

CANYONLANDS OF SOUTHERN UTAH AND NORTHERN ARIZONA

September 22-30, 2017



Day One – Friday, September 22nd.

Depart Sarett Nature Center at 7:00 am for Chicago's O'Hare Airport for our 10:15 am direct flight to Las Vegas. Arrive in Las Vegas at 12:02 pm. We will all shuttle to the rental vehicle hub and take off directly in our two 15 passenger vans.

We will stop for lunch on our drive to Springdale, Utah (2.5 hour drive). Our lodging is at the Old West –style inn Pioneer Lodge, located one mile from Zion National Park's South Entrance. It will be our home for two nights. Once we settle into our rooms, we will take advantage of the remaining day and travel into Zion Visitor Center for orientation and discovery. Pioneer Lodge or other for dinner. No meals are included. **Pioneer Lodge, Springdale, Utah**

Day Two – Saturday, September 23.

After breakfast at the Pioneer Lodge, we will break up into two groups for our morning exploration. Make sure you have full water bottles, sunscreen, hat, good walking shoes and a day pack with snacks.

One group can explore flatter riverside trails and one group can take trails that climb in elevation. Zion has an efficient shuttle system, so if you prefer you can take advantage of the shuttle and do your own exploring. Lunch will be either back in Springdale or in the Park. After lunch we will continue our exploration on trails like Lower Emerald Pool Trail, The Grotto Trail or Weeping Rock Trail. For the very adventuresome you might want to try making it to Angel's Landing. We will return to Springdale and our lodge before we find dinner or make use of the restaurant at the lodge. Outdoor Pool. No meals provided. **Pioneer Lodge, Springdale, Utah.**

Day Three- Sunday, September 24.



After breakfast, we will load up and start traveling to the east but we are planning on one more short hike in Zion before we travel to Bryce Canyon National Park. The Canyon Overlook Trail is an easy one hour round trip trail ending at viewpoints of Pine Creek Canyon and lower Zion Canyon. (There were peregrine falcons flying around the canyon walls last time we visited.) Then we will continue traveling to Bryce Canyon. We will find lunch at Ruby's Restaurant and then spend the afternoon exploring the hoodoos. At Bryce you will see the largest collection hoodoos (odd-shaped pillars of rock left standing from the

forces of erosion) in the world. It is a truly magical sight. We may take in a park ranger talk about the geology of the Hoodoos and the unique landscape we see. We will take to the trails –either along the rim or down into the canyon with the hoodoos. Tonight's lodging has three dining areas to choose from – something for everyone. Bryce is famous for its brilliant starry skies. If we have a clear night sky, we will head back into the park after dinner to look for constellations, planets and nebulae. **Ruby's Best Western Inn.**

Day Four – Monday, September 25.

This is a scheduled travel day (five hour drive) that will take us over Capitol Reef National Park and on to the town of Moab. Capitol Reef offers a 8 mile scenic drive with breathtaking views of the Waterpocket Fold – a nearly 100 mile long warp in the Earth’s crust. From Moab we will have access to both Canyonlands and Arches National Parks. We will explore for lunch along the way but will end up in Moab where we will stay at the Inca Inn for two nights. Moab has many fine restaurants to choose from for our meals. Evening is on your own (or we may make a run into Arches National Park for a chance at sunset pictures). **Inca Inn** – heated pool

Day Five – Tuesday, September 26.

Continental breakfast is included this morning. We will want to start early today to miss the crowds at Arches National Park (and to find parking where and when we want it). We will take in some of the more popular sites such as Delicate Arch and North and South Windows. We will travel the main access road to two or three trailheads where short walks take us to amazing sights. The park has over 2,000 natural stone arches, in addition to hundreds of soaring pinnacles, massive fins and giant balanced rocks. The red rock wonderland will amaze you with its formations and refresh you with its trails. We will return to Moab for lunch. The afternoon will be spend in Canyonlands National Park where we drive atop a towering mesa for spectacular views of the surround mountains and canyons. Many short hikes and stops are planned. Meals are in Moab.



Inca Inn.

Day Six – Wednesday, September 27.

Breakfast is included. It is another travel day but don’t worry the sights will be wonderful. We will break up the travel time with a visit to Monument Valley in the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation. This is the site of many classic westerns by director, John Ford. Hopefully, we will have time (if we make it another early start) to explore the scenic drive in the valley. Get those cameras ready! We will end our day in Page, Arizona at the Days Inn. Dinner will be in Page. **Lake Powell Days Inn.** Outdoor Pool.

Day Seven – Thursday, September 28.

Breakfast is included. We will head out early and travel to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. This site is at a higher elevation than the south side and is much less developed. We will take in as many views as possible. We are at over 8,000 feet elevation and you will need to judge your own ability to walk with less oxygen. The Bright Angel trail is only ¼ mile long and takes us to one of the most spectacular sites you can imagine. We will take our time. Lunch will be at the North Rim Lodge where they have a wonderful buffet available. Dinner will be at our lodging of Jacob Lake Inn. **Jacob Lake Inn**

Day Eight – Friday, September 29.

We have the whole day to explore the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. We will have time to walk the Cape Royal Trail with views of the canyon, Angels Window and the Colorado River. We can go to Pt Imperial or just sit and soak in this wilderness area. Meals will be at the inn or we will get food to take with us. **Jacob Lake Inn**

Day Nine – Saturday, September 30.

It will be another travel day. We will have to have an early start to make the 3.5 hour drive back to Las Vegas for our 3:20 pm flight back to O’Hare. Expect to be back at Sarett around 1:00 am on October 1.

Included in this Tour:

- * Sarett van shuttle service from Sarett to O'Hare Airport and return.
- * Round trip Airfare from O'Hare to Las Vegas
- * Transportation by 15 passenger vans while traveling in Utah and Arizona
- * Eight nights lodging
- * Naturalist guides and drivers
- * Park entrance fees
- * Three continental breakfasts as listed in itinerary
- * An incredible, unforgettable experience and more photo opt's than you can count

Fee: \$2350.00 per person based on double occupancy for Sarett Nature Center Members. You must be a member of Sarett Nature Center to join this trip. Sarett membership is \$50/family or \$40/individual.

Deposit: \$250 per person is required to secure your place. Final Payment is due August 15, 2017

If you need to cancel the following cancellation fees apply:

Now until June 1 - \$100

After June 1 - August 15 -\$250

August 16 – September 22 – Any refunds are subject to what is recoverable.

Travel Insurance is highly recommended.



Responsibility: Sarett Nature Center reserves the right, at their sole discretion, to make any changes in the itinerary and hotels should that become necessary and is not responsible to any person for expenses, loss of time, money or happenings resulting from a change of tour scheduling. Sarett Nature Center reserves the right to accept, decline, or retain any person as a member of the tour, and is not responsible for any losses or damages of personal property, injuries, expenses or damages incurred or claimed by any tour member.