GUIDE TO ATTENDING GENERAL CONFERENCE

The General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints happens in April and October every year, attracting thousands of visitors to Temple Square.

Church members from around the world (and anyone who is interested to learn more) can watch this two-day event on TV, online or listen to it on the radio. Some choose to watch at the nearest church building that is broadcasting the conference. But, many people choose to travel to Salt Lake City to attend one of the sessions in person at the Conference Center.

For those of you who are first-time General Conference attendees, or if it’s been years since you last attended, we’ve got everything you need to know about planning your trip to Salt Lake City:

- Tickets
- How to get to there
- Parking
- Lodging
- Where to eat
- Things to do
** Tickets **

Tickets are required for admission to all sessions in the Conference Center.

You can get tickets either from your local priesthood leader or by waiting in the standby line. Most stakes are given a certain number of tickets to give to stake, ward and branch leaders who then distribute their allotment of tickets amongst their members. Each stake has a different process for distributing their allotment of tickets, so if you don’t know what yours is, ask your local leadership how you can get General Conference tickets.

If you couldn’t get tickets through your stake, you still have a chance to get tickets and attend. Standby seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. This line forms about two hours before each session begins at the north gate on Temple Square.

For those of you who are international visitors, you can get tickets to a session by going to the Conference Center ticket office (door 4) starting the Thursday before General Conference weekend. You’ll need to show a valid passport and form I-94 in order to obtain your tickets.

** Watching Without Tickets **

Just because you don’t have tickets to a session doesn’t mean you have to miss it while you’re visiting Salt Lake City. There are numerous places on Temple Square that allow you to watch and listen to a live broadcast of General Conference:

- **Tabernacle**: Room permitting, this historic building is a wonderful place to sit and watch any session.

- **Joseph Smith Memorial Building**: Overflow seating is also available in this building at the Legacy Theater to watch every session of General Conference.

- **North Visitors’ Center**: There is a theater room inside this visitors’ center that plays every session on a big screen.
How To Get There

Whether you live in Utah or are driving or flying in from out of state, it's good to know the best routes and methods of transportation to take to get to the Conference Center since General Conference weekend is a packed and busy weekend in Salt Lake City.

Travel Routes

When driving from out of state, follow these routes depending on your location:

- **From the North:** If you’re coming from Idaho, take I-84 through Boise and I-15 through Idaho Falls and Pocatello. If you’re coming down from Wyoming, take I-80.
- **From the South:** If your travels start in or take you through Arizona or Las Vegas, take I-15.
- **From the West:** Take I-80 when driving east through Elko and Northern Nevada.
- **From the East:** Those coming from Colorado can go up through Wyoming via I-80 or take I-70 through the Rocky Mountains and then head north on I-15.

Those living in Utah, whether coming from the north or the south, should travel on I-15.

If your residence is too far to drive or you simply choose to fly, fly into the Salt Lake International Airport and then drive into Salt Lake City either on W. North Temple or I-80. You can rent a car, take a taxi or take a 20-minute ride on the TRAX Green Line from the airport to downtown SLC.

Public Transportation

Salt Lake City has an integrated public transportation system that uses commuter trains, light-rail lines and buses.

The commuter trains, also called FrontRunner, run 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Saturdays, but do not run on Sundays. The commuter trains connect cities around Salt Lake from north to south.

The light-rail lines, or TRAX, provide access to downtown SLC and Temple Square on one of two lines: Blue and Green. The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) typically increases TRAX service on the Saturday and Sunday of General Conference weekend, through longer and extra trains—to better accommodate the crowds attending.

Buses offer connecting service to most TRAX and FrontRunner stations in and around Salt Lake City.

Visit the [UTA website](https://www.uch.edu) for complete route, fares and schedule details and any changes made during General Conference weekend.
Parking

When you’re given tickets from your stake, you should also receive a parking pass or permit. Your pass or permit will tell you what lot you’re allowed to park in.

If you or someone you’re with has a disability, parking is available at the West Temple parking lot, which is immediately west of the Conference Center. It’s also just north of North Temple Street and its entrance can be accessed when traveling south on West Temple.

Those who don’t have a parking pass or permit, can either:

- Find an open spot in the Triad Center lot, The Parking Place lot, Eagle Gate Terrace lot or Regent Street lot
- Park in public parking, such as City Creek Center (which most likely will require payment to use).
- Park on city streets (although it’s not recommended to park on neighborhood streets as you can be ticketed or owners can tow you).

Most parking areas are several blocks from the Conference Center, so wear Sunday-appropriate shoes that are also comfortable for walking. Be sure to allow for extra time when driving so you have enough time to find a parking spot, walk to the Conference Center and be seated at least 30 minutes before the session starts.
Lodging

There are several hotels and other places of lodging you can stay at in downtown Salt Lake City, including but not limited to:

- The Little America Hotel
- The Grand America
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Hilton Salt Lake City Center
- Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek
- Salt Lake City Marriott City Center
- Hyatt Place
- The Radisson
- DoubleTree Suites
- Sheraton Salt Lake City Hotel
- Salt Lake Plaza Hotel

Some of these are within walking distance of the Conference Center, while others are just a short car, bus or train ride away.

Keep in mind that rooms fill up quickly, so you’ll want to make your reservation as soon as possible. If the closest options aren’t available when you call, you may have to look at some of the surrounding cities and their lodging options.
WHERE TO EAT

If you’re staying in downtown Salt Lake City for General Conference or meandering in between sessions, there are many viable and tasty lunch and dinner options located right at Temple Square.

- **The Garden Restaurant:** On the 10th floor of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building is the perfect place for a charming lunch or dinner. The food is delicious, and the flowing fountains accented by luscious trees, flowers and the retractable glass roof make this a restaurant worth dining at during your trip. It’s open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday.

- **The Roof Restaurant:** For a gourmet dining buffet with a breathtaking view of Temple Square and downtown SLC, this restaurant—also sitting on the 10th floor of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building—is open on the Saturday of General Conference for a lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and for dinner from 5 to 10 p.m. Reservations are highly recommended.

- **Lion House Pantry:** For the best home-style cooking (and hot rolls) in the state, visit the Lion House. You’ll also be dining at the historic home of Brigham Young. Lunch and dinner are served on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **Nauvoo Café:** If you want a lighter meal, head to this little cafe inside the lobby of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. It’s fast service with a great view and delicious food. It’s open Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Conference attendees can also purchase gourmet boxed lunches across from the cafe in the Empire Room.

City Creek Center, right across from Temple Square, also has a food court with a variety of wonderful dining options.

*Since you will be in Utah, most of these restaurants are closed on Sundays, so you’ll need to plan accordingly. If the weather is nice, you could make a picnic lunch or dinner and eat it on the grassy grounds around Temple Square.*

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If you’re having a mission reunion or meeting up with family and friends during General Conference, consider booking a private room through our Banquets and Events services. You can skip the likely long wait at the restaurants or the panic to find a reservation by securing a private room and a meal at an affordable price.
Things To Do

Besides grabbing a bite to eat, downtown Salt Lake City offers a host of sites and attractions to see and things to do to learn more about the city, the LDS Church and just have some relaxing downtime. Here’s what you can do to keep yourself and your kids entertained in between conference sessions.

SATURDAY

City Creek Center
Offering more than 100 stores and restaurants, this superior shopping and dining destination is a fun experience for locals and tourists. Spend your afternoon or evening shopping at well-known stores, walking the skybridge, sitting on a bench underneath the open retractable glass roof enjoying the nice fall weather or eating at one of the many restaurants.

Church History Museum
Whether you’ve been in the Church your whole life, are a recent convert, have young kids, or just like history, the Church History Museum is a wonderful place to learn about those who helped established The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Through interactive exhibits and fun programs and artifacts, like a full-size historic log home and the “Presidents of the Church” exhibit, you’ll explore the stories of those before us and gain a deeper appreciation for their efforts. Admission is free, and the museum offers extended hours on the Saturday of General Conference, open until 7 p.m.

Legacy Theater
Catch a Church-related film to continue feeling inspired and uplifted at Legacy Theater, which is located on Temple Square inside the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Children of every age are welcome, and while no tickets are required, it is a first-come, first-served theater with 500 available seats. Various films are shown at different times throughout the year, and you can contact the Temple Square Mission (801-240-4304) to learn what will be showing and when while you’re in town.
THINGS TO DO

SUNDAY

Visitors’ Centers
Temple Square is home to the North Visitors’ Center and the South Visitors’ Center. The first is known for its 11-foot-tall Christus statue and a dome painted in such a way that you feel like you’re outside standing under the starry Milky Way, while the latter’s focus is on families and LDS temples, featuring an interactive scale model of the Salt Lake Temple. Both are open every day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Utah State Capitol
What better way to spend a lovely afternoon than taking a short, seven minute walk up the hill to the Capitol. Besides the magnificent architecture of the outside edifice, you’ll also be greeted by beautiful artwork inside the building, tons of history and a beautiful view of Salt Lake City as the Utah State Capitol sits on top of a hill overlooking the city.

Brigham Young’s Burial Site
While several Church leaders are buried in the Salt Lake Cemetery, Brigham Young’s grave sits in a local park that was specially dedicated to him and his family. The burial site is just one block from Temple Square and is also the location of a monument honoring the 6,000 pioneers who lost their lives as they crossed the plains headed west.

Beehive House
More than 100 years ago, the Beehive House was the home of Brigham Young while he was President of the Church. It also served as other Church leaders’ home as well as offices for the Church. Today, the Beehive House is a museum filled with objects once belonging to Brigham Young and his family that you can tour every day between 9 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., with the last tour of the day starting at 8 p.m.
Being able to attend a session of General Conference in person is such a wonderful, awe-inspiring experience. We hope you enjoy your trip and time in Salt Lake City!