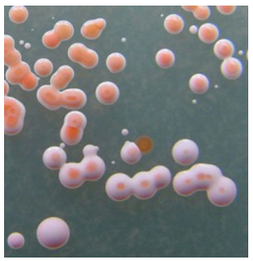
Exploring the landscape | Look to the southwest past *Spiral Jetty* to spot Gunnison Island. This island is the only nesting site for American white pelicans in Utah. If you are lucky you will see some pelicans flying overhead. The best time to see them is in spring, summer or fall.

Now look southeast of *Spiral Jetty* to locate some pylons in the lakebed. A pylon is a column that is used to support a dock or pier. These wood remnants are left over from an oil exploration operation that shut down in the 1980s.

Now look south/southeast. You might be able to see Antelope Island in the distance, the largest island in Great Salt Lake. Antelope Island is a Utah state park and home to a very unique herd of buffalo. Looking northeast, you can see the Rozel Hills along the shore and Rozel Flat behind the hills.

One of the reasons Smithson chose Rozel Point was its unique landscape and natural history. It is a remote desert on a salt lake with very little noticeable plant or animal life. But if you look close enough, you can see some amazing things around *Spiral Jetty.*

Pick up sand from the beach and hold it in your palm. Notice its shape and texture. The sand around *Spiral Jetty* is oolitic sand, a unique type found in only a few places. Oolites are small round grains like very small pearls. The sand begins with a very small grain of sand or brine shrimp excrement and, over many years, slowly rolls around the lake bottom gathering layers of calcium carbonate.



Why is the lake pink? | Sometimes this part of Great Salt Lake is pink or red. The water in the lake is so salty only certain types of non-harmful bacteria, archaea, and algae called halophiles can survive. If you are at *Spiral Jetty* when the lake is low, you might see more of the pink coloration. Sometimes the salt on the beaches around *Spiral Jetty* looks pink, indicating these microbes can grow in salt with very little water. This picture is a magnification of halophile colonies growing in a laboratory.

Before you leave, take one last look at *Spiral Jetty* because it will never look the same again. The weather, the lake levels, the salt crystals, and even the people who experience the artwork with you all make *Spiral Jetty* different each time you see it. Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* is an ever-changing work of Land art.

Robert Smithson **Experiential Guide**

Spiral Jetty, 1970

This guide is designed to help you explore and learn about Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* in Great Salt Lake at Rozel Point. Bring it with you when you visit the artwork, and let it guide you in asking questions about the art and the land it sits on.

Tips for your visit | Visitors are advised to bring water, food, and waterproof boots, along with weather-appropriate clothing and a small first-aid kit. The lake's levels vary several feet from year to year and season to season, so depending on when you visit Rozel Point, *Spiral Jetty* can be completely submerged in Great Salt Lake or sitting on a dry lakebed. Visitors "leave no trace" by carrying out everything they bring. Please leave the natural environment exactly as you found it. This means not painting rocks, leaving black fire pits, or stamping on vegetation.

The Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA) works in collaboration with Dia Art Foundation, the steward of *Spiral Jetty,* and Great Salt Lake Institute at Westminster College to preserve, maintain, and advocate for this masterpiece of late twentieth-century art and acclaimed Utah landmark.

The Utah Museum of Fine Arts is Utah's premier visual art museum. The collection features more than 19,000 works from antiquity to contemporary art.

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What is *Spiral Jetty?* | *Spiral Jetty* is a work of art created by Robert Smithson in 1970. It is a 1,500-foot long, 15-foot wide coil of basalt rock and earth extending from Rozel Point, a remote shore on the northeast side of Great Salt Lake. *Spiral Jetty* is an earthwork, as Smithson described it, and exemplifies the Land art movement of the 1960s and 70s.

Land art is created in nature using natural materials and sometimes man-made materials like concrete, metal, or asphalt. Not simply sculptures situated in nature, earthworks are made from natural materials and are part of the landscape. They can be quite large and are often created far away from cities in remote places. Why do you think Land artists want their work to be so far away from developed areas?

Getting to *Spiral Jetty* | *Spiral Jetty* is about 2.5 hours from Salt Lake City.

1. From Salt Lake City take I-15 north approximately 65 miles to the Corinne exit (exit 365), just west of Brigham City, Utah. Exit and turn right onto Route 13 to Corinne. *LAST GAS STATION is in Corinne.
2. Past Corinne, the road becomes Highway 83. Continue west for 17.7 miles. Follow signs to Golden Spike National Historic Site (GSNHS) Visitor Center.
3. Turn left onto Golden Spike Road and continue 7.7 miles up the east side of Promontory Pass to Golden Spike National Historic Site Visitor Center. *LAST BATHROOMS are at the Visitor Center. *LAST CELL RECEPTION.
4. From the Visitor Center, drive 5.6 miles west on the main gravel road to a fork in the road. Continue left, heading west. *There are small white signs directing you the entire way to *Spiral Jetty.*
5. Cross a cattle guard. Call this cattle guard #1. Including this one, you cross four cattle guards before you reach Rozel Point and *Spiral Jetty.*
6. Drive 1.3 miles south to a second fork in the road. Turn right onto the southwest fork, and proceed 1.7 miles to cattle guard #2.
7. Continue southeast 1.2 miles to cattle guard #3.
8. Continue straight 2.8 miles south-southwest to cattle guard #4 and an iron-pipe gate.
9. Drive south for another 2.7 miles around the east side of Rozel Point. You will see the north arm of Great Salt Lake and an old oil jetty (not *Spiral Jetty)* left by old drilling explorations.
10. The road curves turning north and ends at a parking lot directly next to *Spiral Jetty.*

Exploring Spiral Jetty | Depending on when you visit, *Spiral Jetty* can be completely submerged or sitting on a dry lakebed. If you are able to go down to the beach, try walking out on the jetty, but remember you might get wet. What is a jetty? A jetty is a long structure built out into water and used as a place to get on, get off, tie up a boat, or to redirect the tide. ***Why do you think Smithson titled his piece a "jetty?"***

Questions to ask yourself | Is *Spiral Jetty* larger or smaller than you thought it was from up on the hill? How far can you walk out on the *Jetty?* Does Great Salt Lake look different from this vantage point than it did from above? Spend some time looking at the landscape around Rozel Point. ***Why do you think did Robert Smithson choose this site for his masterpiece?***

Materials of *Spiral Jetty* | This entire artwork is made of basalt rock, dirt, and salt. Smithson made *Spiral Jetty* with basalt and dirt from the hill you are standing on, but over time Great Salt Lake has risen and fallen leaving the rocks encrusted with salt.

Look down at your feet—the rock you are standing on is probably basalt rock. Basalt, the black porous rock that dots Rozel Point, is evidence of ancient volcanoes. When lava cools very quickly it becomes basalt.

Look at the salt on the *Jetty* or the lakebed surrounding it. Its scientific name is halite. If you look closely at the salt you can see its crystalline structure.

Shape of *Spiral Jetty* | Smithson made *Spiral Jetty* twice. The first time he made it, it was not a complete spiral but a backward "J" with an island at the center. He did not think that shape was right so he reworked it into a spiral. ***Why do you think he wanted a spiral?*** Think about all the spiral shapes in nature. Smithson was very interested in the natural world and natural history. Much of his Land art reflects this interest.