



**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		Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Sun	Travel to Las Vegas, Nevada; transfer to Cedar City, Utah		Welcome, Safety & Orientation Welcome Dinner	
2	Mon	Milford Wind Project	Bryce Canyon National Park & Hike	Dinner	
3	Tues	Zion National Park & Ranger Class		Travel to Arizona Dinner on Lake Powell	
4	Wed	Glen Canyon Dam & Hydroelectric Tour	Navajo Nation & Cameron Trading Post	Grand Canyon National Park - East Rim IMAX 3D Adventure & Dinner	
5	Thur	Grand Canyon	Route 66 Museum	Nevada Solar One Las Vegas & Dinner	
6	Fri	Nevada National Security Site & National Atomic Testing Museum			Dinner
7	Sat	Depart for 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 by coach to Cedar City, Utah, or by flight to Las Vegas, Nevada and transfer in, approximately a 2.5-hour drive. Upon arrival, meet your Ambassador and check into your hotel.



## *Cedar City, Utah*

– Cedar City sits one mile + 500 ft. above sea (take that, Denver!), where the Markagunt Plateau smashed into the Great Basin! Cedar City is the largest city in Iron County, Utah. It's located 250 miles south of Salt Lake City, and 170 miles north of Las Vegas and is the home of Southern Utah University, the Utah Shakespeare Festival, the Utah Summer Games, the Simon Fest Theatre Co., and other fantastic events.

Lifting a desert so far off the ground makes for great outdoorism all year round: every winter sport from December to April and then hiking, biking, camping, glamping, climbing, (rhyming?) and everything in-between during the rest of the spectacular months! It's a big little town with hobbies for miles. Brian Head and Eagle Point are Utah's highest ski resorts, just up the road, and Southern Utah University adds that exciting dash of youthful energy and fun to make this a great well rounded town.

Competing citizens of Cedar City champion two different nicknames for their town: some call it "Gateway to the National Parks" because it's one hour from Zion, 90-minutes from Bryce Canyon and 3-hours from Capitol Reef or the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Then, when you get tired of those but, beautiful parks, expand your net and explore places like Cedar Breaks National Monument, only 30-minutes away in the heart of the Dixie National Forest. Others call it "Festival City, USA" because it has a lot of festivals. For Shakespeare, livestock, music, wild flowers, classic cars and films. There's a bike race, a summer sports competition, a rodeo, and a Christmas parade of storybook characters. Check out the video here: [Cedar City](#).



**Sample Hotel: Springhill Suites Cedar Hill** – Nestled in the Southern Valley of Utah's Rocky Mountains and recipient of TOP Operations Award, this hotel is a perfect spot for guests visiting Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Southern Utah University, Shakespearean Festival, and Brian Head, which are all a short drive away. Enjoy hiking, fishing, rock-climbing, 4-wheeling, bird-watching, golf and more. Enjoy a great night's rest on luxury



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bedding and refuel in the morning with a hot & healthy breakfast buffet. Breakfast is taken at the hotel. Rooms have two queen beds to sleep up to 4 students per room; staff sleep 2 per room.

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 north this morning to the small town of Milford for touring of the **Milford Wind Corridor Project**, Utah's largest wind farm producing clean energy in the Utah desert.

**The Milford Wind Corridor Project** is a 306-megawatt wind farm. It became the state's largest wind facility when the first phase was completed in 2009. The electricity is being sold to the Southern California Public Power Authority. Construction began in November 2008 and the first phase had a posted capacity of 204 MW with 97 wind turbines, including 58 Clipper Liberty 2.5-MW wind turbines and 39 GE Energy 1.5-MW turbines. A second phase of the project began in July 2010 and foundations were poured adding another 68 GE 1.5-MW turbines for a total of an additional 102 MW. In 2016, a 240 MW Escalante Solar Project went online, located southwest of Milford Wind. The power is being sold under three separate 20-year power purchase agreements to customers in Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. At 1900 acres (3.0 sq. miles), it is the largest grouping of photovoltaic generators in the state of Utah.



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

**Bryce Canyon National Park** - Thor's Hammer, monstrous hoodoos and Sinking Ships; Bryce Canyon's red-orange-pink amphitheaters stage a Norse myth 70-million years in the making. Hoodoos (irregular columns of rock) exist on every continent, but here is the largest concentration found anywhere on Earth. Situated along a high plateau at the top of the Grand Staircase, the park's high elevations include numerous life communities, fantastic dark skies, and geological wonders that defy description. Wind, water and time have eroded Bryce Canyon National Park's sandstone cliffs into otherworldly characters plucked from the unconscious of a mad Viking. Rows of humanoid pillars crosshatched by rock strata look almost intentional but perfectly surreal. So silent, eerie and beautiful. So improbable it has to be true.



Today your group will hike the **Navajo Loop Trail** and enjoy a sunset view before returning to our hotel for a well needed night of rest and relation. We'll have dinner locally.



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### **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** – A bajillion years ago, ancient iterations of the Virgin River started wreaking havoc on southwestern Utah. Now there's a faint "You're welcome" echoing through the canyons of Zion National Park. Zion National Park is like the set of a movie that's so grand you know it's fake, but you don't care because it's delicious to look at; the kind of flick where the art director was given carte blanche and didn't worry about believability.

Zion is unique among national parks in the west with its awe-inspiring monoliths that one early explorer called "temples". Follow the paths where ancient native people and pioneers walked. Gaze up at massive sandstone cliffs of cream, pink, and red that soar into a brilliant blue sky. Experience wilderness in a narrow slot canyon. Zion's unique array of plants and animals will enchant you as you absorb the rich history of the past and enjoy the excitement of present-day adventures.



This morning we will tour the park, seeing its narrow canyons and dramatic buttes and mesas. Enjoy time for exploring and hiking as well as a **Park Ranger lead discussion on the geology and ecology of the park.**



In the late afternoon, we'll travel east to Page, Arizona and check into your hotel on the shores of beautiful **Lake Powell!**

## *Lake Powell, Arizona*

- Lake Powell is located in northern Arizona and stretches up into southern Utah. It's part of the Colorado River in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. With nearly 2,000 miles of shoreline, endless sunshine, warm water, perfect weather, and some of the most spectacular scenery in the west, Lake Powell is the ultimate playground!

**Sample Hotel: Courtyard Hotel Lake Powell** – On a mesa overlooking Arizona's breathtaking Glen Canyon and Lake Powell, at the center of Grand Circle historic sites, cultural landmarks and national parks, Page stands at the gateway to the scenic American West. Welcome to Arizona! The hotel offers well-appointed guest rooms, free WiFi, plush bedding and mini-fridges. Take a dip in the seasonal heated outdoor pool & hot tub, sit by the outdoor fireplace, and stay fit in the fitness center. In your downtime, enjoy the outdoors with the best Lake Powell kayaking, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Antelope Canyon, and Horseshoe Bend. Rooms have two queen beds to sleep up to 4 students per room; staff sleep 2 per room.



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#### **Day 4**

*Breakfast & dinner*

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

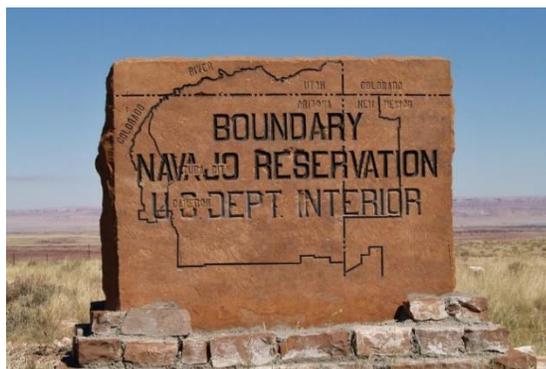
***Glen Canyon Dam & Hydroelectric Tour*** – Glen Canyon Dam is a concrete arch-gravity dam on the Colorado River in northern Arizona. The 710' high dam was built from 1956 to 1966 and forms Lake Powell, one of the largest man-made reservoirs in the U.S. with a capacity of 27 million-acre feet (33 km<sup>3</sup>). The dam is named for Glen Canyon, a series of deep sandstone gorges now flooded by the reservoir; Lake Powell is named for John Wesley Powell, who in 1869 led the first expedition to traverse the Colorado's Grand Canyon by boat.



A dam in Glen Canyon was studied as early as 1924, but these plans were initially dropped in favor of the Hoover Dam which was located in the Black Canyon. By the 1950s, due to rapid population growth in the seven U.S. and two Mexican states comprising the Colorado River Basin, the Bureau of Reclamation deemed the construction of additional reservoirs necessary. Since first filling to capacity in 1980, Lake Powell water levels have fluctuated greatly depending on water demand and annual runoff. Operation of Glen Canyon Dam helps ensure an equitable distribution of water between the states of the Upper Colorado River Basin (Colorado, Wyoming, and most of New Mexico and Utah) and the Lower Basin (California, Nevada and most of Arizona).

Later, we'll depart Lake Powell and enter the **Navajo Nation**.

***Navajo Nation*** – The Navajo Nation extends into the states of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico covering over 27,000 square miles of unparalleled beauty. Diné Bikéyah, or Navajoland, is larger than 10 of the



50 states in America. Visitors are intrigued and mystified when they hear the Navajo language – so, too, were the enemy during World War II. Unknown to many, the Navajo language was used to create a secret code to battle the Japanese. Navajo men were selected to create codes and serve on the front line to overcome and deceive those on the other side of the battlefield. Today, these men are recognized as the famous Navajo Code Talkers, who exemplify the unequalled bravery and patriotism of the Navajo people. Today, the Navajo Nation is striving to sustain a viable



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economy for an ever-increasing population that now surpasses 250,000.

While here, we will visit the **Cameron Trading Post**, where authentic Indian jewelry, blankets, and other craft items produced by the Navajo are available. You'll have time to browse the incredible pottery, rugs, and sand paintings.

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

**The Grand Canyon** – Located in Arizona, Grand Canyon National Park, "the grandest canyon of them all", encompasses 277 miles (446 km) of the Colorado River and adjacent uplands. The park is home to much of the immense Grand Canyon; a mile (1.6 km) deep, and up to 18 miles (29 km) wide.

We'll take a leisurely tour of the East Rim this afternoon, making stops along its length to photograph the Canyon. Perhaps a contest for best photography?



**Grand Canyon East** is located in the area along the Colorado River to the north and east of the South Rim. The primary physical attribute of the Grand Canyon East region is the Little Colorado River. The river is responsible for carving several of the smaller canyons in the region, and its lower 40 miles constitute one of the largest arms of the Grand Canyon. The Canyon surrounding the river is over 3,000 feet deep where it joins the Colorado River near Desert View between the South Rim and Grand Canyon East. Because of the mineral content in the Grand Canyon East area, the LCR flows with beautiful blue water in the summer months; in other parts of the year, it runs almost blood red.

In the late afternoon we'll arrive at **Tusayan** located just outside the park and visit the **IMAX Theatre** for a special presentation of the spectacular film, "**The Grand Canyon.**" After this thrilling 3-D adventure, we will have dinner before checking into our hotel.

## **Day 5**

*Breakfast & dinner*

Hello Arizona! This morning we will return to the **Grand Canyon National Park** for an early morning view and some additional touring. Afterwards we will depart and travel on what was once **Route 66** as we head west through northern Arizona. We'll stop in Kingman for lunch and touring of the **Route 66 Museum**, which highlights the glory days of cross-country automobile travel. Then we'll re-enter Nevada and travel just south of Boulder City for touring of **Nevada Solar One**.



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**Nevada Solar One** - a concentrated solar power plant, with a nominal capacity of 64 MW and maximum capacity of 75 MW, spread over an area of 400 acres. The projected CO2 emissions avoided is equivalent to taking approximately 20,000 cars off the road annually. **Watch the video [HERE](#).**



After our 'energizing' day, we'll travel to the "Entertainment Capitol of the World," **Las Vegas**, for a two-night stay.

*Las Vegas* - You'll spot it from far away... An oasis of glittering lights in the desert, home of "the Strip" and the drive-in wedding chapel, playground of past gangsters, and a visual spectacle complete with its own Eiffel Tower, Egyptian pyramids, and Venetian canals. Welcome to Las Vegas! Think of it as a theme park for the mind rather than a city – it can awe as much as it can overwhelm, and that's part of the appeal. It's a place that's defined as much by vintage camp as by futuristic innovation, where the classic steakhouses and 24-hour casinos exist alongside world-class dining, sleek hotels, and thrilling entertainment from the acrobatic stylings of Cirque du Soleil to the High Roller, a massive observation wheel. Sin City nightlife is legendary, whether you're moving to the rhythm of DJ-spun beats on a dance floor lined with gold or standing on an open-air terrace taking in the sweeping views of neon-lit city below. This is Vegas, baby.

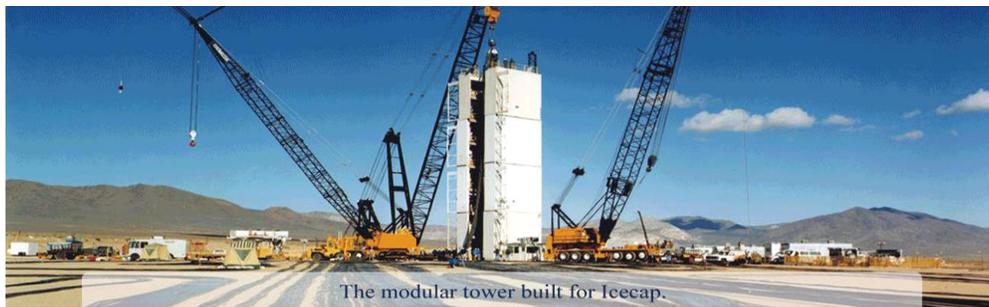


*Sample Lodging – Springhill Suites, Fairfield Inn, Hampton Inn, Las Vegas, NV.*

### **Day 6**

*Breakfast & dinner*

Rise and shine Vegas! We need an early start this morning as we travel out to tour **Nevada's National Security Site** followed by the **National Atomic Testing Museum**. Students will learn the history of nuclear testing outside of Las Vegas, interact with artifacts and technology, view a simulation of a nuclear blast in a Ground Zero Theater, and see footage of some of the 1,000 nuclear bombs that were tested in the Nevada desert. **Visitors must be at least 14 years old.** We'll tour Frenchman Flat in Mercury, Nevada where the first atmospheric nuclear test took place and much more.



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**NNSS: Nevada National Security Site** – The Nevada National Security Site and its related facilities help ensure the security of the United States and its allies by: supporting the stewardship of the nation’s nuclear deterrent, providing nuclear and radiological emergency response capabilities and training, contributing to key nonproliferation and arms control initiatives, executing national-level experiments in support of the National Laboratories, working with national security customers and other federal agencies on important national security activities, and providing long-term environmental stewardship of the NNSS’s Cold War legacy. Located in a remote, highly secure area of southern Nevada, the NNSS is a premier outdoor, indoor, and underground national laboratory. It is a preferred location for experiments supporting the National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA) nuclear weapons Stockpile Stewardship Programs, national defense programs, and national security research, development and training programs, as well as vital programs of other federal agencies.

Tours depart from the National Atomic Testing Museum at approximately 7:30 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. The NNSS is located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada. Each tour usually covers about 250 miles. Lunch is available for purchase at the Bistro. Casual clothing is recommended, and sturdy shoes are required for the rugged terrain. **Shorts, capris or sandals are not permitted. Visitors to the NNSS must be at least 14 years old. Pregnant women are discouraged from participating in NNSS tours due to the long bus ride and uneven terrain.**

### Points of Interest on the Tour

[Mercury, NV](#)

[Nonproliferation Test and Evaluation Complex](#)

[Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Site](#)

[T-1 Training Area](#)

[Frenchman Flat](#)

[Icecap](#)

[Sedan Crater](#)

[Apple-2 Houses \(Civil Effects Tests\)](#)

After our tour, we’ll visit the National Atomic Testing Museum.

**National Atomic Testing Museum: A Smithsonian Affiliate Museum** – Experience Nevada’s explosive history! The National Atomic Testing Museum (NATM) is a national science, history and educational institution that tells the story of America’s nuclear weapons testing program at the Nevada Test Site. The Museum uses lessons of the past and present to better understand the extent and effect of nuclear testing on worldwide nuclear deterrence and geo-political history. It provides collection-based exhibits and learning activities for greater public understanding and appreciation of the world in which we live. Its collections and activities are inseparably linked to serve a diverse public of varied ages, backgrounds and knowledge.



The National Atomic Testing Museum is one of a handful of private national museums and showcases some of the rarest of artifacts relating to the nation’s atomic testing program. Nowhere else can you see a large nuclear reactor that was used in the development of the nuclear rocket and the first air-to-air missile, Genie. Personal atomic weapons that were developed to use in place of conventional weapons such as the Backpack Nuke and the Davy Crockett Weapon System (recoilless gun) are placed throughout the 8,000 square feet of museum exhibits.



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From Atomic Age culture to the scientific and technological advances, the Museum highlights 70 years of nuclear testing. The end of the Cold War is depicted through a piece of the Berlin Wall complete with the celebratory graffiti painted by Berliners when the wall came down. Two pieces of the World Trade Center signify the beginning of the 'Global War on Terror' and how the Museum today plays a role in the training of first responders from across the nation who come to learn about the nuclear materials terrorists might use.

After our full day, we will return for our final night in Las Vegas. We will have dinner and then the night is ours for exploration. There's so much to do in Las Vegas! Visitors of every age will find something amazing to enjoy!

### **Day 7**

#### *Breakfast*

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



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# AMERICAN CANYONLANDS

<b>Minimum Booking Numbers:</b>	20 students
<b>What's Included:</b>	Roundtrip flights or motorcoach transfers 6-nights' accommodation Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure Airport transfers and transportation to activities shown Milford Wind Corridor Project Bryce Canyon National Park & Hike Zion National Park – Hike & Ranger Talk Lake Powell area exploration Glen Canyon Dam & Hydroelectric Tour Navajo Nation & Cameron Trading Post Grand Canyon National Park IMAX Presentation – The Grand Canyon Route 66 Museum Nevada Solar One Nevada National Security Site Tour National Atomic Testing Museum Personal Ambassador Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest 24-hour emergency cover
<b>What's Not Included:</b>	Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory) Transfers to/from home airport Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary Lunches in destination Cost of visas, full or collective passports Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation, purchases billed to room, etc Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, area guides, tour ambassador

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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