We were there in the fall and it looked like the tips of the formations were all frosted with snow. And then brilliant colors sprinkled throughout the canyon made me think it was decorated for the holidays and that I was being given a gift from this wonderland of nature. We hiked down and around, and up and through this giant playground. Nature always did inspire me. Whether it be the mountains, rivers, deserts, caverns, forests or oceans...our earth is a gift that keeps on giving. It is constant in sharing its food and shelter to all life that treads upon its surface. It asks only that we try and understand the special connection that we all share as a part of the circle of life. I feel humbled by its power and it's beauty.