



**MISSION:
IMPERATIVE!** presents...

The Southwest Safari

January 24, 2018

Greetings, fellow adventurers!

OK -- We're ready! Like always, we make all of our bookings one year in advance to make sure we get the hotels and rooms we want. We've again been finalizing all of the various aspects of the Southwest Safari for 2018. We're ready to pass the information on to you, so let's get at it.

1. The dates are set for **Thursday, October 25 – Saturday, November 3, 2018.**
2. The total cost will be **\$1,705.00** per person (*double* occupancy in hotels – contact us for pricing if there will be more people in your room. MAX of 4 per room).
 - a. This is about half of the cost of comparable commercial trips.
 - b. This price covers all hotels, the coach, nine meals, 3-hour Colorado River raft trip, Antelope Slot Canyon excursion, all seven national park and tribal park entry fees.
 - c. This price does not cover air fare to Las Vegas, certain meals, trip cancellation and medical insurance, and tips (airport transfer, coach driver, boat operator & slot canyon guide).
3. The safari can handle a maximum of 30-35 people (due to limits in the slot canyon).
4. By necessity, this will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
5. Due to various restrictions, there is a limit on children. Please contact us regarding the availability of space. Children must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.
6. Reservations will be accepted by check made payable to **Mission Imperative.**
7. A reservation can only be made with:
 - a. a deposit of \$900 per person (or \$1,800 per couple), with the balance (\$805 per person) due 60 days prior to the start of the trip.
 - b. signed and dated waivers - by *each* individual.
8. Cancellations with full refund can be made up to 60 days prior to the departure of your trip. After that, and up to 30 days prior to departure, a cancellation will be subject to a 50% refund. No refunds are available for a cancellation within 30 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance is worth considering if this is a concern.

For more detailed information on the above, we have included further descriptions and explanations. Also, the full itinerary is included! Please look it over. If you have any questions, please call us.

Have a great week!

Mike Snavelly

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OK, some of the items on the previous page require a bit more explaining....

We only host one of the Southwest Safaris each year. Various rates for 2018 rose dramatically due to unreasonable new fees placed on coach companies going to national parks. Even so, the increase in final cost rose only 7% over the rate for 2017 (normal increases are 4-5%). Nothing has been changed in terms of quality. The price of \$1,705.00 per person is for double occupancy. If you are alone and require a single room, then your price will have to jump by \$705.00 for a total of \$2,410.00. Therefore, it might be best to look for someone to go with you and share your room. Unfortunately, we can do nothing about the cost of the hotels for single occupancy.

The trip price does not include air fare simply because folks come from different parts of the nation and even overseas. Furthermore, we opted to provide breakfasts on most days, but not the other meals, except two box lunches (on those two days, there are no alternatives for the noon meal). Other lunches and all dinners will be at your expense. We did this because people have different eating habits. We didn't want to include a buffet dinner somewhere and discover that some people don't eat much in the evening. Therefore, each restaurant that we have chosen can provide you with a variety of choices specific to your desires. Also, the price does not include the tips for the shuttle driver (in Las Vegas), the coach driver (typically \$2 - \$3+ per day, per person), the slot canyon guide, and the raft operator.

Consider the option of purchasing travel insurance, both medical and trip cancellation. You might wonder why there are instances of a partial refund, or no refund at all, in the event you have to cancel. The reason is two-fold:

1. Those are the restrictions given by our hotels, and
2. Since this is an "at cost" trip (that is, we're not doing this for profit), there is no "fat" built in to accept the loss in case of cancellations. We are still liable for all expenses, and we'd be operating in the red.

We can only accept about 30 people per tour. (*That's because of body odor build-up on the bus!* 😊) Seriously, it's because the slot canyon maximum is normally that. Furthermore, a full bus takes a while to load/unload at each point. Finally, a smaller group encourages more interaction and a tighter bond.

Please read through the itinerary! The safari will take us first to two areas in existence because of the uplift of the Colorado Plateau after the great flood -- Zion and Bryce Canyon. When we get to the Island in the Sky near Moab, you will be in the middle of where Grand Lake once stood, and you can clearly see the evidence, in all directions. Then over in Arches NP, you will see why a huge amount of rushing water carved out rocks and arches as the lake drained from the area. Then, in Monument Valley, you will again see evidence of a dried-up lake. Moving on to Page, AZ, you will experience both a slot canyon (giant cracks in the sandstone when the plateau first pushed upward) and the Colorado River --- up close and personal! Likewise the crack in the floor of the funnel --- you'll stand right over it! A few minutes later, see the funnel for yourself from a cliff overlooking it. This is where it all started. The Grand Canyon is the climax, and you get to spend a full day-and-a-half enjoying it!

Anyway, I'm giving the punch lines away! Just read it, and try to come up with a reason for *not* going!
Don't forget to read the "specific facts" at the end, on page 4.

We hope you can join us!
All it takes is a deposit and completed release forms....

