

# Private Southwest Tour



Date	Activity	Accommodations
Day 1	Arrival in Las Vegas <b>Private Transfer to Venetian Hotel</b> Evening at Leisure	<i>Venetian Hotel or similar</i>
Day 2	Full Day at Leisure in Las Vegas	<i>Venetian Hotel or similar</i>
Day 3	Departure from Las Vegas at 8:00AM Drive to Page (4 hrs) <b>Lower Antelope Canyon Tour (Included)</b> <b>Scenic Boat Ride on Lake Powell (Included)</b>	<i>Courtyard Page at Lake Powell or similar</i>
Day 4	Private Transfer to North Rim of the Grand Canyon from Page (3 hrs.) Hike Horseshoe Bend Hiking in the North Rim <b>Dinner at Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge (8:00PM)</b> Transfer to Jacob Lake (1 hr.)	<i>Jacob Lake Inn or similar</i>
Day 5	Transfer to North Rim (1 hr.) Explore North Rim Transfer to Zion National Park (3 hrs.)	<i>Desert Pearl Inn King Poolside or similar</i>
Day 6	Hiking in Zion National Park	<i>Desert Pearl Inn or similar</i>
Day 7	Hiking in Zion National Park <b>Private Culinary Experience</b>	<i>Desert Pearl Inn or similar</i>
Day 8	Transfer to Bryce Canyon (2 hrs.) Bryce Canyon Hiking	<i>Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel or similar</i>
Day 9	Bryce Canyon at Sunrise Bryce Canyon Hiking	<i>Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel or similar</i>
Day 10	Drive to Moab (4 hrs.) Explore & Hike Arches National Park	<i>Sorrel River Ranch or similar</i>
Day 11	Explore & Hike Canyonlands National Park & Dead Horse Point State Park	<i>Sorrel River Ranch or similar</i>
Day 12	Transfer from Moab to Las Vegas (7 hrs.) via Capitol Reef National Park	<i>Venetian Hotel or similar</i>

	Evening at Leisure	
Day 13	Private Transfer to Airport	Departure

### Detailed Itinerary:

#### Day 1:

Today you will arrive in Las Vegas. Your private driver-guide who will be looking after your group the entire trip will pick you up and transfer you to your Las Vegas Strip hotel (client to arrange). The rest of the evening is yours to enjoy the Las Vegas nightlife, dining or entertainment options.

*Overnight Venetian Hotel or similar*

#### Day 2:

Enjoy a full day at leisure in Las Vegas.

*Overnight Venetian Hotel or similar*

#### Day 3:

You will have an early start to your morning for the scenic drive from Nevada to Page, AZ. This scenic drive will be approximately 4 hours. Along the way, you will see parts of the Mojave Desert, Virgin River Gorge, and experience the vastness of the Colorado Plateau. Your guide will explain these areas and delight you with fascinating history and stories en route. Lunch will be served at one of the local restaurants in Page. After lunch, you will enjoy an afternoon tour of Lower Antelope Canyon. The tour is approximately 1.5 hours and is less visited than the busy Upper Antelope Canyon and is a bit more adventurous! This slot canyon is one of the premier and accessible slot canyons in the southwest. A fantastic adventurous tour that will leave you speechless as you experience one of the amazing geological features in this area. After the tour, you will check into your hotel and prepare for a scenic boat ride on Lake Powell from 4:15 to 5:45 pm. The rest of the evening is at leisure.

*(L) Overnight Courtyard Page at Lake Powell or similar*

#### Day 4:

Today you will drive from Page, AZ to the Grand Canyon North Rim. The trip will take you approximately 3 hours. Along the way, you can stop and hike out to Horseshoe Bend, a must for those visiting the area. After that, you can also stop at the Historic Navajo Bridge for a chance to see Condors. You will then arrive to the Grand Canyon North Rim. Considered to be the most beautiful and scenic areas of the Grand Canyon, it is also the least visited. Once you arrive in the North Rim, you will have the opportunity to experience some of the best hikes. One of our favorites is Cape Royal for sunset. The paved road to Cape Royal travels through a mixed forest of ponderosa pine, Douglass fir and quaking



aspen. In autumn, the golden leaves of aspen trees shimmer when the wind blows through the forest adding to the already spectacular scene. This is a road for savoring, so spend a full day driving, taking short walks on the trails and stopping at the many viewpoints. Afterwards, you will enjoy a delicious meal at the Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge (reservations not currently made) before heading to your hotel at Jacob Lake Inn. The drive is approximately 1 hour to Jacob Lake.

*(B, L,D) Overnight Jacob Lake Inn or similar*

#### **Day 5:**

After a delicious breakfast at Jacob Lake Inn, you will head back to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The drive is approximately 1 hour. You will explore the Kaibab visitor's center, Point Imperial and other scenic viewpoints and unique hikes. You will experience more of the Grand Canyon than most people ever get to explore!

After some time hiking and exploring the trails that many people do not have the time to see. After lunch, you will head towards Zion National Park. There are some fantastic hikes in this area to explore. Most notably is the Narrows, Emerald Pools, and the Canyon overlook hike. Your guide will customize your hiking and tour experience based on what you want to see and do.

*(B,L) Overnight Desert Pearl Inn or similar*

#### **Day 6:**

If your group is feeling adventurous, start early in the morning and hike Angels Landing. It gets very hot as the day progresses and Angels Landing is mostly up hill and exposed to the sun, especially in the summer so the earlier the better. This is a strenuous hike and can take most of a morning depending on how fast you hike. Angel's Landing is a definitely a not to be missed experience (if you don't mind heights!). Pack snacks or even a lunch to enjoy at the top of Angels Landing.

In the afternoon head further down Canyon to see the Temple of Sinewava area and stop at Weeping Rock and the quart of the patriarchs on your way out. Head up to the upper east side of Zion to hike the Canyon Overlook trail and see Checkerboard Mesa.

For a much more difficult day, get a permit, start early and hike the 16 miles of the Zion Narrows. Be prepared to hike and possibly swim through water most of the time.

*(B,L) Overnight Desert Pearl Inn or similar*

#### **Day 7:**

Today you will spend more time exploring Zion National Park. At some point in the morning make sure to go to the Humane History Museum. Inside you will find a gift shop, a gallery offering historical and geological facts and a 20 minute scenic movie. But above all go around to the back of the building to get a pristine view of the West Temple, the tallest



point in Zion, and the Alter of Sacrifice, named, not because there were ever sacrifices made there, as we are asked frequently, but because of the huge iron streaks in the sandstone face of the rock.

Zion National Park is a paradise for photographers. With the spectacular red sandstone monoliths, intricate canyons, and shifting light, the scenery can change with the smallest of weather variables. Today you can explore some parts of Zion that you haven't had the chance to yet, and focus on photography.

Your guide will continue to make excellent suggestions and recommendations for activities that are best suited for your group and your interests.

This evening you will be treated to a delicious private meal in a beautiful scenic locale with views of the sunset.

The Canyon Sunset Dining Adventure is truly an "out of this world" culinary experience, this offering features a memorable private dinner presented in the setting of nature's beauty. From a sunset canyon overlook to a babbling brook, several beautiful secluded locations are available. On the day of the reservation, clients are picked up at 5:00 pm from their hotel, and driven to their selected location. Fio, the award winning chef, then guides guests on an extraordinary culinary journey guaranteed to fulfill the senses. Between the drive, dinner and return back, we allow approximately 3 to 4 hours +/- (returning at approximately 9:00pm).

*(B,L) Overnight Desert Pearl Inn or similar*

### **Day 8:**

Following your breakfast this morning, you will drive towards Bryce Canyon. The drive will take you approximately 2 hours. The name "Bryce Canyon" is somewhat misleading; Bryce Canyon is not a canyon at all. Geologically speaking it is a plateau that has been eroding away. It got its name from the serial settler Ebenezer Bryce. When Utah was first being settled, assignments were given to people to go to a certain region or area, and establish communities for other settlers to be able to move to later on. Once a community was established the assigned individual would pick up and move to a new area and start all over again. Ebenezer Bryce was one such individual. In 1875 he and his family, along with a number of other families began to farm and establish the town of Tropic, east of the plateau. While in this area, Bryce would ranch his cows up in the mouth of the eroding plateau. This area came to be known by the community as "Bryce's Canyon". This was later adapted to simply "Bryce Canyon".

Some of the stops and sights that we recommend include Sunrise Point, Sunset Point, Inspiration Point, Bryce Point, Natural Bridge, and Rainbow Point. Other viewpoints that are worth visiting are Swamp Canyon, Farview Point, Paria View, Ponderosa Canyon, Black Birch Canyon, Fairyland Canyon, Mossy Cave and more. If you want to hike below the rim,



we suggest the Navajo Loop, or the Tower Bridge hikes. These are considered moderate hikes. More strenuous hikes include the Peek-a-boo Loop and the Riggs Spring Loop.

*(B,L) Overnight Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel or similar*

#### **Day 9:**

This morning we recommend waking up early to drive into Bryce Canyon for the infamous sunrise. For photographers, this is a dream come true. Although you won't be alone, as this is a very popular activity, your guide will try and help you find a great place to take photos for the best light and images possible.

You can continue your exploration of Bryce Canyon, or perhaps even consider exploring some of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, to see slot canyons and places like Hole in the Rock, Peekaboo Gulch, or Golden Cathedral (if you're up for the challenge!).

*(B,L) Overnight Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel or similar*

#### **Day 10:**

Today you will head towards Moab, UT. Considered one of the top places in North America for cycling, it is easy to see why. There are many canyons, slick rock areas, and much more that make this area perfect for both road and mountain biking as well as hiking. Moab is the perfect home base for 2 of Utah's National Parks: Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park. Each so unique in their own way, they will offer so much for you to see and do in the two days you will be visiting.

You will first visit Arches National Park. Located just 5 miles north of Moab the park is home to 2,000 arches spanning from 3 to 306 feet in length within the park's 76,518 acres, and contains an astounding variety of other geological formations. Colossal sandstone fins, massive balanced rocks, soaring pinnacles and spires.

A paved scenic drive takes visitors to the major viewpoints within the park. If you would like to hike, you can choose from a wide variety of trails, from short twenty minute walks leading right up to many of the largest arches in the park, or to more adventurous hikes into lesser seen areas.

Start early in the morning and hike Delicate Arch before the crowds get there. From there head to the Devils Garden area for a hike to Landscape Arch or even further to Double O Arch. After conquering this section, head into town for lunch, but before you leave, stop on your way out to take a look at the Sand Dune Arch, it is a quick easy hike 5-10 min roundtrip.

After lunch head back into the park and stop at Balanced Rock, before making your way to The Windows Section. Spend time hiking, North and South Windows and Turret Arch and then to Double Arch located in the same area. Park Avenue is a great hike late in the afternoon, the crowd has gone and it's a great place for sunset photos.



There are lots of options for dinner tonight in Moab, consider the Moab Brewery.

*(B,L) Overnight Sorrel River Ranch or similar*

### **Day 11:**

Today you will explore Canyonlands National Park. Canyonlands is the largest national park in Utah, and was given park status in 1964. The easiest way to see the park is with a visit to the Island in the Sky district, only 32 miles from Moab. The Island in the Sky offers many pullouts with spectacular views along the paved scenic drive. Hiking trails and four-wheel-drive roads access backcountry areas for day or overnight trips.

The Island in the Sky sits atop a massive 1500 foot mesa, quite literally an Island in the Sky. Twenty miles of paved roads lead to many of the most spectacular views in Canyon Country. From these lofty viewpoints visitors can often see over 100 miles in any given direction, resulting in panoramic views that encompass thousands of square miles of canyon country. Take a short day-hike or spend a relaxing late afternoon enjoying the sunset. Whether you have a few hours to spend or a few days, the Island in the Sky provides an unforgettable Canyon Country experience.

There are 3 sections of Canyonlands, Island in the Sky is the closest to Moab, most accessible area of the park. However, The Needles Section is well worth the visit if you have time, it is located approximately 65 miles south of Moab. The Needles section is where the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers divide the park. The Maze is further and a smaller portion of Canyonlands. All three areas are visible from Grand View Point Overlook.

You will also visit Dead Horse Point State Park. The legend of Dead Horse Point states that around the turn of the century the point was used as a corral for wild mustangs roaming the mesa top. Cowboys herded them across the narrow neck of land and onto the point. The cowboys at one time chose the horses they wanted and left the others corralled on the waterless point where they died of thirst within view of the Colorado River 2,000 feet below.

Tour Guide Note: Make sure you look for the Ghost Horse, it is a formation on rocks that are shaped like a horse that is seen from the overlook, located adjacent to the Colorado River.

The view from Dead Horse Point is one of the most photographed scenic vistas in the world. Looking out over 2,000 feet above the Colorado River, the overlook provides a breathtaking panorama of Canyonlands' sculpted pinnacles and buttes. Millions of years of geologic activity created the spectacular views.

Deposition of sediments by ancient oceans, freshwater lakes, streams and windblown sand dunes created the rock layers of canyon country

*(B,L) Overnight Sorrel River Ranch or similar*

### **Day 12:**



Today you will head back to Las Vegas from Moab via Capitol Reef National Park. Capitol Reef National Park is one of the least visited National Parks, but has some of the most unique rock formations.

The history of the human presence in Capitol Reef is fascinating and everywhere, from the rock art lining the canyon walls to the orchards along the Fremont River. Located in south-central Utah in the heart of red rock country, Capitol Reef National Park is a hidden treasure filled with cliffs, canyons, domes and bridges in the Waterpocket Fold, a geologic monocline (a wrinkle on the earth) extending almost 100 miles.

In the Fruita area, there are fifteen day hiking trails with trailheads located along Utah Highway 24 and the Scenic Drive. These trails offer the hiker a wide variety of options, from easy strolls along smooth paths over level ground to strenuous hikes involving steep climbs over uneven terrain near cliff edges. Hikes may take you deep into a narrow gorge, to the top of high cliffs for a bird's eye view of the surrounding area, under a natural stone arch, to historic inscriptions...and much, much more! Round trip distances vary in length from less than 0.25 miles to 10 miles (0.8-16 km). All trails are well-marked with signs at the trailhead and at trail junctions and by cairns (stacks of rocks) along the way. Our favorite hikes are:

Hickman Bridge, it is a moderate hike that starts off with a 400 feet in elevation climb. Best hike to do in the morning or afternoon as it is not very well shaded.

Grand Wash, is a fun easy hike, walking thru the bottom of the river wash, here you can discover many Geo Stones. This walk takes you thru an area of the Narrows with breathtaking rock views and an occasional Big Horn Sheep sighting.

Capital Gorge: located at the end of the scenic drive, this hike takes you thru historic Mormon inscriptions and to the tanks. Which are water pockets in the rock.

After your stop in Capitol Reef, you will continue to Las Vegas.

*(B,L) Overnight Venetian Hotel or similar*

### **Day 13:**

You will say goodbye to your Southwest Hiking experience and goodbye to your driver-guide when they drop you off after a transfer to the Las Vegas Airport. Have a safe trip home!

### *Departure*

### **Inclusions:**

- Private Driver-Guide for entire trip
- Private Vehicle
- 9 Nights' Accommodations
- Daily Breakfast (8 nights)



- 10 Days of Lunch
- Lower Antelope Canyon Tour
- Lake Powell 1.5 hr Scenic Boat Tour
- 1 Dinner at Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge
- 1 Private Culinary Dinner Experience in Zion
- Park Entrance Fees
- Water & Snacks Daily
- Taxes & Fees

