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Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Chicago to San Francisco Road Trip" (NUCF), [but here are some similar trips.](#)



Chicago to San Francisco Road Trip

16 days, Chicago to San Francisco

Trip code NUCF

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Miller Brewery Tour and Tasting, Milwaukee

- Your Discover Moment: Yosemite National Park
- Entrance fees to all national parks, state parks, and national monuments with hiking and walking excursions
- Mall of America visit
- Wall Drug visit
- Deadwood visit
- Tioga Pass (seasonal)
- Self-inflating mattresses and dome tents while camping
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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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 January 1st, 2018 and onwards

Itinerary



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

Chicago

Arrive at any time.

This group tour departs the city early on Day 2. We recommend booking pre-tour accommodation in Chicago if you'd like to spend any time exploring the sights and sounds the city has to offer. It is, after all, a massive sports hub (pro hockey, baseball, basketball and soccer teams!), home to an award-winning skyline, and has a history—and nightlife—steeped in blues and jazz.



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Tour the Miller Brewing Company in Milwaukee and enjoy a beer tasting, then camp on the banks of the Mississippi River.



Meals included

Dinner



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Enjoy an introduction video and personal tour through Miller Brewery, which has more than 155 years of brewing history. Sit back in the outdoor beer garden after the tour and enjoy a few different Miller Family samples brewed onsite at this historic Milwaukee landmark.

Private Vehicle

Chicago - Frontenac

9h

535km

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

Day 3

Frontenac/Sioux Falls

Enjoy a free morning at the largest shopping mall in America – the Mall of America. Afterwards, venture into South Dakota and head into the Great Plains and lands of the Sioux.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Mall of America visit

Bloomington

Stop off at one of the largest shopping malls in the United States. Not a shopaholic? No problem! There is an indoor theme park in the centre of the mall, a perfect shopping distraction.

Private Vehicle

Frontenac – Sioux Falls

10h

500km

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

Drive time includes a stop at the Mall of America in the Twin Cities.



Optional Activities - Day 3

Sioux Falls Visit

Sioux Falls

Free

Walk the paths around these shallow cascading waterfalls or relax in the grass under the shade of the trees in these serene surroundings.

Day 4

Sioux Falls/Badlands National Park

Travel through the Badlands before reaching the Black Hills.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Sioux Falls - Badlands National Park

6h

450km

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



Optional Activities - Day 4

Original South Dakota 1880's Town Visit

Jackson County

12-19USD

Envision life on the prairie 100 years ago on this visit to a town made up of more than 30 original buildings from the 1880s to 1920s. Authentically equipped with furniture, antiques, and photographs, this town even has a museum dedicated to the many props used in Kevin Costner's famous movie "Dances with Wolves." Enjoy live entertainment or opt to dress up for some "old-time" photos.

Day 5

Badlands National Park/Custer State Park

Discover moon-like landscapes on the trails of the Badlands, then drive to Custer SP. Dodge free-roaming bison herds while exploring Custer's diverse lands.

Explore the spectacular, bizarre, and moon-like landscape at Badlands National Park. Discover Wall Drug, an American roadside wonder before reaching the famous Black Hills in the heart of South Dakota. Then take the scenic route to Custer State Park.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Badlands National Park Visit

Badlands National Park - Death Valley

The Lakota gave the area its name, "mako sica" meaning "land bad." Discover the park on short hiking trails and enjoy the feeling of true isolation – visitors can look for miles and see no sign of civilization. Keep eyes peeled for the thousands of delightful prairie dogs that pop up and down in the grasslands and the more elusive bison, bighorn sheep, and black-footed ferrets that live in the park.

Private Vehicle

Badlands National Park - Custer State Park

6h

Approximate Distance to Custer: 250km (155 mi)

Wall Drug Visit

Wall

1h

Discover an American roadside wonder that made "Wall" such a famous place to visit. It all started in the 1930s with free ice water for thirsty tourists coming from the east; today, almost 100 stores and exhibits operate under a single entity making up "America's Favourite Roadside Attraction."



Optional Activities - Day 5

Custer State Park Hike

Custer State Park - Custer

Free

1h-2h

2-7km

Explore this fascinating terrain 1,621m (5,318 ft) above sea level. Find your adventure on short hikes through hills, mountainous lakes, rolling prairies, and breathtaking vistas.

Horseback Riding

Badlands National Park

37-90USD

Check out the larger than life ex-presidents of Mount Rushmore, tour around Crazy Horse Memorial, and stop off at Deadwood en route to Devils Tower in Wyoming.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Mount Rushmore National Memorial Visit

Keystone - Devils Tower

1h

Visit one of America's most inspiring symbols of democracy and freedom. Be amazed at the impressive granite faces of four of the most influential presidents of the United States: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. Each stone head is as tall as a six-story building.

Crazy Horse Memorial Visit

Custer - Grand Canyon

1h-2h

Visit the spectacular Crazy Horse Memorial, which was made to honour the culture, tradition, and living heritage of North American Indians. The words of Chief Standing Bear, "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too" convinced sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski to create a Memorial for the Lakota people in 1939. Currently 60-90 years away from completion, the memorial, once finished, will be the largest sculpture in the world.

Deadwood Visit

Deadwood

1h-3h

Explore the once lawless town of Deadwood created by the Black Hills Gold Rush, which brought gunfighters, gamblers, and prostitutes. The town achieved notoriety for the murder of "Wild Bill" Hickok. Watch the famous shootout at the Old Style Saloon #10 and witness the shooting of Wild Bill. Check out the fabulous Midnight Star, Kevin Costner's casino, and try your luck at one of the slot machines.

Private Vehicle

Custer State Park - Devils Tower

5h

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

Day 7

Devils Tower/Bozeman

Check out the the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument en route to the university town of Bozeman, Montana.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Devils Tower - Bozeman

6h-7h

650km

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

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Visit

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

The Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is the site where the Battle of Little Bighorn took place - where the Lakota and Cheyenne Indians fought off the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry to defend their land and way of life. The battle was a major upset and overwhelming victory for the Lakota and Cheyenne tribes, as they defeated the U.S. army and killed Lt. Col. George A. Custer, which later inspired the movie Custer's Last Stand. An iconic site of American history, today it is home to a number of memorials commemorating the battle. Stop for a stretch and to take in this piece of U.S. history.

Day 8

Bozeman/Yellowstone National Park

Travel to Yellowstone, the world's first national park, and be in awe of the colourful geysers, powerful waterfalls, exciting wildlife, and contrasting scenic beauty around every corner.

Yellowstone is beyond special. Geysers, waterfalls, wildlife, and scenic beauty are around every corner just waiting to be explored. In fact, Yellowstone National Park is a super volcano with the world's largest active geyser field, boasting more than 10,000 geysers. The Park is also home to more wild animals than almost anywhere else in the U.S., including roaming bison, gray wolves, elk, black bears, and, of course, the famous grizzly bear.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Bozeman - Yellowstone National Park

3h-4h

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

Yellowstone Northern Loop Excursion

Yellowstone National Park

3h-4h

2km

Explore the Northern Loop in Yellowstone National Park, which features beautiful scenery, exciting wildlife, and spectacular hydrothermal features. Tour the ever-maturing Mammoth Hot Springs, walk the Porcelain Basin trail through Norris Geyser Basin, check out the vibrant Grand Prismatic Spring, and discover the impressive waterfalls and natural colours of the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone!

Day 9

Yellowstone National Park

Spend the day exploring the highlights of the Southern Loop.

Travel through some of the most famous landmarks of Yellowstone, including Old Faithful, Grand Prismatic Spring, West Thumb, and Yellowstone Lake.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Yellowstone South Loop Excursion

Yellowstone National Park

2h30m-3h

2km

Travel through the Southern Loop of Yellowstone National Park, which features some of the most breathtaking and diverse natural scenery. Watch Old Faithful erupt and take in the geysers in West Thumb with Yellowstone Lake as the backdrop.

Walking

Yellowstone National Park

4h

Lace up your shoes and get to the next stop under your own power.

Day 10

Yellowstone National Park/Jackson

Cross the Continental Divide en route to Grand Teton National Park. Enjoy the view of more than 12 peaks that make up this beautiful drive. Opt to visit a cowboy bar for Western line dancing and live music.

Stop at Jenny Lake in Grand Teton National Park and take in the tranquil surroundings.

In the late afternoon, reach Jackson and marvel at the town square's elk antler arches. In the evening, enjoy a night out with a true wild western atmosphere at the One Million Dollar Bar.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Yellowstone National Park - Jackson

5h-6h

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

Grand Teton National Park Visit

Grand Teton National Park

Visit Grand Teton National Park, a natural playground that offers serene landscapes, alluring wildlife, hidden waterfalls, and hundreds of hiking trails throughout the park. Towering above pristine lakes and alpine terrain, the Teton Range includes more than 8 peaks at an elevation greater than 12,000 ft (39370m).



Optional Activities - Day 10

Million Dollar Bar Visit

Jackson

Free-20USD

1h-1h

Enjoy a night out in a true Western town. Opt to go to the One Million Dollar Bar, Wyoming's landmark watering hole, known for its western dancing, live entertainment, and fascinating decor, including knobbed pine architecture and genuine saddle barstools. (Bar entry and drinking age in the United States is 21.)

Jenny Lake Shuttle

Grand Teton National Park

19USD

Stop at beautiful Jenny Lake and take a boat ride across the lake. Hike 3km (1.9 mi) to discover Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point on the other side of the lake.

Day 11

Jackson/Twin Falls

Choose to go whitewater rafting or horseback riding during a free morning, then cross the border into Idaho. Stop off at Shoshone Falls en route.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Jackson - Twin Falls

5h

410km

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

Free Time

Jackson

Enjoy a free morning for whitewater rafting or horseback riding.



Optional Activities - Day 11

Jackson Horseback Riding

Jackson

35-85USD

1h-3h

Saddle up and take a scenic ride through mountain trails into an area of unspoilt natural beauty. Enjoy peaceful surroundings along the famous Snake River and see if you can spot various wildlife in their natural habitat.

Whitewater Rafting on Snake River

Grand Teton National Park

Enjoy a guided tour along the Snake River and learn about the history and geology of the area. Pass by limestone cliffs and over class II and III rapids like The Lunchcounter and the Big Kahuna. Float down the river, keep an eye out for wildlife, and take in the stunning scenery!

Day 12

Twin Falls/Reno

Sit back and relax during a road trip day, crossing into Nevada. Enjoy the bright lights both in and outside the casinos in "The Biggest Little City in the World!"



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Twin Falls - Reno

8h

740km

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

Day 13

Reno/Lake Tahoe

Arrive to Lake Tahoe after a short drive. Enjoy a free afternoon for hiking, lake activities or relaxing.



Meals included

Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Reno - Lake Tahoe

1h30m

110km

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

Day 14

Lake Tahoe/Yosemite National Park

Marvel at the spectacular views of Yosemite National Park's magnificent peaks and granite domes while enjoying one of most scenic drives in California: Tioga Pass!

With a keen eye and a little luck, spot black bears, deer or coyotes.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Tioga Pass Drive

Tioga Pass - Yosemite National Park

Take this scenic route through the Sierra Nevada mountain range connecting Bishop with the Yosemite Valley floor. Pass by lakes, meadows, and groves, and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife along the way. (Seasonal July through mid October.)

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

Lake Tahoe - Yosemite National Park

8h

385km

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

Day 15

Yosemite National Park

Enjoy free time in Yosemite National Park.

Full day to explore Yosemite National Park. Hike the many trails Yosemite has to offer and be inspired by this beautiful and amazing landscape. Option to rent bikes in Yosemite Valley.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Yosemite National Park

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

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Optional Activities - Day 15

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.

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.

Day 16

Yosemite National Park/San Francisco

Catch a glimpse of the Golden Gate Bridge on the way into one of America's most popular cities. Trip ends upon arrival to San Francisco. Take an optional cable car ride over the steep hills or explore the city by bicycle.

Arrive at one of the most iconic cities in the world: San Francisco. The CEO will point out some popular sites on the drive into town.

There's a lot to see and do in San Francisco. We recommend spending extra time here if you'd like to explore the city; speak to your sales agent to book extra accommodation, or pre book a sunset sail off the coast of the city.

If you are departing on arrival to San Francisco, you will not have enough time to participate in the Sunset Sailing extra. Post-tour accommodation is required to purchase this extra.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Yosemite National Park - San Francisco

6h

230km

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

Departure Day

Depart on arrival to San Francisco. Your CEO can help with any onward travel arrangements you require.



Optional Activities - Day 16

Golden Gate Bridge Visit

San Francisco

Free

What trip to San Fran would be complete without seeing the Golden Gate Bridge? Depending on time, step foot on this famous red suspension bridge or find a great viewing point to take some photos.

Haight-Ashbury Visit

San Francisco

Free

Check out this neighbourhood known as the centre of counterculture ideals, drugs, and music during the hippie movement in the 60s. Today, find locally-owned restaurants and bars, boutiques, booksellers, head shops and record stores.

Alcatraz Visit

San Francisco

33USD

Travel out to Alcatraz Island for a cell-house audio tour of the infamous federal penitentiary. While there, check out the natural side of the rock—with its gardens, tide pools, bird colonies, and stunning views of San Francisco Bay. Tours often sell out, so book a ticket online (far in advance!) to secure a spot.

Bike Rental San Francisco

San Francisco

8-32USD

1h-5h

1-15km

Rent a bike to peddle across the Golden Gate Bridge, through the scenic Marina district or perhaps to Golden Gate park.

Fisherman's Wharf Visit

San Francisco

Free

Visit San Francisco's famous Fishermen's Wharf, walk the piers, check out the marine life, shop and sample the fresh seafood.

Cable Car Ride San Francisco

San Francisco

7USD

1h-3h

Iconic to San Francisco, travel back in time and hop on the world's last manually operated cable car system.

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.

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Miller Brewery Tour and Tasting, Milwaukee

- Your Discover Moment: Yosemite National Park
- Entrance fees to all national parks, state parks, and national monuments with hiking and walking excursions
- Mall of America visit
- Wall Drug visit
- Deadwood visit
- Tioga Pass (seasonal)
- Self-inflating mattresses and dome tents while camping
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Camp along the Mississippi River, hike the Badlands, marvel at Yellowstone's geysers, chill out at Lake Tahoe, meet the wildlife of Grand Teton National Park, explore the streets of San Francisco

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

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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.

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

1. An essential part of your trip is participation - from putting up your tent (while camping) or packing it away in the morning, to helping with meal preparation and cleaning up - it is all part of your adventure and when everyone puts in a little effort the trip will run smoothly. Your CEO will do all the meal planning, but we do ask the clients to help with the preparation and washing up. Team spirit is part of the fun! All camping equipment (with the exception of your sleeping bag and pillow) is supplied. We supply dome tents and assembly/disassembly takes only 5 minutes. All tents have built-in insect nets. Self-inflating mattresses are also provided, which are approximately 4cm thick, warm and comfortable.
2. Proper sleeping bags are necessary for this tour. Evening temperatures can reach -9°C - 0°C. Please ensure that your sleeping bag is rated to (-17°C for spring and fall trips and 0°C for trips June - Sept). If you prefer you can purchase a proper sleeping bag on the first day of the trip. Prices range from \$40-\$60USD.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Tioga Pass is a route through the Sierra Nevada mountain range of California on the eastern edge of Yosemite National Park, and we travel through the pass en route. In the spring and autumn seasons, there's a chance that the pass will be closed due to poor weather conditions or even snow. In such a case, we use an alternate route. The status of the road is monitored daily, and our travel plan for the area will be confirmed during the trip.
6. 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.
7. The American West is generally known for warm weather, but temperatures do vary significantly in the mountain and desert areas especially. The day time temperature could exceed 30 C, while the night time temperatures do regularly decrease to single digits, or even possible below freezing. Please be prepared for such extreme conditions.
8. Regarding our wi-fi equipped vehicles: we have limited bandwidth, and in the interests of allowing all travellers to access the wi-fi, travellers should limit their access to reasonable levels. Please note that wi-fi is not always available due to areas with limited or no cell phone service (e.g. in parts of national parks).
9. 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.

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 sometimes the driver - this person is knowledgeable in the routes travelled and will organize and lead the meal preparations and has experience in cooking a variety of local and international dishes for large groups.

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.

If a group exceeds 16 travellers, there will be a second CEO/CEO Driver co-leading the group to allow for a better overall experience.

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 22, avg 16.

What meals are included in this trip?

13 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners

What are the meals like on this trip?

All included meals will be prepared from goods bought en route from supermarkets, local shops and markets.

Breakfasts will generally consist of breads and cereals, if time allows a warm breakfast may be prepared. Many lunches will be provided en-route and will be light meals such as sandwiches and/or salads. All evening meals will be freshly-prepared hot meals, and will consist of a variety of continental and local dishes.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Air-conditioned private vehicle, walking.

What transportation will we take on this trip?

We use 25-passenger vehicles perfect for cross-country road trips on our 18-to-Thirtysomethings tours in the United States. Our new fleet of more cushy vehicles give travellers all the comfort of a big coach bus, but with a small-group experience. They put rider wellbeing first and foremost, with high-backed bucket seats and built-in headrests for all seats on board, huge 92cm-tall (36 in) windows that make every seat a window seat, an aisle way with enough headroom for most of stand upright, sliding seats that free up more shoulder room while on the road, A/C, charging stations, wi-fi, and loads of other features. We use a trailer to carry luggage and camping equipment. These are durable vehicles that allow us to drive on most types of roads in North America.

This is not a physically demanding journey. However, please take note of the travel times and distances in the itinerary. Despite some of the long days, most clients feel that the diversity of the North American landscape, culture and wildlife are all well worth the experience! A typical day of driving will include about six hours driving by one of the CEOs and two to five hours of stops along the way. Keep in mind that North America is a really big place – New York to New Orleans alone is the equivalent of driving across most of Europe, and we cover that much ground in a single week. Driving time is the perfect opportunity to catch up on sleep, relax, and swap stories with your fellow travellers.

While we try to travel into and out of cities during non-rush hour times, heavy traffic is a reality of some of the places we visit. As a result, some drives may be a bit longer than listed in the day-to-day itineraries. Bring your patience and a smile, and we'll get through it!

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe single 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 single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels/hostels (2 nts, some multi-share), participation camping (13 nts).

Will I get my own room?

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room/Tent" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room/tent for all nights, except for the below.

Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my tour?

Days 1

What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?

Accommodation will be varied throughout your adventure. We use a combination of hotels and hostels, but most of the nights on tour are spent camping in tents in public and private campgrounds.

Multi-share accommodation, on a single-sex basis (typically 4-6 people per room), is common in the U.S. and is the way you will be spending your hostel nights. We have specifically chosen unique accommodations to give local flavor to your trip.

Couples: Please note that due to the types of accommodation used in the U.S., couples will likely be split into separate rooms where we use multi-share hostels. Pending availability, couples may be able to pay extra while on tour to have their own room in some destinations.

All camping equipment (with the exception of your sleeping bag and pillow) is supplied, including camp mattresses, which are warm and comfortable. We supply dome tents that take only 5 minutes to assemble/disassemble. They are good quality, durable, industry-standard 2-person pop-up tents, each with 2 separate and convenient zip-up doors and vestibules, so that each person has his/her own entrance.

We use 2 types of campgrounds in North America:

1. Private campgrounds: These are privately run sites, usually with all services such as fire pits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets & shower buildings. Some have small outdoor swimming pools and laundry facilities. These campgrounds are typically located near national park entrances or towns.
2. Public campgrounds: These are park-run sites, usually with basic facilities such as fire pits, picnic tables, and drinking water. In some cases, this type of campground doesn't have showers, only pit toilets and a lake! In other locations, toilet and shower facilities may be located outside the campground, or at times in another location a drive away. Some may have shower fees for onsite facilities (\$2-6/shower).

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 at O'Hare International Airport, which is about 20 miles (32km) away from downtown Chicago, you have two transportation options: public taxi and a door-to-door shuttle service. Both are located outside the lower level of all terminals across the baggage claim areas.

Taxi

Expect to spend approximately \$30-\$40 depending on traffic (plus gratuity).

Go Airport Express

A very convenient transport is Go Airport Express. Located at the same location on all terminals, this service doesn't require any reservations. The shuttles run approximately every 5-10 min. The cost to downtown Chicago is about \$57. They operate from 6:00 to 23:30.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

Your CEO will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

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.

The American west is generally known for warm weather, but temperatures do vary significantly in the mountain and desert areas especially. The day time temperature could exceed 30 C, while the night time temperatures do regularly decrease to single digits, or even possible below freezing. It is therefore important to pack clothes for warm days and cool evenings - a light jacket is necessary.

Seasonal temperature ranges:

March - May ; September to December: -7 C to +30 C

June - August: 0 C to + 35 C

Additionally, a set of smart casual clothes is also advisable.

What should be on my packing list?

Camping:

- Bug net/ bug spray
- Day Pack (with water bladder or refillable bottle)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Sleeping bag and liner, 4 season
- Small travel towel
- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Thermal base layer
- Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)
- Travel pillow
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof daypack cover
- Windproof rain gear (Rain and Windproof rain gear - pants and jacket)
- Your own inflatable sleeping pad (or you can use the one provided)

Cold Weather:

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

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
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: For evenings out in some cities there will be a dress code. If you wish to participate, please bring a nicer outfit for these occasions. We recommend a nicer pair of shoes and a collared shirt or blouse.

When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry can be done at least once a week while on tour. Some private campgrounds and most cities have laundromats where you can buy soap and wash your laundry in coin-operated machines. 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

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 \$5-10 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?

Sioux Falls

- Sioux Falls Visit (Free)

Jackson County

- Original South Dakota 1880's
Town Visit (12-19USD per person)

Custer State Park

- Custer State Park Hike (Free)

Badlands National Park

- Horseback Riding (37-90USD
per person)

Jackson

- Million Dollar Bar Visit
(Free-20USD per person)
- Jackson Horseback Riding
(35-85USD per person)

Grand Teton National Park

- Jenny Lake Shuttle (19USD per
person)
- Whitewater Rafting on Snake
River

Yosemite National Park

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

San Francisco

- Golden Gate Bridge Visit (Free)
- Haight-Ashbury Visit (Free)
- Alcatraz Visit (33USD per person)
- Bike Rental San Francisco (8-32USD per person)
- Fisherman's Wharf Visit (Free)
- Cable Car Ride San Francisco (7USD per person)
- 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 CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your 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 or 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 judgment 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.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

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.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

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 prostitutes 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 use prostitutes.

Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel Insurance: 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 CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. 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/

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?

Minimum age of 18 years for this trip.

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.