

CANYONS AND INDIAN LANDS – 8 DAYS

Day 1: Arrival day in Las Vegas

Welcome to the 'Neon City' in the Nevada desert, a place you definitely have to experience at least once in your life. The opportunities are endless here and you'll have a full day to explore, so perhaps you could try your luck on the tables, see one of the many world-class shows on offer or sample an all-American buffet. Join us at 18:00 hrs for a welcome meeting with your group and tour leader, afterwards you're free to take in the cityscape at night; wander along the Strip and see the neon lights in all their colourful glory.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: paid locally

Day 2: Las Vegas to Zion National Park

Zion effortlessly mixes peaceful beauty with powerful landscapes and the tree lined Virgin River supports fragile flora and fauna as it meanders below massive, cathedral-like sandstone walls. Zion Canyon was named by the early Mormon settlers of Utah who believed it to be their 'promised land' and it offers some of the best hiking in the southwest USA.

Accommodation: Camping included | Lunch and dinner included

Day 3: Zion National Park

You have a full day to further explore the delights of Zion National Park. There are various hikes to choose from, ranging from easy to strenuous. Of all the walks within the park, one you simply must do is the famous and challenging hike to Angels Landing. Once you've conquered this epic trail you'll be greeted with the most breathtaking panoramas you've ever laid eyes on. For a less strenuous walk take one of the short hikes from the valley floor to view the Lower Emerald Pools and then continue on to the sparkling Upper Emerald Pools, passing a waterfall along the way to discover Zion's 'beach'. Cool off from the summer sun by exploring the Riverside Walk section of the Virgin River. If weather conditions permit, you may choose to hike deep into the Zion Narrows. Dry feet is not an option as you wade through the Virgin River between towering walls. The cool waters and the shadow of the canyon provide a much needed respite from the scorching sun. You finish this incredible day with a night spent under canvas. Camping doesn't get much more perfect than this!

Accommodation: Camping included | Breakfast and lunch included

Day 4: Bryce Canyon National Park

Leaving Zion National Park you climb in elevation to almost 8,296 feet and traverse a high plateau to Bryce Canyon National Park. "Mysterious" and "breathtaking" are a few of the descriptions offered by past visitors to describe this fascinating natural amphitheatre of pink, orange and white sandstone spires, known locally as hoodoos.

There are a variety of scenic overlooks and trails that range from easy to moderate in difficulty. The Navajo or Peek-a-Boo Loop trails will enable you to hike amongst these unique rock formations. Wherever you walk, you'll encounter a kaleidoscope of colours and a fantasy land of rock spires that'll leave you mesmerised. For the photographers amongst you, you may prefer to remain on the rim and photograph the ever-changing shadows and hues as the sun makes its way across the wide-open sky. This is one of the picture perfect moment you've been waiting for.

Accommodation: Camping included | Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Day 5: Monument Valley

Today you travel south-east along the border of Utah and Arizona, making a stop at the immense Glen Canyon Dam en route to one of the most iconic settings in North America, Monument Valley in the heart of the Navajo Nation. This is sacred land to those who call it home; the red sandstone monoliths and spectacular sunsets have been the backdrop to countless Western movies. Explore the incredible

array of rock formations on an included guided backroads tour and learn the magic and myth of the rich Native American culture.

Accommodation: Camping included | Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Day 6-7: Grand Canyon National Park

Continue south through the Navajo Reservation to the Cameron Trading Post where you can browse and shop for local jewellery, crafts and cultural souvenirs. Traverse the eastern entrance of the mighty Grand Canyon where you'll catch your first glimpse of it at Desert View. This incredible spectacle is difficult to comprehend, even as you stand at the rim or hike down into the canyon. Carved over several millennia, this massive wonder of nature is 277 miles (445km) long, up to 18 miles (29km) wide and over one mile (1.6km) deep. Snaking through the canyon floor is the mighty Colorado River, which runs 1450 miles (2,330 km) through seven US states and two Mexican states.

Your tour includes a session at the IMAX Theater, which will give you a good overview of the area and how it developed over time. In your free time, we highly recommend a scenic helicopter flight over the canyon, offering perspectives you simply cannot see visiting on foot. Alternatively, stroll the easy meandering South Rim Trail, hike your way down the more challenging trail to Plateau Point, or relax at the canyon's edge to enjoy the spectacular views of the world's most fantastic natural wonder.

Accommodation: Camping included | Breakfast (x2), lunches (x2) and dinner (x1)

Day 8: Route 66 and Las Vegas

Those special moments keep coming as you rise and shine early doors to experience the sunrise on what is set to be another wonderful day. From the epic Grand Canyon travel south to Williams then west to Seligman where you'll stop for an optional lunch at the Snow Cap Diner along a section of the iconic Route 66. Continue on your journey, making your way towards the neon clad streets of Vegas. Be prepared to be dazzled all over again, Las Vegas makes for a memorable end to a fantastic eight days. If you choose to stay on a few more days, then there is plenty to fill your time; after all Vegas isn't just about gambling.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch included

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