

Grand Circle Travel[®]

THE LEADER IN VALUE AND WORLDWIDE DISCOVERY SINCE 1958

Your Grand Circle Travel Planning Guide



The Grand Canyon, Bryce & Zion National Parks
2026

Grand Circle Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with Grand Circle Travel. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

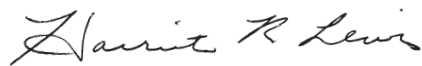
When you travel with us, you will enjoy a thoughtfully designed itinerary that balances unforgettable included discoveries with time for independent explorations. Your experience will be enriched by the company of like-minded American travelers and an **expert, local Program Director**. Assigned to a group of 30 travelers on average, these passionate leaders are ready and eager to share their homeland and insights as only a local can. Whether it is recommending their favorite restaurant, connecting travelers with people and culture, or providing the best regional maps to enhance your leisure time, your Program Director will be available to take care of all the details and ensure that you have a fun and carefree travel experience. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Throughout your explorations, you will experience Exclusive Discovery Series events designed to connect you with local people and culture. From sharing traditional fare and lively conversation during Home-Hosted Visits, to discussing Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, you'll gain an intimate understanding of your destination, not just a superficial view. And if you choose to travel solo, you will enjoy all these cultural experiences at an unmatched value, with our FREE or low-cost Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the **87% of our travelers who customize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-2610**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis
Chair
Grand Circle Travel

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Horseshoe Bend, Page, Arizona

New! The Grand Canyon, Bryce & Zion National Parks

Arizona: Phoenix, Tusayan, Page | **Utah:** Springdale |
Nevada: Las Vegas

9 days starting from \$4,295

including airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit

www.gct.com/nsw2026pricing

Embark on an extraordinary expedition with Grand Circle to uncover the wonders of the Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Zion National Parks. Set off on a scenic cruise on Lake Powell, where the captivating landscape unfolds in vibrant hues. Explore geological wonders, cultural richness, and the iconic national parks, creating memories of awe and a thrilling grand finale in the entertainment capital, Las Vegas.

IT'S INCLUDED

- Choose to **purchase Grand Circle's airfare**, and your airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges are included. Or, make your own air arrangements
- **Accommodations** for 8 nights in comfortable rooms with private baths
- **15 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 4 dinners
- **5 included tours**
- Exclusive services of a local **Grand Circle Program Director** (assigned to no more than 42 travelers)
- **Gratuities** on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- **Personal headset** on all included and optional tours
- Private motorcoach land travel
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- **5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip**

Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.

The Grand Canyon, Bryce & Zion National Parks



ITINERARY SUMMARY

1-3 • Depart home • Phoenix, Arizona • Tusayan
Included Tour Mesa Verde National Park

4-5 • Page

6-7 • Springdale, Utah • Zion National Park

8-9 • Las Vegas, Nevada • Depart Las Vegas

WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderately Easy

Group Size

- A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Grand Circle Program Director

Pacing

- 5 locations in 9 days, including 2 single-night stays
- 1 day features 6-8 hours of travel by motorcoach

Physical Requirements

- Walk 1 mile unassisted and participate in 3-4 hours of physical activities daily, including uneven walking surfaces such as unpaved paths, steep hills, stairs, and stones
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort

to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

Terrain & Transportation

- 3 full days at altitudes between 5,000–9,000 feet
- Uneven surfaces, including unpaved trails, steep inclines, steps, and rocky terrain
- Travel by 55-seat motorcoach

Climate

- Daytime temperatures range from 50-92°F during touring season
- June-August are the warmest months
- Nighttime temperatures can fall to 30-50°F

MAXIMIZE YOUR DISCOVERIES & VALUE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

all with FREE Single Supplements

New Mexico's Albuquerque & Santa Fe

PRE-TRIP: 5 nights from \$1,795

Arches, Canyonlands & Mesa Verde National Parks

POST-TRIP: 6 nights from \$3,095

The Grand Canyon, Bryce & Zion National Parks

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

5 nights in *New Mexico's Albuquerque & Santa Fe*

Day 1 Arrive Albuquerque, New Mexico

Day 2 Explore Albuquerque • Visit Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

Day 3 Overland to Santa Fe • Discover Bandelier National Monument

Day 4 Explore Taos Pueblo • Visit Rio Grande Gorge

Day 5 Explore Santa Fe

Day 6 Fly to Phoenix, Arizona • Begin main trip

Day 1 Arrive Phoenix, Arizona

- Destination: Phoenix
- Accommodations: Hotel in Phoenix

Afternoon: Travel to Phoenix today, with your arrival time depending on your departure city. Transfer to your hotel and meet your Program Director and fellow travelers, including those who chose our *New Mexico's Albuquerque & Santa Fe* pre-trip extension.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Evening: Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

Day 2 Overland to Tusayan

- Destination: Tusayan
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel in Tusayan

Activity Note: As you explore America's national parks, be aware that you may experience limited service, due to a staffing shortage experienced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by National Parks Service job cuts implemented by the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). We appreciate your flexibility as your Program Director helps to navigate any logistical challenges that may arise as a result.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Briefing this morning, in which your Program Director will offer a preview of the discoveries that are in store for you over the coming days.

Then, check out of your hotel and begin your overland transfer to Tusayan, your gateway to the Grand Canyon. Along the way, you'll stop in the desert town of Sedona for lunch and some time to stretch your legs or explore independently.

Lunch: On your own in Sedona. Your Program Director can recommend a café or restaurant.

Afternoon: You'll have a little time in Sedona after lunch to spend as you please. You may wish to browse for a quirky souvenir among the local shops; Sedona is rumored by some to be a powerful nexus of healing energy, and the town is popular among new-age believers looking to offer spiritual goods and services. Or, you can simply admire the red-rock scenery of the desert that surrounds you.

Then, continue your drive to Tusayan, where you'll arrive and check in to your hotel before dinner.

Dinner: Gather with your fellow travelers for an included Welcome Dinner this evening.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 3 Discover the Grand Canyon

- Destination: Tusayan
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel in Tusayan

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy a full-day tour of the Grand Canyon today, one of our country's most iconic natural wonders—which Teddy Roosevelt described as “the one great sight which every American should see.” Our lodgings in Tusayan were chosen for their proximity to the Grand Canyon, which will allow us to make the most of our time here.

You'll drive with your Program Director to the south rim, the Grand Canyon's most popular vantage point, where you'll begin your tour. Mother Nature spent around 6 million years carving this natural wonder into the Earth, and we'll see the fruits of her labor as we travel between several viewpoints along the rim, taking in as much of this 277-mile long canyon as we can. Enjoy unforgettable views of sheer sandstone cliffs plunging into the Colorado River below as it winds its way through the canyon walls, carving out a landscape that draws visitors from all around the world.

Lunch: Enjoy an included lunch in Grand Canyon Village this afternoon.

Afternoon: Continue exploring the Grand Canyon with your Program Director, taking note of how the red-orange landscape changes color with the passage of the sun, creating a panorama that truly never ceases to impress.

You'll return to your hotel late this afternoon, where you'll have the rest of the day free to rest or explore independently.

Dinner: On your own in Tusayan. Your Program Director can offer suggestions.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 4 Overland to Page • Red Heritage indigenous cultural performance

- Destination: Page
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Courtyard by Marriott or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Check out of your hotel this morning and drive to Page, arriving at the hotel around lunchtime.

Lunch: On your own in Page. Your Program Director can recommend a café or restaurant.

Afternoon: The afternoon is free to make your own discoveries in Page. Later in the day, we'll gather back together for an included Navajo cultural experience at the Red Heritage Indigenous Entertainment Hall, a venue owned and operated by members of the local Navajo community.

Dinner: Once we arrive at the facility, we'll enjoy a traditional Navajo meal together.

Evening: Learn more about Navajo culture during an included show, in which you'll be treated to an evening of traditional Native American performing arts, such as powwow dancing, flute playing, and live drum music. After the show, you'll return to your hotel.

Day 5 Cruise Lake Powell • Optional Antelope Slot Canyon tour

- Destination: Page
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Courtyard by Marriott or similar

Activity Note: Due to the popularity of Antelope Slot Canyon, the timing and availability of the optional tour is subject to change.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Head to Lake Powell after breakfast, cruising through the lovely scenery featuring dramatic rock formations soaring out of the water. Formed in 1963 with the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam, Lake Powell is 187 miles long, with almost 100 major side canyons, and a shoreline of more than 1,900 miles.

Lunch: At a local restaurant after your cruise.

Afternoon: Explore Page independently this afternoon. Ask your Program Director for recommended activities. Or, discover another

local natural wonder when you join us on an optional tour of Antelope Slot Canyon. You'll approach the canyon aboard a nimble 4x4 vehicle, then step off to explore the narrow canyon on foot, walking through a whimsical landscape of sandstone walls carved by wind and water over eons. Admire the dreamlike pattern of the walls as the sun sneaks in through the narrow gap above our heads, lighting our path through the fantastic scenery.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 6 Overland to Springdale, Utah • Discover Bryce Canyon National Park

- Destination: Springdale
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel in Springdale

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Check out of the hotel this morning, and begin your transfer to Springdale, Utah, crossing the state line this morning.

Along the way, we'll stop in Bryce Canyon National Park, to explore another of America's majestic natural wonders.

Lunch: A lunch will be provided in Bryce Canyon.

Afternoon: Enjoy an afternoon exploring Bryce Canyon National Park, a collection of natural amphitheaters carved out of pink limestone and sandstone. The force of rivers, rain, frost, and erosion has sculpted myriad whimsical rock formations called *hoodoos* shaped in colorful spires, bridges, and arches that resemble a fairyland. Truly, it's a photographer's paradise.

The national park also contains majestic ponderosa pines and deep evergreen forests, and is named for a Mormon farmer, Ebenezer Bryce, who was one of the first settlers in the area. You will find it a spectacular place, and the park's high elevation gives it some of the best air quality in the country.

After our tour, you'll drive to the town of Springdale and check in to your hotel.

Dinner: On your own. Your Program Director can recommend a restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 7 Explore Zion National Park

- Destination: Springdale
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel in Springdale

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Zion National Park this morning, where you'll spend a full day discovering its legendary scenery on a self-guided tour.

Zion National Park encompasses the crossroads of the Mojave Desert, Colorado Plateau, and Great Basin. See where red desert rocks mingle with crystal rivers, aspen forest, and lush green canyons at this truly unique intersection of life zones, and don't forget to keep an eye on the sky—Zion is home to golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and the rare endangered California condor.

Begin your discoveries with a short film at the Zion Visitor's Center before a panoramic tour of the park. During your full day of discovery, you may see some of the following attractions: the Court of the Patriarchs; natural hanging gardens with scenic views of Zion's most

prominent mountain, the Great White Throne; and Weeping Rock, where water seeps down from the cliff and forms a veil of "tears" spanning the rock alcove.

Lunch: On your own in Zion National Park. Your Program Director can recommend options for today's meal.

Afternoon: Continue exploring Zion National Park this afternoon. You'll return to the hotel before dinner.

Dinner: Included at the hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 8 Overland to Salt Lake City

- Destination: Salt Lake City
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Little America Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Check out of your hotel and begin your drive to Salt Lake City this morning, to prepare for tomorrow's flight home. Your journey will take about 8 hours to complete, including several stops along the way to stretch our legs.

First, you'll stop for a final quick look at Zion National Park as you enjoy a short hike along the Timber Creek Overlook Trail, a gentle mile-long walk featuring scenic views of canyons, buttes, distant mountain ranges, and other desert scenery. Keep your eyes open for sightings of collared lizards that sometimes populate the trail.

You'll continue your drive after your hike.

Lunch: Stop en route in the city of Beaver, where you'll have time to enjoy lunch on your own. Your Program Director can help you navigate your options.

Afternoon: Arrive in Salt Lake City late this afternoon, where you'll settle in to your hotel and have a little time to freshen up before dinner.

Dinner: Gather with your fellow travelers for an included Farewell Dinner, to reminisce and toast to your discoveries.

Evening: The evening is yours to spend as you choose.

Day 9 Depart Salt Lake City

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or begin your post-trip extension to *Arches, Canyonlands & Mesa Verde National Parks*.

END YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

5 nights in *Arches, Canyonlands & Mesa Verde National Parks*

Day 1 Explore Salt Lake City •
Overland to Moab

Day 2 Explore Canyonlands National Park

Day 3 Discover Arches National Park

Day 4 Overland to Silverton, Colorado
• Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge
Railroad ride to Durango

Day 5 Discover Mesa Verde

Day 6 Return home

OPTIONAL TOURS

During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Program Director. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases. We do not accept American Express.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

Please note: Optional tour prices include gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers, are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication, and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

Antelope Slot Canyon

(Day 5 \$135 per person)

Discover one of the region's most-photographed natural wonders on a walking tour of Antelope Slot Canyon. Approach the canyon aboard a nimble 4x4 vehicle, then step off to explore its narrow confines on foot, walking through a whimsical landscape of sandstone walls carved by wind and water over eons. Admire the dreamlike pattern of the walls as the sun sneaks in through the narrow gap above our heads, lighting our path through the fantastic scenery.

PRE-TRIP

New Mexico's Albuquerque & Santa Fe

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Air transportation from Santa Fe to Phoenix
- » **Accommodations** for 5 nights
- » **7 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 1 dinner
- » **6 included tours:** Albuquerque, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Bandelier National Monument, Taos Pueblo, Rio Grande Gorge, Santa Fe
- » Exclusive services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- » **Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your extension and all optional tours
- » All transfers
- » **Please note:** Travelers purchasing their own international flights will be responsible for additional internal flight costs.

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Reveal the dramatic history of New Mexico as you discover indigenous culture in Albuquerque, the archeological wonder of Bandelier National Monument, and the Spanish pueblo flavor of Taos and Santa Fe. With plunging gorges and red stone mesas as your backdrop, you'll be swept away by the dramatic beauty of the rugged Southwest.

Day 1 Arrive Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Destination: Albuquerque
- Accommodations: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Albuquerque or similar

Morning/Afternoon: Travel to Albuquerque today, with your arrival time depending on your departure city. Transfer to your hotel and meet your Program Director after you arrive.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 2 Explore Albuquerque • Visit Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

- Destination: Albuquerque
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Albuquerque or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today, experience Albuquerque's diversity of cultural influences and unique architecture on a panoramic tour and guided walk of the city's Old Town district, where Albuquerque's first Spanish settlers put down roots in 1706. Old Town is still the city's cultural hub, which you'll see on your guided tour, which will take you past shops, galleries, restaurants, and other local businesses and

attractions. With its blend of Spanish colonial and pueblo-style architecture, Albuquerque looks quite unlike any other American city; your Program Director will point out sites of interest as we stroll.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: After lunch, enrich your understanding of New Mexico's indigenous people with a visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, which features historic art and cultural documents from each of New Mexico's 19 pueblos, as well as contemporary works from Native American artists.

The remainder of the day is yours. Perhaps you'll explore the modern downtown area, which includes Conrad Hilton's 1930's gem, Hotel Andaluz, as well as a variety of coffee shops. Or, check out Albuquerque's unique Balloon Museum to learn about the history, science, art, and culture of hot-air ballooning.

Dinner: On your own. Your Program Director can recommend a restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 3 Overland to Santa Fe • Discover Bandelier National Monument

- Destination: Santa Fe
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hilton Santa Fe or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Check out of your hotel this morning and begin your drive to Santa Fe. We'll enjoy a scenic journey along the Turquoise Trail—a 50-mile byway that carves through old mining towns, jagged rock outcroppings, and wooded, rolling hills.

Lunch: On your own. Your Program Director can offer restaurant suggestions.

Afternoon: Depart for Bandelier National Monument this afternoon and enjoy a guided walk through the walking trails. Bandelier protects over 33,000 acres of rugged canyon and mesa terrain, countless wildlife, and evidence of early communities of Ancestral Pueblo people dating back over 11,000 years. You'll witness the ruins and history of these people through petroglyphs, dwellings carved into rock cliffs, and standing masonry walls.

After your tour, return to the hotel, where the rest of the day is yours to spend as you choose.

Dinner: On your own. Your Program Director can recommend a restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 4 Explore Taos Pueblo • Visit Rio Grande Gorge

- Destination: Santa Fe
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hilton Santa Fe or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart for Taos and enjoy a walking tour of Taos Pueblo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which boasts homes built as long as a millennium ago. We'll meet a local guide, who is intimately familiar with life in the Pueblo, who will take us on a tour of this unique and historic settlement.

Lunch: On your own in Taos. Your Program Director can offer restaurant suggestions.

Afternoon: Next, discover another local landmark when you visit the Rio Grande Gorge, a 50-mile chasm plunging 800 feet at its deepest, and soak in the dramatic vistas. View

the scenery from the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, a steel-deck bridge set 565 feet above the river (making it one of the highest bridges in the country).

After your visit to the gorge, you'll return to the hotel in Santa Fe, where you'll have a little time to rest or explore independently before dinner.

Dinner: Included at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 5 Explore Santa Fe

- Destination: Santa Fe
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hilton Santa Fe or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off on a city tour of Santa Fe. Discover the city's downtown area, which has been architecturally unified around Spanish Pueblo Revival style for more than a century. You'll also explore the shops and galleries of Canyon Road, the modern-day spin on the old mountain trade routes.

Then see the Romanesque St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, which has featured in the creative works of writers such as Willa Cather and painters like Edward Hopper, and is home to La Conquistadora, America's oldest statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Lunch: On your own in Santa Fe—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 6 Fly to Phoenix, Arizona • Begin main trip

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight to Phoenix, where you'll begin your *The Grand Canyon, Bryce & Zion National Parks* vacation.

POST-TRIP

Arches, Canyonlands & Mesa Verde National Parks

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » **Accommodations** for 5 nights
- » **10 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 3 dinners
- » **5 included tours:** Salt Lake City, Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Mesa Verde
- » Exclusive services of a Grand Circle Program Director
- » **Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your extension and all optional tours
- » All transfers

Please note: Travelers purchasing their own international flights will be responsible for additional internal flight costs.

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Extend your journey with a night in Salt Lake City, the bustling capital of Utah and spiritual center of the Mormon Church. Then travel to Moab, your gateway to the gravity-defying rock formations of Arches National Park and the primeval landscape of the Canyonlands before riding a vintage mining train through the rocky Colorado landscape to Durango, and pondering the ancient cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde.

Day 1 Explore Salt Lake City • Overland to Moab

- Destination: Moab
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Homewood Suites by Hilton Moab or similar

Morning: Check out of your hotel and set off on a guided tour of Salt Lake City, beginning with the eponymous Great Salt Lake located on the northwestern edge of the city. Measuring at around 75 miles long and 35 miles wide, this is the largest salt lake in the western hemisphere, and its expansive waters make it a popular destination for sightseers and outdoor enthusiasts.

You'll also discover Temple Square, world headquarters of the Mormon Church. The massive temple, with its six spires, dominates the square, which also features a monument to Brigham Young and the "Three Witnesses Monument," honoring the three men who testified that an angel showed them the golden plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated.

Lunch: On your own in Salt Lake City. Your Program Director can offer restaurant suggestions.

Afternoon: Depart for Moab, your gateway to discovery in Arches and Canyonlands National Parks over the coming days. You'll arrive at your hotel later in the day.

Dinner: Enjoy an included dinner in Moab with your fellow travelers.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 2 Explore Canyonlands National Park

- Destination: Moab
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Homewood Suites by Hilton Moab or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart this morning for Canyonlands National Park, the largest national park in Utah. Here, the Colorado and Green rivers meet to carve out an unforgettable panorama of canyons, spires, plateaus, gorges, hoodoos, mesas, and buttes, squeezed into 527 square miles of unspoiled desert.

The rivers intersect in a “Y” pattern, splitting the park into three sections; your vantage point will be the aptly named Island in the Sky in the north, a mesa rising more than 1,000 feet above the terrain below, offering panoramic overlooks with visibility of more than 100 miles in every direction on a clear day.

From here, you can look out upon the other two districts; cast your eye upon the sandstone spires of The Needles, and the winding trails of The Maze, which beckon intrepid hikers to try and challenge them. Off in the distance, the snowcapped peaks of the La Sal Mountains stand as a backdrop to the primeval landscape unfolding before your eyes.

Within the wilderness, a surprisingly diverse ecosystem thrives. You may see everything from yellow-green pinyon pines sprouting from rocky niches, to scaly lizards basking in the sun on their rocky perches.

You'll enjoy time to explore the park and take advantage of the ever-changing light to take unforgettable photos. You'll depart back to Moab around noon.

Lunch: On your own in Moab. Your Program Director can suggest a cafe or restaurant.

Afternoon: The rest of the day is free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 3 Discover Arches National Park

- Destination: Moab
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Homewood Suites by Hilton Moab or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set out for an included tour of Arches National Park, a geological playground where the forces of nature got creative and left behind a whimsical collection of more than 2,000 awe-inspiring red sandstone arches, precariously balanced rocks, and rugged monoliths.

Everywhere you turn your head, there seems to be a physics-defying sight to take your breath away. Some of the park's famous residents include Delicate Arch, a lone, free-standing 65-foot loop of rock standing guard at the precipice of a sandstone fin; the Double O Arch, a pair of stone formations stacked on top of each other; and Balanced Rock, a 128-foot stone pillar featuring a slick boulder precariously placed upon a narrow stone pedestal.

Lunch: A box lunch will be included during our tour of Arches National Park.

Afternoon: Following your visit to the park, you'll return to Moab, where the balance of the day is at leisure. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend free time activities.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—your Program Director can recommend activities.

Day 4 Overland to Silverton, Colorado

• Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad ride to Durango

- Destination: Durango
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Doubletree Hotel Durango or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Check out of your hotel this morning and drive across the state border into Colorado today, bound for Silverton, a former mining boomtown that is now a popular destination for skiers and other mountain sport enthusiasts.

Lunch: You'll have time to enjoy lunch on your own in Silverton. Your Program Director can recommend a café or restaurant.

Afternoon: Embark on a scenic journey aboard a vintage coal-fired steam train on the official Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad this afternoon. The rail has been in continuous use since 1882, and affords you an ideal vantage point from which to take in the unspoiled Colorado high country wilderness of the San Juan mountains. You'll navigate a breathtaking route through tall forests, winding mountain passes, and rushing river rapids, finally arriving in Durango, where you'll check in to your hotel.

Dinner: On your own in Durango. Your Program Director can offer restaurant suggestions.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—your Program Director can recommend activities.

Day 5 Discover Mesa Verde

- Destination: Durango
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Doubletree Hotel Durango or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off for an included tour of Mesa Verde National Park, the first archaeological park established in our National Parks System and designated a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1978.

Mesa Verde, Spanish for “Green Table,” offers an unparalleled opportunity to see and experience a unique cultural landscape through the best-preserved archaeological site in the United States. More than 1,000 years ago, these cliffs were occupied by a group of people who built complex stone villages sheltered in recesses and alcoves high along the sheer cliff walls. The area remained occupied for about 700 years.

Native tribes have long known of this site—as many as 24 Native American tribes can trace their ancestry to the cliff-dwellers—but the area was brought to worldwide attention when Europeans first beheld them in the 1800s.

Lunch: Included at an on-site café.

Afternoon: Return to Durango after lunch, where you'll have the afternoon free to explore independently.

Dinner: Included at a local ranch.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—your Program Director can recommend activities.

Day 6 Return home

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight home this morning.

RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

Keep Your Abilities In Mind

Please review the information below prior to departing on this trip. We reserve the right for our Program Directors to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations are impacting the group's experience.

GROUP SIZE

- A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Grand Circle Program Director

PACING

- 5 locations in 9 days, including 2 single-night stays
- 1 day features 6–8 hours of travel by motorcoach
- You may experience limited service throughout the national parks, due to staffing shortages experienced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a wave of job terminations in the National Parks Service led by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Walk 1 mile unassisted and participate in 3–4 hours of physical activities daily, including uneven walking surfaces such as unpaved paths, steep hills, stairs, and stones
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- 3 full days at altitudes between 5,000–9,000 feet
- Uneven surfaces, including unpaved trails, steep inclines, steps, and rocky terrain
- Travel by 55-seat motorcoach

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 50–92°F during touring season
- June–August are the warmest months
- Nighttime temperatures can fall to 30–50°F

Long Drives & Other Rigors

This trip requires long motorcoach transfers. On the main trip alone we'll cover almost 1,000 miles. **Please feel free to bring whatever you need to be comfortable on the bus (pillow, blanket, etc.) and come prepared for long drives.**

This trip also features an active itinerary with long days of sightseeing, occasional walks that follow steep and uneven pathways, and higher altitudes than you may be used to. In addition, both included and optional tours can require extended walking to guarantee a truly rewarding experience.

Health Check

Feeling healthy and confident of your mobility is essential to fully enjoy your trip. If you have ongoing medical conditions or concerns about your health, we highly recommend that you schedule a checkup with your personal physician at least six weeks in advance of your departure date.

- Discuss with your doctor any aspects of your itinerary that may affect your health and be guided by his or her advice. (You can use the “Keep Your Abilities in Mind” on the previous page as a guideline to discuss with him or her.)
- You may want to have a dental exam before your trip. A loose filling or developing cavity would be difficult to remedy while you are traveling.
- If you have a condition that requires special equipment or treatment, you must bring and be responsible for all necessary items related to your condition.

No Vaccines Required

Recommended Vaccines

At the time of writing there were no required vaccines for this trip. The CDC recommends that all travelers be up to date on their routine vaccinations and on basic travel vaccines like Hepatitis A and Typhoid, but these are suggestions only. However, this could change in future so we encourage you to check with the CDC yourself before meeting with your doctor.

Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Select “Find International Travel Information” then select “Country Information”; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Your Health Abroad” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

Staying Healthy on Your Trip

Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don’t push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-321-2835**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

High Altitude

You will be at high altitudes for a significant portion of this trip. In Bryce National Park and the Grand Canyon, you’ll be anywhere from 7,000 to 8,300 feet above sea level, and occasionally you’ll travel through mountain passes that are even higher (10,000 feet). Even at the “lower” parts of this trip, the elevation can still be well above 4,000 feet (Salt Lake City). At high elevations there is not only less oxygen but also lower atmospheric pressure, which can have all sorts of odd effects on the body. These effects vary from one person to the next, and physical fitness isn’t a factor.

Ask your doctor about medications that may alleviate altitude problems. Over time the body can adjust on its own, but in the meantime, common altitude sickness symptoms include headaches, nausea, dizziness, and shortness of breath. In addition to preventative medication, eating well, drinking lots of water, getting plenty of sleep, and avoiding alcohol will help reduce the chances

of developing altitude sickness. Once you feel sick, however, the only real cure is the passage of time so your body can adjust at its own pace. On arrival at high elevations, we suggest you take things easy at first, and give yourself a chance to acclimate before engaging in physical activities.

MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments:** some cash, an ATM card, and a credit card
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended.** They can be difficult to exchange and the commission fee for cashing them is quite high. It's more practical to view them as a last resort in the event of a special situation.
- **Keep a few smaller bills on hand.** It makes both tipping and small purchases easier.

ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card. Many banks will charge a set fee or a percentage fee each time you use a foreign ATM. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart. Don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM. If you are visiting a country that has different expectation for ATMs, they will be listed below.

United States: ATMs can be hard to find in rural areas such as national parks, but are common in large cities and small towns. Our suggestion is to hit up the ATM in town before you head out for the day. Don't forget to let your bank know that you'll be traveling before you leave home—if they see a lot of out-of-town withdrawals they might put a freeze on your account because of suspected fraud.

Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. We suggest that you bring one or two, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, as not all are accepted around the world. If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines. To make it easy for you to budget, we have quoted the amounts in U.S. dollars; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in U.S. dollars.

- **Grand Circle Program Director:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your GCT Program Director at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$7–\$10 per traveler for each day their Program Director is with them. *Please note that tips for your Program Director can only be in the form of cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Program Director during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Hotel Housekeeping:** Many travelers will leave \$1–\$2 per day, per room for the hotel housekeeping staff.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

Time at Leisure

During the times that you explore independently, you may dine in a local restaurant, take a taxi, or avail yourself of some other service where tipping is customary. Tip throughout your tour as you normally would at home. Your Program Director will tip waiters for the included meals when the group dines together.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Customized Air

Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Customized Air:** You booked international air with us, and have customized it in some way. If you have customized your trip's dates to arrive early, stay longer, or stop on your own in a connecting city, airport transfers will NOT be included. You must also arrange your own accommodations for any additional nights. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at www.gct.com/myplanner under "My Reservations".

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased air with Grand Circle Travel, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **Arrival:** Once you arrive, you'll need to collect your luggage and clear customs. A Grand Circle Representative will meet you outside of customs and assist you with your transfer to the hotel or ship. Important note on porters: Airport porters are NOT allowed in the baggage claim area. On arrival, you must take your luggage off the baggage carousel and load it onto a cart, which you will then move through customs. When you exit customs, you'll handle your cart until reaching your transfer vehicle. Your driver will load your luggage into the transfer vehicle.
- **Flight Delays:** Grand Circle Travel is not responsible for flight delays or cancellations. In the unfortunate circumstance that your flight is delayed or changed, please try to reach the regional Grand Circle office (their number will be in your Final Documents) in order to make new arrangements for your transfer. Due to airline regulations our staff is not notified of flight rerouting, and our local representative won't necessarily be aware of your new arrival time. In these cases you will need to arrange your transfer by taxi to your hotel.
- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.

- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45–30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

Arrival to Albuquerque (pre-trip extension): Airport transfers are provided by our hotels in Albuquerque. They offer complimentary shuttles for their guests. If you arrive early and are staying at the same hotel on your own, you can arrange pick up through the hotel.

Flight Confirmation

Please don't be surprised if your Program Director asks you to confirm your flight details directly with him or her before your departure; this is a routine check on their part. It ensures that any last-minute changes are accounted for, especially in the case of travelers who have made their own air arrangements.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as GCT travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-321-2835**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: **www.rome2rio.com**

All Travelers: Check Your License or ID

What are you checking for? To see if is compliant with the Real ID Act, passed in 2005 (and also to confirm that it won't expire before your trip).

Starting October 1, 2021 you must have a Real ID compliant document in order to fly domestically within the U.S. Passports and passport cards are Real ID compliant and will be accepted, but only some state-issued IDs will work. If you plan to fly on or after October 1 with your driver's license or state ID, double-check that is Real ID compliant. Most Real ID licenses will have a star logo in the top right corner and/or have the word "enhanced" printed on them. If you are unsure about your ID, check with your local DMV or appropriate government office. And give yourself enough time to renew your license if needed—the change is expected to cause delays.

Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your vacation by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Program Director can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)
- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as "OPT Boston".
- Your Program Director will give you details on the optional tours while you're on the trip. But if you'd like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at www.gct.com/myplanner).

Communicating with Home

Your phone service may vary from what you're used to in terms of strength and connectivity, as providers have different levels of saturation throughout the U.S. In rural or remote areas, like National Parks, it may be harder to get a signal. Costs will vary depending upon your contract.

Data usage, however, can pile up costs if you rely on it heavily. Those handy apps can run up download/connection fees. The simplest solution is to shut down all cell phone functions, automatic data feeds and roaming options, and take advantage of the apps via available Wi-Fi. With an Internet VOIP app (like Skype) you can make inexpensive calls. If necessary, turn roaming back on and your phone will work as usual, albeit at some cost.

App quality, availability and costs vary—as do platforms (iPhone, Android, Blackberry), so again you'll need to do some legwork. But there's a lot of choice: apps for packing lists, currency converters, maps, journals, Wi-Fi hotspot finders, etc.

PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by airline. The current standard is 50lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-on bags.
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (length+width+depth). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches.
Luggage Type	A sturdy, fabric-sided suitcase with built-in wheels and lockable zippers is recommended.
TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS	
The extensions have the same luggage restrictions as the main trip.	
REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS	
One suitcase and one carry-on bag per person: Due to the space limitations on bus transfers, you'll be restricted to one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person. This is to ensure that we have room for everyone's luggage. We ask that you abide by this limit to avoid inconveniencing your fellow travelers and prevent additional airlines luggage fees (which are your responsibility). Most airlines now charge to check a suitcase. Luggage rules: Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.	

Don't Forget

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.
- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.

- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.

Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

- **Travel light:** A good rule of thumb is to gather together everything you want to bring; then take half of that. To have a varied travel wardrobe, yet keep your luggage light, we recommend you select a color scheme and pack color-coordinated clothing items that can be mixed to create different outfits.
- **Consider clothing designed for travel, sports, or camping:** With modern fabrics, lightweight packing for comfort and protection through a wide range of weather is easy.
- **Pack casual clothes:** The presiding clothing style of this trip is casual. Men do not need jackets or ties and women do not need nice dresses—bring these only if you are planning a special night out on your own.
- **A warm layer is essential year-round:** A warm sweater, a fleece pullover, or jacket is essential year-round because temperatures can drop fast once the sun goes down—especially in the mountains. During the summer, keep a sweater handy for the air-conditioned motorcoach rides.
- **Good walking shoes are essential:** The mountain communities, museums, and park trails truly invite exploration by foot. But negotiating the pathways can put great demands on your feet. For your comfort, you'll need supportive walking shoes that offer good traction.
- **Light rain gear:** Rains of any variety (heavy or short-lived) are possible at any of your destinations. A folding umbrella and/or waterproof jacket, preferably with a hood, could come in handy.

What to Bring

We have included suggestions from Program Directors and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using www.weather.com and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

Your accommodations will supply soap, body wash, and shampoo/conditioner. If you prefer a certain brand you may want to bring your own, but otherwise you can rely on what they provide. **And don't forget a reusable water bottle**—you'll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

Recommended Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, sunscreen, etc.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses and your prescription

- ☐ Sunglasses with a neck strap
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Swimsuit if your hotel has a pool
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor
- ☐ Compact umbrella
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial “waterless” hand cleanser
- ☐ Photocopies of passport, air ticket, credit cards, prescriptions for your medicines
- ☐ Items for your comfort on the bus (pillow, blanket, etc.). This tour involves several long drives.
- ☐ Camera, spare batteries, and memory cards
- ☐ Compact binoculars
- ☐ Collapsible walking staff

Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts to layer
- ☐ Trousers, jeans, or skirts
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes and/or water resistant shoes
- ☐ Light rain jacket/windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Socks and undergarments
- ☐ A warm layer, such as a sweater, fleece pullover, or jacket—no matter the season, temperatures in the mountains drop fast after sundown

Medicines

- ☐ All over-the-counter medications and first aid supplies listed below are available locally. But you may want to bring your own for convenience.

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Vitamins
- ☐ Cold remedies: Sudafed/Dristan
- ☐ Pain relievers: Ibuprofen/aspirin/Naproxen
- ☐ Laxatives: Senokot/Ex-Lax
- ☐ Stomach upset: Pepto-Bismol/Mylanta
- ☐ Anti-diarrheal: Imodium
- ☐ Band-Aids, Moleskin foot pads
- ☐ Antibiotic creams: Neosporin/Bacitracin

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Arizona and New Mexico: While winter temperatures can dip below freezing, snow is relatively rare in these states compared to their Rocky Mountain neighbors. Spring comes early (sometimes in March) and is windy and warm. Rain is more likely in the afternoon, and from mid-July to mid-September the Southwest region is subject to the North American Monsoon—which can produce dramatic bursts of rain, high winds and increased rainfall in general. Overall, however, the summer climate is sunny and pleasant, with highs in the 80s or even 90s. If you are traveling in the fall, the temperatures may be quite warm, or somewhat on the cool side, or—even more likely—a bit of both.

Utah and Colorado: Images of hot desert canyons aside, winter in both states can be surprisingly cold (below freezing) with some snowfall. Once spring arrives, the temperatures warm up but it can still be “jacket weather” with highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Summer is hot, and the intense UV rays can make it feel even hotter than it really is. Usually July is the warmest month, with average daytime temperatures in the 90s or even higher. Autumn is similar to spring, although summer heat can last until late September. Rainfall can happen at any time of year.

Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **www.weather.com** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	PHOENIX, ARIZONA			PAGE, ARIZONA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity	Average # of Days with Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	67 to 40	42%	3	43 to 25	-	4
FEB	70 to 43	37%	3	51 to 31	-	4
MAR	79 to 49	27%	2	60 to 37	-	5
APR	87 to 57	18%	1	69 to 44	-	4
MAY	95 to 66	14%	1	80 to 53	-	3
JUN	105 to 76	13%	1	91 to 63	-	2
JUL	106 to 83	25%	3	96 to 69	-	5
AUG	105 to 82	28%	3	93 to 67	-	7
SEP	99 to 74	27%	2	85 to 59	-	4
OCT	88 to 61	28%	2	71 to 47	-	4
NOV	76 to 50	32%	1	55 to 35	-	4
DEC	65 to 40	47%	3	44 to 27	-	3

MONTH	LAS VEGAS, NEVADA			SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity	Average # of Days with Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # Days with Rainfall
JAN	58 to 39	38%	3	46 to 18	--	4
FEB	62 to 41	36%	4	53 to 21	--	4
MAR	71 to 48	27%	2	59 to 26	--	5
APR	79 to 54	19%	2	63 to 32	--	4
MAY	88 to 63	16%	1	74 to 41	--	5
JUN	99 to 73	12%	0	87 to 49	--	4
JUL	103 to 80	17%	2	90 to 55	--	9
AUG	101 to 78	20%	1	88 to 55	--	9
SEP	93 to 70	19%	1	80 to 47	--	6
OCT	80 to 53	26%	1	69 to 32	--	4
NOV	67 to 47	31%	1	56 to 27	--	4
DEC	56 to 39	42%	3	47 to 18	--	4

MONTH	SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH			DURANGO, COLORADO		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	37 to 22	79 to 69	10	38 to 10	-	7
FEB	43 to 25	78 to 59	9	43 to 15	-	7
MAR	54 to 34	71 to 47	10	52 to 23	-	8
APR	62 to 40	67 to 39	9	61 to 29	-	6
MAY	72 to 48	66 to 33	8	71 to 35	-	4
JUN	83 to 56	60 to 26	5	82 to 43	-	6
JUL	93 to 65	53 to 22	5	86 to 52	-	9
AUG	91 to 63	54 to 23	6	83 to 51	-	11
SEP	79 to 53	60 to 28	5	75 to 42	-	8
OCT	65 to 41	68 to 41	6	63 to 31	-	6
NOV	49 to 31	75 to 59	8	49 to 22	-	6
DEC	38 to 23	80 to 71	9	39 to 13	-	9

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

Your Program Director

During your exclusive Grand Circle vacation, you'll have reliable assistance available at all times from an on-site Grand Circle Travel Program Director. Your Program Director is fluent in English and can give you an inside perspective on your destinations. He or she is supported along the way by local tour guides, who guide you expertly through particular sites and cities.

Many Grand Circle Program Directors are graduates of professional education programs for travel guides. In addition, they receive specialized training directly from Grand Circle, training that is based on what we've learned from thousands of past travelers about how to make the trip most enjoyable. Your Program Director offers both a deep knowledge of the region and a commitment to make this a very pleasant, informative, and rewarding travel experience for you.

Your Program Director will provide sightseeing trips, handle all travel details, reserve optional tours you choose to take, oversee your Discovery Series events, and provide any other assistance you may need. You will be in the company of a Program Director throughout your vacation.

Culture of the American Southwest

The area called the American Southwest has no official boundaries, but it is generally considered to include lands in eight states, including four featured on this journey: Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. Just as the landscapes are diverse, so are the people who live here. And it can be argued that the area's three most historically important cultures—Native American, Hispanic, and Anglo—have all had to adapt to the area's unique physical environment: the arid climate, desert and mountain terrain, intense sunshine, and frequently extreme temperatures.

This is evident in the signature Southwestern architecture, which takes its cue from ancient adobe dwellings built by the earliest Pueblo and Anasazi people. Since wood was scarce, clay, straw and water were hardened into adobe bricks and mortared together. This was not only readily available, it was durable and insulating, keeping homes warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Genuine adobe requires maintenance, so today, many buildings are "Faux-dobe," made with concrete and other materials, but covered with stucco to achieve the adobe look. You may notice some homes built in the Pueblo Revival style, in which adobe is used with large beams (*vigas*), rounded corners and flat roofs. Territorial style features adobe walls with squared-off columns, broad portals and brick copings.

Living in desert conditions, the people of the Southwest are understandably water-conscious, and they strive to keep per-capita water usage to a minimum. You will notice the prevalence of xeriscaping, landscaping with drought-resistant plants that require less water than traditional grass lawns. The effect is quite beautiful, with flowering trees and blooming vegetation arrayed around striking rock gardens. In many ways this, too, is a reflection of early Native American culture, which revered nature and built communities to leverage the rainfall and irrigation.

The Spanish arrived in the mid-16th century, and in the early 19th century, the Southwest was part of Mexico. Many Hispanic-Americans who live here now trace their local family roots to those times. (Today, New Mexico is a minority-majority state in which less than 50% of the population are non-Hispanic whites.) Many of the oldest Southwestern towns were laid out in the compact, well-ordered colonial Spanish style, with a central plaza and church, and residential streets radiating from there. Even in areas that are not predominantly Hispanic, street signs and place names proclaim that early heritage—as do the Mexican-tinged music, art, and cuisine.

As America expanded westward, Anglo settlers from the eastern U.S. and beyond set out to build new lives in an often hostile wilderness, without the protection of government, or in many cases, even laws. Imagine the courage and energy it must have taken to even make the journey, and the grit required to build the forts, trading posts, mining centers, cattle ranches, railroads, dams, and towns that now bear the pioneer imprint. Between 1869 and 1891, migration became easier with the advent of several trans-continental railroad routes. These also boosted commerce and even tourism, especially with the development of our U.S. National Parks system. After World War II, the availability of refrigeration and air conditioning caused another boom in newcomers to the American Southwest.

Today, rugged individualism and self-sufficiency are still hallmarks of the Southwest's frontier character, while honoring the tradition of neighbor helping neighbor.

Religion and Religious Observances

In all four states visited on this trip (Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico), the majority of people identify as Christian, though the influence of religion in daily life here has declined over the past 50 years, following a similar pattern to the rest of the country. About 38-43% of the population identifies as Protestant, and depending on the state, Catholics comprise about 16-34% of the population (with the largest numbers residing in New Mexico.) Judaism and other religions are also represented, but 22-31% of the people say they have no religion or are unaffiliated. The exception is Utah, where 60.68% of adults are Mormon, and the vast majority of them claim to be active, regular churchgoers in the mainstream Mormon Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS).

Laundry Service

Your Program Director or hotel concierge can assist you with making arrangements for this service. Most hotels will offer self-service washers and dryers.

Southwestern American Cuisine

People from outside this part of the country often mistake southwestern cuisine for Mexican cuisine. In reality, it is quite different, a unique fusion of Mexican, Native American, and European cooking styles. The staple ingredients of southwestern cooking are the “three sisters” that have defined other North American cuisines since ancient times: corn, squash, and beans. Pork and beef figure prominently. (Remember, this is cattle country, so steakhouses abound.) Everywhere you go you'll find **tacos**, **burritos**, and **enchiladas** on the menu, and the most famous southwestern dishes are popular across state lines, no matter where they originated.

The most distinctive ingredient of all southwestern cooking is the **chile pepper**, which is not just used as a condiment, but as a major component of many dishes. When dining in **New Mexico**, you may be asked the official state question: “red or green?” This is in reference to which color chile you prefer. “Christmas” means you’ll be getting both red and green chiles. And those are likely going to be the famous, sweet-smoky **Hatch chiles** (from the Hatch Valley), which range in hotness from mild to extra hot. Try them in **calabacitas**, a thick, vegetarian stew consisting of sautéed zucchini or yellow squash, corn, and green chiles smothered in cheese.

- Another New Mexican claim to fame is blue corn, used in **blue corn pancakes** with maple syrup, butter, and sometimes, a sprinkling of **piñon**. These are pine nuts, a delicacy used in many dishes and also ground into **piñon coffee** for a sweet, mellow flavor. (*Piñon* are also very popular in Arizona.)
- Try also **carne adovada**, pork marinated in onions, red chiles, and spices.
- **Sopaipillas** are puffy, deep-fried pastry pillows that can be savory (stuffed with ground beef, chicken, or cheese) or sweet (dusted with sugar or drizzled with honey.)
- On the go? Grab a New Mexican **Frito pie**. This is simply corn chips ladled with beef chili, sour cream, and cheese. At outdoor festivals, it may be served right in the chip bag.
- For dessert, try the state cookie, a buttery **biscochito** flavored with anise and cinnamon.

In **Arizona**, the prevalent style of cooking is called “Sonoran,” named for the Mexican state that Arizona once was part of. Here, you must try a **Sonoran hotdog**, but loosen your belt: this dog is wrapped in bacon, then nestled in a boat-shaped **bolilo** bun and topped with pinto beans, onions, tomatoes, mayonnaise, mustard, and salsa.

- Native American **fry bread** dates to 1864, when Navajos from Arizona made the forced, 300-mile “Long Walk” to a reservation in New Mexico. Short on time and ingredients, they made this simple, chewy flatbread that is now popular all over the West. It is called an “**Indian taco**” when topped with beans, meat, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, and sour cream.
- Arizona also lays claim to the **chimichanga**, which was invented by a Tucson chef when she accidentally knocked a **burro** (a large burrito) into a deep fryer.

In **Utah**, the food has more of a European profile, reflecting the pioneer heritage. Here, they like their frybread sweet, so they ladle it with butter and honey, and call it a **Utah scone**.

- They also love ice cream, and are famous for super-thick **shakes** and **Aggie Blue Mint ice cream**. The latter is a pale blue blend of mint, white chocolate, and Oreos that was invented at the creamery at Utah State University’s agricultural college, but is now beloved all over the state.
- Utah is also famous for the **pastrami burger**, which is (you guessed it) a beef patty topped with hot pastrami, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, onion, and **Utah fry sauce** (ketchup and mayonnaise.)

- You don't have to be in mourning to love **funeral potatoes**, a casserole of hash browns covered in cream soup, cheese, sour cream, and a crunchy topping of buttered corn flake crumbs. Utah ladies would bring them to grieving families as comfort food, hence the name.

In **Colorado**, you'll find variants of most of the above. Colorado is for carnivores, for here where the desert meets the Rockies you will find some of the sweetest and mildest **lamb**, lean and flavorful **bison**, tasty **elk sausages**, and great **steak**

- Colorado specializes in **Colorado green chili**, which is sauce usually made with Anaheim, Pueblo, or Mosco chiles; tomatilloes; and onions simmered in stock with pork shoulder.
- Feeling adventurous? Try a **Rocky Mountain oyster**. No, it has nothing to do with mollusks: it's a bull's testicle, sliced and deep-fried.
- Colorado is also known for fresh and delicious **trout**.
- When you're looking for something sweet, healthy, and juicy, there's nothing better than **Colorado watermelon**, unless it's **Palisades peaches**.

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your vacation. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. Grand Circle is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly. If the shop is outside the country, you should expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from the standards you are used to, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

Crafts & Souvenirs

Sales Tax in the U.S.

When thinking of sales tax, please keep in mind two things: It varies from place to place and it is subject to change without notice. *(Also, please note that this section is intended to cover all of our itineraries in the Western U.S., so you may not be visiting all of these states.)*

- **Arizona:** State sales tax starts at 5.6%, but most cities have a rate in the 8% to 10% range.
- **Colorado:** From as little as 2.9% to as much as 10.4%, depending on the city.

- **New Mexico:** Technically, New Mexico has a gross receipts tax not a sales tax, but most businesses will charge this to the consumer, so it functions like a sales tax. It starts at 5.125% and goes to 8.625%, depending on the city.
- **Utah:** Sales tax ranges from 4.7% to just under 8%, depending on the city.

U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, www.cbp.gov has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

Southwestern United States

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

Note: This section covers all of our itineraries in the Western U.S.

Arizona

- Area: 113,635 square miles
- Capital: Phoenix
- Entered Union (rank): February 14, 1912 (48)
- Motto: Ditat Deus (God enriches)
- Nickname: Grand Canyon State
- Time zone: Arizona does not switch to daylight savings time; from November to May it is on Mountain Time; from April to October, it is on Pacific Time.

Colorado

- Area: 103,717 square miles
- Capital: Denver
- Entered Union (rank): August 1, 1876 (38)
- Motto: Nil sine Numine (Nothing without Providence)
- Nickname: Centennial State
- Time zone: Colorado is on Mountain Time.

New Mexico

- Area: 121,589 square miles
- Capital: Santa Fe
- Entered Union (rank): January 6, 1912 (47)
- Motto: It Grows As It Goes
- Nickname: Land of Enchantment
- Time zone: New Mexico is on Mountain Time.

Utah

- Area: 82,144 square miles
- Capital: Salt Lake City
- Entered Union (rank): January 4, 1896 (45)
- Motto: Industry
- Nickname: Beehive State
- Time zone: Utah is on Mountain Time.

National Holidays: USA

While many major holidays have a fixed date, some move around from year to year (Thanksgiving, Easter). To find out if you

will be traveling during a holiday, please visit **www.timeanddate.com/holidays**.

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading

General West & Southwest

Calamity Jane: The Life and Legend of Martha Jane Cannary by D.J. Herda (2018, Biography) The real story of Martha Jane Cannary, who went from being a penniless orphan to being one of the most celebrated figures of the West, is a far cry from the movie version depicted by Doris Day. With her friend Wild Bill Hickok, she came to embody the western spirit with her gun-toting, tough-talking, hard-drinking ways.

Ladies of the Canyons: A League of Extraordinary Women and Their Adventures in the American Southwest by Lesley Poling-Kempes (2015, Biography) Here are the profiles of four women whose work lifted up the culture of the Southwest: Natalie Curtis, who recorded Native American songs for posterity; Mary Cabot Wheelwright, who founded the Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe; Carol Stanley, who built a progressive community and the ranch later owned by Georgia O'Keefe; and Alice Klauber, an art patron who played an essential role in the development of Santa Fe's art community.

The American West: A Very Short Introduction by Stephen Aron (2015, History) Eminent historian Aron traces the history of the American frontier from 900 AD to the present, exploring the impact of all the diverse peoples who lived there. The result is a provocative study that goes beyond the myths of the "Old West" to offer a wider, more complex, and more prescient understanding of the region.

African American Women of the Old West by Tricia Martineau Wagner (2007, History) The pioneers who settled the western frontier were not only male—and not only white. Wagner reconstructs the stories of ten African American women, some of whom were born slaves, who worked as laundresses, journalists, educators, midwives, business owners, philanthropists, mail haulers, and social activists to find some measure of freedom in the Old West.

A Thief of Time by Tony Hillerman (1988, Mystery) Part of a series featuring the Navajo Tribal Police. The series is known for depicting Native American characters in contemporary American society and carefully delineates the interplay of history, tribal and cultural beliefs, and modern culture in the Four Corners region of the American Southwest.

Colorado

The Sorrow of Archaeology: A Novel by Russell Martin (2005, Fiction) When a young doctor develops multiple sclerosis at age 40, she sets her practice aside to join her archaeologist husband at a dig in Mesa Verde. Struggling with the shock of her own illness, she uncovers the skeleton of a small, crippled Anasazi girl, and as her own life begins to unravel, she finds this link with the past offers her solace and inspiration.

***Wife of Moon* by Margaret Coel** (2004, Fiction) In 1907, the photographer Edward Curtis arrived at the Wind River Indian Reservation to document the vanishing Arapahoe way of life. During a staged battle scene that Curtis captured on film, a real life vanished: the daughter of the tribe's chief was murdered. Fast forward to that same reservation in the present day, where a conflicted mission pastor, an Arapahoe attorney, a powerful senator, and others are drawn into another murder with similar overtones, during a retrospective of Curtis' work.

***Denver* by John Dunning** (1980, Historical Fiction) One of Colorado's premier novelists (a former police reporter) brings us back to Denver in the 1920s, where the 20s are roaring on as the city reels with prejudice, corruption, and growing influence of the Ku Klux Klan.

***Centennial: A Novel* by James Michener** (1974, Historical Fiction) This classic may be set in a fictional town, but its depiction of pioneer life there is spot-on. The author lived in Colorado's South Platte area and based much of this story on interviews with local people. Along with multi-generational tales of courage and conviction, we learn about prejudices and tragedies that befell many families, and how their lives were affected by geology, anthropology, and the water and ranching politics of the day.

Arizona

***Down the Great Unknown: John Wesley Powell's 1869 Journey of Discovery and Tragedy Through the Grand Canyon* by Edward Dolnick** (2002, History) John Wesley Powell, an ambitious, one-armed Civil War veteran, and a pick-up crew—none with white water experience—are the first people known to descend the Colorado River. This story of courage, naiveté, hardship, uses not Powell's rosy-written version, but entries from the actual men's journals for a tale that captures the great uncertainty of running a wild and unknown river for the first time.

***The Grand Canyon and the Southwest* by Ansel Adams** (Photography, 2000) This collection of masterful images, notes, and essays celebrates what drew America's foremost photographer to this region: "wherever one goes in the Southwest, one encounters magic, strength, and beauty."

***The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver** (1997, Fiction) A spunky young woman escapes her small Kentucky town in a beat-up Volkswagen, and ends up in Tucson—along with a dumbstruck baby thrust upon her by a forlorn Native American woman. Our heroine, Taylor, finds new definitions of friendship, motherhood, family, and even herself as she forms bonds with the Guatemalan refugees, mechanics, Indians, social workers, and seekers who are her new Arizona community.

New Mexico

***House of Rain: Tracking a Vanished Civilization Across the American Southwest* by Craig Childs** (2008, History/Travelogue) The ancient Anasazi people built a flourishing, 11th-century metropolis in the Chaco Canyon whose achievements in art, science, engineering, and commerce rivaled the Maya. But by the 13th century, they simply vanished. Drawing on scholarly research and his own extensive travels in the Southwest, Childs attempts to solve the mystery.

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya (1972, Fiction). This classic coming of age story centers around Antonio Márez y Luna, a boy growing up in Santa Rosa, New Mexico, during World War II. When his family takes in an elderly *curandera* (faith healer), he finds a surprising mentor who helps him reconcile his paradoxical feelings about family, faith, good and evil, and the natural world.

Utah

Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith by Jon Krakauer (2003, History/Crime) The author weaves together two riveting stories: the grisly 1984 murder of a Utahn woman and her child; and the detailed history of the mainstream Mormon Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and its more fundamentalist offshoots.

I Walked to Zion: True Stories of Young Pioneers on the Mormon Trail by Susan Arrington Madsen (1994, History) Many of the Mormons who crossed the plains to reach Utah were children, including the 30 young people under the age of 20 whose first-hand accounts of danger, longing, struggle, courage, romance, and wide-eyed wonderment are shared here.

Roadside Geology of Utah by Halka Chronic (1990, Natural History) When you're not riveted by the actual scenery you are passing through, peruse this engaging and informative book, which explains how all those amazing red, pink, white, and gold formations became the swirling, jagged, and gravity-defying miracles that light your way.

Desert Solitaire by Edward Abbey (1968, Natural History) An account of Edward Abbey's seasons as a ranger at Arches National Park outside Moab, Utah. Along the way he meets scorpions and snakes, obstinate tourists and annoying bureaucrats, and, most powerful of all, with his own mortality.

Suggested Films & Videos

General West & Southwest

Nomadland (2020, Drama) A woman (Frances McDormand) loses her job when the gypsum plant that employs her entire town shuts down. With no other options, she lives in her van and takes up the life of a nomad, traveling around the West, taking seasonal work, and forging fragile relations with others who have been similarly marginalized.

The Ballad of Buster Scruggs (2018, Drama/Comedy/Musical) This six-part anthology from brothers Joel and Ethan Coen takes the tropes we know from western classics, and infuses them with black humor and irony. Each of the six stories takes place in a different western locale, the mood careens from horrific to hilarious, and the soundtrack includes many traditional songs that evoke the period.

Thelma and Louise (1991, Drama) Two Arkansas friends embark on what was supposed to be a girls weekend getaway, then *really* have to get away when their outing takes a grim turn. Things get even grimmer as the two flee west across Utah to the Grand Canyon, for a grand finale like none other. Starring Susan Sarandon, Geena Davis, Brad Pitt, Michael Madsen, and Harvey Keitel.

Dances with Wolves (1990, Western) A Union officer leaves his post to live among the Lakota Sioux, and over time, develops a growing respect for the culture that has been so misunderstood. Winner of the Best Picture, this Kevin Costner opus is credited with revitalizing the Western genre.

The Grapes of Wrath (1940, Drama) Considered one of the greatest films of all time, this classic begins in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl and moves across the Southwest as the Depression-era Joad family struggles to build a new life in the promised land of California. The silvery cinematography of Gregg Toland imbues the characters, especially Tom Joad (Henry Fonda), with the iconic dignity of the landscape itself.

Colorado

Blackkkklansman (2018, Drama) This Oscar-nominated Spike Lee film is a furious, funny, and fact-based account of Ron Stallworth, an African-American police officer who infiltrated the Colorado Springs chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, and with the help of his white Jewish partner (Adam Driver), brought it down.

Our Souls at Night (2015, Drama/Comedy) Widows Addie and Louis (Jane Fonda and Robert Redford) live in an idyllic Colorado town, and though they've been neighbors for years, they are still virtual strangers. This changes when Addie proposes that they sleep together—not for sex, but to relieve the loneliness and insomnia that she suffers from, and which she suspects Louis can understand. Friends, neighbors, adult children, and grandkids complicate their evolving connection, which is at once poignant, and clear-eyed.

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969, Comedy/Drama) Aside from being one of the best buddy movies of all time, this charming classic about the two famous western outlaws features the gorgeous scenery of Durango, Silverton, and Telluride. Oh, and Paul Newman and Robert Redford, too.

Utah

The Executioner's Song (1982, Docu-drama) Based on the Norman Mailer book and originally made as a two-part television miniseries, this film focuses on the last nine months in the life of convicted killer Gary Gilmore (Tommy Lee Jones). Unable to stop the unraveling of his drifter life, Gilmore became a media sensation when he demanded to be executed for his crime—and the state of Utah complied.

Jeremiah Johnson (1972, Drama) Filmed at more than 100 spectacular locations across Utah, this Robert Redford odyssey is about a man who turns his back on civilization to live as a mountain man.

She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949, Western) You could watch just about any John Ford western for a stirring, mythic depiction of the American West. But this classic about an aging fort commander facing retirement (John Wayne, supported by a cast of superb character actors), includes some of the most inspiring and iconic footage of Ford's favorite western landscape: Monument Valley, Utah.

New Mexico

Breaking Bad (2008–2013, Television Series) This multiple Emmy-winner is set and filmed around Albuquerque. A disillusioned high school chemistry teacher, Walter White (Bryan Cranston), turns to a lucrative life of drug dealing so that his family may be provided for, after he is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

The Milagro Beanfield War (1988, Comedy/Drama) In a pique of anger, Joe Mondragon kicks at the gate of an irrigation ditch that runs alongside his dry field. He decides to grow beans in his illegally watered plot, and this small rebellion sets off an uproar in a multicultural town where everyone has a different vested interest. Robert Redford directs a cast that includes Ruben Blades, Sonia Braga, Christopher Walken, John Heard, and others.

Useful Websites

Grand Circle Forum (tips from previous travelers)

www.gct.com/forum

Grand Circle Frequently Asked Questions

www.gct.com/faq

**International Health Information/CDC
(Centers for Disease Control)**

www.cdc.gov/travel

Electricity & Plugs

[www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/
plugs-and-sockets](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets)

Foreign Exchange Rates

www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators

www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather

www.intellicast.com

www.weather.com

www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips

www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security

Administration (TSA)

www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center

www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide

www.timeanddate.com/holidays

Useful Apps

Flight Stats

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

LoungeBuddy

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

Timeshifter

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

GoogleMaps or Maps.me

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

Triposo

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

Rome2rio

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

Flush or Sit or Squat

Find a clean toilet anywhere

Uber or Bolt or Grab

Ride sharing around the world

Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus

ATM locations

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

TunnelBear

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

What's App or Skype or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel

Learn dozens of foreign languages

Google Translate

Fast and simple translations

XE

Currency conversions

SizeGuide

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

Best Units Converter

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

Happy Cow

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

Eatwith

Dine with locals all over the world

Meetup

Connects you with locals who share your interests

Skyview

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

Travello

Find travel friends on the road

TripWhistle

Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

GeoSure

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

Tourlina

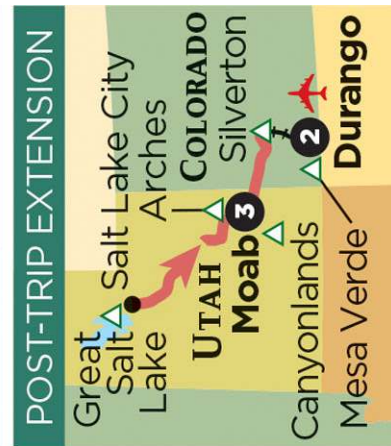
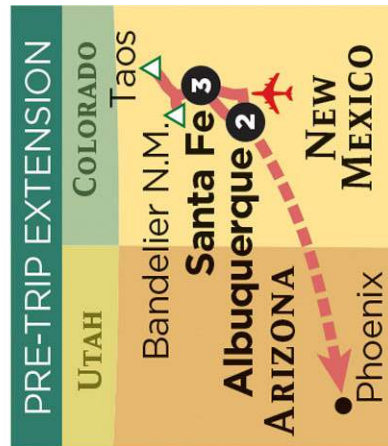
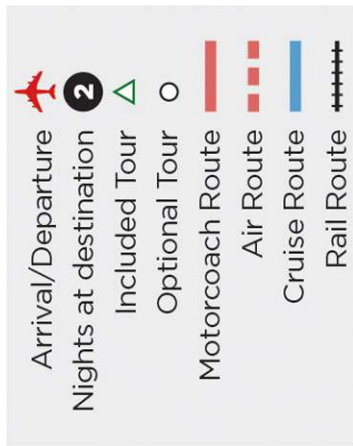
For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

ALIX for One

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

Chirpey

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more



SHARE YOUR TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

We invite you to share your videos, slideshows, and photos of your past Grand Circle vacations to help inspire your fellow travelers. Go to www.gct.com/myplanner to upload your photos or video of at least 7 minutes in length and they may be featured on our website.

Most Popular Videos, Slideshows & Photos from our Grand Circle Vacations Created by our Travelers



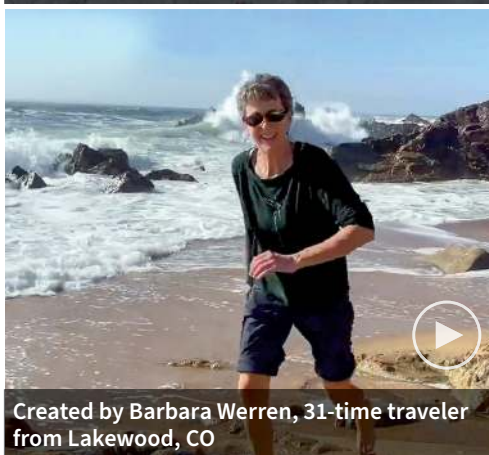
Submitted by Paul Motyka, 11-time traveler
from Acton, MA



Submitted by Kay Gevedon, 3-time traveler
from Mt. Sterling, KY



Submitted by David Woods, first-time
traveler from Rockport, TX



Created by Barbara Werren, 31-time traveler
from Lakewood, CO



Created by Sharon Fleury, 8-time traveler
from Poughkeepsie, NY



Created by Susan Karski, 5-time traveler
from Wimauma, FL



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