

s t a t e f a c t s



Photographs by Larry Hansen

State Capitol: Salt Lake City
Population: 2,700,000 (2006)
Statehood Day: January 4, 1896 (45th State)
State Animal: Rocky Mountain Elk
State Bird: California Seagull (Saved settlers by eating crickets destroying their crops in 1848)
State Cooking Pot: Dutch Oven (the World Championship Dutch Oven Cookoff is held in Logan, Utah)
State Emblem: Beehive (symbolizes industry and the pioneer virtues of thrift and perseverance)
State Fish: Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
State Flower: Sego Lily (symbolizes peace on the Utah Flag)
State Folk Dance: Square Dance
State Fossil: Allosaurus
State Fruit: Cherry (Japanese sent trees to Utah after WWII)

State Gem : Topaz
State Grass: Indian Rice Grass (Native Americans used as wheat)
State Insect: Honey Bee
State Mineral: Copper (Kennecott's Bingham Canyon mine in Utah is the world's largest open-pit copper mine)
State Motto: "Industry" (The word "industry" appears on both the State Seal and Flag)
State Rock: Coal
State Song: "Utah, This Is The Place"
State Hymn: "Utah We Love Thee"
State Star: Dubhe (upper right corner of the big dipper)
State Tree: Blue Spruce
State Vegetable: Sugar Beet (state historic vegetable) & Spanish Sweet Onion

Information taken from www.utah.gov

Did you know?

The name "Utah" comes from the Native American "Ute" tribe and means people of the mountains.

Beaver, Utah is the birthplace of two very famous individuals: Philo Farnsworth, the inventor of the television, and Butch Cassidy, the notorious western outlaw.

Utah is 84,900 square miles. It is the 11th largest state in the United States by size and the 34th largest state by population.

The people of Salt Lake City consume more Jell-O per capita than any other city in the United States.

Because of its inland location, Utah's snow is unusually dry—earning it the reputation of having the "best snow on earth." There are 13 alpine ski resorts operating in Utah.

Utah has the highest literary rate in the nation

The world's first transcontinental railroad was completed at Promontory where the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads met on May 10, 1869. The location is now known as Golden Spike National Historic Site.

The federal government owns 65% of Utah's land, including five national parks, seven national monuments, two national recreation areas, and six national forests.

The Heber Valley Railroad's steam engine and ten passenger railroad cars have been filmed in over 31 motion pictures in the past 20 years.

Utah peaks, on average, are the tallest in the country. The average elevation of the tallest peaks in each of Utah's counties is 11,222 ft.-higher than the same average in any other state.

Utah has 11,000 miles of fishing streams and 147,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs.

Taken from www.thingstodo.com, and www.50states.com

What to expect

Geography: With some of the finest landscapes in the west, Utah's defining characteristic is its variety of terrain. Including everything from mountains and snow skiing to desert and rock-climbing, Utah has a diverse selection of breathtaking scenery. Experience Alpine peaks in the Northeast, the vast desert of the great basin, and the stunning red rock canyons, buttes, and mesas of the Southern regions—not to mention miles of pristine lakes and rivers throughout the state.

Weather: Utah's weather is as diverse as its geography. The Northern mountain ranges may receive up to 500 inches of snow in the winter, while the southern canyons can reach over 100 degrees in the summer. Utah has four distinct seasons, but be sure to plan for the unpredictable extremes. It is wise to layer your clothing and carry a water bottle.

Culture: In the heart of the American West, Utah derives its heritage from American Indians, Mormon Pioneers, and explorers who settled in Utah to enjoy the abundant natural resources and unique beauty. Today, Utah's culture is rich in diversity, blending the old with the new, using values and hard work of the past to carry out cutting-edge ideas and accomplishments.

Smoking Laws: Utah's Indoor Clean Air Act protects the public in both private and public areas of congregation. However, most lodging facilities do have smoking rooms and smoking is allowed in a number of private clubs, taverns, and other facilities where the general public is excluded.

Liquor Laws: Travelers can enjoy a variety of drinks in private clubs, most of which offer temporary "visitor" memberships for a nominal fee. Travelers can also purchase packaged liquors, beer, and wine at State Liquor Stores, or "3.2 beer" (percentage of alcohol by weight) at grocery and convenience stores. To learn more, visit: http://www.utah.com/visitor/state_facts/liquor_laws.htm