

CALIFORNIA AND THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

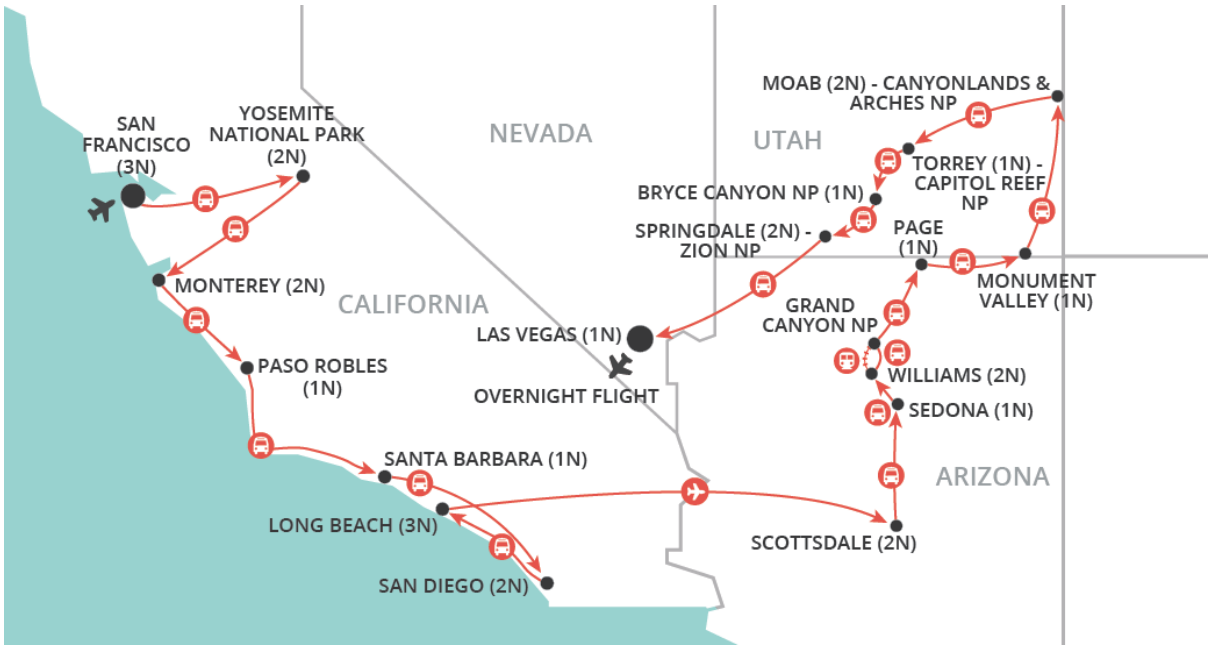
Classic Flex Tour | 31 Days | Physical Level 2

San Francisco (3N) – Yosemite National Park (2N) – Monterey (2N) – Paso Robles (1N) – Santa Barbara (1N) - San Diego (2N) – Long Beach (3N) - Scottsdale (2N) – Sedona (1N) – Williams (2N) (Grand Canyon NP) - Page (1N) – Monument Valley (1N) – Moab (2N) (Canyonlands & Arches NP) – Torrey (1N) (Capitol Reef NP) – Bryce Canyon NP (1N) – Springdale (2N) (Zion NP) – Las Vegas (1N)

From California's Pacific coastline to the deserts and canyons of the Southwest, discover the extraordinary diversity of the American West. Explore iconic cities, charming coastal towns and Yosemite's granite cliffs before venturing into the red rock landscapes of Sedona, the Grand Canyon and Utah's national parks.

- Take a guided walk through Yosemite Valley
- Visit Alcatraz Island and tour its infamous former prison
- Follow California's spectacular Big Sur coastline along Highway 1
- Marvel at the vast Grand Canyon and its colourful rock formations
- Discover the sandstone hoodoos of Bryce Canyon and towering cliffs of Zion National Park

TOUR MAP



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Most meals
- Most sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA
- 24/7 emergency support during travel

The only extras to plan for are meals not included in your itinerary, personal spending (such as drinks and souvenirs), the customary tipping kitty, optional excursions and shows, travel insurance, early check-in or late check-out, and anything not specified on your itinerary.

CLASSIC FLEX TOURS:

Classic Flex tours let you see the iconic sites and signature experiences of each destination on an excellent-value, fully escorted group tour, with a little more freedom to do things your own way. Your international flights, accommodation, transportation, touring and most meals are all arranged, so you can travel with complete peace of mind. Where it works best for the destination, personal time is woven into the itinerary, giving you the chance to explore independently, seek out a local restaurant, or simply relax at your own pace.

Throughout, your National Escort's unparalleled knowledge will bring each destination to life and turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for enjoying California's cities, coastal scenery and national parks.

'California and the American Southwest' is rated as a physical level 2. A reasonable level of fitness is required, with regular sightseeing on foot and some longer days exploring cities, coastal areas, national parks and natural attractions. You will be getting on and off coaches and trains, walking on a variety of surfaces, climbing steps and occasionally spending several hours on your feet. Some sightseeing may involve inclines or uneven ground.

Please consider:

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods, including in San Francisco, Yosemite, Monterey, San Diego, Sedona, the Grand Canyon and other national parks.
- Some excursions involve walking on uneven, rocky or unpaved surfaces, particularly in Yosemite, Horseshoe Bend, Antelope Canyon, Arches National Park and Bryce Canyon.
- You will need to get on and off coaches and trains independently, sometimes using steps.
- Visits to national parks and natural attractions, including the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater and coastal nature areas, may involve walking between viewpoints, visitor areas and outdoor attractions.
- Some days involve longer coach journeys along the California coast and through the Southwest, with stops at towns, scenic viewpoints and national park attractions.

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour and they are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 31 days in duration including international flights or 29 days in duration based on 'Land Only'. Join the tour on Day 1 in San Francisco and end the tour on Day 29 in Las Vegas.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to San Francisco Meals: D



On arrival in San Francisco International Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by your National Escort or a Wendy Wu representative. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer to your hotel.

Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our reservations team to book.

An informal Welcome Dinner will be held tonight. Late arrivals will receive a box dinner.

Destination Information

San Francisco – Set around a natural bay and famous for its steep streets, cable cars and Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco is one of California's most distinctive cities. Its neighbourhoods reflect the city's diverse history, from the waterfront of Fisherman's Wharf to the colourful streets of Chinatown and historic Nob Hill.

Day 2: San Francisco City Sights & Alcatraz Island Meals: B, L



Discover San Francisco on a city highlights tour led by your National Escort, taking in some of the city's best-known sights before lunch at Fisherman's Wharf. Continue to Alcatraz Island for a tour of the former federal penitentiary, learning about its history and infamous inmates. The evening is at leisure to explore San Francisco or dine independently.

Destination Information

Fisherman's Wharf – One of San Francisco's best-known waterfront districts, Fisherman's Wharf is home to seafood stalls, historic piers and views across the bay towards Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge. Pier 39 is particularly known for its colony of California sea lions.

Downtown San Francisco – The commercial heart of the city, home to landmarks including Union Square, the Financial District and the Transamerica Pyramid. The area also provides access to Chinatown and the historic cable car network.

Alcatraz Island – Located in San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz was a military fort, military prison and federal penitentiary before closing in 1963. A self-guided visit explores the former prison buildings and cells, with views across the bay towards San Francisco.

Day 3: San Francisco Flex Meals: B



Today has been left free for independent exploration of San Francisco – a city known for its steep streets, historic cable cars and waterfront setting.

From your hotel, you may wish to:

- Ride one of San Francisco's famous cable cars, travelling along the city's steep streets and taking in views across the surrounding neighbourhoods.
- Visit the Ferry Building Marketplace, home to independent food stalls, cafés and local producers beneath its landmark clock tower.
- Stroll along The Embarcadero, San Francisco's waterfront promenade, with views across the bay and towards the Bay Bridge.

Your National Escort is available to help you plan your explorations and is always happy to point you toward the things that capture your interests, whether that's a particular local food, a specialist sight or activity, or some retail therapy.

Day 4: Yosemite National Park Meals: B, L, D



Travel towards Yosemite National Park today, stopping in Mariposa for lunch. Continue to Mariposa Grove for a guided tour among the giant sequoias, some of the largest and oldest trees in the world. Later, enjoy a group dinner in Oakhurst before spending the rest of the evening at leisure.

Destination Information

Mariposa Grove – Home to more than 500 mature giant sequoias, including the famous Grizzly Giant, which is estimated to be around 2,400 years old. Trails wind through the grove beneath some of the largest trees on Earth.

Yosemite National Park – One of the USA's most famous national parks, known for its towering granite cliffs, waterfalls, giant sequoias and deep valleys. Yosemite Valley is dominated by landmarks including El Capitan and Half Dome.

Day 5: Yosemite National Park Meals: B, D

Spend the day exploring Yosemite National Park, beginning with a guided nature walk through Yosemite Valley with the Yosemite Conservancy. After lunch, visit the Ansel Adams Gallery for a private tour, learning about the renowned photographer's connection to Yosemite and his work documenting its landscapes.



Destination Information

Ansel Adams Gallery – One of America's most influential landscape photographers, best known for his black-and-white photographs of Yosemite and the American West. Visit a private gallery dedicated to his work and learn more about the photographer whose images helped shape the way Yosemite is viewed today.

Day 6: Discover Monterey Meals: B, L

Travel to Monterey, a journey of approximately 2 hours 30 minutes, stopping in Gilroy for lunch along the way. On arrival, take an orientation tour of Monterey, visiting the historic Old Monterey district and passing landmarks including Cannery Row and the Monterey Bay coastline. Learn about the city's history as a former fishing and canning centre before enjoying the afternoon and evening at leisure.



Destination Information

Monterey – A historic coastal city on California's Monterey Peninsula, once a centre of the state's sardine fishing industry. Its waterfront is home to Cannery Row, made famous by John Steinbeck.

Day 7: 17-Mile Drive & Carmel Meals: B

Follow the scenic 17-Mile Drive along the Monterey Peninsula, passing rugged coastline, beaches and famous landmarks including the Lone Cypress. Continue to Carmel-by-the-Sea, a picturesque coastal town known for its white-sand beach, distinctive architecture and independent galleries. This afternoon, enjoy Flex time to explore more of Monterey.



Destination Information

17-Mile Drive – A scenic coastal road through the Monterey Peninsula, passing rugged cliffs, beaches, cypress forests and views across the Pacific Ocean. The route is known for landmarks including the Lone Cypress, one of California's most photographed trees.

Carmel-by-the-Sea – A small coastal town known for its white-sand beach, storybook-style buildings and independent galleries. The town was incorporated in 1916 and has long attracted artists and writers, including photographer Ansel Adams.

Day 8: Big Sur & Paso Robles

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the day travelling south along California's iconic Highway 1, stopping at scenic viewpoints along the Big Sur coastline to admire rugged cliffs, forested hills and sweeping Pacific Ocean views, with time for lunch along the way. Continue on towards Paso Robles, visiting a local winery for a tour and tasting, learning about the region's vineyards and wine production before sitting for dinner.



Please note: Travel along California's Pacific Coast Highway is subject to local road and weather conditions. In the event of road closures, an alternative route will be taken.

Destination Information

Big Sur – A rugged stretch of California's central coast where the Santa Lucia Mountains meet the Pacific Ocean. Highway 1 follows the coastline through Big Sur, passing landmarks including Bixby Creek Bridge, Pfeiffer Beach and Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

Paso Robles – A wine-growing region in California's Central Coast, with more than 200 wineries spread across its surrounding vineyards. It is particularly associated with Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel and Rhône varieties.

Day 9: Morro Bay & Santa Barbara

Meals: B

Begin with a visit to the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery, where you can see hundreds of elephant seals gathered along the coastline. Continue to Hearst Castle for a guided tour of the hilltop estate, learning about the history and collections of William Randolph Hearst.



Later, enjoy a nature walk in Morro Bay with an Eco Expert, before continuing to Santa Barbara for an orientation tour of the city. The evening is at leisure.

Destination Information

Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery – A year-round gathering site for northern elephant seals on the coast near San Simeon. Hundreds can be seen on the beach at certain times of year, with the males reaching up to 4 metres in length and weighing several tons.

Hearst Castle – The former estate of newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, built on a hilltop between 1919 and 1947. The estate contains 165 rooms, extensive gardens and an art collection featuring works from Europe and the Mediterranean.

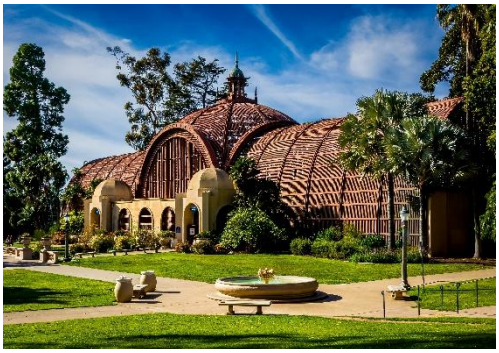
Morro Bay – A coastal city centred on Morro Rock, a 176-metre volcanic plug at the entrance to the bay. The area is known for its harbour and marine wildlife, including sea otters, seals and sea lions.

Santa Barbara – A coastal city founded as a Spanish mission settlement in 1786. Its architecture reflects Spanish colonial influence, with notable landmarks including the Old Mission Santa Barbara and the Presidio de Santa Bárbara.

Day 10: Huntington Beach & San Diego

Meals: B, D

Travel south from Santa Barbara to San Diego, a journey of approximately 4 hours, stopping in Huntington Beach for lunch. Continue to San Diego for an orientation tour, taking in landmarks including the waterfront, Balboa Park and the historic Gaslamp Quarter, while learning about the city's history and distinctive neighbourhoods. In the evening, enjoy a Mexican-themed dinner in San Diego's historic Old Town.



Destination Information

Huntington Beach – A coastal city in Orange County known for its long sandy beach and strong surfing culture. Its 15.5-kilometre shoreline includes the Huntington Beach Pier, which dates from 1904 and extends 560 metres into the Pacific Ocean.

San Diego – California's second-largest city, located near the Mexican border on the Pacific coast. It is home to attractions including Balboa Park, the USS Midway Museum and the historic Old Town district.

Gaslamp Quarter – San Diego's historic downtown district, covering around 16 blocks of Victorian-era buildings and streets. The area developed rapidly in the late 19th century and takes its name from the gas lamps that once illuminated its streets.

Day 11: San Diego Flex Meals: B



Today has been left free for independent exploration of San Diego – a coastal city known for its beaches, historic neighbourhoods, Spanish-influenced architecture and waterfront setting.

From your hotel, you may wish to:

- Stroll through San Diego's Little Italy, known for its Italian heritage, independent restaurants, cafés and lively piazzas.
- Visit Balboa Park, home to gardens, museums and Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, or take a walk through its landscaped grounds.

Your National Escort is available to help you plan your explorations and is always happy to point you towards the things that capture your interests, whether that's a particular local food, a specialist sight or activity, or some retail therapy.

Day 12: La Jolla & Long Beach Meals: B, L



Travel north from San Diego to Long Beach, a journey of approximately 2 hours, stopping in La Jolla along the way. Take time to admire the coastal scenery and explore this seaside community, known for its rugged coastline, beaches and marine life. Continue to Laguna Beach for lunch before travelling onwards to Long Beach.

Upon arrival at your hotel, the afternoon and evening are free for Flex time, giving you the opportunity to explore Long Beach independently.

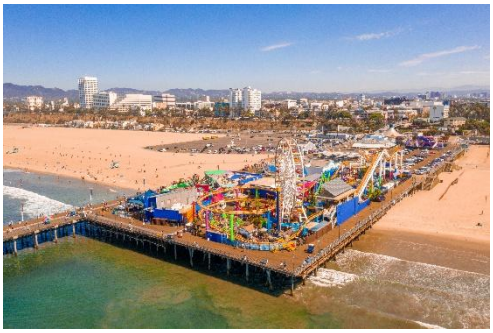
Destination Information

Long Beach – Just south of Los Angeles, Long Beach is home to one of the busiest ports in the United States. Its waterfront is home to attractions including the historic Queen Mary ocean liner, which has been permanently moored in Long Beach since 1967.

La Jolla – Known for its rocky shoreline, sea caves and marine wildlife, the area is home to La Jolla Cove and the San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park, while California sea lions and harbour seals can often be seen along the coast.

Laguna Beach – A coastal city in Orange County known for its beaches, coves and long association with the arts. The Laguna Art Museum, founded in 1918, is the oldest museum in California dedicated exclusively to California art.

Day 13: Los Angeles Meals: B, D



Spend the day discovering some of Los Angeles' best-known landmarks, beginning at Santa Monica Pier on the Pacific coast. Continue through Beverly Hills and Hollywood, passing famous sights and learning more about the city's film and entertainment heritage. Later, visit Griffith Observatory for panoramic views across Los Angeles and the Hollywood sign. In the evening, come together for a farewell dinner to toast to an incredible adventure.

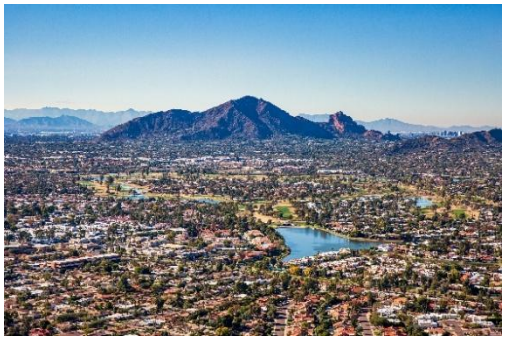
Destination Information

Santa Monica Pier – A historic and iconic pier extending into the Pacific Ocean, first opened in 1909. It is home to Pacific Park, an amusement park with a Ferris wheel, and marks the western end of the original Route 66.

Hollywood – A district of Los Angeles closely associated with the American film industry and home to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which features more than 2,800 stars honouring figures from film, television, music and theatre. The Hollywood Sign was erected in 1923 and originally read "Hollywoodland".

Griffith Observatory – Opened in 1935 on the southern slope of Mount Hollywood, the observatory contains exhibits on astronomy and a planetarium. Its grounds provide views across Los Angeles and towards the Hollywood Sign, while the building has featured in numerous films.

Day 14: Long Beach Flex Meals: B



Today has been left free for independent exploration of Long Beach – a coastal city south of Los Angeles, known for its waterfront attractions, sandy beaches and maritime heritage.

From your hotel, you may wish to:

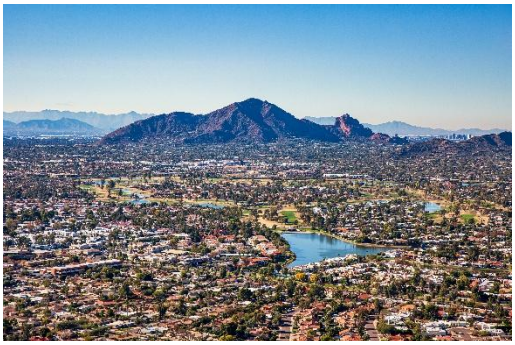
- Stroll through Shoreline Village, a waterfront shopping and dining area overlooking Rainbow Harbor, with views of the marina and the historic Queen Mary ocean liner.
- Visit the Aquarium of the Pacific, home to thousands of marine animals representing the diverse habitats of the Pacific Ocean, or explore the shops, cafés and restaurants of Downtown Long Beach.

Your National Escort is available to help you plan your explorations and is always happy to point you towards the things that capture your interests, whether that's a particular local food, a specialist sight or activity, or some retail therapy.

Day 15: Fly to Phoenix Meals: B,D

On arrival in Phoenix International Airport, you will transfer to your Scottsdale hotel.

The rest of the day is at leisure.



Destination Information

Scottsdale – Located in the Sonoran Desert east of Phoenix, Scottsdale is known for its Old Town district, art galleries and Southwestern architecture. The city sits at the foot of the McDowell Mountains and is also home to Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright's former winter residence and architectural school.

Day 16: Desert Botanical Tour Meals: B, L

Explore the fascinating plant life of the Sonoran Desert on a guided botanical tour, discovering the distinctive cacti and desert flora that thrive in this unique landscape. Then take a walking tour of Old Town Scottsdale, allowing around 1 hour to see its historic buildings, galleries and shops, before stopping for lunch at one of the neighbourhood's restaurants. This afternoon, enjoy Flex time for independent exploration of Scottsdale.



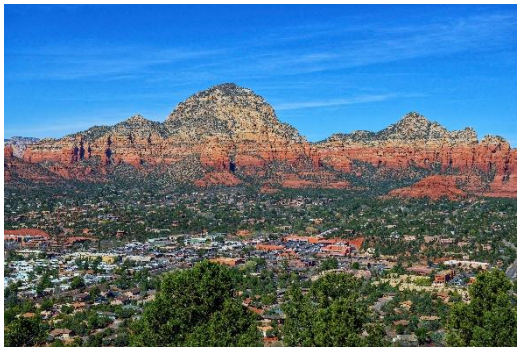
Destination Information

Sonoran Desert – Covering parts of Arizona, California and northwestern Mexico, the Sonoran Desert is one of North America's most biologically diverse deserts. It is particularly known for its giant saguaro cacti, which can grow to more than 12 metres tall and live for over 150 years.

Old Town Scottsdale – The historic centre of Scottsdale, combining preserved buildings from the early 20th century with galleries, shops and restaurants. The area includes the Old Adobe Mission, built in 1933, and Scottsdale's former Main Street, which reflects the city's development as a small agricultural community.

Day 17: Sedona Meals: B

Travel approximately 2 hours to Sedona, set among striking red rock formations, and take an orientation tour of the town on arrival. Head out into the surrounding desert to admire the towering red cliffs and pine forests of the magnificent Oak Creek Canyon and the iconic rock formations of Red Rock State Park. Browse the art galleries and shops of Tlaquepaque, a replica Mexican village, before enjoying the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.



Destination Information

Sedona – Set among the red rock formations of northern Arizona, Sedona developed as a small farming and trading community before becoming known for its tourism and arts scene. The town is surrounded by landmarks including Cathedral Rock, Bell Rock and Airport Mesa, with hiking trails and viewpoints throughout the surrounding landscape.

Oak Creek Canyon – A 19-mile canyon carved by Oak Creek through the red rock country north of Sedona. The canyon connects Sedona with Flagstaff and is known for its steep sandstone cliffs, pine forests and Oak Creek, which runs through the valley.

Tlaquepaque – A distinctive arts and shopping village in Sedona, designed in the style of a traditional Mexican settlement. Opened in the 1970s, its stucco buildings, archways, courtyards and cobbled walkways house galleries, craft shops and restaurants.

Day 18: Meteor Crater & Williams Meals: B, D

This morning, make the most of some Flex time to browse Sedona's shops and galleries. This afternoon, travel approximately 1 hour 30 minutes to Meteor Crater Natural Landmark, a huge impact site created about 50,000 years ago, before continuing for around 1 hour 15 minutes to Williams, the gateway to Grand Canyon National Park and a historic Route 66 town. Tonight, dine in a classic diner serving American comfort food.



Destination Information

Meteor Crater Natural Landmark – One of the best-preserved meteorite impact sites on Earth, formed around 50,000 years ago when an iron meteorite struck the Arizona desert. The resulting crater is approximately 1.2 kilometres across and 170 metres deep.

Williams – A historic town in northern Arizona located along the original Route 66 and known as the 'Gateway to the Grand Canyon'. Its historic downtown retains buildings, signs and businesses associated with the famous highway, while the Grand Canyon Railway departs from the town for the South Rim.

Route 66 – One of America's most famous highways, Route 66 originally ran for around 3,940 kilometres from Chicago to Santa Monica. Established in 1926, it became an important route for travellers heading west and is remembered for its roadside diners, motels, petrol stations and small-town communities.

Day 19: The Grand Canyon Meals: B

All aboard the historic Grand Canyon Railway for a 65-mile, 2 hour and 15 minute journey to the Grand Canyon Depot, with scenic views and Old West entertainment along the way. On arrival, take an orientation tour of Grand Canyon Village, stopping at landmark buildings and iconic viewpoints before enjoying around 4 hours to explore one of the world's most famous natural wonders at your own pace. Return to Williams for an evening at leisure.



Destination Information

Grand Canyon Railway – Running between Williams and the South Rim, this historic railway has carried passengers towards the Grand Canyon since 1901. The 105-kilometre journey passes through the high desert and ponderosa pine forests, with vintage-style carriages and onboard entertainment recreating the experience of travelling by rail in an earlier era.

Grand Canyon – Carved by the Colorado River over millions of years, the Grand Canyon stretches for around 446 kilometres through northern Arizona and reaches depths of more than 1,800 metres. Its exposed layers of rock reveal almost two billion years of geological history, while the South Rim provides access to some of the canyon's best-known viewpoints.

Day 20: Upper Antelope Canyon & Page Meals: B, L



Visit the Cameron Trading Post, a 1916 landmark that serves as a cultural hub and features authentic Native American arts and crafts. Continue for approximately 1 hour to Horseshoe Bend, where the Colorado River curves around a red sandstone canyon some 300 metres deep, allowing around 1 hour for the walk to the viewpoint and return.

Stop in Page for lunch before heading to Upper Antelope Canyon, the world-famous slot canyon set within the Navajo Nation. Here, enjoy a guided tour to discover more about its geology and hear the traditional stories associated with these unique formations.

Destination Information

Cameron Trading Post – Established in 1916 along the historic route between Flagstaff and the Navajo Nation, Cameron Trading Post began as a trading post serving local Navajo communities. Today, it includes a historic trading post, restaurant and gallery displaying Native American jewellery, pottery, rugs and other crafts.

Horseshoe Bend – A horseshoe-shaped bend in the Colorado River near Page, where the river curves around a sandstone plateau. The viewpoint stands around 300 metres above the river and provides a clear view of the distinctive meander.

Upper Antelope Canyon – A narrow sandstone slot canyon on Navajo Nation land near Page, formed by water erosion over thousands of years.

Day 21: Monument Valley Meals: B, L, D



Spend the morning at the Navajo National Monument; a protected area surrounding 13th-century cliff dwellings built into sandstone alcoves by Ancestral Puebloans. Still a place of deep cultural and spiritual significance for Indigenous peoples, it offers a fascinating connection to the past. Travel on through the Navajo Nation to Monument Valley, where you'll embark on the Dream Catcher Tour. Led by a Navajo guide, you'll discover awe-inspiring landscapes, enjoy cultural demonstrations, watch the sun set over the iconic sandstone buttes and spires and sit round a campfire to enjoy dancing, drumming and chanting.

Destination Information

Navajo National Monument – Located in northern Arizona, this protected area preserves three ancient cliff-dwelling sites built by Ancestral Puebloan people between around 1250 and 1300. The best-known site, Betatakin, is built within a natural sandstone alcove beneath towering cliffs.

Monument Valley – Spanning the Arizona-Utah border within the Navajo Nation, Monument Valley is recognised for its large sandstone buttes and mesas, some rising more than 300 metres above the valley floor. The landscape has featured in numerous Western films and remains an important cultural and spiritual place for the Navajo people.

Day 22: Canyonlands by Night

Meals: B, D



Travel on into Utah, a journey of approximately 1 hour 30 minutes, pausing for a photo at the distinctive Mexican Hat Rock. Drive through the magnificent scenery of the Valley of the Gods, a sandstone valley of red-rock buttes and pinnacles, sometimes called 'miniature Monument Valley'. Continue to Bluff Fort Historic Site, an open-air museum centred around a reconstructed 19th-century settlement founded by Mormon pioneers. This evening, venture into Canyonlands National Park, where you'll jet down the river by boat, tuck into a hearty cowboy-style dinner and watch a dramatic sound-and-light show beneath the night sky.

Destination Information

Valley of the Gods – Located in southeastern Utah, this remote valley contains sandstone buttes, mesas and pinnacles rising from the desert floor. The formations include distinctive landmarks such as Castle Butte and Lady in a Tub, and interestingly, the area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management rather than as a national park.

Bluff Fort Historic Site – Built in 1880 by Mormon pioneers who established the settlement of Bluff, this reconstructed fort contains a collection of historic cabins surrounding a central courtyard. Exhibits tell the story of the settlers' difficult journey and early life in southeastern Utah.

Canyonlands National Park – Utah's largest national park, where the Colorado and Green rivers have carved deep canyons through the surrounding sandstone plateau. The park is divided into distinct areas including Island in the Sky, The Needles, The Maze and Horseshoe Canyon, each with different landscapes and geological features.

Day 23: Arches National Park

Meals: B, L



With over 2,000 natural stone arches, soaring pinnacles, rock fins and giant balanced rocks, spend this morning exploring the formations of Arches National Park. Return to Moab for lunch before travelling approximately 1 hour to Canyonlands National Park to see this extraordinary river-hewn rock wilderness in the light of day.

Destination Information

Arches National Park – Located just north of Moab, Utah, this national park contains more than 2,000 documented natural sandstone arches, including the famous Delicate Arch. The formations were created by erosion over millions of years, with the park also containing pinnacles, fins and balanced rocks.

Day 24: Capitol Reef National Park

Meals: B

Explore the sandstone hoodoos, or 'goblins,' of the surreal Goblin Valley State Park, a geological wonder shaped over millions of years. This afternoon, head into Capitol Reef National Park to admire colourful canyons, soaring cliffs and the fascinating Fruita Historic District, a pioneer settlement set among historic orchards.



Destination Information

Goblin Valley State Park – Goblin Valley contains thousands of hoodoos shaped by erosion into mushroom-like figures known as 'goblins'.

Capitol Reef National Park – A landscape of sandstone cliffs, canyons and domes centred around the Waterpocket Fold, a geological wrinkle in the Earth's crust stretching for almost 160 kilometres. The park is also known for its historic orchards, petroglyphs and the Fremont people, who inhabited the area around 1,000 years ago.

Day 25: Bryce Canyon National Park

Meals: B, D

Drive to Escalante, a journey of approximately 1 hour 30 minutes, along Utah's Scenic Byway 12, taking in the panoramic views along the way. Continue to Bryce Canyon National Park, home to the world's largest collection of hoodoos and spires, displaying vibrant shades of red, orange and white. Return to the national park this evening for a ranger-led stargazing experience, learning about the life cycles of stars, space exploration and Native American stories written in the constellations.



Destination Information

Bryce Canyon National Park – Famous for its vast amphitheatres filled with thousands of tall, narrow rock formations known as hoodoos. Formed by erosion of the park's colourful limestone over millions of years, the hoodoos create one of Utah's most distinctive landscapes, with viewpoints along the Bryce Amphitheater overlooking the formations.

Day 26: Zion National Park Meals: B, D

From Escalante, drive approximately 1 hour 30 minutes to Zion National Park, renowned for its towering sandstone cliffs in shades of cream, pink and red, carved by the Virgin River. Sit back and soak up the views on a narrated open-air tram tour through Zion Canyon, before heading to Zion Brewery for a tour and beer flight tasting, followed by dinner.



Destination Information

Zion National Park – Utah's first national park, centred around the deep sandstone canyon carved by the Virgin River. Its towering cliffs rise more than 600 metres above the valley floor, with landmarks including the Great White Throne and Angels Landing, while the canyon is known for its distinctive red and cream-coloured rock formations.

Day 27: Zion – Mt. Carmel Highway Meals: B

Journey along the scenic Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway towards the park's East Gate, taking approximately 1 hour, with views of Zion's distinctive rock formations along the way. This afternoon, take some Flex time to enjoy Springdale independently.



Destination Information

Springdale – A small town at the entrance to Zion National Park in southwestern Utah, surrounded by the park's towering sandstone cliffs. Founded by Mormon settlers in the 1860s, Springdale now serves as a base for visiting Zion.

Day 28: Viva Las Vegas! Meals: B, D

Bid Red Rock Country goodbye and travel approximately 2 hours 30 minutes from Springdale to Las Vegas, crossing the border into Nevada.

On arrival, the rest of the day is yours to spend as you wish before a farewell dinner this evening.



Destination Information

Las Vegas – Nevada's largest city, internationally known for its casinos, entertainment and resort hotels along the Las Vegas Strip. Founded in 1905, the city grew rapidly from a small railway settlement after the legalisation of gambling in 1931.

Days 29 – 31: Fly Las Vegas to New Zealand Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Las Vegas International Airport, according to the departure time of your international flight arriving home the following day.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

NORTH AMERICA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders are currently permitted entry to the United States without a visa for stays of up to 90 days, but must obtain an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) online before departure. The ESTA must be completed by each traveller and is not included in the cost of your tour. Wendy Wu Tours can offer general guidance on the application.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 16 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. On Classic Flex Tours, will be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu our groups while you are travelling.

EATING IN THE UNITED STATES:

On our Classic Flex tours, most meals are provided from your arrival until the day of departure, giving you the opportunity to experience the wide range of regional flavours and specialities found across the United States. American cuisine varies considerably between regions, from fresh seafood and clam chowder in New England to barbecue in the Deep South, Cajun and Creole dishes in Louisiana, Tex-Mex in the Southwest and fresh produce and seafood on the West Coast. You may also encounter classic American dishes such as burgers, steaks, fried chicken, apple pie and regional specialities along the way.

Breakfasts are generally served buffet-style at hotels, with a choice of cooked and continental options. Lunches may be served at restaurants, cafés or as packed lunches on longer touring days. Evening meals are typically served in local restaurants or hotels, with menus offering a mixture of regional American and international dishes.

The United States is well equipped for a wide range of dietary requirements, although choices can become more limited when travelling through rural areas or smaller towns. If you have specific dietary needs, please let us know when booking so these can be communicated to our local partners in advance.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation in the United States is carefully selected for its location, comfort and character, with a mixture of well-established hotels, locally owned properties and larger city hotels possibly used throughout your journey. Accommodation will generally be of a three-star plus - to four-star standard, comparable with what you would expect in New Zealand, although individual hotels may vary in style, facilities and size.

All group tour hotels have private Western-style bathroom facilities, air conditioning or heating, a TV and Wi-Fi. In some smaller towns or more remote areas, hotel facilities may be simpler than those found in the major cities, but all properties are selected to provide a comfortable base from which to explore the destination.

If you experience any difficulty during your stay, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide. All hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly reviewed by our staff and local partners to ensure they meet our standards.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Air-conditioned coaches are used for sightseeing, excursions and longer journeys throughout this tour. Coaches generally have comfortable reclining seats and an onboard toilet, although facilities vary between vehicles. The US is a vast country, and some journeys involve several hours of driving, particularly when travelling between national parks and smaller towns. Journey times are approximate and may be affected by traffic, road conditions, weather and scheduled stops.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and the United States is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time.

In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your National Escort should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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