

Good Backpacking options within reach of our district

Compiled by Stan Jarvis

Point-to-Point Heavy Duty Backpack routes

Alta to Mineral Flats - Take State Rd. 210 up Little Cottonwood Canyon to the Main Alta parking lot.

Trail starts at SE corner and goes up towards Secret Lake. Hike the access road before/above the lake up to the saddle. Great view of the valley. Proceed down the other side into Mineral Basin, then up to Pittsburgh Lake as an option. Finish on the road with a pickup at Dutchman's Flat up American Fork Canyon, about 5 miles up the dirt road from Tibble Fork Reservoir. *(beautiful with moderate crowds. Big altitude changes)*

Guardsmen's Pass – Great Western Trail Go up Big Cottonwood canyon then SR 152 to the saddle, hike North along the ridge to exit at Camp Tracy in Millcreek Canyon or South to the trailhead at the summit of the Alpine Loop, SR 92 at the junction to Cascade springs. *(busy w/little water)*

Butterfield Canyon – Cedar Fort West on 12400 S thru Herriman up Butterfield canyon to saddle. Trail starts upward-not level- on South. Go to top of Butterfield Peak then Lowe Peak. Drop down 4mile canyon to Cedar Fort or continue over Lewiston Peak first *(high, dry, lonely, challenging)*

Castle Dale: Muddy Creek - Take US 6 to Price, then SR 10 to Castledale to I70 exit on San Rafael road towards Hondo Arch. Put in above canyon with takeout below the Arch. Neat side canyons for a safe overnight campsite. Look at maps carefully *(farther away, but a super slot canyon)*

Provo Peak crossover - Trailheads include behind the Provo Temple at entrance to Rock Canyon, the end of the pavement on the Squaw Peak road off US 189 in Provo Canyon and South of Vivian Park near pavement's end on South Fork of Provo River. *(Beautiful but big altitude gains)*

Rock Canyon/Y Mountain - Trailhead is behind the Provo Temple at entrance to Rock Canyon, Hike up the trail to the road above the campground, then up rode to summit saddle to join the trail back down, past the big block Y on the mountain. *(Very challenging altitude gains. Tough for scouts.)*

Bountiful; Big Mountain – Great Western Trail Exit N. of temple in Bountiful and proceed East to top of mountain, then South to the trailhead. then From up Big Cottonwood canyon then state road 152 to the saddle, you can hike North along the ridge to exit at summit parking lot at Big Mountain.

Loop Backpack Hikes

South Willow Canyon; Deseret Peak - I-80 and SR138 to Grantsville, then South to SR 171 in South Willow Canyon beyond Boy Scout campground to trailhead. Go over the summit and come back via South Willow lake. *(uncrowded but very vertical Wilderness.)*

Upper Provo River peaks & lakes - Kamas to SR150, Mirror Lake Highway. In vicinity of Trial Lake

trail heads go to a hundred lakes. You can go to one, do a big or small loop or cross the area and exit at Smith & Morehouse campground. (*Pretty, but among most heavily used Utah forest areas*)

Urban hikes

Jordan River Parkway - Start in Riverton or Bluffdale and hike in beyond the road South of Thanksgiving Point. There are a few small spots between the trail and the river that work in spring or fall. Most to the side is private property, so check beforehand.

Short backpack hikes (10-30 minutes maximum)

Daniels Pass – US 40 South of Heber. 5 troop-size pull-offs from forest boundary at Whiskey Springs to summit. The ones on both sides are great in the summer for short distance in adventure Hike in 5-15 minutes to get away from highway noise on East, longer on West.

Snake Pit – South end of Lake Mountain down Redwood Rd. past Saratoga Springs. Alternates nearby at South end of Lake Mountain near Soldiers Pass. You can park near the highway and hike in 15 minutes to the right or 30 minutes to the left to reasonable campsites.

Soldier Creek - Turn off South just before the truck stop 7-8 miles past Thistle junction. Drive up Paved road 057 as high as you want, then backpack East or West a short distance to find a good campsite. Tends to have lots of snowmobiles at the summit so avoid that area in winter.

Alpine Loop – Go in via Sundance to the trailhead. Follow the road up with your Klondike sleds. 2 miles up near the summit there are wonderful places in forest for camping. Road is packed by snowmobiles. Physically challenging.

Tibble Fork trailhead – American Fork Canyon. Go up the road alongside the river. There are several trailheads along the canyon during the summer. Canyon fee required.

Great Salt Lake; Stansbury Island – start at the South end of the island and either pack in along the East shore or head over the top up the bike trails. West side is private property.