



## Timeline of IRONMAN History in Greater Zion



### 2008

Community leaders begin negotiations with World Triathlon Corporation to bring an IRONMAN to the area.

### 2009

Press Conference to announce an annual race on the first Saturday of May each year for the next five years.

### 2010

Inaugural IRONMAN St. George takes place on May 1. Michael Weiss from Austria and Heather Wurtele from Canada become the inaugural champions. The course gains an instant reputation as one of the toughest IRONMAN events in the world.

### 2011

Year Two brings temperatures in the mid 90s. The heat, combined with the terrain, adds to the difficulty and reputation of the event.

### 2012

Ten minutes after the race starts, a microburst storm hits Sand Hollow Reservoir creating swells ranging from two-to-four-feet high. Hundreds of athletes are pulled from the water. Fortunately, all athletes are safe, but the number of athletes who did not finish is one of the largest of any IRONMAN event. Following the event, officials announce that the next two races in St. George will be changed to IRONMAN 70.3 races. The St. George race will be designated as the U.S. Pro Championship, one of 5 regional championships around the world.

### 2013

More than 90 pro athletes compete at the IRONMAN 70.3 St. George U.S. Pro Championship, making it one of the largest pro fields at any IRONMAN branded event to-date. In the fastest growing triathlon segment, IRONMAN 70.3 St George is stamped as one of the iconic races around the world.



## **2014**

Olympic Gold Medalist Jan Frodeno of Germany comes from behind to claim the title. Officials extend the agreement in St. George for five more years and elevate the race to the IRONMAN 70.3 St. George North American Championship.

## **2019**

St. George wins the bid to host the 2021 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship. At the same time, officials announce they will bring back the IRONMAN St. George race in 2020. The legendary race is slated to be the North American Championship and will rotate with the IRONMAN 70.3 North American Championship in St. George.

## **2020**

The highly anticipated return of IRONMAN St. George in 2020 race is postponed, then eventually cancelled due to the global pandemic. Officials restructure the five-year race agreement. IRONMAN 70.3 races will be held on odd years starting in 2021, and IRONMAN races will be held on even years beginning in 2022.

## **2021**

On May 1, the IRONMAN 70.3 St. George North American Championship is one of the first IRONMAN races held in North America in over a year. 108 professional athletes enter the event, making it the largest pro field at any IRONMAN race in history. With more than 3,500 athletes participating, it is the largest field of athletes ever at the St. George race. Race operations are designed with strict COVID protocols to ensure safety. In an epic race to the finish, Lionel Sanders of Canada edges out USA's Sam Long for the men's title. Both athletes collapse at the finish line. Nine-time World Champion Daniela Ryf of Switzerland dominates a stellar women's field, finishing four and a half minutes ahead of Jeanni Metzler from South Africa.

See the Playlist of past IRONMAN sizzle videos from each year on Greater Zion's YouTube channel.

### **About Greater Zion**

Located in the southwest corner of Utah, Greater Zion is a destination that offers more than 2,400 square miles of adventure and inspiration. Zion National Park, the fourth most visited National Park in the United States, is the premier attraction, but Zion is only the beginning. Four state parks and a multitude of year-round recreational lands set the stage for a burgeoning mountain biking scene, some of the best off-highway vehicle riding in the country, scenic and challenging play at 13 top-rated golf courses, world-class cultural performances at Tuacahn Center for the Arts and so much more. The vibrant communities of St. George, Springdale, Hurricane, Ivins and towns in between offer a wide range of lodging options, dining experiences



and access to outdoor pursuits through local outfitters and tour companies. Home to the 2021 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championships, Greater Zion also is a world-class destination for sporting events, conferences and meetings. The Greater Zion Convention and Tourism Office is a transient-room-tax-funded entity of Washington County, Utah. For more information, please visit [GreaterZion.com](http://GreaterZion.com).