



# Another World

*America's Amazing Colorado Plateau*

By Michael Andrew Just







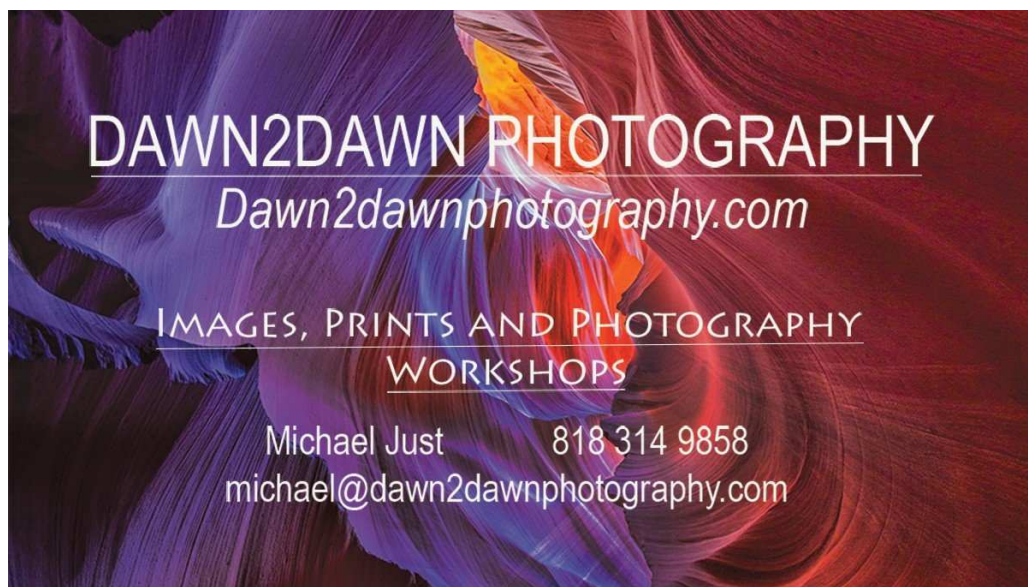
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Front Cover- Antelope Canyon

Back Cover- Zion National Park

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The Colorado Plateau is a paradox in nature. Where else can you find subalpine forests, parched deserts and deep red rock canyons in such a small area? Located in the Four Corners area in America's Desert Southwest, it stretches mostly into Utah and Arizona as well as Colorado and New Mexico. The region was named by John Wesley Powell who first explored this landscape in 1869 while boating down the Green and Colorado Rivers

There are eight National Parks and 25 National Monuments in the plateau, each with its unique ecosystem or systems. At the Grand Canyon, you can experience environments where temperatures reach 100 degrees in the summer and receives up to 25 feet of snow in the winter. The biodiversity in the region is a microcosm of the rest of the world.



This land has been shaped by erosion over millions of years. Originally under a sea of water, the remaining sediments turned into sandstone once the sea receded. The forces of weather sculpted this substrate into the land we see today. The features today probably look pretty much the same as they did a million years ago. Change is slow here.









"At first look it all seems like a geologic chaos, but there is method at work here, method of a fanatic order and perseverance....."  
Edward Abbey











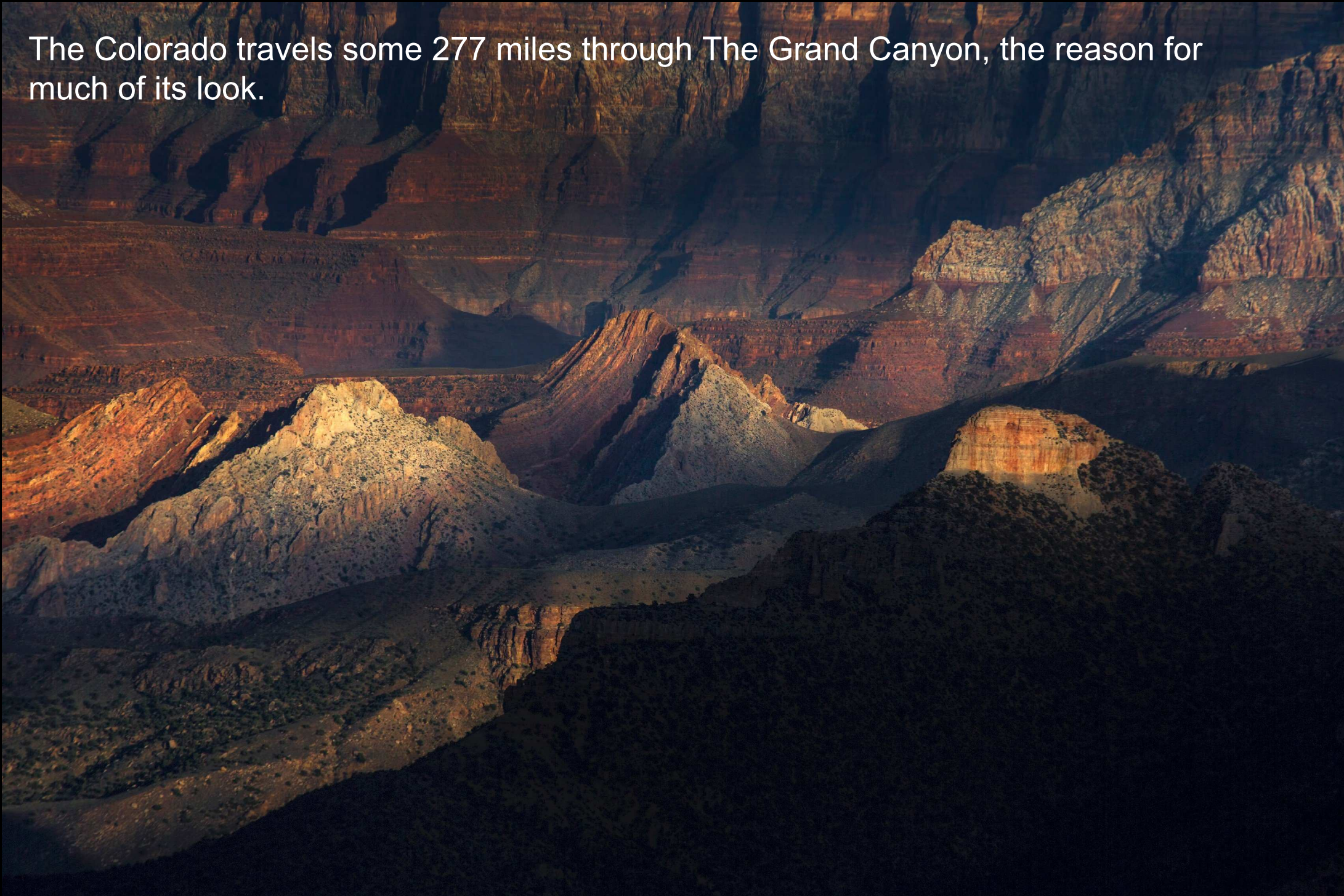
**The Colorado River is responsible for much of the shaping of the plateau. Its strong currents carve a winding swath through the soft sandstone layers.**







The Colorado travels some 277 miles through The Grand Canyon, the reason for much of its look.







“The glories and the beauties of form, color, and sound unite in the Grand Canyon - forms unrivaled even by the mountains, colors that vie with sunsets, and sounds that span the diapason from tempest to tinkling raindrop, from cataract to bubbling fountain.” — John Wesley Powell



# A Classic View at Grand Canyon National Park from Point Imperial











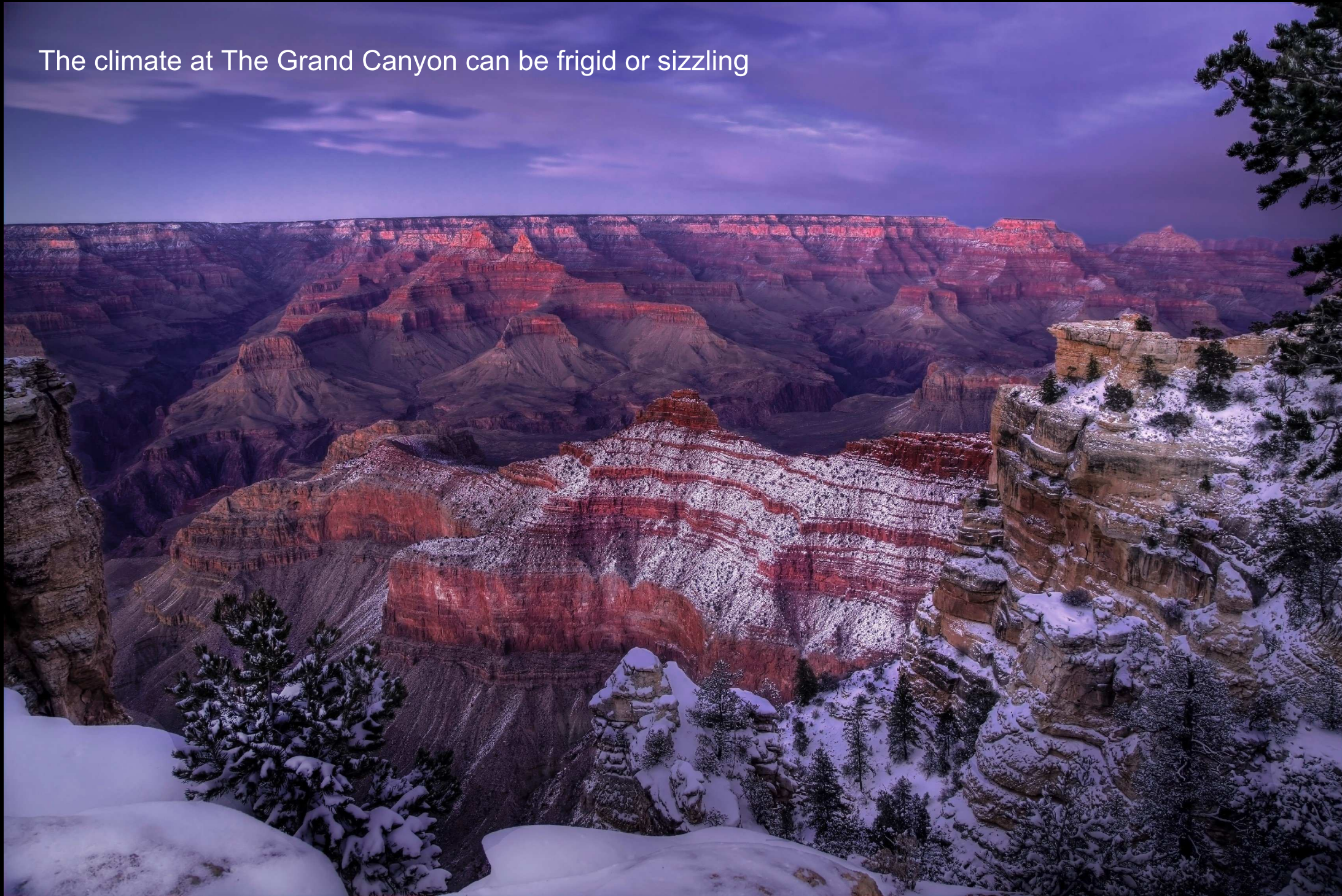




“Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed ... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.”  
— Wallace Stegner, *The Sound of Mountain Water*



The climate at The Grand Canyon can be frigid or sizzling









The adjacent desert floor is a magnet  
for the summer monsoons,

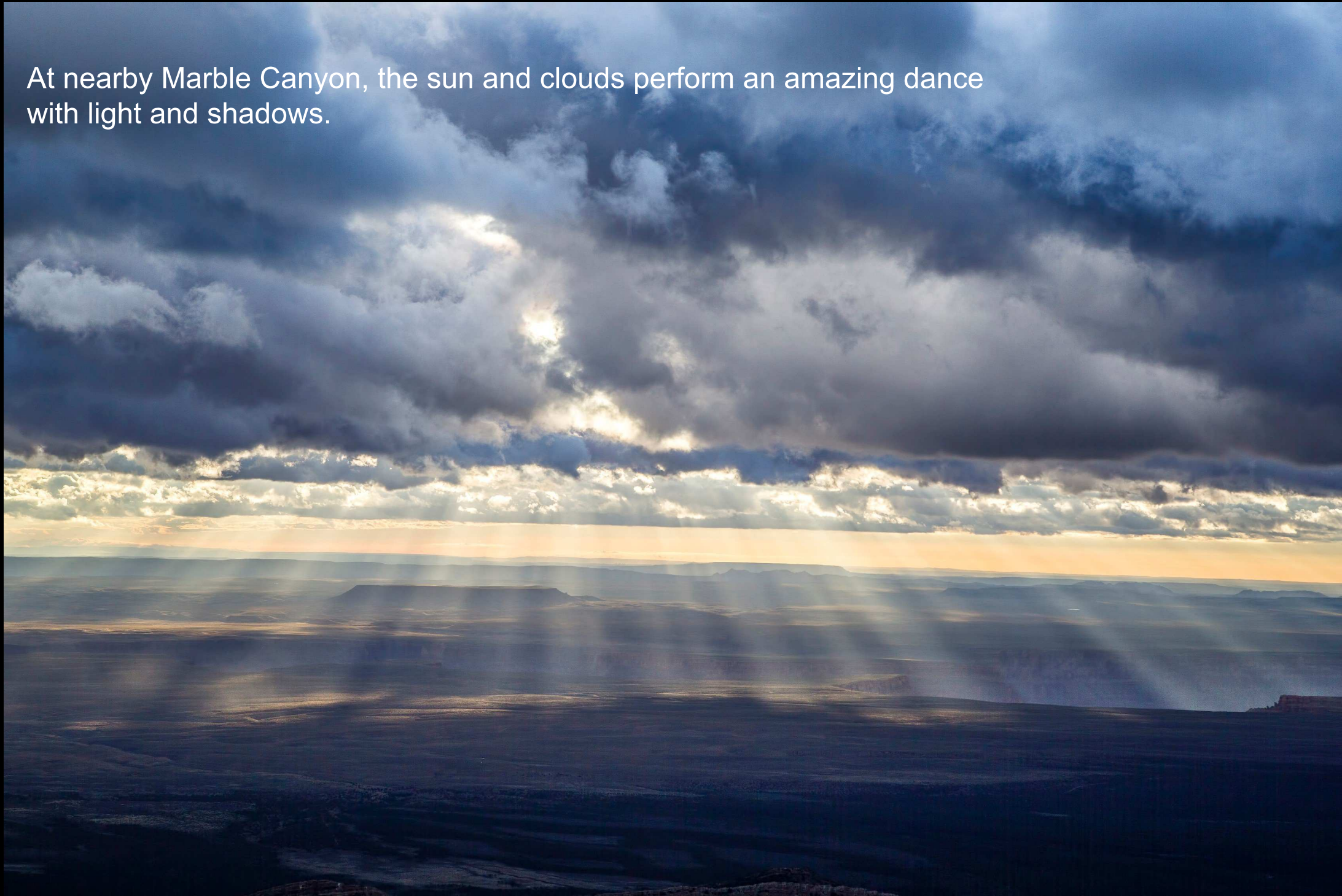








At nearby Marble Canyon, the sun and clouds perform an amazing dance with light and shadows.



















Antelope Canyon, on Navajo Tribal Land, attracts tourists worldwide who are mesmerized by its smooth canyon walls and pastel hues.







Also on Navajo Land, is Monument Valley, whose mesas and buttes rise majestically out of the desert flatlands.



Havasu Canyon is 10 miles from the nearest road but is an oasis worth the journey.





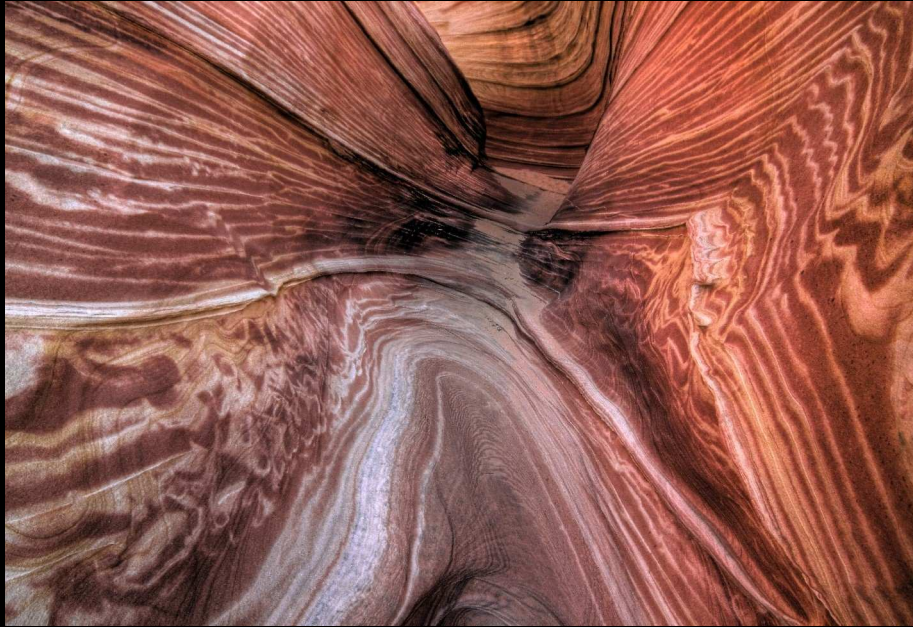




It confounds the senses what the forces of nature have wrought. There is no other place on earth that exhibits as many sandstone anomalies as discovered along The Colorado Plateau.







The Wave



Jacob Hamlin Arch



Sandstone Mosaic



Caineville Butte





Antelope Canyon



Toadstool Hoodoos



Sand Cove



Cottonwood Canyon

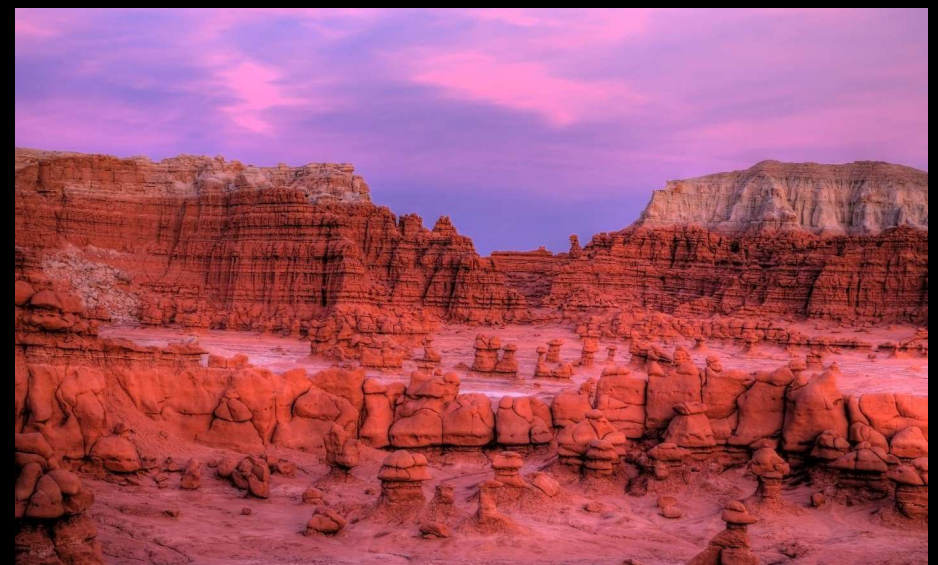




Buckskin Gulch



White Pocket



Goblin Valley State Park



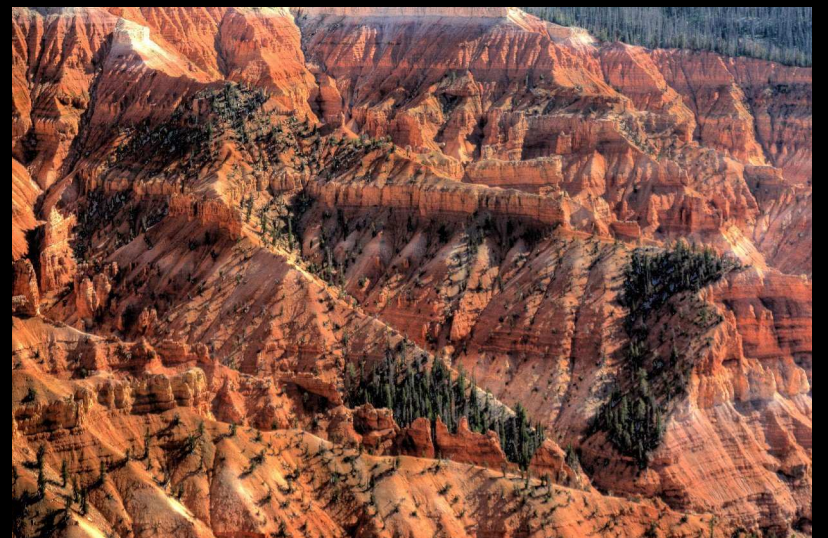
Just when you thought you've travelled to a another world, familiarity makes a comeback. Like with trees, lakes, flowers, animals, endless skies and the colors of the seasons.



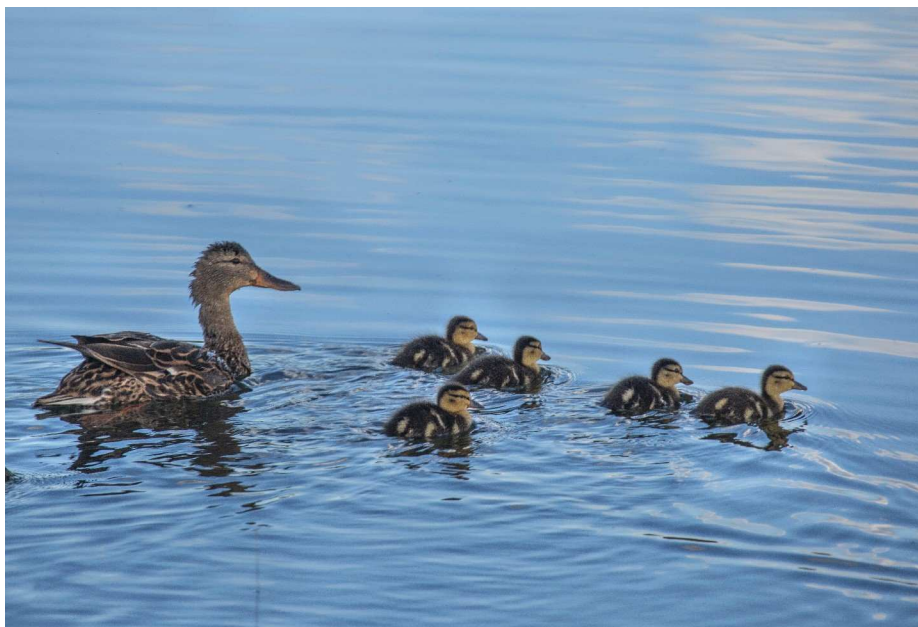




Flowers bloom in the higher elevations of Cedar Breaks National Monument in Southern Utah.













There's a reason why The Colorado Plateau is home to so many protected places. Arches National Park in Utah is a geological wonderland.









Mesa Arch at Canyonlands National Park









Capitol Reef National Park is the ultimate geology classroom.







The incomparable Cathedral Valley.



# Bryce Canyon National Park









Hoodoos All In A Row





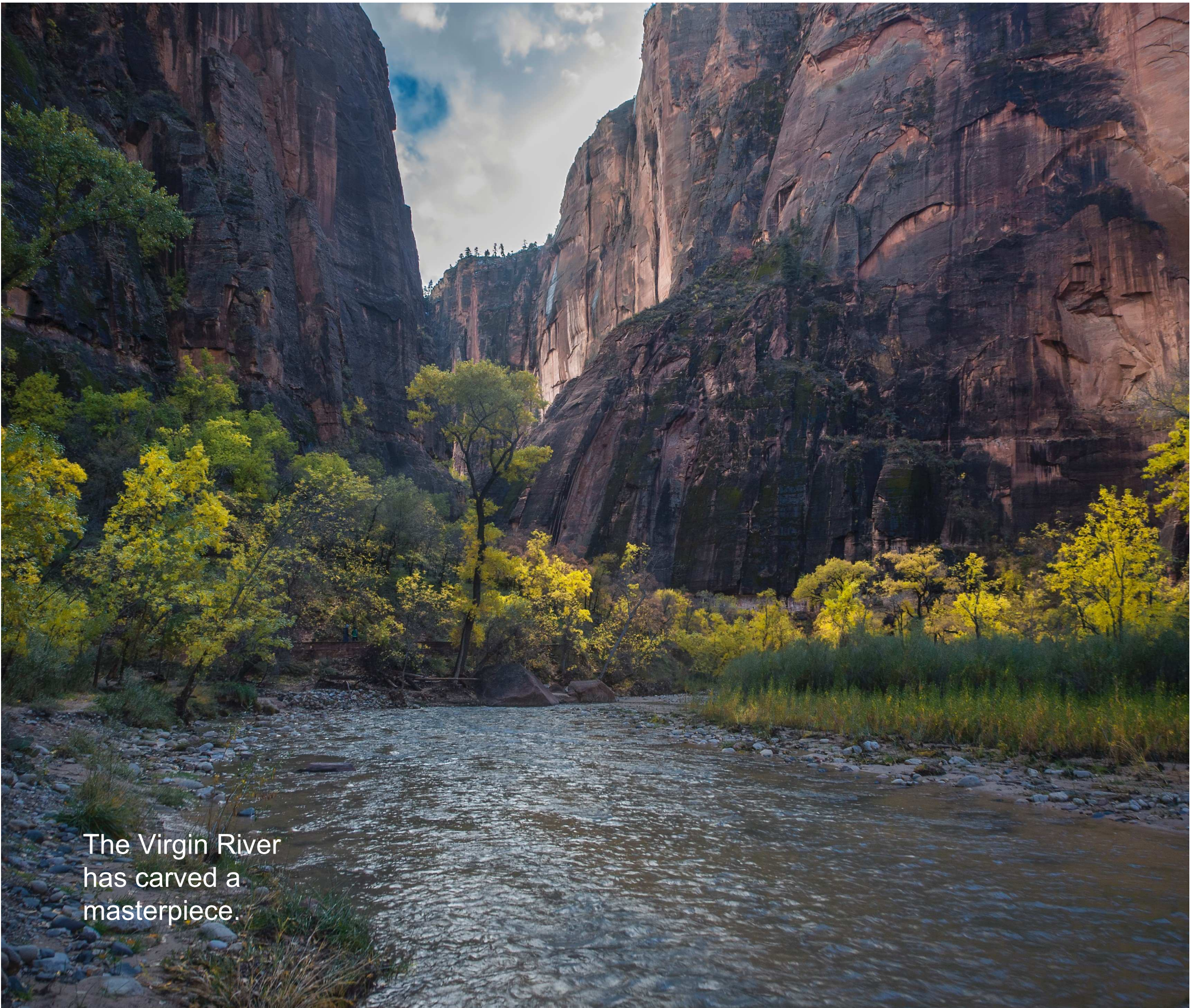




Zion  
National  
Park







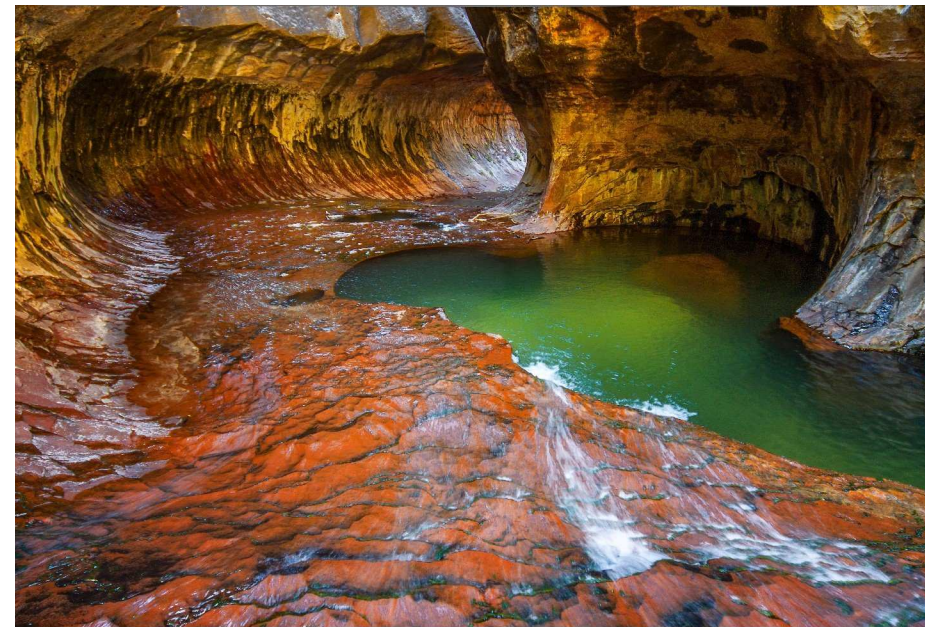
The Virgin River  
has carved a  
masterpiece.



Winter arrives  
at Zion









*The Incredible  
Coyote Buttes  
At Vermilion  
Cliffs National  
Monument*

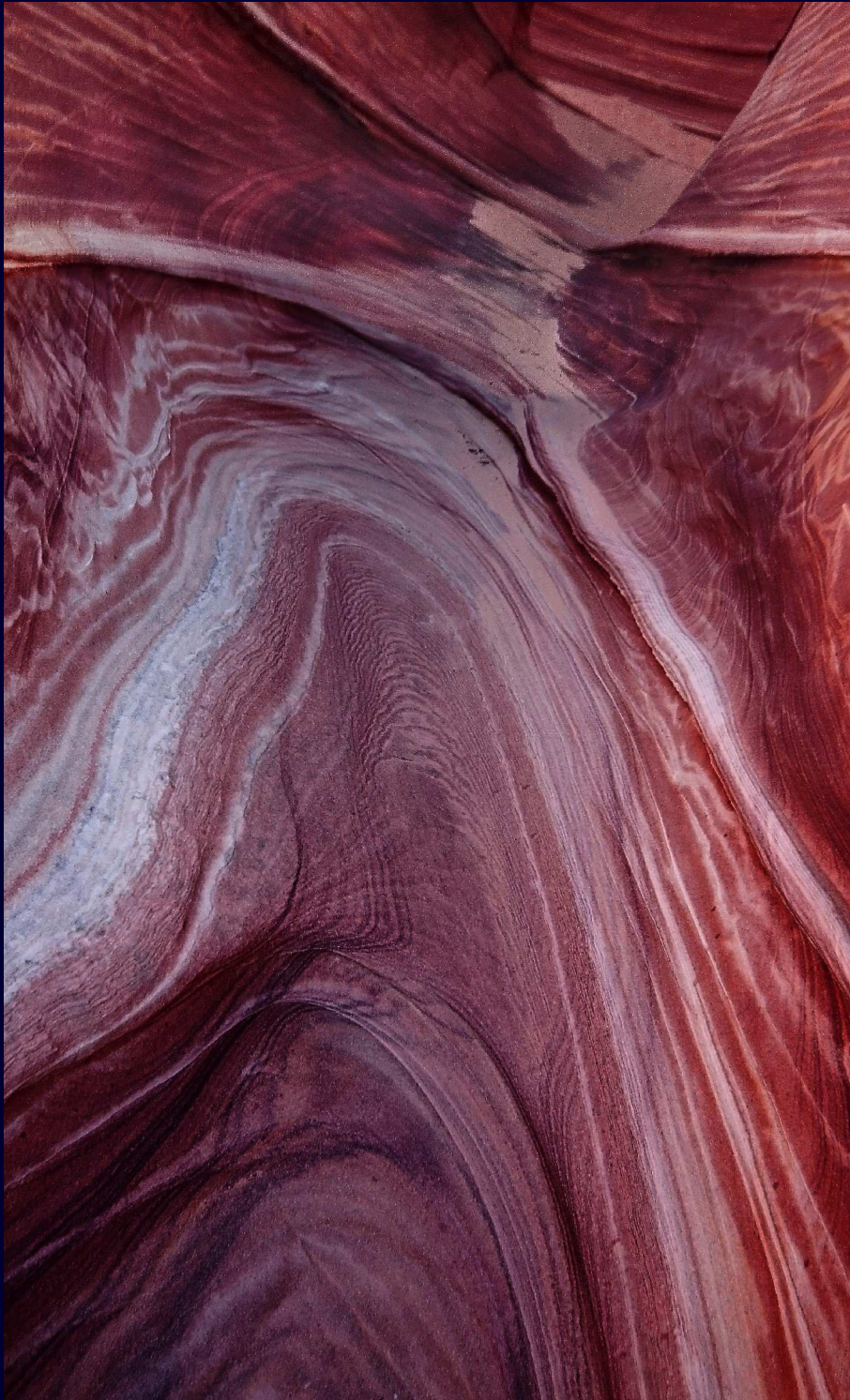








It's difficult to imagine what powers of erosion were at work here. This place leaves you with a smile on your face along with a frown.

























Northern Arizona's Coal Mine Canyon is seldom seen but a Hopi revelation.









The Kaibab National Forest reaches some 9,000 feet into the Northern Arizona sky and provides much relief from the scorching desert below.



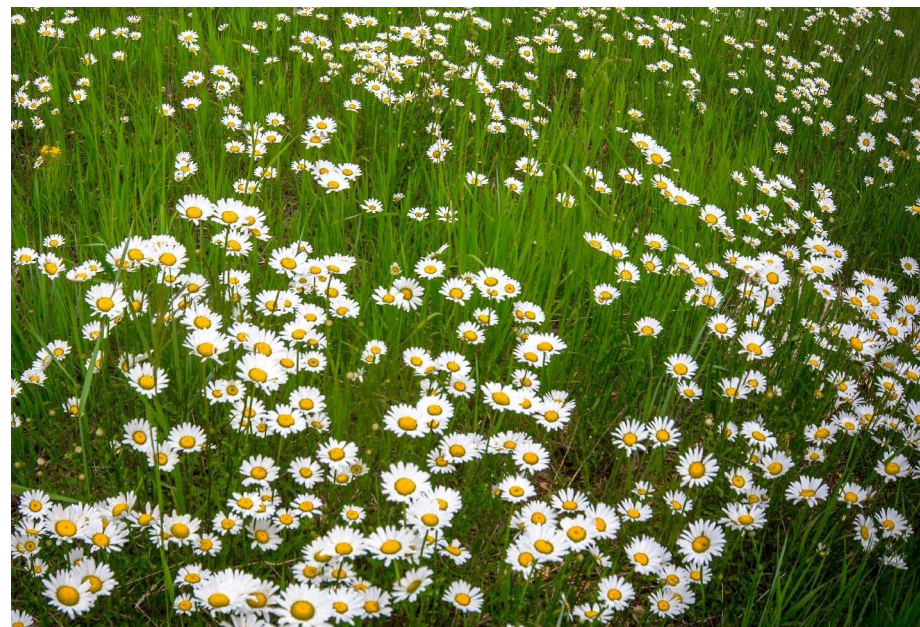
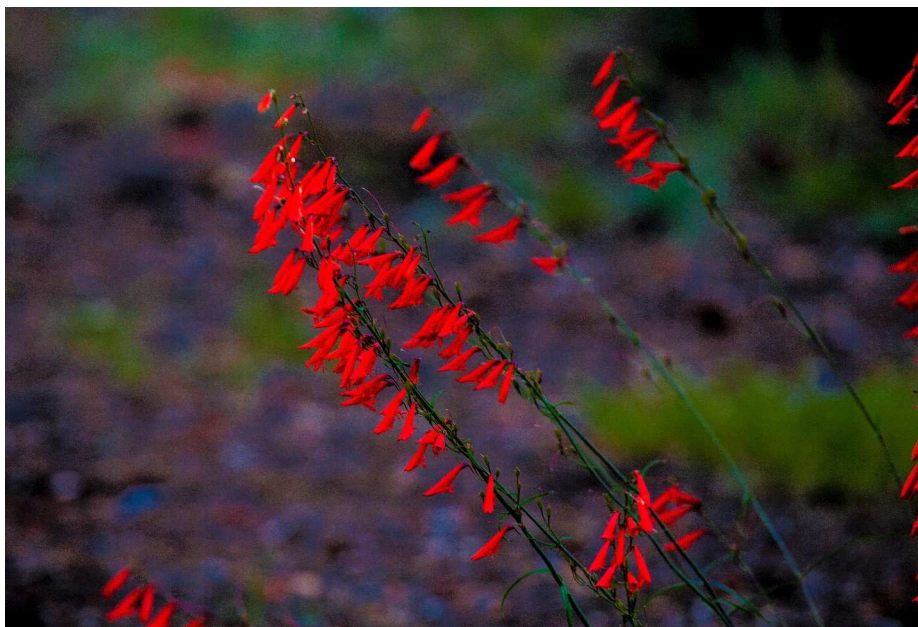
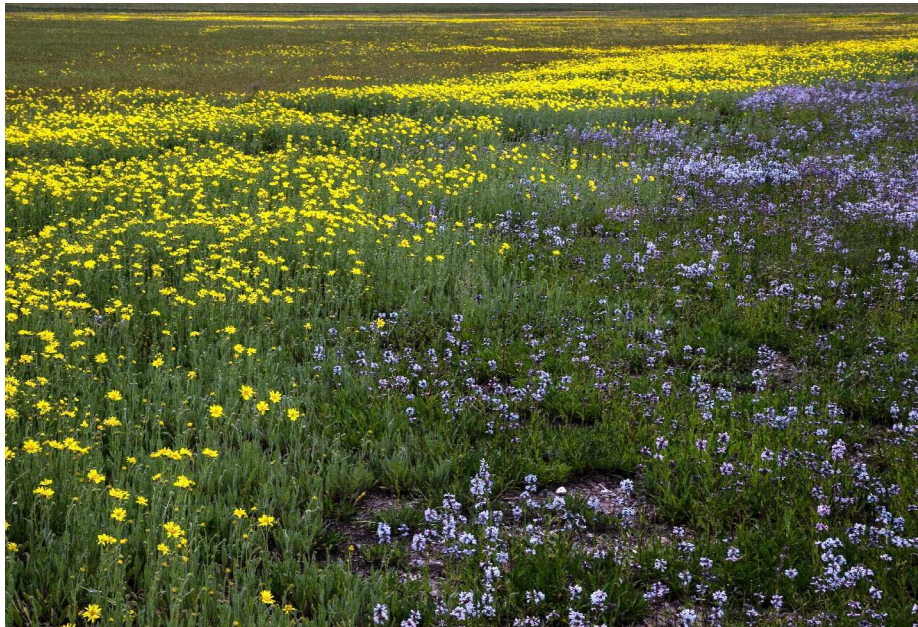


Quaking Aspen  
and Ponderosa  
Pines grow  
comfortably  
here

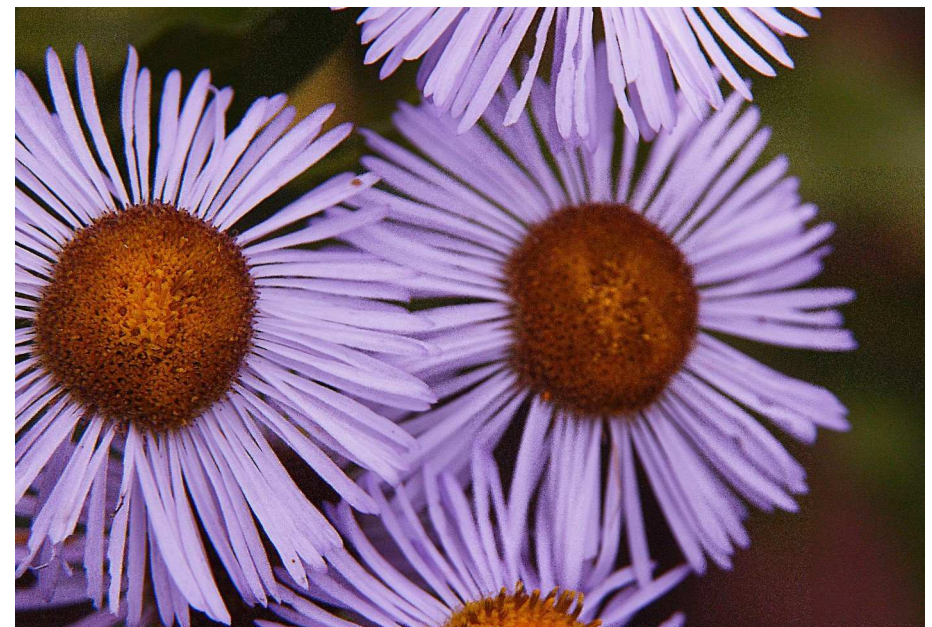




It is amazing that such a lush and vibrant landscape can border one that harbors such little life. But that is The Colorado Plateau.

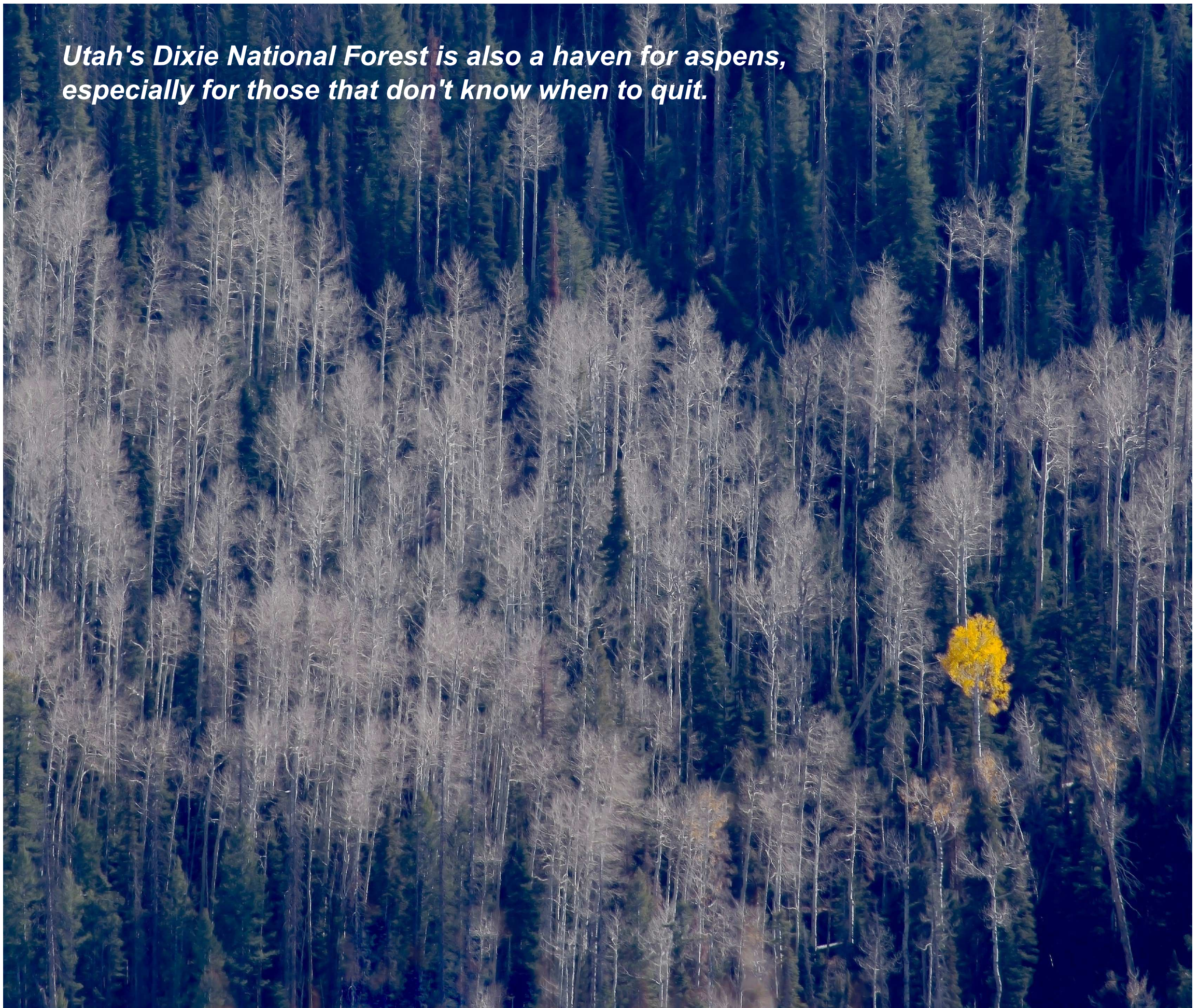








*Utah's Dixie National Forest is also a haven for aspens, especially for those that don't know when to quit.*









*An unusual bloom of flowers carpets the desert floor at Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. The desert is alive after all!*





