

# 2019 ADVENTURE TRAVEL WEST



## Off-Roading & Hiking Southwest National Parks

SERIES: F4X4H

Duration:	14 nights, 15 days
Start City:	Las Vegas, Nevada
End City:	Las Vegas, Nevada
Group Size:	4-14 Participants
Tour Type:	Hiking – Off Road Adventure
Languages:	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish

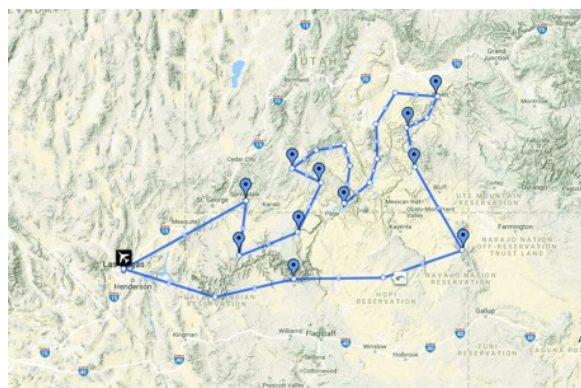
### Booking & Availability:

For dates and booking, go to [www.at-west.com](http://www.at-west.com).  
For agents, logon to <http://www.adventuretravelwest.com>.  
Signup is required.

Email: [bookings@at-west.com](mailto:bookings@at-west.com)  
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## Highlights:

Zion • North Rim Grand Canyon wilderness camp •  
Bryce Canyon NP  
2 day Navajo Guided Trek in Canyon de Chelly  
Vermillion Cliffs NP wilderness camp • Arches NP  
Canyonlands NP • Grand Staircase NP  
Hidden Slot Canyons



**Summary:** A staggering 46 percent the American West is public land. This area contains not only famous national parks but also vast stretches of wilderness encompassing regions of equal wonder and appeal. Most of these areas are accessible only by 4x4 vehicles, as the roads leading to them are not paved, but still easy to drive remote tracks maintained by local road crews. On this extraordinary adventure we use heavy-duty 4x4 trucks to access these areas for incredible hiking, off-roading, and exploration as your tour leader guides you down remote tracks to sights rarely seen by tourists.

Follow us on this tour to see the famous national parks and experience the most amazing desert scenery far away from the crowds and noise of civilization. We will show you the Southwest from an insider's perspective, driving and hiking to secret spots only known by those that have spent decades exploring. At night, for comfort, we stay in small desert towns sprinkled throughout the region, but truly the highlight of this trip is the 3 nights of camping in the most remarkable locations: the Rim of the Grand Canyon, the twisted rocks of Vermilion Cliffs, and a night with the Navajo Natives in magical Canyon de Chelly. If you are after solitude, adventure, and the thrill of off-roading through one of the world's last remaining wild spaces, come with us.

**Disclaimer:** Many dirt roads become impassable when wet. We travel in the normally "dry season". Be prepared for program changes should the dirt roads become wet.

**Inclusions:** **Half board (breakfasts and picnic lunches)**  
11 nights in centrally located tourist class hotels (3-star), plus 3 nights wilderness (dry) camping  
13 picnic lunches (L) (self-made), 3 simple camp dinners (dinner is cooked by group)  
14 breakfasts (B)

- Guided off-road adventure through the back roads of Utah and Arizona
- 4x4 trucks with a seating capacity of 5-6 passengers
- 4x4 truck rental such as Ford F-250 or Chevy 2500 included
- Full Insurance coverage, road-side assistance, gasoline included
- Emergency back up communications included
- National park pass included
- Guided walks as per program
- 2 day overnight expedition with Navajos in Canyon de Chelly
- Amazing photo opportunities
- Small group tours with a maximum of 15 participants
- Small group size allows tour director to address the particular desires of each group
- Expertly trained, dedicated, multi-lingual local tour directors

F4X4H

### Day 1. Arrival in Las Vegas

Arrival in Las Vegas, individual transfer from airport to hotel, La Quinta or similar (3-star), 1 night



Las Vegas

### Day 2. Snow Creek and Kanarra Creek, B, L

8 AM: Your guide will welcome you at the hotel. We pick up our vehicles in Las Vegas and head out through the Mohave Desert to the Colorado Plateau, spending the afternoon hiking over petrified sand dunes, past lava tubes, and over moqui marbles. Then there is a chance to wade in the remote Narrows of Kanarra Creek (water shoes and poles required). Ramada St. George (3-star) or similar 3-star, 1 night.

*Drive time: 200mi / 320 km or 3 hrs*

*Snow Creek: 2-3 hrs, ca. 3 mi / 5 km, elevation difference: +/-200 m*

*Kanarra Creek: 1-2 hrs, ca. 1-3 mi / 2- 5 km, elevation difference: +/-50 m – water shoes / wading shoes and poles required*



Chevy 2500



Chevy 2500 Interior

### Day 3. Zion Canyon, B, L

One of the West's most iconic hikes is Angel's Landing in Zion National Park, which is famous for its sheer, dark red sandstone towers carved by the Virgin River. Today we climb up Walter's Wiggle to the Saddle, where you may choose to continue on the Via Ferrata and to the top of Angel's Landing (this section is self guided). Then, we will drive a remote desert track through Zion's wilderness to the small Mormon settlement of Kanab. Days Inn or similar (3-star), 1 night.

*Drive time: 100 mi / 160 km or 2 hrs*

*Angel's Landing: 4-5 hrs, ca. 5 mi / 8 km, elevation difference: +/-450 m*





*Angel's Landing - Zion National Park*



*Grand Canyon National Park*



*Zion National Park*



#### **Day 4. Rainbow Rim along Grand Canyon North Rim, B, L, D**

Desert roads lead us through changing vegetation from the desert sagebrush up to beautiful ponderosas of the high plateau along the Grand Canyon North Rim. Maybe we spot the endemic Kaibab Squirrel, isolated by the surrounding desert, or encounter deer, elk or even bear. Suddenly the land opens up into the immensity of Grand Canyon. A sparsely used trail is today's hike – the Rainbow Rim Trail. We are granted ever changing sweeping views over the Grand Canyon as we hike along its rim. Tonight, we camp near Timp Point in utter solitude and silence with the most amazing stargazing. We provide the equipment, the food, and the water for this unforgettable night. Wilderness camp, 1 night.

*Drive time: 40-50 mi / 60-80 km or 2 hrs*

*Rainbow Rim Trail: 3-4 hrs, ca. 6 mi / 10 km, elevation difference: +/-150 m*

#### **Day 5. The Buckskin Gulch and Vermillion Cliffs National Monument, B, L, D**

We start our day with a beautiful sunrise over the Grand Canyon. There is a chance to take a shower at a local campground (approx. \$5 pp). Back in the desert we leave the pavement behind to find the longest slot canyon in North America: The Buckskin Gulch. Here you have the opportunity to hike the canyon (self-guided). 12 miles of 500 foot deep, dark Narrows beckon (the Narrows requires proper footwear / poles due to mud).

On to our next highlight: Vermillion Cliffs National Monument. This is a rarely visited park due to the lack of infrastructure or roads. The park is famous for its amazing rock formation, "The Wave". While "The Wave" is accessible by permit only, many areas are open for visitation without permits. Follow your guide along the 4x4 desert tracks for a second night of camping in amazing wilderness. Expect amazing

photography as we explore this trail-less rock splendor in the soft evening light. Tonight is spent camping in the wilds. 1 night.

*Buckskin Canyon: up to 3-4 hours of hiking (self-guided due to permit regulations)*

*White Pocket: 1-2 hours of cross-country explorations*

*Drive time: 100 mi / 160 km or 2-3 hrs*



*Vermillion Cliffs*



*Buckskin Gulch*



*Vermillion Cliffs*

#### **Day 6. The Back Road to Bryce Canyon National Park, B, L**

Maybe you want to enjoy the soft morning light before we break camp. Our adventure continues through the immense space of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. A remote desert road takes us north towards Bryce Canyon. The afternoon is spent at Bryce Canyon, one of the most beautiful national parks of the Southwest. Enjoy an amazing hike through the multi colored stone towers of Bryce. Bryce View Lodge or similar (3-star), 1 night.

*Drive time: 70 mi / 100 km – 2-3 hours*

*Queens Garden & Navajo Loop: 3 hrs, ca. 3 mi / 5 km, elevation difference: +/-300 m*

*Queens Garden & Peekaboo Loop: 5 hrs, ca. 8 mi / 12 km, elevation difference: +/-300 m*



*Desert Tracks to Bryce*





*Bryce Canyon National Park*



*Bryce Canyon National Park*

#### **Day 7. Slot Canyons of Grand Staircase, B, L**

Sunrise is not to be missed and those wanting to get up early should head out to Bryce Point. Our next destination is Kodachrome State Park where we hike far away from the crowds. Returning to the great desert wilderness of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument we head down the Hole in the Rock Road, a historic track carved out by Mormon settlers traveling by covered wagon. Here we can enjoy a great scramble through a fun, narrow, and twisted Slot Canyon. Our hotel is in the small town of Escalante in the midst of splendid desert country. Prospector Inn or similar 3-star, 1 night.

*Drive time: 100 mi / 160 km – 2-3 hrs*

*Panorama Trail: 4 hrs, ca. 6 mi / 10 km, elevation difference: +/-200 m*

*Slot Canyon: 1-2 hrs, ca. 1 mi / 2 km, elevation difference: +/-100 m*



*Slot Canyon Scrambling*



*Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument*

#### **Day 8. Slot Canyon Loop of San Rafael Reef, B, L**

Today, another great adventure awaits – the remote Burr Trail. A dirt track cuts through Capitol Reef to the secluded Notom Bottom Road. We enjoy expansive views over the Henry Mountains and the monocline. North of here we explore and hike a rarely visited slot canyons in the San Rafael Reef. Our hotel is in the sleepy town of Green River. Super 8, (3-star) or similar, 1 night.

*Drive time: 200 mi / 320 km or 4-5 hrs*



*San Rafael Reef Slot Canyons Loop: 4-5 hrs, 7 mi / 11 km, elevation difference: +/-300 m*



*Burr Trail & Notom Bottom Road*



*Slot Canyon scrambles*

### **Day 9. Arches & Canyonlands National Park, B, L**

A quick drive brings us to Arches National Park. Here sandstone is layered above thick salt deposits. This leads to instability in the rock, which in turn leads to cracks and erosion. Arches National Park has the world's largest collection of rock arches with over 2000 currently recorded. We will explore Park Avenue, The Windows, and then hike to the famous Delicate Arch, truly an unforgettable sight. The afternoon finds us at nearby Canyonlands National Park. A short scramble leads to Mesa Arch, before we drive the amazing one-lane desert track of the Shafer Trail into the canyon of the Colorado River. We are rewarded with breathtaking views. Our hotel is in the small farming town of

Monticello. Inn of the Canyons (3-star) or similar, 1 night.

*Drive time: 180 mi / 300 km or 4-5 hrs*

*Delicate Arch: 2 hrs, ca. 3 mi / 5 km, elevation difference: +/-200 m*

*Mesa Arch: 30 minutes, ca. 1 mi / 1.5 km, elevation difference: +/-30 m*



*Delicate Arch, Arches National Park*



*Mesa Arch, Canyonlands NP*



*Shafer Trail*

### **Day 10. Natural Bridges & Monument Valley, B, L**

We head south towards our next destination: Natural Bridges National Monument. This canyon is home to 3 massive stone bridges. First, we will follow a steep slick rock trail descending to Sipapu Bridge. Walking in the canyon we soon reach massive Kachina Bridge covered in rock art. A dirt track leads down the Moqui Dugway to Monument Valley. You have a chance to take a jeep tour (optional, starting at \$75 pp) or drive the scenic road yourself. Tonight we stay in the historic Thunderbird Lodge at Chinle, an old trading post built in 1896. Thunderbird Lodge (3-star) or similar, 1 night.



*Natural Bridges NM*



*Monument Valley*

*Drive time: 230 mi / 370 km or 4 hrs*

*Sipapu to Kachina: 3 hrs, ca. 5 mi / 8 km, elevation difference: +/-500 m*

### **Day 11. Navajo Trek in Canyon de Chelly, B, L, D**

We embark on a fantastic 2-day trek through Canyon de Chelly. The canyon is holy to the Navajo, with several families still living here today. In every alcove and on nearly every wall we find the ruins and rock art representing over 5000 years of inhabitation.

To enter the canyon we descend an old stock trail into the twisted Canyon del Muerto. Trekking along the sandy wash we walk past Navajo farms and orchards scattered amongst beautiful 800-year-old Anasazi ruins and numerous rock art panels. There is no need to carry more than your daypack, as the local Navajo crew will bring our camping gear into the farm where we will spend the night. There is a chance to climb the ancient slick rock trails surrounding our camp tonight. Camp 1 night.

*Drive time: 20 mi / 30 km or 30 minutes*

*Twin Trail to Bare Trail: 5-6 hrs, ca. 6-7 mi, 12 km, elevation difference: -300m*



*Canyon de Chelly trek*



*Canyon de Chelly trek*

### **Day 12. Trekking in Canyon de Chelly, B, L**

After a hearty camp breakfast we continue our trek. We soon reach the confluence with Canyon de Chelly and head up canyon to the iconic White House Ruin. Here we say goodbye to our local guides as our last highlight awaits: the Grand Canyon. Red Feather (3-star), or similar, 2 nights



*Drive time: 200 mi / 320 km or 3 hrs*

*Bare Trail to White House: 3-4 hrs, ca. 4-5 mi, 8 km, elevation difference: +200m*



*Anasazi Ruins in Canyon de Chelly*

### **Day 13. Into the Grand Canyon, B, L**

The Grand Canyon is one of the largest canyons in the world, at 450km long, 1600 m deep, and 16 km wide. The Colorado River has carved the canyon through layers of red sandstone, some of them 2 billion years old. The views from the south rim are spectacular. We have all day to spend at this amazing sight with a choice of hikes, from easy to hard (hikes in Grand Canyon National Park are self-guided due to permit regulations).

*Kaibab Ridge: 3-4 hrs, ca. 3 mi / 5 km, elevation difference: +/-300 m*

*Plateau Point: 8-12 hrs, ca. 12 mi / 20 km, elevation difference: +/-1150 m*

*Hike along the rim: up to 4 hrs, up to 8 mi / 13 km, elevation difference: +/-50 m*



*Grand Canyon National Park*

### **Day 14. Las Vegas, B, L**

The morning is at your leisure with the option to take a helicopter flight and enjoy the Grand Canyon from the air (optional starting at \$225). In the afternoon we head back to Las Vegas via Route 66 with a stop at Seligman for some last-minute souvenir shopping. We return our vehicles. Our hotel is near the strip, La Quinta or similar (3-star), 1 night.

*Drive time: 270mi / 430 km or 4-5 hrs*



*Route 66*



*Ford F-250*

### **Day 15. Departure, B**

It is time to say goodbye. The hotel offers a free shuttle to the airport.