MAY 15-24, 2019

with optional
SCOTTSDALE PRE-TOUR
May 13-15, 2019

SOUTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS

10 Days of America’s Natural Wonders
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Please join fellow alumni and friends on a journey to the national parks and monuments of the Southwest. Travel to Grand Canyon National Park for awe-inspiring views from the park’s rim. Admire the beauty of light striking Antelope Canyon’s narrow sandstone walls, share a peaceful evening with Navajo storytelling, and ponder cultures past and present at a petroglyph site during a river raft ride down Glen Canyon. Continue to Utah where you’ll spend enjoyable time at all five national parks—Arches, Canyonlands, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, and Zion—viewing rock formations and otherworldly landscapes that must be seen to be believed.

With the guidance of an expert Orbridge Expedition Leader and the comforts of a private motor coach, there is no better way to visit our national parks.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than $600 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today and share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with you.

Please reserve online at rice.orbridge.com, by calling 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Sincerely,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director
Rice University

Free Expedition Library
AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by November 9, 2018 to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we’ve assembled for this program.

This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries. Call for details.
Go where hoodoos, slot canyons, arches, buttes, and mesas fill vast horizons with impossible beauty, and learn about the Americans of “Red Rock Country” who helped shape our nation’s history.
Pre-Tour Program Highlights

- Explore the Southwest’s natural wonders with a knowledgeable Orbridge Expedition Leader.
- Begin at the Arizona Biltmore, a luxurious Waldorf Astoria Resort—and famous haven of celebrities, diplomats, and presidents—with iconic architecture heavily influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright as the consulting architect.
- Stay at lodges inside Grand Canyon National Park and other properties carefully selected for their rich histories, beautiful locations, and superb service and accommodations.
- Spend additional time in Grand Canyon National Park or choose to join an optional helicopter flightseeing excursion over the Grand Canyon.
- Enjoy special inclusions such as a Glen Canyon rafting trip and a visit to beautiful Antelope Slot Canyon.
- Visit a traditional Navajo hogan, and set out on a 4-wheel drive tour through Monument Valley.
- Visit all five U.S. national parks in Utah.
- Observe intricately eroded arches at Arches National Park, behold the monolithic hoodoos in Bryce Canyon National Park, and follow the paths of Ancestral Puebloans and pioneers at Zion National Park.

What’s included:
- 9 nights accommodations;
- 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches (2 are picnic-style), 5 dinners including a welcome dinner at the Arizona Biltmore, and a farewell reception in Las Vegas;
- Wine tasting in Moab;
- Admission and park fees throughout;
- Transport via private deluxe motor coach;
- Luggage porterage;
- Gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers, and porters;
- And airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

Activity Level: Guests should be able to enjoy a mile of outdoor walking at a moderate pace, be sure-footed on uneven ground, get in and out of a motor coach, and manage stairs without assistance.

Your 10-Day Itinerary (subject to change)

Day 1: Arrive in Phoenix, AZ (D)
Leisure time, welcome dinner
Overnight: Arizona Biltmore

Day 2: Phoenix / Sedona / Grand Canyon National Park (B,D)
Brief stop in Sedona, Grand Canyon rim
Overnight: Grand Canyon Lodges†

Day 3: Grand Canyon National Park / Antelope Canyon / Lake Powell (B)
Optional helicopter flightseeing, Antelope Canyon guided tour
Overnight: Lake Powell Resort

Day 4: Glen Canyon / Monument Valley, UT (B,L,D)
Glen Canyon float trip, Navajo cookout and storytelling
Overnight: Goulding’s Lodge

Day 5: Monument Valley / Moab (B,L,D)
4x4 tour in Monument Valley, wine tasting
Overnight: Red Cliffs Lodge

Day 6: Moab / Arches National Park / Canyonlands National Park (B)
National park sightseeing
Overnight: Red Cliffs Lodge

Day 7: Moab / Capitol Reef National Park / Bryce Canyon National Park (B,L)
Pinnacles, hoodoos, and amphitheaters
Overnight: Best Western Plus Bryce Canyon

Day 8: Bryce Canyon / Zion National Park (B,D)
Zion park trails and exploration
Overnight: Zion Park Lodge

Day 9: Zion National Park / Las Vegas, NV (B,R)
Leisure time in Las Vegas, farewell reception
Overnight: Westin Las Vegas

Day 10: Depart Las Vegas (B)
Accommodations (subject to change)

ARIZONA BILTMORE
Opened in 1929, this Frank Lloyd Wright influenced property has hosted a who’s who list of guests over the years. The Biltmore set the standard for elegance and style, and that sophisticated aura and historic integrity has remained through numerous expansion and renovation projects that transformed the hotel into the award-winning resort of today.

LAKE POWELL RESORT
Enjoy comfortable lodging and terrific dining. The property’s lake view rooms with Native American flair are an ideal retreat after a day full of fun.

GOULDING’S LODGE
Relax and savor the spectacular views of Monument Valley at Goulding’s Lodge, a famous locale for Old West movies. Stop by the Trading Post Museum to view the artifacts, artwork, and film memorabilia.

RED CLIFFS LODGE
Nestled on the banks of the Colorado River, enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding 2,000-foot sheer red rock cliffs.

BEST WESTERN PLUS BRYCE CANYON GRAND HOTEL
Surrounded by fantastic scenery of southwest Utah, most notably rock spires known locally as “hoodoos,” the hotel offers an enclosed courtyard with a pool, whirlpool, and patio.

ZION PARK LODGE
Nestled among the towering red rock cliffs of Zion National Park, Zion Park Lodge is a nature-lover’s paradise. Each guest room provides a warm, comfortable atmosphere, ensuring a memorable stay.

WESTIN LAS VEGAS
Welcome to the City of Lights, Vegas style. Embrace the comforts of your tastefully-appointed, modern guest room.

†Grand Canyon accommodations to be confirmed in 2019.
What’s Included

• Two nights accommodations at the Arizona Biltmore (pictured below) or similar, including breakfast each morning
• Admission to and guided tours of Taliesin West and the Desert Botanical Garden
• Guided Arizona Biltmore history tour
• Transportation for included activities
• All gratuities and porterage
• Complimentary transfer from the airport during the suggested arrival times

Pre-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

Day +1: Arrive in Phoenix, AZ
   Enjoy time to explore the Arizona Biltmore grounds and take advantage of the various amenities including eight swimming pools, a full service spa and salon, tennis courts, and nearby golf courses (additional charges apply)

Day +2: Scottsdale (B)
   Guided tour of Taliesin West—Frank Lloyd Wright’s beloved winter home and desert laboratory, Arizona Biltmore history tour, evening at leisure

Day +3: Phoenix / Day 1 of Main Program (B)
   Docent-led Desert Botanical Garden tour; join guests arriving for Day 1 of the Main Program

Admire the dramatic desert landscape, colorful Southwest culture, and relaxing leisure activities.
What Guests Are Saying...

Of course the beauty of the Southwest is unexcelled anywhere in the world. I can’t stop raving about it and telling people about Orbridge. Such a professional organization. There is nothing like a great trip to keep the memories sparkling every idle moment of a day. Thank you, Orbridge, for a trip of a lifetime!

~Penny S., Nantucket, MA

We had a wonderful experience and could not have seen or done a fraction of what we did on our own. A big part of this was the planning of this tour and the professional, knowledgeable, and personable tour guides. It far exceeded our expectations and created some wonderful memories.

~Pat & George D., Lawton, OK