

Step Back in Time: History Itinerary



3-Day Itinerary to experience the history of southern Utah from petroglyphs to homesteads and a ghost town.

In this itinerary, we aim to explore the history of the West and experience the past of communities like Cedar City and Parowan. This itinerary will require travel to some remote places, a vehicle is recommended.

SEASON: ANY

Day One: *Travel to Cedar City & Historic Downtown*

AFTERNOON

- Detour for a scenic drive in Kolob Canyons and a hike along the Taylor Creek Middle Fork Trail to find historic cabins.
 - Built in 1931, these cabins were part of a homesteading effort by local resident Gustive O. Larson. When the homestead was started the area was known as Dry Creek, now Kolob Canyons.
- After your hike continue to the scenic drive.
- Arrive in Cedar City and check into your [lodging](#).

EVENING

- Grab a bite to eat from a local restaurant.
 - Places like The French Spot, The Pub Spirits + Craft Kitchen, or Park Place Eatery are great close options.
- After dinner walk historic downtown and learn more about the history of Cedar City from the playlist linked below and the historic sculptures along the way.
 - [Main Street Minutes: Cedar City's History](#).
- Catch the evening Greenshow at the Utah Shakespeare Festival at 7:10 pm
 - Established in 1961, the Utah Shakespeare Festival has played a large part in Cedar City's tourism past and present.



Historic cabin along the Taylor creek Trail in Kolob Canyons



Dinner in Historic Downtown

Historic Information & Guides

Add a visit to the Cedar City and Parowan visitor centers to your itinerary to pick up additional historic information, get the inside scoop on must-see places, and pick up a pocket-guide to historic sites in the area.

- 📍 Cedar City Visitor Center | 581 North Main Street
- 📍 Parowan Visitor Center | 5 South Main Street

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Day Two: *Museums & the History of Cedar City*

MORNING

- Grab breakfast at The Grind in downtown.
- Visit the Frontier Homestead State Park Museum
 - 581 North Main Street
 - Admission \$4 per person
 - Home to an extensive vehicle collection, interactive exhibits, and nine historic buildings, this is a great spot to start your historic journey!
 - During summer months enjoy hands-on historic activities like gold panning and pioneer laundry.

AFTERNOON

- Start your drive to Old Iron Town, west of Cedar City on Hwy 56.
- Stop for lunch at Bowman's Cowboy Kitchen for dutch oven potatoes, cobbler, and more.
 - While there check out the historic sculptures at Iron Springs Resort. These tell the stories of those who settled in southern Utah.
- Continue on Hwy 56 to Old Iron Town
 - This historic site was the home of the first Iron Works in the area. Explore the ruins of the iron kilns and other buildings along the nature trail.

EVENING

- Travel back to Cedar City for dinner, followed by drinks at IG Winery in downtown.



Historic Hunter House at the Frontier Homestead State Park



Beehive Kiln at Old Iron Town Historic state monument

- What is a beehive kiln?
 - A beehive kiln is a circular permanent structure with a domed roof and chimney. They were once used to make charcoal for iron production. Wood was turned into charcoal here and used to fuel blast furnaces for iron ore production.

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Day Three: *Parowan & Cedar Breaks National Monument*

MORNING

- Grab breakfast at Amber Kay's Cafe for a home-cooked feel
- Travel north to the Parowan Gap Petroglyph site on Hwy 130 (Minersville Hwy).
 - With over 1,500 petroglyphs across 90 panels, this is one of the largest petroglyph collections in the west, and one of the most accessible.
- Explore the Parowan Gap to learn more about this historic site and its role as an ancient thoroughfare for travelers.



Parowan Gap "Zipper Glyph" Petroglyph

AFTERNOON

- Continue along Gap Road to the town of Parowan
 - Bonus: Stop along the way to find dinosaur tracks, two miles east of the petroglyph site.
- In Parowan visit the Daughters of Utah Pioneers museum in the Old Rock Church, the historic Parowan Cemetery, Heritage Park, and historic buildings along Main Street.
- Grab lunch at Jersey's Corner or Dede's Farmhouse Cafe.
- Spend the afternoon visiting local Parowan shops
 - Go antiquing at The Rusty Bucket
 - Find home decor at Old Crow Basics
 - Shop tallow lotions/soaps and more at Dry Lakes Ranch Beef
- Take Hwy 143 (a national scenic byway) up Parowan Canyon to Cedar Breaks National Monument.



Parowan Historic Old Rock Church

EVENING

- Hike the sunset trail at Cedar Breaks National Monument before catching the sunset at the Sunset Overlook.
- Stick around for incredible dark sky views and guided dark sky programs before traveling back to Cedar City

*Dinner suggestion: Milt's Stagestop in Cedar Canyon has an incredible menu, cozy country vibe, and was first opened in 1956.



Sunset Overlook at Cedar Breaks National Monument

Day Four: *Travel home safely!*

- Bonus Stop: If you're traveling south, there are two possible ghost towns to add to your visit. Silver Reef Ghost Town in Leeds, Utah, and Grafton Ghost Town near Zion National Park in Rockville, Utah.