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WESTERN ET PACIFIC

California, Arizona, Utah... This journey of nearly 3000 km traverses the vastness, diversity, and uniqueness of the American West's grand spaces. Green valleys and steep face canyons are juxtaposed with immense deserts where cities seem to emerge out of nowhere... A journey on the scale of our most extravagant dreams!We embark on the trail of pioneers deep into the heart of the great national parks of the American West: Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Arches, Monument Valley, and the Grand Canyon. A rare diversity awaits us, with each day offering an accessible hike in a western setting. The second part of the journey is a bit more active. We leave the lights of Vegas behind to reach the Pacific coast and San Francisco, with its famous "Lombard" street and Golden Gate Bridge. Along the way, we discover Death Valley, where the Sierra Nevada accentuates the horizon. Then, there's the greatness of Yosemite National Park with its granite walls, waterfalls, and giant sequoias.

Region	Ouest
Activity	Aventure & nature Trekking et Randonnée
Duration	20 days
Group	4 to 12 people
Code	USAWD3
Price	From $6,650
Level	3/5
Comfort	2/5
Language(s)	French

ITINERARY

Day 1 **Paris to Las Vegas**

Departure from Paris to Las Vegas. Welcome at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Meals on your own.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 2 **Las Vegas and Zion national park**

After spending the first evening in the extravagance of Las Vegas, we leave this megacity in the middle of the desert and head to the first national park, Zion, located on the vast Colorado Plateau. Our guide assesses everyone's shape and desires each day. They work with you to determine the day's itinerary. This afternoon, exploration is done through short, easy walks inside the canyons. Depending on the weather and access to the canyon, you may venture into the Narrows Canyon and walk in the Virgin River. The river has sculpted the rock, and the passages between the walls are sometimes very narrow. We set up our camp for two nights.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 3 **Zion National Park**

Various hikes allow us to gain elevation and enjoy magnificent views. The trails are well-maintained and accessible. Depending on the skill level, we can attempt the Angels Landing hike, with the permission of the park, which offers a 360° panorama of the park. The trail is sometimes steep, but the reward is worth it. In the valley, we encounter deer, and with a bit of luck, as we ascend the ridges, we may spot bighorn sheep.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 4 **Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon national park**

We leave Zion National Park, stopping to enjoy the colorful cliffs one last time. We arrived at Bryce Canyon National Park in the late morning.
We set out to observe the hoodoos, these multicolored limestone towers that can reach over 20 meters high. We hike the Navajo Loop in this limestone city and discover the amphitheater and the cathedral.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 5 **Bryce Canyon national Park and Capitol Reef**

A magnificent road traverses postcard landscapes and scenes reminiscent of western movies. We observe sandstone formations surrounded by volcanic peaks. The uniqueness of Capitol Reef also lies in its orchards at the foot of the canyons. Different hikes are possible : Cohab Canyon, Goosenecks or Sunset Point. Depending on the group, another option is available : the Grand Wash trail. We set up our camp for the night.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 6 **Capitol Reef, Canyonlands and Moab**

We head towards Canyonlands National Park. This park covers a vast expanse of wilderness in the southeastern part of Utah. The park's 1350 square kilometers reveal countless canyons, arches, spires, mesas, and a myriad of other spectacular rock formations. We explore this vast desert landscape sculpted by erosion by minibus and on foot. In the late afternoon, a short transfer to Moab and settling into the campground for two nights.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 7 **Arches national Park**

From Moab, we make our way to Arches National Park, famous for its red sandstone arches. We take advantage of the morning to hike to stunning viewpoints such as the "Devil's Garden" or the famous "Delicate Arch." On the horizon, we catch sight of the La Sal Mountains, often snow-capped. We return to the campground in Moab in the evening.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 8 **Moab and Mesa Verde**

We head to Mesa Verde National Park and hike to explore the park, gaining an overview of the troglodyte and surrounding canyons. This park contains the largest and most important archaeological reserves. The ancestral puebloans, or ancients, inhabited this region between 500 and 1300 AD. In the morning, we discovered the ancient inhabitants' homes with a park ranger. Then, in the afternoon, we hike to explore some of the region's wildlife : elk, deer, marmots, porcupines, and other species. We set up our camp for the night.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 9 **Mesa Verde and Monument Valley**

We leave for the most cinematic parks, which the vision brings to mind to all the great westerns : Monument Valley. This park, located on Navajo territory, is managed by the Navajo people. Visits are conducted by vehicle accompanied by a Navajo guide, with access to magnificent viewpoints.It's an opportunity for us to appreciate these mountains sculpted by time and the erosion of wind mixed with sand. We established our camp for one night.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 10 **Monument Valley, Antelope Canyon and Powell Lake**

We hit the road towards Lake Powell. It's an artificial reservoir serving as a freshwater reserve that feeds into the Colorado River.We visit the famous Antelope Canyon, cherished by photographers. This narrow canyon reveals impressive colors and shapes highlighted by the sunlight. We settle in for one night in the Lake Powell area.
In case of severe weather conditions, access to Antelope Canyon may be closed.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 11 **Powell Lake and Grand Canyon**

We make a stop at the famous Horseshoe Bend, the renowned meander of the Colorado River. We then continue towards Grand Canyon National Park. We have a day and a half to explore the Grand Canyon. We set up our camp for two nights in the park area.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 12 **Grand Canyon national park**

Our guide suggests descending into the heart of the legendary Grand Canyon, either via the "South Kaibab Trail" to Skeleton Point or via the "Bright Angel Trail" to Plateau Point, which was the first trail opened by pioneers to connect the south rim to the north rim of the Grand Canyon. It takes about two hours to descend, with additional time to reach the plateau. The ascent is longer, but the trail is good, and several water stops allow for rest breaks. We return to the camp in the late afternoon.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 13 **Grand Canyon national park and Las Vegas**

Departure in the morning for Las Vegas. We drive along the legendary old Route 66, where we can stop to immerse ourselves in the atmosphere. Arrival in the afternoon with free evening time. You stroll around this city exclusively dedicated to shows, games, and entertainment. After the first part of the trip, very focused on nature, the contrast is striking as you discover the lively atmosphere and frenetic life in the casinos. Dinner on your own.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 14 **Las Vegas, Death Valley and Bishop**

In the morning, we head to the legendary "Death Valley." After the frenzy of Vegas, we enter lands of desolation and aridity. Throughout this day's journey, we observe a variety of unsuspected landscapes: Golden Canyon and its red cathedral, Dante's View (a panoramic viewpoint of the valley), Badwater (salt formations and dried mud), Artist's Palette (black and ocher mountains). The contrast is striking as we arrive in the evening at Bishop, a small town at the foot of the mountains. We settle in for one night near Bishop.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 15 **Bishop, Mono Lake and Yosemite National Park**

We cross Yosemite National Park from east to west via the Tioga Road. This long mountain road offers several viewpoints and various hiking opportunities. Before entering the park, a stop at Mono Lake is a must. We explore this lake, which features formations resembling stalactites. We set up our camp for three nights.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 16 **Yosemite National Park**

Ranging in altitude from 600 to 3960 meters, Yosemite Valley, at the center of the park, reveals its secrets: it's one of the most beautiful examples of a glacial valley. El Capitan and Half Dome are two monoliths unique in the world. Steep granite walls, reaching heights of 1000 meters, rise on either side of the valley. Nine waterfalls cascade into the valley. Five of them are over 300 meters high: the waters of Yosemite Falls drop 740 meters before crashing onto the rocks.
Today, we plan to hike on McGurk Meadow and then on the Washburn Trail, which will lead us to Mariposa Grove to enjoy the giant sequoias.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 17 **Yosemite National Park**

As the first national park in the United States of America, we are fortunate to be able to spend several days in this incredible park. Today, we plan to hike the Murphy Creek Trail,one of the less busy and peaceful paths that begin along the Tioga road.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 18 **Yosemite National Park and San Francisco**

This morning, we head towards San Francisco. We arrive in San Francisco in the afternoon and explore the city's main attractions with our guide: Chinatown, Union Square with its luxury shops, and Fisherman’s Wharf with its famous sea lions. You then have free time to continue exploring the city at your own pace.We settled at the hotel for two nights. Dinner on your own.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 19 **San Francisco**

We continue our visit of this charming city, including stops at the Golden Gate Bridge, where we enjoy a superb view of the bay and Alcatraz, Alamo Square, and the famous colorful wooden Victorian houses, a bit away, on the hill. Meals on your own.

Accommodation: Hotel

Day 20 **San Francisco and end of the trip**

Following the breakfast, our services conclude.

Accommodation: Hotel

DATES & PRICES

Departures for French-speaking groups:

From	To	Price per person	Guaranteed	Booking
28/09/2024	17/10/2024	**$6,650**	No	

Trip code: USAWD3

Included

- Supervision by a tour leader (and an assistant guide for groups of 9 or more participants)
- Ground transportation
- Detailed excursions as described in the itinerary
- Accommodations as indicated in the itinerary
- Full board except for meals mentioned as "on your own" in the itinerary
- Park permit fees
- Angel's Landing permit

Not included

- Travel insurance
- International flights and air taxes
- Registration fees
- Carbon offset for your trip to the American West: €10 per person
- United States Travel Authorization (ESTA), approximately $21, to be requested before your departure - see the "formalities" section
- Airport transfers in case of flights different from the group's

Terms and conditions

Inscription

Booking a trip with Altaï Peru implies acceptance of the terms and conditions of sale. Each customer is required to complete a registration form and, subject to availability at the time of registration, travellers are expected to pay a deposit of 30% of the total price to complete their booking. Payments can be made online or by bank transfer. You will receive an e-mail with your booking confirmation.

Invoice

Once your booking is confirmed you will receive an invoice by e-mail. The full balance of the trip must be received at least 30 days before your departure date. Altaï Indonesia reserve the right to cancel your booking, free of charge, if this deadline is not respected.

Cancelation

If for any reason you have to cancel your trip, Altaï Peru require written confirmation of your decision. The money you have paid will then be refunded according to the following deductions:

- Cancellation received more than 30 days prior to the departure date: a sum of €50 per person will be retained
- Cancellation received 30 to 21 days before the departure date: your deposit, 30% of the total trip price will be retained
- Cancellation received 20 to 14 days before the departure date: 50% of the total trip price will be retained
- Cancellation received 13 to 7 days before the departure date: 75% of the total trip price will be retained
- Cancellation received less than 7 days before the departure date: 100% of the total trip price will be retained

Special cases:

Please note that, regardless of the date of cancellation or modification if you have agreed to pay for services such as hotel reservations, flights or additional activities, these services are usually non-refundable so additional fees may apply.

- Fixed airfares: if your airline ticket was issued in advance, often done to avoid significant surcharges, you will be charged 100%

of any non-refundable fees if you wish to change or cancel your flight plan
- Fixed in-country costs: early charges for firm bookings will be charged if you cancel or modify your trip.
- Insurance costs: if you have taken out comprehensive or cancellation insurance, the cost of insurance is due and cannot be refunded.

Please note that fees apply according to the date Altaï Peru receive your cancellation or modification request in writing.

If we have to cancel a departure due to an insufficient number of participants, you will be informed no later than 21 days before departure and a full refund will be issued, you will not be entitled to further compensation. We reserve the rights to cancel departures due to exceptional circumstances which may impact the safety of participants. Such circumstances include those amounting to 'force majeure' in which case participants will receive a full refund but they will not be entitled to any compensation.

Contract modification

If you wish to make a change to your booking please contact Altaï Peru in writing; you will be expected to pay any fee which might arise from this change. In the event of unforeseen external events, Altaï Indonesia may change some aspects of the travel contract. If any changes are necessary you will be informed as quickly as possible.

Price

The prices on our website are updated regularly and all of the prices we advertise are accurate when published. We reserve the rights to make changes to any of these prices. Before you make a booking we will give you the up-to-date price of your chosen holiday including any supplements, upgrades or additional activities you may have requested. If the number of travellers is fewer than the indicated number of participants on the website, a small group surcharge may be applied. For all of our trips we include details of services, prices and what is/is not included but please be aware that changes to the prices may be necessary in accordance with exchange rates or price changes of various components of the journey.

Name transfer

If you are unable to travel for any reason, you can transfer your booking to another person in which case our modification conditions apply. Both the transferor and transferee will be jointly and severally liable for payment of the total holiday price and other associated expenses. Some airline carriers treat name changes as cancellations and you may be required to pay for the cost of a new ticket.

PRACTICAL INFO

Staff

In the morning and evening, a hot meal is prepared with local products. Lunch is in the form of a picnic. Cooking equipment and utensils are provided by us. Please note that meals in Las Vegas and San Francisco are not included.WaterDuring your stay, drinks including mineral water are at your expense. You can refill your water bottles in villages, springs, and hotels. It is advisable to treat it with purifying tablets (such as micropur or hydrochlorazone). Avoid buying plastic bottles that need to be recycled as much as possible.If you need to buy bottled water, we recommend buying 10-liter (or 5-liter) bottles to refill your bottles as needed. If you wish to purchase these bottles, you can inform your guide at the beginning of the tour to plan a stop at the supermarket.

Accommodation

- Comfortable standard hotels/motels in cities, in double rooms.
- Campsites: 3-person tents for 2 people, Thermarest-type mattresses, picnic tables, and kitchen shelters for dinner and breakfast. Tableware and cooking equipment are provided. Please bring your own sleeping bag and towel. Most campsites offer a restroom block with running water, showers (sometimes with a fee of $3-6), and toilets. Some campsites only offer dry toilets and cold water. Whenever possible, campsites are located inside the parks where there is vegetation, and in privately managed campsites on the outskirts of parks for desert regions.
- Here is an indicative list of the accommodations we typically reserve for this trip:

Bozeman: Comfort Inn Bozeman
Yellowstone National Park: West Gate KOA
Grand Teton National Park: Fireside Buffalo Valley
Moab: Moab KOA Campground
Arches National Park: Sandcreek RV Park
Bryce Canyon National Park: Ruby’s Inn RV Park
Zion National Park: Zion Canyon Campground
Grand Canyon National Park: TEN X group site
Las Vegas: Circus Circus Las vegas
Bishop: Brown's Town Campground
Yosemite National Park: Yosemite Lakes RV ResortSan Francisco: Oasis Inn

Transportation

In the United States, we use regular flights departing from Paris (operating all year round and at fixed times). You will mainly fly on American Airlines, Delta Airlines, KLM, Lufthansa, or United Airlines. Depending on availability at the time of your registration, we may also offer other companies than those mentioned above.

Indicative flight schedules departing from Paris:
- Delta Airlines: Outbound departure 10:20 - arrival 17:35 / Return departure 16:10 - arrival 16:20 the next day
- United Airlines: Outbound departure 10:55 - arrival 18:30 / Return departure 19:40 - arrival 10:35 the next day

Private 12-seater minibus, with a trailer from 9 participants.PortageYou carry your belongings for day hikes, including your picnic.

Budget & exchange

To know the real-time exchange rate, we recommend visiting the website www.xe.com.
Using a credit card is the best way to obtain money. However, your bank may charge you fees for withdrawals in foreign currencies. Visa and Mastercard are accepted in most establishments and ATMs. Traveler's checks are also easy to exchange in cities but not very practical to use in rural areas.

Tips

Please note that the service charge is not included in the bill at restaurants in the United States. Therefore, you should systematically add 15 to 20% to the total amount of the bill. The same applies to bars and taxi services.

For this trip, we recommend a tip of €5 per person per day for your guide who accompanies you throughout the journey.

Vital equipment

Vital equipment

Pack some additional city clothes for the first and last day.
- Cap or hat for sun protection
- 1 pair of sunglasses with a strap to prevent loss
- Wool or fleece hat
- 1 scarf or large scarf, useful in windy and dusty conditions
- Waterproof anorakJacket or Gore-Tex type coat (windproof, waterproof, and breathable)
- 2 quick-drying synthetic T-shirts
- 1 light shirt to protect from the sun
- Sweater or fleece jacket
- Sweatshirt or fleece base layer
- 1 lightweight long-sleeve sweater
- Set of medium-weight thermal underwear (top and bottom)
- T-shirt (Capilene type, polypropylene...)
- Swimsuit
- Nylon pants
- Nylon shorts
- Waterproof pants
- A warm pair of tights or leggings for the evening or to wear under trekking pants in cold weather
- Light clothing for medium-altitude stages and valleys (loose-fitting canvas pants, shorts)
- 1 pair of thin gloves
- 2 pairs of wool socks
- Good trekking or hiking shoes

For walks on trails, walkers can use lightweight and breathable shoes (that allow sweat to evaporate) with a mid or high collar for better foot support. They should have a grippy sole.You can also bring sandals for walking in water.Lightweight shoes

Material

- Medium 3-season sleeping bag in summer (0 to -5°C) and warm in autumn (-10°C), made of compressible synthetic materials or down.
- Compression sack.
- GEAR
- Walking stick (optional)
- Flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries
- Pocket knife
- Sunscreen (SPF 30)
- 1-liter water bottle

Luggage

We suggest 2 king of luggage :
-1 travel bag with front opening (80 to 100 liters).
- 1 small backpack (30 to 40 liters) for your daily belongings, which can also serve as a carry-on bag on the plane.

It is recommended to have a TSA-approved lock on your suitcase so that customs officers can open it without damaging it: http://www.ma-valise-voyage.fr/cadenas-tsa-homologue-pour-valise/Please note, some countries prohibit the importation and use of electronic cigarettes, so we strongly recommend that you inquire with the appropriate authorities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, embassy, consulate) before your departure.

Medicine

Your guide has a first aid kit for emergencies during the tour. However, we recommend bringing your own medications:
- Personal medications
- Pain reliever such as Paracetamol
- Anti-diarrheal medication
- Broad-spectrum antibiotic treatmentIntestinal bandage

- High-protection sunscreen for lips and skin
- Eye drops
- Moisturizing cream for superficial burns (blisters and sunburns)
- Adhesive elastic bandage, box of adhesive bandages, and disinfectant wipes
- Purifying tablets for water disinfection
- Mosquito repellent
- Moleskin for blisters.

Passport

Passports must be valid for 6 months after the return date.

Upon registration, please provide us with your passport information (Last Name - First Name - Date of Birth - Passport Number - Date of Issue and Expiration). We need this information to book your domestic flights or make requests for entry into certain sites.

ATTENTION:
You must provide us with the information from the valid passport you will take with you. If you need to renew your passport, wait until you have the new one to provide us with the information, otherwise you may be refused entry at certain sites.

ALL CHILDREN, regardless of age, must have an individual passport. Children listed on their parents' passport (even if the passport is biometric) will need to obtain a visa.

As of January 15, 2017, a child traveling abroad without being accompanied by one of their parents must present the following 3 documents:

Valid ID for the minor: ID card or passport + visa if required by the destination country (check the country fact sheets on (diplomatie.gouv.fr)

Photocopy of the valid ID of the signing parent: ID card or passportPermission form signed by one of the parents with parental authority.

NB: This authorization may be required by some countries when the minor child travels with only one of their parents (e.g., Algeria, Morocco, Switzerland: check the country fact sheets on diplomatie.gouv.fr).

HOW TO KNOW IF YOUR PASSPORT IS VALID FOR TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES:

Old model passport (vertical reading of the page containing the photo): Not valid.

Optical reading passport (horizontal reading of the page containing the photo and 2 lines of code below the photo): Valid if issued before October 25, 2005.

Passport issued between 26/10/2005 and 26/10/2006, valid if it is optically readable with a digital photo printed on the identification page (the photo must not be glued).

Electronic or biometric passport (horizontal reading of the page containing the photo AND ELECTRONIC CHIP SYMBOL on the cover (below the word "PASSPORT"): Valid.

The information provided is indicative for French nationals. It may be subject to change without notice by the relevant authorities. Therefore, it is advisable to verify it with the consulates in the month before your departure.

Visa

Biometric passports and electronic passports that are valid are accepted for an ESTA request. They are recognizable by the symbol on the cover.

With other passports, a traditional visa request must be made.

Since January 2009, all passengers traveling to the United States must have previously completed the ESTA form on the following website: https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/ to receive travel authorization under the Visa Waiver Program.

This authorization is valid for 2 years until the passport expires. Adults and children (regardless of age) are subject to this procedure. The form can be completed no later than 72 hours before departure, but it is recommended to do so as soon as the trip is planned.

This service is now chargeable: approx. 21 USD.

The form can only be filled out at the following address https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov (there are other unofficial sites on the web that charge more for this service).

ALTAI USA cannot be held responsible in the event that you need to return to France due to non-compliance with these personal health obligations.

No mandatory vaccinations are required for entry into the USA, but we recommend that you keep up to date with routine vaccinations.

Electricity

As in all of North America, the electrical system operates on 120 volts (60 cycles). The plugs have two flat prongs. To use your electrical appliances, you must therefore have an adapter and a transformer.

Altai USA is committed to organizing trips that adhere to equitable principles:
- Developing quality tourism both in terms of services provided to travelers and in optimizing local economic benefits.
- Remunerating services at fair prices.Improving the working conditions of local teams.
- Transmitting know-how to local teams.Informing and raising awareness among travelers.
- Participating in research projects of international and national institutions for the development of ecotourism.
- Engaging in concrete actions for environmental protection and sustainable development.

For obvious ecological reasons, Atalante has decided to no longer offer plastic bottled water on its tours. Atalante encourages its travelers to treat water with purifying tablets and to avoid, as much as possible, purchasing plastic bottles in countries where they are not recycled.

Topography

The continental United States extends from East to West, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. It shares borders with Canada to the north and Mexico to the south. Alaska forms a protrusion to the northwest of Canada, and the Hawaiian Islands are located in the middle of the Pacific, 4,000 km from the west coast. The country has three major mountain ranges: the Appalachians in the East, the Rockies in the West, and the Sierra Nevada on the border between Nevada and California. It is endowed with abundant natural resources and vast expanses of fertile land.

The most populous region, the Atlantic coast, bears the imprint of its European heritage. It is home to the oldest cities, such as Boston, New York, Washington DC, and Philadelphia, and was the scene of the country's major events at the beginning of its history.

Watered by the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio rivers, the central region is the country's breadbasket.

Further west, the Great Plains and their pastures are cowboy country. The desert predominates in the Southwest, where population density remains very low due to the climate and the poverty of the soil.

On the other side of the Sierra Nevada, the West Coast was settled by Americans only 150 years ago but has since thrown itself headlong into the future.