



# UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST

## Big Water Yurt (Millcreek Canyon)

*Available each Winter: December–April*



**Description:** A 20-foot diameter yurt that provides a primitive, outdoor winter camping experience for 4-8 people. Basic amenities are included.

**Location:** Millcreek Canyon is located off 3800 South and Wasatch Boulevard east of Salt Lake City, Utah. A groomed ski trail begins 5 miles up the canyon where the winter gate at Maple Grove Picnic Area is closed. The yurt is located at the Upper Big Water trailhead at the end of the ski trail, approximately 4.5 miles from the Maple Grove winter gate. **There is no public motorized access beyond the Maple Grove winter gate.** The trail is intermediate level with some steep sections. The ski trail is groomed, depending on weather and track conditions.



**Water:** There is no potable drinking water in the canyon. Carry your own water or be prepared to treat water using filtration, boiling, or chemicals.

**Parking:** Parking is limited. **Carpooling is encouraged.** Overnight vehicles should park at the roadside parking lots (Maple Grove excluded). Additional parking is available at Terraces boardwalk located less than 1/4 mile from Maple Grove.

**Operating Season & Rental Fee:** The yurt is available for rental annually, December 1 through April 30.

**Rate:** \$75/night (2-night maximum)

The reservation includes up to four (4) exit passes to replace the vehicle fee as you exit the canyon.

**No reservation refunds or credits will be given.**

**Deposit:** A \$75 key deposit is required by credit card when picking up the key. The deposit will be refunded to the credit card used within 3-5 business days after the key is returned to either the drop box or the attendant at the Millcreek Toll Booth or to Wheeler Farm in Murray.

**Check-out time:** 12:00 pm (noon). Please be courteous to the next visitors by checking out on time.



**How To Make Reservations:** Online reservations open each year in early November. For the exact date and to establish an account, go to [slco.org/parks](http://slco.org/parks), click on the Millcreek Canyon Reservations link, and scroll down to/click on U.S. Forest Service Yurt Info. Print and review the Rules of Occupancy document.

The responsible party named on the Salt Lake County-issued permit must: 1) be 18 years of age or older, 2) be a member of the party staying at the yurt, 3) sign the Forest Service Special Use application and permit, and 4) pick up the key to the yurt and be prepared to pay the refundable \$75 key deposit with a credit card.

Yurt key may be picked up at the Millcreek Toll Booth up to three days prior to your trip or on Friday for weekend or Monday holiday trips.

**More Information:** Contact the Forest Service at 801-466-6411 option 5, or Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation at 385-468-7275 or [parks@slco.org](mailto:parks@slco.org) for general information about the yurt and operating policies.

**Facilities Provided:**

- Wood stove
- Pre-cut wood
- Wood stove tools
- Fire extinguisher
- Ash Can
- Broom and snow shovel
- Outdoor toilet and toilet paper
- Bunk beds
- Table & chairs
- Bench seat
- Floor rugs
- Large pot for water
- **NOTE:** There are no lanterns at the yurt

**What To Bring:**

- Yurt Permit and key
- Food and beverages
- Water for cooking and drinking
- Cooking stove
- Pots, pans, plates, cups, utensils
- Sleeping pad or inflatable mattress
- Warm clothing
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Matches
- Lantern
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Garbage bags
- Maps and compass
- Avalanche beacon
- Avalanche shovel and probe pole
- First aid kit

**Safety:** The yurt is located along the groomed ski trail and close to the city; however, yurt visitors must be fully prepared for the trip with **appropriate skiing ability, equipment, and supplies.** Guests must ski or snowshoe 4.5 miles to the yurt (9 miles roundtrip), carrying a full load of supplies and equipment.

The ski trail is signed and groomed regularly. **Winter conditions may create limited visibility and snow levels may obscure the trail.** Generally, the ski track is not set until after storm systems have passed.

Please notify someone of your trip to the yurt, where you plan to travel, and when you expect to return. **Cell phone reception in the canyon and at the yurt is generally unavailable.**

**Avalanche Information:** Avalanches are frequent in backcountry areas of the canyon and have occurred infrequently along the groomed ski trail. **Be prepared with proper avalanche training and equipment.** If you intend to take backcountry excursions from the yurt, make sure you are well equipped with maps, compass, proper clothing, food, and avalanche equipment. All yurt visitors should “know before you go” by obtaining a current forecast from the **Utah Avalanche Center** at **888-999-4019** or <http://utahavalanchecenter.org/>.

**Dogs:** A maximum of two (2) dogs are allowed at the yurt during the months of January and March. Dogs are not allowed at the yurt during December, February, or April. This policy is for the courtesy of yurt visitors who have allergies and is closely monitored for compliance.

Salt Lake County Animal Services ordinance allows off-leash dogs in Millcreek Canyon on odd-number days **on trails only.**

Federal regulations require dogs to be on leash at all times in developed sites which includes trailheads, roads, parking lots, picnic areas, and residential cabin areas. Protect the privilege of bringing dogs to the yurt and Millcreek Canyon by disposing of your dog’s waste properly, keeping your dog from jumping on people or blocking the path of skiers, and not allowing your dog(s) to chase wildlife.

