

SundayTravel

WITH: NEW ENGLAND DESTINATIONS

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE AUGUST 28, 2022 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM/TRAVEL



CAPSHORE PHOTOGRAPHY

The deck at Dennett's Wharf in Castine, Maine.

When ‘The Bear’ meets the Mainers

New York restaurateur Max Katzenberg always cherished his vacations in Maine, but would working there be another story?



Mussels at Dennett's Wharf.

BY ALYSSA SHELASKY
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

It's unbelievable . . . everyone — I mean everyone — is just so happy he's here. That's how my father-in-law, a third-generation Mainer, responded when I asked him how Max Katzenberg — a beloved Brooklyn restaurateur, and an old pal — was doing with his two new restaurant endeavors: the revivals of Dennett's Wharf in Castine and Harbor Cafe in Stonington. This came as very good news to me. Because when I heard Max was leaving his award-winning restaurants in Brooklyn to move his family and career ambitions to the Blue Hill peninsula of Maine . . . I was, well, worried for him. Maybe I was projecting. As a full-time Brook-

lynite who spends several weeks a year in Maine with my partner and his wonderful family, the transition usually takes a minute, and if I'm being perfectly honest, after a few weeks in the country, I get, let's say, homesick-adjacent. Like me, Max always seemed like a hard-core city person, complete with a gregarious personality and a low-key-hipster vibe. At the time of his move to Maine, he was also the GM and partner of one of the best restaurants in Brooklyn, Olmsted, and had just become a new dad, with another baby on the way. To me, the move seemed too extreme! While Max Katzenberg is not exactly the same as tortured soul Carmy Berzatto, of FX's insta-hit “The KATZENBERG, Page N14



Inside Dennett's Wharf.



DAN RAJTER

A variety of dishes from Dennett's Wharf.



Chefs Taylor Hester, Camilla Rinaldi, and Max Katzenberg of Dennett's Wharf.

Outdoor dining isn't going anywhere

By Jon Marcus
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT
SAN FRANCISCO — Even at a time when al fresco dining has become ubiquitous, this city's Lower Pacific Heights neighborhood stands out. Red metal tables under a red canvas awning front a pizza place. A bar across the street has commissioned original art for the partitions that surround its sidewalk seating. Paper lanterns and hanging ferns decorate the outdoor booths of a Mediterranean-style café. Even the entrance to a doughnut shop is flanked by tables in the open air.



ERIC RISBERG/AP FILE

A couple dines outdoors in 2020 at Scoma's restaurant in Sausalito, Calif. It started as an emergency measure at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but San Francisco's “Shared Space” program, which encouraged outdoor dining, has been made

permanent, and more than 1,000 restaurants have added tables on sidewalks, streets, and in “parklets.” “There are always opportunities in challenges,” said Adriano Paganini, Milan-born owner of the Italian restaurant The Tailor's Son at the end of this busy block of Fillmore Street, who has added permanent outdoor booths in a motif that echoes the black-and-white tiled décor of the building's façade, with a roof and curtains that roll down to block the wind. When al fresco dining started during the pandemic, “customers got used to it,” Paganini

OUTDOOR DINING, Page N14

Finding elbow room in and around Zion National Park

By Kari Bodnarchuk
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Zion National Park welcomed more than 5 million visitors last year — the most in park history and a 78 percent increase from a decade ago, according to the National Park Service — but if you're creative, you can explore the park and surrounding area with plenty of elbow room. The region's beauty doesn't end at the park boundaries, and you'll find equally stunning and lesser-traveled canyons, mountains, and geologically fascinating areas to explore nearby. Within an hour's drive of St. George, one of the main jumping-off points for trips to Zion, you can ebike on gentle trails through red and white sandstone formations, mountain bike on mesas and along epic single-

track, hike into easily accessible slot canyons, and go canyoneering around the country's largest laccolith. Whether you're visiting the area to explore Zion or other parks in the region or for the 70.3 Ironman World Championship this September, consider staying in La Verkin. This small town of 4,000 is located 30 minutes from Zion, 30 minutes from St. George, and just 15 minutes from Sand Hollow State Park, a great place to cool off in the lake, watch the swim leg of the Ironman race, or even dive around a submerged Volkswagen bus and Cessna twin-engine plane. If you prefer to be in the heart of things, head for St. George (population 95,000), which is located an easy one-hour drive from Zion. The city has fantastic restaurants and serves as a good base camp for

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Inside

THE VIP LOUNGE KICKING BACK

Patriots placekicker Nick Folk prefers to ‘go with the flow’ when he’s on vacation with his family

HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE SEAFOOD, BIKE TOURS, HARD DRIVES

Enjoy oysters in N.H., cycling in Maine, or staying connected with gadgets

Exploring in and around Zion National Park

► **ZION**
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local adventures — ones that rival the area’s national parks. Here are some suggestions on not-to-miss sites and activities in the region.

Snow Canyon State Park

Located on the outskirts of St. George, Snow Canyon State Park offers a goldmine of easily accessible slot canyons, gentle to strenuous hikes, and a paved off-road trail for bikers. The often-overlooked park, located in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, contains old lava flows, petrified sand dunes, natural caves, a 200-foot arch, and stunning cliffs that change color with the shifting sun.

Spend a day exploring the many trails, including a .5-mile hike to a small slot canyon (Jenny’s Canyon) and the 3.5-mile trek through deep sand and alongside Navajo sandstone cliffs (Red Sands). Or rent a human-powered or electric bike from Bicycles Unlimited in St. George and pedal the 18-mile Snow Canyon Loop Trail. Take this mostly off-road paved trail climbs 1,000 vertical feet up through the canyon (keep an eye out for Mojave Desert tortoise) and explore sites along the way.

After a short stint on the road, follow another off-road paved path down UT Route 18 (following the final stretch of the Ironman bike leg) and loop around to the southern park entrance — or back into St. George.

Pine Valley Mountain

For adventurous travelers, a canyoneering trip through one of the region’s slot canyons is a must. Since guided canyoneering isn’t allowed within Zion boundaries, consider a guided canyoneering trip in the nearby mountains.

My son Sam and I did a 3-hour canyoneering tour at Pine Valley Mountain last spring with Paragon Adventures and it was nothing an athletic 9-year-old couldn’t handle — yet still thrilling for an adventurous mom. The trip took us to Yankee Doodle Canyon, 45 minutes northeast of St. George, where we completed five rappels up to 70 feet high, scrambled along red rocks — some smooth and slick, others with striations created by shifting winds and erosion — waded through pools of water up to Sam’s waist (you may end up swimming, depending on water levels), and hiked through narrow spaces where slickrock walls rose high above us. Although temperatures outside the canyon topped 90 degrees, we ended up chilled after wading through the cool waters (bring an extra layer and pack gear in a dry bag in your daypack).

The trip starts at a trailhead in Dixie National Forest, surrounded by pinyon pines and junipers. After a short forest hike, you’ll rappel down canyon walls, learn how to stem and bridge (techniques for maneuvering along canyon walls without falling), scramble over boulders and, if you’re as lucky as we were, watch the “resurrection moss” turn from black to vibrant green within seconds after a quick rain shower. You’ll also learn about the geologic history of the area.

Pine Valley Mountain, according to our guide Hyrum Collier, is a volcano that never erupted. This laccolith formed when magma from Earth’s center pushed up against existing sedimentary rock. When the magma couldn’t find a way out, it spread to the sides and found vents to escape. If you have time, hike up one of these vents — try the Cinder Cone Trail in Snow Canyon (about a 45-minute hike round-trip).

Zion National Park

A trip to the area wouldn’t be complete without a visit to Zion, but consider exploring less-visited areas of the park or popular spots in alternative ways. The park has three main section: The east side, which includes a 11.6-mile drivable stretch from the north side of Springdale to the park’s East Entrance (well worth the drive, but visit early on summer days before the crowds arrive and the temps crank up); the main canyon where the 8-mile Zion Canyon Scenic Drive follows the Virgin River from the park entrance gate to a dead end at The Narrows (in summer months, this route is only open to park and private shuttles; on-



PHOTOS BY KARI BODNARCHUK FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE



Kolob Terrace Road (top), a windy road that climbs up to 8,000 feet in the less-visited Kolob section of Zion National Park. Zion Canyon Scenic Drive (above), an 8-mile-long paved road that follows the Virgin River from the park entrance gate to the road’s end at The Narrows. Adventurers can go on a guided canyoneering trip in Yankee Doodle Canyon (left) on Pine Valley Mountain, 45 minutes from St. George, Utah. Here, the author’s son, Sam Wright (then 9) of Ferndale, Wash., wades through a small pool in the canyon.

ly visitors staying at Zion Lodge can drive their private vehicles on this road); and the more remote Kolob Canyons region. (Note: Beware of flash flooding. The park’s website warns “flash floods can occur at any time in

Zion National Park and in the desert southwest. Flash floods are unpredictable. Flash floods can be deadly. Slot canyons are particularly dangerous.” For safety information and current flood risk, be sure to visit

nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit and the NOAA Flash Flood website.) One of the best ways to access the park’s bustling main canyon is by bike. We rented an ebike from Zion Guru in Springdale and spent a day exploring sites

along Zion Canyon Scenic Drive. That enabled us to shake the crowds (park shuttles can be packed) and avoid dealing with the shuttle booking system (you need to book a time slot in advance and those don’t come easily). It also gave us the freedom to stop wherever we wanted to along the route and still have plenty of energy for exploring hiking trails and tucked-away spots along the way.

Since Sam was under 12 (the age required to ride an ebike solo), we rented a two-person Rad-Wagon, which comfortably fit the two of us and our snacks, camera, and gear for the day (bring plenty of water); regular pedal bikes are available, too.

Bikers can enter the park on the paved Pa’rus Trail (accessed from the Zion Canyon Brew Pub parking lot). After passing through the bike/pedestrian entrance gate (\$20 per person), follow the path along the Virgin River to the main canyon drive. Feel the breeze on your face as you zip along the quiet road, passing postcard-worthy views, lots of fellow bikers, and occasional shuttle buses. Beware that you must pull over and stop when a shuttle approaches from behind, since shuttles aren’t allowed to pass moving cyclists.

For those hoping to hike to Angels Landing — a towering rock formation with a notoriously narrow trail and steep drop-offs — note that Zion introduced a new permit system this year to help regulate the number of hikers on this treacherous route (if

permits are sold out, you can still try to get one online the day before your planned visit).

To really leave the crowds behind, point your headlights northwest and head to the quiet Kolob Canyons area of the park, which is home to one of the world’s largest freestanding arches (spanning 287.4 feet), rock spires, box canyons with 2,000-foot-high walls, and cooler temperatures since it’s several thousand feet higher than Zion’s main visitor center.

Because of its higher elevation and orientation, it’s a great place to catch sunset views on the orange and red sandstone formations and even catch glimpses of mule deer in the fields.

Drive the 5-mile scenic and windy Kolob Canyons Road from the visitor center by Interstate 15 to a viewpoint on a ridge at the end of the road, enjoying peeks at finger canyons and rock formations along the way. Or drive from the town of Virgin on Route 9 north on Kolob Terrace Road. This twisting road climbs up to 8,000 feet as it passes stunning mesas, canyons, domes, remote cabins, and campgrounds, eventually leading you to Kolob Reservoir.

Put the St. George-Zion region on your bucket list, but make sure you use your creative trip planning so that you can enjoy the stunning scenery without anyone on your heels or wheels.

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