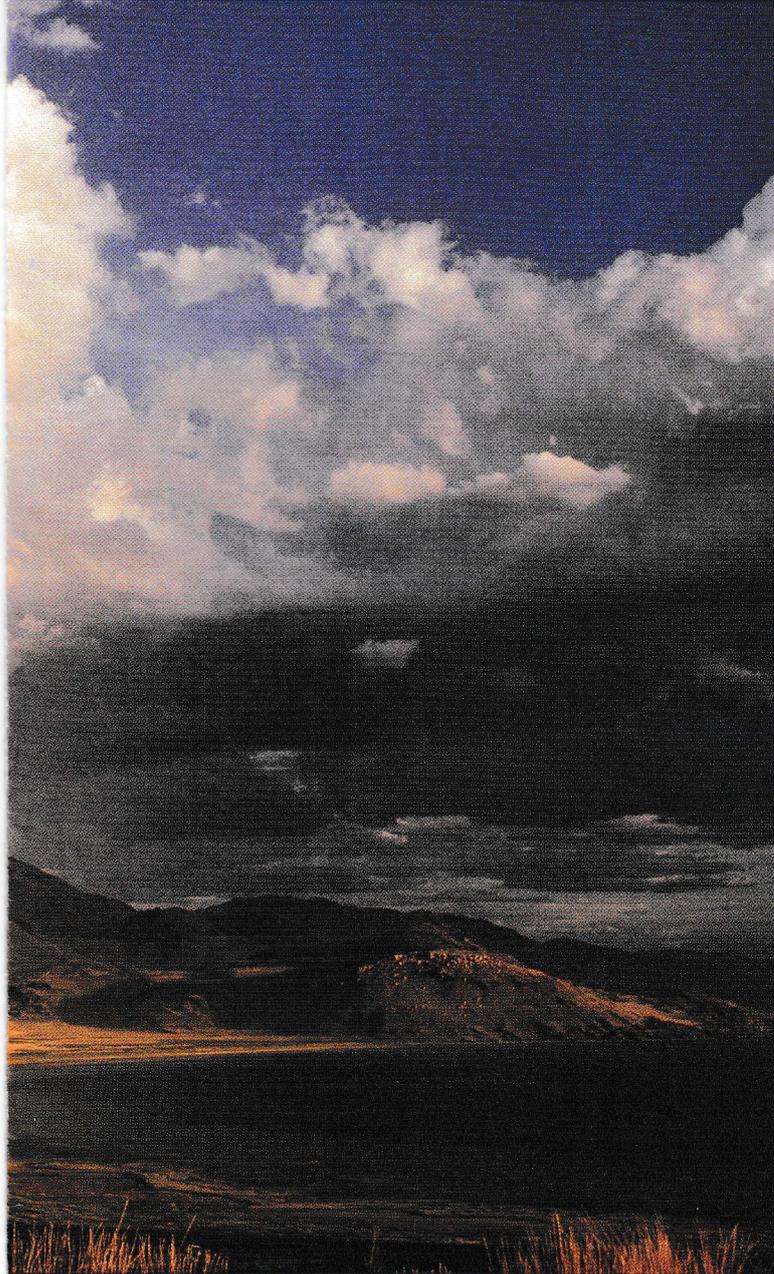


# Antelope Island State Park



**Utah State Parks**

# STATE PARK

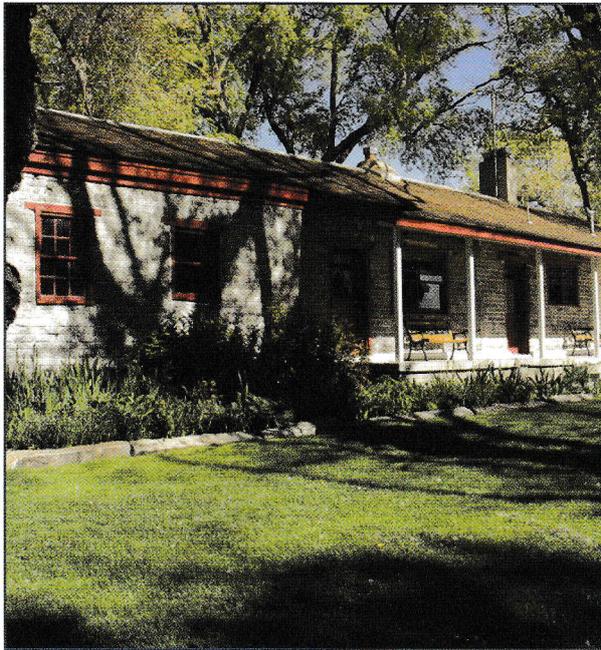
## ANTELOPE ISLAND

**V**isit this largest island in the Great Salt Lake, which offers camping, wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Antelope Island is home to free-roaming herds of bison, bighorn sheep, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. The island provides spectacular views of Great Salt Lake, the Wasatch Mountains, Salt Lake skyline, and benches of ancient Lake Bonneville.

### HISTORY

**A**rtifacts reveal prehistoric people inhabited the island more than 6,000 years ago. John C. Fremont and Kit Carson made the first known Anglo exploration of Antelope Island in 1845, and named it after observing several pronghorn antelope grazing on the rangelands.

Fielding Garr established the first permanent residence on the island in 1848, which is Utah's oldest Anglo-built structure still standing on its existing foundation. Tour the home and Historic Fielding Garr Ranch, a western ranching living history.



### GEOLOGY

**A**ntelope Island comprises 28,022 acres, and is 15 miles long and 4.5 miles across at its widest point. Frary Peak is the highest point on the island at 6,596 feet above sea level. The island is part of a basin and range mountain formation located between the Wasatch and Sierra Nevada ranges.

The oldest rocks on Antelope Island are some of the oldest found anywhere on earth. The Farmington Canyon complex, at 2.7 billion years old, is older than rocks found at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. These rocks, which are banded and contorted, comprise the southern two-thirds of the island.

Tintic Quartzite, found on the northern one-third of the island, is 550 million years old and was deposited in a shallow marine environment. Quartzite, which is metamorphosed sandstone, can be seen around the visitor center. The youngest rocks on the island are tufa, deposited by Lake Bonneville only 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. Tufa deposits typically resemble concrete and can be viewed from the Buffalo Point Trail.



## WILDLIFE

**B**ison are the island's most famous residents. Twelve animals were introduced to the island in 1893 and were the foundation for today's herd of 500 to 700. An annual bison roundup is held each fall to assess the health of the herd and sell extra animals. Antelope Island is also home to bobcats, coyotes, reptiles, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and chukars.

Keep your distance from all wildlife. View and photograph wildlife from designated trails, roads, and pullouts.

### Viewing Opportunities Vary Greatly by Season

**January** - Bald eagles, chuckar partridge, winter ducks: common golden eyes, occasional scoters, and old squaws

**February** - Coyote pairs, bald eagles, winter raptors: prairie falcons, roughed-legged hawks; winter song birds: occasional snow buntings, long spurs, horned larks, rosy finches

**March** - Bald eagles, first returning migratory birds arrive, California gulls, pelicans, colonial bird nesting activity on Egg and White Rock islands

**April** - Bison calves, returning avocets, stilts, sanderlings, eared grebes in breeding plumage, phalaropes, peregrine falcons

**May** - Pronghorn fawns, bighorn sheep lambs, migratory birds, burrowing owls, long-billed curlews, willets, arriving migrants at ranch

**June** - Deer fawns, Canada geese goslings, arriving migrants at ranch, water bird viewing along shoreline

**July** - Wilson phalaropes peak, foraging behavior and water bird activity increasing, large animal activity slows down due to heat

**August** - Bison mating, returning shorebirds, pelican activity seen over island

**September** - Eared grebes and waterfowl return, phalaropes, Franklin gulls, migrating raptors, pronghorn harems, mature buck deer sightings

**October** - Bison roundup, eared grebes, brine shrimp harvest

**November** - Bison in corrals, eared grebes, pelicans leaving

**December** - Coyote sightings, bison bull bachelor groups on north end, porcupines in Russian olives; wintering ducks: northern shovelers



## GREAT SALT LAKE

**G**reat Salt Lake is the largest natural lake west of the Mississippi River. The lake is a remnant of pre-historic Lake Bonneville, which covered more than 20,000 square miles during the Ice Age. Four distinct shorelines from the lake may be seen from Antelope Island and include Bonneville, Provo, Stansbury, and Gilbert.

Great Salt Lake is currently 75 miles long by 28 miles wide covering 1,700 square miles. At this level, maximum depth is about 33 feet. Size and depth vary greatly with seasonal evaporation and precipitation.

Water flows into the lake from four river drainages, carrying 2.2 million tons of minerals into the lake each year. Great Salt Lake has no outlet; water leaves only through evaporation. Because of this, high concentrations of minerals are left behind. Salinity level ranges between four and 28 percent compared to the ocean at three percent.

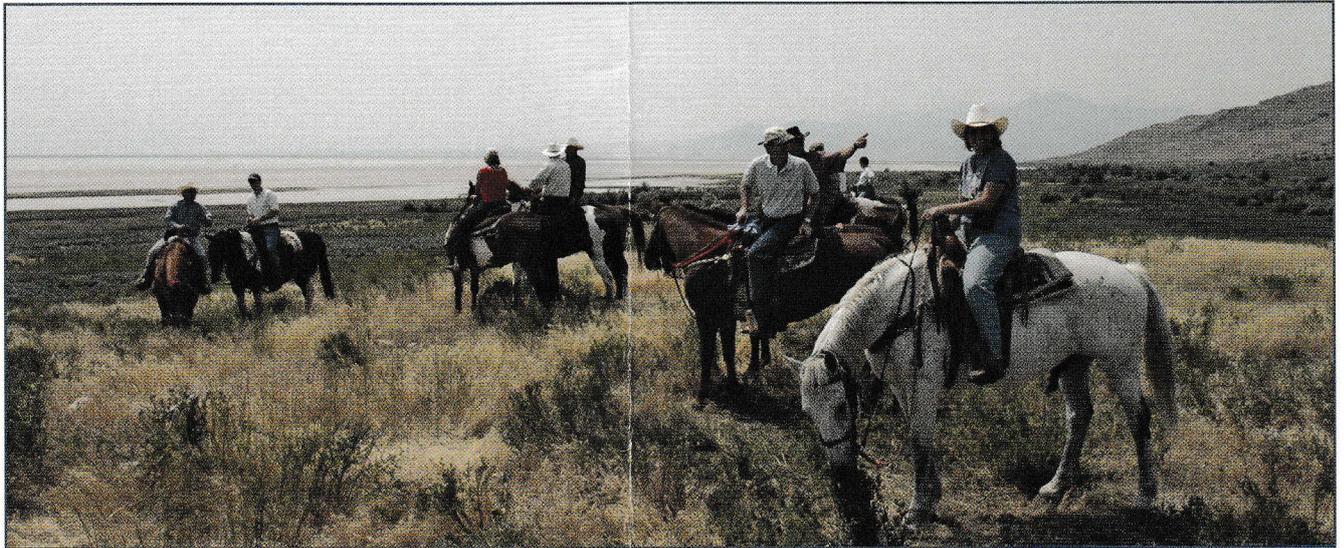
Salinity is too high to support fish and most other aquatic species. However, brine shrimp, brine flies, and several types of algae thrive in the lake. Brine shrimp and brine flies tolerate the high salt content and feed on algae. Brine flies and brine shrimp are primary food sources for millions of migrating birds.

Nearly 80 percent of Utah's wetlands surround Great Salt Lake, making its ecosystem one of the most important resources in North America for migratory and nesting birds. The area hosts 250 bird species each year, which represents a significant part of the six to nine million migratory birds passing through the Pacific Flyway. The lake and its marshes provide resting, nesting, and staging areas for birds.

Antelope Island has 40 major freshwater springs found primarily on the east side. The springs produce 36 million gallons of water each year, supporting island wildlife and vegetation.

Oolitic sand is a unique feature of Great Salt Lake. These round grains of sand are formed when mineral grains or brine shrimp fecal pellets are coated by concentric layers of aragonite, a form of calcium carbonate. This is similar to how pearls are formed.

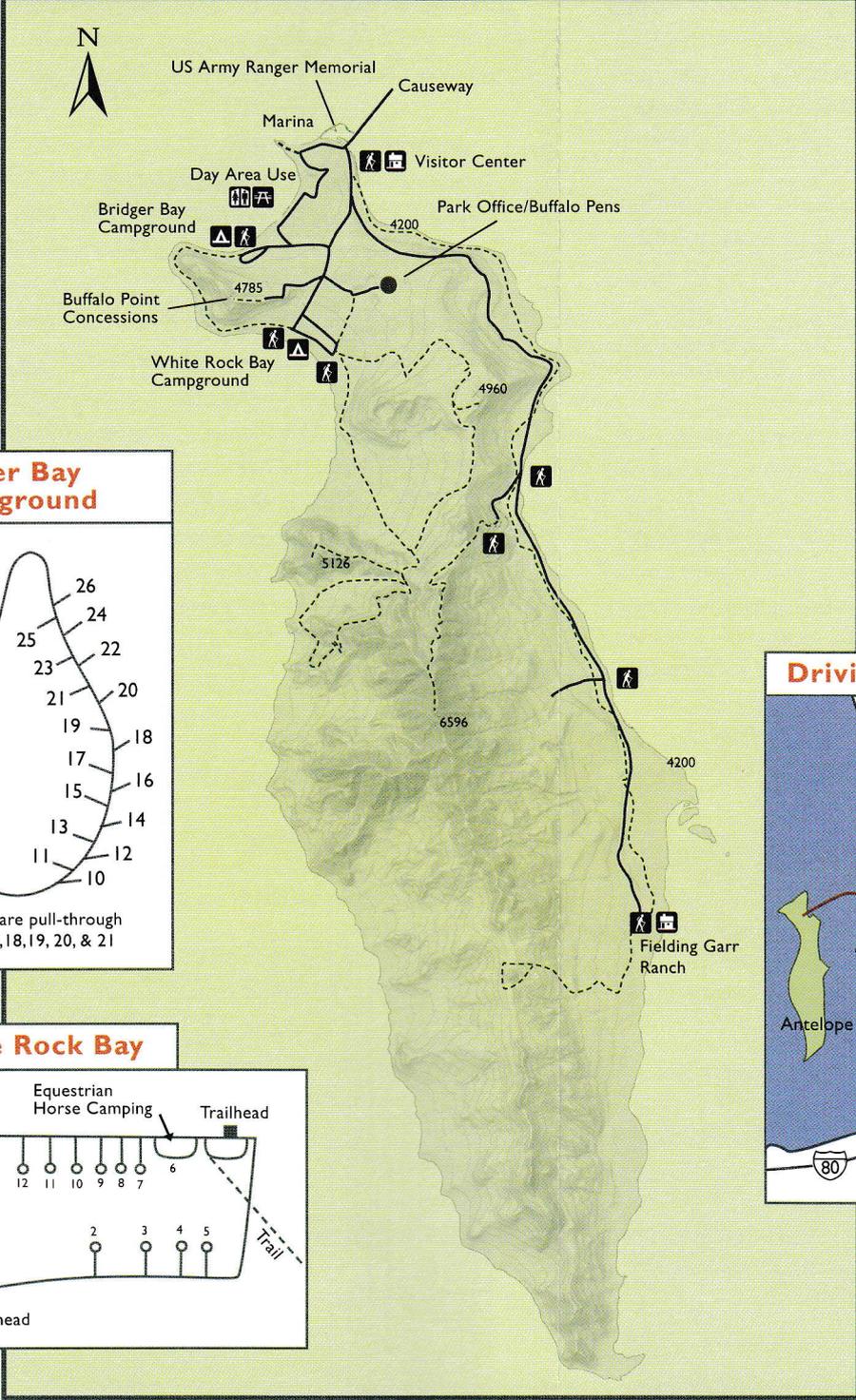
There are eight major islands in the lake - Antelope, Stansbury, Fremont, Carrington, Gunnison, Dolphin, Bird (Hat), and Badger. Smaller rock outcroppings appear at lower lake levels. Gunnison, Bird, Egg, and White Rock islands are bird rookeries and access is not allowed.



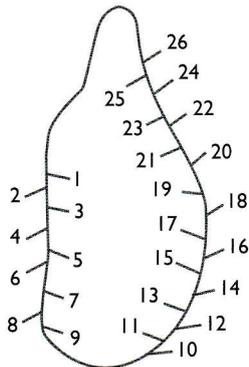
# ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK

## Map Legend

-  Camping
-  Hiking
-  Picnic Area
-  Restrooms
-  Visitor Center
-  Road
-  Trail

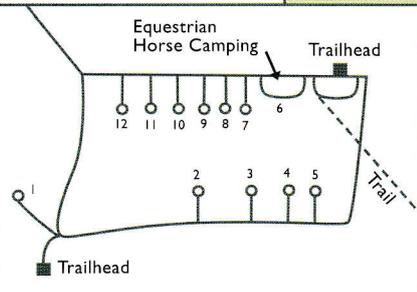


### Bridger Bay Campground



All sites are pull-through except 9, 18, 19, 20, & 21

### White Rock Bay



### Driving Map

