

ALBUQUERQUE TO PHOENIX

Trains and Trees

Driving Distance: 1000 driving miles
Driving Time: 25 Hours Approx
Recommended Trip: 15 Days

- Day 1 Arrive in Albuquerque and check into a hotel for your first night
- Day 2 Pick up your motorhome today and visit the Old Town with its adobe Plaza boasting numerous shops and restaurants. Try a bird's eye view of the city and surrounding area from the Sandia Peak cable car.
- Days 3/4 Head north to Santa Fe situated at the base of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Stroll through the old plaza and bargain for Indian jewellery, visit the oldest church in America and enjoy 'real' Mexican food on the roof at the famed Coyote Cafe.
- Day 5 Drive north through beautiful high desert scenery to the chic town of Taos. Shop for art in the town's plaza and visit the authentic Indian village at Taos Pueblo.
- Day 6 Explore the area or make an early start if you wish to ride the famous Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad from Antonito - a steam railway excursion through spectacular Toltec Gorge and the beautiful San Juan Mountains on tracks that tamed the west! After lunch at Osier the train continues to Chama from where you return to Antonito in the evening by coach. Drive the short distance to Alamosa. Railroad routes and schedules vary.
- Day 7 Head west today to Durango, which is full of western flavour - try swinging through the doors for a drink at Diamond Belle's saloon or shopping for bargains at the many 'factory outlet' stores.
- Day 8 Another steam train trip but through vastly different scenery to the old mining town of Silverton - (silver by the ton).
- Day 9 Head west through hill country to Mesa Verde National Park. Leave the main road and climb 20 miles on to a large plateau - home to the Pueblo Indians more than eight centuries ago. See the preserved Indian cliff dwellings. Continue on route 163 to Monument Valley to view the astonishing landscape of sandstone formations.
- Day 10 Drive southwest to Wupatki National Monument. Take the loop road to view notable cliff dwellings and the impressive geology of Sunset Crater Volcano. Continue from Flagstaff to Williams.

- Day 11 Board the vintage train to the Grand Canyon, surely one of the most awe-inspiring sights in the world. Level upon level of rock formations lead the eye almost a mile down for a glimpse of a silvery streak, the mighty Colorado River far below.
- Day 12 A scenic drive through Flagstaff and glorious Oak Creek Canyon takes you to Clarkdale and the Verde Canyon Railroad. Optional excursions are available to ride the rails through one of Arizona's unique and protected wilderness areas. The canyon is home to numerous golden and bald eagles. Railroad schedules and prices vary.
- Day 13 Head south from Sedona through the lush Coconino National Forest and past spectacularly eroded sandstone cliffs, buttes and monoliths. Visit the Indian cliff dwellings at Montezuma's Castle and drive through cactus-studded desert and pine-clad mountains to Scottsdale.
- Day 14 Relax around a blue pool in the dry heat of this desert paradise. Shop for souvenirs in the fashionable malls or play cowboy at Rawhide, an old western town. Enjoy the spectacular scenery from a hot air balloon and, for something a little different, why not try rattlesnake for dinner?
- Day 15 Head to Phoenix to return your motorhome and then catch your flight back home.