

September 23 - October 1, 2020 Co-Sponsored with Swarthmore College

Immerse yourself in the majestic beauty of the American Southwest, discovering the geological wonders of our national parks including visits to Grand Canyon, Zion, and Bryce Canyon. Millions of years of uplift and erosion have left a spectacular, monumental imprint across America's Southwest plateau. Go where hoodoos, slot canyons, arches, buttes, and mesas fill vast horizons with impossible beauty; and learn about the Americans of "Red Rock Country" who shaped our nation's history.

Day 1: Arrive in Phoenix, AZ

Settle into your stunning accommodations before meeting fellow travel companions and Orbridge Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner. Overnight: Arizona Biltmore (D)

Day 2: Phoenix / Sedona / Grand Canyon National Park

Today, travel north through the cactus-studded Sonoran Desert, arriving in captivating Sedona for a brief stop. This breathtakingly picturesque town is a haven for artists and photographers who are dazzled by the landscape filled with remarkable red sandstone cliffs.

This afternoon, journey into the six-million-year-old Grand Canyon—a UNESCO Heritage Site—to marvel at the impressive views that make up one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Wander along the canyon rim and see the West's famous Colorado River below. Join a ranger-led program or relax and enjoy the park's offerings at your leisure. Overnight: Grand Canyon National Park Lodges (B,D)

Day 3: Grand Canyon National Park / Antelope Canyon / Lake Powell

After breakfast, spend free time at the park or choose to take a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fly over the heart of the Grand Canyon during an optional helicopter flight seeing excursion. Later today, enjoy a guided tour of spectacular Antelope Canyon. Have your camera ready to capture the otherworldly passageways of red-orange rock, created by water erosion, which appear "flowing" and reflect light in the most stunning ways.

Continue to Lake Powell where the rest of the day can be spent relaxing and enjoying the lakeside resort. Overnight: Lake Powell Resort (B)



Day 4: Glen Canyon / Monument Valley, UT

This morning, embark upon a raft trip down the Colorado River through nearby Glen Canyon, gazing at the 700- to 1,400-foot red rock cliffs overhead and watching for the California Condor. Stop to view 6,000-year-old petroglyphs, believed to have been carved by Ancestral Puebloans. After, enjoy a coach ride through the Navajo Nation to your accommodations in Monument Valley—a lodge that's famous for its role in dozens of Old West movies, trade, and Navajo territory culture. Settle in and explore the collection of movie memorabilia and Native American artifacts in the Goulding's Museum and Trading Post.

Tonight, retreat to an authentic Navajo cookout and storytelling presentation focused on Navajo legend, songs, and history. Overnight: Goulding's Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 5: Monument Valley / Moab

Today enjoy an excursion aboard a 4x4 open-air vehicle through magnificent Monument Valley alongside your Navajo guide, viewing and listening to stories about the unique sandstone formations. After lunch at Goulding's Lodge, continue through the northwest portion of the Navajo Nation territory in northern Arizona.

Arrive late afternoon in the resort town of Moab for a stay at a lodge perched at the foot of the dramatic red cliffs along the bank of the Colorado River. Enjoy a wine tasting at the resort's winery followed by dinner.

Overnight: Red Cliffs Lodge (B,L,D)

To Make a reservation, please contact Orbridge at (866) 639-0079 or via email guestservices@orbridge.com

Day 6: Moab / Arches National Park / Canyonlands National Park

This morning observe the unusual rock formations in Arches National Park—featuring more than 2,000 natural sandstone arches—including Balanced Rock and the world famous Delicate Arch.

A visit to Canyonlands National Park—the largest national park in Utah—promises spectacular views of towering rock pinnacles and striking desert landscapes. Overnight: Red Cliffs Lodge (B)

Day 7: Capitol Reef National Park / Bryce Canyon National Park

After breakfast, venture to Capitol Reef National Park to view ancient petroglyphs from the Fremont culture. After a picnic lunch on your own, choose between free time in the park or opt to visit the historic Gifford Homestead—a restored early Mormon settlement.

Afterward, travel through stimulating scenery to Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument where you'll capture views of the vast canyons, immense domes, pillared monoliths, and sandstone spires.

Later, view the slow erosion of ages in Bryce Canyon National Park. Resembling castle towers and cathedral spires, the unique hoodoos rock formations are something you will not forget. Watch the natural amphitheaters and canyons glow as you wander the rim.

Overnight: Best Western Plus Bryce Canyon Hotel (B,L)

Day 8: Bryce Canyon National Park / Zion National Park

Continue your journey to Zion National Park, where your options for the day are plentiful. Perhaps hike to the Emerald Pools, stroll along the Riverside Walk, take a ranger-led program, or listen to one of many ranger talks at the Zion Human History Museum.

Overnight: Zion Park Lodge (B,D)

Day 9: Zion National Park / Las Vegas, NV

After a morning hike in Zion, travel to Las Vegas for free time to stroll the strip or relax at the hotel.

Tonight, share your experiences of this grand adventure with your travel companions during a special farewell reception.

Overnight: Westin Las Vegas (B,R)

Day 10: Depart Las Vegas

After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to McCarran International Airport for flights home. (B)



What's included:

- 9 nights comfortable hotel accommodations
- 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches (2 are picnic-style), 5 dinners including a welcome dinner at the Arizona Biltmore, and a farewell reception in Las Vegas
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader as well as expert local guides
- A Navajo cookout and storytelling, Canyon Rafting Trip down the Colorado River, walk through Antelope Slot Canyon with a Navajo guide, wine tasting in Moab, and a 4-wheel drive excursion to explore Monument Valley

Program Highlights

- Explore the Southwest's natural wonders with a knowledgeable Expedition Leader.
- Begin at the Arizona Biltmore, a luxurious Waldorf Astoria Resort—and famous haven of celebrities, diplomats, and presidents—with iconic architecture heavily influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright as the consulting architect.
- Stay at lodges inside Grand Canyon National Park and other properties carefully selected for their rich histories, beautiful locations, and superb service and accommodations.
- Spend additional time in Grand Canyon National Park or choose to join an optional helicopter flight seeing excursion over the Grand Canyon.
- Enjoy special inclusions such as a Glen Canyon rafting trip and a visit to beautiful Antelope Slot Canyon.
- Visit a traditional Navajo hogan, and set out on a 4-wheel drive tour through Monument Valley.
- Visit all five U.S. national parks in Utah.
- Observe intricately eroded arches at Arches National Park, behold the monolithic hoodoos in Bryce Canyon National Park, and follow the paths of Ancestral Puebloans and pioneers at Zion National Park.

**Trip Cost: \$3,995 per person
Based on Double Occupancy**