

# ARIZONA WINTER ESCAPE

*Featuring Grand Canyon, Sedona, Tucson and Scottsdale*

January 6, 2018 - 18 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$5520** double/twin

**\$7145** single

**\$5055** triple



> Tour is exempt from GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 15 seats; \$150 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 130 points from this tour.

Redeem **130 points** if you book by **October 26**.

## Includes

- Coach transportation for 18 days
- 17 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
- Temple Square in Salt Lake City
- Zion National Park fee
- Zion Imax film *Treasure of the Gods*
- Grand Canyon National Park fee
- Verde Canyon Railroad with 1st class seating
- Sedona backcountry jeep tour
- Montezuma Castle National Monument
- Kartchner Caverns tour
- Mission San Xavier del Bac
- Arizona Sonora Desert Museum
- International Wildlife Museum
- Sabino Canyon trolley tour
- Presidio San Agustin Museum
- UNESCO City of Gastronomy cooking class
- Arizona Museum of Natural History
- Dutton Family show
- Tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West
- Musical Instrument Museum
- Western Spirit Museum
- Cruise on *Desert Belle* on Saguaro Lake
- Silver Star Dinner theatre
- Westjet flight from Phoenix to Kelowna
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels and Westjet flight
- **31 meals:** 17 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 5 dinners

## Feel the Heat in the Sunny South

In January, British Columbians are longing for blue skies and a warm sun, and that is when a getaway to Arizona is very welcome. This tour offers the warm weather, but there is lots more than just sitting beside the pool. Some highlights are Zion National Park, the vast Grand Canyon, Verde Canyon Railroad, a backcountry jeep tour in Sedona, the exquisite Kartchner Caverns, a cooking class in Tucson, Dutton Family show, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, and a cruise on Saguaro Lake. Some marvelous hotels are also featured. Enjoy a 2-week escape from winter with 4 nights in Tucson and 5 nights in Scottsdale!

Kamloops > 250-374-0831

Kelowna > 250-762-3435

[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

Penticton > 250-493-1255

Vernon > 250-545-9197

**Toll Free > 800-667-9552**



## Itinerary

**Saturday, January 6:** *Meals: D*

We cross the border at Osoyoos and drive south through the Columbia Basin. Our first night is in **Pasco** at the Red Lion Hotel. Our get-acquainted dinner is a chance to meet fellow travellers.

**Sunday, January 7:** *Meals: B,L*

Our route follows I-84 southeast across Oregon with a stop at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. We stay overnight in **Boise**, the capital of Idaho, at the Red Lion Hotel.

**Monday, January 8:** *Meals: B,L*

We travel through the broad Snake River Valley and into Utah. The overnight stop is at the Hampton Inn in **Ogden**.

**Tuesday, January 9:** *Meals: B,L*

It is a short drive into Salt Lake City and there is free time to explore famous **Temple Square**. (Note: Every hotel in the city is full this week due to a huge convention.) Then we continue south through Provo and Cedar City and stay two nights at Majestic View Lodge in Springdale.

**Wednesday, January 10:** *Meals: B,L*

Today's highlight is **Zion National Park** where we drive along the floor of 1000-metre deep Zion Canyon. There is scarcely space for both river and road which are hemmed by soaring buttes such as Three Patriarchs, Angels Landing and Great White Throne. We also thrill to the **Imax film, Zion Canyon: Treasure of the Gods**.

**Thursday, January 11:** *Meals: B*

Soon after leaving Springdale, we enter Arizona and cross the Colorado River on the incredible Navajo Bridge at Marble Canyon. An interesting shopping experience is at the sprawling Cameron Trading Post. Nothing quite prepares you for the awesome **Grand Canyon**. The Colorado River has cut a chasm which is 450 km long, up to 30 km wide, over 1,500 metres deep, and filled with colours that range from yellow to orange to red. There is time to enjoy the thrilling viewpoints and museum at the South Rim. Our overnight stop is at Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn just outside the national park at Tusayan.

**Friday, January 12:** *Meals: B,L*

The great scenery continues as we drive through Flagstaff to the Mogollon Rim, then down colourful Oak Creek Canyon to **Sedona**. This afternoon features the memorable **Verde Canyon Railroad**

with a four-hour excursion along the river, past crimson cliffs and over lofty bridges. Distinctive flora and fauna are visible in this roadless area. Seating is in the first class car with a picnic lunch, beverages and appetizers. We stay two nights at Best Western Plus Inn of Sedona.

**Saturday, January 13:** *Meals: B*

We board **jeeps** for an exciting two-hour jaunt into the backcountry around Sedona, admiring spectacular red rock formations and panoramic views of canyons. The afternoon is free time.

**Sunday, January 14:** *Meals: B,L*

Leaving Sedona, we pause at **Montezuma Castle**, one of the best preserved of Arizona's cliff dwellings which dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. We travel through sprawling Phoenix and into **Tucson**. Our accommodation for four nights is at the Radisson Hotel. Relax in the beautiful courtyard with a large pool. There is a restaurant on site and wi-fi is free.

**Monday, January 15:** *Meals: B,L*

We head east from Tucson to **Kartchner Caverns**, discovered in 1974, but kept secret until 1988, then opened to public tours in 1999. This massive limestone cave has four km of passages and two gigantic rooms as long as football fields. Our underground tour includes 900 metres of walking and enters either the Rotunda or the Big Room. The afternoon is free time at the hotel. A shuttle service operates to nearby attractions including the Park Place Mall.

**Tuesday, January 16:** *Meals: B,D*

First, we visit Mission San Xavier del Bac, a superb example of Spanish mission architecture which was completed in 1797. Then we go to the fascinating **Arizona Sonora Desert Museum** which features many live animals and plants of the region. Next is the International Wildlife Museum which has dioramas depicting some 300 animals in typical habitats. Tonight, we visit Trail Dust Town and a western-themed dinner is served at **Pinnacle Peak**; men should wear an old tie, so it can be snipped off and added to the restaurant's collection of 250,000.

**Wednesday, January 17:** *Meals: B,D*

This morning, we ride the trolley through narrow **Sabino Canyon**, enjoying views of the tumbling waters. Then we go to the Presidio San Agustin Museum, a re-creation of the Tucson Presidio built in 1775. Here we can learn about life as early

Tucsonans would have lived it. In 2015, Tucson was designated a **UNESCO City of Gastronomy**, the first in the USA to be so honoured. Tonight, we attend a cooking class to learn and sample the unique offerings in Tucson.

**Thursday, January 18:** *Meals: B,L*

We leave Tucson and head north to Phoenix, a huge city that now sprawls over 1,300 square km with a metropolitan population exceeding four million. On the east side of Phoenix is the resort community of **Scottsdale** where we stay five nights at the **Embassy Suites Resort**. Rooms are all suites and have separate living room and bedroom, refrigerator, microwave, and two vanities. The grounds feature a large courtyard with cool fountains, lush vegetation and sparkling pools. Without leaving the grounds, you can swim in one of the two oversized pools, enjoy a whirlpool, exercise in the fitness facility, or play tennis. A complimentary cocktail reception and a hot breakfast are daily favourites during our stay here.

**Friday, January 19:** *Meals: B*

A free day! The hotel is conveniently located within walking distance to the Scottsdale Waterfront District and Historic Old Town Scottsdale with its famed art galleries, shopping and dining.

**Saturday, January 20:** *Meals: B,L,D*

The **Arizona Museum of Natural History** in Mesa features dinosaurs, pioneer history of the valley, a native gallery, and legends of the Dutchman's

Treasure in the nearby Superstition Mountains. At 2 pm, we attend **The Dutton Family show**. They are international touring and recording artists who play everything from bluegrass to classical in their shows, featuring a variety of instruments: violin, guitar, bass, viola, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, and drums. Afterwards, we enjoy dinner and a view of Phoenix lights at **Rustler's Rooste**.

**Sunday, January 21:** *Meals: B*

First is a tour of the extraordinary architecture of Taliesin West, the Arizona home and western studio of renowned architect **Frank Lloyd Wright**. Next is the **Musical Instrument Museum** which is rated among the top 20 museums in the USA and displays more than 6,500 instruments from around the world. Later, we go to Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West which celebrates the art, history, culture, and unique stories of Arizona.

**Monday, January 22:** *Meals: B,D*

The morning is free time. We take a 1½ hour scenic afternoon cruise aboard the **Desert Belle** on Saguaro Lake. Our farewell dinner is at the **Silver Star Theatre** featuring the Rhythm Cats variety show which represents many decades and styles of music.

**Tuesday, January 23:** *Meals: B*

The morning is at leisure. With great memories of our winter escape, we pack our bags and fly with Westjet this afternoon from Phoenix to Kelowna. Transfers are provided to our home cities.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due October 26, 2017.


**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 15 seats and \$150 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 26.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 26, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From September 27 to October 26, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From October 27 to November 20, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From November 21 to December 5, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After December 5, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from the airline and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

**Photo Credit:** Arizona Tourism

 **Activity Level:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps. There are opportunities to do longer walks such as at Zion and Grand Canyon. Kartchner Caverns has an elevator and paved underground walkways. The Sedona jeep ride is bumpy. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling home from Phoenix; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 1, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

**e-points:** This tour earns 130 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until October 26.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924