

Antelope Island State Park



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

Operating Hours:

The park is open year-round excluding Thanksgiving and December 25.

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

or

Utah State Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 146001
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001
(801) 538-7220
stateparks.utah.gov

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.

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

Visit antelopeisland.utah.gov or scan the QR code with your mobile device for more information.



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

Park Guidelines

Please observe the following park regulations to ensure everyone's visit is pleasant.

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

Parking - Park only in designated parking areas. Do not park along roadside. Horse trailers are limited to designated trailheads.

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. Horses must remain in designated hitching areas when not on the trail. Horses are not allowed in ranch area or on Frary Peak Trail.

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.

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, gift shop, restrooms and amphitheater. Junior Ranger booklets are available for young visitors.

Fielding Garr Ranch - Accessible year-round. Many amenities are accessible to those with disabilities, and include self-guided tours, exhibits, picnic areas 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 are non-motorized and vary in length and difficulty. Please consult trail maps or signs for more information. No water is available along trails, please 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. RV campers should fill water tanks before coming to the park. It is unlawful to dump or drain water from campers or trailers onto the ground. A disposal station is available just south of the visitor center. Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

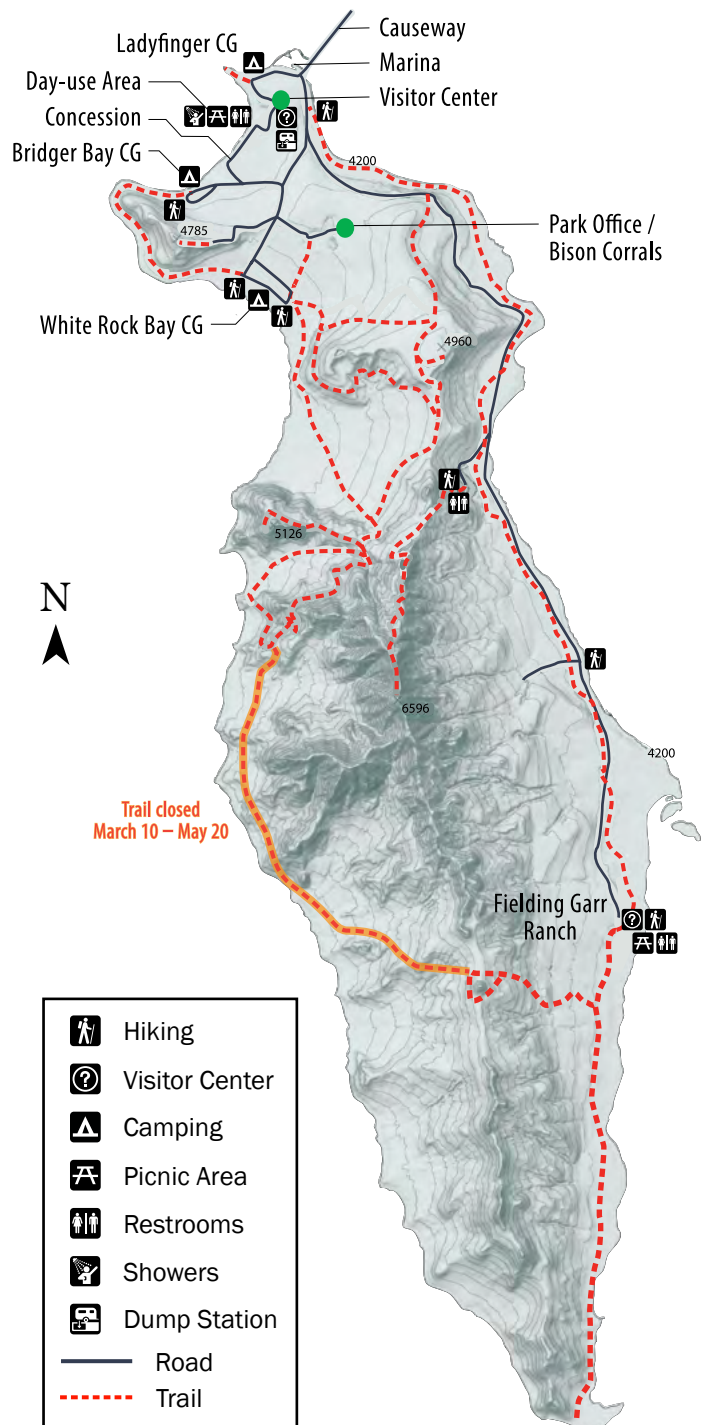
Bridger Bay Campground - 26 primitive campsites include picnic tables, shade pavilions, fire pits/grills and vault toilets. There is no water or electricity. Wheelchair accessible campsites are available by reservation. One vehicle and up to eight people are allowed per campsite. There is a fee for additional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

White Rock Bay Group Campground - 20 primitive campsites include picnic tables, fire pits/grills and vault toilets. No water or electricity. Shade pavilions are available in select sites. Two vehicles and up to 16 people per site. Two equestrian sites are available.

Ladyfinger Campground - Five primitive campsites include picnic tables and tent pads. Open fires are not permitted. No water, electricity or shade. One tent, one vehicle, and up to four people per site. Vault toilet is available.

Lakeside Group Campsite - One primitive site includes picnic tables, fire pits/grills, shade pavilion and a vault toilet. No water or electricity. 20 vehicles and up to 80 people are allowed.

Other Services - Concessions on the island offer a full service grill. Hours of operation vary throughout the year. Guided horseback rides, boat rentals, and cruises on Great Salt Lake are available by reservation. Kayak tours and rentals are seasonally available.



STATE PARK

ANTELOPE ISLAND

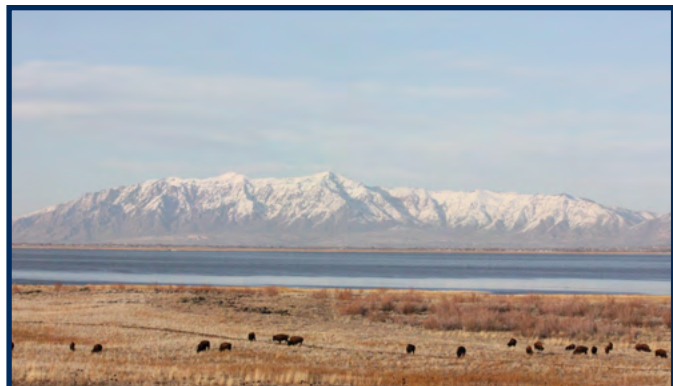
Visit the largest island in Great Salt Lake, which offers camping, wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Antelope Island is home to free-roaming herds of bison, bighorn sheep, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. The island provides spectacular views of Great Salt Lake, the Wasatch 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 original foundation. Tour the home and Historic Fielding Garr Ranch, a western ranching history.



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 last Ice Age. Four distinct shorelines from the lake may be seen from Antelope Island.

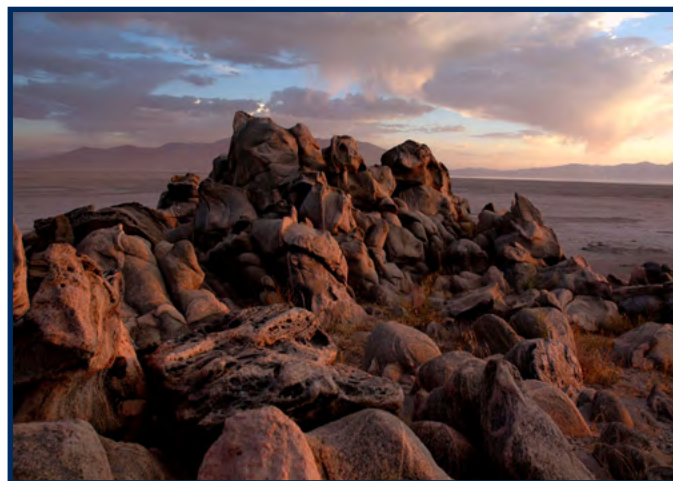
On average Great Salt Lake is 75 miles long by 28 miles wide, covering 1,700 square miles. At this level, maximum depth is about 33 feet. Size and depth vary greatly with seasonal evaporation and precipitation.

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 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 and 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.

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.



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 in Utah. The Farmington Canyon complex, at 1.7 billion years old, is the same age as 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

Antelope Island has several freshwater springs found primarily on the east side supporting island wildlife and vegetation.

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. An annual bison roundup is held each fall to assess the health of the herd and sell extra animals.

The island's namesake, pronghorn antelope, are native to Utah and to the island. These small, deer-like animals are the fastest animals in North America and can reach speeds of up to 70 miles per hour. Like all other animals on the island, they roam freely and can be seen at various locations throughout the year.

Mule deer and California bighorn sheep are the other large herbivores on the island. Predators include coyotes, bobcats, badgers and numerous birds of prey such as owls, hawks and falcons.



Educational Programs and Activities

Engaging and educational programs are offered year-round at Antelope Island. These include guided hikes, Junior Ranger programs, bird walks, astronomy programs and more. Programs help enrich the visitor experience by providing in-depth information about the island and its many unique resources.

School field trips are also offered. Subjects include Great Salt Lake ecology, plant and animal adaptations, geology, Utah history and more. For more information on any of these activities and events, visit the park website at antelopeisland.utah.gov.

