



# YURTS of UTAH

YURTS 9-10: TUSHAR MOUNTAIN TOURS

## YURT 9 PUFFER LAKE YURT

**Location:** Tushar Mountain Range, near Beaver

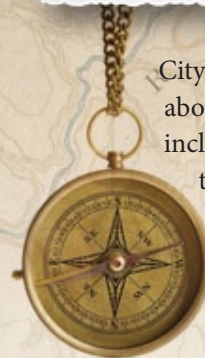
**Length:** 1.25 miles one-way

**Size:** 16' diameter; sleeps 6 on wooden slabs

**Elevation:** Trailhead: 9650'; Yurt 9850'

**Amenities:** Propane two-burner stove for cooking, propane lantern, woodstove for heating the yurt and melting water, wood, axe for splitting wood, shovel, pots and pans, eating utensils, plates, bowls and mugs. A portable chemical toilet is set up outside the yurt. A couple folding chairs are also kept at the yurt.

**Introduction:** The trail to Puffer Lake Yurt begins right at Puffer Lake and winds its way along a private summer road on the west side of the lake. The short trek into the backcountry makes this yurt ideal for families or groups who want to keep it short. The closest skiing is Ruby Pyramid Peak at 11,160'.



City Creek Pass sits just a 25 minute tour away as well. More ski terrain abounds if you want to trek an hour or more to get to it. There is a slight incline next to the yurt, perfect for sledding. Though the tour in is not long, there is still a feeling of remoteness amidst the Engelmann spruce forest and the tall surrounding mountains. Keep on the look-out for eagles and coyotes.

**Season:** Mid November through mid May

**Reservations:** Tushar Mountain Tours: Beaver, Utah 435.438.6191;  
[www.skitushar.com](http://www.skitushar.com) e-mail: [tour@skitushar.com](mailto:tour@skitushar.com)

**Fee:** \$125 per night with first time guide fee of \$45. Additional guiding and meals available. Discounts for groups of 3 or less.

**Other:** Dogs are allowed at the yurt.



# YURTS of UTAH

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## YURT 10 SNORKELING ELK YURT

**Location:** Tushar Mountain Range; near Beaver

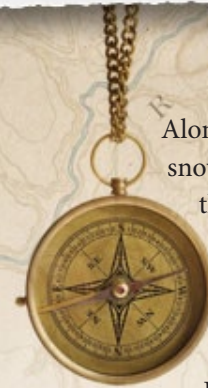
**Length:** 4.6 miles one-way

**Elevation:** John Flat Road trailhead: 8640'; Yurt 10,400'

**Size:** 20' diameter; sleeps 8 on four wood slabs; room for 2 more on the floor

**Amenities:** Propane lantern and Coleman® two-burner stove; pots, pans, utensils, plates and mugs; shovels, axe for splitting firewood; wood stove and firewood. A forest service sits just outside the yurt.

**Introduction:** From the front door of Snorkeling Elk yurt the view is a frame made of Engleman Spruce, the picture includes the Cedar Mountains, Brianhead, and the Pine Valley mountains by St. George. The view elicits a feeling of vastness, solitude, and awe.



Along with a pristine view, if you're yurting in order to find that backcountry snow haven, you'll find it here. Of all the yurts in Utah, this one can boast the most accessible and abundant ski terrain—the best part, it's just out the backdoor (so to speak). If you gave yourself a week at the yurt you couldn't cover all the prominently featured bowls, not to mention the terrain you'll find down the other side when you get to the top of the bowl. Check your maps for Poison Creek, Griffith Creek, Delano Peak—the highest peak in the Tushar range at 12,173', and Bullion Canyon.

That being said, let me also add that Snorkeling Elk yurt is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, yurt in use in the state. It was constructed 19 years ago and has seen almost that many years of use. Duct tape appears to be key in holding this snowtel together.

Found in the vicinity of a now defunct Elk Meadows ski resort, the two yurts owned by Tushar Mountain Tours promise solitude. The area smacks of ghost town in a mountain range few people currently visit mid-winter. Tushar

Mountain Tours offers a variety of options for your group, everything from renting the yurt to hauling your gear, providing chef services, or a guide to show you the best skiing. Alec, the owner, will work with you to provide just what your group needs.

**Season:** Mid November through June 1

**Reservations:** Tushar Mountain Tours: Beaver, Utah 435.438.6191

[www.skitushar.com](http://www.skitushar.com) e-mail: [tour@skitushar.com](mailto:tour@skitushar.com)

**Fee:** \$140 per night with first time guide fee of \$85. Discounts for groups of 3 or less. Additional guiding and meals available.

**Other:** Snowmobiles are allowed on the road that goes by the yurt, but the majority of the surrounding terrain is designated non-motorized. Dogs are allowed.

