



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
ALUMNI

MAY 28 - JUNE 5, 2025

Featuring Faculty Host
Daniel McDermott

SOUTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS

Orbridge

Dear alumni and friends,

Join former students and friends on an awe-inspiring journey to the American Southwest, unveiling the mesmerizing geological marvels tucked within our treasured national parks. Traverse the timeless landscapes of Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Zion, where the intricate dance of uplift and erosion has etched an extraordinary tapestry across the Southwest plateau. Delve into a world where hoodoos, slot canyons, arches, buttes and mesas stretch across the horizon in a breathtaking display of nature's artistry. Immerse yourself not just in the land's grandeur, but also in the stories of the resilient Americans who helped shape the history of "Red Rock Country."

With the guidance of an expert Orbridge Expedition Leader and the comforts of a private motor coach, there is no better way to visit our national parks.

PLUS: Join the optional pre-tour—Denver to Moab aboard the *Rocky Mountaineer*—to take advantage of additional guided touring at Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park. This adventure also features two days of rail travel in premium SilverLeaf class aboard *Rocky Mountaineer*.

To reserve, visit rochester.orbridge.com, call (866) 639-0079 or return the attached reservation form.

We expect this tour to fill quickly, so your early reservations are encouraged. Please visit our Travel Club web page at www.rochester.edu/alumni/travel to learn more about our travel offerings.

Sincerely,
University of Rochester Travel Club
Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement
alumni@rochester.edu

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Featuring Faculty Host Daniel McDermott



Daniel McDermott '21 (MA) is interested in the long, intertwined histories of tourism and nature conservation worldwide. His dissertation, "The Forest of Tomorrow: Wilderness in the Harz National Park" examines the history of forestry, tourism, and nature conservation in central Germany's Harz Mountains. By tracing the creation of wilderness in a landscape where pristine nature was not thought to exist, he shows how entangled humans are with the ecological processes they seek to protect and exploit. At the University, he teaches the course, "America's Best Idea? History of National Parks & Beyond." Before coming to Rochester, McDermott worked six summers as a park ranger at Acadia National Park, where he led educational programs on national park history, bird ecology, and coastal ecosystems.

Itinerary and 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. Later join 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** Depart for Sedona's stunning Bell Rock Loop. Take advantage of photography opportunities of the magnificent landscape. Lunch is on your own in Sedona. Arrive to the Grand Canyon with the remainder of the day at leisure. Overnight: Grand Canyon Lodging (B)
- Day 3: GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK** Activities include independent time to explore the park or an optional helicopter flightseeing tour. Afterward gather for guided touring to Mather Point and the Visitor's Center. Overnight: Grand Canyon Lodging (B)
- Day 4: GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK | PAGE | LAKE POWELL** Stop at Desert View to see the iconic Watchtower. Continuing to Page lunch is on your own followed by guided touring at Antelope Canyon. This evening gather together for a relaxing dinner. Overnight: Lake Powell Resort (B,D)
- Day 5: LAKE POWELL | BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK, UT** Set out for a rafting float trip down the calm waters of the Colorado River through Glen Canyon. Arriving to Lees Ferry there will be time for a market stop for lunch items and a picnic before departing for Bryce Canyon. Overnight: The Lodge at Bryce Canyon (B,L,D)
- Day 6: BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK | ZION NATIONAL PARK** Experience the surreal and captivating landscape of intricately carved hoodoos, towering spires and vibrant rock formations of Bryce Canyon. See Bryce Amphitheater and Sunset and Sunrise Points. Depart for Zion after lunch. Overnight: Zion Park Lodge (B)
- Day 7: ZION NATIONAL PARK** Enjoy a full day for independent park touring. Activities may include hiking, ranger-led walks and a museum visit. Overnight: Zion Park Lodge (B,D)
- Day 8: ZION NATIONAL PARK | LAS VEGAS, NV** Venture into Zion for a final morning of exploration. Depart for Las Vegas. This evening gather for a special farewell reception. Overnight: The Westin Las Vegas Hotel & Spa (B,R)
- Day 9: DEPART LAS VEGAS** After breakfast transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



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

Grand Canyon Flightseeing Excursion

Set out on 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. Discover awe-inspiring views of the Grand Canyon's eastern gorge aboard a first rate, environmentally-friendly EC130 aircraft complete with forward-facing stadium seating and a nearly 180-degree view.

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



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 portage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers and porters
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

Your Expedition Leader:

Enriched from the wealth of expertise provided by your Orbridge Expedition Leader, you'll bring home a deeper understanding of the flora, fauna, natural history and cultural narrative of the diverse parks of the American Southwest.

Orbridge

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.



Accommodations *(subject to change)*

SCOTTSDALE MARRIOTT AT MCDOWELL MOUNTAINS

Delight in the well-appointed comforts of this modern hotel, featuring breathtaking mountain views.



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK LODGING

Confirmed by the National Park Service, you'll stay at one of the following Grand Canyon properties: Maswik Lodge, Kachina Lodge or Thunderbird Lodge. Each offers comfortable lodging and modern amenities.

LAKE POWELL RESORT

The property's lake-view rooms with Native American flair are an ideal retreat after a day full of adventurous fun.



THE LODGE AT BRYCE CANYON

Enjoy recently remodeled rooms providing contemporary comforts with an authentic western park experience.



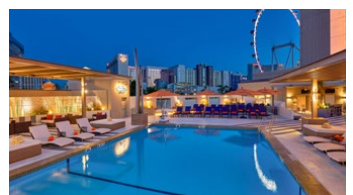
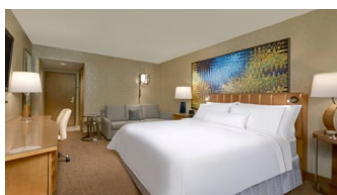
ZION PARK LODGE

The only in-park lodging at Zion National Park, this property is serenely nestled among towering red rock cliffs.



THE WESTIN LAS VEGAS HOTEL & SPA

This hotel features modern guest rooms, outdoor heated pool, fitness studio, lobby lounge and 24-hour bistro.



Optional Pre-Tour

Denver to Moab Aboard *Rocky Mountaineer*

Travel by rail from the mile-high city of Denver to the red rock formations of Moab by joining a luxury train journey to America's Southwest—a region steeped in history and full of opportunities to explore.



Day +1: ARRIVE IN DENVER, CO Settle in and relax before the exciting journey ahead.

Overnight: Magnolia Denver

Day +2: DENVER | ROCKY MOUNTAINEER | GLENWOOD SPRINGS Embark upon the *Rocky Mountaineer* for two days of extraordinary landscapes between Denver and Moab. This rail route is filled with highlights best seen by train, including Ruby Canyon and Mount Logan. Pass the towering Rockies on the way to Glenwood Springs and celebrate crossing the Continental Divide with a sparkling wine toast. Tour along the Colorado River through picturesque Byers Canyon and Gore Canyon.

Overnight: Glenwood Springs Lodging (B,L)

Day +3: GLENWOOD SPRINGS | ROCKY MOUNTAINEER | MOAB, UT | CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK Travel southwest for another day of awe-inspiring views of colorful archways and astounding rock formations. Savor a two-course hot breakfast while watching the morning light bounce off the magnificent Parachute Creek and Mount Logan. As the train approaches Moab, notice the brilliant red sandstone backdrop and get an initial glimpse of iconic Arches National Park.

Overnight: Red Cliffs Lodge (B)

Day +4: MOAB | ARCHES NATIONAL PARK | MOAB Enjoy a full day of independent touring in Arches National Park. Observe the myriad of unusual rock formations, including Balanced Rock and the world famous Delicate Arch.

Overnight: Red Cliffs Lodge (B)

Day +5: MOAB | GRAND JUNCTION, CO | FLIGHT TO PHOENIX, AZ | MAIN PROGRAM BEGINS After breakfast transfer to Grand Junction for the flight to Phoenix to join the main program. (B)

What's Included

- 1 night at the Magnolia Denver (or similar)
- 1 night in Glenwood Springs (hotel determined by *Rocky Mountaineer*)
- 2 nights at Red Cliffs Lodge (or similar)
- 4 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Alcoholic beverages while aboard the train
- *Rocky Mountaineer* rail transport with SilverLeaf or SilverLeaf Plus Service[†]
- Guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader
- Admission to, and guided touring of, Arches and Canyonlands National Parks
- Private transportation for included park activities
- Gratuities to *Rocky Mountaineer* staff, local guides, drivers and porters
- Internal airfare from Grand Junction to Phoenix including luggage fees for one regular-sized bag (under 50 pounds)
- 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.

SOUTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS

MAY 28 - JUNE 5, 2025

Pre-Tour: May 24-28, 2025

Denver to Moab Aboard Rocky Mountaineer

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: rochester.orbridge.com

Phone: (866) 639-0079

Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to Orbridge, LLC

Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 1376

Poulsbo, WA 98370

GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation):

Email: Class Year:

Home Phone: Alt. Phone:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation):

Email: Class Year:

Home Phone: Alt. Phone:

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Check ACH (Automated Clearing House) MasterCard/Visa American Express Discover

Card #: Exp. Date: CVV:

Name (as printed on card):

Billing Address (if different from above):

City: State: Zip:

DEPOSIT:

guests joining pre-tour (\$500/person) +

guests joining program (\$850/person) = TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$

OPTIONAL GRAND CANYON HELICOPTER EXCURSION (added to your final invoice):

guests joining optional excursion (\$389/person)

Participants' dressed weight: Guest #1 Guest #2 (for flights only; to balance the aircraft)

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: Date:

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.

*Special group rate; limited offer. Airfare not included. Single availability limited. For the pre-tour, internal airfare from Grand Junction to Phoenix is included. Airfare otherwise not included. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, 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 household will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.



University of Rochester Travel Club
300 East River Road
Box 278993
Rochester, NY 14627

SOUTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS

FREE EXPEDITION LIBRARY
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY
RESERVATION BONUS

MAY 28 - JUNE 5, 2025

Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than **\$1,000** per couple

Reserve by
December 20, 2024**

What Guests Are Saying...

What a wonderful experience... we are excited for another Orbridge adventure! From application to final send-off...everything was uniformly superb! Thank you so much!
~Al & Gina H., Orlando, FL

This was our first experience traveling with a group tour and we had a wonderful time. Besides having such a well-rounded list of amazing destinations to discover, the other travelers in our group were all very friendly, got along well and enjoyed one another. We look forward to planning future trips in the years ahead.

~Amy & Paul M., Boling Brook, IL

This tour was a nice mix of picture opportunities, organized hikes, and personal exploration time. We covered a lot of territory but never really felt rushed. Because we were in such a small group, there was a lot of personalized attention which definitely made the difference. We were definitely glad that we did the trip.

~Bob & Rhea C., Blackwood, NJ

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