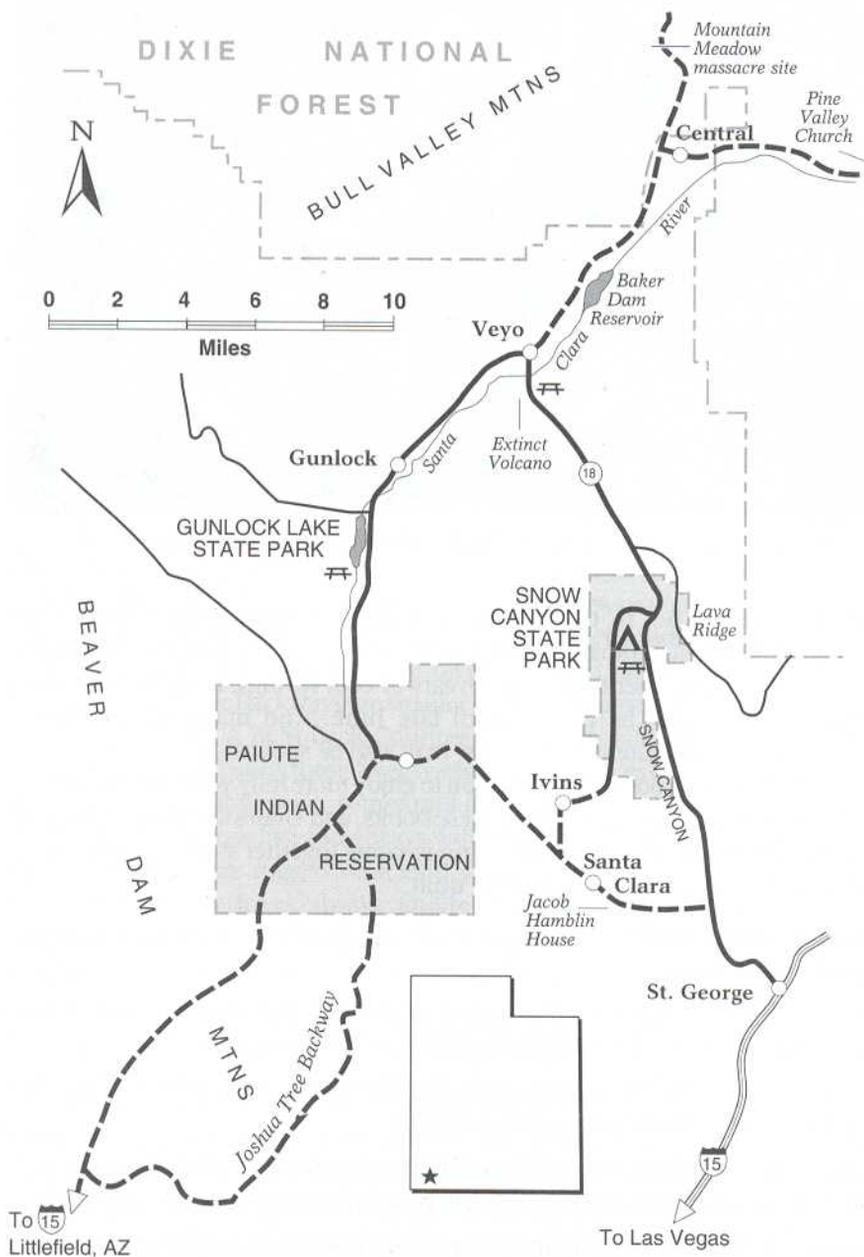


Drive 1: Southwest Corner Scenic Drive

St. George to Littlefield, Arizona Loop



1

Southwest Corner Scenic Drive

St. George to Littlefield, Arizona Loop

General description: A loop tour, combining redrock canyon and dry Mojave Desert scenery.

Special attractions: Snow Canyon sandstone formations, volcanic cinder cones, Mojave Desert/Joshua Tree Scenic Backway, rock climbing.

Location: The extreme southwest corner of Utah.

Drive route number and name: Utah Highways 18 and 3184, old U.S. Highway 91.

Travel season: Year-round. Fall and spring are the most comfortable. Summers can be hot; start early in the day and carry plenty of water.

Camping: State Park campground at Snow Canyon, commercial campground at St. George.

Services: All services at St. George; limited services at Veyo, Ivins, and Littlefield, Arizona.

Nearby attractions: Mountain Meadows, Pine Valley, Lytle Reserve, gaming in Nevada.



The drive

Mormon pioneers were sent to Utah's southwest corner by the LDS Church in 1861 to investigate the possibility of growing warm-climate crops. The region's southern location, climate, and the success of the cotton crop earned it the nickname "Utah's Dixie."

As you might expect, this is a warm spot, with summer temperatures often exceeding 100 degrees. The landscape tends toward dry, rocky desert, with the exception of the pleasant, narrow valley carved by the little Santa Clara River (through which part of this drive runs). To the north of St. George, the forested Pine Valley and Bull Valley mountains provide a cool, green refuge from the often blistering temperatures down here in Utah's lowest and warmest corner.

The total distance of this drive is approximately 100 miles, depending on which options you choose to follow. The basic St. George to Veyo to Littlefield and back to St. George drive, though relatively short, is packed with enough scenic attractions to warrant spending at least four hours. Add