

Pioneer Day

A Celebration of Trailblazing Spirit

Pioneer Day, or Days of '47, a state holiday in Utah, commemorates the arrival of Mormon pioneers after their flight from religious persecution. Marked by fireworks, a rodeo, and parades, Pioneer Day is a celebration of resilience and trailblazing spirit.

The "Mormon Trail"

After years of living peacefully in Nauvoo, Illinois, the Mormon community thought their days of persecution were over. But after the murder of Joseph Smith in 1844, violence and discrimination exploded in Nauvoo. Brigham Young, Joseph Smith's successor, led the community westward, a brutal journey that claimed the lives of many.

On June 21, 1847, an advance party reached Salt Lake Valley and were immediately struck



by its beauty. Orson Pratt, one of the scouts, wrote "...we could not refrain from a shout of joy... the moment this grand and lovely scenery was within our view." Young looked out over the valley and declared, "This is the right place." Two years after settling in what would become Utah State, the community of Latter-Day Saints celebrated the first Pioneer Day with a procession, a devotion, and a feast.

An Epic Party for an Epic Journey

Pioneer Day festivals take place in almost every town in Utah. If you're in the SLC area, check out [Days of '47](#) for a list of events. SLC also hosts a [Native American Celebration](#), in June, which is not affiliated with Days of '47, but is an opportunity to support indigenous Utahns during this time of celebration.



SALT LAKE CITY IN 1850.

