



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs™

National Parks of the Southwest

September 21-October 1, 2025

11 days from \$4,895 total price land only



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
seven-time honoree
Travel + Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.

A Special Small Group Tour for
Alumni and Friends of Mississippi State



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs™

Dear Mississippi State Alumni and Friends,

We invite you to travel with us on a special 11-days tour through the scenic Southwest, experiencing breathtaking natural scenery at every turn.

Begin your journey in Phoenix, Arizona, with leisure time to explore the capital city as you wish. Head north to stunning Sedona and tour the Honanki Heritage Site. Then, a highlight of the tour, the Grand Canyon! Next head to Page, Arizona, to visit Upper Antelope Canyon. Starting at the base of imposing Glen Canyon Dam, float down the smooth waters of the Colorado River on a motorized rafting excursion. Depart for southern Utah to explore both stunning Bryce Canyon National Park. The tour ends with a celebratory final dinner and overnight in Las Vegas.

We are pleased to be sharing this departure with alumni and friends from Tulane University. Space is limited to 24 guests and we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today!

Sincerely,

Leanna P. Smith

Leanna P. Smith
Assistant Director of Alumni Partnerships & Business Development
Mississippi State University Alumni Association

MISSISSIPPI STATE RESERVATION FORM: NATIONAL PARKS OF THE SOUTHWEST

To reserve your place on tour, **please call Odysseys Unlimited at (toll-free) 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited's office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

NATIONAL PARKS OF THE SOUTHWEST • SEPTEMBER 21-OCTOBER 1, 2025

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

National Parks of the Southwest

11 days from \$4,895 total price land only

It's a land of scenes epic in scope, from the immense Grand Canyon and the winding Colorado to the sandstone spires of Bryce and the red-rock cliffs and chasms of Zion. It's the Southwest, which our small group celebrates at favorite national parks and preserves. And, wrote author Wallace Stegner, it's America's "best idea."



Avg. High (°F)	Sep	Oct
Williams (Grand Canyon)	76	65
Page (Lake Powell)	85	71
Springdale (Zion)	88	75

Day 1: Depart for Phoenix, Arizona We depart today for Phoenix, Arizona. As guests' arrival times may vary, we have the day at leisure to explore Arizona's capital city as we wish. This afternoon we check in at our hotel, where we enjoy a welcome briefing and dinner together. *D*

Day 2: Phoenix This morning we visit the acclaimed Desert Botanical Garden, the 140-acre tribute to the flora of the Sonoran desert. With more than 4,000 species of plants, including almost 500 rare and endangered types, the Botanical Garden features nature paths and walking trails showcasing the beauty of the desert environment. We continue on to Old Town Scottsdale, the city's historic core where we have free time to browse the shops and galleries, and have lunch on our own. Then we return to our hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy the outdoor pool and other amenities. Dinner tonight is on our own. *B*

Day 3: Phoenix/Sedona/Williams We leave Phoenix today, bound for Williams, a short distance from the Grand Canyon. First, though, we're headed to Sedona, one of the most striking spots in the American Southwest. Famed for its range of towering red sandstone formations, Sedona ranks as a popular destination for artists, filmmakers, photographers, hikers, and mountain bikers. We have time for lunch on our own and to do some exploring before we encounter this dazzling landscape in style, as we take a Pink Jeep tour for an exciting off-road excursion. Winding over dirt roads, we enjoy stunning panoramic views and learn about the region's cultural and geological history on this guided tour to Honanki Heritage Site, a 700-year-old Sinaguan cliff dwelling. Then we continue north to our hotel, a few blocks from Route 66. We enjoy an included dinner tonight. *B,D*

Day 4: Williams/Grand Canyon It's a day to remember as we visit one of the country's most famous natural landmarks: the Grand Canyon. Considered a wonder of the natural world, this UNESCO site stretches nearly 300 miles through and 10 miles across the Arizona desert. We see truly awe-inspiring vistas: banded layers of rock rise to plateaus and bluffs thousands of feet overhead, while

Physical Activity Level

2 Easy/Moderate

Walk 1-3 miles per day, often on uneven terrain in natural settings; extremely bumpy terrain on Pink Jeep tour (Sedona); high elevations at Grand Canyon (6,800 ft) and Bryce Canyon (8,000 ft); option to sit out on longer bikes

Your Tour at a Glance

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1-2	Depart for Phoenix	Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs Resort	Sup. First Class
3	Williams	Grand Canyon Railway Hotel	First Class
4	Grand Canyon	Kachina Lodge	First Class
5	Page	Lake Powell Resort	First Class
6-7	Bryce Canyon City	Best Western Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel	First Class
8-9	Springdale (Zion NP)	Hampton Inn & Suites Springdale	First Class
10	Las Vegas	Westin Las Vegas	Deluxe
11	Depart Las Vegas		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.



The magnificent Grand Canyon

the mighty Colorado River rushes one mile below. On our guided tour, we learn about the canyon's geological history, and also about human history here: it dates back some 10,000 years and includes Native peoples, explorers, miners, entrepreneurs, conservationists, and of course, visitors – who today number some six million annually. Then we have time for lunch on our own and an afternoon at leisure to appreciate the magnitude and beauty of the six-million-year-old canyon as we wish. After this bucket-list day, dinner tonight is on our own. *B*

Day 5: Grand Canyon/Page/Antelope Canyon/Lake Powell Today we travel to Page, Arizona, gateway to the imposing Glen Canyon Dam and its reservoir, Lake Powell. After reaching Page early this afternoon, we have lunch on our own then visit the sinuous – and spectacular – Upper Antelope Canyon. We travel onto Navajo land to reach this slot canyon, known to local tribes as “the place where water runs through rocks” – and one of the most photographed slot canyons in the world. Our tour through this stunning passageway reveals red-orange walls of “flowing” rock rising to heights of nearly 120 feet – the narrow canyon's hard edges smoothed away by eons of water and sand erosion. We check in at our lakeside hotel this afternoon then enjoy dinner together there tonight. *B,D*

Day 6: Page/Colorado River/Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah Our long, but incredibly scenic, day of travel begins with a rousing motorized rafting excursion on the smooth waters of the Colorado River. Controlled by a series of dams and reservoirs, the river provides hydro-electric power, irrigation, and municipal water supply to nearly 40 million people in the western U.S. Today we'll both motor and drift between soaring sandstone cliffs while

on the lookout for ancient Native American petroglyphs on the canyon walls, as well as local wildlife, including big horn sheep, eagles, and condors. Following this scenic outing, we continue on to southern Utah and Bryce Canyon National Park, stopping for lunch along the way. We dine together tonight. *B,L,D*

Day 7: Bryce Canyon National Park 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. The result: a stunning array of hoodoos, natural stone pillars and spires reminiscent of a child's drip sand castle, as we see today. Thousands of these delicate structures stand side by side along the canyon's ridgelines, lending a dramatic atmosphere to this remote location. In the park's visitor center, we see a film about the unusual geology here then have the day free to explore at our own pace. Our full day of natural splendor concludes with dinner together tonight. *B,D*

Day 8: Bryce Canyon National Park/Zion National Park We depart this morning for Zion National Park, another celebrated Utah destination. Upon arrival midday, we have lunch on our own then begin our visit at Zion's nearby visitor center, where we learn about this inimitable region that encompasses four separate biomes: desert, riparian (or riverbank), woodland, and coniferous forest. Zion itself is so named for the 15-mile-long, 2,500-foot-deep Zion Canyon cutting through the park's western half. We get our first taste of Zion's wonders this afternoon then this evening enjoy dinner together. *B,D*

Day 9: Zion National Park We 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.



NATIONAL PARKS ARE
THE BEST IDEA
WE EVER HAD.”

– WALLACE STEGNER

Deserts and forests, rivers and canyons, buttes and natural arches all greet us 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. We take a hike here then have ample free time for exploration and lunch and dinner on our own. *B*

Day 10: Zion National Park/St. George/Las Vegas

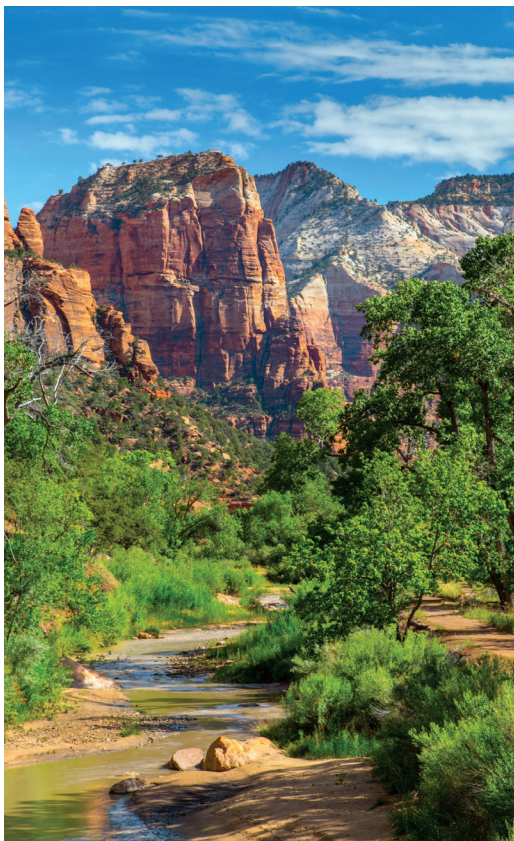
En route to Las Vegas today, we stop in St. George, Utah, site of the winter home of Mormon leader Brigham Young and where the Mojave Desert, Colorado Plateau, and Great Basin converge in a stunning



The Colorado and the Grand Canyon

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities (or may be purchased as land only)
- 10 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 18 meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for dining room servers, hotel porters, rafting guides, and all drivers



The Virgin River winds through diverse Zion NP.

setting. We have time to explore and have lunch on our own before continuing on to Las Vegas, arriving late this afternoon. Tonight, we celebrate our Southwestern sojourn at a farewell dinner. *B*

Day 11: Depart Las Vegas This morning we transfer to the Las Vegas airport for our flights home. *B*

**Tour Departs:
September 21, 2025**

Prices include airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,895
Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco	\$5,295
Chicago, Cincinnati, DFW, Houston, Minneapolis, Seattle	\$5,395
Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$5,595
Columbus	\$5,695

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees for departures from above listed cities.

Single travelers please add \$1,295. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is intended to provide you with a description of what to expect when you reserve this tour. Upon booking, you will be asked to acknowledge your acceptance of the full Terms and Conditions on the secure on-line portal, My Odyssey.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or email lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.

Responsibility: The liability of the Mississippi State Alumni Association, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Mississippi State Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and rafts on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the Mississippi State Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



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Mississippi State, MS 39762-5526

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A SPECIAL TOUR ACROSS
THE SOUTHWEST!**

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