

Paddlesports



how to

SHAKE, PADDLE & ROLL

Like any western state, as snowpack melts and cascades down, the Ogden area has abundant whitewater. However, when most stream flows around the west taper off, Ogden still has options to dip your paddle on the Ogden River.

PUT-IN

Wind your way up Ogden Canyon (12th Street) about 2 miles until you see the Smokey the Bear sign. There is a large pull-off on the north side.

POISON IVY CLASS III+

A sprinkling of poison ivy on the banks adds to the character of this rapid. This drop is the largest vertical drop of the run and has a very retentive hole at the bottom at most levels. The hole is hemmed in on the river right by a cement wall that makes exiting very difficult. At high flows the lead-in to the rapid is pushy with crashing

waves. Run as far left as possible but if you get pushed off-line you can save yourself from a beating by hugging the cement wall over the drop and riding a small ledge past the hole. At low water the hole has a tongue center-left.

THE WATERFALL

The waterfall drop has a beautiful lead-in with a 200 foot waterfall filtering down the river right cliff wall directly into the river. It can be very pushy, with ledge holes on river left at the top and a large pour-over boulder at the bottom right. It's very bumpy at low water but flushes out some at higher levels. At the very bottom of the rapid there is a fun corkscrewing tongue. There is some rebar in the water on the right side of the river here; run center-left. The water calms and takes a sharp left turn under the road. There is about a 1/4 mile of easier class II+ down to the narrows.

THE NARROWS

In the narrows, the river is constricted between the roadway and a cliff wall on river left. There are a couple of large boulders in the middle of the run that force you to choose between the narrow left slot or the wider right side with a large ledge drop. Wood always seems to hang up in one or both lines, so scout this area on the way up.

THE DIVERSION

Below the narrows, the river splits around an island at high water. The right fork has a fun diversion dam drop. Just before the take-out, the river turns sharply to the right and tumbles down some rocky class II+.

Rainbow Gardens, at the mouth of Ogden Canyon is the take-out location. These are hands-down the best bathroom facilities at any river take-out in the state.

START IT UP

There is only one place to start a day of paddling around Ogden: The Oaks. Tucked in the shade of Ogden Canyon, several outdoor tables right on the river are the perfect place for one of their signature omelets and owner Keith Rounkles is arguably the most avid paddler in the area. If he's not already out on the water somewhere, he can give you the lowdown on flows.

KEEP IT GOING

One of the best take-outs for the Ogden River also happens to be one of the best places for your lunch break. Rainbow Gardens at the mouth of Ogden Canyon is Utah's largest give shop and houses The Greenery. Pond down a couple of Mormon Muffins slathered with honey butter before you head back upstream.

WIND IT DOWN

The take-out on the Weber River at Taggart is home to Taggart's Grill. It's the place where paddlers congregate to burn through burgers, beer, and boasts of the day's run.

Motorsports

LET IT RIDE

In addition to an abundance of human-powered recreation in the Ogden area, there are many opportunities for adrenaline-fueled motor sports.

Sources for information about motor sports in our area include the Ogden District Office of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (call 1-801-625-5605), the National Forest Service at (call 1-800-832-1355), and the Ogden-based headquarters for the national off-road advocacy group. Tread Lightly! is an excellent resource for information and ethical guidelines for trail use. Find information on this organization at www.treadlightly.org/.

GEAR UP & GO

Red Rock Ranch and Outfitters, located in the Upper Ogden Valley, is a last touch with civilization before you are full throttle into the interlinking trail systems of three snowmobile complexes which include over 200 miles of groomed trails.

For those who prefer powder, the groomed complexes provide access to thousands of acres of high-mountain bowls. Just be sure to ensure that the area is open to public access.

Whether it's snowmobile or ATV season, Red Rock can set you up with machine gear and guide, then send you off on Utah's acclaimed interlinked trail system. In fact, when conditions permit, you can motor along this trail network from the

Monte Cristo trailhead (just 9 miles east of Red Rock) all the way up into Yellowstone.

HARDWARE RANCH

One of our most popular motorsports destinations is Hardware Ranch, where the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources maintains a winter feeding area for a massive herd of Rocky Mountain Elk. The Curtis Creek/Ant Flat trail is a 63-mile loop with something for everyone. The trail is flat and well groomed with generally gentle grades and tremendous views.

LIBERTY TRAILHEAD

Access is from Highway 162 through Liberty to Avon. Elevation begins at 5,200 feet and ends at 6,100 feet. The trail travels mountain roads through pine trees and quaking aspen. Lots of open space means that you are likely to come across wildlife. Use is moderate along the 9 miles of trail.

ATV

The Monte Cristo trail system is open for ATV riding during most of the year. Be aware of seasonal closures on some of the roads during wet periods.

The most recent Travel Plan and road/trail map for the area is available from the tourist and U.S. Forest information center at Historic Union Station at the west end of 25th Street.



Climbing

ONWARD & UPWARD

The Ogden area is an outdoor climbing paradise. There are outdoor climbing adventures for beginning through expert climbers. Our most popular climbing areas are described below; additional climbing in Ogden Canyon and elsewhere is just minutes from downtown Ogden. Climb safely, responsibly and courteously. Form information on rock or ice conditions, additional climbing areas, or to find a guide or instructor, go to www.OgdenClimbingParks.org.

WILLARD SPIRES

The small town of Willard, just north of Ogden, is the jump-off point for some of the Top of Utah's most spectacular views, some of the West's most difficult hiking and an endless supply of lonely, beautiful climbs. Climbers can cling to walls more than 1,000 feet off the deck on parts of London Spire, the crown jewel of the Willard Spire, the crown jewel of the Willard Spires, which guidebook author Dave Robb called "the most rugged place I've ever been."

26TH STREET BOULDERING FIELD

Ogden's east bench is home to a lifetime of bouldering problems and sequences ranging from V0-V7 or higher. The lower boulder field is located in the area just beyond the top of 25th and 27th Streets; you can see many of the boulders from the road. An upper boulder field is up Taylor's Canyon and to the north, and the Patriot Crack area is up the hill (north) from the

lower field. Proceed east up 27th, Lake or 25th Streets until you reach the end of the street. Parking can be found on the street or on some dirt parking areas; please be considerate to residents and help keep this area available for future use. A short walk upward will lead to the boulders.

9TH STREET CRAG

The 9th Street crag is a popular sport area with easy access and a range of difficulty. The crag is about 40 feet high with several bolted routes all with top rope chains; top rope access can be made from either side of the crag. Keep an eye open for poison ivy. Proceed east on 9th Street until you reach the top. Parking is limited; be considerate to residents. Walk up the dirt road until you intersect the canal road and turn left (north). Follow the road north about a hundred yards to the trailhead. The trail works its way up in a north-easterly direction leading to the crag.

ICE CLIMBING

The 1971 first ascent of three-hundred foot high Malan's Waterfall on the east side of Ogden was a landmark climb in the art of climbing frozen waterfalls. This and many other ice climbs on "farmed" ice are available in Waterfall Canyon Climbing Park in the winter. In addition, plans are in the making for a refrigerated ice tower designed by ice climbing legend and Ogden native, Jeff Lowe.



Biking



SKYLINE TRAIL

As part of the Great Western Trail (stretching from Mexico to Canada), the Skyline Trail has received its share of ink with the out-and-back north section from North Ogden Divide to Ben Lomond Peak achieving the most notoriety. However, the south section has a “no breaks up, no brakes down” 18-mile loop option that every hardcore mountain biker has to do.

BONNEVILLE SHORELINE TRAIL - EAST BENCH

Ogden’s East Bench is home to a spaghetti bowl of singletrack trails. So many options exist for accessing the trail network that it’s impossible to highlight any one option. Official trailheads can be found at Rainbow Gardens (at the mouth of Ogden Canyon) and at the tops of 22nd Street, 29th Street, and 36 Street. Whether you have an hour or a full day, endless options exist ranging from 20-mile out-and-backs to

short 6-mile loops. Fifteen minutes of pedaling on any piece of the singletrack puts you above the city where you’ll see wicked sunsets, dip into canyons, cross streams and cling to the edge of ledges. This trail sees most of its action in the spring when wildflowers are popping, the high-country trails are still under a blanket of snow and local mountain bikers are trying to get their legs back. Because of its proximity to the city, you’ll share the trail with other bikers as well as trail runners and their four-legged canine friends.

KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

If you’re looking to fry your lungs and legs, take Harrison Blvd north to 3100 North and head over North Ogden Divide. Make the wild descend into Eden and around the east side of Pineview Reservoir to Old Snowbasin Road (State Road 226). This lightly trafficked grind has a couple of false summits but essentially tops out at

Snowbasin before descending down Trappers Loop to Mountain Green. Close the loop by shooting Weber Canyon back down to Ogden.

OGDEN RIVER PARKWAY

Sometimes you don’t feel like pushing your big ring in the drops, but you want to turn a crank. That’s when you take your cruiser to Rainbow Gardens and jump on the Ogden River Parkway. A paved trail winds along the lush banks of the Ogden River from the Eccles’ Dinosaur Park to Fort Bueneventura State Park. Pack a picnic and take advantage of one of the many parks and pavilions along the way.

how to

START IT UP

Got coffee? If not, get some at “Got Coffee?” at 1657 E. Skyline Drive in South Ogden.

KEEP IT GOING

The Bike Shoppe, located at 4390 Washington Blvd, is home to some of Utah’s most avid and accomplished cyclists. When Matt, Jesse, Nate, and the guys wrench on your bike, you know it’s done right. They also carry a comprehensive line of bikes and accessories and can hook you up with local club rides as one of the primary sponsors of Ogden One Cycling Club.

WIND IT DOWN

After your ride, roll into HugHes south of Weber State University campus at 4800 S. Harrison Blvd Harrison Blvd. Cool down with a pitcher of fresh lemonade and recharge with one of their fresh rotini pasta salads.