

>travelgirl day in: salt lake city

Salt Lake City tg style

You've picked the **Hotel Monaco**, centrally located and within walking distance of everything on your girl-twirl of a day.

Breakfast is a dense

doughy-flakey-butter bomb,

a *Kouing Aman* (koo-ing ah-mon) at **Les Madeleines** bakery. Get there early since owner and French Culinary Institute trained-Pastry Chef Romina Rasmussen can't make enough supply for the demand.



Now that you've had that buttery goodness, you deservedly have your longest walk of the day. One mile north is **City Creek Center**. A travelgirl mall-crawl awaits at this Salt Lake shopping mecca that rivals Vegas's Caesars Palace, minus the kitsch. The stores are ones we know and love: Michael Kors, Apple, Tiffany; however this mall also boasts a retractable glass roof, a creek that runs through it and a skybridge. It's something different in the way of malls, and it's frighteningly shop-able.



For lunch, hit the **Taste of Red Iguana** at the food court at City Creek. This is the quick take-out version of a much beloved Mexican restaurant not to be missed when visiting Salt Lake City.

Now it's time for some history and culture; just down the block and around

the corner is *The Temple*, the **Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**. This stop is not unique to a Salt Lake City itinerary, and it's certainly not off the beaten path but "when in Rome..." Plan ahead to take advantage of everything the site has to offer and if possible, try to book one of the Tabernacle events. The month of December has a host of Christmas concerts that pull the heartstrings of Mormons, Christians and Dickens-lovers alike.



Now head back to the hotel, perhaps to gussy up or to change your shoes, then head to **The Vault Bar** for a quick sip. **The Clockwork Orange** — made with Absolut vodka, Canton Ginger Liqueur and orange juice, served in a cinnamon sugar rimmed glass — will get your party started.

Dinner is a five-minute walk to one of the best sushi restaurants in the West, **Takashi**. Chowhounds, Yelpers and food bloggers are gaga over this place! Try the T&T roll (named for Takashi and his

wife Tamara), a combination of albacore, yellowtail, salmon and scallions fried tempura-style and served with "Hotter Than Hell" secret sauce. The place is sophisticated with a price tag to match, and popular, so get there early. You should anyway, because you've got ballet tickets!



Founded in 1963, **Ballet West** is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this season. William F. Christensen, the company's first artistic director and co-founder, established the first ballet department at an American college, The University of Utah (go Utes!). Since 2007, Artistic Director Adam Sklute — former dancer, Ballet Master and Associate Director of The Joffrey Ballet — has expanded the company's repertoire while preserving its legacy. The '13-'14 Season has greatest hits such as *Firebird* and *Sleeping Beauty* as well as a New Works program that explores cutting-edge choreography.

Post ballet, head back to the Monaco and to bed. Because if you're a really good travelgirl, you need to rest up for tomorrow's spa day at **The Grand America Hotel**, a classically luxurious hotel with a divine spa to match!

—Cathie Arquilla *tg*

Above: Salt Lake City skyline. Photos from left to right: A *Kouing Aman* from Les Madeleines; City Creek Center; Hotel Monaco; sushi from Takashi.

SLC 411:

Hotel Monaco, Salt Lake City
www.monaco-saltlakecity.com

Les Madeleines
les-madeleines.com

City Creek Center
www.shopcitycreekcenter.com

Temple Square North
Visitors' Center
www.lds.org/locations/temple-square-north-visitors-center

Ballet West
www.balletwest.org