

EAST CANYON STATE PARK YURTS



East Canyon State Park now offers four yurts as an alternative to RV and tent camping. All yurts have wooden lattice walls and ceilings, wooden floors, indoor lighting, and screened skylights. Three large, screened windows keep these ultra-modern tents cool during summer, while insulated walls and thermostat-controlled propane stoves keep them warm in winter. An ADA accessible yurt is also available. The cost is \$60 per night and a security deposit is required.

Each yurt accommodates up to six people and provides:

- ◆ One bunk bed (twin over full); trundle (twin); and one full-size futon
- ◆ Couch seating (when futon is folded)
- ◆ A thermostat-controlled, propane log stove for heat
- ◆ Small coffee table
- ◆ Front porch/deck with a picnic table, gas barbecue grill, and chimney
- ◆ Electrical outlets and a ceiling light
- ◆ Two Adirondack chairs
- ◆ Locking door with key
- ◆ Drinking water, restrooms with showers, and trash receptacles are located nearby

Visitors should bring:

- ◆ Bedding, such as sleeping bags and/or sheets, blankets and pillows
- ◆ Camping-style cookware and cooking supplies
- ◆ Eating utensils
- ◆ Small and split kindling for chimney

Please be aware of the following:

- ◆ No cooking allowed in yurts
- ◆ Only stoves, lanterns or other appliances designed for indoor use are allowed in yurts
- ◆ Store food in hard containers and keep area clean to discourage wildlife from entering
- ◆ Do not chop wood on the deck
- ◆ No pets allowed
- ◆ No smoking in yurts
- ◆ Parking accommodates two vehicles only
- ◆ Renters are responsible for light cleaning upon leaving

Reservations

Yurts are available year-round by reservation (accepted up to 16 weeks in advance from park departure date) or on a first-come, first-served basis if vacant. An \$8 non-refundable reservation fee is charged for each site reserved. Reservations can be made by calling (801) 322-3770 in Salt Lake City or toll-free at (800) 322-3770, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or visiting our website at www.stateparks.utah.gov.



History of the Yurt

The word "Yurt" or "Ger" is originally from the Turkic word meaning "dwelling place" in the sense of homeland.

The yurt is the traditional dwelling of the nomadic people of Central Asia. They are found from Anatolia to Mongolia. It is not possible to say which of the ancient nomadic tribes originally developed the traditional design, but it is still in use by people throughout the region and plays an important role in the lifestyle of the shepherd.

The most important material object of Mongolian nomadic culture is undoubtedly the yurt. More than half of Mongolians still live in yurts, either as nomads in the countryside or as permanent residents of towns and cities.

The yurt is always set up and furnished according to strict customs. The door of the yurt must face the south or southeast, toward the sun. The stove, used for heating and cooking, is placed directly in the center, with its opening to the east. All tools associated with men's activities including saddles, branding irons, and hunting rifles are kept on the west side of the home. Kitchen pots and utensils, items traditionally associated with women's work, are kept on the east side of the door. The family's beds are located on either side of the home, north of the storage area. The family's most valuable objects are kept at the rear of the yurt, an area known as *khoimor*, which is associated with respect.