Pioneer Trail – Wasatch Tour

Length of tour: Salt Lake City/Ogden/Huntsville/Porterville/Salt Lake City: 125 miles; Henefer/Wanship/Kimball Jct./Salt Lake City: 62 miles

Time to allow: one to two days
Season: May to mid-October (autumn is especially colorful)
Accommodations: Ogden, Morgan, Kimball Junction

MORGAN: originally called Monday Town, was renamed for Jedediah Morgan Grant, father of Heber J. Grant, former president of L.D.S. Church.

Daniel Heiner Home. This two-story plastered cobble-rock home was built in the late 1870’s by Daniel Heiner and his two brothers, Anthony and George. The home, now occupied by a grandson, is in good condition. (5)

PORTERVILLE:
Porterville Church; lovely red brick church, built in 1898 by “all men in the community,” is unique because of its prominent setting in the community. Discarded by the L.D.S. Church in 1942, it is presently owned by a young couple who have remodeled the interior as their home. (5)

MORMON PIONEER TRAIL: the last 36 miles of the Mormon trek from Nauvoo begins in Echo Canyon, and this section was first broken by the Donner-Reed party (which came to a tragic end in the Sierra later) on their way through in 1846. Orson Pratt took a company of 23 wagons and 42 men on this trail in July, 1847, while the rest of the companies waited at the head of Echo Canyon with Brigham Young, who was ill. The trail continues down to the eastern edge of Salt Lake City, ending at the “This is the Place” monument.

ABBEY OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY TRINITY, southeast of Huntsville. Established in 1947, the Trappist-Cistercian Abbey is commonly known as “the monastery.” Closed to visitors on weekends, but the monks offer a delicious variety of cheese, honey, bread and other items for sale at their store on weekdays.

BIG MOUNTAIN: when the pioneers reached the top of this mountain, they caught their first glimpse of the distant Salt Lake Valley. At the eastern base of Big Mountain breastworks can still be seen, remains of fortifications built in 1857 to intercept the forces of Johnston’s Army.

LITTLE DELL STATION: between Emigration and Parley’s Canyon, east of Mountain Dell Reservoir. This stone house was used by travelers as a breakfast and supper stop; it was also used as a Pony Express stop in 1860-61.

LITTLE MOUNTAIN: was the last major obstacle for the pioneers to climb on their journey down into the valley. The Donner party, which broke the trail the year before (1846), made very slow progress, adding to the delays which doomed their journey.

ECHO: once a colorful railroad town with shoot-outs in the streets and rinky-tink saloons, lies half a mile west of the site of the original Weber River stagecoach station erected in 1853 and demolished in 1931.

Echo Church-School and Cemetery, head of Temple Lane. Designed and constructed in 1876 by John Shill for the Protestant Church as a community project. When the Church left in 1880, it served as a school for many years. The old cemetery nearby is part of the site. (5)

COALVILLE: an outcropping of coal in 1859 led to the development of several mines; little mining is done now. First dial telephones in Utah were installed here in 1939.

HOYTsville: first known as Unionville because its fort, built in the 1860’s, was a common gathering place during Indian alarms.

Samuel Hoyt Home, on access lane from U.S. Route 189. Begun in 1863, completed in 1870, this fine house has superb stone detailing and interior finish. Eight of the original nine fireplaces remain operable. (5)

KIMBALL JUNCTION HOTEL AND STAGE STOP: Silver Creek Junction near Park City turnoff. Built in 1860 of squared limestone, this two-storied hotel was used on the Overland Stage Line. Some modifications to the interior. Open if owners are there. (N)

MOUNTAIN DELL DAM: Parley’s Canyon. Designed by John Samuel Eastwood who attained world renown for his multiple arch dams, this structure contains a series of concrete half-cylinders so spaced that the weight of the water forces their bases more firmly into their foundations. This design made practicable dam construction in remote areas otherwise impractical. Built in 1916, height increased in 1924. (S)