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Red Rocks and Starry Skies: A National Parks Road Trip Through the Southwest

From towering arches to desert canyons, this epic drive connects the most awe-inspiring landscapes in the American Southwest.

The Southwest is a wonderland of rugged beauty - where red rock towers, sun-drenched trails, and cinematic horizons await around every bend. This trip begins in Utah's Moab and winds through iconic national parks and vibrant desert towns before wrapping up in the bright lights of Las Vegas.

With thoughtfully placed resort stays, this adventure offers more than dusty campsites or roadside motels. Today's travelers want space, comfort, and flexibility - and modern timeshare properties deliver just that. From family villas that offer multiple bedrooms, full kitchens, living and dining spaces and even an in-suite washer & dryer, to on-site amenities to enjoy between destinations, these resorts make it easier to explore all day and recharge at night.

Waypoint Stops & Highlights:



Stay Here: [WorldMark Moab](#)

Just minutes from Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, this resort is a desert retreat complete with top-notch amenities and stunning views of the mountainous surroundings. Get active with a workout in the fitness center before taking a dip in the swimming pool, or soak in the hot tub. Enjoy a meal with a view at the on-site Sandstone Café Restaurant and cozy up to one of the fire pits for star gazing or take the kids to the playground or game room.

- **POI: Arches National Park - Over 2k natural sandstone arches, including Delicate Arch.**
- **POI: Canyonlands National Park - Vast desert scenery divided by the Colorado River.**
- **POI: Moab Brewery - Refuel with burgers and craft beer after a day on the trail.**
- **POI: Dead Horse Point State Park - One of Utah's most photogenic overlooks.**
- **POI: Mill Canyon Dinosaur Trail - Walk alongside real fossilized dinosaur tracks.**
- **POI: Moab Garage Co. - A hip café known for smoothies, breakfast sandwiches, and good vibes.**



Stay Here: [Club Wyndham Flagstaff – Flagstaff, AZ](#)

A peaceful pine-shaded escape near downtown Flagstaff, perfectly located for day trips to the Grand Canyon, this resort is a 2,200-acre retreat surrounded by gorgeous views of the Flagstaff, Arizona landscape and the onsite golf course, Continental Country Club. Enjoy two outdoor swimming pools, basketball courts, billiards tables and eight tennis courts on-site. Other not-to-be-missed natural landmarks include Sunset Crater Volcano, Walnut Canyon National Monument, the Petrified Forest, and Painted Desert.

- **POI: Grand Canyon South Rim - Bucket-list views just 1.5 hours away.**
- **POI: Lowell Observatory - Stargaze where Pluto was discovered.**
- **POI: Historic Downtown Flagstaff - Mural walks, local eats, and indie shops.**
- **POI: Walnut Canyon National Monument - Explore ancient cliff dwellings in a stunning canyon setting.**
- **POI: Mother Road Brewing Co. - Grab a pint at this beloved local brewery with an outdoor patio.**



Stay Here: [Sedona Summit, a Hilton Vacation Club – Sedona, AZ](#)

Tucked perfectly in the upper Sedona Plateau, Sedona Summit, a Hilton Vacation Club is a family-friendly resort providing all the comforts of home. Relax in the heated outdoor pools, host a family barbecue or kick up your workout routine in the fitness center.

- **POI: Cathedral Rock - A dramatic hike with panoramic views.**
- **POI: Tlaquepaque Arts Village - Browse galleries and artisan shops in a Spanish-style plaza.**
- **POI: Elote Café - Elevated Mexican cuisine in a cozy hillside setting.**
- **POI: Chapel of the Holy Cross - An architectural marvel built into the red rocks.**
- **POI: Sedona Vortex Sites - Experience the region's spiritual energy at these famed spots.**



Stay Here: [Sheraton Desert Oasis – Scottsdale, AZ](#)

Surrounded by world-class golf, culture, recreation, and inspiring natural desert beauty, this resort offers plenty of adventure and amenities to keep visitors entertained. Refresh in the pool, hit the fitness center, or embrace pure relaxation on the Sun Deck between exploring the Sonoran Desert and stylish Scottsdale.

- **POI: Old Town Scottsdale - Boutiques, public art, and wine tasting rooms.**
- **POI: Desert Botanical Garden - Cacti, wildflowers, and desert wildlife.**
- **POI: The Mission - Latin-inspired fine dining with standout ambiance.**
- **POI: McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Miles of hiking and biking trails through desert terrain.**
- **POI: Wonderspaces Arizona - Immersive, ever-changing art installations.**



Stay Here: [Marriott's Grand Chateau – Las Vegas, NV](#)

Your trip ends with a splash of energy and glamour in the heart of the Vegas Strip. A rooftop pool and the SkyBar 38 cocktail lounge provide amazing views of the Las Vegas Strip. Plenty of vacation adventures lie just beyond our resort - from the attractions of Las Vegas to sights such as the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam.

- **POI: Bellagio Fountains - Iconic water shows set to music.**
- **POI: Fremont Street - Neon lights, zip lines, and live music downtown.**
- **POI: Red Rock Canyon - A scenic loop and hiking trails just outside the city.**
- **POI: AREA15 - A futuristic arts and entertainment complex with immersive exhibits.**
- **POI: Eat. - A cozy local brunch spot serving comfort food with a twist.**

This road trip through the Southwest delivers iconic nature, high-desert culture, and wide-open skies. Whether you're hiking in Moab or unwinding in Vegas, every stop is made smoother with a stay that feels like home. With resorts offering space to breathe and recharge, the Southwest becomes your playground — one spectacular stop at a time.