

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

# Bryce, Grand Canyon & Zion

## Epic National Parks of the Southwest

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS





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*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. 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 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, and we do it all without undue exertion. Enjoy easy trails—not to mention gracious lodges—for a memorable journey of discovery.

## The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

## 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

## Above & Beyond Benefits

### → INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

### → PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

## Terrain

Easy to moderate on national park trails. An average of 2 - 4 hours of walking per day.

DAY 1 »

## Grand Canyon

You'll gather in St. George, a pioneer town surrounded by colorful sandstone cliffs and located in the southwest corner of Utah. From here, set out for the Grand Canyon, where stately ponderosa pine forests welcome you and you can be on the lookout for condors that nest here. Get your first views of the Grand Canyon on approach to your perfectly sited rim-side lodge, while your guide shares insight on the geologic events that created this natural wonder.

An afternoon walk leads to your guide's favorite vista point overlooking Roaring Springs, Bright Angel Canyon and the South Rim. And the canyon is not the only draw, as the birding is terrific here, too. You can often spot bald eagles overhead, and swifts and swallows nest along the cliff faces. What is your drink of choice that will match the grandeur of these views? Have a glass of that at the ready, and head to the lodge's veranda as you take in the spectacular views as far as the eye can see. Prefer a pre-dinner perambulation? Take a short sunset walk along the rim that highlights the natural history of this magnificent chasm.

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: GRAND CANYON

DAY 2 »

## Grand Canyon

Very few tourists actually ever get to the best walking along the Grand Canyon's North Rim. Not so for you, because you're a Classic Journeys traveler and explorer. And so you enjoy the benefit of our intensive local knowledge and incredibly well connected guides. With them, you're off on an adventure today to collect the most magnificent views on a series of curated walks.

Your handcrafted itinerary bookends a spectacularly-sited picnic lunch and leads you to Cape Royal, the only spot on the North Rim where you can look down and see the Colorado River, as well as the rapids created by Unkar Wash. Far to the south, the San Francisco Peaks tower above Flagstaff, Arizona.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: GRAND CANYON

DAY 3 »

## Bryce Canyon

Have your camera ready; over the course of the week you'll have amazing animal sightings that even include magnificent big horn sheep. Arriving into Bryce Canyon National Park, get ready to marvel at how nature has shaped colorful limestone and sandstone into thousands of spires, fins, pinnacles and mazes, called hoodoos. These are the landscapes that inspired Ansel Adams and a generation of photographers to capture the stark contrasts of the sunlit shadows on the stone and the vast blue sky in their iconic imagery.

Channel your inner photographer, geologist, explorer on a scenic walk that ventures below the rim into the heart of Bryce Canyon on gentle switchbacks along the trail known as 'Wall Street', appropriately named for its walls of red rock looming on either side. You'll 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 you 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, your guide points out specific hoodoos, like Thor's Hammer, named to reflect their form and grandeur.

This evening after dinner, join our friend, Kenny, a genuine cowboy and equally authentic poet. Get comfortable under a blanket of stars (and maybe even a snuggly ranch blanket too) as you enjoy a night of music and storytelling.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: BRYCE

DAY 4 »

## Bryce / Coral Pink Sand Dunes

A morning 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 above the rim walls in the distance. Then, en route to Zion National Park, visit Maynard Dixon's 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. Here you can enjoy a private tour of his log home and grounds, and a savory picnic lunch outside his studio.

Not far away you'll feel as if you've been transported to the Saharan Desert, when you arrive in 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. It's an opportunity to channel your own inner Lawrence of Arabia. And if you feel extra adventurous, your guide has snowboards along so that you can sand surf the dunes. It's a totally fun experience you won't forget. Later in the afternoon, you'll arrive in Springdale, a riverside oasis adjacent to Zion National Park.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: ZION

DAY 5 »

## Zion National Park

Zion Narrows is justifiably famous and so attracts 5,000 people per day who are drawn to its iconic slot canyon, with walls 2,000 feet high and sometimes only 20 feet apart. And you'll have the chance to see it in a very personal way with your guide during the week. But today, you have the 'only with Classic Journeys' opportunity to have an entire slot canyon almost entirely to yourself. Zion National Park is characterized by a range of magnificent and colorful canyons, sandstone cliffs, rocky deserts and cool forested plateaus. An added benefit to this side of Zion is the herd of bison that graze on the grassy mesa that sits surrounded by the canyons.

The theme for today is water, and with a gourmet picnic in hand you set off for a truly spectacular riverside walk up a towering slot canyon. You'll see firsthand the power of water and how even a gentle, constant flowing river or stream can create fantasmic and otherworldly formations in the stone. You very well may vote this your best walk of the trip just on the views, and then the kicker is having it almost just for ourselves.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: ZION

DAY 6 »

## Zion National Park

You have a choice for how you spend the morning. Opt for a walk with your guide up the iconic Zion Narrows or explore on your own the local shops and art galleries that showcase the photography, ceramics, jewelry and Native American art created by local artists and inspired by the beauty of Zion.

If you opt for the 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. But here is an important insider's tip: be very wary of companies that will send you up the Narrows on your own. They do that to avoid the permitting and limitations on group sizes that are required. The Narrows is spectacular, but the water level in it changes not just from one season to the next but even one day to the next. With Classic Journeys, you're in a small group, with our guides and gear, and permitted. It's not just one of the ways to go, it is the only way to experience the Narrows.

Round out the day with a short scenic drive to St. George, where you part company in time for dinner and overnight or a return shuttle to Las Vegas.

MEALS: B



## 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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



### [Bryce Canyon Lodge](#)

Located inside the National Park near the canyon's rim, the Bryce Canyon Lodge is on the National Historic Register. Its grand lobby has been restored to its original rustic 1920s elegance. Relax by the fireplace after a full day of exploration.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



### [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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

# Arrival & Departure

## → ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Inn on the Cliff**  
START CITY: **St. George**  
START TIME: **9:00 AM**

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## → DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Downtown city center**  
END CITY: **St. George**  
END TIME: **3:30 PM**