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Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "USA Road Trip: Pacific Coast — Seattle to LA" (NUWC), [but here are some similar trips.](#)



## **USA Road Trip: Pacific Coast — Seattle to LA**

14 days, Seattle to Los Angeles

Trip code NUWC

### **What's included**

- Your First Night Out Moment: Connect With New Friends
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group

- Your Discover Moment: Portland
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Americana Redwoods , Redwood National Park
- Your Discover Moment: San Francisco
- Your Discover Moment: Yosemite National Park
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Surf Party , Santa Cruz
- Mt Rainier National Park Visit
- Crater Lake National Park visit
- Redwood National Park visit
- Yosemite National Park visit
- Pacific Coast Highway drive
- Elephant Seal Rookery visit, San Simeon
- Free time in Portland, Bend, Lake Tahoe, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco
- Entrance fees to all national parks, with hiking and walking excursions
- Self-inflating mattresses and dome tents while camping
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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

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

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing June 12th, 2019 and onwards

# Itinerary

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**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

## Seattle

Arrive at any time.

Welcome to Seattle! Spend your first night out on the town with your CEO and group as you explore this free-spirited Pacific Northwest city. From mini golf to gum walls, and made-up games there's plenty to choose from. So grab your fellow adventurers and get ready to make some memories.

There's a lot to see and do in Seattle, and we recommend spending extra time here if you'd like to explore; speak to your sales agent to book extra accommodation.

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### Today's Activities

#### ACTIVITY

Connect with new friends on your first night out in a new destination. Only available on 18-to-Thirtysomethings tours.

#### 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.

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### Optional Activities - Day 1

Chihuly Garden and Glass

Seattle

Visit the must-see Chihuly Garden and Glass that showcases Dale Chihuly's glass blowing artwork. Walk through the gardens smelling of fresh flowers and trees, and spot beautiful vibrant glass pieces throughout. Whether they're coming out of the dirt as though they were plants themselves or hanging from the ceiling mimicking plant vines, this exhibit will be sure to fill you with joy.

Pike Place Market

Seattle

See the world-famous Pike Place Market, an array of sights, sounds and smells. See the fishmongers playfully throwing fish, pick up some local delicacies from market vendors everywhere you turn or just stroll down the cobblestone streets taking everything in. If you're a fan, don't forget to step foot inside the original Starbucks to get a grande cup of the recognized Pike Place Roast.

Space Needle

Seattle

Visit the Seattle icon, the Space Needle. Built for the 1962 World's Fair, the Space Needle stands today as a major tourist attraction for those looking to get an incredible view of the city from the 518ft tall (158m) observation tower.

Day 2

## Seattle/Mount Rainier National Park

No trip to Washington is quite complete without a visit to Mt Rainier National Park. Zoom here with your travel tribe from Seattle and enjoy a picnic lunch in the park. Then it's time to get some hiking done amidst the snowy mountain peaks. Keep your eyes peeled from some of the diverse wildlife that calls this place home. As the light begins to fade and your feet feel heavier from all of that exploring the group will head just outside the park to camp under the stars.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Seattle - Paradise

4h

270km

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

Mt Rainier National Park Visit

Mount Rainier National Park

Soak in the views of the snow-capped active volcano Mount Rainier. Wildflower fields that surround the base of the mountain and lead into lush forest areas that are perfect for hiking and wildlife sightings. Lace up your hiking shoes for some walking through the trails.

Private Vehicle

Paradise - Castle Rock

3h

175km

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

Let's get weird in Portland! Being one of the most popular cities to visit on the West Coast north of California Portland is artsy, funky, full of great food/drink options and not to mention extremely easy to fall in love with. Between the lush green forest, mountains shrouded in mist, and endless craft breweries sprinkled all over the city, you'll have no problem finding a creative way to get to know this wacky place.

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## Meals included

Breakfast

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## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Castle Rock - Portland

1h30m

100km

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

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## Optional Activities - Day 3

Portland Walking Tour

Portland

Go on a walking tour of Portland's best neighbourhoods, see how locals live, where you can find great shops, amazing food, craft breweries, and find street art.

Drink Up Portland's Craft-beer Scene

Portland

Set out on your own DIY pub crawl if you wish to explore Portland's craft-beer craze. Portland was an early innovator in the craft-beer scene so if you love a cold beer or cider head out and see what the city is pouring.

Please note that the legal bar entry and drinking age in the United States is 21.

Portland's Food Trucks

Portland

Portland is a food-centric city with an iconic food truck scene. Your CEO will be able to help you locate food cart "pods", where clusters of trucks park and serve, throughout the city. Hint: Cartlandia is one of the biggest "super pods" in the city where you will be sure to find good eats!

Day 4

## Portland/Bend

It's time to leave the bizarre behind as you make your way to Bend, Oregon, consistently voted one of the best places to live in the U.S. Arrive just in time to find yourself the perfect place to eat lunch. Then grab your buddies and explore town a bit. Maybe you'll head to another craft brewery, or maybe you'll try kayaking and canoeing through the beautiful water of Cascade lake. Or even better? Maybe you'll do both!



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Portland - Bend

3h30m-4h30m

260km

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

Free Time

Bend

Enjoy free time in Bend. Opt to go kayaking on the Deschutes River or visit a local brewery.



### Optional Activities - Day 4

Canoe by Moonlight

Bend

90USD

Slice through the beautiful waters of a Cascade Lake while being led by the moon and stars. Enjoy the calm of nature illuminated by the night sky, before capping off the night with dessert and a local brew on the water's edge. Bliss? Definitely.

Bend Brewery Tour

Bend

80USD

Home to 16 craft breweries, Bend is a beer lovers paradise! Hop on the 'Bend Brew Bus' and visit four local breweries for a behind-the-scenes look at the brewing process and enjoy samples at each, of course. (Bar entry and drinking age in the United States is 21.)

Bend Kayaking

Bend

20USD

Grab a paddle and explore the stretch of the Deschutes through the Old Mill District. Paddle upstream for 1.5 miles before enjoying a leisurely float back to the dock.

Day 5

## Bend/Redwood National Park

Rise and shine and hit the road early to take full advantage of the sights at gorgeous Crater Lake National Park. Grab some selfies or just sit and stare in awe at the crystal blue waters of one of the most pristine lakes on earth. Afterwards, head further south to California and Redwood National Park—home to the tallest trees in the world. Spend the evening gazing up at these gigantic coastal redwoods. To get a true sense of the enormity of these trees, try taking a picture of you hugging one of them.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Bend – Crater Lake National Park

1h30m-2h

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

Crater Lake National Park Visit

Crater Lake National Park

Considered by scientists to be the cleanest and clearest large body of water in the world, and the deepest lake in the U.S. at 1943 ft, Crater Lake is sure to impress. The lake rests in a dormant volcano – explore this National Park and its many viewpoints. Get sweaty on a steep hike before opting to jump into the crystal clear lake for a quick swim or stay on the rim and gaze at the sapphire waters below.

Private Vehicle

Crater Lake National Park – Redwood National Park

4h-5h

330km

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

### ACTIVITY

Celebrate new friends and new adventures with an Americana themed party at camp in the Redwoods tonight. Enjoy time together around the fire; maybe play charades, laugh, tell jokes, and have an impromptu dance party as the largest trees in the world cast shadows around you on this fun night!

Day 6

## Redwood National Park

Wake up to the sounds of the forest before going on a morning hike through these old mystical trees. Don't worry, it's not all about the redwoods, even though they are really something. After craning your neck for hours you'll be excited for a chance to look down as you head to the rocky California coast, to enjoy tide pooling and small beach communities as you continue towards San Francisco.

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### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

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### Today's Activities

Redwood National Park Visit

Redwood National Park

Prepare to be awed by the tallest trees in the world. The coastal redwoods of this National Park have been standing here for thousands of years, with the tallest standing over 107m (350 ft) tall! Enjoy time to explore and take in these ancient giants.

Day 7

## Redwood National Park/San Francisco

Catch yourself daydreaming as you cruise along the coast and then watch as vineyards pass by in California's famous wine region en route to San Francisco. Scoot over to the city on the Golden Gate Bridge and stop for pictures at this iconic site. We're thinking group selfie?



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Redwood National Park - San Francisco

6h

500km

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

Golden Gate Bridge Visit

San Francisco

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.



### Optional Activities - Day 7

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.

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.

Sunset Sailing San Francisco (Mon-Wed)

San Francisco

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

Day 8

## San Francisco

Get ready to explore this city by the bay with your adventure pals! Walk up winding Lombard Street, hop on a historic cable car and see the hills of the city, or get sprayed by the ocean at Lands End.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Optional Activities - Day 8

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.

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.

Day 9

## San Francisco/Lake Tahoe

Continue on to idyllic Lake Tahoe, a jewel of the Sierra Nevadas. Known for its crystal clear waters and sweeping mountain views, it is truly a nature-lover's paradise. Enjoy a free afternoon for hiking, lake activities or relaxing. In the evening, hit up the Nevada side of the Lake and try your hand at the Casinos. Who knows, maybe luck will be on your side!



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

San Francisco - Lake Tahoe

3h45m

340km

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

Free Time

Lake Tahoe

Take an afternoon to explore Lake Tahoe.



### Optional Activities - Day 9

Emerald Bay Hiking

Emerald Bay State Park

Take in the beauty of Emerald Bay State park from one of the many hiking trails that ring this tranquil bay of Lake Tahoe. With many moderate to easy rated trails, expect vistas of the lake and the surrounding mountains, along with towering Redwoods and rushing waterfalls. Make sure to pack plenty of water and sturdy shoes, you won't want to leave this natural paradise!

Lake Tahoe Paddleboard Excursion

Lake Tahoe

25-105USD

Lake Tahoe has become a standup paddle board Mecca in the past few years, and for good reason. Take to the lake's stunningly clear waters and tour the scenic coastline on your own, or opt for a guided tour as you discover all the lake has to offer.

Lake Tahoe Casinos

Lake Tahoe

Casino-hop in Lake Tahoe and try your hand at slot machines, the roulette wheel, or a blackjack table. Bring a good luck charm along and hope to get lucky!

Day 10

## Lake Tahoe/Yosemite National Park

Say, "see you later" to Lake Tahoe and travel south through National Forests and the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range on the way to Yosemite National Park. Tip your head back and relax or try to spot some wildlife. Once you arrive, hike amongst giant sequoias and past powerful waterfalls before setting up camp. Spend the night telling stories around the fire with your newest travel family.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Yosemite National Park Visit

Yosemite National Park

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

Private Vehicle

Lake Tahoe - Yosemite National Park

8h

385km

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

Let your mind wander as you hike through this breathtaking park. Gaze in wonder at Yosemite's magnificent peaks and granite domes before turning your attention to the tranquil nature of the valley floor. Snap photos or simply take in the beauty of one of the country's most beautiful national parks. Keep an eye out for rock climbers and diverse wildlife within the park and consider renting bikes with some friends to better explore Yosemite Valley.



## Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



## Today's Activities

Yosemite National Park Visit

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## Optional Activities - Day 11

Yosemite Bike Rental

Yosemite National Park

30-40USD

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

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

Yosemite National Park Hike

Yosemite National Park

Free

1h-6h

1-15km

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

Leave the mountains behind and head to the coastal paradise of Santa Cruz. Conveniently located between San Francisco and Monterey this beach town is full of great surf, pristine waterfront, redwood-covered mountains, laid-back surfer towns, organic farms, and a growing beer and wine scene. Spend your free afternoon exploring the wharf, vintage shops, and beach coves with a friend or on your own. Either way you'll be getting a true taste of what the laid back life on the West Coast is all about.



## Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Yosemite National Park - Santa Cruz

4h15m

322km

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

Santa Cruz Visit

Santa Cruz

Known for its boardwalk, beautiful beaches, and California surf culture. Explore this charming coastal town for a great introduction to laid back west coast vibes.

Free Time

Santa Cruz

Explore this coastal city with some free time.

### ACTIVITY

Catch a wave "bruh" and get ready to have some fun at a surf themed party tonight at camp in Santa Cruz. Hear the crash of waves in the distance as you play some games and laugh together around the fire as a group... beach volleyball anyone?

Day 13

## Santa Cruz/Morro Bay

Travel down the famous Pacific Coast Highway and marvel at the beautiful coastline and mountain ranges of Big Sur. Have your cameras handy as you will be making multiple stops along the way at places you won't want to miss having a photo of. Take in the crashing waves, rolling fog, and sheer rocky cliffs that make this journey down California's coastal Highway 1 an unforgettable experience. Arrive in time to enjoy sunset on Morro Bay.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Santa Cruz - Morro Bay

2h45m

265km

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

#### California's Pacific Coast Highway

The PCH, California's Highway 1, travels more than 650 miles along California's coastline. See seaside towns, dramatic vistas and waves crash into where the cliffs meet the shore. Marvel at Big Sur, past famous bridges and lighthouses. Get out and stretch, take some photos, and even opt to feel the sand between your toes. Check out the sounds and smells of the elephant seals at Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery. Enjoy the day soaking in part of the most beautiful coastline this National Scenic Byway has to offer.

Elephant Seal Rookery

San Simeon

30m

Marvel at this coastline consistently overflowing with marine-life. Once hunted for their blubber to the point close to extinction, elephant seals are now back in droves. Throughout the year, more than 17,000 elephant seals show up on this stretch of beach to give birth, breed, and moult. Bring your camera and capture some memorable moments.

Day 14

## Morro Bay/Los Angeles

Journey along the stunning Pacific coast to the 'City of Angels'. Stop in Santa Barbara for lunch in this famous coastal city as the group makes its way to LA (maybe sneak in a volleyball game on the beach if you have time). Your CEO will point out a few famous neighbourhoods and landmarks on the drive. And even though the trip ends upon arrival to Los Angeles you can certainly book some post accommodation and continue enjoying one of most geographically diverse states in America.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Today's Activities

Departure Day

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

Private Vehicle

Morro Bay - Los Angeles

5h30m-6h

350km

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

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### Optional Activities - Day 14

Venice Beach Visit

Los Angeles

Free

Explore this hangout for the creative and the artistic. Venice is known for its circus-like Ocean Front Walk, and pedestrian promenade highlighting street performers, fortune tellers, artists, and vendors.

Santa Monica Pier Visit

Los Angeles

Free

Check out the pier, boardwalk, and some of the city's best shopping at 3rd St Promenade in this beachfront city.

## What's included

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- Entrance fees to all national parks, with hiking and walking excursions
- 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?

Hike among snowy mountain peaks in Mt Rainier National Park, Opt to canoe or kayak in Bend, Take a full free day to explore San Francisco and the Bay Area, Spot deer and coyote in Yosemite National Park, Experience California surf culture in Santa Cruz

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

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

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

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

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

# 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. Comfortable, self-inflating mattresses are also provided, which are approximately 4cm thick.
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 \$60-\$150USD.
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.

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

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

## How large will the group be?

Max 13, avg 12.

## What meals are included in this trip?

13 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners

## What are the meals like on this trip?

Most of the meals on this tour are included in the tour price. When a meal is not included, this is because there are often many options available - we would like to give you the opportunity to explore a bit and taste the local cuisine yourself. In these cases, your CEO will be able to suggest some good local restaurants or options for you to choose from.

All included meals will be prepared from fresh local produce. The majority of the shopping for food will be done before the trip departs, and fresh goods, such as meats, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, will be bought en route during the trip 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.

Our CEO will organize the meal preparation and lead the way here, but will prepare a duty schedule for ensuring a fair, rotating participation from you and your group members in the meal preparation and dish washing duties.

Vegetarian meals and other dietary requirements need to be specified prior to arrival.

## 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 make the most of it!

## Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

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

## Where will we stay during the trip?

Hostels (4 nts, multi-share with 4-6 people), participation camping (9 nts).

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

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 days 1, 3, 7 and 8.

## 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 comfortable camp mattresses. We supply dome tents that take only 5 minutes to assemble/disassemble. They are good quality, durable, industry-standard, oversized 2-person tents, each with 2 separate and convenient zip-up doors, 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?

### TAXI

Yellow Cabs are available on the third floor parking garage. A cab from Sea-Tac airport to downtown Seattle ranges from \$50-55 USD.

### Rideshare Apps

After requesting a ride, follow the parking garage signs and meet your driver at the Rideshare/TNC pickup zone on the 3rd floor of the Sea-Tac Airport parking garage. Fare estimates are \$40-\$45.

### LINK LIGHT RAIL

Upon arrival, follow the signs to Link Light Rail by way of the fourth floor of the parking garage (and not Public Transit). Take the Link: University Of Washington Station to University Street Station. Transfer to the E Line: Aurora Village Transit Center and take it 4 stops to Aurora Ave N & Denny Way. Your hotel is a 5 minute walk from here. The fare is about \$5 USD.

Link is a separate entity from Metro transit that serves downtown Seattle. If you buy a ticket for the train and you wish to transfer to a city bus that would be another fare. You can buy an Orca card from the ticket machine that does allow for transfers. This will cost \$5 and you can 'load' it with any amount of money that you wish.

### SHUTTLE EXPRESS

The Shuttle Express is a shared van service that can be pre-booked online ([www.shuttleexpress.com](http://www.shuttleexpress.com)). The fare is \$40 USD per person in a shared van and goes from the airport to most downtown hotels.

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 for this evening, 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](http://www.xe.com)

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

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

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

It is customary in North America to tip service providers such as waiters, bartenders and taxi drivers, at approximately 15-18%, 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 exceeded your expectations, feel free to tip more.

# What activities are optional on this trip?

## Seattle

- Chihuly Garden and Glass
- Pike Place Market
- Space Needle

## Portland

- Portland Walking Tour
- Drink Up Portland's Craft-beer Scene
- Portland's Food Trucks

## Bend

- Canoe by Moonlight (90USD per person)
- Bend Brewery Tour (80USD per person)
- Bend Kayaking (20USD per person)

## San Francisco

- Cable Car Ride San Francisco (7USD per person)
- Sunset Sailing San Francisco (Mon-Wed)
- Alcatraz Visit (33USD per person)
- Fisherman's Wharf Visit (Free)
- Haight-Ashbury Visit (Free)
- Bike Rental San Francisco (8-32USD per person)

## Emerald Bay State Park

- Emerald Bay Hiking

## Lake Tahoe

- Lake Tahoe Paddleboard Excursion (25-105USD per person)
- Lake Tahoe Casinos

## Yosemite National Park

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

## Los Angeles

- Venice Beach Visit (Free)
- Santa Monica Pier Visit (Free)

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

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

## What is Planeterra?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minimum age of 18 years for 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.