



SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES ACROSS NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

TRIP DOSSIER

National Park Lodges



Tour Overview

An incredible journey, from ancient sequoias to hidden lakes and deserted canyons, this tour discovers the great American outdoors.

Heading high into the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the magnificent Yosemite National Park, we begin with an easy trail walk to the Giant Sequoias before our two night stay at the historic Wawona Lodge. After enjoying the included welcome dinner at the lodge, you will be ready for Yosemite! Enjoy a full day exploring the park's waterfalls and spectacular glacier-hewn gorges before returning to the hotel to relax with a cocktail on the veranda. Leaving the park we continue our journey to the vibrant forest and deep blue of Lake Tahoe.

From Tahoe we delve deeper into the vast Nevada Desert for some grand scenery. Our next destination, Yellowstone National Park, is the world's first National Park and home to a large variety of wildlife including grizzly bears, wolves, bison and elk. We will explore the park's majestic wilderness and some of the world's most extraordinary geysers, then return to relax at the Yellowstone Inn.

Travelling past Grand Teton National Park, we visit Jackson to enjoy a friendly and authentic old west experience. Once home to trappers, Jackson is now home to lovely hiking trails, as well as cafes and western style saloons! After a night in Salt Lake City, we continue on to Moab and Arches National Park, home to over 2,000 natural sandstone arches, including the brilliant Delicate Arch. This area also offers an opportunity for some 'off road touring' as well as incredible vistas.

Next, we visit the spectacular and unforgettable Monument Valley - the ancestral homeland of the Navajo tribe - America's largest. Our Navajo guide will provide you with a unique insight into the Navajo culture and the highlights of the Valley. We arrive at the Grand Canyon NP for a two night stay at the Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge. Located on the less travelled North Rim we enjoy exploring the natural beauty of the Canyon at our own pace before retiring to the lodge to relax and take in the expansive views of the Canyon below, not to mention the glorious sunrise!

Our last National Park, Zion is one of the most enjoyable hiking destinations in the US. Choose to walk amongst the towering cliffs, challenge your courage in a small narrow canyon or ascend the 600+ metres to Angel's Landing, rightfully regarded as one of the most remarkable trails in the whole National Parks system. There may also be time for a horseride in Zion before finishing this trip of a lifetime in Las Vegas.

Tour Itinerary

- 1 San Francisco >> Yosemite NP (HP)
- 2 Yosemite NP (HP)
- 3 Lake Tahoe (HP)
- 4 Nevada/Idaho (HP)
- 5 Yellowstone NP (HP)
- 6 Yellowstone NP (HP)
- 7 Jackson, Wyoming (HP)
- 8 Salt Lake City (HP)
- 9 Moab/Arches NP (HP)
- 10 Moab/Arches NP (HP)
- 11 Monument Valley (HP)
- 12 Grand Canyon NP (HP)
- 13 Grand Canyon NP (HP)
- 14 Zion NP (HP)
- 15 Zion NP (HP)
- 16 Zion NP >> Las Vegas

(HP) = Hotel night included in the price

Included Highlights

- ✓ National Park lodge stays inside Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Zion
- ✓ Navajo Indian guided 4x4 tour of Monument Valley
- ✓ Welcome dinner at Yosemite National Park
- ✓ Grand Canyon sunrise or sunset
- ✓ Scenic walks and hikes
- ✓ National parks and monuments - Yosemite, Yellowstone, Arches, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon and Zion
- ✓ Professional tour leader, equipment and private transportation

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.

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



National Park Lodges Tour Information

DESTINATIONS

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

Arches National Park - Arches NP is located just a few miles outside the town of Moab, Utah. Stunning red sandstone arches have been created by a million years of wind whipping down the west slope of the Rocky Mountains. Here you will have the opportunity to hike to many of these incredible arches which are known by descriptive names such as, Landscape Arch and the famous Delicate Arch.

Canyonlands National Park - There is a little known place in eastern Utah where the mighty Colorado and Green Rivers meet - these are the Canyonlands. This amazing landscape is a Mecca for mountain bikers and whitewater rafters. Whatever you choose to do, make sure you explore all it offers from natural bridges and arches to towering cliffs and bottomless canyons.

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.

Jackson - Once a hideout for outlaws and rustlers, Jackson is now a 4-season getaway for today's rich and famous. Jackson is a great base for exploring the Teton Mountains. This area is well known as a "playground" for adventure seekers. Surrounded by beautiful scenery, you can spend your days hiking, mountain biking, rafting and more!

Las Vegas - Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in the United States and the "tacky capital of the world", 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.

Moab - Located in the heart of the Canyonlands, Moab offers a great base for exploring Arches National Park and the less visited Canyonlands National Park. If you can pull yourself away from the pool at the campsite, you might try rafting on the Colorado, a Hummer ride into the backcountry, or mountain biking down the Gemini Bridges Trail, a 13-mile downhill experience.

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 included Jeep tour and learn the magic and myth of the rich Native American culture.

Yellowstone National Park - This NP is so large its boundaries cross into three states. Yellowstone has one of the highest concentrations of geothermal activity on the planet. Buffalo roam amongst the erupting geysers and steam rises from various rivers running through the park. A fire in the 1980s ravaged much of the park, which is now a living monument to nature's power of regeneration.

Yosemite National Park - Yosemite NP sits nestled in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range of Northern California. Here green forest meets granite walls measuring several thousand feet in height. Rock climbers come from all over the world to scale rocks named Half Dome and El Capitan. Hike to the base of some of the largest waterfalls in the world or rest on the banks of the Merced River.

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 and several historic National Park 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



National Park Lodges Tour Information

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES / SPENDING MONEY

Apart from meals, 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:

★ Whitewater rafting (in season)	US \$45-150
★ Hummer tour	US \$60-145
★ Hiking	Included
★ Rodeo (in season)	US \$9-18
★ Mountain biking	US \$60-145
★ Casinos / gambling	You decide!

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.

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

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:

"Stayed in the most fantastic lodges in Yosemite, Yellowstone, North rim of Grand Canyon, Zion. The best leader I have had in 4 trips - full of enthusiasm, fun and always so pleasant, polite and willing to do anything to make the holiday as memorable as possible. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!" - Linda Turner 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.



National Park Lodges Tour Information

Average High / Low Temperatures in Celsius (°C)												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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
San Francisco	13/8	15/9	16/9	17/10	18/10	19/12	19/12	19/12	21/13	20/13	18/10	14/8
Yellowstone	-2/-13	1/-10	3/-9	10/-4	16/1	20/4	26/7	25/7	19/3	13/-2	4/-7	-1/-10
Yosemite NP	8/-3	13/-2	15/-1	19/2	23/6	28/9	32/12	32/11	29/8	23/4	14/-1	8/-3
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

