

## Visiting the Family History Library in Salt Lake City – Kiwi style.

One day in the Family History Library I met a couple from Palmerston North - Barry Green and his wife. They suggested I should write an article about Salt Lake City from a Kiwi point of view, so here it is!

### BEFORE YOU COME

**When you start planning your trip**, go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and click on the *Library* tab. When that page opens go to the left side of the page and click on *Preparing to Visit the Library*. The information here will help ensure your family history is prepared. Now to get your trip prepared.

**What time of year should you come?** The most expensive and busiest time of year is around the first weekend of April and October. This is when the LDS General Conferences are held. From November until March the temperatures are rather cold (for this Aucklander anyway), but all you really need are some gloves, a scarf, umbrella, thick socks and sometimes a hat, along with a coat and layers of clothes underneath. It is always comfortable indoors so you will want to be able to shed some layers. In mid summer the temperatures will be in the high 30's but the humidity is very low.

**Where to stay?** Several Hotels around here have special genealogy rates. I have checked with a few to get some comparisons in service and price. These are the two I figured to be best for the money. Don't forget to ask for the genealogy rate when you make your booking – you do not need to be in a group for these rates. All \$ are US.

The Plaza Hotel - next to the Family History Library - [www.plaza-hotel.com](http://www.plaza-hotel.com) \$79 per night for 1 or 2 people. For 7 nights it would cost \$474. No microwave, might get a room fridge. Airport shuttle included. Wireless internet throughout hotel.

The Carlton Hotel – at 140 East South Temple - [www.carltonhotel-slc.com](http://www.carltonhotel-slc.com) \$66.60 for 1 person and \$71.10 for 2 people. For 7 nights it would cost \$365 for 1 person and \$404 for 2 people. You get a microwave and fridge and a complimentary cooked breakfast. Airport and Family History Library shuttle included. It is only 2 ½ blocks from the FHL. They have wireless internet also.

Don't forget to add the 6.6% sales tax.

**What should you bring?** It is not necessary to bring a laptop but internet is available if you do. On the internet you can access the subscription databases that are free in the Library such as [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) and Burkes peerage. However you will not be able to access the "Databases on the Network" that are on the patron computers. If you choose to use the patron computers you can bring all you need on a flash (jump) drive and use PAF, Microsoft Word and Excel files, and print anything you need from your files. If your family history is on another programme you could download the free PAF programme and load your info on that so you can access it here by just bringing your little flash drive or CD's.

**What about classes at the FHL?** On [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), on the main page there is a link to the latest class schedule at the FHL. It usually has the next 2 months as well. If there is a class you would really like to attend and you are not sure if it will be on when you are in SLC – email the FHL at least 4 months in advance and if possible they will add it to the schedule.

## WHEN YOU ARRIVE

**Arriving at Salt Lake City.** If you have chosen a hotel that does not have a shuttle service it costs about US\$15 to get a taxi or \$7 on the Express shuttle from the airport to downtown. It is only 10-15 minutes from the airport to downtown.

**Where can you buy food?** You will probably want to get some basic groceries when you arrive. The closest places to shop are: Rite Aid, on State Street, where you can buy milk and a few groceries. They do not sell perishables. The Dollar Store on the ground floor of ZCMI mall sells some snack type foods, cold drinks and a few non perishables. When you want more groceries than what they have to offer I suggest Smiths Market would be the easiest place to go. You can buy about anything you can think of there – it is like a large supermarket with a Kmart attached. They are open from 7 am until midnight. This will require a Trax (light rail) ride on the University Line to the Trolley stop. Smiths are on the block just before that stop. At the same Trax stop and the opposite side of the road is Wild Oats where you can buy organic produce and all manner of health foods. They also open at 7 am. You could walk to Albertsons, 200 South 400 East, which is a supermarket. If you really cannot do without marmite – bring it with you. It costs \$6.05 for a small jar at the British market, and that is US\$. The vendor machines in the Main floor lunch room of the FHL have some snacks at better prices than in the local stores. There are a couple of microwaves in there as well.

## SPARE TIME

**Getting around.** Feet are good, but be extra wary crossing roads. When the pedestrian lights say you can cross that does not stop cars from crossing as well. It is easy to find your way around because the city is laid out in grids. To go a bit further there is the light rail system – Trax. It costs \$1.40 to travel for 2 hours, so you could go to Smiths, shop and come back within that time. There is a Trax every 15 minutes for each of the 2 lines. Of course if you are over 65 you could do the same trip for 70¢. The downtown area is free to travel on Trax. At the shopping malls you could pick up bus timetables if you wanted to travel elsewhere.

**Other shopping.** Crossroads Mall is being renovated so there aren't too many shops there at present. The next mall along is ZCMI. In the other direction is Gateway, which has over 95 stores and restaurants. Most of the shops open at 10 am until late daily. Don't forget they add 6.6% sales tax to everything you buy.

**What about restaurants?** For lunch you can pick up a visitor pass at the Main desk of the FHL which enables you to dine at the Church Office Cafeteria. They are open from 11.30 am until 1.30 pm Monday to Friday. You do need cash to buy a meal there but you can get all kinds of food - sandwiches, soup, salads, Mexican style, hot meals, sweet dishes etc. It will cost you anywhere from about \$2 to \$6. When you get off the Trax at Trolley, walk a block further to Chuck-a-rama. You can get a buffet meal there for under \$10. They have a different menu each day so you might want to check. At the same Trax stop, but a block earlier on the left side of the road is Sizzlers. If you are over 60 you can order an entrée with a soft drink for \$7 and for \$1 more get all you want from the salad bar which includes soup, bread and ice cream. For a meal at similar prices in a historic setting there is the Lion House – just along Temple Square next to Brigham Young's Beehive House.

**Recreation.** On Sunday you might like to attend a church. For a Latter Day Saint meeting ask the missionaries on Temple Square for a meeting schedule. Salt Lake City has most denominations so check the local phone book out for other churches.

For a treat of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir you can attend their rehearsal every Thursday from 8 – 9.30 pm or attend the recording of the Spoken Word on Sunday mornings from 9.15 – 10.00 am. These are both held in the 21,000 seat Conference Centre.

Movie theatres are at the Gateway. They also have an Imax theatre there. If you are here during the basketball season you could attend a NBA game at the Delta Centre.

Temple Square hosts many wonderful events throughout the year. Even though most events are free the tickets go within a couple of hours of being available. To see what will be on when you are in town go to [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) and click on *Temple Square Events* then on the event you would like to attend – it will tell you when the tickets are available. The 2005 Christmas concert included the US soprano Renée Fleming. Narrator was the British actress Clair Bloom, Mormon Tabernacle choir, orchestra, bell ringers and dancers. A fantastic performance given by all.

The Church Museum of History and Art is next door to the Family History Library and has a variety of exhibits. Currently is it showing etchings from Rembrandt and nativity scenes from all around the world.

### **Tipping**

The USA is a tipping society so you probably will not be able to avoid it. In a restaurant where you are served it is customary to leave at least 10 -15% as a tip, more if the service was exceptional or you are very generous.

**Begging.** Unfortunately there are people who like to hang around Temple Square trying to get money out of people. They are called panhandlers, solicitors etc. The majority of these people are not homeless, they have cars and plenty of money in the bank. They have learnt that for standing around all day they can get paid well. I have seen one person who sits in a wheel chair walking down the street another time. If you feel like assisting the people who really need help, please give your money to an organised charity.

## **FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

**What assistance can you get at the FHL?** I suggest if this is your first visit that you take advantage of the 8 minute orientation on the main floor. This will give you an idea of where everything is in the library and anything new.

For 10 cents per day you can have a locker to put your belongings in while you are in the library. Especially handy if you want to go out for lunch and not carry everything with you.

When you get busy with your research and need some help in deciphering a document ask at the reference desk. Someone can help you – it might take some time to get the right person so don't leave the difficult task until last. Every floor will have missionaries with a range of skills and some specialist consultants who are staff members. They are all there to help you with your research. Don't be shy to take advantage of expert help.

If some of the films you need are Vault films, order them before you come so they will be ready and waiting for you. It can take up to 3 days to get a vault film sometimes.

If you find documents on films, microfiche or in books that you want copies of they can be scanned and burned to a CD or your flash drive. You can purchase CD's at the library for \$1.50. No need to carry a lot of heavy paper home with you.

What I have said above relates to things as they are in December 2005 – they could change.