

Finding Fall Color Gold in Southern Utah. Part One



“Go for the Gold” this fall with a trip to [Southern Utah](#) for some of the country’s most extravagant foliage colors. [Zion National Park](#), [Cedar Breaks](#) and [Kolob Canyon](#) are some of the stellar sites where Mother Nature’s paintbrush sketches a brilliant palette of orange, gold and scarlet set against a backdrop of soaring red rock towers, deep canyons and massive monoliths.

Zion, meaning “promised land” was named by the **Mormons**. Native Americans called nearby Cedar Breaks the “Circle of Painted Cliffs.” More recently Mary Lu Abbott, editor of Where to Retire Magazine, recommended the area as a “haven for lovers of the arts and outdoors.”

©LeeDaley, all rights reserved

Adding a little culture to your outdoor adventure is just icing on the cake when you consider all this area has to offer. Start your foliage foray at **Zion National Park**, the state’s oldest and most visited outdoor attraction.

Zion Trails. Day hikes offer stunning views. You can choose hikes that best suit your fitness level from the easier Riverside Walk with glorious sentinels of sandstone walls to the more difficult, short but steep, Weeping Rock Trail.

Up to the challenge and not afraid of heights? Test your navigation skills on the **Angels Landing Trail**. The hike ends at a breathtaking summit high above Zion Canyon after taking you on an eye-popping trek along a narrow ridge, Watch your step as this is one trail where you will feel you have earned your Zion wings.

Devote a full date to the East Mesa Trail to reach Observation Point where you will be rewarded with jaw-dropping vistas down Zion Canyon. Your camera will love the postcard picture view of the Great White Throne in the foreground with magnificent Red Arch Mountain as a backdrop.

Scenic Drive. Not a hiker? During the peak season, the park service runs a shuttle along the 12-mile round trip drive through Zion Canyon where, along the route, massive stone formations can be seen reaching for the sky in every direction.

Kolob Canyon. This is my favorite and most memorable hike in the entire area. Read about it in **Part Two**.

[Contact the Cedar City-Brian Head Tourism & Convention Bureau](#), 581 N. Main St., [Cedar City](#), UT 84720. Telephone (800) 354-4849 or (435) 586-5124.

From the San Francisco Bay Area, flights into Las Vegas Airport provide economical access to car rentals for the scenic drive to Southern Utah.



©LeeDaley, all rights reserved

Lee Daley - Travel Writer / Photographer

www.leedaleytravelwriter.com

www.epicureandestinations.com