



FRIDAY 08/07/26 - EXPLORING GOLDEN SPIKE



(10:30 AM) As all great trips do, start the morning on a full gas tank, before beginning the drive from the University of Utah campus towards Promontory Summit. (~\$52)



(11:30 AM) Break up the drive to Promontory Point with a stop at the Rusted Spoon for a homestyle American brunch. (~\$70)

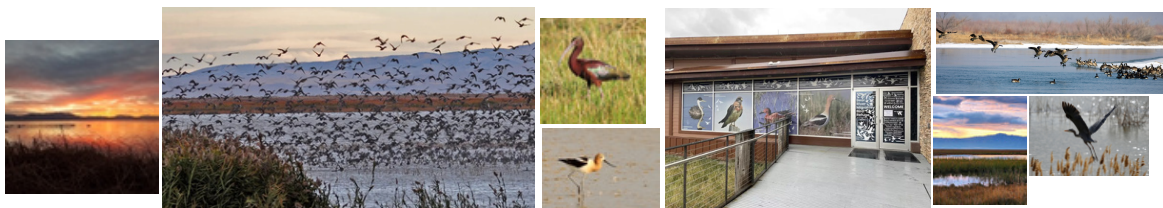


(12:45 PM) Arrive at Golden Spike National Historical Park. (\$20)

- Explore the site at your leisure. Take note that live demonstrations of the historic Jupiter and No. 119 locomotives begin at 1:00 PM.



(2:00 PM) Embark on a self-guided tour of Promontory's surrounding wilderness just outside of Golden Spike NHS, through the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.



(5:00 PM) Leave Promontory and begin drive towards Coalville, Utah.



(5:45 PM) Stop for dinner at Maddox Ranch House. Signature dishes such as the all-you-can-eat rolls or USDA choice beef steaks are renowned amongst locals and travelers alike! (~\$150)



(7:00 PM) Continue along the roadside until you reach your destination in Coalville.



(8:00 PM) Check in at the Best Western Holiday Hills and enjoy in-house amenities, such as the on site hot tub, to bring the night to a close. (~\$307 two night stay)



SATURDAY 08/08/26 - RESERVOIRS & RODEOS



(9:00 AM) Wake up to enjoy the Best Western's complimentary breakfast with a view of Echo Reservoir less than 2 minutes away.



(10:00 AM) Take a trip out along main street exploring Coalville's small town, vintage charm while picking up supplies for an afternoon lakeside picnic across various sellers. (~\$90)

- Key stops include: Summit Merc, Neena's market, Mix place, and the cherry on top, especially for those more attuned to big city life, Coalville city hall.



(12:00 PM) Pack up and head for Echo Reservoir to enjoy a lakeside adventure. While swimming is practically a must, boating is also available, and for more daring guests cliff jumping is also a popular activity while on the water. (~\$250 boat rental)



While on the lake find a time to dry off for a quick lunch picnic along one of the multiple Echo Reservoir viewing areas.



(4:30 PM) Head back into town to check out the Summit County Fair. Admission is free however additional fair games, services, as well as the dozens of vendors line the park grounds as early as 11:00 AM! (~\$60)



There's no wrong choices for food at the fair, but a rodeo burger is a staple for veteran barrel racers and first time rodeo-goers alike. (~\$40)



(8:00 PM) The PRCA sponsored Summit County Fair Rodeo begins. (~\$60)



(11:00 PM) Return to the Best Western for your second night stay.



SUNDAY 08/09/26 - MOUNTAINS BY HORSEBACK



(8:00 AM) Leave Coalville and start course for Red Pine canyon just outside of Park City, Utah. While on your way make a brief stop to top off on your gas tank (~\$52)



(9:00 AM) Embark on a private tour of over 1,000 acres of Park City's most gorgeous mountain views on horseback. (~\$960)



(11:30 AM) In celebration of the old west's roots in Mexican culture, grab lunch at one of Park City's top rated Mexican restaurants: El Chubasco (~\$80)



(12:30 PM) Leave Park City and start towards Brighton resort. Make sure to take all the time you need to take in the sights of this picturesque canyon drive.



(1:20 PM) Arrive at Brighton resort where the Big Cottonwood Canyon flea market is held every Sunday. Here indulge yourself with Blind Miner coffee and a variety of souvenirs including vintage western antiques as well as a plethora of handmade indigenous jewelry. (~\$550)



(5:30 PM) Arrive at the Silver Fork Lodge for a hearty and homely dinner. The Silver Fork Lodge is a favorite of local skiers and snowboarders, but an equally delicious choice for a nice Summer day. (~\$120)



(6:45 PM) Stop at the Lake Blanche Trail head exiting Big Cottonwood Canyon for a moderate difficulty hike. By the time you make it to the top you should arrive just in time to bask in the sunset.

- While not enforced it is recommended for most hikers to bring water and sufficient light sources for this hike. If necessary, these resources can be bought at local vendors in the Brighton area for a fee. (~\$60)



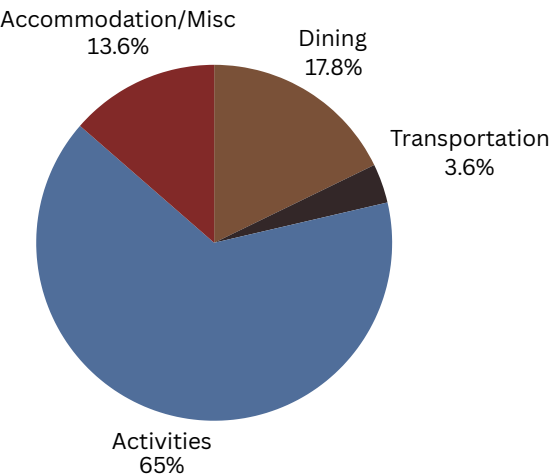
(11:00 PM) Drive back to the University of Utah campus officially ending your Summertime stay.

Every good plan starts with a strong foundation and that’s where I find my itinerary excels. Basing the trip around a loose western theme, I was able to connect my proposed travel experience to a broader aspect of Utah’s historical culture while also opening up the project to input from personal experiences. I am in a unique position of having a majority of my family from northern Utah where saddleback and turquoise belt buckles are practically just as much of a cornerstone to living as a roof under your head. Because of this, I have been exposed to many cultural aspects of Utah that are overlooked within the tourism industry; it’s no doubt that a majority of people think of SLC before Coalville, Perry, Tremonton, etc. but that doesn’t take away from the fact that there is a market for travel within these locations. In fact, these small town communities often represent a considerable untapped market for intra-state travel.

So naturally, when it came to designing a project based around exploring Utah it wasn’t hard to draw from my personal life to create a itinerary that sheds light on some of Utah’s many whistlestops without completely abandoning key tourist destinations like Park City. By having a pre-existing knowledge of niche rural communities I had dozens of ideas for dining spots and activities that most--even native Utahns--have never even heard of. However, rethinking these cherished memories wasn’t enough on its own, the next stage of my research was more practical, involving pulling up relevant pricing and availability information from online sources for these places of interest. Once gathered, I was on to the final portion of my research, where I made sure to consider alternatives, with some important mentions being Bear Lake and the Kimball Arts Festival. While these destinations may still be perfectly suitable for the trip, they were ultimately disregarded from the final draft due to pricing and preference reflections.

*Prices are approximate	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Dining	\$220	\$110	\$200
Transportation	\$52	\$0	\$52
Activities	\$20	\$370	\$1510
Accommodation /Miscellaneous	\$307	\$20	\$60

Percent budget breakdown by category



Small buffers for variable prices are included into the estimated costs. With these included, the total cost of the trip comes out to **\$2921**.

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