



# SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES ACROSS NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

## TRIP DOSSIER

### Canyons & Indian Lands



#### Tour Overview

Zion National Park mixes peaceful beauty with powerful landscapes. The tree-lined Virgin River supports fragile flora and fauna as it meanders below massive, cathedral-like, sandstone walls soaring several thousand feet into the sky. With its high cliffs and cascading waterfalls, Zion National Park is one of the Southwest's most beautiful and dynamic places. There is a wide variety of trails to choose from and you will have plenty of opportunities to explore. Warm up with a gentle walk to Lower Emerald pool and then continue on to the sparkling Upper Emerald pools, passing a waterfall along the way to discover Zion's "beach."

If you are feeling ambitious, enjoy the park's most famous challenge, Angel's Landing, and after a beautiful but strenuous hike along the knife-edge ridgeline, you will be rewarded with one of the most breathtaking, powerful panoramas you will ever experience. Of course, horseriding is available if you'd prefer a seat with a view!

"Mysterious", "breathtaking" and "out of this world", are only a few descriptions offered by past visitors to Bryce Canyon National Park. For close up views, we allow plenty of time to take advantage of the park's incredible system of trails, ranging from the easy Rim Trail, the moderate Queen's Garden Trail and the strenuous Peek-a-boo Loop. Wherever you walk, you will encounter a kaleidoscope of colours and a fantasyland of rock spires that will leave you searching for your own way to describe this 'indescribable' place.

Next, enter a special land - Monument Valley. Home of the Navajo and a perfect setting for incredible sunsets and sunrises, take a Navajo guided 4x4 tour to seldom visited areas and experience an incredible array of monumental rock formations and a rich Native American culture.

Afterwards, it is on to Grand Canyon National Park, where an introduction is hardly necessary but a two-night stop certainly is! Walk the rim or hike down a trail, seek inspiration from a beautiful sunset, take in a scenic flight or simply relax at the edge of this vast natural wonder. On the last day we head back to civilisation and the bright lights of Las Vegas for the end of our adventure.

#### Tour Itinerary

- 1 Las Vegas >> Zion National Park (HP)
- 2 Zion National Park (HP)
- 3 Bryce Canyon National Park (HP)
- 4 Monument Valley (HP)
- 5-6 Grand Canyon National Park (HP)
- 7 Grand Canyon National Park >> Las Vegas

(HP) indicates included hotel or lodge accommodation.

#### Included Highlights

- ✓ Grand Canyon sunrise or sunset
- ✓ Grand Canyon IMAX Theater
- ✓ Scenic walks and hikes
- ✓ National parks and monuments - Zion, Bryce, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon
- ✓ Professional tour leader, equipment & private transport

#### Is This Tour For Me?

Exploring some of the most spectacular settings in the Southwest, enjoy active days and comfortable nights, the perfect combination to sample the very best of this incomparable region. This tour is suitable for anyone, especially if you have an interest in Native American culture and exploring magnificent National Parks.

#### Tour Matrix

Please find below our Tour Matrix, designed to rate the focus of this tour. We hope this will help you to choose the tour that is right for you.

Canyons & Indian Lands	Mild Focus	Moderate Focus	High Focus
National Parks Visited			
Activities			
Hiking Opportunities			
Native American Culture			
Adventure Level			
Fun, Freedom & Flexibility			
City Sights			



# Canyons & Indian Lands Tour Information

## DESTINATIONS

Please find below more detailed information on the destinations this tour visits. In alphabetical order:

**Bryce Canyon National Park** - Bryce Canyon is a fascinating landscape of thin spires of pink and orange stone. The Navajo Loop trail enables you to hike right in amongst these unique formations. Or perhaps you would prefer to remain on the rim, photographing the change of colours and shadows as the sun moves across the sky.

**Grand Canyon National Park** - This incredible spectacle is difficult to comprehend, even as you stand at the rim or hike down into the canyon. Carved over millennia, this massive wonder of nature is 277 miles long, up to 16 miles wide and 1 mile deep. We highly recommend a scenic flight over the canyon and the IMAX film to obtain perspectives you cannot achieve on foot.

**Las Vegas, Nevada** - Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in the United States and the entertainment capital of North America, home to pirates and pyramids, weddings and waterfalls. If it is gambling you want, you have come to the right place. Nowhere else in the world will you find as many casinos. But if you really want to try your luck, stop in at one of its countless wedding chapels.

**Monument Valley** - In the heart of the Navajo Nation, Monument Valley is sacred land to those who call it home. The red sandstone monoliths have been the backdrop to countless 'westerns' featuring cowboys riding off into the sunset. Explore the incredible array of rock formations on an optional guided Jeep tour and learn the magic and myth of the rich Native American culture.

**Zion National Park** - Just a few hours northeast of Las Vegas, lies Zion Canyon, named by the early Mormon settlers of Utah. Some of the best hiking in the desert Southwest can be found here in the fertile Virgin River Gorge. Ascend 2500 feet to experience unbeatable views from atop Angels Landing, take a short hike from the valley floor to view the Emerald Pools, or cool off from the summer sun by exploring the Narrows section of the Virgin River.

## ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE HOTELS

Our arrival and departure hotels are conveniently located and serve as your tour's start and end points. Rooms are comfortable and spacious, with two double beds and en-suite facilities. They make good bases for sightseeing and offer an opportunity to informally meet with your fellow trekkers.

The tour begins at 07:30hrs in the hotel lobby, where you will meet your group and tour guide. You should have packed your bags and eaten breakfast so that you are fresh and ready to start the journey.

The tour ends between 17:00-18:00hrs on the final day. Please do not reserve flights until at least 21:00hrs or the following day.

If you would like to reserve additional nights in our hotel before or after the holiday, or if you would prefer to have your own room throughout, please contact our sales team for additional information and associated costs.

## LODGING ACCOMMODATION

Designed for those who no longer wish to camp, (or never did!), this tour offers the same great adventure without the camping. All accommodation will be in three star hotels or lodges, chosen for their proximity to the highlights of the region as well as easy access to major sights.

Accommodation is on a twin-share basis, with en-suite bathroom facilities. You will be roomed with a fellow passenger of the same sex. In the event that you cannot be matched with another passenger, there is never a forced single supplement charge with Grand American Adventures!

## FOOD & DRINK

On Grand American Adventures lodging tours, meals are taken in local restaurants where passengers pay individually for food and drinks en route. Average hotel breakfasts cost from \$6-\$12, lunches from \$8-\$15 and dinners from \$13-\$30; this does not include alcoholic beverages. Wine costs approximately \$5 per glass and beer \$4 per bottle. Please be aware that a tip of approximately 15%-20% is added to group meals in North American restaurants. Applicable taxes will also be added to all listed menu prices

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES / SPENDING MONEY

There are many opportunities for optional activities during the holiday. Your tour guide will organize these on your behalf and you will pay locally in cash. Featured activities and approximate prices are listed below:

- |                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| ★ Navajo Guided Jeep tour          | US \$50-95   |
| ★ Western horseback riding         | US \$45-115  |
| ★ Scenic flights over Grand Canyon | US \$145-450 |

ATM/Cash points are widely available in all major cities and small towns. Please ensure that your credit or debit cards have international access and a PIN number to access your funds.

We recommend you take at least US \$35 dollars per day to cover local expenses, but it's better to bring more than you need rather than run short on tour. Your spending money needs to cover optional activities, film, souvenirs and snacks along the way.

Additionally, tipping is a way of life in North America and, whilst not compulsory, it is expected. We recommend a tip of approximately US \$5 per passenger / per day to be given in cash to your tour leader at the end of your holiday.

## CLIMATE & CLOTHING

Keep in mind that our dress tends to be informal. Take a practical selection of clothes for both warm and cool climates to suit the season. You may encounter a wide variety of temperatures en route due to altitude and unforeseen weather conditions - so be prepared! Make sure to pack a warm fleece and a waterproof jacket as well as comfortable walking shoes.



# Canyons & Indian Lands Tour Information

## GROUPS

The maximum group size is 13 passengers.

Passengers come from a range of countries worldwide (average of 4 nationalities per group) and many will be solo travellers. You will find you have many things in common with your fellow trekkers, including a passion for adventure and a strong interest in exploring the national parks.

Grand American Adventures tours are designed for adults over 18 years old. While most passengers are aged 25-55, every year we get many people both above and below this age range. All travellers over the age of 55 will be requested to complete a self-declaration of fitness.

## GROUP PARTICIPATION

Grand American Adventures tours are a unique vacation, and much of your enjoyment will come from the team spirit of your group and the fun you'll have together, as well as from the local setting. We cannot stress too strongly the importance of your own positive attitude, given which even the adversity of a rainstorm can be good fun!

## TRANSPORTATION

All of our private vehicles are designed to ensure your safety, comfort and enjoyment of the tour. In North America, our new 15-seater Fords feature raised ceilings for more headroom, individual captain seats for more comfort and an open centre aisle floor plan, making it easier when getting in and out at those many photo opportunities. All our vehicles are equipped with CD stereo systems, often iPod-compatible, and air-conditioning, to make travelling a pleasure.

## PASSPORTS & VISAS

This tour visits the USA and it is your responsibility to obtain the proper passport and visa(s). More details are provided in our Trek Tips pre-departure information at

[http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/tour\\_info\\_online.html](http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/tour_info_online.html)

## HOW TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

Contact Grand American Adventures by telephone, email or via our website to check availability on the tour you want to join. We can normally hold you a seat on 'option' for up to 3 days to allow you time to finalise your flight arrangements and send us your booking form with a deposit payment.

If you are ready to book and pay your deposit, we have a secure, online booking facility where you can pay in most major currencies with a credit or debit card. Check availability early to avoid disappointment.

Check Availability at:

<http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/>

## PAST PASSENGERS SAY?

When asked, "what was the best part of the tour", passengers said:

*"Relaxed atmosphere. Free time and a wide range of hiking options to accommodate everyone."* - Shirley from England

*"Meeting new people and seeing places I wouldn't have if travelling alone."* - Fiona from England

## ALTERNATIVE TOURS

If you would prefer to join a different Grand American Adventures tour, we have several other camping tours and a variety of lodging, walking and specialty tours as well as family adventures for you to choose from. Click on the link below for more information.

<http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/>

## ADVENTURE TRAVEL

All details are provided in good faith. Due to the nature of travel, this information can change and should therefore be taken as an indication only and not as a contractual obligation on the part of Grand American Adventures. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Average High / Low Temperatures in Celsius (°C)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bryce Canyon NP	2/-15	4/-13	7/-9	12/-5	17/-2	24/2	26/7	25/6	22/2	16/-3	8/-10	4/-13
Grand Canyon NP	5/-8	7/-6	10/-4	15/0	21/4	27/8	29/12	27/12	24/8	18/2	11/-3	6/-7
Las Vegas	13/1	17/3	20/7	25/10	31/15	37/20	40/24	39/23	34/19	27/12	19/6	14/1
Zion NP	11/-2	14/1	17/3	22/6	28/11	34/16	37/20	35/19	31/15	25/9	17/3	12/-1

Celsius / Fahrenheit Conversions: -10°C = 14°F 0°C = 32°F 10°C = 50°F 20°C = 68°F 30°C = 86°F 40°C = 104°F

