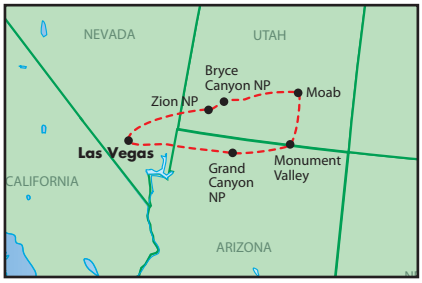
SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES
ACROSS NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

TRIP DOSSIER

National Parks Walk



Tour Overview

Leaving Las Vegas, we begin this trip with a short drive through the Mojave Desert into Utah, where we get as close to the soul of Zion National Park as the soles of your shoes will allow. Choose from an assortment of short and beautiful trails to warm up (Emerald Pools/Gateway to the Narrows) or indulge in a longer hike to Angel's Landing, which rewards you with a breathtaking view! If weather conditions permit, you may choose to hike deep into the Zion Narrows. In Bryce Canyon National Park, walk the Queen's Garden/Navajo Loop trail, where the countless spires, pinnacles and hoodoos of this spectacular canyon make an indelible impression on the mind.

Arches National Park offers leisurely hikes through spectacular sandstone landscapes with colourful names like the Devil's Garden. Some may choose to spend the afternoon "off the trail" floating on the nearby Colorado River, while others may want to experience the charms of Moab - the small eclectic town that serves as the gateway to both the Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. The following day is devoted to visiting Canyonlands National Park. Our afternoon hike ends with a visit to Dead Horse Point for tremendous canyon views and another picture perfect sunset.

Then, on to the Navajo Nation's greatest treasure, Monument Valley. After preparing camp, set out on a spectacular, backcountry 4-wheel drive and hiking tour deep into the heart of the valley. Stop and photograph both the famous and lesser known sights in the park, before coming to the end of the 'road'. Our local Navajo guide will then lead us even deeper into the park to trail's end, visiting sights where non-Native Americans rarely go - finishing our day with yet another unforgettable sunset in the valley.

On to Grand Canyon National Park, one of those rare places that no one yet has adequately described, painted or photographed. Watch the sunset on the first night and attempt to comprehend this canyon's staggering dimensions and power. Then hike one of the many trails, catch a bird's-eye view from a helicopter, take a park ranger's guided nature walk, or sit in quiet contemplation on the edge of this natural wonder. This incredible adventure sadly comes to an end when we finally untie our shoelaces after returning to Las Vegas on the final evening.

Tour Itinerary

1	Las Vegas >> Zion NP
2	Zion NP
3	Bryce Canyon NP
4-5	Moab/Arches NP
6	Moab/Canyonlands NP
7	Monument Valley
8-9	Grand Canyon NP
10	Grand Canyon NP >> Las Vegas

Is This Tour For Me?

Choose your own pace and enjoy the quiet perspective of the trail whilst experiencing the spectacular wonders of nature in the great American Southwest! **NB:** This is a camping tour but we also run a National Parks Walk fully accommodated lodging tour from November through to March.

Included Highlights

- ✓ Grand Canyon sunset
- ✓ Half day hiking and 4x4 tour led by Navajo guides in Monument Valley
- ✓ Scenic day walks and hikes in Zion, Bryce and Arches
- ✓ National parks and monuments – Zion, Bryce, Arches, Canyonlands, Monument Valley and the Grand Canyon
- ✓ All meals whilst camping
- ✓ 2 Professional tour leaders, camping fees/equipment and transportation

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

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Check Tour Availability Online @ http://www.grandamericanadventures.com

National Parks Walk Tour Information

DESTINATIONS

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

Arches National Park - Arches National Park 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.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: In the Grand Canyon National Park, the regulations limit the group size and do not allow guided hikes. The tour leaders will provide briefings, directions and maps, but are not permitted to walk with you on the trails.

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.

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.

CAMPING ACCOMMODATION

Camping allows us to stay in the heart of the most breathtaking natural scenery, away from fast food outlets and the encroaching development; and Grand American Adventure's experienced tour leaders and top quality equipment will surely enhance your experience.

Your comfort is important to us and we know that starts with using high quality camping gear. We only use top of the range, spacious two-person tents and thick (air/foam-filled) sleeping pads to ensure your evenings are comfortable and restful. Sturdy camp chairs are always available for those evening chats as the group prepares delicious meals (using state of the art camping stoves). All you need to bring is a warm sleeping bag and a sense of adventure and you will be sure to enjoy the trip of a lifetime!

Nearly all of our local campgrounds provide modern conveniences and amenities such as hot showers (paid locally approx $2) and flush toilets; whilst others will have swimming pools, shops and launderettes. On special occasions, our groups may utilize rustic, wilderness sites in order to fully appreciate more remote areas' natural surroundings. That said, waking up at camp to the smell of fresh brewed coffee provides a truly intimate natural experience and one that eludes conventional tourists.

A sleeping bag is required for this tour. Make sure your sleeping bag is warm enough for the time of year you are travelling.

National Parks Walk Tour Information

FOOD & DRINK

Grand American Adventures includes all meals while camping (alcohol/drinks purchased locally) and you will be sure to create and enjoy regular international dinner parties on the road. Incidentally, our professional guides are great in the kitchen and they will assist the group in preparing delicious, healthy meals so that you can take the path less travelled... with a full stomach.

We prepare plenty of good fresh food on our camping trips and anticipate hearty eaters. Breakfasts often include fresh fruits and cereal, toast, juice, coffee or tea. Fried bacon or sausage, pancakes or eggs may also be available on more leisurely mornings. Lunches are typically picnic style and consist of a selection of delicatessen meats, cheeses and salads. Dinners are filling and main dishes include pastas, grilled meats/chicken/fish, as well as regional specialties such as Mexican fajitas or BBQ's and are accompanied with cooked vegetables or fresh salads.

Meals consist of a variety of balanced dishes and, aiming for universal appeal, we avoid highly spiced foods. Vegetarians are certainly welcome and are always accommodated. Please let us know of any dietary concerns at the time of booking.

On occasion, meals are taken in local restaurants where passengers pay individually for food and drinks en route. Average 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 20%is added to group meals in restaurants in North America and applicable taxes will also be added to all listed menu prices.

GROUP PARTICIPATION

An essential part of a Grand American Adventures camping holiday is helping out around the campsite. Our tents are easy to set up and with guidance from your tour leader, everyone will assist with the setting up and packing of the campsite. As a team, it only takes approximately 20 minutes before setting up your "home with a view" in the great outdoors!

Your tour leaders will organize daily activities and guided hikes, as well as coordinate and assist the group when shopping for food, preparing the daily meals and washing up.

As this is a participatory trip, group members will assist with the preparation of meals and with the washing. That said, often the best meals on the road are created when individuals offer to cook up one of their specialties from home!

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.

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:

★ Scenic flight over Grand Canyon	US$100-275
★ IMAX Theater - Grand Canyon	US$8-12
★ Hiking opportunities	Included

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/coat in case of rain.

Approximate year-round temperatures are listed on the following page.

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 only 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

National Parks Walk Tour Information

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:

"We have just gotten back from the trip and had an absolutely wonderful time. The itinerary was fantastic and we saw some of the most beautiful places! Our guide was great and I would always recommend GAA." – Amy and Michael from the UK

"There was a good group of people...also our two tour guides really added to the overall excellence". – Lauren from the USA

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 (ºC)

	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: -10ºC = 14ºF 0ºC = 32ºF 10ºC = 50ºF 20ºC = 68ºF 30ºC = 86ºF 40ºC = 104ºF