



DAY 1

At a glimpse: Arrive in Las Vegas and head to Bryce Canyon

Travel agenda: Rent a car at the Vegas airport and drive 4.5hrs east to **Bryce Canyon National Park**. This will be one of the highest elevations and likely the coldest. Before it gets dark, go straight to the Rim Trail from **Sunset to Sunrise Point**, which is 1 mile roundtrip. End with the sunset at (aptly named) Sunset Point. Stay at a hotel just 10 minutes down the street on Main Street. Then go to dinner at **Bryce Canyon Pines** (but really you are going for the pie!)

Day 2

At a glimpse: Bryce Canyon in the morning, Capitol Reef in the evening

Travel agenda: Enjoy an early morning sunrise at **Bryce Point**. From there, head back to the Sunset Point parking lot, but this time take the 3 mile **Navajo Loop Trail** to the **Queen's Garden** to walk through the hoodoos amphitheater floor.

On the way out of the park, grab a sandwich and snacks for the road because you will want to see all the splendor of the 1.5hr drive to **Capitol Reef National Park**. Take **Utah Scenic Byway 12**, named one of the top 10 scenic highways in the country. If you need a break, **Escalante Petrified Forest** is on the way.

Once in Capitol Reef, stretch your legs with a .2 mile walk to **Gooseheads Overlook** and then .8 mile walk to **Sunset Point**. During the sunset, catch the brilliantly lit Henry Mountains in the background. Your best bet for dinner is **Paizlees**. As this is the most remote destination on the itinerary, it's a great spot for stargazing at night.

Day 3

At a glimpse: Morning hike in Capitol Reef and then drive to Moab

Travel agenda: In the morning, take Grand Wash Spur road to either hike 3 miles to **Cassidy Arch** or take the 4 mile **Grand Wash Trail** as an alternative. After, drive **Highway 24** 2.5hrs to **Moab**.

Along the way, stop at the natural roadside attractions **Hickman Bridge** and the **Petroglyphs**. This drive will really feel like the middle of nowhere so keep an eye out for animals. Once in Moab, stay at a hotel on **North Main Street**, which gives you an opportunity to walk to restaurants and is also a short drive to both Arches and Canyonlands. Enjoy dinner at hotspot **Moab Brewery**.

Day 4



Southwest Road Trip

is this seat taken?



At a glimpse: Afternoon and evening exploring Arches National Park

Travel agenda: Sleep in today and then enjoy a late breakfast at **Moab Coffee Roasters**. Then prepare for a full day in **Arches National Park**. Grab a sandwich from **Sweet Cravings** on the way to the park to enjoy on-the-go. From town, it's a 40 minute drive to **Devils Garden** which can be a full 8 mile loop, or shorter out and back trail. Make sure to go as far as **Landscape Arch** before turning around.

Head back along the **Scenic Drive** until you see the **Balanced Rock**. At that turn, drive and park at the end of **Windows Road**. From there, you can walk to several attractions including **The Windows** and **Turret Arch**, as well as **Double Arch**.

Finally, an hour before sunset, start the 3 mile roundtrip hike to **Delicate Arch**, the iconic landmark of the park. Take your time to soak in the epic views as the sun goes down and casts a beautiful glow on the arch and steep bowl surrounding it. Back in town, **Jax** is an easy going sports bar with unexpectedly delicious pizza. **Woody's** is the local haunt for a beer after.

Tip: Bring a headlamp for the Delicate Arch hike back down to the parking lot post sunset.

Day 5

At a glimpse: Morning in Canyonlands and afternoon to relax in Moab

Travel agenda: It's an early wakeup call, with a 50 minute drive and short 1.5 mile roundtrip hike to the **Mesa Arch** in **Canyonlands**, one of the most esteemed sunrise locations in Utah. From there, **Green River Overlook** and **Shafer Trail Viewpoint** are two other worthy views. On the way out of Canyonlands, stop at **Dead Horse Point**. It's an additional \$20 to enter and takes 20 minutes to drive to the cliffs edge where you can see the Colorado River. Check out **Meander Overlook** route if you want to explore.

Just 10 minutes off the Highway 191 road, make a pitstop at the **Potash Dinosaur Tracks**. You'll see the dino museums everywhere but when else can you search for real dinosaur footprints? To celebrate your last night in Moab, get dinner at **Josie's**.

Day 6

At a glimpse: Drive through Monument Valley to Page, Arizona

Travel agenda: Take your time in the morning and stop by the **Moab Rock Shop** and the local boutiques. Then it's a 5hr drive to **Page, Arizona**. Take Route 163 though **Oljato Monument Valley** to see the movie-worthy cluster of vast sandstone buttes. There are plenty of turnouts for classic middle-of-the-road photos. At night, stop at the **Lake Powell Glen Canyon Dam** and then head to an early dinner at tavern and local spot **State 48**.

is this seat taken?





Day 7

At a glimpse: Morning at Horseshoe Bend, afternoon kayaking to Antelope Canyon and then drive to Zion

Travel agenda: Start the morning at famed **Horseshoe Bend** half an hour before sunrise. It's a \$10 entrance fee at the parking lot. Then walk the paved 1.5 mile path to the Colorado River viewpoint. It will take another 10 minutes to find your favorite spot along the 1000ft sandstone cliffs. Savor the radiance of canyon walls and river when the sun shines over the whole area. After, drive 10 minutes, fuel up at **Ranch House Grille** and take a sandwich to go!

Before 10am, pack up, bundle up and head 20 minutes to **Antelope Point Marina**. Along the way you will enter the Glen Canyon area, but there is no fee to enter during the winter. At the marina, rent a kayak and paddle 3.5 miles down the **Lake Powell River** to the **Antelope Canyon** access point. From here, you can walk up to 9 miles through the famous slot canyon. It is the only option without a guide and 100% worth the paddling.

Tip: There will be less boats in the water during the winter so you won't have to battle any waves while you kayak. However, you will get wet. Ask for a dry bag and add extra clothing and socks to make the Antelope Canyon walk more enjoyable.

After, start the 2.5hr drive to **Springdale**. Check into a hotel on **Zion Park Boulevard** and then enjoy dinner at local Mexican spot **Oscar's Café**.

Day 8

At a glimpse: Exploring Zion

Travel agenda: In the morning, head to the East side of Zion, taking the **Mount Carmel Highway** road. Enjoy the drive, maneuver around the switchbacks and keep an eye out for the bighorn sheep that roam that side of the park. Take the 1 mile out and back **Canyon Overlook** trail with bridges, caves and an epic view of the canyon floor. Head back to town and get lunch at **MeMe's**.

In the afternoon, rent an e-bike from **Zion Cycles** and cruise down to the Visitor Center. From there, take the **Pa'rus Trail** that leads to the 13 mile **Scenic Drive** in Zion. You will get a lock so that you can hop on and off. Some potential stops include: **Zion Lodge, Emerald Pools, The Grotto** and **Big Bend**. (Keep in mind waterfall attractions will likely be lackluster in the winter.) After returning the e-bikes, stop at **Zion Outfitters** for a drysuit and walking stick and the market for hiking snacks. A casual dinner can be at **Jack's Sports Grill** or the **Brew Pub** but you'll want to be in bed early!

Tip: When the parking lots fill up in Zion, the rangers will close Scenic Road. Riding a bike is the





best way to see the sights during a time when the road will likely be blocked off to traffic.

Day 9

At a glimpse: A morning at the Narrows in Zion and drive to Vegas

Travel agenda: Plan to be at the **Temple of Sinawava** parking lot by 8am. Dress accordingly with your dry suit on top! From the parking lot, the **Riverside Walk** is a paved 1-mile path that leads to the entrance of the **Narrows**. From here, it's an incredible 2 mile walk through the river and dirt/rocky paths to the **Wall Street** section where it becomes more narrow. You can walk as far as 9 miles or turn around whenever the mood (or cold) strikes.

Tip: Find out what time the Scenic Road closed and the parking lot was full the day before so that you can plan the morning accordingly. Most information is posted on the Zion website or their Twitter account.

Back at the car, return the rental gear and make the 2.5hr drive to **Las Vegas**. Explore the Strip and treat yourself to a nice dinner because you've earned it!

Day 10

Travel agenda: Take a walk in the morning to see Vegas in its quietest state and then have brunch. Say farewell to the desert and the mountains on the flight home.

