

# Vegas, Three States, Lots of Parks and Keith Urban

**By Linda Harrington**

It seemed like it was a good time to get back into travel after three years staying close to home. Our mother-daughter duo had been on some wonderful vacations prior to the pandemic but we decided not to be too adventurous getting our wings under us again.

Three National Parks within driving distance of Las Vegas would take us through three US States. This caught our attention and could be enjoyed within a week's timeframe.

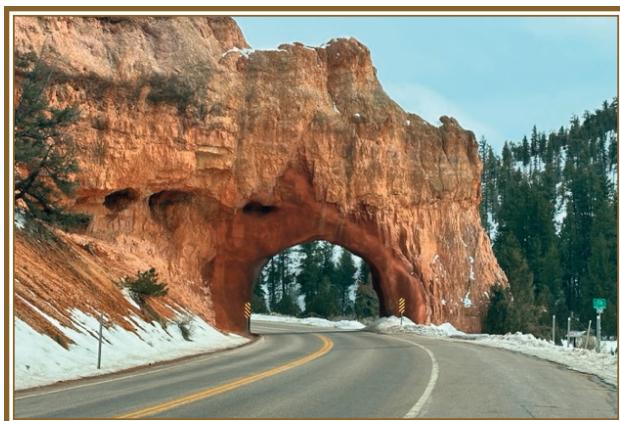
The trip began with a few days in Vegas to get used to the 4-hour time change and take in the sights. This city truly does not sleep with people out at all hours of the day and night. We had been there twice before and immediately noticed the increased prices of everything from food, lodging, gas and entertainment to the over-priced souvenirs at every stop. No more \$29/night hotel rooms and \$10 all-you-can eat-buffets. The cost of food was perhaps the biggest surprise with even grocery staples like bread and eggs costing more in their grocery stores than here, before the added dollar exchange.

Keith Urban has a residency in Planet Hollywood Hotel, and we were fortunate to get some fairly good last minute seats and enjoyed his concert very much. He will be coming to Moncton this summer and I highly recommend.

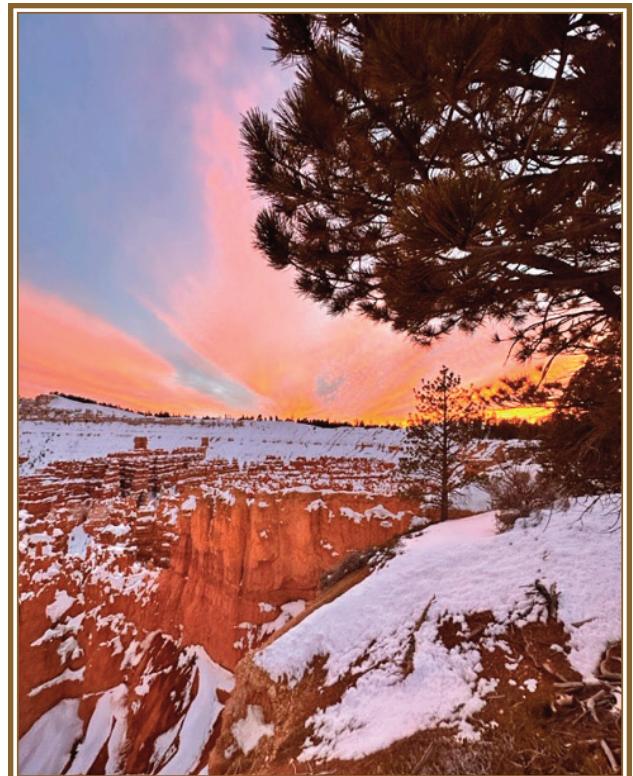


Keith Urban wowed the full house at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas. You can see him in Dieppe, NB this coming August.

We hit the road early Monday morning for Zion National Park, Utah and by lunch time we were well into the park and enjoying the beautiful scenery. Shuttle busses run a bit later in March and we were disappointed to find out Zion's Scenic Drive up the canyon was closed due to too much traffic congestion. With no guarantee when it would open, we continued the drive towards Bryce National Park in southwestern Utah. The drive towards Mt. Carmel Junction from Springdale was gorgeous. We now had lots



The drive through Zion National Park towards Mt. Carmel Junction from Springdale was filled with beauty.

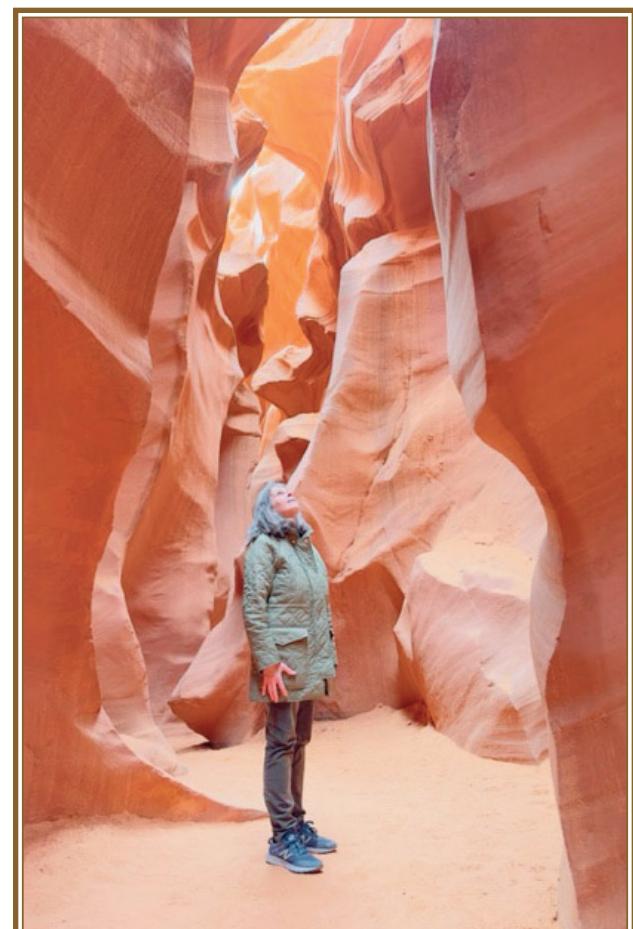


Gorgeous sunset in Bryce Canyon National Park.

of time to stop and enjoy the sights and our new schedule got us to Bryce a few hours ahead of time, so we headed down into the park and walked each trail to see the amazing views of Bryce Canyon. This area had recently received a few feet of snow and trails were very icy. Ice grippers, which we had packed, were a necessity on the bottom of boots. We wished we had hiking pools too as the trails were hard packed ice with no guardrails once you descended into the canyon.

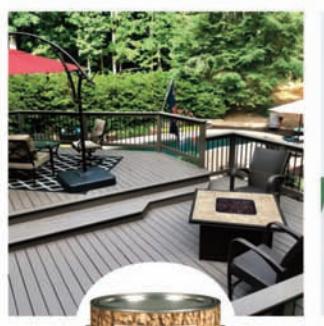
Ruby's Inn was our lodging for the night and their delicious cowboy buffet hit the spot. We quickly returned to the canyon at 6:00pm to take in the sunset at the appropriately named Sunset Point location. Mother nature put on a beautiful show with lots of pinks and purple hues reflecting off the gorgeous sandstone hoodoos.

*continued on page 15*



Beam me up Scotty! The rock formations inside Lower Antelope Canyon were gorgeous, especially when the sun rays lit the sandstone walls.

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