

Panoramic views aplenty

Watch freight, passenger, and light rail amid the Wasatch Range

CITY: Salt Lake City was first settled in 1847, with Union Pacific Railroad rails reaching the Salt Lake Valley in 1870. The Denver & Rio Grande Western arrived in 1883, by 1903 the Los Angeles & Salt Lake was completed, and by 1909 the Western Pacific arrived from Oakland, Calif. Today, the Union Pacific reigns supreme in Utah's capital city, but the Utah Railway, BNSF Railway, Savage Bingham & Garfield, Salt Lake Garfield & Western, Amtrak, and the Utah Transit Authority offer colorful alternatives.

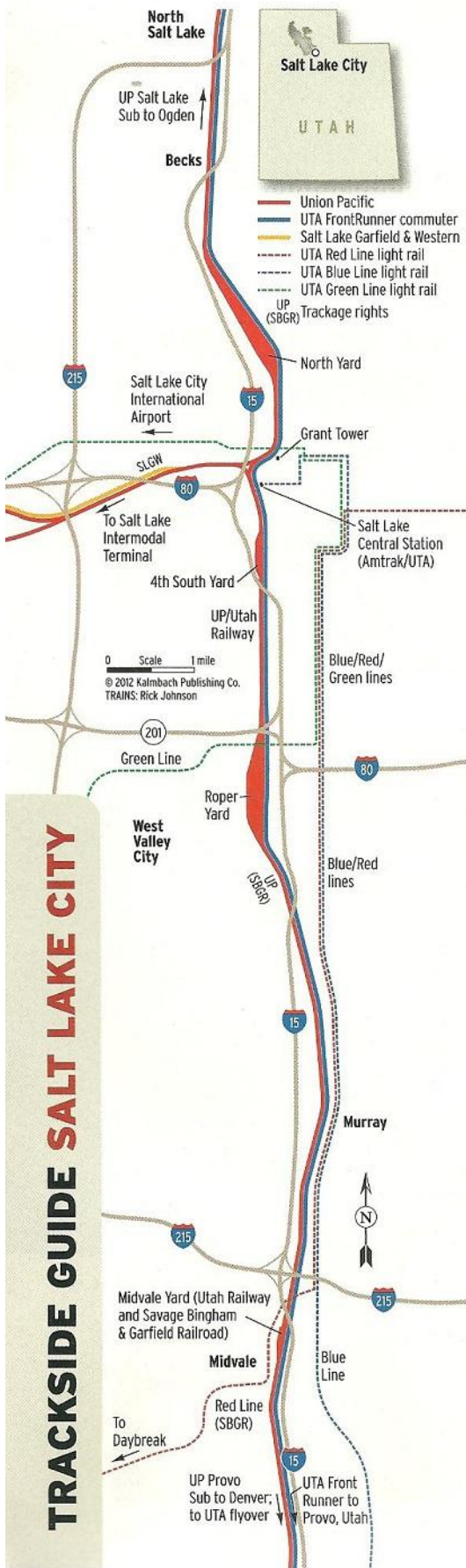
TRAIN-WATCHING: Grant Tower, near the heart of the city, is the best place to observe train activity. Union Pacific, Utah Railway, BNSF, and Utah Transit Authority commuter and light rail trains pass through a four-square-block area bordered by South Temple and Second South streets between 6th and 8th West streets. Public roads offer easy access to Grant Tower and its panoramic views of the city and the Wasatch Mountains. In this location, UTA's FrontRunner commuter trains have their own right-of-way. Union Pacific's Salt Lake Sub runs north to Ogden, Utah; the Provo Sub heads south; and the Lynndyl Sub west to Los Angeles and Oakland.

YARDS: Union Pacific has three freight yards in Salt Lake City: North Yard at 6th North Street, the former D&RGW Roper Yard at 21st South Street, and the 4th

South Street yard downtown. The Salt Lake Intermodal Terminal is about 5 miles west of downtown along I-80 at 56th West Street. The Salt Lake Garfield & Western's modest yard and shop can be found near 10th West and North Temple streets. The Utah Railway and the Savage Bingham & Garfield share Midvale Yard at 72nd South Street near I-15. UTA has its Warm Springs Maintenance Facility at 9th North and 5th West streets, adjacent to UP's North Yard.

FREQUENCIES: 160.965 (UP Salt Lake Sub, including Utah Railway, Savage Bingham & Garfield, and Amtrak); 160.740 (UP Provo & Lynndyl subs); 160.680 (UP North Yard); 161.490 (UP Roper Yard).

FAMILY: The former D&RGW depot on West 3rd and South Rio Grande streets hosts the Utah State Historical Society archives, and the Rio Grande Café, offering some of the best Mexican food in the city. The grand hall waiting room of the Union Pacific depot on South Temple and 4th West streets is open to the public, featuring stained glass windows of historic local events. Ride UTA's new Siemens S70 light rail vehicles within the free-fare zone downtown. — JAMES S. BELMONT lives in Salt Lake City and has photographed trains since he was 10 years old. He co-authored Crossroads of the West: A Photographic Look at Fifty Years of Railroad in Utah.



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