

Grand Canyon to Las Vegas Cycle USA

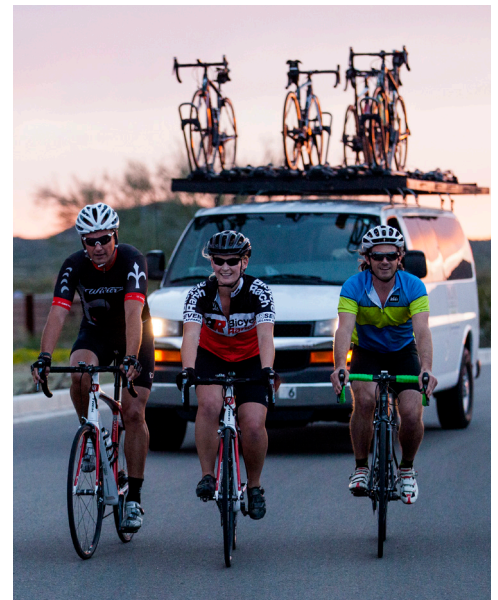
 **Activity:** Cycle **Grade:** 2 Demanding **Duration:** 7 Days

At 277 miles long, 18 miles wide and in places one mile deep, the Grand Canyon is a breath-taking sight. Celebrating 100 years of the National Parks Service in 2016, the Grand Canyon and its surroundings offer wonderful cycling and a memorable challenge!

An outstanding way to experience the iconic majesty of one of the Natural

“As always there is so much to experience on these Challenges - so many memories with no two being equal to another as they are all different with their own special ‘character’ - Carole

Wonders of the World, this exciting ride offers fabulous views not just of the Grand Canyon, but the colourful desert, rocky gorges and forested plateaus around it. Passing historic towns on the iconic Route 66, this is a fascinating ride with some challenging climbs and fabulous long descents, culminating on the famous Strip in Las Vegas.



CHALLENGE GRADING

Our trips are graded from Challenging (Grade 1) to Extreme (Grade 5).

This trek is graded Demanding (2). Main challenges lie in the strenuous climbs and long mileages on some days, and the varied temperatures.

Many factors influence the Challenge Grading, such as terrain, distances, climate, altitude, living conditions, etc. The grade reflects the overall trip; some sections will feel more challenging than others. Unusual weather conditions also have a significant impact, and not all people are tested by the same aspects.

Our grading levels are intended as a guide, but span a broad spectrum; trips within the same grade will still vary in the level of challenge provided.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in Phoenix

Arrive in Phoenix the capital of Arizona. Then we transfer to Flagstaff (approx 2.5 hours' drive) and check into our hotel, have dinner and relax! (Dinner not included) **Night hotel.**

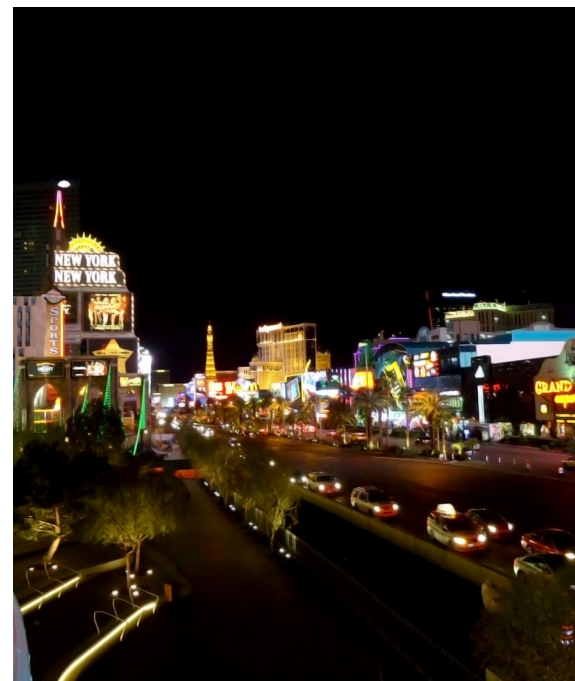
Day 2: Flagstaff – Cameron – Grand Canyon

A short drive takes us north to Cameron, on the ancestral lands of the Native American Navajo Nation, where our ride starts. The views are amazing right from the start, as we enjoy a fairly flat warm-up before the hills! We pass the Little Colorado River gorge with its striking desert watchtower, and pass a Native American trading post. We pedal through this colourful desert and gorge landscape, climbing to one of the highest points on the South Rim of the Canyon, where the views are worth every pedal stroke! We can then enjoy a relatively flat ride, finishing along the rim of the Grand Canyon to the Grand Canyon National Park Village. **Night hotel.**

Cycle approx 51 miles

Day 3: Grand Canyon – Williams

The spectacular views stay with us all day today, as we enjoy possibly one of the most scenic bike rides in the world – the West Rim Road, which allows us to soak up unobstructed views of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River. The vibrant colours of the rock layers against the blue sky ensure plenty of photo-stops! Passenger vehi-



cles are not permitted along this section and it's a memorable ride. It's another hilly day, though we enjoy a fabulous descent of roughly 10 miles to our halfway mark. We then climb again through shady pine forests towards Williams, a historic town on Route 66, named after a renowned 'mountain man' and still with a western pioneer town feel. Look out for the famous Grand Canyon steam train; the railway and station buildings date from 1901 and give an authentic taste of the Old West.

Night hotel.

Cycle approx 74 miles

Day 4: Williams – Seligman – Kingman

The rolling terrain continues as we ride west through classic Western landscapes, following Route 66. A narrow 'super-highway' in 1926, it allowed access to the American West and connected the many small towns along the great open road. We have a short transfer to start at Seligman, now often known as Radiator Springs, setting of the Disney Pixar Cars movie. We pass many classic western buildings, 60s filling stations and kitschy roadside attractions. No trucks are allowed on Route 66m and much of our route is very quiet. After a taxing climb up to 1664m, it's downhill for miles, enjoying the wonderful views over the desert. Look out for tumbleweed, prairie dogs and birds of prey! **Night hotel.**

Cycle approx 87 miles

Day 5: Kingman – Hoover Dam

The descents far outweigh the climbs again today, though we first conquer Coyote Pass, with fabulous views. We descend through beautiful landscapes again, seeing Lake Mead, our destination, from many miles away. We pass more western-themed burger bars and cafés, and can stop to sample roadside jerky! After a steady downhill ride for miles, we come to more rolling roads which bring us to Hoover Dam, built in the 1930s on the Colorado River to form Lake Mead. **Night hotel.**

Cycle approx 72 miles

Day 6: Hoover Dam – Las Vegas

A shorter day today, as we cross into Nevada and ride round the shores of Lake Mead, one of the largest reservoirs in the United States. Much of our route is on cycle lanes and traffic-free, though there are still some hills! Our lakeside ride forms a real contrast with the rocky desert landscapes we have crossed ... and the biggest contrast is to come! Leaving the lake and heading west through the suburbs, we come to Las Vegas, entertainment capital of the world! Finishing on the famous Strip itself, this couldn't contrast more with our journey here! It's not subtle, but it is great fun. On arrival we are free to relax and explore – check out the famous sound-and-light fountain shows, fake erupting volcanoes, Elvis impersonators and replicas of everything from the Eiffel Tower to the Sphinx! We enjoy a slap-up meal to celebrate our achievements of the past week.

Night hotel.

Cycle approx 51 miles

Day 7: End of service

Depending on whether the arranged time is suitable, the option to join the main group airport transfer is available.

Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

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