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Southwest Adventure 2013

Phoenix to Phoenix 15 Days / 14 Nights

<p>Day 1: Phoenix, Arizona - Desert Botanical Garden Meet in the lobby of our base hotel in downtown Phoenix, Arizona at 3:30pm for our "meet and greet". Then, tour one of the most beautiful botanical gardens of America, the Desert Botanical Garden with its many acres of rare desert plants. Discover wild animals living within the gardens and learn about native plants and people while walking on one of the many scenic trails. In the evening we get to know each other at dinner. Appetizer and drinks offered by Travel Dream West. Night in Phoenix.</p>	 <p>Arrival in Phoenix</p>	 <p>Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix</p>
<p>Day 2: Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum - Casa Grande Ruins National Monument – Ajo Depart for an experience of real Western frontier live of an 1800's town at Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum with its many historic buildings (weather permitting). Next, visit Casa Grande Ruins National Monument and learn about ancient Sonoran Desert people's lives and the Hohokam culture. Our journey leads through fascinating Sonoran Desert National Monument, covered by Saguaro cactus forests, one of the most biologically diverse deserts of the North America. Stop in Gila Bend, then arrive in the small sleepy town of Ajo, once a blooming copper mining town. See the quiet large open pit mine. Evening and night in Ajo.</p>	 <p>Ajo</p>	 <p>Casa Grande</p>
<p>Day 3: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument - Mission San Xavier del Bac - Tucson This morning's highlight is Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Stop by the Visitor Center with interesting displays about life and landscape of the Sonoran Desert. Then go for a hike and see first hand the rare Organ Pipe Cactus. Enjoy the huge variety of other desert plants and cactus. After a picnic in the midst of these heavenly desert gardens, drive on to visit Mission San Xavier del Bac, a wonderfully preserved Spanish Catholic mission offering the charisma and spirit of mission history. In the evening enjoy dinner and shopping at Tucson Mall. 2 nights in Tucson.</p>	 <p>Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument</p>	 <p>Mission San Xavier del Bac</p>
<p>Day 4: Biosphere-2 - Arizona Sonora Desert Museum - Saguaro National Park - Tucson First thing in the morning drive to Oracle and visit Biosphere 2, a scientific research center studying climate change among other projects. Then explore the desert fauna and flora at famous Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. In the later afternoon walk and wonder about the unique landscape at Saguaro National Park West, inhabited by incredibly large Saguaro Cacti, each one with its unique personality. Evening in Tucson.</p>	 <p>Biosphere-2</p>	 <p>Saguaro National Park</p>

<p>Day 5: Tombstone - Chiricahua National Monument - Willcox Leaving metropolitan Tucson feel back in time at a visit of historic Tombstone, original site of the O.K. Corral fight. In the afternoon arrive at Chiricahua National Monument with its volcanic and historic Apache legacy. Descriptive names include "Island in the Sky" and "Wonderland of the Rocks" in the middle of the desert. Take a scenic drive and hike amongst unique rock formations. Night in Willcox.</p>	 <p>Tombstone</p>	 <p>Chiricahua NM</p>
<p>Day 6: Amerind Foundation - Silver City - City of Rocks State Park - Old Mesilla - Las Cruces, New Mexico Leave to Amerind Foundation, an informative research facility dedicated to the preservation of Native American cultures. They are located in a scenic location near the Dragoon Mountains, the famous Stronghold of Apache chief Cochise. Later, drive to Silver City, New Mexico, once home of notorious Billy the Kid, a silver and copper mining boomtown. Today it's a quiet clean community known as one of the best towns for retirement featuring Victorian small town charm. In the afternoon explore walking at the City of Rocks State Park famous for its mysterious huge boulders in the middle of a flat plain. Spend the evening in historic old Mesilla. 2 nights in Las Cruces, New Mexico.</p>	 <p>Amerind Foundation</p>	 <p>City of Rocks SP</p>
<p>Day 7: White Sands Missile Range Museum - New Mexico Museum of Space History - White Sands National Monument - Las Cruces In the morning explore two fascinating modern technology museums, the White Sands Missile Range museum and the New Mexico Museum of Space History. Spend the afternoon picnicking, hiking and as time permits at a ranger led tour in the beautiful White Sands National Monument. Second night in Las Cruces.</p>	 <p>White Sands NM</p>	 <p>White Sands Missile Range</p>
<p>Day 8: Las Cruces - Truth or Consequences Drive to Truth or Consequences (T or C), formerly the town of Hot Springs, a mineral hot spring area known for many decades. It sits on the bank of the Rio Grande and is near the largest lake of New Mexico, the Elephant Butte Reservoir. Enjoy this lovely area with a variety of optional activities including hot spas, historically famous for the healing power, and a boat trip on Elephant Butte Lake. Or relax at the hotel and go for a nature walk. Night in T or C.</p>	 <p>Truth or Consequences Spa</p>	 <p>Elephant Butte Lake</p>
<p>Day 9: T or C - Fort Craig - Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Preserve - El Camino Real National Heritage Center - Sandia Peak, Albuquerque - Santa Fe A short stop at the ruins of Fort Craig offers some 19th century history. At Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Preserve get to know a successful wildlife re-introduction program. Then, visit El Camino Real National Heritage Center in the middle of nowhere adjacent to the historic El Camino Real, the famous immigrant trail of the first colonists from Spain and Mexico in 1598. In Albuquerque, take a scenic ride on the world's longest tramway reaching Sandia Peak at 10,378 feet. Enjoy dinner (not included) with a view over thousands of lights far down in the city of Albuquerque. Drive to Santa Fe for the next two nights.</p>	 <p>Fort Craig</p>	 <p>Sandia Peak night view</p>

<p>Day 10: Santa Fe This day is open for independent exploration of Santa Fe, the beautiful capitol city of New Mexico. Artists and retirees have been attracted by the cultural richness to this beautiful area. Santa Fe is an artist's heaven offering some of the best art galleries in the Southwest. The unique Adobe architecture of most buildings adds to the cultural richness of the area. Check out some of the museums, galleries and the famed Santa Fe Railroad. Sign up for an optional whitewater rafting trip.</p>	 <p>Santa Fe</p>	 <p>Art in Santa Fe</p>
<p>Day 11: Tent Rocks National Monument - Acoma Sky City Pueblo - Route 66 - Holbrook, Arizona In the morning explore the country side of New Mexico and stop at the unique rock formation of Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument. Hike among high towering strangely formed hoodoos. Later, participate at a Native lead tour through Acoma Sky City Pueblo, situated high upon a table rock. Drive along famous Route 66 and stay for the night in Holbrook, Arizona.</p>	 <p>Tent Rock NM</p>	 <p>Acoma Sky City</p>
<p>Day 12: Petrified Forest National Park - Flagstaff - Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument - Cameron, Arizona Be amazed by the world's largest concentration of colorful petrified wood at the Petrified Forest National Park. Explore this wondrous area of multi-colored badlands on several walks and a sightseeing drive. Short stop in Flagstaff. Explore the nearby Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, one of the younger volcanic landscapes where lava flows and cinders still look fresh and rugged. Stay two nights in Cameron, Arizona at an authentic Native American trading post and wonderfully designed lodge on the edge of the Little Colorado River.</p>	 <p>Petrified Forest NP</p>	 <p>Route 66, Wigwam Motel</p>
<p>Day 13: Grand Canyon National Park - South Rim - Cameron Today's highlight is the Grand Canyon National Park. Spend the day at the Grand Canyon South Rim and soak up the incredible overwhelming views over a gigantic landscape of deep canyons. Drive along Desert View Drive, stop at Desert View Watchtower and other view points. Stop at the visitor center and hike along the rim trail for special views all day. An optional helicopter ride can be reserved ahead of time. Second night in Cameron.</p>	 <p>Grand Canyon South</p>	 <p>Sunset Crater NM</p>
<p>Day 14: Cameron - Oak Creek Canyon - Sedona - Phoenix Today, Drive south through scenic Oak Creek Canyon to Sedona, and enjoy a variety of activities including a walk through the giant red cliffs, shopping, unique southwest cuisine, and art galleries. By the end of the day arrive back in Phoenix, Arizona and spend your last night in Phoenix, Arizona</p>	 <p>blooming cactus</p>	 <p>Phoenix, Arizona</p>
<p>Day 15: End of tour Fly home or extend your stay. We will be happy to assist you with your travel plans.</p>		<p><i>Goodbye und Aufwiedersehen!</i></p>