Top Photo Spots on Temple Square

If ever a state was created to be photographed, it’s Utah. Between the natural beauty and man-made wonders, there are numerous places worthy of a photo. But of all the areas you could go to, Temple Square has some of the best can’t-miss photo ops in the state.

Along with the attractions to visit, history to learn and places to eat at, Temple Square provides the perfect picturesque settings for timeless photos—and as an added perk, every spot is within walking distance.

What to bring?

Before you set off on your picture tour around Temple Square, you want to be sure you have everything you need for your day out. Besides yourself and your family or friends, we suggest also bringing:

- Camera
- Different Camera Lenses
- Extra Fully Charged Camera Battery
- Smartphone and Charger
- Selfie Stick
- Comfortable Shoes
- Seasonal clothes and accessories

And ladies, make sure you bring along your favorite shade of lipstick, as we’re sure you’ll want to reapply in between at least a few of your shots.

Top Photo Spots

We’ve walked around Temple Square more times than we can count. We know the well-known and the hidden photo-worthy locations, so without further ado, here’s our list of top Temple Square photo spots, along with some important details about each one:

- What Makes the Location Great
- Best Times to Visit
- How to Include Yourself in the Shot
- Insider Advice
PEDESTAL WITH SALT LAKE TEMPLE IN THE BACKGROUND

Picture-Perfect Qualities: The pedestal provides a perfect full view of the temple, while a different nature feel is added into each picture during every season: vibrant green grass and trees and beautiful flowers during the spring and summer, gorgeous shades of red, orange and yellow leaves during the fall and an element of brightness from the fresh blankets of snow that cover the temple grounds during the winter months.

Best Times to Visit: With the temple facing east, go early morning, noon or at sunset so the rising sun doesn’t cause a squinted look in your picture.

How to Include Yourself in the Shot: Stand on the pedestal and ask someone else in the area to take a picture of you and your group or have someone who is there with you take a picture of just you on the pedestal with the temple behind you.
**Reflection Pool by the Salt Lake Temple**

**Picture-Perfect Qualities:** The pool is located right in front of the Salt Lake Temple (on the east side), and with some creativity you can get a fun shot for your Instagram feed or Facebook photo album. This spot also allows for a variety of shots, i.e. the temple and its reflection in the water, just the temple’s reflection in the water, you and the temple’s reflections or the reflection of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building on the northwest side of the pool.

**Best Times to Visit:** All times of the day are good, with each providing its own unique reflection shot, but if you want to be in the shot, the daytime hours make it easier to see yourself in the photo; although nighttime reflection photos are really cool. December is a great month to visit because while it might be cold and snowing, the reflection pool is even more picture-perfect with the white Nativity set and Christmas lights inside clear balls floating on the water.

**How to Include Yourself in the Shot:** Sit or stand on the edge of the pool and have someone take either a normal shot of you by the water or a reflective one.
Church Office Building Observation Deck

Picture-Perfect Qualities: From the observation deck on the tallest building in Salt Lake City, you have clear, picturesque bird's-eye views of the Salt Lake Valley, Wasatch Range, Oquirrh Mountains, Utah State Capitol building and downtown Salt Lake City, including Temple Square.

Best Times to Visit: The observation deck, located on the 26th floor, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. between October and March and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. between April and September. Be sure you avoid the east side in the morning and the west side during the late afternoon due to where the sun is rising and setting. Lunchtime is a fun time to visit because you see everyone who works downtown out and about on their lunch break, and so is during the spring and summer when there are lots of weddings happening at the temple, especially on Fridays.

How to Include Yourself in the Shot: There are always volunteers out on the deck or by the door you can ask to take a picture of you. Stand near the edge of the deck to get yourself and more of the scenery in the picture.

Insider Advice: Know what you want as your photo's backdrop so you know which side of the deck to be on and the right time to be out there. The east side provides the best views of Salt Lake City and the Wasatch Mountains, while the west side is where you get the best view of Temple Square.
Conferece Center Rooftop Gardens

Picture-Perfect Qualities: It's located across from Temple Square so you’re able to see stunning views of it and downtown Salt Lake City. Unlike other city rooftops, this one is covered in plants and color like the mountains around it. Some have even compared the rooftop gardens to a park, and for many who visit the Conference Center, enjoying the breathtaking scenery while exploring the rooftop is their favorite part.

Best Times to Visit: The Conference Center is open Sunday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., which is awesome because sunset really offers the best photos. So while you can't take any sunset photos from the Church Office Building observation deck, you can get sunset photos here. Tours of the rooftop gardens are available April through October, but it’s typically closed during wintry, wet weather so to be safe go on a clear, sunny day.

How to Include Yourself in the Shot: Stand wherever you think has the best surrounding scenery and ask someone to take your picture.

Insider Advice: The Conference Center is sometimes closed to the public in preparation for big performances, so if you’re unaware of the schedule call ahead to double check that it’s open for you to visit. Also, you don’t have to tour the whole building. Just let the host who greets you know that you’re only there to see the rooftop gardens.
JOSEPH SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING

Picture-Perfect Qualities: The 10th floor of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building is another great bird’s-eye view of Temple Square, except you’re inside so you stay warm when it’s cold outside and cool during the summer heat. This location is a well-known selfie spot where you can capture the entire Salt Lake Temple in the background from one of the floor’s windows.

Best Times to Visit: It’s open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunset photos are quite popular, as are nighttime photos during Christmastime with all the pretty lights adorning Temple Square.

How to Include Yourself in the Shot: If you’re by yourself (or just want to take a picture on your own) stretch your arm up for the perfect selfie angle or use a selfie stick. You can also ask someone else who’s there to take your picture.
NORTHWEST OR NORTHEAST SIDE OF TEMPLE SQUARE

Picture-Perfect Qualities: Either side gives you a nice on-the-ground view of the entire Salt Lake Temple. During spring and summer, the colorful flower beds are great to pose by. These two spots are lesser-known photo ops, which could work in your favor so you’re not waiting your turn to take a photo or getting random people in your shot.

Best Times to Visit: The northeast side is better between morning and midday, while the northwest side is great during the afternoon and early evening. To pose with the flower beds in full bloom or with the blossoming trees, go during late spring and summer, or visit in the fall when the trees around the temple are beautiful shades of autumn.

How to Include Yourself in the Shot: On the northwest side, stand on the sidewalk with the flowers in front of you and have someone take the picture of you at a slight upward angle from several feet away. On the northeast side, stand on the sidewalk in front of the flowers and grassy area to include a full body photo of yourself and the temple.
**State Street Shot**

**Picture-Perfect Qualities:** This spot provides the same angle as the pedestal, but because it's further back your picture will include more Temple Square elements, such as the water fountain in front of the Church Office Building, giving you an even more encompassing view of the buildings and environment of Temple Square.

**Best Times to Visit:** Mornings and sunsets are the two best snap times, while spring, summer and fall are the best seasons to visit so you can hopefully get the fountain when it's on and see the surrounding trees and flowers when they're looking their best.

**How to Include Yourself in the Shot:** Stand on the grounds between North and South Temple streets (only a few steps off State Street) and have someone stand several feet away from you and take your picture. If you stand on the small bench slightly north of the Beehive House you'll get the Salt Lake Temple, Joseph Smith Memorial Building and North Visitors Center in your photo.

**Insider Advice:** The fountain in front of the Church Office Building isn't always on, so if you want arching waters in your picture, go on a day when the weather is near perfect, i.e. not really windy and no rain or snow, for a better chance. Even when the fountain is off, it's a cool addition as a reflection pool.
From the immaculate buildings to the beautiful environment, Temple Square is the most historically significant attraction in all of Salt Lake City that also provides some of the state’s best photo spots.

Follow our Instagram account and tag us in your Temple Square shots with @SeeTempleSquare.
See You Soon!

Make your visit to Temple Square one to remember! No matter what you choose to do, you’ll be able to find something you will love.

If you want to get started with a free guided tour of Temple Square, they are offered year-round in over 40 languages! Walk-ins are always welcome, or you can schedule a tour by calling the number below. Happy exploring and we’ll see you soon!

Call to Schedule a Tour
801-531-1000

Or Book Online
www.templesquare.com