



HIGH DESERT HORIZONS

JUNE 5-15, 2023

The high desert West is home to numerous National Parks, scenic vistas, Native American culture, and opportunities for exciting outdoor recreation. The ability to tour this wild, expansive terrain by air affords the possibility to cover thousands of miles of the American West, incorporating visits to and overflights of many National Parks, a walk into one of the most photographed canyons in the Southwest, a step into Navajo culture and lands, a ride on a historic railway, and much, much more.

HIGHLIGHTS

ITINERARY

Tour Length: 11 days/10 nights

Trip Start: Grand Junction CO (GJT)

Trip End: Vernal UT (VEL)

Flying Distance: approx. 1,470 nm

Trip Features:

- Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP
- Monument Valley Overflight and Brunch
- Navajo-led tour at Antelope Canyon
- Train Excursion on Nevada Northern Railway
- Great Basin NP
- Wendover Airfield and Museum
- Wyoming Mountain Man Country
- Yellowstone/Grand Teton NPs by Air
- Dinosaur NM
- Rafting the Green River in Flaming Gorge Country
- Overflights of Numerous Additional National Parks, Sights and Features

Monday 6/5

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

Tuesday 6/6

After breakfast there will be a comprehensive flight briefing followed by excursion to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. There will be numerous stops for photos and the Visitor Center, plus optional short hikes as desired. You will be back in Grand Junction in time for dinner on your own. *B/L*

Wednesday 6/7

Transfer to airport after breakfast for a show-stopper flight across the Colorado Plateau and Navajo country to Monument Valley National Tribal Park. We'll have an early lunch at Gouldings Lodge, then fly on to Page, AZ. After getting the planes tied down, we'll venture off to see Horseshoe Bend and the Carl Hayden Visitor Center at the Glen Canyon dam. Transfer and check in to hotel; dinner on own. *B/L*

Thursday 6/8

After breakfast, we'll have a morning tour into Upper Antelope Canyon. This is one of the most photographed canyons in the desert Southwest, and a Navajo guide is required to enter. Please review [this page](#) and watch the video at the bottom to see the Navajo Nation's guidelines on COVID, as well as the new, one-way circuit. Free time in the afternoon. Optional raft trip on Colorado River. Lunch and dinner on own. *B*

Friday 6/9

After breakfast and briefing at the hotel, we will launch out of Page for Ely, NV. This will be a beautiful morning flight, including sights of Pariah Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs, Zion country, the Basin-And-Range Province, "City" land art sculpture, and finally Great Basin National Park. We'll have lunch in Ely, followed by a train excursion on the Nevada Northern Railway. Check in to hotel; dinner on own. *B/L*

Hotels

[SPRINGHILL SUITES, GRAND JUNCTION, CO](#)

[HYATT PLACE, PAGE, AZ](#)

[HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, ELY, NV](#)

[LOG CABIN MOTEL, PINEDALE, WY](#)

[DINOSAUR INN & SUITES, VERNAL, UT](#)

ITINERARY – CONTINUED

Saturday 6/10

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll travel about 70 miles by road to Great Basin National Park, a land of stunning diversity stretching from the desert floor to over 13,000'. There will be multiple stops for photos, Visitor Center and optional hikes. We hope to include a Ranger-led tour into the Lehman Caves; reservations for cave tours open only 30 days in advance, so this tour cannot be confirmed at this time. We'll have lunch in the Park at the Great Basin Café. *B/L*

Sunday, 6/11

After breakfast we will exchange the deserts of Nevada for those of Utah and Wyoming. We'll enjoy a lunch stop and tour of historic Wendover airfield and museum, the most authentically preserved Army Air Base, which played a vital role in WWII. Our final destination is Pinedale, WY, a quaint western town where we will lodge at historic digs of the Log Cabin Motel. Evening and dinner on own. *B/L*

Monday 6/12

Breakfast on own, then enjoy an optional overflight of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Avoid the crowds but see the sights, like Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Old Faithful, Grand Prismatic Spring, Yellowstone Lake, and Mammoth Hot Springs, among others. Return to Pinedale for a visit to the Museum of the Mountain Man, which has been preserving and interpreting the history of the Rocky Mountain fur trade for over 30 years. We'll gather for group dinner and flight briefing at Wind River Brewing. *D*

Tuesday 6/13

We'll transfer to the airport and launch for dinosaur country in Vernal, UT. We'll have lunch in town and proceed out to Dinosaur National Monument to explore the Visitor Center and Quarry Exhibit Hall, learning about the dinosaurs that once roamed this land. Later we'll check into the hotel, and enjoy a free evening in Vernal, the heart of "Dinoland." *L*

Wednesday 6/14

After breakfast, we'll depart for a morning raft trip on the Green River, starting at the base of the Flaming Gorge dam. This 7-mile trip through towering red cliffs and spectacular scenery is perfect for all ages and skills, with Class I and II rapids. In the evening we will gather for our Farewell Dinner, and re-live the memories of these High Desert Horizons that we've enjoyed by airplane, foot, 4WD truck, raft and bus. *B/L/D*

Thursday 6/15

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

Itinerary subject to change as conditions warrant. Meal inclusions noted B/L/D, as appropriate.

