

Squeeze The Hive Fun Badge Tour Script

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Notes for readers:

*When we write about a building, **please don't wait to see it before you start reading that section.** Better to describe something early and then say "Look, there it is," than to describe things already gone.*

Also, by the time we get there you may need to be talking about something else...kind of like a caller "stacking calls" to gain enough breathing room for the song lyrics.

*Finally...**smile while you're reading.** We really mean it. People will hear the difference in your voice and will be more interested in what you're saying.*

Dance Time:

To make it to all five sites and return to the hotel on time, with the exception of our meal stop, we need to keep each stop to 20 minutes.

Our Route Today:

(Please do not read this out loud to your passengers; it would spoil the surprises!)

2:30 PM ... Hotel to Site 1: SLC Library

- Exit the Grand America Hotel grounds by turning left from the bus parking lot onto 600 S.
- Left at signal onto 300 E.
- Buses park along curb

3:10 PM ... Site 1 to Site 2: This Is The Place Park

- Right at signal onto 400 S.
- Right at signal onto 700 E.
- Left at signal onto 800 S.
- Continue on 800 S, which becomes E Sunnyside Ave.
- Continue forward past the Guardsman Way and Foothill Drive signals.
- Left at This Is the Place park grounds.

3:56 PM ... Site 2 to Site 3: Rice-Eccles Stadium (Olympic Torch Park)

- Right at Stop onto E Sunnyside Ave.
- Right at signal onto Foothill Dr.
- Right to enter Rice-Eccles Stadium parking lot.

4:36 PM ... Site 3 to Site 4: Utah State Capitol Building

- Right at Stop onto 500 S.
- Right at signal onto 1300 E.
- Left as signal onto South Temple St.
- Right at signal onto State St. (Beehive on the left as we turn.)

5:31 PM ... Site 4 to Site 5: Grand Hall at the Gateway Mall

- Bear right to stay on 300 N.
- Continue straight at N State St to stay on E300 N.
- Left at signal onto Main St.
- Right at signal onto North Temple St.
- Left at signal onto N 400 W

6:11 PM ... Site 5 to Grand America Hotel

- Left at signal onto 600 S.
- Left into Grand America Hotel parking lot.

2:30 PM: Leg 1, “Introductions.” *Drive time 8 minutes*

(Reading time: 7-8 minutes)

[Start reading this as soon as everyone’s aboard...don’t wait for the bus to start moving.]

Good afternoon! Welcome aboard, Aspiring Utah Pioneers!

My name is _____, and this is my buddy _____. We’re your Utah Pioneer Guides to the frontier today!

For the next few hours sit back, relax, and enjoy a special tour as we show you the astonishing wonders of Salt Lake City. You’ll be able to spread the word at Squeeze The Hive on all the sights to see...or avoid. Or perhaps which Fun Badge Tour hosts and hostesses to avoid. Or both.

We’ll be making four stops on our Pioneer Trail today, one of which will include a light meal.

But first ... some ground rules.

1. Each bus is carrying bottled water. Please let one of us know if you’d like some. Although we don’t anticipate trekking across any long and dusty deserts on this trip, we do advise that you keep yourself well-hydrated at all times.
2. In the event of personal over-hydration ... each of our buses is equipped with a *<make air quotes with your fingers>* “comfort facility” *<point to back of bus>*. These will NOT be the only comfort facilities on our tour today...but it’s nice to know that we have ’em if you need ’em.
3. We’ll be dancing outside. If you haven’t yet applied sunscreen, please take a moment and apply it NOW. If you have a neighbor, you can assist each other with applying sunscreen. There is no additional charge for this optional activity, but you both must remain fully clothed for the duration.
4. If sunlight can glare off the top of your head, we suggest you wear a hat to avoid blinding your fellow passengers...and to protect your scalp from sunburn.
5. At each stop, please be sure to get back on THIS bus. You can switch to any empty seat on this bus that you want to. However, we ask that you please NOT switch buses.
6. Our bus is **named _____**. Say it loud and say it proud. What’s our bus name?
7. Our courageous frontier driver today is *<give name of driver>*. We think He/She’s VERY brave for being willing to ferry us through the deepest and darkest reaches of Salt Lake City! Give _____ a hand!

So, welcome aboard and welcome to Salt Lake City, whose slogans include “City of the Saints”, “Crossroads of the West”, or the OFFICIAL tourism board slogan, which suits our tour today oh, SO well: *“Different by Nature.”*

The biggest industry in SLC is probably the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or as locals call it, “LDS”. As in “A little too much LDS in the 60’s.” Oh, wait. Wrong movie...

So, please raise your hands...do we have any NON-Mormons on the bus today?

SHUT THE FRONT DOOR! That is totally flippin’ fabulous!

So, let’s say this right up front: it’s OK to be here if you’re not Mormon. Really!

It's been a *long* time since Brigham Young and his companions founded the city in 1847, and it's not *quite* the homogenous, religious utopia they envisioned...uh, if it ever was. Which it wasn't...especially after Hawaiian and Chinese and Italian and Greek and Mexican workers were hired to help build the Salt Lake Valley.

Now, take Provo, for example: that's where BYU is, and the Mission Training Center that teaches all those earnest young men how to ride bicycles and speak foreign languages. Heck, the Mission Training Center can stuff a foreign tongue into a youngster's mouth in just six weeks!

But over in Provo...well folks in *Provo* consider *Salt Lake* to be pretty much a *den of iniquity*. Which means we must all be in the right place, I suppose.

Why, SLC has run a yearly *Gay Pride festival* since 1983! Pride is held on the grounds of City Hall in Washington Square. They close off an adjoining street to spill into Library Square and make a BIG event space, because it's a BIG event!

Our convention host club, the Temple Squares, was started at Utah Pride in 2008 by two dancers who moved here from Seattle, Ross and Justin Crawshaw-Lopton. Two dancers from San Francisco, Allan Hurst and Randy Hensley, flew in to help them RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT! and the rest is history. (And despite all of that, for some reason, they all still talk to each other.)

Provo, by the way, will have its *second* annual Pride Festival this September! Let's have a round of applause for Provo...boy howdy, have THEY got some catching up to do!

So...that City Hall we mentioned earlier? It's an ornate five-story pile of gray Utah sandstone, built in the 1890s. It was deliberately intended to rival the Salt Lake Temple for sheer magnificence. You'll have a chance to see it shortly. City Hall was also Utah's Capitol for a time, as well as Salt Lake's first public library and courthouse. Labor organizer Joe Hill was tried for murder and sentenced to death in a courtroom there in 1915.

Ah, libraries. Salt Lake City has gone through a LOT of public libraries in the past century, starting back in 1872. The current main library opened in 2003, and was designed to embody "the idea of an open mind." One side of the block was kept as peaceful urban green space. An arm of the building curves around the plaza, inviting you to climb its slope up to the roof garden. The local NPR affiliate, KCPW, broadcasts from a glass-fronted studio tucked into one side of the curve.

Meanwhile the previous library building, built in 1964, has become "The Leonardo", an interactive museum combining art, science, children, technology, and many sticky fingerprints.

Attention uniform fans! Across the street, east of the library, is the brand spankin' new Public Safety Building. Not your typical cop shop, this one brings police, fire, 911 dispatch, and emergency operations under a single environmentally-friendly roof. They have some nice public sculpture. One looks like someone chiseled off a piece of Chicago's Chrome Jellybean. Another sculpture represents the profiles of all the employees who work in the building, symbolically looking out over the community they protect.

But we're going to stop telling you about the library and the public safety building, and let you see it for yourselves, because Library Square is our first dance stop!

[Note: if necessary, remind them to cross at the corners and Not Die.]

3:10 PM: Leg #2, “Mormons arriving in SLC.” Drive time: 15 minutes

(Reading time: 10-12 minutes)

Welcome back, Junior Pioneers! For participating in the first stop of today’s field trip you’ve all earned your first Merit Badge, for **Literature**. In addition, when you return to your hotel rooms tonight you’ll each find a complimentary copy of the Book of Mormon. To avoid making the other kids jealous, we’ve cleverly hidden the book in a drawer of your nightstand. Ssssh! It’s a secret!

[NOTE: the next thing is only 4 streets away; don’t wait to start reading it or we’ll be too late to notice Trolley Square.]

Just after we turn onto 7th, we’ll pass where the Gilgal Sculpture Garden is hidden away in the center of its block. Gilgal means “Circle of Sacred Stones.” This is one of those eccentric folk art sites like the Watts Towers created by someone with a little land, a lot of passion, and way too much time on their hands. There are statues of Nebuchadnezzar, of giant crickets, of Joseph Smith carved as a sphinx, and it gets weirder from there. The artist said he hoped the garden would inspire visitors to ponder “the unsolved mysteries of life.”

ON OUR RIGHT we’ll pass Trolley Square, marked by a very big water tower. Look for the brick building just *after* Whole Foods. Notice all the arches.

Remember *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*? Their nemesis was E.H. Harriman of Union Pacific Railroad, who objected to Butch and Sundance holding up his trains. I can’t imagine why, he had so many of them! In 1906 Harriman bought the Salt Lake City trolley system, and built a car barn and machine shop here. There were as many as 144 trolleys based here in its heyday. Streetcars lasted in Salt Lake City through the end of WW2. Trolley Square has been a shopping center since 1969.

[By now we’ve probably turned left, onto 800 South.]

More indie-minded shoppers might enjoy the district known as 9th & 9th, one block south of us. It’s the kind of neighborhood with an art house theater, funky shops, and purple lampposts. (Think this might be a popular spot with the LGBTQ crowd?) Steel sculptures depict the 9 Muses of Greek mythology... let’s see... that’s Calliope, Chicory, Pomegranate, Uranus and... uh, does anyone remember the rest of them?

[again, please don’t wait for the High School before you read this next paragraph.]

We are headed east now. In a while we’ll come to East High School on our right, and their stadium on the left. It’s pretty generic looking. It’s *so* generic, in fact, that Disney used it as the filming location for “High School Musical”.

[--- pause ---]

You’ll have noticed by now that our streets are kinda big: about 130 feet curb-to-curb. The story goes that Brigham Young wanted the streets of SLC wide enough that a team of 4 oxen and a covered wagon could turn around “without resorting to profanity”.

However, there are two things wrong with this story:

- First, of course, oxen don’t swear. Really. Never. They grunt a little, and smell like...well, oxen. But they don’t swear. And neither do covered wagons.
- Secondly, those 132 foot wide streets were already part of an urban planning document developed by Joseph Smith back when the Mormons were still in Ohio. Oh well, it was a good story.

Variations on the City of Zion plan were used in many Mormon towns before and after Salt Lake, but this is the grandest example. In central Salt Lake, there are seven blocks to a mile; each square block about the area of 10 football fields. Today this scale is problematic; it's amazingly tough on pedestrians, and having SIX LANES of asphalt to cross can be something of a deadening experience. This is why we seem to have the longest walk signals in North America... WE REALLY NEED THAT TIME!

Salt Lake is finding itself at an advantage, however, when it comes to developing (or re-developing) multiple modes of transportation. Bike lanes, light rail – they've got alllll the space they could ask for.

[--- pause ---]

So. The Mormons. Here's a really abbreviated timeline: The church was founded in 1830 in New York State, by Joseph Smith, based, he said, on divine visions and a set of historical records on a sort of solid gold three-ring binder. Over the next 15 years The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints gained thousands of converts, and an awful lot of enemies. They kept trying to move west to where they could establish "the New Jerusalem". Salt Lake City is where they finally managed to get far enough away from the villagers with pitchforks to settle in and make a go of it. Trust me, this is a massive oversimplification for your riding comfort. You'll thank me later, especially if you go to the Temple Square Visitor Center.

As of 1847 the Mormons had set up camps in Nebraska, near the Missouri River. In April of '47 a vanguard of 150 people headed west to break trail, scout for water, negotiate with resident Indians along the way, and – oh yeah – figure out exactly where it was the hundreds of families following behind them were going to live! But Brigham Young had had a vision, and on July 24th, 1847 he arrived in the hills above the Salt Lake Valley, and reportedly said "It is enough. This is the right place."

Over the next two decades, roughly 70,000 immigrants made their way to Great Salt Lake City. The place where most of them got their first good look at their new home is now known as "This is the Place" Heritage Park. Which is, by the way, is our next sight.

The Heritage Park includes a living history museum of pioneer buildings, some replicas, many actual homes and businesses that were moved. The Visitor Center by the main monument is a replica of a sugar factory.

Yes, it wouldn't be history without monuments! Boy howdy have we got *monuments* here at Heritage Park!

The big one has Mormon leaders on top and various Indians and explorers draped around the pedestal. The eastern side honors the Donner party; you may have heard of them. They came through here a year before the Mormons, on the way to California. If only they had stuck around a few months longer...

[--- pause ---]

There's a series of five other monuments that we may drive past before we dance, or after we dance, or even if we don't dance. I do want to tell you about them now.

First is a tribute to the Willie and Martin handcart companies. Does that sound like a vaudeville team, or what? Nothing so entertaining: thousands of the early Mormon pioneers came west without oxen or wagons. They simply walked, pulling everything they owned in a handcart.

There's also a tribute to Utah seagulls, who are credited with a miracle for eating up the crickets who were demolishing the first year's precious crops. Now, when I say crickets – these creatures were described as "a cross between a spider and a buffalo." Kill it! Kill it with fire!

One monument is simply a large boulder from the granite quarry for the Temple. It has a very square dance name: it's called "Angels are Near Us." (No relation to Mike DeSisto's favorite singing call, which is "Angels Among Us.")

There's also a tribute to the Mormon Battalion. Those were a volunteer company of 500 recruited during the Mexican-American war. They walked from Mormon camps in Nebraska to San Diego, one of the longest infantry marches in history. They never fought any battles, but they made themselves useful, and some became the earliest "Forty-Niners" finding gold in California.

Finally, there's a little cabin which is a replica of a Pony Express station.

3:56 PM: Leg #3, “Olympics.” Drive time: 9 minutes

(Reading time: 7-8 minutes)

Welcome back, Intermediate Pioneers! You’ve earned a second Merit Badge; can you guess what it’s for?

What’s that? Who said “Creative Writing?” No, for *HISTORY!*, shame on you!

Our next stretch of driving is along Foothill Drive. We’ll be skirting the vast campus of the University of Utah, nicknamed “the U” or “the UU”.

The Utah Museum of Fine Arts is in there, as well as a medical center where 200 physicians, engineers and students worked to develop the artificial heart. At one point they applied for a particular related patent and discovered that the team of Henry Heimlich and Paul Winchell – yes, a man known for hugging people too hard and a man known for carrying around a talking piece of wood – had beaten them to it.

Oh yeah, a long time later, some guy there named Robert Jarvik created an artificial heart, too.

At the Museum of Natural History they’re very excited about their latest dinosaur replica; it’s a brand new, very old species found in southern Utah they’re calling “LITH-ro-nax ar-GES-tees”: the King of Gore!

What did it eat?

[pause]

Whatever it wanted to!

Also off to our right somewhere is what remains of Fort Douglas, established in 1862 to protect the overland mail route and telegraph lines. It also was intended to keep an eye on the Mormons, who had a history of not acknowledging Federal authority. Fort Douglas was an internment camp during World War One. Over the years most of their land was transferred to the University. Eventually it became the site of the 2002 Olympic Village.

[--- pause ---]

Ah, the Olympics. They give a whole new meaning to the term non-profit!

Salt Lake had been trying since the *Thirties* to get the Winter Olympics. The 1998 Games went to Nagano, Japan, in a very close vote. Nagano might have won because the US had just been awarded the ’96 Summer games in Atlanta, or maybe the Japanese just outspent everyone else on wining and dining the relevant officials.

Salt Lake is many things, but one of them isn’t being slow on the uptake. The SLC committee learned from this and upped their game, spending even MORE millions on wining, dining, and outright bribery. For some reason, this worked, and in 1995, SLC was awarded the Winter Olympics for 2002.

That was the *good* news.

The *bad* news: in 1998, word got out about a free tuition deal for children of IOC members, and a fudgestorm broke out, big time. The Dept of Justice filed corruption charges against the heads of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee. There were expulsions, there were sanctions...but somehow, the Games stayed in Salt Lake, with an obscure investment banker named Mitt Romney getting hired on as CEO for the Organizing Committee.

Once the games started, another big scandal broke, having to do with French figure skating judges giving good points to a Russian team. We'd tell you more about it but honest to Jiminy Crickets, there's just no gosh-darn way to make any sense of it. That story has more twists, turns and bumps than a downhill mogul run. Go look it up for yourselves after the tour.

We thought it would be more fun instead to discuss the twists and turns leading to the Olympic Flame.

What do water fountains and roller coasters have in common? The 2002 Olympic Cauldron! The cauldron was designed by WET Design of Los Angeles, California, a company known for creating water parks and architectural water features.

The Official Motto for the 2002 Games was "Light the Fire Within", with a design theme of "Fire and Ice".

The frame of the cauldron was built by Arrow Dynamics of Clearfield, Utah, best known for its high-speed steel roller coasters. The glass pieces for the cauldron were created by Western Glass of Ogden, Utah.

The completed monument combined steel girders, water flowing down glass, and a flame burning at 900 degrees Fahrenheit, all without anything actually melting!

During the Games, the cauldron was installed high atop the south end of the stadium, allowing it to be seen burning from various points around the Salt Lake Valley. After the Games, the cauldron was moved to its present site next to the stadium.

Before you ask, yes, the cauldron is still operational and is lit on special occasions, which included the opening weekend of the 2006 Winter Olympics.

You'll have a chance to see it yourself in just a couple of minutes. You'll also see something called the Hoberman Arch, a sort of metal curtain that opened out like the iris of a human eye. During the Games, this was onstage at the Plaza where the nightly Medal Ceremonies were held, downtown.

We understand Rick Hawes tried to get it as a backdrop for the Twenty-Year Medallion presentations this year, but he found out it didn't open anymore and just said Frick It.

[--- pause ---]

By the way, you may notice a cemetery across the street immediately south of the Stadium. This is Mount Olivet, the only cemetery established by an Act of Congress. The 1874 Mount Olivet Cemetery Act designated the cemetery as a burial place for all people, not just LDS church members. Signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant, the Act delegated administration of the Cemetery to a Board of Trustees consisting of one minister and one layman from each of five denominations having churches in Salt Lake City at that time. The cemetery remains non-denominational to this day.

Somewhere in there is HRH Princess Susanna Egera Bransford Emery Holmes Delitch Engalitcheff, also known as "The Silver Queen".

With a name like that, she sounds like a Honky Tonk Queen! Can't you just imagine her in that boot tiara?!

She earned her title by marrying a Russian prince. Her wealth and lavish parties were legendary. The precise location of her tomb was kept secret due to rumors that she was buried with silver dollars in her coffin, in a dress made of silver.

Sorry, Iona Doublewide, you'll just have to wear your own dress to this year's pageant.

Also interred at Mt Olivet is Elizabeth Dunlap Ferguson Bonnemort. (Harry Potter Fans, take note: She's no relation to YOU KNOW WHO.) She came here in the 1860s, helped run a Pony Express station, a telegraph station and a stagecoach stop. She ended up a prosperous livestock rancher and was known as Utah's Sheep Queen. We'll talk about her again later...but for right now, LET'S DANCE!

4:36 PM: Leg #4, “Power and Politics.” *Drive time: 22 minutes*

(Reading time: 12-14 minutes. If you’re running really long on empty space and need to fill time, you’ll find filler items at the end of the script.)

Congratulations, Pioneers; you’ve earned your Merit Badge for Athletics!

By the way, did you notice the stone hut on the right as we pulled away? That’s the Fountain of Ute.

[pause for groans]

Says so right on the side. We’d swear to it, but you haven’t finished learning how to swear yet.

So...DID Mitt Save The Olympics? Depends upon who you ask. The upshot: When Mitt Romney came in as head of the SLOC they still needed to raise sponsorship money, which wasn’t easy at that point. “Hi, we’re corrupt! Please give us money to associate your corporate name with ours!” Somehow, he pulled it off, and the Games ended with a substantial surplus.

Now the Olympic Legacy Foundation manages the facilities from the Games, for future elite training and also very much for public use. At the Olympic Oval west of town you can skate on the 400m track called the Fastest Ice on Earth. The Olympic Park, in Park City, has skiing and snowboarding of course, but also bobsled rides (in winter AND summer...the track is auto-icing!), and one of the world’s steepest ziplines, allowing you to pretend you’re a ski jumper!

[--- pause ---]

Another lasting effect of the Olympics has been ALCOHOL.

Now, drinking isn’t *banned* in Utah; it’s just a *challenge*.

Grocery stores and taverns have been able to sell near-beer for years. Wine, booze, and real beer was available to dues-paying members of “private social clubs”. Not a member? You can be a member. Give me \$5. Hey, you’re a member!

One commonly used method around this was to pretend to search one’s pockets, declaring “Flippin’ Heck! I left my membership card at home! Can you vouch for me, friend?” Depending upon how desperate the server was for a tip, this frequently worked.

Well, they relaxed enforcement somewhat during the Olympics, and the sky did not fall. The “social club” thing is no more.

Restaurants may now be licensed to serve wine with meals even if they don’t have a full liquor license. They’re even allowed to take your drink order before your food is served...as long as you *declare your intention* to order food! Otherwise it wouldn’t be a restaurant, would it? It would just be an Evil BARRRRRRR. We don’t allow children in Evil BARRRRRRs.

However, there are plenty of quirks left in Utah’s liquor laws. The strangest one is the Zion Curtain. Restaurants that serve alcohol, unless their layout has been grandfathered in, they have to *shield the eyes of impressionable minors* from the debilitating effects of glimpsing a cocktail shaker in use. Storing, pouring – it all has to take place behind a solid, opaque or translucent barrier. It’s enough to make a person want a good stiff drink. Oh, wait...

So let’s talk less about drinkin’ and more about swearin’...we’re gonna teach you how to swear like Mormons!

Need to express disbelief? “SHUT THE FRONT DOOR!”

Around here the F-words are FLIPPIN', FLAPPIN', FREAKIN', FRIKKIN', and FETCH. Also FIDDLESTICKS, FISHSTICKS, and FUDGEBUCKET.

If DANG, HECK and GOSH aren't strong enough to convey your feelings, you can escalate with DING-DANG IT, or OH MY HECK, or just go all the way to BLICKETY-BLICKETY-BLUE, SOME OF IT ITCHES! If some SON OF A MOTHERLESS GOAT asks WHAT THE SWEAR WORD you think you're doing, talkin' SHIZZ like that, tell 'em you don't know WHAT THE FRENCH TOAST they're talking about. You're just swearing like a Mormon! GOPPLE DAMPIN' FRUIT DUMPSUITS!

Excuse me, I need to calm down now.

[--- pause ---]

[Please start reading again as we get up to 100 South: there's a long wall on the right, and then a park, and it looks as if the road is headed directly for a large U-shaped brick building.]

We'll be turning onto South Temple Street shortly. Although we'd love to point out specific buildings at just the right moment it isn't really feasible. So watch the scenery to left and right as we talk about Salt Lake City's "Street of Mansions". Only a few of these are still private homes.

The first house on the left after the hospital is a rehab center now; in 1929 champion boxer Jack Dempsey bought it for his mother.

There are still bridle posts and carriage blocks in front of some of these buildings. In front of the George Downey Mansion is supposedly an old coal mining cart. The irony is that the Downey Mansion isn't heated by coal! Instead, it has an innovative heat exchanger that pulls low but effective amounts of heat out of the sewers. Talk about a hot mess, Mary!

Just past H Street on the right is the Governor's Mansion, trying to be a French Renaissance chateau and not doing too horribly at it. It's one of the ones that has a stone carriage step at the curb. It was built by Thomas Kearns who made his money in silver mining, served a term as senator, and owned the Salt Lake Tribune for a time. The Governor really does live there.

Now, when Wendall Mabey bought a house along here it wasn't to live in – he tore it down and replaced it with a commercial building. But he started to have weird dreams about the upper floors. He began to decorate them, as accommodations for visiting businessmen, he said: a fresco'd ceiling, a lavishly tiled tub, suits of armor that he went to England to shop for. People thought he was losing it.

His family stayed overnight in the apartment, and sometimes heard doors closing and smelled fresh flowers where there were none. They thought *they* were losing it.

Turned out that the house that had been torn down had belonged to Lizzie Bonnemort (YOU know who...the one who's NOT You Know Who)...the Sheep Queen buried at Mount Olivet. Lizzie loved lush furnishings, and she loved fresh flowers, and apparently she was still hangin' around to watch.

And she may not be the only one. If you do a little searching online, you'll find several different "Haunted Salt Lake City Tours" available.

On either side of C Street, you'll see the First Presbyterian Church, built of red sandstone quarried in nearby Red Butte Canyon, and then the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Gothic Revival style.

By the way, the area off to our right is called "The Avenues". It's Salt Lake's oldest suburb, built to a smaller scale than the central city. It's the kind of place where Mickey Rooney's Andy Hardy would have felt right at home. But so would a certain serial killer in a hockey mask: several of the *Halloween* horror movies were filmed in the Avenues.

[--- pause ---]

The Alta Club is on the near left-hand corner of State Street and South Temple. It's a club founded in 1883 by businessmen, especially from the mining business. It had Jewish members from the very beginning. (Meaning that Roseanne Barr was far from the first Jewish Utahn.) The club never formally *barred* Mormons...they just assumed the well-stocked bar and cigar shop would *dissuade* them.

A century after its founding (that would be 1983 in case anyone here is bad at math), the Alta Club finally opened the club to women, under duress. The first to join were the Utah State Geologist, Genevieve Atwood; and Deedee Corradini, who later became Mayor.

Kitty-corner from the Alta Club is a sort of Mormon's Women's Club, you might say. It's the Beehive House on the corner, with the Lion House next to it. These were built as official residences for Brigham Young and a dozen of his wives.

Young's daughter Clarissa Spencer wrote about many notable figures of the day visiting Beehive House. She was thrilled to meet and dine with Tom Thumb, the circus performer.

In conversation, as Spencer tells it, he brought up a controversial subject. "*There is one thing I can't understand and that is this belief in polygamy.*" *Smiling down at him, Father answered very genially, "I couldn't understand it either when I was your size."*

We will pass under the arch known as the Eagle Gate as we turn north. This marked the entrance to Brigham Young's property at the mouth of City Creek Canyon.

On the left you might *just* get a glimpse of the actual Temple, with all the spiky towers, before it's blocked by this big bland office building on the left. That's the LDS Church Office Building.

The Temple itself is not open to the public – heck, portions aren't even open to run-of-the-mill Mormons! – but most of the many other church buildings in and around Temple Square are, to some extent. The Office Building has an observation deck on the 26th floor with one of the best free views in town.

There's also an *underground* aspect to the Mormon church: tunnels run every which way out from the Temple. One connecting the Temple to an office annex was documented in a diary back in 1889. Modern-day rumors mention tunnels to the church conference center, the genealogy library and even City Hall!

In 1911, a young Prussian convert to LDS named Gisbert Bossard used a tunnel from one of the gardens to get into the Temple, and thoroughly photographed its super-ultra-mega-private interior. He tried to sell the photos and extort money from the Church. They said "Yeah, whatever" and published their own book of photographs! Never let it be said the Church doesn't know how to make a true profit from a false prophet.

The fact is... the tunnels were built to enable LDS officials to walk back and forth from their offices to the temple without walking through the public or the weather. Some of them are open to temple patrons, who have walked the tunnels en route to baptisms, weddings, etc. Most describe them as wide, well-lit, comfortably heated, carpeted, and...kinda boring, actually. So much for the romantic notion of Sinister Mormon Tunnels.

The most infamous tunnel in the city is probably one at Washington Square. Where the library is now, used to be the Salt Lake Jail, and they used that particular tunnel to transport prisoners between jail and courthouse. A notorious serial killer of the 1970s was the last prisoner to walk the tunnel before it was decommissioned. We don't have time to name his thirty-plus victims, so we won't name him either.

[--- pause ---]

For now, we're coming up on someplace else with some pretty amazing views: the Utah State Capitol.

Construction started in 1912, helped by the timely death of E. H. Harriman. Remember Harriman, the railroad man? Well, he had so many investments in Utah that his widow owed the state over three-quarters of a million dollars in inheritance taxes, which came in gosh-darn handy.

You might choose to find some symbolism in the fact that the Utah State Capitol was built on a high hill looking down on the Temple. You'd probably be right.

The building across from it with the much smaller dome was Salt Lake's City Hall for a few decades.

And no, we do not know why that bison has a handle. Please don't ask us again.

If you can do it carefully, take a peek down into City Creek Canyon on our right. The park down there is called Memory Grove. You will be shocked to learn that it's full of ... monuments.

5:31 PM: Leg #5, “Urban Geography.” Drive time: 13 minutes

(Reading time: 3-5 minutes)

Well, Aspiring Established Pioneers, you’ve earned your Merit Badges for Government. There’s one more dance site left on our field trip today.

I’m sure you’ve been glad to leave the navigating to our driver. The City’s layout is so logical that it absolutely drives out of towners crazy. Right now we’re on West 300 North, and headed towards North 300 West.

[allow time for groans.]

No, seriously.

There are a few things that might possibly help you with Salt Lake street names.

- Temple Square is the zero point. Surprise, surprise.
- If you talk about “West 300 North” you’ll confuse the locals. (Yes, I know, it only seems fair at this point.) They’ll just say “300 North” unless there’s a need to be super specific.
- 300 N, 300 S, 300 E, 300 W: these are four completely distinct streets.
- On the other hand: 400 S, Fourth South, and University Boulevard are all the *same* street. Just because a street has a number doesn’t mean it can’t have a name, too.

Got that? There will *not* be a quiz. Thankfully.

The large brown brick building after we turn left is West High School. The smaller brick building just past it is a Mormon Seminary. Students get time out of their high school day for religious classes over here. It’s not actually on the school grounds.

When we get to the Subway shop, we’re going to turn. Kitty-corner across the intersection from Subway is a parking lot taking up the entire block. That’s where the Medal Plaza was during the 2002 Olympics.

We’re coming up on the Gateway District, a piece of urban redevelopment anchored by the historic Union Pacific Depot. Besides the typical shopping mall, offices, and condos, the Gateway includes a planetarium, IMAX theatre and a children’s museum.

The EnergySolutions Arena across the street is home court for the men’s basketball team the Utah Jazz. It was the Delta Center for many years. Now it’s named for a nuclear waste disposal company! There are rumors that portions of the playing court glow in the dark, but we’re not brave enough to check it out ourselves.

[If anyone asks about the red sandstone mansion surrounded by lawn, across from the Depot, that’s the Devereaux (DEH-verr-oh) House, the oldest mansion in Salt Lake, built only ten years after the city was founded. Now it’s used for various catered events.]

Salt Lake at one time had a Greektown, it had a Japantown, it had a Little Italy. It should come as no great surprise that the sports arena, and much of the redevelopment associated with the Gateway District, is on top of where these (and other) “ethnic” neighborhoods once stood.

Somehow the Japanese Buddhist Temple has survived; it's not *quite* surrounded by the massive Salt Palace Convention Center.

[pause until bus comes to a stop at the Gateway]

So...if you're ready to earn your Commerce and Transportation Merit Badge, here at the Union Pacific Depot, let's hear a rousing "HECK YEAH!"

6:10 PM: Leg #6, “Winding Up.” Drive time: 9 minutes

(Reading time: 3-5 minutes)

Welcome back, Newly Minted Established Utah Pioneers!

Did you enjoy your sneak preview of next year’s Convention site? Next Memorial Day, we’ll all be Swinging Through Saint Louis at the Saint Louis Union Station Hotel.

You may have noticed by now that we didn’t actually go into Temple Square...and no, it’s not gonna happen on this trip.

For one thing, you might be picturing it as a big open plaza like the one at the Vatican. Actually, it’s occupied by a dozen different buildings, plus fountains, gardens, aaand still MORE monuments!

Also occupying the square are many pairs of conservatively dressed young women who have travelled from afar in order to stand in Temple Square and tell tourists which way to the Tabernacle. Seriously, they are very glad to answer questions, or give tours, and they’ll only talk about religion if you want them to.

If the choir isn’t broadcasting you can walk right into the Tabernacle; that’s the one that looks like an aluminum pillbug. The South Visitor Center has a cool cutaway model of the Temple, like a giant dollhouse. The Joseph Smith Memorial Building used to be the grandest hotel in the state. It still has multiple restaurants and a *really* impressive lobby.

You might also enjoy stopping by the Church History Museum, just west of Temple Square. It’s open every day, it’s free, and, well, words cannot describe its indescribability. Special extra credit to any Pioneer who can spot the *one and only* reference to polygamy in the museum’s exhibits! (Take note that the largest newspaper in town has a special “Polygamy” news section on their website.)

We’re on our way back to our hotel, the Grand America. It’s pretty new, built in time for the 2002 Olympics. It has an older sibling on the other side of Main Street: Little America. The original Little America motel was a tiny outpost on the Lincoln Highway in Wyoming. The name came from Admiral Byrd’s base in Antarctica because it seemed just about as remote! Anyone who drove old US-30 in Wyoming remembers the billboards with the penguins, promising shelter ahead at Little America!

DINING TIP: While the food is delicious at the Grand America, it’s a bit less expensive across the street in the coffee shop at Little America, which is open from 6 AM until 10 or 11 PM every day. They serve an excellent breakfast, everything apparently made from scratch.

By the way, if you’re thinking of trying the big Sunday Brunch at the Grand America: Yes, it really is fifty bucks. Yes, it really is amazing enough to be worth it. Yes, you need to make a reservation.

We’ll leave you with one last gem of LDS Culture: It’s a visual thing, but Google “Bubble Porn” or “Mormon Porn” when you get back to the hotel.

Welcome back, and please take EVERYTHING with you. We’ll have your Merit Badges as you exit the bus. Thank you so much for joining us today!

“Time Fillers” Page

Use these if you have extra time or if you maybe just *really* hate something we wrote in the script...

Have you ever heard of Dugway Proving Ground?

Conspiracy theorists claim that it’s the “New Area 51” and that the US Government is hiding extraterrestrial technology there. Officially, Dugway’s mission is to test biological and chemical weapons and unmanned aerial systems for “our nation’s defenders”, using a chunk of Utah roughly the size of Rhode Island. Their motto is “Science serving warfighters and citizens”.

The southern portion of Dugway is operated by the Air Force with a runway large enough to land aircraft the size of the space shuttle. This area has been developed and expanded since 2004; the additional infrastructure has led UFOlogists to conclude that this is a new site where the government is testing secret military and UFO tech. Dugway’s airfield is surrounded on three sides by mountains. Anyone caught attempting to climb these mountains with a vehicle and approach Dugway’s southern border is stopped by Ground patrol or apache helicopters. A man who goes by “Alien Dave” has said he saw a jet vanish into thin air, and saw a convoy of Humvees that were traveling along a road disappear into a massive subterranean fortress built into the side of the mountain. Mind you, Alien Dave also asserts that there are secret US bases on the Moon and on Mars, supplied courtesy of a fleet of antigravity craft from Lockheed-Martin.

Some of the documented stuff about Dugway is disturbing enough. The S/K Challenge Chemical & Biological Testing Initiative, for instance. Their web site refers to an “informal, non-acquisition field demonstration environment open to US and foreign governments and contractors. Participants are invited to bring their chemical and biological defensive equipment and put it through its paces for a reasonable price.”

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Here’s a sex scandal with a uniquely Utahn twist:

In 2009, The Salt Lake Tribune reported that two Bountiful Junior High School female teachers had been accused of sexual relations with the same 13-year-old boy.

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From City Weekly Article, "**Utah's Forbidden Love: The Ins and Outs of Sex In Utah**"

<http://www.cityweekly.net/utah/article-337-10466-utahs-forbidden-love.html>

In Utah, you or someone you know might be practicing polygamists and not even know it.

Assume that a married couple decides to call it quits but holds off from immediately divorcing for financial reasons, health-care benefits or for the sake of their children. If one of the couple takes up with a new lover, he or she could be charged with a third-degree felony under Utah’s bigamy statute, serve up to five years in prison and pay up to \$5,000 in fines.

So says Utah’s civil-rights attorney Brian Barnard. And while the well-known First Amendment defender operates a divorce clinic in Salt Lake City, he’s not calling for more dissolution, but rather a look at antiquated laws.

Barnard also notes that unmarried oral-sex aficionados in Utah could face up to six months in jail and \$1,000 in fines for “engag[ing] in any sexual act with a person ... involving the genitals of one person and mouth or anus of another person, regardless of the sex of either participant,” as stated in the statute forbidding consensual sodomy. The same theoretical punishment applies to those having consensual sexual relationships before marriage. That’s right: The law says no fornicatin’ until you’re married.

Even for the married, sodomy was illegal in Utah until 1953, when the statute was amended. Barnard reasons that if the state essentially “licenses cunnilingus” and fellatio through marriage, then oral sex must not be inherently immoral. That’s still not very reassuring to Utah’s unmarried sexually active.

The landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Lawrence v. Texas* decided in June 2003 that Texas could no longer criminalize homosexual sodomy, which, in turn, applied to heterosexual sodomy — and by logical extension, applied to fornication. This ruling should make Utah’s current on-the-books laws unconstitutional, Barnard says.

Forty years ago, every state in the Union outlawed fornication and sodomy. Now, only 10 states maintain the statutes, Utah among them.

“It remains on the books as a statement by the Legislature,” Barnard wrote in an e-mail to *City Weekly*. “Utah legislators would be unwilling to publicly vote to repeal the statute.” The “statement,” he says, is the Legislature’s way of saying that it disapproves of sex outside of traditional marriage, and they want everyone to know.

That’s not to say police are aggressively pursuing marriage outlaws. Alicia Cook, a prosecutor with the Salt Lake County District Attorney’s office since 2001, says, “Personally, I have never prosecuted [fornication or sodomy] and I’m not aware of our department ever investigating it. No one is pressing for those charges.” She also acknowledges that people have a right to privacy and prosecutors will work within the limitations of the law spelled out by the U.S. Supreme Court.

All the same, a court convicted one man of fornication as recently as 1998. In the *State of Utah v. Houston*, a couple had vaginal and anal intercourse one evening. Ned Houston took the woman’s “nudge” to mean her consent, but the victim claimed she did not resist because of previous trauma.

The following day, the pair argued about the sex and eventually Houston asked the woman to turn him in. When she wouldn’t, he stopped his car in the middle of an intersection, broke into a pet store and called the police to turn himself in.

Ultimately, the woman filed charges, and he later was acquitted of rape and forcible sodomy. However, the jury found him guilty of the lesser offenses of fornication and sodomy.

For those who think more is better, know that the District Attorney’s Office might be more inclined to prosecute bigamy cases in spite of how challenging they can be to gain conviction. While there is no policy to prosecute, Cook says the district attorney most likely would do so, but she doesn’t know of anyone who has been criminally charged with bigamy.

Adultery is another crime you can be charged with in Utah. Barnard says it used to be illegal in all 50 states; now only about 20 keep it on the books. “I’m not aware of any adultery cases [in Salt Lake County],” Cook says.

However, in 1996, Lorenzo Spencer sued Michael Neilson, a man who fathered twins with Spencer’s wife in extramarital affair, for alienation of affections. The civil case took 10 years and cost Neilson tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees and lost wages. The bottom line: When these cases do occur, the legal battle can be lengthy and expensive.

Even though many sex crimes are worked out in plea bargains, the fact that the state regulates and criminalizes sexual conduct between consenting adults outrages Barnard.

He wants the state out of people’s intimate affairs, those that are private and not in exchange for money. “The state must not dictate who can do what with which to whom,” he argues.

In 2007, former Sen. Scott McCoy, D-Salt Lake City, sponsored a bill to decriminalize sodomy for adults. The bill never got out of the Senate Rules Committee. Republican Senate leaders made it clear they did not want to make sodomy legal in Utah at the time, and during the 2010 session they agreed to a moratorium on any bills relating to gay rights—which includes sodomy laws.

McCoy says that despite that public stance, he did receive support, in private, for changing the law in 2007 from “conservative” legislators. However, they also told him that for a conservative in Utah to run the bill would be politically unwise, and that McCoy, as an openly gay senator, could not pass it. Thus, it is doubtful that the law will be changed any time soon.

But if the Legislature isn’t going to do anything, how can such laws be put out to pasture? The answer:

A Utah court must formally determine the laws to be unconstitutional. But because the laws aren’t being enforced, the opportunity to challenge their constitutionality has not yet presented itself, Barnard says.

He’s looking for a test case to challenge those laws, however.

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SLC City Government has made a big push to put everything online.

The Web wizards at City Hall are serious about getting the public engaged in every planning and zoning meeting, city-council meeting, public open house, workshop and public hearing possible. That’s why Salt Lake City has been going high tech with its forums and using Open City Hall as a means of posting discussions on critical city issues ranging from e-billboards to the city’s good landlords program. Beyond that, the city has stepped up efforts by creating Speak Out SLC, a page where residents can post their own ideas on what needs to be improved in the city. Users can “like” the good ideas and city planners can see what issues residents are most passionate about. Here’s hoping the city continues to digitally go where few other local governments have gone before.

<http://www.SLCGov.com>

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Yes, Virginia, there IS a Comic Convention each year in SLC!

With headliners like Stan Lee and William Shatner, the inaugural Salt Lake Comic Con in September 2013 exceeded expectations when more than 72,000 nerds converged on the Salt Palace Convention Center, making it the largest first year for a comic-book convention. Founder Dan Farr has announced that 2014's convention will be even bigger, and has added the April FanX event—featuring folks from The Walking Dead and Dr. Who, among others—to keep pop-culture fans satisfied till fall. SaltLakeComicCon.com

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SLC has a women's roller derby team, called the Junction City Roller Dolls.

Since most of Utah's derby leagues have turned recreational and the most high-profile one in Salt Lake City took the season off to build a new rink, derby fans had to trek up north to see some of the hardest-hitting games in the state, delivered by Ogden's Junction City Roller Dolls. After becoming a member of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association in 2011, the JCRD had its biggest season turnouts. It was all capped off with a hard-fought battle for the interleague championship and the formal announcement of the O-Town Derby Dames merging into the JCRD league, making them the biggest derby league in Utah.

<http://www.JCRDolls.com>

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"Best Utah Faux News": *The Beehive Bugle*.

Like The Onion, The Beehive Bugle knows how to deliver the satiriffic, one-two punch of a joke in its headlines. The site digs into faux local news, featuring both political pieces like "Rep. Jason Chaffetz Legally Changes Last Name to Benghazi" as well as important features like "Area Harlot Seen Holding Hands at 7-Eleven." Religion junkies also will be satisfied thanks to pieces like "Dead Mormons Surprised to Find Selves in Same Kingdom as Awful Mormons." Hark the call of the Bugle—it's news you can use when you need a laugh.

<http://www.BeehiveBugle.com>

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