

Living Heritage Tours

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Join Tom Pettit on this spiritual journey along the Pioneer Trail in Wyoming. Visit the sacred sites of Martin's Cove, Sixth Crossing, Rock Creek Hollow, and other places where the pioneers sacrificed on their way to Zion. Hear the history and the stories, then walk in the footsteps of these faithful Saints at the actual locations where it all happened. We won't just focus on the dates, locations, and events that occurred at each historical site. We are also going to focus on how the lessons learned at each site can help us grow closer to the Savior in our everyday life.

June 1 – 3, 2026

Below is a detailed itinerary of our upcoming Pioneer Heritage Church History Tour

June 1: Today we will depart from Salt Lake City on a chartered bus. Later, we will arrive in Casper, Wyoming. Along the way, Tom Pettit will tell the historical details and the stories of the Pioneer Exodus in which over 70,000 Latter-day Saint Pioneers made their trek West across the plains. (Dinner provided)

June 2: We will visit the sacred sites of Bessemer Bend, and Independence Rock this morning. Most of our day will be spent at Martin's Cove. There are many things to do and see at Martin's Cove. You will have time to explore the Visitors' Center, the rebuilt Fort Seminoe, and Prairie Park. You can choose to walk out to Martin's Cove. It was here in the Cove that the Martin Handcart company sheltered to wait out a devastating winter storm. It was here that the Rescuers, sent from Salt Lake City, would help these Saints make the final 325 miles to the Salt Lake Valley. This is a sacred place to be. Later, we will visit the Visitors' Center at Sixth Crossing. It was in this location that the Willie Handcart Company was found by the rescuers. (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner provided)

June 3: Our focus today will be on the rescue efforts of the Handcart Pioneers. We will visit the sacred site of Rock Creek Hollow and hold a special devotional there. In speaking of this great rescue effort, President Gordon B. Hinkley has said, "Stories of their rescue need to be repeated again and again. They speak of the very essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ." After enjoying a special buffet dinner, we will return home later tonight. (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner provided)

Tour participants should be able to walk up to three miles each day unassisted.

The path to Martin's Cove is well maintained and mostly level. Hiking boots and other hiking gear is not necessary. If you choose to walk to Martin's Cove, the round-trip walk is about 7 miles. You may pull a handcart if you choose to. If you choose not to walk to Martin's Cove, there is plenty of things to do and see at the Visitors' Center during the time that some tour participants are walking to the Cove.

Each hotel offers either a King bed, or 2 queen sized beds, a coin laundry, and a swimming pool and jacuzzi.

We will not eat like pioneers! Each hotel offers a hot breakfast buffet. The two provided lunches will be plentiful. We will have catered meals for dinner. Please let us know if you have dietary restrictions.

Arriving for the tour:

We will be departing the Salt Lake City International Airport on June 1 at 9:30am. This will make it easy and convenient for everyone to meet that morning.

If you are being dropped off by someone for the tour, simply follow the signs to “Terminal”, then “Arrivals / Passenger Pick-up”. Our chartered bus will be waiting curbside in this area. The exact location of the bus will be provided later.

If you are driving yourself to the airport, follow the signs to either “Economy Parking” or “Parking Garage”. If you park in Economy, ride the free shuttle to the terminal. When you exit the bus, cross the street away from the airport and you will see our chartered bus in this area. The exact location of the bus will be provided later.

If you are flying into Salt Lake City for the tour, there are several local hotel nearby with airport shuttles. The hotel shuttle will take you to the “Departures / Passenger Drop-off” area of the airport. Once you exit the hotel shuttle, enter the airport and take the escalator down stairs to the ground level. After crossing the street away from the airport, you will see our chartered bus in this area. The exact location of the bus will be provided later.

We will arrive back at the same spot at the airport on June 3 at about 7:30pm where you can either be picked up, obtain your parked car, or continue on with your hotel or flight plans.