



*Sharing Nature – Enriching Lives.™ Since 1979.*

## ***Southwest Unbound***

*“A weird, lovely, fantastic object out of nature like Delicate Arch has the ability to remind us—like rock and sunlight and wind and wilderness—that out there is a different world, older and greater and deeper by far than ours.”*

*Edward Abbey, Desert Solitaire*

Celebrate the 101<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service by exploring 3 national parks, 1 state park, and 1 national monument—all in one epic expedition.

Join us on our new Southwest Unbound tour and discover the geological wonders of the American Southwest. We have crafted a multi-sport adventure that takes a more “experiential learning” take on visiting some of America’s most prized nature sanctuaries. Hike along monoliths of red rock. Discover the thrill of canyoneering and the whimsical feel of wading through a river that courses along desert slot canyons. Revel in the solitude of camping in unbounded wilderness where city lights can’t dim the stars. On our tour through the national parks, you don’t just look at nature, you interact with it.

Our Southwest Unbound itinerary creates a National Park experience unique to ROW Adventures. Our small groups may visit some iconic attractions, but we also leave behind the crowds and visit remote locations less seen on roads less traveled. We begin in hiking Zion National Park, a place too stunning—too awe-inspiring—to be home to us mere mortals. We also venture to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, a crosshatch of canyons and colors waiting to be traveled. In Bryce Canyon National Park, rock formations become a fairyland that incites the imagination. And the view is always changing in the Grand Canyon as light and shadows vie to paint the rocks—giving new dimensions, new scenes, new moods to the hike-hungry landscape.

We also offer an incredible camping experience that doesn’t sacrifice comfort. After a day on the trails, you arrive at a prepared camp. Simply sit back and enjoy the encompassing view as our guides prepare culinary delights for you. You never knew camping could be so luxurious and stress-free.

Our Southwest Unbound offers endless colors. Endless adventures. Endless ways to disconnect from life’s stresses while you reconnect with nature—with yourself. The phrase “take a hike” has never been so tempting.

**Hiking and Canyoneering:** We designed our Southwest Unbound to be a trip where guests with no experience can get their feet wet, while those with previous experience can push themselves further. The great thing about the activities is that they are suitable and enjoyable for all ability levels. Our guides will provide you with a proper safety orientation and some quick skills so that you are ready to enjoy some amazing experiences. If you want to further just talk to the guides and they will show you the way.

**When to Go?** The southwest is generally warm and dry. August to September is the Monsoon season, where the region does get more rain, which often comes in short bursts. We currently have trips planned for May through July, where the weather is more temperate and predictable. Late July and August are the hottest months, and we do not currently have trips planned during this time.

**Why Choose ROW?** Every adventure travel company takes a little different approach to running trips. Our philosophy is to provide you with the kind of trip you want, so let us know if you have any special interests or requests. If you like to hike a lot, we'll make extra stops and provide that opportunity. If you have something special you want to bring - a cello? A case of your favorite wine? Whatever it is- we'll make room. Our aim is to please, and we do our best, while maintaining a lively, fun atmosphere in camp and on the trail.

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*Setting the High Watermark for Outdoor Adventure*

**ROW Guides:** There is no question that on any trip, the guides are the most important factor in terms of your safety, enjoyment, and ultimately, the success of the trip. For this reason, each of our guides is an exceptional person, willing and eager to share, teach, listen, learn, laugh, play, discuss, and above all, work hard to provide you with an informative, relaxed, spontaneous adventure. With one guide per five-six guests, you're sure to get the attention you deserve. Our guides are the main reason many of our guests return to ROW time and time again and wouldn't even think of traveling with another company. (References gladly provided.)

**Luxury Camping:** In order to make your trip run as smoothly and comfortably as possible, we send a support vehicle ahead to camp with the bulk of the camping gear, food, etc. This allows more mobility with our van to access less trafficked areas. The support vehicle and guide arrives early to camp and gets the kitchen set up as well as the spacious 4-person tents (one for every two people) that ROW provides. When we arrive in camp all you have to do is carry your personal gear (stored in a ROW-provided easy-to-use waterproof bag) to the tent of your choice and roll out your sleeping bag, flannel liner and thick, self-inflating foam sleeping pad (also provided by ROW). This gives you an extra half-hour of time for doing something you'd enjoy rather than setting up a tent.

**Camp Time:** To give you the opportunity to explore on your own, we generally arrive in camp no later than 5:00 each day so you have time to go hiking, read a book, enjoy a cocktail, or whatever you might want. Then, around 5:30, we serve a lavish hors d'oeuvres spread as dinner preparation continues.

**Meals:** The quality of our food reflects the quality of the environment in the west. We hand-select the freshest fruits and vegetables we can find and pack them carefully in huge ice-coolers. Likewise, these coolers carry fresh dairy products and meats. From these ingredients we prepare bountiful, healthy meals.

Sustainably harvested wild Alaskan Salmon served with a fresh garden salad, Prime Rib combined with a fresh Chilean salad, Idaho mashed potatoes, or made-in-camp lasagna are a few possible entrees. Big salads of vegetables and fruit add color and variety to every meal. Desserts are made each evening in our Dutch ovens and include delicious dishes such as cobbler and pineapple upside-down cake.

We serve juice each morning and moderate amounts of bottled wine with dinner. We also provide two beers and two sodas or juices per person per day. There's always plenty of cold water, lemonade mix, tea, coffee and cocoa. You're welcome to bring your own beverages or alcohol as well. We always have plenty of ice to keep your drinks cold.

**What to pack:** We have a through pack list that will be provided to you and we encourage you to follow the list. Our guides are trained to help you with these new experiences and make sure you are prepared. The most important thing to pack is a sense of adventure.

**The Last Supper:** Another small touch ROW adds is the inclusion of a farewell dinner on our last evening in St. George with ROW guests and guides. This dinner brings a nice "closure" to the week of adventure everyone has shared. (All-inclusive except for alcoholic beverages.)

**Signing Up:** Call our office first. We're happy to tell you who else is on the trip. Then, complete our trip application form and send it along with a \$500.00 per person non-refundable deposit.

**Logistics:** Our trips are designed to begin and end in St. George, Utah. With direct flights from Denver and Salt Lake City, and its close proximity to Las Vegas and all of the parks we visit, we feel that St. George is a great place to kick off this adventure.

**Meeting Time:** ROW will make your pre- and post-trip hotel reservations for you and this will be reflected on your invoice. The evening before the trip we stay in St George, at the Wingate by Wyndham.

On Day 0, at 7pm Mtn time, ROW's Team Leader will meet you for a one-hour orientation to answer last minute questions and give you your waterproof bags to pack. This is an important meeting, so please be on time. The next morning, we meet at the designated time set by your Team Leader to begin the trip. Please have breakfast on your own before we meet, if you are staying at the Wingate they offer a complimentary breakfast which is a great way to start the day.

At the end of the trip, we return you to Wingate in St George by 5pm where we encourage you to spend the night and enjoy our hosted, relaxed "farewell dinner" with other trip members and the ROW crew. The Wingate will be happy to provide transportation to the airport the morning after your stay.

**If You Drive:** You are welcome to leave your vehicle at the Wingate for the duration of the trip. Please notify the front desk of this to find out if they have any special place they would like you to park it

**If You Fly:** The nearest airport is St George (SGU), which offers two flights daily on United direct to Denver as well as 5 flights daily on Delta to Salt Lake City. If you chose to fly into St. George when you land you can contact the Wingate (435-673-9608) for a free shuttle to the hotel (if you are staying there). Otherwise taxi's can be arranged at the airport for transportation into St George for approximately \$40 St George is only a two-hour drive from Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS) which hosts numerous flights to many destinations.

If you chose to fly into Las Vegas you can rent a car to drive to St George, or arrange a shuttle from one of the numerous shuttle companies. Shuttles run approximately \$40 per person. We recommend St George Shuttle – 435-628-8320 or St George Express – 435-652-1100.

Please be aware that Las Vegas is on Pacific Time Zone, while St. George is on Mountain Time Zone and that you will lose an hour on your drive into St. George. We recommend booking your departure flight for the day after the trip ends, but if you need to book a flight out on the last day we recommend you book something out of Las Vegas after 8PM PST to ensure you have enough time to get there. The last flight out of St. George is currently scheduled to depart at 6:15PM, a flight time we cannot guarantee that you will be able to make.

**Extra Luggage?** If you have luggage that you won't need on the trip you can store it with the hotel; please talk to the front desk when you arrive.

**Last Minute Phone Numbers:** Please call us if you have any questions or if you need to reach ROW at the last minute, try our office first at (208) 765-0841 or 800-451-6034. If you need to get a message to the Wingate their number is 435-673-9608.

**Suggested Reading:** See ROW's complete reading list for Southwest Unbound.

**Gratuities:** Here are some helpful guidelines on tipping. Your guide is a paid professional. Tips are appropriate and accepted only if we exceeded your expectations. Whether you tip and how much you tip should depend on your satisfaction with the trip, your feelings about tipping, and your financial means. If you believe your guide deserves a tip, a suggested range is from 7-12% of your trip cost. If you had the time of your life, then the sky is the limit! We also appreciate your comments. We use your feedback to recognize extraordinary guest service and to discover areas where we can make improvements. Our goal is to exceed your expectations! (P.S. Let us know if you found these guidelines appropriate or helpful.) Tips can be given to the "ROW Team Leader", who will distribute equally among the crew.