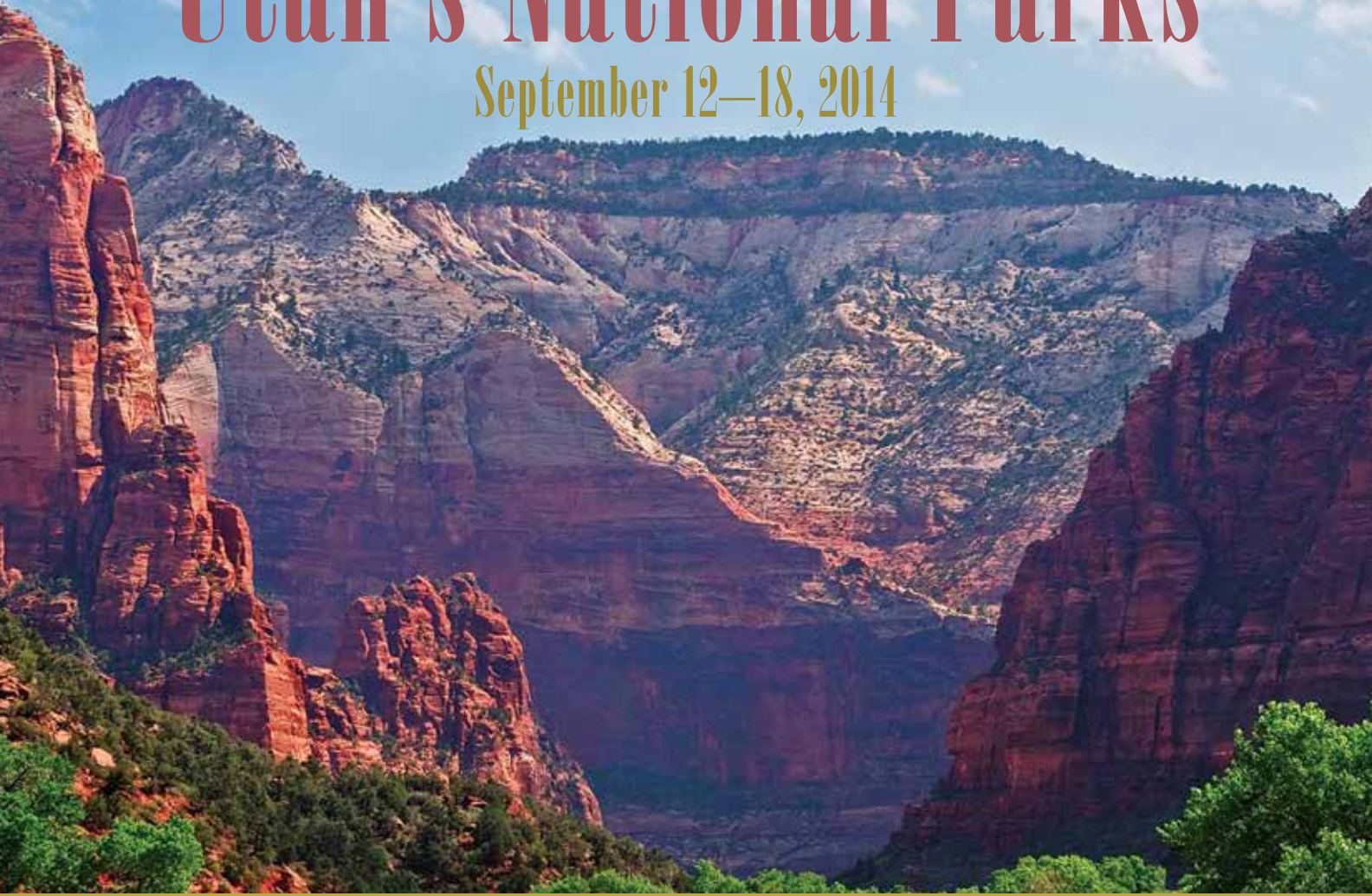
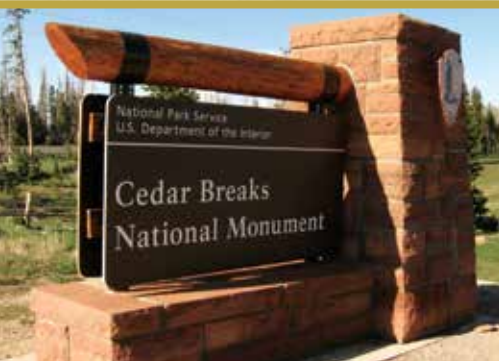


Utah's National Parks

September 12–18, 2014



Explore history, ecology and scenery in five national parks and monuments on the Colorado Plateau, ranging from time-honored favorites Zion and Bryce Canyon to somewhat lesser-known Capitol Reef, Cedar Breaks, and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument.



Visit Five National Parks

Cedar Breaks, which became a national monument in 1933, has the highest elevation of the parks we will visit. Much of its original facility development done by the Civilian Conservation Corps, such as the 1937 visitor center, is still in use.

Bryce Canyon became a national monument administered by the US Forest Service in 1923. Hotels in the park, like the one we stay in, originally were developed by The Union Pacific Railroad.

Grand Staircase Escalante

Unlike the National Park System this monument is administered by the US Bureau of Land Management. Little development exists within its boundaries.

A Capitol Reef National Monument

with an area of about 58 square miles was proclaimed in 1937. In 1969 a presidential proclamation expanded the bounds of the monument sixfold. Congress authorized the monument as Capitol Reef National Park in 1971.

Zion originated as a national monument created from the public domain by a presidential proclamation. Congress legislated the creation of Zion National Park – the first in Utah – in 1919.

Itinerary

September 12

Las Vegas to Cedar Breaks National Monument

Arrive independently the previous night as we depart Las Vegas at 8:30 a.m. for Cedar Breaks National Monument, which encompasses a 5-mile wide natural limestone amphitheater. From its 10,000-foot-high rim, experience views across the multi-hued cliffs, spires, and arches of its eroded slopes. Hike the Alpine lake Trail, set amid spruce trees and bristlecone pines. Continue to Bryce Canyon National Park for the night. *The Lodge at Bryce Canyon (L,D)*

September 13

Bryce Canyon National Park

Visit the Bryce Canyon Visitor Center and hike the Rim Trail. Experience Bryce Point and Paria View, then go below the canyon rim to hike the Navajo Queens Garden Trail loop. (Options for various lengths of hikes will be given throughout the tour.) *The Lodge at Bryce Canyon (B,L,D)*

September 14

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

Visit Kodachrome Basin State Park, renowned for its colorful cliffs and unusual rock pillars. Travel along scenic highway 12 and hike upper Calf Creek Falls in the Grand Staircase Escalante. Experience Long Canyon and a hike into one of the narrow, steep-walled slot canyons that characterize the Escalante country. *Best Western Capitol Reef Resort (B,L,D)*

September 15

Capitol Reef National Park

Visit the pioneer Mormon community of Fruita and take the park's 10-mile-long Scenic Drive, parallel to the hundred-mile-long monocline known as the Waterpocket Fold, which once blocked the progress of emigrant wagon trains. Hike the Grand Wash Trail, the Capitol Gorge Trail, and the trail in Cohab Canyon. *Best Western Capitol Reef Resort (B,L,D)*

September 16

Anasazi State Park & Zion National Park

Visit Anasazi State Park, its anthropology museum, and the excavated site of a thousand-year-old Anasazi village. En route to Zion, stop for a hike at Escalante River Natural Bridge. Enter Zion through the tunnel completed in 1930 to create direct access to Bryce Canyon and Grand Canyon from Zion. *Desert Pearl Inn (B,L,D)*

September 17

Zion National Park

Explore the area along the Virgin River within Zion Canyon, the heart of the park. Visit the Zion Human History Museum. Hike Emerald Pools and Grotto Trail and see the Temple of Sinawava. Take the Riverside Walk to the Narrows of Zion Canyon. *Desert Pearl Inn (B,L,D)*

September 18

Zion National Park to Las Vegas

Relax at the hotel or head back into Zion for another hike. After lunch we return to Las Vegas. Please book your flights for 6:00 p.m. or later. *(B,L)*





What to Expect

Average temperatures in September range from daytime highs in the 80s and overnight lows down to the 50s. We'll also be at a variety of elevations from 4,000 to over 10,000 feet. Our transportation around the region is by mini-bus. Given the vastness of the area, there is some time to be spent on the bus driving between parks, but we've designed it so you alternate days with longer drives (3 to 4.5 hrs) with days with much less driving (20 min to 2 hrs). Travelers should be in active good health to participate in this trip. While walks are not too strenuous, some are over uneven terrain and may require the use of hands and feet to climb over obstructions. Our longest hike is up to 8 miles, with approximately 1,000 feet in elevation gain. Most all walks are "out and back" so participants can go as far as they like, and then wait for the group to return.

Trip Details

Dates:

September 12–18, 2014

Group Size:

Minimum 15, maximum 25
(not including staff)

Cost:

\$3,195 per person, double occupancy;
\$595 single room supplement

Included:

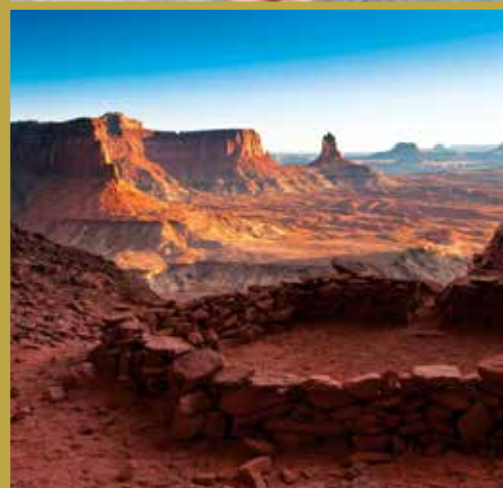
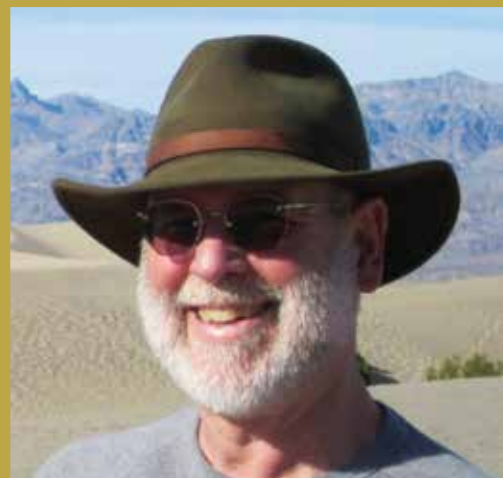
6 nights accommodation as specified; round-trip transfers from Las Vegas Airport to Utah's National Parks; all park admission fees; daily hiking activities; all ground transportation; daily breakfast (6) at the hotel, 7 lunches and 6 dinners, welcome and farewell dinners with beer and wine; tours, entrances, and events as specified in the itinerary; mini-bus transportation for all excursions; gratuities for hotel staff, restaurant staff, drivers and for all group activities; Expert Guide Frank Ackerman; services of a professional Tour Manager.

Not included:


Air transportation to and from Las Vegas, Nevada; hotel accommodations in Las Vegas; meals and beverages other than those specified as included; optional excursions and other activities done independently; trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance; personal items such as e-mail, telephone and fax calls, souvenirs, laundry; and gratuities for non-group services.

Study Leader, Frank Ackerman

Study Leader, Frank Ackerman is a retired National Park Service Ranger. His 30-year career included posts at the Grand Canyon, Death Valley and Voyageurs National Parks. He finished his time with the Park Service at Cape Cod National Seashore where he served as the Chief of Interpretation. After his initial retirement, Frank helped create an award-winning interpretative program as part of a joint venture between Amtrak and the National Park Service to provide educational commentary on select passenger trains in the Northeast. Most recently he has been living in Carson City, Nevada and working as Director of the Nevada State Railroad Museum. As we journey between parks, Frank will discuss the evolution of park policy over the past 100 years and in specific the delicate balance of the dual mandate of preservation and promotion of visitation. He is also excited to teach you about the spectacular desert flora and fauna, and the geology and human history of the region.



Utah's National Parks

 **Commonwealth
Club Travel**
Phone: 415.597.6720
Fax: 415.597.6729

RESERVATION FORM September 12–18, 2014

NAME 1 _____

NAME 2 _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SINGLE TRAVELERS ONLY:

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate: I plan to share accommodations with _____
OR I wish to have single accommodations. OR I'd like to know about possible roommates. I am a smoker / nonsmoker. (circle one)

PAYMENT:

Here is my deposit of \$ _____ (\$500 per person) for _____ place(s).
 Enclosed is my check (make payable to *Black Sheep Adventures, Inc.*). OR
 Charge my deposit to my Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

CARD# _____ EXPIRES _____ SECURITY CODE _____

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for this program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR DEPOSIT TO:

Commonwealth Club Travel
595 Market St., 2nd floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
You may also fax the form to 415.597.6729

Terms and Conditions:

DEPOSIT & PAYMENTS:

To make a reservation, a deposit of \$500 per person is required by check or credit card. Please mail your check (payable to "Black Sheep Adventures, Inc") or charge instructions, with your completed reservation form to the address on the reservation form. You may also fax in your reservation form or call our office or call (415) 597-6720. Final payment is due no later than July 14, 2014. If you want to pay your final payment by check there is a \$50 "payment by check" discount.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:

Your deposit and payments are refundable, less the following cancel fees:

- 91+ days prior to trip start date, \$100 per person
- 61-90 days prior to trip start, \$500 deposit
- 0-60 days prior to trip start, No refund

We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Tour can also be cancelled due to low enrollment. Neither CWC nor Black Sheep Adventures accepts liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets purchased in conjunction with the tour.

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

Participation in this program requires that you be in good health. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The Commonwealth Club of California and our ground operators and suppliers act only as agents for the travelers with respect to transportation and arrangements, and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in

conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, *force majeure* or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The Commonwealth Club of California accepts no liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour.