



Utah

The 'Beehive' State is the US's 13th largest and probably most famous for being the base for the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) and where people who want to break land speed records head to...The Bonneville Salt Flats.



Delicate Arch, Arches Canyon



Antelope Island

This resting period reduces animal stress, allows them to settle down, and makes them more cooperative during the handling phase.

The Working: The bison are sorted through a series of pens and chutes, and eventually filed into the final squeeze chute. One by one, bison are weighed and vaccinated for parasites, clostridium, infectious bovine rhino tracheitis and bovine vibriosis. Blood samples are collected, and each animal receives a small external computer chip to track their health history.

Females are checked for pregnancy and calves are given vaccinations for brucellosis. Excess bison (generally around 200 each year) are sold at a public auction to keep the herd within the capacity of the island.

www.stateparks.utah.gov/parks/antelope-island

2 Hike amongst the spring rock 'hoodoos' of Bryce Canyon National Park on the Navajo Loop trail:

Nowhere else in the world can you find rock pinnacles with fantastic shapes like the ones found in Bryce Canyon National Park. Located in the High Plateaus region of the Colorado Plateau in Utah, Bryce Canyon's elevation, erosion, climate and rock type are all elements that, when combined, form fantastical shapes called Hoodoos. (Hoodoo - a pillar of rock, usually of fantastic shape, left by erosion)

But there is much more to this state than meets the eye. In June our intrepid Editor-at-Large, Shane Boocock, will spend a couple of weeks in an RV travelling all over Utah. In the meantime here are six things to do in Utah to whet your appetite until he reports back.

1 See over 550 free-roaming bison in Antelope Island State Park:

Hike, mountain bike or horseback ride the park's backcountry trails for spectacular views of lake and island scenery; spend a star-filled night in one of several primitive campsites; stroll along sandy beaches and take a dip in the lake's salty waters or step back in time with a visit to the Historic Fielding Garr Ranch.

Antelope Island is home to free-ranging bison, mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn (antelope) and many other desert animals. Millions of birds congregate along the shores surrounding the island, offering unparalleled opportunities for bird watching. Year round Interpretive opportunities round out the Antelope Island experience.

The Annual Bison Roundup takes place each autumn. Visitors are welcome to watch this exciting event. The Roundup consists of two separate events: The Push and The Working.

The Push: Horse riders move the bison from throughout the island and drive them northward to the holding corrals. Once in the corrals, they rest for five days.



Antelope Island



Hiking the Navajo Loop trail, Bryce Canyon



Dan Campbell

Visitors at Bryce Canyon National Park come to see the unique shapes formed in the Claron Formation. Bulging spires and narrow rock fins fan out from the edge of the plateau.

The chaotic destructive force of water, not wind, is responsible for the fantastic shapes in Bryce Canyon. Bryce Canyon Hoodoos formed over thousands of years by the same processes that form the features of surrounding parks.

Water, ice and gravity are the forces at work in Bryce Canyon National Park. These three forces coupled with the differential erosion of the Claron Formation produced a different morphology than that of any other area in the world.

10-15 million years ago the Paunsaugunt Plateau was caught and lifted by the Colorado Plateau. Breaks, called joints, formed in the plateau during the uplift. Joints allowed water to flow into the rock and, as water flowed through, erosion widened them into rivulets and gullies. Over time, deep slot canyons formed in the sides of the plateau.

www.brycecanyoncountry.com

3 With over 7,300 skiable acres, ski the largest ski resort in the United States at Park City Mountain Resort:

Nestled high in the Wasatch Mountains, the historic mining town of Park City, Utah is unlike any other ski town in the world. It's home to two world class ski resorts, four-season recreation, sophisticated dining and year-round events... all just 52km from Salt Lake City International Airport.

Park City Mountain Resort is the only resort with lift access directly to the town's historic Main Street. You can ski or ride down the Quit 'N Time or Creole runs to the multitude of shops, restaurants, bars and galleries that give Park City its authentic mining town look and feel, and with ski in/out access to the resort you can access the largest ski resort in North America directly from Main Street Park City!

Park City was incorporated as a city in 1884. The mountains' abundant silver veins attracted adventurers from around the world in the late 1860s.



The Windows, Arches National Park

top of many visitors' to-do lists. In a park with over 2,000 stone arches, this particular free-standing arch has become a widely recognised symbol of the state of Utah and one of the most famous geological features in the world.

The light opening beneath the arch is 64 feet high and 45 feet wide, making it the largest free-standing arch in the park. It has had more than a few names in its history, from the colourful "Cowboy's Chaps" and "Old Maid's Bloomers" to the prosaic "Salt Wash Arch". The term "Delicate" first appeared in a January 1934 article about the Arches National Monument Scientific Expedition, which described it as "the most delicately chiseled arch in the entire area".

www.nps.gov/arch

During its mining height, the mountains surrounding Park City yielded US\$400 million in silver and created 23 millionaires, including the father of newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst.

However, with falling mineral prices in the 1930s, the boom years ended and residents began "mining" the treasure on the mountains, discovering what would later be termed The Greatest Snow on Earth.

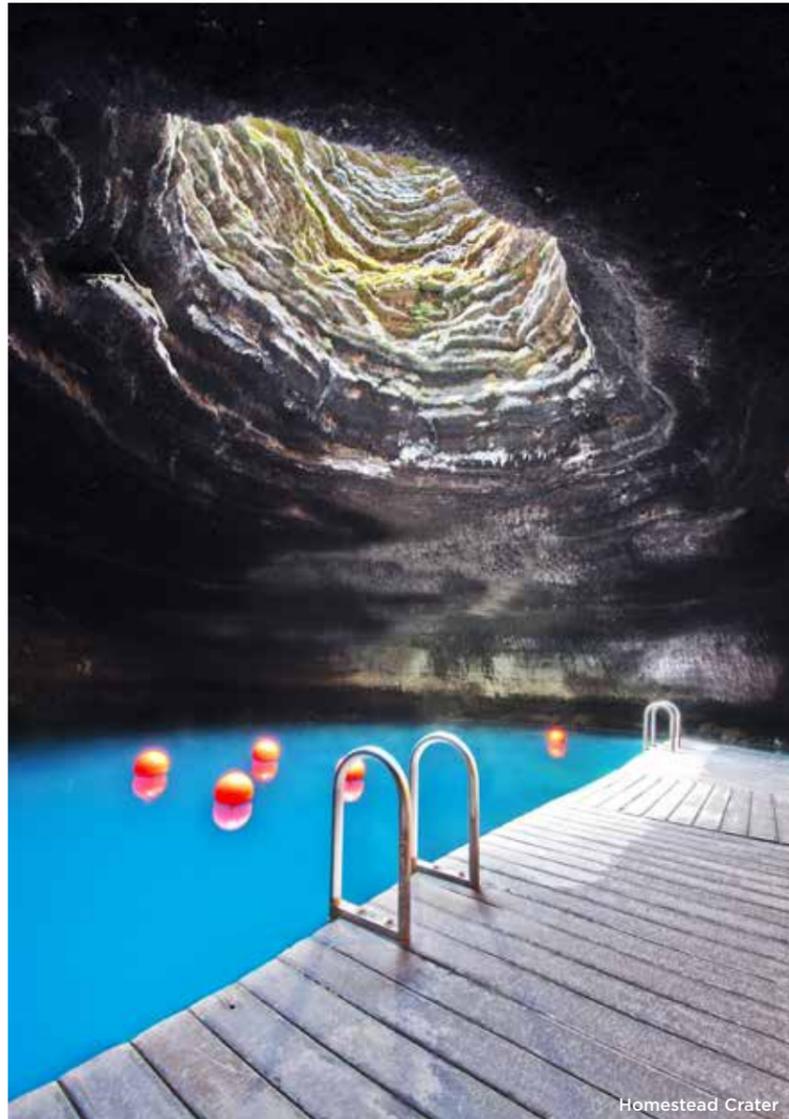
Today, Park City is a unique blend of the old and new. 64 of Park City's buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, many of which are located along the town's Main Street, and more than 1,200 miles of tunnels wind through the surrounding mountains, remnants of the mining era.

www.parkcitymountain.com

4 Watch the sunrise over the iconic Delicate Arch in Arches National Park:

Visit Arches and discover a landscape of contrasting colours, landforms and textures unlike any other in the world. The park has over 2,000 natural stone arches, in addition to hundreds of soaring pinnacles, massive fins and giant balanced rocks. This red rock wonderland will amaze you with its formations, refresh you with its trails, and inspire you with its sunsets.

People come from all over the world to visit Arches National Park, and visiting Delicate Arch is on the



Homestead Crater

5 Scuba dive in the Homestead Crater, a geothermal spring hidden within a 55-foot tall, beehive-shaped limestone rock in Midway:

One of the unique activities at Midway Utah Resort is the one-of-a-kind Homestead Crater. The Crater is a geothermal spring, hidden within a 55-foot tall, beehive-shaped limestone rock located on the Homestead property.

Over 10,000 years in the making, The Crater formed when melting snow on the Wasatch Mountains seeped deep within the earth. Two miles below the surface, the earth's interior heated the water. As it percolated upward, it picked up minerals, which were then deposited on the surface — eventually forming the volcano-shaped limestone deposit called The Homestead Crater.

The hole at the top of the dome lets in sunlight and fresh air while the interior stays heated by the mineral water at a constant range of 32 - 36 degrees Celcius. You do not have to get wet to have a one-of-a-kind experience inside The Crater. Many guests just enjoy the self-guided Crater tour, the history, geology and archaeology of this unique natural phenomenon.

And there's no need to worry —

you don't have to rappel through the top of the dome to enjoy all the fun. A tunnel, through the rock wall at ground level, gives access to the custom-built decks and a soaking area where guests can enjoy the crystal-clear mineral water. Once inside, you can go swimming, scuba diving, snorkelling, enjoy a therapeutic soak or even take a paddle-board yoga class.

The crater is the ONLY warm scuba diving destination in the continental US.

www.homesteadresort.com

6 - See a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, a Grammy and Emmy Award-winning, 360-member, all-volunteer choir, in downtown Salt Lake:

For more than a century, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir has given voice to the hopes, joys, trials and triumphs of people around the world.

This 360-member chorus of men and women, all volunteers, has performed at World Fairs and expositions, at inaugurations of U.S. presidents, in acclaimed concert halls from Australia and Europe to Asia and the Middle East, on television broadcasts, and now

on YouTube and Facebook. The choir has even been referred to as "America's Choir," as a result of their high standard of popular choral music.

With their incomparable voices and their shared faith in God, they are a significant presence in the world of music, giving service through song. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is dedicated to the universal language of music that has the power to bring joy, peace, and healing to its listeners. This unique music organisation transcends cultural and generational boundaries and brings together people from around the world through stirring music.

Over the years, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir has performed with many notable guest artists and conductors, with such diverse personalities as singer Gladys Knight (2005), actor Peter Graves (2004) and The Muppets from Sesame Street (2014).

The choir's weekly broadcast of Music & The Spoken Word is THE longest-running program in radio history, having started back on the 15th July 1929. 📺

www.mormontabernaclechoir.org

www.utah.com

