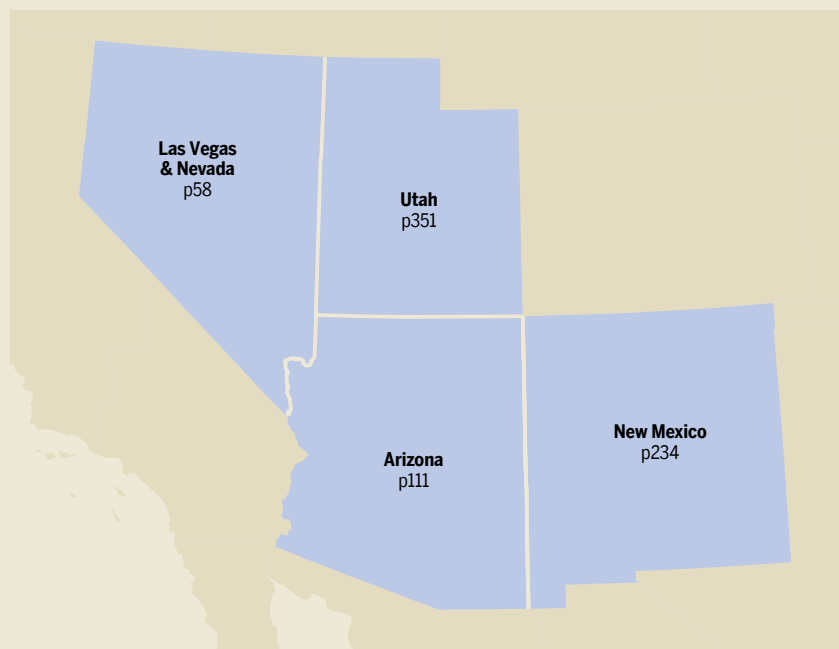




Southwest USA



Hugh McNaughtan, Carolyn McCarthy,
Christopher Pitts, Benedict Walker

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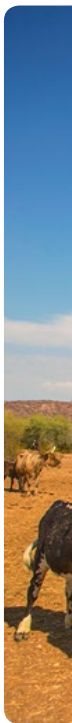
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ON THE ROAD

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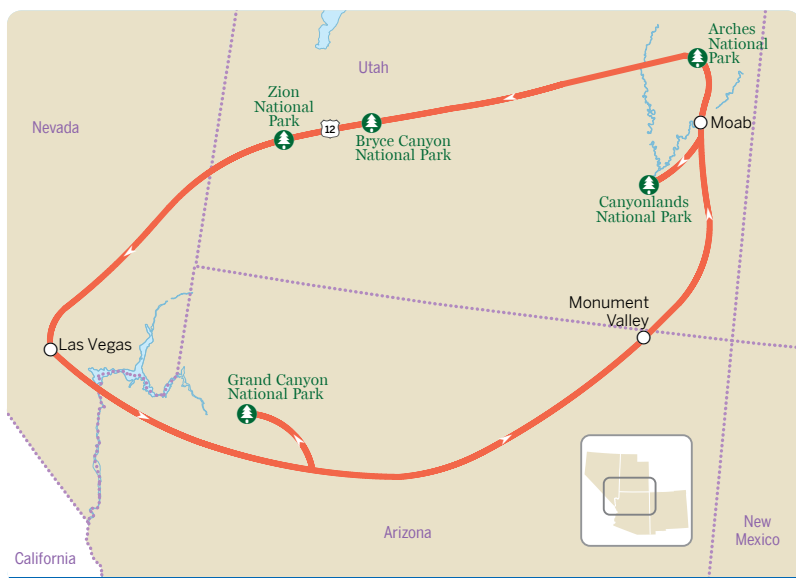
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Itineraries



2
WEEKS

Vegas, Grand Canyon & Southern Utah Loop

Want the biggest bang for your buck, and for your two-week vacation? Drive this scenic loop, which swings past the Southwest's most famous city, canyon and scenery.

Start in **Las Vegas** and dedicate two days to traveling the world on the Strip. When you've soaked up enough decadence, head east to canyon country – **Grand Canyon** country, that is. Spend a couple of days exploring America's most famous park. For a once-in-a-lifetime experience, descend into the South Rim on a mule and spend the night at Phantom Ranch on the canyon floor.

From the Grand Canyon head northeast through **Monument Valley**, with scenery straight out of a Hollywood Western, to the national parks in Utah's southeast corner – they're some of the most visually stunning in the country. Hike the shape-shifting slot canyons of **Canyonlands National Park**, watch the sun set in **Arches National Park**, or mountain-bike sick slickrock outside **Moab**. Then drive Hwy 12, a spectacular stretch of pavement sweeping in **Bryce Canyon National Park**, followed by **Zion National Park** on Hwy 9. Continue west to I-15 and follow it south to Las Vegas.

4
WEEKS

Grand Tour

Grab cowboy boots or walking shoes and get ready to ride. This trip covers geographic, historic and scenic highlights. If you're curious and outdoorsy, this trip is for you.

Roll the dice for two days on the **Las Vegas Strip** then cross the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, 900ft above the Colorado River and the second-highest bridge in the US. Be sure to ogle **Hoover Dam** as you swoop into Arizona. Next is Route 66, which chases trains and Burma-Shave signs as it unfurls between the historic highway towns of **Kingman** and **Williams**. Regroup in funky **Flagstaff** before venturing into **Grand Canyon National Park**, where a hike is a must-do. After three days, end the week among the red rocks of **Sedona**.

Head south for shabby-chic in **Jerome**. Drive to **Phoenix** for two days of shopping and museums. Next mellow out on 4th Ave, **Tucson**, study cacti at **Saguaro National Park** and fancy yourself a gunslinger in **Tombstone**. End the week in charming **Bisbee**.

Next is New Mexico: sled down sand dunes in **White Sands National Monument**, spend a day exploring caves at **Carlsbad Caverns National Park**, then head to **Roswell** to ponder its UFO mysteries. Spend two days in **Santa Fe**, a foodie haven and art-fiend magnet. Atomic-age secrets are revealed at **Los Alamos**, followed by laid-back musings of hippies and ski bums just north in **Taos**. Drive the luscious **Enchanted Circle** then duck into Colorado to chill with a microbrew and bike ride in **Durango**. Ponder the past inside cliff dwellings at **Mesa Verde National Park**, then be equally amazed by the towering red buttes at **Monument Valley**.

For the most stunning wilderness in the US, spend your last week in Utah's national parks. Use **Moab** as a base to visit the desert backcountry of **Canyonlands National Park** and **Arches National Park**. From Moab follow Hwy 12 back to Las Vegas, stopping at the petroglyphs and rifts of **Capitol Reef National Park**, the spooky, serpentine slot canyons of **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**, the pastel-colored spires of **Bryce Canyon National Park** and the sheer, red-rock walls at **Zion National Park**.



12
DAYS

Southern Arizona

Explore the Old West and the New West on this crazy-eight loop that swings past legendary mining towns, art galleries and pretty wineries. There's plenty of desert scenery too, and opportunities to get out of the car for a taste of this unique American landscape.

This adventure starts in **Phoenix**, where a multitude of posh spas, top museums and upscale dining and shopping options will have you primed for exploring. Escape the urban crush with a long drive south on Hwy 85 to the lonely but rejuvenating **Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument**, the only place in the US to see the senita cactus. Hike, explore and relax for two days. From there, take Hwy 85 north to Hwy 86. Follow this lonely two-lane road east to lofty **Kitt Peak National Observatory**, site of 24 optical telescopes – the largest collection in the world. Take a tour or reserve a spot for nighttime stargazing.

Just northeast, laid-back **Tucson** is Arizona's second-largest city and a pleasant place to chill out for a day or two. Indie shops line 4th Ave, and Congress St is the place to catch live music. Stop and smell the cacti in **Saguaro National Park** – the inimitable saguaro blossom is Arizona's state flower – before spending the night in **Benson**, a good launchpad for the pristine **Kartchner Caverns** and home of the gloriously eclectic **Singing Wind Bookshop**. Wander the odd rock formations made up of volcanic ash at **Chiricahua National Monument** then loop south on Hwys 191 and 181 for eye-catching galleries, great restaurants and an interesting mine tour in **Bisbee**. And you can't drive this far south without swinging by **Tombstone** for a reenactment of the shootout at the OK Corral. From Tombstone, Hwy 82 unfurls across sweeping grasslands, the horizon interrupted by scenic mountain ranges (known in these parts as sky islands).

Enjoy a day of wine-tasting in the villages of Elgin and **Sonoita**, capped off with a slice of Elvis-inspired pizza in **Patagonia**. Close the loop with a drive west on I-10, swinging back through Tucson to grab a Sonoran dog before the return to Phoenix.

8
DAYS

Four Corners – An American Indian Journey

American Indian culture and history are in the spotlight on this trip through the Four Corners region, where Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah meet. Climb into cliff dwellings, buy a dreamcatcher and drive through the sunset glory of Monument Valley.

Start at the **Four Corners Monument** itself, and don't forget to snap a cheesy picture with your hands and feet in four different states. Next, duck into Colorado to visit the enigmatic ruins at **Mesa Verde National Park** before heading south on Hwy 491.

As you head into New Mexico, ogle **Shiprock**, a stunning 1700ft-high volcanic plug known to the Navajo as 'the rock with wings.' Spend the night at a motel in nearby **Aztec** or enjoy a snooze inside **Kokopelli's Cave**, a B&B room 70ft underground – complete with hot tub.

A dusty, rutted drive leads to the isolated **Chaco Culture National Historical Park**, a one-time cultural hub and one of the oldest ruins in the US. Marvel at the engineering prowess of this ancient culture and then spend the night camped out in the canyon. Pass through **Window Rock**, the capital of the Navajo Reservation, and be sure to check out the namesake rock. The old-world **Hubbell Trading Post** was the reservation's lifeline when it was established in the 1870s. Along the way, consider a detour through the **Zuni Pueblo**, renowned for its carved animal fetishes.

Next up? The relatively verdant **Canyon de Chelly National Monument**, an inhabited, cultivated canyon with hogans (traditional home of the Navajo) and sheep herds. Remember to breathe as you approach the otherworldly **Monument Valley**. Drive the 17-mile loop around the towering buttes then spend the night at the View Hotel or camping in the sand; you'll want to spend time – a lot of time – gazing at the sunrise. Finish the trip with a drive north through the otherworldly (and unpaved) **Valley of the Gods** in southern Utah.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- BART station
- Border crossing
- Boston T station
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/Muni station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/SkyTrain station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



Benedict Walker

Las Vegas & Nevada

Benedict was born in Newcastle, Australia, and grew up in the 'burbs, spending weekends and long summers by the beach whenever possible. Japan was the first gig he got for Lonely Planet, in 2008, and he's been blessed to be asked back often since then. Benedict is living his dreams, though life on the road can have its ups and downs. He's also written and directed a play, toured Australia managing the travel logistics for top-billing music festivals and is playing around with photography and filmmaking. Join Benedict on his journeys on Instagram: @wordsandjourneys.

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Jeff Campbell has been a travel writer for Lonely Planet since 2000. He was the coordinating author of three editions of *USA*, as well as editions of *Southwest USA*, *Zion & Bryce National Parks*, *Hawaii*, *Florida*, and *Mid-Atlantic Trips*, and he's been a contributor on other titles. He wishes that he called the Southwest home, but next best is meeting and writing about those who do. Jeff wrote the American Indian Southwest chapter.

Jennifer Denniston discovered a love for travel on a ten-week family trip through Europe when she was eight. Nowadays her professional career focuses on travel in the US, and she has a graduate degree in American Studies. She lives in Iowa with her husband and two daughters, and spends summers on the road with them. Jennifer contributed to the Travel with Children chapter.

David Lukas is a professional naturalist whose travels and writing take him around the American West and further afield. He has contributed environment and wildlife chapters to about 20 Lonely Planet guides. David's favorite Southwest moment was getting up to watch sunrise on the magnificent hoodoos at Bryce Canyon (don't miss it!). David wrote the Geology & the Land chapter.

Helena Smith is an award-winning writer and photographer, and has written guidebooks on destinations from Fiji to Norway. Helena is from Scotland but was partly brought up in Malawi, so Africa always feels like home. She also enjoys her multicultural home area of Hackney and wrote, photographed and published *Inside Hackney*, the first guide to the borough (<https://insidehackney.com>). Helena wrote the Lake Tahoe content.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Hugh McNaughtan

Arizona A former English lecturer, Hugh decided visa applications beat grant applications, and turned his love of travel into a full-time thing. Having also done a bit of restaurant reviewing in his home town (Melbourne, Australia), he's now eaten his way across Europe and North America, and found the best way to work up an appetite for the USA's great, gut-busting food is spending all day cycling through its stunning landscapes. He's never happier than when on the road with his two daughters. Except perhaps on the cricket field...



Carolyn McCarthy

Utah Carolyn McCarthy specializes in travel, culture and adventure in the Americas. She has written for *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *BBC Magazine*, *Boston Globe* and other publications. A former Fulbright fellow and Banff Mountain Grant recipient, she has documented life in the most remote corners of Latin America. Carolyn gained her expertise by researching guidebooks in diverse destinations. She has contributed to more than 30 guidebooks for Lonely Planet, including for Colorado, USA, Argentina, Chile, Panama, Peru and the *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes* and USA's *National Parks* guides. For more information, visit www.carolynmccarthy.org or follow her Instagram travels at @masmerquen. Carolyn also wrote the *Understand and Survival* Guide chapters.



Christopher Pitts

New Mexico Chris's first expedition in life ended in failure when he tried to dig from Pennsylvania to China at the age of six. Hardened by reality but still infinitely curious about the other side of the world, he went on to study Chinese at university, living for several years in China and Taiwan. A chance encounter in an elevator led to a relocation to Paris, where he lived with his wife and two children for over a decade before the lure of Colorado's sunny skies and outdoor

adventure proved too great to resist. His website is www.christopherpitts.net. Chris also wrote the *Plan* chapters.

OVER MORE
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Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

CRN 554153

8th edition – March 2018

ISBN 978 1 78657 363 6

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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