

BSF Travel Advisory

The Bonneville Salt Flats are a unique and dynamic environment. The weather and surface conditions can be extreme and challenging at different times of the year. ***Travel on the salt flats will always be at your own risk***, and the Bureau of Land Management assumes no responsibility or liability for public use of this area. However, adhering to the following travel suggestions can make your visit safer and more enjoyable.

- **Facilities:** Food, water, fuel, phones, restrooms, showers, and laundry are available at the freeway exit for the Bonneville Raceway or in nearby Wendover. Once you go from the access road onto the salt flats, there are no facilities available at all. There are no surface improvements or signs. You are on your own. ***Travel is at your own risk.***
- **Salt vs. Mud:** Stay on the salt surface (white) as much as possible. Avoid traveling on the mud flats (light brown) which surround and underlie the salt. The mud is often very soft and wet and may cause your vehicle to become stuck. If your vehicle tracks begin to get darker in color, you are entering a hazardous area.
- **Standing water:** Pondered water is often encountered on the salt flats throughout the year. The salty water is highly corrosive and may short out the electrical system of your vehicle. This could leave you stranded, many miles from help. If you must drive thru water to reach dry salt, do so slowly (under 10 mph) so that there is minimal splashing into your engine compartment. Wash the salt off your vehicle as soon as possible to avoid serious corrosion.
- **Water at the end of the access road:** If you encounter standing water at the end of the access road, you are better off driving slowly thru it to reach the salt. Attempting to drive around water to reach dry salt could cause you to get stuck in the mud.
- **Avoid the edges of the salt flats:** The salt surface becomes progressively thinner as you near the edges where you risk breaking thru to the mud. Stay near the center. Driving straight out from the end of the access road about 300 yds and then turning left to line up with Floating Island in the northeast will take you along the approximate centerline. Watch for other vehicle tracks. Try to retrace your track when returning.
- **Pressure ridges:** The salt crust often forms pressure ridges as much as 8-10 inches high. Beware of the damage these could cause to your vehicle, especially when driving fast. The ridges become taller and more frequent where the salt layer is thin, so avoid these areas.
- **Dikes:** Avoid driving close to the numerous dikes encountered on the flats. Do not go within 50 feet of these features or you risk becoming stuck in the underlying mud.
- **Obstructions:** Watch out for potholes, wooden marker stakes, PVC tubing, and other objects that may be found sticking up out of the salt. Be careful not to drive over any objects. Do not tamper with or remove them.
- **GPS recommended:** Distances and visual perception can be very deceiving, especially on hot days when a strong mirage takes effect. Many objects will disappear below the horizon as you get farther out on the salt. Obtaining a GPS (global positioning system) unit and using waypoints to mark your route is a good way to effectively navigate on the flats.
- **Night travel not recommended:** Visual perception on the salt flats is severely limited at night and navigating can become very difficult, especially without GPS. Becoming disoriented, lost, and/or getting stuck are very possible. *Overnight stays on the salt flats are prohibited.*
- **Be Prepared:** Always take lots of water, extra food, and additional clothing. Temperatures can vary from below freezing in winter to triple-digits in the summer. The white surface produces intense reflection of sunlight. Bring a wide-brimmed hat, U/V sunglasses, and high SPF sunscreen.
- **Cell phone:** Cell phone coverage is generally available on the salt flats but becomes weak near the north end of the area. Do not rely on a cell phone to get you out of trouble.
- **Help:** If you do have an emergency on the salt flats, contact the **Tooele County Sheriff Dispatch office at 435-882-5600**. Towing assistance is available from "Mr. Tow" at 435-665-2525.