

LIFE
UTAH
ELEVATED



HISTORY & HOODOOS

5 DAYS

595 MILES

A no-nonsense, whirlwind tour of Utah's five national parks in five days.



The legend is true: five national parks on one road trip. History and Hoodoos is all about hitting the best of the best quickly and efficiently. Log the best adventures across five national parks, take pictures of your accomplishments, post them, proceed.

Day 1 160 Miles

LAS VEGAS TO ZION NATIONAL PARK



To reach Zion, you'll follow the Zion Park Scenic Byway state Route 9 through the towns of Hurricane, LaVerkin, Virgin, Rockdale and Springdale. Zion translates to "The Promised Land," and that means for you some of the most spectacular hiking of your lifetime and impossible landscapes you will never forget. Carved by water and time beyond the stretch of the imagination, Zion National Park is a canyon that invites you to participate in the very forces that created it. Start with Emerald Pools (easy to moderate 3+ miles), iconic Angels Landing (strenuous 5.4 miles) and Riverside Walk (easy 2.2 miles). Time permitting, hike deeper into [The Narrows](#) of Zion National

Park or hire a guide to experience the park's legendary canyoneering. The campgrounds are popular so make reservations as early as possible, try for a spot at the first-come, first-served South Campground or book a room in nearby [Springdale](#).

Day 2 90 Miles

ZION TO BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

We call it Hoodoo Country. It sounds like "voodoo" for reasons you'll have to see to believe. It all translates into a newfound respect for Mother Nature. Bryce Canyon's view from 9,000 feet (2,743 meters) is unlike any else in the world. Bryce Canyon National Park is a series of natural amphitheaters sunk into pink cliffs and filled with delicate red rock "hoodoos." The most brilliant hues of the park come alive with the rising and setting of the sun. Summertime offers a myriad of walking/hiking trails including the must-hike Queens Garden/ Navajo Loop (3.1 miles) and a 37-mile scenic drive overlooking incredible vistas. For closest access to the park's incredible dark skies and the longest active astronomy program in the National park Service, reserve a campsite or stay at [Bryce Canyon Lodge](#), a National Historic Landmark, typically open April through November. Look for additional lodging in nearby [Bryce Canyon City](#).



Day 3 115 Miles

BRYCE CANYON TO CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

Capitol Reef National Park splashes color for 100 miles from its northern to southern boundaries. The central geologic feature, the Waterpocket Fold, is a bulging uplift of rainbow-hued sandstone "reefs" and canyons. Though Capitol Reef has some stunning backcountry, this quick trip stays closer the main roads. Explore rock art petroglyphs in the midst of Capitol Reef's red rocks and tell the story of the early indigenous people, the Fremont culture. Visit the large orchards of Fruita, an early pioneer settlement, and now headquarters for the



park, where a variety of fruit may be picked in season. See the old Fruita Schoolhouse and enjoy a fresh-baked pie at Historic Gifford Homestead or tackle the short hikes to Hickman Bridge or Cohab Canyon. You could camp in the park or overnight in [Torrey](#) if you've lingered longer than expected in the park, otherwise continue on to [Moab](#).

Day 4 140 Miles

CAPITOL REEF TO ARCHES NATIONAL PARK



Adventure in Arches National Park picks up where 300 million years of patient erosion has resulted in unbelievably dramatic landscapes that look more sculpted by giant mythological beings than the processes of time. Arches National Park contains about 2,000 windowed arches, towering spires, harrowing hoodoos, and precarious pinnacles on display. A paved 36-mile scenic drive from the park entrance provides numerous parking areas for trail access and scenic overlooks. The 3-mile, round-trip hike to Delicate Arch is beautiful, with the end reward of viewing Utah's famous landmark. Or hike some of the easy short trails in the park, such as the Park Avenue Trail and trails in the Windows

Section of the park, or some of the longer trails in the park, such as Double O Arch, Tower Arch, and Landscape Arch. For bigger adventure, reserve a tour through the twisting labyrinth of the intricate Fiery Furnace. Book early to camp in the park or overnight in [Moab](#).

Day 5 90 Miles

ARCHES TO CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Imagine wave after wave of deep canyons, formed by the currents and tributaries of Utah's Green and Colorado rivers, divided with towering mesas, pinnacles, cliffs and spires, and spread out over tens of thousands of acres of some of the world's most breathtaking red rock country. This itinerary focuses on the Island in the Sky, which offers the most accessible hiking options and is the closest of the park's three land districts to Moab. Mesa Arch is a relatively easy 30-minute jaunt that leads to an arch perched right on the edge of towering sandstone cliffs and is especially beautiful at sunrise. The Grand View Point



Trail is a mild two-mile round trip hike to the southernmost edge of the "Island" with expansive views of the complex canyon system. For views that rival the Grand Canyon and excellent mountain bike trails, stop at Dead Horse Point State Park.

NORTH OF THE 41ST PARALLEL: THE TOP OF UTAH

Total Driving: 300 miles, about 7 hours | Driving per day: 1/2 to 3 hours

Drive north of the 41st parallel, and enter a lush landscape that celebrates the northern latitude's four seasons with startling diversity. In the spring, welcome the return of migratory birds from the south, typically adorned in their best and brightest breeding apparel, and see a land coming awake as the winter thaws away. Commemorate the long, warm days of summer as they drift into the crisp air of fall with a road trip based around the ancient and timeless seasonal milestones.

Witness the fall harvest and the southward flight of hundreds of thousands of graceful migratory birds across the Great Salt Lake. Fresh-picked berries on Utah's Famous Fruit Way flavor your own pilgrimage north across the mountain byway of Logan Canyon where the leaves are changing; emerge on the other side at the turquoise waters of Bear Lake, where



summer lingers and your perfect outdoor adventure awaits.

The Great Migration (North of the 41st Parallel) refreshes the senses, bringing sanity back into life thanks to a more profound connection with the earth's natural cycles and places.*

At a Glance

DAY 1 – FRUIT WAY

Start: [Meal in Salt Lake City](#)
See: [Historic Highway 89](#)
Explore: [Ogden](#) or [Brigham City](#)-area trails
Options: [Willard Bay State Park](#); [Explore Salt Lake](#)
Scenic Routes: [Fruit Way](#)
Roads: I-15 and Highway 89
Miles: 65
Night: [Salt Lake](#), [Ogden](#), or [Brigham City](#)

DAY 2 – MIGRATION AND FRONTIERS

Start: [Birdwatching](#) and interpretive hikes
See: The cycle of the season
Explore: [Logan Canyon trails](#),
Dining in [Logan](#)
Option: [Golden Spike National Historic Site](#), [American West Heritage Center](#)
Scenic Route: [Logan Canyon Scenic Byway](#)
Roads: Bird Refuge Road, Highway 89
Miles: 80–120
Night: [Logan](#)



DAY 3 – BEAR LAKE BLISS

Start: Endless water sports and fruit shakes
See: [Brilliant blue waters](#) and the Bear Lake Monster
Explore: National forest [by horseback or ATV](#)
Option: [Bear Lake State Park](#), Minnetonka Cave
Scenic Route: Bear Lake–Laketown
Roads: S.R. 30
Miles: 10
Night: [Garden City](#)

DAY 4 – CLOSE THE LOOP

Start: Quick dip before the morning drive
See: Rural towns and changing leaves
Explore: [Snowbasin](#) by mountain bike
Options: [Pineview Reservoir](#), [Salomon Center](#) in Ogden
Scenic Route: Ogden River
Roads: S.R. 30, 16, 39 and I-15
Miles: 150
Night: Home

POWDER DREAMS ITINERARY

A three-day powder dream ski vacation with quick access to three distinct ski areas and a choice of seven resorts — all known for their seemingly endless stashes of deep powder. In “Ski City” and Ogden, you can ski or ride all day then relax slopeside for the night, or make the short trip back to the city for a night on the town.

Salt Lake City isn't your regular ski town. It's the only Ski City. With big city, world-class amenities galore and 10 different resorts within an hour of Salt Lake City International Airport, Salt Lake City, Utah ski trips can satiate any skier's or snowboarder's lust for powder. And not just any powder. Utah's own brand of powder, the fluffy stuff with perfect floatation we call The Greatest Snow on Earth®.

Best of all, living your powder dreams can be budget-friendly, or can tap a metropolitan lifestyle and high culture. This three-day itinerary visits your choice of Ski City's four resorts, plus makes the short drive north for a bonus day on one of Ogden's resorts. Once you get a taste for Utah ski trips — and once you realize how close it all is — you may never want to ski anywhere else.

Day 1: Salt Lake City to Big Cottonwood Canyon



Stay in: *Salt Lake City or slopeside at Brighton or Solitude.*

The Drive: *It's less than 10 minutes from SLC International to downtown, and roughly 30–40 minutes to the top of the canyon. Add a few minutes for canyon ski traffic on the weekend.*

The Resorts: *Brighton Resort and Solitude Mountain Resort*

Choose from 150 hotels for a base camp in [Salt Lake City](#), which offer the best access to the city's culture, nightlife and 1,000+ restaurants (taste some of the best in [The Perfect Meal](#)), while lodging at the resort offers cozy mountain accommodations at great rates and the shortest path to first chair if you're less of a morning person and want the extra 30 minutes of sleep.

Ski City's Big Cottonwood Canyon resorts — Solitude and Brighton — are the closest to Salt Lake City — each only a little more than 30 minutes from downtown. Big Cottonwood Canyon resorts each see an average of over 500 inches of The Greatest Snow on Earth per year.

The amenities, accessibility and affordability make Brighton and Solitude a great deal – it’s no stretch to say they’re some of the best family ski resorts on Earth.

While you and your family can enjoy one incredible day at either resort, they also offer the combined Sol-Bright Pass, which enables skiers to access your choice of 15 lifts and over the resorts’ combined 2250 skiable acres and 130 named runs. The Sol-Bright access trail is from the Milly lift in Brighton, though less-experienced skiers may opt for the short bus trip.

[Brighton](#) has one of Utah’s longest ski school traditions, multiple terrain parks for riders and excellent night skiing. Milly Bowl is a powdery playground that can keep you interested all day.

Deer Valley’s recent acquisition of [Solitude](#) is ushering in an era of legendary customer service and incredible dining experiences in the resort’s European-style village and base (complete with Nordic center and ice skating) and mid-mountain. Don’t miss Honeycomb Canyon.

The City: Visitors to downtown may ride TRAX light rail and buses for free in the [Free Fare Zone](#), including between the family friendly [ice skating of Gallivan Plaza](#), the holiday-season lights of Temple Square, City Creek retail shopping, and the Vivint Smart Home Arena where the Utah Jazz play, and near the children’s museum, [Discovery Gateway](#).

With a family and extra time to explore, consider spending a day indoors at one of many [museums](#), including the [Natural History Museum of Utah](#), where you can explore everything from dinosaurs to gems to ancient history and the wonders of the sky.

Day 2: Salt Lake to Little Cottonwood Canyon



Stay in: Salt Lake City or slopeside at Alta or Snowbird.

The Drive: Return to Salt Lake base camp after skiing Big Cottonwood Canyon or head straight to a lodge or hotel up Little Cottonwood. It’s about 35 minutes back downtown, or 45 minutes to the top of the neighboring canyon. Add a few minutes for canyon ski traffic on the weekend.

The Resorts: Alta Ski Area and Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort

Big Cottonwood Canyon's not-so-little sibling to the south, Little Cottonwood Canyon, also offers quick metro-to-mountain access and the same option to pick a single resort, or purchase a combined pass. Both offer extensive lodging options and amenities, ranging from inexpensive dorm-style rooms at Alta and rustic bars to the fine dining and renowned rooftop spa of Snowbird's Cliff Lodge. You'll also find plenty of gear rental outfitters if you don't have your own equipment.

The AltaSnowbird Pass enables skiers to access both resorts' terrain via a connection gate at the saddle separating Alta's Albion Basin and Snowbird's Mineral Basin. The result is a combined 4,700 acres and some 283 runs. Though there's a good balance among beginner, intermediate and advanced terrain (with the edge going to intermediate and advanced), both resorts offer some of Utah's best steep and deep.

Alta Ski Area is a skier's paradise (no snowboards allowed) that receives 550 inches of the fluffy white stuff per year on average and features a vertical drop of more than 2,000 feet and some of Utah's most storied ski runs, like the infamous High Rustler.

While there's great terrain for beginners at **Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort**, expert skiers and riders can carve first tracks in wide-open bowls, fly down steep chutes, and make their way through the mountain itself on North America's only ski tunnel. Be sure to hit the 1,200 vertical feet and 40-degree pitch of North Baldy. New for 2016 is the 23,000-square-foot Summit Lodge on Snowbird's Hidden Peak, which offers a local-inspired menu with an 11,000-foot view.

The City: When the sun goes down and the ski slopes empty out, head downtown and soak up the metropolitan culture and nightlife of this world-class city. Some of the best bars and restaurants are conveniently clustered downtown. Arts lovers will enjoy catching a performance at the **Utah Symphony** or **Utah Opera**. The **Mormon Tabernacle Choir** also dishes up world-class performances on Temple Square while dance aficionados can enjoy ballerinas performing at **Ballet West** or take in a contemporary dance performance.

Day 3: Salt Lake to Ogden



The Drive: On I-15 northbound, it's less than an hour to the Ogden Valley. It's about 30 minutes back to downtown Ogden.

The Resorts: Snowbasin, Powder Mountain, Nordic Valley

The Ogden Valley is currently home to some 10,500 of skiable acres with nearly 300 named runs — a number that's growing as one resort, Nordic Valley, expands. Spend a day on the slopes of one of three resorts, then grab an early meal in Ogden Valley or extend your night on the historic, lively and artsy 25th Street area of downtown Ogden.

During the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, [Snowbasin](#) was the site for men and women's downhill, super G and combined races. You'll see why this epic resort was selected for three competitions with its 3,000 skiable acres, 3,000 vertical feet and luxurious day lodges. The view into the Ogden Valley from the Gondola is alone worth the ride up the mountain.

The largest of the three Ogden ski resorts, [Powder Mountain](#), offers prime powder stashes on this sprawling mountainscape with 7,000 acres of skiable terrain. Skiers relish in both the groomed slopes and the sidecountry and backcountry acres like the incredible Shug'r Bowl. Steep, untouched and unbelievable, Shug'r Bowl is pure mountain bliss. Accessible only by snowcat, it's like a VIP room for powder hounds and exactly what you would expect from a resort with powder in its name.

Work is underway to grow this boutique resort to 2,000 acres from its current 500. For now, you'll enjoy the intimate slopes of [Nordic Valley](#) that still showcase great variety, excellent night skiing, and a terrain park with more than 20 features.

The City: The Ogden ski resorts aren't the only attractions in town. Be sure to check out historic downtown Ogden during your time in the valley. The downtown district offers prime dining, entertainment, and nightlife. Select from more than a dozen independent art galleries and museums, including [Ogden's Union Station](#) which includes four museums, two galleries, and the town's historic train station. Foodies should make a note to visit [Hearth on 25th](#) and [Pig & A Jelly Jar](#), a Salt Lake favorite that recently opened up shop in Ogden.

