



YURTS of UTAH

YURT 2 BLOOMINGTON CANYON YURT

Location: Bloomington Canyon; West of Bear Lake; Southern Idaho

Length: 7 miles one-way

Elevation: Trailhead 6159' Yurt 7645'

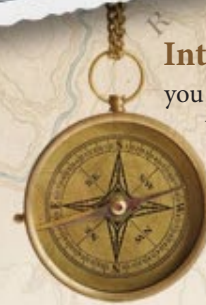
Difficulty: Moderate

Size: Max 12 on bunkbeds, cots, and fold-out bed

GPS Coordinates: Yurt--12 T 454115 E 4669140 N

Amenities: Crows Nest – A clear bubble built into the roof of the yurt. A ladder takes you into the nest where a bench seat allows you to take in 360 degree views of the surrounding peaks and snow covered mountains. Wood burning stove; enclosed wood shed; wood box inside, benches, folding chairs, tables, deck, new outhouse, LP gas cook stove, pots, pans and dishes, coffee percolator, solar powered lights, and in 2010 a new kitchen and deck were completed.

Additional information on what to take will be provided by Glen Bee when you make your reservation.



Introduction: Picture that you've just toured up Red Pine hill and below you see a valley surrounded by backcountry peaks and fields; no man-made buildings or power poles, just evergreens draped in snow, the glitter of tiny flakes scattered through the air. The blue sky and winter sun set the background for the curl of smoke rising from the yurt's stove pipe. Smack dab in the middle of the valley between these gorgeous clean peaks sits the Bloomington Yurt, the deck shoveled clean and your lawn chairs sitting out next to the snow bank. The crow's nest atop the roof, gives a perfect view of the surrounding ski runs, and also makes an ideal observation point for the winter night sky. The views are spectacular and the land is gorgeous.

The seven-mile trek into the yurt can take an entire day if you snowshoe in, or slightly less if you ski. The terrain flows evenly with a few ups and downs, so skiing in or out includes a good deal of work. The trail is groomed weekly by the State Parks grooming cat (call for trail conditions 208.945.2325). The snow-packed road passes within yards of the yurt. If you prefer to save your energy for exploring once you're at the yurt, you can hire a snowmobile, with sled, to haul you and

your gear to the yurt. On a snowmobile, the ride in takes less than 30 minutes.

Following the groomed road into the yurt takes you along a creek formed by a natural spring, old log cabins from pioneer days, Bloomington Creek, and pristine evergreen forests. With exception to the snowmobiles, the area exudes wilderness and continues to do so the deeper you get into the backcountry. Bloomington Lake, a glacier lake, sits a few miles from the yurt amid stark dramatic cliffs. Red Pine Hill sits directly out the front door of the yurt; it's a perfect ski hill. The slope is just a bit less than 35 degrees so avalanches down these great ski fields are few. There is plenty to explore once at the yurt. Paris Peak sits directly to the north and Bloomington Peak sits to the west.

The yurt is managed by Weber State University's Outdoor Program. Glen Bee, a local force behind the yurt, serves as yurt host in the Bloomington area. Glen has rallied the citizens of the Bear Lake Valley in the building and upkeep of the yurt. The yurt is a labor of love for the citizens of the valley as they have donated time and materials to make it possible. Those who use it are asked to pitch in with shoveling and maintenance while there.

Season: Year Round

Reservations: Weber State University 801.626.6373
www.weber.edu/outdoor/bloomington_canyon_yurt.html

Fee: \$65 for Weber State University students and \$85 for general public.

Other: Bloomington Canyon is a snowmobile haven. The downside to this trip is the noise pollution. There are a couple nearby canyons in which snowmobilers enjoy high marking, and on weekends it's not uncommon to hear them throughout the day.

