



Tour:

AMERICAN CANYONLANDS

Destination:

Grand Canyon National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, Lake Powell, Arizona & Las Vegas, Nevada

Specialization:

Geology, Geography, Ecology, Nuclear Energy, Alternative Energy & Culture

AMERICAN CANYONLANDS				
Day	Meals	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	D	Travel to Las Vegas, Nevada; transfer to Cedar City, Utah		Welcome, Safety & Orientation Briefing Welcome Dinner
2	B, D	Red Hills Renewable Energy Park	Bryce Canyon National Park & Navajo Loop Trail Hike	Local Dinner
3	B, D	Zion National Park & Ranger Class		Dinner on Lake Powell
4	B, D	Glen Canyon Dam & Visitor's Center	Navajo Nation & Cameron Trading Post	Grand Canyon National Park - East Rim IMAX 3D Adventure & Dinner
5	B, D	Grand Canyon National Park - South Rim	Route 66 Museum	Hoover Dam Overlook, Boulder City and travel to Las Vegas Las Vegas & Dinner
6	B, D	National Atomic Testing Museum	The Springs Preserve	The Big Apple Coaster at New York-New York Farewell Dinner & Reflection
7	B	Transfer to Las Vegas International Airport; return flight to Home		



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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Day 1

Dinner

Travel to Las Vegas, Nevada and transfer to Cedar City, Utah, approximately a 2.5-hour drive. Upon arrival, meet your Tour Director and check into your hotel.



Cedar City, Utah – Cedar City gives teachers a strong, academically grounded home base because it blends university-level STEM resources, renewable-energy infrastructure, and exceptional geologic access in one compact, well-organized community. Southern Utah University’s STEM Center actively partners with schools for outreach, offering a built-in educational ecosystem that supports field learning with real academic context. The surrounding region adds layers of applied science: volcanic fields, uplifted plateaus, and high-desert ecosystems create a natural laboratory for earth science, while nearby solar installations and Utah’s broader renewable-energy corridor allow students to connect environmental science with modern energy engineering. For teachers, Cedar City is reliable, safe, and logistically efficient - close to Bryce Canyon, Zion, and major STEM-relevant sites - making it an ideal launch point for a week of integrated science, technology, and environmental learning.



Sample Hotel: Springhill Suites Cedar Hill

This evening, we’ll have dinner locally. If you get in early enough, let us help you plan something wonderful for your first day!

Day 2

Breakfast & dinner

Rise and shine Utah! Travel to the town of Parowan for touring of the **Red Hills Project**, where students will discover the science and engineering behind one of Utah’s most successful solar energy projects.



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Red Hills Renewable Energy Park – This park introduces students to one of the Southwest’s most innovative solar installations. Set against the red rock landscape of Parowan Valley, this 80-megawatt facility showcases how large-scale photovoltaic systems harness the region’s intense sunlight to power thousands of homes. Students explore how solar arrays are engineered for desert environments, how energy flows from panels to the grid, and how renewable projects like this shape the future of clean power in the American West.

After lunch, we will continue on to **Bryce Canyon National Park**, one of the most amazing and fascinating sights on earth.

Bryce Canyon National Park - Bryce Canyon National Park is one of the most extraordinary natural laboratories in the American Southwest, where geology, climate, and time converge to create landscapes found nowhere else on Earth. The park’s famous hoodoos - towering spires carved from Claron Formation limestone - offer a striking case study in weathering and erosion, shaped by freeze-thaw cycles, uplift, and the forces of wind and water. Situated along the Paunsaugunt Plateau at the top of the Grand Staircase, Bryce provides a rare opportunity to explore high-elevation ecosystems, observe dramatic sedimentary layering, and examine how ancient lakes and tectonic activity sculpted the region over millions of years. Its dark skies, clean air, and sweeping amphitheaters make it an ideal setting for students to connect earth science concepts with real-world observation.

Today, your group will hike the Navajo Loop Trail, descending among the hoodoos for an up-close look at these remarkable formations before enjoying a sunset viewpoint and returning to the hotel for dinner and a well-earned evening of rest.



Day 3

Breakfast & dinner

Good morning Utah! This morning, we’ll visit Utah's oldest and most famous national park, **Zion National Park!**

Zion National Park – Zion National Park is one of the most compelling places in the American Southwest to study the intersection of geology, water, and time. Its towering Navajo Sandstone cliffs - some of the tallest monoliths in North America - record the story of ancient desert dunes that solidified into stone and were later carved by the persistent force of the Virgin River. The park’s narrow slot canyons, hanging gardens, and diverse microclimates offer a living case study in erosion, hydrology, and ecological adaptation. As students explore Zion’s canyons and mesas, they see firsthand how water shapes arid landscapes, how plant and animal communities survive in extreme environments, and how tectonic uplift created the dramatic vertical world that defines the park today.



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This morning includes a guided tour through Zion's most iconic viewpoints, time for hiking and exploration, and a ranger-led discussion on the geology and ecology of the canyon. Students gain a deeper understanding of the processes that formed Zion's cliffs and canyons while experiencing the scale and beauty that make this park unforgettable.



In the late afternoon, we'll travel east to Arizona and check into your hotel.

Lake Powell, Arizona - Lake Powell gives students an immediate sense of how water, geology, engineering, and climate intersect in the American Southwest. Formed by the construction of Glen Canyon Dam, the lake stretches across a maze of sandstone canyons that reveal millions of years of geologic history in their exposed layers. It's one of the best places in the region to examine how the Colorado River has shaped the landscape - and how modern water management systems now shape the river. The surrounding terrain highlights classic Colorado Plateau features such as slot canyons, buttes, and cross-bedded Navajo Sandstone, while the lake itself illustrates key STEM concepts including hydrology, watershed dynamics, renewable energy generation, and the challenges of sustaining water resources in an arid climate. For teachers, Lake Powell offers a rare combination of scientific relevance and visual impact, setting the stage for the hydroelectric tour at Glen Canyon Dam and giving students a deeper understanding of the environmental systems that define the region.



Sample Hotel: Courtyard Hotel Lake Powell

Day 4

Breakfast & dinner

Rise and shine Arizona! Today we will visit Glen Canyon Dam.



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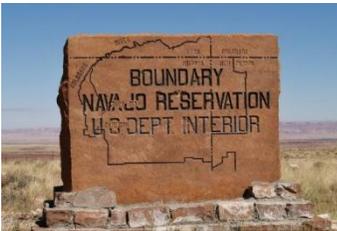


Glen Canyon Dam & Visitor's Center – Glen Canyon Dam stands as one of the most important engineering achievements in the Colorado River Basin, shaping water storage, hydropower generation, and resource management across the American Southwest. At the Carl Hayden Visitor Center, students explore interactive exhibits that explain how the dam operates, how electricity is produced, and how water is allocated among the seven basin states. Large relief maps, educational films, and interpretive displays help students understand the complexities of the Colorado River system and the environmental challenges facing the region today. Outside, panoramic views from the Glen Canyon Bridge and nearby overlook reveal the scale of the dam and the canyon it spans, offering a powerful visual connection between natural geology and human engineering. This stop provides a strong STEM foundation in hydrology, climate science, and sustainable resource management.



Later, we'll enter the **Navajo Nation**.

Navajo Nation – The Navajo Nation spans more than 27,000 square miles across Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico, forming the largest Indigenous territory in the United States and a vital center of cultural, linguistic, and environmental knowledge. This region offers students a meaningful opportunity to understand how the Diné people have shaped - and been shaped by - the landscapes of the Colorado Plateau. The Navajo language, traditions of land stewardship, and the legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers provide powerful entry points into discussions of resilience, communication systems, and the intersection of culture and conflict during World War II. Today, the Nation continues to balance cultural preservation with economic development, natural resource management, and community sustainability.



The Cameron Trading Post - Established in 1916 along the Little Colorado River, students encounter Navajo and Hopi craftsmanship through textiles, jewelry, pottery, and sand paintings that reflect generations of artistic practice and cultural identity. This stop deepens the interdisciplinary nature of your program by connecting anthropology, history, and environmental science, giving students a richer understanding of the people and traditions that define this part of the Southwest.

This afternoon we'll arrive at the great Grand Canyon!

The Grand Canyon – The Grand Canyon is one of the most iconic geologic landscapes on Earth, offering students a rare opportunity to observe nearly two billion years of Earth's history exposed in a single, sweeping view. Carved by the Colorado River through uplifted layers of the Colorado Plateau, the canyon stretches 277 miles long, up to 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep - an unparalleled natural record of sedimentation, tectonic forces, erosion, and climate change over geologic time. The East Rim, approached through the Little Colorado River Gorge, provides a powerful introduction to the canyon's formation. Here, students see how tributary systems like the Little Colorado carve their own deep canyons before joining the main river, and how mineral content, seasonal flow, and sediment load influence the river's striking color and character.



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This afternoon's exploration includes scenic stops along the East Rim for photography, observation, and guided interpretation of the canyon's geologic story. Students gain a deeper understanding of rock strata, erosional processes, and the dynamic forces that continue to shape the landscape. In the late afternoon, the group arrives in Tusayan for a special **IMAX presentation** that brings the canyon's natural and cultural history to life before enjoying dinner and settling into the hotel for the evening.

Day 5

Breakfast & dinner

Hello Arizona! We're back at the Grand Canyon for a fresh look in the morning hours.

The Grand Canyon South Rim - An early return to the Grand Canyon gives students a chance to experience the South Rim in its most dynamic light. Sunrise reveals shifting colors across the canyon's rock layers, offering a natural demonstration of mineral composition, atmospheric scattering, and the way light interacts with sedimentary strata. This quieter morning window is ideal for guided interpretation, journaling, photography, and short rim walks that deepen understanding of the canyon's formation and the erosional forces still shaping it today. With fewer visitors on the trails, students can focus on observing geologic features, identifying rock layers, and connecting the canyon's story to the broader Colorado Plateau.

After this immersive start, the group travels west along historic Route 66, stopping in Kingman for lunch and a visit to the Route 66 Museum. Exhibits trace the evolution of American transportation, engineering, and cross-country mobility, giving students a cultural and technological context for the region. The day concludes just south of Boulder City with an educational visit to Nevada Solar One, linking the natural history of the canyon with modern renewable-energy innovation.

Route 66 Museum - The Museum offers students a vivid look at the evolution of American transportation, engineering, and cross-country mobility. Exhibits trace the development of early road systems, the rise of automobile culture, and the engineering challenges of building a highway across deserts, mountains, and remote western landscapes. Archival photographs, restored vehicles, and immersive dioramas help students understand how infrastructure shaped migration, commerce, and community development throughout the 20th century. This stop adds a cultural and technological dimension to the day, connecting the natural landscapes they've explored with the human ingenuity that made long-distance travel possible across the American Southwest.

Hoover Dam Overlook & Boulder City; en route to Las Vegas - As the group continues west toward Las Vegas, the drive naturally brings you across the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, where a short stop at the Hoover Dam Overlook offers one of the most dramatic views in the Southwest. From this vantage point, students can observe the scale of the dam, the engineering behind the bypass bridge, and the Colorado River



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far below - an ideal moment to connect earlier lessons on hydrology, civil engineering, and water management. A few minutes down the road, the route passes directly through Boulder City, a historic community built to house the workers who constructed Hoover Dam. Its compact downtown and small museum provide a window into the social and economic history of the 1930s, illustrating how major infrastructure projects shaped communities across the region. These on-route stops add cultural and STEM depth to the day while keeping the schedule smooth and allowing for an early, relaxed arrival in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas - Las Vegas gives students a striking contrast to the natural landscapes they've explored all week, offering a real-world look at how engineering, design, and human innovation can transform an arid desert into one of the world's most recognizable urban environments. The city grew from a small railroad stop into a major metropolitan center known for large-scale architecture, advanced lighting systems, and immersive entertainment districts, all set against the Mojave Desert's stark backdrop. Its famous Strip - lined with themed resorts, performance venues, and monumental structures - illustrates how tourism, technology, and creative industries drive the region's economy and identity. Beyond the bright lights, Las Vegas sits near Lake Mead and the Colorado River, tying the city's growth to the same water-management systems students have studied throughout the trip. It's an energizing place to end the day, offering a memorable evening and a chance to see how human ingenuity reshapes both culture and landscape.



Day 6

Breakfast & dinner

Rise and shine Vegas! Today is our last full day on tour and it will start with history and end with fun!

National Atomic Testing Museum: A Smithsonian Affiliate Museum

– The Museum offers students a focused look at the science, engineering, and historical context behind nuclear testing in the United States, with particular emphasis on the Nevada Test Site. As a Smithsonian-affiliated institution, it presents a comprehensive narrative of the atomic age through interactive exhibits, archival footage, and authentic test-site artifacts. Students explore the physics of nuclear reactions, the evolution of testing technologies, Cold War geopolitics, and the environmental considerations that shaped national policy. The museum's clear STEM connections - radiation detection, engineering design, data monitoring, and scientific risk assessment - make it an ideal academic stop, providing teachers with a structured, content-rich experience that complements the week's themes of energy, innovation, and the American West's scientific legacy.



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Springs Preserve - Springs Preserve offers a rich, self-guided exploration of the science, sustainability, and natural history that shaped Las Vegas long before the city rose from the desert. Students move through interactive galleries that illuminate the region's water story, from ancient springs to modern conservation engineering, and examine how climate, geology, and human innovation intersect in arid environments. Outdoor botanical gardens showcase desert plant adaptations and water-efficient landscaping, while indoor exhibits highlight renewable energy, environmental stewardship, and the challenges of sustaining a growing city in the Mojave Desert. The Preserve's blend of hands-on science, real-world engineering, and open-air exploration makes it an ideal mid-afternoon experience - engaging for learners and deeply connected to the week's themes of hydrology, climate resilience, and sustainable design.

The Big Apple Coaster at New York-New York – The ride combines high-speed drops, inversions, and sharp turns with a track layout that makes the physics visible: students can feel changes in acceleration, g-forces, and potential versus kinetic energy as the coaster moves through its course. Its location on the Strip gives the experience a distinctly “Las Vegas” feel without overwhelming the group, and the single-entry, single-exit setup makes supervision straightforward. As a finale to a day grounded in nuclear science and sustainability, the coaster adds a burst of excitement while still offering a natural tie-in to engineering and motion - an upbeat way to wrap up the day!

After our full day, we'll have our farewell dinner and a farewell reflection activity.

Farewell Reflection - End your adventure on a high note with an unforgettable Farewell Reflection. This isn't just your typical goodbye. It's a chance for students, faculty, and our team to come together and truly process their experiences. Through guided discussions, listening exercises, and thought-provoking questions, we'll unpack the amazing things you've seen, heard, and felt throughout the trip.

Day 7

Breakfast

After a hearty breakfast, we will start to say goodbye to the beautiful American Southwest, waving to our new friends as we set off for home.



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Minimum Booking Numbers: 20 students

What's Included:

- ✓ Roundtrip flights or motorcoach transfers
- ✓ 6-nights' accommodation
- ✓ Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure, dependent upon meal times
- ✓ Airport transfers and transportation to activities shown
- ✓ Red Hills Renewable Energy Park
- ✓ Bryce Canyon National Park & Hike
- ✓ Zion National Park – Hike & Ranger Talk
- ✓ Lake Powell area exploration
- ✓ Glen Canyon Dam & Visitor's Center
- ✓ Navajo Nation & Cameron Trading Post
- ✓ Grand Canyon National Park – East Rim & South Rim
- ✓ IMAX Presentation – The Grand Canyon
- ✓ Route 66 Museum
- ✓ Hoover Dam Overlook & Boulder City
- ✓ National Atomic Testing Museum
- ✓ The Springs Preserve
- ✓ New York – New York Roller Coaster Experience
- ✓ Tour Director Services
- ✓ 24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

- ☒ Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
- ☒ Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required
- ☒ Baggage handling - everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag
- ☒ Transfers to/from home airport
- ☒ Lunches in destination
- ☒ Meal selections other than ones provided for the entire group (we are generally able to cater for allergy conditions, vegetarians, halal and in some cases vegan)
- ☒ Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees
- ☒ Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- ☒ Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, movies, etc.
- ☒ Gratuities – drivers, hotel services, local guides, tour director
- ☒ Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH
- ☒ Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or fees levied by governments / suppliers

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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