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#### TRIP DETAILS

*6 days ~ Utah & Arizona*

*6 days moderate day hikes  
on varied terrain*

*5 nights inns or lodges*

#### 2008 DATES

*May 24–May 29*

*Jun 15–Jun 20*

*Jun 22–Jun 27*

*Jul 13–Jul 18*

*Aug 10–Aug 15*

*Aug 17–Aug 22*

#### LAND COST

*\$2,595 per person  
(6-12 members)*

*\$500 single supplement*

*We offer a \$200 discount  
for children. See page 4*



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## BRYCE, ZION & THE GRAND CANYON

*The American Southwest's Grand Slam!*

TRIP LEVEL  
EASY TO MODERATE

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- *World-class hiking in one of the most stunning landscapes in the world*
- *Explore three famous national parks, plus Escalante/Grand Staircase National Monument*
- *Pamper yourself in comfortable lodges—no camping!*

*Revised November 12, 2007*



# BRYCE, ZION & THE GRAND CANYON

*The American Southwest's Grand Slam!*

Here's the ultimate Southwest "Grand Slam!" With its sheer walls of red rock, hundreds of plunging waterfalls, and narrow slot canyons, Zion Canyon has been called a "Yosemite dressed in red." Neighboring Bryce Canyon, smaller but no less spectacular, is a fairytale amphitheater of rock formations and pink "hoodoos" (pinnacles), perhaps the most unusual display of erosional forms on earth. And to the south, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon boasts breathtaking vistas that go undiscovered by most visitors to this natural wonder.

These gems of our national park system receive many visitors, but few hike the more remote and out-of-the-way trails like we do! Expert naturalist guides ensure you see the best there is to see, while comfortable lodges set in stunning remote locations are oases of comfort and tranquility after an active day of exploring our American Southwest's national treasures.



## ITINERARY

**Rendezvous.** This trip begins with a rendezvous in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Day 1. We recommend you arrive the night before in the Las Vegas area. Hotel accommodations are on your own. We recommend the DoubleTree Club Hotel-Las Vegas Airport (800-222-8733 or 702-948-4000; 7250 Pollack Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89119), where the group will be meeting the next morning at 8:00 a.m.

### **DAY 1, Sunday ~ Las Vegas to Grand Canyon North Rim**

Meet with the group and the Mountain Travel Sobek trip leader in the lobby of the DoubleTree Club Hotel in Las Vegas at 8:00 a.m. After a brief orientation, we depart and travel northeast through the deserts of the remote Arizona Strip and up onto the Kaibab Plateau. We then change direction and head south across the high elevation meadows toward the Grand Canyon's North Rim. The North Rim is 1,500 feet higher and receives 60% more rainfall than the South Rim. Its remote location, low visitation, and high elevation create an island of quiet green forests and alpine meadows filled with wildflowers, a stunning contrast to the enormous red abyss of the Grand Canyon.

In the afternoon we will reach Point Imperial, where we will enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking the Grand Canyon. Following lunch, we will set off on a short warm-up hike following the Transept Trail, which ends at the Grand Canyon Lodge where we will be spending the next two nights.

The original Grand Canyon Lodge was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1937 by architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood. Its rustic construction of limestone walls and timbered ceilings complements the North Rim's lush beauty. The Lodge offers peace and comfort to the North Rim visitor and is a National Historic Landmark. Tonight we'll enjoy a dinner in its magnificent dining room, which offers fine dining with a western flair and a view of the canyon.

*L,D...Grand Canyon Lodge*

### **DAY 2, Monday ~ Grand Canyon**

After an early breakfast, we will dip below the rim on the North Kaibab Trail, the only maintained trail into the canyon from the North Rim. Guests of all abilities will enjoy this trail by choosing one of three turn-around points, each perfect for different levels of fitness and accomplishment. Watch your step down this steep trail as the incredible views can distract you during our descent to Coconino Overlook—and for the more ambitious members, down to the Supai Tunnel. For those looking for an ultimate challenge, we will continue on the North Kaibab Trail to Roaring Springs where we will dip our feet in the cool waters while enjoying a picnic lunch. Don't get too excited about your accomplishment yet, because it's not over until you've returned to the rim—a total of 10 miles and 3,200 feet in elevation change.

For those that turn around at Coconino Overlook or Supai Tunnel, we will spend the afternoon sightseeing along the road to Cape Royal. The views from here are stunning and easily accessible via paved pathways traversing along the canyon's rim. Angels Window, Vishnu Temple, the Little Colorado River, and Unkar Wash are all seen from Cape Royal making it one of the best views of the Grand Canyon. We will then return to the lodge for a well deserved drink on the patio tonight before dining with a view of the setting sun.

*B,L,D...Grand Canyon Lodge*

### **DAY 3, Tuesday ~ Bryce Canyon**

After breakfast and a leisurely morning we will drive north into Utah and ascend the Paunsaugunt Plateau before entering Bryce Canyon National Park. Words cannot describe the sweeping views we will have at the rim of Bryce's amphitheater, where we will begin our hike along the rim trail to Sunset Point. Soon it is time to descend into this wild land of rock as we hike downhill through a surreal maze of pink hoodoos, spires, and rock windows. At the mouth of the Bryce amphitheater and hidden beneath Sinking Ship Rock, we have the luxurious Stone Canyon Inn reserved for us. Our favorite innkeepers will welcome us into their beautifully appointed stone-and-timber palace before we head into town for dinner. Following dinner, we return to the Stone Canyon Inn to relax with a drink or a book on the patio. Be sure to take note of 10,188-foot Powell Point as the setting sun illuminates the pink cliffs beneath it.

*B,L,D...Stone Canyon Inn*

### **DAY 4, Wednesday ~ Kodachrome Basin and Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument**

We'll take time to soak in the serene surroundings of the Stone Canyon Inn while breakfast is served. We'll then venture into Kodachrome Basin, which contains eroded, multicolored rock formations in various shades of red, yellow, pink, white, and brown. Together with the deep blue sky and occasional green vegetation, this combination of colors led the National Geographical Society to name the area Kodachrome Basin, (with the consent of the Kodak Film Corporation). One especially unique feature of the park is the presence of many spires or "chimneys" of rock, known as sand pipes, which are thought to be solidified sediment that filled ancient springs or geysers, left standing after the softer surrounding sandstone rock weathered away.

We then drive 10 miles to Round Valley Slot Canyon, within the Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument, where we'll hike 45 minutes down the drainage and descend the slot canyon by way of a log ramp. The cool canyon is a wonderful break from the desert heat and a relaxing place for lunch. For those who don't wish to descend into the canyon, a rock ledge provides ample shade until the rest of the group returns. This slot canyon is seldom visited and the hike takes about 1½ hours roundtrip through a maze of rocks cut steeply into the Navajo sandstone. Later,

we drive another four miles and visit Grosvenor Arch, a huge double arch that sits high up on the cliff face. Return to the Stone Canyon Inn for dinner on the patio.

*B,L,D...Stone Canyon Inn*

### **DAY 5, Thursday ~ Zion National Park**

Rise and shine for an optional sunrise hike on the Peekaboo Loop, our favorite hike within Bryce National Park. As the sun peaks over the horizon and illuminates Bryce Canyon's hoodoos, be sure to have your cameras ready. We will return to the Stone Canyon Inn for breakfast and to prepare for our departure.

We will return across the Paunsaugunt Plateau entering Zion National Park, where we will be spending our final evening. Upon arrival, you will have the opportunity to choose your own activity for the afternoon. Options include hiking in Zion's Narrows or on one of the many park trails, shopping in Springdale, or visiting the local museum and visitors center to learn about the local history of the area.

*B,L,D...Zion Park Lodge or Pioneer Lodge*

### **DAY 6, Friday ~ Zion National Park**

After an early breakfast, we enter Zion National Park and begin the day's hike strolling beneath shady cottonwood and sycamore trees by the Virgin River's edge. Soon we begin ascending and it is time to conquer the challenging hike up Angel's Landing before the desert sun peeks over the canyon walls. The classic Zion hike, the 5-mile roundtrip Angels Landing trail, will lead you to one of the most breathtaking views in all of the American Southwest. The trail ascends 1,700 feet over a distance of 2½ miles to the summit, which is ringed on three sides by the Virgin River below. After descending back to the canyon floor for a picnic lunch, we will head back south to the bright lights, and our arrival in Las Vegas should be around 6:30 p.m. If you plan on flying out this evening, please do not schedule your flight before 9:00 p.m. We will drop you off at the DoubleTree Club Hotel or the airport this evening.

*B,L...*

## **LAND COST**

\$2595 per person (6-12 members)

We offer a \$200 discount for kids 15 and younger (minimum age is 9).

Rates quoted are per person, based on sharing double accommodations.

Single Supplement—\$500 for “requested” singles; \$250 for “forced” singles. If you prefer single accommodations, you must pay the Single Supplement Fee. If you're traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we'll try our best to find you a roommate. If that's not possible, we will only charge you half of the single supplement.

### **What's Included**

- ◆ expert leadership
- ◆ accommodations in inns or lodges
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ ground transportation
- ◆ national park permit and entrance fees

- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

### **What's Not**

Transportation from your hometown to/from Las Vegas; meals not noted in itinerary; insurance other than basic medical and evacuation insurance as noted above (we strongly recommend you purchase the supplementary trip insurance offered by Mountain Travel Sobek, which includes trip cancellation insurance); optional tipping to leader, guides and local staff; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; and items of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

### **Air Travel**

Airfare is not included in the land cost of our trips. For air reservations, we recommend you contact the airlines directly, either by phone or the Internet. In addition, many travelers elect to use their "frequent flyer" miles when traveling with us. **But please check with our staff before purchasing or obtaining your tickets.** We need to verify your arrival and departure schedule and ensure we have enough participants to operate the trip.

## **WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT**

### **Expert Leadership**

Expert leadership is the key to an exciting, unforgettable experience. Our trips feature gifted leaders for whom leading trips is a true vocation. Besides showing you wonders you'd never find on your own, they make sure everything runs smoothly and safely without a hitch. They are knowledgeable about all aspects of your trip, and take great pleasure in sharing their insights with you. More than just guides, they positively elevate your experience by being teachers, companions, and the best of friends. You'll be in good hands with them every step of the way. The following people regularly lead this trip:

**Nick Martin** is a graduate of Oklahoma State University where he majored in both marketing and international business. Following graduation, Nick spent two years in the pharmaceutical sales industry before succumbing to his passion for adventure and love for the outdoors. That passion brought him to Arizona where he has been guiding since 2006. Nick is an avid snow skier and enjoys rock climbing, hiking, and mountain biking, and has recently taken up SCUBA diving as well. His adventurous spirit has led him to running with the bulls in Spain and skiing in the Swiss Alps. Nick also has a great motivational spirit and enjoys helping others achieve outdoor goals beyond their expectations. He holds certifications in CPR, First Aid, and Wilderness First Aid.

**Brian Jump** leads more hiking and mountain biking tours every year than any other guide in Arizona. (Each year he guides more than 3,000 people into the Arizona backcountry and leads more than 35 multi-day hiking tours into the Grand Canyon.) His attention to detail, sensitivity to guest needs, and extensive knowledge of the unique flora, fauna, geology, and history of the Grand Canyon is unrivaled. Brian is a graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) where he was trained in backpacking, rock climbing, canyoneering, spelunking, winter camping, and backcountry skiing. He also possesses amazing fitness and athleticism, which trip members find both entertaining and comforting! He holds a degree in philosophy from the University of Denver.

**Gary Elbert's** diverse background includes being a professional photographer and owning his own rock climbing, caving, and backpacking school in New Mexico. Always cheerful and ready for the next adventure, Gary is passionate about sharing his love of the natural world with our groups. An accomplished outdoorsman and certified

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), his calm demeanor and masterful skills make every guest feel secure while traveling in the backcountry in his company.

**Dave Sas**, an Oklahoma native, graduated from Central University of Oklahoma with a degree in business administration and accounting. He is a Vietnam veteran with a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with valor from the 101st Airborne Division, Long Range Reconnaissance. He is trained not only in first aid and CPR, but also in Wilderness First Aid and Swiftwater Rescue. After owning his own accounting firm for 20 years he became a full-time river rafting, hiking, and mountain biking guide 12 years ago. Dave's enthusiasm is contagious, keeping every trip he leads upbeat and filled with adventure.

Leader assignments will be confirmed in the Final Bulletin sent to you three weeks prior to departure.

### **Activity Level**

Mountain Travel Sobek trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active and have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. We rate this trip as easy to moderate in nature. You should be in good physical condition and enjoy hiking. Most hikes vary from short walks to five miles at the most (there is an optional ten-mile hike on Day 2). There is the option to do less hiking, and for those who wish to do more, the guide can always lead you on longer hikes. However, with smaller groups (6-8 trip members), there will be only one guide so there will be less flexibility on the length of the hikes since we cannot break up the group.

If you are not optimally conditioned for the above rating, we recommend that you start a training program *at least three months* before departure, gradually increasing the intensity and duration. If your health is questionable or your physical stamina is limited, please discuss other trip options with us.

## **THE NEXT STEP**

### **Ready to go? Signing up is easy!**

Just call us at 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) and reserve your spot! You can also book a reservation online at our website ([www.mtsobek.com](http://www.mtsobek.com)). If you prefer to use a travel agent, he or she can book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

### **Then Leave the Rest to Us**

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, and other details.

### **Why Mountain Travel Sobek is Your First Choice for Adventure**

Mountain Travel Sobek is the pioneer in active adventure travel. No other adventure travel company can lay claim to that title. We were the first to take Americans trekking in Nepal, raft the wild rivers of Africa, and open up many previously inaccessible corners of the world to curious travelers. We set the standard for adventure travel and have a strong reputation for excellence that we do everything we can to maintain. Since we are the leading adventure company, we have a lot to live up to, so we make sure we provide safe, quality trips and the best customer service to our passengers.

With Mountain Travel Sobek, you'll see the Southwest as only an insider can, with friendly, hospitable guides who know the region intimately. They'll accompany you throughout the day, lending support and insights about where you are and what you see. Their close familiarity with the local geography, history, culture and traditions (plus their entertaining stories and great jokes) are the key to a superb, informative experience—one you just can't get on your own.

### **References**

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

### **Questions?**

Feel free to call us at 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) if you still have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also check out our website at [www.mtsobek.com](http://www.mtsobek.com).

### **Note on Itinerary**

Although we will do our best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change. Please read the Limitation of Liability and Booking Conditions in the four-page Participant Information Form. You can find all this information on our website at [www.mtsobek.com/faq](http://www.mtsobek.com/faq) and the form itself at [www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant\\_info.pdf](http://www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf).

### **Terms & Conditions**

Once you have made a deposit for a trip, you agree to be bound by all our terms and conditions including the Limitation of Liability Clause. The full Terms and Conditions can be found at [www.mtsobek.com/faq/#liability](http://www.mtsobek.com/faq/#liability) or call 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) for a copy. These are partial conditions. Your participation is contingent on your signature on the full list of terms specified in the four-page Participant Information Form ([www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant\\_info.pdf](http://www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf)). Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to the Terms and Conditions, to any literature concerning this trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration in San Francisco, California, according to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. Such proceedings will be governed by substantive California law (but not procedural law) without regard to the California Arbitration Act.

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