



Guides to:

**Markagunt Plateau,  
Cedar Breaks National Monument,  
and  
Brian Head**



## Markagunt Plateau

The Markagunt Plateau is an attractive, heavily forested highland. (The Indian term Markagunt means "highland of trees.") Though the term "plateau" connotes to many a flat, rocky area, the Markagunt Plateau is more mountainous, consisting of nice peaks topping out at 11,315 feet, rolling hills and large grassy meadows. Its most outstanding feature is [Cedar Breaks National Monument](#), a large amphitheater of colorful, eroded rock forms. It also contains Brian Head Ski Resort in the town of [Brian Head](#).



Recreational opportunities on the plateau are numerous. There are good hiking and mountain biking trails and some nice fishing in lakes and streams. Timbered campgrounds are numerous and most of the highways through the plateau are designated scenic byways. In winter, heavy snow provides good downhill and cross country skiing and snowmobiling opportunities.

The Markagunt Plateau occupies about 800 square miles between I-15 and Hwy 89 in southwestern Utah. It is just east of Cedar City. Most of the plateau is part of the Dixie National Forest.

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## Hiking

There are dozens of hiking trails throughout the Markagunt Plateau, a selection of which are briefly described below.



### **TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS**

	<u>Difficulty</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Elev. Change</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>Potato Hollow</b>	Moderate	2.5 mi. oneway	_____ ft.	1-1/2 hrs.

This trail offers some fine views of the Ashdown Gorge Wilderness and High Mountain. It begins near Cedar Canyon Campground and drops down a timbered hillside to an intersection with Blowhard Trail (#2) It continues along the grassy bottom of Long Hollow before dropping steeply into Ashdown Gorge. The trail ends at a dirt road.

<b>Blowhard</b>	Moderate	4 mi. out/back	_____ ft.	3 hrs.
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Blowhard drops steeply for a mile or so through heavy timberland to the edge of Red Canyon with great views of it and adjacent Cedar Breaks amphitheater. The trail continues along the edge of the canyon before an intersection with Potato Hollow Trail (#1). To reach the trailhead, travel about 2 miles north on Hwy. 148 from Hwy 14, turn left and head west 1 mile to the marked trailhead on the right side of the road.

<b>Rattlesnake Creek</b>	Difficult	9 mi. oneway	-3,400 ft.	overnight
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This challenging trail descends steeply from just north of Cedar Breaks National Monument along Rattlesnake Creek. It provides access into spectacular Ashdown Gorge in the Ashdown Gorge Wilderness and into the lower reaches of Cedar Breaks. The trail is not always well-marked so good map reading skills are helpful. You will have to wade through some water in Ashdown Gorge and it is subject to flash floods.

**Bristle Cone Pine**                      Easy              1/2 mi. out/back              flat              1/2 hr.

This paved, wheel-chair-accessible trail leads through dense forest to the rim of the Markagunt Plateau where hardy limber and bristlecone pine cling to the cliff edge.

**Virgin Rim Trail**                      Moderate              38 mi. oneway              \_\_\_\_\_ ft.              ---

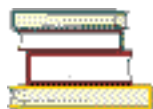
This trail runs for 38 miles along the southern rim of the Markagunt Plateau from Deer Haven Group Campground to Strawberry Point. It travels through heavy pine forests and presents some great views south over the Pink Cliffs to Zion National Park. Spur trails lead to it from the campgrounds surrounding Navajo Lake near the halfway point. (See Hiking SuperMap.) The trail is open to ATV's from Deer Haven to Te-ah and to bicycles along its entire length.

**Cascade Falls**                      Easy              1 mi. out/back              50 ft.              1 hr.

Popular Cascade Falls National Recreation Trail runs along the top of the Pink Cliffs offering great views south to Zion National Park. It ends at a pleasant waterfall.

**Lost Hunter**                      Moderate              3 mi. loop              600 ft.              1-1/2 hrs.

This trail climbs from the Duck Creek Campground to the top of the Duck Creek bench. It presents some good views.



**HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS**

For additional information on hiking in the Markagunt Plateau and nearby areas, select [Markagunt Publications](#) for a list of relevant books and maps.

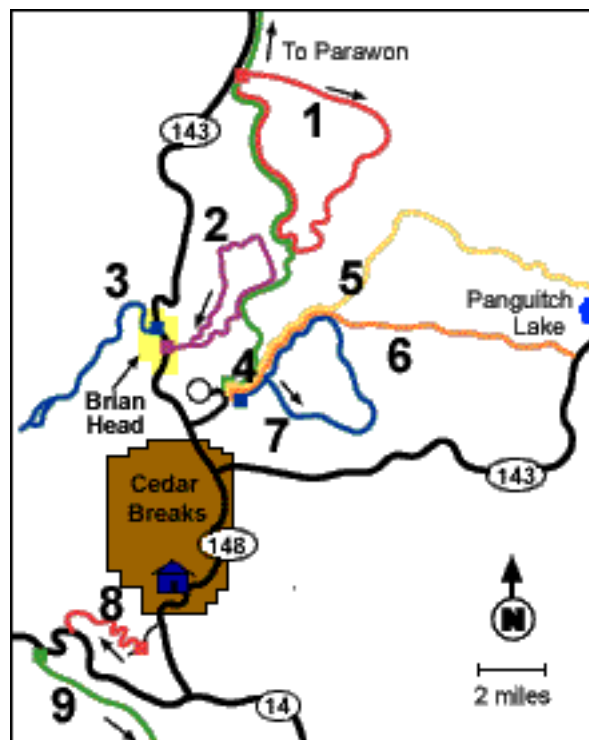
You might also wish to contact the Cedar City Ranger District office at 82 N. 100 East, Box 627, Cedar City, UT 84721; 435-865-3200.

## Mountain Biking

There are numerous good mountain bike rides amid the beautiful mountain scenery of the Markagunt Plateau. Riding is generally available from June to October. The town of Brian Head serves as a base for most mountain bikers coming to the area. Presented below are:

- Trail Descriptions for 9 rides;
- a List of Outfitters who rent bikes and lead tours; and
- Helpful Publications and Maps.

The map to the right gives a general idea of the location of each of the rides described below.



### TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

	<u>Skill/ Endurance</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Elev. Change</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>1 Yankee Meadow</b>	Intermediate/ Strenuous	15 mi. loop	2,500 ft.	3 hrs.
<p>Yankee Meadow starts along the road to Vermillion Castle Campground beneath brightly colored cliffs. Past the campground the route climbs steeply and levels out as it passes open meadows and Yankee Meadow Reservoir. Past the reservoir the route enters forest and then descends along Second Left Hand Canyon Road along the Center Creek (which you'll need to ford once).</p>				
<b>2 Hendrickson Lake Loop</b>	Intermediate/ Moderate	9 mi. loop	1,100 ft.	2-1/2 hrs.
<p>This great loop features some excellent single track through aspen groves, pioneer cabins and pretty Hendrickson Lake. The route alternates between forests and meadows, double- and single-track. You can start at Poncho &amp; Lefty's Restaurant or drive 1/2 mile up the road there.</p>				



**8 Blowhard Mountain**                      Advanced/  
Moderate                      4 mi. oneway                      -1,800 ft.                      1 hr.

This route starts through heavy forests with steep switchbacks. It then runs along the edge of Red Canyon in Ashdown Gorge Wilderness with excellent views of the colorful, eroded rock formations. The finish is through open meadows and aspen forests along Crystal Springs Road to Hwy. 14. Shuttle service is available.

**9 Virgin Rim Trail**                      Intermediate/  
Moderate                      32 mi. oneway                      [2,200 ft.]                      6-8 hrs.

This route has some spectacular views south over the Pink Cliffs to Zion National Park and beyond. The route has several access points and can be ridden in sections. You could also make it a multi-day ride supplemented with hikes and fishing at Navajo Lake.

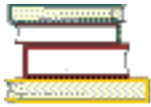
**Brian Head Ski Resort**

Chairlift Two at the Brian Head Ski Resort operates on weekends during the summer. From the top you can gain access to trail #'s 4-8 described above or ride down the face of the mountain.



Contact the following outfitters for information on bike rentals, guided tours and shuttle services. You'll also want to obtain from them more detailed trail descriptions and maps.

Bear Paw Lakeview Resort	905 S. Hwy 143 - Pangutich Lake	888-553-8439
Bike Route	70 W. Center St. - Cedar City	435-586-4242
Brian Head Bike Rentals	508 N. Hwy 143 - Brian Head	435-677-3838
Brian Head Cross Country	223 Hunter Ridge Dr. - Brian Head	800-245-3754
Brian Head Mountain Bike Park	329 South Hwy 143 - Brian Head	
Brian Head Resort	223 Hunter Ridge Rd. - Brian Head	800-272-7426
Brian Head Sports	329 S. Hwy. 143 - Brian Head	435-677-2014
Cedar Cycle	38 E. 200 South - Cedar City	435-586-5210
George's Ski Shop	612 S. Hwy. 143 - Brian Head	435-677-2013
Mountain Bike Heaven	25 E. Center St. - Panguitch	435-676-2880



## ***HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS***

For additional information on mountain biking in the Markagunt Plateau and nearby areas, select [Markagunt-Publications](#) for a list of relevant books and maps.

## Other Recreational Activities

Presented below is information on:

- Horseback Riding
- Fishing
- Downhill Skiing
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Snowmobiling

Information on [Mountain Biking](#) and [Hiking](#) is provided separately.



### **HORSEBACK RIDING**

A few outfitters in the area conduct guided single- and multi-day horseback trips.

Black Mountain Outfitters	2200 N. River Ln. (Panguitch)	435-676-2664
High Adventure Trail Rides	Box 248 (Brian Head)	435-677-3000



### **FISHING**

There is good fishing in several reservoirs, lakes and streams on the Markagunt Plateau.

- Navajo Lake is a pretty 1,500 acre natural lake (3 miles long) surrounded by forested hills. It is stocked with brook and rainbow trout. Boats can be rented at the lake from Navajo Lake Lodge (702-646-4197).
- Panguitch Lake is a natural 1,250 acre lake surrounded mostly by lava flows. While the surrounding area is pretty, the lake's setting is a bit bare. It is stocked with rainbow, brook and cutthroat trout. Rental boats are available at the lake.
- Paragonah Reservoir is a small reservoir stocked with rainbow trout. Small boats are permitted.
- Yankee Meadow Reservoir is another small reservoir stocked with rainbow and cutthroat trout. Small boats are permitted.

- Parowan Creek is an attractive, narrow, fast flowing mountain stream stocked with rainbow, brown, brook and cutthroat trout.

The following outfitters lead fishing trips in the area.

Black Mountain Outfitters	2200 N. River Ln. - Panguitch	435-676-2664
Black's Outfitters & Guide Service	Box 37 - Panguitch	435-676-8232
Butler Creek Outfitters	Box 201 - Panguitch	435-676-2375
Color Country Fly Fishing	Box 248 - Brian Head	435-677-3724
Eagle Basin Outfitters	Box 947 - Parowan	435-477-8837



### **DOWNHILL SKIING**

The Brian Head Ski Resort (800-272-7426) offers the only downhill skiing in southern Utah. While not as expansive as most of its brethren to the north, it is a good mid-size resort. A summary of pertinent information is set out below. (Select [Brian Head-Skiing](#) for more details.)

<u>Skiable Acres</u>	<u>Vert. Drop</u>	<u>Base Elev.</u>	<u>Total Runs</u>	<u>Adv.</u>	<u>Int.</u>	<u>Beg.</u>	<u>Lifts</u>	<u>Annual Snowfall</u>
500	1,700'	9,600'	53	30%	40%	30%	5T/1D	400"



### **CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**

Cross country skiing opportunities are available at several locations on the Markagunt Plateau.

- Brian Head Cross-Country Ski Center (800-245-3754) maintains over 25 miles of trails, about 6 miles of which are groomed. One trail overlooks nearby Cedar Breaks National Monument. Rentals and lessons are available.
- [Cedar Breaks National Monument](#) -- In winter when snow closes the access road, the park is still open and accessible on snowmobile, cross country skis or snowshoes. You'll have the park mostly to yourself.

- Areas around Duck Creek Village and Panguitch Lake are also available for skiing.

The following outfitters rent skis.

Brian Head Cross Country	223 Hunter Ridge Dr. - Brian Head	1-800-245-3754
Cedar Mountain Sports	921 South Main St. - Cedar City	435-586-4949
Crystal Mountain Recreation	539 North Hwy. 143 - Brian Head	435-677-2386



## **SNOWMOBILING**

The Markagunt Plateau receives lots of snow each winter providing great snowmobile opportunities. There are established trails across the Plateau and also snowy forests and meadows for playing. Of note is a 45 mile loop connecting Cascade Overlook and Cedar Breaks National Monument and a route to Strawberry Point. Groomed trails are available near Duck Creek Village.

Snowmobile rentals and/or guided tours are available from:

Cedar Mountain Sports	921 South Main St. - Cedar City	435-586-4949
Crystal Mountain Recreation	539 North Hwy. 143 - Brian Head	435-677-2386

## Scenic Drives

Two pretty scenic drives cross the Markagunt Plateau.

### **Brian Head/Panguitch Lake Scenic Byway (Hwy 143)**

Brian Head/Panguitch Lake Scenic Byway climbs from the town of Parawon steeply through forests of pine and aspen to the resort town of Brian Head. At mile 16, the route reaches its summit of 11,000 feet in the shadow of Brian Head Peak. It continues through alternating heavy timberland and large grassy meadows as it gradually descends the remaining 23 miles to Hwy 89, passing large Panguitch Lake on the way.

Stops of interest along the way include:

#### **Brian Head Peak (Mile 15)**

A gravel road intersects the scenic drive and climbs 3 miles to a lookout atop the 11,307 foot Brian Head Peak, the highest point on the Plateau. It offers a good 360 degree panoramic view over the plateau and much of southwestern Utah. The flat-topped peak was named in honor of William Jennings Bryan, the renowned orator (who actually spelled his name with a "y").

#### **Cedar Breaks National Monument (Mile 16)**

There is a pull-off at mile 16 with views into Cedar Breaks National Monument. Hwy 148 heads south here and runs through the park.

#### **Mammoth Springs (Turnoff at about Mile 25)**

A pleasant tumbling stream issues from the side of the mountain at verdant and beautiful Mammoth Springs. Take the signed dirt road south at mile 25 of the scenic drive and keep to the right. The spring is about 2 miles in on the right side. Cross the footbridge and walk about 30 yards up to the spring.

### **Markagunt Scenic Byway (Hwy 14)**

Markagunt Scenic Byway climbs from Cedar City through a beautiful canyon to a summit of 9,900 feet just south of Cedar Breaks National Monument. Majestic rock canyon walls and heavy forests of pine and aspen line the route. Past the turn-off to Cedar Breaks (Hwy 148) the route gently descends for 23 miles through meadows and forests to a junction w/ Hwy. 89. There are some nice views south over the Pink Cliffs along the way.

Stops of interest along the way:

**Cedar Breaks National Monument** (Turn-off at Mile 18)

See above.

**Navajo Lake/Cascade Falls** (Turn-off at Mile 25)

A gravel road intersects the scenic drive and leads to pretty 1,500 acre Navajo Lake. The three-mile long lake is surrounded by forested hills. Branching off from the road to Navajo Lake is a dirt road leading to Cascade Falls National Recreation Trail. It runs along the top of the Pink Cliffs offering great views south to Zion National Park and ends at a pleasant waterfall.

**Alpine Mirror Lake** (Turn-off at Mile 29)

A dirt road runs north from the scenic drive to a parking area. From there is a short walk to this pretty, small lake.

**Mammoth Cave** (Turn-off at Mile 31)

The cave runs about 1/4 mile on two levels through an ancient lava field. It is very dark, cool and spooky. You'll need a powerful flashlight to see at all, and you might want to bring two. Gym shoes or hiking boots are also needed. You'll need to cover several miles of rough dirt roads to reach the cave.

## Lodging

Descriptions of your lodging and dining options on the Markagunt Plateau are provided below for:

- [Brian Head](#)
- [Panguitch Lake](#)
- [Duck Creek](#)

You might also consider Cedar City along I-15 on the western side of the plateau. It has a good selection of lodging and dining alternatives. Panguitch along Hwy 89 on the eastern side also has a number of hotels and a few restaurants/cafes.

### Brian Head

Brian Head is a small ski resort town which is mostly quiet during the summer and bustling on winter weekends. It has numerous lodges and condos, only some of which are open during the summer. It also has a few restaurants and bars (i.e. private clubs). See [Brian Head-Lodging](#) for details.

### Panguitch Lake

Panguitch Lake is a 1,250-acre natural volcanic lake along Hwy 143. It is a popular fishing location. Near the lake are a few places to spend the night and to eat.

#### Lodging

Bear Paw Lakeview Resort	905 S. Hwy 143	888-553-8439		\$\$
Beaver Dam Lodge	225 North Shore Rd.	435-676-8339	10 units	\$\$\$
Blue Springs Lodge	120 W. Highway 143	800-987-5634	6 rooms	\$\$-\$\$\$
Rustic Lodge	186 S. West Shore Rd.	800-427-8345	11 rooms	\$\$-\$\$\$

Pricing Code: \$ = under \$50; \$\$ = \$50-75; \$\$\$ = \$75-125

#### Dining

info to come

## Duck Creek

Duck Creek is a tiny town along Hwy 14. It caters to summer home residents in the area (and snowmobilers in the winter). It has few places to stay and eat.

### Lodging

Duck Creek Village Inn	Hwy. 14	435-682-2568	\$\$
Falcon's Nest	60 Movie Ranch Rd.	435-682-2556	\$\$
Meadeau View Lodge	Movie Ranch Rd.	800-332-0568	
Pinewoods Resort	121 Duck Creek Ridge Rd.	800-848-2525	\$\$\$
The Inn at Cedar Mountain	116 Color Country Rd	800-897-4995	\$\$\$

Pricing Code: \$ = under \$50; \$\$ = \$50-75; \$\$\$ = \$75-125

### Dining

**list to come**

## Camping



### PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

There are private campgrounds on the Markagunt Plateau near Panguitch Lake and in several of the towns adjacent to the plateau.

#### Panguitch Lake

Bear Paw Lakeview Resort	905 S. Hwy 143; Box 397	888-553-8439	
Panguitch Lake Resort	791 S. Resort Rd.; Box 567	435-676-2657	70 sites
Rustic Lodge RV Campground	186 S. West Shore Rd.	800-427-8345	28 sites

#### Panguitch (Hwy 89, 10 miles east of the plateau)

Big Fish KOA	555 S. Main St.	800-562-1625	75 sites
Hitch-N-Post Campground	420 N. Main St.	800-282-9633	76 sites
Red Canyons RV Park	Hwy 89 near Hwy. 12	435-676-2690	40 sites
Sportman's Paradise RV Park	2153 North Hwy. 89	435-676-8348	60 sites

#### Cedar City (I-15 just west of the plateau)

Cedar City KOA	1121 N. Main St.	435-586-9872	113 sites
Country Aire RV Park	1700 N. Main St.	435-586-2250	29 sites
Redledge Campground	11 mi. south of Cedar City	435-586-9150	22 sites
Town & Country RV Park	50 W. 200 North	435-586-9900	18 sites

#### Parawon (I-15 and Hwy 143 just west of the plateau)

Foothills RV Park	1435 W. 200 South	435-477-3535	79 sites
Sportman's Paradise	492 N. Main St.	435-477-3714	26 sites



## **PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS**

Located along Markagunt Plateau Scenic Byway (Hwy 14)

- Cedar Canyon sits in an attractive canyon along Crow Creek among aspen, fir and spruce. 19 sites; vault toilets; drinking water; 8,100'; open Mem. Day to Labor Day; first-come, first-serve; \$7.
- Deer Haven Group Campground. 20 tent only sites; flush toilets; drinking water; 8,900'; open Jun-Sept; reservations req'd: 800-280-2267; \$55 up to 50 people, \$1 per person thereafter.
- Point Supreme Campground in Cedar Breaks National Monument is set along the edge of a meadow across the highway from the visitor center. It sites are lightly timbered and a bit close together. 30 sites; vault toilets; drinking water; 10,000'; first-come, first-serve; \$9.
- Spruces is attractively situated along Navajo Lake among aspen, fir and spruce. Part of the campground is along the lake with pretty views while the other portion is across the highway. 26 sites; flush toilets; drinking water; 9,200'; open Mem. Day to Labor Day; first-come, first-serve; \$10. Grades: A- (lakeside); B- (highway side)
- Navajo Lake is similar to Spruces Campground. 32 sites (11 of which need to be walked to); flush toilets; drinking water; 9,200'; open Mem. Day to Labor Day; no reservations; \$10. Grades: A- (lakeside); B- (highway side).
- Te-ah is 1-1/2 miles west of Navajo Lake at the edge of a meadow among aspen, pine and tall grass. 42 sites; paved drive; flush toilets; drinking water; dump station; 9,200'; open Mem. Day to Labor Day; some sites reservable: 800-280-2267; \$10.
- Duck Creek is a large campground set in a moderately heavy timbered area. 98 sites; flush toilets; drinking water; dump station; 8,600'; open Mem. Day to Labor Day; reservations: 800-280-2267; \$10. It also has a group site available by reservation only. Grade: B-

Located along Brian Head/Panguitch Scenic Byway (Hwy 143)

- Panguitch Lake North is nicely set mostly among moderate forest near Panguitch Lake. Some multi-family units sit out more in the open, but enjoy nice views of the lake. 49 sites (incl' 18 multiple sites); flush toilets; running/drinking water; dump station; 8,400'; open Mem. Day to Labor Day; reservations: 800-280-2267; \$10. It also has a group site available by reservation only. Grade: B

Markagunt Plateau Camping Information

- Panguitch Lake South is a more primitive campground in a more heavily forested area about 1/2 mile from the lake. 17 tent only sites; vault toilets; drinking water; dump station; 8,400'; open Mem. Day to Labor Day; no reservations; \$7. Grade: B
- White Bridge Campground -- timbered setting in a red rock canyon. 29 sites; flush toilets; drinking water; dump station; 7,900'; open Mem. Day to Labor Day; reservations: 800-280-2267; \$10

## Practicalities

Provided below is information on:

- Getting There
- When to Go/Climate
- Useful Addresses/Numbers
- Miscellany



### **GETTING THERE**

#### **By Car or RV**

The Markagunt Plateau is located in southwestern Utah, east of Cedar City and I-15 and west of Panguitch and Hwy 89. The maps below will help you plan your route and get oriented.

- Utah
- Southwest Utah
- Markagunt Plateau SuperMap

#### **By Plane**

Skywest Airlines (800-453-9417) provides daily air service to Cedar City from Salt Lake City and St. George.

#### **Rental Cars**

Rental cars are available in Cedar City from:

National Car Rental	Airport	800-227-7368
Speedy Rentals	650 N. Main St.	435-586-7368



### **WHEN TO GO/CLIMATE**

Temperatures vary considerably depending on altitude, but the average daily highs and lows are set forth below will give you a general idea.

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun.</u>	<u>Jul.</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
High	27	30	35	37	55	68	75	71	66	54	37	28
Low	2	4	7	15	30	43	50	47	41	30	11	3



## **USEFUL ADDRESSES & PHONE #'S**

Iron County Travel Council	Box 1007 - Cedar City	800-354-4849
Garfield County Travel Council	55 S. Main St. - Panguitch	435-676-8826
Color Country Travel Region	Box 1550 - St. George	800-233-8824
Cedar Breaks National Monument	2390 W. Hwy 56, #11 - Cedar City	435-586-9451
Cedar City Ranger Dist. - Dixie Nat. For.	82 N. 100 East; Box 627 - Cedar City	435-865-3200
BLM Office - Cedar City District	176 East D.L. Sargent Dr. - Cedar City	435-586-2401



## **MISCELLANY**

### **Outdoor Gear**

Gart Bros. Sporting Goods	606 S. Main St. - Cedar City	435-586-0687
Ron's Sporting Goods	138 S. Main St. - Cedar City	435-586-9901

### **Bookstores**

Mountain West Bookstore	77 N. Main St. - Cedar City	435-586-3828
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## Publications

Presented below are publications that provide coverage of the Markagunt Plateau. Publications are listed alphabetically under the following categories.

- General Interest
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Camping

### General Interest

- **Insiders Guide to Southwestern Utah** -- Lyman Hafen, et. al.

Insider Publishing; 1997

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### Hiking

- **Best Hikes with Children in Utah** -- Maureen Keilty



Descriptions of 75 hikes throughout Utah that are good for kids. (240 pages; The Mountaineers; 1993; \$12)

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- **Hiking and Exploring the Paria River** - Michael Kelsey

Information on hiking in the Paria River Canyon, Bryce Canyon National Park and nearby areas. Also includes an account of the Mountain Meadows massacre. Uses the metric system only. (208 pages; Treasure Chest Pub.; 1991; \$12)

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**amazon.com**

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- **Hiking Utah -- Dave Hall and Ann Seifert**



Descriptions of 80 hikes throughout Utah from beginner to advanced. Black & white photos and maps. Describes the Ashdown Gorge hike. (245 pages; Falcon Press; 1996; \$12)

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- **Utah's Favorite Hiking Trails -- David Day**



(368 pages; Rincon Pub.; 1996; \$15)

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**amazon.com**

## Mountain Biking

- **Bicycle Utah Pamphlets**



A series of free pamphlets for each of Utah's nine travel regions. Contains good trail descriptions and advertisements from bike outfitters. Available from the Utah Travel Council at 800-200-1160. (20-30 pages)

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- **Bicycle Utah Vacation Guide**



A free pamphlet published by Bicycle Utah, a group that promotes mountain biking throughout the state. It contains overviews of selected trails in Utah's main travel regions plus advertisements from bike outfitters. (70 pages; Bicycle Utah Vacation Guides; published yearly)

Call to order:  
435-649-5806

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- **The Mountain Biker's Guide to Utah** -- Gregg Bromka

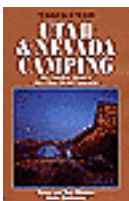


Excellent book describing in detail 80 classic rides throughout Utah by a writer who really knows the state and is terrifically enthusiastic about riding. Great maps. (360 pages; Falcon Press; 1994; \$12)

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**amazon.com**

## Camping

- **Utah & Nevada Camping** -- Gayen/Tom Wharton and Deke Castleman



Comprehensive guide to campgrounds in Utah and Nevada. Provides all the information you need. Note, however, a fair amount of details change in a year's time. (380 pages; Foghorn Outdoors; 1997; \$15.16)

[Order now from:](#)  
BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE  
**amazon.com**

Select [Utah Publications](#) for a complete list of publications covering activities and destinations in Utah.



## Cedar Breaks National Monument

A "circle of painted cliffs"

Cedar Breaks National Monument is a 3-mile wide, 2,500-foot deep amphitheater of wonderfully colored and eroded spires, ridges, and columns of sandstone. It sits 10,200 feet up in the heavy pine forests of the Markagunt Plateau. Cedar Breaks is very much a concentrated version of Bryce Canyon National Park, consisting of just one large amphitheater, rather than Bryce's 18. (It lacks though to some extent the intricacy of Bryce's eroded forms.)

Cedar Breaks is located in southwestern Utah about 20 miles east of I-15. It is less popular than the larger parks in the area (Bryce Canyon and Zion) and is often relatively uncrowded. It can be visited from late-May/early June to mid-October, after which time snow blocks highway access.



The nearest lodging and dining options are in the ski resort town of [Brian Head](#), 3 miles north. The nearest substantial town is Cedar City, located 20 miles to the west.

Presented below is information about:

- Exploring the Park
- Hiking
- Winter Activities
- Camping
- Practicalities



## EXPLORING THE PARK

Cedar Breaks is easy to explore. A paved road runs through the park for about five miles to four overlooks that provide different good views of the amphitheater. The southern portion of the amphitheater contains the most detailed forms and are best seen from Spectra Point/Ramparts Trail. You needn't hike the whole route, just take the trail about 100 yards to a good lookout. A small picnic area is across the highway from the visitor center next to the campground. (Wildflowers in the adjacent meadows are terrific in July and August.)



## HIKING

There are a few easy hiking trails along the rim.

	<u>Difficulty</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Elev. Gain</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>Spectra Point/Ramparts</b>	Easy	4 mi. roundtrip	_____	2-1/2 hrs.

Spectra Point/Ramparts Trail begins just south of the visitor center and runs 1 mile along the exposed southern rim of the amphitheater to Spectra Point Overlook, a peninsula that extends into the amphitheater. On the peninsula are a stand of bristlecone pines clinging to the rock. These hardy, gnarled trees can live up to 2,000 years. From Spectra Point, Ramparts Trail travels a mile through the forest past a stream and then out to Ramparts Overlook, a promontory extending into the far southern portion of the amphitheater.

<b>Alpine Pond Trail</b>	Easy	2 mile loop	Flat	1 hr.
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Alpine Pond Trail offers a pleasant walk along the rim through aspen, fir and spruce forest to a small pond. The trailhead is at the Chessman Ridge Overlook.

Though there are no trails in the monument that lead down into the amphitheater, the lower section of the amphitheater is reachable on the difficult Rattlesnake Creek Trail from just north of the park. See [Markagunt Plateau-Hiking](#).



## **WINTER ACTIVITIES**

In winter when snow closes the access road, the park is still open and accessible on snowmobile, cross country skis or snowshoes. You'll have the park mostly to yourself. Equipment rentals and guided tours are available from the following outfitters:

### **Cross Country Skiing**

Brian Head Cross Country	223 Hunter Ridge Dr. - Brian Head	800-245-3754
Cedar Mountain Sports	921 South Main St. - Cedar City	435-586-4949
Crystal Mountain Recreation	539 North Hwy. 143 - Cedar City	435-677-2386

### **Snowmobiling**

Cedar Mountain Sports	921 South Main St. - Cedar City	435-586-4949
Crystal Mountain Recreation	539 North Hwy. 143 - Cedar City	435-677-2386



## **CAMPING**

Point Supreme Campground is set along the edge of a meadow across the highway from the visitor center and amphitheater. It sites are lightly timbered and a bit close together. 30 sites; restrooms w/cold running water; 10,000 ft.; open May-Oct.; first-come, first-serve; \$9. Grade: B-.



## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Park Details**

A guide and map are available at the visitor center (open 8-6 in summer; 9-5:30 in fall). The entrance fee is \$4 per vehicle, collected at a booth near the visitor center. There is no charge for those with a National Park Pass. To contact the park, write or call: Superintendent, Cedar Breaks National Monument, 82 N. 10 East, Suite #3, Cedar City, UT 84720; 435-586-9451.

## Climate

At 10,200 feet, Cedar Breaks is much cooler than most other areas in southwest Utah. Highs in the summer average 60's to 70's, lows 30's to 40's. Wearing a sweater in August is fairly typical. Snow usually blocks access by mid-October.





## Brian Head

Brian Head is beautifully situated among the dense forests and lofty peaks of the Markagunt Plateau. At 9,850 feet, it is the highest municipality in Utah. Winter visitors come for the skiing at Brian Head Ski Resort. Summer visitors come for the beautiful high country scenery of the Markagunt Plateau (including Cedar Breaks National Monument) and its numerous hiking and mountain biking opportunities. In winter, Brian Head exhibits a real bustle; summers are quiet and unhurried.

Brian Head is located on Hwy 143 on the Markagunt Plateau. It is 14 miles east of I-15, 30 miles from Cedar City. See the Markagunt SuperMap for a detailed, full page map of the area.



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## Skiing & Snowmobiling

Provided below is information on:

- Downhill Skiing
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Snowmobiling



### DOWNHILL SKIING

The Brian Head Ski Resort (800-272-7426) offers the only downhill skiing in southern Utah. While not as expansive as most of its brethren to the north, it is a good mid-size resort. A summary of what the resort offers is set out below. (See Utah-Skiing for an overview of Utah's 13 downhill ski areas.)

<u>Skiable Acres</u>	<u>Vert. Drop</u>	<u>Base Elev.</u>	<u>Total Runs</u>	<u>Adv.</u>	<u>Int.</u>	<u>Beg.</u>	<u>Lifts</u>	<u>Annual Snowfall</u>
500	1,700'	9,600'	53	30%	40%	30%	5T/1D	400"

### Season and Schedule

The season at Brian Head usually runs from early November to early April. It is open from 9:00 to 4:30 every day. Night skiing is available from one lift on weekends and holidays from 4:30 to 10:00.

### Average Temperatures

	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>
High	37	28	27	30	35	49
Low	9	3	2	4	7	15

### Rates

	<u>Full Day</u>	<u>Half Day</u>	<u>Night</u>
Adult	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____
Children (12 and under)	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____
Seniors (65-69)	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____

Half days start at 12:30 p.m. Multi-day packages and discounts for groups of \_\_\_\_ are available. Seniors 70+ and children under 6 ski for free.

### **Skiing/Snowboarding Instruction**

The Brian Head Ski School offers private and group lessons, for beginners through advanced. Beginner ski and snowboard specials available for those 13 and older. SKIwee and Minirider programs are available for children.

### **Ski Rentals**

The Brian Head Rental Shop offers complete ski rentals at the mountain. The following shops also offer rentals.

Brian Head Bike Rentals	508 N. Hwy 143	435-677-3838
Brian Head Sports	329 S. Hwy. 143	435-677-2014
George's Ski Shop & Lodge	612 S. Hwy. 143; Box 183	435-677-2013
High Mountain Outfitters	329 South Hwy. 143	435-677-2920
Skiers Connection	314 Hunter Ridge Rd.	435-677-1000

The mailing address for each outfitter includes "Brian Head, UT 84719."



### **CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**

Brian Head Cross-Country Ski Center maintains over 25 miles of trails, about 6 miles of which are groomed. One trail overlooks nearby Cedar Breaks National Monument. Rentals and lessons are available.

Brian Head Cross-Country Ski Center	223 Hunter Ridge Dr.	800-245-3754	rentals/lessons
Crystal Mountain Recreation	539 North Hwy. 143	435-677-2386	rentals



### **SNOWMOBILING**

There are many miles of trails through the Markagunt Plateau and numerous open meadows and forested areas to explore. The following outfitter(s) rent snowmobiles and/or lead guided trips.

Crystal Mountain Recreation	539 N. Hwy. 143 - Brian Head	435-677-2386	tours
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## Lodging

Brian Head has a good selection of lodges and condos aimed at handling its winter skiing business. Reservations are advised in winter, but usually not necessary in summer. Provided below is information on accomodations in Brian Head and nearby Parawon. (Note that not all of the following are opened in summer.)

- Hotels/Lodges
- Booking Agents
- Condos
- Parawon

There is also lodging available in Cedar City 30 miles southwest.

### Hotels and Lodges

Brian Head Resort	223 Hunter Ridge Rd.; Box 8	800-272-7426		
Cedar Breaks Lodge	223 Hunter Ridge Rd.; Box 248	888-282-3327	150 rooms	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Eagles Nest / Karen's Cabins	684 S. Snowflake Lane	801-756-7508	3 rooms	
Lodge at Brian Head	314 Hunter Ridge; Box 335	800-386-5634	40 rooms	\$\$-\$\$\$
George's Ski Shop & Lodge	612 S. Hwy. 143; Box 183	435-677-2013	7 units	\$\$\$

### Condos

Brian Head Village	356 S. Hwy. 143; Box 55	800-845-9781	30 condos	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Cedar Village	200 S. Eagles Roost; Box 55	800-845-9781	2 condos	\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Chalet Village	226 S. Hwy 143; Box 188	800-942-8908	39 condos	\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Copper Chase Condominiums	150 W. Ridgeview; Box 145	888-677-2890	11 condos	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Edelweiss Condos	651 S. 325 West; Box 185	435-677-2010	10 condos	\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Evergreen Condominiums	561 Loop Road; Box 7	800-237-1410	15 condos	\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Giant Steps Condos	407 S. Hwy. 143; Box 217	800-722-4742	21 condos	\$\$\$\$
Kristi Condos	681 S. Hwy. 143; Box 55	800-845-9781	3 condos	\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Mall at Brian Head	259 S. Hwy. 143; Box 217	800-722-4742	10 condos	\$\$\$\$
Pine Tree/Snowshoe Village	226 N. Snowshoe Village Rd.	800-722-4742	10 condos	\$\$\$\$
Snowshoe Village	241 N. Hwy. 143; Box 55	800-845-9781	2 condos	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$+
Timberbrook Village	464 N. Hwy 143; Box 186	800-288-2050	40 condos	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Timbernest Condos	Box 215	435-677-3172	9 condos	\$\$-\$\$\$\$

### Booking Agents

Brian Head Accomodations

Aspens Rentals Agency	312 S. Hwy 143; Box 176	888-282-3327	50 condos	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Brian Head Central Res.	Box 248	888-272-7426	80 condos	\$\$-\$\$\$
Brian Head Condo Res.	385 S. Hwy 143; Box 217	800-722-4742	100 condos	\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Brian Head Property Mngt.	226 S. Hwy. 143; Box 188	800-942-8908	40 condos	\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Brian Head Res. Center	356 S. Hwy. 143; Box 55	800-845-9781	30 condos	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

## Parawon

Ace Motel	92 N. Main St.	435-477-3384	8 rooms	\$
Adams Historic Home B&B	94 N. 100 East	800-994-1414	3 rooms	\$\$\$
Best Western Swiss Village Inn	580 N. Main St.	800-528-1234	28 rooms	\$\$
Crimson Hills Motel	400 S. Hwy 91	435-477-8662		\$
Days Inn	625 W. 200 South	800-329-7466	40 rooms	\$\$
Grandma Bess' Cottage	291 W. 200 South	435-477-8224	3 rooms	\$\$\$
Janet Lynn House B&B	390 E. 200 South	800-891-1132	4 rooms	\$\$-\$\$\$

Pricing Code: \$ = under \$50; \$\$ = \$50-75; \$\$\$ = \$75-125; \$\$\$\$ = \$125+

# Dining

**[page is still being worked on]**

## Practicalities

Provided below is information on:

- Getting There
- Useful Addresses/Numbers
- When to Go/Climate



### **GETTING THERE**

#### **By Car or RV**

The maps below will help you plan your route and get oriented.

- Utah
- Southwest Utah

#### **By Plane**

Skywest Airlines (800-453-9417) provides daily air service to Cedar City (30 miles southwest) and St. George (80 miles southwest).

#### **Rental Cars**

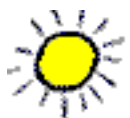
Rental cars are available in Cedar City and St. George from:

##### Cedar City

National Car Rental		800-227-7368
Speedy Car Rental	650 North Main St.	800-367-2277

##### St. George

Budget	116 W. St. George Blvd.	800-527-0700
Dollar Rent-a-Car	1175 S. 150 East	800-421-9849
National Car Rental		800-227-7368
Thrifty Car Rental	280 N. Bluff St.	800-367-2277



## **WHEN TO GO/CLIMATE**

Brian Head is the highest municipality in Utah at 9,850 feet. Summers are pleasant though cool in the evenings. A sweater or jacket are often called for even in August. Snow starts falling in earnest in November and has usually melted by mid-May. Average daily highs and lows are set forth below.

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun.</u>	<u>Jul.</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
High	27	30	35	49	55	68	75	71	66	50	37	28
Low	2	4	7	15	30	43	50	47	41	30	9	3



## **USEFUL ADDRESSES & PHONE #'S**

Color Country Travel Region	Box 1550 - St. George	800-233-8824
Iron County Travel Council	P.O. Box 1007 - Cedar City	800-354-4849
Cedar City Ranger Dist. - Dixie Nat. For.	82 N. 100 East - Cedar City	435-865-3200