

# SOUTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS





Dear alumni and friends,

I am pleased to share an exceptional opportunity to join the UB alumni travel program for an awe-inspiring journey through the rich, iconic landscapes of America's Southwest. Led by a premier guide from Orbridge's Expedition Leader Team, our comprehensive tour of "Red Rock Country" blends breathtaking scenery, mesmerizing geologies and natural wonders with indigenous history, local narratives and ancient traditions, providing a deep connection to the land, its people and its past. Supplemented by experienced local guides whose expertise brings singular context to the region's landscapes, wildlife and heritage, this venture goes beyond the rocky surface to encourage in-depth exploration, inquiry and discovery — hallmarks of the UB experience and pillars of lifelong learning.

Unveil the marvels tucked within such treasured national parks as the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Zion, where the intricate dance of time and erosion has etched an extraordinary tapestry across the Southwest plateau. Delve into a world where mesas and buttes stretch across the horizon in an eye-opening display of nature's artistry. Immerse yourself not just in the scenery's grandeur, but in the ancient roots of the resilient people who helped shape the history of this area for thousands of years — and who still steward its unique terrain and vibrant culture today.

Through exclusive opportunities to engage with Native American storytelling, music, art and cuisine, our customized itinerary promises meaningful, mind-opening discussions during a time of year when temperatures are mild and desert flowers are in bloom. From cliff dwellings tucked into canyon walls to sacred caverns that have witnessed centuries of resilience, you'll experience the Southwest with reverence and insight in the best of company.

Plus, join the optional post-tour — Salt Lake City to Denver aboard *Canyon Spirit* — to take advantage of additional guided touring at Canyonlands National Park and Arches National Park. This deluxe, two-day rail adventure in premium SilverLeaf class offers a greater glimpse into "Red Rock Country" in comfort and style.

Beauty like this is hard to come by and space is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, this tour is anticipated to fill quickly. To reserve visit [buffalo.orbridge.com](http://buffalo.orbridge.com) or call 866-639-0079.

I hope you'll sign on for an unforgettable experience — one of exploration, edification and connection — among friends old and new.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen'.

Kathleen Heckman, MBA '95, BA '92  
Vice President for University Advancement



# Southwest National Parks | Itinerary Highlights *(subject to change)*

**Day 1** **ARRIVE IN PHOENIX, AZ | SCOTTSDALE**  
Upon arrival an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the hotel. Take time to refresh before joining the group in the lobby to depart for Desert Botanical Garden for a special welcome dinner.  
Overnight: Scottsdale Marriott at McDowell Mountains (D)

**Day 2** **SCOTTSDALE | SEDONA | GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK** Travel north through the cactus-studded Sonoran Desert arriving at Sedona's stunning Bell Rock Loop. Take advantage of photography opportunities of the magnificent landscape before boarding the motor coach to head into Sedona for lunch on your own. Continue to Grand Canyon National Park—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a natural wonder that showcases the raw beauty of geological forces over millions of years. After checking into the hotel enjoy the remainder of the day for independent park exploration.  
Overnight: Kachina Lodge (B)

**Day 3** **GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK** This morning features independent time to leisurely explore the park or join an optional helicopter flightseeing tour of the North, South and East rim. Afterward gather for optional guided Grand Canyon touring to Mather Point and the Visitor Center. Mather Point is a popular and easily accessible viewpoint on the South Rim offering stunning panoramic views. Guests may wish to enjoy a picnic lunch and leisure time at Grandview, a favored spot for anyone seeking a bit of solitude amid the grandeur of the Grand Canyon. Alternatively return to the lodge and enjoy the on-site dining options. The remainder of the day and evening are open for various activities. Perhaps take a guided tour, stroll the Trail of Time or visit the historic Kolb Studio.  
Overnight: Kachina Lodge (B)

**Day 4** **GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK | PAGE | LAKE POWELL** Departing the Grand Canyon stop at Desert View to see the iconic Watchtower and nearby trading post. Continuing to Page, lunch is on your own followed by guided touring of Antelope Canyon's narrow passages and distinctive swirling rock formations—a mesmerizing haven for photographers.  
Overnight: Lake Powell Resort (B,D)

**Day 5** **LAKE POWELL | BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK, UT** Set out on an exciting rafting float trip down the serene Colorado River. Admire various geological features including ancient petroglyphs, rock formations and the unique striations in the canyon walls. This float trip also provides excellent wildlife spotting opportunities. Arriving to Lees Ferry there will be time for a market stop for lunch items and a picnic before departing for Bryce Canyon. This evening settle into your accommodations then rejoin the group for dinner.  
Overnight: The Lodge at Bryce Canyon (B,L,D)

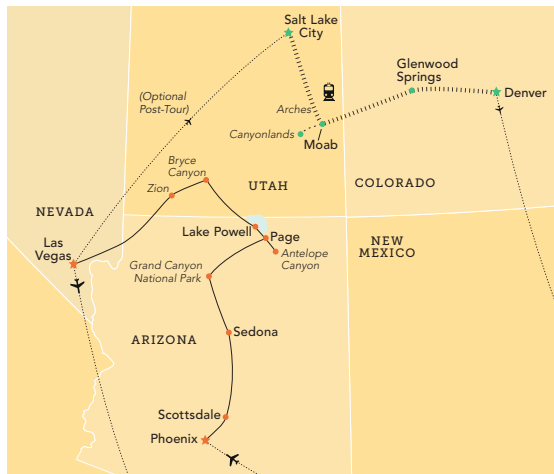
**Day 6** **BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK | ZION NATIONAL PARK** Experience Bryce Canyon, a surreal and captivating landscape of intricately carved hoodoos, towering spires and vibrant rock formations. One of the must-visit viewpoints within the park is Bryce Point where the magic of Bryce Canyon truly unfolds. Continue on to Sunset and Sunrise Points, each displaying striking geological structures carved over millions of years. After leisure time for lunch depart for Zion National Park.  
Overnight: Zion Park Lodge (B)

**Day 7** **ZION NATIONAL PARK** After breakfast set off on a tram ride accompanied by a guide. The remainder of the day is open for independent touring of Zion National Park where your activity options are plentiful. Perhaps take a hike, join a ranger-led program or visit the Human History Museum. Tonight gather with fellow travel companions for dinner.  
Overnight: Zion Park Lodge (B,D)

**Day 8** **ZION NATIONAL PARK | LAS VEGAS, NV** Venture into Zion for a final morning of exploration. This afternoon depart for Las Vegas with time to refresh before a special farewell reception to celebrate your memorable time discovering America's Southwest. The evening is at leisure to stroll The Strip or to take advantage of the amenities at the hotel.  
Overnight: The Westin Las Vegas Hotel & Spa (B,R)

**Day 9** **DEPART LAS VEGAS** After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home (or to Salt Lake City for guests joining the optional post-tour). (B)

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception)



## What's Included

- 8 nights accommodations
- 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners (including a welcome dinner) plus a special farewell reception
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader as well as expert local guides
- Admission and park fees throughout
- All activities as described in the 9-day itinerary, unless noted otherwise
- Private deluxe motor coach with air conditioning and comfortable seating
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers and porters
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

**Activity Level:** Guests should be able to enjoy a mile of outdoor walking at a moderate pace, be sure-footed on uneven ground, get in and out of a motor coach, and manage stairs without assistance.

## GRAND CANYON FLIGHTSEEING EXCURSION

Join a helicopter tour of the North, South and East rim including a flight over the confluence of the little Colorado River. Fly deeper into the canyon viewing immense buttes, majestic temples and spectacular side canyons. This incredible sightseeing opportunity has minimal impact on the nature of this remarkable destination.

Witness amazing landmarks while remaining conscious of the fragility of the environment flying aboard a first rate, environmentally-friendly EC130 aircraft complete with forward-facing stadium seating and a nearly 180° view.



*This excursion must be purchased from Orbridge Guest Services in advance to guarantee availability. Purchase is non-refundable inside 90 days from departure.*



**Orbridge**

## Orbridge Standard of Excellence

Orbridge understands travel today can be complicated. From cabin or room selection to airport transfers, dietary requests, or pre- or post-tour details—we are dedicated to making your journey seamless and special from the moment you leave home.

Our curated destinations—featuring outstanding properties and ships, meticulously crafted itineraries, and knowledgeable guides, travel directors and expedition leaders—offer life-changing experiences you'll never forget.

Our Guest Services team is staffed by well-traveled professionals who provide personalized attention, ensuring all your questions are answered and all the details of your trip are explained to you.

Our air partners can make flight arrangements for guests. In the event of flight delays and/or schedule changes, they will provide guests with personalized assistance. To book flight reservations with our air partners, contact (206) 319-5011 and select the option for your destination to discuss flight details with our air colleagues. Upon ticketing, a fee will be charged.



## Accommodations *(subject to change)*

### SCOTTSDALE MARRIOTT AT MCDOWELL MOUNTAINS



### KACHINA LODGE



### LAKE POWELL RESORT



### THE LODGE AT BRYCE CANYON



### ZION PARK LODGE



### THE WESTIN LAS VEGAS HOTEL & SPA





## Optional Post-Tour

### Salt Lake City to Denver Aboard *Canyon Spirit*

Travel by luxury train from Salt Lake City through the red rock formations of Moab in America's Southwest to the mile-high city of Denver. Off the train, enjoy nature with guided tours of Canyonlands National Park and Arches National Park.

**Day 9** **DEPART LAS VEGAS | ARRIVE IN SALT LAKE CITY, UT** Upon arrival to Salt Lake City International Airport transfer to the hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore independently. Overnight: The Grand America Hotel

**Day 10** **SALT LAKE CITY | CANYON SPIRIT | MOAB | CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK** Board the *Canyon Spirit* to travel by rail to Moab through awe-inspiring and colorful landscapes featuring astounding rock formations. Savor a two-course hot breakfast en route. This afternoon visit Canyonlands National Park for guided sightseeing. Later transfer to the property for an evening at leisure. Overnight: Moab Lodging (B)

**Day 11** **ARCHES NATIONAL PARK | CANYON SPIRIT | GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO** Set out for guided touring of Arches National Park. Return to the *Canyon Spirit* to travel the rail route to Glenwood Springs. Celebrate crossing the Continental Divide with a sparkling wine toast. Disembark in Glenwood Springs and enjoy time to explore independently. Overnight: Glenwood Springs Lodging (B,L)

**Day 12** **GLENWOOD SPRINGS | CANYON SPIRIT | DENVER** Embark upon the *Canyon Spirit* one more time for the final leg of the journey to Denver. Cross the Continental Divide via the historic Moffat Tunnel before emerging into the breathtaking vistas of the Front Range. Overnight: Magnolia Denver (B,L)

**Day 13** **DENVER | DEPART DENVER** After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

## What's Included

- 1 night hotel accommodations in Salt Lake City
- 1 night hotel accommodations in Moab (hotel determined by *Canyon Spirit*)
- 1 night hotel accommodations in Glenwood Springs (hotel determined by *Canyon Spirit*)
- 1 night hotel accommodations in Denver
- 4 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- Alcoholic beverages while aboard the train
- *Canyon Spirit* rail transport with SilverLeaf or SilverLeaf Plus service†
- Admission to, and guided touring of, Canyonlands and Arches National Parks
- Private transportation for included park activities
- Gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leader, *Canyon Spirit* staff, local guides, drivers and porters
- Airport transfer for guests arriving during the suggested times



†The upgrade to SilverLeaf Plus provides access to a lounge car with an outdoor viewing area, enhanced meals and premium alcohol.





**MAY 27 - JUNE 4, 2026**

Salt Lake City to Denver Aboard Canyon Spirit

Post-Tour: June 4-8, 2026

**RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY**

Online: [buffalo.orbridge.com](https://buffalo.orbridge.com)

Phone: 866-639-0079

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$6,199	\$5,695
Single	\$7,899	\$7,395
Optional Excursion	Rate Per Person	
Grand Canyon Flightseeing	\$399	


Canyon Spirit Post-Tour		
Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
SilverLeaf	\$4,699	\$4,495
SilverLeaf Plus	\$5,499	\$5,295
SilverLeaf Single	\$6,199	\$5,995
SilverLeaf Plus Single	\$7,199	\$6,995

\*Special group rates; limited offer. All rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Unless noted otherwise, airfare is not included.

\*\*An exclusive Early Booking Bonus, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; call for details. Full Terms & Conditions at [terms.orbridge.com](https://terms.orbridge.com). Any payment to Orbridge, LLC constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation and refund terms.

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**DEPOSIT AMOUNT PER PERSON**  
\$850 main tour • \$500 post-tour

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at [orbridge.com/going-green](https://orbridge.com/going-green).





**University at Buffalo®**

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201 Harriman Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14214

## **SOUTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS**

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**September 26, 2025\*\***



University at Buffalo alumni on Orbridge's  
National Parks & Lodges of the Old West 2024  
travel program.

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