

Trans-American Adventure

Discover the best of the U.S. from sea to shining sea! Your journey begins on the East Coast with guided sightseeing in New York City and Washington DC, where you'll spend two nights each. Travel north through Pennsylvania Dutch Country to Niagara Falls, Canada, where you'll board the Niagara Falls sightseeing cruise for amazing views from the base of the falls. Next: travel to the Midwest and visit Chicago, where you'll stay two nights and have guided sightseeing, and Minneapolis, where you'll visit Mall of America, the largest shopping mall in the United States.

Continue into South Dakota, home of Badlands National Park, the Black Hills, and remarkable Mount Rushmore. Cross Wyoming to Buffalo Bill's Wild West town of Cody before your encounter with a true national treasure: Yellowstone National Park with its stunning scenery, abundant wildlife, and reliable Old Faithful geyser. From here it's on to the magnificent Grand Tetons and through "Western" Jackson to Salt Lake City. Then, travel south through sagebrush landscapes to Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Grand Canyon National Parks. Finish communing with nature and head for the bright neon lights of Las Vegas. Spend two overnights here, then cross the Mojave Desert and San Gabriel Mountains to arrive at the Pacific Ocean and Los Angeles for the conclusion of your incredible trans-American adventure.

22 Nights/23 Days

New York – Philadelphia – Washington DC – Niagara Falls – Ontario(Canada) – Dearborn Area – Chicago – Wisconsin Dells – Minneapolis – Pierre – Badlands National park – Mount Rushmore – Keystone – Cody – Yellowstone National Park – Teton National Park – Jackson – Salt Lake City – Bryce Canyon National Park – Cedar City – Zion National Park – Grand Canyon National Park – Las Vegas – Calico – Los Angeles.



Day 1: New York City.

Welcome to the “Big Apple!” Enjoy time at leisure to relax or to do some independent exploring. Your Tour Director is on hand this afternoon to answer any questions.

Day 2: New York City.

On today’s sightseeing tour, see New York City’s major attractions, including Broadway, the Empire State Building, Greenwich Village, City Hall, Wall Street, and Trinity Church. Your afternoon is free.

Day 3: New York City–Philadelphia–Washington DC Area.

Head south through New Jersey to Philadelphia, the birthplace of the United States. During your free time in Philadelphia you might visit Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were signed. On to Washington DC.

Day 4: Washington DC Area.

See the graves of American heroes, including those of John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert, in beautiful Arlington National Cemetery. The nation’s capital is a sightseeing treasure trove, and your half-day tour with a Local Guide features Capitol Hill, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, Arlington National Cemetery, and other well-known sights. Stop for photos at the White House and Capitol Hill. As the remainder of the day is free, why not visit the Smithsonian museums?

Day 5: Washington DC–Niagara Falls, Canada.

A scenic day as you head north through Pennsylvania Dutch Country, home of the Amish and Mennonite religious sects. Then, along the Susquehanna River to Williamsport, the birthplace of Little League baseball and site of the league’s annual “World Series.” Later, cross the Rainbow Bridge to Canada and arrive at Niagara Falls, Ontario, for your overnight stay.

Day 6: Niagara Falls, Canada–Dearborn Area.

This morning, board your Niagara Falls SIGHTSEEING CRUISE for amazing close-up views from the base of the falls. Then, travel the Niagara Parkway, admiring the sweeping landscapes of this scenic countryside. Head southwest and cross the farmlands and vineyards of Ontario.

NOTE:

Operation of the Niagara Falls sightseeing cruise is subject to favorable weather and/or river conditions. If unfavourable conditions exist, a walking tour of the scenic tunnels will be substituted. Last day of operation for the 2014 season is October 24.

Day 7: Dearborn Area–Chicago.

Begin the day with a visit to the HENRY FORD MUSEUM. Don't miss the "Automobile in American Life" exhibit. Reach Chicago, America's third-largest city, in the late afternoon. City sightseeing includes all the major landmarks of the "Windy City."

Day 8: Chicago.

Today is free for independent activities. Perhaps take an optional cruise on Lake Michigan and through the locks of the Chicago River. As the evening is free, join the optional outing for a delicious dinner at a Chicago restaurant, followed by spectacular views of the city from atop the Willis Tower, formally known as the Sears Tower, one of the world's tallest buildings.

Day 9: Chicago–Wisconsin Dells–Minneapolis.

Enter Wisconsin with a leisurely break in pretty Wisconsin Dells—a popular spot for photographers. Enjoy an included BOAT TRIP in a unique amphibious vessel. Next, Minnesota—the "Land of 10,000 Lakes." Drive through St. Paul, Minneapolis' twin city, before reaching your overnight hotel.

Day 10: Minneapolis. Excursion to Mall of America.

Begin the day with a short city sightseeing tour of the bustling downtown area as well as the many beautiful parks, gardens, and residential neighborhoods. Then, head out to the fabulous MALL OF AMERICA, the largest shopping mall in the United States, featuring more than 400 specialty stores as well as several large retailers. Tonight, an optional Mississippi River dinner cruise is available.

Day 11: Minneapolis–Pierre.

Into the rich farmlands of South Dakota, homeland of the great Sioux Indian Nation. Stop in Mitchell to see the CORN PALACE, a remarkable Moorish-style building where the interior and exterior are covered with designs of corn outlined with grasses and grain. Overnight in Pierre, the state's capital.

Day 12: Pierre–Badlands National Park–Mount Rushmore–Keystone.

First, a drive through Fort Pierre National Grassland to see the prairie as it once was when only buffalo and the Sioux Indians occupied the land. Next is BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK, where 37 million years of wind and water have carved out a remarkably colorful sight.

Then, head deep into the Black Hills and behold the granite faces of MOUNT RUSHMORE, a giant monument to four American presidents—Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt. (CB)

Day 13: Keystone–Cody.

Head through the rich, mountainous country to Buffalo, where open-range cattle kings made war on the sheep ranchers of the 1880s. Drive past Sheridan, the scene of many fierce battles between the U.S. Cavalry and the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Crow Indians. Then, climb over the Bighorn Mountains en route to the overnight stop in Buffalo Bill's frontier town of Cody.

Day 14: Cody–Yellowstone National Park.

Through Shoshone National Forest to splendid YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. Follow Grand Loop Road to Artist Point with magnificent views of Yellowstone Canyon and the stupendous Lower Falls, nearly twice the height of Niagara.

Day 15: Yellowstone National Park–Teton National Park–Jackson.

This morning, return to Yellowstone National Park and visit the bubbling mud paint pots, the reliable “blow” of Old Faithful, Yellowstone's great geyser, and West Thumb geyser basin. Head south into magnificent GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, one of America's last preserves of wild solitude. Its 13,770-foot-high ridges are crested with snow most of the year. Stroll along the shores of beautiful glacier-fed Jenny Lake before ending the day in the Wild West town of Jackson with its wooden sidewalks and swing-door saloons. This evening, join an optional barbecue cookout and Wild West show.

Day 16: Jackson–Salt Lake City.

Today, leave Jackson and drive to Salt Lake City, Utah's vibrant capital. Set on the edge of Great Salt Lake Desert, this Centre of the Mormon religion is where Brigham Young declared to his followers, “This is the place.” An included sightseeing tour shows you the capital of Utah, including Temple Square, the adjacent tabernacle, and the Beehive House.

Day 17: Salt Lake City–Bryce Canyon National Park–Cedar City.

Through the sagebrush landscape of southern Utah to BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK with its breath-taking sandstone and limestone cliffs and ever-changing colors. Head west through Dixie National Forest and Cedar Breaks National Monument to Cedar City for your overnight.

Day 18: Cedar City–Zion National Park–Grand Canyon National Park.

First stop is ZION NATIONAL PARK, a landscape that was carved out by rushing streams over a period of a million years. Through Kaibab National Forest to the less visited North Rim of the GRAND CANYON, where you'll marvel at the stunning views of the flame-coloured walls plunging 4,800 feet into the Colorado River. The evening is free. (CB)

Day 19: Grand Canyon National Park–Las Vegas.

Head to the unique phenomenon of Las Vegas, where today's fortune hunters try their luck at the 24-hour gambling tables of the "Strip." The afternoon is at leisure so you can explore the casinos.

Day 20: Las Vegas.

A free day to explore Las Vegas. Your Tour Director can arrange an optional excursion to the Hoover Dam, and will have suggestions for the best shows to see this evening.

Day 21: Las Vegas–Calico–Los Angeles.

Into California today with a stop at CALICO GHOST TOWN to relive the wild, tough days when miners struck it rich. Through the Mojave Desert and over the San Gabriel Mountains to Los Angeles.

Day 22: Los Angeles.

Start the day with a sightseeing tour of the world's "Capital of Glamour." You'll drive to Hollywood; see the footprints of the stars at the TCL Chinese Theatre, and famous Hollywood Bowl. Then, on to elegant Beverly Hills followed by a drive down Sunset Strip. Suggestion for this afternoon is an optional excursion to Universal Studios®.

Day 23: Los Angeles.

The trip ends today with guests departing on individual schedules. Transfers to Los Angeles International Airport are included. You can extend your vacation with extra nights and explore Los Angeles further with a variety of exciting optional activities.