

Mission Imperative presents...

The "Southwest Safari"

DAY

ATTRACTION

(B - breakfast, L - lunch)



Las Vegas, Nevada

Today you will make your way to Las Vegas any way you can - by air, car, bus, foot, donkey... Just get here healthy and excited. Those arriving at McCarran International Airport can take the complimentary shuttle to the hotel, where Carrie & I will welcome you.
Overnight: Hampton Inn Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV



Las Vegas to Zion NP B

Breakfast here is great! We'll hit the road immediately afterward and drive up through the desert. As we arrive at the edges of the Colorado Plateau, you will be astounded at the scenery! It gets even better as we head into the Virgin River Gorge and into Zion National Park. The stark beauty of the place will speak for itself. The trees in the valley are set against a backdrop of massive white and red cliffs. We'll stop for lunch at Zion Lodge. From here, you'll use the shuttle busses to get anywhere you might want to go – enjoy the visitor center, or take a short hike. The most popular thing to do here is to walk the path along the river itself at the Temple of Sinawava. The gorge gets narrower, and you might even want to get into the river (actually a stream) and go up farther! We'll leave the lodge at 5:30pm and head to our hotel at Springdale, just outside the park. If it's a clear day, the sunset on the rocks will be spectacular! Dinner will be at Oscar's Restaurant.
Overnight: La Quinta Inn, Springdale, UT



Zion & Bryce Canyons B

After a sumptuous buffet breakfast, we'll travel back through the park to head eastwards. Doing so will require a climb up the switchbacks into the mountains. This provides a spectacular view of the valley we have just left! Heading through the tunnel, we'll emerge into a completely new world, geologically. Take it all in as we head to Bryce Canyon at over 8,000 ft., arriving in time for lunch at Ruby's Inn. The afternoon is spent hiking among the "hoodoos" or strolling along the rim to other



viewpoints along Paunsaugunt Plateau. (If you're up to a hike, this is a *must!* -- the sights you will see are beyond description!) Zion & Bryce Canyons are in existence due to the nature of the uplift of the Colorado Plateau. Dinner will be back at Ruby's Inn.



Overnight: Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel, Bryce Canyon City, UT



Bryce Canyon to Moab B, L

Get up early, enjoy a great buffet breakfast, dress warmly, and board the bus to view the sunrise over the hoodoos from Bryce Point (optional). When we leave the hotel, we'll embark on a scenic tour up through Escalante (the Grand Staircase) and into Capitol Reef National Park. Did I mention *scenic*?! Time and weather-permitting, we'll enjoy a



picnic lunch under cottonwood trees before heading toward Moab for the next adventure – a 1½-mile round-trip walk in Arches National Park to Landscape Arch, the longest natural stone arch in the world! We'll visit the "Dirt Shirt Shop" before dinner.

Overnight: Holiday Inn Express, Moab, UT



Canyonlands and Arches National Parks B



Load up at the breakfast buffet, grab your trail mix, and then we'll head up into the "Island in the Sky" (which used to be an island in the lake!). This is Canyonlands NP, where the surrounding views of the stark emptiness – the drained lake – can be best seen from the three different stops we'll make. Then, it's back across the valley to Arches NP again, this time to

visit Double and Window Arches before taking the brief return trip to Moab for a late lunch at the "Brewery". Next comes one of the highlights of the tour. For those up to a real hike (3½ miles round-trip), we'll return to Arches NP for the trek up to Delicate Arch, one of the most famous sites in the nation, to experience it at sunset!

Overnight: Holiday Inn Express, Moab, UT



Monument Valley & the Horseshoe Bend B

Today our drive will take us down the east side of Utah, through the eastern floor of what once was Grand Lake. A fantastic surprise awaits you for our lunch stop! Monument Valley, a Navajo Nation National Park, is another of the most famous sites in the country. We'll eat in the dining room of The View Hotel, which provides a spectacular view of the valley floor below! Then, we'll move on to Page, AZ, where the Glen Canyon Dam holds back the waters of Lake Powell. Before checking into the hotel, we'll have another "scenic surprise" – We'll take a 15-minute walk to the cliff edges overlooking the Horseshoe Bend, a renowned spot over the Colorado River.

Overnight: Courtyard by Marriott, Page, AZ





Antelope Canyon, the Colorado River, the Funnel & the Grand Canyon B, L

Our day will start a bit earlier. After another buffet breakfast, it's off to a very unique adventure at 8:00am. This morning, we will divide into several smaller groups, and board 4X4 SUVs for a short trip out to experience one of the strangest sites you could imagine. We'll walk into Antelope Canyon - a narrow "slot canyon". Slot canyons are unique features of the Colorado Plateau. They're giant cracks in the sandstone and are part of the uplifting of the plateau after the flood. Wait 'til you see what light from above does to the walls! When we return from this fantastic experience at 10:00am, we'll embark on another adventure! At 10:45am, we'll board a raft for a 2½-hour voyage on the Colorado River

where you will get an idea what rafting the canyon is like (no rapids, though!). The trip will take us through the Horseshoe Bend – which we saw from above the day before. A box lunch will be provided by Colorado River Discovery. We'll disembark at Lee's Ferry and stop briefly at Navajo Bridge to look straight down into the crack of Marble Canyon, a fantastic view! A few minutes later, the coach will climb part way up Echo Cliffs and stop along the rim to look out over the funnel – where it all began when Grand Lake breached! Next, the grand-daddy of all the sites – the Grand Canyon! We'll arrive late in the day at one of the lookout points, where you will get your first taste of one of the world's most famous sites! We'll continue on to Grand Canyon village, where you will again be amazed – because our hotel is right on the rim!

Overnight: *Kachina or Thunderbird Lodge, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ*



The Grand Canyon

The entire day will be spent doing whatever you would like to do. There are plenty of activities, and shuttle busses to take you to most of them. Hike on the Bright Angel or Kaibab Trails. Walk the rim paths, which are mostly tarred and easy to walk on. Visit the museums and shops, or the visitor centers. Dine at one of several restaurants available to you for any meal throughout the day. Attend one of the ranger talks. Take a helicopter ride over the canyon! Whatever you plan to do, the day will go quickly and enjoyably!

Overnight: *Kachina or Thunderbird Lodge, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ*





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Friday

The Grand Canyon & Las Vegas

You're not done yet! You have the morning to enjoy the canyon. Perhaps you might want to get up early and walk the rim to see the sunrise before breakfast. After checkout at 10:45am, we'll head to Tusayan, just outside the park, where you will enjoy watching the Grand Canyon IMAX movie, then pick up a lunch before we make our way back toward Las Vegas. We'll stop briefly in Seligman, AZ - a town along old Rt. 66 – for a look into the past. Once back at the hotel in Las Vegas, we'll enjoy a "pizza bash"!

Overnight: *Hampton Inn Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV*



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Saturday

Home Sweet Home B

Breakfast is again provided for you. The complimentary shuttle is available to transfer you back to McCarran International Airport and your flight home. The trip is finished, but the memories will last a lifetime!

Specific facts related to this itinerary:

1 – Our primary goal is to equip you with an appreciation and a working knowledge of the great flood, and the post-flood events which carved out and reshaped this area of the USA, so that you in turn can educate others regarding these events.

2 – We have chosen what we believe to be the finest coach company in the area (Master's Touch Christian Charter Service, Prescott Valley, AZ) to transport us on this adventure.

3 – We have refined the itinerary over and over to ensure that you see the maximum amount of unique scenery each day (without burning you out!) and that you are given opportunities to experience what the area has to offer in a way you personally can manage.

4 – We want you to be comfortable at night! To that end, we have *not* chosen the least expensive places to stay; rather, we have opted for quality. You will be staying in the best hotels at each location (not only through our experience, but also through tripadvisor.com *top* choices)!

5 – We are not professional "tour operators". This is *your* vacation. We are a mission organization that is simply facilitating this "safari" by pre-booking coach transportation, lodging, certain meals, certain excursions, and national park entry. Travel in this way, however, gives us an opportunity to minister to you (through education on aspects of the historical catastrophe that occurred here) while also saving you money. Furthermore, great fellowship can be experienced with a group this size – not too big, nor too small. Lastly, we have carefully researched the area, simply to find the best way to show it to you!

6 – This is an "at cost" excursion. That is, Mission Imperative's goal is not to make a profit. This trip is *our* ministry to *you*. However, just like when we present seminars, you are still welcome to donate to the ministry as a "love offering" should you choose to do so.

7 – Of course, the schedule and routes are subject to change due to conditions beyond our control.



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