

FOUR CORNERS – NATIONAL PARKS AND CULTURAL TREASURES

ARIZONA – COLORADO – NEW MEXICO – UTAH

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FOUR CORNERS – NATIONAL PARKS AND CULTURAL TREASURES



Phoenix, Arizona, to Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, to Page, Arizona

Page, Arizona, to Monument Valley, Utah, to Page, Arizona

Page, Arizona, to Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah

Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, to Moab, Utah

Moab, Utah, to Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado

Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, to Albuquerque, New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Gallup, New Mexico

Gallup, New Mexico, to Chinle, Arizona

Chinle, Arizona, to Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona

Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona, to Phoenix, Arizona

3 hours and 30 minutes / 360 km

2 hours / 175 km

2 hours and 30 minutes / 200 km

2 hours and 45 minutes / 240 km

4 hours and 15 minutes / 400 km

2 hours and 15 minutes / 200 km

4 hours and 15 minutes / 395 km

2 hours / 220 km

1 hour and 30 minutes / 145 km

1 hour and 30 minutes / 160 km

3 hours and 45 minutes / 340 km



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PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Day 1

Begin your exploration of the Phoenix area with a hot air balloon tour over the splendor of the Arizona desert. For Native American art and culture, head to the **Heard Museum**, which houses more than 4,000 works of art by Indigenous peoples. Just an hour away in Coolidge is the **Casa Grande Ruins National Monument** where many artifacts discovered at Hohokam Pima National Monument are on display. While Pima and the surrounding Gila River Indian Reservation are not open to the public, Casa Grande provides a fascinating look into an ancient Hohokam village once known as Snaketown. Admire the Great House, four-story ruins dating to the 14th century, and other smaller excavated village sites of the ancestral Sonoran Desert People.

Accommodation: Phoenix, Arizona



Phoenix, Arizona

PAGE, ARIZONA, TO MONUMENT VALLEY, UTAH, TO PAGE, ARIZONA

● ● ● ● ● 2 hours and 30 minutes / 200 kilometers

Day 4

Start early today and drive an hour and a half to **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park**, located on the border of Arizona and Utah. You may recognize the park's towering sandstone spires from many Western movies. Drive the scenic 30-kilometer loop through the park to see spectacular stone monuments up to 300 meters tall rising from the valley floor. Enjoy lunch at the Stagecoach Restaurant in the famous **Goulding's Lodge**, then explore Goulding's Museum & Trading Post to see artifacts from the history of the Navajo people before you return to Page. Upon

arrival in Page, head to the must-visit **Antelope Canyon**. Book your tour early, as the only way to explore the sculpted walls of this monumental slot canyon is with a tour guide from the Navajo Nation, who will share fascinating details into the history and geology of the canyon and lead you to breathtaking photo spots.

Accommodation: Page, Arizona



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Monument Valley, Arizona



MOAB, UTAH

Day 7

Pack a picnic lunch and head to **Arches National Park**. Arrive early, before 7 a.m., to beat the crowds. On the far side of the park, Devils Garden Trail offers a short hike with views of the Navajo, Partition and Landscape arches. Now, work your way back down the scenic road, stopping at picturesque overlooks along the way, en route to the Delicate Arch trailhead. This path leads to Delicate Arch, the most famous arch in the park. Spend some time taking in the sights, then make your way back to the park entrance and take a short drive to **Canyonlands National Park**. Both the Green and Colorado rivers flow through the park, splitting

Canyonlands into four distinct districts. The Island in the Sky mesa will be your destination today. Take a drive down the scenic road through the district and take a break for lunch at one of the spectacular overlooks. Next, head to the Mesa Arch Trail for a short hike with incredible views of the La Sal Mountains. Continue through the park with stops at Green River Overlook and Grand View Point – both truly awe-inspiring sights.

Accommodation: Moab, Utah



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MOAB, UTAH, TO MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, COLORADO

● ● ● ● ● 2 hours and 15 minutes / 200 km

Day 8

Today, travel south to **Bears Ears National Monument**, so named for the two distinct buttes that jut upward from the landscape. Spot breathtaking canyons and ancient cliff dwellings on a scenic drive through the monument. Continue south to **Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum**, which explores the distinct Native American cultures of the Four Corners region. Behind the museum is the Edge of the Cedars Pueblo, an excavated village inhabited by Ancestral Puebloan people from 825 to 1225 AD. Make sure to descend the ladder to the kiva, a large underground room with spiritual significance. Next, cross the state line into Colorado to visit **Canyons of the Ancients**

National Monument, where you'll find one of the largest concentrations of archaeological sites in the USA. Your final stop for the day is the expansive **Mesa Verde National Park**, famous for having some of the most well-preserved Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings in the USA. Take a hike to experience spectacular views of the local canyons and ancient structures like Cliff Palace; for a less strenuous experience, explore the galleries of the Mesa Verde Museum just a few kilometers away.

Accommodation: Cortez, Colorado



ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Day 10

From Albuquerque, head just a few minutes north on the **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail** to the Kuaua Ruins. Formerly the home of a Tiwa Native American village, this precontact settlement on the banks of the Rio Grande River is now known as the **Coronado Historic Site**. Explore the well-preserved remnants and enjoy scenic views across the Rio Grande before you head back towards the **Petroglyph National Monument**. Stop and hike the posted trails to discover over 25,000 images and symbols etched onto the black surface of the volcanic rocks by Native Americans and early Spanish settlers over 500 years ago. Head

back to Albuquerque for lunch, then visit the **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center** to learn more about the rich diversity of Native American traditions in New Mexico. Enjoy dance performances and exhibits of pottery, jewelry, clothing, photography and more from each of the area pueblos. Spend the rest of today exploring the sites of downtown Albuquerque. Set off on a self-guided mural tour and take advantage of a bustling nighttime entertainment scene.

Accommodation: Albuquerque, New Mexico



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Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico





Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona

GALLUP, NEW MEXICO, TO CHINLE, ARIZONA

● ● ● ● 1 hour and 30 minutes / 145 km

Day 12

Head north along Route 7 to reach **Canyon de Chelly National Monument**. This vast network of red rock canyons has been inhabited by Navajo communities for centuries, and today the National Park Service and Navajo Nation work jointly to preserve the land. Lookout points include Spider Rock, perhaps the most iconic of the park's sights, consisting of two 250-foot sandstone towers, and the White House Overlook, which offers spectacular views of the canyon below and the massive White House Ruins. Continue along the canyon's North Rim

Drive to see Antelope House Overlook, offering breathtaking views of Canyon del Muerto, and Mummy Cave Overlook, the largest preserved cliff dwelling in the canyon. While plenty of incredible sights are visible from the South and North Rim drives, a tour with a Navajo guide can take you to many of the park's more off-the-beaten-path landscapes.

Accommodation: Chinle, Arizona



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CHINLE, ARIZONA, TO PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK, ARIZONA

● ● ● ● 1 hour and 30 minutes / 160 km

Day 13

Depart Chinle today and head southeast to the town of Window Rock, capital of the Navajo Nation and home to the Navajo Nation Museum. Dedicated to preserving the rich culture, history and language of the Navajo people, the museum is home to traditional exhibits of artwork and artifacts as well as a preserved Navajo home. Continue south to the **Painted Desert** to explore **Petrified Forest National Park**. This unique area is named for its abundance of petrified wood, now visible as rainbow-colored quartz stones scattered across the park's landscape.

Hike a few trails to savor views of beautifully colored mesas, then stop into the Painted Desert Visitor Center to see paleontologists at work preparing fossils and artifacts excavated in the area. Exit the park along the famous Route 66 toward Holbrook, Arizona. For a fun evening packed full of Americana nostalgia, enjoy dinner at Holbrook's Studio 66 Cafe.

Accommodation: Holbrook, Arizona



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Route 66, Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona



