

Utah's Mighty Five May 2022

May 6-13, 2022 • 8 Days • \$2,900

Arrive: Salt Lake City, UT

Depart: Las Vegas, NV

Join us for an eye-popping, jaw-dropping, camera-stopping odyssey through Utah's Mighty Five National Parks! A series of walks are offered in each park through some of the most stunning scenery and some of the most monumental geological wonders to be seen, certainly in the Southwest, even throughout the USA, and mostly likely across the globe!

This tour is now full and accepting standby requests (contact us by email fun@walkingadventures.com).

TOUR COMPLETE

[Contact Us](#)

[Tour Type: Classic Curated](#)

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We spend nearly all of our Adventure exploring the Colorado Plateau, a geology wonderland covering southern Utah and parts of Colorado and Arizona. This high plateau is crisscrossed by a seemingly endless spider web of stunningly-colorful, bizarrely-shaped stone canyons.

It truly feels like its own world, shut off from the rest of planet Earth, and the central part of Utah, from Boulder to Escalante, was one of the last places in the Lower 48 to be penetrated by roads, rather than be serviced by packmules. You'll understand why when we drive Utah's Journey Through Time Scenic Byway along the Hogsback, a narrow bridge of stone, surrounded by a sea of sandstone valleys, barely wide enough to lay a 2-lane road.

Join us for this unforgettable exploration of the geological wonders of amazing Utah!

What's Included:

- All land travel by motorcoach as outlined
- Group airport transfer at end of tour
- Tourist class or better hotel accommodations
- 7 breakfasts plus 1 dinner
- 6 walk routes as listed, plus an additional optional walk route on Day 1
- Walking fees for 4 walks for those collecting AVA walk credit (if AVA sanctions approved)
- WAI guide service throughout
- Cultural and historical expertise of our local guide in Escalante area

- Pricing is based on double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available for a supplement of \$590. We also provide a roommate matching service for those interested.

Visits to/Admission fees

- Arches National Park
- Dead Horse Point State Park
- Canyonlands National Park
- Goblin Valley State Park
- Capitol Reef National Park
- Guided tour of Highway 12 ~ All American Road
- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
- Anasazi State Park Museum
- Wild West Retreat Dinner
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- Zion National Park

“Wonderful experience. I feel I know Ireland - its history and culture. As for the kind people themselves, they are lovely people.”

-Bob C; Tigard, OR

“I really enjoyed the stops; they were at places I wouldn’t have stopped at if I planned the trip myself.”

-Liz D; Norfolk, VA

“Once again, I have met a group of really neat people and saw old friends! Thanks for another super trip...Constant supervision, always willing to listen, information along the route and about areas is excellent. All the above is what makes your company unique - one of a kind.”

-Mamie B; Venice, FL

“Always an excellent and educational experience - Like a living history walk.”

-John S; Oakland, CA

“I don’t have to think about details after I meet the tour leaders and the leaders themselves

are always well prepared. I have met most of the WAI personnel and I find them all terrific!"

-Robert S; Portland, OR

"I feel as though I have received a course in Irish history, culture, geography, art literature and current events."

-Lucille S; Oakland, CA

"Trip exceeded expectations; enjoyed Tim's stories - added friendliness to each and all."

-Loretta H; Windsor, CO

"This was a wonderful trip with a new surprise every day. You always deliver unexpected delightful experiences, great guides, well-planned daily schedules."

-John & Shari S; Cheney, WA

"The tour exceeded my expectations. Use of Barbara and other guides was great and enhanced the experience."

-Paul D; ON, Canada

"It was a great trip with some wonderful hiking experiences. We had a great group of people who made the trip even more fun. I don't think it could have been any better."

-Jo Beth D; McKinney, TX

"Exceeded all my expectations - loved the walks, history and different experiences - pubs and music, boat rides, etc."

-Grace M; Bowling Green, KY

“Good leaders - good local guides - attention to detail.”

-Josie J; Sunnyvale, CA

*“Would definitely recommend WAI to our active friends. Hope to join you in the near future!
Tour exceeded our expectations.”*

-Candace S; Albuquerque, NM

- [360.260.9393](tel:360.260.9393)
- [Email Us](#)





Adventure Pace

Tour Pace: 1 2 3 4 5

Walk Challenge: 1 2 3 4 5

[About Adventure Pace](#)

Adventure Pace

How much Adventure do you want? Here are a few features to help gauge the following factors on each tour.

Tour Pace: On a scale of 1 (slowest pace) to 5 (fastest pace), we've rated the following factors: number of 1-night hotels; driving miles per day; fullness of schedule; mid-tour airline flights; high elevation setting; and average amount of walking per day.

Walk Challenge: This number represents an average walk difficulty rating for the tour using a scale of 1 (easiest) to 5 (hardest).

[Contact Us](#)

Important Info



Group Size

Maximum 22 travelers in a full size motorcoach



Hotels

Strategically located Tourist Class accommodations or better



Transportation

Included. For groups up to 22, we use motorcoaches with a seating capacity of 40 seats.



Airfare

Not included. Start point is Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC), Utah, and finish point is McCarran International Airport (LAS), Las Vegas, Nevada.



Meals

All breakfasts and one dinner. Due to Covid-19 concerns, some breakfast may be grab and go breakfast bags. Few group meals are included; when possible, optional group meals may be offered.



Traveler Age

Our travelers usually range from 50-75 years of age. All ages welcome!

Your Guides



Scott & Ruth Burk

Sharing the best of Europe and America, the Burks have been leading Walking Adventures for several years. Unforgettable Utah is one of their favorite domestic destinations—complete with other-worldly red rock formations and a palatable Wild West aura. They are excited to lead walks in each of the five National Parks at the cornerstone of this Adventure and explore countless other unexpected gems along the route. Always on the lookout for a great vista or neighborhood foodie hangout, they enjoy sharing their enthusiasm for travel with others. In between tours, you'll likely find Ruth attending to her backyard chickens and Scott reading the newspaper on the front porch with their dog, Titan.

Itinerary

Click on each day to reveal more details. BD refers to meals included ~ Breakfast or Dinner.

[Day 1: Arrive Salt Lake City, Utah](#)

Optional Salt Lake City Capital Walk - 5/10 km, rated 2B

Travelers arrive into Salt Lake City today for the beginning of our tour of remarkable Utah. No activities are planned for the day but walkers are welcome to explore Salt Lake City, Utah's state capital, on a walk sponsored by a local walking club. We'll rendezvous at the hotel this evening for a Welcome Orientation get together.

[Day 2: Salt Lake City - Moab, Utah \(B\)](#)

Arches National Park Walk - 9 km, rated 1B

A lovely drive down country roads takes us into the Colorado Plateau area that we'll be traveling through for the rest of the adventure. The small town of Moab serves as a base for two unforgettable national park experiences. Today's 3-part walk in Arches National Park is characterized by graceful, gargantuan arches and windows carved into magnificent reddish sandstone monoliths. The bonus of walking right up to many of the formations adds an almost sacred sense of scale to the experience.

[Day 3: Activities from Moab \(B\)](#)

Canyonlands National Park Walk - 11 km, rated 2C

A 4-kilometer walk at Dead Horse Point State Park is a great warm up for the main event in Canyonlands—three additional short trails in the aptly-named 'Island in the Sky' section of the national park. A top-of-the-world feeling overtakes us as we walk along mesa rims, looking down 2000 feet to the canyon floor spread before us to infinity. Our eyes are drawn deeper still, into the dark grooves of a third tier of sandstone below, through which the Colorado and Green Rivers have carved their way. Vistas offered on these walks are among the most dramatic we've ever witnessed!

[Day 4: Moab - Escalante, Utah \(B\)](#)

Goblin Valley Walk - 3 km, rated 1B (unsanctioned)

Hickman Bridge - 3 km, rated 3C (unsanctioned)

Goblin Valley really shouldn't be situated on planet Earth. The goofy, mud-colored, larger-than-life shapes seem to belong more in a corny, 1960s sci-fi film. The fact that they're real, however, allows us to share child-like delight as we wander through the bizarre formations. Capitol Reef National Park also has its share of geological wonders. Our first stop offers a memorable hike to spectacular shades of sculpted sandstone at Hickman Bridge. It's the abandoned, early 20th century settlement of Fruita that makes this park unique among Utah's Mighty Five. Fruit orchards offering a variety of produce are still tended by National Park Service staff. The final leg of our journey takes us down storied Highway 12, designated an All-American Road for its combined offerings of scenery and history.

[Day 5: Activities from Escalante \(BD\)](#)

Shannon, a born and raised local, hosts us on a driving tour this morning along Highway 12 through the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to Boulder. Our stop at Anasazi State Park Museum sheds light on the mysterious predecessors of the Navajo, the Anasazi, who inhabited this part of the Southwest for over a thousand years! On the return drive, we enjoy the view while Shannon shares memorable tidbits on the area's history and culture, and maybe even a dinosaur track sighting! This evening, we meet Shannon's wife, Jenifer, our hostess for a down-home Utah, back-country dinner at the Wild West Retreat.

[Day 6: Escalante - Springdale, Utah \(B\)](#)

Bryce Canyon National Park Walk - 9 km, rated 2B

Bryce Canyon boasts some of the most colorful, fantastical rock formations on a journey chock-full of incredible canyons! We walk at our highest elevation here, around 9,000 FASL, and use two different trails to see the canyon. Part 1 has a “standard” option along the rim or a “challenge” option that drops down amongst the captivating hoodoo formations of the Queen’s Garden trail. We walk Part 2 together, relishing non-stop classic views of formations like the Cathedral and Silent City from the Rim Trail. More scenic driving takes us through tunnels east of Zion National Park to Springdale, situated on the southern border of Zion, and our home for the last two nights.

[Day 7: Activities from Springdale \(B\)](#)

Zion National Park Walk - 10 km, rated 1B

Zion’s excellent shuttle system and network of trails and viewpoints make this a delightful, low-stress way to unwind after 6 days packed with “amazing”! WAI guides orient you to the park and the shuttle service, providing our approach and trail recommendations to Zion; then you are on your own to enjoy the day!

[Day 8: Depart from Las Vegas, Nevada \(B\)](#)

Breakfast is followed by a drive across the desert to the Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS). Here, we say farewell to our walking pals, and to an otherworldly walking adventure in amazing Utah!

More Details

Click on each heading for more details.

[How Do I Lock in My Place on This Adventure?](#)

To register, a non-refundable \$200 deposit is required to hold your spot. A final payment is due 60 days before departure and is non-refundable once paid. You will receive a prompt email from us a week or two in advance.

An email with critical information on flight arrangements will be sent soon after registration, as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. Please do not buy your airline tickets until you review the Flight Arrangements email.

Please follow this link to read our full [General Tour Conditions](#).

[What's a Classic Curated Tour?](#)

With help from local experts and walking guides, these itineraries are crafted with extensive

on-site planning by WAI tour planners.

When planning Classic Curated Tours, our objective is to capture the essence of a destination—the history, culture, and natural wonders unique to that part of the world. We then build activities and walks that take us *inside* these characteristics.

Yes, these tours are educational, but they are also interactive and immersive; walking gets us off the bus and penetrates local cultures to not only see, but also touch, smell, and feel these special spaces.

Along the way, interactions with locals amplify the experience by sharing insights into the magic of that particular location.

[Walk Difficulty](#)

Traveling on the Colorado Plateau involves walking at higher than normal altitudes. Most walks are at elevations of 4000 to 5000 feet above sea level (FASL), with the exception of Bryce Canyon National Park, at just under 9000 feet above sea level. Be prepared for our walks in Bryce Canyon National Park to feel more challenging than a walk of similar difficulty at lower elevation.

Though trails in natural settings like the wide open spaces of Utah are more likely to be called “hikes” than “walks”, we intentionally look for routes that are manageable for most walkers in good physical condition and for trails with minimal tricky footing.

In addition, walk distances listed for most days are a combination of two or more shorter trails, offering time in between hikes to rest, ride the coach to our next trail, or have a picnic lunch.

[Walk Ratings](#)

We generally walk at a pace of 2 to 3 miles per hour. Walks that are oriented more towards education may take longer due to stops for guide commentary. Nature walks, on the other hand, generally continue at a steadier pace because we’re stopping less to talk. In most cases, we are not “strolling.” We are walking at a relaxed but steady pace. Your experience will be significantly affected by your level of physical fitness. If not walking regularly at home, we strongly recommend that you make a priority of “training” beforehand to both enjoy the trip and avoid medical issues due to overexertion. If you have questions about your ability to participate, please contact our office at fun@walkingadventures.com. We have adopted a walk difficulty rating system which contains a numeric indicator for trail incline and an alpha indicator for trail terrain. The explanation for this system is presented on the table below:

INCLINE

1. Minimal hills or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: <200 feet.

2. Some moderate hills and stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 200-1000 feet.
3. Some significant hill or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 1000-2000 feet.

TERRAIN

- A. Almost entirely on pavement.
- B. A significant part of the route is on well-groomed trails with very few obstacles.
- C. A significant part of the route is on somewhat difficult terrain (rocky / rooted paths or soft sand).

[Elevation on Tour](#)

Through most of this adventure, we are traveling on the Colorado Plateau. The elevation of our hotels—where we overnight—has a greater impact on us physically than where we travel or walk during the day. That is, the elevation of where you sleep overnight is usually more important than the elevation of activities during the day. Our hotels are located around 4000 to 5000 feet above sea level (FASL), with one just under 6000 feet above sea level.

Activities are generally in that range as well, with the exception of the walk at Bryce Canyon National Park, where we are at about 9000 feet above sea level. Because Bryce Canyon is near the end of the trip, it is likely that your body will have acclimated to mid-range altitudes by that time. It is important to pursue any concerns you have about altitude with your doctor. As always, travelers are free to opt out of any activities.

[Tour Accommodations](#)

Good quality, tourist-class accommodations are the standard for our Adventure. Most accommodations on this tour are selected primarily as a practical base from which to pursue our itinerary. Because much of this Adventure is in small town Utah, a few of our properties are quality motels reflecting the spirit of our setting, which we think you'll enjoy. Many, but not all, of our accommodations on this adventure are either single-floor or two-floors with elevators. Travelers should be able to carry their luggage up a number of steps to get to a second-floor room if necessary.

[How is Airfare Arranged?](#)

This tour starts in Salt Lake City, Utah, and finishes in Las Vegas, Nevada. Travelers will fly into the Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC) and out of the McCarran International Airport (LAS). We offer a group transfer to the McCarran International Airport at the end of the tour.

We recommend that you contact Laura Pfahler, the travel agent we work with, to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is a good investment! More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be provided by email after you register for the Adventure.

Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving these flight details from us!

[Travel Insurance](#)

WAI believes strongly in the importance of travel insurance for financial and medical protection from any number of unforeseen circumstances that can arise before departure or during your Adventure. This is now especially true in the era of COVID-19, which is typically treated like any other illness for travel insurance purposes. Many travel insurance providers are available for you to consider. Laura Pfahler and Sharon Mitchell of World Travel Inc. are travel agents who provide air travel and insurance services to many WAI travelers.

- Laura Pfahler: 503.434.6401 or llp@wtpdx.com
- Sharon Mitchell: 971.261.2091 or smitchell@wtpdx.com

Check out [Insurance Tips](#) from World Travel for a short introduction to travel insurance. (NOTE: WAI receives no commission or financial remuneration from World Travel Inc.).

As always, do some shopping to ensure you are getting the best value. Using the [SquareMouth.com](https://www.squaremouth.com) website can be a good way to compare pricing.

Other options include:

- Allianz
- Betins
- Travel Guard
- Travel Insured International

NOTE: We suggest purchasing from a reputable, well-established insurance company (avoid buying insurance from an unknown company found only online). Travelers interested in purchasing "cancel for any reason" insurance coverage should be careful to check pricing and terms BEFORE they register for a tour. Recent changes in the international travel landscape has caused changes in the policies of some insurance companies, and made the purchase of this particular type of policy even more time-sensitive.

[Tour Cancellations](#)

Walking Adventures International reserves the right to cancel this tour departure with fewer than 12 participants, in which case registered participants will receive a 100% refund of payments received. This refund policy contains one exclusion related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Many suppliers require non-refundable deposits as a condition of booking services. Unforeseen circumstances linked to the virus can force us to cancel a tour. Due to these supplier's non-refundable policies, WAI attempts to retrieve as much of these deposits as possible, but cannot guarantee a 100% refund. In cases where full refunds cannot be obtained for a cancelled tour, we will do our best to transfer unrefunded money as traveler credits to be applied to a future tour to that destination.

View our full [Coronavirus FAQ](#) for more details.

[COVID-19 Policies and Procedures](#)

[Our Approach to Fun but Prudent Travel](#) document identifies and explains Covid-19 mitigation policies and procedures WAI is using as a starting point for our 2022 tours. Because the knowledge base about COVID-19 changes daily, we review these policies and procedures on an ongoing basis, and will, of course, notify travelers of updates as we approach the departure date of your tour

[COVID-19 Travel Waiver](#)

During this age of COVID-19, WAI evaluates worldwide reports and conditions on an ongoing basis. Please read [Our Approach to Fun but Prudent Travel](#) document before registering for the tour. Part of the registration process is affirming the terms of the [COVID-19 Travel Waiver](#).

Participation in this tour requires your assent to these terms.

[What Happens Next?](#)

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome email and initial invoice notifying you of your tour balance and due date. You will be able to make that payment online or over the phone. Any other payments necessary for optional services or one-off decisions can also be made either way.

A Flight Arrangements email with critical information on booking your flights will be sent soon after registration, as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. Please do not buy your airline tickets until you review the Flight Arrangements email.

About 70 days before departure, you will receive a final statement reminder about the final tour payment, which is due 60 days before departure. Please see our [General Tour Conditions](#) for the full terms and conditions for participation in this Adventure.

Around 2-3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final email packet with details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

Take a few minutes to peruse the *Utah's Mighty Five* itinerary. In the end, we think you will agree that walking is still and always the best way to experience our world!