

NATURA da VIVERE - T.O.

di A.R.D.E.A. s.c.r.l.

professionisti per natura

SCHEDA DETTAGLIO TOUR PARCHI DELL'OVEST

Temperatures:

In spring, summer and autumn, the weather in California and the South West is considered to be very stable, with an abundance of sunshine. The dry air makes for perfect hiking conditions! In summer, temperatures will be moderate and pleasant at Yosemite, Bryce and Grand Canyon (23-27 C), as these parks are at an altitude of 1000 – 2400m, whereas they will be hotter in the desert parks (25-35 C). The hottest area on tour is Death Valley and Las Vegas, here you can expect daytime temperatures to reach 40C or above, however extended hiking is not possible here, so the heat will not affect us much. On hot days hikes might be conducted early or late to avoid hot afternoons. Late July to early September is considered monsoon season in Utah and Arizona. Often there are afternoon thunderstorms that cool the air pleasantly. The dry air makes these temperatures less noticeable and quiet pleasant for hiking. In spring and autumn, expect a bit cooler temperatures, about 15-25 C at higher elevation and 20-30 C in the deserts, with the occasional storm bringing cooler temperatures. Spring has desert wildflowers, cacti blooms and longer days, whereas autumn has beautiful fall colors and soft light perfect for serious photographers. In the Rockies temperatures are dependent on elevation. Yellowstone and Grand Teton warm up in June, and offer incredible autumn colors in late September. Afternoon thunderstorms are common in this area July through August.

In Hawaii, temperatures are pleasant year round, between 20C-30C during the day, and a bit cooler at night. Please be prepared for colder and windy temperatures while hiking on the volcanoes due to elevation, bring a warm sweater for those days. The days will be sunny and hot, and at times there will be rain showers. There are short periods of light rain possible most days. Sometimes there are very strong rains that lead to flash floods and trail closures. Please bring a lightweight rain jacket. Be prepared to walk through rain. Trails will be muddy and slippery when wet, we recommend a walking stick.

Meeting instructions:

Please be at the indicated hotel at 8 am on the start day of the tour. Please bring a copy of your traveler's insurance. You will be expected to sign a waiver of liability. If you miss your flight or cannot be at the hotel at the indicated meeting time you must contact Adventure Travel West, Inc, at 303-697-6688 and inform us about your travel plans. Our office is open Monday – Friday and is closed on the weekends, however our recording indicates the person(s) on emergency duty. Please call one of us. DO NOT leave a message after hours, as we are NOT checking messages once we leave the office. Our office hours are Monday – Thursday 8 am – 4 pm and Fridays 8 am to 12 noon. We are often in the office earlier and later. You can also email the office at emergency@at-west.com and we will respond to you when we have received your email. Please write in English.

You can also contact the tour director directly at the hotel. The group will try to wait for you, but if you are delayed more than a few hours we might not be able to wait for your arrival. If you do not contact us, we will assume you are not joining the group and will cancel your remaining travel arrangements. If you are delayed make sure you indicate your estimated arrival time and a contact phone number so we can coordinate late joining.

Tour operators: for any emergencies or important information during the tour please email us at emergency@atwest.com. We are looking at this email in the evenings and on the weekends and will respond to you when we have read your email. Please write in English.

Night time emergencies while on tour: at night any emergency is handled by the office staff. Our tour directors are not allowed to be interrupted at night due to DOT rules. Your passengers will be instructed to call 911 for any medical emergency. For non-medical emergencies, please have your passengers wait until the morning or email us emergency@at-west.com or call the person on emergency duty.



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PACKING LIST

Each passenger is allowed to bring one luggage with a maximum weight of 23 kg plus one carry-on item with the weight of 10 kg. Should a group be larger, pax may not be able to buy heavy items and add them to the luggage in the trailer while on tour.

Worn in hiking boots (over the ankle with cleated sole, tennis shoes are NOT acceptable on our hikes!!!)

Hiking socks (we recommend a combination of liner socks with wool socks)

A day pack (for rain shell, sweater, 1-2 liters of water & food)

1-2 one-liter water bottles

Sunhat

Sunglasses

Sunscreen

Lip balm

Insect repellent

Personal first aid and blister kit

Hiking shorts

Long hiking pants

Rain or wind shell or jacket, preferably breathable

T-shirts or shirts

Fleece jacket or sweater (jumper)

On camping tours, bring your own sleeping bag. ATW provides 2 foam pads per person. If you want more comfort please

bring an inflatable sleeping pad.

We recommend you dress in layers, as that allows you to properly adapt to the varying temperatures of the trip. We might

experience crisp mornings followed by warm to hot days. Layering helps to adapt to these temperature changes.

Recommended:

Walking stick for wading in the Narrows and on rocky or wet trails

Flashlight

Pocketknife

Cameras

Bring ALL your funds in US - \$. Money exchange facilities will NOT be available on tour. Use your ATM / Cash Point Card to withdraw cash, provided you bring your safety (PIN) number. VISA and MasterCard are commonly accepted for meals, excursions and souvenirs, Diners Club and American Express are accepted less frequently. Some group meals and excursions only accept cash. Traveler's Checks are no longer accepted. Laundry and luggage allowance: due to space limitations, you may bring a maximum of 2 pieces of luggage on this trip. We recommend duffel bags or soft shell bags. Hard shell luggage will be scratched in the trailers and is harder to load. We are not responsible for damaged luggage. There are laundry facilities on tour that you can use to wash your clothes for a small fee.

Extra expenses: apart from the optional tours listed above, allow for about \$15-20 pp/day for extra expenses such as postcards, drinks, tips, etc.

Tips: Everyone in the USA service industry lives on tips. Please tip the taxi driver, the maid \$1-2 per night, and 18-20% for your restaurant meals. Tips are mandatory and expected. Expect to tip the tour director around \$5-7 pp / day according to his / her performance.

Food: The US has a lot of excellent fresh food. Your hotels will offer breakfast facilities. Either a continental breakfast will be served (coffee, tea, toast, marmalade, and at times granola, cereal, milk, fruit and yogurt) or a Full American

Breakfast (eggs and bacon). Due to health department regulations most continental breakfasts are served on plastic or paper plates. All breakfasts on tour are included. While in condos or huts, some breakfasts may be



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self made (see tour notes). For lunches your tour leader will provide you with breads, cheeses and cold cuts for self made sandwiches, as well as snacks / nuts / cookies for hiking. Drinks or bottled water are not included in your trail lunches. Please refill your water bottles in the hotel, lets minimize plastic waste! We do NOT provide bottled water. Dinners are eaten either at the hotel's restaurant or nearby in town or at a restaurant of the leader's recommendation. The tour leader generally does not attend the dinners. You can count on dinners costing anywhere between \$20-30 depending on what you order, plus beverages and dessert. A glass of wine costs \$9-15 and a beer costs about \$6-10.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

Due to limited space on our vehicles and luggage trailers, passengers are allowed to bring one piece of luggage, with a maximum weight of 23 kg, plus one carry-on item. Laundry can be washed for a small fee at most hotels. Depending on group size, pax may be restricted in their shopping while on tour and may have to postpone purchasing heavy items until the end of the tour.

DISRUPTIVE PASSENGERS

We reserve the right to remove a passenger from tour if he/she is not fit enough to keep up, a disturbance to the group, disruptive or sick. We will try to make any possible arrangement to keep passengers from having to leave the group but if a group member cannot keep up with the schedule they may be asked to stay behind in the hotel.

IN CASE OF SICKNESS

In case a passenger gets sick or injured while on tour, the tour director will send him / her to the nearest emergency room or a doctor. However it is the tour director's responsibility to stay with the group and continue with the program. He/she may not be able to assist the sick passenger, and if hospitalized, the group will have to continue with the tour. It is therefore a tour requirement that all passengers have travel insurance.

WAIVERS

All participants have to sign a waiver before the start of the tour. Please inform your passengers that this is a US law requirement set forth by our insurance company. While participating in optional activities, pax will be required to sign additional waivers by other companies.

START AND END HOTEL

Please carefully check the start and end hotel of the tour, as the hotels in the cities may change from tour to tour. Not all series are at the same hotel for all dates! It's the tour operators responsibility to check the hotel list that we provide with the booking confirmation. ATW is not responsible for any last minute hotel changes due to hotel closure or an oversell situation of a hotel.

CHANGE OF TOUR ASSIGNMENT AFTER BOOKING

ATW reserves the right to change the passenger's tour for yield management purposes. For example, if your passenger is booked on tour group A we may decide to move your passenger to group B in order to separate the languages (SAME DATE, SAME ARRIVAL CITY). In rare occasions this may lead to a change of a hotel. These changes are made more than 30 days before the start of the tour. We recommend you do not notify your client of the hotel list until 30 days prior to tour start. Should we change a tour for your passenger we will automatically notify you with all relevant information. (Separating languages and nationalities leads to a higher customer satisfaction while on tour.)

COMPLAINTS

All complaints must be brought to the guide's attention during the tour and must be documented by the tour director. ATW must be given the opportunity to remedy the situation before any recourse is possible. The



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complaint therefore should be made in writing to the guide. Complaints must be submitted to ATW no later than 60 days after the end of a tour to be considered.

HOW WE OPERATE TOURS

Our tours are conducted with a 15 pax van with or without enclosed luggage trailer (depending on group size). For groups over 11 Pax we use a Mercedes Sprinter van or a Ford Transit van with a lot of space. ONE person, a driver-guide, will both be the driver as well as the tour director. This person is allowed to work 70 hours in 8 days. He/she will also lead most of the hikes. When tours are multi-lingual, the same information will be repeated in the other language. The tour director is not allowed to give commentary while driving for safety reasons. Some hikes are self guided (e.g. all hikes inside Grand Canyon, Grand Teton and Glacier NP, and on national forest land), and some hikes are self guided due to the fact that they are one way hikes (e.g. Yosemite's Panorama Trail). All lunches are self-made picnic lunches (food will be provided by the tour director). Breakfasts are typically eaten at the hotel. When camping, pax need to help a bit in the kitchen and set up and, at the end of the tour and clean their own tents. While in condos (Hawaii) breakfasts are selfmade in the kitchen of the condos. Some tours, especial hiking tours, have rustic rooms in some parks (Yosemite / Hawaii) with communal or shared bathrooms and kitchens. This is clearly explained in the trip notes.

HIKES AND OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

We list a number of hikes every day and a selection of optional activities that would enhance the program. Generally the tour director will try to offer the walks that fit the majority of the group, however he/she may choose to offer harder or easier walks as well. On certain days customers have to decide between an optional excursion or the day's walk. Not all options and activities are possible on all days. While at Grand Canyon, helicopter rides are ALWAYS offered (in rare cases they are cancelled due to weather). In Monument Valley – a jeep tours will ALWAYS be offered. While in Page, Antelope Canyon will ALWAYS be offered. While in Hawaii, a night time lava walk will ALWAYS be offered when the lava can be safely reached. In San Francisco, Alcatraz needs to be booked online in advance of the journey by passengers directly as we are not allowed to book on behalf of pax.



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