

FOUR CORNERS – NATIONAL PARKS AND CULTURAL TREASURES

ARIZONA – COLORADO – NEW MEXICO – UTAH

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FOUR CORNERS – NATIONAL PARKS AND CULTURAL TREASURES

Phoenix, Arizona, to Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona
Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, to Page, Arizona
Page, Arizona, to Monument Valley, Utah, to Page, Arizona
Page, Arizona, to Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah
Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, to Moab, Utah
Moab, Utah, to Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado
Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, to Albuquerque, New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Gallup, New Mexico
Gallup, New Mexico, to Chinle, Arizona
Chinle, Arizona, to Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona
Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona, to Phoenix, Arizona



3 hours and 30 minutes / 360 km

2 hours / 175 km

2 hours and 30 minutes / 200 km

2 hours and 45 minutes / 240 km

4 hours and 15 minutes / 400 km

2 hours and 15 minutes / 200 km

4 hours and 15 minutes / 395 km

2 hours / 220 km

1 hour and 30 minutes / 145 km

1 hour and 30 minutes / 160 km

3 hours and 45 minutes / 340 km

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Day 1

Begin your exploration of the Phoenix area with a hot air balloon tour over the splendor of the Arizona desert. For Native American art and culture, head to the **Heard Museum**, which houses more than 4,000 works of art by Indigenous peoples. Just an hour away in Coolidge is the **Casa Grande Ruins National Monument** where many artifacts discovered at Hohokam Pima National Monument are on display. While Pima and the surrounding Gila River Indian Reservation are not open to the public, Casa Grande provides a fascinating look into an ancient Hohokam village once known as Snaketown. Admire the Great House, four-story ruins dating to the 14th century, and other smaller excavated village sites of the ancestral Sonoran Desert People.

Accommodation: *Phoenix, Arizona*



Phoenix, Arizona

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, ARIZONA, TO PAGE, ARIZONA

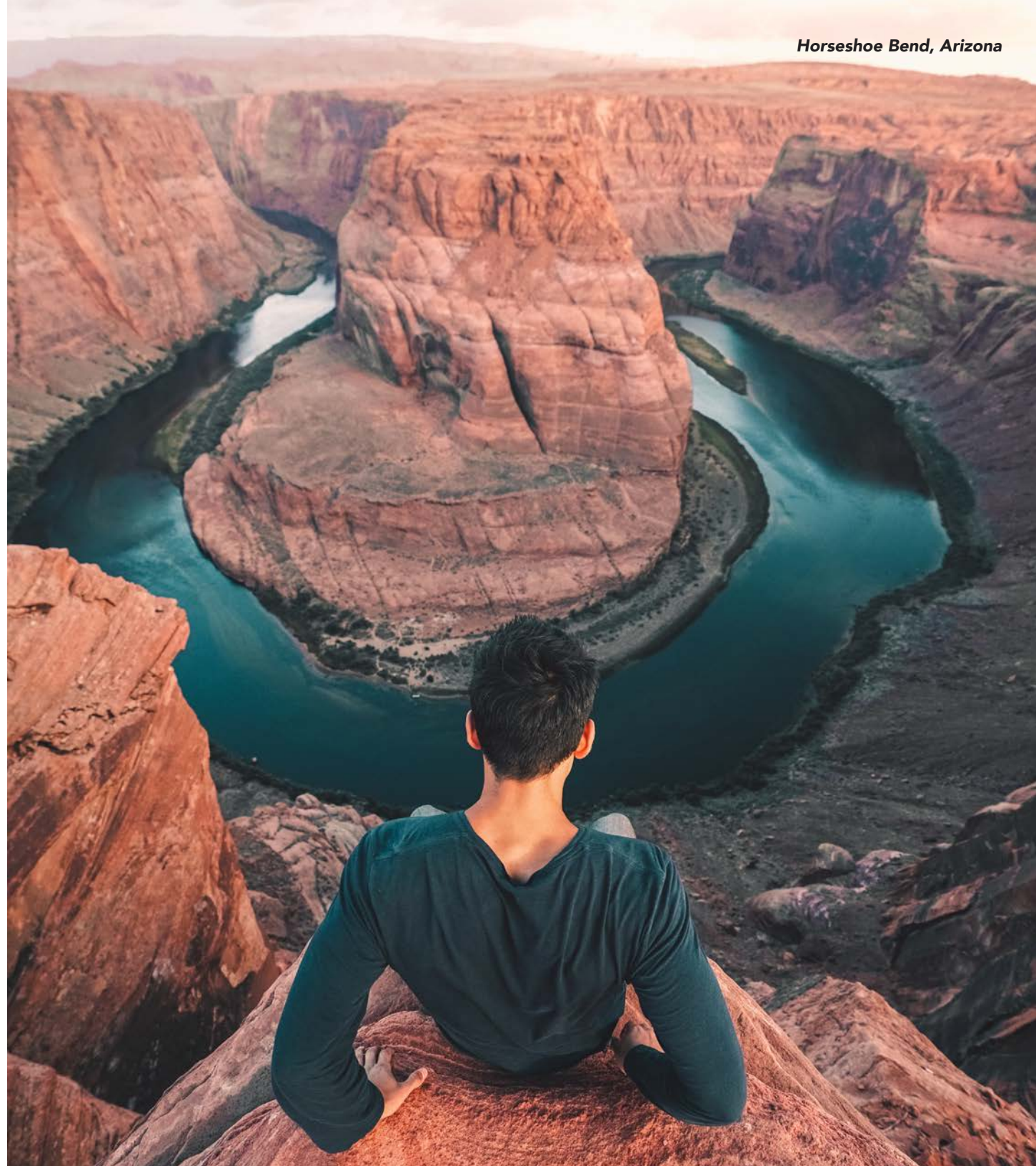
● ● ● ● ● ● 2 hours / 175 km

Day 3

Enjoy a leisurely start today and do some sightseeing in **Grand Canyon Village**. Depart Grand Canyon National Park along the scenic Desert View Drive, which will take you along the South Rim of the canyon for spectacular panoramic views of striking rock formations and the Colorado River. Highlights include Grandview Point, which offers stunning views across the canyon from east to west, and Navajo Point, the highest overlook at the South Rim with an unobstructed sightline to the Desert View Watchtower. The next stop will be Desert View, where you can explore the historic watchtower and enjoy some of the best views of the Colorado River. After leaving the park, stop at the famous **Cameron Trading Post** to eat lunch and shop for local arts and crafts. Upon arrival in Page, Arizona, take advantage of the opportunity to witness a breathtaking sunset above **Horseshoe Bend**, a 270-degree bend in the Colorado River. For a truly unique experience, enjoy an evening at the Navajo-owned and -operated **Red Heritage**, a dinner theater experience that celebrates the food, song, dance and storytelling of the Navajo Nation.

Accommodation: Page, Arizona

Horseshoe Bend, Arizona



PAGE, ARIZONA, TO MONUMENT VALLEY, UTAH, TO PAGE, ARIZONA

● ● ● ● ● 2 hours and 30 minutes / 200 kilometers

Day 4

Start early today and drive an hour and a half to **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park**, located on the border of Arizona and Utah. You may recognize the park's towering sandstone spires from many Western movies. Drive the scenic 30-kilometer loop through the park to see spectacular stone monuments up to 300 meters tall rising from the valley floor. Enjoy lunch at the Stagecoach Restaurant in the famous **Goulding's Lodge**, then explore Goulding's Museum & Trading Post to see artifacts from the history of the Navajo people before you return to Page. Upon

arrival in Page, head to the must-visit **Antelope Canyon**. Book your tour early, as the only way to explore the sculpted walls of this monumental slot canyon is with a tour guide from the Navajo Nation, who will share fascinating details into the history and geology of the canyon and lead you to breathtaking photo spots.

Accommodation: Page, Arizona



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Monument Valley, Arizona

PAGE, ARIZONA, TO BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK, UTAH

● ● ● ● ● 2 hours and 45 minutes / 240 km

Day 5

Today, journey to **Bryce Canyon National Park**, ancestral home of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah. Paiute legend has it that the red rock formations known as hoodoos were once the nefarious Legend People, turned to stone by the Coyote spirit for their wrongdoing. This story became famous when Paiute elder Indian Dick shared it with a park naturalist in the 1930s; today, you can read excerpts from their conversation in the park Visitor Center Museum. Explore from the rim lookout points, such as Natural Bridge and Paria View, and take a short hike down into the canyon to walk among the hoodoos. As the day ends, make sure you're at Sunset Point to enjoy a colorful sunset amid some of the most spectacular views in the park. After dark, dinner, shopping, and entertainment awaits in nearby Bryce Canyon City.

Accommodation: Bryce Canyon National Park area, Utah



Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah



Capitol Reef National Park, Utah

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK, UTAH, TO MOAB, UTAH

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● 4 hours and 15 minutes / 400 km

Day 6

Depart Bryce Canyon City on Scenic Byway 12, taking in incredible sights along the way. First, you'll reach the **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**, a vast desert preserve of colorful sandstone cliffs and narrow canyons. Next, stop at the **Anasazi State Park Museum** and explore an Ancestral Puebloan village. Tour a replica of an ancient dwelling and view some of the original structures. **Capitol Reef National Park**, your next stop, can be enjoyed from the road. A 13-kilometer scenic drive winds through some of this little-known park's most striking landscapes; keep an eye out for the massive, dome-shaped rock known as the Navajo Formation. Take time for lunch in the beautiful town of Torrey before continuing to Moab.

Accommodation: Moab, Utah



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MOAB, UTAH

Day 7

Pack a picnic lunch and head to **Arches National Park**. Arrive early, before 7 a.m., to beat the crowds. On the far side of the park, Devils Garden Trail offers a short hike with views of the Navajo, Partition and Landscape arches. Now, work your way back down the scenic road, stopping at picturesque overlooks along the way, en route to the Delicate Arch trailhead. This path leads to Delicate Arch, the most famous arch in the park. Spend some time taking in the sights, then make your way back to the park entrance and take a short drive to **Canyonlands National Park**. Both the Green and Colorado rivers flow through the park, splitting

Canyonlands into four distinct districts. The Island in the Sky mesa will be your destination today. Take a drive down the scenic road through the district and take a break for lunch at one of the spectacular overlooks. Next, head to the Mesa Arch Trail for a short hike with incredible views of the La Sal Mountains. Continue through the park with stops at Green River Overlook and Grand View Point – both truly awe-inspiring sights.

Accommodation: Moab, Utah



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MOAB, UTAH, TO MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, COLORADO

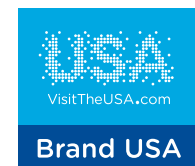
● ● ● ● ● 2 hours and 15 minutes / 200 km

Day 8

Today, travel south to **Bears Ears National Monument**, so named for the two distinct buttes that jut upward from the landscape. Spot breathtaking canyons and ancient cliff dwellings on a scenic drive through the monument. Continue south to **Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum**, which explores the distinct Native American cultures of the Four Corners region. Behind the museum is the Edge of the Cedars Pueblo, an excavated village inhabited by Ancestral Puebloan people from 825 to 1225 AD. Make sure to descend the ladder to the kiva, a large underground room with spiritual significance. Next, cross the state line into Colorado to visit **Canyons of the Ancients**

National Monument, where you'll find one of the largest concentrations of archaeological sites in the USA. Your final stop for the day is the expansive **Mesa Verde National Park**, famous for having some of the most well-preserved Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings in the USA. Take a hike to experience spectacular views of the local canyons and ancient structures like Cliff Palace; for a less strenuous experience, explore the galleries of the Mesa Verde Museum just a few kilometers away.

Accommodation: Cortez, Colorado



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 4 hours and 15 minutes / 395 km

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ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Day 10

From Albuquerque, head just a few minutes north on the **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail** to the Kuaua Ruins. Formerly the home of a Tiwa Native American village, this precontact settlement on the banks of the Rio Grande River is now known as the **Coronado Historic Site**. Explore the well-preserved remnants and enjoy scenic views across the Rio Grande before you head back towards the **Petroglyph National Monument**. Stop and hike the posted trails to discover over 25,000 images and symbols etched onto the black surface of the volcanic rocks by Native Americans and early Spanish settlers over 500 years ago. Head

back to Albuquerque for lunch, then visit the **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center** to learn more about the rich diversity of Native American traditions in New Mexico. Enjoy dance performances and exhibits of pottery, jewelry, clothing, photography and more from each of the area pueblos. Spend the rest of today exploring the sites of downtown Albuquerque. Set off on a self-guided mural tour and take advantage of a bustling nighttime entertainment scene.

Accommodation: Albuquerque, New Mexico



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Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, TO GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● 2 hours / 220 km

Day 11

Heading west out of Albuquerque, your first stop today is **Acoma Pueblo**. Sitting atop a 111-meter-tall sandstone bluff with spectacular views of the sacred rock monoliths below, the mesa-top community is thought to be the oldest continually inhabited settlement in the USA. Take a guided tour of the incredible town, then visit the nearby **Sky City Cultural Center and Haak'u Museum**, which celebrate the history, art and architecture of the Acoma People. Continue to **El Morro National Monument**, once a popular resting spot for desert travelers due to the freshwater pond at its base. Hike to the top of Inscription Rock to see thousands of messages carved in the stone by Ancestral Puebloan, Spanish and, later, American

travelers. Nearby is the **Zuni Pueblo**, home to archeological wonder the Village of the Great Kivas. The collection of preserved structures, which include two massive Great Kivas, is the largest of New Mexico's 19 pueblos. Stop at the Zuni Visitor Center and arrange a tour for a guided exploration of the village and the nearby collection of ancient petroglyphs and pictographs. Depart the Zuni Pueblo and head to Gallup. On Saturdays, you can browse local wares at the Gallup Flea Market and enjoy a wide variety of authentic Navajo dishes – the mutton sandwich is a must-try.

Accommodation: Gallup, New Mexico



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Sky City Cultural Center and Haak'u Museum, Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico





Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona

GALLUP, NEW MEXICO, TO CHINLE, ARIZONA

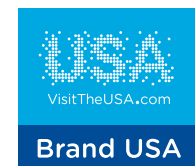
● ● ● 1 hour and 30 minutes / 145 km

Day 12

Head north along Route 7 to reach **Canyon de Chelly National Monument**. This vast network of red rock canyons has been inhabited by Navajo communities for centuries, and today the National Park Service and Navajo Nation work jointly to preserve the land. Lookout points include Spider Rock, perhaps the most iconic of the park's sights, consisting of two 250-foot sandstone towers, and the White House Overlook, which offers spectacular views of the canyon below and the massive White House Ruins. Continue along the canyon's North Rim

Drive to see Antelope House Overlook, offering breathtaking views of Canyon del Muerto, and Mummy Cave Overlook, the largest preserved cliff dwelling in the canyon. While plenty of incredible sights are visible from the South and North Rim drives, a tour with a Navajo guide can take you to many of the park's more off-the-beaten-path landscapes.

Accommodation: Chinle, Arizona



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CHINLE, ARIZONA, TO PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK, ARIZONA

● ● ● 1 hour and 30 minutes / 160 km

Day 13

Depart Chinle today and head southeast to the town of Window Rock, capital of the Navajo Nation and home to the Navajo Nation Museum. Dedicated to preserving the rich culture, history and language of the Navajo people, the museum is home to traditional exhibits of artwork and artifacts as well as a preserved Navajo home. Continue south to the **Painted Desert** to explore **Petrified Forest National Park**. This unique area is named for its abundance of petrified wood, now visible as rainbow-colored quartz stones scattered across the park's landscape.

Hike a few trails to savor views of beautifully colored mesas, then stop into the Painted Desert Visitor Center to see paleontologists at work preparing fossils and artifacts excavated in the area. Exit the park along the famous Route 66 toward Holbrook, Arizona. For a fun evening packed full of Americana nostalgia, enjoy dinner at Holbrook's Studio 66 Cafe.

Accommodation: Holbrook, Arizona



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Route 66, Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona



PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK, ARIZONA, TO PHOENIX, ARIZONA

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● 3 hours and 45 minutes / 340 km

Day 14

Today, head southwest down the **Salt River Canyon Scenic Drive**. Traverse the switchbacks, stopping to take in marvelous views of Apache Falls and the expansive canyon as you climb upward. Stop in Globe, Arizona, for lunch before continuing your drive. Pull over at **Queen Creek Canyon** to enjoy a short hike through the towering canyon walls and into Claypool

Tunnel. The views are sure to inspire you as you climb back in the car for the final leg of your journey and return to Phoenix.

Accommodation: Phoenix, Arizona



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Phoenix, Arizona



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