



All-Star Grand Canyon Tours May 7, 2011 day tour for Exploring Strange New Worlds Conference

Our guides with bus/buses and drivers will meet your group at the Drury Inn in Flagstaff at 10:30 a.m. The group will tour via Route 180 to the Grand Canyon National Park. This route boasts incredible views of the volcano fields as well as the San Francisco Peaks. Rising more than a mile above the surrounding pine forests and grasslands of northern Arizona, the San Francisco Peaks are a prominent feature of the southern Colorado Plateau. Thought by some geologists to be the remains of a large stratovolcano similar to Mt. St. Helens in Washington State, the Peaks rise in dramatic isolation to over 12,000 feet.

The group will arrive at 11:45 a.m. through the South Rim entrance to the Grand Canyon National Park and continue the tour while traveling from vista to vista. The day will be customized to specific interests whether it be geology, ecology, stories about the Canyon, and/or native peoples.

A gourmet boxed lunch will be enjoyed picnic style at approximately 12:30 p.m. Guests will have time for a short walk at the canyon as well as time to explore the visitors center. The tour will then continue to the East Rim of Grand Canyon where there are spectacular views of the Colorado River. The group will exit the canyon at 4:30 p.m. from the East Rim entrance station thus avoiding any backtracking and continue to a historic trading post on the Navajo Reservation; arriving at approximately 5:15 p.m. Here guests will be able to shop for "touristy" items as well as authentic Native American artwork. The Trading Post will also be available for dinner (guests will order off the menu and average cost is \$10-\$20/ person depending on meal selection).

Following dinner (approximately 6:30 p.m.) the tour will continue to Sunset Crater & Wupatki National Monuments. This 35-mile-long loop drive passes a spectacular volcano landscape at Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument and explores ancient Anasazi and Sinagua ruins at Wupatki National Monument. The Wupatki ruins boast a much darker night sky than Flagstaff due to being so rural and an absence of light pollution; this will further set the mood for the evening's discussion. Sunset will be shortly after 7pm and the moonrise is just before two in the morning the following morning; the sky will be absolutely amazing (weather

permitting). At that time, our guides will present a cultural astronomy talk, focusing on the relationship between the native peoples of the surrounding region, and the familiar constellations of the stars above. Guests will be given time to take in the night sky before returning to the warm bus/ buses for the 35 minute ride back to Flagstaff. Tour will conclude at the Drury Inn in Flagstaff at approximately 8:30 p.m.

This private tour includes:

- Includes professional guides with no less than 10 years experience that carry the Wilderness First Responder Certification
- Bottled water for the group
- Gourmet boxed lunches prepared by a local Restaurateur/Chef & partner for Grand Canyon day. (Sample lunch menu attached)
- Bus Transportation
- Entrance fees to Grand Canyon National Park and Sunset Crater/ Wupatki

*Gratuities and restaurant tabs are the responsibility of the client