



Tips for your visit

Visitors are advised to bring water, food, weather-appropriate clothing, and a small first-aid kit. The lake's levels vary from year to year and season to season, so depending on when you visit Rozel Point, *Spiral Jetty* can have water around it, near it, or the water could be half a mile away.

Leave No Trace

Visitors "leave no trace" by carrying out everything they bring. Please leave the natural environment exactly as you found it.

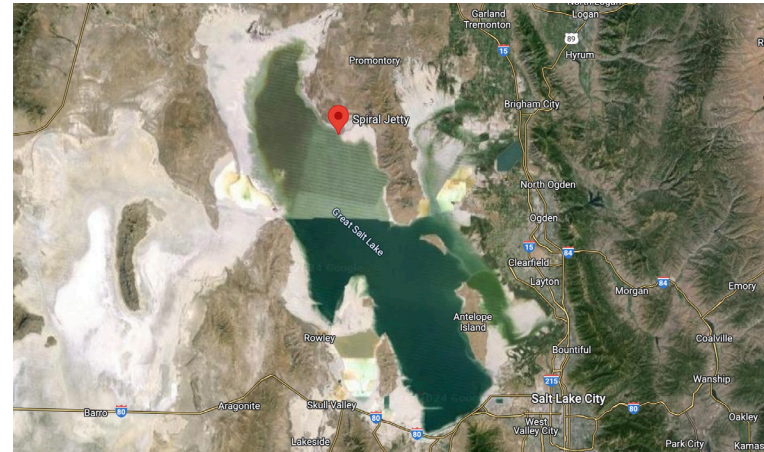
Spiral Jetty is in the collection of Dia Art Foundation. The Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA) works as a steward of *Spiral Jetty* in collaboration with Dia Art Foundation, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, Holt/Smithson Foundation, and Great Salt Lake Institute at Westminster University to preserve, maintain, and advocate for this masterpiece of late twentieth-century art.



Find information about programs, meet-ups, and resources for families at umfa.utah.edu/spiral-jetty.

Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, detail, 1970. © Holt/Smithson Foundation and Dia Art Foundation / Licensed by Artists Rights Society, New York

Getting to *Spiral Jetty*



Spiral Jetty is about 2.5 hours from Salt Lake City.

- From Salt Lake City take I-15 north approximately 65 miles to the Corinne exit (exit 365). Exit and go west onto Route 13 to Corinne. *LAST GAS STATION is in Corinne.
- Past Corinne, the road becomes Highway 83. Continue west for 17.7 miles. Follow signs to Golden Spike National Historic Site (GSNHS) Visitor Center.
- Turn left onto Golden Spike Road and continue 7.7 miles to Golden Spike National Historic Site Visitor Center. *LAST BATHROOMS are at the Visitor Center. *LAST CELL RECEPTION.
- 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*.
- Drive 1.3 miles south to a second fork in the road. Turn right onto the southwest fork.
- Continue driving for approximately 9 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.
- The road curves turning north and ends at a parking lot directly next to *Spiral Jetty*.

Spiral Jetty Self Guide



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Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, 1970, Great Salt Lake, Utah. Mud, precipitated salt crystals, rocks, water, 1,500 ft. (457.2 m) long and 15 ft. (4.6 m) wide. Collection Dia Art Foundation. Photograph: Charles Uibel, 2019. © Holt/Smithson Foundation and Dia Art Foundation / Licensed by Artists Rights Society, New York



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 using a variety of materials, sometimes natural and sometimes human-made, like concrete, metal, or asphalt. Not simply sculptures situated in nature, earthworks 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 artists working in this way would want their art to be so far away from developed areas?

Participants in the UMFA's biennial *Spiral Jetty* meet-up on Sept 9, 2022, look for hopper crystals along the shoreline of Rozel Point at Great Salt Lake. Photo by: Adelaide Ryder

Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, detail, 1970. © Holt/Smithson Foundation and Dia Art Foundation / Licensed by Artists Rights Society, New York

Shape of *Spiral Jetty*

Smithson made *Spiral Jetty* twice. The first time it was the shape of a backward "J" with a very small, tied island at the end. He did not think that shape was right, so he reworked it into a spiral. Where else in nature have you seen a spiral? Smithson was very interested in the natural world and natural history. Much of his art reflects this interest.

Why do you think Smithson wanted to create a spiral?

Explore the landscape

One of the reasons Smithson chose Rozel Point was its unique landscape. 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 in the world. Sometimes this part of Great Salt Lake is pink or red. The water in the lake is so salty only certain types of orange and pink non-harmful bacteria, archaea, and algae called halophiles can survive.

What other details of the landscape do you notice?

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, *First construction of Spiral Jetty. Re-constructed 2 days later to its present composition (1970). Great Salt Lake, Utah. Collection of Dia Art Foundation. Photograph: Gianfranco Gorgoni © Holt/Smithson Foundation and Dia Art Foundation / Licensed by Artists Rights Society, New York.*



Explore *Spiral Jetty*



Walk out on *Spiral Jetty*. How long does it take you to walk to the end of the jetty? 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?"

Explore Rozel Hill

This area of Great Salt Lake is called Rozel Point. The hill directly to the east of *Spiral Jetty* and the parking lot is called Rozel Hill. Walk up Rozel Hill. Notice how Great Salt Lake looks different from this vantage point. Does *Spiral Jetty* look different? Can you see the old oil drilling jetty to the southeast?

Why do you think Robert Smithson chose this site for his artwork?

Materials of *Spiral Jetty*

This entire artwork is made of basalt rock and dirt, and sometimes salt from the lake. Smithson made *Spiral Jetty* with materials from the hill you are standing on.

Look down at your feet—the rock you see is probably basalt rock. Basalt, the black porous rock that dots Rozel Point, is evidence of ancient volcanoes. Look at the salt on *Spiral Jetty* or the lakebed surrounding it. Its scientific name is halite. If you look closely at the salt you can see its cube-like crystalline structure.

What do you think Spiral Jetty will look like in 50 years or 5,000 years?

Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, detail, 1970. © Holt/Smithson Foundation and Dia Art Foundation / Licensed by Artists Rights Society, New York