

# Great Basin – Sevier Desert Tour

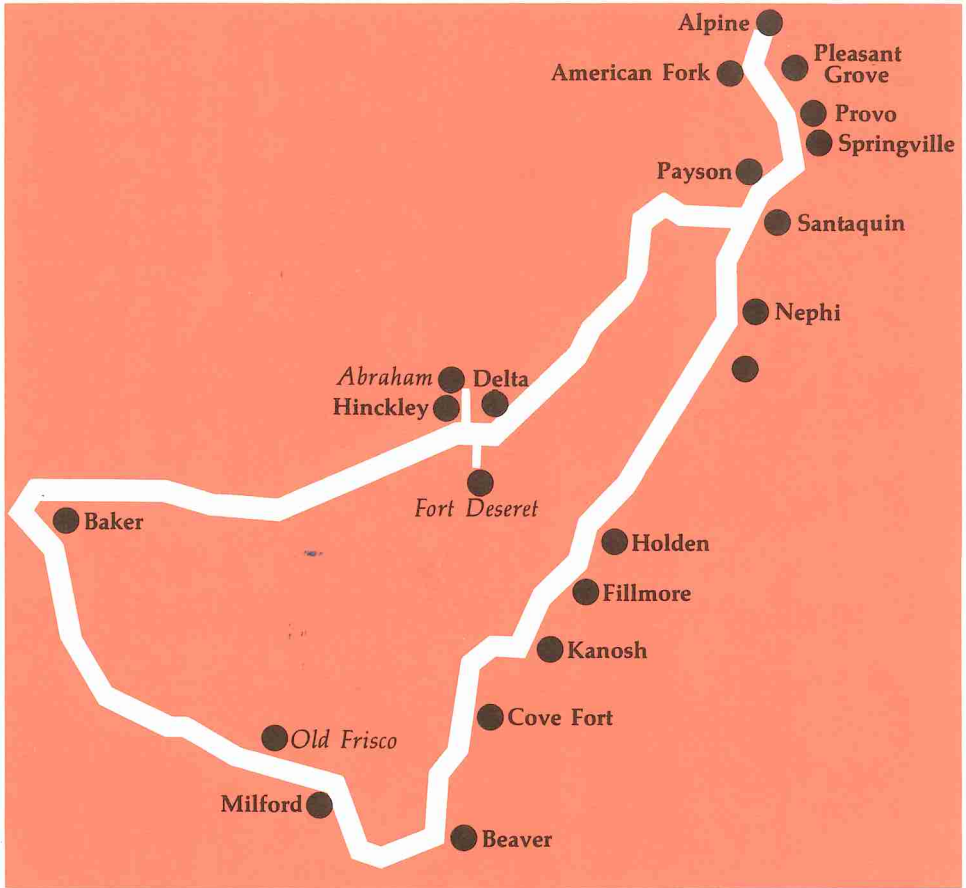
**Length of tour from Provo:** 450 miles roundtrip/Alpine to Provo, 15 miles/ American Fork Canyon extra

**Time to allow:** two to five days

**Season:** All year; most pleasant season May through October

**Accommodations:** American Fork, Provo, Santaquin, Eureka, Delta, Baker, Milford, Beaver, Kanosh, Fillmore, Holden, Nephi

**Added hints:** west of Delta and Beaver, towns are few and far between; check gas, water, tires, carry basket lunch



**ALPINE:** a farming community set in a cove of the Wasatch Mountains; just off highway 80 which turns off Interstate 15 between Draper and Lehi.

**Moyle Tower and Home**, 8th North and 6th East on Grove Drive. The stone house, built c. 1858, has had some remodeling. The tower, built c. 1858 outside Alpine Fort as protection against

Indians, had a tunnel started to the house. When the Indian threat disappeared, the tower was used for sleeping purposes. (5)

**Alpine Meeting House**, Main Street. Begun in 1857, dedicated by Brigham Young in 1863. Served as church, school, recreation and civic center until a new meetinghouse was built in 1878; used as Alpine City Hall until 1936. (5)

**AMERICAN FORK MINING DISTRICT,** American Fork Canyon. Established July 21, 1870, responsible for construction of narrow gauge railroad, smelter, charcoal kilns, two towns, wagon road, boarding houses. The following mines had greatest impact: Dutchman, Miller Hill Tunnel, Pacific Mine and Mill, Miller and Tyng mines, Bog Mine, Pittsburg Mine, Jesse Knight Mine and boarding house, Yankee and Globe mines. (S) Sites in the district are:

Forest Creek (townsite) Railway grade  
Deer Creek (townsite) Toll Gate  
Grave of George Tyng Dancehall Cave

**PLEASANT GROVE:** was earlier known as Battle Creek, site of the first pitched battle between the Mormons and the Indians.

**Driggs-Gamett-West home,** 119 East Battlecreek Road. Located inside original Stove Fort, this tufa rock home was built in the early 1880's. At one point abandoned to wandering cows, it has been restored by Mr. and Mrs. Jack West. (N)

**Fugal Blacksmith Shop,** 650 North 4th East. Built in 1896 by Jens, Christian and Niels Fugal. Remains as a rare example of early blacksmith shops with much of the equipment still in use. Christian Fugal died in 1962; the shop is owned by his son. (S)

**Olpin Home,** 510 South Locust. Constructed by Joseph Olpin in 1875, after earning money to buy a house site by building a stone house for his brother-in-law in London. Rear brick portion added 1895. Dr. A. Ray Olpin, president of the University of Utah from 1955 to 1964, was born in the house. (C)

**PROVO:**

**Nunn Power Plant,** 4 miles up Provo Canyon. Site of Nunn's first Utah power plant (1897). L. L. Nunn developed the first alternating current transmission line in Colorado; but from this plant A. C. current was transmitted to Mercur, the first all-electric-powered mining community in Utah (maybe in the whole country). (S)



*Driggs-Gamett-West Home*

**Olmstead Power Plant and School,** mouth of Provo Canyon. Built in 1903 to take advantage of Nunn's knowledge and to provide training in electricity, the Olmstead School gave on-the-job training. Students lived on the site. Most of the buildings and some generators still remain. (S)

**Fort Rawlins,** Established on the banks of Provo River 2½ miles north of Provo, this "tent fort" existed from July 30, 1870 to June 10, 1871. Evidently established to "get tough" with the Mormons, it failed as an instrument of government policy, proved an embarrassment to the Army, an indignity to the Mormons, and a personal disaster to its commander, Capt. Nathan W. Osborne. (S)

**Reed Smoot Home,** 183 East 1st South. Senator Reed Smoot was Dean of the Senate, advisor to five presidents, and Apostle in the Mormon Church. The house, built in 1892, reeks with the history of presidential visits, senatorial conferences, political intrigues, and religious persecution. (S)

**Provo Tabernacle,** 50 South University Avenue. One of the largest houses of worship in the L.D.S. Church, built about 1885. Before 1920 the building was partly condemned, being considered top-heavy because of a lofty east tower; but, since then, the tower has been removed and the roof rebuilt. **Open** June-October M-F 6-10, Sat. 10-6.

**Loveless Home,** 677 West 2nd South. Stuccoed adobe house, built in 1854 by Bishop James W. Loveless, is one of the oldest continuously-occupied residences in Utah. The original house had two apartments, one for each of his first two wives. (C)

**Knight-Mangum Mansion,** 381 East Center. Built in the English Tudor style, was completed in 1908; designed by Walter E. Ware, prominent Utah architect. Lester Mangum and his wife Jessie Knight Mangum sold their shares in Jessie Knight's Colorado Mine at Tintic, Utah, to build the house. Presently serves as offices for Milo Baughman Design, Inc. (S)

**SPRINGVILLE:** according to Kate B. Carter's **Military Life in the West,** the home of George "Beefsteak" Harrison, so named because of steaks he served in his Harrison Hotel. He was one of the handcart boys who because of hunger left the Handcart Company and joined a tribe of Indians. Later he hired out as cook for Johnston's Army, coming to Springville in 1858.

**William Bringhurst Home,** 306 South 2nd West. Built c. 1860 of adobe, rock and native pine for Bishop Bringhurst by Solomon P. Chase. Much of the original interior is intact. (C)

**PAYSON:**

**John Fairbanks Home,** Main Street. Designed and built by John Boylston Fairbanks in three parts between 1857



*Knight-Mangum Mansion*

and 1863. Brigham Young used the home as a stop-over on his travels to southern Utah. (S)

**SANTAQUIN:** settled in 1851, named for a Sanpitch Indian chief.

**NEPHI:** settled in 1851, fortified with a moated wall; most important early event was making peace between Brigham Young and Chief Walker.

**George C. Whitmore Mansion,** 106 South Main. Designed by Oscar Booth, built in 1900 of red brick and red sandstone, became the symbol of affluence in Nephi. George C. Whitmore was a stockman, banker, political figure and philanthropist.

**HOLDEN:**

**Stevens Home:** built in 1872 by David Riley Stevens, first bishop in the Holden L.D.S. Ward. Two-story brick building with "gingerbread" under the eaves. Presently owned by a great-grandson of the original owner. (S)

**FILLMORE:** the Territorial Legislature selected Fillmore in 1851 as the seat of government; Brigham Young selected the site for the capitol.

**Territorial Capitol,** Center Street between Main and 1st West. Designed by Truman O. Angell as one wing of a Greek cross plan, to be topped by a Moorish dome at the crossing. Cut red sandstone used for building material. Only this wing was finished in 1855, served the legislature of 1855-56, after which the seat of government was moved to Salt Lake. **Open** M-F 8:30-5. (N)

**Rock Schoolhouse,** corner 1st South and 1st West. Built in 1867 of red sandstone, represents the vanishing one-room school which played a prominent part in early Utah education. (S)

**Edward Partridge Home,** 12 So. 2nd West. Lovely stone house, built c. 1871, reflects the influence of the Farmington stone houses admired by the Partridge family when they lived there. (S)

**Huntsman-Nielsen Home,** 155 West Center. Built 1871-75, is described as "early New England colonial." Has



14" thick red brick walls, hand-hewn log joists. Has been restored. (C)

#### KANOSH:

**Hopkinson-Elsner Home**, main highway. Built of red sandstone about 1887 for Jesse and Ann Hopkinson; Ann married Geroge Crane after her husband's death. During their lifetime the house was completed with lovely gardens and orchards. In 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Elsner purchased the vacant old house and restored it. (C)

**COVE FORT:** junction of I-15 and Utah highway 4. Built in 1867 by Ira W. Hinckley as ordered by Brigham Young to defend against Indian attacks and to protect the newly-established telegraph line. Built of black volcanic rock. Inside north and south walls were interconnecting rows of houses, now restored. Entrance gates were hollow and filled with sand to extinguish flaming arrows. **Open** April-November Sun.-Sat. 8:30-5. (N)

#### BEAVER

**Beaver County Courthouse**, corner of Center Street and 1st East. Built in 1876, became the seat of the 2nd Judicial District of Utah Territory. Red brick with stamped metal and cast iron trim, is an outstanding example of ornate public buildings in Utah. Still used by Beaver County. **Open** M-F 10-4. (N)

**Barracks Building, Fort Cameron**, 1 mile east of Beaver on highway 153. Last remaining structure of old Fort Cameron, 1873-83. The fort was built to "stabilize" isolated southern Utah, used until the railroad made rapid transport of troops possible. Later used as Murdock Academy branch of Brigham Young University, abandoned in 1920. (S)

**Marcus L. Shepherd Home**, 210 East 2nd North. Built c. 1870 by Marcus de Lafayette Shepherd for his first wife, Harriet Editha Parrish. The home was polygamous and still has two kitchens. It is classical in its symmetry, proportions

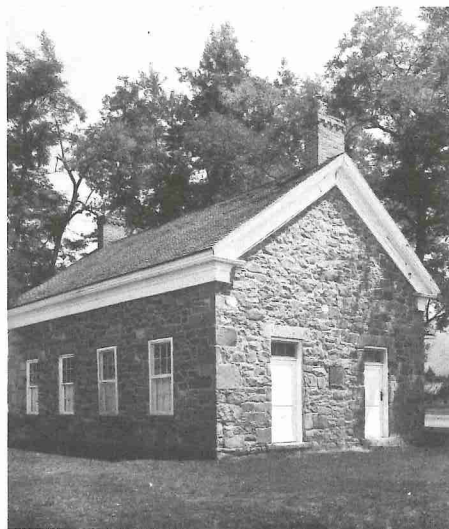
and detailing and stands out as a prime example of a two-story brick Greek revival structure in Utah. (S)

**Grimshaw Home**, 95 North 4th West. This lovely volcanic rock home, built in 1877 by Duckworth Grimshaw, has remained in the family continually. Mr. Grimshaw worked on the St. George Temple, 1874, and the Manti Temple, 1878. (C)

**MILFORD:** settled in 1870 primarily as center of mining supplies for mines at Frisco and Newhouse. Miners traveling to and from the mines forded the Beaver River below a stamp mill; the crossing, known as the "mill ford," suggested the town's name.

**Williams Hotel**. Constructed in 1880 by John D. Williams to accommodate workers in his smelter, was Milford's first hotel and one of its first permanent buildings. It was important in the community's social life as dances were frequently held in the dining room. (S)

**OLD FRISCO:** discovered accidentally in 1875 by two prospectors, the Horn Silver Mine, on the hill a mile west of Frisco, was the richest silver producer in



*Rock Schoolhouse, Fillmore*

Utah. By 1879, the town was booming. A sheriff named Peterson, hired to clean up the town, had a simple law enforcement policy: shoot it out or leave town; a "body wagon" made the rounds every morning to pick up the corpses. In 1885 a mine cave-in started the exodus that makes Old Frisco a ghost town today.

**FORT DESERET**, Highway 257, south of Deseret and Delta. Built in 1866 by Mormon settlers as protection during the Black Hawk War, but never actually used against the Indians. Most of the 10' high walls have fallen down; the corners, two bastions and most of the east wall still remain. (N)

**GUNNISON MASSACRE SITE:** on a bend of the Sevier River southwest of Delta. Capt. John W. Gunnison directed one of the Transcontinental Surveys in 1853; to survey Sevier Lake, he divided his survey team, half going to Leamington Canyon and half going south. While camped at a bend on the river, Gunnison and his twelve men were attacked at daybreak, October 26, 1853; Mosh-o-quoep, son of a Pahvant chief murdered by a wagon train en route to California, led the attack which killed eight men.

#### HINCKLEY:

**Millard Academy**. Realizing the need for an institution of higher learning, L.D.S. officials in Millard County selected the town of Hinckley as the site of an Academy. Finished in 1910, the Academy continued as a church school until 1923, when it was taken over by the state as a high school. Now houses the area's Head Start program. (S)

#### ABRAHAM:

**Topaz War Relocation Center site**. In existence from July, 1942, to October, 1945, the 19,800-acre project included a mile-square city designed to house 9,000 persons. The 623 buildings have been removed and all that remains of Topaz are some concrete foundations. It was one of ten camps in the U.S. to which more than 110,000 Japanese-Americans were evacuated during the war hysteria of World War II. (S)

#### DELTA:

**Delta Sugar Factory Warehouse**. One of Utah's most distinctive developments centers around the sugar beet industry. Early homesteaders in the Delta area grew sugar beets which were processed in their local factory, built during World War I. With declining sugar prices, the factory closed in 1924. Now used by the Northrup-King Seed Company. (S)

**Delta Sugar Factory Club House**. Built in 1917 as a part of the sugar factory complex, used to meet social and recreational needs of the plant's employees. Now used by the American Legion Cahoon-Jensen Post No. 135. (S)

**McCullough Log House and Post Office**, Rose Garden, Exchange Avenue. Log house served as first post office (January, 1908-March, 1912) in Delta; logs were hauled 30 miles from Fillmore by Henry McCullough, two sons and son-in-law. It was the second home in the settlement. Plans are to move it to the city park as a museum. (S)

**TINTIC, MAMMOTH, SILVER CITY, EUREKA:** mining towns in the Tintic Valley, named after a Ute chief. With the discovery of a "funny-looking" piece of rock by George Rust, cowboy, in 1869, the valley arrived at its destiny. In 1870 the first claim was registered; by 1872 it was not uncommon for mines to ship ten-ton lots of ore assaying from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Silver City, the first real camp in the area, is described as having "a billiard saloon, blacksmith shop, grog hole, some tents, several drunks, a free fight, water some miles off, a hole down 90 feet hunting a spring without success, and any number of rich or imaginary rich lodes in the neighborhood."

Horn silver was taken from gopher holes, and \$50,000 worth of silver was found in large boulders, which were rolled down the canyonside and loaded into wagons. Gradually the small mines were consolidated by larger companies; some of the towns are still thriving and some have been abandoned.