

National Parks and Beyond

Canyons, Mesas and Hoodoos Nevada - Utah - Arizona



Las Vegas, Nevada

Begin your adventure under the neon lights of Las Vegas, an oasis in the desert of southern Nevada. You'll lose track of time along the **Strip**, where resorts with elaborate themes offer an array of options, including 24-hour casinos, innovative dining options from big-name chefs, and variety shows and concerts starring legendary headliners. Whether you choose to stay in a luxury resort or in more modest accommodation, excitement is in store. If you like high-end shopping, prepare to stroll through The Forum Shops at Caesars or The Shops at Crystals and Via Bellagio. For budget-friendly shopping, head to the north end of the Strip to the Fashion Show Mall or to the Las Vegas Premium Outlets. For a unique experience, visit the **Downtown Container Park**, an open-air center with boutiques, restaurants, bars and live music. Less than an hour from the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas, **Valley of Fire State Park** features spectacular attractions of a very different sort. At the oldest state park in Nevada, you'll see magnificent sandstone formations that are 150 million years old, ancient petroglyphs and abundant wildlife. Many of the park's animals, including

bobcats, jackrabbits and coyotes, are nocturnal, giving a different meaning to 'nightlife'.

Accommodation: Las Vegas, Nevada

Las Vegas, Nevada, to Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah

Today, travel to **Bryce Canyon National Park** through Virgin River Gorge and the natural amphitheater of **Cedar Breaks National Monument**. Once in Bryce Canyon, take the park's 38-mile (61 km) scenic drive to acclimate yourself and select where to return to sightsee or hike. Do not miss a hike to the expansive **Bryce Amphitheater**. This impressive natural landscape sits below the **Rim Trail hiking path** and is filled with hoodoos, which are brightly colored, tall, thin rock spires. Plan to spend several days at the park so you can experience both sunrise and sunset, photographing the views from overlooks such as **Sunrise Point, Sunset Point, Inspiration Point** and **Bryce Point**. Stay after dark to see the vast, star-filled night sky.

Accommodation: Panguitch/Bryce Area, Utah



Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, to Moab, Utah

Travel through **Capitol Reef National Park**, famous for its white sandstone domes and the towering monoliths of 'Cathedral Valley'. **Arches National Park** is the site of more than 2,000 natural arches, many accessible through a variety of hiking trails that accommodate all levels. Moab is at the confluence of the Colorado and Green rivers and is an epicenter of river rafting, so you may wish to stay longer and explore.

Accommodation: Moab, Utah

Moab, Utah, to Page, Arizona

Today, explore **Canyonlands National Park**, carved by the Colorado River and featuring a dramatic desert landscape of mesas and canyons, before visiting **Natural Bridges National Monument** with three natural bridges viewable from Bridge View Drive or from hiking trails to the bridges themselves. **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park** is known for its towering sandstone buttes and has been the location for many Hollywood movies. The nearby town of **Page**, Arizona, straddling the border of Utah and Arizona, is the gateway to **Lake Powell**, popular for houseboating, fishing, kayaking and rafting. Plan to visit **Antelope and Navajo canyons**, **Rainbow Bridge National Monument** and **Horseshoe Bend**, one of the most photographed curves in the Colorado River. For a truly memorable experience, take a helicopter or hot-air balloon ride to see it all from above. Extend your stay here to enjoy the many activities available.

Accommodation: Page, Arizona



Page, Arizona, to Zion Canyon National Park, Utah

Zion National Park is famous for its steep red cliffs, canyons and towering rock formations as well as cascading waterfalls and rivers. A hike along the Virgin River to explore its waterfalls and hanging gardens is a must-do as well as a hike through water in the narrowest section of Zion Canyon, with walls 1,000 feet tall (300 meters) and the river just 20 to 30 feet (six to nine meters) wide. This area is a favorite for photographers of all levels due to its amazing light and structure. If you are lucky, you may get to view some of the park's wildlife, including California condors, mountain lions and bighorn sheep. A five-mile (eight km) scenic drive along the Kolob Canyons Road allows visitors to experience the crimson canyons and view the dramatic overlooks.

Accommodation: *Springdale/Zion Area, Utah*



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Lake Mead NRA/Hoover Dam, Arizona/Nevada

Returning to Las Vegas, explore **Lake Mead National Recreation Area** and the spectacular Hoover Dam with great hiking trails to the dam's base or natural hot springs and activities for all interests and ages.

Accommodation: Las Vegas, Nevada