



Smithsonian Associates

OUTDOOR ARIZONA: GEOLOGY, ARCHITECTURE, & NATURAL BEAUTY

Saturday, April 26 – Thursday, May 1, 2025

Your tour packet includes:

- ❖ **[Link to Microsoft Form](#) to complete your Participant Information Form & Acknowledgement of Responsibility Statement**
- ❖ **Tour Bulletin**
Please read this carefully. It contains essential information and useful advice for your tour.
- ❖ **Tentative Itinerary**

If you are traveling with a guest, please share this information packet with them.

Nametags will be provided at the start of the tour. Please wear them throughout the tour. Doing so helps everyone get acquainted and assists the tour staff in carrying out their responsibilities. If you have an alternative name you prefer for your nametag, please indicate this on the Participant Information Form.



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Tour Bulletin

The following information has been compiled to help you prepare for your trip and to serve as reconfirmation of your registration. Unless there are changes or additional information you need to be apprised of, no further mailings will be done. If you still have questions or concerns after reading this information, please email the Study Tours department at associates-studytours@si.edu.

As you read on, you will see that there are a few items that we will need from you prior to the start of the tour. Please complete these items ASAP. They are as follows:

- [Link to Participant Information Form \(PIF\) & Electronic Responsibility Statement](#) (completed via Microsoft Forms)

Please be sure to complete this information promptly. Our ability to facilitate your enjoyment of the tour, and to assure your comfort and well-being during the tour, depends on your accurate representation of your needs and preferences and our receipt of that information in a timely manner. The Electronically Acknowledged Signed Responsibility statement is required before you can be admitted to the tour. It is particularly important that you advise us of the extent of any physical limitations that affect your ability to walk, stand, climb stairs, or otherwise participate in tour activities and to provide precise information on serious food allergies.

General Information

IMPORTANT NOTE: Although we do everything we can to notify you in the event of a change, we always recommend you check your email for notification of any last minute changes or important information.

Program Arrival

All participants will be arriving individually into Phoenix. You will spend the first two nights of the program at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Phoenix located at 320 North 44th Street, Phoenix, AZ, 85008.

The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service to/from Sky Harbor Airport every half hour on the hour, 24 hours a day. The shuttle will display the DoubleTree logo. For airport pickups, **once you have**

your luggage, please call the hotel at (602) 225-0500. The operator will direct you to the proper curbside location for your terminal and provide an estimated pick-up time.

For anyone driving to Phoenix, the DoubleTree Suites offers on-site parking for \$10 per day + tax. Let the concierge know that you have a room booked with Smithsonian Associates but **ensure that the charge is placed on your own credit card**. As long as the car is registered with the hotel, you may park there for the duration of the tour even though we will be splitting our time between this hotel and the hotel in Flagstaff.

The official program will begin with a welcome orientation and dinner on Saturday evening at 6:00pm. The hotel will display the location of the room upon arrival.

The group departs by bus after breakfast the morning of April 28. The next three nights will be in Flagstaff, and then back to Phoenix for departures out of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (May 1).

Program Departure

Trip ends with a group transfer from our last site to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport to arrive at approximately 4:00pm. Please book your return flights from Phoenix for 6:00pm or later. Lunch is included this day; dinner is not.

The bus will also make a stop at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Phoenix following the airport drop off for anyone wishing to stay an additional night on their own. Participants are also free to depart the tour on their own; but these arrangements should be made in advance, so your tour team is aware of your plans.

Although you are traveling independently, it is helpful for us to know your arrival and departure plans. This information is requested on the Personal Information Form.

Any last-minute information will be communicated to you via email. Please be sure you have provided us with your most current information. We do not anticipate there will be any changes in which you would need to be notified. For any urgent matters upon arrival in Phoenix you can reach your Smithsonian Representative, Nichole Andonegui, directly at (571)-331-1015. Please do not use this number for non-urgent questions. The best way to reach us for non-urgent questions is associates-studytours@si.edu.

Extra Nights

If you wish to make reservations for extra nights in the area before or after the program, you are welcome to do so. If you wanted to stay at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Phoenix one day BEFORE (April 25th) or one day AFTER (May 1st), a limited number of rooms are available at a rate of \$189 + tax. If you would like one of these rooms, please send an email to associates-studytours@si.edu with the subject line "Extra Night DoubleTree PHX" and we will make a note of it for the hotel. (You will be making payment directly to the hotel for any additional nights). These extra nights must be booked by April 4th.

Please note the DoubleTree Suites is not located in downtown Phoenix but is conveniently located about a ten-minute drive from the airport and a 15-minute walk from the 44th Street/Washington Valley Metro Stop. On or shortly off the metro line are several cultural attractions including the Arizona Science Center, the S'edav Va'aki Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum, Margaret T. Hance Park/Japanese Friendship Garden, and the Heard Museum. If you wish to stay in the downtown area, you should look for an alternate hotel. It is an approximately 15-minute drive downtown, or more with traffic, from the DoubleTree Suites.

Bus & Seating

The bus is provided by Divine Charters and is equipped with a restroom. Please advise the Smithsonian Representative or Driver if something on the bus needs attention or the temperature is not comfortable. The tour staff normally occupies the front seats on both sides of the aisle. Seat selection is otherwise open when the bus is first boarded each day. Once everyone has selected his/her seat, please continue throughout the day to use that same seat or any seat that was not selected after all had boarded.

Please note that if participants with certain disabilities or conditions need special seating, *tour staff may reserve seats or request participants to move who boarded prior to the tour staff*. If the disabilities requiring special seating are not apparent, participants requesting such seating are asked to provide a statement from their physician confirming the situation and what is needed. This must be done prior to the tour by contacting our office at associates-studytours@si.edu.

Please remember tours are not delayed for missing participants or anyone not ready to board at the scheduled time, so please be kind to others, and be prompt!

Physical Considerations & Climate

This is an active program; you should plan to be on your feet for a good part of the day: walking up to 2 miles per day including on uneven and unpaved surfaces, standing for periods of time during site visits and tours, on and off the bus multiple times per day, with the longest continuous bus ride being 2 ¼ hours from Flagstaff to Antelope Canyon. If you have any concerns about your ability to participate, please contact our office to discuss. Of course, you always have the option to relax on the bus or opt out of any activities.

Additional information regarding the Pink Jeep Tour to the Ancient Ruins in Sedona: One-third of the journey to the heritage site occurs on a dirt road with potential bumps and potholes; viewing the ruins requires a three-quarter mile walk along an uneven dirt path.

The climate in this area, especially between Phoenix and northern Arizona, can be extremely variable. In Phoenix temperatures can be in the 80's during the day and 60's at night with the Grand Canyon and Flagstaff area ranging in the mid 60's during the day to the 30's at night. Since there will be variation in temperatures, it is best to pack clothes that can be layered.

Smoking

Is not permitted on the bus, including in the restroom, or at any time when the group is gathered

together in a limited space for a tour activity. If you are a smoker, and have requested to share a room, please be sure to note this on your participant information form. PLEASE NOTE: All rooms at the DoubleTree Phoenix & Flagstaff are non-smoking.

Tour Staff

Study Leader - **Wayne Ranney** is an outdoor educator, geologist and award-winning author based in Flagstaff, Arizona. He became interested in geology while working as a backcountry ranger at Grand Canyon National Park and later received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Northern Arizona University. He has worked as a river and trail guide at the Grand Canyon and around the world since 1980. Wayne is a veteran of expedition travel, having visited and lectured in 90 different countries.

Smithsonian Representative – **Nichole Andonegui** will be handling all logistics and assisting you with any problem or question that you may have concerning the tour schedule or operation. **Nichole** is a seasoned Smithsonian Associates Program Manager who has traveled with the Associates on numerous tours; her most recent tours include *Outdoor Adventures in Shenandoah National Park: Big Meadows* and *The Hudson River Valley Art & Culture*.

Clothing

Casual clothing is appropriate for all group activities. Please bring layers and wear comfortable, sturdy shoes for walking and standing at sites.

Departure Times & Schedules

You will be given a final version of the Itinerary when the tour departs. This will be on colored paper, different from the tentative itinerary enclosed here. We recommend that you keep it with you at all times as it can help you follow the activities more closely. Itineraries are always subject to change, however, so it is important to stay alert to announcements concerning changes throughout the tour. Also, you will notice a cell phone number on your final itinerary. Please feel free to use this for any urgent matters.

Adhering to the schedule is essential to completing all tour components and fulfilling our obligations to those who arrive on time. Tours may depart without latecomers. In such circumstances, latecomers are responsible for arrangements and expenses associated with their rejoining the tour or returning to their home. Don't let this happen to you!

Accommodations

You will be staying at the **DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Phoenix** (April 26 & 27) located at 320 North 44th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008 and the telephone number is 602-225-0500. You will be staying at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Flagstaff** (April 28 – May 1) located at 1175 RW Route 66, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 and the telephone number is 928-773-8888. We recommend that you leave this number with anyone who would need to reach you in an emergency.

You may be required upon check-in to provide a credit card to the hotel for any incidentals charged to your room outside of group activities.

Check-out Procedures

No special check out procedures are necessary, however, please remember to pay any incidental charges you may have made to your room prior to departure time.

Meals

The following meals are included in your tour package. Be sure to indicate dietary restrictions on your Personal Information Form. Contact us at associates-studytours@si.edu if you have any questions.

Saturday

Welcome Dinner Menu: Artisan Bread, Mixed Market Greens (Green Apple, Spiced Almonds, Gorgonzola, Raspberry Vinaigrette); **Grilled Butcher Cut Chicken:** Lemon Caper Cream Sauce, Creamy Polenta and Market Vegetables [gf]; Iced Tea or Fresh Brewed Coffee & Chocolate Torte for dessert. **(DoubleTree Suites Phoenix)**

Sunday Lunch Menu: Choice of 1) **Chicken Avocado Chop Salad** (gf), blackened chicken, nitrate-free smoked bacon, cotija, organic spring mix, red onions, romaine, sweet dried corn, baby heirloom tomatoes, jalapeño avocado dressing, 2) **Butternut Squash & Corn Enchiladas** (gf), cotija, tomatillo verde sauce, served with kale ensalada, 3) **The Herb Box Salmon BLT**, blackened salmon nitrate-free smoked bacon, organic spring mix, tomato, basil garlic aioli on ciabatta, 4) **Achiote Turkey, Pear, Wild Arugula**, vintage white cheddar, kale pesto on a grilled baguette, served with house sweet potato chip, or 5) **Short Rib Enchiladas** (gf), ancho pasilla sauce, manchego served with napa cabbage slaw, topped with avocado + cilantro; Choice of Beverage. **(The Herb Box)**

Sunday Dinner Menu: **Buffet to include:** Southwestern Caesar Salad; Spinach con Queso; Street Taco Bar featuring carne asada, fresh salsas, avocado cream sauce, chopped tomato, and onion, cilantro, and corn & flour tortillas; Roasted Poblano Alfredo Pasta with Grilled Chicken; Chicken Enchilada Suiza; Grilled Salmon with Pineapple Salsa; Refried Beans and Rice; Coffee & Iced Tea included; Caramel Flan for dessert. **(Aunt Chilada's the Original)**

Monday Lunch Lunch on your own in Sedona.

Monday Dinner Miso Soup, House Salad with Ginger Dressing, Choice of (2) **Hibachi:** Chicken, Filet Mignon, Scallops & Shrimp; Steamed White Rice, Hibachi Grilled Vegetables, Japanese Mochi for dessert, Soda or Iced Tea. **(Sakura Restaurant, DoubleTree Flagstaff)**

*Tuesday Lunch Menu: Choice of one: 1) **Turkey & Brie**, all-natural turkey breast, brie, roasted red peppers, lettuce, tomatoes, and grain mustard on sourdough; 2) **Ham & Swiss**, ham, Swiss cheese, red onions, dill pickles, lettuce and honey mustard on marble rye bread; 3) **Chicken Salad**, all-natural chicken breast, red peppers, jicama, celery, scallions, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, pea shoots, lemon, garlic, and mayo on nine grain bread; or 4) **Medi Veg Sandwich**, hummus, all-natural feta, avocado, red onions, cucumbers, tomatoes, pea shoots, and pepper relish on herb focaccia bread. **(Wildflower Bakery Catering)**
PLEASE NOTE: A pre-selected option is required on your PIF for this meal

Tuesday Dinner Menu: **Buffet to include:** Garden Salad with Avocado Ranch, Quinoa & Edamame Salad, Roasted Green Beans, Twice Baked Potato with Cheddar, Sour Cream and Scallions, Fresh Baked Biscuits & Honey Butter, Grilled Salmon with Cilantro-Pine Nut Pesto, Cheesecake with Berry Sauce and Caramel and Beverage. (Maswik Lodge)

*Wednesday Lunch Menu: Choice of 1) **Kale-Romaine Chicken Caesar Salad:** organic baby kale, romaine, roasted chickpeas, parmesan, croutons & all-natural Caesar dressing OR 2) **Southwest Superfood Salad:** spinach with organic quinoa, slow-roasted tomatoes, avocado, black beans, roasted red bell peppers, cilantro, organic dried sweet corn, goat cheese, toasted pepitas, and all-natural cilantro lime vinaigrette. Side of artisan bread. (Wildflower Bakery Catering)

PLEASE NOTE: A pre-selected option is required on your PIF for this meal

Wednesday Dinner Menu: Navajo Fry Bread (house specialty), topped with a spicy combination of lean ground beef with chili beans, garden fresh lettuce, cheese, tomato, and mild green chili, served with a cup of soup, house pie for dessert and choice of refillable beverage. (Cameron Trading Post, Navajo Reservation)

Thursday Lunch Lunch at local restaurant TBC

*All breakfasts are included at the hotel

You are welcome to bring whatever snacks and/or beverages (such as a thermos of coffee, bottled water, etc.) you normally need or desire between mealtimes. Please review the itinerary with any personal needs or preferences of this nature in mind. If you have special concerns about your food needs or preferences, please contact our staff at associates-studytours@si.edu as soon as possible. Note that alcoholic beverages are not included with meals and would be at your own expense.

What is Included

Participants purchase their own snacks and beverages other than those included with meals. Your tour fee includes bus transportation, tuition, accommodations, admissions, and meals listed above.

Gratuities

Gratuities have been included for all group meals and for the bus driver. Where appropriate, donations have been made on behalf of the Smithsonian. Although a housekeeping surcharge is included, additional gratuities for the chambermaid are not included, and are at your own discretion. Your Smithsonian Representative and Study Leader are professionals who do not receive tips.

Cancellation & Trip Insurance

As noted in the initial tour description, we recommend you purchase trip insurance. Should you need to cancel within 15 days of departure, you risk losing the entire cost of your trip. While we don't recommend or endorse any one company, we know travelers who have used Insuremytrip.com, Allianz, AIG, Travel Guard, and American Express. An online search will yield many options; we suggest you shop around.

Please review the cancellation policy below. This information is important, as we are not able to make exceptions regardless of the reasons for cancellation. This tour is 100% non-refundable after 3pm on **Friday, April 11, 2025**. Up until that time, cancellation fees apply. If you have chosen to purchase trip cancellation insurance, you would need to consult your individual policy for cancellation details, in addition to contacting us.

Here is a reminder of our cancellation policy:

- Prior to 45 days out - \$10 administrative fee (per person)
- Between 15-45 days out - \$100 cancellation fee (per person)
- Within 15 days of start of tour - 100% cost of the tour; no refunds or exchanges

IMPORTANT NOTE: We highly encourage trip insurance. We have a very lenient cancellation policy, but with that, we will NOT be able to refund or credit for any cancellations within 15 days of the program, under any circumstance.

Some Additional Items to bring along

- Face masks if you prefer to wear one
- Umbrella and/or fold-up lightweight rain poncho
- Good walking shoes
- Camera, lenses, film, batteries
- Chargers for electronic devices
- Regional area map if desired
- Wipes or hand sanitizer for freshening up
- Whatever snacks and/or beverages (such as a thermos for coffee, bottled water, etc.) you normally need between mealtimes. Please review the itinerary with these needs in mind.
- Layered clothing including jacket for variable weather

Post-Tour Questionnaire

Your opinion is important in our continuing effort to provide you the best in value and educational travel. At the end of your tour, you will receive an electronic evaluation form via email on which you can express your satisfaction with, or concerns about, each aspect of the tour. Each evaluation is carefully reviewed, so candid comments are appreciated. We appreciate your time completing this evaluation. Only you can tell us we have met our goal in providing a quality educational travel experience.

We appreciate your participation in this program and hope it meets your highest expectations!



Outdoor Arizona

Saturday, April 26 – Thursday, May 1, 2025

Study Leader: **Wayne Raney**

Smithsonian Rep: **Nichole Andonegui**

Cell Phone:

Saturday, April 26 (Welcome orientation/dinner, Phoenix)

D

Individual check in at the Doubletree hotel for your 2-night stay

6:00 p.m. Welcome & Introduction at hotel followed by dinner

Sunday, April 27 (Phoenix)

B, L, D

Breakfast at the hotel

8:45 a.m. Depart hotel (allow 45 minutes)

9:30 a.m. Arrival at **Taliesin West**

9:45 a.m. 60-minute guided tour + restrooms/gift shop

11:15 a.m. Depart

11:45 a.m. The Herb Box Restaurant

1:00 p.m. Depart

1:15 p.m. **Papagayo Park/Hole in the Rock**

1:30 p.m. Depart

2:30 p.m. **Boyce Thompson Botanical Gardens**

3:00 p.m. Guided tour + free time to explore on own

5:00 p.m. Depart

6:00 p.m. Dinner at Aunt Chiladas Original

8:00 p.m. Return to hotel

NOTE: If you have Special Requirements (e.g. dietary or mobility), please notify the tour office at Associates-StudyTours@si.edu when registering for a future tour.

**Driver gratuity included in fee.
Rev. 3/27/25**

**Times on itineraries are approximate
and tours are subject to minor change**



Monday, April 28 (Sedona)

B, D

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 7:30 a.m. Depart hotel
- 9:30 a.m. Arrival in **Sedona**
- 10:00 a.m. Group 1 – **Pink Jeep Ancient Ruins tour** (3 hours)
Group 2 – Free time in Sedona (including lunch on your own)
- 1:00 p.m. Group 1 – Free time in Sedona (including lunch on your own)
Group 2 – **Pink Jeep Ancient Ruins tour** (3 hours)
- 4:15 p.m. Depart Sedona
- Enjoy the scenic drive along 89A from Sedona to Flagstaff; make a brief stop at **Call of the Canyon Overlook**
- 5:30 p.m. Check in to the **DoubleTree Flagstaff** for your 3-night stay
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner at Sakura in the hotel

Tuesday, April 29 (Grand Canyon)

B, L, D

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30 a.m. Depart hotel and drive along highway 89 into the East Entrance to **Grand Canyon National Park**
- 10:30 a.m. Stop at Desert View to see Mary Jane Colter's Watchtower
- 11:15 a.m. Depart
- 12:00 p.m. **Grand Canyon Visitors Center**
Free time + Picnic Salad Box lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Meet for narrated walk along the **Rim Trail**
- 3:30 p.m. Explore **Grand Canyon Village**
Relax and take in the views, explore nearby trails, or shop in one of the many unique shops in the Village
- 5:30 p.m. Early dinner at the **Mastwick Lodge/Santa Fe Room, Grand Canyon**
- 9:30 p.m. Return to Flagstaff

NOTE: If you have Special Requirements (e.g. dietary or mobility), please notify the tour office at Associates-StudyTours@si.edu when registering for a future tour.



Wednesday, April 30 (Antelope Canyon)

B, L, D

Breakfast at the hotel

9:00 a.m. Depart hotel

11:30 a.m. **Horseshoe Bend**
Picnic Sandwich Box lunch

2:30 p.m. Arrival at Taadidiin Tours

3:00 p.m. **Antelope Canyon X with a Navajo Guide**

4:30 p.m. Depart

6:30 p.m. Dinner at the **Cameron Trading Post, Navajo Indian Reservation**

8:30 p.m. Return to the hotel

Thursday, May 1 (Flagstaff/Return to Phoenix)

B, L

Breakfast at the hotel

8:30 a.m. Bus departs hotel, bus available to load luggage at 8:00am

9:00 a.m. **Museum of Northern Arizona**

11:00 a.m. Depart

1:30 p.m. Lunch at a local restaurant

4:00 p.m. Approximate arrival at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport

NOTE: If you have Special Requirements (e.g. dietary or mobility), please notify the tour office at Associates-StudyTours@si.edu when registering for a future tour.

**Driver gratuity included in fee.
Rev. 3/27/25**

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