

!  
x

Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Best of the U.S. West" (NUPJ), [but here are some similar trips](#).



## **Best of the U.S. West**

15 days, Las Vegas to San Francisco

Trip code NUPJ

### **What's included**

- Your G for Good Moment: Native Grill Food Truck Experience
- All national park fees

- Zion National Park visit and guided hike
- Bryce Canyon National Park visit
- Antelope Canyon guided visit
- Horseshoe Bend hike
- Grand Canyon National Park visit
- Route 66 stop
- Death Valley National Park visit
- Sequoia National Park visit
- Kings Canyon National Park visit
- Yosemite National Park visit
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing February 9th, 2022 and onwards

# Itinerary



## Itinerary Notes

Please note that the Navajo Loop in Bryce Canyon National Park is closed until further notice due to mudslides and rockfall. As a result, the optional Queen's Garden and Navajo Loop trail cannot currently be completed as a loop. However, it is still possible to hike down the Queen's Garden Trail from Sunrise Point and complete the hike as an out-and-back rather than a loop.

**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## Las Vegas

Arrive at any time.

There are no planned activities today until the evening welcome meeting, so check out the strip or get tickets to a show for this evening.

---



### Today's Activities

Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

1h

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. Check for the meeting time on the welcome note at the hotel. After introductions, your CEO will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

Day 2

## Las Vegas/Zion National Park

Head out early today to Zion, Utah's oldest national park. Once you arrive the group will take the shuttle further into the park and go on some hikes to emerald pools, hanging gardens, and sandstone cliffs.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Zion National Park Visit

Zion National Park

Admire monumental sandstone cliffs of cream, pink, and red that tower into the sky. Experience diverse plant and animal life, and wade through water in a narrow slot canyon as the park transitions from desert to forest. Gaze at the awe-inspiring beauty of the high plateaus, striking towers, temples, mesas, and the earth's tallest-known sheer sandstone walls.

Private Vehicle

Las Vegas - Zion National Park

2h30m-3h

270km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Enjoy a guided tour of the Narrows and wander through the cool river water that cuts through this slot canyon. See the high plateaus, towers, mesas, and sandstone walls of this beautiful national park.

The canyon is narrow, and the river covers the bottom in many places, which means you will have to wade or swim to proceed. Prepare to get wet but the cool water makes this hike particularly pleasant during the hot summer months. During the cooler months, there are available gear rentals including Gore-Tex dry pants, canyon shoes, and neoprene socks. Hiking poles are available for rent year-round.

Hiking is not permitted when the river is high from runoff or flash flooding. Runoff mostly occurs in April and early May. Late summer thunderstorms can occasionally produce flooding. If the hike is not possible due to weather, it will be replaced with another activity.

This is a moderate level hike of 4 to 5 hours, during which you are wading through water which could be ankle or waist deep, depending on local conditions. As well, the terrain is often rocky and uneven. We recommend bringing water shoes with a hiking tread.

Should you choose to not do the hike, you can stay and relax at the lodge or discuss with your CEO other optional activities that may be available (at additional cost).



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### Today's Activities

The Narrows Guided Hike

Zion National Park

4h-5h

2km

Take a guided hike to the Narrows in Zion National Park. Splash and wade through the cool river which cuts through this stunning slot canyon. You'll mostly be in up to your ankles and in some spots get waist-deep. The Narrows is one of the most popular hikes in Zion National Park, and is considered one of the world's best slot canyon hikes.

In the morning travel to Bryce Canyon National Park and go for a hike amid the strange rock pinnacles known as hoodoos. Take some pictures of these natural towers that rise from the canyon floor before continuing with the group to Page, Arizona.

---



## Meals included

Breakfast

---



## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Zion National Park – Bryce Canyon National Park

2h

140km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Bryce Canyon National Park Visit

Bryce Canyon National Park

See a sight like no other at this giant forest of stone made up of collection of massive natural amphitheatres. This park contains hundreds of thousands of eroded spires, pinnacles, and other shapes as far as the eye can see.

Private Vehicle

Bryce Canyon National Park – Page

3h-3h30m

250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Tour Antelope Canyon with a local Navajo guide and afterwards take a short hike to Horseshoe Bend where you can stand overlooking the natural bend in the Colorado River. Lunch today will be at a family-owned Navajo food truck and G Adventures–supported project. Arrive at the Grand Canyon in the evening.

Marvel as the Grand Canyon unfolds before you but don't get too close. The land drops almost straight down for more than 1,000m (3,280 ft) into the serpentine canyons below! The gorge is filled with rocky buttes, sheer limestone cliffs, and deep canyons all arrayed in a rainbow of colors. Words defy. This is truly one of the most magnificent sights on earth.



## Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



## Today's Activities

### ACTIVITY

Get off the beaten track for an authentic Navajo meal that gives back to the community at the Native Grill Food Truck. Although the Grand Canyon is one of the most popular destinations to visit in the USA, the Indigenous community living on Navajo land captures less than 7% of the \$1.5 billion that this region sees annually. Your meal stop at this family-owned enterprise benefits 50 community members directly, with ripple effects throughout Navajo Nation.

Private Vehicle

Page - Grand Canyon National Park

3h-4h

220km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Horseshoe Bend Hike

Horseshoe Bend

1h

1km

Take a short hike to this spectacular horseshoe-shaped meander of the Colorado River. Stand atop steep orange-coloured sandstone cliffs and look out at Horseshoe Bend. Peer down more than 300m (1,000 ft) at the emerald river below.

Antelope Canyon Tour

Antelope Canyon

2h

Named for the pronghorn that used to roam the land, Antelope Canyon is a natural sandstone cathedral created by years of flash flooding, wind, and rain. Tour this breathtaking canyon to discover beams of light, flowing rock walls, and spiral arches and soak in the natural beauty of this surreal place. Book this optional activity on-site with your CEO.

The day begins in this ancient gorge with an expert from the Grand Canyon Conservancy Field Institute. The group will begin on foot along the South Rim and learn about the geology, botany, and local human history of this park. Pay a visit to the Historic Village District and then hike into the canyon itself on the Bright Angel Trail.

Opt to pre-book a Grand Canyon Helicopter tour on the checkout page ahead of time to include this optional on your tour.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Grand Canyon Exclusive

Grand Canyon National Park - Grand Canyon

Spend a day with a researcher from the Grand Canyon Conservancy Field Institute. Begin with a walk with our expert along the South Rim to hear about the unique geology of the canyon and history of Native Americans here. Then visit the Historic Village District for a stroll past a number of iconic park structures including Hopi House, El Tovar Hotel, and Lookout Studio. Continue down the historic Bright Angel Trail to get a real sense of the feel of the canyon below the rim, viewing 2000-year-old rock art and 250-million-year-old fossils. Then, visit Kolb Studio, home to photography pioneers Emery and Ellsworth Kolb, who shared with the world some of the first pictures of the epic canyon in the August 1914 issue of National Geographic Magazine.



### Optional Activities - Day 6

Grand Canyon IMAX Movie

Grand Canyon National Park

14USD

On a giant six-story movie screen, watch the most viewed IMAX film of all time, "Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets". Escape, fly, and discover the history and beauty of this awe-inspiring landscape.

Grand Canyon Helicopter Tour

Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon helicopter ride is a must! Enjoy a bird's-eye view for 45 to 50 minutes as you fly over the canyon, taking in the stark contrast of the blue-green Colorado River against the thousand shades of red rock found in the canyon. From above, you can fully appreciate the greatness of the gorge and see why it is one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

Grand Canyon Sunset

Grand Canyon National Park

Head to the rim of the Grand Canyon at sunset. Point your camera in any direction and capture memorable shots as the shifting light plays off the layers of red, yellow, and brown rock. This is truly one of the great wonders. Enjoy the moment.

Check out the Lowell Observatory on a behind-the-scenes tour where you'll learn about astronomy and see the giant telescopes. Afterwards, drive to Las Vegas along Route 66.



## Meals included

Breakfast



## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Grand Canyon National Park – Flagstaff

2h

150km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Lowell Observatory Experience

Flagstaff – Grand Canyon

Visit the highly renowned Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona for a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility alongside an educator. Established in 1894 (making it one of the oldest observatories in the United States), this centre focuses on educating the general public in astronomical research. Learn about the Clark and Pluto telescopes and enjoy a presentation on their study of Mars.

Private Vehicle

Flagstaff – Las Vegas

5h-6h

400km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Seligman (Route 66) Visit

Seligman

Take a trip back in time to the birthplace of Route 66. Established in the early 1900s as the first transcontinental highways in the U.S, Route 66 has a lot of history on it's original length of almost 2,500 miles. Starting in Chicago, Illinois and travelling through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, before ending at the ocean in Santa Monica California. The creation of the Interstate system bypassed the majority of Route 66, creating ghost towns along it's original route, though there are a few iconic Americana towns still delivering experiences from the past. Check out the historic general store, original motels, and don't forget to get your kicks!

Day 8

## Las Vegas/Death Valley National Park

Drive through the desert on the way to Death Valley National Park. Home to the lowest, hottest, and driest place in North America. Check out cool spots in the park like Twenty Mule Team Canyon, the Devils Golf Course, Badwater Basin, and Zabriskie Point. Admire the desolate landscape and feel the sun's intense heat.

See the spectacular landscape of Death Valley on the drive into the park. Continue through Twenty Mule Team Canyon, see the eroded rock salt at the Devils Golf Course. Then descend to the lowest point of elevation in North America on a visit to Badwater Basin, 282 feet below sea level.

Expect high temperatures of 100°F to over 120°F (38°C to over 49°C). Drink plenty of water and carry extra supplies. Avoid hiking at mid-day.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Death Valley National Park Visit

Death Valley National Park

Death Valley is one of America's most extreme locations – from sand dunes and desert, to badlands, towering peaks, and a basin that actually registers below sea-level, this is sure to be an unforgettable stop. Hottest. Driest. Lowest. There's a bit of everything here on the border of California and Nevada.

Private Vehicle

Las Vegas – Death Valley National Park

2h30m-3h

230km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

In the morning head to the otherworldly landscape of Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes. Explore the shifting dunes and then continue to Father Crowley Vista Point which is an easy hike, but involves epic views. Afterwards the group will drive around the Sierra Nevada mountains to Sequoia National Park.

---



### Meals included

Breakfast

---



### Today's Activities

Mesquite Flats Sand Dunes

Death Valley

Explore the otherworldly landscape of one of America's largest National Parks. The sand dunes here soar up to 100 feet tall, and have no marked trails due to the shifting sands. Keep a keen eye out for animal tracks along the dunes as well, which show just how full of life this seemingly desolate place can be.

Father Crowley Vista Point

Death Valley

One of Death Valley's best vantage points, this quick there-and-back trail brings you to a sweeping view of the valley floor, with views of Rainbow Canyon below. The local air force base often sends jets to practice flying through what is colloquially known as "Star Wars Canyon" so keep an ear out for potential flybys!

Private Vehicle

Death Valley National Park - Sequoia National Park

7h-8h

620km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Immerse yourself in Sequoia National Park for a full day. Visit General Sherman, the world's largest known living tree with a naturalist from the Parks Conservancy. In the afternoon the group will hike the Big Tree Trail and learn all about the history and of these trees and what the future holds for their protection. Tonight, head back out into the park for some stargazing with a local expert.

In cases where the night sky is cloudy, we will replace the star gazing activity with a nighttime nature walk in the National Park. Embark on a one-mile walk to experience the dramatic changes of the soundscapes and nocturnal biodiversity of the area. This engaging walk will awaken awareness and provide an in-depth experience of Sequoia's nocturnal plants and animals.



## Meals included

Breakfast



## Today's Activities

Sequoia National Park Naturalist Hike

Sequoia National Park

Walk through California's Sequoia National Park with a naturalist from Sequoia Parks Conservancy. Over 2.5 hours, learn about these impressive giant trees – some so big, they have names. The one called General Sherman is the largest known living single-stem tree on the planet. Then head to Big Tree Trail for an afternoon hike.

Sequoia Parks Conservancy Stargazing

Sequoia National Park

The night sky above Sequoia National Park offers one of California's most dazzling opportunities for stargazing, due to minimal light pollution and a higher altitude. Peer upward alongside an astronomy expert from the park who'll discuss the constellations, planets, and stars that fill the twinkling sky. (Weather permitting, of course.) Luckily, we are still able today to enjoy one of the most impressive dark skies above the Sierra.

Day 11

## Sequoia National Park/Kings Canyon National Park

Today's drive is nothing short of mesmerizing as the scenery changes from the looming sequoias to one of the deepest canyons in the U.S. You'll drive from Grant Grove to Cedar Grove and experience the awe of Kings Canyon.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Kings Canyon National Park Visit

Kings Canyon National Park

Drive deep into the Sierra Nevada mountains and experience the natural splendour of Kings Canyon National Park. Marvel at the surrounding landscape as the ancient Redwood forests make way for the towering stone peaks and epic valleys as far as the eye can see. Get a closer look at the park with a variety of hikes and lookouts during this stop.

Private Vehicle

Sequoia National Park - Kings Canyon National Park

5h

240km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Travel north to Yosemite National Park. Make a quick stop to the Sentinel Dome trailhead and climb to the pinnacle where the group will have a picnic and enjoy a beautiful view of Half Dome, El Capitan, and Yosemite Falls. The other option is to go on a hike in Mariposa Grove before continuing on to Glacier Point for more incredible views.

We recommend viewing the documentary *Free Solo* prior to your trip or downloading this film on your devices to watch during today's drive. Watch as free climber Alex Honnold grapples with the route, his body and his mind to conquer this almost 3000 foot rock face.

Please note: Glacier Point Road is closed in the winter and has varying opening dates based on snowfall. When Glacier Point Road is closed, we will substitute with a hike in the old growth forest of Mariposa Grove: Stop Mariposa Grove, the largest old growth forest in the park to enjoy picnic lunch and a hike amongst these magnificent trees. Continue into the park to Tunnel View to get your first sight of Half Dome, one of the most iconic views in the park.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Yosemite National Park Visit

Yosemite National Park

Picturesque valleys, vast wilderness, powerful waterfalls, elusive wildlife, ancient sequoias and more than 16 types of granite make up this internationally recognized national park. Hike the trails, get up close to ancient rock formations and take panoramic photos of this gorgeous landscape. Keep an eye out for black bears, deer, and coyotes.

Private Vehicle

Kings Canyon National Park - Yosemite National Park

3h30m

230km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Head out on a guided excursion through the park with a naturalist from the Yosemite Conservancy. You'll hike through the heart of this valley and learn about how the backcountry of this area became a protected state park in 1864 and then a national park in 1890 with the help of John Muir. The rest of the day is free to explore on your own through the park's meadow's waterfalls, lakes, and groves. Keep your eyes on alert for any wildlife and search for rock climbers on El Capitan.

Yosemite National Park was carved by glaciers and became a protected state park in 1864. It wasn't until 1890 that this area would officially reach National Park status. 95% of the park's hiking is in the backcountry, but there are still plenty of hikes throughout the valley that are easily accessible through the shuttle system. Hike amid giant Sequoias, granite cliffs, and flowing waterfalls.



## Meals included

Breakfast



## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite – Yosemite Valley

2h

80km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Yosemite Naturalist Experience

Yosemite National Park

Venture out into Yosemite National Park for a half-day excursion led by a Yosemite Conservancy naturalist-guide. They'll share their expert knowledge on the human history of the park, from American Indian traditions to legendary characters. They will also provide an insider's perspective on the park's most fascinating sites and share details of the flora, fauna and geological history of the area. Take in the breathtaking views with every step as you hike through this glacial valley, passing cliffs, waterfalls, and endless lush, dense forest along the way.

Free Time

Yosemite National Park

Take advantage of a free afternoon in this stunning natural environment.

Private Vehicle

Yosemite Valley – Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite

2h

80km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.



## Optional Activities - Day 13

Yosemite Bike Rental

Yosemite National Park

30-40USD

Set your wheels in motion with tandem, hand crank or mountain bikes, and opt to cycle some of the 20km (12mi) of paved trails throughout the valley floor. Bring a water bottle, stop to shoot photos, and enjoy some of the most picturesque spots in Yosemite NP.

Choose between a half-day rental or a full-day, and be aware that this activity is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note the price for a half-day bike rental is \$30 USD and the price for a full-day bike rental is \$40USD.

Yosemite National Park Hike

Yosemite National Park

Free

1h-6h

1-15km

Panoramic vistas, gushing waterfalls, and elusive wildlife await. Bring water, wear a hat and sunscreen, and hike Yosemite NP. Keep an eye out for black bears, deer, and coyotes.

Day 14

## Yosemite National Park/San Francisco

Travel from Yosemite's bold landscape through the Central Valley towards San Francisco. Stop at a local farm stand en route to try some of the freshest produce in the region. Then, cruise over the Bay Bridge into one of the coolest cities in America. Take some time to settle into the hotel before embarking on a guided driving tour of the city. From the views at Twin Peaks to walking across a portion of the Golden Gate Bridge there's no shortage of landmarks to see or things to do. In the evening there is an optional sunset sail in the San Francisco Bay which departs from Fisherman's Wharf. A great way to cap off this adventure.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Free Time

San Francisco

Enjoy free time to discover San Fran!

Private Vehicle

Yosemite National Park - San Francisco

6h

230km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

San Francisco City Tour

San Francisco

Join your CEO for a driving tour through some of San Francisco's most iconic highlights. Take in the 360 degree view from the top of Twin Peaks, before driving through Golden Gate Park en route to Golden Gate Bridge. Have the opportunity to get out and walk across portion of the Golden Gate Bridge, for views of the city skyline in one direction and the Pacific Ocean in the other. Continue past the Palace of Fine Arts and Union Square en route to our hotel.



### Optional Activities - Day 14

Sunset Sailing San Francisco (Mon-Wed)

San Francisco

Depart from Fisherman's Wharf and catch a glimpse of marine life as we sail around San Francisco Bay. Admire the city's remarkable skyline, get up close and personal with the infamous Alcatraz Island, and sail underneath the Golden Gate Bridge. Enjoy the sunset and make a mental note to return.

Day 15

## San Francisco

Depart at any time.

---



### Meals included

Breakfast

---



### Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

## What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Native Grill Food Truck Experience
- All national park fees
- Zion National Park visit and guided hike
- Bryce Canyon National Park visit
- Antelope Canyon guided visit
- Horseshoe Bend hike
- Grand Canyon National Park visit
- Route 66 stop
- Death Valley National Park visit
- Sequoia National Park visit
- Kings Canyon National Park visit
- Yosemite National Park visit
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Visit the national park with the lowest elevation in the U.S at Death Valley, Get up close and personal with the wild beauty of Yosemite National Park, Wander through groves of ancient trees in Sequoia National Park, Observe the stars from conservatories, get to know the vibrant city of San Francisco, Explore the canyons and sandstone cliffs of Zion National Park, Walk along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and learn more about the culture of the Navajo people on a guided tour of Antelope Canyon.

## Itinerary Notes

Please note that the Navajo Loop in Bryce Canyon National Park is closed until further notice due to mudslides and rockfall. As a result, the optional Queen's Garden and Navajo Loop trail cannot currently be completed as a loop. However, it is still possible to hike down the Queen's Garden Trail from Sunrise Point and complete the hike as an out-and-back rather than a loop.

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Visit the national park with the lowest elevation in the U.S at Death Valley, Get up close and personal with the wild beauty of Yosemite National Park, Wander through groves of ancient trees in Sequoia National Park, Observe the stars from conservatories, get to know the vibrant city of San Francisco, Explore the canyons and sandstone cliffs of Zion National Park, Walk along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and learn more about the culture of the Navajo people on a guided tour of Antelope Canyon.

## **Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?**

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## **Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## **Are there Itinerary notes?**

Please note that the Navajo Loop in Bryce Canyon National Park is closed until further notice due to mudslides and rockfall. As a result, the optional Queen's Garden and Navajo Loop trail cannot currently be completed as a loop. However, it is still possible to hike down the Queen's Garden Trail from Sunrise Point and complete the hike as an out-and-back rather than a loop.

# What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

## 1. TRAVEL DAYS

In order to cover the vast distance in North America to be able to visit several different parks and cities along our trip, we will have a couple of long driving days.

## 2. WALKS AND HIKES - OPTIONAL

All walks and hikes proposed by our CEO will be easy to moderate level. You may choose to participate or not, but exploring our national parks on foot is part of our way of travelling. It's a healthy way to discover North America's beauty and landscape.

## 3. COMBO TRIP

Please note that some trips could be a combination of multiple G Adventure tours. You should expect some group members to join or leave the tour between tour segments.

## 4. LEGAL DRINKING AGE

Please note that the legal drinking age in the United States is 21 and in Canada, 19 (with Alberta and Quebec at 18). Many bars and clubs will ask for ID at the door, therefore listening to live music in certain bars or spending a night out in Las Vegas or New Orleans is not possible when you are under the legal age, even if you don't plan on consuming alcohol. Drinking laws in both countries are strictly enforced and our CEOs are unable to help those under age obtain alcohol of any kind.

While this should not stop those under legal drinking age from booking a tour, it is important to note that if a traveller is under-age there are certain optional nighttime activities that they may not legally be able to participate in. When trying to book the right trip, we recommend that travellers under legal drinking age take this into consideration when booking a tour that visits several big cities.

## 5. LAS VEGAS HOTELS

Las Vegas is known for glitz and glamour, and is an adult's playground for the senses. However, hotel standards are different than in many other cities. Most hotels have thousands of rooms and an onsite casino open 24 hours a day, which can cause large crowds and excessive noise. Smoking is also permitted indoors in casinos. Although we only use non-smoking rooms on our tours and do our best to offer a smoke free environment, please be aware that standards may result in smoke permeating non-smoking areas of hotels.

## 6. ACCOMMODATION NOTE:

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

## What is the group leader like?

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The CEO will be the group manager, leader and driver - this person is experienced in the routes travelled.

As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

While our CEOs are trained and have resources to assist them along the way, the United States is the fourth largest country on the planet, and it is impossible for them to know everything about this massive country. We recommend local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

Please note that specific tour guide licenses are required to guide in certain cities and regions, and as such, our CEOs will oftentimes provide brief orientation walks or drives to point out useful places like supermarkets, main squares and ATMs but for more specific or in depth destination information, an official guided tour is recommended.

## How large will the group be?

Max 13, Avg 11.

## What meals are included in this trip?

14 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner

## What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Air-conditioned private vehicle, hiking, walking.

## What transportation will we take on this trip?

For this trip we use a 15-seat vehicles with internal luggage storage for up to 13 people plus a CEO. These vans are durable vehicles that allow us to drive on most types of roads in North America.

With mandatory seat belts to keep us secure and safe. No standing is permitted in these vehicles.

This is not a physically demanding journey. There is air conditioning to cool things down on warm days to keep everyone more comfortable. Travelling can be difficult, with long drives and limited space in the van. Please take note of the travel times and distances in the above itinerary. Despite some of the long days, most travellers feel that the diversity of the North American landscape, culture and wildlife are all well worth the experience!

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hotels (14 nts).

## **Will I get my own room?**

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

## **What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?**

This trip uses comfortable 3 star hotels, well located in cities and close to National Parks. Our chosen hotels vary in size, character, and amenities, but are of a very good standard, and the rooms are double occupancy with a private bathroom.

## **What is the joining hotel?**

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

## What are the joining instructions?

When arriving in Las Vegas - McCarran International Airport (LAS) you have two transportation options to get to the Joining Hotel, which is 4 miles away: public taxi or public transportation.

### Taxi

The taxis are located outside of each terminal on the Lower/Arrival Level islands. The cost is approximately \$18-25 USD, plus gratuity.

### Public Transportation

Proceed to terminal 1 to the Zero Level. Take the Paradise line 108 - Northbound. This will take you about 35 minutes when you will arrive and get off at the Main @ Las Vegas stop. From here Head south on S Main St toward E St Louis Ave and your destination will be on the right.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned, though a brief departure meeting will be held in the hotel on the evening of day 1. When you arrive at our joining hotel you will find the time and place of the meeting on a welcome note hung in the hotel lobby. If you are unable to find the note, please just ask the front desk staff.

At the meeting, you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. If you arrive late and miss the meeting, your CEO will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the G Adventures Local Representative. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (Las Vegas)

From outside the USA: 1-412-423-8143

From within the USA: 412-423-8143

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local representative, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible.

For days in the outdoors, we recommend the use of lightweight, breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics made of wool or synthetic fibers. Cotton is not recommended for days spent hiking as it does not allow for heat or moisture to enter or escape, and it will not dry easily once wet.

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. Heavy luggage is not recommended for the health of the CEO, who will take a lead in loading the storage trailer. Due to space in the trailer, we will not be able to accommodate more than one piece of main luggage per person. A good size day-pack (20-35L) is also essential to carry your personal gear for the day, as access to luggage between destinations will be limited. This daypack will be used to carry your personal gear for the day, your lunch and a water bottle.

It is important to pack clothes for warm days and cool evenings, as well as a light jacket. A set of smart casual clothes is also advisable.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Cold weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

**Health & Safety:**

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

**Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

## When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Your CEO will advise you along the trip where you will be able to do your laundry.

## What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

## What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

The United States currency is the US Dollar (USD).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in the US and can be used to purchase small and large items. When purchasing products or services with a foreign credit card in the USA, you may be charged additional fees by your credit card company for foreign purchases.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Both Visa and Master Cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work check with your bank before you travel. A visit to an ATM can be arranged on Day 1 and other days of the trip.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of US Dollars as cash (preferably smaller bills, 5's, 10's and 20's), traveller's cheques and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is very difficult to find in the USA and most banks do not accommodate.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

## How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

It is customary in North America to tip service providers such as waiters, bartenders and taxi drivers, at approximately 18-20%, depending on the service. Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip any local guides used. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from \$2-8 USD per activity depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference; however as a guideline \$10-15 USD per person, per day can be used as a guide. If your CEO(s) exceeded your expectations, feel free to tip more.

# What activities are optional on this trip?

## Grand Canyon National Park

- Grand Canyon IMAX Movie  
(14USD per person)
- Grand Canyon Sunset

## Grand Canyon

- Grand Canyon Helicopter Tour

## Yosemite National Park

- Yosemite Bike Rental  
(30-40USD per person)
- Yosemite National Park Hike  
(Free)

## San Francisco

- Sunset Sailing San Francisco  
(Mon-Wed)

## What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)\*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

## Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## **Are international flights included in this trip?**

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## **What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?**

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.