The Southwest is a land of scenes epic in scope. Begin in Phoenix at the Heard Museum of Native Culture and Art, a museum dedicated to the story of the native peoples of the Southwest. 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

PRICING: Per person, double occupancy

- $4,795—Air inclusive from Denver, LAX, Phoenix, Portland (OR), or SFO (including airline taxes and fees)
- $4,995—Air inclusive from BOS, NYC, WAS (including airline taxes and fees)
- $4,495—Land only
- $1,095—Single supplement

STUDY LEADER: SHELLEY LOWE, Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program. She is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and grew up in Ganado, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. Ms. Lowe has served on the board of the National Indian Education Association and as a Board of Trustee for the National Museum of the American Indian. She has presented and published in the field of American Indian higher education and is currently completing her doctorate in Higher Education with a focus on American Indian student success and services.

Shelly has most recently held the position of Assistant Dean for Native American Affairs in the Yale College Deans Office and Director of the Native American Cultural Center at Yale University. Prior to her position at Yale, she spent six years as the Graduate Education Program Facilitator for the American Indian Studies Programs at The University of Arizona. During her time at the University of Arizona she was actively involved in the Native American Student Affairs Office and the American Indian Alumni club.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
DEPART FOR PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Depart today for Phoenix, 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: To Be Determined (D)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
PHOENIX / SEDONA

Leave Phoenix today, bound for the red-rock town of Sedona. En route, stop 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, SEPTEMBER 5
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, SEPTEMBER 6
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 plateaux 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, SEPTEMBER 7
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, SEPTEMBER 8
ANTELOPE CANYON / BRYCE CANYON NATIONALPARK

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, SEPTEMBER 9
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, SEPTEMBER 10
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, SEPTEMBER 11
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, SEPTEMBER 12
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, SEPTEMBER 13
DEPART LAS VEGAS

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