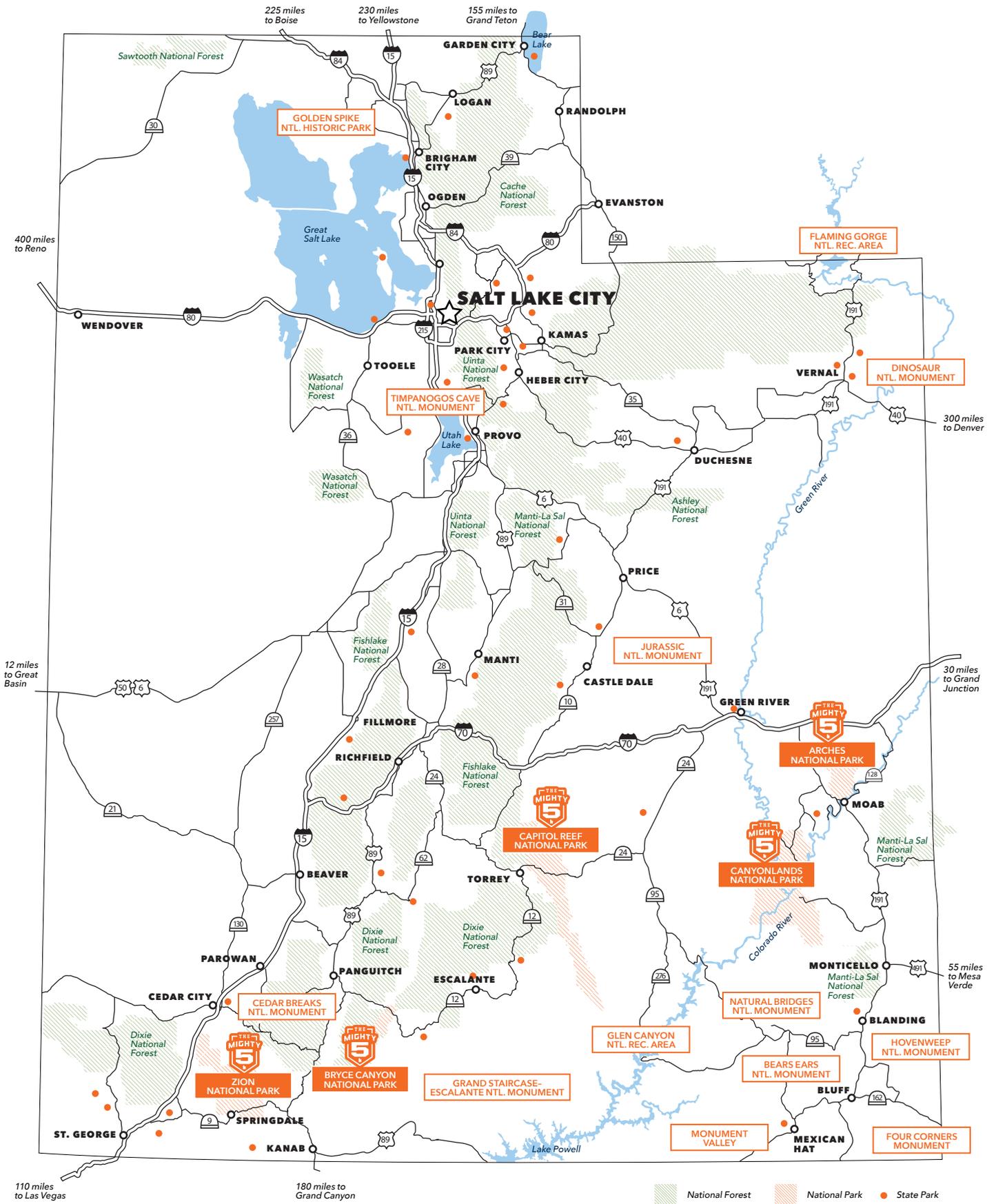


# Utah

TRAVEL GUIDE

LIFE  
**UTAH**  
ELEVATED



To request a free Official Utah Highway Map, please contact the Utah Department of Transportation at 801-965-4000 or the Utah Office of Tourism at 801-538-1900

# TRAVEL GUIDE CONTENTS



## FOREVER MIGHTY®

PAGE 2

Forever Mighty means preparing for the outdoors and traveling mindfully. Use these resources to help you plan and prepare for your visit.

## THE BUCKET LIST

PAGE 4

Ride with bison, raft the West's best whitewater, rappel down slot canyons, then hook a trophy trout — and your vacation is just getting started. Fulfill — or create — your Utah Bucket List with these nine unforgettable adventures.

## GETTING HERE & AROUND

PAGE 10

Getting to Utah is easy, and with a little know-how, getting around is also a breeze. Traveling in Utah means falling in love with Utah.

## SALT LAKE CITY & THE WASATCH FRONT

PAGE 12

You think you know Salt Lake? Immerse yourself in the experiences that truly define this vibrant city and the greater Wasatch Front.



## DINING GUIDE

PAGE 16

Get to know the sophisticated culinary side of Utah with help from a renowned dining critic. This roundup is a mere stepping off point of can't-miss eateries from Salt Lake City and around the state.



## THE GREATEST SNOW ON EARTH®

PAGE 24

Zip up your coat, then point your skis or board down your choice of nearly 1,000 runs at 14 ski resorts. Repeat. This is your guide to getting here, getting around and making the most of winter on your Utah ski vacation.



## TOP RATED UTAH

PAGE 30

Travelers to Utah love their experiences so much they can't resist sharing them with the world. Here are several top attractions trending on TripAdvisor that deserve a spot on your vacation itinerary.



## PARKS & OUTDOORS

PAGE 36

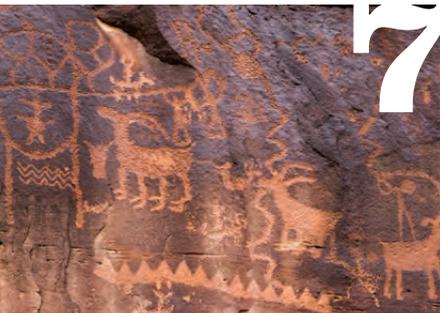
Your adventure starts with The Mighty 5® national parks. It continues with multiple national monuments, recreation areas and state parks plus vast stretches of national forest and open lands filling the space between them.



## SCENIC BYWAYS

PAGE 50

The lure of the open road is strong in Utah. No matter where you drive here, there's a scenic way to get where you're going. These seven scenic byways will fill your eyes with Utah's iconic visual splendor.



## HERITAGE & ARTS

PAGE 56

Utah has a variety of art and history destinations, as well as a vibrant art, theater, film, festival and music scene. Utah's pioneer and indigenous heritage is the foundation, and our uniquely contemporary offerings include a thriving Olympic spirit, inspiring earth art and rural artist communities.

## BEFORE YOU GO & RESOURCES

PAGE 64

Traveling to Utah is an adventure. It helps to come prepared, always with a little knowledge, sometimes with gear and supplies. Here are a few tips to help you start planning and packing for Utah.

An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. A winding dirt road snakes through a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the center-right of the valley, there is a large, light-colored, triangular area of exposed earth and rock, likely a landslide or a cleared area. The background shows more mountain ranges under a hazy sky.

Join us  
in keeping Utah

**FOREVER MIGHTY®**

Utah welcomes all adventurers who care for people and place. As you travel through Utah, we ask you to:

### **BE PREPARED FOR THE OUTDOORS**

### **BE MINDFUL OF THE PLACES YOU VISIT**

Forever Mighty means knowing how to Leave No Trace in the outdoors, support local businesses, travel safely in remote areas, not overcrowd destinations and influence for good on social media.



#### **TRAVEL TIP #1:**

Vandalism hurts our parks and communities – and it’s illegal. If you see someone vandalizing rocks, trees or signs please speak up, take pictures and contact local authorities. Want to help protect the past? Take the pledge at [bit.ly/UtahArchaeology](https://bit.ly/UtahArchaeology)



#### **TRAVEL TIP #2:**

Stay on the trail to avoid disturbing cryptobiotic soil crust. These little black lumps keep entire desert ecosystems intact, which keeps Utah’s parks welcoming for visitors and wildlife. Camp only in designated or existing campsites to avoid erosion and trampling vegetation.

If you have questions, or need some help knowing how to prepare, explore our education hub to read more tips or chat with us:

[visitutah.com/prepare](https://visitutah.com/prepare)





## NIGHT SKY ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Embrace the dark side of Utah's national parks by staying up at night. Bryce Canyon National Park will always be recognized for geologic wonders formed by erosion, but a growing number of visitors are sticking around the high-elevation park to play in the dark. The Dark Rangers of Bryce encourage such deviance.

Bryce, it turns out, is one of the best places in the world to take in the night skies. Two other Utah National Park Service units, Capitol Reef National Park and Natural Bridges National Monument, are also among the top stargazing spots.

Bryce celebrates its low level of light pollution with an annual astronomy festival and night sky programs throughout the year.

[strib.com/ubl/Bryce](https://strib.com/ubl/Bryce)



**BRETT PRETTYMAN**  
*OUTDOOR WRITER, AUTHOR*

Native Utahn Brett Prettyman grew up exploring the natural wonders of the state and shared them with the public as an outdoor writer and columnist for the state's largest newspaper, The Salt Lake Tribune, for 25 years. Brett Prettyman is the former outdoor editor at the Salt Lake Tribune and author of "Fishing Utah," "Best Easy Day Hikes Capitol Reef National Park" and "Hiking Utah's High Uintas" (revision). When not covering stories, and sometimes while doing it, he can be found discovering new Utah adventures with family and friends. He also has his own Utah Bucket List. **@BrettPrettyman** on Twitter

**ABOUT THE UTAH BUCKET LIST**

Utah's ample and amazing opportunities for possible outdoor adventure can be intimidating. Where do you start? The Salt Lake Tribune, in partnership with KUED Channel 7, set out to create a multimedia cheat sheet to help motivate people to make and experience their own Utah Bucket List and then actually cross items off.

Each item had to be a unique Utah experience, and the list had to include a variety of activities incorporating various ability levels. The list was designed especially for families and friends to make memories together. "Utah Bucket List" earned two Emmy Awards.

Utah national and state parks made the list, of course, as did a famous winter commodity of the Beehive State. Wildlife excursions are on the Utah Bucket List and so is a trip to Utah Olympic Park for a G-force generating bobsled ride or ski jump into a pool.

See these Utah Bucket List items and more at [sltrib.com/ubl/](http://sltrib.com/ubl/)

Follow **@UtahBucketList** on Twitter or check out The Utah Bucket List on Facebook. Photos by Francisco Kjolseth/The Salt Lake Tribune, unless noted otherwise.

THE  
BUCKET LIST



### **BIKING WHITE RIM TRAIL** CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

The slickrock country around Moab gets the majority of mountain biking attention in Utah, but those looking for a different pedal power experience have discovered the unique opportunity of the 100-mile White Rim Trail. Some do it all sunrise to sunset, but they could miss what the landscape has to offer while in such a hurry to set bragging rights.

A more popular way to ride the White Rim is with a sag wagon support vehicle chasing bikers on a more casual three- or four-day camping trip. The more leisurely ride allows visitors to soak up the stunning views and share them with family and friends. Like hiking, there is something special about powering yourself through nature — especially nature like Mother Nature gave Southern Utah.

[sltrib.com/ubl/WhiteRim](http://sltrib.com/ubl/WhiteRim)



### **RAFTING CATARACT CANYON** CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

There is big white water and then there is the appropriately named Cataract Canyon stretch of the Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park. Many visitors have a river trip on Cataract on their life lists, but it takes a special kind of adventurer to experience the raging Colorado at its peak flow.

During high water years, people drop everything to float Cataract. "It's the biggest white water you can find in the country," said Steve Young, a river ranger at Canyonlands National Park. "It's kind of a bucket list within a bucket list." Don't worry, floating the Colorado is a thrill even at its lowest flow. There are few places where you can truly escape everything about the outside world; Cataract Canyon is one of them.

[sltrib.com/ubl/Cataract](http://sltrib.com/ubl/Cataract)



### **CAMPING DEVILS GARDEN** ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

There are no lodges in Arches National Park, and that is not necessarily a bad thing. Most daily visitors leave the gates near or shortly after sunset, because the only place for a head to hit a pillow is with a reservation at the 50-site Devils Garden Campground.

After a day of hiking to some of the greatest natural wonders of the world — the park has more than 2,000 documented arches — hanging out with the family around the campfire keeps the magic moments coming. As the fire dies and the night sky lights up, tired campers find a way to stay awake just a little longer.

Sunrise brings a new day of adventure and more exceptional hiking with options like Delicate Arch, Landscape Arch, Marching Men, Dark Angel and the Fiery Furnace.

[sltrib.com/ubl/Arches](http://sltrib.com/ubl/Arches)



## CANYONEERING

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NTL MONUMENT

From the famous Subway and Narrows routes in Zion National Park to the countless side canyons running into Lake Powell and the surrounding countryside, Utah is zigzagged with slot canyons galore. Naturally, the state would become a destination for canyoneers from around the world when interest in the activity escalated in recent years.

Grand Staircase-Escalante is a perfect place to wander desert slot canyons. People new to the sport and even those with outdoor skills developed from other interests should make at least their first trip canyoneering with experienced friends or guides.

[strib.com/ubl/canyoneering](http://strib.com/ubl/canyoneering)

**UTAH POWDER DAY**  
WASATCH FRONT

Utah's snow is the best on the planet for skiing and snowboarding. If you don't believe it, just ask state officials who trademarked the phrase "The Greatest Snow on Earth" — seriously, legally trademarked it. Mother Nature has been known to dump up to 4 feet of the fluffy stuff in one storm on resorts within 40 minutes of downtown Salt Lake City. On days like these, "epic" is an understatement for skiers and riders.

Whether you're riding the lifts and cutting the slopes at one of the state's 15 resorts, exploring the backcountry or venturing out for a Nordic ski adventure, Utah has the perfect winter vacation for hardcore skiers or families interested in strapping something on their feet to get down, or around, the mountain.

[strib.com/ubl/skiutah](http://strib.com/ubl/skiutah)



Photo by Scott Markewitz



**HORSEBACK BISON ROUNDUP**  
ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK

Many people believe the only place to see wild bison is at Yellowstone National Park. But visitors flying into Salt Lake City International Airport just have to look out the window while their plane makes its final descent.

Bison from Yellowstone were delivered to Antelope Island, the largest island on the Great Salt Lake, in 1893. Today, the state manages the island. The bison and other wildlife, including pronghorn antelope, mule deer, coyote, fox and numerous species of shorebirds, raptors and songbirds, make Antelope Island a great destination for tourists, families and photographers.

For a truly genuine Western experience, consider riding horseback during the annual Antelope Island Bison Roundup held late each fall. Riders of all experience levels help encourage the bison into pens for health checkups and an auction.

[strib.com/ubl/antelopeisland](http://strib.com/ubl/antelopeisland)

## FLY-FISHING THE GREEN RIVER

### GREEN RIVER

There are plenty of reasons why the Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam is on the bucket list of fly-fishers; 15,000, in fact, as in the average number of feisty trout per square mile on the river in northeastern Utah.

But anglers who don't take time to look up every once in a while are missing out on some of the best scenery in the country. Explorer John Wesley Powell documented this country in 1869 while floating down the Green and Colorado rivers. Aside from the reservoir, the scenery on a river trip below the dam looks a lot like it did more than 150 years later.

The emerald green waters and red rock canyon create visually pleasing contrasts. The excellent opportunities for fishing and wildlife viewing are just a bonus when floating the river.

[strib.com/ubl/fishgreenriver](http://strib.com/ubl/fishgreenriver)



## OLYMPIC PARK

### PARK CITY (WINTER AND SUMMER)

Most tourists visiting the state come to experience its many natural wonders. The 2002 Winter Olympics are another reason to come to Utah. Utah Olympic Park remains as a legacy to the 2002 Winter Games — not only for athletes training for future Olympics, but also for people interested in a taste of the sports.

Utah Olympic Park in Park City offers opportunities for people to ride down the same bobsled track used during the 2002 Games. Rides are available in the winter and the summer months. Fantasy bobsled and skeleton camps are also available in the winter. Another summer activity is taking a freestyle ski jumping lesson. Visitors can suit up and eventually jump into the 750,000-gallon pool used as a landing pad for skiers training for the Olympics.

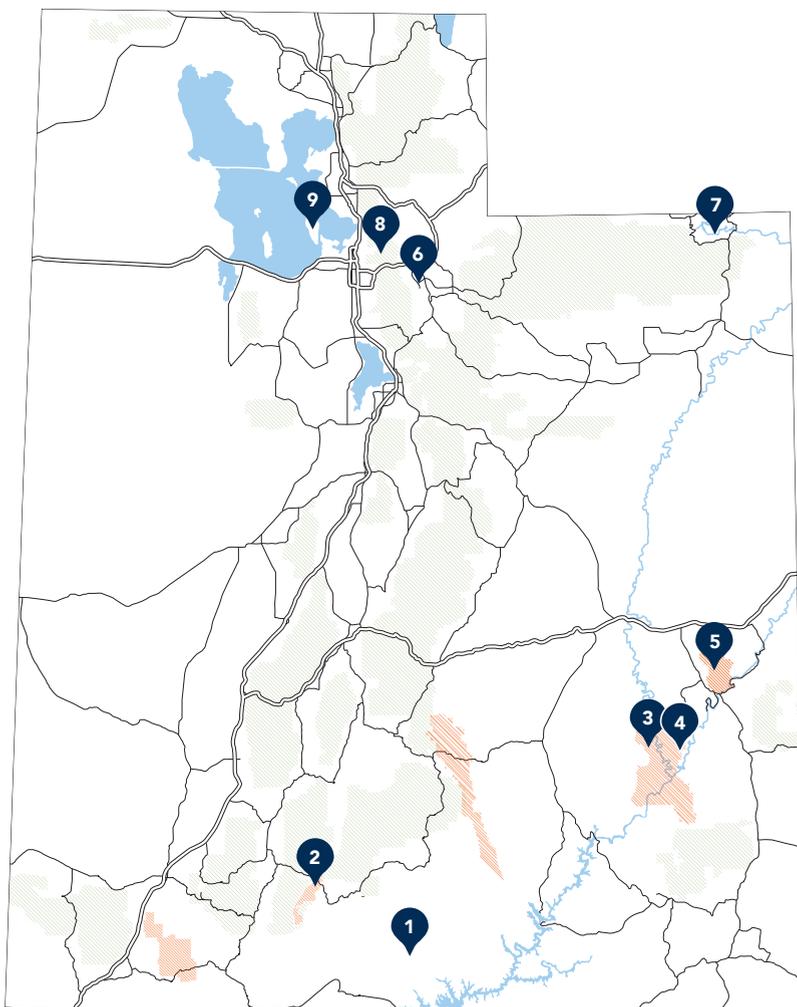
[strib.com/ubl/olympicpark](http://strib.com/ubl/olympicpark)

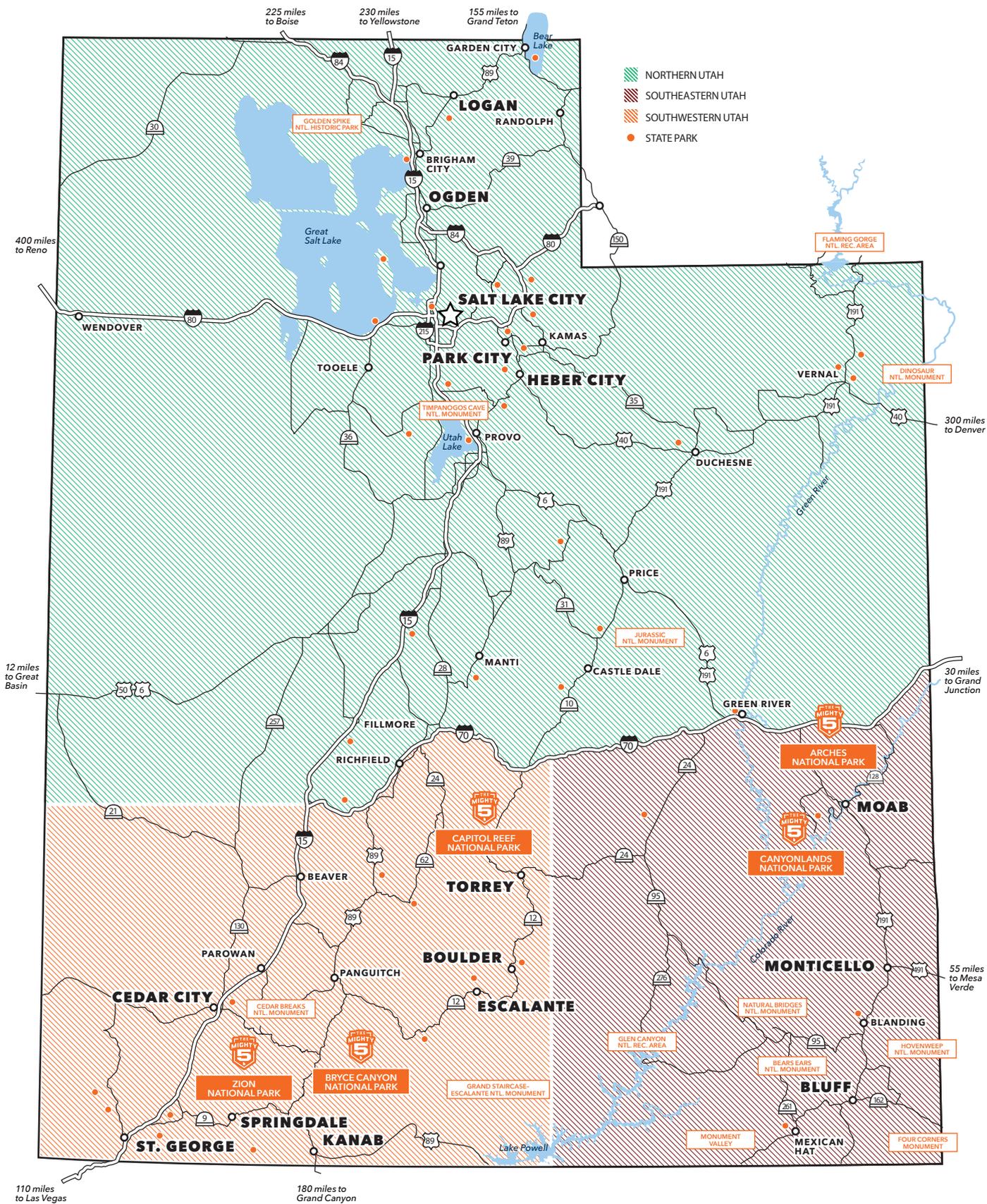
## INCORPORATING THE BUCKET LIST INTO YOUR TRIP

With a little planning, the right equipment and occasionally a guide, you can truly have a Utah vacation for the ages. Here are a few ways to incorporate the Utah Bucket List into your next trip.

Off Scenic Byway 12, you can easily explore some of the **Grand Staircase–Escalante area's [1]** popular slot canyons, like Peek-A-Boo and Spooky Gulch, but to uncover the most remote, technical and spectacular areas, book a guide and prepare yourself for a grand adventure. Astronomy tourism in **Bryce Canyon [2]** is immensely popular thanks to one of the oldest dark sky programs in the nation. While the ranger-led versions are highly informative (and fill up fast), you can appreciate the Milky Way on your own terms — so long as the skies are clear. When heading to Moab, reserve a campsite in **Arches [5]** well in advance of your trip. The same goes for booking your trip down the rapids of the **Colorado River [3]** and making necessary arrangements for the **White Rim Trail [4]**.

Almost any ski vacation in Utah has a high probability of delivering an epic **Powder Day [8]**. For an Olympic-caliber vacation, plan a visit to the **Utah Olympic Park [6]**, only minutes from Park City-area resorts and a short drive from Salt Lake City. Fly-fishing on the **Green River [7]** is a destination unto itself, or a great addition to road trips hitting the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area or Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway and Dinosaur National Monument. Though the Bison Roundup is one weekend in October, **Antelope Island [9]** is a must-visit destination for hiking, biking and viewing wildlife throughout the year. It's an essential stop when traveling through Northern Utah to Yellowstone or Grand Teton.





**IN STATE**

Salt Lake City to Moab (via I-15 and Hwy 6) — 4 hrs  
 Salt Lake City to St. George (via I-15) — 4 hrs 15 min  
 Springdale to Torrey (via Hwy 89 and Hwy 12) — 4 hrs  
 Torrey to Moab (via Hwy 24 and I-70) — 2 hrs 30 min

**OUT OF STATE**

Denver to Moab (via I-70) — 5 hrs 30 min  
 Las Vegas to St. George (via I-15) — 1 hrs 45 min  
 Yellowstone to Salt Lake City (via Hwy 20 and I-15) — 5 hrs

# GETTING HERE & AROUND



Salt Lake City Skyline | Jay Dash

Utah's location at the crossroads of the western United States means travelers enjoy easy access to The Greatest Snow on Earth®, The Mighty Five® national parks and everything in between. Utah's landscape is varied, ranging from high-desert plateaus to alpine meadows and snow-covered peaks to bird-filled wetlands. Across all the varied terrain you'll find different national parks and monuments, state parks and cultural and historic activities, not to mention non-stop outdoor recreation. Without a several-week road trip, it's hard to experience it all, so pick a region and itinerary to start with, then come back again and again. [visitutah.com/travel-info](http://visitutah.com/travel-info) and [visitutah.com/prepare](http://visitutah.com/prepare)

## TRAVELING TO UTAH

Utah is accessible to the world via the brand new Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC). Starting in Salt Lake City is the best place to begin your trip if you want to understand Utah's culture, history and local flavors — and see the towering mountains overlooking the city. Travelers can also fly into Las Vegas' McCarran International Airport for slightly closer access to Southern Utah sites, including a 2.5-hour drive to Zion National Park, St. George and Kanab.

## TRAVELING AROUND UTAH

The best way to explore the state is to rent a car, though there are private shuttle and group tour options as well. In the Wasatch Front urban corridor of Northern Utah there is great public transportation, including TRAX light rail, FrontRunner commuter rail and the UTA bus system.

It takes time to travel between major locations. Take advantage of the many scenic byways to enjoy the local scenery, small towns and off-the-beaten track attractions. See page 50 for some of Utah's best scenic routes.

## TRAVEL REGIONS

### NORTHERN UTAH

*Where mountains meet metros*

**Recommended regional trip length:**  
2 days for Salt Lake City. Add an additional day for each of the following stops: Park City, Antelope Island State Park, Golden Spike National Historic Park, Bear Lake, Evermore Park and Provo Canyon. To extend your visit to Vernal and the Dinosaur National Monument area, add another 2 days.

**Top base camps:**  
Salt Lake City, Park City, Ogden, Heber Valley, Utah Valley, Logan

[visitutah.com/northern](http://visitutah.com/northern)

### SOUTHEASTERN UTAH

*Where mighty rivers bisect ancient history*

**Recommended regional trip length:**  
3 days to fully experience the two national parks. Add an additional day for each of the following stops: Moab river rafting, San Rafael Swell, Goblin Valley State Park and Hovenweep National Monument. Add 2-3 days to experience Bears Ears National Monument, Natural Bridges National Monument and Monument Valley.

**Top base camps:**  
Moab, Monticello, Bluff

[visitutah.com/southeastern](http://visitutah.com/southeastern)

### SOUTHWESTERN UTAH

*Where alpine forests overlook red rock canyons*

**Recommended regional trip length:**  
6 days to fully experience the three national parks. Add an additional 1-2 days for each of the following stops: Cedar Breaks National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Lake Powell and Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park.

**Top base camps:**  
St. George, Springdale, Kanab, Cedar City, Escalante, Boulder, Torrey

[visitutah.com/southwestern](http://visitutah.com/southwestern)

# SALT LAKE CITY

## & THE WASATCH FRONT

Salt Lake City is the urban heart of Northern Utah's vibrant Wasatch Front. A city known equally for its thriving downtown and its backyard mountain range, Salt Lake City offers cosmopolitan amenities in an easy-to-navigate urban setting. The city is just a stone's throw from hundreds of miles of trails for hiking, running and exploring and a dozen ski resorts, including four within 40 minutes. This unparalleled proximity has earned Salt Lake the distinction of being the only "Ski City." Even Park City, the first IMBA Certified Gold-Level mountain biking city in the country and home to Deer Valley and Park City mountain resorts, is less than 45 minutes up the canyon. Utah's five national parks are an average of four hours away by car. In short, by marrying the best of urban attractions and outdoor adventures, Salt Lake City is both a travel destination itself and the jumping-off point for many Utah vacations.

Learn how to travel safely and responsibly throughout Utah's Wasatch Front at [visitutah.com/prepare](https://www.visitutah.com/prepare) and check ahead for availability.

EXPLORE BACKYARD TRAILS AND  
ADVENTURES YOU CAN ONLY  
FIND IN SALT LAKE CITY

[visitutah.com/slc-backyard](https://www.visitutah.com/slc-backyard)



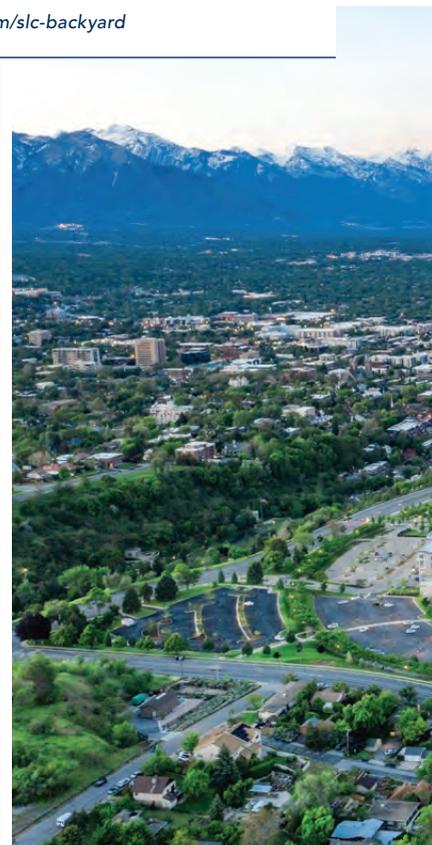
Downtown Salt Lake City | Jim Urquhart



Whiskey Street in SLC | Austen Diamond



Eva Restaurant | Austen Diamond



## FIND YOUR WAY

Historic Temple Square, located at Main Street and South Temple Street, is the point of origin for the four quadrants of the Salt Lake City street grid system. From Temple Square, major streets count up in increments of 100. State Street (100 East) is a primary artery running the full length of the valley beginning on Capitol Hill.

Locals frequently abbreviate street names, so you'll hear 1300 South, 500 East spoken as "13th south, fifth east." Popular neighborhoods just outside downtown include the Avenues, University, Liberty Wells, 9th and 9th, 15th and 15th and Sugar House. Each district has a unique character and features local shops, theaters, restaurants and bars worth seeking out. (See the city map in Dining, page 16.)

## URBAN & MODERN

Great vacations go hand in hand with great food. Salt Lake has become a foodie destination and there's never been a more important time to support local. Salt Lake has award-winning microbreweries like Squatters, Uinta and Red Rock, distilleries

like Sugar House and Beehive and skilled mixologists at hip downtown spaces like Eva, The Rest, Whiskey Street or actor Ty Burrell's Bar-X and Beer Bar to pair with your dinner. Tony Caputo's Market and Liberty Heights Fresh offer the best in local artisan food like Creminelli Fine Meats and Amano Artisan Chocolates.

Evenings bring out the best cultural attractions at performing arts and music venues, including Broadway at the Eccles Theater. Award-winning productions by Ballet West, the Utah Symphony & Opera and Pioneer Theater Company provide an international flair.

Catch national and local acts headlining downtown venues like the Urban Lounge, The Depot and The State Room and at multiple outdoor summer concert series. (See Dining, page 16 and Heritage & Arts, page 56.)

## ARTS & FESTIVALS

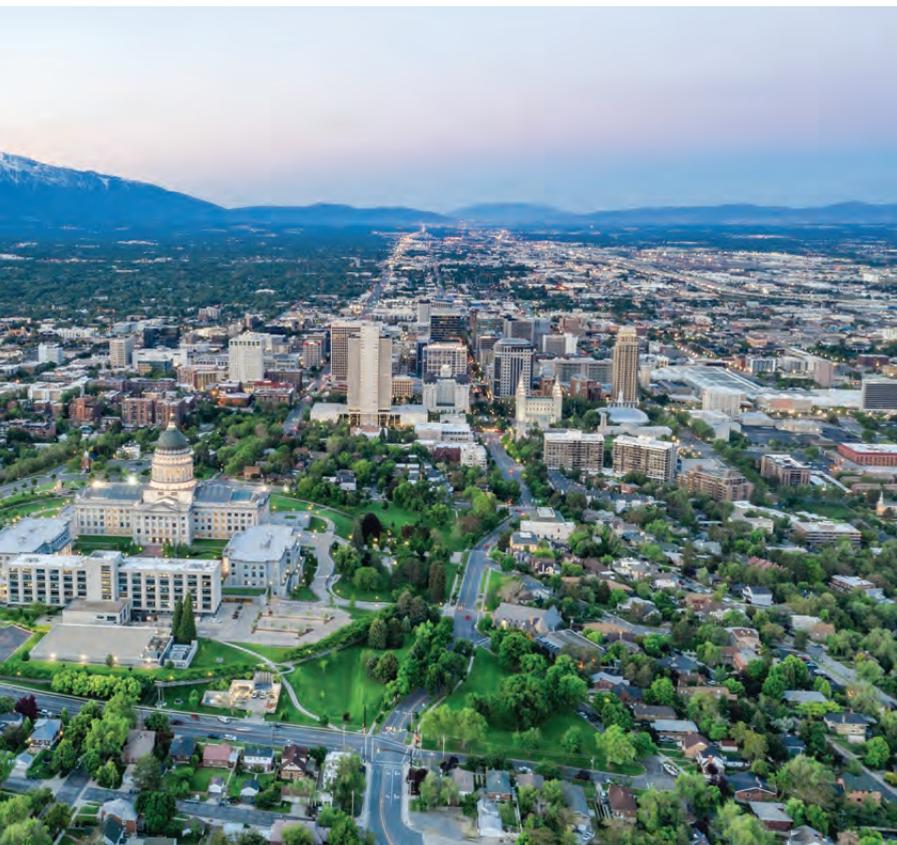
Discover the anchors of Salt Lake City's art scene in Chapter 7 of this guide, then browse the several independent galleries sprinkled about downtown, including the arts, crafts and boutiques of West Pierpont

Avenue and Broadway (300 South).

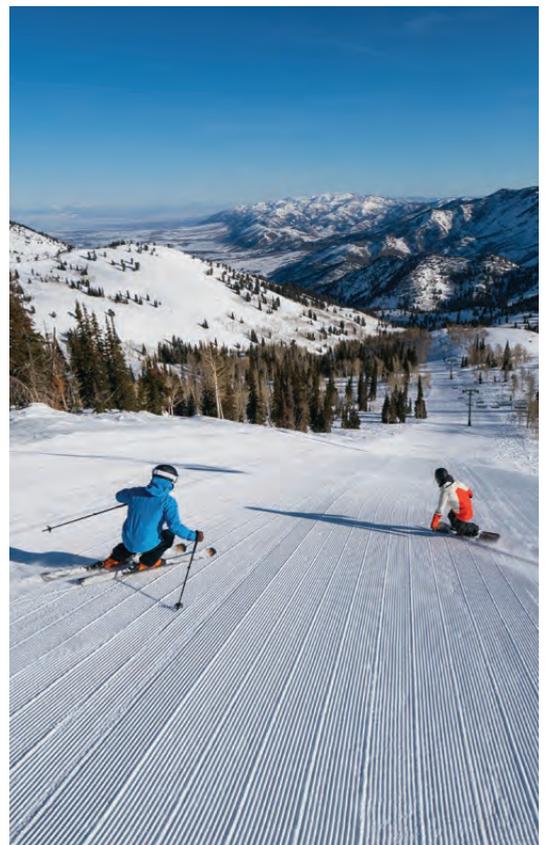
Spring through fall in normal years, there are downtown festivals and events including Living Traditions, Downtown Farmers Market, Utah Pride Festival, Utah Arts Festival and the International Jazz Festival. SLUG Magazine, also known as Salt Lake UnderGround, annually hosts Craft Lake City, which celebrates the city's strong do-it-yourself and entrepreneurial character. Other major events include FanX® Salt Lake Comic Convention™ and the Sundance Film Festival.

## HERITAGE & RELIGION

Settled in 1847, Salt Lake is a relatively young city, and its heritage remains strong. In fact, Salt Lake City's most popular attraction is the 35-acre Temple Square. This beautiful downtown site is the spiritual center for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and offers free walking tours in forty languages, extensive genealogy, great dining and frequent performances of the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square. (Some sites are closed for construction until 2024.) This Is the Place Heritage Park brings to life Utah's Mormon and native history and marks the end of the 1,300-mile Mormon trail.



Dusk, Salt Lake City | Jay Dash Photography



Powder Mountain Ski Resort | Adam Clark

## THE WASATCH FRONT

The jagged wall of the Wasatch Front is the backdrop to Utah's 100-mile-long metropolitan corridor in Northern Utah. A global audience first became familiar with Utah's dramatic Rocky Mountain setting during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. Now, the Wasatch Front's reputation precedes it: the range is home to 11 distinct ski resorts in the winter and limitless mountain adventure all year long.

Dynamic cities populate the valley to the west of the Wasatch Range. More than 2 million people call the Wasatch Front home thanks to a diverse economy and highly regarded quality of life. Interstate 15 travels through the corridor and FrontRunner commuter rail connects Provo to Salt Lake to Pleasant View, between Ogden and Brigham City.

Historic Ogden has a surging downtown and nightlife on 25th Street and the Junction. Great brews and food from Roosters Brewing Co. or farm-to-table fare at Hearth on 25th can fuel your adventure, whether you stay in town for iFLY indoor skydiving or head up scenic S.R. 39 toward Snowbasin and extensive national forest. Round out your Northern Utah experience on a hike among the wildlife of Antelope Island State Park or among the thrill-seekers on the roller coasters of Lagoon Amusement Park, both in Davis County.

Though Salt Lake and its international airport have the largest profile, the other cities of Salt Lake County all feature unique identities, local food and attractions. As you travel south from Salt Lake City, visit the grain-to-glass production of Sugar House Distillery in South Salt Lake, try the local food of Provisions in Millcreek or Copper Kitchen in Holladay, catch Real Salt Lake professional soccer at their home at Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy, then discover the diverse ecosystems and 650 species at the Living Planet Aquarium in Draper.

In Lehi, the gardens, museums and Johnny Miller Signature Golf Club of Thanksgiving Point and Outlets Mall at Traverse Mountain mark the transition to Utah County, to the south of Salt Lake. Other landmarks include the Adobe campus, part of Utah's dynamic "Silicon Slopes" technology scene, and the Lehi Roller Mills, equally known for locally milled grains and their role in "Footloose." This welcoming valley beautifully blends high tech with heritage. Provo and Orem have a growing local dining scene, including Communal and Black Sheep Cafe, and easily access Mount Timpanogos and the fly-fishing, hiking, ice climbing and skiing of Provo Canyon.

Provo Canyon (U.S. 189) and I-80 head east up the canyon toward Utah's premier mountain town, Park City. Explore hundreds of trails across thousands of acres in winter — prime mountain biking terrain when the snow melts. Between adventures, fuel up at 100+ restaurants and bars, like the authentic, Western-inspired fare at Grub Steak and the eclectic American cuisine of Riverhorse on Main, or the farm-to-table scene of The Farm and Montage's highly regarded Burgers & Bourbon.





**Clockwise from top**  
Bustling Main Street, Park City | Mike Schirf  
Dining at Laziz Kitchen | Nicole Morgenthau  
Brighton Ski Resort | Jay Dash  
Collecting brine shrimp, Great Salt Lake  
| Nicole Morgenthau  
Historic 25th Street, Ogden | Jay Dash



2





**TED SCHEFFLER**  
*FOOD AND DRINK COLUMNIST, UTAH STORIES*

We've come a long way, baby! Utah's dining scene, that is. Sure, we've long been known for our state's beauty and natural wonders, the incredible skiing, biking, hiking and other activities, but it's only been recently that eating and eating well have become an important Utah draw.

Diversity is the keynote here, with award-winning chefs and restaurants bringing us cuisines from places like Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere; if it's flavorful, you can probably find it here.

The dining guide that follows is a mere stepping-off point, a roundup of can't-miss eateries from Salt Lake City and around the state that only scratches the surface of the culinary wonders Utah offers. So, enjoy visiting these marvelous restaurants, as well as others too numerous to include here. As the marvelous Julia Child used to say, bon appétit!

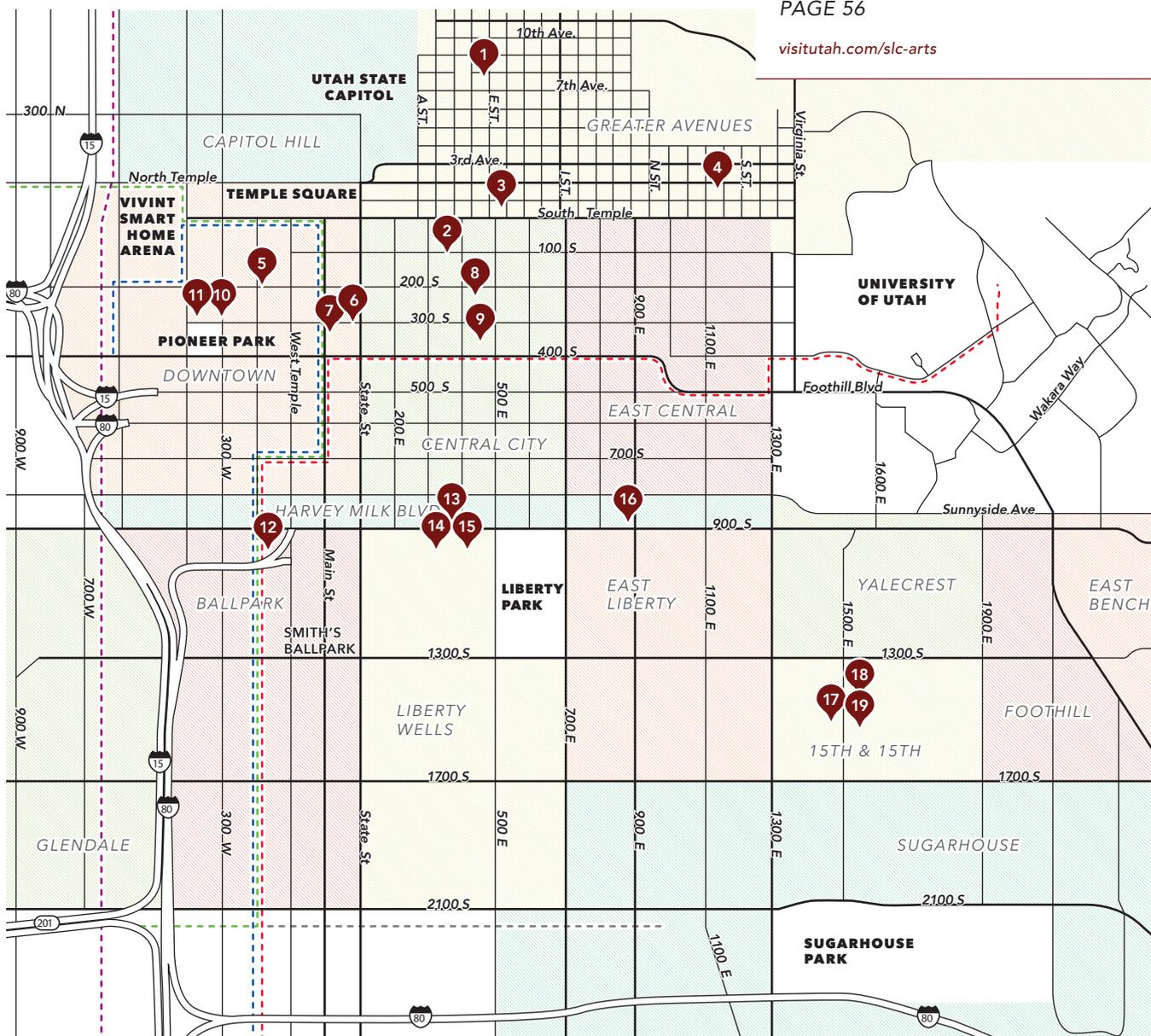
Ted Scheffler is a Utah-based freelance writer and the author of thousands of food, wine, music and travel articles. He is also the former editor of Devour Utah magazine and was Salt Lake City Weekly's restaurant critic and drink columnist. When not maintaining his ever-expanding guitar collection, he enjoys skiing, reading, tennis and, of course, eating.



# SALT LAKE CITY DINING

PAIR SALT LAKE DINING WITH HERITAGE & ARTS OFFERINGS, PAGE 56

[visitutah.com/slc-arts](http://visitutah.com/slc-arts)



## NEIGHBORHOODS

There are culinary corners, streets and neighborhoods in Salt Lake City where killer cuisine seems to be especially concentrated. From a Parisian bistro to Middle Eastern meals, this quartet of culinary hot spots offers delightful destination dining.

## GREATER AVENUES

The bucolic Avenues neighborhood, with its hilly streets and superb eateries, is remarkably reminiscent of San Francisco. But you're actually right here in Utah at the bustling Oquirrh, which serves artful cuisine from no-nonsense menus for one of the state's best culinary experiences. Ditto Cucina, where the extensive wine list is certainly a draw, but so is chef Joey Ferran's inventive cuisine — pork belly pozole and his terrific tandoori lamb chop, for example. Indian flavors with a modern flare is the mantra at Lavanya Mahate's beautiful Saffron Valley. Along with traditional dishes, Mahate also gets modern with menu items like the Bombay Sloppy Joe and her Saffron Banana Split. Craft beers brewed in-house and anything-but-routine pub fare is the calling at Avenues Proper Restaurant & Publick House, where their Hopsital IPA (Proper is down the block from LDS Hospital) pairs perfectly with duck fat-spritzed Prop-corn or General Tso's Pork Belly Tacos.

- (1) Avenues Proper Restaurant & Publick House | 385-227-8628 | [avenuesproper.com](http://avenuesproper.com)
- (2) Oquirrh | 801-359-0426 | [oquirrhslc.com](http://oquirrhslc.com)
- (3) Saffron Valley | 801-203-3325 | [saffronvalley.com](http://saffronvalley.com)
- (4) Cucina | 801-322-3055 | [cucinawinebar.com](http://cucinawinebar.com)



## 3RD & 3RD (DOWNTOWN)

One of SLC's iconic culinary corners is 300 West and 300 South, where for years Tony Caputo's Market & Deli has been feeding the city's foodies with imported and local cheeses, chocolates and gourmet foods, plus an unbeatable array of deli sandwiches, pastas and such. Just around the corner, Cucina Toscana has been a longtime go-to destination for Tuscan-style Italian cuisine like scaloppine di vitello al limone. Traveling the other side of the globe, Laan Na Thai is a mom-and-pop eatery dishing up the vivid flavors of northeastern Thailand — nam tok, for example. And, for comfort food at its Belgian best, be sure to visit Bruges Waffles & Frites, where the name of this fun eatery pretty much tells the story. Be sure to check out the SLC Farmers Market at Pioneer Park on Saturdays throughout the summer.

- (10) Tony Caputo's Market & Deli | 801-531-8669 | [caputos.com](http://caputos.com)  
 (10) Cucina Toscana | 801-328-3463 | [toscanasl.com](http://toscanasl.com)  
 (11) Bruges Waffles & Frites | 801-363-4444 | [brugeswaffles.com](http://brugeswaffles.com)  
 (11) Laan Na Thai (pictured) | 801-363-2717 | [facebook.com/laannathai](http://facebook.com/laannathai)



## HARVEY MILK BOULEVARD

SLC's east-west corridor called Harvey Milk Boulevard (aka 900 South) is a smorgasbord of fresh, fantastic flavors. Aromas of fresh-baked pita, simmering legumes, and fresh herbs welcome guests into Laziz Kitchen, the Harvey Milk home of mouthwatering Middle Eastern cuisine. For southern-style American comfort food, Amy Britt's Pig & a Jelly Jar has you covered with chicken and waffles, beignets, fried pickles and Mason jar libations. Modern, elevated Greek cuisine is on tap at Manoli's, where you won't find gyros or souvlaki, but will enjoy creative Greek meze and mains like pan-seared branzino and delectable donuts called loukoumathes. As the owners of Veneto Ristorante Italiano say, there is no tipping in Veneto, so there's no tipping at Veneto, an inviting local gem knocking the cuisine of Northern Italy out of the park.

- (12) Laziz Kitchen (pictured) | 801-441-1228 | [lazizkitchen.com](http://lazizkitchen.com)  
 (13) Pig & a Jelly Jar | 385-202-7366 | [pigandajellyjar.com](http://pigandajellyjar.com)  
 (14) Veneto Ristorante Italiano | 801-359-0708 | [venetoslc.com](http://venetoslc.com)  
 (15) Manoli's | 801-532-3760 | [manolison9th.com](http://manolison9th.com)



## 15TH & 15TH

Stroll the tree-lined blocks around 1500 South and 1500 East and you'll discover a veritable United Nations of foods and flavors. At Mazza Middle Eastern Cuisine, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Egypt, and other countries are well-represented with dishes like mujaddara, kibbeh, kafta and, of course, falafel. Next door to Mazza, Scott Evans' Finca offers authentic Spanish cuisine, both traditional and modern, ranging from classics like patatas bravas and tortilla Española to more contemporary dishes. 15th and 15th also features locations for two Salt Lake City institutions: Caputo's Market & Deli (see 3rd and 3rd above) and Tulie Bakery, a high-quality, local-when-possible bake house, which first opened in the city's 9th and 9th neighborhood in 2008. As a bonus, stop by one of the city's fiercely independent book stores: The King's English.

- (17) Tulie Bakery | 801-410-4217 | [tuliebakery.com](http://tuliebakery.com)  
 (17) Caputo's Market & Deli | 801-486-6615 | [caputos.com](http://caputos.com)  
 (18) The King's English | 801-484-9100 | [kingsenglish.com](http://kingsenglish.com)  
 (19) Finca | 801-532-3372 | [fincasl.com](http://fincasl.com)  
 (19) Mazza Middle Eastern Cuisine | 801-484-9259 | [mazzacafe.com](http://mazzacafe.com)

## MORE SALT LAKE DINING

### LOG HAVEN

Log Haven is an iconic Utah dining destination, originally built as a log mansion before being purchased and made into a world-class restaurant by owner Margo Provost and her talented team. Nature, nurture and nourishment come together on the 40 private acres that Log Haven occupies in nearby Millcreek Canyon. Waterfalls, streams and stunning views complement chef Dave Jones' inventive and eclectic cuisine, which incorporates Asian and Southwestern flavors in dishes like Korean fried cauliflower and roasted poblano chile mac and cheese. It's no wonder that Log Haven is in high demand for weddings and other special occasions.

801-272-8255 | [log-haven.com](http://log-haven.com)

### (7) EVA

Eva owner/chef Charlie Perry looked to his great-grandmother, Eva Coombs, when naming his inviting eatery. He credits her for passing a love of quality ingredients and the "shared pleasures of eating" to him. The eclectic menu has a Mediterranean tinge to it — consider shrimp and grits with feta, for example. But the cuisine really spans the entire globe with dishes like togarashi fried chicken, lamb and pork cevapi and Neapolitan-style pizzas. Super-friendly service, a casual-but-classy atmosphere and a terrific selection of craft cocktails, beer and wine all add to Eva's excellence.

801-359-8447 | [evaslc.com](http://evaslc.com)

### (5) J. WONG'S THAI & CHINESE BISTRO

The interesting blending of Chinese and Thai cuisines at J. Wong's isn't surprising once you know that the Wongs — originally from China — emigrated to Thailand before settling down here in Utah. Their restaurant has a contemporary, sleek look, with imported artwork and décor from China and Thailand. It's an inviting, beautiful eatery. On the menu, flavors range from Thai curries and Chinese stir-fries to inventive dishes like honey-glazed walnut shrimp and equally delicious Hong Jue scallops. An excellent beer, wine, liquor and sake selection just adds to J. Wong's appeal.

801-350-0888 | [jwongs.com](http://jwongs.com)



### (9) STANZA ITALIAN BISTRO & WINE BAR

Eye-popping design and décor is the hallmark of Joel LaSalle's Stanza restaurant, which is a fine destination for excellent, Italian fare. Yellowtail crudo is a terrific way to kick off a meal here, and you'll certainly want to tuck into at least one of the homemade pastas: bucatini alla carbonara is a great choice. Beverage manager Jimmy Santangelo's first-rate wine and cocktail collection adds to the enjoyment of a Stanza meal.

801-746-4441 | [stanzaslc.com](http://stanzaslc.com)



### FELDMAN'S DELI

For an authentic, Jewish-style (not kosher) eating experience in Utah, look no further than Feldman's Deli. Created by husband-and-wife team Michael and Janet Feldman, this is the real deal. The menu can transport you to the East Coast, with temptations like boil-and-bake bagels, house-made kishka, potato and onion knish, matzo ball soup, gefilte fish and, of course, overstuffed deli sandwiches. And there's entertainment to boot. Look for "Old Jews Telling Jokes" comedy nights as well as live music on weekends.

801-906-0369 | [feldmansdeli.com](http://feldmansdeli.com)

## TABLE X

Two chefs, Mike Blocher and Nick Fahs, share duties that range from recipe development and cooking in the kitchen to helping deliver food to customers' tables. It's a formula that seems to work, judging from the happy faces of diners and the James Beard semifinalist recognition. The restaurant team tends to 13 raised garden beds on-site that contribute to the elegantly displayed dishes anchored by fresh and clean flavors.

385-528-3712 | [tablexrestaurant.com](http://tablexrestaurant.com)



### (8) HSL

This is chef/owner Briar Handly's Salt Lake sister restaurant to Handle, located in Park City. With locally sourced ingredients that are mostly organic, HSL offers nourishing meals with an ultra-inventive spin. Imagine smoked parsnip "bacon" with red beets, Granny Smith apples and pink peppercorn honey, for example. Ash-roasted cabbage, anybody? The beef cheek burger with duck fat-fried spuds is one of the tastiest things on the planet, and who but the always-surprising Handly will glaze a pork shank with apple butter and Frank's Red Hot Sauce?

801-539-9999 | [hslrestaurant.com](http://hslrestaurant.com)

### (6) TAKASHI + POST OFFICE PLACE



Opened in 2004, Takashi is among Salt Lake City's finest restaurants. An absolute favorite menu item at this top-notch Japanese restaurant is Ankimo: monkfish liver that is salt-rubbed, rinsed with sake, and then rolled into a cylindrical shape and steamed. Takashi is talented, kind, generous and humble and his team of skilled sushi chefs nightly draw a line of eager patrons. Next door, the team's inventive Post Office Place offers small plates and cocktails with Japanese and Peruvian influences you can enjoy without a reservation or while awaiting a table at Takashi.

801-519-9595 | [takashisushi.com](http://takashisushi.com)

### (16) PAGO



Owner Scott Evans and chef Phelix Gardner are militant about incorporating locally-sourced and natural ingredients into Pago's dishes whenever possible. The payoff is in the exquisite flavors at this farm-to-table restaurant in Salt Lake's 9th and 9th neighborhood. Local artisan producers like Frog Bench Farms and Clifford Family Farm are well-represented in appealing menu items such as duck confit hash with farm-fresh egg and parsnip soup with local honey. Having an on-premises sommelier who is also a winemaker — Evan Lewandowski of Ruth Lewandowski wines — to help out with wine choices is a big bonus. The Pago Group's nearby East Liberty Tap House is a casual establishment that applies the same philosophy to classic bar food and elevated cocktails.

801-532-0777 | [pagosl.com](http://pagosl.com)

### CAFÉ MADRID



Café Madrid and its lunchtime little sister, Café Gaudi, bring a splash of sunny Spain to Salt Lake City. The gorgeous restaurant and courtyard offer the setting for cuisine ranging from Spanish tapas to customized paella. Family owned, the folks at Café Madrid treat everyone like family; it's hard to think of a more hospitable dining spot. Classic tapas, like bacon-wrapped gambas (shrimp), share the menu with more modern fare, such as philo-wrapped salmon with ginger and honey sauce. A terrific selection of Spanish wines and sangria round out the Café Madrid dining experience nicely.

801-273-0837 | [cafemadrid.net](http://cafemadrid.net)

# STATEWIDE DINING

## TREE ROOM SUNDANCE

There are plenty of great reasons to visit Robert Redford's Sundance Resort — skiing, hiking, biking, relaxing and enjoying its natural beauty among them. But one favorite excuse for a Sundance excursion is the experience of dining at the Tree Room. Decorated with Redford's personal collection of Western and Native American art and memorabilia, the restaurant is named for the tree that grows in the middle of it; Redford didn't want to cut it down, so he essentially built the Tree Room around it. From grilled octopus with piquillo peppers and white beans, to elk loin with seasonal mushrooms and blackberry-pomegranate mostarda, dining here is just as memorable as the sensational setting.

866-627-8313 | [sundanceresort.com](http://sundanceresort.com)



## HELL'S BACKBONE GRILL BOULDER

James Beard Award honoree Hell's Backbone Grill isn't just one of Utah's best restaurants, it's one of this country's best restaurants. Tibetan prayer flags blowing in the breeze welcome customers old and new to this very distinctive eatery where — not to sound hokey — but love is in the air. Guests love the Grill and owners Blake Spalding and Jen Castle and their staff love them right back. And what's not to love with meals sourced from the restaurant's organic farm and Boulder-raised, grass-fed local lamb and beef. Whether you come for the bodacious blue corn pancakes or Hopi-style lamb-stuffed green pepper, be assured that an excursion to Hell's Backbone Grill is one that can be life-changing. It's that special.

435-335-7464 | [hellsbackbonegrill.com](http://hellsbackbonegrill.com)



## SPIN CAFÉ HEBER

Fun and funky are two words to describe Spin Café, a casual restaurant with outrageously delicious homemade gelato that folks queue up for, along with an extensive and eclectic menu and beverage list. Someone in the kitchen knows a lot about barbecue, as evidenced by the excellent house-smoked turkey, Texas-style beef brisket, St. Louis spare ribs and hickory-smoked chicken. But this isn't just a BBQ joint. Spin also offers pastas, burgers, steaks, seafood, and lots more, including super-friendly service.

435-654-0251 | [spincafe.net](http://spincafe.net)

## TUPELO PARK CITY

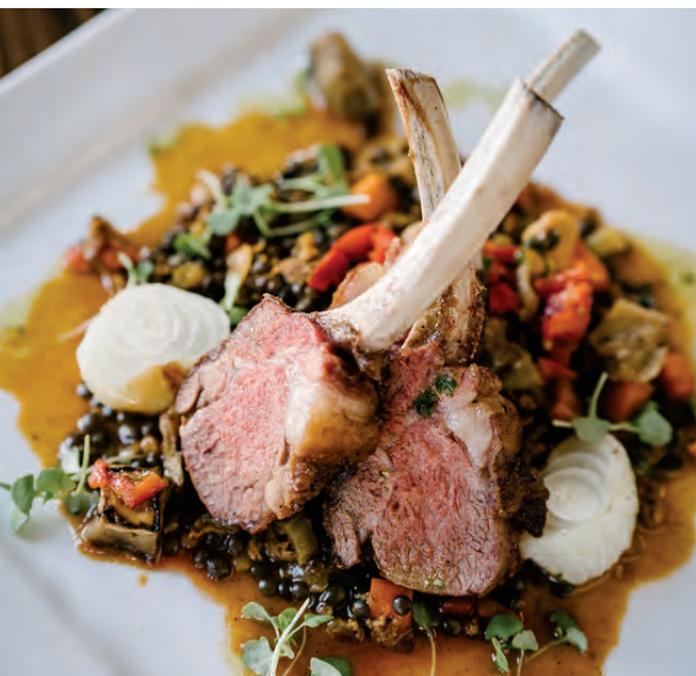
The creation of über-charming couple Matthew Harris and Maggie Alvarez, Tupelo is named for Harris' roots, which are planted in Georgia. The couple travels far and wide to source artisan, small-scale producers such as Bear Lake Lamb, Desert Mountain Beef, Ritual Chocolate and such for their kitchen. In Harris' hands, something as simple as buttermilk biscuits with Tupelo honey butter is divine, and a dish of whiskey-glazed pork cheeks with rosemary crumbs is truly memorable. Be certain to order the exquisite sticky toffee pudding with Earl Grey bitters ice cream for dessert.

435-615-7700 | [tupeloparkcity.com](http://tupeloparkcity.com)

**LE NONNE**  
LOGAN

One might not expect to encounter Northern Italy in Northern Utah, but that's exactly what you get at Le Nonne. PierAntonio Micheli's eatery isn't just the best Italian restaurant in Logan, it's one of the best in the West. Situated in a charming, foliage-covered house, Le Nonne is a lovely place to dine. And the food ... well, Micheli's homemade gnocchi Pomodoro is other-worldly, and see-through thin slices of beef carpaccio with arugula, lemon, EVOO and shaved Grana Padano is equally exceptional. Pollo ai funghi, delicate handmade ravioli, pasta e fagioli — all those dishes and more are simply superb.

435-752-9577 | [lenonne.com](http://lenonne.com)



**ANTICA FORMA**  
MOAB

What would an adventure town be without a top-notch pizza place? Antica Forma's wood-fired Neopolitan pizzas are legendary. They are more Italian than American in style, meaning they are big on flavor and less-focused on heavy amounts of dough (they are also available gluten-free). The Funghi and Capanna pies are among the best they offer. The calzones are heaven-sent after a big day of biking or climbing.

435-355-0167 | [anticaforma.com](http://anticaforma.com)

**FIREWOOD**  
PARK CITY

Firewood owner/chef John Murcko has always had a thing for fire. Not that he's a pyromaniac or anything — he just loves cooking over wood flames. So, creating a restaurant where almost all of the cooking is performed using various types of wood was a dream come true. For diners, that means enjoying dishes such as fire-roasted Arctic char, hot-smoked organic salmon, ember-roasted cauliflower, apricot wood-grilled duck confit and more — all cooked naturally over open flame. If you're over 21, visit the Nickel Bar downstairs at Firewood, named so because it's literally covered in nickels.

435-252-9900  
[firewoodonmain.com](http://firewoodonmain.com)



**COMMUNAL**  
PROVO

Sure, you'll find fine dining in Provo. But did you expect to find a restaurant that strives to use local and sustainable meats, cheeses, and other ingredients? Enter Communal, a restaurant with a terrific vibe and killer cuisine to match. I know of no other eatery in Utah serving a whole *Loup de Mer*, but Communal does, with accoutrements like Brussels sprouts chips and turmeric cream sauce. Saturday brunch here is popular, so plan accordingly.

801-373-8000 | [communalrestaurant.com](http://communalrestaurant.com)

**LUSH'S BBQ**  
KAMAS

Standing at the gateway to Utah's Uinta Mountains, Kamas is an adventure outpost of the Wasatch Back, the high-elevation landscape more well known for nearby Park City. Most don't think of Tennessee Southern BBQ when they think of Kamas, but Richie Lush thought differently when he launched his passion out of a food trailer and then set up shop on the corner of S.R. 248 and Main. A range of Memphis-style smoked meats anchor the menu, though there are also homemade chips and salsa or nachos (add pulled pork or brisket!) and a range of traditional sides.

435-783-2831 | [lushsbbq.com](http://lushsbbq.com)

**PAINTED PONY**  
ST. GEORGE

"No corkage Mondays" brings wine lovers to St. George's Painted Pony restaurant, but it's the top-notch food and ambiance that keep 'em coming back. Settle in on the sunny patio, at the bar or in the dining room for a helping of Southwestern class, and dig into dishes as varied as bacon-wrapped duck, parsnip-green pea ravioli and rack of New Zealand lamb with shaved fennel and mint gelée. Oh, and a side of "Truffled Ruffles" are a must, by George!

435-634-1700 | [painted-pony.com](http://painted-pony.com)

**HEARTH ON 25TH**  
OGDEN

This Ogden fine-dining destination is nothing if not unique. Among the menu items at Hearth, you'll find Himalayan yak, Ora King salmon (which makes up only 1/2 of 1 percent of the global salmon population) and Tunis lamb and veal sourced from Wyoming's Cross Quarter Circle Ranch — a 100 percent women-owned and operated outfit. Add a speakeasy-style bar, the Title 32B Lounge, and you've got a truly one-of-a-kind dining and drinking establishment. And yes, yak meatballs and yak strip steaks are delish.

801-399-0088 | [hearth25.com](http://hearth25.com)

3





There are a lot of reasons Utahns love winter. The ski and snow quality. The variety of winter experiences. Getting cozy inside after a day of play. For many, winter in Utah is all about skiing and riding the deep powder, Olympic downhill or precision-engineered terrain parks. Whether you have visions of endless slopes followed by luxurious après ski or a simpler image of quiet snowshoeing across serene snowy landscapes, your winter dreams exist in Utah.

Utah's location at the Crossroads of the West means you have easy access to it all. A quick cup of coffee and a morning flight to Salt Lake City gets you on the mountains by the afternoon. Ten of Utah's 15 ski resorts are less than an hour from the airport. Stay anywhere along the vibrant Wasatch Front (Salt Lake City, Park City, Provo or Ogden) and you'll find a winter paradise in your own backyard. To explore insider tips and local ideas for your winter on The Greatest Snow on Earth®, go to [visitutah.com/winter](http://visitutah.com/winter).



Sled dogs lead the way, Deer Valley | Mike Schirf

## EASY ACCESS

Salt Lake-area resorts (Solitude, Brighton, Snowbird and Alta) and Park City-area resorts (Park City, Deer Valley and Woodward) are within 45 minutes of Salt Lake City International Airport. Ogden-area resorts (Snowbasin, Powder Mountain and Nordic Valley) are an average of an hour from the airport, as is Robert Redford's scenic Sundance Mountain Resort in Provo Canyon.

The junctions of I-15, I-80 and I-84 in Northern Utah, combined with Salt Lake's belt route, I-215, mean wide-open avenues right to Utah's best canyons. This layout is also convenient for ski itineraries hitting multiple Utah resorts. TRAX light rail, UTA ski buses and taxi services work together to shuttle visitors without vehicles between downtown and the resorts.

If it's all about the journey, set your sights on Utah's four scenic destination resorts: Cherry Peak and Beaver Mountain in Northern Utah near Logan, or Eagle Point and Brian Head in Southern Utah. Many consider these undiscovered gems worth the drive for the untouched powder, mellow vibe and nonexistent lift lines. For visitors to the southern resorts, air travelers have the quickest access through Las Vegas.

Once you're here, the only real challenge is deciding if you want to stay slope-side or stay in the city. Maybe you want access to the cultural amenities and nightlife of Salt

Lake City, Ogden or Provo, or maybe you want to sleep in an extra 20–30 minutes in the morning by staying on the mountain.

## WHERE TO STAY

### SALT LAKE CITY

From the European-style village at Solitude to the luxurious Cliff Spa at Snowbird, Utah's four Cottonwood Canyon resorts (the popular Brighton Resort and skier's-only Alta round out the list) are top winter vacation destinations. Look for extensive slope-side lodging options and an average of 500+ inches of Utah's legendary snow in these canyons. The quality of the ski runs, on-mountain amenities and the proximity of the resorts to downtown define the Salt Lake ski experience. It's easy to catch first lift in the morning and take in the symphony in the evening. Add in a thriving culinary scene, world-class performing arts, plentiful shopping and off-the-slope activities for the whole family, and you can begin to see why the Salt Lake area has the reputation as the only true "Ski City" in the U.S.

### PARK CITY

Though Historic Main Street has all the look and feel of a cozy mountain town, the Park City area is much larger than many realize. Park City Resort is among the largest resort experiences in America, while luxurious Deer Valley stretches into

the neighboring Heber Valley. Park City has more than 100 lodging properties and countless additional home and condo rentals in town or on the slope. The serene landscape around Heber and Midway is home to Olympic-caliber cross-country skiing at Soldier Hollow and comfortable Alpine accommodations.

### SUNDANCE

Twenty minutes southwest of Heber is Robert Redford's rustic and comfortable Sundance Mountain Resort, nestled beneath one of the most picturesque peaks of the Wasatch Mountain Range, Mount Timpanogos.

### OGDEN

This historic and welcoming town has built a mighty reputation as an outdoor recreation mecca, with good reason. You'll find some of the state's best slopes in Ogden's backyard. Powder Mountain is one of North America's largest resorts and offers vast backcountry access and snow kiting. The legendary runs of Snowbasin include the men's and women's downhill from the 2002 Winter Olympics, stunning scenery, terrain parks and beautiful on-mountain facilities. Nordic Valley's expansion is building on Ogden Valley's legacy of incredible skiing and riding. Ogden's walkable downtown is growing, with family amenities like the Treehouse Museum, a thriving restaurant and bar scene and classic buildings from Ogden's history as a boomtown railroad outpost.

## UTAH'S SNOW SCIENCE

Utah's combination of geography and the storms that drop their bounty along the eleven ski resorts in the Wasatch Mountains lead many to make the claim that Utah has the best deep-powder skiing and riding in the country. But don't take our word for it. Just look at the accolades from the readers of SKI magazine, Forbes and others, who annually rank Utah's ski resorts at the top of the class. According to research of snow quality in the Cottonwood Canyons by University of Utah atmospheric scientist Jim Steenburgh, unique climate conditions produce a "just right" frequency and quantity of snow for ideal flotation when skiing and riding Utah's powder. You may also hear the term "designer storms," which is when more than a foot of snow drops at a time in the mountains while Ski City at the foot of the canyon receives light snow or a little rain, keeping the roads and sidewalks clear. In the winter, follow our Weather Wednesday snow report on Instagram @visitutah.



GO BEYOND THE DOWNHILL  
TO UTAH'S SPAS, DINING,  
FESTIVALS AND ATTRACTIONS

[visitutah.com/off-the-slope](http://visitutah.com/off-the-slope)

## APRÈS & UNIQUELY UTAH

Skiers and riders come to Utah for The Greatest Snow on Earth®, yet even those who opt not to take to the slopes can still find their “Greatest” at Utah’s resorts and surrounding communities. Here are nine experiences on and off the slopes favored by travel writer Jill K. Robinson.

Follow Jill @[dangerjr](#) and [dangerjillrobinson.com](#).

To see the best of all 15 resorts, explore [visitutah.com/ski-resorts](#).

### RIDE AN ORANGE BUBBLE TO CLOUD DINE

Warm up and grab lunch atop Dream Peak at the newly redesigned and expanded Cloud Dine at Park City Mountain. The orange bubble lift, a heated, covered chairlift, warms you between runs as it zips you to the top of the peak in under ten minutes.



### CLIFF SPA AT SNOWBIRD

Long days on the slopes can lead to sore muscles, but that doesn’t mean calling it a night. Stretch out at Snowbird’s Cliff Spa in yoga and fitness classes then chill in the eucalyptus steam room or rooftop heated pool after a spa treatment. Still not relaxed? Head downstairs to round out your après with a great meal and a cocktail.



### LAP THE UTAH OLYMPIC LEGACY AT SNOWBASIN

Advanced skiers can get a taste of the 2002 Winter Olympics by following the 2,625 feet of vertical drop that made up the women’s Wildflower Downhill course. Take the John Paul Express Quad to the Allen Peak Tram, adjust your goggles and go! For less extreme terrain, take the Needles Express Gondola to enjoy a treasure trove of intermediate and easy terrain.



### GET A LIFT FROM TOWN AT PARK CITY

There’s no need to drive to the resort when you can grab a seat on the Town Lift, which loads right on Park City’s Historic Main Street. At the end of the day, celebrate your successful turns at the High West Distillery & Saloon — with ski-in access. Don’t worry: ski gear is perfectly acceptable attire for a late afternoon whiskey tasting.





### KITES ARE FOR SKIERS

Get fluent in snow kiting at Powder Mountain's Adventure Center, which has lessons for individuals and small groups to get a grip on the basics. If you already love it and have the gear, sign up for a snow kite adventure and learn how to add to your skills, or if you just want to access the acres, you can grab a day pass and kite skiing pass.

### SKI AMONG BRIAN HEAD'S HOODOOS

Downhill skiing in Utah calls to mind craggy alpine peaks. At Brian Head, however, their high-speed quads zip you up the mountain overlooking the orange sandstone hoodoos (slender rock towers) of Cedar Breaks National Monument, just 3 miles away. Of course, the skiing is spectacular too. Recent upgrades at the resort have many long-time regulars singing the resort's praises even louder, making Brian Head a hidden gem among Utah's resorts.



### DRINK WHISKEY IN BUTCH CASSIDY'S FOOTSTEPS

Add some authentic Western influence to your ski day at the Owl Bar. Once frequented by Butch Cassidy's Hole-in-the-Wall Gang, the 1890s Rosewood Bar was moved from its home in Thermopolis, Wyoming to Sundance and restored for your enjoyment. Belly on up, order a whiskey, exchange stories about the best run of the day and make plans for tomorrow.



### LEARN FROM 85 YEARS OF SKI TRAINING AT BRIGHTON

Brighton has been open since 1936, which means there has been a continuous focus on ski instruction for more than 85 years. Even the kids of past instructors are now teaching ski school basics. It's hard to pass up the value of all those decades of experience helping turn novice skiers into seasoned masters.

### BRING THE SKIS TO DEER VALLEY

Deer Valley is a skier's mountain. Impeccable corduroy runs, ski valets, attention to detail and awesome terrain are some of the reasons why readers of *SKI* magazine consistently vote Deer Valley among the best ski resorts in North America, including No. 1 for guest services. It isn't hype: Deer Valley is that good.



4





Last year, TripAdvisor users engaged in more than 17,000 discussions about locations and attractions in the Utah forums, part of more than 250,000 all-time conversations about Utah. These are some of the best-reviewed destinations — the places, activities and adventures — that give meaning to Utah Life Elevated®. Here, your fellow Utah travelers are your guide.

Dine on Historic 25th Street after a visit to Ogden's stately Union Station, then track down your ancestors at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Take a drive or ride a bicycle up Provo Canyon, among the world's most scenic canyons, or head to Southern Utah for incredible hikes, scenic backways and championship golf in Utah's best red rock landscapes.

To find more trip ideas and reviews, visit [tripadvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com) and search "Utah." Please note that access to some experiences may be adapted or limited due to COVID-19 and plan accordingly.

#### ABOUT TRIPADVISOR®

TripAdvisor is the world's largest travel site, enabling travelers to plan and book the perfect trip. TripAdvisor offers trusted advice from travelers and a wide variety of travel choices and planning features with seamless links to booking tools that check hundreds of websites to find the best hotel prices. All reviews are the subjective opinion of a TripAdvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC. Reviews used with permission of TripAdvisor. We have edited some reviews for grammar and space but have preserved the reviewer's intent.

Book a guided rafting trip through the Gates of Lodore in Dinosaur National Monument near Vernal | Jeremiah Watt

TOP RATED UTAH

## DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT



**"Amazing! Exceeded our expectations!"**

*Never thought we would be able to see fossils in their 'unexcavated' state! Educational! Informative, and just plain fun! It is mesmerising... hard to believe places like this actually exist. Dinosaurs brought up close ... but not in a typical museum. Beautiful country!"*

— David C



## TIMPANOGOS CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT



**"Incredible adventure"**

*I have visited Carlsbad Caverns, Mammoth Cave and Kartchner Caverns but never have I felt as awed as I did at Timpanogos Cave. ... The trail to the entrance is only 1.5 miles but the vertical climb is about 1,000 feet. ... The path inside the cave is not strenuous but there are some narrow places."*

— Professor-Zero



## FLAMING GORGE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



**"Wild and Beautiful — Lots to See and Do"**

*It may be a bit out of the way, but Flaming Gorge is totally worth the drive to take in all its gorgeous beauty and great outdoor activities. ... We love Flaming Gorge and highly recommend a visit for at least a couple days. You'll want to return as we did."*

— MNDoodles



## BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE



**"Great Birding"**

*I just keep coming back (from the U.K.) to Bear River. One of the best birding spots in the U.S. Masses of shore and water birds, and usually very peaceful with surprisingly few visitors."*

— Proflan



## UTAH MOTORSPORTS CAMPUS



**"World Class Track"**

*This has become a world-renowned road-racing course, one of the best in the U.S. Everyone in Utah should check out this \$100 million facility, it is awesome. There is car racing and motorcycle racing ... [and] a Go Kart Racing series each year. Family fun at very reasonable prices."*

— Dave G



## BEAR LAKE



**"Excellent Water Activities"**

*Cooler temperatures, pleasant water and shallow beaches that are great for kids. ... There is a very family-friendly atmosphere, and it really isn't overcrowded. There are plenty of places that rent out equipment ranging from kayaks and canoes to motorboats. ... Don't miss out on raspberry shakes in July/August."*

— aquistbe





### HILL AEROSPACE MUSEUM



*"Amazing for children from 5 to 95*

*This is a great place to spend an entire afternoon with hundreds of displays and activities. ... Every time we leave, the children ask when they can go back. As adults we love to see the old planes and read the history behind them. You HAVE to make this a destination when you visit Ogden."*

— Debbie W



### USU EASTERN PREHISTORIC MUSEUM



*"A spoonful of dinosaurs makes the archaeology go down*

*It has a really solid collection of dinosaur bones and skeletons, an open lab, and terrific exhibits ... the kids will love it. BUT the real secret to this museum is the other half with the collection of pottery, woven goods, baskets, etc. of Utah's Native peoples, back to the earliest excavations ... "*

— htwollin



### PROVO CANYON



*"Few scenic drives compare*

*We've traveled through canyons all over the world: Switzerland, Germany, Taroko Gorge, China, New Zealand and on and on, but Provo Canyon ranks with them. ... Stop at Bridal Veil Falls; head up South Fork or stop at the ponds at Vivian Park or go up the Alpine Loop by way of Sundance."*

— Mark S



### MONUMENT VALLEY NAVAJO TRIBAL PARK



*"My Favorite Place In The USofA*

*The very unusual formation of these red rocks is breathtakingly unique. It is quiet; you really can relax and enjoy your time there. Talk to the natives and — if you like — buy a piece of Navajo jewelry. ... If you have watched old Western movies, here you see the 'real world' where some of the movies played."*

—paulpaul72



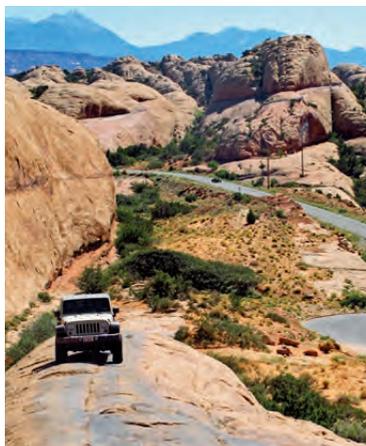
### UNION STATION



*"4 Museums plus a wonderful lunch*

*We made a day of visiting Ogden. ... We had lunch at Union Grill then toured the four museums. ... The railroad museum explained the transcontinental railroad history. Nicely done and interesting for both adults and children. ... The Browning Museum is a must for gun and rifle enthusiasts."*

— patticake919



### HELL'S REVENGE JEEP TRAIL



*"Do it!*

*I was a little leery of this tour because I am an instructor for Land Rover and thought it might be a little lame. I'll have to admit that the first few ascents and descents had my heart rate up. ... At several places we stopped and [our instructor] regaled us with stories and local history. Hated to see it end."*

— Gman532

## ENTRADA AT SNOW CANYON GOLF COURSE



### "You Must Play This Course

If you're in St. George on a golf trip, you **MUST** play this one. I've played most of them in the area and this is at the **TOP** of the list. ... This is by far the best condition, layout, etc. A great scenic surprise when you get to holes 15-17."

— LVworldTravelerUSA



## TEMPLE SQUARE



### "America's Vatican City

This is a beautiful, peaceful place. The missionaries are available to answer questions or give you a tour and explain the historical and religious importance of this place. If you happen to go on a Thursday night, stop in at the Tabernacle to listen to the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal."

— 901Annie



## CALF CREEK FALLS



### "Wonderful hike

Hiked this great trail ... while we were exploring Highway 12. This trail was a lot of fun with wonderful scenery along the way. The red canyon walls, the river, even a large bird flying overhead scouting for a meal. The waterfall itself could be something out of a fairy tale — it was just beautiful."

— NCfamilytravel



## CAPITOL REEF NP: BURR TRAIL



### "A beautiful solitary drive

Utah does wonderful maintenance on its unpaved roads and the Burr was no exception. ... The 30 miles through dramatic red rock canyons, followed by exciting tight switchbacks ... and the colorful, desolate beauty of the lonely dirt road ... is our idea of a perfect drive."

— RandiRA



## HEBER VALLEY



### "FISHING, GOLF AND HORSEBACK RIDING

From Blue Ribbon fly-fishing on the Provo to golf at Soldier Hollow and two horseback riding experiences ... All were excellent. My husband went fishing. I went riding and we played golf together, not all in one day. But it was so great we returned another day to do it all over again."

— Cindy K



## U-DIG FOSSILS



### "Trilobites are prolific!

It is a bona fide trilobite dig ... Take plenty of water and something to eat as well as sunblock. We did a half-day dig. It was actually quite relaxing and we got some nice trilobite specimens to take home. ... Serious rockhounds will enjoy it."

— Karen G



## THANKSGIVING POINT



### "A great place with lots to do

There is a wide selection of activities for families, couples or individuals. There are several nice shops and a few places to eat. You could easily spend a full day here exploring the gardens, dinosaur museum, Museum of Curiosity, Farm Country and taking in a movie."

— StevinCH





## CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT



**"Star Party!!!"**

Rangers had telescopes set up to view the rising full moon and planets that were visible and did great activities with the kids. Sunset from this location combined with rising full moon was an AWESOME experience!!!!

— Jean C



## BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SANCTUARY



**"What all animal shelters should strive to be"**

I'm so glad we stopped here while traveling from Zion to Lake Powell. It was extremely heart-warming to see such effort and dedication to doing animal rehabilitation, care and adoption the best that it can be done. ... Be sure to check their schedules for available tours and workshops."

— Jeffrey F



## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY



**"Mecca for genealogists!"**

The kind people here will help you if you are a beginner. Let them know it's your first time. If you are not a beginner, use the FamilySearch website to do your homework in advance and come prepared with your film numbers! If your films are in the Granite Mountain Vault, order them in advance."

— JLZplus4



## GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK



**"You're going to love it more than you can imagine ..."**

After watching the movie (20 minutes), looking at the artifacts, going out to see the site itself, and looking around at the very, very majestic landscape, I had one of those moments where I felt a huge burst of pride on behalf of the incredible work that our forebears did to develop this country."

— artnik



## MAPLE CANYON



**"Great views and hike"**

Maple Canyon is now one of our favorite fall hikes. We love the views, the colors of the maple leaves, the amazing formation of the rock walls, and the natural arch. It is challenging enough, but not too hard. If you are a rock climber, it is a MUST!!!"

— sistatee

# 5

## TRAVEL DEEPER WITH A GUIDE

Guides and outfitters allow you to deeply experience the outdoors without any planning or wayfinding stressors. They also know Utah's lands intimately and offer local perspectives and geological insights.

Not only can guides get you somewhere safely, they often take you and your family to places only accessible with a permit and the right gear. Guided trips can vary in length from half-day to multi-day adventures and can include hiking and backpacking clinics, petroglyph tours, river rafting trips, technical canyoneering or bikepacking and mountain biking.

*Find a guide at [visitutah.com/guides](https://www.visitutah.com/guides)*



Great access to Utah's parks and outdoors begins within 30 minutes of the Salt Lake City Airport in Northern Utah, which includes national forests and monuments that cross high-alpine adventure, tranquil lakes, mountain ranges and hidden caverns.

Head south and soon find yourself on the astonishingly scenic drives that mark the way for visitors to The Mighty 5® national parks and all the unexpected national monuments, national forests, towns, state parks and scenic lands that fill the space in between. It's here in Southern Utah that travelers visit red rock icons, then discover something equally wild around the next bend. Perhaps it's hiking down the 1,000-foot face of a towering Island in the Sky, then respectfully walking among 1,000-year-old petroglyphs. Or it's running with childlike glee among the stone goblins, then staying up late to see dark night skies so filled with stars that you'll wonder who is out there looking back.

Keep in mind, visiting Utah is about so much more than recreation. It's about soul-awakening adventures. Help keep Utah Forever Mighty by traveling responsibly. That means planning ahead, leaving no trace in the outdoors, supporting local and slowing down to fully appreciate all that is around you. Review responsible travel tips and current safety information at [visitutah.com/prepare](https://www.visitutah.com/prepare).

Start exploring at [visitutah.com/parks](https://www.visitutah.com/parks)



# CAPITOL REEF

Hike under and around Hickman Bridge | Andrew Burr

## *Where pioneer orchards meet wild and unexpected geology*

### WHAT TO DO

The visitor center is open year-round. Several easy hiking trails and the park's scenic drive are found near the visitor center. In only a couple hours, you can try a hike like Hickman Bridge or the Grand Wash and examine petroglyph panels left by the Fremont culture along S.R. 24. With a half-day, add the 8-mile scenic drive past the visitor center and Fruita Historic District.

With a full day, and a high-clearance vehicle, you can explore the bulging uplift of rainbow-hued sandstone "reefs" and canyons of the Waterpocket Fold, or tour the Temples of the Sun and Moon and the rest of Cathedral Valley's sculptured sandstone monoliths. During harvest season (June–October, varies based on the fruit), pick your own fruit from the park's orchards.

With even more time, and the right supplies and experience, request a free backcountry permit and discover yourself amid pristine wilderness. Capitol Reef has several incredible backpacking trails, but water is scarce and wayfinding knowledge is a must. The park is also growing in popularity as a rock-climbing destination. Check ahead for the current conditions of backcountry roads and washes.

### CLIMATE

You'll experience a combination of mountain and desert climates. From May–October, expect dry, warm weather in the 70°–80°F range and significant nighttime dips down to the 40's. November–March is the coldest time, with daytime temperatures peaking under 50°F in November, 39°F in January and freezing overnight. Hardy travelers, however, will encounter stunning solitude amid snowcapped monoliths.

### WHERE TO STAY

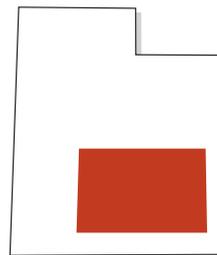
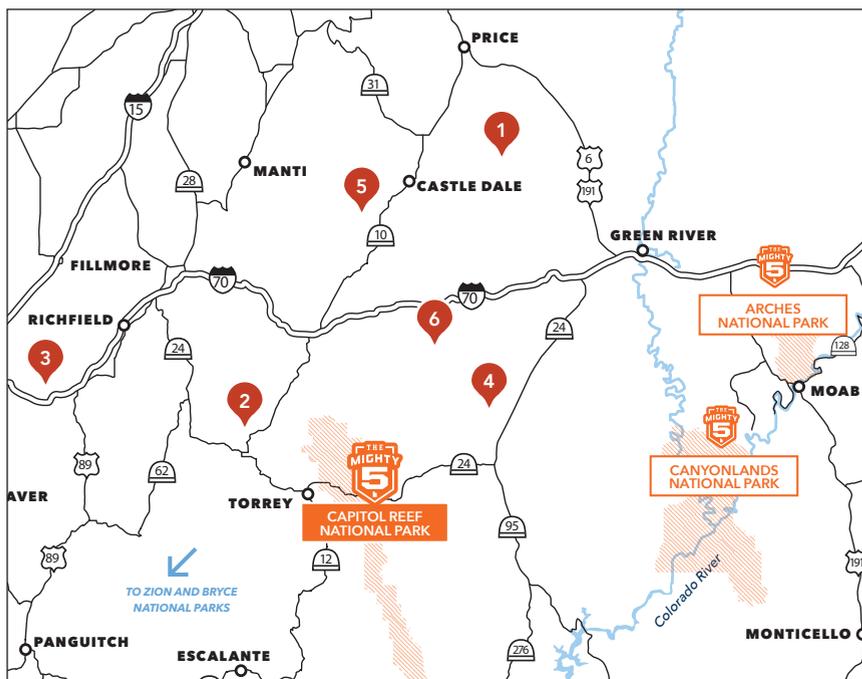
The welcoming and eclectic town of Torrey is the primary gateway to Capitol Reef and includes local dining options. In towns between Hanksville and Loa you'll find additional motel and bed and breakfast accommodations. Boulder boasts the Zagat-rated Hell's Backbone Grill.

Open year-round, Capitol Reef's campgrounds are first come, first served, including a developed campground in Fruita and primitive campgrounds in the backcountry.

### INSIDER TIPS

1. In summer and early fall, fruit can be picked and eaten in the Fruita orchards for free. You can take a bag of fruit to go for a nominal fee. Definitely stop at the Gifford Homestead for a fresh, local pie.
2. At high desert elevations, drink extra water and don't forget the electrolytes. Start hikes early, protect your skin and take breaks to enjoy the scenery.
3. Capitol Reef is a certified International Dark Sky Park. Fit some stargazing into your itinerary.
4. Connect your visit with Bryce Canyon National Park by driving on the All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12, one of the most beautiful roads in the United States. Plan several days to explore both parks adequately.

[visitutah.com/capitol-reef](https://www.visitutah.com/capitol-reef)



Capitol Reef Country is roughly 3 and a half hours from Salt Lake City and about two hours from Moab. It is the closest national park to Salt Lake City. A 2-hour drive on the All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12 connects this park to Bryce Canyon National Park.



## COMPLETE YOUR ITINERARY

**(1) Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry & Jurassic National Monument** | 2 hours 30 minutes from Capitol Reef

At Utah's newest national monument, you'll see the world's densest concentration of dinosaur bones — more than 12,000 discovered so far. Typically open April–September, but check the hours before you go. The kids will love it, and they get in free.

**(2) Fishlake National Forest** | 1 hour from Capitol Reef to Fish Lake

Enter an outdoor paradise known for its beautiful aspen forests with scenic drives leading to secluded camping, extensive ATV trails, elk hunting and fishing. Highlights include the Paiute ATV Trail and Lakeshore National Recreation Trail, home to the massive quaking aspen colony known as Pando.

**(3) Fremont Indian State Park and Museum** | 1 hour 45 minutes from Capitol Reef

This museum marks the site of one of the largest-known Fremont culture villages. The museum showcases the incredible discovery of this village by a road construction crew, and nearby hiking trails explore the areas' petroglyphs and pictographs. You can camp or rent a teepee for an evening beneath pristine dark skies.

**(4) Goblin Valley State Park** | 1 hour from Capitol Reef

Unlike any other place in the world, this park's whimsical sandstone landscape captures and stretches the imagination. Bring the family and experience this amazing place by hiking, camping, biking and exploring the surrounding canyons. It is also a certified International Dark Sky Park.

**(5) Millsite State Park** | 1 hour 45 minutes from Capitol Reef

This quiet reservoir is a great place to boat, fish and camp. There is also an eighteen-hole, public golf course adjacent to the park. Visitors who bring off-highway vehicles or mountain bikes can enjoy miles of trails in nearby Ferron Canyon.

**(6) San Rafael Swell** | 1 hour 45 minutes from Capitol Reef

Starting at the 1,000-foot Wedge Overlook introduces you to the expansiveness of this area. The view is a bird's-eye perspective of the Little Grand Canyon, a 14-mile path cut by the San Rafael River. After the overlook, drive down into the Buckhorn Draw Backway to experience a wealth of petroglyphs, hiking, climbing and peaceful, primitive camping. The southern portion of the Swell is more rugged, but with a map and plenty of fuel, you can enjoy remarkable slot canyons. Expect all roads in this area to be unpaved, including several requiring high-clearance and four-wheel drive.





# ARCHES

A stunning sky, Arches National Park | Angie Payne

## *Every arch frames 300 million years of patient erosion*

### WHAT TO DO

Most visitors enjoy the full 18-mile scenic drive (one-way). For the best experience, travel patiently and respect parking regulations. Early on the drive, the La Sal Mountains Viewpoint creates contrast between Arches' geology and the distant peaks. The short hikes at Park Avenue, Balanced Rock and the Windows Section quickly bring you up to speed on the park's diverse formations and high concentration of arches.

Even if you've seen pictures of Delicate Arch, you've not truly experienced until you've been. Like the more than 2,000 arches that give the park its name, Delicate Arch begs a closer look. At Devils Garden, see one of the earth's longest arches.

You could see it all in a half-day, but Arches National Park's experiences can fill a full day or more of attention and exploration. The Arches visitor center is open year-round. Stop for tips and to fill up your water bottles.

### CLIMATE

You'll typically encounter 65°–85°F temperatures through the spring and fall, often deep into November, though nights can be as much as 30° cooler. These cooler seasons are highly recommended to avoid crowds. Southeastern Utah gets hot in the summer, and daytime temperatures can exceed 100°F. You can beat the heat by planning ahead and carrying sunscreen and extra water. During the summer, consider exploring in the morning and evening. In winter, enjoy iconic landmarks in solitude. You may need poles and shoe spikes to navigate icy or snowy trails.

### WHERE TO STAY

Five miles away in Moab, find great local cuisine, coffee, brews and abundant accommodations, or seek out nearby resort destinations like Red Cliffs Lodge or Sorrel River Ranch Resort and Spa. Pack your tent for the public lands that surround Moab. There are additional lodging options in nearby Green River. Devils Garden Campground (see Utah Bucket List, page 6) fills up fast, so make reservations up to six months in advance for stays March 1–October 31.

### INSIDER TIPS

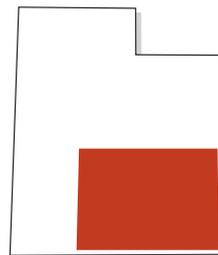
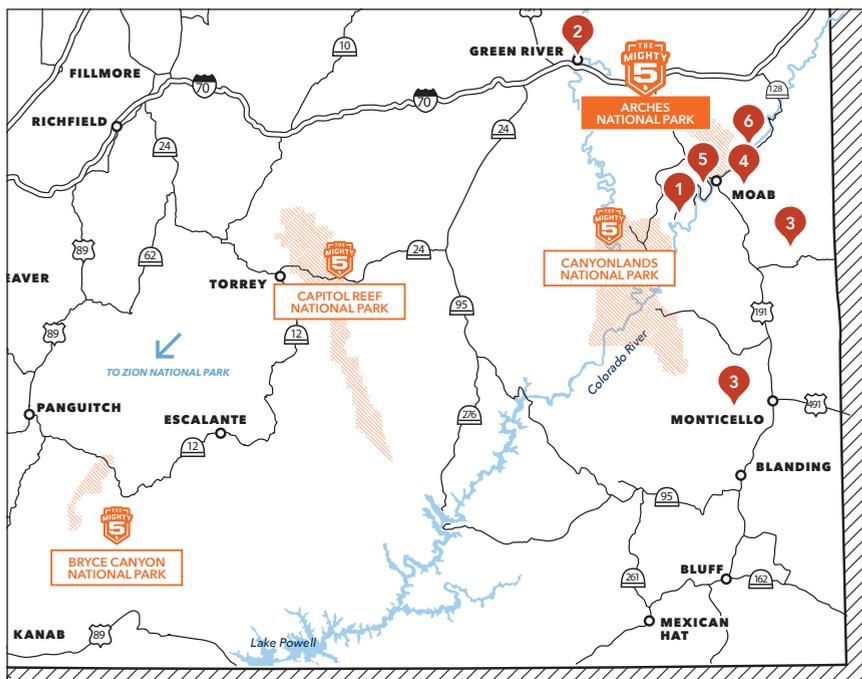
1. Arches is far less crowded at sunrise and sunset, maybe the most striking times to visit. March–October is busy, especially on holidays, weekends and mid-morning.
2. Well-prepared hikers can escape the crowd on the 8-mile Devils Garden trail. With stamina, agility and a permit or guide, visit the stunning labyrinth called the Fiery Furnace.
3. Follow @archesnps on Twitter and Facebook and visit [nps.gov/arch](https://nps.gov/arch) for park alerts about current conditions and to view the entrance station webcam.
4. The short Dead Horse Point Mesa Scenic Byway (S.R. 313) connects Moab and Arches to the road's namesake state park and the Island in the Sky district of Canyonlands.

[visitutah.com/arches](https://visitutah.com/arches)

### TIMED ENTRY TICKETS

April 3 to October 3, 2022, a timed entry reservation will be required daily between 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[go.nps.gov/archesticket](https://go.nps.gov/archesticket)



It's 4 hours from Salt Lake City to Arches (or 1 hour 45 minutes from Grand Junction, CO). Arches is a few minutes north of Moab and around 40 minutes from Canyonland's Island in the Sky district. Here, scenic byways follow rivers and canyons to limitless outdoor adventure.



## COMPLETE YOUR ITINERARY

### (1) Dead Horse Point State Park | 40 minutes from Arches visitor center

Many visitors find the views at Dead Horse Point to be more captivating than the Grand Canyon. A visitor center and gallery provide a wonderful introduction to the park's geology. There are also mountain biking trails, campsites and reservable yurts.



### (2) Green River | 45 minutes from Arches visitor center

Green River is the name of a welcoming small town, a lush state park and one of the West's great rivers. Stay in the town of Green River as a base camp for Arches National Park or for a rafting trip on the Green River Daily or other world-class floats. With a rafting guide or permit, take on the Green River's famous Desolation Canyon.

### (3) Manti-La Sal National Forest | 1 hour from Moab area

In southeastern Utah, the La Sal and Abajo mountain ranges provide excellent opportunities for remote camping, hiking, biking, fishing, hunting and mountain climbing. They also serve as scenic backdrops to state and national parks throughout the region.



### (4) Moab Mountain Biking | Most trails 10–20 minutes from Arches or Moab

The Slickrock Trail of Sand Flats is one of the most famous trails located within a stone's throw of the biking/hiking/off-road mecca known as Moab. But there's biking for days: Magnificent 7, Intrepid, Klondike Bluffs and Bar M are just a few of the must-ride trail systems in the area.

### (5) Potash-Lower Colorado River Scenic Byway | Junction a half-mile south of Arches entrance

Take the 17-mile scenic byway down S.R. 279 to access soaring sandstone cliffs, rock climbing, cycling trails, petroglyphs, dinosaur tracks, arches and views of the Colorado River. Popular arches include Bowtie, Corona and Jug Handle.

### (6) Upper Colorado River Scenic Byway | Junction 5 minutes south of Arches entrance

Part of the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway, the 44-mile S.R. 128 accesses trailheads, rafting, wine tasting and renowned hiking and multi-pitch climbing at Fisher Towers and Castle Valley. The area is also a popular backdrop for film and TV, from John Wayne to "Westworld."



White Rim Road | Angie Payne

# CANYONLANDS

## *Two mighty rivers form wave after wave of deep canyons*

### WHAT TO DO

Utah's largest national park has some of the least-visited areas in the nation, yet also has some of the most well-photographed icons in the West. You can customize your Canyonlands adventure with short but inspiring hikes for the whole family, a day or more on the rapids or a well-planned retreat into the backcountry.

Island in the Sky is the popular northern section accessible from Moab, where easy and moderate hikes access views of the Colorado River to the east and the Green River to the west.

The Needles district is named for its profusion of red rock spires and sandstone fins. There are short hikes, but Needles is also a backpacker's dream. The remote Maze district is Canyonlands' jumbled stone playground, requiring backcountry use permits and a high-clearance, 4WD vehicle. With an extra day, see the Great Gallery pictographs of Horseshoe Canyon.

### CLIMATE

Spring and fall are ideal seasons to visit Canyonlands, with daytime temperatures of 60°–85°F. Like nearby Arches, Canyonlands warms up significantly in the summer months, reaching 100+°F. Beat the heat by planning ahead, carrying sunscreen and extra water and playing in the morning and evening during the peak of summer. Temperatures will dip to freezing at night by late November, but winter is an extraordinarily beautiful time in Canyonlands. Incredible "monsoon" season thunderstorms on late summer afternoons can result in potentially dangerous flash floods. Check conditions in advance.

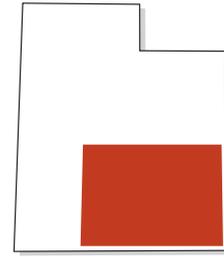
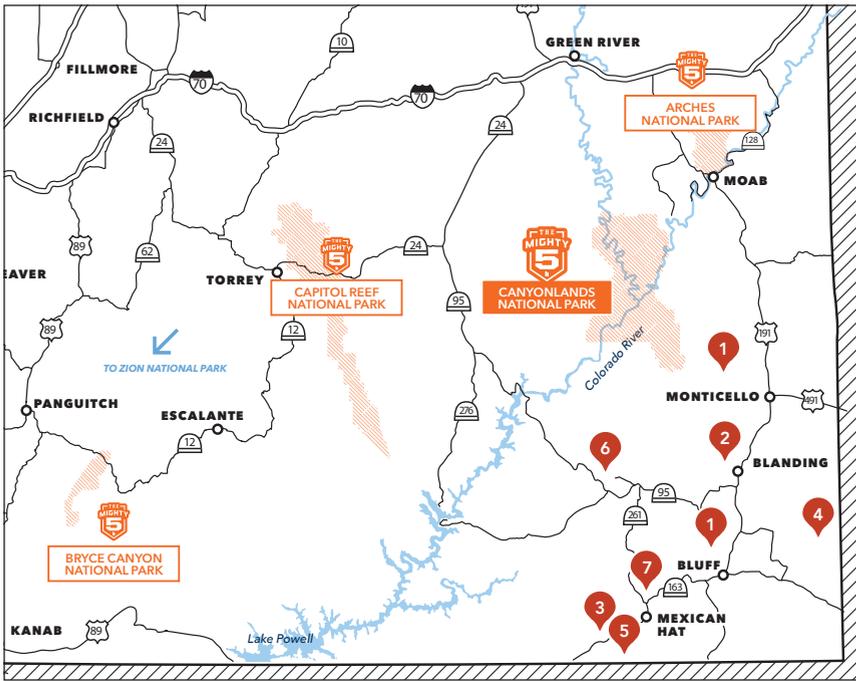
### WHERE TO STAY

Moab and Monticello are popular base camps for Island in the Sky and the Needles districts, respectively, and each offers excellent accommodations. While Moab is known as an outdoor adventure destination and for its proximity to Arches National Park, Monticello is a high-elevation retreat with easy access to Bears Ears National Monument, Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park and the Four Corners region. Consider Green River for Horseshoe Canyon and Blanding or Bluff for Bears Ears.

### INSIDER TIPS

1. Close to Moab, the Island in the Sky is the most visited district, but outside of overlooks and Mesa Arch (especially at sunrise), the scenic, though strenuous, trails are seldom crowded.
2. A permit is required to bike or drive the popular White Rim Trail and for all overnight camping trips in the backcountry.
3. Squaw Flat Campground in the Needles district is a great base camp for day hikes into the backcountry, but go prepared: Carry extra water and be alert for black bears.
4. The remote Maze district easily occupies three days, plus hours to drive there. Solitude and endless splendor are the rewards for extremely well-prepared, self-sufficient wayfinders.

[visitutah.com/canyonlands](http://visitutah.com/canyonlands)



*It's about 4 hours from Salt Lake City to the Island in the Sky district, 40 minutes from Moab. Needles district is more than five hours from Salt Lake, or about 90 minutes south of Moab. Once in the southeastern corner of Utah, though, you'll want extra days to see it all.*

## COMPLETE YOUR ITINERARY

**(1) Bears Ears National Monument** | Less than 1 hour from Monticello or Bluff

Shash Jaa and Indian Creek units cover a broad expanse of red rock, juniper forest, high plateau, cultural, historic and prehistoric legacy that includes an abundance of early human and Native American historical sites, including Newspaper Rock and House on Fire.

**(2) Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum** | 1 hour 30 minutes from Needles visitor center

This museum is a beautiful repository for ancient artifacts in the Four Corners region. The exhibits and on-site kiva showcase Ancestral Puebloan culture along with contemporary Native American items and the largest display of artifacts in the area.

**(3) Goosenecks State Park** | 45 minutes from Monument Valley

Look down upon the San Juan River 1,000 feet below you and see the results of 300 million years of erosion. It's worth lingering for the sunset. From this primitive state park, you can see the famous goosenecks and also enjoy a picnic and a campsite with great views.

**(4) Hovenweep National Monument** | 2 hours 15 minutes from Needles visitor center

In a stark and beautiful landscape of sage and juniper, explore the astonishing sites of Hovenweep's six prehistoric villages. In the 13th century, Ancestral Puebloans built towers and other structures, some skillfully balanced on canyon rims.

**(5) Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park** | 2 hours 30 minutes from Needles visitor center

The iconic symbol of the American West and sacred heart of the Navajo Nation will feel hauntingly familiar to fans of Hollywood as your Navajo guide escorts you through the park — the best way to experience the park. Please respect tribal customs.

**(6) Natural Bridges National Monument** | 2 hours 15 minutes from Needles visitor center

Discover three majestic bridges carved by water and time, including Sipapu ("place of emergence"), the world's second-largest natural bridge. See the bridges from the scenic drive or hike down moderate to difficult trails. Stay late for a star show under some of the nation's darkest skies.

**(7) Valley of the Gods and Cedar Mesa** | 1 hour from Monument Valley

A number of tall, red, isolated mesas, buttes and cliffs tower above the valley floor and can be seen while driving along Valley of the Gods' 17-mile gravel road. Nearby Cedar Mesa's remote, rugged backcountry trails offer adventurers solitude, archaeology and geographic beauty.





# BRYCE CANYON

Majestic colors, Bryce Canyon | Angie Payne

## *An alpine forest with as many red rock hoodoos as trees*

### WHAT TO DO

You'll find Bryce Canyon is equally suited for roadtrippers looking for short walks to viewpoints and for backcountry hikers seeking complete solitude.

Start your visit at the Bryce Canyon visitor center, open year-round. The 38-mile scenic drive accesses multiple overlooks and some of the park's best vistas. The Rim Trail offers near-continuous looks deep into the main amphitheater while Rainbow, Yovimpa and Inspiration Points access wildly different perspectives. Return at different times of day and night and discover the park's ever-changing personality.

The most brilliant colors of the park come alive with the rising and setting of the sun, and the show continues into the night with dark sky astronomy programs. Summertime offers myriad walking and hiking trails along the rim and toward the bottom of the canyon. Some of the park's iconic hoodoos stand 10 stories tall — something you'll have to hike into the canyon to fully appreciate. Many visitors think it's even better seen by horseback. In the winter, layer up for cold-weather hiking, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing when conditions permit.

### CLIMATE

Travelers will experience the best of Southern Utah's mountain and desert climates at Bryce Canyon. Summer visitation peaks during July's "monsoon" season when travelers will encounter generally dry, warm weather around 80°F interspersed with dramatic afternoon lightning storms. Night dips into the 30–40°F's. November–March are the coldest, with temperatures peaking in the 30–40°F's and freezing at night. Because of its higher elevation, Bryce is cooler than the other national parks and carries snow longer into spring.

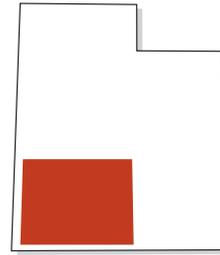
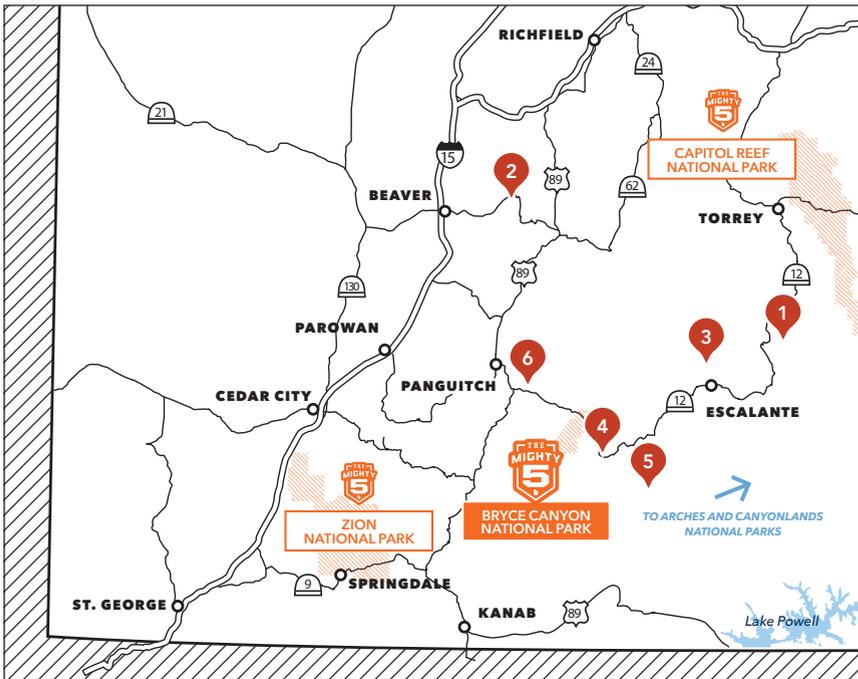
### WHERE TO STAY

Bryce Canyon City, Panguitch, Tropic, Cannonville and Henrieville offer a range of accommodations on Highway 12 with easy access to Bryce Canyon, Dixie National Forest and Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument. There is camping in the park, but it fills up fast. Nearby Kodachrome Basin State Park also offers great camping. Bryce Canyon Lodge, a National Historic Landmark, is open April through November and offers cabin rentals. Check for limited availability during winter months.

### INSIDER TIPS

1. Navajo Trail to Queens Garden is one of the best 3-mile hikes anywhere, and solace-seekers should consider the 8-mile Fairyland Loop.
2. Bryce Canyon's pristine dark skies mean incredibly starry nights. Sign up early for astronomy programs (see Bucket List, page 4). Full moon hikes mean eerily well-lit hoodoos, but don't forget your headlamp and jacket.
3. High altitude hiking means sunscreen, hats, long sleeves and extra water. The rim at Bryce varies from 8,000 to 9,000 feet.
4. Save Presidents Day weekend in February for the Bryce Canyon Winter Festival, or bring your own mule for the May Mule Days.

[visitutah.com/bryce-canyon](https://www.visitutah.com/bryce-canyon)



Bryce Canyon is just over 4 hours from Salt Lake City. It falls almost halfway between Zion National Park and Capitol Reef National Park, right alongside the All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12. It also borders Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, making it a perfect area to pursue desert solitude and adventure.



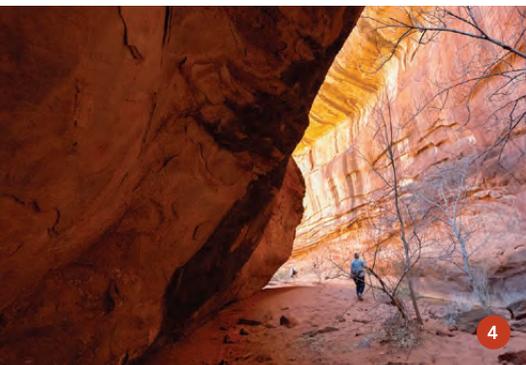
## COMPLETE YOUR ITINERARY

**(1) Anasazi State Park Museum** | 1 hour 40 minutes from Bryce Canyon

At the base of the towering 11,000-foot Boulder Mountain, get an up close and personal look into life from almost 1,000 years ago. Explore what was once one of the largest Ancestral Puebloan communities west of the Colorado River.

**(2) Eagle Point Resort** | 1 hour 45 minutes from Bryce Canyon

Eagle Point Resort is best known as a family-friendly ski area with fresh powder, varied runs and great snowshoeing. In the summer, the area offers a respite from the heat among the high elevations of the Tushar Mountains, great for hiking and mountain biking. The Tushar's ridgeline is about a 20-minute hike from the resort. The most dramatic vistas are along the Skyline Trail, a moderate hike from the Big Flat trailhead.



**(3) Escalante Petrified Forest State Park** | 1 hour from Bryce Canyon

Discover the kaleidoscopic colors of fossilized, prehistoric wood alongside expansive vistas of the surrounding mountains and Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument. Cool off in idyllic Wide Hollow Reservoir and enjoy great fishing and camping at this state park base camp.

**(4) Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument** | 30 minutes from Bryce Canyon to the Cannonville Visitor Center

This massive and remote area is packed with outdoor adventure and star-filled night skies. Slot canyons, slickrock and other geologic wonders fill your line of sight while hiking, mountain biking, off-roading and camping. Get help planning at the visitor centers in Big Water, Kanab, Escalante or Cannonville. Check out the 4-mile hike to Escalante Natural Bridge.



**(5) Kodachrome Basin State Park** | 40 minutes from Bryce Canyon

This state park features 67 monolithic stone spires, part of a multicolored landscape so beautiful it earned the nickname "Kodachrome" after a popular Kodak film. Today, visitors enjoy camping and hiking across 2,240 acres of photogenic, geologic wonder.

**(6) Red Canyon** | 20 minutes from Bryce Canyon

This area is one of the most distinctive stretches along the All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12. At one point, the road actually cuts through a tunnel in the red rock. Stop at the interpretive visitor center to learn about the surrounding Dixie National Forest and all the multi-use trails that wind through red rock hoodoos and vistas.



# ZION

Pinyon pines against Zion's colorful rock | Angie Payne

## *A thousand-foot-deep red rock canyon nested in dramatic surroundings*

### WHAT TO DO

From Springdale or the visitor center, join fellow adventurers on the park's multi-passenger shuttle system, which is the only motorized transportation allowed in the main canyon past the historic Zion Lodge during most of the year.

Plan time for ranger-led programs and the Human History Museum. Looking to hike? Explore Pa'rus, Grotto and The Watchman trails with the whole family. If you're looking for something adventurous, hike to Observation Point, where Zion's monoliths are part of a grand landscape that spreads out beneath you.

Take a half-day, or two days with a permit, and explore Zion Canyon's famous slot canyons, including The Narrows. These canyons are even better with a guide, and with the help of a local outfitter, you can even hike them in winter.

For more solitude, visit the Kolob Canyons section and the backcountry of the West Rim.

### CLIMATE

May–October visitors will encounter highs in Zion from 90–100+°F. Escape the heat by getting in the river or stopping in the visitor center or museum. Afternoon thunderstorms occasionally drench the canyon, which can lead to flash floods in the narrowest sections of the canyon. Expect somewhat cooler temperatures (sometimes up to 30 degrees difference) early in the morning and late in the evening, as well as in early spring and late fall. Though winter days can be cold, the park is open, serene and beautiful.

### WHERE TO STAY

On scenic S.R. 9, Springdale is the primary gateway to Zion, and it offers a full range of accommodations as well as diverse dining, coffee, spa and entertainment hotspots. Reserve a spot for the Watchman or South campgrounds. Numerous lodging options are available in nearby towns La Verkin, Virgin, Rockville, Cedar City and St. George. Though further away, Kanab is also a great base camp for certain itineraries.

### INSIDER TIPS

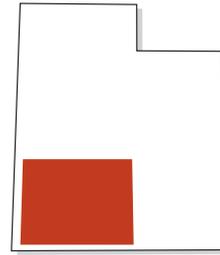
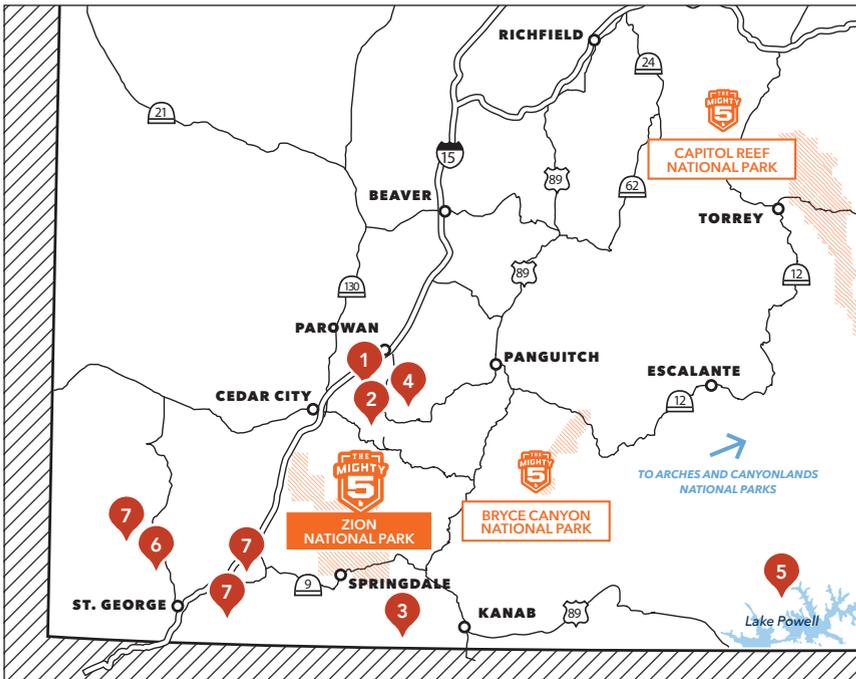
1. For the best experience, arrive early. Take the free town shuttle from near your Springdale hotel. Always hike respectfully and carry extra water and sun protection.
2. There are popular hikes at Angels Landing and The Narrows, but serious hikers may consider Hidden Canyon, Observation Point and guided canyoneering in lesser-known canyons.
3. The distinctive red asphalt of the Zion–Mt. Carmel Highway leads through a narrow 1.1-mile tunnel to lesser-known hikes near the East Entrance. Fee for large RVs, with limits.
4. Follow @zionnps on Twitter and Facebook and visit [nps.gov/zion](https://www.nps.gov/zion) for park alerts.

[visitutah.com/zion](https://www.visitutah.com/zion)

### ANGELS LANDING PERMIT

Permits are required for the chained section of Angels Landing beyond Scout Lookout. Apply for seasonal and day-before lotteries.

[go.nps.gov/angelslanding](https://go.nps.gov/angelslanding)



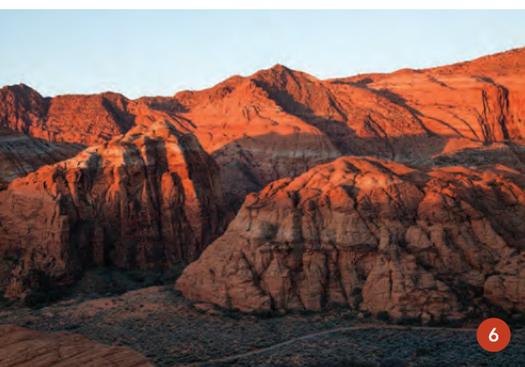
The main canyon of Zion National Park is 4 and a half hours from Salt Lake City, or just under 3 hours from Las Vegas. Iconic state parks, lush forests and stunning monuments pack the miles between Zion, Lake Powell and Bryce Canyon.



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## COMPLETE YOUR ITINERARY

**(1) Brian Head Resort** | 1 hour 30 minutes from Zion

In the winter, pair a trip to Zion National Park with a great ski day. In warmer temperatures, rent a mountain bike and ride around the resort area, or enjoy an evening concert and great BBQ at cooler high-elevation temperatures.

**(2) Cedar Breaks National Monument** | 1 hour 45 minutes from Zion

Drive at 10,000 feet through the lush Dixie National Forest, where a fairyland amphitheater of multicolored limestone strata plunges 2,000 feet deep into the plateau. Explore hiking trails or camp under the stars in summer and enjoy cross-country skiing in winter.

**(3) Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park** | 1 hour from Zion

This park boasts 2,000 acres of sand open to OHVs. It's the only major sand dune field on the Colorado Plateau and great for OHV enthusiasts, hikers, sand boarders and families in search of a unique site.

**(4) Dixie National Forest** | 45 minutes from Zion to Red Cliffs

Hike in Pine Valley Recreation Area or Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, bike among the brilliant red spires of Red Canyon, fish at Navajo or Panguitch lakes, tour the east fork of the Sevier River or explore scenic Boulder Mountain. All areas have camping.

**(5) Glen Canyon and Lake Powell** | 1 hour 45 minutes from Zion

Accessed from Wahweap marina (or Bullfrog marina from the northeast), this is a 1.2 million-acre paradise for houseboaters, kayakers, anglers and photographers. For the most adventurous, Rainbow Bridge National Monument is accessible from Lake Powell (depending on lake level and trail condition) and is one of the world's largest natural bridges. With a permit, very experienced trekkers can also backpack to the bridge.

**(6) Snow Canyon State Park** | 1 hour from Zion

Cut by water, sculpted by wind and time, Snow Canyon's Navajo sandstone cliffs share the same history and geology as Zion and offer hiking, climbing, cycling and camping.

**(7) State Park Reservoirs** | 45 minutes from Zion

Sand Hollow State Park brings together boating, fishing and off-roading all in one place, with 15,000 acres of perfectly sculpted dunes. Quail Creek State Park has some of the warmest waters in the state and lures boaters and anglers year-round. Both of these, as well as Gunlock State Park, offer great spots to camp in a red rock desert setting.

# NORTHERN UTAH PARKS & OUTDOORS

[visitutah.com/northern](http://visitutah.com/northern)



## HIGH UINTAS WILDERNESS AREA KAMAS

In the summer, hikers and backpackers flock to the Uinta Mountains for an escape into large stands of pines that lead into alpine basins and high mountain lakes. The High Uintas are home to Utah's tallest peak, King's Peak, which rests just under 14,000'. Fishing in the High Uintas offers a lightning-fast catch.

## ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK GREAT SALT LAKE

Its craggy ridgeline beckons from across the northern Wasatch Front. Leave the bustle of modern civilization behind for the tranquility of an adventure-filled island in the Great Salt Lake, home to 45 miles of hiking or mountain bike trails meandering among free-roaming bison and antelope herds year-round. Camping is available.



## DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT VERNAL

This monument offers a treasure trove of fossils, including 1,500 on display in the Quarry Exhibit Hall. Paleontologists discovered the bones in the same place you see them today. Everything in the quarry is real and intact. The larger monument offers a full array of rich history and scenic splendor; hike, take a guided rafting trip or explore the rugged backcountry.

## TIMPANOGOS CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT AMERICAN FORK

Timpanogos Cave sits high in the Wasatch Mountains and is accessed following a moderately strenuous mile-and-a-half paved hike to the entrance to the cave. It's hard to imagine that at 6,730 feet above sea level, you're standing on an ancient shoreline. Inside the caverns, things get really interesting. Open May–October. Book tours in advance. Access may be limited due to COVID-19.

**BEAR LAKE STATE PARK**  
GARDEN CITY

The vibrant waters have led some people to call it the “Caribbean of the Rockies.” Bear Lake offers sailing, boating, jet skiing and fishing on its turquoise waters. Away from the lake, more than 100 miles of trails allow hikers, bikers and ATV fans to adventure to their hearts’ content. This area is famous for its raspberries and raspberry-inspired treats.

**BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS**  
WENDOVER

An ancient lake once covered this area now turned into massive salt flats. Racers come from around the world to break land speed records on this natural straightaway. Land speed trials are scheduled from July through October, conditions permitting, and are open to the public. Even without a racing event, the area is a photographer’s dream.



**NINE MILE CANYON**  
PRICE

A thousand years ago, people from the Fremont culture painted and carved their messages in stone on what some call “the world’s longest art gallery.” Visitors should leave only footprints and take only photographs. Plan at least a half-day to drive the 46-mile-long canyon with options to get out and hike or bike around. Primitive campgrounds and lodging available.

**WASATCH RESORTS**  
WASATCH MOUNTAINS

In the warmer temperatures, Utah’s ski resorts still offer loads of mountain adventure. Try a zipline, alpine slide, wildflower hike or a tram ride. In the evening, look for live music events and events like Snowbasin’s Blues, Brews and BBQ or Deer Valley’s Concert Series. Snowbird’s Oktoberfest is a local tradition every weekend from late August to October.

**FLAMING GORGE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
FLAMING GORGE RESERVOIR

Flaming Gorge is a scenic 200,000-acre playground for boating, water-skiing, camping and rafting. It is known as one of the top fishing destinations in the United States, especially for trophy trout. Don’t forget to tour the dam at the visitor center.



**BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE**  
BRIGHAM CITY

This freshwater portion of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem is one of the world’s best birding destinations, with over 200 bird species identified. Drive the auto tour, which takes anywhere from 1.5 hours to half the day. Additional birding spots at nearby Willard Bay, Antelope Island and Farmington Bay. Start at the Wildlife Education Center and check for limited hours.

**WASATCH RESERVOIRS**  
HEBER VALLEY

With Deer Creek and Jordanelle state parks, Heber Valley is one of the top places to boat and paddle beneath stunning mountain views. Rent equipment and try stand-up paddleboarding and kayaking. At Deer Creek State Park you can ride the world’s longest over-water zipline.

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# SCENIC BYWAYS

## ALL-AMERICAN ROAD: SCENIC BYWAY 12

**THE DRIVE:** 124 miles | 4+ hours

Breathtaking engineering of the “Hogback” complements exciting sandstone hikes and diverse geography between 4,000 and 9,000 feet on one of America’s most beautiful drives.

### GETTING THERE

Head east at the byway’s southwest junction with U.S. 89, toward Bryce Canyon, or south from the northeast junction with S.R. 24 between Torrey and Capitol Reef National Park.

### WHAT YOU’LL SEE

- Slickrock canyons, towering plateaus and unique red rock
- Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument
- Contrasting juniper, pine and aspen of Dixie National Forest
- Deep Ancestral Puebloan heritage and welcoming pioneer towns

### STOPPING POINTS

- Red Canyon and Bryce Canyon National Park
- Kodachrome Basin and Escalante Petrified Forest state parks
- Calf Creek Falls hike, Kiva Koffeehouse and Escalante Outfitters
- Boulder Mountain, Hell’s Backbone Grill and Burr Trail



## DINOSAUR DIAMOND PREHISTORIC HIGHWAY

**THE DRIVE:** 500 miles | 10 hours

Vast scenery of Utah and Colorado's "Jurassic Park" allows the imagination to travel back to prehistoric times. Interpret multiple active dig areas, museums and other history sites.

### GETTING THERE

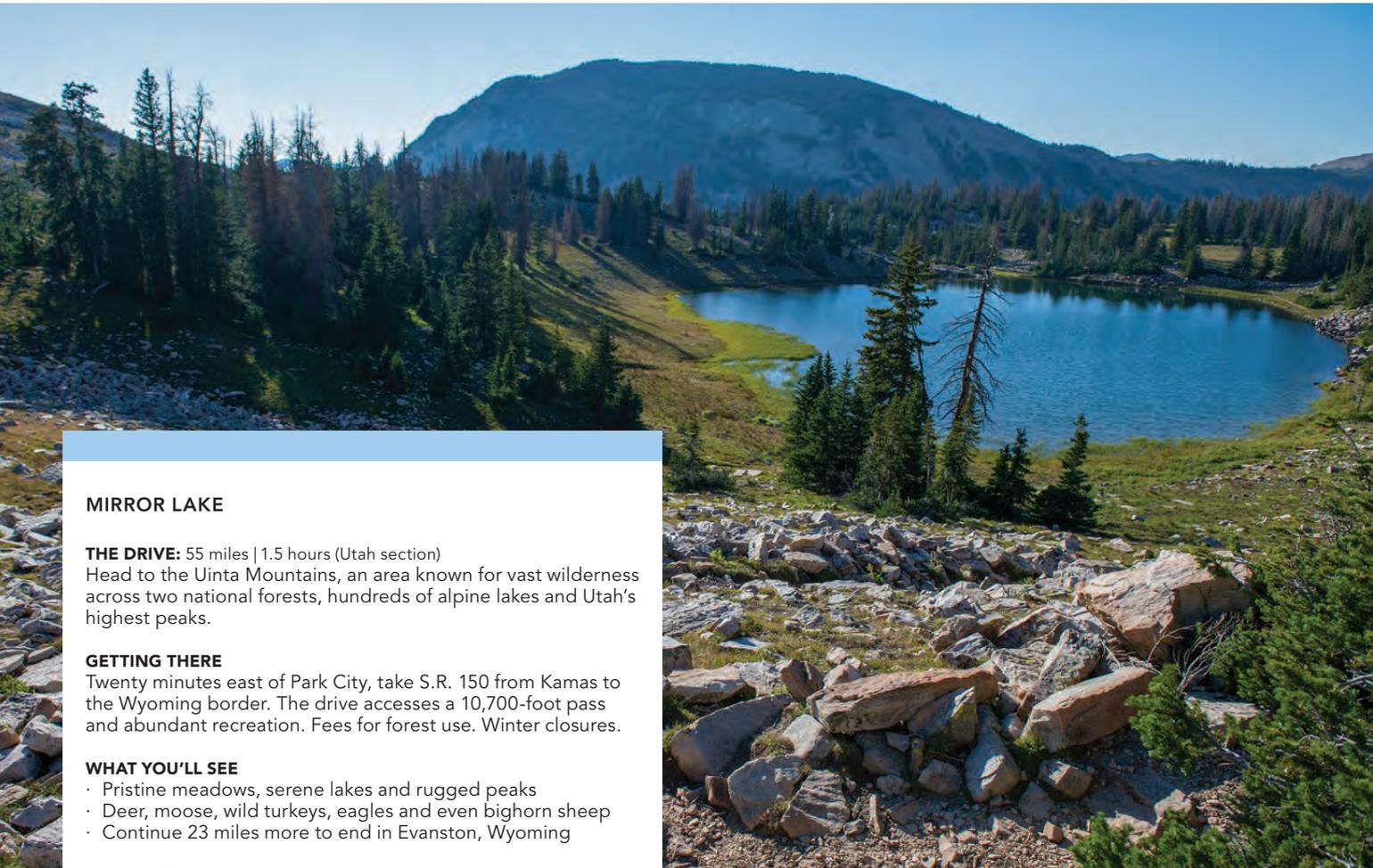
Access the large diamond-shaped byway from U.S. 40 to Vernal, near Dinosaur National Monument and Flaming Gorge or on U.S. 6 and I-70 as part of a trip to Arches or Canyonlands.

### WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- Wall of Bones, dinosaur quarries and pristine night skies
- Relics of Utah's early indigenous people
- Arches, towering mesas and fields of slickrock
- Green River and Upper Colorado River Scenic Byway

### STOPPING POINTS

- Dinosaur National Monument and Utah Field House in Vernal
- Prehistoric Museum in Price and Cleveland-Lloyd Quarry within the new Jurassic National Monument
- Side trip: Little Grand Canyon of the San Rafael Swell
- Fisher Towers, Castle Creek Winery, Moab and Arches



## MIRROR LAKE

**THE DRIVE:** 55 miles | 1.5 hours (Utah section)

Head to the Uinta Mountains, an area known for vast wilderness across two national forests, hundreds of alpine lakes and Utah's highest peaks.

### GETTING THERE

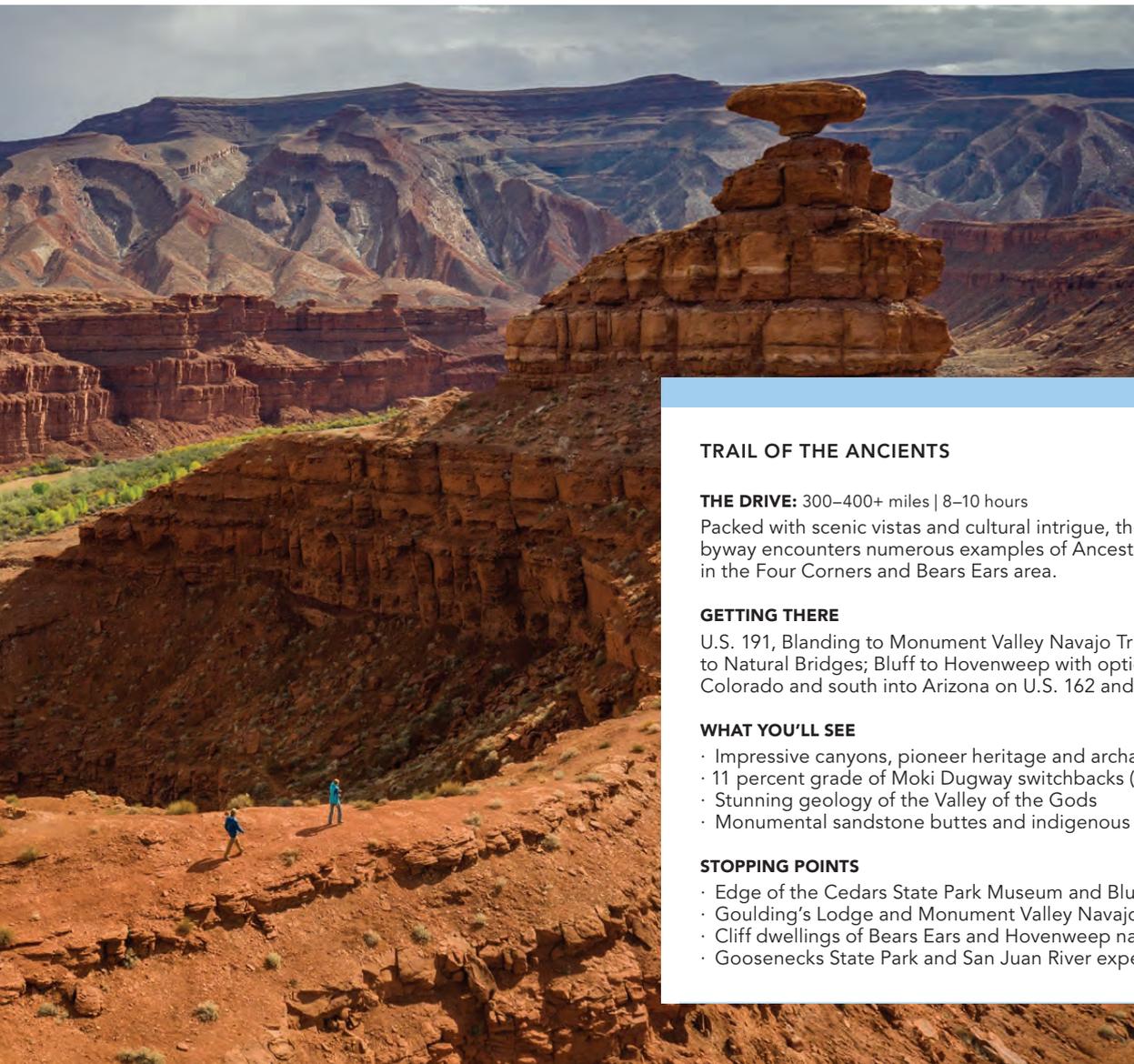
Twenty minutes east of Park City, take S.R. 150 from Kamas to the Wyoming border. The drive accesses a 10,700-foot pass and abundant recreation. Fees for forest use. Winter closures.

### WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- Pristine meadows, serene lakes and rugged peaks
- Deer, moose, wild turkeys, eagles and even bighorn sheep
- Continue 23 miles more to end in Evanston, Wyoming

### STOPPING POINTS

- Samak for provisions and Upper Provo River Falls
- Bald Mountain, Christmas Meadows and other top trailheads
- Fishing, camping, picnicking and winter snowmobiling



## TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS

**THE DRIVE:** 300–400+ miles | 8–10 hours

Packed with scenic vistas and cultural intrigue, the sunburst-shaped byway encounters numerous examples of Ancestral Puebloan history in the Four Corners and Bears Ears area.

### GETTING THERE

U.S. 191, Blanding to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park or west to Natural Bridges; Bluff to Hovenweep with options east into Colorado and south into Arizona on U.S. 162 and 163.

### WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- Impressive canyons, pioneer heritage and archaeology
- 11 percent grade of Moki Dugway switchbacks (RV size limits)
- Stunning geology of the Valley of the Gods
- Monumental sandstone buttes and indigenous art

### STOPPING POINTS

- Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum and Bluff Fort
- Goulding's Lodge and Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park
- Cliff dwellings of Bears Ears and Hovenweep national monuments.
- Goosenecks State Park and San Juan River expeditions



## PATCHWORK PARKWAY

**THE DRIVE:** 51 miles | 1.5 hours

Steeped in Mormon pioneer heritage, this high-elevation drive between 6,000 and 10,400 feet accesses Utah's highest mountain resort and high-contrast scenery.

### GETTING THERE

S.R. 143 is accessible from either I-15 at Parowan, north of Cedar City, or U.S. 89 from Panguitch, near Bryce Canyon.

### WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- Vermillion Cliffs and Cedar Breaks National Monument
- Multiple interpretive points of a historic Mormon journey
- Colorful aspens and maples on the Dixie National Forest

### STOPPING POINTS

- Year-round outdoor recreation, dining and spa at Brian Head
- Camping and fishing at Panguitch Lake
- Panguitch, on the National Register of Historic Places

## NEBO LOOP

**THE DRIVE:** 37 miles | 1.5 hours

Spectacular overlooks, plentiful wildlife and national forest adventure capped with views of 11,928-foot Mount Nebo, the highest peak in the Wasatch.

### GETTING THERE

Forest Service Road 015 is a winding drive between Payson and Nephi. Exit I-15 on S.R. 132 from Nephi, then begin the climb to 9,345 feet. Closes in winter.

### WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- Diverse wildlife and multiple national forest trailheads
- Eroded red sandstone against deep green foliage
- Fields of summer wildflowers and brilliant fall colors

### STOPPING POINTS

- Numerous interpretive sites and scenic overlooks
- Devil's Kitchen Geologic Site and Grotto Falls hikes
- Camping, canoeing and fishing at Payson Lakes



EXPLORE ALL OF UTAH'S 28 STATE AND NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS

[visitutah.com/scenicbyways](http://visitutah.com/scenicbyways)



## LOGAN CANYON

**THE DRIVE:** 41 miles | 1 hour

On the way to a 7,800-foot summit, craggy limestone cliffs line the Logan River and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest recreation that includes hiking, fly-fishing and snowmobiling.

### GETTING THERE

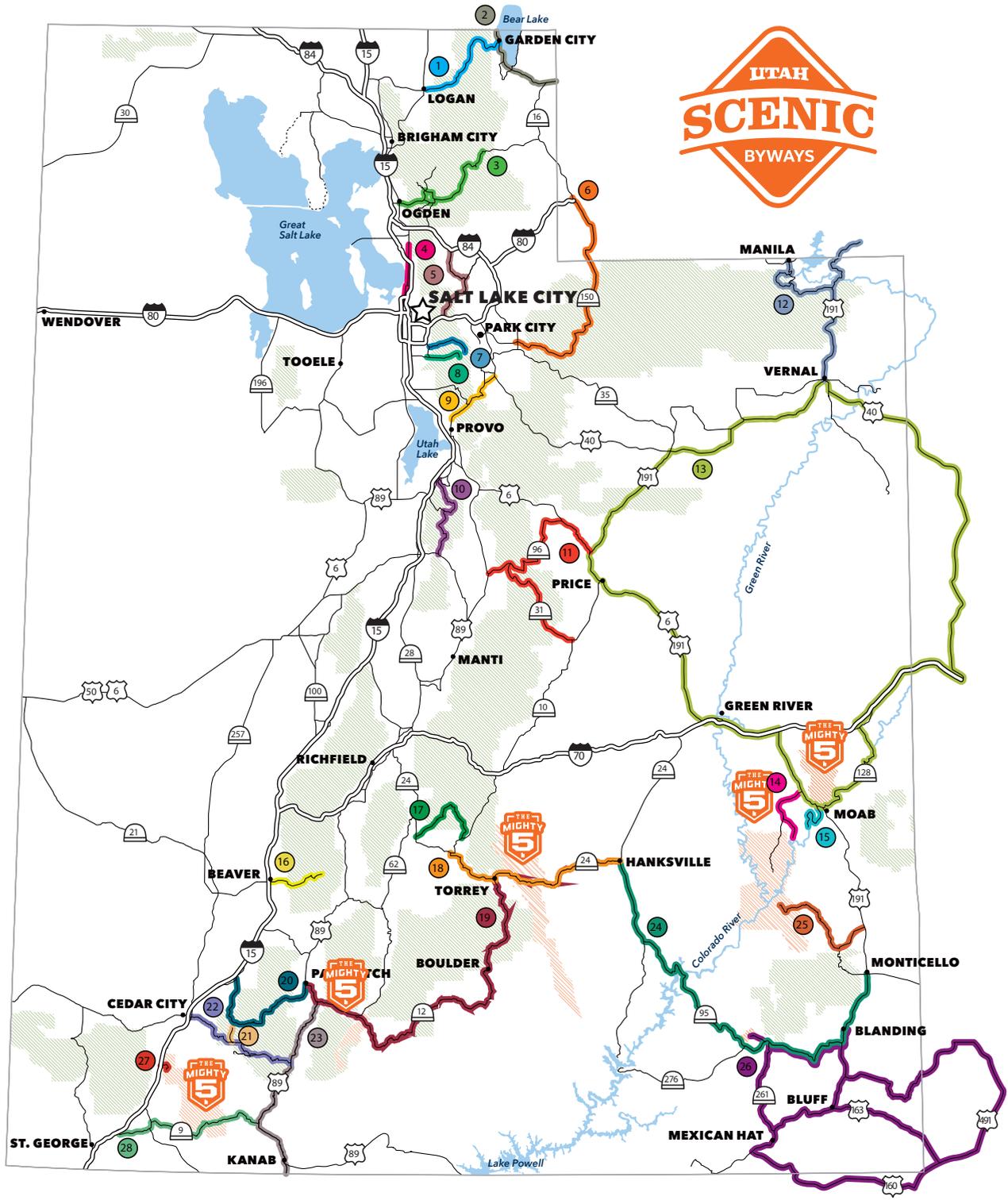
Travel historic U.S. 89 from the lush Cache Valley to the Utah border with Idaho, alongside Bear Lake. This is the scenic route to Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks.

### WHAT YOU'LL SEE

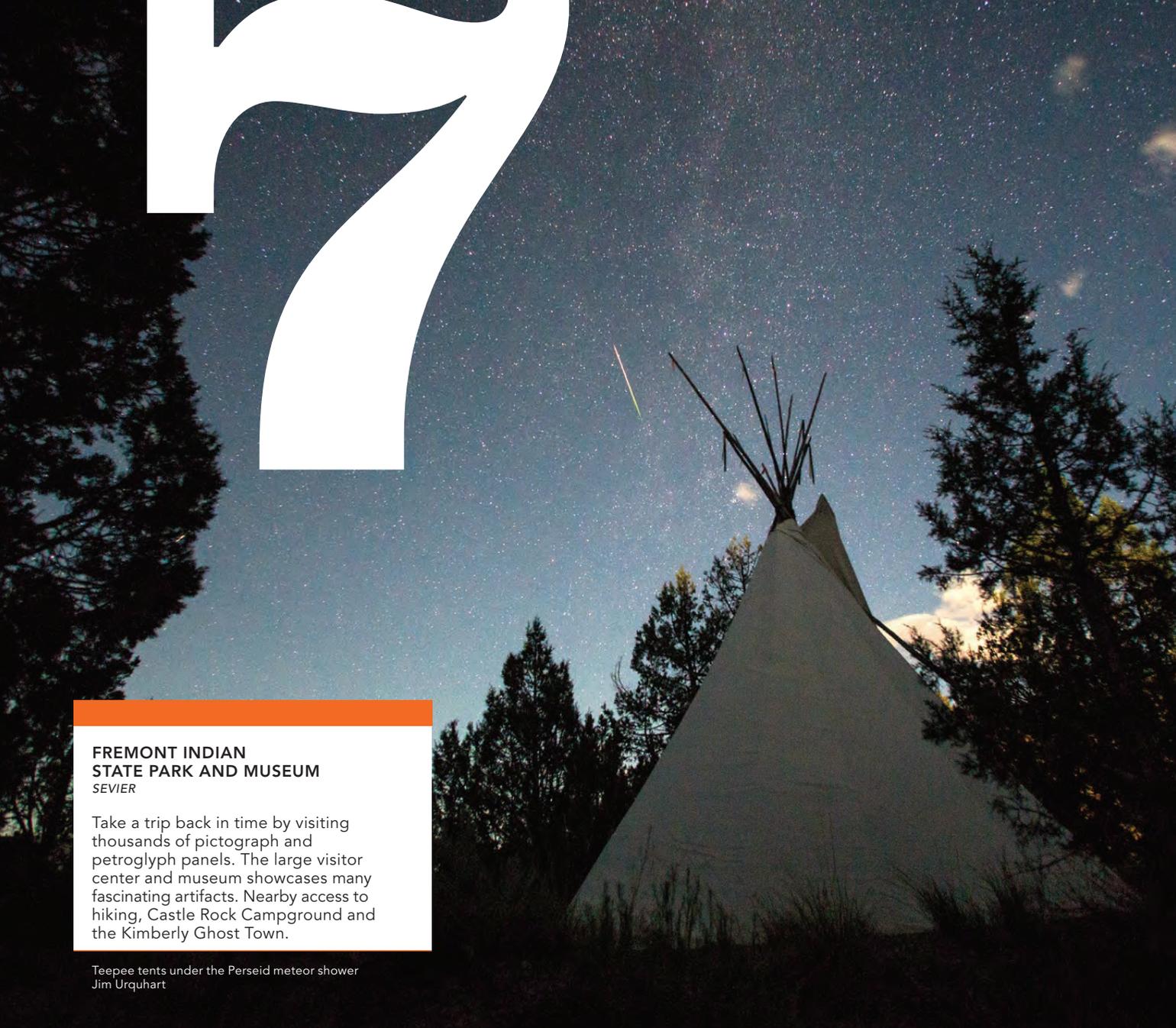
- 500 million years of geology and extensive national forests
- Abundant wildlife, trailheads and stunning fall foliage
- Turquoise waters and diverse water sports at Bear Lake

### STOPPING POINTS

- Logan's local dining, coffee and culture
- Tony Grove Nature Trail and Beaver Mountain Resort
- Garden City diners and Bear Lake raspberry shakes



- 1. Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway
- 2. Bear Lake Scenic Byway
- 3. Ogden River Scenic Byway
- 4. Great Salt Lake Legacy Parkway
- 5. Morgan-Parleys Scenic Byway
- 6. Mirror Lake Scenic Byway
- 7. Big Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Byway
- 8. Little Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Byway
- 9. Provo Canyon Scenic Byway
- 10. Nebo Loop National Scenic Byway
- 11. Energy Loop: Huntington & Eccles Canyon Ntl. Scenic Byway
- 12. Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway
- 13. Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway-Ntl. Scenic Byway
- 14. Dead Horse Mesa Scenic Byway
- 15. Potash-Lower Colorado River Scenic Byway
- 16. Beaver Canyon Scenic Byway
- 17. Fish Lake Scenic Byway
- 18. Capitol Reef Country Scenic Byway
- 19. All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12
- 20. Utah's Patchwork Parkway National Scenic Byway
- 21. Cedar Breaks Scenic Byway
- 22. Markagunt High Plateau Scenic Byway
- 23. Mount Carmel Scenic Byway
- 24. Bicentennial Highway
- 25. Indian Creek Scenic Byway
- 26. Trail of the Ancients National Scenic Byway
- 27. Kolob Fingers Road Scenic Byway
- 28. Zion National Scenic Byway



## FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK AND MUSEUM

SEVIER

Take a trip back in time by visiting thousands of pictograph and petroglyph panels. The large visitor center and museum showcases many fascinating artifacts. Nearby access to hiking, Castle Rock Campground and the Kimberly Ghost Town.

Teepee tents under the Perseid meteor shower  
Jim Urquhart

Utah has a variety of art and history museums, as well as a vibrant art, theater, film and music scene. Many of these artistic and cultural offerings culminate in signature annual festivals, like the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, the Utah Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City, the Living Traditions Festival in Salt Lake City and the Moab Music Festival.

Music is as much a part of Utah's landscape as our iconic mountains and arches. Salt Lake City is home to a Broadway theater, a professional ballet, symphony and opera, alongside multiple theater companies, dance companies, "America's choir" and a lively local music community. In the cities, mountains or red rock — we love our music. Many artists call our cities home, drawing on inspiration from the nearby mountains. Smaller, rural communities, such as Helper, Torrey and Spring City, also lure artists to landscapes perfect for plein air painting.

Museums touch on a wide range of peoples, inhabitants and histories, including Native American, dinosaur, pioneer, mining, railroad and natural history offerings. While Utah is known for its proud pioneer heritage, the region's human history dates back thousands of years earlier. Visitors can responsibly explore countless reminders of ancient peoples.

Today, evidence of this blend of indigenous culture and Mormon pioneer heritage abounds throughout Utah's astonishing landscapes. This combined heritage is the foundation for a modern legacy of arts and culture that also includes a thriving Olympic spirit, inspiring earth art and fascinating drives on historic roads and trails.

Before visiting, call ahead or check availability online. Hours may be limited or reservations required. See [visitutah.com/events](https://www.visitutah.com/events) for more information.



**NINE MILE CANYON**  
*PRICE*

Discover the "World's Longest Art Gallery." Several thousand years ago, ancient people carved and drew the world around them on the rock faces, many of which are accessible by road in this 46-mile-long gem. Combine with trips to Price and the San Rafael Swell.



**CHASE HOME MUSEUM  
OF UTAH FOLK ART**  
*SALT LAKE CITY*

One of Utah's best hidden museums, featuring examples of folk art traditions practiced by Utah's multicultural communities, including Native Americans. Located at the heart of Liberty Park, next to the Tracy Aviary.



**SPIRAL JETTY**  
*ROZEL POINT, GREAT SALT LAKE*

Sculptor Robert Smithson's piece is one of the world's most unique works of art using the natural environment. Located on the northeastern shore of the Great Salt Lake, the Spiral Jetty is a brief drive from the Golden Spike National Historic Park.

# UTAH HERITAGE

## ALF ENGEN SKI MUSEUM PARK CITY

Located within Utah Olympic Park, this museum covers Utah's rich ski heritage over 150 years, from the 1800s through the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Also visit the Park City History Museum and Kimball Art Center on historic Main Street.



## FRONTIER HOMESTEAD STATE PARK CEDAR CITY

This living museum displays mining equipment, horse-drawn wagons, historic buildings, and a Paiute native camp from the area's pioneer history. Close to the Shakespeare Festival.



## DAUGHTERS OF THE UTAH PIONEERS MUSEUM SALT LAKE CITY

The Pioneer Memorial Museum features the world's largest collection of Utah pioneer artifacts and offers a great slice of historic Western living. Located next to the State Capitol and close to Memory Grove Park.



## HISTORIC HIGHWAY 89 STATEWIDE

Before Interstate 15, U.S. Highway 89 was a primary Utah thoroughfare. From Kanab, travel near Zion and Bryce Canyon through pioneer-era towns. Explore Miners' Park at Marysville, the "Little Denmark" section of the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area, Utah's Fruit Highway and Logan Canyon north to Bear Lake.



## WENDOVER AIR BASE WENDOVER

Take a step back to WWII for a fascinating look at the secret Manhattan Project and how this base was used as a bomber training site for pilots, including those bound for Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Close to Bonneville Salt Flats and Sun Tunnels.





**PONY EXPRESS TRAIL**  
TOOELE

Young men once rode horses to carry mail from Missouri to California in the unprecedented time of only 10 days. The toughest and most dangerous stretch passed through Utah's West Desert. Today, it makes an unforgettable road trip. The road is unpaved and requires a four-wheel drive vehicle.



**AMERICAN WEST HERITAGE CENTER**  
LOGAN

Things were a little different in the 1910s. Get a taste for that life at a living history center showcasing Northern Utah's broader heritage with costumed mountain men, pioneers and farmers portraying a bygone era. Popular annual events include the Baby Animals Days in spring and Fall Harvest Festival.



**EDGE OF THE CEDARS STATE PARK MUSEUM**  
BLANDING

On the perimeter of Bears Ears National Monument, the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum is located near a site known to be a prehistoric agricultural village occupied between approximately 750 A.D. and 1220 A.D. The museum houses a large collection of Ancestral Puebloan pottery and allows visitors to go inside an excavated and restored kiva.



**GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK**  
CORINNE

The history of railroads comes alive at Golden Spike, the site where the first transcontinental railroad in the United States was completed. During the summer months, see the fully operational train replicas and a full reenactment on Saturdays. There are auto tours and a hiking trail, plus the famous Spiral Jetty is right down the road.



**THIS IS THE PLACE HERITAGE PARK**  
SALT LAKE CITY

At the mouth of Emigration Canyon, This Is The Place Heritage Park is a living history museum that recreates a typical 19th-century Mormon community at a historic site for Utah's Latter-day Saints community. Visit the old homes, take a train ride and try some local treats. Open daily year-round.



**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF UTAH**  
SALT LAKE CITY

This state-of-the-art museum showcases exhibits on prehistoric worlds, gems and minerals, first peoples, the Great Salt Lake (with a view of it!), Native voices, southern Utah geology and more. This museum is like an informational trailhead through Utah and will give context to your Utah travels.

# STATEWIDE ARTS & CULTURE

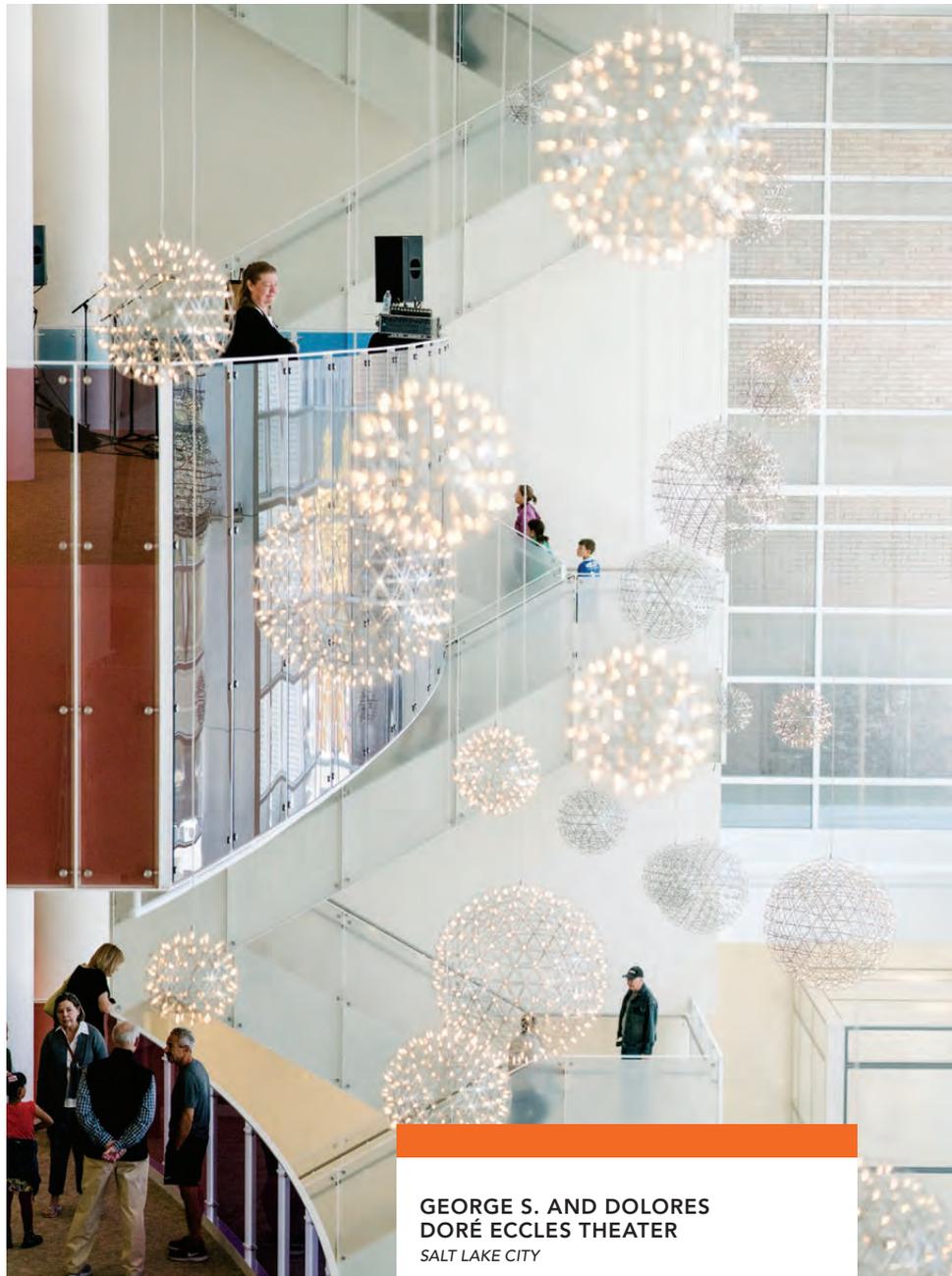
## MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS SALT LAKE CITY

The state's art museum, the UMFA, is located on the University of Utah campus where it preserves a collection of art and 21,000 cultural objects that represent 5,000 years of human history, including the finest landscapes inspired by the West's natural beauty. But the UMFA is anything but stodgy and offers a growing collection of contemporary art and features exhibitions of modern art from around the world.



## UTAH FESTIVAL OPERA LOGAN

The annual six-week run of the Utah Festival Opera in Logan, Utah adds a touch of high-class performing arts to trips to Northern Utah. In addition to five main shows in repertory each season with several operas and musicals, the festival offers expanded programming, including talks, tours and demonstrations. Come to a show with an open mind and leave with a new view of the arts and your world.



## GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES THEATER SALT LAKE CITY

Let it be known that the Eccles Theater brought Broadway to Utah. With the capacity and calendar to accommodate the big touring shows, the new theater anchors Salt Lake's rich performing arts cityscape, which includes nearby Capitol Theater, Abravanel Hall, Rose Wagner and additional venues at the University of Utah. This state-of-the-art theater features the 2,500-seat Delta Performance Hall and an intimate black box theater and opens up onto a public plaza on Regent Street that is quickly becoming a new urban lifestyle hub in downtown.

## SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL CEDAR CITY

This is one of Utah's more hidden gems — a renowned repertory theater (they won a Tony) featuring plays by the bard as well as classic and contemporary works in the heart of the state. It is staged on three theaters on the Southern Utah University campus: an outdoor replica of the Globe Theatre, an indoor theater and an auditorium theater.

## SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

PARK CITY

Many adventure travelers flock to Park City come wintertime. The mountain town also flurries with cinematic energy during the Sundance Film Festival, one of the largest independent film festivals in the world. For more than 30 years, the January festival has showcased some of the most innovative storytelling in cinema from American and international filmmakers. In other words, Park City and Utah's other festival venue cities combine each year's most promising films with The Greatest Snow on Earth®. It's worth planning extra days to visit.



## SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERTS

WASATCH FRONT

Come summer, catch live music outdoors at downtown Salt Lake City's Twilight Concert Series or Ogden's Twilight, the music at Thanksgiving Point or Provo's Rooftop Concerts, and the Lunch Bunch midday series at the Gallivan Center or Gateway Mall's Brown Bag Concert Series. The stunning Red Butte Garden and Arboretum, however, is home to a concert series which is the highlight of Salt Lake City summers. Big acts like David Byrne (of the Talking Heads), Alabama Shakes and Willie Nelson take the stage here, playing to a wine-and-cheese audience seated on a grassy hillside in the foothills of the Wasatch Range. Get refreshments there or bring in your own.



## UTAH SYMPHONY & OPERA

SALT LAKE CITY

The Utah Symphony plays more than 70 concerts a year in the acoustically beautiful Abravanel Hall with the towering Dale Chihuly glass sculpture in the lobby. One of the premier orchestras in the West, it also presents a summer pops program and accompanies the Utah Opera during its four yearly performances at the recently restored Capitol Theater. During the season, many local bars and restaurants create cocktails inspired by the opera libretti in a promotion called "Libretti & Libation."

## BALLET WEST

SALT LAKE CITY

Thanks in part to the toe-tapping early Mormon settlers, who loved dance, Utah has a thriving dance scene, with several companies — from modern dance like Ririe-Woodbury to avant-garde Stephen Brown — performing full seasons. Queen of them all is Ballet West. Considered one of the country's leading dance companies, Ballet West performs the full-length classics as well as contemporary and original works. And every holiday they present a new and hilarious spoof of the beloved Nutcracker in addition to the classic.

## UTAH MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

SALT LAKE CITY

They call it UMOCA and it's full of outlandish, thought-provoking — sometimes even humorous — art that pushes the boundaries of genres. One show even featured an artist-designed miniature golf course. Galleries offer venues for up-and-coming, on-the-edge artists from Utah and beyond, but UMOCA serves as an art center as well, offering classes for the whole family on the second Saturday of each month as well as occasional events and lectures. Plus, it's free.



## TUACAHN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

ST. GEORGE

Set below 1,500-foot red rock cliffs, Tuacahn brings Broadway-caliber shows and other performances to a desert setting near Snow Canyon State Park. The word "Tuacahn" means "Canyon of the Gods," and its stunning rugged backdrop enhances any production.

# STATEWIDE ARTS & CULTURE

## DEER VALLEY CONCERT SERIES PARK CITY

The Deer Valley Music Festival is the summer home of the Utah Symphony and Utah Opera. In the evenings, the weekly concerts blend world classics (Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Gershwin, Vivaldi) with modern classics, where the symphony accompanies tribute performances to the likes of Prince and Ella Fitzgerald.



## ART IN SPRING CITY SPRING CITY

The entire town of Spring City is listed on the National Historic Registry. Originally founded by English and Danish Mormon settlers, the town is one of the best remaining examples of a Mormon pioneer village. Eat at the German Das Cafe, then take a gallery stroll to check out Spring City Arts Gallery, Horseshoe Mountain Pottery and others.



## MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL MOAB

This festival pairs rich acoustic performances with stunning red rock venues. The venues are unconventional to say the least— one venue is in a secret rock grotto that guests are jet-boated to. For the most adventurous, the festival culminates in a multi-day musical rafting trip down Cataract Canyon.

## SPRINGVILLE MUSEUM OF ART SPRINGVILLE

Utah's first museum for the visual arts, the Springville Museum of Art, houses more than 2,000 works, 1,500 of which are created by artists who call Utah home. Its works are representative of more than 150 years of Utah fine art and include 29 galleries and a sculpture garden.

## MAYNARD DIXON LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM MT. CARMEL

Just outside of Kanab, see the home of well-known Western American artist Maynard Dixon. Walk the mountain trails where he spent quiet, reflective moments and painted many of the beautiful views that are collectively called "Maynard Dixon Country."

## HELPER GALLERY STROLL

HELPER

Helper is a historic mining town built by the railroad that has embraced its past while pushing toward a future where Helper is synonymous with world-class art, access to outdoor recreation, a tight-knit community and a welcoming small-town vibe. Check out the Boxcar Gallery, Steven Adams Gallery and the Anne Jespersen Fine Arts Gallery.



## TORREY GALLERIES

TORREY

Several Utah artists have set up their homes and studios in the small town of Torrey. Torrey is the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park, which features an artist-in-residence program each year. For a taste of the local art scene, duck into Gallery 24 and the Torrey Gallery for a fantastic offering of Utah art and Navajo rugs.

## BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART

PROVO

This free-admission museum features a large collection of regional and often religious art. It is set in a four-story, modern facility of more than 102,000 square feet in size with ten exhibition galleries, an auditorium, a small theater, a print study room and gift store.



## COYOTE GULCH ART VILLAGE

KAYENTA

Kayenta is St. George's artist enclave, and its Coyote Gulch Art Village features galleries, studios, festivals, retail shops, gourmet food, a yoga studio and a spa. Galleries feature wind sculptures, outdoor landscape photography and ceramic works. Don't forget to walk the community's labyrinth and sculpture garden.



## THE TABERNACLE CHOIR AT TEMPLE SQUARE

SALT LAKE CITY

Enjoy free weekly rehearsals by the choir who Ronald Reagan once dubbed "America's Choir." The rehearsals take place on Temple Square in the tabernacle building, which is an architectural wonder with renowned acoustics revered among the choral music community. The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square was formerly known as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Check Temple Square's website for a calendar of streaming and in-person events.

## BEFORE YOU GO

Traveling to Utah is an adventure. It helps to come prepared, always with a little knowledge, sometimes with gear and supplies. Utah's amenity-rich cities on the metropolitan Wasatch Front can gear you up for wherever your Utah travels take you, and there are towns and cities throughout the state with food, fuel, supplies and other resources to ensure you can travel safely between destinations. Still, the more you consider what you'll need in advance, the less likely you'll be surprised by the unexpected. Here are a few tips to consider before your trip.

**Elevation:** Most adventures in Utah start at more than 4,000 feet above sea level, and some areas in and between national parks exceed 9,000 feet. In the mountains, elevations can reach up to 10,000–13,000 feet. To prevent altitude sickness, don't do strenuous activities on your first couple of days so your body can adjust, know your limits and take it slow.

**Hydration:** Staying hydrated is key any time of year in the arid, high desert country of Utah and especially when outside recreating. Many parks have places to refill your water bottles, but on longer road trips or more remote areas, carry extra. A quick rule of thumb is that you should expect to consume at least 16 ounces of water or more per hour in hot weather.

**Food:** Nutrient-dense foods like jerky, trail mix, dried fruit, canned fish or tuna pouches, and nuts or nut butters are also lightweight — don't worry, though, for all but the most serious backpackers, these are just to tide you over. Most great Utah outdoor adventures and destinations are near excellent base camps with several local options for a hot meal.

**Clothing and shoes:** One of the most important keys for clothing is layers. Some opt for a lightweight, long-sleeve base layer even when the summer sun is shining. When hiking, wear sturdy, closed-toe hiking boots that you've broken in to protect your feet and provide traction.

**Gear:** Backpacks exist for a reason, and that's to carry necessary gear with you: trail snacks, extra water, sunscreen, jacket or layers to add or remove and to carry out your trash. If you're traveling far from the road and trailhead, carry first-aid materials and rescue aids just in case — and let someone know where you're going and when to expect you back.

**Seasons:** Utah is a four-season destination. The arid, high-elevation climate means long stretches of brilliant summer sun with sporadic bouts of rain. In November–March, temperatures are cooler. The hottest months are June–August. In Southern Utah, summer and early fall are "monsoon season" and can bring

threatening thunderstorms, pounding rains and flash floods. Snow is possible at all elevations in winter, but particularly at higher elevation passes and destinations. [visitutah.com/weather](https://www.visitutah.com/weather)

**Driving:** Thanks to a crossroads of interstates with great scenic byways, it's easy to get around Utah. It can be several hours between destinations, so keep an eye on fuel levels and plan your itinerary to avoid drowsy driving or driving in inclement weather, such as winter snowstorms. Some canyons require snow tires or chains in winter and some roads close for the winter. [visitutah.com/roads](https://www.visitutah.com/roads)

**Backcountry:** Venturing into Utah's backcountry — meaning recreation areas further from common amenities, such as restrooms, marked trails and visitor centers — is a rewarding endeavor for experienced, well-prepared adventurers. These areas often require a permit. Stop at the nearest visitor centers or ranger stations, check weather and road conditions and follow all backcountry ethics, including the Leave No Trace Seven Principles.

**Ski:** In addition to ski jackets and pants, insulating layers and socks, snow gear includes boots, helmet, goggles, gloves, hat, sunglasses and a neck gaiter. Check fit on kids from previous year, pack sunscreen, lip balm, tissues and snacks. [visitutah.com/ski](https://www.visitutah.com/ski)

**Go with a guide:** Not sure where to start? Not only can guides get you there safely, they often take you and your family to places only accessible with a permit and the right gear. Guided hiking trips can vary from half-day hiking clinics to backpacking expeditions lasting a week or more. [visitutah.com/guides](https://www.visitutah.com/guides)

**Adaptive travel:** Utah has several organizations working together to advocate and offer specialized recreation plans through the use of adaptive equipment, trained staff and scholarships. Discover cycling, paddlesports, indoor/outdoor climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, river-rafting, skiing, snowboarding, yurt camping and many more. Families and friends are encouraged to participate. [visitutah.com/accessible](https://www.visitutah.com/accessible)

### Before traveling, we ask you to consider:

- Am I familiar with the Leave No Trace Seven Principles?
- Does this activity put me at risk for potential rescue, straining local resources?
- Am I doing what I can to avoid crowded locations?
- Have I prepared for limited services in remote areas, and taken into account the abilities of others in my group?
- Are there ways I can make a positive impact on the communities I plan to visit?

Read more at [visitutah.com/prepare](https://www.visitutah.com/prepare).

## RESOURCES

**Utah's Welcome Centers**  
[visitutah.com/welcome-centers](https://www.visitutah.com/welcome-centers)

**Ski Information and Snow Report**  
[skiutah.com](https://www.skiutah.com)

**Bureau of Land Management**  
[blm.gov/utah](https://blm.gov/utah)

**National Park Service**  
[nps.gov/ut](https://nps.gov/ut)

**Utah State Parks & Recreation**  
[stateparks.utah.gov](https://stateparks.utah.gov)

**U.S. Forest Service**  
[fs.usda.gov](https://fs.usda.gov)

**Accommodations**  
[visitutah.com/stay](https://www.visitutah.com/stay)

**Visitor and Travel Bureaus**  
[visitutah.com/local-info](https://www.visitutah.com/local-info)

**Camping Reservations**  
[utahstateparks.reserveamerica.com](https://utahstateparks.reserveamerica.com)

**Utah Road Conditions**  
866-511-UTAH | 511 in Utah  
[commuterlink.utah.gov](https://commuterlink.utah.gov)

**National Weather Service**  
[weather.gov/slc](https://weather.gov/slc)

**Utah Public Safety**  
Highway Patrol: 801-887-3800  
Emergencies dial 911

**Guides & Outfitters**  
[visitutah.com/guides](https://www.visitutah.com/guides)

## ARTICLES

We're capturing stories, videos and photos to inspire responsible and thoughtful travel to Utah. Want to watch the Voices of Bears Ears series? Or follow a guide into the slot canyons of Southern Utah? Or maybe you're looking for tips on how to keep kids happy on the slopes or how to respect and protect Utah's lands. We're talking about all this and more. Explore our archives or sign up for our monthly newsletter. [visitutah.com/articles](https://www.visitutah.com/articles)  
[visitutah.com/newsletter](https://www.visitutah.com/newsletter)



The Utah Travel Guide is a publication of the  
**Utah Office of Tourism and Film**  
*Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity*

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**Printed Responsibly**

This travel guide is FSC-certified, and uses paper that comes from well-managed forests and is made from recycled materials.

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**Cover: Kodachrome Basin State Park**

The remote, high-elevation Kodachrome Basin is an accredited International Dark Sky Park where the Milky Way can be observed with the naked eye. Find more Dark Sky Parks and tips for responsible stargazing and astrophotography at [visitutah.com/stargaze](http://visitutah.com/stargaze).

Photo: Austen Diamond

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