

NORTHERN UTAH THERE IS A HISTORY HERE.

It is sewn in the fertile soils and planted with the orchards. Stand at a single point and look east, then west. The First Transcontinental Railroad met here. Maybe it was meant to be. Even if the frontier closed that day, we bequeathed these tranquil lands to the millions of migrating birds, the phases of the moon and the wilder things, tucked away at high elevation.

#### AMERICAN WEST HERITAGE CENTER \$

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. The center's historic daily adventures include a Native American encampment and pioneer settlement where you can explore a dug-out cabin, and even pull a handcart. Popular annual events include the Baby Animals Days in spring and Fall Harvest Festival. Prices vary by event. 4025 S. Highway 89/91, Wellsville.

#### ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK \$ ① 🚵

Its craggy ridgeline beckons from the mainland. Leave the bustle of modern civilization behind for the tranquility of Antelope Island, a scenic and adventurous destination home to 36 miles of hiking and mountain bike trails meandering among free-roaming bison and antelope herds. Visitors also enjoy spectacular birding along the causeway and the pioneer history of the Fielding Garr Ranch. Sailboats and kayaks dot placid waters, and sunsets from the island are among the

#### BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE ①

At times, the sounds of the migration are deafening. It is a wild place. Yet it is tranquil. The  ${\sf T}$ largest freshwater component of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem is one of the world's best birding destinations. Over 200 bird species have been identified in the refuge. An auto tour 12 miles west of the Wildlife Education Center is a one-way drive that 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, check for limited hours. Donations accepted.

My notes:

#### **BONNEVILLE SPEEDWAY**

The summer sun evaporates water from the broad, densely packed plain of the Bonneville Salt Flats. Nature annually renews the hard, flat surface. An ancient lake once covered the land. Now, racers from throughout the world pursue glory and land speed records. On this natural straightaway, the 300, 400, 500 and 600 mile-per-hour land speed barriers were broken. Land speed trials are scheduled from July through October, conditions permitting. The events are open to the public. Even without a racing event, the one-of-a-kind Salt Flats are a must-see.

## DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT \$ ① 🛦

It took 149 million years, but geological and climatic forces tilted, warped and eroded the earth's crust to reveal a treasure trove of fossils. Enter the Quarry Exhibit Hall to see the 1,500 displayed fossils. Paleontologists discovered the bones just where you see them today. Everything in the quarry is real. The larger monument offers a full array of rich history and scenic splendor, all connected by beautiful trails, rivers or rugged backcountry. Visitor center and quarry hours vary by season. Base camp in the monument, Vernal or a nearby state park.

# FISH SPRINGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

This is the most remote wildlife refuge in the contiguous U.S. For birders, watch for any of the 298 recorded birds. Arrive via a maintained dirt road, which follows the National Historic Pony Express Trail. Fish Springs was an important water source on a tough stretch of trail. Today, the desert oasis is an 18,000-acre marshland in the stark beauty of the West Desert. About 100 miles west of the I-15 corridor. Allow several hours for the trip and travel in a high-clearance vehicle with a full tank of gas, water and food. Trail information at BLM offices.

## **GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE \$ (1)**

You can almost hear the celebration echoing across the basin. The history of railroads comes alive at Golden Spike, the site where the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific met to unite a nation with the First Transcontinental Railroad. During the summer months, see daily runs of two fully operational replicas of the Jupiter and No. 119 steam locomotives on the tracks or full reenactments on Saturdays. There are auto tours and a hiking trail plus proximity to the famous Spiral Jetty. Base camp in Brigham City.

# **HISTORIC WENDOVER AIRFIELD \$**

Take a step back to World War II 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. The Wendover Air Base is open daily and the museum's hours of operation vary by season. Call before you go. To visit the museum arrive at least an hour before closing. The base is close to the Bonneville Salt Flats and the large-scale Sun Tunnels artwork in Utah's West Desert. Donations accepted. 345 S. Airport Apron, Wendover.





S May include fees Public visitor information Camping available (Fees may apply)

Yet pockets of civilization dot the valleys. The cities are base camps. Head east where prehistory protrudes from crumbling stone at the foot of an east-west trending mountain range. The light hits the land in such a way, it appears to catch flame. It feels remote. Little has changed since the first explorers navigated its wild rivers. Oh, there is a history here, but it is living.

#### LITTLE SAHARA RECREATION AREA \$ 10 🛦

About 15,000 years ago a river fed ancient Lake Bonneville, depositing sand along the way. Over time, southwest winds hitting Sand Mountain pushed deposits upward. Falling sand accumulated into this isolated, 124-square-mile system of free-moving dunes. Today, visitors ride freely across sand dunes, unending trails and a 700-foot mountain of sand. Escape to tranquility at the Rockwell Outstanding Natural Area, where wildlife roams among the unique desert flora.

## NINE MILE CANYON &

There's a palpable human texture to Nine Mile Canyon. Humans have layered their existence on the rock walls and canyon floors. A thousand years ago, waves of the so-called Fremont culture left their messages in stone on what some call "the world's longest art gallery." Leave only footprints and take only photographs. Many visitors combine Nine Mile Canyon with trips to Price and the San Rafael Swell. Plan at least a half-day to drive the canyon with options to get out and hike or bike around. The canyon is 46 miles long. There are primitive campgrounds and lodging options.

#### **SPIRAL JETTY**

The horizon is faint. The sky big. Imagine harnessing the raw materials of the ground beneath you into art. Sculptor Robert Smithson transformed six thousand tons of black basalt rocks and earth on the northeastern shore of the Great Salt Lake into one of the world's most unique works of art: The Spiral Jetty. The spiral reaches 1,500 feet in length and is 15 feet wide. It is a 45-minute drive from Golden Spike and the ATK Thiokol Rocket Garden. Check local conditions as the last 15 miles of the drive are on a gravel road. Take extra water, supplies and towels.

### TIMPANOGOS CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT \$ ①

Wander three linked and spectacularly decorated caverns on a cave tour featuring unexpected colors and formations like helictites, stalactites, stalagmites and calcite crusts, draperies and frostwork. Visitors hike to the cave entrance on a wide, paved trail, gaining over 1,000 feet in elevation in a mile and a half. Timpanogos Cave sits high on the northern slope of Mount Timpanogos in the Wasatch Mountains. Reserve in advance. The visitor center and trailhead are in American Fork Canyon.

# **UTAH'S FAMOUS FRUIT WAY**

Rocky cliffs warm the hillside, where fertile soil yields a bounty of sweet fruit. Find the best in local agriculture from Northern Utah at roadside fruit stands. The Fruit Way lines a stretch of historic Highway 89 between Willard and Brigham City just off the interstate. That few extra minutes can result in lots of fresh-picked produce and local food products like cheese curds and shakes for the road trip still ahead. Driving northbound on I-15, take exit 351 and stay right. Take a left on Highway 89, heading north toward Brigham City.

## **UTAH FESTIVAL OPERA & MUSICAL THEATRE** \$

The scenic and adventurous Logan Canyon Scenic Byway flows into the fertile and historic Cache Valley. Here, the renowned Utah Festival Opera offers a multi-faceted performing arts experience that includes five main shows in repertory each season alongside several operas and musicals, as well as educational talks, demonstrations and backstage tours — more than 100 events in total. Events are held at the Ellen Eccles Theater and Utah Theater, both located in Logan.

#### **UTAH FIELD HOUSE OF NATURAL HISTORY STATE PARK MUSEUM \$ ①**

Crane your head back to take in the immense size of a wooly mammoth, feel tiny beneath a T. rex, and feel a chill run down your spine as you discover you are being stalked by a coelophysis. Within an 80-mile radius of Vernal, evidence of the Earth's entire geologic history is visible including on the Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway and at Red Fleet State Park. The field house offers a virtual tour. Check for seasonal hours of operation.

# **UTAH MOTORSPORTS CAMPUS** \$

Between the Oquirrh and Stansbury mountains is the wide basin of the Tooele Valley. Here, visitors will find one of the nation's premier motorsports facilities. It has hosted events ranging from the Utah Grand Prix and the Larry H. Miller Tour of Utah to the Pirelli World Challenge, AMA Superbike Championship and NASCAR. The campus lures racing fans, club racers and families looking for high-speed fun on the Kart Track or Wide Open Wednesday (WOW) laps and classroom sessions. Prices vary by event. 30 minutes west of Salt Lake City.

# **NORTHERN UTAH**

