



THE GRAND CIRCLE: NORTH RIM GRAND CANYON, BRYCE AND ZION

OUR SPECIFIC HIKES WILL BE DECIDED BY THE GROUP AND THE LEADERS DURING YOUR TOUR, BUT HERE IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT TO EXPECT:

DAY ONE

Fly to Phoenix and take a shuttle to Flagstaff, or fly directly to Flagstaff. We'll meet in the evening for a nice dinner and talk about the trip to come. (Comfort Inn)

DAY TWO

We'll leaving early in the morning by van to our to our first hiking destination, the Grand Canyon North Rim. Hike along the Ken Patrick trail, hugging the North Rim through Ponderosa pines with grand views to the south and east. The North Rim of the Grand Canyon is 1500' higher than the South Rim and receives just 10% as many visitors, for a remote and serene experience. We'll stay in the historic Grand Canyon Lodge, a National Historic Landmark built in 1937. (Grand Canyon Lodge)

DAY THREE

After an early breakfast, the North Kaibab trail beckons us down into the canyon. This steep trail is the only maintained trail into the canyon from the North Rim, and it does not disappoint. Numerous lookout points punctuate the hike, and easier and more strenuous options give us flexibility for our first full day of hiking. Return to the Grand Canyon Lodge. (Grand Canyon Lodge)

DAY FOUR

After a leisurely morning, we'll transfer north by van to Bryce Canyon National Park. Bryce is known for it's otherworldly amphitheaters of colorful hoodoos (spires) and natural bridges. The Fairyland trail gives us a great opportunity to soak in the atmosphere, a 3 hour hike through some of the finest scenery in the park. We can hike right to our lodge, the Bryce Canyon Lodge. Built in

the 1920's, the historic Bryce Canyon Lodge is just a short walk from the canyon rim. (Bryce Canyon Lodge)

DAY FIVE

There are many choices in Bryce Canyon itself, but we may choose to an even wilder option in the nearby Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Just a short drive away, Grand Staircase is a land of fantastic spires, buttes, and twisting canyons. The hike through Phipps Wash to the Escalante river is a fantastic hike through forest and red rock canyons to the lush canyon floor. Return to Bryce Canyon Lodge for a second night. (Bryce Canyon Lodge)

DAY SIX

Today we discover Zion National Park, stunning with orange-red canyon walls that tower over 3000' above the canyon floor. A morning transfer is followed by a spectacular hike, perhaps to Observation Point or Angel's Landing, two of Zion's best hikes, with sweeping canyon views that will take your breath away. Our lodging is in the Cliffrose Lodge, a luxurious hotel in nearby Springdale with outdoor swimming pool, hottub and grand views (Cliffrose Lodge)

DAY SEVEN

Another of Zion's classic hikes through the Zion narrows. Wading through the Virgin river (sometimes to your thighs), this hike is unique and challenging through a impressive and narrow gorge, with waterfalls, hanging gardens and memories galore. A more moderate option is a thrilling hike to Angel's Landing, across a narrow sandstone fin to outstanding views in all directions. Truly a classic and fitting way to finish a great trip! Return to Springdale for our last night. (Cliffrose Lodge)

DAY EIGHT

After breakfast, we'll return to Flagstaff where you can continue on to your post-tour destinations.