Panorama Land Tour

Length of tour from Richfield: 430 miles roundtrip; add up to 150 miles for side trips
Time to allow: two to five days
Season: late May to October for entire trip; Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, Escalante regions open all year, weather permitting

Accommodations: Richfield, Salina, Fish Lake, Loa, Bicknell, Torrey, Fruita, Hanksville, Boulder, Escalante, Bryce Canyon, Panguitch, Marysvale, Circleville, Junction

RICHFIELD:
Ralph Ramsay Home, 57 East 2nd North. Built in 1874 of sun-dried adobe; unusual interior and exterior features include gingerbread on the gables, bay windows, and a beautifully carved fireplace. Mr. Ramsay was not only the designer of the eagle on Eagle Gate in Salt Lake City, but a prominent pioneer in Richfield. (S)

GLENWOOD:
Glenwood Gristmill, 3rd South and 2nd East. Built under the auspices of the Glenwood United Order by Joseph and William Wall about 1875, it was one of the first built in Sevier County and remained in use until 1950. Built of black lava rock and brick; the mansard roof is typical of this early construction. (S)

LOA: named by a Mormon missionary for the Hawaiian volcano, Mauna Loa. Every house in Loa was originally a corner house, with the remainder of each block reserved for garden space.

Wayne Stake Tabernacle, 1st West and 1st North. Lovely stone chapel built in 1906, dedicated by L.D.S. President Joseph F. Smith. Still possesses a beautiful interior with balcony and speaker's stand; recreation hall to the south has been added with care to use the same stone and style of window. Open upon request; ask for the Bishop of Loa Ward. (S)

BICKNELL: originally called Thurber, renamed in 1914 for Thomas W. Bicknell, an Easterner, who offered a library to any town in Utah that would take his name.

Bicknell Gristmill, on highway south of Bicknell. Hans Peter Nielson, a miller, came to Utah in 1863 and to Thurber (now Bicknell) in 1890; with him came Niels Hansen, an excellent carpenter. Mr. Hansen built the gristmill, Mr. Nielson ran the mill until 1909; it remained in use until 1940. This is probably Utah's best remaining example of a complete pioneer mill. (S)

Thurber Relief Society Hall, main highway. Built during 1897-99 by donated labor under the sponsorship of the women of Thurber; bricks made in a nearby field were dipped in red clay to give them some color. The hall typifies the dedicated commitment of early pioneer women. (S)

FRUITA:
Fruita Schoolhouse. Built in 1897, the structure is a one-story log schoolhouse (17' x 20') used by the pioneer children in Wayne County. It represents the one-room-school dimension of education in Utah. (N)

HANKSVILLE: was used, in the eighties and nineties, as a rendezvous for the Robber's Roost Gang, which held sway over all the territory south and east of Hanksville. Some people welcomed them in the small towns, perhaps because the outlaws were good spenders.

BOULDER: settled in 1894, for years was isolated from the world by towering rock walls, 35 miles by pack train from Escalante. One man packed in a pick-up truck in pieces, reassembled it, and ran it eight years without a license. (Gas, also packed in, cost 75¢ a gallon.) In 1935 a highway was built and Boulder ceased to be a "packhorse town," the last in the country.

Thurber Relief Society Hall
ESCALANTE: named in honor of Francisco Silvestre Velez de Escalante, Spanish Catholic priest who explored portions of Utah in 1776. It was settled in 1875 by Mormon pioneers and called Potato Valley after a species of wild potato that grew there.

Escalante Tithing Office, 40 South Center Street. Built in 1894 of native sandstone, served as storehouse for "tithing in kind." The building also served to house the Escalante High School from 1923 to 1938. One of the few remaining tithing offices in Utah. (C)

Josiah Barker Home, 15 East 1st North. Built c. 1883, adobe and rock home is in good condition. (C)

William Henry Gates Home, 120 South Center. Two-story red brick house was built in 1896. (C)

William Shirts Home, 84 East Main. Built in 1896-95, 1½ story brick house had two rooms and a bath added at the rear in 1940. (C)

Rufus Liston Home, 218 West 2nd North. Built in 1894, was one of the earliest brick homes in Escalante. (C)

Don C. Shirts Home, 91 South Center. Built in 1892-93, is 1½ story house of mixture of light pink and dark red brick. (C)

Joseph Spencer Home, 120 West 1st North. Built of adobe and sandstone in 1888, has been repaired with plaster. (C)

Edward Wilcock Home, 90 South 1st East. Simple 1½-story house was built in 1893 with two layers of differently colored brick. The front room was first used to house a general store. (C)

Wallace Roundy Home, 85 East 2nd North. Built in 1893 for Esther Ford, second wife of Wallace Roundy. Unoccupied for several years, is now being repaired. (C)

Carl Shirts Home, 80 West 2nd North. Built of adobe in 1889 and later covered with plaster. Said to have been the first home in Escalante built of material other than logs. (C)

James Schow Home, 170 West 2nd North. Log house built in 1877; the house plus two-room addition covered with wood siding about 1889. Used for church services during first year of Escalante settlement. (C)

Andrew P. Schow Home, 190 North 1st West. Built c. 1895 for second wife of Mr. Schow; one of two rooms added in 1898 used as U.S. Post Office. Porch with Greek columns added in 1925. (C)

Martin Liston Home, 290 West 2nd North. Built 1890-93, is a well-kept large brick house with ornate brick and wood work. (C)

CANNONVILLE: was locally known as "Gun Shot," the settlers maintaining that it wasn't big enough to be called a cannon.

CIRCLEVILLE: known chiefly as the birthplace of George LeRoy Parker, alias "Butch Cassidy," Utah's most notorious bandit.

JUNCTION:

Platte County Courthouse, junction of highway 89 and 153. This distinctive red brick structure was built in 1903 and still serves Platte County government. Its distinctive architecture marks it as the outstanding building in the county. The small courtroom is a special attraction.

Open M-F 9-4. (N)

Martin Liston Home

ST. GEORGE: the success of cotton-growing experiments induced LDS Church authorities to undertake the colonization of southern Utah, and by 1867 St. George was an incorporated town. Many agricultural experiments were tried in the mild climate.

Brigham Young Winter Home and Office, 2nd North and 1st West. Built in 1872 as a winter retreat for Brigham Young; front wing added in 1874. Restored as a State Park. Open M-Sat. 8:30-5. (N)

St. George Tabernacle, Tabernacle and Main Street. Designed by Miles Romney, built from 1863 to 1876. The barrel of a cannon was used as a pile driver to pound rocks into the spongy ground for firm foundations. Red sandstone with elegantly proportioned steeple; ornate interior plaster moldings were made possible by the discovery of gypsum deposits nearby. Lovely circular stairway inside. Open occasionally on Sundays. (N)

Washington County Courthouse, 85 East 1st North. Built between 1866-70, red brick structure served as the County Courthouse until the 1960's. It is representative of the quality pioneer public building during this period at great sacrifice to these early people. Now used as an information center. Open M-F 9-4, Sat. 9-12. (N)

St. George Temple, block bounded by 2nd and 3rd East, 4th and 5th South. Built during 1871-77, it was the first Mormon temple completed in Utah. Architect was Truman O. Angell. Walls