

Antelope Island State Park

Search and Rescue

Emergency services are provided by Utah State Parks and Davis County Sheriff's Office. In case of an emergency, contact a park ranger or call 911.

Emergency telephone numbers

Davis County Dispatch – 911
Park Headquarters – (801) 550-6165
Visitor Center – (801) 725-9263
Park Entrance Gate – (801) 773-2941

Address inquiries to:

Antelope Island State Park
4528 West 1700 South
Syracuse, UT 84075
(801) 773-2941 Entrance Gate
(801) 725-9263 Visitor Center
(801) 721-9569 School group reservations
(800) 322-3770 Camping reservations

Utah State Parks and Recreation

PO Box 146001
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001
(801) 538-7220
(801) 538-7458 (TTY)
stateparks.utah.gov

For the latest park information tune to 530 AM.

Brochure sponsored in partnership with
Friends of Antelope Island and Utah State Parks.



Information contained in this brochure was accurate at time of printing. Trails, facilities, hours and regulations, etc. change as mandated. For updated information, please contact the park.

Utah State Parks mission ...

To enhance the quality of life by preserving and providing natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

The Utah Department of Natural Resources receives federal aid and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin or disability. For information or complaints regarding discrimination, contact Executive Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 145610, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5610 or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1801 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20507-0001.

Your park fees provide for care, protection and enhancement of this park.

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Design: Anne Wolfer Design Inc.

Front cover photo credit: Frank Jensen



Utah State Parks

GUIDELINES

Help protect island resources by following park rules.

Pets - Pets must be on a maximum six-foot leash and under control at all times. Dogs and horses are not allowed on the beach or the Frary Peak Trail. Horses must remain in designated hitching areas when not on the trail. Horses are not allowed in ranch area. Dogs are not allowed on the Sentry Trail.

Fires - Seasonal fire closures are posted. Fires are allowed only in designated areas, and gathering firewood is prohibited.

Plants and Animals - Wildlife, plants, minerals, cultural, and all other natural features within the park are legally protected. It is unlawful to remove, alter, destroy or harass them.

Firearms - Possession or use of firearms, traps or other devices capable of launching a projectile that can immobilize, injure or kill a person or animal, or damage property is prohibited unless the weapon or device is 1) unloaded and packed away to prevent its use, or 2) being used by authorized law enforcement officers in the performance of official duties. Hunting is prohibited within park boundaries.

Parking - Park only in designated parking areas. Interpretive pullouts and points of interest are not designated parking areas. Do not park along roadside. Horse trailers are limited to designated trailheads.

Waste water - It is unlawful to dump or drain water from campers or trailers onto the ground. A disposal station is available.

Quiet hours - 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.



FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Antelope Island is open year-round and hours vary by season.

Visitor Center - Open year-round. Amenities include wheelchair accessibility, exhibits, publications, bookstore, restrooms, and amphitheater. A video presentation may be viewed upon request, and a Junior Ranger program is available for young visitors.

Fielding Garr Ranch - Accessible year-round. Many amenities are accessible to those with disabilities, and include self-guided tours, exhibits, and restrooms. Special events are scheduled during summer months and holidays. There is no drinking water available.

Day-use Facilities - Bridger Bay offers a sandy beach, indoor/outdoor shower facilities, pavilion, picnic areas, and modern restrooms. Covered picnic areas are available near the visitor center, and drinking water is available at beach facilities and the visitor center. Interpretive exhibits along the eastside road describe island history and geology.

Trails - Trails within the backcountry system are non-motorized and vary in length and difficulty. Please consult trail maps or signs for more information. No water is available along trails, so plan accordingly. Horseback riding, hiking, and bicycling are permitted only on established trails, which are designated with trail markers. Trails may be closed in case of natural hazards, fawning or lambing seasons, and other circumstances.

Camping - Camp only in designated campgrounds. Each camping permit allows one vehicle and any attached recreational equipment. Recreational vehicles should fill water tanks before coming to the park.

Bridger Bay Campground - 26 primitive campsites include picnic tables, fire pits/grills, and vault toilets. There is no water, electricity, or shade in the campground. Wheelchair accessible campsites are available by reservation. Two vehicles and up to eight people and two tents are allowed per campsite. There is a fee for additional vehicles or recreational equipment. Horses are not allowed.

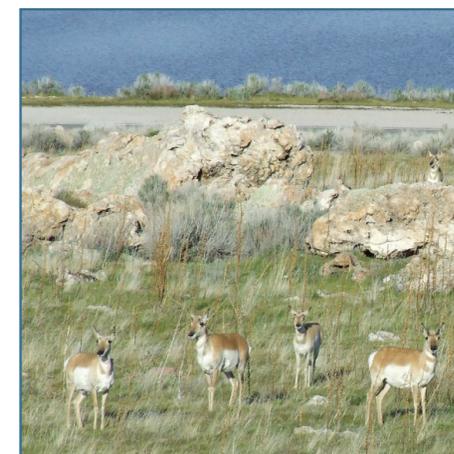
White Rock Bay Group Campground - 12 primitive campsites are available by reservation for groups up to 70. Picnic tables, fire pits, and charcoal grills are located at each site. Vault toilets are available. No water or electricity is available in the campground. Horses are allowed.

Reservations - Advance reservations are available for group and individual campsites. For reservations at Bridger Bay, please call (801) 322-3770 in the Salt Lake area or toll free 1 (800) 322-3770. To reserve sites at White Rock Bay, please call (801) 773-2941. Unreserved sites are available on a first-come, first-serves basis.

Marina - Boat slips are available for long-term or day-use. Contact marina ranger for availability.

Other Services - Concessions on the island offer a souvenir shop and café. Hours of operation vary throughout the year. Guided horseback, wagon rides, wildlife safaris, and cruises on the Great Salt Lake are available by reservation. Kayak tours and rentals are available.

Gas, food, lodging, and medical services are available in Davis County, which is seven to 14 miles east of the island.



ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK

Visit this largest island in the Great Salt Lake, which offers camping, wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Antelope Island is home to free-roaming herds of bison, bighorn sheep, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. The island provides spectacular views of Great Salt Lake, the Wasatch Mountains, Salt Lake skyline, and benches of ancient Lake Bonneville.

HISTORY

Artifacts reveal prehistoric people inhabited the island more than 6,000 years ago. John C. Fremont and Kit Carson made the first known Anglo exploration of Antelope Island in 1845, and named it after observing several pronghorn antelope grazing on the rangelands.

Fielding Garr established the first permanent residence on the island in 1848, which is Utah's oldest Anglo-built structure still standing on its existing foundation. Tour the home and Historic Fielding Garr Ranch, a western ranching living history.



GEOLOGY

Antelope Island comprises 28,022 acres, and is 15 miles long and 4.5 miles across at its widest point. Frary Peak is the highest point on the island at 6,596 feet above sea level. The island is part of a basin and range mountain formation located between the Wasatch and Sierra Nevada ranges.

The oldest rocks on Antelope Island are some of the oldest found anywhere on earth. The Farmington Canyon complex, at 2.7 billion years old, is older than rocks found at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. These rocks, which are banded and contorted, comprise the southern two-thirds of the island.

Tintic Quartzite, found on the northern one-third of the island, is 550 million years old and was deposited in a shallow marine environment. Quartzite, which is metamorphosed sandstone, can be seen around the visitor center. The youngest rocks on the island are tufa, deposited by Lake Bonneville only 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. Tufa deposits typically resemble concrete and can be viewed from the Buffalo Point Trail.



WILDLIFE

Bison are the island's most famous residents. Twelve animals were introduced to the island in 1893 and were the foundation for today's herd of 500 to 700. An annual bison roundup is held each fall to assess the health of the herd and sell extra animals. Antelope Island is also home to bobcats, coyotes, reptiles, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and chukars.

Keep your distance from all wildlife. View and photograph wildlife from designated trails, roads, and pullouts.

Viewing Opportunities Vary Greatly by Season

January - Bald eagles, chuckar partridge, winter ducks: common golden eyes, occasional scoters, and old squaws

February - Coyote pairs, bald eagles, winter raptors: prairie falcons, roughed-legged hawks; winter song birds: occasional snow buntings, long spurs, horned larks, rosy finches

March - Bald eagles, first returning migratory birds arrive, California gulls, pelicans, colonial bird nesting activity on Egg and White Rock islands

April - Bison calves, returning avocets, stilts, sanderlings, eared grebes in breeding plumage, phalaropes, peregrine falcons

May - Pronghorn fawns, bighorn sheep lambs, migratory birds, burrowing owls, long-billed curlews, willets, arriving migrants at ranch

June - Deer fawns, Canada geese goslings, arriving migrants at ranch, water bird viewing along shoreline and chukars.

July - Wilson phalaropes peak, foraging behavior and water bird activity increasing, large animal activity slows down due to heat

August - Bison mating, returning shorebirds, pelican activity seen over island

September - Eared grebes and waterfowl return, phalaropes, Franklin gulls, migrating raptors, pronghorn harems, mature buck deer sightings

October - Bison roundup, eared grebes, brine shrimp harvest

November - Bison in corrals, eared grebes, pelicans leaving

December - Coyote sightings, bison bull bachelor groups on north end, porcupines in Russian olives; wintering ducks: northern shovellers



GREAT SALT LAKE

Great Salt Lake is the largest natural lake west of the Mississippi River. The lake is a remnant of pre-historic Lake Bonneville, which covered more than 20,000 square miles during the Ice Age. Four distinct shorelines from the lake may be seen from Antelope Island and include Bonneville, Provo, Stansbury, and Gilbert.

Great Salt Lake is currently 75 miles long by 28 miles wide covering 1,700 square miles. At this level, maximum depth is about 33 feet. Size and depth vary greatly with seasonal evaporation and precipitation.

Water flows into the lake from four river drainages, carrying 2.2 million tons of minerals into the lake each year. Great Salt Lake has no outlet; water leaves only through evaporation. Because of this, high concentrations of minerals are left behind. Salinity level ranges between four and 28 percent compared to the ocean at three percent.

Salinity is too high to support fish and most other aquatic species. However, brine shrimp, brine flies, and several types of algae thrive in the lake. Brine shrimp and brine flies tolerate the high salt content and feed on algae. Brine flies and brine shrimp are primary food sources for millions of migrating birds.

Nearly 80 percent of Utah's wetlands surround Great Salt Lake, making its ecosystem one of the most important resources in North America for migratory and nesting birds. The area hosts 250 bird species each year, which represents a significant part of the six to nine million migratory birds passing through the Pacific Flyway. The lake and its marshes provide resting, nesting, and staging areas for birds.

Antelope Island has 40 major freshwater springs found primarily on the east side. The springs produce 36 million gallons of water each year, supporting island wildlife and vegetation.

Oolitic sand is a unique feature of Great Salt Lake. These round grains of sand are formed when mineral grains or brine shrimp fecal pellets are coated by concentric layers of aragonite, a form of calcium carbonate. This is similar to how pearls are formed.

There are eight major islands in the lake - Antelope, Stansbury, Fremont, Carrington, Gunnison, Dolphin, Bird (Hat), and Badger. Smaller rock outcroppings appear at lower lake levels. Gunnison, Bird, Egg, and White Rock islands are bird rookeries and access is not allowed.



ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK

