

FIELD PACKET · SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2026

WHEN YOU HAVE GUESTS

Salt Lake City · Sugar House

Field Packet · September-October 2026

“Friends are staying with us for one week. What is the best week we can give them from this home base?”

This is not the Home Index. The Home Index asks what improves ordinary life repeatedly; this edition is allowed to care about exceptional days.

TWO LAYERS

FIRST TIME HERE The strongest one-week experience of the city and region. This edition tests it.

WHEN YOU COME BACK Destination depth for return visits. It belongs later; material that loses only for lack of room is preserved for it.

THE UTAH ROAD PRINCIPLE

Save daylight for the road that earns it. Spend darkness on the road that doesn't.

MEAL HIERARCHY

- 1 Lunch at home when practical.
- 2 Picnic where the landscape earns it.
- 3 Restaurant only when it improves the guest experience.

IF A RESTAURANT EARNS A SLOT

Thai → Greek → Lebanese / Levantine

Healthy, comfortable, reasonably priced, and somewhere we would happily take friends.

In reserve only: Red Iguana, Foundry Grill (Sundance). Not privileged over a sound Thai, Greek or Lebanese option.

HOW TO USE THIS EDITION

One field card per day, followed by a notes page. Nothing is scored. After the trip, the field evidence is absorbed before the Live Field Edition is revised.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sat 26 September to Sat 3 October

DAY	DAY NAME · SHAPE	LUNCH	BACK
Sat 26	Arrival · first impression Arrive Saturday afternoon · provision the house together · settle in · one sunset view if time	Dinner at home	about 20:00
Sun 27	The Wasatch Big Cottonwood · Guardsman Pass · Heber · Sundance · Alpine Loop	Picnic, Alpine Loop	about 14:30
Mon 28	Salt Lake City Red Butte · organ recital · Temple Square · home · Capitol · Cathedral	Home	about 17:50
Tue 29	The Big Utah Day 06:00 · Goblin Valley · Capitol Reef · high country	Picnic, Goblin Valley	before 20:00
Wed 30	The Day After Slow morning · market · home · Ensign Peak at sunset	Home	about 20:15
Thu 1	The West · Antelope Island Lunch at home · ranch · Buffalo Point at sunset	Home	about 20:35
Fri 2	OPEN · FLEX Decided after Sunday and Thursday are lived	Home (default)	open
Sat 3	Departure Farmers Market · home · airport by about 15:15	Home	depart

WHEN THE WEATHER CHANGES

Sunday most weather-sensitive; swaps into Wednesday or Friday

Monday absorbs rain

Tuesday needs a dry desert; swaps only with Thursday

Thursday swaps with Friday

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Constants

ITEM	DETAIL
Base	Sugar House, Salt Lake City
In	Sat 26 Sep · arrive Saturday afternoon
Out	Sat 3 Oct · depart Saturday afternoon
Sunset	about 19:15 on Sat 26, falling to about 19:05 by Fri 2 (calculated; confirm in an app)
Tue sun	civil dawn about 06:55 · sunrise about 07:20 · sunset about 19:10
Wine	state liquor stores only (not Costco or Whole Foods); closed Sundays; bought in Saturday's arrival shop
Costco	1818 S 300 W · Saturday until 19:00
Organ	Tabernacle recital, Mon to Sat 12:00 (Sun 14:00); no ticket; none on Sat 3 and Sun 4 (General Conference)
NHMU	10:00 to 17:00 daily; until 21:00 on Wednesdays
Goblin Valley	\$20 per private vehicle; restrooms at Observation Point
Capitol Reef	Gifford House 9:00 to 16:30; no fuel between Hanksville and Torrey
Indian Canyon	weekday flagging or pilot car, Mon to Fri 7:00 to 19:00
Antelope Is.	\$15 per vehicle · visitor centre CLOSED for construction (temporary info at the Marina) · Fielding Garr Ranch 10:00 to 17:00
Forest pass	Silver Lake is a year-round Forest Service fee area: UWC 3-day pass \$10 per vehicle, or America the Beautiful; also valid on the Alpine Loop
Conference	General Conference Sat 3 Oct, 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00; downtown crowds

Hours and fees are as found during planning; confirm on the day where it matters.

OPERATIONS

Tickets, passes, offline

TICKETS AND PASSES

Buy before Sunday	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache 3-day forest pass, \$10 per vehicle, on recreation.gov (checked by plate) or at the Brighton Store. Covers Silver Lake and any developed site on the Alpine Loop. Not needed if you carry America the Beautiful: display it.
Buy for Monday	NHMU is the Monday rain fallback; buy a 10:00 ticket Monday morning only if the weather requires the swap.
Optional	Goblin Valley (\$20) and Antelope Island (\$15) day-use passes at parkspass.utah.gov. Saves a minute at the booth; nothing more.
Walk-up, free	Organ recital (no ticket), Temple Square, Capitol, Cathedral, Ensign Peak. Capitol Reef on Highway 24 and in Fruita: no fee (the \$20 applies only past the Fruita Campground fee station, which we do not use).

TUESDAY OFFLINE PACK · BEFORE LEAVING SUGAR HOUSE

Maps	Google Maps offline areas covering Heber to Price, Price to Green River to Hanksville, and Hanksville to Torrey to Salina to Scipio.
Pins	Goblin Valley Observation Point 38.564333, -110.703485. Goosenecks / Sunset Point lot 38.29893, -111.29786. By name: Petroglyph Panel (Capitol Reef), Gifford Homestead, Panorama Point.
Apps	NPS app: download Capitol Reef for offline use. Pass receipts saved as screenshots.
Paper	This spread, plus screenshots of the Goblin Valley brochure map and the NPS Fruita Area Map.
Signal	Expect gaps south of Price. At Capitol Reef, cell service is in Torrey; the visitor centre has free wifi.

OPERATIONS

Night-before checks

Sat night · for Sunday	UDOT Traffic: seasonal roads SR-190 Guardsman and SR-92 Alpine Loop open. UDOT Cottonwoods: canyon restrictions. Cloud over Brighton. Forest pass bought.
Sun night · for Monday	Weather decides Red Butte or NHMU (buy the NHMU 10:00 ticket Monday morning only if needed); after lunch, Memory Grove is the main outdoor piece.
Mon night · for Tuesday	UDOT Traffic: US-191 Indian Canyon (weekday pilot car 7:00 to 19:00), SR-24, I-15 near Scipio. NWS forecast and Flash Flood Potential Rating for Goblin Valley and Capitol Reef. Capitol Reef alerts page; road line 435-425-3791 (#4 roads, #3 weather): is the Goosenecks spur dry? Rental range. Offline pack downloaded. Tank filled tonight.
Wed · for the evening	Sunset time and sky for Ensign Peak.
Wed night · for Thursday	Antelope Island current-conditions page; entrance booth 801-773-2941. Sunset time; haze or smoke.
Fri night · for Saturday	Market on (through 24 Oct). Conference sessions 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00. Airport route by I-80 west.

Sources: UDOT Traffic app; UDOT Cottonwoods; NWS Salt Lake City; nps.gov/care alerts; stateparks.utah.gov current-conditions pages.

OPERATIONS

Parking and arrival

SUNDAY · THE WASATCH

Silver Lake	Visitor Center lot at the top of Big Cottonwood, on the right as the Brighton loop begins. If full: Brighton Store lot across the road (same fee area). Fee: forest pass displayed; cashless (QR code in the lot, Brighton Store, recreation.gov). Walk: the boardwalk loop (about 0.9 mi) starts at the lot. No dogs, no swimming.
Guardsman Pass	Only a handful of spaces at the crest; parking along the road is prohibited and towed. If full: do not stop; drive the crest slowly and let passengers look.
Alpine Loop picnic	Gravel turnouts not tied to a developed site are free; developed picnic sites need the pass (already covered).

MONDAY · SALT LAKE CITY

Red Butte	Free visitor-centre lot, 300 Wakara Way. NHMU's lots are next door if the rain fallback is used.
NHMU	Two surface lots beside the museum; uphill walk to the entrance on paths, stairs and ramps; drop-off at the turnaround on the north side. If full: follow attendants to overflow, or street parking on Colorow Road.
Temple Square	Conference Center garage: entrance in the centre lane of West Temple, beside the Conference Center. Free with validation from the Conference Center hosting desks; otherwise \$10 to \$25 (the Church's own pages differ). If full: an attendant directs you; City Creek garages are the backup. Walk across North Temple to the Tabernacle; be seated by 11:55.
Capitol · Memory Grove	Free visitor parking on the Capitol complex. Building open Mon to Thu 07:00 to 20:00. Memory Grove lies in the hollow just east of the Capitol: walk down if the path is obvious, otherwise drive to Canyon Road at 300 North (street parking).
Cathedral	Cathedral lot on the north side, entered from B Street. If full: metered parking on South Temple.

TUESDAY • THE BIG UTAH DAY

Goblin Valley	Pay at the entrance station (\$20). Observation Point lot at the end of the road (pin above): paved, vault toilets at both ends, covered picnic shelters. A short, steep staircase and gravel path lead down to the First Valley. Three Sisters: roadside pull-off on the way in, 250 yards.
Petroglyphs	Highway 24 pullout 1.1 mi east of the visitor centre; boardwalk. No fee.
Gifford House	Its own lot, 1 mi south of the visitor centre on Scenic Drive, before the fee station. No fee. Pies can sell out by afternoon; if the case is empty, the orchards are open and fruit eaten there is free.
Sunset Point • Goosenecks	Turn at the Panorama Point / Goosenecks sign about 2.5 mi west of the visitor centre; follow about 1 mi of dirt road (2WD when dry) to the end: lot for about a dozen cars (pin above). Both walks start there. If full, or the spur is wet: the Panorama Point lot, just off the highway, and its view.

WEDNESDAY • ENSIGN PEAK

Ensign Peak	Street parking at the trailhead, 1002 N Ensign Vista Dr (40.79175, -111.88804). Sunset is the popular hour: arrive by 18:15. If full: nearby streets; obey residential signs. About 1 mi round trip, 20 minutes up. Open daylight to dark: headlamp.
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THURSDAY • ANTELOPE ISLAND

Island	Fee booth at the causeway (\$15). Visitor centre closed for construction; temporary information at the Marina, to the right as you reach the island. No fuel on the island.
Fielding Garr Ranch	About 11 mi down the east-side road; parking at the ranch. Buildings 10:00 to 17:00; grounds self-guided outside those hours.
Buffalo Point	At the end of the causeway go left toward White Rock Bay, then right up the Buffalo Point road; lot with picnic deck and restrooms (41.03275, -112.2566). Trail about 0.45 mi one way, 250 to 300 ft up. Sunset from the top, or from the deck.

SATURDAY 3 • THE LAST MORNING

Farmers Market	Arrive 08:00. Park at The Gateway (first hour free, then \$2 per hour) or at a meter (2 hours, \$3.50 per hour, ParkSLC app). Northbound 400 West is closed during market hours. TRAX: Planetarium or Arena. Be out by about 09:30, ahead of the 10:00 General Conference session; Conference Center parking is closed to the public for conference.
Airport	From Sugar House take I-80 west, keeping clear of North Temple and West Temple around the 14:00 session.

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Arrival • First Impression

PROPOSITION

The guest arrives, helps make the house theirs for the week, and finishes the first day with one view that explains where they are.

PURPOSE OF THE ARRIVAL SHOP

Shop together for the week. Guests choose what they want available at the house.

ROUTE / SEQUENCE · PLANNED CLOCK

afternoon	Arrive at SLC; rental car; leave the airport about 15:15
about 15:35	Costco, 1818 S 300 W (Sat until 19:00)
about 16:50	Whole Foods, 1131 E Wilmington Ave (08:00 to 21:00)
	Wine: Sugar House state liquor store, Ashton Ave (wine is sold only in state stores; closed Sundays)
about 17:45	The house in Sugar House: unpack, put the week away, settle in
about 18:45	Leave the house for This Is The Place Monument, 2601 E Sunnyside Ave, near where the Mormon pioneer company first viewed the Salt Lake Valley in 1847
about 19:00	Arrive; park and walk a few minutes across the plaza to the monument and the view
19:17	Sunset over the Salt Lake Valley
about 19:35	Leave in the last light
about 19:50	Home
about 20:00	Dinner at home

DRIVING CLASSIFICATION

City connective throughout.

MEAL PLAN

Dinner at home, from the shop.

WEATHER SENSITIVITY

Low for the shop; moderate for the evening view.

FRICTION TO WATCH

Rental car and check-in times; luggage and groceries in one car; Saturday crowds at Costco; perishables across three stops; first hours at 4,300 ft.

WHAT THE FIELD NEEDS TO DECIDE

Does shopping immediately after arrival feel welcoming or tiring? Is Costco + Whole Foods the right combination, or is one enough? How long does provisioning actually take, from leaving the airport to reaching the house? Do guests appreciate choosing their own food for the week? Does the valley from This Is The Place make the right first impression, or would Sugar House Park have been enough?

CUT ORDER

1. Do not cut provisioning. 2. If arrival runs late, simplify the shopping. 3. If necessary, cut the sunset outing. The house being ready for the week matters more than forcing the first view on arrival night.

FALLBACK

If arrival or provisioning runs late, walk to Sugar House Park instead. Provisioning remains protected; the sunset outing is still the first thing cut.

SAT 26 · ARRIVAL · FIELD NOTES

ACTUAL TIMES

PLANNED	WHERE / WHAT	ACTUAL
afternoon	Arrive at SLC; rental car; leave the airport about 15:15	
about 15:35	Costco, 1818 S 300 W (Sat until 19:00)	
about 16:50	Whole Foods, 1131 E Wilmington Ave (08:00 to 21:00)	
	Wine: Sugar House state liquor store, Ashton Ave (wine...	
about 17:45	The house in Sugar House: unpack, put the week away,...	
about 18:45	Leave the house for This Is The Place Monument, 2601 E...	
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19:17	Sunset over the Salt Lake Valley	
about 19:35	Leave in the last light	
about 19:50	Home	
about 20:00	Dinner at home	

WHAT SURPRISED ME

WHAT DID NOT WORK

WOULD I TAKE FRIENDS HERE?

SAT 26 · ARRIVAL · PHOTOS / NOTES

PHOTO REFERENCES / SKETCH

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

The Wasatch

PROPOSITION

In one day, the guest understands that the mountain wall at the end of the street is a whole range, with a far side and a great peak, and that it is reachable before breakfast.

ROUTE / SEQUENCE · PLANNED CLOCK

08:00	Leave Sugar House, picnic packed
about 08:45	Big Cottonwood Canyon to Brighton; Silver Lake walk (flat, about 45 min)
about 10:15	Guardsmen Pass overlook
about 11:00	Down the Midway side to Heber
about 11:30	Sundance: 30 minutes on the grounds (no brunch)
about 12:15	Picnic at an Alpine Loop pullout below Timpanogos
about 13:45	Out through American Fork Canyon
about 14:30	Home by I-15

DRIVING CLASSIFICATION

About 3.5 h, roughly 80% scenic (Big Cottonwood, Guardsman, Provo Canyon, Alpine Loop, American Fork Canyon). Heber Valley: pleasant connective. Last 40 min on I-15: dead transit.

MEAL PLAN

Picnic on the Alpine Loop: free at undeveloped pullouts; recreation pass needed at developed sites on the American Fork side. Dinner at home.

WEATHER SENSITIVITY

High. Low cloud erases the reason for the day.

FRICTION TO WATCH

Silver Lake fee area: display the forest pass or America the Beautiful. Guardsman: few spaces at the crest; roadside parking towed. Alpine Loop busy on fall weekends. Wine already bought.

WHAT THE FIELD NEEDS TO DECIDE

One coherent day, or two passes that repeat each other? Has Guardsman's colour already passed? Sunday traffic on the Alpine Loop. Reverse direction is the comparison only if afternoon traffic proves unbearable.

CUT ORDER

1. Silver Lake walk. 2. Alpine Loop (from Sundance, home by Provo Canyon). 3. If failing early, cut at Heber; home by US-40 and Parleys.

FALLBACK

Swap with Wednesday or Friday. A Sunday/Monday swap is possible only after confirming the Sunday 14:00 recital location and access.

SUN 27 · THE WASATCH · FIELD NOTES

ACTUAL TIMES

PLANNED	WHERE / WHAT	ACTUAL
08:00	Leave Sugar House, picnic packed	
about 08:45	Big Cottonwood Canyon to Brighton; Silver Lake walk...	
about 10:15	Guardsman Pass overlook	
about 11:00	Down the Midway side to Heber	
about 11:30	Sundance: 30 minutes on the grounds (no brunch)	
about 12:15	Picnic at an Alpine Loop pullout below Timpanogos	
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about 14:30	Home by I-15	

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SUN 27 · THE WASATCH · PHOTOS / NOTES

PHOTO REFERENCES / SKETCH

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Salt Lake City

PROPOSITION

The morning places the city in its landscape; the middle of the day explains its founding; the afternoon shows the city from above and ends somewhere quiet.

ROUTE / SEQUENCE · PLANNED CLOCK

09:00	Red Butte Garden: main garden loop, then the Natural Area trail for the valley view
about 10:45	Leave for Temple Square
11:50	Be seated
12:00	Tabernacle organ recital
	Then Temple Square / visitors' center / Base & Meridian
about 13:25	Home for lunch and rest
15:15	Out again: the Capitol and Memory Grove
	Cathedral of the Madeleine
about 17:50	Home; early dinner before Tuesday's 06:00 start

DRIVING CLASSIFICATION

About 1 h in total, plus one extra downtown round trip (about 35 min). All city connective.

MEAL PLAN

Lunch at home. Early dinner at home. Red Iguana in reserve only.

WEATHER SENSITIVITY

Moderate. Red Butte is outdoors; if wet, use NHMU next door at 10:00 instead. After lunch, Memory Grove is the main weather-sensitive piece.

FRICTION TO WATCH

Red Butte to Temple Square is about 15 min; leave by 11:15 at the latest. Downtown parking twice. Capitol hours to confirm. A 17:50 return before a 06:00 start.

WHAT THE FIELD NEEDS TO DECIDE

Does the Temple Square story hold guests with no religious interest? Is the Capitol worth its hour, or only its view?

CUT ORDER

1. Natural Area climb; stay on the garden loop. 2. Memory Grove. 3. Cathedral. 4. Capitol. Protect the garden loop, recital and Temple Square.

FALLBACK

Rain: NHMU at 10:00 instead of Red Butte.

MON 28 · SALT LAKE CITY · FIELD NOTES

ACTUAL TIMES

PLANNED	WHERE / WHAT	ACTUAL
09:00	Red Butte Garden: main garden loop, then the Natural...	
about 10:45	Leave for Temple Square	
11:50	Be seated	
12:00	Tabernacle organ recital	
	Then Temple Square / visitors' center / Base & Meridian	
about 13:25	Home for lunch and rest	
15:15	Out again: the Capitol and Memory Grove	
	Cathedral of the Madeleine	
about 17:50	Home; early dinner before Tuesday's 06:00 start	

WHAT SURPRISED ME

WHAT DID NOT WORK

WOULD I TAKE FRIENDS HERE?

MON 28 · SALT LAKE CITY · PHOTOS / NOTES

PHOTO REFERENCES / SKETCH

NOTES

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER · SPREAD 1 OF 2

The Big Utah Day

06:00 departure · Goblin Valley · Capitol Reef · scenic high country · home for dinner by 20:00

PROPOSITION

Show a first-time guest that in Utah the road is part of the attraction: high country, desert and red rock in one day, with the scenic road in daylight and dinner at home.

ROUTE

06:00 Sugar House → Heber → Strawberry → Duchesne → Indian Canyon → Price → Green River → Goblin Valley → Hanksville → Capitol Reef → Torrey → Loa / Koosharem → Sigurd → Scipio → Sugar House

GOVERNING PLAN

- Leave 06:00.
- Start with a full tank.
- One planned fuel stop, at Green River.
- Picnic lunch at Goblin Valley.
- Capitol Reef in afternoon light.
- No restaurant dinner.
- Dinner back at the house.
- Target home before 20:00.
- Darkness, if any, belongs on the low-value I-15 return.

LIGHT

Civil dawn about 06:55 · sunrise about 07:20 · sunset about 19:10 · civil dusk about 19:35 (calculated; confirm the night before).

FUEL

Green River is about 230 miles from home; the rest of the loop is roughly 330. Check the rental's range at pickup. If it won't cover about 330 miles with margin, add a 10-minute top-up at Salina (low-value stretch; costs no scenery).

BEFORE LEAVING

Night before: UDOT Traffic for the I-15 closure icon near Scipio and for Indian Canyon (weekday flagging or pilot car, 7:00 to 19:00). Forecast for a dry desert.

RETURN-TIME SCENARIOS

CASE	ALLOCATIONS (MIN)	HOME
Fast	Goblin 60 · Capitol Reef 90 · fuel 10 · pullouts 20 · buffer 20	about 18:55
Planned	Midpoints	about 19:35
Slow	Goblin 75 · Capitol Reef 120 · fuel 15 · pullouts 30 · buffer 30	about 20:05

THE FIELD QUESTION

At the end of the day, would a first-time visitor think “That was an extraordinary way to see Utah,” or “We spent all day in the car”?

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER · SPREAD 2 OF 2

Clock, checkpoints, cuts

PLANNED	WHERE	STOP	LIGHT
06:00	Leave Sugar House, full tank		Dark
06:45	Heber	Drive through	Dark
about 07:20	Strawberry	Drive through	Sunrise
08:00	Duchesne	Drive through	Day
09:15	Price, via Indian Canyon	Summit photos if the colour earns it; Helper not stopped; 15 min flagging allowed	Day
10:15 to 10:27	Green River	The one fuel stop	Day
11:15	Goblin Valley	San Rafael Reef pullout on the way in	Day
11:15 to 12:25	Goblin Valley	Picnic at the Observation Point shelters. Walk: free-roam loop in the first Valley of Goblins, about 1 mi, 35 to 40 min. Fallback: nearest goblins and back, 10 to 15 min	Day
13:00	Hanksville	Drive through	Day
13:50	Fruita	Factory Butte and Caineville pullout on the way	Day
13:50 to 15:35	Capitol Reef	Petroglyphs; Fruita, Gifford pie (closes 16:30), restrooms at the visitor centre. Walk: Sunset Point from the Panorama Point turnoff, 0.8 mi RT, 25 to 30 min. Fallback: Goosenecks only, 0.2 mi RT, 5 to 10 min	Afternoon light
16:50	Sigurd	High valleys through Loa and Koosharem, no stops	Full daylight
17:25	Scipio	Join I-15	Day
about 19:35	Home		Sunset near the end of I-15

CHECKPOINTS

- 1 Leave Green River by 10:30.
- 2 Leave Goblin Valley by 12:45 (protects about 105 minutes at Capitol Reef).
- 3 Leave Fruita by 16:05 (Fruita to home is about 3 h 40).

IF BEHIND, CUT IN THIS ORDER

- 1 Any optional hike beyond the two planned walks (Hickman Bridge and Carmel Canyon are not in the plan).
- 2 Helper (already dropped in this plan).
- 3 Goblin Valley reduced toward one hour: the loop becomes the 10 to 15 min fallback.
- 4 Capitol Reef shortened: Sunset Point becomes Goosenecks only.
The high-country drive out of Capitol Reef stays protected throughout.

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER · SEGMENT LOG

Segment log

Light: D day · G golden hour · K dusk · N dark. Tick one class per segment.

SEGMENT	START	END	LIGHT	SCENIC	CONN.	DEAD	DARK COST?
Sugar House → Parleys → Heber desk: moderate; spent in the dark				☐	☐	☐	
Heber → Strawberry → Duchesne desk: moderate to high				☐	☐	☐	
Duchesne → Indian Canyon → Helper → Price desk: high				☐	☐	☐	
Price → Green River desk: undecided (Book Cliffs)				☐	☐	☐	
Green River → SR-24 (San Rafael Reef) → Goblin Valley desk: high				☐	☐	☐	
Goblin Valley → Hanksville desk: moderate to high				☐	☐	☐	
Hanksville → Caineville → Fruita desk: highest of the day				☐	☐	☐	
Fruita → Torrey desk: high				☐	☐	☐	
Torrey → Loa → Koosharem → Sigurd desk: moderate to high				☐	☐	☐	
Sigurd → Salina → Scipio (US-50) desk: low; spendable in dark				☐	☐	☐	
Scipio → I-15 → Sugar House desk: dead transit				☐	☐	☐	

Scenic hours driven after sunset: _____

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER · STOPS AND VERDICT

Stops and the day in one line

STOP	PLAN IN	PLAN OUT	ACTUAL IN	ACTUAL OUT
Green River · fuel	10:15	10:27		
Goblin Valley	11:15	12:25		
Capitol Reef	13:50	15:35		

PINS Goblin Valley Observation Point 38.564333, -110.703485 · Goosenecks / Sunset Point lot 38.29893, -111.29786

DEPARTURE · HOME · FUEL

Left Sugar House _____ Home _____ Fuel stops _____

THE FIELD QUESTION

☐ “An extraordinary way to see Utah” ☐ “We spent all day in the car”

WHAT SURPRISED ME

WHAT DID NOT WORK

WOULD I TAKE FRIENDS HERE?

TUE 29 · THE BIG UTAH DAY · PHOTOS / NOTES

PHOTO REFERENCES / SKETCH

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

The Day After

PROPOSITION

A day that feels like being looked after, with one clear shape so it cannot feel wasted.

ROUTE / SEQUENCE · PLANNED CLOCK

morning	Slow start at the house
late morning	Market run for tonight's dinner; coffee at 15th & 15th only if wanted
about 13:00	Lunch at home
afternoon	At the house
18:00	Leave for Ensign Peak (a mile round trip; carry a headlamp)
about 19:10	Sunset over the whole valley
about 19:35	Down in the last light
about 20:15	Dinner at home

DRIVING CLASSIFICATION

City connective only. About 3 hours out of the house in total.

MEAL PLAN

Lunch at home. Dinner at home: the day's real event.

WEATHER SENSITIVITY

Moderate, for the peak only.

FRICTION TO WATCH

Minimal. Parking at the Ensign Peak trailhead near sunset.

WHAT THE FIELD NEEDS TO DECIDE

Does the guest feel “Thank God, this is perfect” or “Why did we waste one of my Utah days”? After Saturday’s first valley view, does Ensign Peak still earn its own sunset?

CUT ORDER

1. Coffee at 15th & 15th. 2. The market becomes a quick errand. The peak and the dinner stay.

FALLBACK

If the evening is wet, NHMU is open until 21:00 on Wednesdays and can replace Ensign Peak.

WED 30 · THE DAY AFTER · FIELD NOTES

ACTUAL TIMES

PLANNED	WHERE / WHAT	ACTUAL
morning	Slow start at the house	
late morning	Market run for tonight's dinner; coffee at 15th & 15th...	
about 13:00	Lunch at home	
afternoon	At the house	
18:00	Leave for Ensign Peak (a mile round trip; carry a...	
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WHAT SURPRISED ME

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WED 30 · THE DAY AFTER · PHOTOS / NOTES

PHOTO REFERENCES / SKETCH

Lined area for notes.

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER

The West • Antelope Island

PROPOSITION

The other half of the geography: the remnant of the ancient lake, animals on open range, and a sunset over water.

ROUTE / SEQUENCE • PLANNED CLOCK

12:30	Lunch at home
13:45	Leave
about 14:30	Causeway, fee booth (\$15). Visitor centre closed; temporary info at the Marina, on the right
about 15:05	East-side road south, about 11 mi, to the Fielding Garr Ranch (buildings 10:00 to 17:00)
about 16:15	Back north slowly, watching for bison
about 18:30	Buffalo Point: walk up for sunset (about 1 mi RT)
about 19:05	Sunset over the lake
about 20:35	Home for a late dinner

Choir variant (if the Thursday Tabernacle Choir rehearsal replaces the sunset; confirm its format in General Conference week): lunch at home 12:00 · leave 12:45 · ranch, then Buffalo Point in daylight · leave the island by 17:00 · home about 18:00 for an early supper · Tabernacle 19:30.

DRIVING CLASSIFICATION

Causeway and island: scenic. I-15: dead transit both ways; the return runs in the dark, which costs nothing.

MEAL PLAN

Lunch at home. Snacks and water on the island, no picnic. Late dinner at home.

WEATHER SENSITIVITY

Moderate. Haze or smoke can flatten the sunset.

FRICTION TO WATCH

No fuel on the island (fill on Antelope Drive, Syracuse). Low water: shoreline far from the road. Non-biting midges on the causeway; mosquitoes, so bring repellent. Wildlife likely but not guaranteed. Headlamp for the Buffalo Point descent.

WHAT THE FIELD NEEDS TO DECIDE

Is the lake strange and beautiful, or bleak? The sunset or the choir?

CUT ORDER

1. The ranch. 2. The Buffalo Point climb: watch the sunset from the deck at the lot instead. The causeway and the sunset stay.

FALLBACK

Swap with Friday. (Bonneville Salt Flats: held for When You Come Back.)

THU 1 · THE WEST · FIELD NOTES

ACTUAL TIMES

PLANNED	WHERE / WHAT	ACTUAL
12:30	Lunch at home	
13:45	Leave	
about 14:30	Causeway, fee booth (\$15). Visitor centre closed;...	
about 15:05	East-side road south, about 11 mi, to the Fielding...	
about 16:15	Back north slowly, watching for bison	
about 18:30	Buffalo Point: walk up for sunset (about 1 mi RT)	
about 19:05	Sunset over the lake	
about 20:35	Home for a late dinner	

WHAT SURPRISED ME

WHAT DID NOT WORK

WOULD I TAKE FRIENDS HERE?

THU 1 · THE WEST · PHOTOS / NOTES

PHOTO REFERENCES / SKETCH

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

OPEN · FLEX

OPEN · FLEX · DECIDED AFTER SUNDAY AND THURSDAY

PROPOSITION

Friday stays open until Sunday and Thursday have been lived. The question it answers: what would make us regret sending the guest home tomorrow without having done it?

CANDIDATES, IN ORDER OF TESTING

1	Make-up for any day lost to weather (the default)
2	Little Cottonwood on foot: Albion Basin and the Cecret Lake walk, plus the Snowbird tram to Hidden Peak if running (fall weekday operation unconfirmed)
3	Park City properly

DRIVING CLASSIFICATION

Depends on the choice. Little Cottonwood about 45 min each way; Park City about 40 min.

MEAL PLAN

Lunch at home by default (about 13:00). A restaurant only if it earns the slot: Thai → Greek → Lebanese first.

WEATHER SENSITIVITY

Depends on the choice.

FRICTION TO WATCH

Little Cottonwood may repeat Sunday's scenery; the field compares the two directly.

WHAT THE FIELD NEEDS TO DECIDE

Which of the two gaps is more conspicuous after five days: the mountains on foot at altitude, or something else the week did not give?

CUT ORDER

Not applicable until chosen.

FALLBACK

Friday is itself the week's fallback slot.

FRI 2 · OPEN / FLEX · FIELD NOTES

ACTUAL TIMES

WHAT SURPRISED ME

WHAT DID NOT WORK

WOULD I TAKE FRIENDS HERE?

FRI 2 · OPEN / FLEX · PHOTOS / NOTES

PHOTO REFERENCES / SKETCH

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

Departure

PROPOSITION

A departure day can still hold one good thing.

ROUTE / SEQUENCE · PLANNED CLOCK

morning	Downtown Farmers Market, Pioneer Park (Saturdays 8:00 to 14:00; park under construction, market spills onto adjacent streets)
	Home: lunch, bags, car
about 15:15	At the airport
afternoon	Depart

DRIVING CLASSIFICATION

City connective; airport run.

MEAL PLAN

Lunch at home before the airport.

WEATHER SENSITIVITY

Moderate. The market is outdoors.

FRICTION TO WATCH

General Conference sessions 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00 at the Conference Center: downtown crowds and full trains. No organ recitals today. Car return. Bags.

WHAT THE FIELD NEEDS TO DECIDE

Is the market worth the last morning? How does conference weekend feel downtown? How long is the real return to the airport?

CUT ORDER

The market. If the morning feels rushed, stay local on the last day.

FALLBACK

Stay local on the last morning.

SAT 3 · DEPARTURE · FIELD NOTES

ACTUAL TIMES

PLANNED	WHERE / WHAT	ACTUAL
morning	Downtown Farmers Market, Pioneer Park (Saturdays 8:00...	
	Home: lunch, bags, car	
about 15:15	At the airport	
afternoon	Depart	

WHAT SURPRISED ME

WHAT DID NOT WORK

WOULD I TAKE FRIENDS HERE?

SAT 3 · DEPARTURE · PHOTOS / NOTES

PHOTO REFERENCES / SKETCH

AFTER THE WEEK

Week verdict

WHAT WERE THE FIVE THINGS I WOULD DEFINITELY SHOW FRIENDS?

WHICH DAY WAS WEAKER THAN EXPECTED?

WHAT SHOULD MOVE EARLIER OR LATER?

WHAT BELONGS IN “WHEN YOU COME BACK” INSTEAD?

WAS THERE TOO MUCH MOUNTAIN REPETITION?

DID HOME LUNCHESES IMPROVE THE WEEK?

DID CHOOSING THE WEEK'S FOOD TOGETHER MAKE GUESTS FEEL MORE AT HOME?

WHAT DID THE HOUSE ITSELF CONTRIBUTE?

IF THESE WERE A FRIEND'S ONLY SIX FULL DAYS IN UTAH, WOULD I FEEL GOOD SENDING THEM HOME?

AFTER THE WEEK

The week I would actually give them next time

1

2

3

4

5

6

Once the trip is complete, the public Live Field Edition is revised to show what survived, what changed, and what we would do next time.