

Antelope Island

Summary

Antelope Island is the largest of the islands of the Great Salt Lake. Explorers such as John C. Fremont and Kit Carson were amongst the first non-natives to visit the island in 1845. A large herd of American bison were introduced to the island in 1893 and can be seen, individually and in groups, wandering around and feeding on native grasses.

Submitter Name & E-mail

Jake Gehring, jakegehring@gmail.com

Directions

The island is accessible via a 7-mile causeway from Syracuse in Davis County. Access from I-15 is via exit 332, then west along Antelope Drive (SR-108).



Cost

The cost for a vehicle to cross the Antelope Island Causeway and enter the state park is \$9 (\$3 for cyclists and pedestrians) if you are staying for the day. This fee is reduced somewhat if you are also camping

on the island: overnight camping at Bridger Bay is \$13 per site (one vehicle, two tents, eight people per campsite). Larger group sites are available as well.

Availability

Campsites are reserved through the Utah State Parks Reservation Call Center at 801-322-3770 (M-F 8am to 5pm) or online at <http://utahstateparks.reserveamerica.com>.

Difficulty

A variety of activities are available on Antelope Island ranging from easy to difficult.

Key Points to Consider

- Park staff regularly schedule special events on the island for visitors—everything from night hikes to guided tours of Fielding Garr ranch—see <http://stateparks.utah.gov/calendar/now/aisp> if you want to incorporate one of these events into your plans. 2-3 of these kinds of events are offered each month.
- Of course, Antelope Island is renowned for its abundant and unique wildlife. The island is home to Utah's largest herd of free-roaming bison. Bighorn and pronghorn sheep are fairly common. It is also a great location for birding, especially along the shoreline and the causeway.
- There are several hikes possible on the island ranging from short and easy (such as the .3 mi hike to Buffalo Point) to long and challenging, like the hike up to Frary Peak. See <http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/antelope-island> for more information.
- The island is a great location for biking and can be a good location for one of the longer rides required by the Cycling merit badge, especially if you include the causeway.

