

WESTERN HIGHLIGHTS – 8 DAYS

Day 1: Arrival day in Los Angeles

Welcome to Los Angeles or 'The City of Angels' as it's known to some. With the California sunshine on your face you'll have a welcome meeting at 18:00 hrs in the hotel lobby. Before you meet your tour leader and fellow traveling companions and depending on what time you arrive, you may want to head over to the eclectic melting pot of Venice Beach. Stroll along the coast to Santa Monica Boulevard to ride the famous Ferris wheel and take in the city views.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 2: Prescott, Arizona

Today you journey across California and through the Mohave Desert to Prescott in Arizona. Take time to explore the old town and Whiskey Row a place where dusty cowboys could once enjoy a drink or two in one of the 40 odd saloons. Today, Whiskey Row is still a vibrant centre of activity in downtown Prescott, and while the number of saloons has decreased greatly in the last century, you'll be at no loss to find a great place to eat or people watch. Court House Square is beautiful and in the summer month's there is often live music and bustling markets to enjoy here.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 3-4: Grand Canyon National Park

Leaving early you make your way towards Grand Canyon National Park for the ultimate desert showstopper! Crossing the eastern entrance of the canyon, you'll catch your first glimpse 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 huge wonder of nature is 277 miles long, up to 18 miles wide and over one mile deep. Snaking through the canyon floor is the mighty Colorado River, which runs 1,450 miles through seven US states and two Mexican states.

In your free time, we highly recommend a scenic helicopter flight over the canyon which offers a perspective that you cannot see by visiting on foot. Also recommended is the IMAX Theater's film, Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets, at the National Geographic Visitor Centre, which'll give you an excellent overview of the area and how it developed. Alternatively, stroll the easy meandering South Rim Trail, hike your way down the more challenging trail to Plateau Point, or simply relax at the canyon's edge and enjoy a spectacular sunset over one of the world's most incredible natural wonder.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 5: Route 66 and Las Vegas

En route to Vegas you travel a section of the original Route 66 and visit the quirky town of Seligman, a town full to brim with Americana wares, the perfect stop for some souvenir shopping. Continue on your journey until you enter hedonistic 'Sin City', which really has to be seen to be believed! Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in the United States and is renowned as the 'tacky capital of the world' - home to pirates and pyramids, weddings and water fountains. Upon arrival enjoy a driving tour down the famous Las Vegas Strip and see first-hand the casinos and hotels that make this desert city tick. Vegas really comes alive at night with casinos, shows and the Bellagio Fountain's regular water displays. This city is a real spectacle!

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 6-7: Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park 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 to Yosemite from all over the world to scale the rocks whilst hikers get to walk to the base of some of the largest waterfalls in the world. As you explore the park keep your eyes peeled for varied wildlife such

as deer, elk, and if you're lucky, bear. After a visit to see the amazing Giant Sequoia Trees, Yosemite Valley beckons, offering the chance to cycle, take a dip in the Merced River or wander the meadows. The views are breathtaking from every vantage point - the granite formations of Half Dome, El Capitan and Cathedral Rocks are sure to be forever etched in your mind.
Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 8: Yosemite National Park and San Francisco

Leaving Yosemite's towering Sequoias behind and make your way towards the 'City by the Bay' where your tour comes to a close. Don't despair, you still have time for an orientation tour around the city including the Haight-Ashbury area with its hippy vibes and the chance to walk across the famous Golden Gate Bridge. Completed in 1937, this iconic suspension bridge stretches for 1.7 miles and is one of the most photographed bridges in the world. Another 'must do' in San Francisco is the offshore prison of Alcatraz where you can learn all about the infamous inmates and their failed escape attempts. To do this you'll need to book directly with Alcatraz Cruises in advance for the day after your tour finishes.

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.