

Top 5 Northern Utah Lakes

One: Mirror Lake

Two: Payson Lakes

Three: Bear Lake

Four: Great Salt Lake

What's great about the Great Salt Lake? It is the largest lake of salt water in the Western Hemisphere. Its vastness is only trumped by its buoyancy. People come from miles around to get in the water, not because it is the best swimming hole—there is too much salt for that—but rather, to feel the floating effects of that much salt in water. It's remarkable! If you can't get enough salt from that experience, then check out the large residue that makes up the salt flats, where Morton Salt Company set up camp, and where some of the fastest land speed car records have been claimed and also where many shots of great films like *Pirates of the Caribbean* have been taken (along with several other Hollywood movies). You should check out the Salt Palace while you are at it, too.

Five: It's a tie!

**Jordanelle Reservoir*

**Strawberry Reservoir*

**Deer Creek Reservoir*

Hey, sometimes man-made lakes are the best way to go. Yes, reservoirs aren't the same as natural lakes, but for recreational sports, they are better. These are the best places for jet skis, wave runners, speed boats, and water skiing.

Notice how Utah Lake, the biggest most beautiful lake in Utah Valley, doesn't even crack the top five on the list. In fact, it wouldn't crack the top ten. There are two colleges in Utah County and yet Utah Lake is not a significant part of anyone's college experience, unless you are on the sail club. People just don't want to visit this shallow, mucky, unkempt, wind-swept (often violently) place unless maybe for a picnic or at the invitation of someone else using their boat (so you don't have to worry about cleaning up your boat with its new sewage smell, afterward). Tragic, really! Activists have chimed in for years about preserving it in its naturally awful state rather than fixing its deficiencies. Keeping people away from a natural beauty like this lake has proven more neglectful than helpful.