



Epic National Parks of the Southwest

Bryce, Grand Canyon & Zion Cultural Walking Adventure

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Three American Adventures in One

Even as adults we play the "pioneer game" every time we visit this monumental trio of national parks. It goes like this: Imagine cresting the hill in your Conestoga wagon to behold these sights. How would you have reacted to canyons so deep, rock this red, bridges of stone and boulders poised on slender spires? These days, many visitors on Grand Canyon guided tours miss that sense of wonder as they RV past major points of interest. The Classic Journeys approach is different. We partner you with our knowledgeable guides who interpret what you see. (Did you know, for example, that the original Grand Canyon may have been created cataclysmically by the sudden draining of an inland sea?) We'll make sure you get to less visited areas and experience the richness of the area's geologic and human history. Yet we do it all without undue exertion. We've found easy trails—not to mention gracious lodges—to make certain that this journey of discovery is memorable in every way.

DAY 1

GRAND CANYON

- **Meet in St. George**
- **Picnic lunch with panoramic views**
- **Marvel at the colors of the Grand Canyon during sunset**

We meet in St. George, located in the southwest corner of Utah. Rich with pioneer history, the town is surrounded by colorful sandstone cliffs. From here, we set out for the Grand Canyon. Stately ponderosa pine forests welcome us to the Grand Canyon where we stay on the lookout for condors that tend to nest here. We get our first glimpse of the Grand Canyon as we approach the lodge that offers several amazing views while our guide talks about the geologic events that created this natural wonder.

A short walk takes us to our guide's favorite vista point overlooking Roaring Springs, Bright Angel Canyon and the South Rim. Along the way, we also have the chance to do some birding. Swifts and swallows can often be seen along cliff faces, and, with luck, we may even see a bald eagle or willow flycatcher. Before dinner, you have the choice to enjoy a glass of wine on the lodge's veranda with spectacular views as far as the eye can see, take a short sunset walk along the rim or join one of the ranger-led activities highlighting the natural history of this magnificent chasm.

Overnight: Grand Canyon

Meals: L, D

DAY 2

GRAND CANYON/BRYCE

- **Join a sunrise walk option for early risers**
- **Relax during the scenic drive to Bryce Canyon**

A memorable sunrise walk along the rim of the Grand Canyon allows early risers to enjoy the vibrant colors as they reflect off the canyon walls. After breakfast, we take a guided walk along the Transept Trail following the rim of a side canyon through quaking aspens and ponderosa pines. Following our hike we bid farewell to the Grand Canyon and journey to Bryce Canyon National Park. Have your camera ready during our scenic drive out of the park; we often see a variety of wildlife such as the rare Kaibab squirrel, found only on the Kaibab Plateau.

We arrive at Bryce Canyon National Park where nature has shaped colorful limestone, and sandstone into thousands of spires, fins, pinnacles and mazes, called hoodoos. Take time to relax at our rustic lodge, completely renovated to its 1930s elegance-down to replicas of the lodge's original hickory furniture. After a festive dinner of homemade western specialties, enjoy a relaxing evening under a blanket of stars that light up the enormous Utah sky.

Overnight: Bryce

Meals: B, L

DAY 3

BRYCE

- **Enjoy a morning exploration of Bryce Canyon on foot**
- **Marvel at the incredibly-shaped hoodoos**
- **Experience a mule ride into Bryce Canyon**

Our scenic morning walk ventures below the rim into the heart of Bryce Canyon along gentle switchbacks and through Wall Street, appropriately named for its walls of red rock looming on either side. We continue to the canyon floor for an up-close exploration of the hoodoos, the ancient rose-colored pillars of sand and stone that resemble a city of spires and minarets. As we walk among the natural formations, it's fascinating to imagine the castle turrets, windows, bridges, domes and other architectural features created by the natural erosion of the rocks. Along the way, our guide points out specific hoodoos, like Thor's Hammer, named to reflect their form and grandeur.

This afternoon, experience Bryce Canyon on mule back, or enjoy an afternoon walk on a trail that offers a spectacular viewpoint, where it's possible to see over 120 miles! On our return to the lodge, we find photo opportunities at several viewpoints, including our favorite natural bridge, which isn't a bridge at all, but rather a picturesque red rock arch.

Overnight: Bryce

Meals: B, D

DAY 4

BRYCE / ZION

- Visit to the home of a highly regarded painter
- Enjoy the pool or hot tub at our fantastic riverside hotel

An optional sunrise walk follows our favorite portion of the Rim Trail overlooking the Bryce Amphitheater. Views of the cliff walls and rock formations come to life with vibrant gold colors as the sun rises in the distance.

En route to Zion National Park, we make an interesting stop at the Maynard Dixon summer home and studio. Dixon was a well-known painter of Southwestern U.S. landscapes and native peoples during the first half of the 20th century. We enjoy a private tour of his log home and grounds, and a picnic lunch outside the studio.

If time permits we make a stop at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park for a walk through stunning, coral-colored dune fields surrounded by red sandstone cliffs, blue skies and juniper and pinyon forests.

Later in the afternoon we arrive at our hotel in Springdale, a riverside oasis where sun- hued stucco, timbers reclaimed from old railroad trestles, and native stone grace this beautifully landscaped property adjacent to Zion National Park. Relax at the hotel with an opportunity to swim in the pool before dinner.

Overnight: Zion

Meals: B, L

DAY 5

ZION

- Riverside walk past hanging gardens of wildflowers
- Enjoy a night on the town in Springdale

Zion National Park is characterized by a range of colorful canyons, sandstone cliffs, rocky deserts and cool forested plateaus.

Our theme for today is water, as we first set off together to the Temple of Sinawava for a shaded riverside walk along the Virgin River and upstream to Zion Canyon Narrows.

The walk is adorned with beautiful hanging gardens of wildflowers in the spring and summer, and vibrant foliage in the fall months. Everyone enjoys getting their feet wet on explorations up the famous Zion Narrows, a slot gorge 20 feet across at its narrowest point with canyon walls that extend up to 2000 feet above. Enjoy a delicious picnic lunch among some of the most beautiful scenery in the southwest. Tonight, enjoy a night on the town in Springdale.

Overnight: Zion

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

ZION

- Explore the Emerald Pools
- Art gallery exploration
- Part company in St. George

This morning, join your guide for an exploration of the beautiful Emerald Pools trail. Emerald Pools is a Zion classic: an oasis in the middle of the desert. The walk is a collection of short trails that meander past a small, lushly-vegetated stream that rolls down from the cliffs and forms several interesting pools.

Returning to Springdale late morning, spend a couple of leisurely hours exploring the local shops and art galleries, showcasing photography, ceramics, jewelry and Native American art created by local artists and inspired by the beauty of Zion.

Later this afternoon, a short drive brings us back to St. George where we part company in time for dinner and return shuttles to Las Vegas.

Meals: B

DAILY ITINERARY

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Tour Hotels



Grand Canyon Lodge (North Rim)

The Grand Canyon Lodge is warm and welcoming, with limestone walls and timbered ceilings that complement the North Rim's rugged beauty. The lodge's terrace, with rustic wooden rocking chairs, is the ideal setting for a glass of wine at sunset.

OVERNIGHT: North Rim | **NIGHTS:** 1



Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel

Ruby's Inn was established in 1916, when rancher Reuben (Ruby) Syrett, built canvas shelters near the canyon's rim for visitors. The hotel, is still owned by the Syrett family is known for its western hospitality and friendly service.

OVERNIGHT: Bryce | **NIGHTS:** 2



Desert Pearl Inn

A riverside oasis of sun hued stucco, old railroad timbers and native stone grace this beautiful property. Rooms feature private terraces or balconies and Adirondack chairs. Relax at the end of the day in the heated outdoor swimming pool or hot tub.

OVERNIGHT: Springdale | **NIGHTS:** 2

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	6 Days, 5 Nights
START	Lobby of Inn on the Cliff, St. George, Utah
END	St. George city center, St. George, Utah
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate on national park trails. An average of 2 - 4 hours of walking per day.

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip
- Well-sited boutique hotels and lodges that provide you unrivaled access to the people and places, culture and natural environment you came to experience

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!


President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Bryce, Grand Canyon & Zion...

- Getting your feet wet in the 2,000 foot deep Zion Narrows slot gorge
- Watching sunrise during a walk on a remote trail along the north rim of the Grand Canyon
- Exploring Bryce Canyon's natural gallery of red rock fins, spires, arches and mazes
- Marveling at the red rock towering over your private terrace at The Desert Pearl Inn
- Learning all about the interesting history and unique stories of the natural wonders around you from your expert local guides

"It's difficult to choose our favorite aspect of the trip. The scenery was magnificent, the guide perfect and the group very congenial. A great trip!"

-Bert and Jo Ann E., Red Lodge, MT