

grand canyon and rocky mountain trails



trip highlights

- Hike and spot wildlife in stunning Yellowstone National Park
- Marvel at the punctuality of Old Faithful geyser
- Trek into the Grand Canyon
- Walk among the imposing, red rock formations of Monument Valley
- Take in the views of Grand Teton National Park
- Explore UNESCO-designated Mesa Verde
- Learn why Maroon Bells is one of the most photographed places in Colorado
- Visit Horseshoe Bend and beautiful Antelope Canyon
- Live it up in Las Vegas



Trip Duration	15 days	Trip Code: GCR
Grade	Introductory to Moderate	
Activities	Trekking, Day Walking	
Summary	15 day trip, 8 day walks, 14 nights hotels/lodges	

welcome to World Expeditions

Thank you for your interest in our Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain Trails trip. At World Expeditions we are passionate about our off the beaten track experiences as they provide our travellers with the thrill of coming face to face with untouched cultures as well as wilderness regions of great natural beauty. We are committed to ensuring that our unique itineraries are well researched, affordable and tailored for the enjoyment of small groups or individuals - philosophies that have been at our core since 1975 when we began operating adventure holidays. Our itineraries will give you the very best travel experience, designed by people with incredible local knowledge who share our vision of authentic exchange and real exploration with a responsible tourism approach. Whether you like your adventures to include trekking, touring, cycling, mountaineering, kayaking or cruising World Expeditions can make it happen for you. We hope you will join us for a life changing experience.

why travel with World Expeditions?

Our US operators have the experience and enthusiasm to ensure an amazing trip. Our local guides ensure that we maintain the leading edge in adventure travel and ensure our trips are unique and provide excellent value for money. Our group size is small, never exceeding a maximum number of 14 plus guide. Our private vehicles are well maintained and comfortable. We use a mixture of accommodation on this trip, including hotels, cabins or camping that are chosen for their location. Compare our prices, the quality of our hotels and all our inclusions and we feel that few trips can compare in terms of value for money. In addition responsible travel is important to us. Our company was 'Highly Commended' for Best in a Mountain Environment in the Responsible travel awards. Given our local knowledge, experience and leadership, we are quite sure that this trip will be the trip of a lifetime.



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World Expeditions does not require single travellers to pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. Please refer to our website for the additional cost.

For competitive airfares to Jackson and stopover ideas, contact our expert staff today to receive a detailed quote.

the trip

On this superb hiking adventure we bring to life western USA's most famous parks, home to some of the most dramatic wind and water sculptured landscapes in the world. During a series of selected hikes including Mt Washburn (3120m), we absorb the geysers, giant waterfalls, prolific wildlife and valleys full of boiling mud pots in Yellowstone, trek in the Grand Canyon, visit Horseshoe Bend and Antelope Canyon and hike in the dramatic Rocky Mountains. From Aspen and Steamboat Springs we undertake some world class day hikes in the high Rockies, such as Lost Man Loop with its 3900m pass. Linking the parks and hikes are stunning drives such as the 'Million Dollar Highway', considered to be the most scenic in North America. A visit to Mesa Verde UNESCO World Heritage Site and Monument Valley and our final night in Las Vegas rounds off this exhilarating adventure.

about your leader/escort

All of our USA tour leaders are certified in First Aid and CPR and registered as official guides with the national parks. All of them are trained to guide hikes. Your tour leader is from the USA and may have grown up here or may have moved here from another country - As many Americans do.

at a glance

DAY 1	ARRIVE JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING
DAY 2	GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
DAY 3	YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
DAY 4	YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
DAY 5	COLORADO
DAY 6	TO ASPEN
DAY 7	ASPEN
DAY 8	MAROON BELLS
DAY 9	DURANGO
DAY 10	MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK & MONUMENT VALLEY
DAY 11	HORSESHOE BEND AND ANTELOPE CANYON
DAY 12	GRAND CANYON
DAY 13	GRAND CANYON
DAY 14	TO LAS VEGAS
DAY 15	TRIP CONCLUDES IN LAS VEGAS

additional deposits required

In addition to the standard World Expeditions deposit, a tour operator deposit of the equivalent of US\$850 in your local currency is required at time of booking. The deposit is non refundable in the event of cancellation or transfer to another trip or date. We recommend you take out travel insurance at the time of booking.

what's included

- 14 breakfasts, 13 picnic lunches and 3 dinners plus trail snacks on hikes
- Accommodation in tourist class hotels or rustic cabins
- Private transport throughout
- Services of an experienced driver-guide
- National park entry fees, trekking permits & sightseeing as specified

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trip dates

2020 15 Aug - 29 Aug
05 Sep - 19 Sep

2021 04 Sep - 18 Sep
18 Sep - 02 Oct

fast facts

Countries Visited:
USA

Singles:
A single supplement is available for this trip*

Advice for people with limited mobility
This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

thoughtful travel

The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence.

World Expeditions were the proud recipients of the inaugural Australian National Travel Industry's Environmental Achievement award for our Responsible Travel Guidebook.

This detailed guide to responsible & sustainable travel is provided to all World Expeditions clients before they travel.

Please ask your consultant if you have not received your copy of our award winning book. Alternatively, you may like to download a copy from our website

www.worldexpeditions.com

No local payments policy: Local cash payments are becoming increasingly popular with many operators. The policy seems to benefit the tour operators, more than the local economies or travellers, as it avoids local taxes and transfers the cost and risk of cash handling to travellers. In accordance with our Responsible Travel practices.

what's not included

- Flight and airport taxes
- Cost of laundry, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Tour through Antelope Canyon
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Visas
- Optional excursions
- Medical treatment
- Personal expenses
- Tips

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Today is an arrival day to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Please make your own way to the hotel in the center of town.

Overnight Quality Inn 49er or similar.

meals: NIL

DAY 2 Grand Teton National Park

This morning we have an 8:00am introductory meeting (leave your packed bags in your room and meet your group after breakfast in the lobby). We enjoy the cowboy town of Jackson, which is nestled below the dramatic Grand Tetons, a steep and jagged mountain range on a slip-fault. Enjoy an invigorating walk along the base of Grand Teton along String and Leigh Lake with great views throughout. Next we continue to Yellowstone National Park. We stop to sightsee and to watch wildlife on our way to Tower Junction, a remote part of the park far away from the crowds. The area is known for its outstanding wildlife including a chance to spot wolves and bears. We drive through the park and onto Cooke City to our comfortable accommodation, which is a few miles outside of the park.

Hiking: 12km/7miles, 4-5 hrs of hiking, +/-200m,

Drive time: 265km/166 miles, approx 3-4hrs

meals: B,L

DAY 3 Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone National Park is the world's oldest National Park. It protects the world's most impressive geothermal area, along with one of the densest collections of mega fauna outside of Africa which includes bison, wolf, elk, moose and, of course, bear. We hike to the top of Mount Washburn (3120m), where we often see wild goats, and then hike along the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone for amazing views along its rim.

Hiking: 10-15 km/6-9miles, 5-6 hrs of hiking, +/-500m

Drive time: 100km/40-60 miles, approx 2 hrs

meals: B,L

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adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant of travel agent.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price.

DAY 4 Yellowstone National Park

We explore the area around Old Faithful where we walk through geothermal pools of multiple colours and hope to see herds of bison. We then explore the areas around Grand Prismatic Spring, Norris Geysir Basin, and Mammoth Hot Springs. In the evening we may go look for wolves in Lamar Valley near our hotel.

Hiking: 12-15 km/7-9miles, 5-6 hrs of hiking, +/-100m

Drive time: approx. 350km/240 miles, 5 hrs

meals: B,L

DAY 5 Colorado

In the rain shadow of the Rockies we drive south into the heart of Colorado's Rockies. We cross the vast expanse of the "Great American Desert" that challenged many pioneers heading west. We follow part of the old 'Oregon Trail' through the dry prairie, before we enter the green hills of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. After a long day on the road, nestle into your cozy motel in historic Steamboat – a renowned ski town. There is time to soak in the local hot springs (small fee) if you'd like.

Drive time: approx. 500 miles/800 kms, 8 hours

meals: B,L

DAY 6 To Aspen

In the morning you can hike along the Hot Springs Trail to the Strawberry Hot Springs (self-guided), where there is time to enjoy a soak in the amazing pools. After a picnic lunch in an idyllic forested environment we continue south towards Aspen for the next stage of our adventure. Our comfortable hotel is just outside of Aspen in Snowmass. There is a free shuttle to the town of Aspen and time for a first stroll through this famous resort town.

Hiking: Hot Springs Trail (self-guided) 3miles/5km, approx. 2 hrs, +/-200m;

Drive Time: 160 miles/250 kms, approx. 3 hrs

meals: B,L

DAY 7 Aspen

Aspen must be one of the most picturesque towns in the USA. Started as a gold rush town, it is now home to some of the richest people in the country. The walking, though mostly unknown, is world class. We take a challenging loop walk on the Lost Man Loop over a steep pass (3900m), above treeline and through hanging lakes and deep forests. The beautiful Independence Lake adds to the dramatic scenery, while our local ranger regales us with plenty of interesting information about the flora and fauna. This must be one of Colorado's best hikes!

Hiking: 15 km/9 miles, approx. 7 hrs of hiking, +450m/- 700m (This walk is guided by a local company to give your guide a day of rest)

meals: B,L

DAY 8 Maroon Bells

The Maroon Bells grace many postcards and rightfully so. They are beautiful peaks reflected in tranquil alpine lakes. We hike towards these proud peaks through dense aspen forests. There are several trail options depending on the aspirations of the group on the day with the Buckskin Pass (3800m) being a popular choice for great

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views of Maroon Bells and Pyramid Peak. The hike is self-guided. The afternoon is free to enjoy Aspen. (Some options to choose are: visit the famous boutiques or take the gondola to the top of Aspen Peak for above-treeline views, at own expense).

Hiking: approx. 10 km/6 miles, 4 hrs of hiking, +/- 200m (self-guided)

meals: B,L

DAY 9 Durango

Following spectacular mountain roads south through the Rockies to Mesa Verde. En route, we drive the famous 'Million Dollar Highway', considered by many to be one of the most scenic highways in North America. You have the opportunity to take the famous Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge railroad (approx. USD125 to be paid locally), voted among the world's 10 best railroad journeys. We overnight at the entrance to Mesa Verde.

Drive time: 280 miles/450 kms (or less if taking the train), 5-6 hrs

meals: B,L

DAY 10 Mesa Verde National Park & Monument Valley

Today we explore Mesa Verde, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We take a ranger led walk through 1000-year-old ruins, or hike the rims and mesas to impressive view points. Then we drive to Monument Valley where we have a chance to book an optional jeep tour through the valley at sunset (starting at approximately US\$75pp). Tonight, we settle into our cliff-side accommodation by the San Juan River.

Drive time: approx. 200 miles/300km, 3-4 hrs

meals: B,L

DAY 11 Horseshoe Bend and Antelope Canyon

After breakfast, we leave Monument Valley and drive to the Grand Canyon. On our way we will pass the Lake Powell area and stop to walk the short trail to famous Horseshoe Bend. After taking in the stunning views we continue to nearby Antelope Canyon. Antelope Canyon is known for its incredible rock formations, colours and lights and is one of the most photographed slot canyons in the world. You can decide to do a tour with a local guide (optional excursion at additional cost) who will lead you through the canyon. On this tour, you are able to take photos of this natural wonder. In the afternoon we continue to the Grand Canyon and stay at a comfortable 3 star lodge.

Drive time: approx. 200 miles / 300km, 3 hrs

meals: B,L

DAY 12 Grand Canyon

In the next two days we explore the Grand Canyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Although plenty of tourists visit the area, only few hit the trails. On our first day we enjoy a challenging hike to Plateau Point (guided). Great views open up in all directions! In the afternoon we return to our lodge in the Grand Canyon Village.

Plateau Point: 8-12 hrs, 20km, elevation difference +/- 1150

meals: B,L

DAY 13 Grand Canyon

Today we enjoy another full day at the Grand Canyon which is at your own leisure. We recommend a leisurely hike along the West Rim of the canyon (self-guided due

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to wilderness regulations) where you can enjoy incredible views. There is also time for an optional helicopter flight over the canyon (cost starting at about US\$200pp for 30 minutes).

West Rim: 4 hrs, 13km, elevation difference +/- 50

meals: B,L

DAY 14 To Las Vegas

Along Route 66 we head towards Las Vegas and our hotel in the city. This evening is free to indulge yourself in Las Vegas and whether you love it or hate it, it is an astonishing city!

Overnight La Quinta Las Vegas or similar.

Drive time: approx. 265 miles / 430km, 4-5 hrs

meals: B,L

DAY 15 Trip concludes in Las Vegas

The hotel offers a free airport shuttle for your onward flights.

PLEASE NOTE: Drive times provided above are approximate and may vary according to weather, traffic and changes in road conditions.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

The Rockies are the high backbone of the lower 48 states, with rows of snow-capped peaks, rugged canyons and wild rivers running over the USA's West. While the Pacific Northwest has active cone shaped volcanoes, the rest of western USA does not. Here we only see the remnants of ancient volcanic activities – in lava flows, hot springs, volcanic fissures and calderas.

The area of red rocks in Southwest USA is known as the "Colorado Plateau", "Canyon Country" or the "Grand Circle". It is a wonderland of eroded sandstone rock like no where else on earth. The Grand Canyon, specifically, is 277 river miles (446km) long, up to 18 miles (29km) wide, and 1 mile (1.6km) deep. It is an overwhelmingly large area displaying unique combinations of geologic colour and erosional forms.

climate

Be prepared for a wide range of temperatures while on tour. Remember that Western USA experiences a swing in temperatures, depending not only on season and location but also on altitude. This trip will travel through areas of wide differences in climates. Western USA is as far south as southern Europe, experiencing strong sunshine. Make sure you protect yourself against the strong sun. At altitude, and in spring and autumn, morning temperatures are often brisk or cold, warming up fast after the strong sun rises. Therefore we recommend a layering system for clothing, so you can adapt to the temperature changes without problems. As in most deserts, it is the sun that determines the temperatures, making night time temperatures much colder than daytime.

Summer (June – early September) temperatures are always hot, but even in Monument Valley or the Grand Canyon, temperatures can be cool at night.

a typical day

As there is one driver-guide, a little group participation is necessary where preparing your daily packed lunch is concerned, and some hikes will be self-guided and/or require the guide to go



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ahead to collect the vehicle. It is important to understand that you cannot compare the style of trip and number of staff with a trip anywhere in Asia, South America or Africa.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

accommodation on the trip

Accommodation is in twin share. As of 2017, there will be no forced single supplement for singles willing to share. Most nights are spent in comfortable 3 star hotels, and 2 nights are spent in a very basic lodge inside the Grand Canyon where, due to its remoteness, electricity and hot water are unreliable. Rooms at this back country lodge may be either twin share or quadruple share, depending on availability. All have private bathrooms.

pre and post tour accommodation

There is a variety of accommodation available in Jackson and Las Vegas; prices and advice are available from World Expeditions reservations staff or your travel agent, who will be happy to make any accommodation bookings for you.

what you carry

During all walks you will need a daypack. In your daypack you will need to carry extra warm clothing (depending on the altitude, location and weather), a rainjacket, water bottle, film and camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen, lip balm etc.

equipment required

Specialist gear required include walking boots, day pack and a good rainjacket (a comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking).

special visa requirements

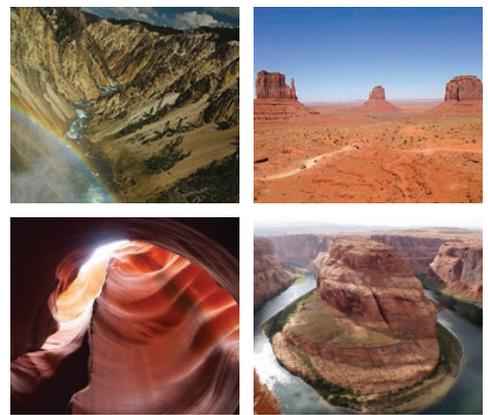
Many travellers to the USA (including those from Australia, New Zealand & the UK) must have a pre arranged travel entry authorisation in place. This is obtained electronically for passport holders from countries eligible for the Visa Waiver Program. The authorization must be in place prior to arrival to the USA and can be obtained at the following website <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Please consult your World Expeditions reservation consultant if you have any questions regarding your eligibility for the Visa Waiver Program. All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

non exclusive trips

This trip is not exclusive to World Expeditions clients. Please note that everyone on this trip is required to sign a release of liability waiver and assumption of risk form supplied by our local operator. It is a prerequisite before you may join the trip. Please note that this is in addition to the

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World Expeditions standard terms and conditions. If you would like a copy of this form prior to booking, then please let us know.

wildlife

Wildlife depends on habitat. In the mountains of California and the Rockies we find: black bear, elk, herds of mule deer, coyote, and the occasional wolf along with a wide range of rodents (marmots, beaver, etc). There are a lot of birds here, including eagles, hawks, jays and blue birds. In the Rockies you are also likely to see herds of wild bison, brown bear, wolf packs, moose, antelopes, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, porcupines, skunks and fox. The Rockies are a birder's paradise, producing birds such as cranes, singing swans, white pelican, bald eagles and many migratory species.

In the desert, wildlife is more elusive. Due to the heat, it is mostly nocturnal. The most common animals to see while hiking are birds: hawks, eagles, vultures, road runners, jays, blue birds, and the majestic California condor. Ground squirrels and deer are often seen near trails. However, with a little luck we will also see coyotes, ring tail cat, cactus mouse. At times groups see mountain lions, bobcats, or the elusive and endangered big horn sheep.

vehicles & safety

During the course of your trip, we will use a variety of vehicles, all of which are fit for purpose and the conditions encountered. It should be noted that laws governing transportation safety may differ from those in your home country and whilst wherever possible, vehicles with seatbelts are provided, on occasion some vehicles may not have seat belts fitted.

visas

All travellers will require a valid passport to enter the United States and your passport should still be valid for 6 months after you return from your trip. If you are travelling on more than one passport, please use the same passport for the entire trip. The following information also applies to visitors entering the USA under the Visa Waiver Program (including Australians, New Zealanders, and British):

From 1 April 2016, all travellers wishing to enter the US under the VWP will need to hold a passport with the following criteria:

If your passport was issued before October 26, 2005, it must be 'machine readable' (with 2 lines of letters, numbers and <<< at the bottom)

If your passport was issued between October 26, 2005 and October 25, 2006, it must be machine readable and include a digital photo

If your passport was issued on or after October 26, 2006, it must be an e-passport with a digital photo and an integrated chip (with this internationally recognised symbol <<http://www.dhs.gov/e-passports>> on the front cover).

It is your responsibility to ensure you have the correct passport and that there are sufficient blank pages for any visas required and for entry/departure stamps.

Many travellers to the United States (including Australians, New Zealanders and British) entering the country require a prearranged, approved Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA). This is obtained electronically for passport holders from countries eligible for the Visa Waiver Program. Travellers must apply at least 72 hours before departure and it can be obtained at the following official website <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> for a fee of US\$14, payable by credit or debit card. It is very important to make payments through the official website. Visa Waiver travellers who have not obtained approval through ESTA should expect to be denied boarding on any air carrier bound for the United States.

From 21 January 2016 most people who have travelled to Iran, Iraq, Sudan, or Syria since March 2011, or are dual nationals of these countries, will no longer qualify for entry under the Visa

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Waiver Program and existing ESTAs could be revoked. You will instead need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. Certain exemptions apply on a case-by-case basis. Bottom line: If in doubt, please contact the nearest US Embassy or Consulate.

Please consult your reservation consultant/travel agent if you have any questions regarding your eligibility for the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) or the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

All other passport holders should check with the relevant consul.

Please bear in mind that visas may be required for countries you are visiting en route or transiting through on the way to your destination. It is important that you check the requirements of all countries you will visit. Visa costs and requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or World Expeditions reservations consultant. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary visas.

info nights

World Expeditions invites you to attend our inspiring adventure travel slide shows. These special evenings are designed to inform and entertain and are hosted by our most experienced and passionate adventure travellers and mountaineers. Ask our staff for a slide show schedule or register on our website - www.worldexpeditions.com. Shows can fill early so it is important to register your attendance so we know to save a seat, or two!

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochures, and on our website, are just a starting point for many of our private group travellers. Working closely with our Groups Department we can organise custom designed itineraries for groups of friends, clubs, charity's, schools or even work colleagues. Our team will assist you with all aspects of your private group adventure from itinerary design to group flights. Contact our team today.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

Subscribe to our newsletter! To keep up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news, subscribe to our monthly newsletter! You can do this online through our website, www.worldexpeditions.com or contact our office.

social networking

Connect with us on social

FACEBOOK: [@worldexpeditions](https://www.facebook.com/worldexpeditions)

Like our page at [facebook.com/worldexpeditions](https://www.facebook.com/worldexpeditions)

INSTAGRAM: [@worldexpeditions](https://www.instagram.com/worldexpeditions)

Follow us at [instagram.com/worldexpeditions](https://www.instagram.com/worldexpeditions)

YOUTUBE: World Expeditions

Subscribe to our channel at [youtube.com/worldexpeditions](https://www.youtube.com/worldexpeditions)

Share the love

Use the hashtag #WorldExpeditions on your best travel photos and videos to be featured.

trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability as we operate strictly small group adventures. Many of our adventures require us to secure services on your behalf; such as permits, hotels and flights to name but a few. The demand for these services is increasing each year making it difficult to join a trip last minute. To ensure we can assist you



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onto your adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

To book a World Expeditions trip, you will need to complete a booking form which is found at the back of our brochure or can be downloaded from our website www.worldexpeditions.com. On completion, fax or post the form to your nearest World Expeditions office along with your non-refundable deposit. World Expeditions has access to competitive airfares. Call your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent for assistance with your travel arrangements including flights, travel insurance and additional accommodation.