

FAMILY MULTISPORT ITINERARY
CASUAL INN TRIP

BACKROADS
THE WORLD'S #1 ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY

Bryce, Zion & Grand Canyon

BIKE AND WALK A NATIONAL PARK TRIPLE CROWN

**TO RESERVE YOUR
TRIP CALL
800-462-2848 OR
SIGN UP ONLINE [HERE](#)**



Important Facts
at a glance

7 DAYS, 6 NIGHTS

Click [here](#) for departure dates
and pricing details

ROUTE RATING

Levels 1-3

See [below](#) for details.

**IN BUSINESS FOR
29 YEARS,
BACKROADS IS
RECOGNIZED YEAR IN
AND YEAR OUT AS
ONE OF THE WORLD'S
TOP 10 TRAVEL
COMPANIES BY
TRAVEL+LEISURE**

Sprawled across thousands of acres of windswept desert are three of the Southwest's most stunning national parks—Bryce, Zion and Grand Canyon. Here, graceful spires, towering hoodoos and hulking monoliths create a surreal landscape that begs for exploration. On this family multisport adventure, discover cool juniper forests, petrified sand dunes, gaping canyons and river-chiseled gorges at your own pace. Pedal past red-rock pinnacles in Bryce, descend into the humbling vastness of the Grand Canyon and hike a rugged trail as it snakes along a cliff in Zion. At the end of each day, bask in the glow of a technicolor sunset before a canopy of stars emerges from the sky.

DAY 1

Meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks wearing Backroads T-shirts) either at 11:30 a.m. in the lobby of the Crystal Inn or at 11:45 a.m. in the lobby of the Americas Best Value Inn in St. George, Utah. **Please arrive dressed in your hiking clothes with your daypack handy.** See “Arriving & Departing” for additional logistics information.

SHUTTLE TO BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK 2½ HOURS

INSPIRATION POINT HIKE 2 MILES

LONGER OPTION: BRYCE POINT 5 MILES

We begin our Southwest adventure with a shuttle to Bryce Canyon (7,978 feet), stopping in Cedar City for a picnic lunch. As we continue into the hills, you'll get your first glimpse of the dramatic landscapes that characterize the plateaus of Utah and Arizona. We arrive in Bryce, the stunning region Ebenezer Bryce deemed “a hell of a place to lose a cow.” Take one look at the amphitheater's maze of spires, hoodoos, windows, walls and pinnacles, and you'll know exactly what he meant.

For a great introduction to the park, not to mention some spectacular views, hike along the Rim Trail, which winds from Sunset Point, past Inspiration Point, to Bryce Point. Later we settle in at Ruby's Inn, just outside the park. *Lodging: Ruby's Inn*

DAY 2

ELK PRESERVE VISIT (KIDS) 2½ HOURS

RAINBOW POINT BIKING ROUTE (ADULTS) 32 MILES (1,000-FOOT+ ELEVATION GAIN)

OPTIONAL QUEEN'S GARDEN/NAVAJO LOOP HIKE 3.2 MILES (500-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

LONGER OPTION: PEEK-A-BOO LOOP 6.7 MILES (800-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

After fueling up with a hearty breakfast, we dive into a full day of exploration at Bryce Canyon National Park. The Kid Coordinator joins the youngsters on a visit to an 80-acre elk preserve in the beautiful Paunsaugunt plains. As they tour the grounds in a tractor-pulled wagon, the kids observe and learn about elk, buffalo and fallow deer. Meanwhile, adults explore Bryce with a 32-mile out-and-back route to Rainbow Point. Loaded with hills, this ride serves up more than 1,000 feet of elevation gain—and the views at the end provide worthy incentive. Getting there is a mostly uphill climb—first through ponderosa



RUBY'S INN

(2 nights) This comfortable motel, in close proximity to Bryce Canyon, has an indoor swimming pool and hot tub.
Bryce Canyon, Utah
phone: 866-866-6616
or 435-834-5341
www.rubysinn.com

GRAND CANYON LODGE

(2 nights) This rustic stone-and-wood lodge is perched above the grandeur of the remote North Rim.
Grand Canyon, Arizona
phone: 928-638-2611
www.grandcanyonnorthrim.com

CLIFFROSE LODGE AND GARDENS

(2 nights) Lovely gardens, a pool and a hot tub complement the spacious modern rooms of this lodge along the Virgin River.
Zion, Utah
phone: 800-243-8824
or 435-772-3234
www.cliffroselodge.com

**EACH YEAR,
3 OUT OF 4 OF OUR
GUESTS HAVE
PREVIOUSLY
TRAVELED WITH US OR
BEEN REFERRED BY
SOMEONE WHO HAS**

pine, then high-elevation blue spruce and Douglas fir—so you know the going will be easier on the return. When you reach Rainbow Point, Bryce's highest spot at 9,115 feet, the amphitheater's colorful spires, pinnacles and monuments are spread out before you. From your vantage point you can see the vivid Pink Cliffs—the top “step” in a series of rock layers called the Grand Staircase. The Grand Staircase is so vast that the rest of the steps are hidden away as they wrap around the earth's curvature. On a clear day at Rainbow Point, you can see 90 miles south, all the way to Arizona.

The optional afternoon hike highlights Bryce's famous hoodoos. Hike into the canyon, where whimsically shaped rock formations huddle beneath the watchful gaze of the Queen Victoria hoodoo. You'll feel as if you're walking through a petrified forest—or even on another planet. Look for a ridge covered with bristlecone pine, some of the oldest living organisms on earth that thrive in this barren environment. From Queen's Garden, you'll join the Navajo Loop Trail and hike through a narrow canyon punctuated by two stone bridges. Prepare for a steep climb up to the rim at Sunset Point—or take a detour on Peek-A-Boo Loop, a strenuous up-and-down trail with views of Fairy Castle, the Alligator, the Silent City and the Wall of Windows. *Lodging: Ruby's Inn*

DAY 3

RED CANYON BIKING ROUTE 19 MILES

FAMILY OPTION: RED CANYON BIKE PATH 6 MILES WITH SHUTTLE

SHUTTLE TO GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK 3 HOURS

TRANSEPT TRAIL WALK 1.5 MILES

This morning adults pedal out of Bryce Canyon toward Red Canyon, where kids join in for a breezy descent along a bike path through the area's surreal landscape. Backroads vans await to take us to the Grand Canyon (8,145 feet). En route we stop for a picnic lunch at a shady rest area before continuing through the high desert, passing valleys formed by the Sevier and Virgin Rivers. Sleepy towns and weathered farms add to the bucolic scenery. Look for the Elkhart Cliffs, the Kaibab Plateau and eventually, the Grand Staircase panorama near the town of Mount Carmel.

From the plateau, it's not far to our final destination, the historic Grand Canyon Lodge, perched at the edge of the Grand Canyon with unrivaled views of one of the world's most magnificent natural wonders. Stretch your legs on a short walk to the rim to admire this amazing view. Formed by the Colorado River more than 6 million years ago, the canyon stretches 277 miles and ranges in width from 4 to 18 miles. Though just 10 miles from the South Rim as the bird flies, the North Rim seems a world away. By car, it's a 220-mile journey skirting the rim. Because it is less developed and more remote, the North Rim receives fewer visitors, allowing us to explore this awe-inspiring place in peace. Afterward, head back to the lodge for dinner in the laid-back dining room. *Lodging: Grand Canyon Lodge*

DAY 4

KIDS MULE RIDE 1 HOUR

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The day is yours to choose from the multitude of activities (or *in*-activities!) offered at Grand Canyon National Park. In the morning, kids 7 and older can join the Backroads Kid Coordinator on a mule ride.

If you'd like to explore this immense natural wonder on foot, there are several options, including a 5-mile hike along the secluded Widforss Trail. Probably the best plateau hike in the park, it offers a combination of forested views and wide-open vistas extending across



Top Reasons Why *you should take this trip*

We provide a variety of route options so you can do as much or as little activity as you like each day.

You don't have to sweat the details! Backroads takes care of everything—from making sure your luggage is waiting for you in your room to appearing with a cool drink or a lift when you need it the most—allowing you to enjoy a carefree vacation full of fun and relaxation.

Traveling with Backroads is about making connections: with places and people, history and culture, fellow travelers—perhaps you'll even discover something new about yourself!

Our Trip Leaders have undergone hundreds of hours of training and are the best in the industry.

**WHEN YOU SIGN UP
FOR A TRIP, YOU'LL
RECEIVE A
COMPREHENSIVE
TRAVEL PLANNER
WITH ALL THE
INFORMATION YOU
NEED TO PLAN
AND PREPARE**

the canyon to the majestic San Francisco Peaks towering above the South Rim. (Interpretive markers along the route correspond with a brochure available at the trailhead.)

This afternoon, you're welcome to join your leaders on a 2-hour auto tour to Cape Royal, where the Colorado River is visible as it slices through the canyon. A half-mile hike leads to Angel's Window, a beautiful natural arch that juts out from the rock. If you're happy to take it easy today, simply relax with a book and a cold drink at the lodge. *Lodging: Grand Canyon Lodge*

DAY 5

SHUTTLE TO ZION NATIONAL PARK 3 HOURS

RIVERSIDE WALK AND THE NARROWS 5 MILES (250-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

After breakfast, we drive to Zion National Park (4,048 feet). At the entrance, the cliffs and even the road become vibrant shades of pink and red—a stunning setting for a picnic lunch. From here, a park shuttle takes us to the start of this afternoon's hike through the Narrows—the park's most popular hike.

Weather permitting, wade into the inner gorge of the Virgin River as it forges through rock. Small waterfalls and hanging gardens cascade down the canyon walls, which reach up to 1,000 feet high. (Note: If you do this hike, you *will* get wet, so be sure to wear shoes that you don't mind getting soaked; shoes with sufficient tread and toe protection, such as hiking boots or running shoes, are the best choice.)

This evening we check into the Cliffrose Lodge and Gardens, featuring 5 acres of botanical gardens framed by Zion's jagged cliffs. Dine on your own tonight at one of Springdale's charming restaurants. Kids are treated to a pizza party, and fun and games with a Backroads leader. *Lodging: Cliffrose Lodge and Gardens*

DAY 6

CANYONEERING (KIDS) 5 HOURS

SCOUT LOOKOUT HIKE (ADULTS) 4 MILES (1,000-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

LONGER OPTION: ANGELS LANDING 5 MILES (1,500-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHORTER OPTIONS: EMERALD POOLS 2 MILES (500-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

OR HIDDEN CANYON TRAIL 2 MILES (850-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

OR PA'RUS TRAIL 3.5 MILES

An exciting option today for kids 6 and older is the canyoneering adventure at Water Canyon, a slot canyon near Zion National Park. Accompanied by local guides and a Backroads leader, kids hike 45 minutes up-canyon and then set up a rappel. They'll have plenty of time to play and stay cool in the stream while joining their new friends in canyoneering basics.

Meanwhile, adults hike Zion Canyon with stunning views of the park that can't be seen from the roads. The hike to Scout Lookout (and on to Angels Landing, if heights don't bother you) begins with a steep climb above the river to Refrigerator Canyon before a challenging ascent up Walter's Wiggles, a series of switchbacks carved into the cliff. From Scout Lookout, continue to Angels Landing, a sheer wedge of rock looming 1,500 feet above the valley floor. The last half-mile to the landing runs along a steep narrow ridge with dizzying drop-offs on either side. A chain bolted into the rock steadies you on the way up. It sounds scarier than it is, and you'll see people of all ages making the ascent. Just take your time and relax. The view from the landing is a 360-degree panorama of soaring



Route Rating
to map your activity level

Backroads' route rating system is the most comprehensive and accurate in the travel industry. To find out how these ratings translate into varying levels of physical challenge and activity, please visit our Web site —www.backroads.com— and select the route rating button for the trip of your choice.

LEVEL 1
10–20 miles/day (biking)
2–5 miles/day (walking)
2–3 hours/day

LEVEL 2
21–30 miles/day (biking)
5–7 miles/day (walking)
2–4 hours/day

LEVEL 3
31–40 miles/day (biking)
7–9 miles/day (walking)
3–5 hours/day

On this Family Trip, our routes follow gentle terrain with no significant gain or loss in elevation. Liberal van shuttling is incorporated into the itinerary to facilitate our activities and mileage is kept moderate to enable you to spend more time exploring on your own

**ASK FOR REFERENCES
FROM PAST GUESTS
WHO HAVE TAKEN THE
TRIP THAT INTERESTS
YOU**

rock faces and the yawning abyss of Zion Canyon. Less strenuous options include the shaded trail to Emerald Pools, a natural spring with small cascades, and the Pa'rus Trail, a shady paved path that winds along the Virgin River. If you're feeling adventurous, hike to Hidden Canyon, an off-trail excursion through a gorge so narrow you can touch both sides at once.

A dip in our hotel swimming pool will feel good after today's hikes. Tonight we celebrate our adventures with a farewell dinner at the Bit & Spur, a Southwestern restaurant and saloon. *Lodging: Cliffrose Lodge and Gardens*

DAY 7

ZION CANYON BIKING ROUTE 19 MILES (500-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHUTTLE TO ST. GEORGE 1 HOUR

Cap off a wonderful week with a bike ride along the traffic-free Zion Canyon Scenic Drive. It's quiet, peaceful and absolutely breathtaking. Pedal along the Virgin River amid sandstone walls rising 2,000 feet from the canyon floor. If you'd prefer a more leisurely morning, head to Springdale to shop. Back at the inn, you can cool off with a shower. Then we gather for a farewell picnic lunch on the lawn before driving back to St. George, where our trip ends. Please see "Arriving & Departing" for end-of-trip logistics.

ARRIVING & DEPARTING

Please note that meeting and departing times provided here were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change. **PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIRMED ON YOUR VACATION AND HAVE VERIFIED THE DETAILS OF ARRIVING & DEPARTING WITH YOUR TRIP CONSULTANT.**

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

On the first day of the trip, meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks wearing Backroads T-shirts) either at 11:30 a.m. in the lobby of the Crystal Inn **or** at 11:45 a.m. in the lobby of the Americas Best Value Inn in St. George, Utah. (See "Where to Stay Before & After Your Trip" for more information about these hotels.) From here we shuttle to Bryce Canyon National Park, stopping along the way for a picnic lunch in Cedar City. **Please arrive dressed in your hiking clothes with your daypack handy.**

CONCLUSION OF THE TRIP

The trip ends in St. George at the Americas Best Value Inn between 1:30 and 1:45 p.m. (Mountain time). From here you can catch the 2 p.m. St. George Shuttle to the Las Vegas airport, arriving between 3 and 3:30 p.m. (Pacific time). (Remember to make round-trip reservations when booking the St. George Shuttle.) The Backroads van will also stop at the Crystal Inn, arriving between 1:45 and 2 p.m. If you're flying out of Las Vegas on the last day of the trip, please schedule your return flight for after 4:30 p.m.

Note that in Las Vegas, the St. George Shuttle only serves McCarran International Airport. If you'd like to extend your stay in the area, taxis and shuttles are available from the airport.



Note

While the information presented here details this trip's planned routes, activities, accommodations, meeting and departing times, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date on any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.

**ORGANIZE A
BACKROADS PRIVATE
TRIP FOR YOUR
FAMILY, FRIENDS OR
COLLEAGUES FOR THE
TRIP OF A LIFETIME**

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

We recommend either flying into McCarran International Airport (airport code: LAS; www.mccarran.com) in Las Vegas, Nevada, and arranging ground transportation to St. George or flying directly into St. George.

Delta Airlines (800-221-1212; www.delta.com) offers several daily flights to St. George Municipal Airport (SGU; www.sgcity.org/airport) from Salt Lake City (SLC). The trip takes about 1½ hours. United Airlines (800-241-6522; www.united.com) offers daily flights from Los Angeles (LAX) to St. George; the flight lasts 1½ hours.

For help arranging air transport to and from your Backroads trip, please work with your own travel agent, the airline directly or an online travel site. For assistance locating a travel agent, please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents and online travel sites charge a fee for their consulting services.)

GROUND TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN LAS VEGAS AND ST. GEORGE

St. George Shuttle (800-933-8320 or 435-628-8320; www.stgshuttle.com) runs between the Las Vegas airport and St. George and costs \$30 per person each way. Reservations, which can be made by phone only, are required but not available more than three weeks prior to the trip start. Remember to schedule the 2 p.m. return shuttle back to Las Vegas at the end of the trip.

If you're traveling from Las Vegas to St. George on Day 1, please take the 7:45 a.m. (Pacific time) shuttle, which picks up at the Las Vegas airport on Level 0 (zero) and arrives at the Americas Best Value Inn at 10:55 a.m. (Mountain time). When you make your reservation, please tell St. George Shuttle that you're on a Backroads trip. If you have a hard time locating the shuttle or it appears to be running late, call the shuttle office at 800-933-8320 for an update on the status of your pickup. Gratuities for your St. George Shuttle driver are not included in the price.

If you plan to arrive on the St. George Shuttle the day before the trip starts and will be staying at the Crystal Inn, the inn will provide a complimentary pick-up from the Americas Best Value Inn. Please call the Crystal Inn upon arrival.

TRANSPORTATION IN AND AROUND ST. GEORGE

- We suggest *Quality Cab* (435-656-5222). Most point-to-point fares within St. George are \$10 or less.
- Car rental companies with offices at the St. George airport include *Avis* (800-230-4898; www.avis.com) and *Hertz* (800-654-3131; www.hertz.com).

DRIVING TO ST. GEORGE

St. George, Utah, is located 120 miles northeast of Las Vegas off Interstate 15. The drive takes approximately 2 hours. **Please note that you'll lose 1 hour between Las Vegas (Pacific time) and St. George (Mountain time).** From Interstate 15, take Exit #6 to Bluff Street and turn left at the end of the ramp. Continue over the interstate and take a left on Hilton Drive, then immediately bear to the left. The Crystal Inn is on the right. If you're coming from Salt Lake City (approximately 6 hours), turn right at the end of the ramp, take the first left on Hilton Drive and follow the road as it immediately bears to the left. The Crystal Inn is on the right (1450 South Hilton Drive; 435-688-7477).

You can park your car at the Crystal Inn for the duration of the trip. Please identify

yourself at the front desk as a Backroads guest, and they'll let you know where to park.

Hotel Room Rate Guide (U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

TRANSPORTATION IN LAS VEGAS

The following transportation services are available between McCarran International Airport and hotels on the Strip and in downtown Las Vegas. For additional options, visit the airport's Web site at www.mccarran.com.

Bell Trans Limos (800-274-7433 or 702-739-7990; www.bell-trans.com) offers shared shuttle service from the airport to the Strip for \$5.50 per person one-way; \$10.50 per person round-trip. Service to downtown is \$7 per person one-way; \$13 round-trip. You can buy tickets outside Door No. 11 in the baggage claim area. Reservations are required for shuttle service from hotels back to the airport. The shuttle runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Gray Line Shuttle Bus (702-739-5700; www.graylinelasvegas.com) is located outside of Doors No. 9 and 10 in the baggage claim area of the airport. (If you're arriving in Terminal 2, you'll find Gray Line outside of Door No. 3.) The bus leaves the airport about every 20 minutes, 24 hours a day. The cost per person is \$5.75 one-way, \$10.50 round-trip to the Strip, and \$7.75 one-way, \$14.50 round-trip to downtown. For departures from hotels back to the airport, you must call and make reservations 24 hours before your flight. The bus picks up and drops off at all downtown and Strip hotels.

Citizens Area Transit (CAT) System (702-228-7433; www.catride.com) can also be a reliable way to navigate Las Vegas. Buses depart the airport below the baggage claim area at Level 0 (zero). The fare is \$2 to the Strip and \$1.25 to all other downtown destinations.

WHERE TO STAY BEFORE & AFTER YOUR TRIP

SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATIONS

For help arranging pre- or post-trip hotels in conjunction with your Backroads trip, please work with your travel agent or the hotels directly. For assistance locating a travel agent please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents charge a fee for their consulting services.)

Of course, we also recommend extending your stay at any of the hotels that we visit on this trip; see the sidebar above for details.

Please refer to the Hotel Room Rate Guide in the sidebar for starting double-occupancy rates. Note that the chart reflects the Internet and/or Best Available rates, which were accurate at the time of printing, but **hotel rates are always subject to change**.

ST. GEORGE

CRYSTAL INN (A MEETING LOCATION ON DAY 1 AND A DROP-OFF LOCATION ON DAY 7)

A stay at the Crystal Inn—a spot where our trip starts and ends—couldn't be more convenient. The inn offers all the comforts and amenities of a full-service resort: well-appointed rooms, complimentary breakfast buffet, an on-site restaurant and spa and fitness facilities. 1450 South Hilton Drive; Phone: 877-462-7978 or 435-688-7477; www.crystalinns.com; **Special Backroads Rate: From \$65. Let the reservationist know that you are a Backroads guest and mention rate code "BAC" when booking, or, if booking online, enter "BAC" in the "office or company code" field.** 101 rooms

The Crystal Inn provides a complimentary shuttle from the Americas Best Value Inn (the

St. George Shuttle drop-off spot). Please call the Crystal Inn upon arriving at the Americas Best Value Inn to request a pickup.

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

AMERICAS BEST VALUE INN (A MEETING LOCATION ON DAY 1 AND A DROP-OFF LOCATION ON DAY 7)
As the pick-up and drop-off point for the St. George Shuttle, the Americas Best Value Inn is a convenient place to start your Backroads adventure. Featuring newly remodeled guest rooms (each with a mini-fridge and microwave), a heated outdoor pool, free Wi-Fi access and a continental breakfast. 915 South Bluff Street; Phone: 877-688-8383 or 435-688-8383; www.americasbestvalueinn.com; **Special Backroads Rate: From \$59. Let the reservationist know that you are a Backroads guest when booking.** 76 rooms

GREENE GATE VILLAGE BED-AND-BREAKFAST

Comprised of nine meticulously restored homes and cottages, each with its own unique layout and decor, this enchanting “village” is full of the same historic character and charm that you’d have found in the late 1800s. Be sure to visit the Green Gate’s Web site to see photos of the houses, rooms and grounds. Breakfast is included. 76 West Tabernacle Street; Phone: 800-350-6999; www.greengate.com; 9 homes with 1–4 private rooms. Rates: ◆

AVA HOUSE INN & SPA

This Victorian bed-and-breakfast has been recently transformed into a modern spa retreat. Innkeeper Jill and her staff have made every effort to create a relaxing, pampering experience for guests, and it shows. The inn’s four rooms, each named after one of the original homeowners, are individually decorated and outfitted with plush bedding. Be sure to make time for a spa treatment, massage or yoga class. After a delicious hot breakfast, included in your stay, you can leisurely explore Main Street and the Brigham Young Winter Home, just two blocks away. 278 North 100 West; Phone: 435-673-7755; www.avahousespa.com; 4 rooms. Rates: ◆◆

GREEN VALLEY SPA AND RESORT

With a multitude of rejuvenating beauty treatments and activities ranging from tennis and yoga to boxing and dance classes, this renowned spa offers a relaxing as well as invigorating haven in St. George. The attention to detail—from the daily personal notes left in your room to the freshly arranged flower bouquets that appear each morning—will make you feel pampered every moment of your stay. Be sure to venture out on the morning hikes to experience the inspiring beauty of the red-rock canyons and petroglyphs up close. 1871 West Canyon View Drive; Phone: 800-237-1068 or 435-628-8060; www.greenvalleyspa.com; 45 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆

IVINS: NEAR ST. GEORGE

RED MOUNTAIN SPA

The Red Mountain Spa is surrounded by an inspiring landscape of canyons and dramatic rock formations. Classes, lectures, a host of activities for the outdoor and fitness enthusiast and three healthful gourmet meals daily are part of the all-inclusive package. Spacious guest rooms are tastefully furnished, and a full-service spa and fitness center are also on site. 1275 East Red Mountain Circle; Phone: 800-407-3002 or 435-673-4905; www.redmountainspa.com; 82 rooms, 12 suites. Rates: ◆◆◆◆◆

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

LAS VEGAS

DESERT ROSE RESORT

The Desert Rose Resort is an ideal place to relax between visits to the 24/7-excitement on the Vegas Strip, located just a block away. The hotel offers spacious one- and two-bedroom suites with balconies, a sun-soaked pool and hot tub, exercise facility and a breakfast buffet. 5051 Duke Ellington Way; Phone: 702-739-7000; www.desertroseresort.com; 284 suites. Rates: ◆◆

MANDALAY BAY

Offering a “Pacific South Seas” experience, Mandalay Bay shows off its Southeast Asian style with Balinese carvings, lush foliage, tropical-themed lounges and most importantly, an 11-acre sand beach with 6-foot ocean waves to transport you from the desert to a tropical paradise. Make time to get up close and personal with some of the world’s most dangerous underwater creatures at the Shark Reef aquarium. Plenty of entertainment and great cuisine are available at this exotic resort, including the House of Blues, many Tony award-winning Broadway shows, and Charlie Palmer’s Aureole restaurant. 3950 Las Vegas Boulevard South; Phone: 877-632-7800 or 702-632-7777; www.mandalaybay.com; 3,309 rooms. Rates: ◆◆

PARIS

A woman wearing a navy beret and riding an antique bike decked out with a basket full of baguettes and fresh flowers passes you with a cheerful “Bonjour!” You might momentarily forget that you’re not really in France but rather, the Paris of Las Vegas. Displaying half-scale replicas of the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and Paris Opera House as well as quaint Parisian streets lined with boulangeries and cafés, Paris gives you a worthy facsimile of this magnificent European city close to home. 3655 Las Vegas Boulevard South; Phone: 877-796-2096 or 877-603-4386; www.parislv.com; 2,916 rooms, including 295 suites. Rates: ◆◆

THE PALMS

A 21st-century addition to The Strip, the Palms ups the ante on hotel extravagance, where a three-story spa overlooks jungle gardens and a swimming pool painted luscious lavender. Simulated thunderstorms threaten at the sultry dance club Rain, while the Ghost Bar—set 50 stories atop the glass-paned hotel—guarantees glittering city views. Things tone down in most guest rooms, where walls are washed in earth tones and the plush bedding is imported from Europe. 4321 West Flamingo Road; Phone 866-942-7777 or 702-942-7777; www.palms.com; 455 rooms and suites. ◆◆

THE VENETIAN

Recreating Venice under one enormous roof, the Venetian offers a world of piazzas, arched bridges, a faux sky that changes depending upon the time of day, exclusive Italian boutiques, frescoed corridors, gold ceilings and a recreation of St. Mark’s Square along the Grand Canal. Upon entering, you immediately encounter a life-size canal filled with gondoliers and flanked by pink and terracotta Venetian-style townhouses. You’ll also find the exclusive Canyon Ranch Spa Club, a 69,000-square-foot fitness oasis that includes a rock-climbing wall. And the food? The Venetian features some of the world’s most celebrated restaurants, including Lutece and Postrio. 3355 Las Vegas Boulevard South; Phone: 877-857-1861 (for reservations) or 702-414-1000; 4,049 suites. www.venetian.com; Rates: ◆◆

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

BELLAGIO

The epitome of glamour and decadence, the Bellagio invites you into an extravagant world unlike any other. If the 8-acre lake with 1,200 jets shooting water 240 feet into the air—all timed to musical scores—doesn't impress you, then perhaps Cirque du Soleil's "O"—choreographed within a giant pool—will. Complementing these spectacular shows and attractions are the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, showcasing works by Monet and Degas, the Botanical Garden, European boutiques and an incredible selection of restaurants, including New York's Le Cirque. 3600 Las Vegas Boulevard South; Phone: 888-987-6667 or 702-693-7111; www.bellagiolasvegas.com; 3,933 rooms, including 512 suites. Rates: ◆◆◆

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

While the following hotels are more basic than the above recommendations, we've included them for their comfortable accommodations and convenient locations.

BEST WESTERN McCARRAN INN (LAS VEGAS AIRPORT)

4970 Paradise Road; Phone: 800-626-7575 or 702-798-5530; www.bestwestern.com; 99 rooms. Rates: ◆

COMFORT INN (LAS VEGAS AIRPORT)

4350 Paradise Road; Phone: 702-938-2000; www.comfortinn.com; 106 rooms. Rates: ◆

THE ORLEANS HOTEL AND CASINO (OFF THE STRIP)

4500 West Tropicana Avenue; Phone: 702-365-7111 or 800-675-3267; www.orleanscasino.com; 1,886 rooms. Rates: ◆

We hope you've found this information useful, but nothing substitutes for speaking with one of our experienced Trip Consultants. Please call 800-462-2848 Monday-Sunday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pacific time.