



# U.S. National Parks Adventure: A Week in the Southwest

# 9 days | 11 days with Las Vegas extension

How do you describe the American Southwest in one word? "Kaleidoscopic" is a start. Whether it's in the sun-soaked colors of Zion and Sedona, or the unique tapestry of cultures and traditions that define the region, there's a certain vibrancy that's hard to describe. As you hike through iconic national parks, visit Navajo homesteads, and try your luck on the Vegas Strip, one thing's for sure: This small group Adventure Tour will leave you in awe.



## Your tour package includes

8 nights in handpicked hotels 8 breakfasts 1 lunch with beer or wine 2 dinners with beer or wine 6 sightseeing tours Expert Tour Director & local guides Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

Sedona region hike Cathedral Rock The Grand Canyon Lake Powell Navajo Red Heritage center Bryce Canyon National Park Zion National Park Las Vegas Strip

#### 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

12-22

# U.S. National Parks Adventure: A Week in the Southwest

9 days | 11 days with Las Vegas extension

# **Phoenix Region, Arizona** $\rightarrow$ 1 night

#### Day 1: Arrival in the Phoenix Region

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Arizona! Settle in to your hotel, and meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

# Grand Canyon, Arizona $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

#### Day 2: Grand Canyon via Sedona Region Hike Included meals: breakfast

Start your exploration of the Southwest among the landscapes of Arizona.

- Set off on a hike in the Sedona region, and marvel at the views of Red Rock Country
- Make photo stops at the majestic rock formations surrounding Sedona, including Cathedral Rock, Bell Rock, and Courthouse Butte
- Visit Sedona, a city known for its festive art scene, and enjoy free time to shop, eat, and explore the many galleries
- Continue on to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon for your first glimpse at the legendary fissure
- Admire the canyon's colorful rock walls at sunset

# Day 3: Grand Canyon hike

Included meals: breakfast

Set out to explore the Grand Canyon, one of the most-visited national parks in the U.S.

- Join your Tour Director for a three mile hike along the South Rim
- Walk through a ponderosa pine forest and admire panoramic views of the sandstone landscape from a plateau at the end of the trail

Enjoy free time to hike other trails, explore the various museums and shops along the rim, or add an excursion.

+ Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride

Lake Powell, Arizona  $\rightarrow$  2 nights

# Day 4: Transfer to Lake Powell & Navajo Red Heritage center

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Continue on to Lake Powell, a man-made reservoir that is an otherworldly paradise. Spend a free afternoon in Lake Powell or add an excursion.

Tonight, head to the Navajo Red Heritage center. You'll enjoy an evening featuring authentic Native American dancing, flute playing, drumming, and singing while enjoying a dinner of Native American and Southwestern cuisine, including Navajo tacos.

Please note: On some departures the Navajo Red Heritage center dinner may take place on day 5 depending on the day of the week.

+ Upper Antelope Canyon & Navajo Nation

#### Day 5: Free day in the Lake Powell Region Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in the Lake Powell region or add an excursion.

+ Monument Valley Jeep Ride

# Zion National Park, Utah $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

# Day 6: Zion via Bryce Canyon National Park hike

Included meals: breakfast

Make your way through scenic, southwestern Utah to tour Bryce Canyon National Park by bus and on foot.

- Take in up-close views of the distinctive pink limestone and sandstone formations on an immersive hike with your Tour Director
- See the awe-inspiring arches, bridges, and pinnacles known as hoodoos

Then, continue on to your hotel near Zion National Park and enjoy a free evening.

# Day 7: Zion National Park hike

Included meals: breakfast

Start your day with a hike along a Zion National Park classic, the Emerald Pools trail.

- Hear expert commentary about the surrounding landscape from your Tour Director
- Make your way along the trail to the desert oasis, which features waterfalls and natural pools

• Enjoy free time to continue hiking through the park, grab a drink at the park's brewery, or explore the visitor center

Enjoy a free evening in Zion National Park, or add a stargazing excursion directly through your Tour Director. *Please note: This excursion is weather dependent.*)

# Las Vegas, Nevada $\rightarrow$ 1 night

# Day 8: Transfer to Las Vegas & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, farewell lunch Transfer to the Las Vegas Strip and celebrate your trip during a farewell lunch with your group. Tonight, join your Tour Director on an evening walk along the Las Vegas Strip.

- Snap a photo of the famous "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign
- Walk past iconic hotels and casinos like Mandalay Bay and Caesar's Palace
- Watch the famous Bellagio Fountains water show

# **Flight Home**

#### Day 9: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures) Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay in Las Vegas.

# + Las Vegas extension

Continue your trip to try your luck in Las Vegas, and see a whole new side of Sin City as you explore the Red Rocks and surrounding desert.

# Las Vegas $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

# Day 9: Red Rock Canyon hike

Included meals: breakfast

Join your Tour Director and head outside the city to Red Rock Canyon, where you'll choose to hike along one of two popular trails.

- Opt to set off on the Moenkopi Loop, an easy, flat hike along a limestone ridge, and see Mojave yucca plants, Joshua Trees, and Triassic fossils
- Choose to hike the more challenging Calico 1 trail, where you'll go downhill and weave your way through the canyon before summiting the red rocks and admiring the area's iconic scenery

# Day 10: Free day in Las Vegas

Included meals: breakfast Spend a free day in Las Vegas or add an excursion.

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

+ A Day in Death Valley National Park

# **Flight home**

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures) Transfer to the 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/NSW | 1-800-754-5066** 

#### Day 3: 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 4: Upper Antelope Canyon & Navajo Nation

\$185CAD (2 hours, departs in the afternoon) Journey by truck through the Native American territory known as Navajo Nation, a historic area that covers over 27,000 square miles, as you make your way to Upper Antelope Canyon. This breathtaking slot canyon is nicknamed "Corkscrew Canyon" and has been created by the forces of wind and water over thousands of vears. It's considered one of the most stunning natural structures in the American Southwest, and you'll learn more about the sandstone formation and its spiritual importance to the Native Americans in the area on a tour with a local Navajo guide. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent and will not run in the event of rain, due to the danger of flash floods. Tripods, monopods, selfie sticks, and backpacks are not allowed in the canyon. Depending on group size, travelers may be required to travel in separate trucks. Bottled water and comfortable shoes are recommended. Travelers must be able to walk 3/4 of a mile through sand/foot bridges and climb the 128 stairs when entering and exiting Antelope Canyon. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

#### Day 5: Monument Valley Jeep Ride

\$219CAD/\$229CAD\* (9 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Stop for lunch at the Goulding's Trading Post, one of Monument Valley's iconic, western-style buildings that was used to shoot the film "Stagecoach," starring John Wayne. Enjoy free time to explore the Gouldings Trading Post Museum and learn more about Hollywood's connection to the area. Then, climb aboard a jeep to zip through the valley's stunning red-sand scenery and pass towering sandstone buttes. Make photo stops along the way to capture iconic monuments like the Mittens, Elephant Butte, and the Three Sisters. Please note: This excursion requires a two- to three-hour bus transfer in each direction.

# **Extension excursion options**

#### Day 10: A Day in Death Valley National Park

\$109CAD/\$119CAD\* (9 hours, departs in the morning, includes boxed lunch)

Join your expert Tour Director and travel just over the border to Death Valley National Park in California. This land of extremes teems with life despite heat, drought, and harsh winters, and you'll learn about the history of Death Valley while visiting several key spots. Make your way to the Ubehebe Crater, a long-ago imploded volcano, and keep your eyes open for the diverse flora and fauna native to the region. With over 1,000 species of plants, and everything from bighorn sheep to mountain lions, you'll find yourself surprised by the variety of landscapes and ecosystems the park has to offer. Continue on to the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes, which feature crescent, linear, and star-shaped sand dunes. Finally, stop at the Badwater Basin, which is distinguished as the lowest point in North America. You'll enjoy a boxed lunch, before heading back to Las Vegas.

Please note: Due to extreme summer heat, this excursion is only available from September through June and is weather dependent. Please bring plenty of water and dress in light-colored clothing to avoid dehydration.

\*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 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