

# ON THE WAY TO **UTAH:**



by Mary Barton

You may want to make some additional camping plans before you head for Marathon Coach Club's *Utah Rally Extraordinaire!* this September 20-25. The area has five national parks all within a day's drive of the rally campsite in Virgin, Utah. These parks include Zion National Park (which attendees will visit during the rally), in addition to Bryce Canyon, Arches, Canyonlands and Capitol Reef National Parks. All contain spectacular natural features and recreational opportunities. If you've never been to these parks, take full advantage of this beautiful area while you're there.

On the way to or from Utah, there are a number of other

"must-see" national parks in neighboring states. The north rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona is easily accessed through southern Utah. It takes approximately two hours from Kanab to reach the forested viewpoints of the Colorado River's amazing erosion of this massive canyon.

Another landmark worth seeing is Great Basin National Park, located less than 20 miles west of Delta, Utah in Nevada. This park features Wheeler Peak, a 13,063-foot mountain covered with one of the oldest bristle pinecone forests in the world. One popular area to visit while there is Lehman Cave, a large cavern filled with stalagmites, stalactites and other geologic formations.

Mesa Verde National Park, located in the four corners area of

Colorado, offers stunning views of, and trails to, the famous Anasazi cliff dwellings, which are perched beneath the tops of the surrounding mesas. There are more than 3,900 documented archaeological sites in the park, with extensive displays on the history of this ancient Pueblo culture.

Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park is in Utah's southeast section. This valley is filled with the famous red rock buttes and eroded pillars that are seen in many western-themed movies and commercials. To reach the Tribal Park Headquarters, take the scenic route along State Highway 163 from Bluff, Utah. Enjoy the views from the road or make arrangements for a Navajo-guided tour. •