



Salt Lake City/Deer Valley Reunion Trip Notes
August 9-13, 2013

This trip all started while on the Amalfi Coast hike in June and we met some super folks to include this amazing gal from Manhattan Beach California who invited a bunch of us to her new dream home in Deer Valley (which is part of Park City.) We knew it would be a good trip and every day served up new delights and new friends.



Here is “Kim” in her dreamy kitchen for the first of many meals, and then outside on one of her porches serving up dinner. Later is a picture of all of us in her wine cellar where she shared some great times and rich drinks with us. The multi-level sitting room had some glorious views to include her own multi-level garden.

Kim had invited us to stay at her home but I am known as a poor house-guest, bathroom hog, weird hours, eating every couple hours, and all the worst, and in addition we had a special employee deal at the Sheraton chains. St. Regis was just around the corner.

We ate at her home indoors, outdoors and indoors again. We met other delightful folks who she included in the mealtime as I suspect her home is always open for entertaining. While we had a lovely tour of her home, it is private so I'll not add too many of the photos and just say that she has every reason to be proud of her building endeavors. Every touch was hers.





Park City/Deer Valley

Front page of *The Park Record* newspaper on day of arrival shows Park City to be the winner of *Best Town Ever*. "Outside Magazine" features the city as the winner of an online contest to name the *Best Town Ever*, including a photo of a bicyclist on a trail overlooking Old Town on the cover of the magazine. An article about Park City in the *Best Town Ever* edition includes comments from Mayor Dana Williams, City Councilman Andy Beerman and others. Just below the headline, the article says "there's no better blend of small-town friendliness, absurdly easy access, and five-star culture than Park City -- if you can afford it." Williams told the magazine he can tell a Parkite by a bandaged wrist as the writer described the mayor as looking "a bit like Jack Nicholson." Williams could "barely complete a thought without getting a hug from a constituent," the article says. Williams also told the magazine, though, that he "can't afford" being the mayor anymore. The article says Park City "feels like a Colorado ski town dropped into Utah's 12,000-foot Wasatch Range," but, different than other mountain resorts, the city sits close to a metropolitan area. It talks about Park City's outdoor recreation offerings and says the city is somewhere "that breeds the active lifestyle." It mentions the mountain resorts, the Uinta Mountains, the Utah Olympic Park and the Provo River. The article also talks about the tourism-heavy economy, mentioning the Sundance Film Festival. Williams told the magazine tourism "makes the town tick." Meanwhile, the article notes the housing costs in Park City, which top statewide and national numbers. It says most people who live in Park City do not have a primary residence in the city. "Park City's greatest challenge seems to be courting the wealthy without ousting the middle class. So far it has struck a balance," the article says. The magazine calls Park City a "liberal enclave in the red state of Utah." It says Parkites may commute to work in Salt Lake for well-paying jobs and there are outdoor-industry jobs in Park City.

Accommodations

These must be award winning too. At the Deer Valley St. Regis with an upgrade and sitting high up on a hill with quite the view. Thank you Loudean!



From the web: *Extraordinary in every detail, the 900 square-foot Deluxe Suite welcomes guests with all the comforts of a fine home, along with signature St. Regis service and amenities. Light and airy, with mountain views and a private balcony, the spacious suite includes a full kitchen with alder cabinets, granite slab counters and Australian chestnut hardwood flooring. The sleek culinary center includes a Wolf® stove, SubZero® refrigerator, and Bosch® dishwasher as well as fine dinnerware and a range of cooking equipment. A central kitchen counter offers bar seating for casual dining. Adjacent to the open kitchen, the parlor makes an inviting lounging and entertainment center with a sofa, fireplace, and 40-inch LCD HD Television with a Denon® DVD Surround Sound Theater system. Contemporary furniture and window coverings in rich textures and a color scheme of chocolate brown, rust, gold and green, envelope guests with a warm, welcoming feeling. The suite also includes wireless High Speed Internet Access, a stereo clock with an iPod docking station, a fully stocked refreshment center, and a safe. The master bedroom, a vision of soft cream, beige and rust tones, features a sumptuous king bed layered with Egyptian cotton linens and a down comforter. The bedroom also includes a loveseat, fireplace, and 40-inch LCD HD Television with a Denon® DVD Surround Sound Theater system. Comfort meets luxury in the master bathroom, with a European glass-enclosed shower with an additional rain showerhead and a deep soaking tub, all stocked with Remède amenities. Plantation shutters open from the bathroom to the bedroom, creating a spacious feeling. Marble bathroom vanities with dual sinks are topped by a lighted vanity mirror with a seamless 17-inch LCD flat screen embedded in the mirror. Soft bathrobes and slippers add to the pampering experience. Delectable snacks and beverages await in an in-room refreshment center. Guests may also indulge in 24-hour In-Room Dining. •900 Square Feet / 84 Square Meters; •Bosch® Dishwasher; •Designer Kitchen; •St. Regis Butler Service; •Wolf® Cook Top and Stove; •Additional Half-Bathroom; •Two Fireplaces; •40-inch LCD HD Televisions; •Wasatch Mountain Views; •SubZero® Refrigerator; •Private Balcony*

A tour of Salt Lake City

I'd been to SLC in 2010 for the marathon and stayed a few days then but



it seemed well worth doing again so Sonya and I drove in and met the same private tour guide I'd used before. Tom was not totally up to it (he's fine now) and he probably enjoyed staying in his suite anyway. Here is a picture of Rob our tour guide in younger days when he was married to Miss Utah who was also Miss Universe. I suspect the divorce is only one reason he doesn't consider himself a Mormon in good standing. But he is a fourth generation Mormon and has a lot of stories and famous relatives.



Part of the monument up at "This is the Place" and then Sonya meeting us for Mexican dinner at this mainstay famous SLC establishment called "Red Iguana."



Temple Square is nothing short of amazing. We heard a bit of practice notes from the organ player in the tabernacle. The trip prior I saw a practice session plus a filming. Here is Sonya and me in front of the state capital, a huge dome.



Rob would take us up to a high hilltop to get an overview of a very well laid out and huge city.





In an old historical hotel taken over by the Mormons; Sonya and Diana in front of one of the many water features and this one from the conference center. The Mormons work with other churches also. And when Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast, it was said that the first disaster relief to reach the shore was trailers of goods from the Mormons who ship out huge amounts all over the world every day. When in Israel I saw their education center and learned that they were not allowed to spread their religion for fear of being sent home as a result.

Park City/Deer Valley

There will be pictures from Tom's photo show soon. See www.TomsKoi.com.

From my 2010 trip to save me time so I can run off and do more traveling and less bragging



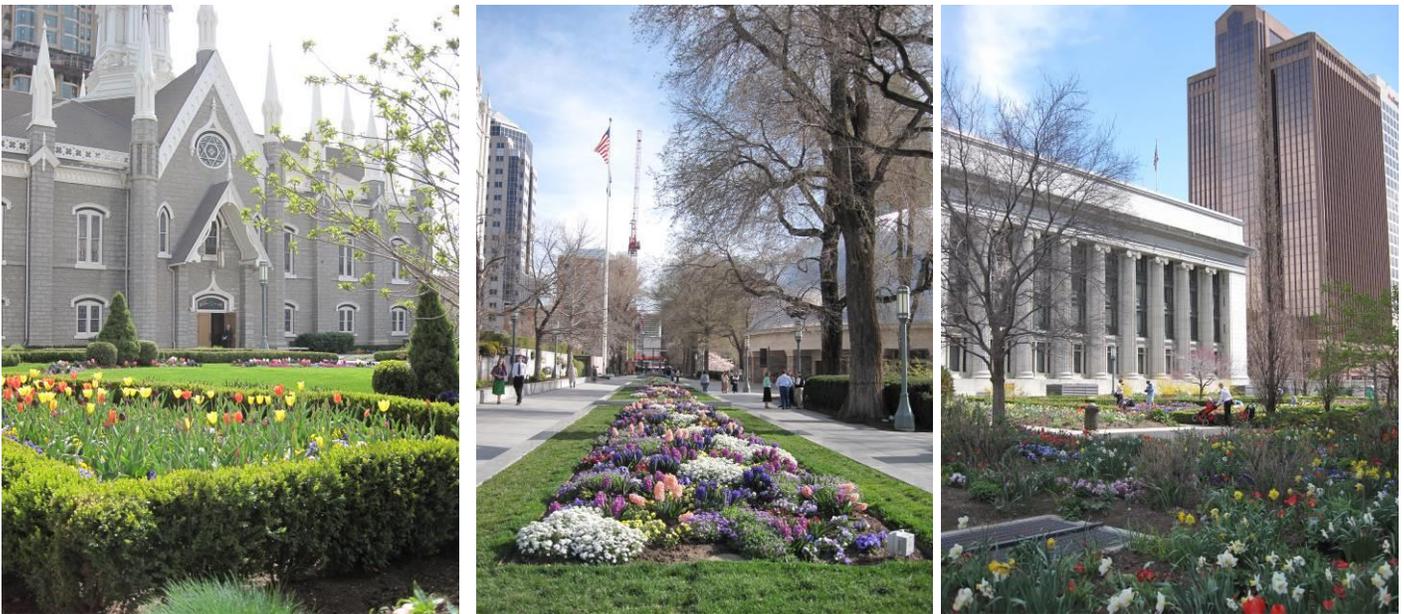
Here is David on Temple Square's 6 ½ acre rooftop gardens, We Three, and our Temple Square missionary tour guides. I would return to visit with these gals later.

A note on the Church of the Latter Day Saints aka The Mormons

They're everywhere – they're everywhere! I couldn't have imagined so many missionaries, and so many nice and kind and helpful ones. Also they were rarely preachy but always educational. Were I looking for a religion it would be tempting to look closer at this group who are fiscally conservative, build a thoughtful town, take care of not only their own but anybody else in need, and come across as calm and caring. They elect their leaders. One famous Mormon is Mitt Romney. It sounds like there are between 50-60% Mormons in the area and maybe that's one reason the State of Utah is so prolific with educational systems, top hospitals, lack of debt, a low unemployment rate and lack of crime. It's pretty unique in this era.



Flowers and more flowers everywhere – such a lovely time of the year and the Temple Square was in full bloom. I'd later learn that this is a year round event.



Dining – It's easy to find a great selection of food downtown, from various food courts to the most inexpensive restaurants imaginable. We ate dinner and breakfast both at Market Street Grill and David said he and Maggie had been there twice in years past too. Our tour guide took us to a family run and old Italian eatery with red checkered tablecloths and great priced food. Right off the Square by recommendation of a museum volunteer I ate an \$8.95 feast of many courses, and a couple blocks away were lively pubs and bars that made you forget you were in Mormon territory and think it was a holiday weekend whereas it was not. Red Rock Pub was an especially good treat and a

recommendation of the volunteer docent at the visitor's center. Some pubs were so full there were long waits.

What touring did we do?

We hired a private tour guide for Friday – Rob Sharp -- for a very reasonable price and some of the following was through his guiding. Rob was a 4th generation native, has legislative relatives and seems to know everyone and certainly everything in Salt Lake City. We stayed with him through a lunch.

Utah State Capitol Building is an AAA GEM. We had a short tour inside and out. It's a lovely Renaissance-style building sitting high on the hill at the end of State Street (the end of our marathon route) with a super rotunda. The statue of the woman was not only an early and accomplished women's libber but a relative of our tour guide.



(Some people take photography seriously as did this couple. No, we don't know them, but I'd guess they got a better picture of the state capitol dome than I did.)



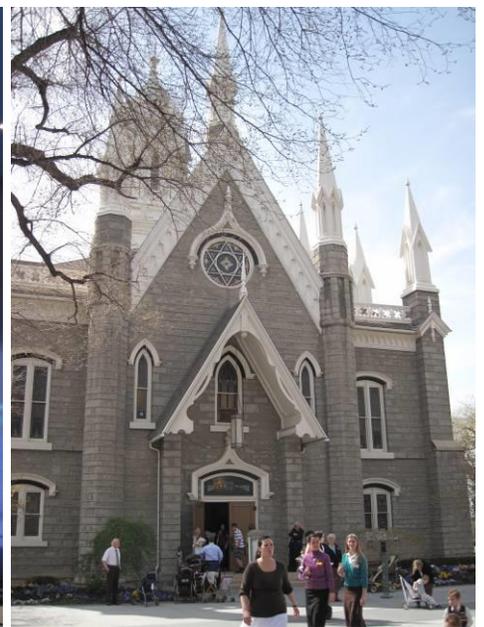
“This Is the Place State Park” – high up on the hill near the U. of U. Supposedly when Brigham Young arrived, he said “This is the place” and they thus settled in the valley. Old Deseret is a living historic village that recreates a typical community between 1847 and 1869, has the Pony Express statuary nearby, and a huge monument.

Temple Square is an AAA GEM and right in the heart of downtown, and contains the famous Mormon Temple and The Tabernacle, both AAA GEMs on their own. This was a perfect time of the year to be there with daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and all kinds of flowers blooming prolifically among the many water features. We attended a rehearsal of the famous Tabernacle choir on Thursday evening and the televised service on Sunday morning. Later on Sunday I returned for an organ recital and a demonstration of the amazingly awesome acoustics. (From anywhere in the tabernacle you can hear a paper being torn or a



penny dropped.) At the museum later there were drawings and films to explain the unusual feat of this huge building's roof build seemingly without supports.

There are two Visitor's Centers at Temple Square and they are also AAA GEMs. The South Visitor's Center is based on Mormon family values as well as the building of the temple and the North Visitor's Center is practically a planetarium inside with theatres and open areas where a 12' Jesus talks to you under "an open sky" look. On a lower floor is a mini-Jerusalem replica. I took in all the films and cried through them all and was half grateful to be alone (smile.)



Conference Center in Temple Square is one of the largest in the world, able to seat 21,000 people in an acoustically perfect setting complete with amazing cantilevered balconies. The largest I-beam on record helps hold up the roof. On the 6 ½ acre rooftop is a wilderness garden open to the public and a huge waterfall that ends street level and flows into a part of the town's original canal system.

Beehive House is the old restored home of Bingham Young and guided tours are given. Well, it's one of his homes. . . . The adjoining Lion House now serves as a restaurant whereas it was once one of the homes of his many homes. The idea of polygamy is not that of the LDSs any longer but was when there were too few men and too many women and adding to the population was important and wealthy men were chosen to marry multiple of wives.





Bingham Young Park holds historical mementos and a waterwheel explaining the water system first set up in the valley. Another park on the way up the hill to the State Capital also contains many water features.

Here are some estates from our driving tour and maybe of interest was that we didn't see any that were ostentatious. Well, maybe this one



Kennecott's Bingham Canyon outside of town, also an AAA GEM, has the largest copper mine in the world, now owned by Tinto Rio, and is named a national historic site. The roads you see down in the mine are 8 lanes wide. The tractors and front loaders are bigger than a house. The tires are on wheels that are operated independently with their own engine and the tires are taller than three men. All quite amazing.



The actual Salt Lake shore as well as Antelope Island is on the way to the copper mine where I took a guided tour. We stopped at old spas and marinas which seem to have not much use any longer. Salt Lake is the 2nd saltiest body of water in the world after the Dead Sea.

Note about Kennecott

They were not open this year. Last year they had the worry that there would be a landslide and thus they closed down the visitor's center and sure enough within a couple weeks the entire area was buried.

Itinerary

Fri Aug 9

6:38am Depart Newark EWR via UA#226
9:11am Arrive Houston Bush Intl IAH for plane change

10:00am Depart Houston Bush Intl IAH via UA#486
12:06pm Arrive Salt Lake City SLC

Rental car Avis

Hotel The St. Regis Deer Valley
2300 Deer Valley Drive East, Park City, Utah 84060 Tele 435 940 5700

Sonya Bland arrives Friday at 1:50pm via American and departs Tuesday at 2:30; Kim arrives 1:09 via Delta; also in area and at dinner are Dave and Lee Collins

Sat Aug 10

Group at: Young S. Kim-Epstein (Kim) "La Bastide Neige"
2660 Telemark Drive, Solamere Division, Deer Valley
Park City, Utah 84060

5:00pm Dinner at Kim's home

Tue Aug 13

1:47pm Depart Salt Lake City SLC via UA#270
5:55pm Arrive Houston Bush Intl IAH for plane change

6:33pm Depart Houston Bush Intl IAH via UA#1246
11:19pm Arrive Newark EWR