



U.S. National Parks: The Grand Canyon to Yellowstone

12 days | 15 days with Missoula & Glacier National Park extension

Follow in the footsteps of the explorers on this U.S. national parks tour. Each day displays a new destination, and with it new landscapes and adventures. Explore the mysterious cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde, gaze into the depths of the Grand Canyon, and stand in the shadow of the Grand Tetons. On this guided tour through America's wilderness, discover the amazing cultural and geographic diversity of the national parks out West.



Your tour package includes

11 nights in handpicked hotels
11 breakfasts
1 lunch
3 dinners with beer or wine
8 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

Loretto Chapel
Mesa Verde National Park
Monument Valley
Grand Canyon
Zion National Park
Bryce Canyon National Park
The Grand Tetons
Yellowstone National Park

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved trails and dirt paths, with some hills and high altitudes.

Group size

15-35

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Santa Fe, New Mexico → 2 nights

Day 1: Arrival in Albuquerque & Transfer to Santa Fe

Welcome to New Mexico! Transfer to your hotel in Santa Fe and settle in to your hotel this evening.

Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Santa Fe

Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch

Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of New Mexico's capital city, settled by a Spanish conquistador nearly 400 years ago.

- See the Cross of the Martyrs and Saint Francis Cathedral
- Pass through the plaza in the heart of the city to view the State Capitol Building and Palace of the Governors
- Enter Loretto Chapel to view the miraculous staircase

This afternoon, enjoy a welcome lunch with your fellow travelers.

Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado → 1 night

Day 3: Mesa Verde via Durango

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Cross into Colorado, stopping in the Old West mining town of Durango en route to Mesa Verde.

- Pass by Chimney Rock and Abiquiu Lake
- Take in the stunning landscapes that inspired the work of artist Georgia O'Keeffe
- Explore Durango to feel its frozen-in-time charm

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Kayenta, Arizona → 1 night

Day 4: Mesa Verde National Park & transfer to Kayenta

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Take a guided tour of Mesa Verde National Park.

- View fascinating 800-year-old cliff dwellings that honeycomb the walls of the canyon
- Enjoy free time to visit either the gift shop or Spruce Tree House and Museum

Pass by Monument Valley's iconic "Mexican Hat," a sombrero-shaped rock formation, as you travel to Kayenta, Arizona. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Grand Canyon, Arizona → 2 nights

Day 5: Grand Canyon via Tuba City

Included meals: breakfast

Learn about the culture and history of the Navajo tribe during a stop at the Explore Navajo Interactive Museum. Meet with Navajo leader Peter MacDonald and learn about the World War II Code Talkers.

Please note: Meeting Peter MacDonald is not guaranteed.

Then, pay a visit to the Cameron Trading Post before arriving at the Grand Canyon. Upon arrival, take a scenic walk along the South Rim with your Tour Director.

- Marvel at the rocky formations that reflect millions of years of geological evolution
- View the Colorado River running one mile below

Day 6: Free day at the Grand Canyon

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day at the Grand Canyon or add an excursion.

+ Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride

Zion National Park, Utah → 1 night

Day 7: Transfer to Zion National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Pass by the beautiful Vermilion Cliffs National Monument before arriving in Zion National Park.

- Discover why 19th-century Mormon settlers named the park after their heavenly city
- View the yellow-and orange-hued dramatically eroded sedimentary rocks
- Take in magnificent vistas on an open-air tram ride with guided commentary

Salt Lake City, Utah → 1 night

Day 8: Salt Lake City via Bryce Canyon

National Park

Included meals: breakfast

En route to Utah's capital city, stop to visit Bryce Canyon National Park.

- Tour the park by bus and on foot
- Take in up-close views of its distinctive pink limestone and sandstone formations, including awe-inspiring arches, spires, and bridges
- View colorful rock pinnacles known as hoodoos

Then, continue on to Salt Lake City.

Jackson, Wyoming → 3 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Jackson & Grand Teton National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Cross into Wyoming on a scenic drive en route to the resort town of Jackson. Then, set out to explore Grand Teton National Park, home to the youngest mountain range in the Rockies.

- Drive through stunning Logan Canyon and past turquoise Bear Lake
- Tour Grand Teton National Park by bus and on foot
- Try to spot elk, coyotes, black bears, wolves, and the elusive mountain lion

Please note: The visit to Grand Teton National Park may take place on day 10 depending on seasonality and weather.

Enjoy a free evening in Jackson.

Day 10: Yellowstone National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Venture out into Yellowstone National Park, designated the world's first national park in 1872, for a full day of sightseeing.

- Drive through the park with stops for photos
- See cascading waterfalls, bubbling mud pots, and the famous geyser, Old Faithful
- Keep an eye out for the bison, mountain goats, moose, and grey wolves that call the park home

Day 11: Free time in Jackson

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Enjoy a free day in Jackson or add an excursion.

Later, gather with your group at a local restaurant for a farewell dinner.

+ Snake River Float

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to Missoula.

+ Missoula & Glacier National Park extension

Continue your trip and cross another incredible national park off your list. Get in the cowboy spirit with stops at Smokejumper and the Grand Kohrs Ranch, then spend a full day exploring Glacier National Park with your Tour Director.

Missoula, Montana → 1 night

Day 12: Transfer to Missoula

Included meals: breakfast

Say goodbye to Jackson and drive to Missoula, Montana's second-most populous city.

- Make a stop at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site
- Learn about the history of the cattle ranch industry
- Join a park ranger for a tour of the ranch including the main house, cowboy dorms, chuckwagon, and blacksmith facilities

Please note: The stop at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site is time-permitting.

Glacier National Park Region → 2 nights

Day 13: Transfer to the Glacier National Park Region

Included meals: breakfast

Learn about the area's culture as you make your way to the Glacier National Park region today.

- Stop at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula and learn about its history as a military post in the late 1800s to its time as Internment Camp during WWII and more
- Travel through the Flathead Indian Reservation and pass the National Bison Range

Continue on to the Glacier National Park region and enjoy a free evening.

Day 14: Glacier National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Travel along Going-to-the-Sun Road, a national landmark considered to be one of the world's most scenic drives. *(Please note: Activities in Glacier National Park may vary depending on the season and weather conditions.)*

- Marvel at cedar forests, rocky cliffs, and glacial lakes as you wind your way through Glacier National Park, which makes up a portion of the UNESCO-listed International Peace Park
- Appreciate the wilderness of the park and take in the sight of melting glaciers that experts estimate will be gone within the coming decades

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

Please note: Going-to-the-Sun Road will be replaced with a Lake McDonald cruise during May and June departures due to seasonality.

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Kalispell airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/NPT | 1-800-754-5066

Day 6: Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride

\$355CAD/\$365CAD* (30 minutes, departs in the morning)

Enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Grand Canyon aboard a thrilling half-hour-long helicopter ride. Soar over the massive canyon, taking in a unique perspective of the striated terrain far below. From high above the canyon rim, you can begin to fully appreciate the immense scale of this natural wonder. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent.

Day 11: Snake River Float

\$175CAD (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)

One of the best ways to see the Grand Tetons—the glorious peaks that surround Jackson—is from the Snake River. On a raft ride, you'll have a great chance of glimpsing some of Wyoming's wildlife, including soaring eagles and graceful elk. You'll also get a firsthand view of the site of Ansel Adams' famous photo. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent and runs seasonally from mid-May through mid-September. Layered clothing and waterproof shoes are recommended. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms