Historic Downtown Salt Lake City Walking Tour

Five one-hour walking tours of historic architecture

Special tour for kids ages 9 to 12
Acknowledgements

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Author: Lisa Thompson, Utah Heritage Foundation
Graphic design & Art Direction: Nona McAlpin, Design Corps, SLC
Photography: Roger Tuttle, Light Minded Photographics, SLC
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For more information about Utah Heritage Foundation, please contact us at:
Utah Heritage Foundation
P.O. Box 28
Salt Lake City UT 84110-0028
(801) 533-0838 phone
(801) 537-1245 fax
www.utahheritagefoundation.com

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The story of Salt Lake City’s settlement is a unique chapter in the history of the American West. The people who founded the city in 1847 were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, more commonly known as Mormons. Unlike the farmers, miners, and merchants who created other western cities, Mormon settlers came to the Salt Lake Valley as a centrally-organized group dedicated to a communal, religious goal—establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.

The location of Temple Square at the geographic heart of Salt Lake City is perhaps the strongest physical evidence of the Mormon settlers’ utopian vision. Church President Brigham Young designated the site for the Salt Lake Temple four days after arriving in the valley. Temple Square became the reference point for the city’s street grid. For example, 900 South Street is nine blocks south of the temple. While the buildings of Temple Square are not included in this guide, tours of the square are available daily every 15 minutes from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm.

In 1869, the transcontinental railroad connected Utah to the rest of the nation bringing new people, new opportunities, and new conflicts to Salt Lake City. A flood of non-Mormon immigrants arrived in Utah to develop the state’s rich mineral resources.
The wealth flowing out of Utah’s mines and the tension between the Mormon and non-Mormon communities reshaped Salt Lake City in the late nineteenth century.

The story of Salt Lake City’s settlement and growth is written in the historic buildings of its downtown. This guide offers five walking tours exploring over 100 years of history and architecture in Salt Lake City:

- North Downtown Heritage Tour (NDH) pp. 3-10
- Main Street Tour (MS) pp. 11-19
- Time Travel on Main Street (KIDS) pp. 20-27
- Exchange Place & Market Street Tour (EX) pp. 28-34
- Gateway-Railroad District Tour (GRD) pp. 35-44

Each tour is designed to last approximately an hour. Tour sites and routes are indicated on the map that folds out from the back cover.

Tour entries read as follows:

- **Map number**
- **Historic Site Name, Current Site Name**
- **Date of Construction, Architect or Architectural Firm, City of Architect’s or Firm’s Practice**
- **Street Address**
- **Days & times site accessible to the public**

Enjoy your walk through Salt Lake City’s history!