

National Parks of the Southwest

**11 days from \$4,595 total price
land only**

It's a land of scenes epic in scope, from the immense Grand Canyon and the winding Colorado to the sandstone spires of Bryce and the red-rock cliffs and chasms of Zion. It's the Southwest, which our small group celebrates at favorite national parks and preserves. And, wrote author Wallace Stegner, it's America's "best idea."



Zion NP's 232 square miles boast a diversity of landscapes, including high plateaus, deep sandstone canyons, and the Virgin River.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Spectacular Southwest scenery • Phoenix sightseeing, including Desert Botanical Garden • Immersive experiences in three national parks • Open-air Jeep tour of Sedona's red-rock landscape • World-renowned Grand Canyon, with hotel stay inside the park • Lake Powell stay • Motorized rafting excursion on Colorado River • "Flowing" rock walls of Antelope Canyon • Hikes in national parks • Natural hoodoo rock formations of Bryce Canyon NP • Zion NP's diverse landscapes and wildlife

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1-2	Depart for Phoenix	Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort	Sup. First Class
3	Williams	Grand Canyon Railway Hotel	First Class
4	Grand Canyon	Thunderbird Lodge	First Class
5	Page	Lake Powell Resort	First Class
6-7	Bryce Canyon City	Best Western Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel	First Class
8-9	Springdale (Zion NP)	Hampton Inn & Suites Springdale	First Class
10	Las Vegas	Westin Las Vegas	Deluxe
11	Depart Las Vegas		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Day 1: Depart for Phoenix, Arizona We depart today for Phoenix, Arizona. As guests' arrival times may vary, we have the day at leisure to explore Arizona's capital city as we wish. This afternoon we check in at our hotel, where we enjoy a welcome briefing and dinner together. *D*

Day 2: Phoenix This morning we visit the acclaimed Desert Botanical Garden, the 140-acre tribute to the flora of the Sonoran desert. With more than 4,000 species of plants, including almost 500 rare and endangered types, the Botanical Garden features nature paths and walking trails showcasing the beauty of the desert environment. We continue on to Old Town Scottsdale, the city's historic core where we have free time to browse the shops and galleries, and have lunch on our own. Then we return to our hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy the outdoor pool and other amenities. Dinner tonight is on our own. *B*

Day 3: Phoenix/Sedona/Williams We leave Phoenix today, bound for Williams, a short distance from the Grand Canyon. First, though, we're headed to Sedona, one of the most striking spots in the American Southwest. Famed for its range of towering red sandstone formations, Sedona ranks as a popular destination for artists, filmmakers, photographers, hikers, and moun-

tain bikers. We have time for lunch on our own and to do some exploring before we encounter this dazzling landscape in style, as we take a Pink Jeep tour for an educational off-road excursion. Winding over dirt roads, we enjoy stunning panoramic views and learn about the region's cultural and geological history on this guided tour to Honanki Heritage Site, a 700-year-old Sinaguan cliff dwelling. Then we continue north to our hotel, a few blocks from Route 66 and where we dine together tonight. *B,D*

Day 4: Williams/Grand Canyon It's a day to remember as we visit one of the country's most famous natural landmarks: the Grand Canyon. A wonder of the natural world, this UNESCO site stretches nearly 300 miles through and 10 miles across the Arizona desert. We see awe-inspiring vistas: banded layers of rock rise to plateaus and bluffs thousands of feet overhead, while the mighty Colorado River rushes one mile below. On our guided tour, we learn about the canyon's geological history, and also about human history here: it dates back some 10,000 years and includes Native peoples, explorers, miners, entrepreneurs, conservationists, and of course, visitors – who today number some six million annually. Then we have time for lunch on our own and an afternoon and evening at leisure to appreciate the magnitude and beauty of the

six-million-year-old canyon as we wish. After this bucket-list day, dinner tonight is on our own. *B*

Day 5: Grand Canyon/Page/Antelope Canyon/Lake Powell Today we travel to Page, Arizona, gateway to the imposing Glen Canyon Dam and its reservoir, Lake Powell. After reaching Page early this afternoon, we have lunch on our own then visit the sinuous – and spectacular – Upper Antelope Canyon. We travel onto Navajo land to reach this slot canyon, known to local tribes as “the place where water runs through rocks” – and one of the most photographed slot canyons in the world. Our tour through this stunning passageway reveals red-orange walls of “flowing” rock rising to heights of nearly 120 feet – the narrow canyon’s hard edges smoothed away by eons of water and sand erosion. We check in at our lakeside hotel this afternoon then enjoy dinner together there tonight. *B,D*



The Colorado and the Grand Canyon

Day 6: Page/Colorado River/Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah Our long, but incredibly scenic, day of travel begins with a rousing motorized rafting excursion on the smooth waters of the Colorado River. Controlled by a series of dams and reservoirs, the river provides hydroelectric power, irrigation, and municipal water supply to nearly 40 million people in the western U.S. Our adventure begins at the base of one of these structures: the 710-foot-high Glen Canyon Dam. The dam holds back man-made Lake Powell, the nation’s second largest artificial lake at 186 miles long and with nearly 2,000 miles of shoreline. As we drift downstream between soaring sandstone cliffs on either side, we’re on the lookout for ancient Native American petroglyphs on the canyon walls, as well as local wildlife. We continue on to southern Utah and Bryce Canyon National Park, stopping for lunch along the way. We dine together tonight. *B,L,D*

“ WE HAVE AN UNKNOWN DISTANCE
YET TO RUN ...”

– JOHN WESLEY POWELL

Day 7: Bryce Canyon National Park Despite its name, Bryce isn’t truly a canyon at all, but a series of natural cliffs and amphitheatres carved into the region’s plateaus. The result: a stunning array of hoodoos, natural stone pillars and spires reminiscent of a child’s drip sand castle, as we see today. Thousands of these delicate structures stand side by side along the canyon’s ridgelines, lending a dramatic atmosphere to this remote location. In the park’s visitor center, we see a film about the unusual geology here then have the day free to explore at our own pace. Our full day of natural splendor concludes with dinner together tonight. *B,D*

Day 8: Bryce Canyon National Park/Zion National Park We depart this morning for Zion National Park, another celebrated Utah destination. Upon arrival mid-day, we have lunch on our own then begin our visit at Zion’s nearby visitor center, where we learn about this inimitable region, which encompasses four separate biomes: desert, riparian (or riverbank), woodland, and coniferous forest. Zion itself is so named for the 15-mile-long, 2,500-foot-deep Zion Canyon cutting through the park’s western half. We get our first taste of Zion’s wonders this afternoon then have the evening free for dinner on our own. *B*

Day 9: Zion National Park We spend the day amid the wondrous natural world of Zion National Park. Despite its modest size, Zion counts as one of the most diverse national parks in the United States. Deserts and forests, rivers and canyons, buttes and natural arches all greet us here, along with numerous plant and animal species. As with most of the Southwest, the area is dominated by red-rock bluffs that show eons of sediment buildup; indeed, the rock formations here represent about 150 million years of geological history. We take a hike and have ample free time for exploration and lunch on our own. This evening we enjoy dinner together. *B,D*

Day 10: Zion National Park/St. George/Las Vegas, Nevada En route to Las Vegas today, we stop in St. George, Utah, site of the winter home of Mormon leader Brigham Young and where the Mojave Desert,

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities (or may be purchased as land only)
- 10 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 18 meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for dining room servers, hotel porters, rafting guides, and all drivers



Hoodoos in Bryce Amphitheater, Bryce National Park

Colorado Plateau, and Great Basin converge in a stunning setting. We have time to explore and have lunch on our own before we continue on to Las Vegas, arriving late this afternoon. Tonight, we celebrate our Southwestern sojourn at a farewell dinner. *B,D*

Day 11: Depart Las Vegas This morning we transfer to the Las Vegas airport for our flights home. *B*

Tour Departs: April 14, 2024

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

Land Only	\$4,595
Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco	\$4,995
Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis, Seattle	\$5,095
Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$5,195

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees for departures from above listed cities.

Single travelers please add \$1,195. All tour prices above are guaranteed.

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking on uneven terrain in a natural environment. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest. While not severe, elevations at some hotel locations (Grand Canyon at 6,800 ft. and Bryce Canyon at 8,000 ft.) could pose problems for guests with certain health conditions. You should consult your personal physician if you have concerns.



Important Information About Your Tour

General Terms and Conditions

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Tour Prices

Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2024, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities

Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on "On Your Own" optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price

Airfare from your hometown to your departure

city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment

A deposit of \$500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds

If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

For all tours (except as noted)

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	\$200
94-65 days:	25% of tour price
64-45 days:	50% of tour price
44-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

For Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Machu Picchu to the Galapagos

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	\$200
94-65 days:	50% of tour price
64-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Pre-Departure

Upon reservation, you will be able to access all information regarding your tour in My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal. This material includes your invoice, a detailed day-by-day itinerary, visa requirements (if applicable), Travel Protection Plan information, and more. Your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers), will be available in the portal two to three weeks before departure.

Single Travelers

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

Changes to Your Reservation

We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a

\$100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.**

Required Information

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit www.tsa.gov), as well as for our international travel partners: **your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender.** In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Travel Documents

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all of our international tours. For all domestic tours, where we fly into a U.S. city to begin the tour or out of a U.S. city at the end, you must present a valid U.S. government-issued photo identification. Starting on May 7, 2025, your government-issued photo ID must be REAL ID-compliant (or you can present an alternate form of ID, such as a passport). Visit www.dhs.gov/real-id or contact your local DMV for more information. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you need to obtain a visa, we recommend our preferred provider G3 Global Services. If you are traveling with a minor, please contact us for special entry requirements. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy

or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

Health and Medical Issues

We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

Air Transportation

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates,

upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Responsibility

The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary or staff changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.

VMFA Member Travel reserves the right to use photos that might include you in marketing materials and for other purposes unless you specify otherwise.



RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place on tour, **please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

Tour Name _____

Departure Date _____

Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request an air upgrade to _____

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

I/We request an upgrade to cabin category _____ (for *Patagonian Frontiers* only)

I/We request an upgrade to a Highland Villa (for *Machu Picchu to the Galapagos* only)