

Winter in the Southwest | Escape into the Sun

Holiday Duration: 17 Nights



Overview

Winter in the Southwest

Glittering Las Vegas, the “City that Never Sleeps” is the gateway to spending some warm winter days in America’s Southwest. First stop visit the majestic Grand Canyon! Then continue to Sedona, where red sandstone formations appear to glow in brilliant orange and red when illuminated by the rising or setting sun. Visit Tombstone, a historic city founded in 1877 by prospector Ed Schieffelin and best known as the site of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Back to Tucson, which anchors the Arizona Sun Corridor and is known for its mild winters. Then it’s on to San Diego on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, called “the birthplace of California”. The city is known for its mild year-round climate, natural deep-water harbour, and extensive beaches, and has one of the top-ten best climates in the United States. Tourist attractions include Balboa Park, Belmont amusement park, San Diego Zoo, San Diego Zoo Safari Park, and SeaWorld San Diego. San Diego’s Spanish and Mexican heritage is reflected in many historic sites across the city, such as Mission San Diego de Alcalá and Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.



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

A direct flight from London will bring you into the Mojave Desert and its best-known city. Welcome to Las Vegas, the Entertainment Capital of the World. The city features many mega-hotel/casino complexes decorated with lavish care and attention to detail creating a fantasy-like environment. The casinos often have names and themes that evoke romance, mystery, and exotic destinations. Visit the many glittering casinos, take in a show, or just spend the day relaxing by the pool. Beyond the casinos are excellent restaurants and some of the best shows in the world, most of which we can book for you.

2 nights Las Vegas

Days 3-4



Las Vegas to Grand Canyon National Park

Collect your car for the 4 ½ hour drive to the Grand Canyon. Crossing famous Hoover Dam where you should stop to gawk at the vast construction, located 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas on U.S. Highway 93, you'll enter Arizona and are on your way to the Grand Canyon National Park. One of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, Grand Canyon, a World Heritage Site, is unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers from its rim. Take an optional helicopter flight out over the canyon for an experience of a lifetime or let us book you a guided tour / hike / rafting excursion. You may have seen 1000 pictures, but nothing will have prepared you for the real thing.

2 nights Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

Days 5-6



Grand Canyon National Park to Sedona

The colourful collection of buttes, pinnacles, mesas and canyons surrounding Sedona is famous the world around for its red rock vistas. Known for its beauty and serene setting amidst the beautiful Red Rocks, the town is famous for its vibrant arts community with nearly 100 art galleries and events. Sedona is also known for its wellness programmes: fitness, yoga, healing therapies, massages and retreats are all available for your well-being. We would also recommend a jeep tour into the national forests and state parks surrounding the town to make sure you don't miss any of the best views and scenery.

2 nights Sedona, Arizona

Days 7-8



Sedona to Phoenix

America's sixth-largest city still has real cowboys and rugged mountains and the kind of cactus most people see only in cartoons. At an elevation of 335 metres, it is situated in the biologically unique Sonoran Desert. While in town, visit the Desert Botanical Garden, the Heard Museum or the Phoenix Art Museum. The city also has plenty of hiking trails, golf courses, and shopping –and of course plenty of sunshine!

2 nights Phoenix, Arizona

Days 9-11



Phoenix to Tombstone

Tombstone, “The Town Too Tough To Die” was founded in 1877 as a mining camp. There were seven years of gold, silver, and total lawlessness to follow, climaxing in the famous shoot-out between Wyatt Earp and the Clanton gang at The O.K. Corral. Today, you can still hear the echoes of gunfire through the streets, but it’s gunfire from re-enactments. Tombstone is proud of its Old West history, even if it’s not the wild and dangerous town it used to be.

Rather than stay in the town, we suggest you experience the real cowboy life with a stay at Tombstone Monument Ranch. Whether an experienced rider or a complete beginner you will be invited to join in the fun with the Wranglers on unforgettable rides to landmark destinations and ghost towns while enjoying the magnificent country. Depending on your level of experience, the ranch offers a tailor-made programme consisting of lessons in the arena, ground work, horse communication, natural horsemanship and, of course, trail riding. Riding lessons can be requested for an additional charge.

3 nights Tombstone Monument Ranch

Days 12-13



Tombstone to Tucson

Only a 90-minute drive from Tombstone you will arrive in Tucson, the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in the United States – Native peoples farmed this valley 3,000 years ago. Situated in the Sonoran Desert at an elevation of 2,400 feet, it has slightly cooler temperatures than its desert cousin, Phoenix. To get a perspective of the area's history and for a real South-Western sight visit the Mission San Xavier del Bac – standing since the 1700s. Pure white and pristine against a hot desert backdrop, and still heady inside its elaborately coloured and muraled interior from centuries of supplication, the Mission San Xavier del Bac was finished in 1797 when Arizona was still New Spain. Or explore Tucson by foot. The area just northwest of Old Town Artisans is where Tucson's elite built their homes in the late 1800s. Visit the Arizona- Sonora Desert Museum and the Saguaro National Park, home to the world's largest forests of Saguaro cacti. A little further drive takes you to Kartchner Caverns State Park, opened in 1999, and one of Arizona's newest wonders. Kartchner Caverns is a stunning limestone cave system considered one of the top ten in the world. Discovered in 1974 by explorers Randy Tufts and Gary Tenen, and not revealed until 1988, the caverns have been preserved in near-pristine condition.

2 nights Tucson, Arizona

There is an opportunity for another ranch stay here at the very splendid White Stallion Ranch or Tanque Verde Ranch just 30 minutes from Tucson.

Day 14

Tucson to Yuma

Half-way between Tucson and Yuma, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument was created to protect its namesake, the organ pipe cactus, the monument being the largest concentration of the plant in the United States. It is in the extreme southern portion of Arizona, the visitor's centre being less than 10 miles from the Mexican border. Yuma's geography shaped the Southwest. Because this was the safest spot to cross the Colorado River, all roads led to Yuma for travellers from Spanish explorers to Okies fleeing the Dust Bowl. Today Yuma is a vibrant multicultural community that celebrates its rich heritage, surrounded by wide-open spaces and pristine desert scenery – all with a river running through it.

1 night Yuma, Arizona

Days 15-17



Yuma to San Diego

With friendly locals, 70 miles of beautiful coastline, world-class attractions like SeaWorld and the San Diego Zoo and a laid-back vibe all its own, California's playground is perfect for just about everyone! Relax on a beach or if you are energetic there is a lot to do and see. Visit the Gaslamp District, Little Italy, Balboa Park, Coronado or Cabrillo Park and the National Monument where in September 1542, Juan Cabrillo and his crew landed at San Diego Bay. This was the first time a European expedition had set foot on the United States' west coast. Cabrillo. The park also offers gorgeous views of San Diego's harbour and skyline. San Diego is also a museum lover's dream. You can walk with the dinosaurs at the San Diego Natural History Museum or soar into space at the San Diego Air & Space Museum in Balboa



Park. Reclaim childhood at The New Children's Museum in Downtown, catch a wave at the California Surf Museum in Oceanside or go out to search for migrating grey whales during the winter months.

3 nights San Diego, California

Day 18



San Diego

Time for last minute shopping or sun bathing before returning your car to the airport in time for your homeward 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.