

Below is the proposed itinerary for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Welcome to Flagstaff!

Our trips begins at the Flagstaff Pulliam Airport, where we'll all meet by 4:00 pm. Tonight we'll settle into our lodging, surrounded by ponderosa pine, and enjoy our first dinner together. (D)

DAY 2

Hike Sandy's Canyon Trail

We spend our day hiking along the western side of the largest contiguous Ponderosa Pine forest in the continental United States, exploring Fisher Point via Sandy's Canyon Trail. This is a 6 mile out and back, with an initial descent of 200 feet, a flat valley, and then a 400 foot up to reach the summit of Fisher Point before returning). Fisher Point offers good 360 views and unique rock formations. Back to our hotel for some R&R before dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

Visit Desert View Watchtower and Hike Grandview Trail in Grand Canyon National Park

Getting an early start, we head to the Grand Canyon this morning, about 1 hour and 40 minutes north of Flagstaff. Once we get to the park, we'll head to Mary Colter's Desert View Watchtower, an ideal location to get your first views of the canyon. Today we'll delve into the mining history of the Grand Canyon as we explore the Grandview Trail. This trail was originally constructed by Pete Berry who, with a small group of prospectors, found a large copper vein out on Horseshoe Mesa and founded the "Last Chance Mine". Pete and his wife, Martha, also opened the trail to early adventurers as they discovered tourism paid as well or better than mining. As we hike out to Coconino Saddle, we'll consider just how isolated their life must have been. While this is only a 2.2 mile round trip, don't let the mileage deceive you. Within 1.1 miles we'll have an elevation change of 1200 feet. This trail is steep and rocky, with several switchbacks, large rocks to negotiate, and some sections of cobblestoned rocks. the Trail will have quite a bit of [exposure](#) in some areas, though we'll soon get our "mountain goat" footing. Tonight we check into Maswik Lodge, home for the next two nights. (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Hike Hermit's Trail to Santa Maria Spring

Another early start, which will be our pattern as we take advantage of cooler morning temperatures. Today we'll head to the other end of the South Rim. Today's excursion will take us from Hermits Trail Head to Santa Maria Spring. The small hut at Santa Maria springs offers us a seat in the shade before we head back. Similar to the Grandview Trail, this is one of the best hikes on the south rim if you like to avoid the crowds - but ironically, that's not why the Hermit Trail was built. It was built to move people, pork chops, and bottles of Porto to Hermit Camp, a luxury campsite for tourists that predated Phantom Ranch by 10 years before shutting down in 1930. Either before or after the today's hike, we'll have an opportunity to see yet another of Mary Colter's architectural designs. Our hike today is 5 miles round trip, with an elevation gain of 1760 feet. Not up for another climb into the canyon? Not a problem. An alternative to today's hike is a rim walk to Yavapai Point, approximately 2 miles one way or 4 miles round trip. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

Free Morning, Drive to Sedona

After the last 3 days of hiking, we'll be glad to have some free time this morning to explore some of the other options the Canyon offers. Depending on your interests, you might choose to hike along the rim, attend one of the daily Ranger programs, visit the Visitor's Center and/or Yavapai Geology Museum, or perhaps just gaze at the canyon. After reconvening we'll load up the vans and head for Sedona, about a 2 hour drive. Here we'll have time to settle into our lodging and enjoy our first night in Sedona. (B, L, D)

DAY 6

Hike Brins Mesa Trail

Sedona, surrounded by red-rock buttes, steep canyon walls, and pine forests is noted for its mild climate and vibrant arts community. Today we'll explore Red Rock country from the Brins Mesa trail. The trail begins right at the edge of Sedona and is as picturesque as it is convenient. This trail leads us right out into the open where we can enjoy unobstructed views of the spectacular red rock formations for which the Sedona area and Oak Creek Canyon are famous. The route we'll be following, including Soldier's Pass, is five miles with an elevation change of 600 feet and will include some areas of [slickrock](#). (B, L, D)

DAY 7

Optional Hike (Airport Mesa Loop) or Free Day to Explore Sedona

Today is a free day to explore Sedona. For those interested, we'll start the day at the Airport Mesa Vortex, one of Sedona's famed energy vortexes. After re-charging our internal energy packs, we'll have an option to hike around Airport Mesa Loop. This hike is a 3.5 mile loop (with an optional one mile out-and back spur), offering more views of Sedona's iconic red rock formations. After, or instead of hiking, we can take full advantage of everything Sedona has to offer, from spa treatments, to art galleries, to shopping. Sedona is known for the variety of spa treatments on offer, and that plus some shopping might be just the way to relax after all the hiking you've done. Whatever you choose, we will meet for a delicious final dinner together. Overnight Sedona. (B, D)

DAY 8

Farewell Arizona!

After breakfast we sadly bid good-bye to canyon country as we drive back to Flagstaff. The drive back to Flagstaff is about 45 minutes away, and we will have you to the airport by 10:30 am for flights out any time after 12:00 noon. (B)