



# FOUR CORNERS CARAVAN

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 3, 2024

*The Four Corners—the region of the United States where Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah all come together—is in the heart of wild and diverse landscapes to be savored from both the ground and the cockpit. Come explore the alpine mountains, red-rock canyons, diverse National Parks, and defining moments of human history in the desert Southwest on this 10-night tour.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

## ITINERARY VERSION 1.0, JAN 1, 2024

**Tour Length:** 11 days/10 nights

**Trip Start:** Grand Junction, CO (GJT)

**Trip End:** Grand Canyon, AZ (KNB)

**Flying Distance:** approx. 1,200 nm

**Trip Features:**

- Grand Mesa National Forest
- Palisade Wine Country
- Manhattan Project National Historic Park – Los Alamos
- Bandelier National Monument
- White Sands National Park
- Historic towns of Cloudcroft, NM and Ajo, AZ
- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
- Grand Canyon Overflight and National Park visit
- Overflights of numerous additional National Parks, sights and features during peak color season

### Monday 9/23

Arrive Grand Junction and transfer on own to Springhill Suites on Main Street downtown. Afternoon tour briefing followed by Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. *D*

### Tuesday 9/24

After breakfast there will be a comprehensive flight briefing followed by an excursion up and over Grand Mesa to enjoy the fall colors and alpine views. Enjoy a western Colorado wine tasting in Palisade on the return. *B/L*

### Wednesday 9/25

Transfer to airport for a scenic flight through southern Colorado to Los Alamos, New Mexico. In the afternoon we will tour the Manhattan Project National Historic Park at Los Alamos before checking in to our hotel. Evening and dinner on own. *B/L*

### Thursday 9/26

After breakfast at the hotel, we will venture out to Bandelier National Monument and the Valles Caldera region of northern New Mexico. There will be various stops to enjoy the Visitor Center, scenic vistas, picnic lunch, and hikes to suit every ability. Return to hotel, dinner on own. *B/L*

### Friday 9/27

After breakfast and briefing at the hotel, we will launch for Alamogordo, NM. We will enjoy some lunch, visit White Sands National Park, then make our way up to the high country in Cloudcroft for a two-night stay at the historic Lodge of Cloudcroft. *B/L*

### Saturday 9/28

Enjoy a leisurely day in Cloudcroft, motto: “9000 Feet Above Stress Level.” Optional activities include a visit to Sunspot Solar Observatory, a round of golf at one of the nation’s oldest (and highest) golf courses, a hike on the Rails-to-Trails network, or simply a relaxing time at the historic Lodge. All meals on own today.

## Overnight Destinations

GRAND JUNCTION, CO

LOS ALAMOS, NM

CLOUDCROFT, NM

AJO, AZ

GRAND CANYON NORTH RIM, AZ

# ITINERARY – CONTINUED

## Sunday, 9/29

Breakfast on own, then we make our way back to the Alamogordo airport for departures to southern Arizona. Due to fuel considerations, this will be a two-flight day enroute to Ajo, Arizona. We will have charter transportation to help us get around this little corner of the Southwest. Enjoy a two-night stay at the unique Sonoran Desert Inn, a modern transformation of a historic school built in the Spanish Revival style. Free time in afternoon to enjoy Ajo, a tidy, well-designed former company town dating back to Arizona's copper heyday. Dinner at Inn. *L/D*

## Monday 9/30

We will enjoy an outing to nearby Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (aka "The Green Desert", owing to the abundance of cacti), with numerous stops for photos, Visitor Center orientation, short trail hikes and a picnic in the Park. This Biosphere Reserve protects a pristine example of an intact Sonoran Desert ecosystem, and is a little-known gem in the Southwest. Return to Ajo for free afternoon before a group dinner. *B/L/D*

## Tuesday 10/1

After breakfast we will fly north to Utah, with another quick stop for fuel, followed by a show-stopping flight over Grand Canyon National Park. After landing and lunch in beautiful Kanab ("the greatest Earth on show"), we will make our way to the Grand Canyon's less-visited North Rim, where we will enjoy two-nights rimside and all the serenity this magical spot offers. Afternoon check-in, and dinner on own. *B/L*

## Wednesday 10/2

Free day at the Grand Canyon to explore the nearby trails, take in a Ranger program or perhaps drive out Cape Royal Road for additional lookouts and scenery. For those who have visited the Grand Canyon from the South Rim, you won't believe the peace and tranquility offered here at this less-touristed, harder-to-reach side of America's most famous canyon. We will enjoy a Farewell Dinner together, toast our successes, laugh at our foibles, and cherish the memories. *D*

## Thursday 10/3

Breakfast, hotel check-out, and departures at your leisure.

*This is itinerary is subject to change as needed. Meal inclusions noted B/L/D, as appropriate.*



## AIRPORTS

### **Grand Junction, CO – GJT**

Elevation: 4,861'  
Longest Runway: 10,503 x 150

### **Los Alamos, NM – LAM**

Elevation: 7,170  
Longest Runway: 6,000 x 120

### **Alamogordo, NM – ALM**

Elevation: 4,199'  
Longest Runway: 9,207 x 150

### **Benson, AZ – E95 (fuel stop only)**

Elevation: 3,830'  
Longest Runway: 4,002 x 75

### **Ajo, AZ – P01**

Elevation: 1,458'  
Longest Runway: 3,800 x 60

### **Casa Grande, AZ – CGZ (fuel stop only)**

Elevation: 1,464'  
Longest Runway: 5,200 x 100

### **Kanab, UT – KNB**

Elevation: 4,867'  
Longest Runway: 6,200 x 75