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Grand Canyon, Bryce & Zion Multisport Vacation

Explore the Natural Wonders of the Southwest By Bike & On Foot

Multiple Dates 2008- 2009

Luxury Inn and Camping Itineraries also available



OVERVIEW

Sprawled across thousands of acres of windswept desert are three of the Southwest's most stunning national parks—Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion. Graceful spires, towering hoodoos and hulking monoliths create a surreal landscape that begs for exploration. On this family multisport adventure, discover lush pine forests, petrified sand dunes, gaping canyons and river-chiseled gorges at your own pace. Descend into the humbling vastness of the Grand Canyon, pedal past red-rock pinnacles in Bryce and hike a rugged trail as it snakes along the soaring cliffs of Zion. At day's end, bask in the glow of a technicolor sunset before a canopy of stars covers the skies.



We incorporate the "Leave No Trace" principles on our trips wherever possible

DAY ONE

Meet your Trip Leaders either at 10:45 a.m. in the lobby of the Crystal Inn **or** at 11 a.m. in the lobby of the Americas Best Value Inn in St. George, Utah. **Please arrive dressed in your hiking clothes with your daypack handy.**

See —Arriving & Departing for additional logistics information.

Shuttle to Grand Canyon National Park 4 Hours

Transept Trail Walk 1.5 Miles

We begin our Southwest adventure with a visit to one of the seven natural wonders of the world! After meeting in St. George, Utah, we shuttle to the secluded North Rim of the Grand Canyon. After stopping for lunch, we cross into Arizona and can see the Kaibab Plateau rising in the distance as we approach. We ascend several thousand feet onto the plateau before the highway dead-ends dramatically at the rim of the Grand Canyon. Over six million years ago the Colorado River started carving out this vast canyon, eventually exposing rocks dated over two billion years old. The canyon stretches 277 miles and ranges in width from 4 to 18 miles. Just ten miles from the South Rim as the bird flies, the North Rim seems a world away. By car, it's a 220-mile journey skirting the rim. Because it is less developed and more remote, the North Rim receives fewer visitors, allowing us to explore this awe-inspiring place in peace.

We get our first glimpse of the canyon on a short hike leading us straight to the historic Grand Canyon Lodge – North Rim, our home for the next two days. From its perch at the very edge of the Grand Canyon, the lodge offers unrivaled views of this magnificent natural wonder. Tonight we dine at the lodge's restaurant while enjoying stunning views of the sun setting over the canyon.

Lodging: Grand Canyon Lodge – North Rim

DAY TWO

Mule Ride (Kids) 1 Hour

Kaibab Trail (Adults) 3.4 Miles (1,450-foot elevation gain)

Shorter Option: Coconino Overlook 1.4 Miles (500-foot elevation gain)

Widforss Trail 10.4 Miles

Shorter Option: 5 Miles with Shuttle

The day is yours to choose from the multitude of activities (or *in*-activities!) offered at Grand Canyon National Park. In the morning, kids 7 and older join the Youth Coordinator on a mule ride. Our kids step back in

time with local cowboys and cowgirls to explore the canyon rim the same way as the early explorers, weaving through ancient ponderosa pine forest with glimpses of the Grand Canyon and its tributaries.

Meanwhile, adults descend into the canyon on foot, experiencing up close the vastness of this geological wonder on an out-and-back hike on the Kaibab Trail, taking you up to two miles into the depths of the canyon. If you're up for more hiking with the family this afternoon, the Widforss Trail is probably the best plateau hike in the park, offering a combination of forested views and wide-open vistas extending across the canyon to the majestic San Francisco Peaks towering above the South Rim. This five- to ten-mile hike is along a secluded trail and features excellent interpretive markers along the route. (Please note that due to park regulations, your leaders are not allowed to give guided hikes. If you choose to hike, you will be on your own today. Other options include a two-hour van tour to Cape Royal with your Trip Leaders, offering a slightly different perspective of the canyon and our only opportunity to see the Colorado River as it slices through the belly of the earth. If you're happy to just take it easy today, relax with a book and a cold drink on the lodge's balcony overlooking the canyon.

Tonight kids enjoy dinner on their own with the Youth Coordinator while adults sit down for another meal in the lodge's restaurant.

Lodging: Grand Canyon Lodge – North Rim

DAY THREE

Shuttle to Bryce Canyon National Park 2½ Hours

Inspiration Point Hike 1.4 Miles Longer Option: Bryce Point 3 Miles

Today we leave the Grand Canyon and head to Bryce Canyon National Park on a spectacular scenic drive. As we come down off the Kaibab Plateau, don't miss the sweeping view of the Grand Staircase as it ascends to the north. On a clear day, you can see for over 100 miles as the earth literally rises up in a series of dramatic stair steps formed over millions of years by powerful geological forces deep beneath the earth's surface. After stopping for a picnic lunch, we return to higher elevations and the desert landscape gives way to the green meadows of the Sevier River Valley. We get a preview of the unique rock formations of Bryce as we drive through Red Canyon. Upon arrival, we get a great introduction to the park and spectacular views with a hike along the Rim Trail, winding from Sunset Point, past Inspiration Point, to Bryce Point. The park's namesake, Mormon settler Ebenezer Bryce, deemed this stunning region—a hell of a place to lose a cow. Take one look at the amphitheater's maze of spires, hoodoos, windows, walls and pinnacles, and you'll know exactly what he meant. We settle in at rustic Bryce Canyon Lodge, located in a lush pine forest a short walk from the canyon rim.

Lodging: Bryce Canyon Lodge

DAY FOUR

Queen's Garden/ Navajo Loop Hike 3.4 Miles (500-foot elevation gain)

Longer Option: Peek-a-Boo Loop 7.2 Miles (800-foot elevation gain)

Optional: Rainbow Point Biking Route (Adults) 33 Miles (1,000+-foot elevation gain)

After fueling up with a hearty breakfast, dive into a full day of exploration at Bryce Canyon National Park. For a look at some of Bryce's most famous hoodoos, hike into the canyon, where whimsically-shaped rock formations huddle beneath the watchful gaze of the Queen Victoria hoodoo. As you hike, you'll feel at times as if you're walking through a petrified forest—or even on another planet. Keep a lookout for a ridge covered with bristlecone pine, some of the oldest living organisms on earth, which thrive in this barren environment. From Queen's Garden, you'll join the Navajo Loop Trail and hike through Wall Street, an impressive slot canyon with overhanging walls only ten feet apart in some places. Prepare for a steep climb up to the rim at Sunset Point—or take a detour on Peek-a-Boo Loop, a fairly strenuous trail with plenty of up and downs as well as views of Fairy Castle, the Alligator, the Silent City and the Wall of Windows. If you'd prefer to bike, adults can cut their hike short this afternoon and test their pedaling prowess with an optional 33-mile out-and-back route to Rainbow Point. Loaded with hills, this ride serves up more than 1,000 feet of elevation gain—and the views at the end provide worthy incentive.

Back at the lodge, relax over another delicious meal.

Lodging: Bryce Canyon Lodge

DAY FIVE

Red Canyon Biking Route 16 Miles

Longer Option: 49 Miles (900-foot elevation gain)

Kids Option: 5 Miles with Shuttle

Shuttle to Zion National Park 3 Hours

Riverside Walk & the Narrows 5 Miles (250-foot elevation gain)

This morning adults pedal toward Red Canyon, where kids join for a breezy descent along a bike path through surreal landscape. At the end of the ride, our private vans await to take us to Zion National Park. En route we stop for a picnic lunch at a shady rest area before continuing through the high desert, passing valleys formed by the Sevier and Virgin Rivers. Sleepy Mormon towns and weathered farms scattered about the valley floor add to the postcard-perfect scenery. As we enter the park, the cliffs and even the road become vibrant shades of pink and red—a stunning setting for a picnic lunch. From here, a park shuttle takes us to the start of this afternoon's hike through the Narrows—the park's most popular hike. Weather-permitting, wade into the inner gorge of the Virgin River as it forges through rock. Small waterfalls and hanging gardens cascade down the canyon walls, which reach up to 1,000 feet high.

(Note: If you do this hike, you *will* get wet, so be sure to wear shoes that you don't mind getting soaked and with sufficient tread and toe protection. This evening we check into the Cliffrose Lodge & Gardens, featuring five acres of botanical gardens framed by Zion's towering cliffs. Dine on your own as a family tonight at one of Springdale's many charming restaurants.

Lodging: Cliffrose Lodge & Gardens

DAY SIX

Canyoneering (Kids) 5 Hours

Scout Lookout Hike (Adults) 4 Miles (1,000-foot elevation gain)

Longer Option: Angels Landing 5 Miles (1,500-foot elevation gain)

Shorter Option: Emerald Pools 2 Miles (500-foot elevation gain)

Optional: Observation Point 8.2 Miles (2,200-foot elevation gain)

Shorter Option: Hidden Canyon 2.2 Miles (850-foot elevation gain)

An exciting option today for kids 6 and older is canyoneering at Water Canyon, a slot canyon near Zion National Park. Accompanied by local guides and a youth leader, kids hike 45 minutes up-canyon and then set up a rappel. They'll have plenty of time to play and stay cool in the stream while joining their new friends in canyoneering basics.

Adults explore Zion Canyon on a hike revealing stunning views unnoticeable from the road. The hike to Scout Lookout (and on to Angels Landing, if heights don't bother you) begins with a steady steep climb above the river to Refrigerator Canyon before a challenging ascent up Walter's Wiggles, a series of switchbacks carved into the cliff. From Scout Lookout, you can continue to Angels Landing, a sheer wedge of rock looming 1,500 feet above the valley. The last half-mile of trail to the landing runs along a steep narrow ridge with a dizzying drop-off on either side.

Chains bolted into the rock steady you on your ascent. The view from the landing is a 360-degree panorama of soaring rock faces and the yawning abyss of Zion Canyon. A less strenuous option is the shaded trail to Emerald Pools, a natural spring with small cascades during parts of the year. If you want to put in more hiking miles or an alternative to the dizzying heights of Angels Landing, tackle the adventurous hike to Hidden Canyon, an off-trail excursion through a gorge so narrow you can touch both sides at once. You can continue to Observation Point, a challenging but rewarding hike with over 2,000 feet of vertical gain and spectacular views of Zion's backcountry. A dip in our hotel swimming pool will feel good after today's activity. Tonight we celebrate our adventures with a farewell dinner at the Bit & Spur, a Southwestern restaurant and saloon.

Lodging: Cliffrose Lodge and Gardens

DAY SEVEN

Zion Canyon Biking Route 18 Miles (500-foot elevation gain)

or **Watchman Mesa Trail** 2.8 Miles (450-foot elevation gain)

Shuttle to St. George 1 Hour

Cap off a wonderful week with a bike ride along the traffic-free Zion Canyon Scenic Drive that's quiet, peaceful and absolutely breathtaking. You'll pedal along the Virgin River amid walls of sheer Navajo sandstone rising 2,000 feet from the canyon floor. If you'd prefer a more leisurely morning, take a moderate hike along the Watchman Mesa Trail or head to Springdale to shop. Back at the lodge, cool off with a shower or a dip in the pool. We gather one last time for a farewell picnic lunch on the lawn before driving back to St. George, where our trip ends.

ARRIVING AND DEPARTING

Please note that meeting and departing times provided here were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change. **PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIRMED ON YOUR VACATION AND HAVE VERIFIED THE DETAILS OF ARRIVING AND DEPARTING WITH YOUR TRIP CONSULTANT.**

TRIPS FOR ALL ABILITIES

On this Family Trip, our routes follow gentle terrain with little significant gain or loss in elevation. Liberal van shuttling is incorporated into the itinerary to facilitate our activities and mileage is kept moderate to enable you to spend more time exploring on your own. **Longer options are available for stronger riders and hikers.**

ACCOMMODATIONS



Grand Canyon Lodge - North Rim

Grand Canyon (2 nights)

Perched above the grandeur of the North Rim, this rustic stone-and-wood lodge is conveniently located near numerous hiking trails.



Bryce Canyon Lodge

Bryce Canyon (2 nights)

A simple historic park lodge nestled in a lush pine forest just a stone's throw from the canyon rim.



Cliffrose Lodge & Gardens

Zion (2 nights)

A riverside oasis in the Southwest, featuring lush gardens, an inviting pool and hot tub, play areas and a beach for kids.

RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S AGES

Recommended minimum age for the trip: 6 years

Minimum age restrictions:

Recommended minimum age for the trip: 6 years

Minimum age restriction to ride own bike: 8 years

Minimum age restriction for canyoneering: 6 years

Minimum age restriction for mule ride: 7 years

This trip is designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests and fitness levels. We know your pace may vary from one day to the next-and your traveling companion's may differ somewhat from yours. So we present a range of mileage options, and each day you decide exactly what and how much you want to do.

We strongly encourage families to join our Family Trips, designed with kid- and adult-friendly features. Please note that we have a minimum age requirement of 1 year for all Inn trips and 2 years for all Camping trips. Other than that, we do not *restrict* trips to a minimum age except in the rare case of a hotel age restriction.

We do, however, *recommend* minimum ages based on the following criteria:

- 12+ cultural appreciation, difficulty of activities and route
- 9+ difficulty of activities and route
- 6+ several long adult dinners; parent may not be able to pull a Burley and/or there may be multiple activity restrictions
- 3+ riding is on bike paths, making it great for young kids; Burley and Piccolos are available; there are few or no activity restrictions; and no long dinners (or we offer alternatives)

Please note that a trip may feature an activity with an older age requirement than the minimum age recommendation for the trip. Younger kids are still welcome on the trip and while they will not be able to participate in the activity, the leaders will suggest an alternate activity. For safety reasons, children under 7 may not ride their own bikes and are required to ride on a Piccolo or in a Burley. For certain destinations, children must be 9 or older to ride their own bikes.

PACKAGE DATE AND PRICING

Multiple Travel Dates for 2009:

June 4- 10 June 12- 18 June 20-26 June 28 – July 4 July 6 – 12 July 23- 29

August 7 – 13

August 15 - 21

Adult Vacation Price

\$2498 pp

Based on double occupancy

Single Supplement

\$ 430 pp

Deposit Required: \$750 per person

Reserve early for the best available price. Prices may change during the course of the year--if they do change, the best prices are available earlier. Once you book your trip, your price is guaranteed.

On all **Family Camping trips**, and on **Family Inn trips** where children are sharing a room with two adults, youths receive the following tiered discounts:

- 75% off for children 2 and under
- 40% off for ages 3-6
- 20% off for ages 7-10
- 10% off for ages 11-16

On Inn Trips when a child shares a room with one adult or two children share a room, a 10% discount applies to children 16 and younger. The third and fourth youths in a room with an adult will receive the tiered discounts described above. When one youth is in a separate room a 10% discount is applied to the trip price, but the full single supplement applies.

On Camping Trips we provide spacious four-person tents with prices based on double occupancy per tent. If a family requests an additional tent, there will be a single supplement applied, but children will still receive a discount based on their age.

On **non-Family Trips**, children 16 and younger receive 10% off on Camping Trips and on Inn Trips when sharing a tent/room with two adults. All minors (under 18 years) must be accompanied by at least one adult. When one youth is in a single room the full single supplement will apply.

TRIP CONCLUSION

The trip ends in St. George at the Americas Best Value Inn between 1:30 and 1:45 p.m. (Mountain time). From here you can catch the 2 p.m. St. George Shuttle to the Las Vegas airport, arriving between 3 and 3:30 p.m. (Pacific time). (Remember to make round-trip reservations when booking the St. George Shuttle.) Our van will also stop at the Crystal Inn, arriving between 1:45 and 2 p.m. If you're flying out of Las Vegas on the last day of the trip, please schedule your return flight for after 4:30 p.m. Note that in Las Vegas, the St. George Shuttle only serves McCarran International Airport. If you'd like to extend your stay in the area, taxis and shuttles are available from the airport.

PASSPORT INFORMATION

US Citizens do not need a passport for this vacation.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation fees may vary based upon departure date. Please review the grid below:

Number of Days Prior to Trip Start	Cancellation Fees per person)	Departure Dates
96+ days	\$300	2009 06/28, 06/12, 07/23, 06/04, 08/07, 06/20, 08/15, 07/06
61-95 days	30%	
31-60 days	60%	
0-30 days	100%	

Cancellation penalties imposed on LUX World Travel by its suppliers are stringent, and are per person for land arrangements. Airline tickets are different, and hold a completely separate penalty and we will advise you at the time of your cancellation of this additional penalty if you purchased your airfare with our Air Desk.

LUX World Travel reserves the right to cancel this retreat to lack of participation to create a minimum number of passengers, or for any other foreseen reason that may create hazards or jeopardy to our clients. In the case that LUX World Travel needs to cancel or post-pone any tour, all monies collected will be returned in full for the land portion. Penalties from the airlines may occur depending on the type of air purchased, for which LUX World Travel is not responsible. We do highly recommend **Cancel for Any Reason Insurance** for at least the flight portion of your journey to insure our clients with full flight protection coverage.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Guests are required to provide a signed "Release of Liability, Assumption of All Risks, and Arbitration Agreement" form and a completed Personal Information Form prior to trip departure; you will receive these materials shortly after reserving your trip. We are unable to allow guests to participate in any aspect of this trip without a signed release form.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend travel insurance for this journey. We will be happy to provide you with a variety of quotes to fit your specific travel needs. **1.866.269.2659**.

TO REGISTER FOR THIS VACATION

To register for this tour, please call us directly at **1-866-269-2659** or email us at info@luxworldtravel.com for a Registration Form and a Credit Card Payment Form.

YOUR RIPPLE EFFECT

LUX World Travel will donate \$35 per adult traveler and \$20 per child traveler in your name to **Defenders of Wildlife**. Defenders of Wildlife (www.defenders.org) is dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities. They focus on programs on what scientists consider two of the most serious environmental threats to the planet: the accelerating rate of extinction of species and the associated loss of biological diversity, and habitat alteration and destruction. Long known for leadership on endangered species issues, Defenders of Wildlife also advocates new approaches to wildlife conservation that will help keep species from becoming endangered. Their programs encourage protection of entire ecosystems and interconnected habitats while protecting predators that serve as *indicator* species for ecosystem health.

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Travel for the Journey Inside You

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