

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS — SOUTHWEST SAFARI

## **General**

### **Is this a Christian oriented trip?**

Yes, for sure! We begin each day by reading Scripture and praying. Mike does a lot of teaching while on the coach about what you are seeing as it relates to the Bible and evidence for the global flood and its aftermath. You will have wonderful fellowship with believers from all across the nation, and other countries at times.

### **Is this an educational trip?**

Most definitely! This part of the world represents probably the best classroom for evidence for the global flood and its dramatic aftermath!

### **What time of year is this trip?**

We always do this trip in the fall – usually in early November, or late October to early November. This way the parks are less crowded, the weather is usually gorgeous, and we tap into the winter rates at hotels!

### **What is the group size, normally?**

We normally have between 36-40 guests.

### **Can we bring children, and what ages may come?**

Yes – you may bring children 10 and above on this trip. Discounts are available for families who have more than two people sharing a hotel room. Maximum 4 people per room.

## **Travel / The Trip**

### **Where does the trip start, and where does it end?**

The trip begins in St. George, Utah and ends in Phoenix, Arizona.

### **How much luggage may I bring?**

You may bring NO MORE than one large suitcase per person, and one small carry-on bag. PLEASE NOTE: We have limited luggage space in the coach, and need to limit suitcases to one large suitcase per person. No exceptions.

## **What parks do we visit?**

We visit Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Arches, Canyonlands, Dead Horse Point State Park, Monument Valley, Horseshoe Bend, Antelope Slot Canyon, Glen Canyon, and Grand Canyon. We also visit Oak Creek Canyon if conditions suit.

## **What type of accommodations are used?**

We use Trip Advisor top choice hotels and lodges. We have personally vetted all the accommodations we use. We want you to have a great night of sleep and feel safe and comfortable!

## **What meals are included?**

Most breakfasts are included (the exception is Grand Canyon). We also include two lunches, and the pizza bash dinner on the final night in Phoenix. One reason that we do not include most lunches and dinners is that it is actually cheaper for you to order a meal at a restaurant rather than for us to contract for a group meal at a restaurant.

## **Will there be vegetarian options in restaurants?**

Yes – there are vegetarian options.

## **How much can we expect to pay for meals?**

Obviously, this depends on your taste in food! There are expensive options at restaurants along with less expensive options. Bear in mind, though, that some restaurants are more expensive than others. Also, Bryce Canyon only has one restaurant option, and that one unfortunately is a bit pricey. Having said that, you will probably spend more or less per meal that you would spend in your home area.

## **What can I expect the weather to be like?**

You will need to plan for chilly mornings and evenings, and nice, warm days! The temperatures can range from 30's overnight, to possibly 75-80 during the day! Please plan to dress in layers. A fleece jacket, and a windbreaker that can layer over the fleece is usually plenty warm for most folks. You may want to pack a pair of gloves and/or a hat if you are the type of person who is sensitive to cold weather. Please refer to the packing list on our website for more insights.

Also – if you set the following locations on a weather app on your phone, you can follow them as we get closer to the trip to get an idea of what kind of weather to expect:

St. George, Utah

Springdale, Utah

Bryce Canyon City, Utah

Moab, Utah

Page, Arizona

Grand Canyon Village, Arizona

Phoenix, Arizona

## **Activities**

### **What type of activities are there?**

You will have ample time for hiking, walking, shopping, etc., and you will also have the unforgettable experience of walking through a slot canyon and rafting the Colorado River or boating on Lake Powell.

### **How much walking or hiking will there be?**

That depends on your choices! You can do as much or as little as you would like to do. Most sights can be seen with very little walking. There is one arch at Arches National Park that you can only see if you do the .9 mile hike to get there, but that is not a strenuous hike. There are more strenuous options at most parks if you desire those, as well as moderate and easy hikes.

### **Do I need hiking boots?**

We do not think hiking boots are necessary unless you need ankle support. We do recommend hiking shoes, because they come with a better tread than normal sneakers, and are a huge help when hiking over stones and slick rock formations.

## **Financial**

### **What does the cost of the trip cover?**

The cost of the trip includes all hotels, ground transportation, most breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner, park entry fees, slot canyon tour, rafting trip on the river (or boat on the lake), and the teaching aspect that is at the core of the trip. You are responsible for your transportation to St. George, Utah, and home from Phoenix, Arizona.

### **Can I pay for my trip with a credit card?**

Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit card payments for the Southwest Safari at this time. If we decide to accept credit cards in the future, we would have to add 3.5% to the cost of the trip to cover our fees.

### **When do I send in my deposit? And when is the balance due?**

You need to be on the mailing list for the trip first. Then, when we have all the information ready (dates and cost), we will send an e-mail to you. This trip is on a first-come, first-served basis. You would immediately call us to let us know of your intention to come, and your deposit is due then. Since this trip books up very quickly, once you let us know you want to go, we require your deposit within ten days.

The balance is due by August 15 before the trip.

## **How much cash do I need to bring for tips?**

You will want cash to tip your slot canyon tour guide, your boat driver on the river, and for the bus driver. We usually recommend \$3-5 per person for the slot canyon tour, \$5-7 per person for the river guide, and \$3-5 per person per day for the bus driver.

## ***Medical and/or Travel Insurance***

### **Do you recommend trip cancellation insurance?**

This is totally up to you as an individual. Please remember to read the fine print carefully if you want to purchase trip cancellation insurance! These policies are VERY SPECIFIC with the reasons for which they will pay a claim.

### **Will there be access to medical care?**

At certain locations, yes. You will have access to medical care in St. George, Springdale, Moab, Page, and the Grand Canyon.

### **What if I need a wheelchair?**

We have had some guests who require the use of a wheelchair. Please email us with details of your situation.

### **What if I have a heart condition?**

We require guests to check on the release form that they have talked with their physician about their personal readiness to be at higher altitudes. Bryce Canyon is 8,100', and we spend one night there. We briefly stop on Boulder Mountain for a view, and that is about 10,000'. Most of the other nights we are between 4,000' – 7,000'. Please check with your doctor about any heart concerns.

## ***Personal***

### **Where can I do laundry?**

You can do laundry at all hotels except the two nights at Grand Canyon.

### **Do I need a walking stick?**

In our opinion, YES! Many people thought they did not need a walking stick before doing the trip, and ended up purchasing one at the Zion National Park gift shop once they saw the kinds of hikes that are available. A walking stick is great to act as a "third leg", just for balance and stability.