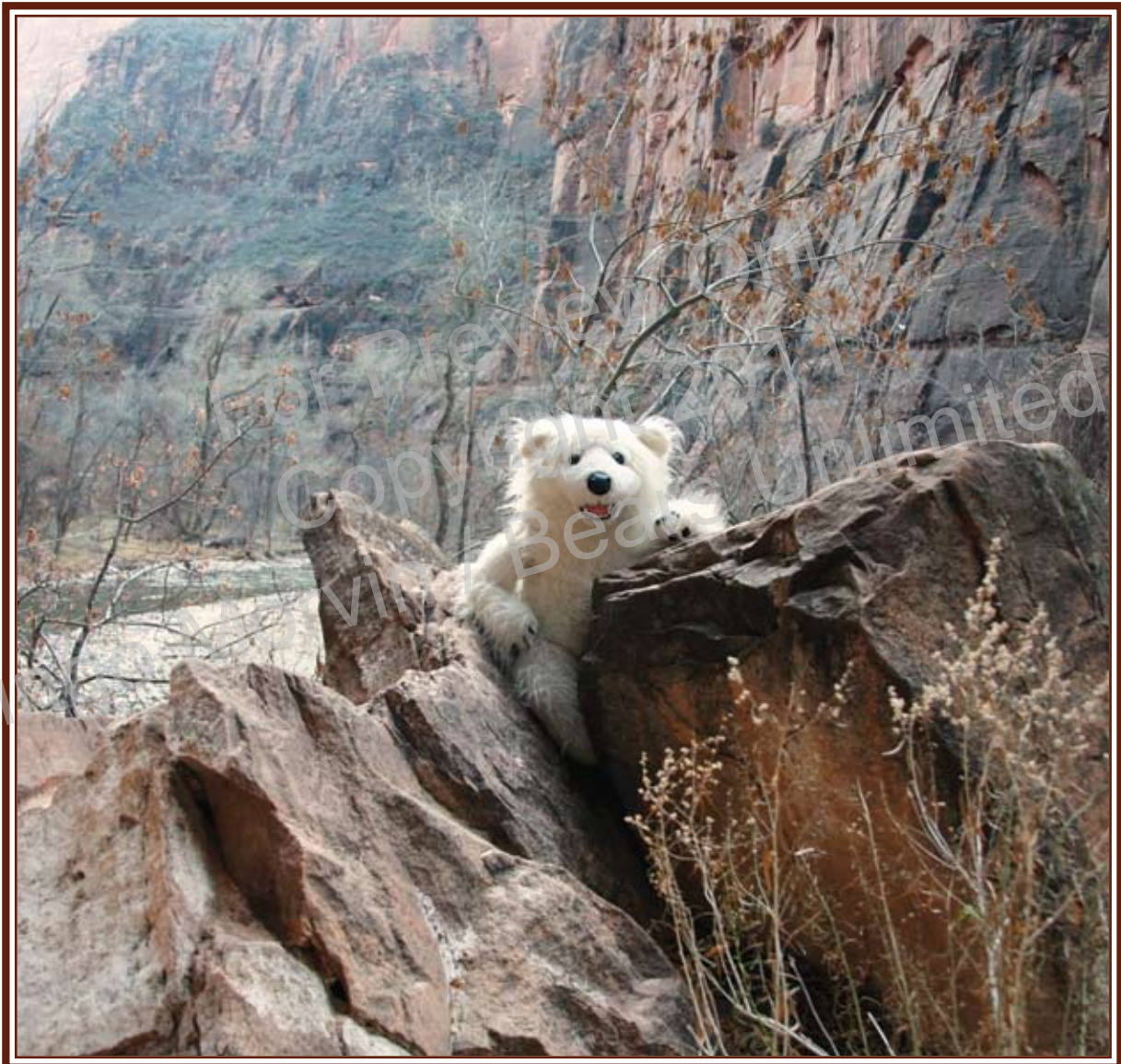


Attu's Adventures in

# Zion & Bryce Canyon National Parks



Written and Photographed by  
**Mingo Morvin**

Welcome to Mukuntuweap National Monument. This southern Utah monument was established by presidential decree on July 31, 1909. Do you know what this area is called today? Zion National Park!

In 1919 Congress changed the name and upgraded Zion to National Park status. I am sure happy about the name change as my bear tongue would have a difficult time pronouncing Mukuntuweap!

The first obvious observation when entering Zion National Park are rock walls that are thousands of feet tall. Boy, this place is a rock climber's paradise.

Fortunately, Mingo and I bought our climbing gear and soon we will be challenging gravity. I am looking forward to getting my paws onto some steep sandstone.

Before climbing and exploring, we visit with the National Park Service Rangers at the

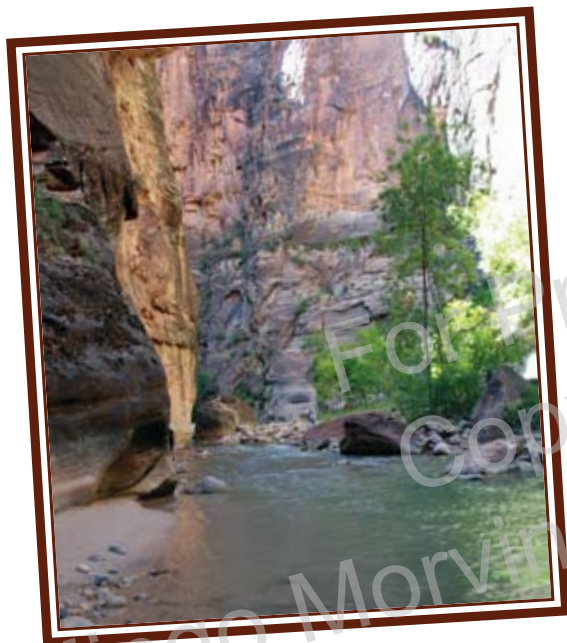
Visitor Center.

We ask many questions about camping, hiking and climbing in the park. After learning from these Zion experts, we head out to conquer some of Zion's great hiking trails and learn more about this beautiful park.



Now I know more about the people who lived here. I want to learn more about these tall and beautiful rocks.

Mingo tells me that most of the Virgin River and Kolob Canyon rock is composed of sandstone with smaller amounts of limestone. These two rocks were deposited in successive layers of sand, mud, pebbles and organic matter in an ancient shallow sea that once covered this area.



Over hundreds of millions of years this deposited material became thicker and thicker. As the sea evaporated, these layers were cemented together by the weight and pressure of all the layers deposited above. Over more millions of years, uplift raised the land to its present elevation of 5,500 feet. This uplift caused the earth to crack, buckle and break giving us what we see today - beautifully unique mountains and valleys. Rivers and streams then eroded the land into the canyons you see today. Mingo says these rivers continue this process of erosion every day.

Wow! Now I know more about the geological processes of deposition, erosion and uplift. I am one smart bear! Mingo is my resident geology “smart guy.” He not only climbs and hikes well but he is pretty smart too.

I have so much fun on our trips visiting the parks, preserves and monuments around the country. I always learn so much from Ranger Jenny, the resident rangers at each park and, of course, Mingo. I am one lucky bear!



Well, our time in Bryce is coming to an end as we pack up our camping gear. What a wonderful time I had exploring one of the most vibrant and colorful National Parks. The whimsical looking formations will forever be etched into my memory. The colorful variations in the landscapes seemed to come directly from the color palette of a great artist. This artist is Mother Nature! Hiking around rim country I saw 2,000 year old trees and grand vistas. On the trails I hiked through magical canyons of splendid colors and textures.



Camping I met new friends and, of course, my new ranger friends helped keep me safe and taught me many new facts about Bryce. Watching a sky of a million stars was a special treat. I also got to eat delicious food in a very relaxing atmosphere while we visited Bryce. No eating soup while sitting in the dirt on this trip!



I was also able to see some of my critter friends, learn about geology, and learn about who visited and lived in the park long before my arrival. Mostly though, I will remember the colors and shapes and the wonderful hikes with Mingo in Bryce Canyon National Park.