

Utah Facts & Information

(Revised: 5/09)

Utah & Salt Lake City General Info. & Facts:

State History

- Before Utah was settled by the Mormons and became a state, it was inhabited by the Native Americans; Ute, Paiute, Shoshoni, and once Anasazi tribes.
- In 1847, Mormon pioneers, from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, settled in Utah to escape religious persecutions in the Midwest.
- By 1850, hundreds of Mormons from all over the world migrated to Utah, establishing a newspaper, theatre, and a territorial government. Salt Lake City became a major center for trade and commerce for settlers and miners going westward.
- Utah was made a state on January 4, 1896, becoming the 45th state.
- Utah is named after a tribe of Native Americans, the Utes. Utah means "home on mountain top."



State Facts



- Utah's state capital is Salt Lake City.
- State's population is over 2.2 million and growing. Salt Lake County has over 850,000 residents. Utah's birthrate is the highest in the nation and its death rate is the second to lowest in the nation. Utah is ranked third in the longest lifetime category (77.7 years).
- Utah is 84,916 sq. miles. 65% of the state is federally owned national parks, forests, and sites.
- Utah is the 11th largest state in the U.S.
- Salt Lake's elevation is 4,330 feet. The highest elevation in Utah is King's Peak at 13,528 ft. located in the Uinta Mountain Range. The lowest elevation is 2,350 ft at Beaver Dam Wash near St. George.
- The Great Salt Lake covers an area of 1,060,000 acres. It gets its name from the high concentration

of minerals and salt. The lake has salinity levels eight times that of seawater. No fish can live in the lake, only brine shrimp. The lake does have several public swimming beaches and 12 islands. Wild game live on the islands.

- Utah has two major mountain ranges: Uinta and Wasatch. The Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountain ranges surround the Salt Lake valley.
- Utah has seven major rivers: Bear, Colorado, Green, Provo, San Juan, Sevier, and Weber.
- Utah is the home of the oldest and largest open-pit copper mine in North America, called Kennecott's Bingham Canyon Copper Mine. The mine has produced: copper, gold, silver, and molybdenum and has earned the title the "richest hole on the earth."

Education

- Utah has the highest literacy rate (94%) in the nation according to the last national study.
- Utah has over 17 universities and colleges located throughout the state including: University of Utah, Utah State University, Weber State University, Brigham Young University, LDS Business College, and Westminster College.
- The University of Utah is Salt Lake's largest university and home of the University of Utah Health Care, acclaimed for its research and development of artificial organs. Brigham Young University in Provo is the largest private university.

Religion

- Salt Lake Valley has over 30 active different denominations that meet weekly. All major world religions are represented in Utah as well as many non-denominational houses of worship.



Weather

- Utah's climate has four separate seasons: summer, fall, winter, and spring. The average temperature in summer is 90 degrees, the average temperature in winter is 39 degrees.
- Summer is usually warm, dry, and sunny with low humidity. Fall brings beautiful autumn colors and cooler temperatures. Winter usually has above freezing temperatures during the day and powdery snow in the mountains. Spring is usually cool to warm temperatures and excellent for golfing and spring skiing in the mountains.

Real Estate & Employment

- Downtown Salt Lake is currently doing a multi-billion dollar renovation from multiple investors including million dollar renovations from surrounding communities. The largest of these plans is the "City Creek Center." To view some of these plans and timeline, go to <http://downtownrising.com>.
- Utah's economy leads the nation with high job growth and low unemployment. According to *Forbe's Magazine*, Utah ranked #6 on its list of "10 Recession-Proof Cities" and #3 for "Best Cities for Home Sellers."
- The median cost of housing in Salt Lake City is still low-medium in affordability compared to other U.S. cities.

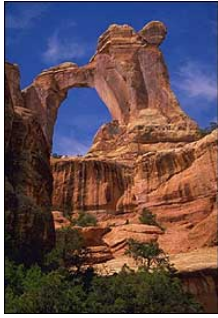
Transportation & Airport

- Utah's transit authority (UTA) is a multi-modal transportation leader that is 100% accessible with over 69 light rail vehicles, 30 commuter railcars, and more than 600 buses. Currently, the Trax-line system is averaging over 58,300 riders a day. UTA covers the Wasatch front from Ogden to Provo and all its surrounding communities and is continually growing.
- The recently completed FrontRunner Commuter is a 38 mile rail line that runs from Salt Lake City northward to Ogden. Trains run every 30 minutes weekdays and every hour on evenings and Saturday. Round trip ticket is \$10.00.
- Utah's International Airport - is just minutes from downtown Salt Lake, approx 5 miles and 12 minutes in driving time. All major airlines and a few of the smaller airlines fly in and out of the airport.



Things to Do in Utah

Outdoor Recreation



- Utah is the gateway to many National Parks, five of which are in Utah, and all within a couple hours driving distance. These include: Zions National Park, Bryce Canyon, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, and Mesa Verde National Park. Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and Great Basin National Park neighbor Utah and are less than a day's drive.
- Utah has many other National wildernesses, monuments, lakes, and forests such as: Escalante National Monument, Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Uinta National Forest, and Wasatch Cache National Forest.
- Utah has many outdoor recreational activities to offer all year-round. These activities include: downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice skating, sledding, rock climbing, golfing, fishing, hiking, camping, biking, wildlife, off-road/ATV, hunting, horseback riding, boating, white water rafting, and recreational sports and extreme sports.

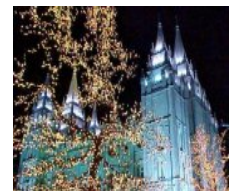
- Skiing & Snowboarding - there are over 13 incredible resorts in Utah, with the majority within an hour of Salt Lake City. Because of Utah's low humidity and many snow falls, the snow is plentiful and very light and fluffy, enabling Utah to rightfully claim the title of having "The Greatest Snow on Earth." Hosting the 2002 Winter Olympic Games provided Utah with the world's best resorts and facilities to train and recreate. Go to <http://www.utah.com/ski> for more information and pictures.
- Golf - Utah has many excellent public golf courses with the highest number of courses per capita in the nation that are all challenging, well-maintained, and inexpensive.
- Camping, Hiking, Climbing, Mt. Biking - We have access to canyons, trails, and campsites within minutes of our homes. Utah also has a reputation for having some of the most challenging climbing.



- Boating - boating is also an Utahn favorite. For being the 2nd driest state in the U.S., Utah surprisingly has over 100 lakes and reservoirs that are considered boatable. Utah is ranked sixth in the U.S. for the amount of boatable water per capita. Most of these lakes and reservoirs have modern facilities near them and excellent campgrounds. Some of the most popular boating places include: Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge, Utah Lake, Bear Lake, Jordanelle Reservoir, Great Salt Lake, and Pineview Reservoir.
- Extreme Sports - Utah is also a popular destination for those that want to engage in extreme sports. These include: skydiving, parasailing, hang gliding, snow kiting, BMX racing, Motocross, rock climbing, jeeping, kayaking, and helicopter skiing.

Salt Lake City Attractions & Entertainment

- Hogle Zoo - Home to over 1,100 animals and over 250 species from around the world. Hogle Zoo is among the few national zoos to be accredited by the AZA (Association of Zoos & Aquariums). <http://www.hoglezoo.org>.
- Tracy Aviary - A bird aviary that manages over 400 birds, 135 species from around the world that are considered rare and endangered. <http://www.tracyaviary.org>.
- The Living Planet Aquarium - currently a preview exhibit until the 90,000 sq. ft., state of the art facility will be built. It will feature exhibits of marine and freshwater aquatic life as well as exhibits of the Amazon rain forests. 10,000+ specimens representing hundreds of species showcase some of the world's rarest and most exotic fish, coral, reptiles, birds, plants and insects from North, Central and South America, Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific. <http://www.thelivingplanet.com>.
- Red Butte Gardens - A non-profit organization of University of Utah that expands over an area of 100 acres of natural gardens, walking paths, and hiking trails just south of the University of Utah Health Center. It is the largest botanical and ecological center in the Intermountain West. <http://www.redbuttegarden.org>
- Clarke Planetarium - Offers an entertaining look at the universe. It has been an innovator in star show productions and leader in the field of space science education. The planetarium encourages participation with simulated moon and Mars walks, star shows, laser/music shows, IMAX theater, astronomical exhibits, and astronomy courses. <http://www.clarkplanetarium.org>.
- Family History Library - The world's largest collection of genealogical records. It is open to the public at no charge to assist them in tracing their family histories.
- Historic Temple Square - Consists of 10-acres in downtown Salt Lake City that includes the multi-spired Salt Lake City Temple, the Tabernacle, Joseph Smith Memorial Building, monuments, and a Visitor Center. Every November through January, Temple Square is covered in beautiful colored lights and old-fashioned horse carriage rides are available around the downtown area.
- The Salt Lake Valley offers many outdoor summer concerts and festivals, music venues, sport venues, local dance and private clubs, and movie theaters, some receiving awards for the best movie theaters in North America.
- Utah's most popular amusement parks are Lagoon, Cherry Hills, Thanksgiving Point, Historic Heber Valley Railroad, Park City Mountain Resort, and Snowbird Mountain Resort.
- For more information about Salt Lake City's attractions, go to <http://www.slctravel.com/att.htm> or <http://www.utah.com/amusement>



Performing Arts

- Utah has many performing art activities and theaters throughout the state. Some of these include: the Utah Festival Opera, Sundance Film Festival, Artstravaganza, Utah Symphony & Opera, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Ballet West, the Rose Wagner Center, and Park City International Festival.
- For more information about Utah's performance arts, go to <http://www.utah.com/arts>.



Photo courtesy of Thanksgiving Point

Museums

- Utah has over 60 museums ranging from Native American history and art, airplanes, natural history, modern & contemporary art, folklore, old world art, and more. A few of the most popular are Hill Aerospace Museum, Union Station, Kennecott Copper Mine Museum, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Paunsaugunt Wildlife Museum, Utah Museum of Natural History, Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum, Dinosaur National Monument Museum, the Museum of Ancient Life at Thanksgiving Point, and Cleveland-Lloyd Quarry.
- For more information about Utah's museums, go to <http://www.utah.com/museums>.

Sports

- Salt Lake City was the home for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games that was an astounding success. Utah enjoys Olympic facilities such as: Utah Olympic Park, Soldier Hollow, and the Utah Olympic Oval. Each facility is open year-round to the public and many pre-Olympic winter sport programs are performed at these facilities such as tours, ice skating, tubing, public bobsled rides, ski jumping and freestyle aerial shows.



- Salt Lake's professional sport teams include: Utah Jazz (basketball), Real Salt Lake (soccer), Utah Blaze (indoor football), Salt Lake Bees (baseball), Utah Grizzlies (ice hockey), and Orem Owls (baseball).
- The Rocky Mountain Raceway; a NASCAR sanctioned oval track and a NHRA drag strip.
- NCAA Division 1 programs in Utah are University of Utah Utes, Brigham Young University Cougars, Utah State Aggies, Utah Valley Wolverines, Weber State Wildcats, and Southern Utah Thunderbirds.
- The University of Utah's Utes under the direction of Kyle Whitingham had a 12-0 season last year and defeated the Alabama Crimson Tide to become the BCS Sugar Bowl champions in 2009. They have won 25 conference championships. The Utes have a seven year bowl game winning streak and are the only Mountain West Conference (MWC) team to play in the BCS bowl twice.
- For more Utah's sports information, go to <http://www.utah.com/sports>



Shopping

- Salt Lake Valley has over 13 shopping malls not including the many outdoor shopping centers, strip malls and locally owned shops. The most popular shopping sites are the Gateway, Trolley Square, Sugarhouse shopping on 21st street, Park City Tanger Outlet, Fashion Place Mall, and South Towne Mall. Salt Lake City offers designer, designer outlet, discount, and wholesale stores.



Dining & Drinking

- Salt Lake has over 400 restaurants with a wide variety of ethnic foods in addition to the traditional American such as: Mexican, Japanese/sushi, Chinese, Thai, French, Indian, Italian, Cosmopolitan, Seafood, Brew Pubs, Barbecue, Coffee houses, Vietnamese, Middle Eastern, and Cajun.
- Many of Salt Lake's and Park City's restaurants have received national awards.
- Utah has many Brew Pubs that have received many national award-winning brews such as: Squatters, Desert Edge, and Hoppers.
- Utah's liquor law - you must be 21 or older to legally drink. Liquor laws were rewritten in 2003, making it easier to get into clubs and bars. For more information on Utah's bars and clubs, go to http://www.visitsaltlake.com/media/view_release.php?id=27.

Visitor Information Center Numbers

- Salt Lake Visitors Bureau - #(801) 521-2822
- Historic Temple Square - #(801) 240-1869
- Ski Utah - #(801) 534-1779
- Utah Travel Council - #(801) 538-1030
- Great Salt Lake State Park - #(801) 533-1083

For more information about Utah, what Utah has to offer, and photos to go to www.utah.com and www.slctravel.com.

