



# Great American Southwest!

MYSTIC SEDONA TO LIVELY LAS VEGAS

THE GRAND CANYON, PAINTED DESERT AND PETRIFIED FOREST!

Join TRIPS as we explore the splendor of the Great American Southwest! From the vast Grand Canyon to Sedona's red rocks, the beautiful vistas of this area are truly marvelous. As you drive from Phoenix to Sedona you'll catch your first glimpse of the stately saguaro cacti and rugged red-rock landscapes that have served as backdrops for Western history and Western movies and where Cowboys and Indian are still at home! Enjoy scenic Sedona as you rumble amongst the red rocks in a jeep. As you travel through the Painted Desert, you'll surely understand how the vast area got its name. And no matter how you approach it, the Grand Canyon is . . . well, Grand! Your tour ends in the city that never sleeps, Las Vegas where you'll have a full day to do just what you want to do! Join us on this 8 day / 7 night tour and discover the beauty of the American Southwest!

## Itinerary

### Day 1 - Cowboys and Chuck-Wagon!

Today, board your flight bound for **Arizona!** On arrival, you will be met by your TRIPS representative and travel to **Sedona - Red Rock Country!** This picturesque town is surrounded by red-rock monoliths with such intriguing names as Coffeepot, Cathedral and Thunder Mountain. This evening you'll head out for a **chuck wagon dinner!** First, wander through an Old West courtyard, modeled after a 19th-century ranching town. When the dinner bell sounds, head for the barn to fill your tin plate with a heaping cowboy dinner! After you've had your fill, lean back and enjoy a performance that will have you tapping your toes and laughing at zany comedy routines!

Overnight: Sedona, AZ (D)

### Day 2 - Experience the West!

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel this morning, then set out on an awe-inspiring **jeep ride** through the unique canyons that surround Sedona. Your guide will acquaint you with rock formations that seemingly appear from nowhere as you marvel at their beauty. After, you'll have time to enjoy lunch on your own before your next Sedona adventure! You'll board the **Verde Canyon Railroad** for a 4 hour excursion through 20 miles of history! Travel through **Verde Canyon** which is only accessible by rail. You'll be surrounded by high cliff walls adorned with cactus and agave. Be sure and enjoy the open-air viewing car where you can learn about the canyon's history and geology and have your binoculars ready to spot some of the **bald eagles** that make their home in the canyons. This evening, enjoy dinner on your own in Sedona.

Overnight: Sedona, AZ (B)

### Day 3 - The Natural Beauty of Arizona!

Depart Sedona after breakfast this morning and travel through **Oak Creek Canyon**, a picturesque and intimate canyon with memorable views. In fact, locals say that God created the Grand Canyon for the world, but Oak Creek Canyon for himself! You'll travel through **The Painted Desert** on your way to the **Petrified Forest National Park**. Encompassing nearly 100,000 acres, this vast landscape features rocks in every hue, from deep lavenders and rich grays to reds, oranges and even pinks! Both the Navajo and Hopi people have lived here for hundreds of years, but it was Spanish Colonialist who gave this landscape the name we know it by today, **El Desierto Pintado**. You'll stop at the Painted Desert Visitor Center where you can get in touch with the natural landscape through hands-on exhibits and an orientation film. Then, enjoy a drive through the area marveling at rock formations and mesas with beautiful color striations! Late this afternoon, head north through the Painted Desert to Chinle, and the **Canyon De Chelly National Monument!** You'll check into your hotel and enjoy dinner and the beauty of the area. Your lodge is Navajo owned and operated and the charm and comfort will surely add to your visit of Navajo country! You'll find a delightful gift shop here that sells fine Native American jewelry, pottery, rugs and other handmade crafts and gifts!

Overnight: Chinle, AZ (Canyon De Chelly) (B/D)

### Day 4 - Canyons Galore!

After breakfast this morning, you'll enjoy a driving tour along the rim of the **Canyon De Chelly** with spectacular views from the scenic overlooks. With steep canyon walls and picturesque vistas of rocky outcroppings and dry riverbeds, you'll want to be sure and have your cameras ready! People have lived in these canyons for nearly 5,000 years and today Navajo dwellers still live on the canyon floor where they raise livestock and farm the land. Then, drive across northern Arizona, making your way to the Grand Canyon, stopping along the way for lunch on your own. On reaching this

marvel, you'll be assisted with your check-in before making your way to see the **Grand Canyon Visitor Center**. Here you'll see the acclaimed **IMAX** movie **Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets**. Dinner tonight will be in one of the park restaurants.

Overnight: Grand Canyon (B/D)

#### **Day 5 - A Grand Canyon Indeed!**

After enjoying breakfast this morning, depart for a driving tour along the south rim of one of America's most spectacular landmarks. Vast, magnificent and inarguably beautiful, it stretches 277 miles from end to end with steep rocky walls that descend more than a mile to the canyon's floor. The **Grand Canyon** boasts some of the nation's cleanest air, and on a clear day you really can see forever, some 110 miles! You'll travel along the south rim of the canyon stopping at overlooks to take in the panoramic views. One of the **Seven Natural Wonders of the World**, the Grand Canyon was formed by the Colorado River over the past 40 million years. And whether it's your first time visiting, or your tenth, it's impossible to ignore the raw beauty of one of earth's greatest creations! The remainder of your day is at your leisure to explore the canyon your way! Whether you opt to stroll along the rim or take the free shuttle bus to a spot you'd like to see, you'll find the beauty of the canyon an undeniable draw. Return to your lodge in time to enjoy dinner on your own.

Overnight: Grand Canyon (B)

#### **Day 6 - From the Canyon to Las Vegas!**

After a final glimpse at the beauty of the truly *grand* canyon, you'll head north to **Las Vegas** with a stop along the way for lunch on your own before arriving in Las Vegas! After checking into your hotel, enjoy dinner on your own before setting off for a **Illumination Tour** of the city that never sleeps! From the over the top **Fremont Street Experience** to the silhouette of the Eiffel tour, Las Vegas truly comes alive when the lights come on!

Overnight: Las Vegas (B)

#### **Day 7 - What Happens in Vegas - Stays in Vegas!**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at your hotel today and then do whatever you want! **You have the day to experience Las Vegas your way!** Try your had at lady luck, enjoy world class shopping or just stroll and marvel at this city that is unlike any other! Entertainment options in Las Vegas abound, so you might want to get tickets for a favorite singer or entertainer for this evening. And of course fine dining is plentiful, so plan your day and remember - what happens in Vegas . . . stays in Vegas!

Overnight: Las Vegas (B)

#### **Day 8 - Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow!**

After breakfast at your hotel this morning, you'll be assisted with your checkout and transfer to the nearby airport. **As you wing your way home, memories of the Great American Southwest tour will surely last a lifetime!** (B)

### **Inclusions**

- Round trip airfare to Phoenix and from Las Vegas (checked baggage fee is not included)
- 2 nights lodging in Sedona, AZ
- 1 night lodging in Chinle, AZ (Canyon De Chelly)
- 2 nights lodging at the Grand Canyon
- 2 nights lodging in Las Vegas
- 7 Breakfasts
- 3 Dinners including a Chuck Wagon Dinner in Sedona, dinner in the Canyon De Chelly area and dinner at the Grand Canyon!
- Jeep ride in Sedona
- 4 hour Verde Canyon Railroad excursion
- Admission to all parks including Petrified Forest National Park, Canyon De Chelly National Monument and the Grand Canyon
- IMAX presentation at the Grand Canyon
- Las Vegas Illuminated Night Tour
- Private deluxe motor coach throughout the program
- Portage of one suitcase per person
- All government taxes and fees



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