

PROJECT **one**

READINESS *THROUGH BELONGING
AND COMMUNITY*

Utah Bucket List: Ultimate Guide to Adventures & Attractions

Explore Utah's best attractions, from national parks and mountains to city life and local culture. This guide highlights must-visit destinations, seasonal events, and favorites that showcase the state's natural beauty and richness.

No federal endorsement intended of the commercial entities.

Natural Wonders & Outdoor Adventures

Mountain Recreation

Utah's mountains offer year-round recreation. Winter boasts world-class skiing at resorts like Park City, while summer brings opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and photography.

National Parks

Utah's "Mighty Five" National Parks—Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Zion—feature unique geological wonders, perfect for hiking, photography, and stargazing.

State Parks & Recreation Areas

Over 30 state parks, including Goblin Valley and Bear Lake, provide accessible outdoor experiences for camping, boating, and fishing, showcasing Utah's diverse ecosystems.

Utah's varied topography creates opportunities for virtually every outdoor activity imaginable, with resources like AllTrails ([alltrails.com](https://www.alltrails.com)) for trail finding.

Scenic Byways

Experience Utah's stunning landscapes by driving scenic byways, such as Logan Canyon Scenic Byway, offering dramatic views that change with the seasons.



Utah's scenic drives offer breathtaking views worth revisiting throughout the year.

For adventure seekers, Utah offers world-class rock climbing, white water rafting, ATV trails in Moab, and indoor skydiving. The state's natural landscape provides the perfect backdrop for all levels of outdoor recreation.

Utah's National Parks: The Mighty Five

Southern Utah boasts "The Mighty Five" national parks—Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Zion—a collection of unique, spectacular landscapes that draw millions globally.



Arches National Park

Home to over 2,000 natural stone arches, including the iconic Delicate Arch and the massive Landscape Arch. Ideal for photography at sunrise or sunset.



Bryce Canyon National Park

Renowned for its unique hoodoos—towering rock spires. Sunrise offers a breathtaking glow, and winter provides a magical snow-capped spectacle.



Canyonlands National Park

Utah's largest park, with diverse districts like Island in the Sky. Offers everything from scenic overlooks to multi-day expeditions. Mesa Arch at sunrise is a highly photographed spot.

Capitol Reef National Park

Often overlooked, this park features the 100-mile Waterpocket Fold. Preserve historic fruit orchards and hike to Hickman Bridge or explore the stunning Cathedral Valley.

Zion National Park

Utah's first and most popular park, a lush oasis of emerald pools and massive sandstone cliffs. Hike The Narrows or brave Angels Landing for thrilling views.

Planning Your Visit

Peak season (May–September) often requires reservations or timed entry permits. Consider shoulder seasons (April–May or September–October) for milder weather and fewer crowds. The ["America the Beautiful" annual pass](#) is highly recommended for multiple park visits.

A free annual pass is available for current U.S. military members and veterans, as well as gold star families. Lifetime access passes are also available for those with permanent disabilities.

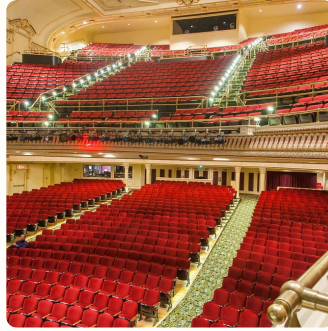
Performing Arts & Entertainment

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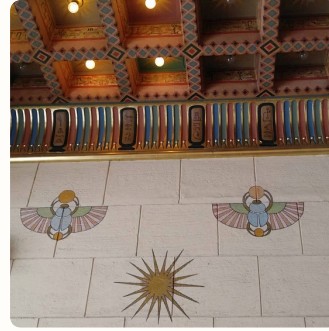
Immerse yourself in Utah's thriving performing arts scene, from world-class theatrical productions and classical concerts to vibrant live music and stand-up comedy shows. Enjoy Broadway tours, local ensembles, and unique outdoor venues.



Tuacahn Amphitheater (St. George): A stunning outdoor amphitheater set against red rock cliffs, hosting Broadway musicals and concerts.



Capitol Theater (Salt Lake City): A historic venue for ballet, opera, and touring Broadway productions.



Peery's Egyptian Theater (Ogden): An ornate, historic theater that serves as a key venue for live music and performing arts.



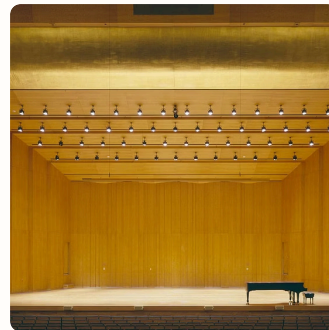
Heber Valley Railroad: Enjoy scenic train rides and themed excursions through the beautiful Heber Valley.



Wiseguys Comedy Club (Salt Lake City/Ogden): A premier venue for local and national stand-up comedians.



Ballet West (Salt Lake City): One of the top professional ballet companies in the United States.



Utah Symphony | Utah Opera (Salt Lake City): Performs classical music and opera at Abravanel Hall and the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre.



Hale Centre Theatre (Sandy): Features state-of-the-art stage technology and immersive theatrical experiences.

Museums & Historical Sites

Explore Utah's rich history, art, and science at its diverse array of museums and historical sites. From natural history and fine art to pioneering heritage and contemporary exhibits, there's something to captivate every curiosity.



[George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park](#)

A family-friendly outdoor museum with life-size dinosaur replicas and fossil exhibits.



[Clark Planetarium](#)

Explore space and science with interactive exhibits, an IMAX theater, and a dome theatre, perfect for all ages.



[Springville Museum of Art](#)

Utah's first art museum, featuring a diverse collection of American, Utah, and international art, with a focus on 19th and 20th century works.

- [Natural History Museum of Utah](#) (Salt Lake City): Discover Utah's natural wonders, from dinosaurs to diverse ecosystems, housed in a stunning architectural marvel.
- [Utah Museum of Fine Arts](#) (Salt Lake City): Located at the University of Utah, it houses a comprehensive collection of global art spanning centuries.
- [BYU Museum of Art](#) (Provo): Features diverse exhibitions, including ancient, modern, and contemporary art, as well as photography.
- [This Is The Place Heritage Park](#) (Salt Lake City): A living history museum depicting 19th-century pioneer life in Utah, with historic homes, costumed interpreters, and pioneer crafts.
- [Temple Square](#) (Salt Lake City): A significant historical and cultural site, featuring the Salt Lake Temple, Tabernacle, and various visitor centers detailing the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- [Union Station](#) (Ogden): A historic train station housing multiple museums, including the Utah State Railroad Museum, Browning Firearms Museum, and more.
- [Utah State History \(Rio Grande Depot\)](#) (Salt Lake City): Home to the Utah State Historical Society, offering archives, collections, and exhibits on Utah's past.

Seasonal Events & Festivals

Fall (September-November)

- [Utah State Fair](#)
- [Snowbird's Oktoberfest](#)
- [Swiss Days in Midway](#)
- Park City Autumn Aloft
- Harvest festivals & corn mazes
- [Salt Lake Greek Festival](#)
- Avenues Street Fair
- Haunted Attractions (various locations)
- Fall foliage scenic drives
- Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos) celebrations



Winter (December-February)

- [Luminaria at Thanksgiving Point](#)
- Christmas & Holiday Light Displays
- Festival of Trees (early Dec.)
- Winter sports competitions
- Winter farmers markets
- New Year's Eve celebrations (various cities, including Park City)
- Ski resort opening days & events
- Ice skating rinks open

Spring (March-May)

- [Tulip Festival at Thanksgiving Point](#)
- Living Traditions Festival (Salt Lake City)
- Spring fun runs and marathons
- Easter egg hunts & farmers markets
- Outdoor Spring Markets & Craft Fairs
- Arbor Day celebrations
- Jordan River Parkway Cleanup
- Wildflower hikes



Summer (June-August)

- [Utah Arts Festival](#)
- [Wasatch Wildflower Festival](#)
- [Utah Shakespeare Festival](#)
- [Raspberry Days at Bear Lake](#)
- [Outdoor concert series](#)
- [Ogden Pioneer Days](#)
- Craft Lake City DIY Festival
- Pioneer Day (July 24th) festivities
- Hot Air Balloon Festivals (e.g., Provo Freedom Festival)
- Farmers markets in full swing
- Outdoor movie nights

Sporting Events

Utah's vibrant sports scene offers thrilling year-round entertainment, from professional leagues to Olympic-level competitions. Get ready to cheer on your favorite teams and experience the excitement firsthand!



[Utah Jazz \(NBA\)](#)

Catch high-flying dunks and intense basketball action with the Utah Jazz at the Delta Center (formerly Vivint Smart Home Arena) in Salt Lake City. The energy of a home game is electrifying, making it a must-see for sports fans.



[Real Salt Lake \(MLS\)](#)

Experience the passion of professional soccer by watching Real Salt Lake, Utah's Major League Soccer team, compete at America First Field (formerly Rio Tinto Stadium) in Sandy. The stadium offers fantastic views and a lively atmosphere.



[Salt Lake Bees \(MiLB\)](#)

Enjoy America's favorite pastime with the Salt Lake Bees, the Triple-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels, at Smith's Ballpark. A family-friendly experience, perfect for a sunny afternoon or a warm summer evening.



[Utah Mammoth \(NHL\)](#)

Get ready to witness the fast-paced, hard-hitting action of professional ice hockey! Utah is now home to an NHL team, the Utah Mammoths, playing their inaugural seasons at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City.

Beyond professional leagues, Utah's Olympic legacy venues continue to host international competitions and training events, especially during the winter months, offering even more opportunities to witness world-class athleticism.

Utah's Olympic legacy provides unique family experiences as well. At the [Utah Olympic Park in Park City](#), families can watch athletes training, try a bobsled ride, or experience the thrill of a zipline. The [Olympic Oval in Kearns](#) offers public skating sessions on the "Fastest Ice on Earth" where Olympic records were set during the 2002 Winter Games.

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Family-Friendly Attractions

Utah is a paradise for families, with attractions designed to engage visitors of all ages while providing educational experiences alongside entertainment. From theme parks to interactive museums, these destinations create lasting memories for the whole family.



Water Parks & Pools

- [Lagoon-A-Beach](#) - Water park section of Lagoon amusement park
- [Cherry Hill](#) - 20-acre water park built on a former fruit farm
- [Crystal Hot Springs](#) - Natural mineral hot springs with therapeutic benefits
- [Splash Summit Water Park](#) - A large water park with slides and attractions



Amusement Parks

- [Lagoon](#) - Utah's largest amusement park with nine roller coasters
- [Evermore Park](#) - Immersive fantasy experience with interactive characters
- [FastKart Indoor Speedway](#) - Go-kart racing up to 40mph



Animal Encounters

- [Hogle Zoo](#) - Home to hundreds of animals on 42 acres
- [Tracy Aviary](#) - Bird shows and conservation education
- [The Living Planet Aquarium](#) - World-class aquatic exhibits
- [Farm Country at Thanksgiving Point](#) - Hands-on farm animal experiences

Dinosaur Discoveries



Utah is a dinosaur lover's paradise, with world-class attractions like the [Dinosaur Park](#), [Dinosaur National Monument](#), and the [Utah Field House](#). These offer life-size sculptures, fossil exhibits, and hands-on dig experiences!

Interactive Museums

Children's museums throughout Utah provide engaging, educational experiences through hands-on exhibits. The [Discovery Gateway in Salt Lake City](#) encourages creative play and learning with interactive installations. [Ogden's Treehouse Museum](#) invites children to "Step Into a Story" through immersive exhibits. The [Museum of Natural Curiosity at Thanksgiving Point](#) features over 400 interactive experiences across five exhibit areas. These museums specialize in making learning fun through participatory activities.