

Insight Vacations: Spectacular Southwest Escape - Summer 2020

Day 1 - Arrive Scottsdale.

Welcome to Arizona, famous for road trips and of course the Grand Canyon. Your airport transfer will whisk you to your hotel in Scottsdale where you can enjoy the facilities and grounds of this striking desert oasis. Why not head out and explore Old Town Scottsdale, an agreeably traditional representation of the state? Here, you'll be surrounded by retro wooden buildings, rodeo inspired artwork and a selection of local stores, all radiating a classic Southwestern flair. Why not pick up a pair of staple cowboy boots to don for the rest of your journey? At 18:00, join your Travel Director and fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner at your hotel, where you will have the opportunity to mingle over a delightful dinner with wine.(Dinner with Wine)

Accommodations: Hotel Valley Ho, Scottsdale.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Day 2 - Scottsdale Sightseeing.

Kick off your day with an inspiring visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Taliesin West for a private guided tour. A museum and architectural masterpiece, Taliesin West was the former winter home of acclaimed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who designed its buildings, gardens, pools and fountains to complement the natural beauty of the Sonoran Desert. Tonight, the flavors of the Southwest come to life during your interactive cooking class at the Classic Cooking Academy. Professional chefs will guide you through traditional recipes as you get hands on to prepare your dinner. You will cut, chop and sauté a selection of fresh, local ingredients before sitting down to dine on your creations with a few glasses of wine.(Breakfast / Dinner)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 - Scottsdale to Sedona.

A point of pride for the city of Phoenix, the Heard Museum is the country's preeminent organization for the advancement and understanding of indigenous arts. Join a Local Expert to delve into Native American heritage, arts and culture through unique storytelling exhibits. After free time for lunch, you'll learn why some say Sedona is the new Sonoma when it comes to new world wines. Head to the lush and sunny Verde Valley for an exploration into Arizona's budding wine scene. On the banks Oak Creek, you'll sample delicious local wines and discover why many grapes from the South of France, such as Syrah, are thriving in this area.(Breakfast)

Accommodations: Sky Rock Inn Sedona.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 - Sedona and on to Flagstaff.

Explore Sedona with Insight Choice. Take an exciting, off-road Jeep ride through Sedona's backcountry with amazing views of the red rock surroundings. Or if you prefer a milder experience, perhaps take a trolley tour visiting some of the city's most famous landmarks, including the iconic Chapel of the Holy Cross. In the afternoon, sit back, relax and soak in what is arguably Arizona's most scenic drive as you travel along Oak Creek Canyon. Your tranquil journey takes you to Flagstaff, designated as Arizona's Craft Beer City. At a restaurant along Flagstaff's celebrated Brewery Trail, enjoy a delicious lunch that pairs the flavors of the Southwest with local craft beers that amplify each amazing bite. Tonight is at leisure to explore and dine on your own. In the evening, you'll join us for a short drive to the Lowell Observatory, the oldest in the country, dating back to 1894 and known as the Home of Pluto.(Breakfast / Lunch with Wine)

Accommodations: Little America Hotel Flagstaff.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch with Wine

Day 5 - Farewell Flagstaff and on to the Grand Canyon.

After a hearty breakfast, depart for Williams, Arizona, part of the historic Route 66 Americana culture and the gateway to Grand Canyon National Park. Board the historic Grand Canyon Railway and enjoy a leisurely journey to the South Rim of the Canyon. Upon arrival in Grand Canyon Village, you'll have time to explore and dine on your own for lunch. In the afternoon, meet Canyon Tim, a local expert and geologist who is passionate about the Grand Canyon. Discover the five-million-year-old origin story, impressive rock formations and local flora and fauna during a fascinating private discussion that brings this natural wonder to life. This evening, retire to your quaint accommodation in an unbeatable location within the majesty of the national park itself. (Breakfast)

Accommodations: National Park Lodges, Grand Canyon.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 - Grand Canyon National Park Sightseeing.

Wake up at your leisure and enjoy breakfast at your accommodation within the national park. Why not take advantage of your location and explore the beauty of Grand Canyon National Park on your own? Perhaps take an optional helicopter ride for flights over the Grand Canyon. In the afternoon, why not join your Travel Director and stretch your legs on a leisurely walk along the rim of the canyon from the Bright Angel Lodge to scenic Hopi Point. Soak up the magic of the national park with more time to explore on your own. As the sun sets against the rocky backdrops, join a private sunset tour to experience some of the canyon's most scenic sunset viewpoints. Tonight, toast to your final evening in Arizona with your newfound friends. The Thunderbird Room is one of the finest venues on the rim of the Grand Canyon. The friendly staff can't wait to host you for your Celebration Dinner, with gourmet cuisine, casual ambiance and the most spectacular views. (Breakfast / Celebration Dinner)

Meals: Breakfast, Celebration Dinner

Day 7 - Sinagua culture and depart Phoenix.

Enjoy one last stop today at Montezuma Castle National Monument to learn about the Sinagua culture, a pre-Colombian people who lived here nearly a thousand years ago. Take in one of the best-preserved cliff dwellings in North America, which were built over the course of 300 years. And then it's time to say goodbye to your fellow travellers as your trip comes to an end. Take our organised transfer to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport arriving at 14:00. (Breakfast)

Meals: Breakfast