



TOUR AT A GLANCE:



8 US States: Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and California

Length: 14 days

Departs: Chicago

Trip code: P6X

Accommodation: 12 hotel nights and 1 historic property

Meals: Paid locally

Staff: Professional tour leader

Group size: Maximum 13

Transport: Private vehicle

Please see our website for detailed destination information and insider tips.

★ TRIP OVERVIEW

Your first stop **Springfield** was not only the home of Abraham Lincoln, it's also the birthplace of corn dogs and drive-thru restaurant service! Then it's **St. Louis** for the Gateway Arch, which commemorates the settlement of America's West.

Home to Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede, **Branson** is where it's at... in Missouri. On to cowboy country and an introduction to the West with a visit to **Oklahoma City's** National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

Stop at the 'Official' Route 66 Museum in **Clinton**, before making your way into **Texas**. Visit the Cadillac Ranch, a public art installation and sculpture in Amarillo, Texas, en route to **Albuquerque** and see petroglyphs in **El Morro National Monument**.

Opt to stop by the 'Sky City' ruins on the Acoma Indian Reservation near **Gallup**, home to a diverse population, with a third of its residents being of Native American descent.

Take a small diversion to **The Grand Canyon**, an iconic symbol of the Desert Southwest and a spectacle not to be missed.

The Snow Cap Diner makes for a quirky lunch stop full to the brim of pure Americana. Then try your luck on the one-armed bandits or take in a show - **Las Vegas** is Americana at its most outrageous.

Finish your tour at Santa Monica Pier where the Route 66 officially ends.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ Explore the Route 66 Vintage Iron Motorcycle Museum
- ▶ Visit the historic Coleman Theatre
- ▶ Entry to Abraham Lincoln's House and Museum
- ▶ St Louis Gateway Arch
- ▶ Stay at the famous and historic El Rancho Hotel
- ▶ Visit Pontiac's painted wall murals
- ▶ See the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo
- ▶ Cross the sprawling Great Plains
- ▶ Cruise the Las Vegas Strip on a tour of the city
- ▶ Hit the hiking trails at Grand Canyon National Park
- ▶ Visit iconic Santa Monica Pier where the Route 66 officially ends



★ ITINERARY AND DETAILS

Day 1: Chicago You've arrived in Chicago, the official start of Route 66. A welcome meeting will be held at 18:00 hrs in your hotel for you to meet your tour leader and fellow travelling companions with the remainder of the day free to explore. Grab yourself a slice of deep-dish pizza, venture up the Willis Tower or take to the streets for your very own walking tour along the shores of Lake Michigan.

Optional Activities:

- 'Bobby's Bike Hike' - Chicago US\$35
- Museums - Chicago US\$20-50
- Museum of Science and Industry - Chicago US\$18

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 2: Pontiac to Springfield After leaving Chicago, your first stop is the town of Pontiac to see the fantastic Main Street murals celebrating Route 66, the Pontiac automobile brand and local cultural and political history. A collection of more than 150 artists known as the 'Walldogs' painted a collection of 18 murals in just four days in the summer of 2009. Then you'll head south to the iconic Route 66 stop of Springfield, the capital of Illinois. Springfield's favourite son was Abraham Lincoln and you'll pay a visit to the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the home that he lived in with his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, from 1844 until 1861 when he became US President. Springfield is also the birthplace of the corn dog and drive-thru restaurants, so make sure you arrive with an empty stomach!

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 3: St Louis From Springfield, Illinois, it's only a couple of hours drive to St Louis, Missouri. Founded in 1764 it became a major port on the Mississippi River and even hosted the Olympic Games in 1904. The Gateway Arch commemorates the settlement of America's West and it was from here that countless pioneers set out to conquer the wild frontier. Stop at Ted Drewes, an iconic Route 66 attraction, where you can try a 'Concrete', an extremely thick milkshake made from vanilla frozen custard. Spend the evening checking out the city's vibrant nightlife at your leisure.

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 4: Branson Home to Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede and considered an alternative version of The Strip, country music is to Branson what gambling is to Las Vegas. With over 50 dinner theatres, shows and other entertainment oddities, Branson is where it's at in Missouri. It unleashes a hefty dose of pure Americana and a wonderful playlist to enjoy it to.

Optional Activities:

- Meramec Caverns US\$21
- Dixie's Stampede Dinner US\$55-\$60

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 5-6: Oklahoma City Oklahoma, with more driveable miles of the old highway than any other state, is a mecca for fans of the 'Mother Road'. Oklahoma City is the capital and the largest city in the state. You spend a couple of nights here and can enjoy a full day discovering some of the city's many cultural attractions. Visit the Route 66 Vintage Iron Motorcycle Museum and the historic Coleman Theatre - built in the late 1920s in the era of vaudeville and silent films. Oklahoma is also the gateway to cowboy country so what could be a better introduction to the 'Wild West' than an optional visit to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Originally established in 1955 as the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Museum, it has broadened its scope to encompass both Western and Native American artwork and artefacts as well as historic photographs. Oklahoma City is a great place to see a baseball game so if you're interested, please mention this to your leader early on. A top tip is to swing by the many food trucks scattered around the city and sample some local flavours at reasonable prices.

Optional Activities:

- Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum US\$13

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 7: Amarillo Amarillo in the state of Texas is your destination for today. Before you leave Oklahoma and get on your 'Way to Amarillo', you'll visit the 'official' Route 66 Museum to learn about the legends surrounding the road you're travelling on, and make a short stop at Lucille's Service Station & Roadhouse. Then you make your way to the Big Texan Steak Ranch for a steak meal (optional). If you can eat a 72 oz steak in less than one hour, you get it for free! This is 'Man Vs Food' for real!

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 8: Albuquerque Your Route 66 road trip continues with a visit to the Cadillac Ranch, where 10 classic cars are buried nose-down in the dirt. The owners encourage graffiti, so you can grab a spray can and leave your mark! After a short driving time you reach the Midpoint Café, the midway point between Chicago and Los Angeles, which is famous for hot coffee and rolls. Today you make a stop at Tucumcari Post and Curios, an eccentric souvenir store and drive through the Tijeras Canyon which cuts the Southern Rocky Mountains from east to west.

Optional Activities:

- Spray graffiti at Cadillac Ranch - spray can at own cost US\$3-8

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 9: Gallup Drive along the Rio Puerco Valley to Inscription Rock, a cliff face at El Morro National Monument where you can observe Native American petroglyphs. Cross the Continental Divide en route to Gallup. Stay at the El Rancho Hotel, a little slice of history which counts John Wayne and Katherine Hepburn amongst its famous guests.

Optional Activities:

- Acoma Indian Reservation and Sky Pueblo US\$23

Accommodation: Historic hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 10-11: Grand Canyon National Park Stop at the Petrified Forest National Park to see the different colours of rock layered on top of each other. Pass through Winslow and see the location mentioned in The Eagles' lyric, "standin' on the corner in Winslow, Arizona". The Grand Canyon is the ultimate symbol of the Desert Southwest and a spectacle not to be missed. It's not on the original Route 66, but it's so close it would be a crime to pass it by! This incredible natural wonder is difficult to comprehend. You'll have plenty of opportunity to explore the park at your own pace. In your free time, we highly recommend a scenic helicopter flight over the canyon, which offers perspectives that you simply can't see visiting on foot. Venture down the Bright Angel Trail to Plateau Point, or stroll along the more leisurely West Rim Trail and catch a shuttle bus out to Hermit's Rest. Finish your day by watching the amazing IMAX film, 'The Grand Canyon Experience', and enjoy a spectacular sunset over one of the world's natural wonders!

Optional Activities:

- Grand Canyon helicopter flight US\$254-\$284
- Grand Canyon IMAX theater US\$15

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 12-13: Las Vegas The historic Route 66 town of Seligman and its Snow Cap Diner makes for a quirky stop, especially since it's filled to the brim with pure Americana. Next up is Vegas and if it's gambling you want, you have come to the right place as nowhere else in the world will you find so many casinos. In Las Vegas you'll enjoy a city tour to discover some of the quirky things that epitomise this city, as well as learning about some of its colourful history. You also have time for some last minute shopping and some time to relax by the pool before a night out on the town amidst the bright lights and world-class shows.

Optional Activities:

- Go karting - Las Vegas US\$26
- Helicopter flight - Las Vegas US\$124
- Gun range - Las Vegas US\$20-\$100
- VIP club tour (includes 4 clubs and limo) - Las Vegas US\$100
- Get married in Las Vegas (not legally binding) \$220
- Limo ride - Las Vegas US\$25-\$30 per group
- Roller coasters - Las Vegas US\$25-\$40

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 14: Las Vegas to Los Angeles On your final day you have the endless sunshine of California in your sights, following Route 66 across the great Mojave Desert to the city of Los Angeles. You'll toast farewell to an epic road trip and to your new friends from the iconic Santa Monica Pier.

This tour ends at our gateway hotel at approximately 17:00 hrs. We can book your post-tour accommodation at our gateway hotel if required. If you are planning to fly tonight, please do not book a flight that departs before 21:00 hrs.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

There are opportunities for optional activities during your tour. Your tour leader will organise these on your behalf and you will pay locally in cash. You'll find the main optional activities listed above under each itinerary day description, along with guideline prices. It may not be possible to do all optional activities listed on each tour.

PHYSICAL RATING/PREPARATION

This discovery tour is suitable for people with all levels of experience and fitness. These tours have a more relaxed pace with an emphasis on sightseeing; discovering local culture, visiting main attractions and enjoying beautiful surroundings. There will be a wide variety of optional activities available so you can tailor your tour depending on your interests.

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

All departure dates for this trip are 100% guaranteed, so once you've booked and paid your deposit you're going. Please check our website for our latest range of departure dates for this trip.

TOUR ITINERARIES

Although each tour follows an itinerary, there is a certain amount of flexibility and from time to time your tour leader may suggest changes. This may be due to road conditions, weather or a visit to a special attraction or event that happens to be in progress. Flexibility is key and often a side diversion will be a highlight of the tour. Hikes and optional activities cannot be guaranteed and may vary depending on ability, group interest, local weather conditions and time of year.

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.

Please ensure that you download an up-to-date copy of this dossier before you depart to ensure you have the most up-to-date information. Our itineraries are occasionally amended in response to customer feedback or for operational reasons.

This dossier is valid for all tours departing in 2017. Itineraries may be subject to change with the publication of our 2018/19 brochure in Autumn 2017, at which point revised 2018 dossiers will be made available.



★ CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

"The overall experience of travelling Route 66 and the stops along the way!... A very enjoyable trip" - **Susan Anderson from the UK**

Please see our website for more customer reviews from independent reviewer Feefo.

★ BEFORE YOU DEPART

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

For anyone leaving from the UK we would be pleased to book your flight in conjunction with your tour. Please contact us for competitive prices on flights departing from most UK airports.

If you are booking your own flights, you are free to arrive at any time on day one but it is advisable that you arrive in plenty of time to reach your joining hotel and attend your welcome meeting. We also suggest that you book your return flight the day after your tour finishes. If you have to return home on the day your tour finishes, please make sure that your flight does not depart before 21:00 hrs.

Please note that we cannot be held responsible for any delays, cancellations, changes to your flights, or any missed flights. We are unable to delay a tour, or finish a tour early due to your flight times.

CITY SIGHTSEEING

If you are spending extra time in our gateway cities, you can now plan in advance by pre-booking unique city sightseeing day tours in addition to your trip. Find out more at: www.grandamericanadventures.com/citytours

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must be insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs, air ambulance and helicopter rescue service). You will be asked to provide details of your insurance policy, including insurer, policy number and phone number before embarking on the trip.

We offer an insurance policy that is designed specifically to cover the potential risks on our tours - particularly the many optional activities offered. If you do not take our policy, you must ensure that the policy you do take offers an equivalent level of protection and covers you for the activities involved - be aware that some policies do not include, or restrict, coverage for this type of travel. There may be cheaper policies available,



but this does not mean it may be better value - we strongly advise you check fully what will and won't be covered. Any claims concerning matters for which you are insured must be directed to your insurers.

Please note: We can only offer cover for passengers residing within the European Union. For those outside the EU we recommend Journeyman Services who have a tailored policy for Grand American Adventures clients. Visit www.journeyman-services.com.

PASSPORT AND VISAS

It is important that you apply for your American entry ESTA while in your home country. For specific visa information, please consult the relevant embassies. Please note it is your responsibility to ensure you have valid passport and the correct visas for your tour.

VISA AND RULES FOR ENTRY TO THE USA

Travellers from the EU and certain countries are eligible to travel to the USA under the Visa Waiver Program. All eligible travellers who wish to travel under the Visa Waiver Program must apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation) before travelling to the USA. At the time of compilation there is a US\$14 fee for the electronic ESTA. The ESTA will be valid for a period of two years, or until a person's passport expires. You should apply for an ESTA at least 72 hours before you travel, and we recommend you carry your ESTA approval with you. All travellers wishing to enter the US under the Visa Waiver Program will need to hold a passport with an integrated chip (an ePassport). New rules exclude from the VWP most people who have travelled to Iran, Iraq, Sudan or Syria since 1 March 2011, and those who have dual nationality of these countries. This means that existing ESTAs could be revoked, and you will instead need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate.

You can apply for an ESTA at: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>.

Passengers that have not applied for and received travel authorisation via ESTA prior to travel may be denied boarding, experience delayed processing or be denied admission at the US port of entry. However, neither possession of a visa nor meeting the basic requirements for travelling visa-free on the VWP, guarantees admission to the United States. As with most countries, the final determination of admissibility is made by immigration officials at the port of entry.

Important reminder: If you are refused boarding or denied admission at the US port of entry you will still be subject to our cancellation charges in accordance with the terms of our contract with you.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

If you have any medical conditions, take prescribed medicines, or have a condition that will affect your participation in the tour, you must inform

Grand American Adventures or your travel agent at the time of booking. Please be aware we may require a doctor's note prior to travel for some conditions. This information is essential in case of emergency. All of our vehicles carry a basic first-aid kit, but for everyday use you should

bring your own medical supplies, such as pain relievers, antibiotic cream and upset stomach relievers, in addition to sunscreen and insect repellent.

★ WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

SPENDING MONEY

We recommend you take at least US\$50 dollars per day for meals not included in the tour, drinks, snacks and other incidentals. You should also budget for expected tipping, as well as for the optional activities that you would like to do.

We suggest you bring USD\$150 with you in cash to have with at the beginning of your trip. ATM's and cash machines are readily available throughout North America and major credit cards are widely accepted throughout the country. All ATMs in the USA charge to withdraw money (from \$1-\$5). In some off the beaten track destinations ATM's and cash machines may be limited. Please ensure that your credit or debit cards have international access and a PIN number to access your funds at the start of the tour. It is important you advise your bank prior to leaving your home country of your intended travel, so they do not block your card citing the reason as fraud.

PRE-PAID CURRENCY CARDS

It is personal preference as to how you take your money and it's recommended to take some cash with you for arrival. Grand American Adventures recommend FairFX prepaid credit cards, as these can be a cost effective and safe way to take funds overseas. Please ask one of our sales consultants or visit www.fairfx.com/grandamericanadventures to find out how to receive a FREE currency card, worth a retail value of £9.95.

TIPPING

Although it may not be customary in your country, it is normal and expected in North America to tip local guides, waiters, bar staff, taxi drivers and anyone who provides a service for you. Service workers are paid a low wage and depend on tips for their livelihood. It can be embarrassing if you're confronted by a local who is expecting a tip and you are not aware of how much to offer. For this reason we have listed guideline prices below.

A 15-17% tip is standard in restaurants and you should also expect to tip \$1 per drink in bars, \$1-2 per bag for porters as well 10% for taxi drivers. It's also typical to tip around 10% for local guides who provide optional activities.

Your tour leader will work long and hard for you during your tour and we recommend a discretionary tip of US\$5-\$10 per passenger per day if your leader's performance meets or exceeds your expectations.

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE

One suitcase, soft holdall or rucksack (23kg maximum) per person. A small daypack and camera can also be carried in the van. Before you travel, please check the baggage allowance with the airline you're flying with as this may be less than 23kg.

We are unable to offer luggage storage facilities however, some of our pre and post tour hotels will provide this service although there may be a charge. Please contact the hotels directly for further information.

TEMPERATURE CHART

HIGH / LOW TEMPERATURES IN CELSIUS (°C)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Chicago	HIGH -1	2	8	15	21	27	29	28	24	17	9	2
	LOW -8	-6	-1	6	11	17	20	19	14	8	2	-5
St Louis	HIGH 4	7	13	19	25	29	32	31	27	21	13	6
	LOW -4	-2	3	8	14	19	22	21	16	10	4	-2
Oklahoma City	HIGH 10	13	17	22	27	31	34	34	29	23	17	11
	LOW -2	1	5	10	16	20	22	22	17	11	4	-1
Grand Canyon NP	HIGH 5	7	10	15	21	27	29	27	24	18	11	6
	LOW -8	-6	-4	0	4	8	12	12	8	2	-3	-7
Las Vegas	HIGH 13	17	20	25	31	37	40	39	34	27	19	14
	LOW 1	3	7	10	15	20	24	23	19	12	6	1
Los Angeles	HIGH 18	18	19	21	22	24	27	28	27	24	23	19
	LOW 8	9	9	10	12	13	16	16	14	12	10	8

C / F 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

PACKING TIPS

CLOTHING

Please keep in mind that our dress tends to be informal. It is advised that you take a practical selection of clothes for both warm and cool climates to suit the season. Please see the temperature guide showing the highs and lows that can be expected in key locations that your tour visits. However please remember that this is just a guide and you may encounter a wide variety of temperatures en route due to altitude and unforeseen weather conditions - so it's best to be prepared!

Besides your essential clothing, here's a checklist of other items you should take:

- Small day pack
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm sweater / fleece
- Casual 'evening out' clothes
- Plasters
- Hiking poles
- Comfortable day shoes
- Sandals or flip-flops
- Swim wear
- Sun hat / sunglasses
- Camera / binoculars
- SD memory card / Spare camera batteries
- Water bottle
- Small flashlight / head torch
- Sunscreen / insect repellent (20% DEET)
- Travel power adaptor
- Toiletries / personal medicine

Please note airlines have various rules on what can be carried in your luggage - if in doubt check with your airline before travelling.

FOOTWEAR

We recommend walking shoes/boots, as comfortable shoes with good ankle support will make all walking more enjoyable. If you do not own a pair, then sports trainers will suffice although this is a personal choice. If you intend to do some walking, it is recommended to bring thick walking socks for comfort.

CLOTHES WASHING

You will have the opportunity to wash your clothes whilst you are on tour, and this can often be done at the hotel or in town. Ask your tour leader for local information.

BATTERY CHARGING

Many of our travellers bring mobile phones, music devices and cameras that require frequent battery charging during a tour. For hotel tours your hotel room will have an electrical outlet (just remember your international adaptor!) and we recommend that you bring a car charger. Every vehicle has two outlets for your use, but please bear in mind that thirteen people travelling with multiple devices can mean very little charge time per person per day, so it may be useful to bring along extra batteries just in case!

WI-FI ON TOUR

Whilst in the USA our vehicles are equipped with free Wi-Fi, so you can keep in touch with friends and family from the road. Free Wi-Fi will also often be available at campgrounds, hotels and hostels.

In order for us to provide this service, we operate a fair usage policy to ensure everyone has equal access to Wi-Fi and is subject to a set data quota, sufficient for normal usage. This means that you are not permitted to stream films, music or download large files. If you do so, this will deplete the entire group's data allowance. For this reason, if you reach your data limit your tour leader may need to turn off the Wi-Fi to ensure you do not run out of data in the latter stages of your trip. Please note: In some remote areas you may not be able to pick up the Wi-Fi in the van, and only five people can be connected to the Wi-Fi at one time. Once you have finished using the Wi-Fi please disconnect to prevent wastage.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

In the event of an emergency or if you wish to report a problem on tour please do not hesitate to call our toll free* 24-hour emergency contact number. Remember, if we don't know about it we won't be able to do anything about it.

Phone number for family to contact you in case of emergency:

Toll-Free (*in the US): +1 (800) 786 - 8735

International: +1 (707) 523 - 1800



★ JOINING YOUR TOUR

TOUR AND ACCOMMODATION VOUCHERS

A tour voucher will be emailed to you once your balance has been paid in full. Vouchers for any hotel nights you have booked before or after your tour as well as any additional day tours will also be sent to you. You can print off the PDF vouchers or download to your smartphone. For those without email access your vouchers will be posted. Please make sure that these vouchers are correct.

PRE/POST TOUR HOTELS

Grand American Adventures tours begin and end at our gateway hotels, which are conveniently located in the departure and arrival cities. We offer you the option to book additional hotel nights before or after your tour however, they should be booked prior to departure with our reservations team. See below for joining and end hotel details.

Please note some hotels may take a debit or credit card as a deposit at check in. They may also take an amount to cover incidentals. Funds can be held until check out at which time the amount actually incurred will be charged. Please clarify with the hotel when you check out that all deposits will be refunded as promptly as possible.

JOINING POINT

You will need to make your own way to the joining hotel for your tour. Please find the details below:

Holiday Inn Express Chicago
640 N Wabash Avenue
Chicago
Illinois 60611
United States
Tel: +1 312-787-4030

Transfer: "Continental Airport Express" is a private shuttle company and can be found in the airport baggage claim area. Cost is approx. US\$28 per person, plus tip. Transfer takes approx. 45 minutes. If you wish to pre-reserve your shuttle, call within the US toll-free (888) 284-3826 or visit www.airportexpress.com. Failing this a taxi should cost you in the region of US\$50-\$60 depending on traffic.

You are free to arrive at any time on day one of your tour but please ensure you leave plenty of time to reach your joining hotel and attend your welcome meeting. During this evening meeting you will meet your tour leader and fellow travellers and also spend a few minutes filling out necessary paperwork, so please bring your insurance documents, passport and tour documentation to the meeting.

ARRIVAL COMPLICATIONS

Sometimes the unexpected can happen; your plane may be delayed or you may even miss it! If you have missed your tour departure, first check with the hotel to see if your tour leader has left you a message. If not, call the relevant emergency number and speak to our staff who will be happy to help you catch up with the group. Please note that you are responsible for any extra travelling expenses incurred due to you missing your tour's departure, so please be on time.

FINISHING POINT

Fairfield Inn & Suites Los Angeles LAX/El Segundo
525 North Sepulveda Boulevard
El Segundo
Los Angeles
California 90245
United States
Tel: +1 310 356 4577

Transfer: The hotel provides a complimentary airport shuttle transfer from the Fairfield Inn & Suites Hotel to Los Angeles International Airport. Please arrange this directly with the hotel reception ahead of your departure time. Please note a tip of US\$1-\$2 is typically expected.

Your tour will end upon arrival at the above hotel, which will be around 17:00 hrs on the final day. Some tour activities scheduled for the last day may preclude an earlier arrival at the end point hotel, so you should not

book a flight that leaves prior to 21:00 hrs. You will be responsible for any transportation costs if you have to arrive for an earlier flight and you must make us aware of this well in advance of your tour departing. If you require accommodation for the last night, it is essential that you book this before your tour departs.



★ ABOUT OUR TOURS

TRANSPORTATION

You'll travel in a private 15-Seater Ford vehicle which is driven by your tour guide. All luggage, equipment and other necessities are stored in a specially designed trailer or storage area to maximise space and comfort in the vehicle. The size of our vehicles allows us to reach more remote destinations not accessible to larger vehicles. All our vehicles are equipped with CD stereo systems (often iPod compatible) and air-conditioning.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation will be in clean, comfortable hotels or lodges with en-suite bathroom facilities, chosen for their friendly atmosphere and proximity to the highlights of the region. You will be roomed with a fellow passenger of the same sex on a twin share basis (two people per room) unless you are travelling as a couple.

OPTIONAL SOLO SLEEPER

The accommodation on our tours is based on twin-share, so if you're travelling on your own, you'll share a room with a fellow passenger of the same sex. However, if you would prefer your own space we offer a Solo Sleeper option where you can have your own room for an additional fee.

On this tour, we are able to provide the option of pre-booking a guaranteed single room for every night of the tour. Please note that the number of single rooms we can offer per tour is limited, so it's best to book early if you would like this option. Please see our website or call us for the Solo Sleeper option cost.

SECURITY

No matter where you find yourself in the world, you need to look after your valuables. In general, the safest place for items such as passports, flight tickets and cash is on your person or in a hotel safe where available, and do not leave valuables in the vehicle. When in doubt consult your tour leader.

We would like to remind you that you are ultimately responsible for your safety and well-being. Whether you are taking public transport, going for a hike or taking part in an optional activity, we request that you carry yourself in a mature and responsible manner - not only for your own personal safety, but for that of the group and other travellers.

MEALS

On hotel based tours, you will usually eat out in local restaurants. To help you budget for your meals on average hotel breakfasts cost from

US\$6-12, lunches from US\$8-15 and dinners from US\$13-30; this does not include alcoholic beverages. Wine costs approximately US\$5 per glass and beer US\$4 per bottle. Please also 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.

Your tour leader may offer your group the option to operate a 'lunch only' food kitty, this has proven to be a popular alternative to three daily restaurant meals. Leaders will fully explain this option while on your tour, and the whole group will have to agree for this system to run.

Please make sure we are aware of any special meal requirements before travelling. We will do all we can to accommodate for various dietary requirements but in certain parts of North America certain food types can be limited.

YOUR TOUR LEADER

Your tour leader will take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your tour, they will drive the van taking you from A to B and make sure everything runs smoothly. Your tour leader is there to make sure you get the most out of your tour; organising activities, providing information and answering any questions you may have as well as sorting out any queries or problems you may encounter. If you have any particular interests or things you would like to do on your tour, then please let your tour leader know at the beginning of the tour and they will do their best to help you.

We would like to note that US Law regulates the total number of hours your tour leader is available to work. Our trips are designed to make the most of your time in North America, but please understand that there will be certain times each day that your leader will need to be off duty from work. Due to these restrictions, particularly after the longer driving days, your leader may not be able to join you for some of the daily activities or may need to tend to other work duties.

THE GROUP

The maximum group size is 13 passengers. Passengers come from a range of countries worldwide (average of four nationalities per group) and many will be solo travellers. You will find you have many things in common with your fellow travellers, including a passion for discovery.

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 70 will be requested to complete a self-declaration of fitness form prior to travel.

Our tours are a unique holiday experience 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 strongly enough the importance of bringing a positive attitude with you on tour; a sure guarantee to enjoying each and every moment, even in the adversity of the odd rainstorm!

RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

We are committed to offering low impact tours that benefit the places and communities we visit as well as our travellers. It is important for us all to be aware of the delicate balance that exists in the variety of natural wonders you will visit. National parks and monuments, archaeological sites and other sensitive areas should and must be treated with respect.

We have created a 'Travellers' Code of Conduct' to help prepare and inform our groups of the various positive or negative effects they could have on a destination. This code includes following the 'Leave No Trace' ethic; this is an international campaign that is designed to help us minimise the impact



on the national parks and other wilderness areas that we visit. Our tour leaders will explain this code of conduct during the first night's orientation talk and encourage you to follow it throughout the tour. Grand American Adventures also host fundraising events throughout the year to raise money in support of BAWT.

We are proud supporters of Bay Area Wilderness Training (www.bawt.org) a charity based in Oakland California which works to connect disadvantaged children in the local urban area with the great outdoors. Their work helps to provide these young people with life changing experiences which they can apply to everyday life. Everyone booking with Grand American Adventures has the option to donate £1/\$1/€1 to support this well-deserved charity and we will match this donation.

Whenever possible, we use local accommodation and activity providers. We also shop locally for groceries, eat in small family-run restaurants and visit local shops whenever possible. This all brings economic benefit to the local communities that we visit.

★ AFTER YOUR TOUR

FEEDBACK AND REVIEWS

We want to hear about your experience and stories from the road, so please feel free to e-mail us any comments, feedback or reviews whilst you are on tour or when you return home to:

comments@grandamericanadventures.com.

We value your feedback and tour reviews, which help us in developing and improving our programme. Input and suggestions from travellers like you has helped make Grand American Adventures what it is today.



Responsible Tourism on the Historic Route 66...

In 1938 Route 66 became the first paved highway linking the USA from east to west. It was a powerful and iconic symbol of the great American road trip. Creation of the Interstate and bypass signalled the decline of businesses and towns along the Route 66. This tour invests a significant amount of time and money utilising services and businesses to keep this historic stretch of road from crumbling into the past.

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!

We can always use your holiday snaps and short videos to better depict and promote all the fascinating places we visit. Whether it's just sitting around the campfire or strolling down The Strip, there's no better way to share your Grand American Adventure. So if you want to send over a couple of your best shots (max 10MB) please e-mail them to comments@grandamericanadventures.com. You know what they say, a picture's worth a thousand words!

★ HOW TO BOOK

Contact us by telephone, email or via our website to check availability for the tour you are interested in. We can normally hold a seat on 'option' for up to three days to allow you time to finalise your travel arrangements. In order to secure your place we require a deposit (full payment within eight weeks of travel) and an agreement from you to our terms and conditions. Check availability early to avoid disappointment: www.grandamericanadventures.com

FURTHER QUESTIONS

Please contact our UK Sales team on:

Tel: +44 (0)208 682 8921

Enquiries: info@grandamericanadventures.com

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