



OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

The Best of Color Country National Parks: Zion, Bryce and Grand Canyon

September 25 - October 3, 2018

Trip Highlights

- Hike in Zion National Park's main canyon as a naturalist provides trail-side insights.
- Spend a day among hoodoos and other rock formations of Bryce Canyon National Park.
- Witness sunrise and sunset at the Grand Canyon's North Rim and enjoy a meditative hike below the rim on the North Kaibab Trail.

Registration Begins

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

- * Walk-in registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
- * Phone registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
- * Mail/Dropped off registration will be processed after 10:00 a.m.



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



**SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Best of Color Country National Parks

September 25 through October 3, 2018

The Colorado Plateau has created monuments shaped by winter snows, rain and geological upheaval over a span of time eluding human comprehension. Even with an understanding of geology, the multi-hued amphitheaters and hoodoos of Bryce, the cathedral canyons of Zion and the lush North Rim of the Grand Canyon seem improbable — inspiring wonder and defying imagination. Venture into these breathtaking national parks to discover their evolution through geologic time and the natural history and human stories that also color this country.

This Nine - Day Trip Includes:

- Eight nights lodging, with two nights inside each park and two nights in Las Vegas
- Breakfast daily, seven lunches & six dinners
- All admission fees and instructors as outlined in itinerary
- Ground transportation from SVSU to Detroit airport and from the airport back to SVSU on the return trip
- Guided sightseeing tours and select entrance fees as outlined in itinerary
- The Road Scholar Travel Assurance Plan
www.road scholar.org/about/assurance-plan
- All gratuities
- Pre-trip dinner at SVSU

** We will offer a pre-trip dinner about two weeks prior to departure where you will meet fellow OLLI travelers and receive your travel documents. We will cover trip logistics and questions you may have about your upcoming trip.*



Trip Providers

This National Parks experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with Road Scholar, formerly known as Elderhostel, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1975 to provide lifelong-learning opportunities for baby boomers and beyond. Its mission is to inspire adults to learn, discover and travel. Its learning adventures engage expert instructors, provide extraordinary access, and stimulate discourse and friendship among people for whom learning is the journey of a lifetime. As a leader in educational programs, Road Scholar offers 5,500 educational adventures in all 50 states and 150 countries.

About Our Lodging

- DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Las Vegas Airport (first & last night)
- SpringHill Suites/Springdale Zion National Park (2 nights)
- Best Western Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel (2 nights)
- Grand Canyon Lodge, North Rim (2 nights)

Only lodging available on the North Rim that is chiseled into the limestone of the rim itself, offering broad views of the Grand Canyon, Bright Angel Canyon, the South Rim, and the San Francisco Peaks nearly 100 miles south.

Trip Itinerary

■ Day 1: Tuesday, September 25

We will depart SVSU by motorcoach to Detroit airport for a morning flight to Las Vegas. Transfer from the airport to the hotel for Check-in and Registration, followed by Orientation and Welcome Dinner. (D)

■ Day 2: Wednesday, September 26

Basin and Range, Zion National Park

Following breakfast, board the motorcoach for your trip north toward Zion National Park. Along the way your Instructor will enhance your travel time with insights into the geology, plants, animals and human history of the region. Travel through the Basin and Range Province, the Upper Mohave Desert, and the Virgin River Gorge, en route to the Colorado Plateau and Zion National Park. We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and then travel by motorcoach into the park with a short stop at the visitors' center to help orient you to the park and the hikes we will be taking. We'll then proceed to Zion Lodge where we'll hike to Lower Emerald Pools to view waterfalls cascading over sandstone cliffs to shallow green pools. Following lunch at the hotel, our Instructor will conduct a class on the local and regional geology of Zion and Bryce Canyon. (B,L,D)



■ Day 3: Thursday, September 27

Human History Museum, Weeping Rock, Temple of Sinawava

Early risers can enjoy a pre-breakfast sunrise nature walk on the PaRus Trail, with an emphasis on the natural environment we see along the trail. The motorcoach will drop us at one end of this paved pedestrian/bike thoroughfare that travels along the banks of the N. Fork of the Virgin River, with excellent views of the Streaked Wall, Alter of Sacrifice, the Beehives, the Watchman and Bridge Mountain. It is slightly over 1 mile, with a 50 foot change in elevation. We will return by motorcoach for breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast we will return to the park and ride the shuttle to Weeping Rock where we will hike a short but steep one-half mile round trip trail to view natural hanging gardens and the verdant spring lines of Weeping Rock. We'll then take the park shuttle to Temple of Sinawava. The Temple of Sinawava is a natural amphitheater, which is the trailhead for the Riverside Walk. From here, we walk on a fairly level, paved trail that follows the course of the Virgin River deep into the heart of Zion Canyon, viewing spring lines that provide water for lush hanging gardens and the home of the endangered Zion snail. Your Instructor will provide information about the Virgin River and Zion Canyon's geology and plant habitat along the way. Following a picnic lunch, we'll travel by motorcoach to the Zion Human History Museum with its 22 minute multi-media presentation on Zion. From here, there are great views of the Towers of the Virgin and the Bridge on Bridge Mountain. We'll return to the hotel to relax and get cleaned up before dinner on your own tonight. (B,L)

■ Day 4: Friday, September 28

Checkerboard Mesa, Inspiration Point at Bryce Canyon

Board the motorcoach and travel to Bryce Canyon National Park, one of America's smaller national parks covering only 56 square miles. Bryce is renowned for its unique geological features carved by nature into hoodoos and pinnacles of an amazing palette of colors. Along the way we will travel through the 1 mile long Zion-Mt. Carmel tunnel and stop at Checkerboard Mesa. Following a lunch buffet of Western favorites at a local restaurant, we will take the motorcoach to Inspiration Point for a walk to Sunset Point. This one-mile unpaved trail winds along the rim through bristlecone, spruce and fir trees with great views of the Bryce Amphitheater and the hoodoos, fins and spires of red, pink and yellow rock. Tonight, we'll enjoy dinner and a western music show at Ebenezer's Barn and Grill. (B,L,D)

■ Day 5: Saturday, September 29

Bryce Point, Queen's Garden Trail, Rainbow Point, Yovimpa Point

Early risers will be richly rewarded with a spectacular sunrise over the richly colored hoodoos of Bryce Amphitheater. After breakfast enjoy a short walk to Sunrise Point where we will begin our 1.8 mile round trip hike below the canyon rim to Queen's Garden where you will experience an entirely different view from the canyon floor while looking up at the hoodoos. Participants are welcome to hike just part of the trail or if you prefer a more relaxed experience, there are excellent views of Queen's Garden from the walk along the rim trail from Sunrise to Sunset Point. Following a box lunch, we'll walk one-quarter mile on a paved trail to Yovimpa Point to enjoy expansive views of the Grand Staircase and Navajo Mountain to the east and the Kaibab Plateau to the south. After returning from Yovimpa Point, we'll board the motorcoach for the Bryce Canyon Visitor Center to view the award-winning park video, visit the natural history museum and learn about the amazing night sky at Bryce. (B,L,D)

■ Day 6: Sunday, September 30

Grand Canyon North Rim and Bright Angel Point

Board the motorcoach for the north rim of the Grand Canyon. Our first stop will be Kanab, UT where we'll visit the Grand Staircase-Escalante Visitors Center to learn about the geology of the National Monument. We'll then cross into Arizona, climb the Kaibab Plateau and stop at the LeFevre overlook for a panoramic view of the multi-colored rock layers of the Grand Staircase. Following lunch at The Jacob Lake Inn, a pine-surrounded log structure with a fireplace and a wonderful homey feel, we'll continue southbound across the Kaibab Plateau, through forests of Ponderosa pines, spruce, fir and Quaking Aspen. Learn why fire is important to the health of Ponderosa pine forests and what happens when you suppress fires for 100 years. Upon arrival we'll take a one-half mile round trip hike on a steep paved trail to Bright Angel Point, a promontory at an elevation of 8,148 feet that offers panoramic views of Roaring Springs, Bright Angel and Transept Canyons, as well as the inner gorge of the Grand Canyon. After our walk, we'll check in at the Grand Canyon Lodge for our stay in the rustic cabins near the main lodge building. Following dinner at the Lodge, we'll enjoy a presentation by a park Ranger, or go for a walk to one of several viewpoints overlooking the canyon to watch the stars. (B,L,D)

■ Day 7: Monday, October 1

North Rim Nature Walk, Point Imperial

Start your morning with a nature walk on your own along or near the rim. Then board the motorcoach to Point Imperial, the highest point on the north rim at 8,803 feet. Point Imperial overlooks the Painted Desert and the eastern end of Grand Canyon. Here the canyon transforms as the narrow walls of Marble Canyon open dramatically to become "grand." Layers of red and black Precambrian rocks, not visible at Bright Angel Point, add contrast and color. After a box lunch, board the motorcoach and return to the Lodge through the Kaibab forest. Enjoy a free afternoon of independent exploration including the Kaibab Trail that leads toward the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the 1.5 mile Transept Trail along the rim to enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding canyon, catch an afternoon Ranger program, take the afternoon to relax at the coffee bar, the bookstore or saloon, or sit out on the Lodge patio and drink in the views. Tonight dinner will be on your own and you will have time at your leisure to enjoy spectacular views of the sunset over the canyon. (B,L)

■ Day 8: Tuesday October 2

After breakfast we'll depart from the North Rim and motorcoach back to the Las Vegas Double Tree Hilton. We will stop on the way to Las Vegas for lunch and tonight we'll say our good-byes and enjoy our Farewell Dinner at the Bahama Breeze. (B,L,D)

■ Day 9: Wednesday, October 3

Following breakfast we'll have a city tour by motorcoach of Las Vegas with a local step-on guide. Following the tour we will be transferred to the airport for an afternoon flight home. We will then be transferred from Detroit to SVSU by motorcoach (B)

Important Information

Trip Activity Level

Please note that Road Scholar considers this an **VERY ACTIVE** trip. On this guided tour you can expect to walk up to three miles per day across a variety of terrains including uneven, flat, packed dirt surface, some steep, and uneven trails. You can also expect stairs and elevations up to 9,115 feet. Travelers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks without assistance. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour. You should be able to handle your own luggage at the airport and on the plane.

Weather Projection

Our weather should be comfortable, but variable, as late September highs in Las Vegas are in the mid-80's and highs in the Grand Canyon are in the mid 60's. Also, lows could dip down into the 30's in the canyon.

Trip Insurance

Our package does include Road Scholar's Travel Assurance Plan, which provides 24-hour assistance in the event of an emergency during your program and insurance for emergency medical evacuation. You can find out more here www.roadscholar.org/about/assurance-plan.

Optional Trip Protection Plan

It is **HIGHLY recommended** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. You will be sent details about the Road Scholar insurance upon registration. You can also find out more about Road Scholar's cancellation insurance on their website at www.roadscholar.org/about/protection-plan.

Cancellation

All cancellations must be made in writing to the OLLI office. Prior to June 1 we will try to fill your space with someone from the wait list. You will be charged a \$20 cancellation fee, and any other charges imposed by the airlines or trip provider depending on when the cancellation takes place. Road Scholar's cancellation policies will prevail. *(please note that insurance fees are not refundable)*

Information and Reservations

Call SVSU-OLLI at (989) 964-4475, or come in the OLLI office, C-111, for further information or to make your deposit.

**Registration for this trip begins on:
Tuesday, January 9, 2018**

- Walk-in registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
- Phone registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Mail/Dropped off registrations will be processed after 10:00 a.m. on registration day



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Zion, Bryce and Grand Canyon
September 25 - October 3, 2018**



Saginaw Valley State University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
7400 Bay Road
University Center, MI 48710



The Best of Color Country National Parks September 25 - October 3, 2018

Registration: Tuesday, January 9, 2018

1 Name _____
(as it appears on your license) Date of Birth _____ Citizenship _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____
 Roommate's Name _____
 Roommate's Phone Number _____

A copy of your license is required at the time of registration.

2 Name _____
(as it appears on your license) Date of Birth _____ Citizenship _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Deposit & Payment Method

\$525 will hold your spot, the final balance is due by June 1, 2018. Your deposit is non-refundable unless we can fill your spot from the waitlist prior to June 1, 2018. After this date the cancellation policies of Road Scholar and the airlines will need to be considered.

- \$ 2,830 OLLI Member (Double)
- \$ 2880 Non-Member (Double)
- \$ 3530 OLLI Member (Single)
- \$ 3580 Non-Member (Single)

• **The final balance is due by June 1, 2018.**

** Non-members receive 2017-2018 membership, expiring 8/31/18

Check (payable to SVSU) Amount Enclosed _____

Credit Card: MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Card Number _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Expiration Date _____

