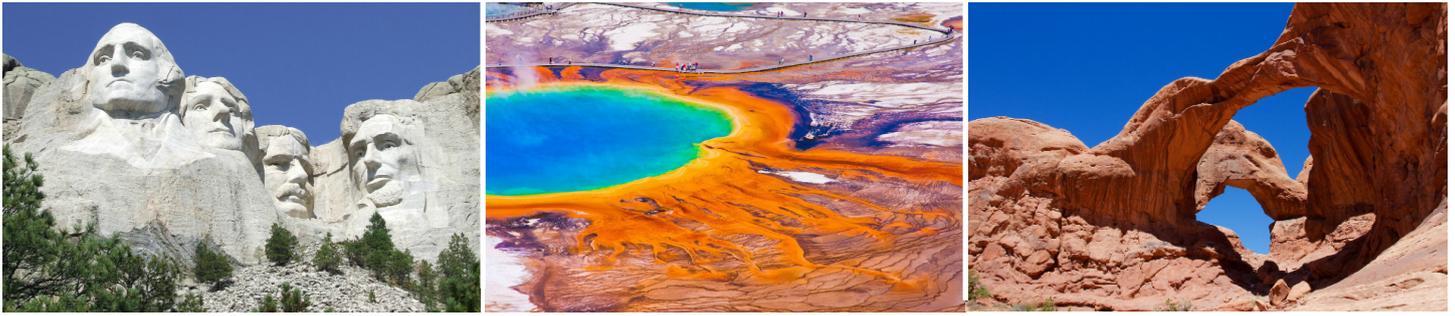


Yellowstone, Rushmore and the Grand Canyon



TRIP OVERVIEW

Traversing seven US states and incorporating eight national parks, this epic adventure takes in some of the most awe-inspiring landscapes and natural phenomena. From the colossal deep-sided gorge of the Grand Canyon and the ancient cliff-side dwellings carved into the Mesa Verde National Park to the spiritual homelands of the Native American ancestors and recognisable backdrops to countless Spaghetti Western films this itinerary gives you the best of the West.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to America. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Denver

Depart London on your scheduled flight direct to Denver with British Airways. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for your overnight stay. Urban sophistication meets outdoor adventure in Colorado's most populous municipality and with 300 days of sunshine, a thriving cultural scene and natural beauty the Mile High City makes for one of the world's most spectacular playgrounds.

DAY 2: Denver to Keystone

Following breakfast, it's time to depart Denver and journey to Keystone. En-route the tour will make stops at both Cheyenne and the former military and fur-trading outpost of Fort Laramie, which surprisingly, was never surrounded by a wall as the projected plans were deemed too dear thereby remaining an open fort depending upon its location and garrison for protection.

DAY 3: Keystone

Today begins with a visit to Mount Rushmore, where 18 metre-tall sculptures are carved into the granite rock of Presidents Roosevelt, Lincoln, Washington and Jefferson. Completed between 1927-1941, this monument famously appears in Alfred Hitchcock's North by Northwest and was built to attract tourists from all of the country. Next continue to the Crazy Horse Memorial, a mountain monument which has been a work in progress since 1948. It is being carved out of Thunderhead Mountain and will depict the Oglala Lakota warrior, Crazy Horse, riding into the distance with his arm out-stretched illustrating the phrase 'My lands are where my dead lie buried', a tribute to the Native American people. This afternoon you'll tour Badlands National Park, whose rugged beauty draws visitors to admire the striking geological deposits that contain one of the world's richest fossil beds.

DAY 4: Keystone to Sheridan

The journey today takes you to Wyoming's jewel, Sheridan, with a stop en-route at Deadwood. Deadwood is an entire city registered as a National Historic Landmark that has been restored to its former historical glory and reminiscent of the iconic backdrops seen in Spaghetti Western films. Since the discovery of gold in 1874, it became a thriving commercial centre in the heart of the Black Hills that once drew legends and legions alike in search of their fortune. Stay overnight in Sheridan, a delightful town known for its history of trapping, ranching and mining offering a taste of traditional downtown charm, modern hospitality and stunning countryside trails.

DAY 5: Sheridan to Yellowstone

Depart Sheridan after breakfast and take a guided tour of the Battle of Little Bighorn, an armed engagement between Native American forces led

by Chiefs Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, and the US Army, gallantly won by the former in order to protect their precious gold reserves. The tour continues to Yellowstone where you will spend the night.

DAY 6: Yellowstone

Enjoy a full day tour of the magnificent Yellowstone National Park, the world's first ever national park. Full of colorful hot springs, spouting geysers, bubbling pools and mud pots, Yellowstone is a wonderland of incredible natural scenery – be sure to have your camera at the ready to catch the world-famous Old Yee Faithful Geyser, a fountain of steam that rises more than 60 feet in the air.

Explore mountains, forests and lakes and discover hundreds of species of mammals, birds fish and reptiles including bears, elk, moose and roaming buffalo. Retire to your hotel in Yellowstone for your overnight stay.

Please note: today's itinerary will be weather permitting in May and October, should the itinerary be affected, alternative arrangements will be made.

DAY 7: Yellowstone to Jackson B

Following breakfast, drive onwards to Grand Teton National Park, a 1,300km reserve that boasts over two hundred miles of trails, pristine lakes, snow-capped mountains and extraordinary wildlife. Take in spectacular views before travelling to the valley town of Jackson Hole that was originally populated by indigenous tribes including the Shoshoni, Crow, Blackfoot and Bannock.

DAY 8: Jackson to Salt Lake City B/L

Combining the amenities of a major metropolitan area with the friendliness of a quaint, mountain town, Salt Lake City is a beautiful vibrant destination perhaps better known as being the headquarters of the Mormon Church after Mormon forerunners fled persecution in Illinois and settled here over 150 years ago.

Visit Logan Canyon, a canyon that runs through the Bear River Mountains where there'll be time to enjoy lunch al fresco (weather permitting) and admire the views through the valley that elevates to 2,400 metres.

DAY 9: Salt Lake City B

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy a walking tour of Temple Square including stops at the Tabernacle and Temple Square visitor centre. Here you will hear about the Mormon history, beliefs and the meaning of a temple to them. You will then take a walk to the Beehive with the opportunity to tour Brigham Young's first house. Continue on to the Capitol Building with time to explore inside the building, thought of as one of the best places in the city. You will then have time to explore Temple Square further at leisure. The rest of the afternoon is for you to explore this wonderful city at your own pace. Why not start with the Red Butte Garden nestled in the foothills above the University of Utah that has a beautiful rose garden and 3.5 miles of walking trails. Perhaps organize a tour excursion to the Great Salt Lake itself or wander the Marmalade Historic District, home to many original pioneer homes from the 19th century.

DAY 10: Salt Lake City to Cortez B

Set out this morning on a scenic drive to Cortez, Colorado. Visit Arches

National Park and discover a landscape of contrasting colours, landforms and textures. The park has over 2,000 natural sandstone arches in addition to hundreds of soaring pinnacles, massive fins and giant balanced rocks, all formed by the elements over millions of years – an incredible sight to behold. Spend the night in Cortez, a town that sits alongside the Trail of the Ancients Scenic and Historic Byway that circles through ancient Anasazi archeological, cultural and historic sites.

DAY 11: Cortez B

Today incorporates a tour of Mesa Verde National Park, offering a fascinating insight into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people who made it their home for 700 years in over 600 cliff dwellings carved into the rock face including the incredible Cliff Palace that has more than 200 rooms alone. Return to your hotel in Cortez for the evening.

DAY 12: Cortez to Tusayan B

After breakfast you will begin your journey to Tusayan, stopping en route at the Four Corners Monument, also known as Four Corners Tribal Park; the only unique landmark in the United States where four states intersect at one point - the corners of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado meet a granite and brass monument marking the location. You will have the opportunity to explore the visitor centre as well as enjoy a spot of shopping with stalls selling handmade jewellery, crafts and food. In the afternoon you have an opportunity to take an optional excursion with a narrated tour (at a fee, bookable at the hotel) to Monument Valley, a red-sand desert area on the Arizona-Utah border known for its towering sandstone hills and a popular backdrop for Western films. Stay overnight in Tusayan, a gateway town to the Grand Canyon.

DAY 13: Tusayan to Bryce Canyon

Depart after breakfast for the Grand Canyon National Park. Overwhelming

in scope and size and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, this iconic natural treasure will leave you standing in awe and amazement at its sheer enormity and breathtaking beauty. The exposed rock at the base of the gorge dates back over two billion years thanks to the mighty Colorado river that weaves its way over 277 miles through the canyon. Continue to Panguitch where you will spend the night.

DAY 14: Bryce Canyon

Distinctive due to geological structures called hoodoos, odd-shaped pillars of rock left standing from the powerful forces of erosion, there is no place quite like Bryce Canyon. Marvel at its unique geology, consisting of a series of horseshoe-shaped amphitheatres carved from the eastern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in southern Utah and feel the eerie atmosphere that the towering sorbet-coloured rock towers impose on walkers below. Return to your hotel in Panguitch for the evening.

DAY 15: Bryce Canyon to Las Vegas

Conclude your tour with a final journey to the city that never sleeps, Las Vegas. En-route, visit the cream, pink and red sandstone cliffs and canyons within Zion National Park that when viewed from below provides an altogether different perspective than the Grand Canyon and the chance to spot one of the 900 different plant species not found anywhere else in Utah. Enjoy a frivolous evening amongst dramatic architecture, bright lights and kitsch entertainment on the world-famous Sunset Strip.

DAY 16: Las Vegas to the UK or extension

Transfer to the airport for your overnight flight back to the UK, or continue on to your Las Vegas extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

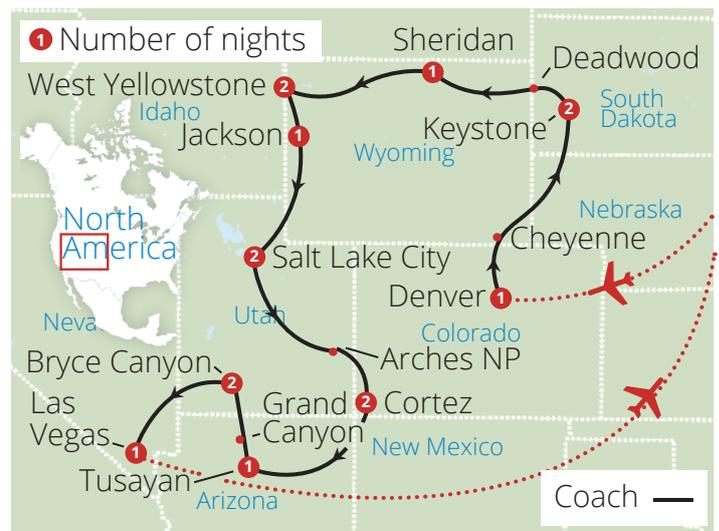
Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and America. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share, please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Denver you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Destination America, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Destination America representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries. However, if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Destination America

E-mail: operations@destamer.com

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Destination America:**

24 hour Emergency number: 001 310-617-6635

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen, insect repellent and hat
- Waterproof lightweight jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - The official voltage for the USA is 120 and operates on a 2 pronged North American outlet
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars

- Personal toiletries and first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Small day pack for excursions
- Warm clothing for your visit to Bryce Canyon
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas and Passport advice - IMPORTANT

You will need to obtain an ESTA visa. This must be applied for at least 7 days before you are due to land in the USA. All UK passport holders **must have** a bio-metric epassport and your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the date you are expected to arrive back in the UK. Important note: if you do not have a bio-metric epassport, you will be **refused entry** into the USA. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange the ESTA visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250590 and quote 'Mercury Holidays'. The cost of the visa is approximately £46.50.

Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. Should the tour not meet minimum numbers, then it will be operated with local guides only.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

It is at your customary/discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately \$8-11 USD per person per day. This is a total of \$128-176 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Currency Exchange

The currency in America is the United States Dollar (USD). We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £500- £700 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 20-30, and the maximum will be 50. In the unlikely event there are less than 20 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Passport Information

Your Passport Information is required for this tour. This information is

required at least 90 days prior to your departure. Failure to provide this information on time may result in your booking being cancelled with loss of deposit.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote '**WK830**' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for USA Yellowstone, Rushmore & The Grand Canyon is intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card, you may be asked for a cash deposit. MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

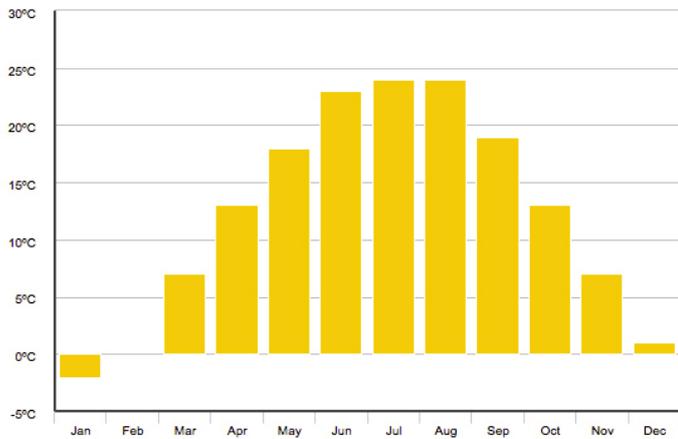
Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

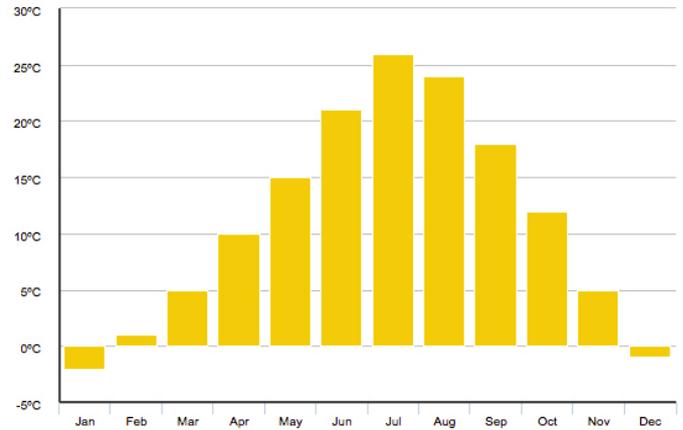
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.

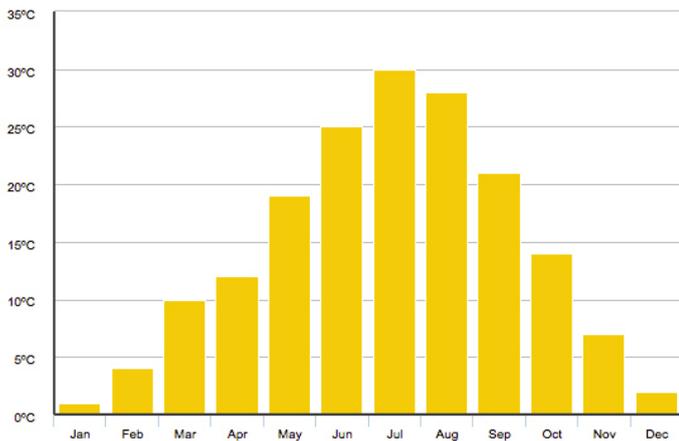
Average Temperature for Yellowstone



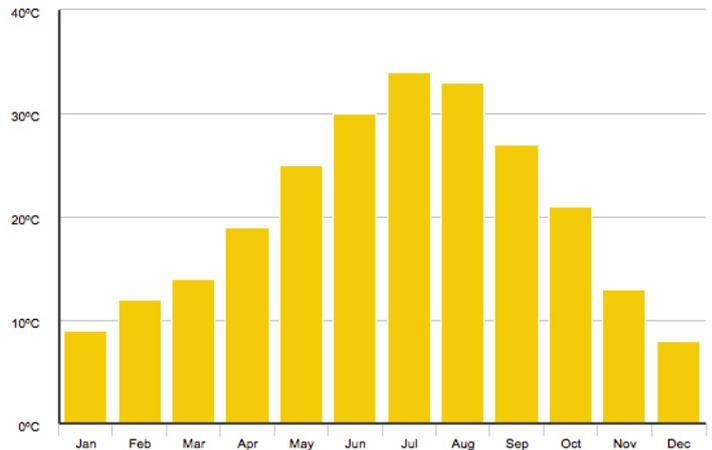
Average Temperature for Salt Lake City



Average Temperature for Cortez



Average Temperature for Las Vegas



Las Vegas Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Extend your stay in the fabulous, unique desert city of Las Vegas. Immerse yourself in non-stop entertainment on the world-famous Las Vegas Strip, marvel at a stage show, dine in award-winning restaurants, enjoy the spectacular shopping opportunities or take a helicopter trip over the Grand Canyon.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension in Las Vegas.

Hotel (3 nights)

Your stay in Las Vegas will take place at the **3★ Excalibur Hotel** on Bed & Breakfast.

This distinctive castle themed property enjoys an enviable central location on the Las Vegas strip offering visitors fabulous entertainment and comfortable rooms.

Hotel Information

3850 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109, USA
Telephone: 001 702-597-7777

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry, drinks, snacks, lunches and dinners.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Las Vegas is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.