It’s strange how [the Great Basin Desert] turn us into believers. I every pilgrimage to the desert is a pilgrimage to the self. There is drawn together. If the desert is holy, it is because it is a forgotten humility. I believe in living in a land of little water because life is way without written permission from the

**AMERICAN WEST HERITAGE CENTER**

Things were a little different in the 1950s. Get a start for that life at a living-history center showcasing 1840s–1940s pioneer life, Oregon Trail, Navajo and Hispanic cultures, and more. This is the place to learn about the Donner Party, see a Navajo loom in action, and experience the Native American Museum and Learning Center. The free one-hour tour covers the history of the Wasatch Mountains and opens with a video introducing the region. You’ll also see exhibits on the Donner Party, the Navajo, pioneers, and American heritage and pioneer settlement where you can explore a dug-out cabin, and even hunt for a hidden treasure. Regularly, several activities happen in the 1840s Greenfield Cabin, including cradle making, children’s craft demonstrations, and old-fashioned crafts. For the full experience, consider purchasing a one-hour guided tour. Free. 200 S. Highway 78, Salt Lake City.

**ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK**

It’s one of the most visited parks in the park system, and for good reason! This is the park for the ultimate in desert fun: camping, hiking, and birding. The park is a desert oasis with sand dunes, sandy trails, and a 750-foot mound of sand. Watch for turkey at the freshwater wetlands here, where wild rice grows among the unique desert flora. Free. 10400 S. Antelope Island Rd, Syracuse.

**BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE**

At times, the sounds of the migratory birds are deafening. It’s a vast place. Yet it is tranquil. The largest freshwater component of the Great Basin Desert, it is one of the world’s chief birding destinations. Over 200 bird species have been identified in the refuge. An auto tour tour of the 12-mile tour of the Wildlife Education Center is a narrated drive that takes drivers through three of the refuge’s wetland areas. Free. 7530 N. Bear River Rd, Bear River City.

**BONNEVILLE SPEEDWAY**

The name says it all. The track is made from the same, deeply-pitted plans of the Bonneville Salt Flats. Naturally, you will see the land. An ancient lake once covered the land and rain through the world. The world’s second-largest lake brought life to the area. The road is a 12-mile loop of the International Speedway, the 100J, 102J, and 120. The larger monument offers a full array of rich history and scenic splendor, all open to the public. Door to door, it is 100 miles south of Salt Lake City. Free. 345 S. Airport Apron, Wendover.

**DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT**

It took 149 million years, but geological and climatic forces tilted, warped and eroded the earth’s crust to reveal its treasures of fossils. From the Quarry Visitor Center are more than 1,500 displayed fossils. Paleontologists discovered the world’s most complete dinosaur and land mammal remains. The Fossil Discovery Center is the most significant, 100J, 102J and 120. The larger monument offers a full array of rich history and scenic splendor, all open to the public. Door to door, it is 100 miles south of Salt Lake City. Free. 345 S. Airport Apron, Wendover.

**FISH SPRINGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

This is the most remote wildlife refuge in the contiguous U.S. For birding, watch for bald eagles of the day. Visit the neighboring site on the Fossil Discovery Center at 801-965-4000, which offers the Western Wyoming, and the Great Basin Natural History Association offers a variety of educational tours. The visitor center is in the monument, Vernal or a nearby state park. The field house offers a virtual tour. Check for seasonal hours of operation.

**GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

It is the site of the American celebration of the completion of the transcontinental railroad. The Historic Wendover Airfield is open daily and the westbound train takes off at a different depot every 30 minutes. Call before you go. To see the sunrise at least an hour before closing. The base camp in the monument, until 10 p.m. Free. 10400 S. Antelope Island Rd, Syracuse.

**HISTORIC WENDOVER AIRFIELD**

Take a step back in time for an intimate view of a rare monument. Free. 10400 S. Antelope Island Rd, Syracuse.

**LITTLE SAHARA RECREATION AREA**

About 15,000 years ago a river fed ancient Lake Bonneville, depositing salt along the way. Over time, snowmelt built a lake and the water body gradually expanded, filling the Great Basin Desert. Today, the site is a popular destination for hiking, skiing, and snowboarding. Its craggy ridgeline beckons from the mainland. Leave the bustle of modern civilization behind for a move to gently rolling sand dunes and endless trails. Don’t forget your hiking boots, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Free. 10400 S. Antelope Island Rd, Syracuse.

**NINE MILE CANYON**

There’s a palpable human texture to Nine Mile Canyon. Humans have shaped its existence on the rock walls and canyon floors. A thousand years ago, a group of Navajo farmers built their homes in the canyon. Over time, natural and human forces have shaped this canyon. You 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. There are auto tours and a hiking trail plus proximity to the famous Nine Mile Scenic Byway and at Red Fleet State Park. The field house offers a virtual tour. Check for seasonal hours of operation.

**SPIRAL JETTY**

Spiral Jetty is real. The larger monument offers a full array of rich history and scenic splendor, all open to the public. Door to door, it is 100 miles south of Salt Lake City. Free. 345 S. Airport Apron, Wendover.

**TIMPANOGOS CAYE NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Timpanogos is located on Lake Bonneville, the largest freshwater component of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem. One of the world’s best birding destinations is in the heart of the Wasatch Mountains. Reserve in advance. The visitor center and trailhead are in American Fork Canyon. Free. 345 S. Airport Apron, Wendover.

**TINSELED FORK FARM**

Rocks still warm the hillside, where fertile soil fuels a bounty of sweet fruit. Find the best in local food at a farm in Northern Utah at delicious fruit stands. The Fruit Farm offers a variety of fun for all ages. From family-friendly lakeside adventures to the exciting action of the Flowers Bistro and wine bar at the Fruit Farm, you can enjoy a variety of seasonal events. Events are held at the Ellen Eccles Theater and Utah Theater, both located in Logan. Free. 345 S. Airport Apron, Wendover.

**UTAH’S FAMOUS FRUIT WAY**

Rocks still warm the hillside, where fertile soil fuels a bounty of sweet fruit. Find the best in local food at a farm in Northern Utah at delicious fruit stands. The Fruit Farm offers a variety of fun for all ages. From family-friendly lakeside adventures to the exciting action of the Flowers Bistro and wine bar at the Fruit Farm, you can enjoy a variety of seasonal events. Events are held at the Ellen Eccles Theater and Utah Theater, both located in Logan. Free. 345 S. Airport Apron, Wendover.

**UTAH STATE PARK MUSEUM**

Cover your head and look up for the unusual size of a mammoth bone. Free. 10400 S. Antelope Island Rd, Syracuse.

**UTAH’S FIELD HOUSE OF NATURAL HISTORY**

Get a look inside the immense size of a mammoth bone. Free. 10400 S. Antelope Island Rd, Syracuse.

**UTAH MOTORSPORTS CAMPUS**

Between the Diggs and Statler mountains is the outdoor area of the Tuscany Valley. Here, visitors will find one of the nation’s premier motorsports facilities. There is a test area featuring races 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. There are auto tours and a hiking trail plus proximity to the famous Nine Mile Scenic Byway and at Red Fleet State Park. The field house offers a virtual tour. Check for seasonal hours of operation.

**UTAH FESTIVAL OPERA & MUSICAL THEATRE**

The renaissance version of the empty of the Great Basin Desert, it is one of the world’s chief birding destinations. Over 200 bird species have been identified in the refuge. An auto tour tour of the Wildlife Education Center is a narrated drive that takes drivers through three of the refuge’s wetland areas. Free. 7530 N. Bear River Rd, Bear River City.

**VINTAGE CHALLENGE**

The Utah Department of Transportation is in charge of the vintage challenge, a one-way drive that takes anywhere from 1.5 hours to half the way without written permission from the

-- Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*
FILMED IN UTAH:

Some of our favorite movies and television shows have scenes filmed in Utah’s urban areas along the Wasatch range. Go see for yourself!

More info at film.utah.gov/filmed-in-utah

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End
2007 | Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover

Wind River
2017 | Wasatch Mountains, Coalville, Park City

Independence Day
1996 | Bonneville Salt Flats, Skull Valley, Tooele, Wendover

Con Air
1997 | Bonneville Salt Flats, Salt Lake City, Ogden Airport, Wendover

The Tree of Life
2014 | Wendover, Bonneville Salt Flats

Hulk
2003 | Wendover (also: Clive, Arches National Park)

The World's Fastest Indian
2005 | Wendover, Skull Valley, Bonneville Salt Flats, Salt Lake City, Tooele

Dumb & Dumber
1994 | Park City, Salt Lake City, Ogden

The Tree of Life
2014 | Wendover, Bonneville Salt Flats

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