

Canyons, Mesas and Hoodoos | Las Vegas to National Parks

Holiday Duration: 13 Nights



Overview

Canyons, Mesas and Hoodoos

From the glitzy nightlife of Las Vegas to the calming landscapes of the National Parks of the Southwest – this Brand USA Insider Guide fly-drive holiday has it all!

Visit Bryce Canyon National Park, a sprawling reserve in southern Utah, known for crimson-coloured hoodoos, which are spire-shaped rock formations. Drive along the breathtaking Boulder Highway which cuts through the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to the little town of Moab, where you can experience two of Utah's The Mighty 5® National Parks from one convenient location. It is a gateway to massive red rock formations in the Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park featuring mesas and buttes carved by the Green and Colorado rivers. On the way to Page/Lake Powell stop at Monument Valley, where the famous, steeply sloped Mittens buttes can be viewed from the road or from overlooks such as John Ford's Point. In stark contrast to it is Lake Powell, where deep clear blue waters and the surrounding landscape: the stark red sandstone rocks with little or no



vegetation, the innumerable steep remote side canyons, and the spires, ridges and buttes leave you overwhelmed and speechless. Finally, visit Zion National Park which protects incredible rock formations and high sandstone cliffs within its boundaries, before heading back to the “City That Never Sleeps”!

This itinerary is flexible and can be tailor-made to suit you; if you want to add extra days in one area, extend the holiday or maybe change the direction of travel. Talk to one of our experts about how to make this holiday the perfect one for you.

Here’s a day-by-day guide to your itinerary. Feel free to ask us to add other days or ideas and excursions by contacting us directly, so we can give you the best price.

Days 1-2



Las Vegas

Fly to Las Vegas, an oasis in the desert of southern Nevada, to begin your adventure under the neon lights. You’ll lose track of time along the Strip, where resorts with elaborate themes offer an array of options, including 24-hour casinos, innovative dining options from big-name chefs and variety shows or concerts starring legendary head – liners. Whether you choose to stay in a luxury resort or in more modest accommodation, excitement is in store. If you like high-end shopping, prepare to stroll through The Forum Shops at Caesars or The Shops at Crystals and Via Bellagio. For budget-friendly shopping, head to the north end of the Strip to the Fashion Show Mall or to the Las Vegas Premium Outlets. For a unique experience, visit the Downtown Container Park, an open-air centre with boutiques, restaurants,

bars and live music. Less than an hour from the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas, Valley of Fire State Park features spectacular attractions of a very different sort. At the oldest state park in Nevada, you'll see magnificent sandstone formations that are 150 million years old, ancient petroglyphs and abundant wildlife. Many of the park's animals, including bobcats, jackrabbits and coyotes, are nocturnal, giving a different meaning to 'nightlife'.

2 nights Las Vegas

Days 3-4



Las Vegas to Bryce Canyon

Collect your car today for the 4 ½ drive to Bryce Canyon National Park through Virgin River Gorge and the natural amphitheatre of Cedar Breaks National Monument. Once in Bryce Canyon, take the park's 38-mile scenic drive to acclimatise yourself and select where to return to sightsee or hike. Do not miss a hike to the expansive Bryce Amphitheatre. This impressive natural landscape sits below the Rim Trail hiking path and is filled with hoodoos, which are brightly coloured, tall, thin rock spires. As you have two days here you can experience both sunrise and sunset, photographing the views from overlooks such as Sunrise Point, Sunset Point, Inspiration Point and Bryce Point. Stay after dark to see the vast, star-filled night sky.

2 nights Bryce Canyon

Days 5-7



Bryce Canyon to Moab

Drive through Capitol Reef National Park, famous for its white sandstone domes and the towering monoliths of 'Cathedral Valley' to Moab (around 4 ½ hours) Arches National Park is the site of Native Rock Art and more than 2,000 natural arches, many accessible through a variety of hiking trails that accommodate all levels of fitness. Moab is at the confluence of the Colorado and Green rivers and is an epicentre of river rafting. You will have three days here to explore not only the Arches National Park but also take one of the exciting tours via 4x4 or raft. You might also like to go to Bull Canyon Overlook to see the dinosaur tracks.

3 nights Moab

Days 8-9



Moab to Arizona

Another 4/12-hour drive today as you explore Canyonlands National Park, carved by the Colorado River and featuring a dramatic desert landscape of mesas and canyons, before visiting Natural Bridges National Monument with three natural bridges viewable from Bridge View Drive or from hiking trails to the bridges themselves. Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park is known for its towering sandstone buttes and has been the location for many Hollywood movies. The nearby town of Page, Arizona, straddling the border of Utah and Arizona, is the gateway to Lake Powell, popular for houseboating, fishing, kayaking and rafting. Plan to visit Antelope and Navajo canyons, Rainbow Bridge National Monument and Horseshoe Bend, one of the most photographed curves in the Colorado River. For a truly memorable experience, take a helicopter or hot-air balloon ride to see it all from above.

2 nights Page, Arizona

Days 10-11



Arizona to Zion National Park

Zion National Park is famous for its steep red cliffs, canyons and towering rock formations as well as cascading waterfalls and rivers. A hike along the Virgin River to explore its waterfalls and hanging gardens is a must-do as well as a hike through water in the narrowest section of Zion Canyon, with walls 1,000 feet tall and the river just 20 to 30 feet wide. This area is a favourite for all photographers due to its amazing light and structure. If you are lucky, you may get to view some of the park's wildlife, including California condors, mountain lions and bighorn sheep. A five-mile scenic drive along the Kolob Canyons Road allows you to experience the crimson canyons and view the dramatic overlooks.

2 nights Zion National Park

Days 12-13**Zion National Park to Las Vegas**

Return to Las Vegas, but on the way, you can explore Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the spectacular Hoover Dam with great hiking trails to the dam's base or natural hot springs and activities for all interests and ages. Your last night will be back in Vegas: why not let us book you tickets for one of the shows as a fitting finale?

2 nights Las Vegas**Day 14****Las Vegas**

A last day to do the shopping and return your car to the airport in time for your home or onward flight.



If you are interested in a holiday to America please contact us on 020 8776 8709 to discuss your plans with a USA expert, or send an email to america@frontier-travel.co.uk with your requirements and we will put together your ideal itinerary and quotation. Let us take you there.