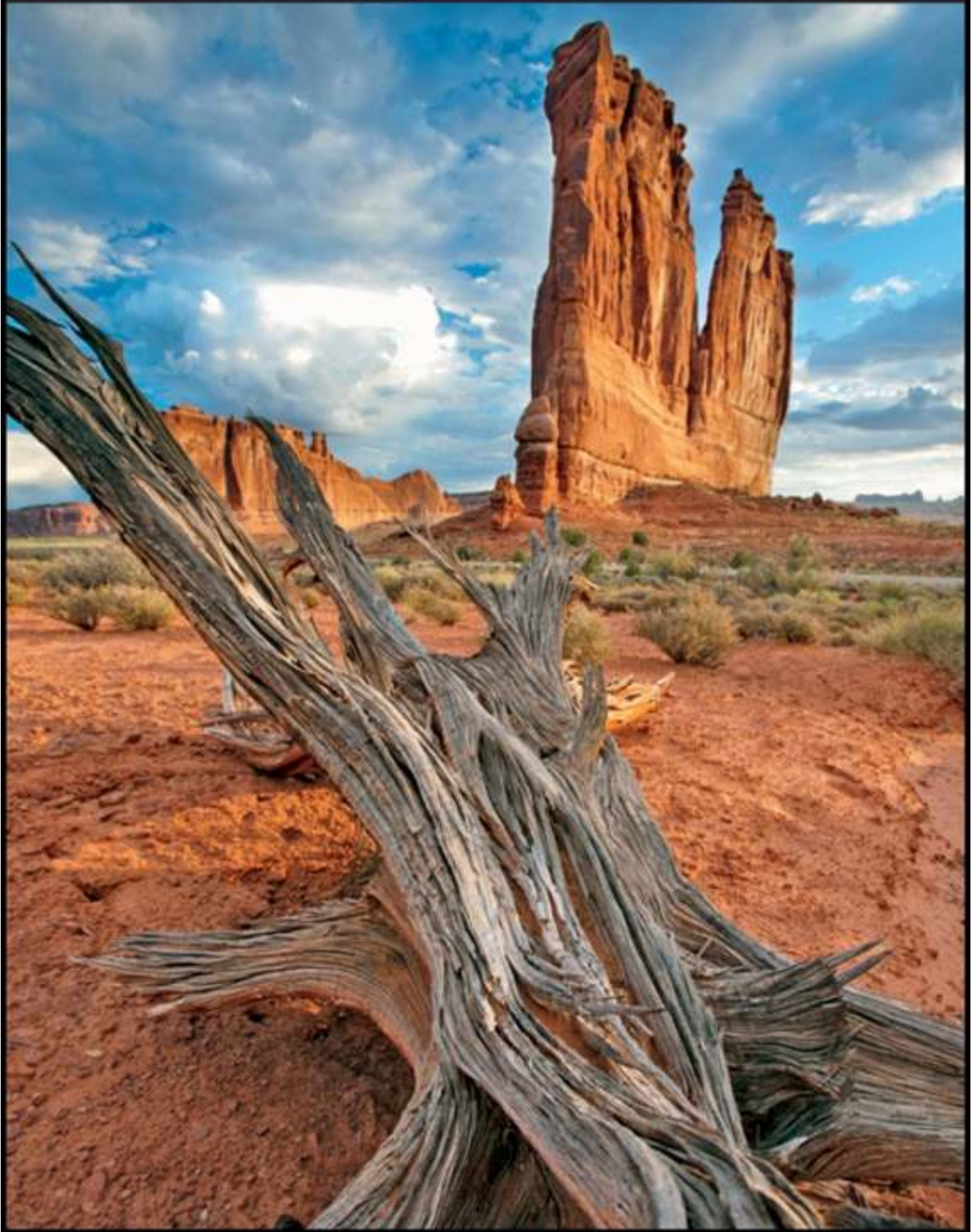


Frommer's

# Utah



# Frommer's<sup>®</sup> Utah, 9th Edition

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***Frommer's<sup>®</sup> Utah, 9th Edition***

***by Eric Peterson***



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## About the Author

A Denver-based writer, **Eric Peterson** has authored numerous Frommer's guides covering the American West, including *Frommer's Montana & Wyoming* and *Frommer's Colorado*, as well as *Ramble: A Field Guide to the U.S.A.* and other Ramble titles for Fulcrum Publishing ([www.fulcrum-books.com](http://www.fulcrum-books.com)). Peterson's byline has also appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines, including the *New York Daily News*, *Denver Post*, and *Delta Sky*, and on winter-sports columns for Frommers.com. In his free time, he's an avid camper, skier, and hiker; a lifelong Broncos fan; and a part-time rock star (at least in the eyes of his niece Olivia and nephews Mitch and Sam).

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### Note About Maps

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# How to Contact Us

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that, too. Please write to:

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## Advisory & Disclaimer

Travel information can change quickly and unexpectedly, and we strongly advise you to confirm important details locally before traveling, including information on visas, health and safety, traffic and transport, accommodation, shopping and eating out. We also encourage you to stay alert while traveling and to remain aware of your surroundings. Avoid civil disturbances, and keep a close eye on cameras, purses, wallets and other valuables.









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## Frommer's Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a **star-rating system**. In country, state, and regional guides, we also rate towns and regions to help you narrow down your choices and budget your time accordingly. Hotels and restaurants are rated on a scale of zero (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). Attractions, shopping, nightlife, towns, and regions are rated according to the following scale: zero stars (recommended), one star (highly recommended), two stars (very highly recommended), and three stars (must-see).

In addition to the star-rating system, we also use **eight feature icons** that point you to the great deals, in-the-know advice, and unique experiences that separate travelers from tourists. Throughout the book, look for:

-  **special finds**—those places only insiders know about
-  **fun facts**—details that make travelers more informed and their trips more fun
-  **kids**—best bets for kids, and advice for the whole family
-  **special moments**—those experiences that memories are made of
-  **overrated**—places or experiences not worth your time or money
-  **insider tips**—great ways to save time and money
-  **great values**—where to get the best deals
-  **warning**—traveler's advisories are usually in effect

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

**AE** American Express

**DISC** Discover

**V** Visa

**DC** Diners Club

**MC** MasterCard

# Travel Resources at Frommers.com

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Frommer's travel resources don't end with this guide. Frommer's website, [www.frommers.com](http://www.frommers.com), has travel information on more than 4,000 destinations. We update features regularly, giving you access to the most current trip-planning information and the best airfare, lodging, and car-rental bargains. You can also listen to podcasts, connect with other Frommers.com members through our active-reader forums, share your travel photos, read blogs from guidebook editors and fellow travelers, and much more.

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# Chapter 1: The Best of Utah

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Utah is home to unfathomably beautiful natural features found within its national parks and monuments, but it also has its share of man-made wonders. Salt Lake City has a number of architectural highlights, including the city's centerpiece, the Mormon Temple. You'll also see this mix of natural and man-made at Utah's terrific ski resorts and jewel-like reservoirs, and throughout the state as you explore its rich and complicated history, a past populated by Utes, Mormon pioneers, rough-and-tumble mountain men, and others.

**Cities** **Salt Lake City** is the largest city in the state and home to many of its top attractions, including Temple Square and the Utah State Capitol. To the north, **Ogden** is worth a visit for its historic downtown core and proximity to three ski resorts in Ogden Valley. **Provo**, to the south, is home to Brigham Young University and the gateway to Provo Canyon and Sundance Resort.

**Countryside** The **Wasatch Mountains** are a playground winter and summer, featuring over 100 ski resorts (Alta and Deer Valley among them) and hundreds of miles of hiking and mountain-biking trails. Mount Timpanogos is the second highest mountain in the range and home to Timpanogos Peak National Monument. **Southern Utah** is a desert wonderland featuring Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, and Zion national parks.

**Eating & Drinking** Utah is mostly a traditional American destination in terms of culinary offerings. **Beef** and **local trout and game** are specialties. Utah was long known for having outdated **liquor laws**, but that all changed in 2009 when the state normalized its drinking laws, bringing it (mostly) in line with the rest of the country.

**National Parks** There may not be a better place in the United States to visit national parks. Utah has five: **Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, and Zion**. In addition, it has seven national monuments: **Grand Staircase-Escalante, Natural Bridges, Rainbow Bridge, Cedar Breaks, Hovenweep, Timpanogos Cave, and Dinosaur**. It also has a Navajo Nation national park—**Monument Valley**.

## The best Utah Travel Experiences

- **Exploring Bryce Canyon National Park:** Among Utah's most scenic parks, Bryce Canyon is also one of the most accessible. Several trails lead down into the canyon—more like walks than hikes, so just about everyone can get to know this beautiful jewel up close. Part of the Rim Trail is even wheelchair accessible. The colorful rock formations are panoramically impressive when viewed from the rim but become fanciful works of art as you walk among them. See chapter 11.
- **Enjoying Capitol Reef National Park:** This tranquil park has an understated beauty all its own. And it's not too demanding, either: Wander through the orchards of Fruita, hike the Capitol Gorge Trail, stroll up the Grand Wash, or sit under the stars roasting

marshmallows over a campfire. See chapter 12.

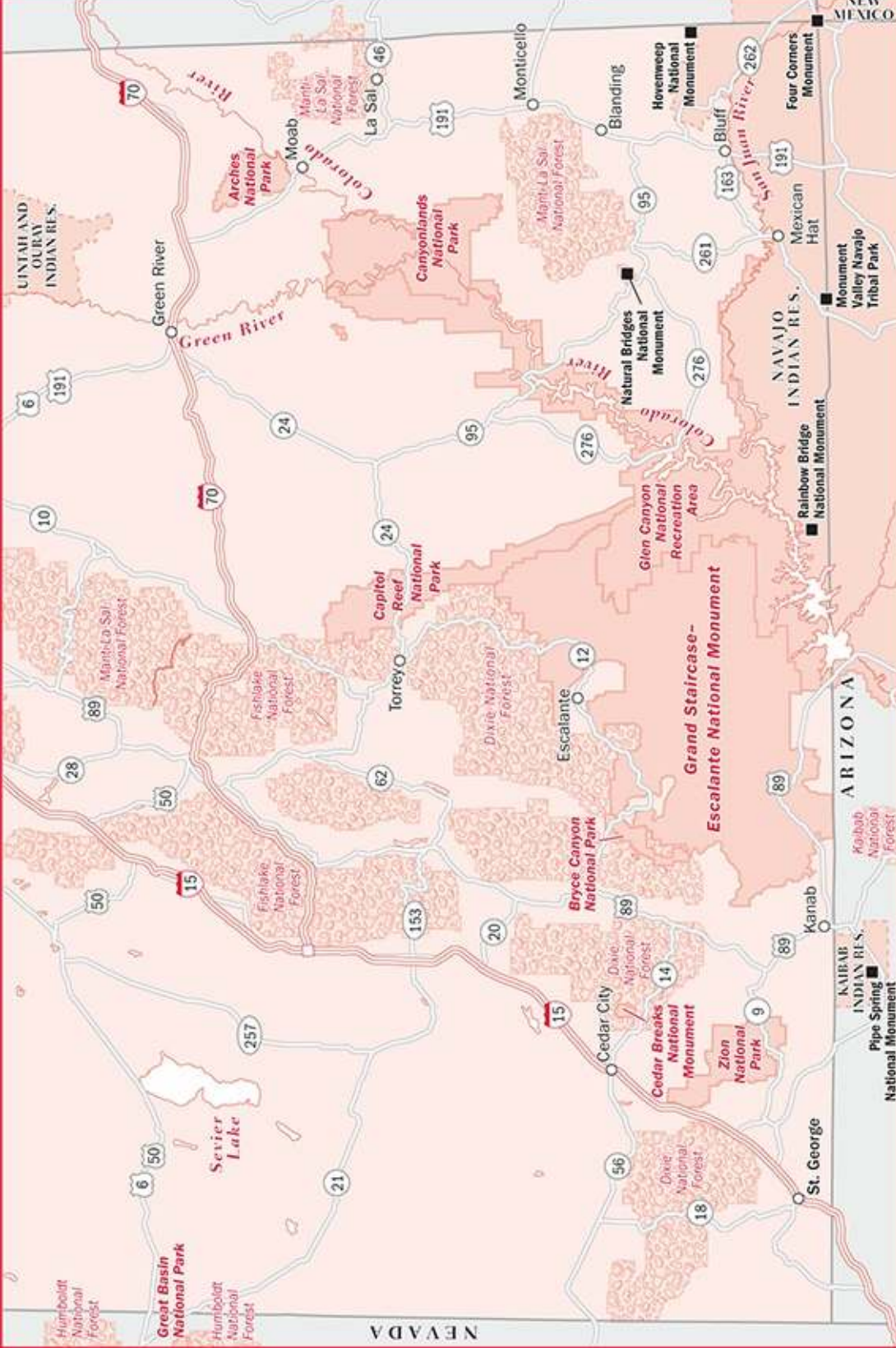
- **Houseboating on Lake Powell:** Kick back and relax while floating on the deep blue waters of man-made Lake Powell, with towering red rocks all around and an azure sky above. Feeling warm? Slip over the side for a dip in the cool water. Want a little exercise? Anchor yourself, and hike to the surrounding natural beauties, such as the Rainbow Bridge.

## Note About Maps

This guide contains dozens of maps of varying sizes and complexity. If you find it hard to read a map on your device, use the zoom function to enlarge. You can also download and/or printout PDFs of all of the maps in this guide. Go to [www.frommers.com/go/ebookmaps](http://www.frommers.com/go/ebookmaps) and click on the title of your guide.

## Utah





## The best Views

- The Narrows, Zion National Park:** The sheer 1,000-foot-high walls enclose you in a 20-foot-wide world of hanging gardens, waterfalls, and sculpted sandstone arches, with the Virgin River running beneath your boots—literally. The Narrows are so narrow that you can't walk beside the river. Instead, you have to wade right in it—but the views make it worth getting your feet wet.

- **Boulder Mountain Viewpoints** (btw. Escalante and Torrey): The panoramas from the road along the crest of Boulder Mountain are extraordinary. You can see Capitol Reef, miles to the east, and the valleys and lakes nestled in between.
- **The Queen's Garden, Bryce Canyon National Park:** Carved in stone by Mother Nature, the thousands of colorfully striped spires present a magnificent display when viewed from the rim. From the trail below, they dazzle as the early-morning sun throws them into stark relief.
- **Monument Valley Buttes at Sunset:** Impressive at any time, these stark sentinels of the desert take on a particularly dignified aura when the setting sun casts its deep colors over them, etching their profiles against a darkening sky. Although the park generally closes before sunset, you can arrange a sunset tour upon request—it's well worth the cost.

## The best Family-Vacation Experiences

- **Camping at Cherry Hill Camping Resort** (Ogden): This fun-packed campground offers something for everybody: a water park with slides, pools, and even a pirate ship, plus miniature golf, batting cages, and aeroball (it's kind of like basketball). It's like staying in a theme park—a kid's dream come true.
- **Taking a Ride on the Heber Valley Historic Railroad:** Take a trip back in time on the "Heber Creeper," so called because of the way this historic steam train inches up the canyon from Provo. A ride on this once-proud passenger and freight line lets you experience travel the way it was in your grandparents' day.
- **Exploring Northeast Utah's Dinosaurland:** This is the real *Jurassic Park*—no special effects needed. First stop: Utah Field House of Natural History State Park in Vernal. Stroll through the Dinosaur Garden to admire the 18 life-size dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures. Next, head to Dinosaur National Monument to see and touch—yes, touch—real fossilized dinosaur bones. See chapter 8.
- **Discovering Zion National Park:** The Junior Ranger Program, available at most national parks, is extensive here, with morning and afternoon activities for kids all summer. They'll have so much fun they won't notice they're learning about what makes this natural wonder so special.

## The best Hiking Trails

- **Indian Trail** (Ogden): Easily accessible from downtown Ogden, this 4.3-mile trail takes you into a thick forest of spruce and fir, and onto a mountainside that offers spectacular views of Ogden Canyon, including a beautiful waterfall.
- **Hidden Piñon Trail, Snow Canyon State Park** (St. George): This fairly easy self-guided nature trail has breathtaking panoramic views. Wander among lava rocks, into canyons, and over rocky flatland, along a trail lined with Mormon tea, cliffrose, prickly pear cactus, banana yucca, and other wild desert plants.
- **Lower Emerald Pools Trail, Zion National Park:** If green is your color, you'll love this trail—alga

make three pools glow a deep, rich shade of emerald. The first part of the trail, navigable by wheelchairs with assistance, leads through a forest to the Lower Emerald Pool, with its lovely waterfall and hanging garden. The small pool just above it is so still and calm that the reflection in the water of the towering cliffs above looks like a photograph.

- **Navajo Loop/Queen's Garden Trail, Bryce Canyon National Park:** This not-too-difficult trail lets you truly experience magical Bryce Canyon. Start at Sunset Point and get the hardest part out of the way first. You'll pass Thor's Hammer, ponder the towering skyscrapers of Wall Street, and visit with majestic Queen Victoria herself—one of the park's most fanciful formations.
- **Petrified Forest Trail, Escalante Petrified Forest State Park (Escalante):** Along this steep natural trail, you'll walk through a stunted forest of junipers and piñons before reaching a field strewn with colorful chunks of petrified wood. The trail offers panoramic views of the town of Escalante and the surrounding stair-step plateaus.

## The best Mountain Biking

- **Park City:** Some 350 miles of prime trails radiate out into the sage- and evergreen-laden open space surrounding Utah's best-known ski town.
- **Brian Head Resort:** At 11,307 feet, there may not be a lot of oxygen, but the air is pure and clear, and the biking is great—especially when you can ride a chairlift up and bike down. Trails are everywhere, each with more magnificent scenery than the last.
- **Dave's Hollow Trail:** Just outside the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park, this trail heads off into the national forest. The double track takes you through sun-dappled glades surrounded by tall ponderosa pines and spruce trees, all the way to fishing and camping at Tropic Reservoir.
- **Moab Slickrock Bike Trail:** A rite of passage for serious mountain bikers, this challenging yet rewarding trail takes 4 to 5 hours to complete. You'll enjoy breathtaking views of the Colorado River far below, the La Sal Mountains towering above, and the red sandstone formations of Arches National Park in the distance.

## The best Destinations for Fishing & Watersports

- **Strawberry Reservoir:** The number-one trout fishery in Utah for both cutthroat and rainbow trout, this gem of a lake is set magnificently among tall pines. You're really out in the woods here: The nearest town of any size is 30 miles away. So pick your spot and cast a line for dinner—you can't beat fresh-caught trout cooked over an open fire.
- **Jordanelle Reservoir** (in Jordanelle State Park, near Park City): The wide area at the dam of this boomerang-shaped reservoir is perfect for speedboats, water-skiers, and personal watercraft. The southeast end is designated for low-speed boating. Wherever you go, you'll have the beautiful Wasatch Mountains on all sides.
- **The Green River through Dinosaur National Monument:** The best way to see this spectacularly desolate country is from the river, the way explorer John Wesley Powell did in 1869. Crave



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