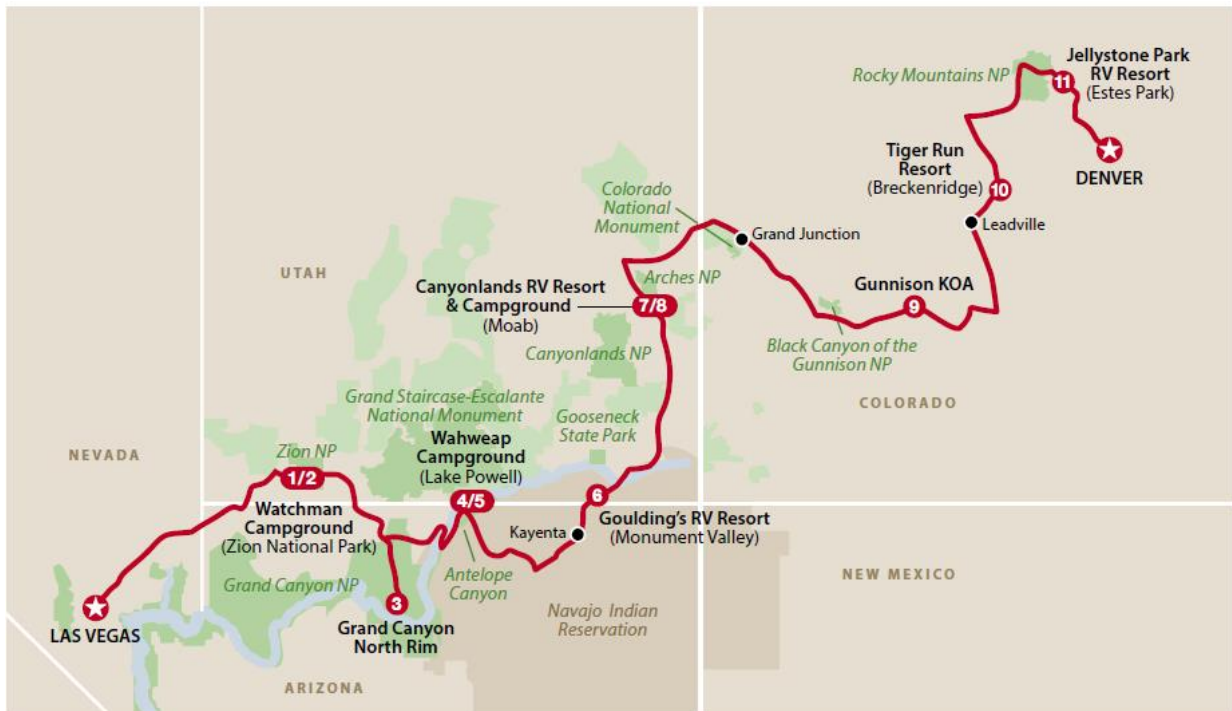


## Monuments & Mountains – Las Vegas to Denver.



This fantastic 12-day itinerary will show you some of the most iconic sights this great country has to offer. From the red rock chasms of Zion and the Grand Canyon, to the astonishing vistas of Monument Valley and Canyonlands to finally the superb alpine scenery of Colorado, if you are looking for a journey of contrasts, then this is it.

### Day 1/2

After a few days in the entertainment capital of the world, make your way to the Cruise America depot to collect your motorhome. Head up Interstate 15 and into Utah towards the superb Zion National Park. Utah's first national park will astound you with its soaring multi-coloured cliffs high above the Virgin River and its deep silent canyons with its hanging gardens. You may also be surprised by how green and lush this park is compared to other national parks nearby. This park gets very busy in the summer, but a free shuttle bus operates to take you to all the major sites which keeps road traffic to a minimum. We suggest staying at the fabulous Watchman Campground just a few hundred yards from the parks south entrance. It is also one of the few campgrounds operated by the national park system that have electrical hookups. When not in the park, the nearby town of Springdale offers great restaurants and shopping.

150 miles to Springdale. Enjoy the wonderful hikes in Zion such as the signature Zion Narrows hike and the famous and rightly fearsome Angels Landing hike.

<https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/watchman-campground.htm>

#### Day 3

Follow the Zion-Mount Carmel Hwy as it zigzags its way out of the canyon. Once through the long tunnels, we suggest parking up and hiking the short Canyon Overlook Trail for staggering views of the canyon you have just left. Once you reach Mt Carmel Junction, head south along Rte. 89a through Kanab and towards to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The North Rim attracts only a tenth of the visitors its more popular southern neighbour does and therefore has a very different feel to it. It's at a higher elevation and therefore quite a bit cooler and it's much more remote and rugged with steeper trails and arguably better views! (although views from either rim of the Grand Canyon are spectacular) Do be aware that that unlike the South Rim, this area does close for the season when the first snows fall and does not open until the following Spring.

123 miles Grand Canyon North Rim. Choose one of several Grand Canyon North Rim day hikes that suit your ability.

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/cg-nr.htm>

#### Day 4/5

Another short drive today takes you back out of the Grand Canyon and along Rte. 89A towards the Utah/Arizona border and the fantastic Lake Powell where we suggest you spend the next 2 nights. Enjoy a fabulous array of breathtaking sites for you to visit, including Antelope Canyon, Arizona's most famous and beautiful slot canyon, the magnificent Horseshoe bend where the mighty Colorado River performs a 180 degree about turn deep inside Marble Canyon and the amazing Rainbow Bridge National Monument, the largest natural bridge in the world.

120 miles to Wahweap. Enjoy the astounding beauty of the Lake Powell area with all the adventures it can offer. We do suggest pre-booking any tours in this area as they can easily book up before arrival.

#### Day 6

The highlights keep on coming as you drive onto the Navajo Indian Reservation, the largest in the country and larger than many US states! First stop is the Navajo National Monument with some of the most beautiful Ancestral Puebloan sites in the Southwest. Continue through the town of Kayenta and head north along Rte. 163. Before long one of the most iconic views in the country starts to unfold itself before you as the instantly recognisable sandstone buttes, mesas and pinnacles of Monument Valley come into view as they soar above the desert landscape. The campsite for the night is just a few minutes away at the Goulding's RV Resort which has amazing views of the valley and surrounding area.

123 miles to monument Valley. Take a guided tour of Monument Valley with one of the Navajo run operators. Try time your visit to see Monument Valley either late afternoon or early morning for its spectacular natural lightshow.

<https://gouldings.com/monument-valley-rv-campgrounds/>

## Day 7/8

Head north through the spectacular landscape of Southeastern Utah as you head for a two-night stop in Moab, the undisputed adrenaline capital of this region. The town itself is just one main road with shops, restaurants and almost endless outdoor activity companies offering you an array of two or four wheeled adventure options along with a host of water-based activities on the nearby Colorado River. You are also blessed with two of Utah's 'Mighty 5' national parks in Canyonlands and Arches on your doorstep. You could easily spend at least three nights here with everything on offer.

136 miles to Moab. Stop at Muley Point for what are some of the most stupendous views found anywhere in the world including Monument Valley, the Ute Mountains and the cliffs of Lake Powell all in one breath-taking panorama. Visit the extraordinary Gooseneck State Park as the San Juan River 1000ft below you snakes its way through the Colorado Plateau.

<https://www.sunrvresorts.com/resorts/west/utah/canyonlands-rv-resort-campground/>

## Day 9

A full day of driving today and a change in scenery as you head out of the red rocks and canyons of Utah and into the Rocky Mountain state of Colorado. Stop at the Colorado National Monument just outside Grand Junction. The monument preserves one of the grand landscapes of the American West with its towering monoliths and canyon panoramas. After Grand Junction head south and stop at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. At over 2000ft deep, no other canyon in the USA offers such steep cliffs and vertical depths as this one.

235 miles to Gunnison. Drive the 23-mile Rim Rock Drive through the Colorado National Monument, one of the most spectacular drives in the USA. Hike the rim of the Black Canyon.

<https://koa.com/campgrounds/gunnison/>

## Day 10

Travel up through the heart of the state with its stunning panoramas at nearly every turn. Take a break in Leadville, originally known as 'Cloud City' due to its 10,000ft plus elevation, this old Wild West era town will keep you entertained with its outdoor options including hiking around the tallest peaks in the state at over 14,000ft. Continue to the quaint and historic mountain town of Breckenridge for your overnight stay. The full-service RV resort is just a few miles north of town allowing you easy access for restaurants and bars in the evening.

151 miles to Breckenridge. Visit the National Mining Museum. Catch the Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad for a 2hr train ride up into the mountains for spectacular views of the surround countryside.

<https://www.tigerrunresort.com/>

## Day 11

You only have a short drive today so you can experience the splendour of Rocky Mountains National Park. Covering over 415sq miles and with 11 peaks over 11,000ft, this truly is the roof of the Rocky Mountains and one of the most popular parks in the country. Your campground in Estes Park is the family friendly Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Resort so you can spend the last night by the campfire enjoying S'mores and reliving the epic sights and sounds of the past 11 days.

130 miles to Estes Park. Take on some of the 300 miles of hiking trails in the park. Drive Trail Ridge Road across the top of the Rockies, the highest continuously paved road in the USA topping out at a whopping 12,183ft and is classed as an All-American Road for its sheer beauty.

<https://www.jellystoneofestes.com/>

Day 12

Just a short 55-mile drive back to the Cruise America depot in Denver.

Depart: Las Vegas or Denver.

Duration: 12 days.

Distance: 1223 miles.