

BEST OF CANYON LANDS –UTAH’S MIGHTY 5

AUGUST 12, 2024 – AUGUST 18, 2024

SPJST Member price per person: Double \$2,386, Single \$3,189

Meal included: 6 continental breakfasts, 3 dinners

Tours depart from Texas.

Day 1: Flight to Phoenix * Sedona * Dinner

We depart from the airport this morning on our flight to Phoenix, Arizona. Upon arriving in Phoenix, we're met by our deluxe motorcoach and begin our journey. The sights along the way will be breathtaking! Watch for the awe-inspiring red rock formations as we make our way north to the beautiful town of Sedona, where we'll spend our first night. Sedona is in the high southwestern desert at the southeast end of Oak Creek Canyon. Dinner is included this evening.

Day 2: Oak Creek Canyon * Grand Canyon

From Sedona, we travel through Oak Creek Canyon making photo stops along the way and shopping with some of the Indian vendors. We travel through Flagstaff and the Kaibab National Forest to the Grand Canyon. We travel through spectacular red cliffs, strands of aspen, cedar and oak, and abundant wildflowers to reach the South Rim, which is 7,000 feet above sea level. Here, the canyon is a flat mile to the bottom. One of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, the Grand Canyon is unmatched in the comparable vistas it offers to visitors on the rim. Enjoy the sights of this natural wonder with its exceptional views and photo opportunities!

Day 3: Navajo Nation Indian Reservation * Monument Valley * Jeep Tour

We leave the Grand Canyon this morning, traveling through the heart of Navajo Indian country. We pass through Monument Valley. This area provides perhaps the most enduring and definitive images of the American West. We get off the beaten track in our guided jeep tour. We will visit places that once served as real life backdrops for numerous movies. Because of this, the area may seem quite familiar. Our accommodations are in Moab for two nights.

Day 4: Arches National Park * Canyonlands National Park * Red Cliff Cowboy Grill * Dinner

Today, we visit one of the jewels of the southwest, Arches National Park, a rugged area containing the largest number of natural stone arches in the country. The arches were formed by weathering of openings in vertical slabs of sandstone. This timeless national grouping of giant stone arches, pinnacles, spires, fins, and windows was once the bed of an ancient sea. The power of erosion has laid bare the skeletal structure of the earth at this fascinating location. We witness breathtaking views divided by massive canyons of the Green and Colorado Rivers. Tonight, we enjoy a delicious western-style dinner with magnificent views of the Colorado River and the red rock cliffs. We then return to our hotel for a relaxing evening enjoying our beautiful surroundings.

Day 5: Capitol Reef National Park * Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument * Dinner

We drive through the San Rafael Desert to Capitol Reef National Park. Here we see narrow canyons, ridges, arches, spires, and domes. "The Reef" refers to the high uplifted ridge running north-south along the fold which presented a considerable barrier to early settlers. Our scenic drive continues through the Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument, which covers 1.7 million mostly roadless acres and was established in September 1996, by presidential decree. The monument is so named because of the resemblance of the many whitish sandstone domes to the US Capitol building. We stay overnight near Bryce Canyon, with dinner included.

Day 6: Bryce Canyon * Zion Canyon * Las Vegas

Today we tour Bryce Canyon National Park, which includes some of the earth's most colorful rock formations, fantastic wind and water sculptured "hoodoos" tinted by various oxides which give red, yellow, red, brown, and lavender hues. After our tour and ample time for picture taking, we travel to Zion National Park and the amazing Zion Canyon. Desert terrain and huge sculptured rock formations coexist with waterfalls and hanging gardens in the spectacular gorge carved through strange colored sandstone, shale, and limestone. Later we travel to Las Vegas for the night.

Day 7: Return Home

Our vacation of wonders comes to an end today. We depart Las Vegas to fly back home.