

## Western Discovery Lodging



### Tour Overview

San Francisco - one of America's most beautiful and fascinating cities. Our half day here includes a short tour; a walk across the Golden Gate Bridge and time for you to have lunch.

Next we have two full days to leisurely experience Yosemite's dream-like setting. Gigantic Sequoia trees; magnificent waterfalls; amazing granite spires; beautiful lakes, rivers and streams... Yosemite National Park deserves all the praise it receives. Activity options range from biking, river tubing, hiking, photography, swimming or just relaxing amidst all this grand scenery.

Leaving Yosemite, our route takes us over Tioga Pass (conditions permitting) to Death Valley National Park. This park gives us an opportunity to enjoy an amazing sunset from atop tall sand dunes where you will see the brightest night skies!

On to Zion National Park where we can witness unbelievable canyon views whilst hiking or laze in the refreshing Virgin River. Next, Bryce National Park beckons. Its hoodoos and brightly coloured rock formations never fail to impress! A great place to horseride, enjoy views from the canyon rim and take in another glorious sunset.

From Lake Powell's refreshing waters we continue on to Monument Valley. The valley houses a collection of rock spires, arches, bizarre and poetical rock features and is still home to many Navajo. Our included Navajo guided 4x4 tour will give you great insight into this incredible area.

Grand Canyon National Park is one of the few places on Earth that far surpasses the images you have seen! Fly over it; hike along its South Rim; descend into the canyon itself and still not get enough of looking at it. The included IMAX film is a great place to start and guided ranger walks will inform and entertain kids and adults alike. After a final morning at the canyon, we will finish the adventure in Las Vegas before saying farewell to the group.

### Tour Itinerary

- 1 San Francisco >> Yosemite NP (HP)
- 2-3 Yosemite NP (HP)
- 4 Death Valley NP (HP)
- 5-6 Zion NP (HP)
- 7 Bryce NP (HP)
- 8 Lake Powell (HP)
- 9 Monument Valley Tribal Park (HP)
- 10-11 Grand Canyon NP (HP)
- 12 Grand Canyon NP >> Las Vegas

HP = hotel nights included in price

### Included Highlights

- ✓ Grand Canyon sunrise or sunset
- ✓ Grand Canyon IMAX Film
- ✓ Navajo Indian guided 4x4 tour at Monument Valley
- ✓ National parks and monuments - Yosemite, Death Valley, Zion, Bryce, Monument Valley and the Grand Canyon
- ✓ Professional tour leader, equipment and private transportation

### Is This Tour For Me?

All of our Discovery Tours, whether camping or lodging, offer a winning combination of adventure, activities and relaxation in the company of other fun-loving families from around the world. On this tour there is exploration and discovery for the whole family in the national parks of America's wild West.

### 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.

Western Discovery Lodging	Mild Focus	Moderate Focus	High Focus
National Parks Visited			
City Sights			
Activities			
Walking/Hiking Opportunities			
Native American Culture			
Kid's Adventure Level			
Fun, Freedom & Flexibility			

# Western Discovery Lodging Tour Information

## DESTINATIONS

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

**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.

**Lake Powell** - Created by the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River, Lake Powell has a shoreline that stretches longer than the west coast of the United States. Now the lake is a haven for watersports and swimming.

**Las Vegas, Nevada** - 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.

**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 from all over the world to scale rocks named Half Dome and El Capitan. Hike to the base of some of the largest waterfalls in the world or rest on the banks of the Merced River.

**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.

## LODGING ACCOMMODATION

Designed for those who no longer wish to camp, (or never did!), this tour offers the same great adventure without the camping. All accommodation will be in three star hotels or lodges, chosen for their proximity to the highlights of the region as well as easy access to major sights. Also, many of our hotels have swimming pools which are ideal places for your children to get to know their new international friends!

Accommodation is on a twin-share basis, with en-suite bathroom facilities. You will be roomed with a family member, or a fellow passenger of the same sex, depending on your preference and the group make up. Family groups of two and three are in one room, groups of four and five are in two rooms.

## FOOD & DRINK

On Grand American Adventures lodging tours, meals are taken in local restaurants where passengers pay individually for food and drinks en route. Average hotel 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 15%-20% is added to group meals in North American restaurants. Applicable taxes will also be added to all listed menu prices

## GROUPS

Grand American Adventures' family tours are designed for families with children aged 8 - 18 years old. The maximum group size is 13 passengers.

Families come from a range of countries worldwide (average of 3 nationalities per group). 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 of North America.

## GROUP PARTICIPATION

Grand American Adventures tours are a unique vacation, and much of your enjoyment will come from the team spirit of your group and the fun you'll have together, as well as from the local setting. We cannot stress too strongly the importance of your own positive attitude, given which even the adversity of a rainstorm can be good fun!



# Western Discovery Lodging Tour Information

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES / SPENDING MONEY

Apart from meals, 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:

- ★ Biking US \$20
- ★ Watersports at Lake Powell US \$25-75
- ★ Western horseback ride US \$45-115
- ★ Scenic plane/helicopter ride US \$120-275
- ★ Hiking / Walking 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 as well as comfortable walking shoes.

## 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 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.americanadventures.com/download\\_tour\\_information.html](http://www.americanadventures.com/download_tour_information.html)

## 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.americanadventures.com/>

## AGE RANGE

Grand American Adventures Family Discovery tours are designed for families with children aged 8 and above, however, children aged 6-7 will be considered upon request.

## PAST PASSENGERS SAY?

When asked, "what was the best part of the tour", passengers said:

*"The most fantastic two weeks of our lives with memories and photos to treasure for the rest."* - Roberts Family from England

*"My family and I had the best vacation of our life when we did this tour. Our best day was the Jeep-Tour through Monument Valley. We two don't want to forget any moment of this tour."* - Gudrun and Andrea from Germany

## 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.americanadventures.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 (°C)

	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: -10°C = 14°F 0°C = 32°F 10°C = 50°F 20°C = 68°F 30°C = 86°F 40°C = 104°F

