



Central Utah

Communities nestled in the pristine valleys of the Manti-La Sal Mountain range are full of flavor, excitement and history. The influence of Scandinavian pioneers sent by Brigham Young to settle this area can be seen in the artwork, traditions and lifestyle of the people today. Many Pioneer customs are reflected in old buildings, schools and local bed and breakfasts. During Ephraim's Scandinavian Heritage Festival, held over Memorial Day weekend, visitors can enjoy story telling, historical tours, entertainment and buy hand-made quilts, saddles, pottery, pine furniture and more. Guests can also taste a variety of traditional Scandinavian foods like Norwegian rice and salmon in dill cream sauce and desserts like the apple pastry *Veiled Maiden*. Manti, a town of just 5,500 people, enjoys 20,000 visitors during the "Mormon Miracle Pageant" in June. This free event begins at dusk. For a great rodeo adventure, catch the Ute Stampede Rodeo in Nephi in July. This traditional celebration features parades, carnival rides, golf tournaments, rodeo events and car shows. Take a drive along Skyline Drive, or fish the mountain lakes. The wilderness area is host to an abundance of spectacular scenery and recreational activities including camping, hiking, biking, ATV-ing and horseback riding.



Manti Temple, Larry Hansen

COVE FORT

Cove Fort was built in 1867 to offer protection and refreshment to travelers. Made out of volcanic rock and limestone quarried nearby it has been restored to its original glory including authentic period furnishings and artifacts. Cove Fort is located near the junction of I-15 and I-70. Visit www.covefort.com for more information.

FILLMORE

For a time Fillmore was the territorial capital of Utah. Now it is considered the "last frontier" for growth in the state. The original Statehouse building stands today as the oldest existing governmental building in Utah and is maintained as a historic site and museum. Take



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advantage of the campground facilities, trout stream fishing and world-famous ATV trails in this city nestled at the foot of the Manti-La Sal mountain range.

LITTLE SAHARA

This area has become one of Utah's greatest sandy playgrounds. More than 60,000 acres of natural sand has given dune buggy, sand rail, ATV and dirt bike enthusiasts something to talk about. Established campgrounds are available with water and picnic tables. The dunes are located west of Nephi on SR 132. Visit www.utah.com/playgrounds/little_sahara.htm or call (435) 433-5960 for information.

MANTI TEMPLE

Perched atop a rising knoll known as Temple Hill the Manti Temple dominates the Sanpete Valley. Located just off Hwy 89 travelers can glimpse the distinctive towers from miles away. Thousands visit the temple each summer to watch the Mormon Miracle Pageant. For information visit www.ldschurchtemples.com/manti/.

MT. NEBO LOOP SCENIC BYWAY

Experience the spectacular scenery and breathtaking views of the Wasatch Range and Mt. Nebo, Utah's tallest mountain at 11,929ft, on this scenic byway. Take time and explore the flat bottomlands, high alpine conifers, red rock formations, gray sandstone cliffs and salt flats. The Devil's Kitchen, Walker Flat and Mt. Nebo Wilderness areas are sights that should not be missed. Visit www.utah.com/byways/nebo_loop.htm or call (801) 851 2100 for driving directions.

SKYLINE DRIVE

This is the crown jewel of the MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST and is described as the "Highway To Heaven." Every year visitors from around the world drive along the spine of the Wasatch Plateau and enjoy breathtaking views of mile-deep canyons, lake-filled basins, the Sanpete Valley and alpine meadows and forests. During the winter, the Skyline Drive Snowkiting Complex is open to snowkiting and kiteboarding. The complex is located in Fairview Canyon along Hwy 31. Visit www.sanpetecounty.com for more information.

THE PAIUTE ATV TRAIL

The Paiute ATV trail provides enjoyable recreational riding through fantastic scenery. Connecting old roads and trails that cross FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST with BLM-administered land formed the trail system. The number 1 trail is 238 miles long, with over 800 miles of marked side trails and an estimated 1900+ miles of additional side forest roads and trails that are open to ATVs and other recreational vehicles. The Paiute ATV Trail System the largest in the country. Visit www.atvutah.com/southern/paiute.htm for information.

THISTLE JUNCTION

In the spring of 1983, Thistle Junction was declared a disaster area. The previous winter was unusually wet, snow and cold temperatures continued late into May, resulting in late snowmelt when temperatures warmed up. Experts were informed of the potential dangers of landslides, but no one expected what is now history. Within three days railroad tracks were out of alignment and the highway became impassable. Streambed deposits on the canyon floor rose approximately a foot an hour as the Spanish Fork River was dammed by a huge tongue of earth piled against the bedrock of Billie Mountain. Today, Thistle Lake and the natural dam can be seen from an overlook on Highway 6.

Fillmore Territorial State Capitol, Larry Hansen



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Kayaking the Sevier River, Larry Hansen

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Did You Know?

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

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Did You Know?

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

RESTAURANTS

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Courtesy of Artisan Grille, Ogden

