

AMERICAN SOUTHWEST ITINERARY

THINGS TO NOTE:

- You will need a car for this trip. For car rentals, [find your best rates through Rentalcars.co from Las Vegas here](#).
 - For RV rentals, check prices at [Outdoorsy](#) and [RVshare](#).
 - I have put accommodation options for outside the national/state parks. You will need to book some time in advance if you wish to stay inside the parks. They are hugely popular.
 - The more time you can dedicate to this trip the better as there is so much to see and do. We have included sample 10-day, 2 week, 3 week and 4 week itineraries.
 - Adapt itinerary based upon your departure and arrival times.
 - Instead of adding in times for each day, I've listed my recommendations so you can slot it into times that suit your schedule. Think about how to incorporate sunrise and sunsets. You can do these recommendations across a full day or split into afternoon/next morning before departing for next destination.
 - Plan for early days and late evenings. It will be tiring but so worth it to see as much as you can.
 - Food is not a big part of this experience. Grab something where you can or pack your own picnics and snacks.
-

DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT

NATIONAL PARKS PASS

The America the Beautiful National Parks Pass will save you a lot of money on this trip. For \$80 you get unlimited entry to all federal lands. Entry into a national park usually costs \$35 per car. If you visit more than 2 national parks, you will save money. Based on this itinerary you will visit several federal lands! Note it does not cover Monument Valley which is a Navajo Tribal Park. [Get your pass here](#).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We hope your trip runs smoothly but protect your investment just in case. South West USA is full of adventures and vast open spaces. Take Care and Be Safe. We're ambassadors for Allianz so recommend them as a provider we trust. [Learn more here](#).

HELPFUL SOUTHWEST USA PLANNING

- [Utah Travel Posts](#)
- [Arizona Travel Posts](#)
- [Nevada Travel Posts](#)
- [Southwest USA travel videos](#)

THE SHORT TRIP – 10 DAYS

DAY 1 ^{AND} 2: VEGAS → ZION

Driving Time: 2hrs 37 mins / 159 miles

Consider: Driving via the North Road through Lake Mead (3hrs 37 minutes)

RECOMMENDED

- ✓ Angels Landing/ The Narrows
- ✓ Riverwalk (*if you choose the Narrows over Angels Landing*)
- ✓ Lower and Upper Emerald Pool
- ✓ Weeping Rock
- ✓ Springdale IPA from the Zion Lodge
- ✓ Zion Carmel Tunnel Drive to Canyon Overlook (*this could be a morning experience on the way to Bryce Canyon*)

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

Best Western Plus Zion Canyon Inn & Suite

DAY 3 BRYCE CANYON

Driving Time: 1 hr 22 mins / 72 miles

RECOMMENDED

- ✓ Horse riding
- ✓ Queens Garden & Navajo Loop Trail
- ✓ Sunset/ Sunrise

WHERE TO STAY (1 NIGHT):

Best Western PLUS Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel

DAY 4: GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Driving Time: 48 miles / 56 mins

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Lower Calf Creek Falls hike (*you could do this early in the morning of your departure to Monument Valley*)
- ✓ Spooky and Peek-a-Boo Canyon
- ✓ Pizza at Escalante Outfitters

WHERE TO STAY (1 NIGHT):

Slot Canyons Inn Bed & Breakfast

DAY 5 AND 6 MONUMENT VALLEY

Driving Time: 261 miles / 5 hours 11 minutes

Tip: The drive to Monument Valley through HWY 12 & 24 will be spectacular.
Plan extra time to be amazed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Sunrise and sunset
- ✓ Guided Tour with Navajo Guide ([book here](#))
- ✓ Forest Gump Scenic viewpoint

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

- Premium room at The View
 - Navajo Family Airbnb Stay
-

DAY 7: ANTELOPE CANYON/ HORSESHOE BEND

Driving Time: 1 hour 53 minutes / 116 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Lower and Upper Antelope Canyon tour
(get tickets in advance: [Upper](#) or [Lower](#))
- ✓ Sunset or sunrise Horseshoe Bend

WHERE TO STAY (1 NIGHT):

[Lake Powell Resort](#)

DAY 8 AND 9 GRAND CANYON

Driving Time: 2 hours 33 minutes / 137 miles

- ✓ Bright Angel Trail
- ✓ Rim Walk
- ✓ Desert View Drive and Watch tower/
Lipan Point for sunset

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

[The Grand Hotel at
Grand Canyon](#)

DAY 10 LAS VEGAS

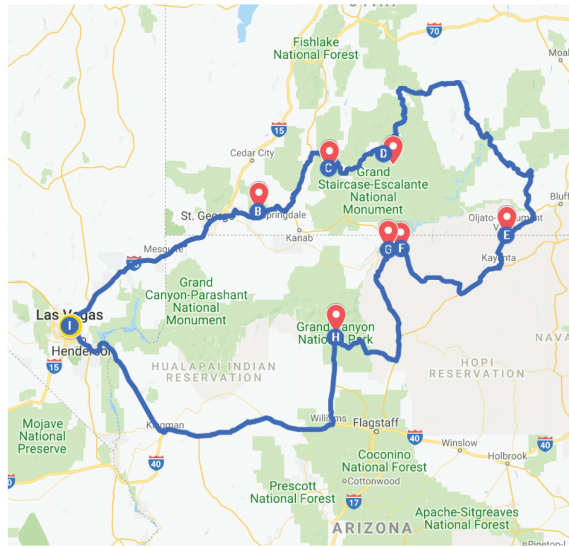
Driving Time: 280 miles / 4 hours 18 mins

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Hoover Dam on the way through
- ✓ Railroad walk at Lake Mead
- ✓ Red Rock Canyon (horse riding,
Lost Creek - Children's Discovery Trail)

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

- Harrah's Las Vegas Casino
- The Mirage
- Airbnb stays



[Click for full version of the map](#)

TO EXTEND TO 2 WEEKS

CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

Driving Time from Grand Escalante: 1 hr 33 mins

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Cassidy Arch Hike
- ✓ Hickman Bridge Trail
- ✓ Capitol Gorge
- ✓ Sunset Point Trail
- ✓ HWY 24 scenic drive
- ✓ Raspberry white chocolate cookie from the Fruita District

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

Capitol Reef Resort

SEDONA

Driving Time from Grand Canyon: 110 miles/ 1 hr 58 minutes

RECOMMENDED:

- ✓ Devil's Bridge
- ✓ Boynton Canyon
- ✓ Airport Mesa
- ✓ Bell Rock
- ✓ Cathedral Rock
- ✓ Broken Arrow Pink Jeep Tour
- ✓ Verde Canyon Railroad

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

**Best Western Plus Arroyo
Roble Hotel & Creekside Villas**

Driving time from Sedona to Las Vegas: 280 miles / 4 hrs 27 mins

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GREATER IN-DEPTH – 3 WEEKS

DAY 1: VEGAS → VALLEY OF FIRE

Driving Time: 49 miles/ 54 mins

Consider: Driving via the North Road through Lake Mead (1-hour detour)

RECOMMEND SITES:

- ✓ Mouse Tank Hike
- ✓ Rainbow Vista Trail
- ✓ Fire Wave Trail
- ✓ White Domes Trail

STAY THE NIGHT IN ZION
(see below)

DAY 2 AND 3: ZION NATIONAL PARK

Driving Time: 129 miles / 2 hours 20 minutes

RECOMMENDED:

- ✓ Angels Landing
- ✓ The Narrows (includes Riverwalk)
- ✓ Riverwalk (*if you don't walk the Narrows*)
- ✓ Lower and Upper Emerald Pool
- ✓ Weeping Rock
- ✓ Springdale IPA from the Zion Lodge
- ✓ Zion Carmel Tunnel Drive to Canyon Overlook (*this could be a morning experience on the way to Bryce Canyon*)

WHERE TO STAY (3 NIGHTS):
**Best Western Plus Zion
Canyon Inn & Suite**

DAY 4: BRYCE CANYON

Driving Time: 1 hr 22 mins / 72 miles

RECOMMENDED:

- ✓ Horse riding
- ✓ Queen's Garden & Navajo Loop
- ✓ Sunset & Sunrise

WHERE TO STAY (1 NIGHT):
**Best Western PLUS Bryce
Canyon Grand Hotel**

DAY 5 AND 6: GRAND ESCALANTE

Driving Time: 48 miles / 56 mins

Tip: Enjoy the drive along Scenic Hwy 12

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Lower Calf Creek Falls hike (*you could do this early in the morning of your departure to Capitol Reef*)
- ✓ Spooky and Peek-a-Boo Canyon
- ✓ Pizza at Escalante Outfitters

WHERE TO STAY (1 NIGHT):

Slot Canyons Inn Bed & Breakfast You could do two nights here instead of 3 nights at Capitol Reef!

DAY 7-8: CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

Driving Time: miles / 1 hr 33 mins

Tip: Take your time driving along Hwy 12 – it's spectacular.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Cassidy Arch Hike
- ✓ Hickman Bridge Trail
- ✓ Capitol Gorge
- ✓ Sunset Point
- ✓ HWY 24 scenic drive
- ✓ Raspberry white chocolate cookie Fruita District

WHERE TO STAY (3 NIGHTS):

Capitol Reef Resort

DAY 9- 13: MOAB (INCLUDES ARCHES AND CANYONLANDS NP)

Driving Time: 2 hrs 9 minutes / 136 miles

Tip: Stop in at Goblin Valley on the way to Moab. You only need about an hour to check out this unique landscape.

MOAB RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Bike Ride Colorado River
- ✓ Scenic Drive UT-128
- ✓ Castle Creek Winery
- ✓ Jeep rock crawling
- ✓ Fisher Towers Hike
- ✓ Shaffer Trail (4WD)

WHERE TO STAY (5 NIGHTS):

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Moab

CANYONLANDS: ISLANDS IN THE SKY DISTRICT

Driving Time: 30 miles/ 35 minutes from Moab)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Scenic Drive: Buck Canyon, Shaffer Canyon & Green River Overlook
- ✓ Grand View Point Overlook Trail
- ✓ Mesa Arch
- ✓ Sunset at Dead Horse State Park

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

Driving Time: 5 miles/ 9 minutes from Moab)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Delicate Arch hike
- ✓ Landscape Arch hike
- ✓ North and South Window

DAY 14 AND 15: MONUMENT VALLEY

Driving Time: 2 hours 31 minutes 145 miles

Tip: If you have time consider a scenic drive through the spectacular Valley of the Gods

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Sunrise and sunset
- ✓ Guided Tour with Navajo Guide ([book here](#))
- ✓ Forest Gump scenic viewpoint

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

- Premium room at The View
 - Navajo Family Airbnb Stay
-

DAY 16: DAY ANTELOPE CANYON/ HORSESHOE BEND

Driving Time: 1 hour 53 minutes 116 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Lower and Upper Antelope Canyon tour (get tickets in advance: [Upper](#) or [Lower](#))
- ✓ Sunset or sunrise at Horseshoe Bend
- ✓ Lake Powell

WHERE TO STAY (1 NIGHT):

Lake Powell Resort

DAY 17 AND 18: GRAND CANYON

Driving Time: 2 hours 33 minutes / 137 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Bright Angel Trail
- ✓ Rim Walk
- ✓ Desert View Drive and Watch tower/ Lipan Point for sunset

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

The Grand Hotel at Grand Canyon

DAY 19 AND 20: SEDONA 2 NIGHTS

Driving Time: 110 miles/ 1 hr 58 minutes

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Devil's Bridge
- ✓ Boynton Canyon
- ✓ Airport Mesa
- ✓ Bell Rock
- ✓ Cathedral Rock
- ✓ Broken Arrow Pink Jeep Tour
- ✓ Verde Canyon Railroad

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

Best Western Plus Arroyo
Roble Hotel & Creekside Villas

DAY 21: BACK TO LAS VEGAS

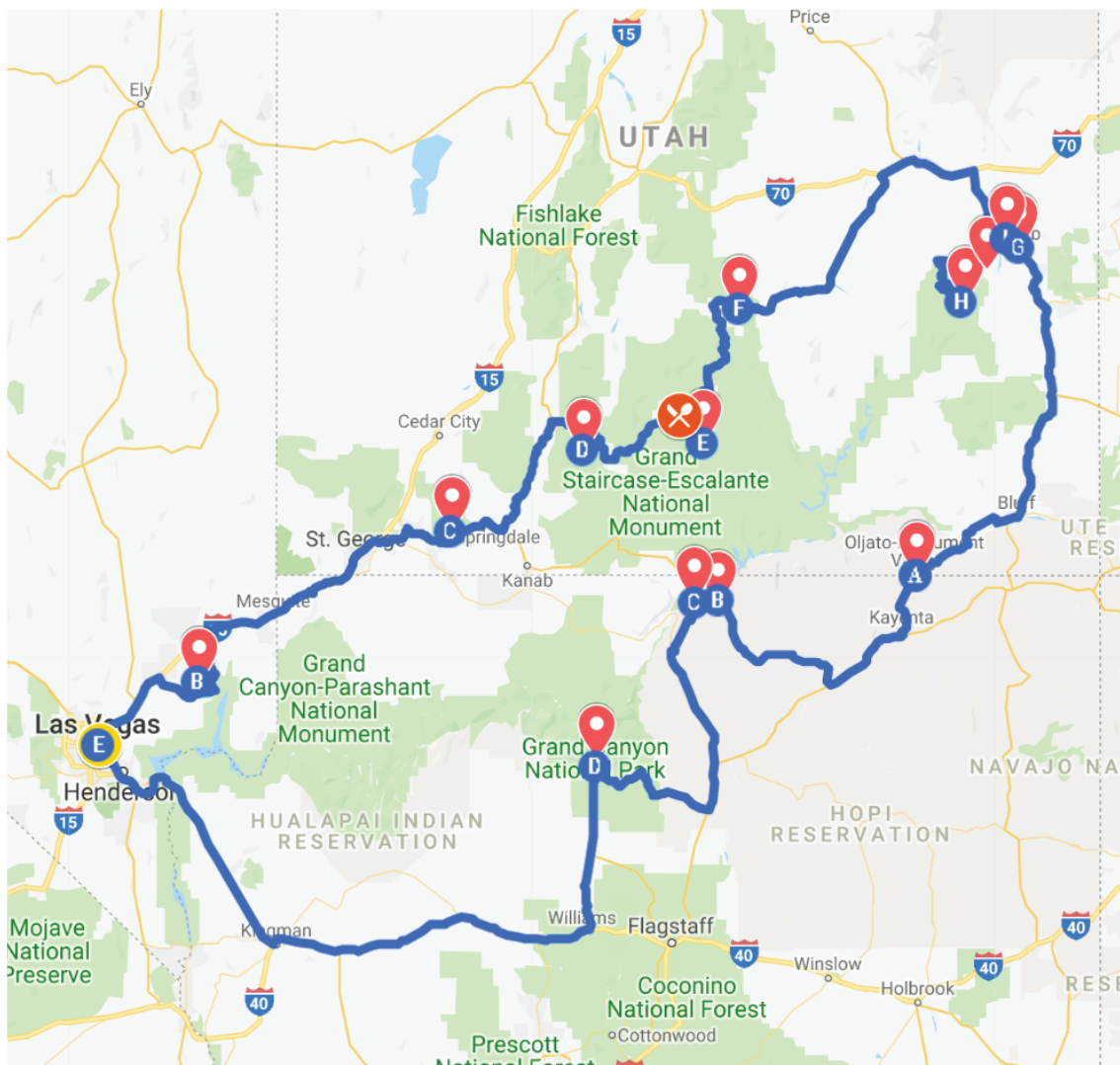
Driving Time: 280 miles / 4 hrs 27 mins

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Hoover Dam on the way through
- ✓ Railroad trail at Lake Mead
- ✓ Red Rock Canyon (horse riding, Lost Creek - Children's Discovery Trail)

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

- Harrah's Las Vegas Casino
- The Mirage
- Airbnb stays



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THE ULTIMATE SOUTHWEST ADVENTURE 4 WEEKS

DAY 1: VEGAS → VALLEY OF FIRE

Driving Time: 49 miles/ 54 mins

Consider: Driving via the North Road through Lake Mead (1-hour detour)

RECOMMEND SITES

- ✓ Mouse Tank Hike
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STAY THE NIGHT IN ZION

(see below)

DAY 2 AND 3 ZION NATIONAL PARK

Driving Time: 129 miles / 2 hours 20 minutes

RECOMMENDED:

- ✓ Angels Landing
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- ✓ Zion Carmel Tunnel Drive to Canyon Overlook (*this could be a morning experience on the way to Bryce Canyon*)

WHERE TO STAY (3 NIGHTS):

**Best Western Plus Zion
Canyon Inn & Suite**

DAY 4: BRYCE CANYON

Driving Time: 1 hr 22 mins / 72 miles

RECOMMENDED:

- ✓ Horse riding
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- ✓ Sunset & Sunrise

WHERE TO STAY (1 NIGHT):

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DAY 5 AND 6: GRAND ESCALANTE

Driving Time: 48 miles / 56 mins

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

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WHERE TO STAY (1 NIGHT):

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

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WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

- Premium room at The View
 - Navajo Family Airbnb Stay
-

DAY 16 *AND* 17 FOUR CORNERS/ MESA VERDE

Driving Time: • 102 mi, 1 hour, 37 minutes to Four Corners
• 62.3 miles 1 hour 29 minutes to Mesa Verde

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Get your photo on the Four Corners
- ✓ Try Navajo Indian Fry Bread at Four Corners
- ✓ Mesa Verde Plateau Drive
- ✓ Tour of Cliff Palace or Balcony House
- ✓ Spruce Tree House Lookout
- ✓ Mesa Top Loop Drive

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

DoubleTree by Hilton Durango

You could stay here 1 night if you wanted extra time in Santa Fe or Albuquerque or White Sands (see note below)

DAY 18 – 21 SANTA FE

Driving Time: 259 mi, 4 hours, 59 minutes

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Walking tour of historic adobe buildings
- ✓ Shop for silver and turquoise Native American jewelry
- ✓ Miraculous staircase in the Gothic-style Loretto Chapel
- ✓ Canyon Road Galleries
- ✓ Georgia O'Keefe Museum
- ✓ Meow Wolf
- ✓ Bandelier National Monument Cliff Dwellings
- ✓ Taos Pueblo

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

Hotel Santa Fe

DAY 21 *AND* 22: YOUR CHOICE

Depending on time and how you feel, you may wish to visit White Sands National Monument (233 mi, 3 hours, 48 minutes) from Santa Fe and drive from there to Sedona (8 hours) You could also stop at Albuquerque on the way to Santa Fe or choose to stay longer at another spot.

DAY 23 *AND* 24 SEDONA 2 NIGHTS

Driving Time: 412 mi, 6 hours, 16 minutes

RECOMMENDED:

- ✓ Devil's Bridge
- ✓ Boynton Canyon
- ✓ Airport Mesa
- ✓ Bell Rock
- ✓ Cathedral Rock
- ✓ Broken Arrow Pink Jeep Tour
- ✓ Verde Canyon Railroad

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

**Best Western Plus Arroyo
Roble Hotel & Creekside Villas**

DAY 25 *AND* 26 GRAND CANYON

Driving Time: 2 hours 33 minutes / 137 miles

- ✓ Bright Angel Trail
- ✓ Rim Walk
- ✓ Desert View Drive and Watch tower/
Lipan Point for sunset

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

**The Grand Hotel at
Grand Canyon**

DAY 27: DAY ANTELOPE CANYON/ HORSESHOE BEND

Driving Time: 1 hour 53 minutes 116 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Lower and Upper Antelope Canyon tour
(get tickets in advance: **Upper** or **Lower**)
- ✓ Sunset or sunrise at Horseshoe Bend
- ✓ Lake Powell

WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

Lake Powell Resort

DAY 28 BACK TO LAS VEGAS

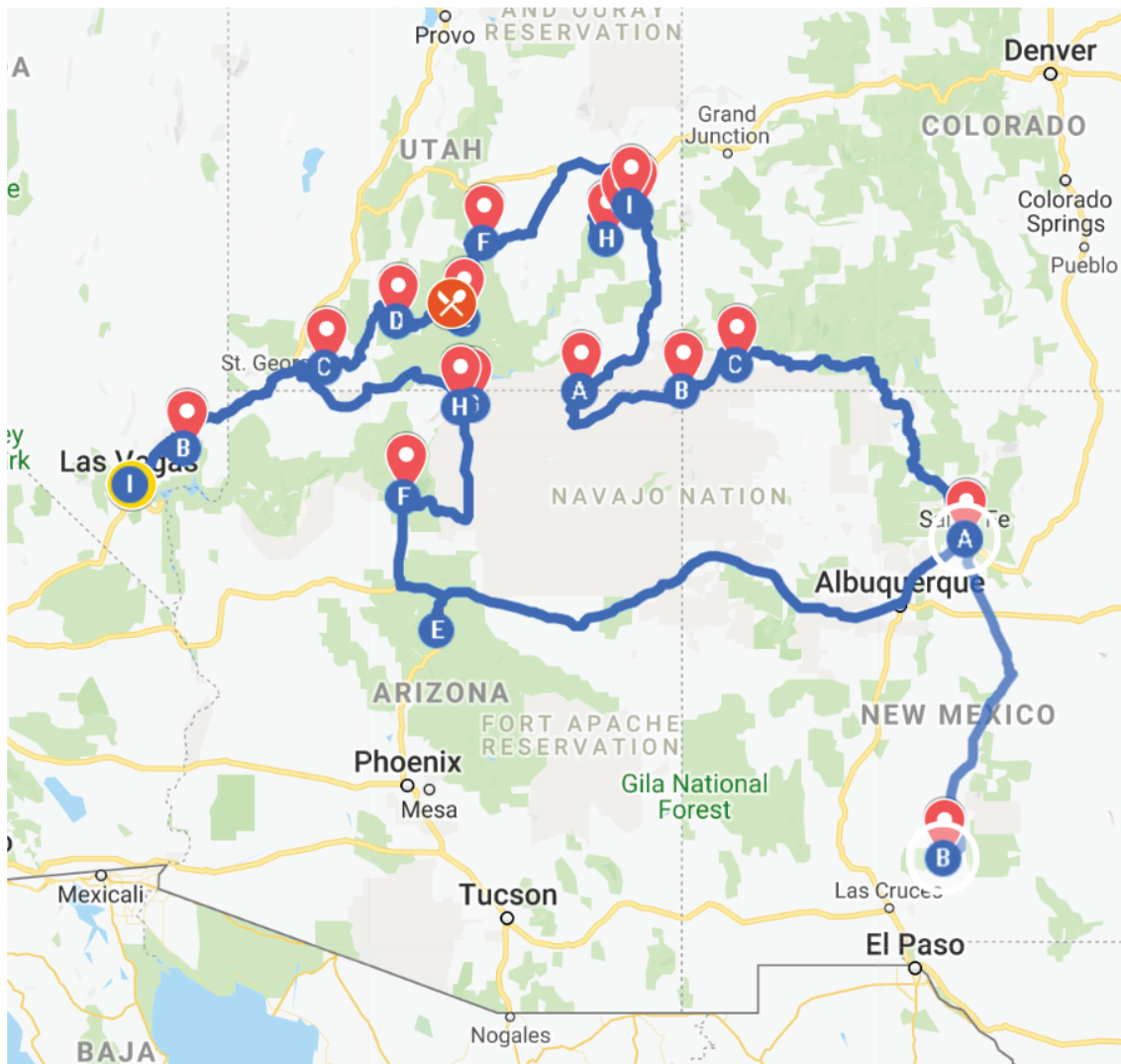
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RECOMMENDATIONS:

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WHERE TO STAY (2 NIGHTS):

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- The Mirage
- Airbnb stays



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