G Adventures

Last Updated: March 16, 2022

National Parks & Bright Lights

15 days, San Francisco to Los Angeles

Trip code NUNP

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Las Vegas

- All national park and national monument fees
- Orientation to San Francisco, Las Vegas, San Diego, and Los Angeles
- Tioga Pass drive (seasonal)
- Death Valley visit
- Zion NP visit
- Bryce Canyon NP visit
- Glen Canyon Dam visit with Horseshoe Bend stop
- Jeep tour with local Navajo guide (Monument Valley)
- Grand Canyon visit with sunset dinner on the rim
- Slide Rock State Park visit
- Sedona stop
- Imperial Sand Dunes visit
- 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, 2016 - September 30th, 2016

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

San Francisco

Arrive at any time.

There are no planned activities until an evening welcome meeting.

We highly recommend booking pre-tour accommodation to fully experience this fascinating city.

Accommodation

Comfort Inn By the Bay (or similar) Hotel

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.

Day 2

San Francisco/Yosemite National Park

On the way out of San Francisco, take in some final sights. Stop at the Golden Gate Bridge, where on a clear day you can see the San Francisco skyline, Alcatraz and the Bay Bridge to one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other.

Drive past some iconic attractions of the city as we head the towards the Sierra Nevadas. Stop to try some of the region's best produce en route to Yosemite National Park.

Head out on an orientation of one of the greatest cities in the world, San Francisco.

Discover some of the city's most iconic attractions such as bustling Fisherman's Wharf or the stately Golden Gate Bridge.

Accommodation

Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort (or similar) Hotel

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle San Francisco – Yosemite National Park 7h 225km

Travel time includes stops along the way.

Day 3

Yosemite National Park

Discover Yosemite's peaks, granite domes, and giant sequoias. Marvel at majestic waterfalls, lakes, and meadows.

Head to the Yosemite Valley. Take short hikes to majestic waterfalls, clear lakes, beautiful meadows or walk amongst giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park.

If lucky, spot black bears, deer or coyotes with a keen eye.

Accommodation

Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort (or similar) Hotel

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.

Yosemite National Park Hike Yosemite National Park 1h-6h 1km

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.

Optional Activities - Day 3

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 4

Yosemite National Park/Sierra Nevadas

Hike past Yosemite's waterfalls and amongst the giant sequoias while keeping a keen eye out for wildlife. In the summer, travel via the Tioga Pass.

Head into the Yosemite Valley. Take short hikes (weather permitting) to majestic waterfalls, clear lakes, beautiful meadows or walk amongst giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park. With a keen eye, you may be lucky enough to spot black bears, deer or coyotes.

Surrounded by peaks which soar more than 14,000 ft (4,593m) in elevation, Bishop, one of "America's Coolest Mountain Towns" sits directly in the centre of an incredible area of natural beauty.

Travel via the Tioga Pass viewing Mono Lake and the tufa towers on the way.

> We intend on using the Tioga Pass, a scenic route through the Sierra Nevada mountain range that connects Bishop with Yosemite NP. The status of the road is monitored daily, and our travel plan for the area will be confirmed during the trip.

Accommodation

Clarion Hotel (or similar) Hotel

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Yosemite National Park – Bishop 7h 360km

Travel time includes stops along the way.

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.

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.)

Optional Activities - Day 4

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 5 Death Valley/Las Vegas

Head to desolate Death Valley – the hottest, driest, and lowest spot in North America, then enjoy exploring the Vegas strip. Opt for a VIP limousine tour or find some luck at the slots and poker tables.

Travel to one of the country's most rugged landscapes – the legendary Death Valley, California. Soak in the dramatic landscape.

In the afternoon, drive to Las Vegas, Nevada, the 'city of lights'. Explore the famous Vegas Strip and opt for a VIP limo experience.

Accommodation

Stratosphere Hotel (or similar) | Hotel

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle | Bishop – Las Vegas | 5h-6h | 430km

Travel time includes stops along the way.

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.

Optional Activities - Day 5

VIP Party Bus Experience Las Vegas 45USD

Channel your inner celebrity and set off in this party on wheels. Luxuriate in the leather seats, and feel like a star with the neon lights, flat screen TV and booming stereo system. Tour the highlights of Vegas and love the limo life.

Las Vegas Show Las Vegas 60-200USD 3h-4h

Leave the world behind, give in to your senses and prepare to be amazed. Take in one of the many shows available in this entertainment mecca. Live music, burlesque, comedy, magic, Cirque Du Soleil, and more. Whatever your passion, no other city can compete with the range and scale of shows on offer 24 hours a day.

Gambling at Vegas Casino Las Vegas

Hold some cards, toss some dice, place a bet or sit at the slots. Try your luck at gambling in one of the many casinos along the Strip. (The legal age for gambling is 21 years of age.)

Vegas Strip Visit Las Vegas Free

Walk along Las Vegas Boulevard and soak in the lights, energy and pulse of the Strip. With an ever-evolving architecture and multitude of hotels, casinos, restaurants, and entertainment, there's so much to see and do.

Day 6 Las Vegas

Enjoy a full free day to explore Las Vegas. Wander the strip, do some shopping, and refuel at one of the many bars or restaurants. Opt to take in a glitzy Las Vegas show or to head out on a day trip to the Hoover Dam.

Accommodation

Stratosphere Hotel (or similar) Hotel

Optional Activities - Day 6

Hoover Dam Visit Hoover Dam 65USD

Take a day trip to the Hoover Dam to learn more about this marvel of engineering.

Las Vegas Show Las Vegas 60-200USD 3h-4h

Leave the world behind, give in to your senses and prepare to be amazed. Take in one of the many shows available in this entertainment mecca. Live music, burlesque, comedy, magic, Cirque Du Soleil, and more. Whatever your passion, no other city can compete with the range and scale of shows on offer 24 hours a day.

Day 7 Las Vegas/Bryce Canyon National Park

Visit Zion, Utah's oldest national park. Explore towering cliffs and massive canyon walls. Hike diverse and exciting trails. Head to Bryce Canyon.

Arrive in Bryce Canyon just in time to witness one of the most spectacular sunsets in the Southwest.

Zion National Park/Bryce Canyon National Park

Accommodation

Bryce View Lodge (or similar) Hotel

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Las Vegas – Bryce Canyon 5h-6h 400km

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

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.

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 amphitheaters. This park contains hundreds of thousands of eroded spires, pinnacles, and other shapes as far as the eye can see.

Day 8 Bryce Canyon National Park/Lake Powell

Explore Bryce Canyon National Park on trails among the amphitheatres and multi-coloured rock pinnacles called hoodoos before heading to Lake Powell. Opt for a barbecue dinner and a sunset horseback ride (seasonal).

Accommodation

Quality Inn Page (or similar) Hotel

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Bryce Canyon National Park - Lake Powell 3h 265km

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 amphitheaters. This park contains hundreds of thousands of eroded spires, pinnacles, and other shapes as far as the eye can see.

Optional Activities - Day 8

Powell Horseback Riding Lake Powell 75-135USD

Take scenic trail rides into an area of unspoiled natural beauty with isolated mesas, valleys, buttes, and narrow canyons.

Day 9 Monument Valley

Visit the Glen Canyon Dam and take a short hike to Horseshoe Bend, shaped by the Colorado River. Discover one of the most majestic places on earth, Monument Valley. Explore on a 4x4 tour led by a Navajo guide.

Take an optional tour to Antelope Canyon, the second largest of its kind in North America.

Accommodation

Anasazi Inn (or similar) Hotel

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Lake Powell – Monument Valley 2h30m 210km

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

Glen Canyon Dam Visit Glen Canyon Dam – Lake Powell

Visit this concrete arch dam, the second largest dam of its kind in North America, built to provide hydroelectricity and flow regulation on the Colorado River in Northern Arizona.

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.

Monument Valley 4x4 Tour Monument Valley 2h-3h

Explore this magical and sacred place by 4x4. See magnificent colours, miles of mesas, buttes, and pinnacles that make Monument Valley a truly wondrous experience.

Optional Activities - Day 9

Antelope Canyon Tour Antelope Canyon 105USD

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.

Day 10

Grand Canyon National Park

Depart Monument Valley in the morning and stop for lunch just outside the Grand Canyon at a local Navajo food truck supported by Planeterra. Enter the park and drive along the south rim, stopping at Desert View to take in the grandeur of the canyon. Continue further into the park and opt to take a short hike into the canyon (weather permitting) or wander along rim trail to admire the views. Enjoy sunset at the edge of the Grand Canyon watching the way the light changes the colors.

Wander along a trail and feel the sunshine and wind on your face while admiring awe-inspiring views. Or sit and watch the changing play of light and shadows.

In the afternoon, opt to watch the most spectacular IMAX Adventure of all, the Grand Canyon Movie.

Meals included

Lunch | Dinner

Accommodation

Red Feather Lodge (or similar) Hotel

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Monument Valley – Grand Canyon National Park 3h30m 290km

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

Grand Canyon South Rim Visit Grand Canyon National Park – Grand Canyon

Visit the south rim of the canyon for a great first impression. Marvel as the Grand Canyon unfolds before you. 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.

Optional Activities - Day 10

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 Hike | Grand Canyon | Free | 1h-4h | 1-10km

Opt to hike along the rim or down into the canyon. Experience breathtaking scenery with spectacular views. Bring lots of water, a hat and plenty of energy. Remember -- hiking down is optional, hiking back up is mandatory!

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.

Day 11 Grand Canyon National Park/Scottsdale

Opt for a picnic and cool off at Slide Rock SP. Stop in stunning Sedona on the way to the 'Valley of the Sun'. In the evening, enjoy a night out in old town Scottsdale.

Get out the camera for this next breathtaking experience. Take Arizona's famous scenic drive through Oak Creek Canyon towards Scottsdale.

Note: If you have pre-booked the Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride you will enjoy your 45-50min ride over the canyon today.

Accommodation

Days Hotel Scottsdale (or similar) Hotel

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Grand Canyon National Park – Scottsdale 5h 360km

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

Slide Rock State Park Visit Sedona – Lake Havasu City

Jump, swim or slide into the refreshing natural waters at Slide Rock State Park. The red sandstone rock walls and swimming hole create the perfect place for an afternoon dip.

Day 12

Joshua Tree National Park/San Diego

Visit the Imperial Sand Dunes, then head to San Diego. Sun, sand, food, and fun all await in this beautiful beach city.

When the sun sets, experience the Gaslamp Quarter District with numerous pubs and nightclubs.

Accommodation

Days Hotel San Diego (or similar) Hotel

Today's Activities

Imperial Sand Dunes Visit North Algodones Dunes Wilderness 1h-2h 1km

The Imperial Sand Dunes are part of the Algodones Sand Dune system, beginning in southeastern California near the Arizona border and stretching south to Mexico's state of Baja California. In summer, prepare for temperatures over 38°C (100°F). But luckily it's a dry heat and the nights are cool. Climb the dunes and look for beetles, weevils and wasps endemic to the area.

Private Vehicle | Scottsdale - San Diego | 6h | 600km

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

Optional Activities - Day 12

Gaslamp Quarter District Visit | San Diego | Free

After the sun sets, historic Gaslamp Quarter District comes to life. Rich history mixed with modern flair, Gaslamp is booming with restaurants, bars, speakeasies, live music and dancing.

Day 13 San Diego

Enjoy free time to explore or just sit back and relax in the sun and sand.

San Diego is a great city to experience where life is lived outdoors.

Accommodation

Days Hotel San Diego (or similar) | Hotel

Today's Activities

Free Time | San Diego

Spend the day in San Diego anyway you like.

Optional Activities - Day 13

Surf and Boogie Board Rental | San Diego | 8-20USD

Boardwalk, bay, beach or surf, rent whatever you need to soak up the sun. Hire a surf board, paddle board, boogie board or kayak to catch the waves your way. Don't forget your sunscreen.

Gaslamp Quarter District Visit San Diego Free

After the sun sets, historic Gaslamp Quarter District comes to life. Rich history mixed with modern flair, Gaslamp is booming with restaurants, bars, speakeasies, live music and dancing.

Old Town San Diego Visit San Diego Free 1h-2h

Learn about San Diego while visiting its many historic sites. Enjoy local food and drinks in the heart of Old Town.

Surfing Lesson 60USD

Grab your swimsuit and get ready to hang ten! Learn how to find and ride the waves with surfing lessons from local experts. Enjoy the fresh sea air, and try to spot local marine life while enjoying the waters.

Day 14 San Diego/Los Angeles

Cruise through Orange County and along the incredible Pacific coastline to Los Angeles. See the stars on the most famous sidewalk in Hollywood on an orientation to the area. Drive through Beverly Hills and check out Rodeo Drive.

Discover why Santa Monica Pier and Venice Beach are highlights of Los Angeles. Opt to rent a bike.

Accommodation

LAX Hilton (or similar) Hotel

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle San Diego – Los Angeles 2h 190km

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

Orientation Drive Los Angeles

Drive around to spot some of the main highlights of the area. See the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Hollywood sign, and swing by Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive.

Optional Activities - Day 14

Bike Rental

Rent a bike from a local shop and head out to explore.

Day 15 **Los Angeles**

Depart at any time.

We highly recommend booking post-accommodation to fully experience this famous city.

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Las Vegas
- All national park and national monument fees
- Orientation to San Francisco, Las Vegas, San Diego, and Los Angeles

- Tioga Pass drive (seasonal)
- Death Valley visit
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What are the main highlights of this trip?

Meet the Navajo in stunning Monument Valley, marvel at the Grand Canyon, hike in beautiful Bryce Canyon and Zion NPs, roll the dice in Las Vegas, search for stars in Los Angeles

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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.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 an onsite casino, and smoking is permitted indoors. 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.

COMBO TRIP

Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludeFO

What is the role of the group leader during this trip?

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 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.

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 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.

What is the maximum and typical number of participants on this tour?

Max 14, avg 10

What meals are included in this trip?

1 lunch, 1 dinner

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Air-conditioned private vehicle, walking.

How will we travel between destinations?

For this trip we use 15-passenger vans for up to 14 people plus the CEO/Driver. These vans are durable vehicles that allow us to drive on most types of roads in North America.

Each van has a front passenger seat and 4 benches that will accommodate 3 people each 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 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 (14 nts).

If I choose to purchase My Own Room, are there any exceptions during the trip?

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 should I expect from the accommodations on this trip?

This trip uses 2-3 star hotels and motels in cities and near park entrances. Our chosen hotels vary in size, character, and amenities, but are of a 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?

The international airport in San Francisco is located 14 miles (22 km) from downtown San Francisco. When arriving at the International Airport in San Francisco, proceed to the Arrivals Hall, where you have three transport options; public Taxi, door-to-door shuttle or the public Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).

Taxi
On the Arrivals/Baggage Claim Level continue to the designed taxi zones located at the roadway center islands right outside the Arrivals Hall. Uniformed taxi coordinators will help you with any questions you may have but it should be fairly easy to find a taxi. The approximate fare to downtown San Francisco is $40 (depending on traffic) plus gratuity.

Door-to-Door Shuttle also knows as “Shared-Ride Vans”
This is probably the most cost effective way to get to your hotel and definitely cheaper than a taxi ride from the Airport. You will see quite a few shuttle companies, but you can save money and receive detailed joining locations by pre-booking at www.supershuttle.com. The fare to your hotel is around $15-20 plus gratuity.

BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) public transportation
The cheapest and definitely the most adventurous way to get to your hotel is by BART. The fare to downtown San Francisco is $8.10 (approximately 25 min). The BART station is located on the Departures/Ticketing Level of the International Terminal (Boarding Area G side). From any Terminal you can reach BART by taking the AirTrain to Garage G/Bart (no fare). Once at the station you need to get a ticket at the vending machine that accepts cash or credit card. Then you need to enter your ticket into the fare gate. The ticket will be returned to you since you will use the same ticket again when you exit BART at Civic Center/UN Plaza SF. From here transfer to the 19 Bus headed towards Fisherman’s Wharf. Exit at the Polk Street and Lombard Street stop. The Hotel is a 2 minute walked from here.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other then 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 do I contact for arrival issues or in the event 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

What are the packing guidelines and luggage restrictions?

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 I pack for this trip?

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:

- Footwear (required) (Closed toe suggested)
- 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
- 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

Warm Weather:

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

Where can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry can be done at least once a week while on tour. Some hotels 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

What emergency funds do I need access to 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!

What are the tipping guidelines for this 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?

- Optional activity prices are subject to change and can fluctuate in relation to the high/ low season and the number of people on a specific excursion. Not all excursions listed here may be available, due to season or weather conditions. As generally not a lot of time is spent in start/end cities, you may want to arrange to arrive early, or stay longer after the trip in order to allow sufficient time to participate in optional activities there. Please see the full itinerary for information on optional activities, descriptions and estimated pricing.

What general safety tips and free-time guidelines should I follow?

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 are the mandatory group rules regarding laws and behaviour?

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.

What are the mandatory travel insurance requirements for this 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.

What are the age restrictions for 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.