

AAA TourBook®

1. **Pocatello, ID:** *The small town of Pocatello is where Arvilla (Jessica Lange) has lived all her life, and for the last 20 years, she's lived in a charming faculty neighborhood near Idaho State University with her beloved husband, Joe Holden.*

Originally part of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, Pocatello is named for a 19th-century Bannock chief who granted the Utah & Northern a right-of-way for a Salt Lake City-to-Butte railroad line. The subsequent arrival in 1882 of the Union Pacific Railway, which linked the Midwest and Pacific Northwest, spawned a makeshift community—a congregation of tents at the meeting of the two lines—that was first called Pocatello Junction.

Pocatello maintains its position as one of the region's leading industrial, distribution and transportation centers. Education also is a principal concern; Idaho State University, with 12,000 students, is one of the state's leading 4-year institutions. The town is the northern terminus of an especially scenic section of I-15, which heads south into Utah.

Just off Main Street visitors can see the Union Pacific Depot, a three-story passenger station designed in the late 1800s. Train passengers of the era stayed overnight across the street at the historic Yellowstone Hotel.

2. **Salt Lake City, UT:** *On their way to the Salt Lake City airport, Arvilla (Lange) and her friends (Kathy Bates, Joan Allen) are inspired to put off their flight to California and make a detour.*

Salt Lake City, UT, Cultural and ecclesiastical as well as political capital of Utah, lies in a spectacular setting at the foot of the Wasatch Mountains, with the Great Salt Lake visible to the northwest and the Great Salt Lake Desert to the west. Scenic I-80 parallels the lake's southern shoreline and crosses the desert into Nevada.



Like many earlier American settlers, the Mormons traveled across the country in search of a place where they could practice their religion without persecution. On seeing the Salt Lake Valley for the first time, Brigham Young proclaimed to his followers, “This is the right place.”

Occupied in 1847 by the Mormons under Brigham Young, the city first became the capital of the Mormon settlement and then of the state. Its finest buildings are ecclesiastical, and some of its most interesting houses were occupied by Brigham Young and his family. The city was laid out in a grid pattern fanning out from what is now known as Temple Square, with streets designed to be “wide enough for a team of four oxen and a covered wagon to turn around.”

In the late 1840s the area's harvest was nearly destroyed by a horde of crickets. A large flock of sea gulls came to the rescue, devouring the crickets and salvaging the farmers' crops. In appreciation, the sea gull was awarded the designation of Utah's state bird.



South Temple Street has a large concentration of 19th- and early 20th-century architecture, including the Gothic-style Cathedral of the Madeleine and the Thomas Kearns Mansion at 603 E. South Temple St. The 1901 Kearns house is architectural evidence of Salt Lake City's mining wealth at the turn of the 20th century and is now the governor's mansion; guided tours are available.

One of the most interesting structures in Salt Lake City is the Eagle Gate. Erected in 1859 as the entrance to Brigham Young's private farm, it spans State Street in front of the Beehive House. The giant four-legged arch is surmounted by a 4,000-pound statue of an eagle with a wingspread of 20 feet. The gate has been remodeled several times; the original copper-plated eagle, which has a wingspread of 16 feet, is in the Pioneer Memorial Museum.

The Brigham Young Monument on the corner of State and South Temple streets is a tribute to the second president of the Mormon Church and the first territorial governor of Utah. On the monument's north face is a bronze plaque listing the names and equipment of the pioneers who arrived on July 24, 1847.

Central to the city's cultural life is the Salt Palace, the civic auditorium at 90 S. West Temple St. The complex includes Abravanel Hall, the home of the Utah Symphony, and the Salt Lake Art Center. Self-guiding tours of the Salt Palace and related buildings are available, as are guided tours of Abravanel Hall.

On Main Street between 300 and 400 South streets is the Exchange Place Historic District, which once served as the city's non-Mormon commercial center. The district, which in its heyday ranked among the West's major financial areas, includes nine neoclassic buildings built around 1900.

The First Presbyterian Church at South Temple and C streets is noted for its stained-glass windows and red sandstone exterior. The Greek Holy Trinity Cathedral, at 279 South and 300 West streets, was designed after St. Sophia's in Istanbul, Turkey.

3. Bonneville Salt Flats: *The Bonneville Salt Flats are a stunning 30,000 acres of white salt, so flat you can actually see the curvature of the earth. Arvilla returns to the Salt Flats with her friends, after having first visited them on her honeymoon 20 years before.*

The Bonneville Salt Flats are off I-80 exit 4, 3 mi. e. of Wendover; go 1 mi. n., then 3 mi. e. Centuries ago the northwestern quarter of Utah was covered by Lake Bonneville, a great freshwater lake 10 times the size of the Great Salt Lake. Covering more than 20,000 square miles in Utah, Nevada and Idaho, the lake was 1,000 feet deep where the Great Salt Lake now lies and 900 feet deep at the site of Salt Lake City.

The lake's weight was so great that the Earth's crust in the middle of the basin was depressed more than 150 feet, leaving a shoreline that is still visible. Because of a change in climate or a volcanic diversion of contributing streams, the huge lake fell below its lowest outlet and shrank to what is now known as the Great Salt Lake.

The Great Salt Lake Desert to the west of the lake is part of the bed of extinct Lake Bonneville and is composed of silt washed into the huge lake hundreds of years ago. In this region are the Bonneville Salt Flats, where many land speed records have been set on the 10-mile, circular Bonneville Speedway. Drivers may compete in various speed trials held at the tracks in the summer and the fall.

For the more leisurely motorists passing the salt flats on I-80, a colorful tree made of cement, ceramic tile and rock breaks the monotony of the desolate landscape. "Metaphor: The Tree of Utah," an abstract sculpture designed by Karl Momen, stands nearly 90 feet tall just north of the interstate.

Guests may not stay overnight on the salt flats, which offer no facilities or services. Nearby public areas permit camping, and private campgrounds and other accommodations can be found in Wendover.

For additional information contact the Salt Lake Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management at (801) 977-4300.

4. Bryce Canyon National Park: *Next, Arvilla brings her friends to the magical red rock amphitheater of Bryce Canyon for sunset, where the three women hike along the breathtaking scenery before settling in for an eventful night at the Bryce Canyon Lodge. 26 miles southeast of Panguitch via US 89 and SRs 12 and 63.*

The park includes some of Earth's most colorful rocks, which have been sculpted by erosion into pillars called “hoodoos,” and other fantastic forms. Iron oxides give red, yellow and brown tints to the limestone, while manganese oxides lend a lavender hue.



The area's difficult topography led Mormon settler Ebenezer Bryce, whose cattle grazed in the mazelike twists of the canyons' stream beds, to declare it “a hell of a place to lose a cow.” Bryce is not a true canyon but a series of horseshoe-shaped amphitheaters carved in the edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau by tributaries of the Paria River. An American Indian name for the area translates as “red rocks standing like men in a bowl-shaped canyon.”

The park is open all year. The main geological features of the park are easily seen from numerous roadside viewing areas. Visitors can take a 37-mile round trip on a road that follows the high rim to many major vantage points, such as Bryce Point, Inspiration Point, the Natural Bridge, Paria View, Sunrise Point, Sunset Point, and Rainbow Point, at the park's end.



General Information Description: Hiking trails descend below the rim, affording close views of colorful formations. Horseback tours provide another way of seeing the park's geology up-close. The most brilliant hues in the park come alive with the rising and setting of the sun. Since the park is on an 8,000- to 9,000-foot plateau, hikers should

allow for adjustment to the altitude. Camping is available in improved sites and back-country areas throughout the park; for reservations phone (877) 444-6777, or (877) 833-6777.

ADMISSION is \$25 per private vehicle or \$12 each for individuals on motorcycles, bicycles or foot. Generally, the above fees permit entrance to the park for 7 calendar days from date of purchase. Annual passes are available for \$50 per person. A back-country permit, available at the visitor center, is \$5. Camping fees are \$5 to \$10.

PETS are permitted in the park only if they are on a leash, crated or otherwise physically restricted at all times. Pets are not allowed on trails, viewpoints, or in any of the public buildings.

ADDRESS inquiries to the Superintendent, Bryce Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 170001, Bryce Canyon, UT 84717; phone (435) 834-5322. The superintendent's office is open Mon.-Fri. 8-4:30. To request an information packet write Bryce Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 640201, Bryce Canyon, UT 84764-0201.

5. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area/Lake Powell: *Despite Carol (Allen)'s trepidation, Arvilla and her friends rent a houseboat and set out across Lake Powell – actually 150 miles of flooded red rock canyons. It is in this truly remarkable setting that tensions between the friends heat up.*

Along the Colorado River from Grand Canyon National Park in far north-central Arizona to Canyonlands National Park in southeastern Utah, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is home to one of the highest dams in the United States. Part of the Colorado River storage project, the Glen Canyon Dam generates hydroelectric power that is distributed to cities and industries throughout the West; the dam's main purpose is water storage.

Reaching out to hidden canyons, sandy coves and inlets, and winding through towering red cliffs, 186-mile-long Lake Powell presents an ever-changing array of scenery and such recreational opportunities as water skiing, boating and fishing. Amenities include campsites, marinas, houseboat rentals and tours. A copy of fishing regulations can be obtained at park ranger stations, the Carl Hayden Visitor Center, the Bullfrog Visitor Center, the Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center or at the administration offices in Page, Ariz.

Exhibits in the Carl Hayden Visitor Center, next to US 89, Glen Canyon Dam and Glen Canyon Bridge in Page, illustrate the construction of the dam and bridge and include a relief model of the canyon country. Guided tours of the dam are available throughout the year; phone (928) 608-6072 for schedule. The center is open daily 8-6, Memorial Day-Labor Day; 8-4, Dec.-Feb.; 8-5, rest of year. Closed Jan. 1, Thanksgiving and Dec. 25. Schedule may vary; phone ahead at (928) 608-6404. Free evening programs are given at Wahweap campground, 7 miles northwest of Page off US 89, Memorial Day-Labor Day; phone or stop by the visitor center for a list of scheduled performance days and times.

The Bullfrog Visitor Center, at the Bullfrog Marina in Utah, exhibits the natural and cultural history of the area and includes a life-size slot canyon model. The center's hours vary; phone ahead. The Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center, on US 89A near Lees Ferry, Ariz., features a historic pedestrian bridge over the Colorado River at Marble Canyon and outdoor exhibits highlighting the area's early river crossings. Endangered California condors can occasionally be seen from the bridge. The interpretive center is open daily 9-5, Apr.-Oct.

Arrangements for boat tours on Lake Powell can be made at Wahweap Lodge and Marina; facilities, including public launching ramps, boat rentals, camping and boat and automobile fuel, are provided at Wahweap and at three other marinas on the lake. A boat ramp providing access to 15 miles of the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam is available at Lees Ferry, 5 miles north of Marble Canyon.

Boat excursions, which last from 1 hour to all day, are available through Colorado River Discovery; phone (928) 645-9175 or (888) 522-6644. Half- and 1-day raft trips on the Colorado River below the dam can be arranged in Page, AZ.

Park admission is \$15 per private vehicle, or \$7 per individual on foot or bicycle (both valid for up to 7 days). An additional entrance fee of \$16 is charged for one motorized water vessel (valid for up to 7 days); an entrance fee of \$8 is charged for each additional motorized water vessel.

For further information contact the Superintendent, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040; phone (928) 608-6404 or (928) 608-6200.

6. Las Vegas, NV: *In Las Vegas, Arvilla returns to another of her honeymoon sites – The Riviera Hotel and Casino, where the friends hit the town. A surprising romance blooms – and one woman hits a real jackpot.*

Sin City. Gambleville. The Entertainment Capital of the World. Open 24 hours. City of Lost Wages. The City Without Clocks. The Garden of Neon. Las Vegas is known as all of these. A city of approximately 478,434 people—1.4 million in the metro area—it did not even exist at the turn of the 20th century. Its explosive growth, particularly over the last 20 years or so, is largely a testament to the eternal conflict between fate and free will that lies at the heart of a dice roll, a dealt card or a pull on a slot. Gambling, in other words, is big business. According to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, more than 38.9 million fun seekers arrived in 2006 and spent \$39.4 billion.



It is true that you can have a great time in Las Vegas without gambling. Dining and shopping opportunities are plentiful and varied. The city arguably boasts more entertainment superstars and out-of-this-world production spectacles per square mile than any other in the world. And spectacular natural attractions—from Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area to Valley of Fire State Park to Arizona's Grand Canyon—are all within a day's drive.

The bottom line, however, is that “casinos are king,” as one city advertising slogan puts it. So although children and nongamblers will find plenty of ways to have fun, it is the over-21 visitor, preferably with money to burn at the blackjack table or the slot machine, which the city seeks to attract.

Although the Strip and downtown's “Glitter Gulch” are the two major tourist areas, there are whole other sides to this city that the average visitor never sees while shuttling between the airport and his or her hotel. A large percentage of locals work in the service industry, and their shifts often do not reflect a conventional routine—there aren't many other places where you will see a cocktail waitress in full regalia circulating through a crowd and serving drinks at 7 in the morning.



Las Vegas is one of the most isolated major cities in the United States. It is 270 miles from Los Angeles, 293 miles from Phoenix, 570 miles from San Francisco and 447 miles from Reno, the only other city of any size in Nevada. Visitors arriving by air in the daytime see two small clusters of buildings (the hotels downtown and along the Strip) and odd incongruities like the Luxor pyramid and sphinx.

In fact, it is hard to imagine a man-made paradise sprouting from a more unlikely natural setting. Las Vegas—just over 2,000 feet in elevation—lies in the Las Vegas Valley, a long, flat expanse of terrain formed over time by the advance-and-retreat movements of glaciers. The valley is enclosed by mountain ranges, notably the Spring Mountains to the west, a popular hiking and skiing area dominated by 11,918-foot Mount Charleston. Prehistoric southern Nevada was a virtual marsh; the valley assumed its present arid characteristics roughly 12,000 years ago when it was overtaken by the Mojave Desert. But beneath the parched valley floor a system of aquifers, fed by rainwater and snowmelt coming off the surrounding mountains, periodically surfaced to create a life-giving oasis.

American Indians, from primitive hunters and foragers to the later Anasazi and Paiute tribes, had inhabited the Las Vegas Valley as far back as 11,000 B.C. It was not until 1829 that the valley oasis was stumbled upon by Rafael Rivera, a scout for Mexican trader Antonio Armijo, who was leading a 60-man expedition to Los Angeles via the Old Spanish Trail. Searching for water, Rivera discovered the artesian springs that he named Las Vegas (“the meadows”).

The discovery shortened the route to Los Angeles but sadly hastened the dissolution of the Paiute, not only through the depredations of invading white settlers but the raids of the warlike Ute tribe. In 1844, surveyor and explorer John C. Frémont, leading an overland expedition west to California, camped at the Las Vegas Springs; today a downtown street and casino both bear his name. By the early 1850s, Mormon wagon trains traveling from central Utah to Los Angeles had tamed the Old Spanish Trail, which by then was known as the Mormon Trail.

The Mormon Trail became the preferred route for settlers, immigrants and California gold seekers. Mormon missionaries established a settlement in the Las Vegas Valley in 1855. But although they dug irrigation ditches, managed to cultivate fruit trees and vegetables, and mined lead for bullets from nearby Potosi Mountain, the harsh environment caused the outpost to be abandoned by 1858. During the next few decades hardscrabble prospectors coexisted uneasily with the Paiute, and the only development of any note was the ranch built by Octavius Decatur Gass on the site of the fort erected by the Mormons.

The coming of the railroads brought about the birth of Las Vegas. Due to the area's strategic location and plentiful water supply, the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad (later absorbed by Union Pacific) in 1902 designated it a service stop on the route from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City. A dusty tent settlement sprang up as track was laid across the valley. The train's inaugural run was in January 1905; the railroad yards were located at Main and Fremont streets, where the Plaza Hotel now stands. Four months later the city of Las Vegas was founded through a land auction of individual lots. Clark County, named for railroad magnate William Clark, was created in 1909 from neighboring Lincoln County; Las Vegas was incorporated 2 years later.

The desert town languished in its early years, but the announcement of plans to construct the Hoover Dam less than 30 miles away spurred growth. By the end of the 1920s a

federal highway connected Las Vegas with Los Angeles and Salt Lake City, the population had increased to about 5,000, and long-distance telephone service finally became a reality. It was largely insulated from the Great Depression years due to the jobs created by dam construction, Union Pacific Railroad growth and the reinstatement of legitimate gambling.

Casino-style gaming would eventually prove to be the city's savior, but not before several legal ups and downs. Nevada passed a strict anti-gambling law in 1910—even the local custom of flipping a coin for the price of a drink was outlawed. But wagering simply went underground until 1931, when the Nevada Legislature passed into law a bill proposed by rancher Phil Tobin, who designed it to generate tax revenue in support of public schools. (Ironically, Tobin never visited Las Vegas.) With the additional incentives of bootlegging, legal prostitution and a residency requirement for divorce of just 6 weeks, Las Vegas suddenly became a bright magnet in the otherwise gloomy national mood that followed the Roaring Twenties.

The 1940s saw the beginning of resort growth, although World War II initially delayed its onset. The Strip—then US 91, also known as the Los Angeles Highway, and now Las Vegas Boulevard—was inaugurated with the opening of El Rancho Vegas in April 1941.

After World War II came the big resort hotels, and with them big entertainment. The purpose was simply to lure people in to sample the thrill of slot machines and blackjack. As more hotels moved onto the Strip, each vied with the others for the most opulent casino and the showroom with the most glamorous stars.

The siren song was simple: Visit Las Vegas and see the world's largest and best collection of singers, comedians, dancers and musicians, and visitors heeded the call in increasing numbers. Hotels and casinos, enriched by the increased revenue, offered more and more—shows grew bigger, the Strip flashier, the casinos slicker. Las Vegas became a city that thrived on illusion and fantasy.

The city's incredible success can be measured by the number of hotel rooms it boasts: 133,000 and counting. And in addition to new construction and the ongoing expansion and modernization of existing properties, older hotels are being razed and replaced by newer, glitzier megaresorts. And judging from visitor statistics, odds are good the boom will last well into the 21st century.

7. Joshua Tree National Park: *Time is running out, but Arvilla has one final spot from her honeymoon she must visit – Joshua Tree National Park, home to Mojave and Colorado deserts. The friends camp among this otherworldly landscape as Arvilla prepares herself for Santa Barbara.*

North of I-10 and east of Desert Hot Springs with entrances at Cottonwood Spring, Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree, Joshua Tree National Park covers more than 1,238 square miles. This California desert country contains striking granite formations and mountain ranges rising from flat valleys about 1,800 feet above sea level to elevations of

more than 5,000 feet. At various trailheads and road pullouts there are informational signs about that particular area. However, trails leading off the roadways are not paved, and for a good part of the year the climate makes these trails inhospitable for many persons.



This park is different from most national parks in that while many have numerous viewpoints with spectacular scenery, this park is really more appreciated by getting away from the few main roads, getting out of the car and trekking into the desert a bit to get the full flavor of the park. For those who do, this is bound to be a memorable experience.

Keys View provides a spectacular view of the Coachella Valley and on clear days one can see the mountains in Baja. The road to Keys View is paved, but narrow and not conducive to speed. The trail from the parking area to the various viewing levels is paved, but rather steep in places.

Rock climbing is popular. The many spectacular desert plants include Joshua trees, cacti, ocotillos, smoke trees, palo verdes, piñon pines, Mojave yuccas and an array of spring wildflowers.



The desert supports a wide variety of wildlife, including many resident and migratory birds. The park's largest animal is the desert bighorn sheep.

Ranger led walking tours of the Desert Queen Ranch are offered October through May. William F. Keys lived here without amenities for more than 60 years and reared his five

children. The 90-minute tour is one-half mile in length and visitors are advised to wear supportive walking shoes, sunscreen and a hat, and to bring drinking water. A jacket or sweater may be appreciated on windy days.

Outfitters and guides are available in the towns bordering the north side of the park: Joshua Tree, Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley. These towns are also where services are located. There are no services within the park itself: no water, no food service, no stores, no gas stations, and no ranger stations. Restrooms are provided at all campgrounds.

Wood, gas and supplies must be carried into all of the park's nine primitive campgrounds, and water must be carried into all but Cottonwood and Black Rock. The exhibits of the Joshua Tree Visitor Center in Joshua Tree provide an introduction to the park, its ecosystems, recreational uses and historic sites. Oasis Visitor Center at Twentynine Palms has displays providing an introduction to the flora, fauna and history of the desert park.

Park open daily. Joshua Tree Visitor Center open daily 8-5. Cottonwood Visitor Center open daily 8-4. Oasis Visitor Center open daily 8-5. Black Rock Nature Center open Sat.-Thurs. 8-4, Fri. noon-8, Oct.-May. Park admission is \$15 per private vehicle for a 7-day pass. Keys Ranch tour \$5; \$2.50 (ages 6-11). Tours are limited to 25 persons, so reservations are suggested.

Direct inquiries to the Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-3597; phone (760) 367-5500. Phone (800) 365-2267 for camping reservations at Black Rock Canyon, Indian Cove and all group sites.

8. Santa Barbara, CA: *Joe's birthplace and the current home of Arvilla's daughter-in-law, Francine (Christine Baranski). Santa Barbara is the site of Francine's funeral ceremony for Joe – where Arvilla and her friends' long journey must finally come to a head.*

Resting on a narrow shelf between the Santa Ynez Mountains and the Pacific coast, Santa Barbara is one of Southern California's foremost vacation areas. A scenic approach is by way of US 101.

Santa Barbara traces its history back to the earliest days of Spanish settlement in Upper California. In 1602 Spanish conquistador Sebastián Vizcaíno sailed into Santa Barbara Bay and named it for the saint born on that day. A military fortress was established in 1782; the mission was founded 4 years later by Father Fermín Francisco de Lasuén.

Santa Barbara's heritage is evident in its many whitewashed, tile-roofed buildings and Spanish street names. The Santa Barbara Historical Museum administers the 1862 Fernald Mansion, a traditional upper-class Victorian house with many original furnishings, and the 1854 Trussell-Winchester Adobe, which represents the intermingling of New England and Adobe architecture at 414 W. Montecito St. Phone (805) 966-1601.

Other historic adobe buildings include the 1817 Casa Covarrubias, 715 Santa Barbara St., the 1836 Historic Adobe, next to the Covarrubias and the 1826 Hill-Carrillo Adobe at 11-15 E. Carrillo St. Most of the structures are closed to the public but may be seen on a self-guiding walking tour. Maps are available from the Santa Barbara Visitor Information Center at 1 Garden St.

Next door to Santa Barbara, the wealthy enclave of Montecito has many early 20th-century Mediterranean and Spanish Colonial Revival mansions. Among them at 1387 E. Valley Rd. is [Casa del Herrero](#), a beautifully preserved 1925 home surrounded by formal gardens. Ninety-minute tours are given Wed. and Sat.; reservations are required. Phone (805) 565-5653.

Sea Landing offers personal watercraft rentals, sport fishing and diving charters, dinner excursions and whale-watching cruises; phone (805) 963-3564.

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