

# Our Southwest Trip Itinerary – March 2016

Weather for our trip was generally excellent, the mornings were cool, but as the day went on it got very warm without getting too hot.

## Thursday – 17<sup>th</sup> Las Vegas & Zion

- Flight to Las Vegas, arrive around midnight, rent a car and start the drive to Zion National Park after a drive down the strip.
- An unplanned but much needed few hours of sleep in the car at a truck stop on route to Zion.
- Hotel: Car/Truck stop

## Friday – 18<sup>th</sup> Zion

- Awoke in the car and continued the drive to Kolob Canyons (which is within Zion NP) in time for sunrise.
- Headed to the Zion Lodge, checked in, and Hiked the **'Emerald Pools'** hike.
- After lunch at the Lodge we walked along the **'Riverside Walk'** towards **'The Narrows'**, Marcus and Damian waded into the water of the narrows, but it was VERY cold, not a good idea in March.
- Hotel: Zion Lodge

## Saturday – 19<sup>th</sup> Zion

- Set off early to do the **'Angels Landing'** hike, this needs to be done early to avoid the crowds. Sophie at first didn't want to do the narrow parts of the hike, but eventually changed her mind, which meant that we were all able to complete the whole hike, which was awesome.

## Sunday – 20<sup>th</sup> Zion & Bryce

- Sunrise at **'Towers of the Virgin'**, taking photos.
- Hiked the **'Canyon Overlook Trail'** on the way out of Zion NP, heading towards Bryce Canyon National Park.
- Drove along the rim at Bryce, stopping at the overlooks.
- Hotel: Best Western Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel (30 N 100 E, Bryce Canyon, UT 84764)

## Monday – 21<sup>st</sup> Bryce & the Devil's Garden

- Hiked the **'Queens Garden & Navajo Trails'** hike to see Bryce from within the hoodoos.
- Departed Bryce and headed for the Capitol Reef National Park, with a stop on the way at The Devil's Garden (Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument).
- Hotel: Capitol Reef Resort (2600 E Hwy 24)

## Tuesday – 22<sup>nd</sup> Capitol Reef National Park

- Explored the Capitol Reef National Park, driving into the park and stopping at any interesting stops.
- Hiked the **'Capital Gorge Trail'** up to **'The Tanks'**.
- Explored the **'Gifford Homestead'** (great pie).
- Hiked the **'Hickman Bridge Trail'**, just made it before the rain started, drove to Moab.

- Hotel: Super 8 Moab (889 North Main Street, Moab, UT 84532)

### Wednesday – 23<sup>rd</sup> Arches

- Canyoneering in Arches National Park ([redriveradventures.com](http://redriveradventures.com)), really fun to do the two rappels, and the two mile hike out was very scenic.
- Drove into Arches NP, climbed on some of the arches, park was busy in the afternoon.
- Hiked a few short trails but nothing too taxing.
- Back to Moab for dinner, the whole town was very busy due to **'Jeep Safari'** week.

### Thursday – 24<sup>th</sup> Arches & Canyonlands

- Hiked the **'Devils Garden Trail'**, beautiful trail with many arches.
- Drove to Canyonlands National Park in the afternoon, very impressive sights, reminded me in places of the Grand Canyon.

### Friday – 25<sup>th</sup> Canyonlands & Monument Valley

- Hiked the **'Cave Springs Trail'**.
- Departed Canyonlands and headed towards Monument Valley.
- Walked around the rim a little at Monument Valley, ate at the View hotel
- Hotel: The View Hotel

### Saturday – 26<sup>th</sup> Monument Valley & Page AZ

- Took a three hour Navajo tour of Monument Valley in an open top small bus, tour was very interesting but while in the valley the weather changed and it started to rain, then hail, and then snow. Cold and wet we all piled into the front seats of the bus, five people in two seats.
- Around 1pm we packed up and started the drive to Page AZ.
- Stopped at **'Horseshoe Bend'** and took the 1 mile trail to see the bend in the Colorado River, very impressive, although there were a lot of people on the trail and at the overlook.
- Hotel: Best Western Plus At Lake Powell (208 N Lake Powell Blvd, Page AZ 86040)

### Sunday – 27<sup>th</sup> Page AZ

- Took a tour of **'Lower Antelope Canyon'**, this is such an amazing place.
- Lake Powell canyon boat tour, this wasn't as impressive as we had hoped it would be.
- Played for a while on a small beach on Lake Powell before exploring the Glenn Canyon Dam visitor center.

### Monday – 28<sup>th</sup> Grand Canyon & Las Vegas

- Long driving day, heading back towards Las Vegas, on route we decided to stop off at the Grand Canyon South Rim for a quick stop.
- Stopped at the Hoover Dam, walked across the dam.
- Wondered around Las Vegas for a while, which was a contrast from the nature of this trip.
- Hotel: Paris, Las Vegas