



HARVARD

Alumni Association

NATIONAL PARKS OF THE SOUTHWEST

APRIL 30–MAY 11, 2018

The Southwest is a land of scenes epic in scope. Begin in Tucson at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, a 98-acre tribute to the natural world comprising a zoo, botanical garden, natural history museum, aquarium, and art gallery. Encounter Sedona, famed for its towering red sandstone formations. Visit the Grand Canyon, often considered one of the seven wonders of the natural world. Embark on a rafting excursion on the smooth waters of the Colorado River before traveling onto Navajo land to discover Upper Antelope Canyon. In southern Utah, hike in Bryce Canyon National Park, then spend a day amid the wondrous Zion National Park, one of the most diverse national parks in the United States.

GROUP SIZE: 12-24 guests

TENTATIVE PRICING (to be confirmed): Per person, double occupancy

- \$4,495—Land only
- \$4,795—Air inclusive from Los Angeles or Phoenix (includes airline taxes and fees)
- \$5,095—Air inclusive from Boston or New York (includes airline taxes and fees)
- \$995—Single supplement

STUDY LEADER: Longtime Alaska resident **FRAN ULMER** has spent 30 years in public service at the local, state, and national levels. She is currently chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, appointed by President Obama in March 2011, and she serves on the National Parks Conservation Association Board and the Nature Conservancy Board. In June 2010, President Obama appointed her to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. From 2007 to 2011, Ms. Ulmer was chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). Ms. Ulmer served as an elected official for 18 years as the mayor of Juneau, as a state representative, and as Lieutenant Governor of Alaska. At the national level, Ms. Ulmer served as a member of the Federal Communications Commission's State and Local Advisory Committee, the Federal Elections Commission's State Advisory Committee, and co-chaired the National Academies of Science's Committee on State Voter Registration Databases. For more than ten years, she served as one of the US Commissioners on the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, appointed by President Bill Clinton. Ms. Ulmer earned a J.D. cum laude from the University of Wisconsin Law School and has been a fellow at the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Her lectures on this program will touch upon topics of water shortages and climate and on the challenges facing National Parks.

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

MONDAY, APRIL 30

DEPART FOR TUCSON, ARIZONA

Depart today for Tucson, Arizona. As guests' arrival times may vary, the day is at leisure to explore Arizona's second largest city. This afternoon, enjoy a welcome briefing at the hotel before dinner together.

Overnight: *Westin La Paloma (D)*

TUESDAY, MAY 1

TUCSON

Begin your adventure at the one-of-a-kind Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, considered one of the best museums in the country: the 98-acre tribute to the natural world comprises a zoo, botanical garden, natural history museum, aquarium, and art gallery. Enjoy time to explore this unique conservatory, walking along its two miles of outdoor paths through desert habitats and viewing some of the 230 animal species and 1,200 plant varieties on display. Then travel south to see the finest surviving example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the U.S.: Mission San Xavier del Bac. Founded in 1692 and named for St. Francis Xavier, the brilliant white stucco mission you see today is the oldest European structure in Arizona. Return to the hotel midafternoon; the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: *Westin La Paloma (B)*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

TUCSON / PHOENIX / SEDONA

Leave Tucson today, bound for the red-rock town of Sedona. En route, stop in Phoenix to visit the Heard Museum of Native Cultures and Art. Founded in 1929 to house a personal art collection, the museum has grown to include exhibits, performance spaces, and more than 40,000 items that tell the story of the native peoples of the Southwest. Explore the museum and enjoy lunch here on your own. Continue on to Sedona, stopping along the way at

scenic overlooks to take in the beautiful desert landscape. Arrive at the hotel late this afternoon and eat dinner together tonight.

Overnight: *Poco Diablo Resort (B, D)*

THURSDAY, MAY 3

SEDONA

Encounter Sedona, one of the most striking regions in the American Southwest famed for its range of towering red sandstone formations. Late this morning, explore this dazzling landscape in style as you take a Pink Jeep tour for an exciting off-road excursion. Winding through trails and over dirt roads, witness stunning panoramic views as you learn about the region's cultural and geological history. The tour ends in downtown Sedona, where you have time for lunch on your own and an afternoon at leisure before dinner together tonight.

Overnights: *Poco Diablo Resort (B, D)*

FRIDAY, MAY 4

SEDONA / GRAND CANYON / PAGE

Visit what is arguably one of the country's most famous natural landmarks: the Grand Canyon. Often considered one of the seven wonders of the natural world, this UNESCO site stretches nearly 300 miles through the Arizona desert. Witness truly awe-inspiring vistas: banded layers of rock rise to plateaus and bluffs thousands of feet overhead while the mighty Colorado River rushes below. You'll have time to appreciate the magnitude and beauty of the six-million-year-old canyon as well as to learn about its history and geological significance. After lunch on your own amid the simply beautiful scenery, travel on to Page, Arizona, gateway to the Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell.

Overnight: *Holiday Inn & Express Suites-Lake Powell (B)*

SATURDAY, MAY 5

PAGE / COLORADO RIVER / LAKE POWELL

Take your touring to the water as you embark on a thrilling motorized rafting excursion on the Colorado River. Controlled by a series of dams and reservoirs, the Colorado provides hydroelectric

power, irrigation, and municipal water supply to nearly 40 million people in the western U.S. Today's adventure begins at the base of one of these structures: the 710-foot high Glen Canyon Dam, which holds back man-made Lake Powell. As you drift downstream between soaring sandstone cliffs, look for ancient Native American petroglyphs lining the walls of the canyon, as well as local wildlife. After your waterborne adventure, dinner tonight will be accompanied by a Navajos performance.

Overnight: *Holiday Inn & Express Suites–Lake Powell (B, L, D)*

SUNDAY, MAY 6

CANYON / BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Photographers will want to keep their cameras handy today as you visit two of the most striking canyons in the American Southwest. This morning travel onto Navajo land to discover Upper Antelope Canyon, known to local tribes as “the place where water runs through rocks.” A tour through this stunning passageway reveals red-orange walls of “flowing” rock rising to heights of nearly 120 feet – the narrow canyon’s edges smoothed away by thousands of years of water and sand erosion. Next, depart Arizona and head into southern Utah, reaching Bryce Canyon National Park this afternoon. Here take a leisurely hike, getting your first glimpse of the park’s rock formations in the sunset light.

Overnight: *Best Western Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel (B, D)*

MONDAY, MAY 7

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Set out for another hike through Bryce Canyon. Despite its name, Bryce isn't truly a canyon at all, but a series of natural cliffs and amphitheaters carved into the region's plateaus. A hike here reveals a stunning array of hoodoos, natural stone pillars and spires. Thousands of these delicate structures stand side by side along the canyon's ridgelines, lending a dramatic atmosphere to your walk through this remote location.

Overnight: *Best Western Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel (B)*

TUESDAY, MAY 8

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK / ZION NATIONAL PARK

Depart for another celebrated Utah destination: Zion National Park. Upon arrival, walk to the park's visitor center to learn about this inimitable region, which encompasses four separate biomes.

Overnight: *Cliffrose Lodge & Gardens (B, L)*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

ZION NATIONAL PARK

Spend the day amid the wondrous natural world of Zion National Park. Despite its modest size, Zion counts as one of the most diverse national parks in the United States. Deserts and forests, rivers and canyons, buttes and natural arches all greet you here, along with numerous plant and animal species. As with most of the Southwest, the area is dominated by red-rock bluffs that show eons of sediment buildup; indeed, the rock formations here represent about 150 million years of geological history. Take part in two brief guided hikes and have ample free time for exploration and lunch on your own. This evening dine together at the hotel.

Overnight: *Cliffrose Lodge & Gardens (B, D)*

THURSDAY, MAY 10

ZION NATIONAL PARK / LAS VEGAS

The glitz and glamour of the big city await today as you depart for Las Vegas, arriving early this afternoon in the “entertainment capital of the world.” Your afternoon here is free, and the sightseeing options are abundant. After days touring canyons, caverns, and rivers, Las Vegas offers a contrasting feast for the senses. This evening gather to toast your Southwestern adventure at a farewell dinner.

Overnight: *SLS Las Vegas (B, D)*

FRIDAY, MAY 11

DEPART LAS VEGAS

This morning transfer to the Las Vegas airport for your flight home. (B)