

## HISTORY

Utah County's mountains, lakes, streams, and valleys have sustained humans since at least 10,000 B.C. Archaeologists call the Ice Age prehistoric people PaleoIndians. The PaleoIndian culture was followed by the Desert Archaic culture. The next prehistoric culture is called the Fremont culture. Fremont Indians lived here until about A.D. 1500. By 1800 three Indian groups used Utah Valley: Paiutes, who used the west side of Utah Lake; Shoshones, who sometimes traveled here from north; and the Utes, who were the main inhabitants of the area. Utah County was named for the Utes or Timpanogos Utes. The first explorers, led by Father Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Father Silvestre Valez de Escalante, entered Utah Valley through Spanish Fork Canyon on September 23, 1776. Later, Etienne Provost, an early trapper, entered Utah County on the Strawberry River and over the Wasatch Mountains to the Provo River that was named for him. He followed the Provo River into Utah Valley. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, known as the Mormons, first settled Utah County to find grazing lands, establish a fishery, and teach the Indians. In March of 1849, John S. Higbee and other Mormons made the first settlement on the Provo River. They named the settlement Fort Utah. They started plowing, planting, and building. In September, Church leader Brigham Young organized the layout of Provo city. Provo was started two miles southeast of Fort Utah. On January 31, 1850, in a general assembly, Utah County was formed in the provisional state of Deseret. Later, Deseret was renamed Utah and admitted as the 45<sup>th</sup> state in the union on January 4, 1896.

## 2002 Winter Olympics

In 2002, the world had its eyes on Utah, host of the Winter Olympics. Utah County is proud to be home to one of the Olympic venues! The Peaks Ice Arena is an indoor ice hockey arena in Provo, and was a site of Men's and Women's Tournament Hockey games. The Peaks hosted 24 Olympic Ice Hockey games, including the Bronze Medal game.

## Location and Geography

Utah County is located in North Central Utah. It is called Utah Valley because mountains frame the county on both sides. The major cities form a 40 mile chain north to south, aligning with Interstate 15.  
AREA: 2,143 square miles, 2.45% of Utah (State)  
PERIMETER: 301.68 miles

## DIMENSIONS:

84.4 Miles NW-SE (Butterfield Peak to Emma Park)  
60.9 miles NE-SW (Tintic Mountain to Sunset Peak) 69.0 miles E-W by 52.9 miles N-S

## HIGHEST & LOWEST POINTS

### HIGHEST POINTS (Wasatch Range):

Mt. Nebo- 11,928 feet  
Mt. Timpanogos- 11,750 feet

### LOWEST POINTS:

- 1) Depression in Jordan River Flood Plain- 4,480 feet
- 2) Jordan River at Jordan Narrow- 4,490 feet

## LAKES & RIVERS



Utah Lake lies in the center of the county. It is the State's largest body of fresh water. It covers about 88,895 acres with over 72 miles of shoreline. Utah County also includes two rivers. The Provo River flows southwest from the Uinta Mountains at Washington Lake to Utah Lake. The Jordan River flows north from Utah Lake to the Great Salt Lake.

## CLIMATE

Utah County has four distinct seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. Utah County's climate is moderate with average daytime temperatures in the valley ranging from 39.2F to 92.5F. Mountain areas may be as much as 20 degrees cooler. The average humidity during winter months is less than 50%, and is 70% during the remaining months of the year. On average, there are only three days per year where the temperatures range below zero. There are from 4 1/2 to 5 months of snow free weather. The average annual precipitation is 21.38 inches.

## POPULATION

In 2008, the County's population reached 530,837, which is the second highest population in the State! The population density is 184.5 people per square mile, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the State. Utah County has 25 incorporated municipalities and also includes parts of Draper. Its five largest cities are Provo (118,581), Orem (93,250), Lehi (46,802), Pleasant Grove (33,798), and Spanish Fork 31,538. The other incorporated cities are Springville, American Fork, Payson, Highland, Lindon, Mapleton, Alpine, Santaquin, Salem, Genola, Elk Ridge, Cedar Hills, Goshen, Woodland Hills, Saratoga Springs,

Eagle Mountain, Fairfield, Cedar Fort and the smallest towns, Fairfield at 151 and Vineyard at 148.

## INDUSTRY

Major sources of income for the county are education, medical, manufacturing, computer, and service companies. Utah County boasts over 10,575 businesses. The largest employer is Brigham Young University. Other larger employers include Alpine School District, IHC Health Care Services, Utah Valley University, Novell, Nebo School District, Convergys, Novell, Provo School District, Nestle USA.

## FARMING AND LIVESTOCK

Utah County is one of the primary agricultural production regions in the state. The major crops are alfalfa, hay, winter wheat, corn, apples, and cherries. The wheat, apples and cherries are exported out of the county. The county also produces eggs, milk, poultry products, beef, and mink.

## EDUCATION

Utah County has two universities and numerous technical and trade schools.

Utah Valley University (UVU), located in Orem, is the second-largest four-year public institution in Utah with over 33,000 students. The main library is the Digital Learning Center, which features cutting-edge technology. The mascot for UVU is the wolverine. UVU's 8,500 seat Events Center offers a wide variety of entertainment from Wolverine sports and performances to music concerts by well-known performers.



Brigham Young University (BYU), located in Provo, is the largest private university in the United States with over 33,000 students. The main library is the Harold B. Lee Library, which is considered among the nation's top university libraries. Cosmo the Cougar is the mascot for BYU. The BYU Cougar football team plays in LaVell Edwards stadium. They have won many conference championships and played numerous bowl games. The BYU Marriot Center is one of the nation's largest on-campus arenas.

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

County government is established to serve the local needs of the people or rural areas outside cities. Counties may levy and collect taxes, conduct elections, enforce laws, purchase and control property, erect buildings necessary for the use of the county, provide for public health and welfare, provide fire protection, license businesses and trades, establish and maintain schools and libraries and record property mortgages, deeds, and other legal documents.

Provo is the County Seat for Utah County. The old County building is located at 51 South University Avenue, Provo. When the County Building was dedicated on December 15, 1926, it was described as one of the most beautiful and well-constructed buildings in the area. It was designed by Joseph Nelson. It is now listed on the Historical Register of the State. A new County Administration Building was constructed behind the original County Building. The historical courthouse is still used by various government departments.



Utah County's government is headed by a board of three county commissioners. One commissioner is elected the same year as the United States President. The other two commissioners are elected on the alternating election. Commissioners serve four-year terms and one is chosen as the chairperson. The board of commissioners is responsible for all county officers and departments. They also serve on various committees and boards which serve the residents of Utah County.

There are also 7 other elected officials, who are elected for four year terms. The following are the offices: Assessor, Attorney (Lawyer), Auditor/Clerk, Recorder, Sheriff, Engineer, and Treasurer. Other county departments include: Road Department, Motor Pool, Parks, Weed Control, Microfilm, Flood Control, Computer Center, Health Department, Personnel, Animal Control/Shelter, Planning and Business Regulations, Substance Abuse and the Utah Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau!

## RECREATION



Utah County has a variety of fun things to see and to do. There are outstanding scenic views, such as Mount Timpanogos, Bridal Veil Falls, Cascade Springs, Squaw Peak, Alpine Loop Scenic Backway, and Nebo Loop Scenic Byway. Or if you're a history buff, Utah County has historical sites like the Historic Courthouse, Fort Utah, Provo Tabernacle, and others!

In addition, Utah County has facilities for golfing, dancing, rock climbing, and ice skating. Biking, hiking, boating, fishing, and hunting are just some of the fun outdoor activities you can do. Hunting in Utah County includes animals like deer, elk, pheasant, and waterfowl.

Because the "Greatest Snow On Earth" is in Utah, skiing is a favorite winter activity. There are many excellent ski areas within an hour's drive of Utah Valley, including Sundance Ski Resort.

And in the summer you can cool off at the lake! Utah Lake is the spot for water skiing, jet skiing, sailing, fishing, boating, camping, canoeing, and visiting the Utah Lake visitors' center! Seven Peaks, the largest waterpark in Utah, is also a fun place to visit!

The culture of Utah County is enriched by plenty of concerts, operas, dramas, musicals, and movies at a variety of theaters or tabernacles. You can also catch a show, exhibit, or concert at BYU's and UVU's Schools of Performing Arts or visit many art galleries and museums all around Utah County.

Utah County is home to collegiate and minor league sports teams. Brigham Young University is a member of the Mountain West Conference and a frequent championship contender and host to national tournaments. Utah Valley University has Division 1 status and has joined the Great West Conference.

Brent Brown Ballpark in Orem is the home of the Orem Owlz, a minor-league baseball team for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

There is always plenty to do at Thanksgiving Point. You can golf at the 18-hole Johnny Miller Golf Course, shop, eat at the Harvest Restaurant, and visit the Museum of Ancient Life, Farm Country, and 15 different themed gardens.

Whether for a cave tour, an evening program, a picnic or

just to hike or walk, Timpanogos Cave National Monument is a wonderful place to visit. The man-made Timpanogos Cave system joins three natural caves that contain over 42 types of cave formations, which are uniquely colored and are in quantities and combinations not found in other caves worldwide.

Experience all that Sundance Resort has to offer! Here are some of the things you can do: scenic lift rides, horseback riding, fly fishing, mountain biking, catch a show at the Sundance Summer Theatre, hiking and seeing all the colors of each season, festivals, Art Shack and Art Gallery.

Throughout the year you can find a wide array of fun-filled festivals and events in Utah County. In the fall, get lost and find your way out of a giant corn maze at the Cornbelly's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Fest. In winter, you can screen films at the internationally acclaimed Sundance Film Festival. Then celebrate spring at the Thanksgiving Point Tulip Festival.



Summer in Utah County explodes in excitement with fun-filled festivals and events. These celebrations include Provo's Stadium of Fire and "Freedom Days" Festival, Pleasant Grove's "Strawberry Days," Payson's "Onion Days," Spanish Fork's "Fiesta Days," Orem's "Family Summer Fest," American Fork's "Steel Days," Lehi's "Roundup," Santaquin's "Cherry Days," and Springville's "Art City Days."

## FAMOUS PEOPLE

Utah County is full of talent! Here are some of the famous people who live or have lived in Utah County:

Robert Redford: Actor  
Stephen Covey: Author  
Orson Scott Card: Author  
Dale Murphy: Baseball Player  
Dane Lorg: Baseball Player  
Danny Ainge: Basketball Player and Coach  
Steve Young: Football Player  
Ty Detmer: Football Player/Heisman Winner  
Jim McMahon: Football Player  
Johnny Miller: Golfer  
Billy Casper: Golfer  
Philo T. Farnsworth: Inventor of the Television  
Ken Jennings: 74-time Jeopardy Champion  
Jewel: Singer  
The Osmonds: Singers

Compliments  
of

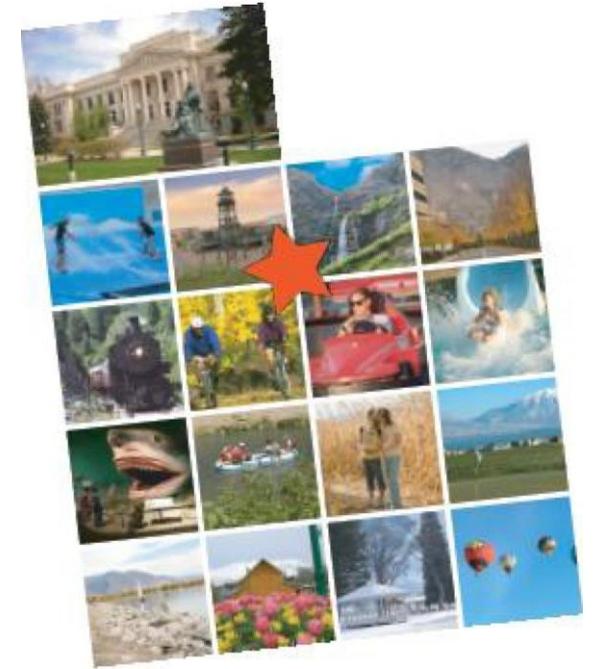


To learn more about Utah County  
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[UtahValley.com](http://UtahValley.com)

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Utah  
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School Report  
Information