Last Updated: July 31, 2018



# **Western Express Northbound - NUPN**

8 days: Los Angeles to San Francisco

### What's Included

- · All national park and national monument fees
- · Orientations to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and San Francisco
- · Calico Ghost Town visit
- · Route 66 drive
- · Grand Canyon visit with sunset at the rim
- · Death Valley visit
- · Tioga Pass drive (seasonal)
- · Yosemite stay
- · All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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**VERY IMPORTANT**: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing June 16th, 2018 - October 31st, 2018

# **Itinerary Notes**

This tour runs year round with slight variations in summer and winter. If you are travelling mid-June through October, you will be on the summer itinerary. If you are travelling from Nov 1 to mid-June, you will be follow the winter itinerary. Additionally, we may revert to the winter itinerary in the shoulder seasons in the event of inclement weather.

## **Itinerary**

## **Summer Itinerary (2018)**

### **Day 1 Los Angeles**

Arrive at any time.

There are no activities planned until an evening welcome meeting.

We highly recommend booking pre-tour accommodation to fully experience this crazy city.

### **Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting**

1h19:00

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. After introductions, your CEO will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

### Day 2 Los Angeles/Laughlin

Look for celebs while heading out of town. Visit Calico Ghost Town en route to Laughlin.

Pack up the van in the morning and check out the stars on the most famous sidewalk in Hollywood on an orientation tour. Drive through Beverly Hills and be dazzled by one of the world's most exclusive three-block district: Rodeo Drive.

In the late morning, visit Calico Ghost Town.

In late afternoon, continue on to Laughlin for the night

#### **Orientation Drive**

Los Angeles

Drive around to spot some of the main highlights of the area. See the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Hollywood sign, and swing by Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive.

## **Hollywood Visit**

Los Angeles1h

Wander around this iconic locale to find stars along the Walk of Fame; celebrities' handprints, footprints, and signatures in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre; and views of the Hollywood sign.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Los Angeles - Laughlin8h465km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### Day 3 Laughlin/Grand Canyon National Park

Travel to the Grand Canyon. Take a short hike along the rim of the Grand Canyon. Enjoy sunset at the rim.

Drive to one of the earth's greatest on-going geological spectacles, the Grand Canyon. Take a short hike (weather permitting) at the most spectacular gorge in the world and enjoy dinner at the rim while watching a stunning sunset.

## **Private Vehicle**

Laughlin - Grand Canyon National Park6h332km

Travel time includes stops along the way.

## **Grand Canyon South Rim Visit**

Grand Canyon National Park

Visit the south rim of the canyon for a great first impression. Marvel as the Grand Canyon unfolds before you. Don't get too close. The land drops almost straight down for more than 1,000m (3,280 ft) into the serpentine canyons below! The gorge is filled with rocky buttes, sheer limestone cliffs, and deep canyons all arrayed in a rainbow of colors. Words defy. This is truly one of the most magnificent sights on earth.

#### Hiking

Grand Canyon1h-5h 1-15km

Opt to hike along the rim or down into the canyon. Experience breathtaking scenery with spectacular views. Bring lots of water, a hat and plenty of energy. Remember -- hiking down is optional, hiking back up is mandatory!

### Meals included: Dinner

## Day 4 Grand Canyon National Park/Las Vegas

Travel to Sin City, stopping at a traditional roadside burger joint along the way. Enjoy exploring the Vegas Strip, opt for a limousine tour or try your luck at the slots.

Spend the morning at the Grand Canyon and enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Grand Canyon with an optional helicopter flight. After, hit the road and head towards Las Vegas, Nevada.

Get your kicks on Route 66 and stop at one of the wackiest, off-beat burger joints around. Continue on to explore the 'city of lights', Las Vegas, along the famous Vegas Strip.

Opt to try the VIP limo experience.

Note: If you have pre-booked the Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride you will enjoy your 45-50min ride over the canyon today.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Grand Canyon National Park - Las Vegas6h460km

Travel time includes stops along the way.

#### **Route 66 Drive**

Las Vegas3h

Travel the historic Route 66 through the southwest.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 4**

## **VIP Party Limo Experience**

Las Vegas

45USD per person

Channel your inner celebrity and set off in this party on wheels. Luxuriate in the leather seats, and feel like a star with the neon lights, flat screen TV and booming stereo system. Tour the highlights of Vegas and love the limo life.

## **Grand Canyon Helicopter Tour**

**Grand Canyon** 

284USD per person

The Grand Canyon helicopter ride is a must! Enjoy a bird's-eye view for 45 to 50 minutes as you fly over the canyon, taking in the stark contrast of the the blue-green Colorado River against the thousand shades of red rock found in the canyon. From above, you can fully appreciate the greatness of the gorge and see why it is one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

# **Vegas Strip Visit**

Las Vegas

Free

Walk along Las Vegas Boulevard and soak in the lights, energy and pulse of the Strip. With an ever-evolving architecture and multitude of hotels, casinos, restaurants, and entertainment, there's so much to see and do.

#### Las Vegas Show

Las Vegas3h-4h

60-200USD per person

Leave the world behind, give in to your senses and prepare to be amazed. Take in one of the many shows available in this entertainment mecca. Live music, burlesque, comedy, magic, Cirque Du Soleil, and more. Whatever your passion, no other city can compete with the range and scale of shows on offer 24 hours a day.

## **Gambling at Vegas Casino**

Las Vegas

Hold some cards, toss some dice, place a bet or sit at the slots. Try your luck at gambling in one of the many casinos along the Strip. (The legal age for gambling is 21 years of age.)

### Day 5 Las Vegas/Sierra Nevadas

Head to desolate Death Valley -- the hottest, driest, and lowest spot in North America.

Travel to one of the country's most rugged landscapes -- the legendary Death Valley, California. Soak in the dramatic landscape.

Later, travel to Bishop. Surrounded by peaks which soar more than 14,000 ft (3,962m) in elevation, Bishop, one of "America's Coolest Mountain Towns," sits directly in the centre of an incredible area of natural beauty. Enjoy secluded natural hot springs where

stargazing is amazing.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Las Vegas - Bishop7h430km

Travel time includes stops along the way.

#### **Death Valley National Park Visit**

Death Valley

The Death Valley is one of America's most extreme locations - from sand dunes and desert, to badlands, towering peaks, and a basin that actually registers below sea-level, this is sure to be an unforgettable stop. Hottest. Driest. Lowest. There's a bit of everything here on the border of California and Nevada.

## Day 6 Sierra Nevadas/Yosemite National Park

Travel the Tioga Pass and enjoy the view of Mono Lake and the Tufa Towers. Arrive in Yosemite for trekking amongst the giant sequoias.

Head out of town towards Yosemite Valley. Take short hikes (weather permitting) to majestic waterfalls, clear lakes, beautiful meadows or walk amongst giant sequoias. If lucky, spot black bears, deer or coyotes with a keen eye.

Spend the night just outside the national park.

We intend on using the Tioga Pass, a scenic route through the Sierra Nevada mountain range that connects Bishop with Yosemite NP. The status of the road is monitored daily, and our travel plan for the area will be confirmed during the trip.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Bishop - Yosemite National Park7h322km

Travel time includes stops along the way.

### **Tioga Pass Drive**

Tioga Pass2h-4h

Take this scenic route through the Sierra Nevada mountain range connecting Bishop with the Yosemite Valley floor. Pass by lakes, meadows, and groves, and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife along the way.

## **Yosemite National Park Visit**

Yosemite National Park1h-8h

Picturesque valleys, vast wilderness, powerful waterfalls, elusive wildlife, ancient sequoias and more than 16 types of granite make up this internationally recognized national park. Hike the trails, get up close to ancient rock formations and take panoramic photos of this gorgeous landscape. Keep an eye out for black bears, deer, and coyotes.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 6**

## Yosemite National Park Hike

Yosemite National Park1h-6h 1-15km

Free

Panoramic vistas, gushing waterfalls, and elusive wildlife await. Bring water, wear a hat and sunscreen, and hike Yosemite NP. Keep an eye out for black bears, deer, and coyotes.

#### Yosemite Bike Rental

Yosemite National Park

12USD per person

Set your wheels in motion with tandem, hand crank or mountain bikes, and opt to cycle some of the 20km (12mi) of paved trails throughout the valley floor. Bring a water bottle, stop to shoot photos, and enjoy some of the most picturesque spots in Yosemite NP.

### Day 7 Yosemite National Park/San Francisco

Enjoy an orientation to San Francisco, including attractions like Fisherman's Wharf and the stately Golden Gate Bridge. Opt to take a cable car ride over the steep hills or set sail into the setting sun.

Depart in the morning for one of the greatest cities in the world: San Francisco.

Discover some of the iconic attractions such as bustling Fisherman's Wharf or the stately Golden Gate Bridge, a marvel of engineering and Art Deco design.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Yosemite National Park - San Francisco6h230km

Travel time includes stops along the way.

#### **Orientation Walk**

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

### **Optional Activities - Day 7**

#### Cable Car Ride

San Francisco1h-3h

7USD per person

Iconic to San Francisco, travel back in time and hop on the world's last manually operated cable car system.

## **Sunset Sailing San Francisco**

San Francisco

60USD per person

Depart from Fisherman's Wharf and catch a glimpse of marine life as we sail around San Francisco Bay. Admire the city's remarkable skyline, get up close and personal with the infamous Alcatraz Island, and sail underneath the Golden Gate Bridge. Enjoy the sunset and make a mental note to return.

#### **Alcatraz Visit**

San Francisco

33USD per person

Travel out to Alcatraz Island for a cell-house audio tour of the infamous federal penitentiary. While there, check out the natural side of the rock--with its gardens, tide pools, bird colonies, and stunning views of San Francisco Bay. Tours often sell out, so book a ticket online (far in advance!) to secure a spot.

#### **Bike Rental**

San Francisco1h-5h 1-15km

8-32USD per person

Rent a bike to peddle across the Golden Gate Bridge, through the scenic Marina district or perhaps to Golden Gate park.

#### Fisherman's Wharf Visit

San Francisco

Free

Visit San Francisco's famous Fishermen's Wharf, walk the piers, check out the marine life, shop and sample the fresh seafood.

### Golden Gate Bridge Visit

San Francisco

Free

What trip to San Fran would be complete without seeing the Golden Gate Bridge? Depending on time, step foot on this famous red suspension bridge or find a great viewing point to take some photos.

## **Haight-Ashbury Visit**

San Francisco

#### Free

Check out this neighbourhood known as the centre of counterculture ideals, drugs, and music during the hippie movement in the 60s. Today, find locally-owned restaurants and bars, boutiques, booksellers, head shops and record stores.

#### Day 8 San Francisco

Depart at any time.

We highly recommend booking post-accommodation to fully experience this famous city.

### What's Included

All national park and national monument fees. Orientations to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and San Francisco. Calico Ghost Town visit. Route 66 drive. Grand Canyon visit with sunset at the rim. Death Valley visit. Tioga Pass drive (seasonal). Yosemite stay. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

# **Highlights**

Bask in the big city lights of Los Angeles and Las Vegas, wind through the streets of San Francisco, hike through Yosemite, feel the heat in Death Valley, get your kicks on Route 66

### **Dossier Disclaimer**

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## **Itinerary Disclaimer**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## **Itinerary Notes**

This tour runs year round with slight variations in summer and winter. If you are travelling mid-June through October, you will be on the summer itinerary. If you are travelling from Nov 1 to mid-June, you will be follow the winter itinerary. Additionally, we may revert to the winter itinerary in the shoulder seasons in the event of inclement weather.

### **Important Notes**

#### 1.TRAVEL DAYS

In order to cover the vast distance in North America to be able to visit several different parks and cities along our trip, we will have a couple of long driving days.

## 2. WALKS AND HIKES - OPTIONAL

All walks and hikes proposed by our CEO will be easy to moderate level. You may choose to participate or not, but exploring our national parks on foot is part of our way of travelling. It's a healthy way to discover North America's beauty and landscape.

#### 3. COMBO TRIP

Please note that some trips could be a combination of multiple G Adventure tours. You should expect some group members to join or leave the tour between tour segments.

#### 4. LEGAL DRINKING AGE

Please note that the legal drinking age in the United States is 21 and in Canada, 19 (with Alberta and Quebec at 18). Many bars and clubs will ask for ID at the door, therefore listening to live music in certain bars or spending a night out in Las Vegas or New Orleans is not possible when you are under the legal age, even if you don't plan on consuming alcohol. Drinking laws in both countries are strictly enforced and our CEOs are unable to help those under age obtain alcohol of any kind.

While this should not stop those under legal drinking age from booking a tour, it is important to note that if a traveller is under-age there are certain optional nighttime activities that they may not legally be able to participate in. When trying to book the right trip, we recommend that travellers under legal drinking age take this into consideration when booking a tour that visits several big cities.

#### 5. WI-FI

Regarding our wi-fi equipped vehicles: we have limited bandwidth, and in the interests of allowing all travellers to access the wi-fi, travellers should limit their access to reasonable levels. Please note that wi-fi is not always available due to areas with limited or no cell phone service (e.g. in parts of national parks).

### 6. LAS VEGAS HOTELS

Las Vegas is known for glitz and glamour, and is an adult's playground for the senses. However, hotel standards are different than in many other cities. Most hotels have an onsite casino, and smoking is permitted indoors. Although we only use non-smoking rooms on our tours and do our best to offer a smoke free environment, please be aware that standards may result in smoke permeating non-smoking areas of hotels.

## **Group Leader Description**

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The CEO will be the group manager, leader and driver - this person is experienced in the routes travelled and will organize and lead the meal preparations and has experience in cooking a variety of local and international dishes for large groups.

As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

While our CEOs are trained and have resources to assist them along the way, the United States is the fourth largest country on the planet, and it is impossible for them to know everything about this massive country. We recommend local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds

Please note that specific tour guide licenses are required to guide in certain cities and regions, and as such, our CEOs will oftentimes provide brief orientation walks to point out useful places like supermarkets, main squares and ATMs but for more specific or in depth destination information, an official guided tour is recommended.

### **Group Size Notes**

Max 14, avg 10

## **Meals Included**

1 dinner

## **Transport**

Air-conditioned private vehicle, walking

### **About our Transportation**

We use 15-passenger vans for up to 14 people plus the CEO/Driver for all our of our trips in North America. For groups of 8 and more travellers, we also use a trailer to carry luggage and camping equipment.

These vans are durable vehicles that allow us to drive on most types of roads in North America.

Each van has a front passenger seat and 4 benches that will accommodate 3 people each. No standing is permitted in these vehicles, but there is air conditioning to cool things down on warm days and mandatory seat belts to us secure and safe.

This is not a physically demanding journey. However, travelling can be difficult, with long drives and limited space in the van. Please take note of the travel times and distances in the above itinerary. Despite some of the long days, most clients feel that the diversity of the North American landscape, culture and wildlife are all well worth the experience!

## **Solo Travellers**

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

#### Accommodation

Hotels (7 nts).

## My Own Room

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

### **About Accommodation**

This trip uses 2-3 star hotels and motels in cities and near park entrances. Our chosen hotels vary in size, character, and amenities, but are of a good standard, and the rooms are double occupancy with a private bathroom.

## **Joining Hotel**

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

## **Joining Instructions**

When arriving at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) proceed to the Arrivals Hall. From LAX, you have a few transportation options to get to the Joining Hotel, which is 25 miles away: public taxi, door-to-door shuttle also knows as "Shared-ride Vans", or a ride sharing app such as Uber or Lyft.

Taxi The taxis are located outside of each terminal on the Lower/Arrival Level islands marked with a yellow sign. The cost is approximately \$50 plus gratuity but can vary greatly depending on arrival times.

Door-to-Door Shuttle also knows as "Shared-Ride Vans" This is probably the most cost effective way to get to your hotel and definitely cheaper than a taxi ride from the Airport. You will see quite a few shuttle companies, but you can save money and receive detailed joining locations by pre-booking at www.supershuttle.com. The fare to your hotel is around \$15-20 plus gratuity.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

Your CEO will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

## **Emergency Contact**

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the G Adventures Local Representative. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

G Adventures Local Representative (Boston)

During office hours (Weekdays, 6:00am-9:00pm EST)

From outside the USA: 1-412-423-8143 From within the USA: 412-423-8143

After hours emergency numbers

From outside the USA: 1-412-423-8143 From within the USA: 412-423-8143

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local representative, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000
Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000
Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618
Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What to Take

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible.

For days in the outdoors, we recommend the use of lightweight, breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics made of wool or synthetic fibers. Cotton is not recommended for days spent hiking as it does not allow for heat or moisture to enter or escape, and it will not dry easily once wet.

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. Heavy luggage is not recommended for the health of the CEO, who will take a lead in loading the storage trailer. Due to space in the trailer, we will not be able to accommodate more than one piece of main luggage per person. A good size day-pack (20-35L) is also essential to carry your personal gear for the day, as access to luggage between destinations will be limited. This daypack will be used to carry your personal gear for the day, your lunch and a water bottle.

It is important to pack clothes for warm days and cool evenings, as well as a light jacket. A set of smart casual clothes is also advisable.

# Checklist

# Cold Weather:

- \* Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- \* Scarf
- \* Warm gloves
- \* Warm hat
- \* Warm lavers

### Documents:

- \* Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- \* Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Required visas or vaccination certificates (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)

### Essentials:

- \* Binoculars (optional)
- \* Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- \* Cash, credit and debit cards
- \* Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- \* Ear plugs
- \* First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification

tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)

- \* Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- \* Fleece top/sweater
- \* Footwear
- \* Hat
- \* Locks for bags
- \* Long pants/jeans
- \* Moneybelt
- \* Outlet adapter
- \* Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- \* Reusable water bottle
- \* Shirts/t-shirts
- \* Sleepwear
- \* Small travel towel
- \* Sunglasses
- \* Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)
- \* Watch and alarm clock
- \* Waterproof backpack cover
- \* Windproof rain jacket

#### Warm Weather:

- \* Sandals/flip-flops
- \* Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- \* Sun hat/bandana
- \* Swimwear

Note: For evenings out in some cities there will be a dress code. If you wish to participate, please bring a nicer outfit for these occasions. We recommend a nicer pair of shoes and a collared shirt or blouse.

# Laundry

Laundry can be done at least once a week while on tour. Some hotels and most cities have laundromats where you can buy soap and wash your laundry in coin-operated machines. Your CEO will advise you along the trip where you will be able to do your laundry.

# **Visas and Entry Requirements**

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy, or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

### Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

### Money Exchange

The United States currency is the US Dollar (USD).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in the US and can be used to purchase small and large items. When purchasing products or services with a foreign credit card in the USA, you may be charged additional fees by your credit card company for foreign purchases.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Both Visa and Master Cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work check with your bank before you travel. A visit to an ATM can be arranged on Day 1 and

other days of the trip.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of US Dollars as cash (preferably smaller bills, 5's, 10's and 20's), traveller's cheques and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is very difficult to find in the USA and most banks do not accommodate.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

## **Emergency Fund**

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## **Tipping**

It is customary in North America to tip service providers such as waiters, bartenders and taxi drivers, at approximately 15-18%, depending on the service. Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip any local guides used. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from \$2-8 USD per activity depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference; however as a guideline \$5-10 USD per person, per day can be used as a guide. If your CEO exceeded your expectations, feel free to tip more.

# **Optional Activities**

Optional activity prices are subject to change and can fluctuate in relation to the high/low season and the number of people on a specific excursion. Not all excursions listed here may be available, due to season or weather conditions. As generally not a lot of time is spent in start/end cities, you may want to arrange to arrive early, or stay longer after the trip in order to allow sufficient time to participate in optional activities there.

Please see the full itinerary for information on optional activities, descriptions and estimated pricing.

## Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water

based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

### **Medical Form**

Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that, as a minimum, an average level of fitness and mobility' is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our CEOs work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at:

www.gadventures.com/medical-form.

# A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

### **Travel Insurance**

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

The Planeterra Foundation <u>planeterra.org</u> is a Canadian non-profit organization that helps empower local people to develop their communities, conserve their cultures, and create humane and supportive systems for their endeavours. Planeterra provides capacity building and catalyst grants to get community social enterprises off the ground. These businesses address local challenges by providing benefits for indigenous people, empowering marginalized women, and granting disadvantaged youth access to education, employment, and brighter futures. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating programs into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

## Dollar-a-Day Program

G Adventures' Dollar-a-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar for every day you are on trip. 100% of these donations go directly to support community development projects worldwide that are implemented by Planeterra.

## **Feedback**

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customerservice@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

#### **Newsletter**

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at <a href="https://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/">www.gadventures.com/newsletters/</a>

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation - Planeterra. Sign up for <u>Planeterra's</u> monthly news to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

# Minimum Age

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

# International Flights

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.