



Cary Travel VIP Amazing Canyonland Tour

May 8-16, 2017

9 days, 8 nights

Day 1: Monday, May 8, 2017

Arrive in Phoenix – Scottsdale, AZ

We arrive in Phoenix today where we meet our tour director. Then we transfer to our hotel in Scottsdale Old Town. The evening is free to explore the many fun shops and restaurants of Old Town on our own. Overnight at Hilton Garden Inn.

Day 2: Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Route 66 - Grand Canyon

This morning, we depart the Valley of the Sun and travel north to the beautiful town of Sedona. We view the amazing red rock country surrounding this artistic town and have free time to explore the many shops and art galleries. Later we depart Sedona and travel through beautiful Oak Creek Canyon on our way to Flagstaff for lunch on our own. This afternoon we see "One of the Wonders of the World," Grand Canyon National Park. This 1.2 million acre national park hosts a vast variety of wildlife and scenic wonders. We learn about the geology

and history of the canyon while taking in its breathtaking beauty at all the best view points along the South Rim including Grand Canyon Village. The Colorado River is the main contributor in the creation of the vast canyon and can still be seen carving its way through the rock roughly a mile below. After time to visit many of the scenic points, we check into our hotel just outside the park. This evening, we enjoy a welcome dinner at the historic El Tover Hotel rim. (B, D) Overnight *Kachina Lodge or similar*, Grand Canyon, AZ

Day 3: Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Grand Canyon – Antelope Canyon

We make one more pass along the south rim of Grand Canyon National Park for sightseeing with a stop at Desert View before exiting the park. Then we enter the Navajo Nation with a stop at Cameron Trading Post. Here, we find authentic Indian jewelry, blankets, pottery, rugs and sand paintings, all produced by the local Indians.

\$3,999 dbl

Single supplement \$1,110

Prices are *per person*,
with a minimum of 15 participants

Pre-night in Scottsdale \$219

Post-night at Bellagio in Las Vegas \$350

ESCORTED BY:

Neelie and Neils

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ★ Grand Canyon National Park
- ★ Lake Powell National Recreation Area
- ★ Antelope Canyon
- ★ Dead Horse Point State Park
- ★ Canyonlands National Park
- ★ Arches National Park
- ★ Capitol Reef National Park
- ★ Bryce Canyon National Park
- ★ Zion National Park

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- ★ Double occupancy accommodations as listed or similar
- ★ Deluxe motorcoach transportation for touring and airport transfers
- ★ Meals as indicated in itinerary
- ★ Admission to all activities indicated in the itinerary
- ★ Services of a professional tour guide
- ★ Luggage handling for 1 piece
- ★ All taxes and tips for provided services except coach driver and tour guide

Deposit of \$500 per person to reserve your space (plus insurance)

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After time to browse at the Post, we continue our journey through Navajo Land and the Arizona "badlands." We'll see multi-colored mounds, created by the forces of nature; we also see expansive Marble Canyon as we ascend the Echo Cliffs. Next we travel to **Lake Powell National Recreation Area**, also part of the National Park system, and arrive at **Lake Powell Resort** for an included lunch. After lunch, we take a spectacular tour through **Antelope Canyon**. The mysterious and haunting beauty of Antelope Canyon awaits the adventurous traveler who seeks to discover one of the most spectacular attractions of the Lake Powell area. A tour to this awe-inspiring sculpture set in stone is a must for amateur and professional photographers alike. We return to Lake Powell Resort located on the shores of Lake Powell and check in for the night. The evening is free on our own to enjoy the view, wander along the beach and have dinner on our own. We may even want to take an optional Sunset Dinner Cruise on beautiful Lake Powell. **(B, L)** Overnight **Lake Powell Resort**, Page, AZ

Day 4: Thursday, May 11, 2017 **Lake Powell - Monument Valley**

This morning we start the day with a **scenic cruise on Lake Powell**. The contrast of the red rock walls and emerald blue waters are a stunning sight as we glide through the canyons. After time for lunch on our own, we depart Lake Powell and travel to famed **Monument Valley**, a sacred place to the Navajo. Today we are immersed in the rich cultural heritage of the "Dineh" people. Their arts, music and livelihood are all closely tied to the dramatic desert landscape that is their home. We **meet our Navajo guide and board a 4-wheel drive vehicle for a scenic tour** of Monument Valley, location for scores of famous western films, television programs and commercials. As we travel through the valley and visit famous locations such as **John Ford Point, Artist Point and The Totem Pole**, we learn more of the Navajo traditions and way of life. Afterwards, we experience an evening of Navajo culture, food and entertainment at a **Navajo Cookout**. After a wonderful day, retire to your hotel located nearby. **(B, D)** Overnight **Hampton Inn**, Kayenta, AZ

Day 5: Friday, May 12, 2017 **Dead Horse Point – Arches**

We depart Monument Valley traveling north with a rest stop in Blanding. Then we continue north and arrive at **Dead Horse Point State Park** for a picnic lunch and one of the most spectacular scenes in the southwest. We see the expanse of

Canyonlands National Park stretching to the south and the mighty Colorado River 2,000 feet below. Then we are off to nearby **Arches National Park** for sightseeing. The 18,000 square-foot visitors center introduces us to the unique geologic forces that created the highest concentration of natural arches in the world with over 2,000 named arches within its 73,000-acre boundary. We visit all the park highlights including **Park Avenue, Balance Rock, The Windows and Delicate Arch**. In the late afternoon, we arrive at beautiful **Red Cliffs Adventure Lodge**, located on the bank of the mighty Colorado River, and check in for a two night stay. Situated between the river and dramatic red rock cliffs, it was the site of numerous classic western movies including Rio Grande with John Wayne. Dinner this evening will be served outside with the quintessential western scenery of Castle Valley in full view. **(B, L, D)** Overnight **Red Cliffs Adventure Lodge** (riverside cabins), Moab, UT

Day 6: Saturday, May 13, 2017 **Canyonlands**

Today is a free day to relax and enjoy Red Cliffs Adventure Lodge. We can visit the Utah Movie Museum and the Castle Creek Winery, both located on site and open to lodge guests. There is a wonderful swimming pool, hot tub and sauna along with spa treatments to relax in. For those who wish to enjoy a little adventure, there are a wide range of optional tours and activities available including horseback riding, river rafting, jeep tours, hiking and more. The choice is ours. This afternoon, we join our group for a wonderful experience as we take an evening Jet Boat Ride on the mighty Colorado River through spectacular red rock canyons. As the sun dips in the west, the canyon colors come to life while we learn about the river's ecosystem, geology and history. After a thrilling ride, we return to Red Cliffs Lodge, evening free for dinner on our own. **(B)** Overnight **Red Cliffs Adventure Lodge**, Moab, UT

Day 7: Sunday, May 14, 2017 **Capitol Reef – Bryce Canyon**

We depart Moab and travel through the town of Green River and the San Rafael Swell on our way to **Capitol Reef National Park** for sightseeing of ancient petroglyphs, beautiful rock formations, deep canyons and pioneer history followed by a wonderful picnic lunch under towering cottonwood trees. The park was established to protect a 100-mile wrinkle in the earth's crust called The Waterpocket Fold. Next we enjoy a drive on one of America's most spectacular

roads. **Scenic Highway 12** has been designated as an "All American Road," the crown jewel of the Scenic Byways system. We drive up and over Boulder Mountain reaching altitudes over 9,000 feet with incredible views of Capitol Reef, the Circle Cliffs and the Henry Mountains. Then we travel through Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument, with vast expanses of cream and rose colored Navajo sandstone. There are dramatic cliffs, high mesas, beautiful streams and deep canyons in multi-hued colors across the 1.9 million acre monument. This afternoon, we arrive in **Bryce Canyon National Park** for sightseeing. The hues and intricate shapes of Bryce Canyon carry even the most mature adult away into a fairyland fantasy. The Paiute Indians used a word to describe Bryce that translates into, "red rocks standing like men in a bowl-shaped canyon." Mormon settler Ebenezer Bryce, for whom the canyon was named, described it as "a hell of a place to lose a cow." We check into our hotel located just outside the park, our evening free for dinner on our own. **(B, L)** Overnight **BW Plus Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel**, Bryce Canyon, UT

Day 8: Monday, May 15, 2016 **Bryce Canyon - Zion**

We return to Bryce Canyon National Park for a morning view. Then we take a short drive to see Utah's oldest and most famous national park, **Zion National Park**. An early Mormon settler described the park's massive formations as "temples built by hands, not of man." The Paiutes believed mischievous spirits lived among the 2,000-foot high towers and would not enter the canyon alone or remain there after dark. There will be time for lunch on our own followed by the opportunity to explore Zion Canyon, a brilliant green canyon set against the backdrop of sheer red cliffs, with an occasional lacy waterfall fanning out from the rocks. In the late afternoon, we travel across the desert returning to the glitz and glam of Las Vegas! After an amazing trip through some of nation's greatest natural treasures, join the group for a **farewell dinner** and celebrate the legacy of one of America's best ideas and a lasting gift to her citizens, the National Parks. **(B, D)** Overnight **Bellagio**, Las Vegas, NV

Day 9: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 **Journey Home**

Shuttles to the airport will be provided. As we travel home, remember all the wonderful memories and friends you have met on our fabulous vacation! **(B)**