

EXPLORE!



Family Into the Wild West

13 days

USA - Trip code FAS

Family Into the Wild West

Experience the Wild West's most iconic sights as we explore the deserts, lakes and canyons of Arizona and Utah. Starting in Las Vegas, a city that never sleeps, explore the bustling city and bright lights of the strip. Move on to witness canyons, rivers and spectacular landscapes as we visit Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches NP and Monument Valley. Walk to the rim of the Grand Canyon and spend a night under the stars in Monument Valley, hearing native American folklore stories over a roaring campsite fire.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Las Vegas** - Stay at the Golden Nugget Hotel which has a waterslide through the hotel
- ★ **Grand Canyon** - Discover one of the planet's greatest natural wonders
- ★ **Monument Valley** - Stay on a Navajo Reservation where Back to the Future III was filmed
- ★ **Zion National Park** - Walks in this beautiful national park
- ★ **Lake Powell** - Enjoy activities on the lake such as jet skiing or relax on the beach
- ★ **Bryce Canyon** - Discover the remarkable multi-coloured landscape of the ancient rock formations

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Simple

These are often small, family run establishments or campsites which provide a no-frills experience with adequate amenities and service standards. Sleeping arrangements are simple, sometimes with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:**Moderate**

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:**8 - 13**

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Tour starts Las Vegas

Join the tour in Las Vegas and check-in at the hotel. Las Vegas is an enigma, a city in the desert that is full of glitz and panache, which has become the showbiz Mecca of America. At the turn of the last century it didn't even exist but today it is home to over a million people and boasts many of the largest hotels in the world. It is a modern day El Dorado, where Egyptian Pyramids and Arthurian Castles share the desert haze with Venice, Paris and the New York skyline.



Accommodation: Stratosphere Hotel (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - In Las Vegas; cruise The Strip

This morning we take a tour of the famous Vegas Strip. If travel is to experience, then Las Vegas will not fail to impress or amaze. From the bizarre to the tacky, there is always something to grab your attention. In front of the Mirage Hotel you can witness a live volcano eruption, dancing fountains and a magical water light show in front of the Bellagio. Take a walk around a recreation of Venice at the Venetian or climb to the top of the half size recreation of Gustave's Eiffel Tower. The most breathtaking view over the city is from the top of the 350m Stratosphere Tower, the tallest freestanding observation tower in the United States.



Accommodation: Stratosphere Hotel (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 3 - Visit Zion National Park before arriving in Springdale campsite

Today we head for Zion National Park, the first natural gem on our tour through the High Plains. Desert terrain and huge sculpted hanging gardens create an oasis in the desert. Established as a national park in 1919, Zion spreads across 147,000 acres and contains eight geologic formations. Its original inhabitants were the Anasazi, who mysteriously seemed to disappear sometime around the 13th century. They were followed by the Paiutes who named the area Logoon (arrow quiver), holding it in awe and believing it to be inhabited by spirits, so much so that they refused to enter the canyon at night. The Mormons were the first white men to enter the canyon and they christened the place 'Zion' due to it being a place of peace and refuge. The park is a sanctuary for all manner of flora and fauna, from roadrunners, golden eagles and mountain lions, to cottonwood, cacti and desert phlox. After we set up camp, there is some free time to enjoy the visitor centre or undertake some short walks.



Accommodation: Zion Canyon Campground (or similar)



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Lunch & Dinner

DAY 4 - Walks in Bryce Canyon and overnight in a teepee

This morning we drive to Bryce Canyon. There is little that you will have ever seen before that can truly prepare you for your first sight of this amazing canyon. Named after a Mormon settler by the name of Ebenezer Bryce, who memorably declared it a hell of a place to lose a cow, Bryce Canyon is a multihued amphitheatre of sculpted rocks or hoodoos which resemble petrified animals or historic figures. Erosion has created these amazing formations out of 225 million year old rocks and it is easy to understand why the Paiute tribe called this place the 'Valley of the Standing Man'. At 2,700 meters, Bryce Canyon can be cold at night so we advise to bring appropriate clothing as we camp in the Canyon tonight. We will have the opportunity to try out some optional walks in the canyon itself. As well as the amazing spectacle of its geological formations, the canyon is also home to a diverse array of wildlife, from small mammals, such as the rare Utah prairie dog, to birds and foxes, as well as the occasional mountain lion and black bear. Tonight we have the unique experience of camping in teepee style tents.



Accommodation: Rubys Inn Campground (or similar)



Simple Camping



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5 - Drive to Moab via Capitol Reef

This morning after breakfast we will drive to Capitol Reef National Park where we will view some petroglyphs and take a short hike to Hickman Bridge before heading to our campground in Moab where we will spend the next two nights.



Accommodation: Canyonlands Campground Cabins (or similar)



Simple Cabins



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6 - Walks in Arches National Park before returning to Moab

Today we visit the extraordinary Arches National Park, where more than 1600 natural arches have been sculpted over the years by wind, sun, frost and rain which all create a strange rockscape in the desert. Soft Entrada Sandstone - a 91 meter layer of rock deposited as sand during the Jurassic Period - has been eroded into twisted spires, fins and arches which are particularly beautiful in the morning and afternoon when they take on a fiery glow in the low light. The famous Delicate Arch has become Utah's symbol and seems to defy gravity as the large precariously-balanced boulders hover near the edge of a cliff. We will enjoy a gentle walk around the windows loop (approximately 1.5 hours), before returning to Moab later this afternoon. After some free time, we then drive to Dead horse Point in Utah National Park for sunset.



Accommodation: Canyonlands Campground Cabins (or similar)



Simple Cabins



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 7 - Explore Monument Valley before staying with the Navajo Indians

After a free morning in Moab we will then drive to the biggest indigenous reservation in the country, the Navajo Reservation, which was founded in 1888 to provide a protected region for the Navajo people. Monument Valley lies within this vast area and has featured as a backdrop to many Westerns and other Hollywood productions, including Back to the Future III, Thelma and Louise and Wild Wild West. This is the classic wild west landscape. However, familiarity does not prepare you for this amazing spectacle. Pinnacles and towers rocket skywards from the desert floor and the warm embrace of sunset colours alters the landscape's appearance daily. Explore the valley in jeeps with a Navajo guide. In the evening we can enjoy Native American folklore stories, music and dancing around the campfire before we retire to our traditional Hogan for a night like no other.



Accommodation: Hogan Camping (Monument Valley) (or similar)



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 8 - Visit Lake Powell via a visit to Navajo Monument and hike to ruins

This morning we drive to the Navajo National Monument then take a short hike to the Betatakin Ruins viewpoint before driving to

Lake Powell which boasts a shoreline length of an incredible 3150km - longer than the western coast of the United States. Part of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and named after the one armed civil war veteran John Wesley Powell who first recorded his travel through the area, the lake is the second largest man-made lake in the USA and is one of the most scenic lakes in the world. It is also one of the most surreal landscapes imaginable, with more than 96 major canyons, tranquil blue waters and red sandstone buttes. During our stay here, you will have time to do several optional activities available - rent a boat on the lake or you may wish to do one of the many short hikes in the area.



Accommodation: Wahweap Campground (or similar)



Simple Camping



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 9 - Enjoy Lake Powell

Today is left free to explore and partake in some optional activities around Lake Powell including a visit to the Antelope Canyon by jeep - a beautiful, peach gold coloured, sandstone slot canyon formed by the force of flash floods coming from the plains above.



Accommodation: Wahweap Campground (or similar)



Simple Camping



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 10 - Drive to the Grand Canyon; afternoon rim walk

Leaving Lake Powell behind, we then head to the Grand canyon via a short stop at the Cameron Trading post where we will have the chance to shop for some Native American arts and crafts of this region. On arrival at the canyon, you will be amazed at the length and breadth of this natural wonder as it extends for some 450km from the western boundary of the Navajo Reservation to the vicinity of Lake Mead and the Nevada border. The canyon is also 1,750 meters deep (as deep as the highest of the Rocky Mountains are tall), and averages 16km in width. This afternoon you will have enough time to take a short rim walk before sundown.



Accommodation: Williams KOA (or similar)



Simple Camping



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 11 - Explore the Grand Canyon; optional helicopter flight

Today is left free for your own exploration of the canyon. It is possible to walk a short distance into the Canyon which does require a decent level of fitness, or for those feeling slightly less energetic, a leisurely stroll along the canyon rim may be more to your liking (both unescorted). Alternatively, you may wish to view the canyon from high above on a helicopter flight (optional). Whatever you decide, the Canyon is one of the most amazing natural spectacles anywhere on the planet with sunsets at the Grand Canyon being something to be savoured. In the evening you may wish to end the day with an IMAX movie presentation about the history of the canyon (optional).



Accommodation: Williams KOA (or similar)



Simple Camping



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 12 - Travel along Route 66 back to Las Vegas

This morning we leave the Grand Canyon behind and head back to the bright lights of Vegas. We travel along Historic Route 66 where an estimated 210,000 people migrated to California along this road to escape the despair of the Dust Bowl during the Depression years. The architecture along this ghost road gives an insight into the early days of Route 66 and is rich in Americana.



Accommodation: Stratosphere Hotel (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 13 - Tour Ends Las Vegas

The tour ends this morning in Las Vegas.



Meals Provided: None

Family Trip

Vehicle information: The vehicles that we use on our USA trips are either low-roof or high-roof transit vans. Where possible, we aim to get the high-roof ones, allowing that little bit of extra comfort. Although not flashy, these small-group vehicles are perfect for exploring the US as they allow greater flexibility to get to those more off the beaten track places. Your Explore Leader will rotate seating positions regularly within the van. Please see the image gallery for further details.



Why book this trip

The tour suits families who like to discover a region and are happy travelling around as part of a reasonably busy itinerary with a range of different accommodation types, experiences and natural attractions. The holiday covers the highlights of Nevada and its surrounding states as we stay in native American teepees, camping in designated camp sites, a night in a hogan which is the traditional home of the Navajo people and a comfortable hotel in Las Vegas at the beginning and end of their trip.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 9
Lunch: 10
Dinner: 8



Transport

4WD
Maxiwagon



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader / Driver



Accommodation

2 nights simple cabins
7 nights simple camping
3 nights premium hotel

Trip information

Country information

USA

Climate

There are great variations in the altitude and terrain of the areas visited and this is reflected in the temperatures. Desert areas can be extremely hot in the summer months (49°), though temperatures can drop dramatically at night. The mountains are cooler and wetter especially in the north of the Rockies. At the beginning and end of the season there may still be some snow around in the high passes and it can be cold, whereas in mid-summer the day time temperatures can soar.

Time difference to GMT

Plugs

2 Pin Flat

Religion

Christian

Language

English

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Family adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader will be able to give advice on which are the most suitable for your family.

Day 5 or 6: Moab

Float trip US\$ 57 per person

Jet Boat US \$90 for 1/2 day per person

Hummer sunset tour US \$90 per person

Day 9: Lake Powell

Glen Canyon Dam visit US\$5 per person

Antelope Canyon Jeep Excursion US\$ 45 per person

Kayaking tours from US\$ 75 per person

Boat trips from US \$47 to \$130 depending on what cruise you opt for.

Day 11: Grand Canyon

Helicopter overflight approximately US\$ 254-284 per person

IMAX cinema US\$ 13 per person

Clothing

Pack layers! Please note that temperatures in this area can be high during summer - sometimes over 40°C. Please bear this in mind when packing for your trip. Dress is informal. A warm fleece or sweater is essential for cooler nights in the desert or at higher altitudes. Include a long sleeved shirt, warm trousers, a lightweight waterproof jacket, swimwear, sunglasses and a sun hat.

Footwear

Lightweight walking/hiking boots with good ankle support, trainers and/or sandals for travelling.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

Bring only the bare essentials - one main bag plus a small daypack for walking and for personal items. Main luggage cannot be accessed during the day. Soft luggage is more practical than a hard shell suitcase. Bring plastic bags to keep things dry. Please only pack what you can carry.

Laundry facilities are available at various points during the trip.

Equipment

Bring a water bottle (3 litre capacity), high factor sunblock, plastic bags to keep things dry, a (head) torch and a towel. Please also

bring a 2 or 3-season (temperature -5°C to 0°C) sleeping bag (a sleeping sheet is useful). A thermal ground pad is provided. You may find a walking pole useful. Please note: Sleeping bags can be purchased from a store for as low as US \$50. Please ask your Tour Leader on arrival.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

In North America tipping 15%-20% is a recognised part of life across the service industry, including restaurants, activity suppliers, taxis and guides. Local staff will look to you for personal recognition of particular services provided.

Unlike other Explore trips, during our trips in North America our Explore leaders will not operate a tips kitty. However, they will be more than happy to provide guidance throughout the trip on who to tip when and to suggest appropriate amounts.

Country Information

USA

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£15

Dinner price

£21

Beer price

£Varies for different towns, average £4.00

Water price

£1.1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

USDollars.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Bring your money in US\$ cash.

Where To Exchange

Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

Widely available.

Credit Card Acceptance

Widely accepted just about everywhere.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

4WD, Maxiwagon

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

All camping equipment is provided except a sleeping bag. Like many adventures of this type, much of the team spirit and camaraderie is developed through mucking in and helping out with basic camp responsibilities which will include the setting up and taking down of camp and the loading and unloading of the trailer. At some points you may also be asked to help with meal preparation, washing and clearing up. Be prepared for some early starts and some long days - there is an enormous amount to see!

Family swimming

The hotel and some of the campsites have pools

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

When travelling to the USA, you will need the following:

ESTA - Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia and passport holders from several EU countries can apply for an ESTA here - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> - you must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information. If you have visited Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen since March 2011, or dual national of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA. In this case you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US embassy or consulate.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. This will be provided in your final documentation, which you will receive 3-4 weeks before departure. Explore's USA contact information will be listed as the first nights' hotel in the US. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information.

ETA - only if transiting via Canada

Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia and passport holders from several EU countries can apply for an ETA here - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp> - other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom. Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Non refundable permits

USA

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.