

Farm Bureau/Tri-State Travel - America's Great Canyons

Day 1: Arrival in Salt Lake City, UT

In 1847, Brigham Young famously led Mormon pioneers into the valley declaring, "This is the right place." Later, the joining of the transcontinental railroad and the Pony Express route in Salt Lake City cemented the area's importance as an economic center in the development of the American West. Increasingly, SLC is giving travelers reasons to stay and enjoy the city, thanks to the comfortable urbanism in a thriving metro area and the convenience and affordability of a place that hasn't yet been "discovered" by the masses. A compact downtown makes for easy walking among the many restaurants and other attractions in Salt Lake City. **OVN Salt Lake City Utah (Reception, D)**

Day 2: Arches National Park, Jet Boat Ride, Moab, UT

Enjoy an easy 4-hour drive through the majestic Wasatch Mountains over Soldier Summit and through the dinosaur capital of Utah to **Arches National Park**. Arches National Park provides an opportunity to explore a few of over 2,000 arches found within its borders. Some have described this park as timeless, dream-like, or from out of this world. With a variety of geological features including fault lines, petrified sand dunes, arches, bridges, balanced rocks, spires, and many others, the list of possibilities are endless in this landscape of ever-changing formations. This afternoon, explore Park Avenue, Windows Section, Balanced Rock, Courthouse Wash, and other areas on the front (south) side of the park. Delicate Arch, Landscape Arch, and Double Arch are all on the list of must-see formations. Along with these well-known arches, if time allows, you will explore the Cove of Caves, Garden of Eden, Petrified Dunes, Fiery Furnace Viewpoint and Double O Arch. We'll have several picture stops this evening before boarding our **Jet Boat** for a spectacular cruise at sunset. **OVN Moab, Utah (BD)**

Day 3: Canyon Lands National Park, Goulding, UT

Imagine wave after wave of deep canyons, towering mesas, pinnacles, cliffs and spires stretching across 527 square miles. This is **Canyon Lands National Park**, formed by the currents and tributaries of Utah's Green and Colorado Rivers. Canyon Lands is home to many different types of landscapes, including one of the West's most photographed landforms, Mesa Arch. Located to the west of the town of Moab and a short distance from Arches National Park, Canyon Lands National Park is wild and diverse with four separate districts, each with its own characteristic landscape. The amazing light colors the cliffs red, pink and orange, and breathtakingly deep canyons drop suddenly out of the desert and wind aimlessly through the plateau along with awesome sandstone spires and cliffs. Visit the second district of Canyon Lands National Park: Island in the Sky. From this large mesa, you will see a wilderness of countless canyons, buttes, mesas, and other geological features that were carved over millions of years by the Colorado and Green Rivers. A brief walk will take you to an ancestral pueblo granary, and then you will visit one of the most photographed geological features in the park, Mesa Arch. Also hike along the edge of the world to see Grandview Point, Murphy Point, or Upheaval Dome. Drive to Goulding Lodge just outside of Monument Valley National Park. **OVN Goulding Lodge, Utah (BD)**

Day 4: Monument Valley Tour, Lake Powell Boat Ride, Page Arizona

In some ways, **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park** is the definitive West. It is an iconic symbol of the American West and is the sacred heart of the Navajo Nation and the ideal setting for your next adventure in the warm, high desert climate of southeastern Utah. The valley is host to towering sandstone rock formations that have been sculpted over time and soar 400 to 1,000 feet above the valley floor. Combined with the surrounding mesas, buttes, and desert environment, it truly is one of the natural wonders of the world. We continue on to **Lake Powell**, a reservoir on the Colorado River, straddling the border between Utah and Arizona and a major vacation spot where two million people visit every year. We'll enjoy a **narrated boat cruise** on the lake before checking into our accommodations and dinner this evening. **OVN Page, Arizona (BD)**

Day 5: Upper Antelope Canyon, Jeep Tour, Grand Canyon National Park, North Rim, Kanab UT

Start the day with a 2-hour tour of the mysterious and haunting beauty of Antelope Canyon, also known as "Corkscrew Canyon", and one of the few slot canyons in the area. Travel to the **Upper Antelope Canyon in a 4WD tour truck** with a Navajo guide and step into the desert, an amazing fantasy world of stone which has been carved over many years with wind and water. The colors are rich and deep in the morning and afternoon. Your tour guide will explain some geology, culture, and history. Depart from Page and the Lake Powell area and travel west past the stunning Vermillion Cliffs, then climb the Kaibab Plateau as you make your way to **Grand Canyon National Park North Rim** for some amazing vistas as you visit

one of the great natural wonders of the world. There will be free time for a snack at the Grand Canyon Lodge, located right on the canyon rim, before you head to the town of Kanab, also known as “Little Hollywood” due to the many movies and television shows filmed in the area. **OVN Kanab, Utah (BD)**

Day 6: Kanab – Bryce Canyon National Park, UT

Wind, water and time have eroded **Bryce Canyon National Park's** sandstone cliffs into otherworldly characters plucked from the unconscious of a mad Viking. Rows of humanoid pillars crosshatched by rock strata look almost intentional but perfectly surreal. Geologically, Bryce is not actually a canyon at all. You will spend the evening hiking this stunning area, relaxing, or simply viewing the amazing colors.

OVN Ruby Inn Lodge, Utah (BD)

Day 7: Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park – Springdale, UT

Your day in the Southwest's fantastic landscape starts with the early morning sun lighting up pink cliffs during an unforgettable sunrise in Bryce Canyon. Later, drive through the east entrance and up the Zion switchbacks to **Zion National Park**. Zion is the oldest national park in Utah. It was the state's first federally designated park (1919), and it shows off the oldest geologic layers this side of the Grand Canyon (~150 million years old). It's also Utah's most visited national park, drawing over three million visitors annually. Zion means “the heavenly city” and the park's Kolob Canyons are named after a place described in Mormon scripture as being near God's throne. There are no churches in Zion National Park, but there's plenty to inspire reverence. Coming into the east entrance of Zion National Park, you see the top layers of the largest sand dunes that have ever existed and may see bighorn sheep climbing the area, ponderosa pine trees growing out of the side of sheer cliffs, and the individual layers of sand shaped and altered over millions of years. After a brief stop at Checkerboard Mesa and a few other prime photo stops, you'll have the opportunity to hike up to Canyon Overlook and look 2500 feet down to the bottom of Pine Creek and Zion Canyon. After traversing through the historic 1.1-mile long tunnel and down into the canyon, enter the main canyon and continue to see why this landscape was sacred to the Native Americans who lived here for thousands of years. You will explore sites like the Great White Throne, Angel's Landing, the Court of the Patriarchs, and the Narrows before you end the day with a short drive to Springdale. **OVN Springdale, Utah (BD)**

Day 8: Springdale – Las Vegas, NV

With stops along the way to photograph the scrub desert landscape, we head south to **Las Vegas** and the bright lights and cityscape of a city very different from the natural masterpieces that you would have seen over the past week. Your tour director will have information and maps for the countless activities that are available in the city that never sleeps! **(B)**

Day 9: Free Day Las Vegas

There are sightseeing adventures available via walking tours, bus tours, helicopter sightseeing and vehicle rentals for the adventurous. Entertainment is also abundant with a variety of entertainment venues and of course a gourmet selection of restaurants to satisfy anyone's tastes! **(B)**

Day 10: Depart Las Vegas, NV

Depart from Las Vegas for our flight to Chicago O'Hare and a waiting motorcoach to transfer us home. **(B)**

Tour Includes:

Deluxe motorcoach transportation
Airport transfers
Round trip coach class air Chicago/Salt Lake City/Las Vegas/Chicago
Nine nights' accommodations
Nine breakfasts, seven dinners, one reception
All admissions as highlighted in the itinerary
Step-on-guides
Tri-State Travel tour director
Farm Bureau host
Taxes, current air taxes, service charges
Gratuities to guides, drivers, included meals, portage for 1 bag

Estimated price: \$3750 per person, double occupancy (based on 30 paying passengers)