



YURTS of UTAH

YURTS 11-12: POWDER RIDGE YURTS

Powder Ridge Yurts is now managing the Steam Mill Yurt and the Bunchgrass Yurt. Currently no guide services are available, but contact management to arrange a host.

Winter recreation on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest has changed a lot over the past twenty years. A drive through Logan Canyon on any winter weekend will involve a parade of snowmobiles and the trailers and trucks to pull them. Because of this increased motorized usage, concerned citizens have established the non-profit group, Nordic United. This group is dedicated to providing non-motorized winter recreation for all users and has been active in improving groomed trails and sponsoring Nordic and snowshoe races, clinics and events. Check out www.nordicunited.org for more information on how to be involved. The Powder Ridge yurts provide the opportunity for backcountry winter exploration in the Bear River range of the Wasatch.



YURT 11 STEAM MILL YURT

Location: Bear River Range, Northern Utah, Logan Canyon, Hells Kitchen Canyon

Length: 3.5 miles one-way

Elevation: Trailhead 6600'; Yurt 8100'

Size: Sleeps maximum 6

Amenities: 2 bunk beds (2 sleep on floor); wood burning stove; LP gas cook stove and lantern; solar-powered lights; pots, pans, dishes and utensils for cooking and eating; pit toilet; wood provided – split what you burn.

Introduction: The approach to Steam Mill yurt provides a decent work out. It's not too terribly long, but winter days are short. My last trip to the yurt, I found myself arriving just before nightfall, even though I had started near

lunch time. Give yourself enough time for a leisurely trek through the peaceful forest. Steam Mill yurt shares a parking lot with snowmobiles and one mile of the trail is on a groomed snowmobile trail. Terrain around the yurt provides beautiful backcountry steep for nice skiing, snowboarding, or a killer snowshoe workout. Steam Mill peak sits above the yurt. Snowshoeing is best around and below the yurt.

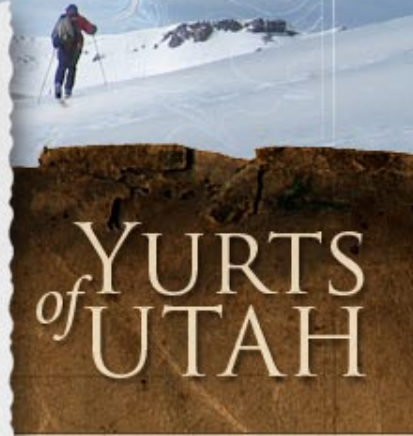
Season: December 1 – April 30

Reservations: For information and availability go to www.powderridgeyurts.blogspot.com or email powderridgeyurts@gmail.com.

Fee: First weekend night \$180, additional weekend nights \$130 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday night) First week night \$150, additional week nights \$100 (Mon – Thurs nights).

Other: No dogs may accompany a group to the yurt. This helps keep the snow fresh and clean. Also the yurt needs to be left in the same condition in which it was found or better. Please make sure that the dishes are clean and all food stuff is properly stored. Food should never be left out when you are away or even laying down to rest. Nothing except the plastic food bins are impervious to the sharp little teeth of mice.





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YURT 12 BUNCHGRASS YURT

Location: Bear River Range, Northern Utah, Logan Canyon

Length: 3.85 miles one-way

Elevation: Trailhead 6324'; Yurt 8414'

Size: Sleeps maximum 6 – 2 bunkbeds, 2 pull-out mattresses

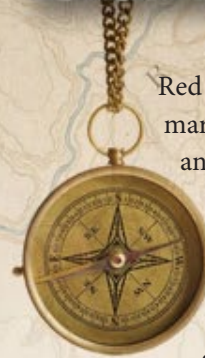
Amenities: Wood burning stove for heat; LP gas stove for cooking; white gas lantern; pit toilet; cooking and eating utensils for 6; ax for chopping wood, shovel for digging out, broom for cleaning up.

Introduction: During the summer Bunchgrass is a wonderful mountain biking trail. During the winter the route leads to wonderful backcountry ski opportunities. Finding the Bunchgrass yurt is difficult unless others have gone before and left a trail to follow. The trail starts right from the road that runs through Logan Canyon and begins between the Tony Grove pull off and the

Red Banks campground. There is a small gate off the road to the east that marks the starting point. Parking is available off the west side of the road and rangers regularly check on vehicles left in the parking area.

The first section of the trail runs by Bunchgrass Creek, after which it veers to the north and winds its way deeper into the backcountry. The yurt itself is made more difficult to find because it is white and the view can often be blocked by the snow surrounding it. All and all, go prepared with map, compass and GPS so if you need to break trail you can navigate your way around. The Outdoor Recreation website provides maps and GPS coordinates to download.

The route to the yurt sits out of avalanche danger with exception of one short section at the end that runs at a 35 degree angle. The backcountry skiing that surrounds the yurt is all steep enough to slide if the conditions condone it, so be prepared and check the avalanche report before you go.



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Other: No dogs allowed at the yurt.

